

**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE DESIGN OF PILOT ACTIONS FOR THE
RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED DUNE HABITATS, AIMED AT PROTECTING
THEIR BIODIVERSITY FROM TOURISM PRESSURE.**

**PREBIODUNES PROJECT – INTERREG ADRION IPA 151 – INTERREG_VI-B_IPA- ADRION00151-
“Interreg VI-B IPA Adriatic Ionian IPA-ADRION00151 –**

Ref. - Prof. Damiani - CUP E97F24000130007

FOREWORD

The Polytechnic University of Bari – DICATECh department announces an open and Research Ideas Competition in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV ‘Design and Ideas Competitions’ of Legislative Decree 50/2016 for the design of pilot action for the recovery and restoration of degraded dune habitats, aimed at protecting their biodiversity from tourism pressure, in five pilot areas of PREBIONEDUS Project (see Annex 3).

- ITALY – Lido Conchiglie – Gallipoli
- GREECE – Preveza Costal area - Municipality of Prevesa
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Klek Peninsula
- MONTENEGRO – Velika Plaza - Ulcinj
- ALBANIA – Dune Spille - Kavaje

The ideas competition concerns the development of a conceptual proposal for restoration and protection of coastal dunes in the pilot areas involved in the project.

Candidate proposal must be written in English, under penalty of exclusion.

Participation is open to all persons referred to in Article 5 of these Regulations who meet the requirements set out in Article 6, without prejudice to cases of incompatibility and exclusion as established by law.

1 – PUBBLICATION

The present call is published on website of DICATECh department, at the following link www.dicatech.poliba.it; as well as on the POLIBA website, session “Bandi” and on the PREBIODUNES project website, in the ‘news and events’ section.

2- RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INITIATIVE

Scientific Coordinator – Prof. Leonardo Damiani email: leonardo.damiani@poliba.it;

Project Manager - Dr. Matilda Mali email: matilda.mali@poliba.it,

Administrative Responsible of DICATECh, Dr. Biagio D’Aquino – email: amministrazione.dicatech@poliba.it.

3-SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION FOR RESEARCH PROJECT IDEAS

3.1. Diffuse processes of degradation, erosion and dismantling of dune formations cause sedimentary disequilibrium in the coastal system. These processes are mainly attributable to widespread and uncontrolled use of the dune area, former sand removal activities, and indiscriminate cutting of vegetation in the back dune. Certain actions are required to restore such areas.

The subject of the competition is therefore the acquisition of proposals for the recovery and restoration of degraded dune habitats in five pilot areas of the PREBIODUNES Project, with the aim of protecting their biodiversity from tourism pressure and other natural factors loading on the area.

3.2. Competitors/candidates should prepare their design proposal in the most suitable form for correct representation, following the instructions in the call.

Examples of the ideas expected could include both the following categories of interventions:

1. naturalistic engineering interventions such as:
 - Intervention to address erosion and trampling.
 - Intervention related to sand trapping systems.
 - Renaturation systems for degraded dune sector.
2. interventions of monitoring networks
 - Low-cost monitoring systems for dune degradation phenomena
 - Advanced monitoring system for dune biodiversity protection and regeneration

The state of the art regarding the status of each pilot area will be provided to Candidates/competitors through Technical Sheets of the Pilot Areas, which, together with the Project Application Form, constitute an integral part of these regulations.

The aim of the competition is to identify the technical proposal that best defines pilot environmental and sustainable protection actions.

4 – DOCUMENTS OF THIS CALL

4.1 The reference documentation for participation in the competition is as follows:

- Competition announcement.
- Administrative documentation:

Annex 1: Application form for participation in the competition and privacy statement

Annex 2: PREBIODUNES Project Application Form

Annex 3: PREBIODUNES Technical Sheets of Pilot Areas

5 – ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

5.1 The competition is open to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students specializing in civil engineering and architecture as well as other related fields such as chemistry, biology, etc, who demonstrate sufficient competence in the project topic and related fields. Participants can come from any of the project countries: Italy, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Albania and Croatia.

6 - REQUIREMENTES OF PARTICIPATION

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- a) Undergraduates specialize in civil engineering and architecture, as well as other related fields such as chemistry, biology, agriculture, etc, who demonstrate sufficient competence in the project topic and related fields.
- (b) Graduates in civil engineering and architecture, and related field - chemistry, biology, agriculture, or other related scientific fields who demonstrate sufficient competence in the project topic.
- c) PhD candidates in civil engineering and architecture, and related field - chemistry, biology, agriculture or other related scientific fields who demonstrate sufficient competence in the project topic.

Demonstrated competence in the project topic.

Note: all candidates are eligible to participate in the competition, provided that they do not fall under any of the exclusion conditions provided for in Article 80 of the Italian Public Procurement Code.

7-COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 All communication relating to the procedure must be sent via certified email, referring to the email address provided by candidates in their application.

7.2 It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their email address is entered correctly. Failure to provide essential contact details, such as an email address, or incorrect entry of such details, may result in exclusion from the selection process or competition. The Contracting Authority (Polytechnic University of Bari) is under no obligation to notify candidates of such omissions, since the correct completion of the application form is a fundamental requirement for which the candidate is responsible.

8 – CLARIFICATIONS

8.1 Any information and clarifications may be requested from the Project Manager (Mali Matilda email: matilda.mali@poliba.it; and to the DICATECH Administrative Responsible Dr.

Biagio D'Aquino (email: amministrazione.dicatech@poliba.it;) by submitting written questions.

8.2 Requests for clarification must be received by 31 October 2025. No responses will be provided to questions submitted after this date.

8.3 Responses to questions of general interest, as determined by the Scientific Responsible and Project Manager, as well as further general interest information, will be made available to all candidates via the website www.poliba.it. The anonymity of the applicant will be guaranteed, provided that requests are submitted in good time (see point 10.3). These answers will form an integral and substantial part of the competition documentation.

8.4 Requests for clarification must be made exclusively in English. Responses to all requests submitted two working days before the expiring date of the present call will be provided within the legal timeframe.

9 – SELECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (SEC)

9.1 The Selection and Evaluation Committee (SEC) will be appointed and announced in due course. It will comprise professors, researchers and specialists representing the project partners from the six countries involved (Italy, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania).

9.2 The selection committee is independent in its decisions. It comprises **nine (9) full members**.

- the Lead Coordinator
- one representative from each partner
- two experts on the topic representing associate partners.

The selection committee has the following tasks:

- Define the classification of the Competition according to the criteria reported in art. 14 for each pilot installation.

9.3 The SEC can work in one or more closed meetings, assigning scores as detailed in the following paragraphs and formally recording the activities carried out.

9.4 SEC work may also be carried out via teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and interactive collaboration. Through these methods, the project documents under analysis, as well as any documents produced by the Commission, may be viewed and shared.

9.5 Works of SEC are valid if most members are present.

9.6 If deemed necessary, the SEC may seek the opinion of external consultants and/or personnel from associate partners during its meetings.

10 – PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

10.1 All documentation and materials submitted must be written in English

10.2 The candidatures for participation must be submitted to the Contracting Authority (Polytechnic University of Bari), under penalty of exclusion, only by electronic post to the Protocol Office of the DICATECh Department at certified email address: dicatech.poliba@legalmail.it; or, in alternative, can be shipped on pen drive at the address POLITECNICO DI BARI – DICATECH – Via Orabona, 4 Bari 70125 - UFFICIO PROTOCOLLO DICATECh Ref. Sig.ra MIRTA CAMPOREALE.

The e-folder (zip file) entitled “*Request to participate in the Research Idea Competition – PREBIODUNES – IPA ADRION 151*” should contain the following documents:

Sub-folder entitled: “*Administrative Documents*”, constituted by:

- a) Application form for participation in the competition according to the Annex 1
- b) CV and ID card
- c) Documents certifying the accomplishment of the admissible requirements (i.e. certification degree, supervisor letter, number of EFC obtained, etc.)

Sub-folder entitled: *Project IDEA Proposal*, constituted by

- a) A motivation letter to participate in the Competition
- b) Expression of interest for a specific pilot site
- c) A report with general description of project idea (max 2/3 pages), with technical annexes, explaining the reasons why the proposed solution is suitable for the chosen pilot site.

10.3 The deadline for submission (electronic or postal shipment) is **November, 17th 2025**.

10.4 If a candidate intends to submit the proposal for more than one pilot site, they must submit an application for each pilot site.

10.5 All the administrative and project documentation, must be signed by the candidates.

11 –ASSISTANCE TO CANDIDATES

11.1 Any formal deficiencies in the documentation, particularly any missing or incomplete elements, may be remedied through the investigative assistance procedure with the exception of those relating to the point b) of previous Art. 10

11.2 Irregularities may be remedied if they do not indicate a substantial deficiency in the requirement that the omitted or irregularly produced documentation was intended to demonstrate. Subsequent correction or supplementation of documentation is permitted where it enables certification of pre-existing circumstances, i.e. the requirements for participation.

12– CANDIDATE SELECTION CRITERIA:-

12.1 SEC will draw up a merit ranking of the received proposal for each pilot site, by assigning the following score:

1. a max of 30 points for the project idea;
2. a max of 10 points for the quality of the motivational letter
3. a max of 10 points for knowledge of the language of the country in which the chosen pilot site is located.

12.2 The first proposals in the merit ranking for each pilot site will be selected for the following steps.

12.3 All the proposal with a score related to previous point 1. higher than 21/30 will receive a merit certificate and will be published on the DICATECh website (www.dicatech.poliba.it) and on the PREBIODUNES project website.

All the proposal with a score related to previous point 1. lower than 21/30 will be considered ineligible;

12.4 The selected candidates will be asked to:

- make an inspection to the pilot site (all travel and accommodation expense borne by the PREBIODUNES budget) between the months of December 2025 and January 2026;
- elaborate a pre-feasibility project on the basis of the proposal already presented to the SEC with the following main elements:
 - Prepare a general descriptive report indicating specific objectives addressed, the objective of the pilot action proposed, the methodology adopted, innovation and originality as well as the relevance and impact of the proposal in compliance with the peculiarities and needs of the site and its feasibility.
 - Technical and specialized report/s with specific details on the pilot actions proposed
 - Cartographic details (maps, photographic documentation, etc)
 - Environmental impact evaluation of the action

12.5 The job will be performed under the supervision of a tutor chosen among the members of the PREBIODUNES partnership

12.6 The candidates will receive a prize of 500,00€.

12.7 Depending on the PREBIODUNES budget availability, also the second proposals in the merit ranking will be asked to join in the inspection visit and in the elaboration of the pre-feasibility project at the same condition of the selected proposals.

13 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The winning idea or ideas will become the property of the PREBIODUNES consortium and the managing authority of the INTERREG ADRIAN funding programme. They may be used to define

technical specifications or form the basis of a design competition or design service contract. In this case, the winners will be eligible to participate in the procedure if they meet the relevant subjective requirements.

14 – AWARD CEREMONY

The award ceremony for the winning proposals will be organised as part of a project steering meeting (online or in person). Each candidate will have the opportunity to present their proposal. Agreements with the administrations and/or project partners responsible for implementing the pilot plants may also be possible.

Other proposals will also be presented during the award ceremony. Second-place candidates will receive a consolation prize.