

# Interreg



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## Italia - Malta

### **Modulo per la ricerca di partner / Partner search form**

per la presentazione di progetti di cooperazione a valere sull'Avviso pubblico 2/2025 – Targeted Call del  
Programma INTERREG VI-A Italia-Malta / for the submission of cooperation projects under the Public Notice  
2/2025 – Targeted Call of the INTERREG VI-A Italia-Malta Programme

**SEZIONE A: CARATTERISTICHE DELL'ENTE CHE RICERCA ALTRI PARTNER / SECTION A: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENTITY SEEKING OTHER PARTNER/S.**

**1. Anagrafica Ente / Entity data**

<b>1.1 - Nome e Cognome / Name and Surname</b>	Antonella Maria Maggio
<b>1.2 - Nome dell'ente / Name of the organization</b>	Università degli Studi di Palermo
<b>1.3 - Tipo di beneficiario / Type of beneficiary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Autorità pubblica (locale, regionale o nazionale) / Public Authority (local, regional or national) <input type="checkbox"/> Agenzia Pubblica / Public agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Università o Centro di ricerca / University or Research centre <input type="checkbox"/> Impresa / Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Organizzazione di sostegno alle imprese / Business support organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Camera di commercio / Chamber of commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Cluster / Cluster <input type="checkbox"/> Incubatore / Incubator <input type="checkbox"/> Living lab / Living lab <input type="checkbox"/> Istituto Tecnico Superiore / Higher Technical Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Istituto scolastico (di ogni ordine e grado) / Educational institution (of all levels) <input type="checkbox"/> Corpo di protezione civile e servizi di emergenza / Civil protection corp and emergency services <input type="checkbox"/> Organizzazione della società civile / Civil society organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Ente gestore di siti, riserve, parchi, aree protette / Managing body of sites, reserves, parks, protected areas <input type="checkbox"/> Associazione attiva nei settori ambientali / Association active in the environmental sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Associazione attiva nei settori della valorizzazione del patrimonio naturale e culturale / Association active in the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Ente e/o associazione di promozione della partecipazione attiva di soggetti svantaggiati / Body and/or association promoting the active participation of disadvantaged subjects <input type="checkbox"/> Associazione di consumatori / Consumer association
<b>1.4 - Status giuridico / Legal status</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ente pubblico / Public entity <input type="checkbox"/> Organismo di diritto pubblico / Body governed by public law

	<input type="checkbox"/> Ente privato dotato di personalità giuridica / Private body having a legal personality <input type="checkbox"/> Ente del terzo settore iscritto nel Registro unico nazionale del terzo settore (Runts) / Third sector entity included in the Italian National Register for Third Sector (Runts) <i>oppure / or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Ente del terzo settore iscritto nel registro del Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations / Third sector entity registered with the Maltese Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations
1.5 - E-mail	antonella.maggio@unipa.it
1.6 - Website	www.unipa.it

## 2. Esperienza / Experience

2.1 - Settore di esperienza / Field of experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ricerca e Innovazione / Research and Innovation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Capitale umano / Human capital</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cambiamento climatico / Climate change</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rischi naturali e antropici / Natural risks and deriving from human activities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economia circolare / Circular economy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrimonio naturale e biodiversità / Natural heritage and biodiversity</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beni culturali / Cultural heritage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inclusione sociale / Social inclusion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Turismo / Tourism</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Innovazione sociale / Social innovation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cooperazione istituzionale e reti di cooperazione / Institutional cooperation and cooperation network</li> </ul>
2.2 Competenze dell'ente / Competences of this organisation	<p>The University of Palermo is a public research institution covering almost all major fields of study, promoting an interdisciplinary approach. Its academic structures include: 16 departments, 1 medical school, and various interdepartmental Centres.</p> <p>The University of Palermo uses a large research infrastructure called "ATeN - Center," which is recognized at the regional level and included in the PNIR - National Research Infrastructure Plan 2021-2027.</p> <p>The research team involved in this project, composed of researchers from the Biological, Chemical, and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies (STEBICEF) Department, brings together complementary expertise spanning green chemistry, biotechnological processes,</p>

	<p>analytical characterization, and sustainable product development.</p> <p>Prof. Antonella Maria Maggio (Principal Investigator and associate professor of Organic Chemistry) is an expert in plant sciences and natural substances, with strong experience in extracting and valorising bioactive compounds from agro-industrial biomasses. She leads the strategic identification and optimization of bioresources relevant to the Sicily-Malta context. Dr. Elena Piacenza (assistant professor of Physical Chemistry) is a specialist in the physical-chemical characterization of polymers, polysaccharides, and bio-based materials, alongside the generation of innovative formulations and materials. Moreover, she supports the transformation of agro-residue fractions into functional ingredients through advanced material analysis. Prof. Delia Francesca Chillura Martino (full professor of Physical Chemistry) has expertise in colloids, supramolecular systems, and interfacial phenomena, providing key competences for evaluating stability and physical-chemical behaviour of complex bio-based materials. Dr. Renato Lombardo (researcher in Physical Chemistry) has experience in spectroscopic and analytical methods applied to molecular and colloidal systems, contributing to the physical-chemical analysis of extracted biomolecules. Prof. Alessandro Attanzio (associate professor of Biochemistry) and Dr. Alessandro Presentato (assistant professor in Microbiology) ensure functional and safety validation of bio-ingredients for personal-care applications through the biological activity testing of natural compounds.</p> <p>Together, the team offers a multidisciplinary platform capable of covering the full value chain (from biomass selection and extraction to advanced analytics and functional validation) ensuring the scientific robustness, innovation potential, and feasibility of the proposed cross-border circular-economy initiative.</p>
<p><b>2.3. - Partecipazione a precedenti progetti del Programma IT-MT / Participation in previous IT-MT Programme projects</b></p>	<p>None of the team members has previously participated in projects funded under the Interreg V/VI-A Italy–Malta Programme.</p>
<p><b>2.4 - Partecipazione a programmi e progetti finanziati da altri fondi europei / Participation in programe and projects financed by other European funds</b></p>	<p>INTERREG NEXT Italia-Tunisia, Avis 1/24, “Filières de L'énergie Optimisée avec Transducteurs et Technologies Avancées pour la Nouvelle génération de récupérateur hybride et le Traitement des sources marines” – FLOTTANT. Contract n. A1-2.2-128. Role: D.F. Chillura Martino is the P.I. of the partner UniPA responsible for the development of a bio-battery to be integrated in a system of energy harvesting.</p> <p>H2020-IND-CE-2016-17 “Resource recovery from industrial waste water by cutting edge membrane</p>

	technologies – ReWaCEM" project, contract n. 723729. Role: D.F. Chillura Martino was member of UniPA Team responsible for the quantification of metals in solution through spectroscopic methods.
2.5 – Specificare se l'organizzazione intende svolgere il ruolo di capofila o partner / This organisation is willing to be a Lead Partner or partner in this IT-MT call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capofila / Lead Partner <i>oppure/or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Partner

## SEZIONE B: IDEA PROGETTUALE / SECTION B: PROJECT IDEA

### 3. Campo di interesse della candidatura e ricerca Partner / Field of Interest of the Application and partner search

3.1 - Priorità e Obiettivo Specifico/ Priority and Specific Objectives	<p><b>PRIORITÀ 1 - Un'area di cooperazione più intelligente per promuovere la ricerca e l'innovazione e lo sviluppo delle competenze per la specializzazione intelligente /</b>  <b>PRIORITY 1 – A smarter area of cooperation to promote research and innovation and the development of skills for smart specialisation</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OS 1.1 - Sviluppare e rafforzare le capacità di ricerca e di innovazione e l'introduzione di tecnologie avanzate nell'area transfrontaliera / SO 1.1 – Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies in the cross-border area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OS 1.2 - Sviluppare le competenze per la specializzazione intelligente, la transizione industriale e l'imprenditorialità dell'area transfrontaliera / SO 1.2 - Develop skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship in the cross-border area</p> <p><b>PRIORITÀ: 2 - Un'area di cooperazione resiliente, che rafforza la protezione e la preservazione della natura anche attraverso l'uso efficiente delle risorse /</b>  <b>PRIORITY 2 - A resilient cooperation area, which strengthens the protection and preservation of nature also through the efficient use of resources</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OS 2.1 - Promuovere l'adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici, la prevenzione dei rischi di catastrofe e la resilienza dell'area transfrontaliera / SO 2.1 – Promoting climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience in the cross-border area</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OS 2.2 - Promuovere la transizione verso un'economia circolare dell'area transfrontaliera – SO 2.2 - Promoting the transition to a circular economy in the cross-border area</p>
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	<p><b>PRIORITÀ 3 – Un'area di cooperazione efficiente in capitale sociale attraverso il ruolo della cultura e del turismo sostenibile nello sviluppo economico / PRIORITY 3 - An area of efficient cooperation in social capital through the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OS 3.1 - Rafforzare il ruolo della cultura e del turismo sostenibile dell'area transfrontaliera nello sviluppo economico, l'inclusione sociale e l'innovazione sociale / SO 3.1 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in the cross-border area in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</p> <p><b>PRIORITÀ 4 – Un'area di cooperazione con una migliore governance tra l'Italia e Malta / PRIORITY 4 - An area of cooperation with better governance between Italy and Malta</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OS 4.1 - Aumentare l'efficienza e l'efficacia della cooperazione nell'area transfrontaliera / SO 4.1 - Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperation in the cross-border area</p>
<p><b>3.2 - Breve descrizione dell'idea progettuale / Brief description of the project idea</b></p>	<p>The project aims to convert shared Sicilian and Maltese agro-industrial residues into high-value bio-ingredients for sustainable personal-care products. By integrating green extraction, advanced physical-chemical characterization, and functional validation, the initiative promotes circular use of local biomasses and supports the creation of innovative, eco-friendly cross-border value chains.</p>

**SEZIONE C: CARATTERISTICHE DEL PARTNER RICERCATO / SECTION C: CHARACTERISTICS BEING SOUGHT IN OTHER PARTNER/S.**

**4. Caratteristiche del partner ricercato / Characteristics of the entity being sought**

<p><b>4.1 Tipologia di partner ricercato tra quelli elencati al punto 1.3 / Type of partner being sought among the ones listed in point 1.3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Università o Centro di ricerca / University or Research centre;</li> <li>• Impresa / Enterprise</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.2 - Competenze richieste del partner ricercato / Requested competence of the sought partner</b></p>	<p>The Maltese partner should bring complementary strengths in industrial process scaling, formulation science, and applied testing to bridge laboratory results with market-oriented applications. Expertise in cosmetic formulation, regulatory compliance, and pilot-scale processing of bio-based ingredients would reinforce the project's capacity to move from extracted compounds to ready-to-use sustainable personal-care prototypes. Additional competences in supply-chain analysis, innovation management, and engagement with Maltese agro-industrial stakeholders would further support</p>

	cross-border integration and ensure effective valorisation of shared biomasses.
<b>4.3 - Attività che dovrebbero essere realizzate dal partner ricercato / Activities that should be carried out by the sought partner</b>	The sought Maltese partner should support pilot-scale processing of selected agro-industrial residues and contribute to the optimization of green extraction workflows, potentially assisting in the formulation of sustainable personal-care prototypes using the bio-based ingredients developed within the project. Additional activities include performing applied stability and performance tests, assessing regulatory and market requirements for cosmetics in Malta, and facilitating interactions with local producers to ensure effective cross-border supply-chain integration.

Inviare la scheda compilata all'indirizzo [stc.italia-malta@regione.sicilia.it](mailto:stc.italia-malta@regione.sicilia.it). Il Segretariato Congiunto provvederà a pubblicare la scheda di ricerca partner sul sito del programma [www.italiamalta.eu](http://www.italiamalta.eu).

Please, send the fulfilled template to [stc.italia-malta@regione.sicilia.it](mailto:stc.italia-malta@regione.sicilia.it). The Joint Secretariat will publish the partner search form on the programme website [www.italiamalta.eu](http://www.italiamalta.eu).