

WAY Together

NOTICE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WAY Together Project – Walking And Yachting Together INTERREG VI-A Italy–Malta Programme 2021–2027

(approved by the Steering Committee at its meeting of 20 January 2026)

ARTICLE 1

CONTEXT, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Through this public notice, expressions of interest are collected for the purpose of recruiting participants for the pilot activities of the WAY Together – Walking And Yachting Together project, funded under the INTERREG VI-A Italy–Malta Programme 2021–2027, Priority 3 – Specific Objective 3.1.

The WAY Together project aims to develop, test and validate an innovative, inclusive and sustainable experiential tourism model, based on nature-based activities in woodland and marine environments, with socio-educational and wellbeing objectives.

Selected participants will not take part in simple recreational activities; rather, they will be actively involved in the testing and implementation phase of the WAY Together tourism model, contributing to the assessment of its effectiveness, replicability and impact on individual and family wellbeing.

The WAY Together experiential tourism model is designed to:

- encourage learning and the development of new personal, social and adaptive skills;
- support psychophysical wellbeing, autonomy and personal independence;
- promote socialisation, inclusion and active participation in community life;
- foster accessible and responsible tourism experiences in structured, safe and supervised natural environments;
- strengthen overall family wellbeing through shared experiences designed around the specific needs of participants.

This Expression of Interest does not constitute a competition, a public ranking list or a funding procedure, but is intended exclusively for the selection of beneficiaries who will take part in the experimental activities of the project.

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ARTICLE 2

RECIPIENTS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The activities are addressed to adolescents and young adults with a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder, certified in accordance with the current international classification systems (DSM-5-TR, ICD-10 or ICD-11) and recognised pursuant to:

- Law No. 104/1992 (Italy);
- Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disabilities) Act – Chapter 413 (Malta).

Selected participants will be involved in the pilot actions of the project, designed as experiential tourism activities with strong educational, rehabilitative and social value.

ARTICLE 3

PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS

The WAY Together project activities are structured as integrated experiential packages, delivered in small groups (maximum 5 participants per group), in order to ensure safety, quality of experience and adequate individual support.

3.1 Woodland environment activities – Sicily (Troina, EN)

Five days of activities are planned, including:

- guided excursions and assisted walks;
- outdoor educational and learning activities;
- recreational and socialisation activities;
- animal-assisted interventions (donkey-assisted therapy), delivered by qualified staff;
- preparatory and support activities using virtual reality tools.

3.2 Marine and sailing activities – Malta

Three days of activities are planned, including:

- catamaran outings at sea to sites of natural and cultural interest;
- introductory sailing activities;
- outdoor educational activities;
- recreational and social activities;
- preparatory activities using virtual reality tools.

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3.3 Repetition of the experiences

Each group may take part in the tourism experiences:

- once, twice or three times, in different periods.

The preference must be indicated at the time of application.

3.4 Italy–Malta cross-border experience

A limited number of participants (10 per country) will be selected to take part in a cross-border experience, aimed at cultural exchange, the development of social skills in an international context and the assessment of the WAY Together model from a transnational perspective.

The cross-border experience may be undertaken only once.

ARTICLE 4

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND COST COVERAGE

The WAY Together project is funded under the INTERREG VI-A Italy–Malta Programme 2021–2027.

Activities in Sicily (woodland environment – Nebrodi Park)

- accommodation and breakfast are covered by the project exclusively for recruited participants;
- subject to the availability of project savings, partial coverage of costs for accompanying persons may be considered.

Activities in Malta (marine environment)

- free participation for participants and accompanying persons;
- meals included during the activities;
- local transport costs borne by participants.

Cross-border experience

- full coverage of travel, transfers, board and lodging for participants;
- subject to the availability of project savings, partial coverage of costs for accompanying persons may be considered.

ARTICLE 5

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only candidates who, as at the date of submission of the application, meet all

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the requirements and conditions listed below may be admitted to the project. Compliance will be verified by the Evaluation Committee.

1. Be aged between 11 and 30 years inclusive as at the date of application submission.
2. Hold a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder falling within the categories provided for by the current diagnostic classification systems (DSM-5-TR, ICD-10 or ICD-11), issued by a competent healthcare facility or professional and duly documented.
3. Hold certification pursuant to Law No. 104/1992 (Italy) or the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disabilities) Act, Chapter 413 (Malta).
4. Not present serious internal medicine or oncological conditions or other decompensated medical conditions, duly documented (including, by way of example and without limitation: decompensated heart disease, severe respiratory failure, advanced-stage renal failure, uncontrolled drug-resistant epilepsy, decompensated diabetes mellitus, active oncological conditions or diseases undergoing intensive treatment), nor present severe sensory impairments (including, by way of example and without limitation: severe visual impairment) incompatible with the project activities.
5. Absence of severe motor impairments such as to limit or prevent safe participation in the planned activities.
6. Absence of maladaptive behaviours of such severity as to compromise one's own safety or that of others, or the regular and safe enjoyment of the project activities, as detected through the behavioural assessment scales adopted.
7. Absence of profound Intellectual Disability and poor or absent levels of adaptive functioning such as not to allow participation in the project activities, even in the presence of the supports and adaptations provided by the project.
8. Availability of adequate family support to ensure the beneficiary's regular and continuous participation in the activities planned by the project.

Grounds for exclusion, with reference to relatives (up to the fourth degree) and in-laws (up to the second degree), include—pursuant to Article 57(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU—final convictions in the last five years for the following offences, as defined under Italian or Maltese law, as applicable:

- A) Participation in a criminal organisation;
- B) Corruption (as defined by Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption and Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA);

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C) Fraud (pursuant to Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests);
D) Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities;
E) Money laundering of the proceeds of crime or terrorist financing (Directive 2005/60/EC);

F) Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings.

Submission of the application does not entail automatic admission to the project activities.

ARTICLE 6

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

Applications received will be examined by the Committees referred to in Article 8, in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in this Expression of Interest. Following verification of eligibility requirements, a list of candidates admitted to the multidisciplinary evaluation phase will be drawn up, aimed at verifying suitability for participation in the project.

The multidisciplinary evaluation is intended exclusively to verify the adequacy, safety and compatibility of participation in the activities planned by the project.

Area	Criteria	Score assigned
Level of Adaptation	Personal and environmental adaptation such as to ensure participation in the activities	0-30
Adaptive behaviours for cross-border activity	Assessment of specific adaptive skills required to ensure participation in the cross-border activities planned by the project	0-10
Behavioural assessment	Assessment of the individual's behavioural repertoire, specifically aimed at identifying any maladaptive behaviours that may represent barriers to participation in the activities	0-20
Motor skills	Assessment of motor skills through a specific and standardised measurement scale	0-20

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Health screening based on medical history (anamnestic screening)	Collection of anamnestic information and any allergies, intolerances, medical conditions or other barriers identified through the dedicated anamnestic form	0-10
Socio-family support	Assessment of the level of socio-family support available in order to ensure accompaniment of the individual	0-10

At the end of the multidisciplinary evaluation phase, the Committee will draw up two separate ranking lists:

- one ranking list for candidates with no cognitive disability or with mild or moderate cognitive disability;
- one ranking list for candidates with severe intellectual disability, whose admission to the project is provided for up to a maximum of 10% of total beneficiaries.

For the selection of participants for cross-border activities, beneficiaries will be identified in descending order of the score awarded under the specific criterion “Adaptive behaviours for cross-border activity”, as defined in the evaluation grid, in compliance with the maximum 10% limit for participants with severe intellectual disability.

ARTICLE 7

ITALY-MALTA CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY

The cross-border activity of the WAY Together project provides for exchanges in both directions, namely:

- participation of Italian beneficiaries in activities delivered in Malta;
- participation of Maltese beneficiaries in activities delivered in Italy.

The cross-border experience will involve a limited number of beneficiaries, equal to 10 participants per country.

Participation in the cross-border activity is reserved exclusively for participants who have already taken part in, or have been admitted to take part in, at least one project experience delivered in their own national territory.

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ARTICLE 8

COMMITTEE

The selection procedure provides for the establishment of a Committee responsible for verifying the admission requirements of the applications received and for the subsequent evaluation of individual applications.

In an initial phase, the Committee will assess compliance with the eligibility requirements and draw up the list of candidates admitted to the multidisciplinary evaluation phase.

Subsequently, based on the outcomes and scores awarded by the multidisciplinary teams appointed to carry out the assessments, the Committee will draw up the ranking lists of selected participants.

For the Italian territory, multidisciplinary evaluations will be carried out by the multidisciplinary team of “*I Corrieri dell’Oasi*” and, for the Maltese territory, by the multidisciplinary team of “*Inspire*”, in accordance with the criteria set out in this Expression of Interest.

ARTICLE 9

COMMUNICATION OF OUTCOMES AND PUBLICATION

The outcomes of the first phase of verification of eligibility requirements will be announced through the publication of the list of candidates admitted to the multidisciplinary evaluation phase, in compliance with the applicable legislation on the protection of personal data.

The list will be published on the following institutional websites:

- Interreg Programme: <https://italiamalta.eu/>
- Azienda Speciale Silvo Pastorale: www.silvopastoraletroina.it
- I Corrieri dell’Oasi: <https://lnx.icorrieridelloasi.it/>
- The Eden and Razzett Foundation – Inspire: <https://inspire.org.mt/>
- University of Catania: www.unict.it

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 – GDPR and the applicable national legislation on the protection of personal data, no names, contact details or other personal data of candidates will be published.

For confidentiality purposes, the list will not include candidates’ names, but only the identification code assigned to each participant upon submission of the application, corresponding to the protocol number of the Certified Electronic Mail (PEC).

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ARTICLE 10

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES

This Expression of Interest will be published on the institutional website of the Managing Authority of the INTERREG VI-A Italy-Malta Programme (<https://italiamalta.eu/>) for a period of 10 (ten) consecutive days, in order to ensure adequate information and dissemination of the initiative.

After the above publication period, it will be possible to submit the application for participation within the following 10 (ten) days, in accordance with the modalities set out below.

The application for participation must be submitted exclusively, on pain of exclusion, by completing the dedicated application form (ANNEX A), complete and accompanied by the following mandatory documentation, duly completed and signed:

- Application form (ANNEX A);
- Privacy notice and consent to the processing of personal data within the WAY Together project (ANNEX B);
- Consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes of the multidisciplinary evaluation (ANNEX C);
- Consent to the processing of personal data relating to the specific project activities (ANNEX D);
- Consent to the processing of images and video recordings, for documentary and institutional communication purposes of the project (ANNEX E).

Failure to submit, even partially, one or more of the documents listed above will result in exclusion of the application from the selection procedure.

The application must be sent via Certified Electronic Mail (PEC) no later than 10 (ten) days from the date of completion of the publication period of this Expression of Interest.

Certified Electronic mail (PEC) addresses for application submission

- For candidates resident in Italy: progettowaytogether@pec.it
- For candidates resident in Malta: research@inspire.org.mt

Submission of the application does not entail automatic admission to the project activities.

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ARTICLE 11

PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

The processing of the personal data of candidates and participants shall be carried out in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and the applicable national legislation on the protection of personal data in Italy and Malta.

Personal data, including special categories of data pursuant to Article 9 of the GDPR (such as health, psychological and social data), shall be processed on the basis of an appropriate legal basis and, in particular, on the basis of the consent expressly given by the data subjects or by their parents/legal guardians, for the following purposes:

- management of the selection procedure and verification of eligibility requirements;
- carrying out the multidisciplinary evaluation aimed at verifying the adequacy, safety and compatibility of participation in the project activities;
- organisation, implementation and monitoring of the WAY Together project activities;
- administrative, control, monitoring and reporting obligations required under the INTERREG VI-A Italy–Malta Programme 2021–2027;
- documentation and institutional communication of the project, within the limits and in accordance with the procedures provided for by the specific consents given.

The processing of personal data shall be carried out in compliance with the principles of lawfulness (on the basis of a valid legal basis), fairness, transparency, data minimisation and purpose limitation, as provided for by the GDPR.

Personal data shall be processed exclusively for the time strictly necessary to pursue the purposes set out above and, in any event, in compliance with the retention periods provided for by the applicable legislation.

Signing the consent forms required pursuant to Article 10 is a necessary condition for the evaluation of the application, but does not entail or guarantee admission to the project activities.

In any event, the rights of data subjects provided for in Articles 15 et seq. of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 remain unaffected.

This Expression of Interest forms an integral part of the official activities of the

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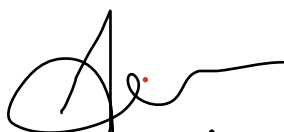
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WAY Together project, funded under the INTERREG VI-A Italy-Malta Programme 2021-2027.

To INSPIRE
Antonello Gauci

For the I Corrieri dell'Oasi
Grazia Silvana Suraniti



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