



# Joint Research 2021

## Call for applications

### Collaborative projects with Industry, Public and Private Bodies

#### Article 1 - Purpose and object of the call

1. Departments and Research Centres of the University of Verona are invited to submit collaborative projects with Industry, public and private institutions (other public or private universities can participate only as a scientific partner). The call aims to foster research and development thanks to a research of common interest comprising the involvement of researchers and the use of knowledge, facilities and equipment.
2. The University will co-finance the collaborative projects, submitted and evaluated under this Call, through specific resources from the University budget.

#### Article 2 – Research Project eligibility criteria

1. Joint projects should refer to one or more of the following actions:
  - a) Research activities aimed at the development of new products / services / processes / methods / models (Applied / Industrial Research);
  - b) Activities of study and theoretical and experimental research aiming at the development of prototypes and / or pilot plants (Pre-competitive Development).
2. Projects must be carried out by one or more departments and / or research centers with financial autonomy, in partnership with at least one or more companies and / or public or private bodies. Other universities and UniVR spin-offs may participate as partners; however, their financial or figurative contribution will not be counted in the total project cost.
3. Research projects previously funded with University funds dedicated to Joint Projects and Basic Research cannot be presented, except in the case of initiatives arising from results or projects that imply the continuation of activities receiving local, regional, state, European or international contribution.
4. The Scientific Coordinator shall be a tenured professor of the University of Verona (full professor, associate professor or assistant professor) who, as principal investigator, will submit only one project following the instructions described in Article 3. Temporary researchers (RTD), whose contract is not funded by external sources, can submit a proposal as a principal investigator as long as the duration of the project is in line with the duration of their contract. The Department/Centre will be responsible for the administrative, financial and accounting of the joint project admitted to co-financing for the Scientific Coordinator.
5. If a Scientific Coordinator won a grant on Ricerca di Base 2019 call or Joint Project 2019 call cannot submit a proposal for this call. However, he/she can participate on the research group but his/her participation must be compatible with other institutional activities already undertaken.
6. The joint project will be led by the Research Unit of each partner and coordinated by a Scientific Supervisor specified in the application form. The Scientific Coordinator will have also the role of Head of the Research Unit located at the Department.
7. In research output, in particular in the publications and dissemination materials of funded projects, it is necessary to use the name and / or signs of the University of Verona, the Department, the University Research Center and the Joint Research initiative according to the identity guidelines and reporting "Project funded



under the Joint Research 2021 program funded by the University of Verona".

8. Depending on confidentiality requirements of the partners, funded projects shall be promoted in specific events to disseminate the results and in institutional initiatives to promote the Call.

### Article 3 - Presentation of project proposals

1. Project proposals must be submitted before the following deadlines:

- a. 31 July 2021 at 12.00
- b. 31 October 2021 at 12.00
- c. 31 January 2022 at 12.00
- d. 30 April 2022 at 12.00

through the online form, at the link [www.univr.it/jp](http://www.univr.it/jp)

2. Project proposals will be recorded and evaluated on the basis of the chronological order of submission taking into account the criteria set out in the Call and until funds are exhausted.

3. Project proposals must be **written in English** (with a brief description in Italian) and contain a detailed description of the objectives, the implementation plan and the main impacts and final results

3. In addition, project proposals must disclose the following information elements:

- The common interest of the University and Company / Institution involved in the project;
- The technical and scientific capacity and viability to ensure the proper execution of the research activities;

### Article 4 - Resources and extent of co-financing

1. The overall resources available for this Call are € 240.000 for the year 2021. The total financial fund is divided between the following two lines of funding:

- **LINE 1**

**180.000 Euro** for project in partnership with companies, established in various legal forms (Spin-off of the University of Verona and other Universities are excluded) and/or with Public Research Organizations.

- **LINE 2**

**60.000 Euro** are allocated for project in partnership with Public or Private non-profit organizations, with exclusion of Italian or Foreign public or private University.

2. Given the overall financial resources allocate for the Call, the amount of co-funding of the project will be determined on the basis of the total cost of the project, according with the below clause.

For the Projects of **Line1** the total co-financing assured by the University is comprised between 15.000 Euro and 30.0000 Euro, the 60% of which provided by the Joint Research Fund and the 40% provided by the Department (20% Department funds and 20% cost of the research staff). At least 50% of the total cost of the project will be supplied by the Companies / Organizations participating in the realization of the joint project

For the Projects of **Line2** the total co-financing assured by the University is comprised between 5.000 Euro and 10.0000 Euro, the 60% of which provided by the Joint Research Fund and the 40% provided by the Department (20% Department funds and 20% cost of the research staff). At least 50% of the total cost of the project will be supplied by Public or Private non-profit organizations participating in the realization of the joint project.

3. Financial partners must submit a letter of commitment during the application process stating their willingness to participate actively in the project and the full availability of funds that will be transferred to the Department



of the Scientific Coordinator. These amounts must be available and without constraints to other projects or initiatives. If the financial partner prefers to contribute in several installments, it will be necessary to sign a surety without which it will not be possible to start the project. Therefore, the surety must be attached to the collaboration agreement for the implementation of the project.

4. In any case, all the figurative contributions of personnel and equipment of the partners will NOT be counted for the purpose of establishing the total cost of the project.

5. The Joint Research contribution will be made available exclusively after signing the collaboration agreement and having provided the Single Project Code (CUP ).

#### **Article 5 - Determination of the total project cost**

1. The total cost of the joint project will be given by the sum of costs incurred starting from the date of submission of the project proposal and throughout the period defined for the conduct of research. Therefore, in the Cooperation Agreement must be indicated the start date and end date of the project, the Unique Project Code (UPC), which, must be included in every supporting documents of expenses related to the project (invoices, receipts, etc.)

2. The only eligible costs will be the following:

##### **a) Purchase of new equipment**

This category will be included: equipment, instrumentation and software purchase on the market. The following criteria will be applied:

- The cost of new equipment and new instrumentation be used exclusively for the project will be determined according to the invoice. The following costs are eligible: customs duties, transport, packaging and any assembly, insurance costs, maintenance and any other contractual cost required by the nature of the good. For this category the eligible cost is related to the annual amortization, in compliance with the Italian law. The cost is proportional to the actual use of the asset for the project.

- If new equipment or instrumentation fall in to art. 4 clause 3, the eligible cost is equal to 100% of the cost of the asset. However, the partner must signed agreement by the legal representative and countersigned by the auditor or by the chairman of the supervisory board ( if any). This must include the reasons for charging the full cost of the asset and certify that at the end of the project the property will have to be transferred free of charge at the University.

- Costs related to furniture and fixtures are excluded.

##### **b) R&D cost.**

The category includes the following costs: raw materials, components, semi-finished products, marketing materials, materials specific consumption (i.e reagents), expenses for clinical trials, expenses for crops and livestock (i.e for research of agricultural interest), in addition to equipment used for the construction of prototypes and / or pilot plants, as well as the realization of the questionnaires, the purchase of books / books / articles and / or the costs of publications (ISSN / ISBN / DOI) including conference proceedings concerning the project.

This item covers the costs of the materials required for the minute operational functionality such as: tools, small metal parts and electrical items for the protection of personal digital media (eg. Mass storage devices, etc.) And similar computers, glassware ordinary equipment, feed, bedding and cages for the maintenance of laboratory animals etc.

The costs will be determined on the basis of the amount of the invoice (covering the UPC project), which will have to make clear reference to the unit cost of the goods supplied, plus any customs duties, transport and packaging.

It specifically excludes the costs of maintenance and repair of any equipment.

##### **c) Temporary employees.**

For departments and research centers of the University of Verona this item will include costs for the activations



/ renewals (up to the maximum period allowed by the relevant regulations) of research grants (assegni di ricerca). Partners can also co-finance directly Departments and research centers through grants for research grants. With regard to research scholarships (borse di ricerca), these can be financed exclusively with funds of the financial partners.

Both for the University and for the partners, the personnel involved in the project activities may conduct any task at the facilities of the University and / or the participating institutions, taking care to follow the requirements of legislation on safety and health at work.

**d) Subcontracting and analysis services.**

Must refer to benefits even occasional, exclusively scientific rendered by individuals or entities with legal personality and regulated by special act of a legally valid commitment. Their cost will be determined according to the invoice / bill / billing note. Within this category the following costs are eligible: reimbursements for travel and accommodation of visiting scientists at the headquarters of the project, for reasons of a scientific nature are closely related to the activities covered by the project, and even in cases where scientific advice is given free of charge. In this item is included services purchased from other Department or/and Center of the University of Verona, as long as there is a proof of the cost-effective of the internal acquisition.

**e) Travel and subsistence.**

This item includes all expenses incurred for missions related to the project. The costs can be recognized, for the realization of the joint project and the mission must be authorized by the Head of the Research Unit and formalized in a letter of appointment in which is identified the person who goes on a mission, the period mission and the scientific reasons that have to be linked to the operations provided for in the final design.

The costs of the missions for the staff of partner organizations cannot be supported by the Departments and Research Centers of the University of Verona.

**f) Disseminatio.**

It includes the organization of scientific-informative events for the presentation of research results. As an indication, including expenses related to rent rooms, fees for external speakers, catering, website, logistics, communications agencies, information material, etc. In any case, the remuneration paid to the Research Unit is excluded in any way intended (organizer, speaker, etc.). It will be possible to make this expense even after the end of the project, provided that these activities are scheduled and estimated in detail by the end date of the project

3. It will be possible to make readjustments of the costs for the entire period of the project (also to adjust costs to the curtailment occurred initially on the basis of the evaluations) within a range of variability equal to 20% of the total cost of the project with the possibility of moving from one item to another provided that the percentage of co-financing of each partner to respect the provisions of art. 4 of this call. In any case the remodeling does not involve additional costs for the University.

4. Any requests for changes of projects approved and funded should be addressed to Research Service - Liaison Office, who will have 15 working days to respond and after consulting the Delegate. After the deadline without any answer changes will be deemed to be accepted.

5. In the event of transfer of the Scientific Coordinator to another University, or retirement, the funding will remain at the department only if other researchers from the University of Verona are involved since the submission of the project as long as they are not winners of other project pursuant to art. 2 paragraph 5. In this case, the Department Council will appoint a new scientific coordinator. Otherwise, the remaining funds must be returned to the University. The funds remain with the department to which they have been assigned for reporting even if the new scientific manager belongs to a different department, unless otherwise agreed between the departments involved.

**Article 6 - Procedure for the assessment of project proposals submitted**

1. The parties involved in the evaluation process of the projects presented are:



- The Research Area - Liaison Office, with regard to the verification of the completeness of documents, the technical and administrative management of the evaluation process and the allocation of projects to independent expert evaluators.
  - The Board of Directors of the University for the approval of projects to be funded until the depletion of the fund and the related publication of the final ranking.
2. The evaluation procedure of the proposals will be carried out by an evaluation board composed by professors and experts from outside the University appointed by the Rector and on the basis of the following criteria:

<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA up to a maximum of 100 points</b>
a) Innovation, novelty and <b>adequacy of the proposed research, prospects for dissemination and transfer of results</b> expected from the project and contribution to the advancement of knowledge, of skills and technologies in the specific production sector or scope of interest. In particular, the proposal will be evaluated according to the technological or scientific content, the potential of the project (scalability) and the market attractiveness: <b>up to 20 points;</b>
b) Scientific qualification, including in relation to the proposed project, the scientific coordinator and unit coordinators, with the assessment of their scientific activity in the past five years and the expertise in the area of the proposal. Contract research activities could be mentioned in order to witness the expertise acquired by the team in collaborative context: <b>up to 20 points;</b>
c) Socio-economic impact of the proposed research, dissemination and transfer of the expected results in the specific productive sector or applicative area of interest, with particular regard to the issues covered by EU programs and the missions envisaged by the new PNRR. Specifically, the social, economic and cultural dimension of the impact produced will be taken into account, i.e. the contribution of the project to changing attitudes, increasing awareness, developing skills and good practices, refining the processes of understanding in the economic, scientific field. cultural, social, institutional, where all this leads to a substantial improvement. The evaluation process will consider also the relevance of the project in relation to the local, regional, national, European or international dimension. The quantitative or qualitative incremental effects on the reference context will be appreciated, which means the external ecosystem that can be local, national, European or international. Finally, the added value for the beneficiaries will be considered, i.e. innovations and improvements in technological, economic, social and cultural fields induced by the project for the benefit of society in its various components, i.e. a wide and diversified audience of beneficiaries (such as public / private entities , public institutions, including governmental ones, local authorities, businesses, representative trade associations, citizens, students, future generations, the environment and living species). In particular, the evaluation process will appreciate in projects, the degree of innovation not only technological, but also social, as well as the respect of principles of equity, equality, equal opportunities, removal of conditions of inequality and vulnerability, as prerequisites for the realization of effective social justice: <b>up to 60 points;</b>

3. It will be considered for funding only those proposals that have obtained a minimum score of 90 points
4. There will be two separate final rankings for the two different lines of projects. These ranking are used until the allocated financial amount are exhausted
5. The communication of the assignment of the eligible funding will then be forwarded to the Scientific Coordinator of the project, accompanied by the documents of the evaluation process. Coordinators of the projects not selected to the funding, both for score lower than 90 or for exhaustion of the fund, will also receive complete information on the results of the evaluation procedure.
6. The final list with the results of the evaluation procedure will be made public through the web pages of the University.



**Article 7 - Duration of the project, monitoring and verification of results, reporting.**

1. The research will last for one year (annual project) or two years (two-year project).
2. The project duration can be extended (for once and for up to 6 months) without entailing any case, no additional contribution from the Joint Research Fund, also in case of changes to the projects.
3. The Scientific Coordinator of the project will be required to report within three months from the end of the project through a detailed report to provide the following findings:
  - a. analytical reporting of the expenses occurred;
  - b. the progress of the project in relation to the objectives;
  - c. the results achieved;
  - d. (If any) changes compared to the original plan;
  - e. the prospects for further development and possible economic effects predictable.

**Article 8 - Ownership and / or enjoyment of research results**

1. The exploitation of rights coming from intellectual or industrial property on the research results are proportional to the share of the co-financing (inventions, new models, process or product innovations, technical and commercial know-how), without prejudice to the rights, set up by law, of authors and inventors. If the partners agree otherwise, they must be expressly authorized by the Research - Liaison Office.
2. Each party can publish the results coming from the project only if the other party gives a written consent, which, shall not be unreasonably withheld and it must be strictly linked to consideration on the protection and exploitation of intellectual property and on the industrial development of these results
3. The products of the research in full text format will have to be submitted to the Open Archive repository of the University. The submission in the Open Archive and the management of intellectual property rights must be arranged with the Research Area.

**Article 9 - formalization of the Agreement of cooperation for the realization of the project**

1. The cooperation between the parties will be implemented through a special agreement, concerning the agreed research program (Collaboration Agreement for the realization of the joint project prepared from the Research Service- Liaison Office and published on the site Internet University) which will regulate: the purposes, the duration, forms of consultation of the contracting entities, their financial relationships and mutual obligations and guarantees with the determination, in particular, the manner and timing of implementation, ownership and the exploitation of the results of research carried out in collaboration.
2. It is necessary that every Scientific Coordinator setting out in detail the collaboration agreement with the support of Research Service- Liaison Office.

**Article 10 - Forms of publicity and dissemination of the call**

1. In order to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the opportunities provided by the Call, it will be publicized on the Official Register of the University, in the press, through publication on the Home Page of the University and by sending to associations and institutions of category, foundations and financial institutions.
2. In order to better identify the legacy of skills and knowledge belonging to the University of Verona, the University Web Site [www.univr.it](http://www.univr.it) provides information for each Department Areas, Groups, laboratories and instrumentation present in their structures.
3. To support and facilitate participation in the call on the Web Site of the University has been activated an "information service" at

Research Service - Liaison Office

Tel. +39 045 802 8357 - 8070 - e-mail: [sviluppo.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it](mailto:sviluppo.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it)



**Article 11 - Person in charge of the procedure**

1. The person in charge of the procedure is Dr. Maria Gabaldo, Head of the Research Area.

**Article 12 - Privacy**

1. The University of Verona (Data Controller) provides the project partners with the information pursuant to art. 13 of the EU Regulation, available at: <https://www.univr.it/it/privacy>.

2. With the presentation of the aforementioned document, the University and the partners undertake to base the management of personal data on the principles of correctness, lawfulness and transparency in full compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) and with Legislative Decree 30 June 2003, n. 196 and subsequent amendments (Code regarding the protection of personal data).