



Event

How to write a successful collaborative research proposal in Horizon Europe

24th March 2026 – h. 9:30 a.m.

Aula Magna del Rettorato

Piazza Pugliatti n.1

Programme

9:00 a.m. Registration of participants

9:30 a.m. Opening of the works

Welcome address by the Deputy-Rector for Research – Prof. Paola Dugo

Welcome address by the Delegate for Doctoral Programs – Prof. Vincenza Crupi

Welcome address by Mr. Letterio Saccà –Head of Organisational Unit for International Research Project

Welcome address by Mr. Fabio Paci – REO Call 15/2024 of the Sicilian Region, first window, A.Y. 2024/2025

Speaker: Eng. Bruno Mourenza – NCP for Cluster 1, Cluster 5, Missions and EIT within Horizon Europe – APRE (Agency for the Promotion of European Research)

Ore 10,00 Opening Session

Introduction to Horizon Europe Proposal Writing: thinking about a successful proposal

- What makes a successful Horizon Europe proposal
- Key concepts, timeline and strategic planning
- From project idea to proposal: defining objectives, methodology and abstract
- Identifying activities, results, resources and partnership needs

Q&A session

Ore 11,30 How we should approach the proposal writing?

- **Excellence: define your objectives (overall and specifics), describe the complete state-of-the-art, ambition, potential innovation and the right methodology. Sex and gender issues.**
- **Impact: align with Destination's impacts and topic outcomes, think about further impacts (social, economic, environmental, cultural etc.), disseminate, communicate (and exploit) your results to the right target groups, IPR issues.**
- **Implementation: divide the work in the right work packages, define your results (deliverables), allocate the right efforts to the right partners, consider potential risks and contingency plan to face them, what should you consider when forming a consortium.**

Do not forget your potential Ethical issues!

Submission and Evaluation

- Structure of the proposal template (Part B: Excellence, Impact, Implementation)
- Evaluation procedure and sub-criteria
- Scoring system and ranking (including ex aequo rules)

Dos and Don'ts in proposal writing

Q&A session





Università
degli Studi di
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Ore 13,00 Lunch Break (1h)

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP SESSION

Chaired by Prof. Luigi Calabrese, Delegate for Research Projects and International Cooperation



Ore 14,00 Main aim: Facilitate dialogue with potential proponents to identify and develop project ideas in view of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027 through the analysis of a success story.

In collaboration with prof. **Maria Grazia Sindoni**, Università di Messina, Principal Investigator (PI) of the project: *Living Cultural Labs: Empowering Communities through Intercultural Encounters in Virtual Worlds (LIL-ECHOES)*

Targeted discussion

- Linking project ideas to Cluster 2 Work Programme 2026–2027 priorities
- Identification of relevant topics and expected impacts
- Assessment of the maturity level of the project idea (TRL, proof of concept, etc.)
- Strategic positioning: coordinator vs. partner role
- Networking opportunities and potential synergies with other groups.
- Next steps (e.g., one-page abstracts, thematic workshops, partners scouting).

Ore 16,30 Closing Remarks and Final Discussion



BRUNO MOURENZA

Dr. Bruno Mourenza joined APRE (Agency for the Promotion of European Research) in 2011. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and Management and has completed two Jean Monnet Modules focused on EU Industrial Policy and EU Competition Rules. Before joining APRE, he worked in Brussels as a project officer and consultant at the Italian Chamber of Commerce and at the International Research and Development Office of the Government of Galicia, supporting projects under EU funding programmes such as FP7, Interreg, COSME, Clean Sky and LIFE. He currently serves as National Contact Point for Horizon Europe (Cluster 1, Cluster 5, Missions and EIT) and is APRE's contact person for ethics issues in R&I projects, as well as coordinator of the Ethics Working Group. He is an experienced trainer on Horizon proposal writing, ethics in research, gender dimension, Open Access and SSH integration. Bruno Mourenza is also a trainer on several modules including: "How to deal with ethical issues in R&I projects", "How to write a successful

proposal in Horizon 2020", "Gender, Open Access and SSH integration", etc. He is project manager in many projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe (in both roles, coordinator and partner), with particular reference to the Health, ICT and innovation sectors. Some of them include: Health-2-Market, EU-LAC Health, EU-MEX Innova, E-Health Hub, HNN 2.0, NUCL-EU 2020, ARCADIA, NEWLANCER, ensuring the proper execution of the activities and preparing all the necessary reports and supporting documents for the European Commission and the project coordinators.

Evento organizzato da:

D.A. Ricerca Scientifica e Internazionalizzazione _ U. Op Dottorati di Ricerca
Unità di Coordinamento Tecnico Programmazione e Progetti di ricerca

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Cofinanziato
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L'evento è stato organizzato utilizzando i fondi dell'Avviso 15/2024 per il finanziamento di borse di Dottorato di Ricerca in Sicilia A.A. 2024/2025 Prima finestra - Regione Siciliana, Assessorato Regionale dell'Istruzione e della Formazione Professionale Dipartimento dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e del Diritto allo Studio, assegnati all'Università di Messina
CIP 2021.IT.05.SFPR.014/002/04.7/09.02.03/A15_24/0002 - CUP G41I22001130006