



CALL FOR TENDERS: Research Services for Policy Reports on Youth Employment in the Mediterranean

Under the Framework of “CLUSTER – advanCing youth and women social incluSion in The mEditorRanean” (C_A.3.1_0014) Project

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Lead Beneficiary of the CLUSTER project, is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or organisations to conduct a comprehensive study and write a sector-focused policy reports on the topic of youth employment in the Mediterranean region. The aim of this research is to forecast the employment prospects of 4 sectors (blue, circular, and green economy, and sustainable agriculture) in the Mediterranean region in the near future and propose evidence-based policy recommendations to address youth unemployment in the region.

Scope of Work:

The economic hardships following the COVID-19 pandemic have heavily affected employment opportunities in the Euro-Mediterranean region, raising numbers of citizens at risk of poverty and social exclusion. The COVID-19 crisis has severely affected labour markets around the world, hurting young people more than other age groups. Moreover, demand-supply skills mismatch is a key factor behind high unemployment rates and changing labour market demands. This context highlights a growing importance of reskilling and upskilling youth and women, together with diversifying and investing in sustainable economy sectors to better cope with future economic and climate crises.

Against this background, **CLUSTER** is an ENI CBC Med-funded project that aims to tackle social exclusion among vulnerable groups in 7 Mediterranean countries (Spain, Italy, France, Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia), by equipping young people and women who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs), with employability skills in the **blue, circular, green economy, and sustainable agriculture** sectors.

One of the main aims of this project is to include social economy as part of the solution and support local, regional, and national authorities in their employment practices by providing them with action plans and recommendations based on successful experiences, thus creating a new model of intervention that fosters marketable skills among NEETs, in particular women. The first step of this process begun by the Project Consortium’s mapping of policy frameworks in their countries regarding the topics of youth unemployment and the general local employment panorama. A thorough mapping in relation to local NEETs employment programmes and their effectiveness to fight against social

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exclusion of young people and women was carried out by each Project Partner based on interviews with representatives of public institutions, complemented with desk research. This mapping resulted in [7 short descriptive technical reports](#) that provide a good understanding of the policy landscape and **will serve as the basis for the 4 policy-oriented sector-focused reports:**

The second step involves the creation of **4 policy-oriented sector-focused regional reports** that correspond to the 4 pillars of the project (blue, circular, and green economy, and sustainable agriculture). Based on the mapping of youth employment policy frameworks that was previously conducted by the CLUSTER team (as stated earlier), these **4 policy reports will take a step further in drawing conclusions and forecasting the employment prospects of the 4 sectors in the Mediterranean region in the near future.** The [Consolidated Technical Sector Report](#) produced by CLUSTER analysing the state of art of these 4 sustainable economy sectors in the Mediterranean, will also be used as a reference for the elaboration of these 4 policy-oriented reports.

These reports will end with **action plans** that will target public authorities and policymakers at regional level, as well as the Union for the Mediterranean. These cross-border action plans will convert the knowledge and results generated by these reports into tangible recommendations for regional policy-makers to jointly implement inclusive youth employment schemes.

Thus, the main objective of the reports is to create a nexus between the 4 economic sectors and employment opportunities in the Mediterranean, with the ultimate goal of fighting social exclusion through policy recommendations.

These 4 reports will be elaborated in English. The researcher(s) should gather the information through desk work, as well as interviews, if needed.

Each report should include the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction (including background information, as well as objectives and scope of the report)
- Chapter 2: Overview of the (Blue/Green/Circular Economy or Sustainable Agriculture) sector in the Mediterranean region
- Chapter 3: Mapping of youth employment policy frameworks in this specific sector in the Mediterranean
- Chapter 4: Employment prospects for this sector in the near future
- Chapter 5: Action plan for regional policy-makers to implement inclusive youth employment schemes in this sector

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Each report will have a length of around 5,000 words, including final references and footnotes.

Presentation of Applications and Selection Procedures:

Applicants can be an individual consultant or an organisation.

Applicants should submit the following documents:

- Technical:
 - the applicant should elaborate a paper proposal of no more than 350 words, specifying the methodology to conduct their research based on the above-mentioned objectives of the reports, while elaborating them further. This proposal should clearly indicate which of the 4 sectors the applicant wishes to focus on, since each report will be dedicated to 1 of the 4 sectors.
 - An implementation calendar should be delivered, including planned consultation with key stakeholders, if needed.
 - CV including a list of relevant publications authored by them. In the case of organisations, CVs of all researchers who will be involved in the elaboration of these reports, including a list of relevant publications authored by them.
- Financial offer with all charges and taxes included, considering the maximum amount offered per report is € **1,800** inclusive all taxes and other costs that might occur. **Offers exceeding the maximum available budget will be rejected.**

Each applicant can apply for more than 1 report. In this case, they should submit an application package for each report.

Please submit your application package with the subject line of “**CLUSTER Project_Policy Report**” to Ms. Karina Melkonian at kmelkonian@iemed.org, by **29 May 2023 at 23:59hrs CET**. As content of the email, please indicate which of the 4 sectors you are applying for.

If you have questions concerning this call, please contact Ms. Melkonian before the deadline. For more information about the CLUSTER project, please visit this [link](#).

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Offers will be assessed according to the following criteria and scores:

Points	Criteria
Maximum 40 points	Quality of the paper proposal (including methodology and approach) to meet the report's objectives
Maximum 25 points	Proven track-record in elaborating such reports and in English (through the CV and list of publications)
Maximum 35 points	Financial offer

The deadline to submit your application is **29 May 2023 at 23:59hrs CET**.

Selected authors will be asked to elaborate on their proposal and will be given paper formatting guidelines.

Budget and Payment Terms:

The maximum amount **per report** is €1,800 (including VAT and any eventually social, security and welfare costs), and it will be awarded upon the submission of the final report as long as it meets the established quality standards.

The researcher(s) will start the work after the validation of their offer by the contractor.

Calendar:

1. Launch of the call for papers: 18 May 2023
2. Deadline for paper proposals submission: 29 May 2023
3. Notification by individual email of the results of all applications: 30 May 2023
4. Online meeting between the selected authors and contractor to further agree on the content of the reports: 31 May 2023
5. Submission of the 1st draft of the reports by authors: 3 July 2023
6. Review of the draft by the contractor: 7 July 2023
7. Submission of the final draft of the reports by authors: 17 July 2023
8. Editing and formatting of 4 reports by the contractor: 18-31 July 2023
9. Publication of 4 reports: August-September 2023

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Treatment of Personal Data:

In the execution of this collaboration agreement, the parties undertake to comply with the provisions of Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on the protection of personal data and guarantees of digital rights, the Regulation (EU) no. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, relating to the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and the free circulation of such data (GDPR), as well as the regulations remaining that it regulates at all times the protection of personal data.

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