



## FONDO DI ATENEO PER LA RICERCA ANNO 2022

### BANDO PER IL FINANZIAMENTO DI PROGETTI DI RICERCA INTERDISCIPLINARI “MISSION ORIENTED”

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the Board of Directors of 23 December 2021, which in the 2022 budget approved the allocation of €2,100,000 for the funding of scientific research on the project "Fondo di Ateneo per la Ricerca - Gestione bandi interni" (University Research Fund - Management of internal calls for proposals);

**CONSIDERED** that these resources shall partly be allocated to those sectors that the academic bodies identify as strategic and fundamental for research activities, in line with the three-year Strategic Plan and the Research Policies;

**CONSIDERED** that the University is enrolled in the National Research Register under final code 000274\_UNIV;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the Academic Senate of 18 December 2019 appointing the University Research Commission coordinated by Prof. Paolo Pavan and composed of Professors Claudio Baraldi, Graziella Bertocchi, Francesca Fanelli, Stefano Lugli, Cecilia Vernia, Marco Vinceti, Michele Zoli, and Dr. Barbara Rebecchi;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12.2.2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility;

**CONSIDERED** that according to the Regulation (EU) 2021/241 it is necessary to indicate in the project documentation that the action is financed under the NRRP Next Generation EU;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Ministerial Decree no. 737 of 25.06.2021, concerning the distribution of the endowment of the Fund for the promotion and development of the policies of the National Research Programme, established by art. 1(548), of Law no. 178 of 30 December 2020;

**CONSIDERED** that this Call, as far as UNIMORE Line is concerned, is one of the interdisciplinary research initiatives on transversal PNR topics eligible for funding under Ministerial Decree 737 of 25.06.2021 (CUP E95F21003430001);

**CONSIDERED** that the Fondazione di Modena's main area of intervention is Scientific and Technological Research and that it has indicated the following priority challenges in its Documento Strategico di Indirizzo 2021-2023, among others:



#### CHALLENGE 9: Promoting scientific research

Fondazione di Modena supports and encourages innovative research projects, possibly interdisciplinary, aimed at advancing scientific knowledge, with particular attention to the actual impact on the territory in terms of the environment, society, health and work.

Its aim is to contribute to scientific and technological progress with a focus on European and international issues, as well as to support the entry of young people into research, stimulating interaction between the world of research and the world of work.

#### CHALLENGE 5: New professional skills

By bringing together ancient knowledge and new know-how, with a view to economic and environmental sustainability, the Modena Foundation promotes the training of new professional skills through the dissemination of knowledge among the younger generations.

New digital, technological, creative and management skills, offered from the first levels of education to university and post-graduate training are the basis for achieving new forms of entrepreneurship and employment.

#### CHALLENGE 6: Dynamic heritage

Fondazione di Modena supports a dynamic and innovative conception of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, of the landscape and of the synergy between the evidence of the past and the values of communities, with a view to awareness and social growth.

Innovating means first and foremost permanently combining conservation measures with enhancement, business generation and tourism promotion of the area, by consistently adopting and applying new technologies.

The innovative approach to the use and management of heritage is applied through actions that continue over time, generating resources for communities and protecting heritage.

**HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED** the agreement between the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and the Fondazione di Modena for the financing of scientific research projects;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the Board of Directors of the Fondazione di Modena of 03/05/2022 whereby the amount of € 1.000.000 was allocated for the implementation of a joint call with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (CUP E93C22000800007);

**HAVING REGARD TO** the proposals put forward by the University Research Commission, which met electronically on 17/03/2022 and 01/04/2022;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the AS of 12/04/2022 approving the proposals of the University Research Commission;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the BoD of 22/04/2022 approving the proposals of the University Research Commission;

**CONSIDERED** that among the various activities that can be financed by FAR there are interventions aimed at financing "Multi-year interdisciplinary projects on a competitive basis (with anonymous external reviewers)" aimed at stimulating greater participation in the "Horizon Europe" (HE) strategies;

**CONSIDERED** therefore the opportunity to issue, on the basis of the provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, the FAR 2022 call for proposals for the funding of "Mission Oriented" interdisciplinary research projects;

## DECREES

### **ART. 1 - SUBJECT**

The present decree regulates the procedures for the funding, by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, of research projects presented by its Professors and Researchers on permanent and temporary contracts ex art.24 L.240/2010 (A) and (B) (hereinafter referred to as PI) through the use of a sum allocated to the funding of scientific research included in the 2022 budget estimate and of the funding made available by the Fondazione di Modena. Researchers on fixed-term contracts ex art.24 L.240/2010 (a) may apply on condition that the duration of the employment contract is equal to or longer than the duration of the project (see art. 4 of the present call, starting date of projects) and that the said contract is activated on free funds that are not to be accounted for on another project.

The programme aims to finance projects of an innovative and interdisciplinary nature that require the collaboration of several Professors/Researchers, in order to promote the strengthening of the scientific basis of the University, also in view of a more effective participation in the European Union Framework Programmes.

The programme is divided into two funding lines, each with a specifically dedicated budget:

- UNIMORE Line – Mission Oriented Projects;
- FOMO Line – Mission Oriented Projects.

Within one year from the end of the programme, a University event will be organised during which the results of the approved projects will be presented.

## **ART. 2 – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TYPES OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

The projects financed by this call must be designed on the lines of the projects supported by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HE FP).

In line with the European programming guidelines on research and innovation, the projects financed by this programme must also have a "Mission Oriented" approach:

### **R&I Missions**

**Relating EU's research and innovation better to society and citizens' needs; with strong visibility and impact**

A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a **bold and inspirational and measurable goal** within a set timeframe, with **impact** for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens.

## **ART. 3. PROJECT TYPES**

For both UNIMORE and FOMO funding lines, it will be possible to submit projects for one of the following two categories:

- a) **“Filiera” (Supply Chain) Projects:** these are projects that intend to configure themselves as a project structure in which there is a coordinator and several partners who develop an interdisciplinary theme. These are “long chain” projects which, starting from the project theme, also take into account the technological, ethical, social, economic, etc. aspects generated: in line with the philosophy of HE Missions, therefore, they must provide a strong impact on the advancement of knowledge and a fallout on the territories, on the socio-economic realities, on the surrounding communities (broadly understood as social, scientific, productive communities...). The project proposals must take the form of projects implemented by a coordinator and several partners, all from within the University.

**The project must provide for the activation of at least one researcher's contract. If publications are envisaged, at least one of them must be in open access and must be available within the deadline for submitting the results of the funded projects, as set out in art. 1.**

**For indications on how to publish in open access, please consult the website <https://www.pop.unimore.it/>**

- b) **“Nodo” (Node) Projects:** these are projects that intend to take the form of a highly specialised “node” of a wider network which, while maintaining an interdisciplinary approach, therefore addresses a specific project theme. The proposal should therefore be configured as the contribution of a partner unit that develops a specific aspect of a hypothetical long chain project.

**The project must provide for the activation of at least one researcher's contract. If publications are envisaged, at least one of them must be in open access and must be available within the deadline for submitting the results of the funded projects, as set out in art. 1.**

**For indications on how to publish in open access, please consult the website <https://www.pop.unimore.it/>**

#### **ART. 4 – PROJECT DURATION AND START DATE**

All projects must have a duration of 18 months for both types a. (“Filiera”) and b (“Nodo”) with no possibility of extension, starting from 01/11/2022.

#### **ART. 5 – PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Each professor or researcher may participate, in any capacity, in only one project and in only one of the two funding lines (UNIMORE or FOMO), under penalty of ineligibility of all the projects in which he/she is included; in the application form, the PI must choose the funding line (UNIMORE line or FOMO line) and the type of project (“Filiera” or “Nodo”).

Winners (PIs) of a FAR Mission Oriented project of the 2021 call are not allowed to participate in any capacity in this call.

Participation in the FOMO Line is allowed only to PIs belonging to Departments with administrative offices in Modena. Still with reference to this Line, please also note that PIs and members of the research group must not be in the conditions of incompatibility provided for the Bodies and employees of the Foundation by relevant acts and regulations (Statute, General Regulation and Regulation for the resolution of the conflict of interest) available in the "Documentation" section of the website [www.fondazioneDIMODENA.it](http://www.fondazioneDIMODENA.it).

## **ART. 6 – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNIMORE LINE AND FOMO LINE “MISSION ORIENTED” PROJECTS**

The total budgets made available by UNIMORE and FOMO are:

- € 550.000 (including € 20.000 for proposal evaluation) for the UNIMORE line
- € 1.000.000 (including € 20.000 for proposal evaluation) for the FOMO line.

The UNIMORE and FOMO budgets are broken down between the three ERC fields as follows:

ERC field	UNIMORE line	FOMO line	Total
PE	€ 185.500	€ 343.000	€ 528.500
LS	€ 185.500	€ 343.000	€ 528.500
SH	€ 159.000	€ 294.000	€ 453.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 530.000</b>	<b>€ 980.000</b>	<b>€ 1.510.000</b>

Projects submitted under measure a) “Filiera” Projects will receive a maximum funding per project of:

- €90.000 for the ERC fields: PE and LS
- €70.000 for the ERC field: SH

Projects that will be submitted for measure b) “Nodo” Projects will receive a maximum funding per project of

- €70.000 for ERC fields: PE and LS
- €50.000 for ERC field: SH

Within the overall budget of the call, for each funding line, at least one (1) project submitted by PIs aged under 40 on the date of publication of the call will be funded. In the event that no project with these characteristics is included among the funded projects at the end of the assessment, the project (eligible for funding as it has reached the 16/20 threshold) with the highest score among the unfunded projects will be selected, regardless of the macro-sector it belongs to. The budget for this project will be reserved by taking a proportional sum from the three ERC fields.

Maternity periods (18 months for each child), parental leave (e.g. paternity leave) and other documented reasons (e.g. long term illness of the PI, more than 90 days) are an exception to the age limits for access to the quota reserved for PI under 40 years of age.



**The contribution allocated to the projects deemed worthy of funding shall be entirely managed by the Department to which the PI belongs.**

Projects shall have an interdisciplinary connotation and be submitted within one of the three ERC fields (main field). The projects of type a) “Filiera” must explicitly involve competences relevant to more than one ERC fields or more than one group of Academic recruitment fields (MUR Macro-sectors); the projects of type b) “Nodo” must explicitly involve competences relevant to two or more Academic disciplines (Settori scientifico-disciplinari - SSD), even belonging to the same ERC field or group of Academic recruitment fields (MUR Macro-sectors), (see Art. 12 of this call).

In order to maximise the use of the budget available on the UNIMORE Line and on the FOMO Line, any residuals in the budgets will be added to finance any projects that are profitably placed in the ranking list and that respect the characteristics of the call.

#### **ART. 7 – EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Regardless of the Line selected, projects will be evaluated by anonymous reviewers and those with a score greater than or equal to **16/20** will be considered eligible for funding. FOMO Line projects eligible for funding on the basis of the anonymous review will be subject to a second evaluation by a joint UNIMORE-FOMO committee, coordinated by the Foundation.

#### **UNIMORE Line Projects.**

*Stage 1:* the projects will be evaluated by a Panel composed of 3 experts of clear national and/or international reputation, identified among those included in the REPRISE database of the MUR through an automatic matching procedure that will first associate the ERC subfields of reference and then the CUN keywords (see Art. 12 of this call) indicated when submitting the proposal. The Research Committee will compare the scores assigned by the three reviewers: the final score will correspond to the arithmetic mean of the two scores that are least different from each other; if the three scores expressed by the reviewers are equidistant from each other, the lowest one will be excluded.

*Stage 2:* projects that pass the first stage, regardless of the project type (“Filiera” or “Nodo”), will enter three separate rankings per ERC field. The projects with the highest score will be financed until the amount available is exhausted. Any unallocated budget within an ERC field will be used to fund the best remaining projects in the ranking list of another ERC field.

In case of a tie, the project in which the PI has been in the university for the shortest period of time will be funded. For the purposes of this calculation, the first position held at any University shall be



considered. In calculating the period of seniority in the roles, periods of maternity (with the possibility of subtracting 18 months for each child), parental leave (for example, paternity leave) and other documented reasons (such as, for example, long-term illness of the PI, over 90 days) will be considered, with the possibility of subtracting the corresponding period of leave taken. In case of further equal merit, in each ERC field, the project for which gender equity is best ensured in the overall ranking of funded projects will be funded.

### **FOMO Line projects.**

Stage 1: it will follow the same evaluation procedures provided for the UNIMORE Line.

Stage 2: projects that pass the first stage, regardless of the project type (“Filiera” or “Nodo”) , will be evaluated by a special joint UNIMORE-FOMO Commission which will apply the additional criteria 4, 5, and 6 described below.

Stage 3: the final score for each project will be the sum of the scores awarded in stages 1 and 2.

Three separate rankings will then be drawn up per ERC field, and the projects with the highest score will be funded until the amount available is exhausted.

Any FOMO budget not allocated within each macro-sector may be used to partially fund projects remaining on the ranking list of another ERC field, always following the highest-score criterion.

In the event of a tie, the project in which the PI has been employed by the university for the shortest period of time will be financed. For the purposes of this calculation, the first position held at any University shall be considered. In calculating the period of seniority in the roles, periods of maternity (with the possibility of subtracting 18 months for each child), parental leave (for example, paternity leave) and other documented reasons (such as, for example, long-term illness of the PI, over 90 days) will be considered, with the possibility of subtracting the corresponding period of leave taken. In case of further equal merit, in each ERC field, the project for which gender equity is best ensured in the overall ranking of funded projects will be funded.

The selection of the applications and the determination of the contribution will be made at the sole discretion of the Fondazione di Modena. Appeals, complaints, requests for re-examination or other forms of appeal will not be admitted.

### **FIRST STAGE EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

The evaluation criteria for **“Filiera” projects** are as follows:

### **1f) Quality of the research project, up to 10 points**

Quality of the research project – scientific merit and innovative nature of the project in the international context – with particular regard to:

- a) Clarity, relevance and breakdown of the project objectives;
- b) Relevance and originality of the proposed project in the scientific areas involved.
- c) Adequacy of the proposed methodologies and of the available instrumentation (where relevant), project consistency;
- d) Positioning of the project in relation to the state of the art.

### **2f) Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project, up to 7 points.**

Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project – scientific merit of the research team, feasibility of the work plan and reasonable nature of the funding request – with particular regard to:

- a) CV of the Principal Investigator;
- b) Capacity to carry out the proposed project (qualification, composition and complementarity of the entire research team, preliminary data where relevant);
- c) Organisation of the project with regard to the proposed objectives, the timeframe considered necessary for the completion of the project and the resources required (equipment, personnel, etc.)
- d) Appropriateness and relevance of the expenditure plan with the objectives and the breakdown of the activities;

### **3f) Project impact, up to 3 points**

Project impact, with particular reference, depending on its disciplinary field, to:

- a) challenges that the research addresses in terms of its impact on theoretical and/or methodological advancement in the relevant scientific field, i.e. on technological innovation, industrial applications, economic growth or on the solution of social problems, on the protection of cultural heritage or of the environment also with interdisciplinary approaches;
- b) effectiveness of the dissemination of the research project and its results; impact of the project on the scientific community and society in the light of the objectives defined by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



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**The evaluation criteria for “Nodo” projects are as follows:**

**1n) Quality of the research project, up to 10 points**

Quality of the research project – scientific merit and innovative nature of the project – with particular regard to:

- a) clarity and relevance of the project objectives;
- b) relevance and originality of the proposed project in the specific scientific area; and
- c) adequacy of the proposed methodologies and of the available instrumentation (where relevant), project consistency;
- d) project positioning in relation to the state of the art in the specific scientific area.

**2n) Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project, up to 7 points**

Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project – scientific merit of the research team, feasibility of the work plan and reasonable nature of the funding request – with particular regard to:

- a) CV of the Principal Investigator;
- b) ability to carry out the proposed project (qualification and composition of the research team, preliminary data, where relevant);
- c) project organisation with regard to the proposed objectives, the timeframe considered necessary for completion of the project and the resources required (equipment, personnel, etc.)
- d) consistency and relevance of the expenditure plan with the objectives and the activity breakdown.

**3n) Project impact, up to 3 points**

Project impact, with particular regard to, depending on its disciplinary field:

- a) the theoretical and/or methodological advancement in the scientific field of reference, i.e. to the impact on technological innovation, industrial applications, economic growth, or to the solution of social problems, to the protection of cultural heritage or of the environment also with interdisciplinary approaches;
- b) the compliance of the communication and publication of the research project and its results with the standards of the scientific field of reference.



## **SECOND STAGE EVALUATION CRITERIA - FOMO LINE:**

The FOMO Line projects, regardless of the type of project (“Filiera” or “Nodo”), will be assessed by a special joint UNIMORE-FOMO commission, which will apply the following additional criteria only to those projects deemed eligible for funding by the external review (score equal to or greater than 16/20) in order to determine the final ranking of projects admitted to funding:

### **Admission criterion 4: Consistency of the policy guidelines of Fondazione di Modena**

In order to be eligible for selection, projects must be consistent with the priority challenges, in particular Challenges 5, 6 and 9, of the FOMO Documento Strategico di Indirizzo 2021-2023, listed in the introduction to this call.

### **Criterion 5: Impact on human capital, up to 3 points**

Adequacy and quality of the proposed activities for the professional development of the staff involved, with specific reference to the development of the figure of researcher to be recruited.

### **Criterion 6: Impact on the territory, up to 3 points**

Evaluation of the potential impact on the territory, also intended as application, enhancement and use of the knowledge produced to contribute to the social, environmental, health, cultural and economic development of the local community.

Given the interdisciplinary approach, estimated contribution of the project to develop skills and competences in the field of productive innovation processes, cultural, social or environmental promotion in the context of the province of Modena.

Projects, if funded, will have to produce a final scientific report giving an account of the results obtained.

## **ART. 8 – PROJECT SUBMISSION**

The PIs must submit a detailed research project by **13/06/2022 at 5pm**; the project must be written in English, using only the forms provided by the University. The submission of the proposal shall be made exclusively by the project PI through the online application that will be made available, which the PI may access with his/her University identification. The date and time of submission of the proposal shall be the date and time of validation and closure of the application by the PI using the online application. By validating and closing the application, the PI consents to make the project proposal available to the external evaluators, as well as to make the project proposal and the assessments made by the external evaluators available to the members of the University Research Committee, the Senatorial Research Committee and the UNIMORE-FOMO Joint Committee.



The PI shall send to the National Research Office, by the same deadline, the resolution of approval of the proposal by the Department or a letter of approval by the Director of the Department itself, to be ratified at the first useful meeting of the Council.

Projects which, at the time of submission, do not comply with the required forms (in particular, the indications on the maximum and minimum number of characters, the criteria set out in the operating instructions for the management and reporting of projects funded by FAR, the rules for the participation of teaching and research staff, and which reach the Office after the deadline) will be automatically excluded from evaluation. **In any case, funding applications received by email or through channels other than the one indicated above will not be considered.**

Applicants shall declare, under their own responsibility and under penalty of exclusion from the call, whether or not their project requires the approval of the Ethics Committee. In the event that a project to be submitted to the Ethics Committee for approval proves to be a winner, the grant will be paid out only after the PI has submitted the appropriate documentation attesting the Committee's approval.

#### **ART. 9 - APPROVAL OF UNIMORE LINE MISSION-ORIENTED PROJECTS AND FUNDING AMOUNT**

The Research Commission reserves the right to fund individual projects that have been deemed suitable, even if to a lesser extent than that requested, if deemed appropriate.

The lists of funded projects will be approved and disclosed by a specific Rectoral Decree.

#### **ART. 10 - APPROVAL OF FOMO LINE MISSION-ORIENTED PROJECTS AND AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

The Fondazione di Modena, through the evaluation of the relevant Joint Committee, reserves the right to finance the individual projects that have been found to be suitable following the two-stage evaluation process, even to a lesser extent than that requested, if deemed appropriate.

The Foundation shall notify the University of the list of funded projects, which shall be disclosed by a specific Rectoral Decree. The project management is entrusted to the PI's Department.

#### **ART. 11 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING**



The PI is scientifically responsible for the project and guarantees the implementation of the project within the timeframe and in the manner indicated in the application.

The PI may submit a request for remodelling during the course of the project by sending an email to [ricercanazionale@unimore.it](mailto:ricercanazionale@unimore.it). This request will be forwarded to the Research Commission for projects funded under the UNIMORE Line and to the Fondazione di Modena for projects funded under the FOMO Line.

Within three months from the end of the project, the PI shall submit a detailed scientific report, complying with the specifications set out in the appropriate forms, on the results obtained, the staff employed on the project funds and the scientific communications made.

Together with the scientific report (within three months of the end of the project), the PI must submit the accounts, together with copies of the duly receipted supporting documents. Expenditure must have been incurred within the project duration and paid by the end of the reporting period. It should be noted that, as regards projects financed under the UNIMORE Line, it is necessary to comply with communication and information obligations (pursuant to art. 34 of Reg. 2021/241: recipients of Union funding shall publicise the origin of the funding and ensure its visibility, including, where appropriate, through the Union logo and an appropriate funding statement reading "funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU", in particular when promoting actions and results, by disseminating consistent, effective and proportionate information to different audiences, including the media and the general public).

Pursuant to the Modena Foundation's Regulations and in line with its general guidelines on evaluation, the grant is awarded subject to the correct completion and submission of the end-of-project report form.

Both the scientific report and the accounting report shall be sent in electronic format to the National Research Office: [ricercanazionale@unimore.it](mailto:ricercanazionale@unimore.it).

The project design, management, and reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the operational guidelines provided for projects using FAR funds of the University published at the following link <http://www.ricerca.unimore.it/site/home/nazionale/unimore.html>. For any doubts regarding the management of certain expenses, please send a request for clarification to [ricercanazionale@unimore.it](mailto:ricercanazionale@unimore.it).

## **ART. 12 - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND FORMS**

Clarifications and information may be requested from the Direzione Ricerca, Trasferimento Tecnologico e Terza Missione - Ufficio Ricerca Nazionale

Tel.: 059 205 6570 - 6553 – 7031 - 6675



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e-mail: [ricercanazionale@unimore.it](mailto:ricercanazionale@unimore.it).

This decree is published on the website: <http://www.unimore.it/ricerca/>

Useful links:

- [2020 ERC fields](#)
- [Groups of Academic recruitment fields \(MUR Macro-sectors\) and Academic disciplines \(Settori scientifico-disciplinari - SSD\) - Ita](#)
- [Groups of Academic recruitment fields \(MUR Macro-sectors\) and Academic disciplines \(Settori scientifico-disciplinari - SSD\) - Eng](#)
- [Horizon Europe](#)
- [CUN keywords](#)
- [FOMO Strategic Steering Document 2021-2023](#)

### **ART.13 - PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROCEDURE**

In accordance with the provisions of art. 5 of law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, the person responsible for the procedure of this call is Dr. Barbara Rebecchi, Direzione Ricerca, Trasferimento Tecnologico e Terza Missione - Ufficio Ricerca Nazionale - University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Via Università, 4 - Modena, email: [ricercanazionale@unimore.it](mailto:ricercanazionale@unimore.it)

The Rector

Prof. Carlo Adolfo Porro