

MISSIONE 4
ISTRUZIONE
RICERCA



MICS PE_00000004

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EVALUATORS

**OF INTERNAL RESEARCH
PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS
SUBMITTED UNDER CASCADE
FUNDING OPEN CALLS FOR
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
ISSUED BY THE MADE IN ITALY
CIRCULAR AND SUSTAINABLE
(MICS) EXTENDED
PARTNERSHIP**

With reference to the project "MICS" (Made in Italy Circular and Sustainable) CUP B43C22000740006, admitted for funding by the MUR by Directorial Decree granting facilities No.1551 of October 11, 2022, in response to Notice No. 341 of 30/12/2021 Public notice for the submission of Intervention Proposals for the creation of " Extended partnerships with universities, research centres, companies for the funding of basic research projects" – under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Mission 4 "Education and Research" - Component 2 "From research to enterprise" - Investment 1.3, funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU

1. The MICS Value Proposition: vision, targets, goals

Made in Italy products – especially concerning high-end and premium commodities in leading industries – are internationally acknowledged for the quality of their design and technical characteristics. However, society and business are evolving nationally and worldwide. To maintain competitiveness, Italy is now called to undergo a transformation that is aligned with the global active call for action to respond to crucial issues, such as climate and social changes. A decent number of investments are therefore needed to achieve such ambitions. Such efforts must be in accordance with market requests and must consider the current factors that drive society. The development of the Country must be directed towards enhancing sustainable and circular performances to optimize resource consumption and minimize resource waste and emissions.

Italy has major expertise in four main industries, namely **Fashion, Furniture and Automation**. By including all those industries, it is possible to address approximately 48% of the National Value Added (also considering satellite sectors – SS - that are indirectly involved). In order to achieve a high impact for the country, MICS includes in its list of partners the main industry leaders of those sector, which together will cover the whole national industrial ecosystem, will be able to provide high research and innovation resources, will develop best practices to be adopted by Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and will be included in activities pertaining to research and technology transfer and training through Open Calls with a relevant dedicated budget.

In fact, the Italian manufacturing network is traditionally composed by SMEs that often do not have capabilities to autonomously keep up with the pace of rapid innovation. Hence, they must be supported in this necessary transition not only to allow them to survive and thrive, but also to exploit their key distinguishing drivers that will make them a new benchmark of sustainability in an increasingly competitive world. Also, it is crucial that the craftsmanship that underpins the Made in Italy must be protected, enhanced, and enforced as a lever to retain and attract talents that strengthen the bedrock that is necessary for capillary innovation in the upcoming decades. Large, medium, small companies of the Fashion, Furniture and Machinery Italian sectors are the ultimate beneficiaries of the A3-Italy research and innovation outputs.

Circularity, eco-design, green and innovative materials, digital technologies, and advanced manufacturing are all well-known concepts. Our ambitious vision is to enable a fully closed-loop, self-sufficient, self-regenerative, reliable, safe, and energy-aware design and manufacturing of Made in Italy products and services. These concepts are visionary and still part of a dream that the partners of MICS all share, for a Made in Italy for the future.

2. Governance

The **Extended Partnership hub, Fondazione MICS** (defined below as “the Hub”) is the implementing body in charge of the project. The hub is composed of 25 actors that respond to specific objectives of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and covers specific priority themes manned by 8 spokes.

The hub consists of a spoke co-ordination committee and a scientific-technical committee, which deal with strategic and scientific orientation, quality and control respectively; an office dealing with administrative and financial management, with a board of directors at the center, which is responsible for monitoring, evaluation and decision-making; and finally, a research manager, who in turn deals with the various spokes.

On the other hand, the eight Spokes are the entities of the main hub that implement scientific activities, connecting the foundational research that lies at the basis for realizing our vision with the eight thematic areas that need to be focused on to address the challenges that currently confront our **models of design, production, consumption, as well as the End-of-Life of materials, products, production technologies and processes that are necessary for moving towards greener and circular pathways and patterns**. They cover research and innovation activities, training, technology transfer, and dissemination of results.

While the scientific activities look toward the circular and sustainable transition, MICS considers the centrality of the individual as an element that connects all the choices that underlie the partnership. More specifically:

Spoke 1: Digital Advanced Design: technologies, processes, and tools with the ambition of mapping and developing a portfolio of digitally enhanced solutions (technologies, methodologies, and tools) for supporting, augmenting, and verifying design process and decision making, and for integrating circularity throughout the entire life cycle of products and machines.

Spoke 2: Eco-Design Strategies: products, services, and systems – Product-Service System (PSS) to develop and experiment with a portfolio of PSS eco-design strategies that support all design phases: design of PSS architecture, materials, and components; cradle-to-cradle PSS lifecycle design and impacts evaluation; service and communication design for social innovation and behavioral change.

Spoke 3: Green and sustainable products & materials from non-critical & secondary raw sources to create products and materials for advancing sustainability and circularity of Made-in-Italy sectors using alternative raw sources: waste, industrial residues, and non-critical minerals.

Spoke 4: Smart and sustainable materials for circular and augmented industrial products and processes with new conceptualizations of climate friendly products and processes and experimentation in fostering a natural oriented disruptive technology for a Green Made in Italy approach. The spoke will conceive material building blocks supporting “dematerialization” and biological transformation of Italian 3A craftsmanship, start-ups, SMEs and LEs: win-win is the challenge of the future!

Spoke 5: Closed-loop, sustainable, inclusive factories and processes as a new concept for a factory that does not exist yet: a zero-waste, pollution-free, energy-neutral, closed-loop, natural-oriented, human-centered, socially-oriented, inclusive, fully safe, self-sufficient, self-regenerative factory. A new factory concept that will lead Made in Italy towards the Urban Factory and even to the Factory in Space.

Spoke 6: Additive Manufacturing as disruptive enabler of the Twin Transition as the only viable solution to realize a new generation of green and circular products (lightweight, energy efficient, extended-lifetime products), adopting green and sustainable materials with a new generation of zero-waste processes. Spoke 6 ambition is to revolutionize Additive Manufacturing as a disrupting enabling technology of the twin transition.

Spoke 7: New and consumer-driven business models for resilient and circular supply chains to define a new competitive paradigm, by conceptualizing, designing, and experimenting with new archetypes, methods, and solutions of restorative and regenerative Business Models, resilient and circular Supply Chains, and innovative technology-based marketing strategies.

Spoke 8: Digitally-oriented factory design and management through Artificial Intelligence and data driven approaches with a new concept for sustainable and resilient digital factory in which Artificial Intelligence, digital technologies and collaborative robotics will establish a trustworthy human-machine coevolution relationship and lead to high-performance, inclusive, sustainable human-machine working systems.

Experimentation and exploitation activities will be the target of the main industries of the project and is planned for the whole Italian context. For further information please follow the URL: www.mics.tech

3. Scope and activities required

Within the MICS initiative, the Hub aims at setting up a **MICS External Pool of Evaluators** to:

- support the review process of the research activities under the MICS Research Program carried out by the Affiliates and managed by Spoke.
- support the review process of the proposals received under the MICS cascade funding open calls for innovation.

Evaluators will help the Hub assess applications for internal research projects and funding, including tenders, and provide input on specific issues. They will provide remote services, including a neutral and objective scientific and/or business review of received documents.

4. Profile of Evaluators

We are looking for experts in the fields of Automation, Fashion and Furniture, with experience in evaluating EU-funded projects and a proven track record in the technical areas corresponding to the “MICS purpose” addressed topics: sustainable, inclusive, and resilient technology solutions in the domains of Fashion, Clothing, Leather, Textiles, Footwear, Eyewear and Accessories, Furniture and Interiors, Yacht Design, Automation, mechatronics, machinery and mechanical technology.

5. Conditions for assignment and contracting

The Hub will set up and maintain the Pool and will engage the pool according to monitor the progress of internal research projects as needed and to the deployment of each Call for Proposals, and prior to being selected for a specific application, all evaluators will need to sign a non-conflict of interest declaration and a contract with the HUB.

Expressing interest in participating in this call for evaluators for the MICS project does not create a binding commitment to the project itself.

Selection of evaluators to support the HUB will be done at a later stage, considering the number and origin of the proposals, the target domain, the evaluators' affiliations, expertise, and other criteria such as gender, age, and background. Additionally, frequent rotation of experts involved in proposal evaluations will have to be ensured. If chosen for an assignment, a contract will need to be signed.

Evaluators will be compensated for their time and work based on activity carried out, duration of activity required, number of proposals evaluated and the criteria set in the contract and all the related supporting documents.

By replying to this call and signing the contract, evaluators will agree to perform the assignments to the highest professional standards and in compliance with the requirements and related documents provided by MICS in their version as published when signing the proposed contract itself.

6. Opening

Applications must be submitted sending by email to **evaluators@mics.tech** the application form signed with attached an identity document and an **updated cv with general information on your experience/expertise on “MICS purpose” addressed topics and previous evaluating experiences on EU-funded projects.**

No deadline for submitting your Expression of Interest is foreseen, even if you should be aware of the importance of submitting it as soon as possible.

7. Processing of personal data

All personal data of which Fondazione MICS comes into possession during the completion of the procedures referred to in this notice will be treated in compliance with Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 and EU Regulation no. 2016/679.
