



Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

4helix+

Empowering the 4helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community – based approach in favour of MED blue growth

WP3 TESTING

**Call for Expression of Interest for
Knowledge Providers (KPs)**

**Subject: 4helix+ project – INTERREG MED Programme:
WP3 Pilot Action/EoI for KPs**

**Set-up of a transnational list of Knowledge Providers for the
implementation of
a Transnational Innovation Voucher Scheme
among Mediterranean regions**

Forewords

In line with the Interreg MED Programme priorities, and in particular with the objectives of the Axis 1- Innovation (specific objective 1.1), **4helix+ project** aims at stimulating, coaching and funding cross-sectoral and trans-boundary innovation of the MED key sector “Blue Growth”, which deserves to be better supported being an economic driver and a potential generator of development and jobs. Main change sought is to improve basic conditions for bridging the gap among the MED maritime clusters and within their co-working spaces, maker spaces, creative hubs, etc.

Main expected project results include:

- Upgraded cross-sectoral and trans-boundary RD&I attitude of the targeted 4helix+ MED area innovative maritime clusters key actors, primarily SMEs and Start-ups;
- Increased awareness and understanding among the involved 8 regional ecosystems (pilot territories)¹ about the competitive advantage of the Blue Growth through 4helix+ model and project results embedded into the regional RIS3 strategies of the 8 involved pilot territories;
- Increased capacity of the 4helix+ partners to implement and transfer a transnational cross-innovation action to support MED Blue Growth.

Core action of 4helix+ project is the PILOT ACTION, which will create a framework for funding and facilitating of knowledge transfer in the Mediterranean area, aiming at implementation of new products, services or business models of SMEs/Start-ups operating in both traditional and emerging Blue sectors, through the knowledge sharing and community-based approach.

The Pilot Action entails:

- 1) Preparation phase:** Scouting complementarities and future collaboration scenarios among the involved regional maritime clusters;
- 2) Realization phase:** setting up of an innovative open space platform, dedicated to the implementation of different project activities:
 - management of Knowledge Providers recruitment procedures (Eol);
 - launch of the transnational call for blue innovation project proposals to be awarded with vouchers;
 - coaching actions for project proposals applicants;
 - brokerage activities;
 - monitoring and final reporting of awarded projects;
 - Eol for allocation of travel funds to participate to project Brokerage Event and Blue Bootcamps;
 - matchmaking environment between Blue SMEs/Start-ups and Knowledge Providers;
 - face to face webinars;
 - ensuring sustainability of project actions in the long term;
- 3) External evaluation phase:** carried out by the External Evaluation Committee at the end of the project life cycle, by providing an external view of its overall performance, focusing in particular to the behavioural additionally effect.

The KPs will perform their activities within the framework of the above described 4helix+ Pilot Action.

¹ 1) Marche (Italy), 2) Central Macedonia (Greece), 3) Zadar County (Croatia), 4) Andalucia (Spain), 5) Lisbon Region (Portugal), 6) Durrës, Vlora, Saranda & Shengjlin coastal areas (Albania), 7) Catalunya (Spain), 8) Région Sud - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France)

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1. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

The 4helix+ project is launching a Call for Expressions of Interest (Call for EoI) with the aim of setting up a **transnational list of Knowledge Providers (KPs)**, being firms or professionals or Research Development and Innovation Bodies having specific expertise in the domain of Cultural and Creative Industries and/or Community Spaces considered as Non Institutional New Innovation Agents (fab labs, maker spaces, living labs, co working spaces...).

It is envisaged that the KPs accredited in the 4helix+ KPs list (Knowledge Providers Gallery) will have the opportunity to:

- a) Gain the visibility at transnational level and broaden their professional network through the 4helix+ Cyber Space, an innovative and interactive open space platform, where their profiles will be published and promoted among blue SMEs community;
- b) Take advantage of the **networking opportunities** organized by the project, both virtual and real (Blue Bootcamps, Regional Infodays, Brokerage Event, Roadshows, Transnational Conference in Seville, Matchmaking Environment...) **to meet potential business clients** and professional peers, exchange ideas and explore collaboration opportunities;
- c) Apply for the **Travel Fiches to participate to the key networking/matchmaking events** foreseen by the project:
 - a. **Blue Bootcamps:** 48 hours events developing multi-disciplinary working techniques in a real world setting in the 8 pilot regions involved in the project (see footnote 1).
 - b. **Transnational Brokerage Event** in Zadar (Croatia): aiming at matching blue SMEs/ Start-ups to suitable Knowledge Providers.

Knowledge Providers already registered in the Gallery will have the opportunity to participate in the aforementioned events through responding to specific calls for Expression of Interest for the award of Travel Fiches, aimed at covering the travel and accommodation expenses. The KPs awarded with Travel Fiches will be entitled to claim reimbursement - up to the amounts mentioned on the Travel Fiches - to the Project Partners of the travel expenses incurred (after the travels).

1. Jointly **draft and present innovation-driven project proposals in collaboration with Blue SMEs/ Start-ups to be awarded with 4helix+ Innovation Vouchers**. A total amount of 480.00,00€ will be allocated to, at least, 48 projects, for funding the coaching services provided by involved KPs, who will support the SMEs in identifying breakthrough solutions and engage in innovation process. More specifically, project partners involved in the Pilot Action² launch a call for innovative projects in the framework of 4helix+ Voucher Scheme. The beneficiaries will be SMEs/ Start-ups operating in blue growth sectors (fishing, aquaculture, coastal and maritime tourism, shipbuilding, blue biotechnologies etc) in collaboration with Cultural Creative Industries and/or New Innovation Agents (fab labs, maker spaces, living labs, co working spaces etc). After evaluation, 6 Innovation projects will be selected in each pilot region and granted with innovation vouchers of 10.000€ each one. Selected innovative projects will need to be implemented within six months. **After successful realization of each innovation project, the Knowledge Provider will be paid off for the amount reported on the**

² LP1: SVIM – Sviluppo Marche S.r.l. (Italy), PP2: Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Greece), PP4: Croatian Chamber of Economy – Zadar County Chamber (Croatia), PP5: Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Shipping of Seville (Spain), PP6: XXI Dinamic Network (Portugal), PP7: Albanian Development Fund (Albania), PP8: Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation (Spain) and PP9: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Marseille Provence (France)

Voucher by the pilot partner who is responsible for the territory (MED region) where the SME/ Start-up involved in the project is located.

The KPs will thus, support the implementation of an Innovation Voucher mechanism by coaching SMEs/ Start-ups from the Mediterranean Regions involved in the 4helix+ project activities and operating in the blue growth sectors, to generate new ideas, test new products, processes, services, business models and marketing strategies.

The support of KPs will focus on strengthening traditional and emerging economic activities related to the maritime economy with innovative business ideas, through transferring of knowledge and creative breakthrough solutions to blue SMEs/ Start-ups and through identification and sharing of innovative experiences, such as spatial cross-sectoral collaboration (where inter-sectoral innovation has special conditions to occur: incubators, fab labs, co working spaces etc.).

Essential skills KPs should master:

- ✓ Spot disruptive start-ups, identify emerging technologies, track latest trends;
- ✓ Scout and support most innovative ideas being turned into new products and services;
- ✓ Stimulate personal abilities (ability to think laterally or in a non-linear way, to be imaginative);
- ✓ Challenge the company's self-perceptions and design and deliver innovation capacity building activities and curriculum (e.g. teaching individuals and teams on how to design and use open innovation processes, design thinking, creativity and/or other relevant topics).

2. VOUCHER SCHEME SHORT DESCRIPTION

- a) Knowledge Providers (KPs) are invited to submit the EoI (online Application Form) and accompanied documents (mentioned in point 3.2) in order to be evaluated. KPs submitted applications are evaluated by project partners in base of the selection criteria mentioned in section 3 below. Every partner is responsible for its region. KPs should be located in one of the eligible INTERREG MED areas.
- b) If the evaluation result is positive, the KP is registered in the online "Knowledge Providers Gallery". Its profile and communication details are public and available to Blue SMEs/ Start-ups seeking for collaboration in elaborating innovation projects. It will be also in this platform were KPs will have the opportunity to apply for the Travel Fiches to participate to the key networking / matchmaking events foreseen by the project.
- c) SMEs/ Start-ups from the blue sector and located in pilot partners' areas, need to select a KP registered in the Gallery. SMEs/ Star-ups, in collaboration with a KP, are invited to submit blue-innovation project proposals in the framework of the 4helix+ Transnational Call for Innovation Vouchers launched and promoted in all 8 pilot areas. The Call will be open for 6 months.
- d) Blue-innovation project proposals are evaluated at regional level by Selection Boards. Boards are composed by Local Innovation Committees members (specialists in blue-growth and trans-sectoral innovation) and project partners. Each Pilot Partner has 60.000€ for allocating 6 vouchers of 10.000€ each one. Awarded SMEs/ Start-ups and their KPs are given 6 months to conclude projects. Monitoring visits are realized during awarded projects' implementation to highlight workflow and possible

problems.

- e) After successful realization of each innovation project, certified by relevant Local Innovation Committee, the KP are paid off for the amount reported on the Voucher by the pilot partner who is responsible for the territory (MED region) where the SME/ Start-up involved in the project is located.
- f) Eight awarded projects (one project from each pilot area) are given the opportunity to receive, after evaluation, an additional grant of 3.500€ to finalize an application to European Patent Office.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested individuals and organisations that wish to candidate as potential Knowledge Providers (KPs), should access the online Application Form available on 4helix+ "CYBER SPACE" portal: <https://4helix.unicam.it/index.php> . They are invited to submit their Expression of Interest (Eoi) and thus create their profile in the 4helix+ Knowledge Providers Gallery, so that blue growth sector SMEs/Start-ups interested in presenting innovation projects, to be granted with Innovation Vouchers, can be informed about their expertise and contact them before applying.

Applications must be drawn up in English (applications in other languages will not be accepted).

In order to apply, the knowledge provider aspirants must take account of the following selection criteria described in section 3.1.

3.1 KPs ELIGIBILITY

To be accredited in the transnational list of 4helix+ Knowledge Providers, applicants shall be:

- one of the entities with independent Legal Status listed in point A;
- in conformity with ALL the specific requirements listed in point B (exception is made for A4 - Non Institutional New Innovation Agents - According to the list in Annex 1 – that cannot comply with B1);

A) General Requirements: type of KPs beneficiaries

1. Be an economic operator legally recognised or duly licenced or authorized to render professional services in an INTERREG MED Programme eligible area³; Or
2. Be a natural person/single expert legally recognised or duly licenced or authorized to render professional services in an INTERREG MED Programme eligible area (see reference note n° 3); Or
3. Be a public or private Research Organisation (University, Technological Research Centre, other research organisation) based in an INTERREG MED Programme eligible

³ 1) Croatia: the entire country; 2) Cyprus: the entire country; 3) France, the regions: Corse, Occitanie, Région Sud-Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur and from the region of Auvergne - Rhône-Alpes, only the territory of Rhône-Alpes; 4) Greece: the entire country; 5) Italy, the regions : Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Piedmonte, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany, Umbria, Valle D'Aoste, Veneto; 6) Malta: the entire country; 7) Portugal: the régions: Algarve, Alentejo, Lisbonne; 8) Slovenia: the entire country; 9) Spain: the autonomous regions – Andalusia, Aragon, Catalonia, Balearic islands, Murcia, Valencia – and the two autonomous cities – Ceuta and Melilla; 10) United-Kingdom: the region Gibraltar; 11) Albania: the entire country; 12) Bosnia-Herzegovina: the entire country; 13) Montenegro: the entire country.

area (see reference note n° 3); Or

4. Be an entity considered as Non Institutional New Innovation Agent (According to the list in Annex 1) based in an INTERREG MED Programme eligible area (see reference note n° 3);

B) Specific Requirements

1. Entities mentioned in points A1, A2 and A3 must have specific expertise in the domain of the Cultural Creative Industries (According to the activities reported in Annex 2) – For A3 Entities - Public or Private Research Organisations – this specific requirement will be verified in their Statute/Establishment Act.
2. Must speak English fluently (for contact person/expert involved in the Service);
3. Cannot be entities, which are in financial difficulty within the meaning of EU State aid rules, in particular Commission regulation (EU) no 651/2014.

3.2 ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION OF APPLICATION

Application Procedure

Interested parties should apply online, by clicking on the following link to access the online application:

https://4helix.unicam.it/kp_eol.php .

During the on line application process, the interested parties shall be required to declare that they agree with Data Privacy Terms and the Declaration of Honour (Annex 3,) by clicking on the relevant button of the on line Registration Form and to submit:

- a) CV/Company/Organisation Resume in English language, which is significant with respect to the skills and activities described in point 1 - Objective of the call and includes information on required English language competences;
- b) *For Public or Private Research Organisations only:* a scanned copy of the Establishment Act/Statute (which can be submitted in original language);
- c) A scanned copy of an official document proving that at least one of their economic activities belongs to those mentioned in Annex 2 (Economic activities belonging to Cultural Creative Industries), indicating also relevant NACE(s) Code(s) if NACE classification is in use in their country. *This obligation does not concern public or private Research Organisation (Universities, Technological Research Centers, other research organisations) and Non Institutional Agents.*

Evaluation of the Applications

4helix+ pilot partner reserves the right to reject any application that fails to comply with the specification of this Call for Eol.

Candidates Knowledge Providers will be notified about evaluation results by e-mail. In particular, each KP will be informed by responsible Project Partner if its Application has been accepted or not, not later than 30 days from the submission of the application. If an application is rejected the responsible Project Partner will explain the reasons of rejection.

Only accredited Knowledge Providers may be selected by SMEs/ Start-ups for:

- travel fiches

- Innovation Voucher services

New knowledge providers for Innovation Vouchers are being added regularly to the 4helix+ knowledge providers Gallery. The full list is available at: https://4helix.unicam.it/approved_kp.php

4 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

- For Knowledge Providers willing to jointly draft and present innovation-driven project proposals in collaboration with Blue SMEs/ Start-ups to be awarded with 4helix+ Innovation Vouchers, the Expression of Interest must be submitted online **by 31 March 2019 at midnight CET**.
- For Knowledge Providers willing to be simply registered in 4helix+ online international catalogue (Knowledge Providers Gallery) in order to gain visibility and have the opportunity to be chosen as collaborators by Blue SMEs/ Start-ups, regardless of project's Innovation Vouchers mechanism, the Call will remain open until **the 31 of July 2020**.

5 DISCLAIMER

EU/INTERREG MED Programme makes no representation, warranty or undertaking of any kind in relation to the accuracy or completeness of any Information.

The EU/INTERREG MED Programme will not be liable or responsible to any person in relation to any inaccuracy, error, omission or misleading statements contained in the Information.

The EU/INTERREG MED Programme will not be liable or responsible to any person in relation to any failure to inform any person of inaccuracy, error, omission or misleading statement contained in such Information of which it becomes aware after the date of release of that Information.

The EU/INTERREG MED Programme shall not be liable to any person for any damages, losses, costs, liabilities or expenses of any kind which it may suffer as a consequence of relying upon such Information.

Under no circumstances will the EU/INTERREG MED Programme be liable for any costs or expenses borne by applicants in this process.

6 CHECK LIST

1	CV/Company or Organization Resume in english	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Scanned copy of the Establishment Act/Statute (for public or private research organizations only)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Scanned copy of an official document proving that at least one of their economic activities belongs to Cultural Creative Industries (It doesn't concern public or private research organizations)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Annex 1

Non Institutional New Innovation Agents

- Fab labs
- Maker-spaces
- Co - working spaces
- Creative hubs
- Living labs
- Tech shops
- Contamination labs
- Other similar entity (to be specified by the Applicant)

Annex 2

Activities (by NACE codes) belonging to Cultural and Creative Industries⁴:

1. Cultural Heritage

- 91.02 - Museums activities
- 91.03 - Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions
- 85.52 - Cultural education

2. Archives/Libraries

- 91.01 - Libraries and archives activities

3. Books and Press

- 58.11 - Book Publishing
- 58.13 - Publishing of Newspapers
- 58.14 - Publishing of journals and periodicals
- 47.61- Retail sale of books in specialized stores
- 47.62 - Retail sale of newspapers and stationary in specialized stores

5. Visual arts

- 74.10 - Specialised design activities
- 74.20 - Photographic activities
- 90.03 - Artistic creation

6. Performing arts

- 90.01 - Performing arts
- 90.02 - Support activities to performing arts
- 90.04 - Operation of arts facilities

7. Audiovisual and multimedia

- 58.21 - Publishing of computer games
- 59.11 - Motion picture, video and television programme production activities
- 59.12 - Motion picture, video and television programme postproduction activities
- 59.13 - Motion picture, video and television programme distribution activities
- 59.14 - Motion picture projection activities
- 59.20 – Sound recording and music publishing activities
- 60.10 - Radio Broadcasting
- 60.20 – Television programming and broadcasting activities
- 47.63 - Retail sale of music and video recordings in specialized stores
- 77.22 – Renting of video tapes and discs

8. Architecture

- 71.11 – Architectural activities

9. Advertising

- 73.11 – Advertising Agencies

⁴ According to the European Statistical System Network on Culture Final Report

DECLARATION OF HONOUR

By submitting this EoI, the applicant declares that:

1. The applicant is fully aware that resources of the 4helix+ project, which aim to finance Innovation Vouchers, are part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – INTERREG MED Programme and that all resources are therefore subject to the EU Structural Funds Regulations;
2. The applicant is fully aware that the participation as Knowledge provider automatically excludes the possibility for the entity representing the Knowledge Provider to present a project for the innovation voucher;
3. The information provided in the online registration form of this is accurate, sincere, complete and correct in all its elements;
4. The applicant or any of the persons involved in the knowledge providing does not have any conflict of interest that may affect the potential performance of the Innovation voucher;
5. The applicant declares that holds all the eligibility requirements;
6. The applicant is not in one of the following situations:
 - a. is in bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - b. they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
 - c. is not in compliance with all its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established, with those of the country of the contracting authority and those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
 - d. has been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such activity is detrimental to the financial interests of 4helix+ project partners;
 - e. is a subject of an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply this information, or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations;
 - f. has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an Authorising Officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;

7. The applicant will inform the 4helix+ Pilot Partners, without delay, of any situation considered a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest.