

PUBLIC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SELECTION BY QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR NO. 1 SELF-EMPLOYED CONTRACT FOR WILDLIFE MONITORING AND DATA ANALYSIS AIMED AT ASSESSING THE DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF TARGET SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SPREAD OF PATHOGENS OF INTEREST FOR LIVESTOCK AND HUMANS, FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION UNDER THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME, PROJECT “EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WILDLIFE (EUPAHW)” – “HORIZON2024EUPAHWIACOLINA” – CUP: J83C24000690006 – SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR: PROF. LAURA IACOLINA

SELECTION CODE: 26AUR021

DEADLINE: BY 12:00 (ITALIAN TIME) ON 05 JUNE 2026

THE DIRECTOR

PURSUANT to Italian Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, containing “New provisions on administrative procedure and right of access to administrative documents”, as amended;

PURSUANT to Article 7 “Amendments to rules governing access to employment in public administrations” of Italian Law no. 97 of 6 August 2013, containing “Provisions for compliance with obligations arising from Italy’s membership of the European Union - European Law 2013”, as amended;

PURSUANT to Italian Law no. 240/2010 concerning the organization of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to incentivize quality and efficiency of the university system;

PURSUANT to Italian Law no. 232 of 11/12/2016, Art. 1, paragraph 303, letter a), which provides that the acts and contracts referred to in Art. 7, paragraph 6, of Legislative Decree no. 165 of 30.03.2001, entered into by State Universities, are not subject to the controls provided for in Article 3, paragraph 1, letter f-bis), of Law no. 20 of 14.01.1994;

PURSUANT to Italian Legislative Decree no. 165/2001 concerning “General rules governing employment within public administrations”, as amended, in particular Article 7, paragraph 6, which provides that public administrations, for specific needs that cannot be met by internal staff, may confer individual assignments, with self-employment contracts, to experts of particular and proven specialization, including university specialization, where the legal requirements are met, and paragraph 6-bis which establishes that such assignments shall be awarded through comparative procedures;

PURSUANT to Italian Legislative Decree no. 33 of 14 March 2013 on transparency and disclosure obligations of public administrations;

PURSUANT to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003 (Privacy Code);

PURSUANT to Italian Presidential Decree no. 62 of 16/04/2013 “Regulation containing the code of conduct for public employees pursuant to Article 54 of Legislative Decree no. 165/2001”;

PURSUANT to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe;

PURSUANT to Grant Agreement no. 101136346 implementing the project “European Partnership Animal Health and Welfare” (EUPAHW) under Horizon Europe, lasting 84 months from 1 January 2024, providing for a maximum funding amount for the University of Sassari of € 43,562.50;

CONSIDERING that the project “European Partnership on Animal Health and Wildlife – EUPAHW” aims to establish sustainable production practices for terrestrial and aquatic animals, prevent and control infectious animal diseases, promote prudent use of antimicrobials, and ensure high levels of animal welfare, in line with the European Green Deal and the “Farm to Fork” strategy;

RECALLING the principles of Open Science and the obligation to ensure digitalization, innovation, ecological transition, scientific excellence and social and territorial impact through qualified personnel;

CONSIDERING that the selection procedure is subject to transversal principles including gender equality, protection and enhancement of young people, and reduction of territorial disparities;

PURSUANT to the Statute of the University of Sassari;

PURSUANT to the University regulations for administration, finance and accounting;

PURSUANT to the University regulation governing comparative procedures for external collaboration assignments;

PURSUANT to the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the University of Sassari;

PURSUANT to Circular Prot. no. 0121687 of 24/10/2019 issued by the Human Resources Area of the University of Sassari, concerning the “Regulatory framework for coordinated and continuous collaboration agreements (co.co.co.)”;

CONSIDERED to the request submitted by Prof. Laura Iacolina, in her capacity as Scientific Coordinator, for the activation of a public selection procedure for the award of a self-employed contract for activities involving wildlife monitoring and data harmonization and analysis, aimed at assessing the distribution and abundance of target species, with potential implications for the spread of pathogens of interest for livestock and humans, within the European Union - funded Horizon project “European Partnership on Animal Health and Wildlife (EUPAHW)” - “HORIZON2024EUPAHWIACOLINA” - CUP: J83C24000690006;

PURSUANT to the resolution of the Council of the Department of Veterinary Medicine dated 29/10/2025 authorizing the issuance of this call;

CONSIDERING the need to identify a suitably qualified expert for activities within Work Package 3 “Joint Initiatives and Integration”, action SOA6 task 4 – sub-task 4.3;

HAVING VERIFIED the absence of valid ranking lists and internal candidates;

HAVING VERIFIED that the internal call for expressions of interest aimed at assigning the position to University staff, with a deadline of 15/11/2025, resulted in no applications being received;

HAVING VERIFIED financial coverage under the Horizon Europe project;

DECREES

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE

A selection procedure, based on qualifications and interview, is hereby opened to fill one self-employed contract for the performance of wildlife monitoring activities and data harmonization and analysis, aimed at assessing the distribution and abundance of target species, with potential implications for the spread of pathogens of interest for livestock and humans, within the European Union–funded Horizon Europe Programme, project “European Partnership on Animal Health and Wildlife (EUPAHW)” – “HORIZON2024EUPAHWACOLINA” – CUP: J83C24000690006.

In particular, the following activities are required, as specified in the Grant Agreement, Work Package 3 “Joint Initiatives and Integration”, action SOA6 task 4 – sub-task 4.3 (within which pilot studies are planned):

- contribution to the implementation of a pilot study concerning the monitoring of wild mammals, their interactions, and potential vectors in an area of Sardinia (Italy);
- wildlife monitoring using camera traps, according to the protocol adopted within the Project;
- contribution to the acquisition of data on presence and relative abundance for target wild species through camera trapping;
- collection of environmental data and information on the presence of potential disease vectors, particularly ticks;
- harmonization and analysis of the collected data;
- preparation of reports and summary documents.

The Administration guarantees equality and equal opportunities between men and women in access to employment and working conditions.

ARTICLE 2 – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted to the selection procedure, applicants must possess, by the deadline of this call, the following specific requirement:

- Single-cycle degree (pre-Bologna) or Master degree in **Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, or Veterinary Medicine**.

The following general requirements are also required:

- Italian citizenship, or citizenship of a Member State of the European Union, or citizenship of a non-EU country;
- full enjoyment of civil and political rights;
- physical fitness for the role.

Applicants who obtained their degree abroad must hold a qualification recognized as equivalent to the one indicated above, in accordance with international agreements or pursuant to Article 332 of the Consolidated

Act of 31 August 1933, no. 1592, by the deadline for submission of applications. Such equivalence must be certified by the competent authorities.

Applicants who are excluded from active political rights, as well as those who have been dismissed or removed from employment with a Public Administration for persistent insufficient performance, or who have been declared forfeited from state employment pursuant to Article 127, paragraph 1, letter d), of the Consolidated Act governing the status of civil servants of the State, approved by Presidential Decree no. 3 of 10 January 1957, are not eligible to apply.

Applicants who do not hold Italian citizenship must also:

- a) enjoy civil and political rights in their country of origin or provenance;
- b) possess all the requirements provided for Italian citizens, except for Italian citizenship.

All the above requirements must be met by the deadline for submission of applications to the comparative selection procedure.

ARTICLE 3 – EVALUABLE QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications, consistent with the role, shall be evaluated:

- a) Professional experience with public or private institutions under fixed-term or permanent employment contracts;
- b) Internships, traineeships, and scholarships in fields relevant to the job specifications;
- c) Training courses relevant to the assignment (e.g., wildlife monitoring techniques, GIS, data analysis);
- d) Experience in the use of camera trapping for wildlife detection;
- e) Participation in international projects related to the study or monitoring of wildlife;
- f) Knowledge of main IT tools, including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, internet use, and email;
- g) Knowledge of the English language;
- h) Publications in scientific journals or conference proceedings relevant to the job specifications.

ARTICLE 4 – APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINE

The application for participation (Annex A) and all supporting documentation must be submitted exclusively via the applicant's certified email (PEC – Certified Electronic Mail) to the Department's institutional PEC address: dip.medicina.veterinaria@pec.uniss.it **no later than 12:00 (Italian time) on 05 June 2026**, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure. The date and time of receipt at the above PEC address shall be considered valid for deadline purposes.

The subject line of the PEC message must read: **“Selection code: 26AUR021 – Application for No. 1 self-employed contract – Horizon Europe – Prof. Iacolina.”**

Foreign applicants who do not have a Certified Electronic Mail (PEC) address may submit their application to the following email address: consigliovet@uniss.it **no later than 12:00 (Italian time) on 05 June 2026.**

The subject line of the email must state the following: **“Selection Code: 26AUR021 - Application for No. 1 contract - Horizon Europe.”** The date and time of receipt at the above email address shall be considered valid for deadline purposes.

The application and attached documents requiring the candidate’s signature may be signed using a digital signature (preferred) or a handwritten signature (full signature) accompanied by a valid identity document. Documents lacking a signature will be deemed unsigned and will not be eligible for evaluation.

For documents attached to the PEC/mail address submission:

- formats containing macros or executable code must not be used;
- files should preferably be in .pdf or .tiff format;
- proprietary formats such as .doc, .docx, .xls, etc., should be avoided.

Applicants are reminded that PEC acceptance/delivery receipts are automatically generated by the PEC provider upon successful transmission; therefore, it is not necessary to contact university offices or send additional emails requesting confirmation or subsequently submitting paper documentation.

Applications received after the above deadline, for any reason, will not be admitted to the comparative selection procedure.

In the application, candidates must declare under their own responsibility, in addition to the comparative procedure and selection code:

- a) full name (first name and surname);
- b) date and place of birth and tax code;
- c) municipality of residence and address;
- d) possession of the qualification required under Article 2 of this call, indicating the grade obtained, date of award, and institution issuing the degree;
- e) any professional experience referred to in Article 3 of this call;
- f) citizenship;
- g) any criminal convictions (including cases where amnesty, pardon, commutation, or judicial forgiveness has been granted) and any pending criminal proceedings;
- h) enjoyment of civil and political rights;
- i) physical fitness for the role;
- l) absence of situations, including potential ones, of conflict of interest under applicable legislation;
- m) any services performed for Public Administrations and the reasons for termination of previous employment relationships;
- n) not having been dismissed or removed from employment with a Public Administration and not having been declared ineligible for public employment due to submission of false or invalid documents;
- o) possession of the evaluable qualifications indicated in Article 3 of this call.

Applicants who are not Italian citizens must additionally declare:

- p) that they enjoy civil and political rights in their country of origin or provenance;
- q) that they possess all requirements provided for Italian citizens, except for Italian citizenship;
- r) their email contact for the remote interview, as provided in Article 6 of the call.

The application must also indicate the address to which any communications should be sent.

Reference to documents already submitted in previous selection procedures is not permitted.

Documents sent separately and/or after submission of the application will not be considered.

The candidate must attach to the application:

- a) photocopy of a valid document of identity;
- b) photocopy of the tax code;
- c) self-declaration pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 (Annex B), fully completed with details of evaluable qualifications;
- d) curriculum vitae in the current European format, according to Annex C, duly signed;
- e) conflict of interest declaration (Annex D).

Candidates must demonstrate possession of qualifications through the simplified administrative certification procedures allowed under Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and Article 15 of Law no. 183 of 12 November 2011, by means of Annex B.

Article 15 of Law no. 183/2011 and Directive no. 61457 of 22/12/2011 of the Ministry for Public Administration prohibits Public Administrations from requesting or accepting certificates concerning personal status, qualities, or facts, which must instead be replaced exclusively by self-certifications or sworn declarations pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000.

The Administration reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks on the truthfulness of the declarations submitted.

Candidates with disabilities, pursuant to Article 20 of Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992, must submit a specific request indicating the assistance required and any need for additional time to complete the examination.

The Administration assumes no responsibility for loss of communications due to incorrect address information provided by the candidate, failure or delay in notifying changes of address, postal or telegraphic errors not attributable to the Administration, or causes due to third parties, force majeure, or unforeseen events.

ARTICLE 5 – SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee, appointed after the expiry of the deadline for submission of applications by decision of the Director of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, shall be composed of at least three

members, including the Scientific Coordinator of the research project, who shall act as Chair, and two experts in the subject areas relevant to the comparative selection procedure.

The duties of Recording Secretary shall be assigned to the youngest member of the Committee.

ARTICLE 6 – SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Selection Committee shall establish in advance the general criteria and procedures for the comparative evaluation of candidates, including the scores to be assigned where a ranking list of eligible candidates is to be drawn up.

Candidates shall be deemed admitted, subject to any exclusion that will be notified by decree of the Director.

After verifying the eligibility requirements, the Committee shall evaluate the qualifications and the interview.

The Committee shall assess the relevance of the candidate's educational background and professional experience to the role and shall ascertain the candidate's specific professional qualifications required for the performance of the role itself. Only qualifications submitted within the deadline for the submission of applications, or those for which candidates have provided, within the same deadline, a self-certification pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, will be assessed.

Publications submitted either in original form or as photocopies shall also be considered valid, provided that the candidate attaches an appropriate sworn declaration certifying conformity with the original (pursuant to Article 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000). For qualifications in a foreign language other than English, French, German, or Spanish, an Italian translation must be attached together with a sworn declaration certifying that the translation conforms to the original text.

The interview, aimed at assessing the candidate's specific professional qualifications required for the assignment (including, where applicable, assessment of foreign language skills and IT knowledge), shall cover the following topics:

- a) knowledge of techniques for monitoring and estimating the abundance of mammal populations;
- b) knowledge of camera trapping and description of any previous experience;
- c) knowledge of the use of IT and AI tools for the storage, classification, and analysis of data obtained through camera trapping;
- d) knowledge of the English language.

The interview will be conducted in English.

The interview will take place on **10 June 2026 at 15:00 (Italian time)**, remotely (on the platform MTeams).
The Committee will send the access link to the email addresses indicated in the application.

The workstation from which candidates attend the interview must be equipped with a webcam - essential for candidate identification - as well as microphone and headphones and/or speakers

This notice also constitutes formal notification of the interview; therefore, no further communication will be sent to candidates.

Candidates must indicate in Annex “A” the email address at which they will receive the link to connect to the interview at the scheduled date and time, in order to allow the Selection Committee to carry out the necessary identification procedures.

Candidates who fail to connect for the interview on the scheduled date and time shall be considered to have withdrawn.

In the event of any change to the date or time, notification will be sent to each candidate directly at the email address indicated in Annex “A”.

To be admitted to the interview, candidates must present one of the following identification documents:

- a) postal identity card or national identity card;
- b) driving licence;
- c) firearms licence;
- d) valid passport.

At the end of the evaluation, the Committee, following comparative assessment and by majority decision, shall identify the successful candidate and draw up a ranking list of eligible candidates.

ARTICLE 7 – APPROVAL OF RESULTS

After verifying the legality of the procedure, the Director of the Department shall adopt the measure approving the proceedings and shall declare the successful candidate and any eligible candidates, after having verified, pursuant to Article 53, paragraph 14, of Legislative Decree no. 165/2001, the absence of situations, including potential ones, of conflict of interest concerning the selected candidate.

The result of the comparative selection procedure shall be published on the University website www.uniss.it, on the specific page of the call under the section "Calls for proposals and tenders">Other Calls for Proposals, and on the website of the [Department of Veterinary Medicine](#) of the University of Sassari.

The Department Council has established that the procedure shall conclude with the designation of one successful candidate and the formation of a ranking list of eligible candidates.

Where the procedure results in the formation of a ranking list of eligible candidates, the Department reserves the right to draw from such list—subject to verification of the absence of situations, including potential ones, of conflict of interest—in the event of withdrawal, resignation, impossibility, or other impediment preventing the selected collaborator from performing the assignment, or in cases where there is a need to activate additional contracts involving similar activities; alternatively, the Department may issue a new call.

ARTICLE 8 – CONTRACT AND COMPENSATION

The successful candidate will enter into a **self-employed contractual relationship**. Such contractual relationship shall not give rise to any entitlement to employment within the University staff.

The contract shall have a duration of **five (5) months** from the date of signature and shall provide for a **gross compensation of € 10,000.00 (ten thousand/00)**, inclusive of statutory charges borne by both the contractor and the Administration.

Payment shall be made following a request submitted by the contractor, subject to authorization by the Scientific Coordinator of the project, Prof. Laura Iacolina, to which a report on the activities carried out must be attached.

The amount of **€ 10,000.00** shall be paid in instalments upon completion of the planned activities and includes any travel expenses related to field monitoring activities.

The effectiveness of the contract and the payment of the related compensation are additionally subject to the mandatory publication provided for by Article 15 of Legislative Decree no. 33 of 14 March 2013 on the University website under the “Transparent Administration” section, and to notification to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Public Administration, pursuant to Article 53 of Legislative Decree no. 165 of 30 March 2001 and subsequent amendments.

In accordance with current legislation, the remuneration shall be subject to the tax, insurance, and social security regime provided by law. The compensation shall also be reduced by the costs required to activate insurance coverage for third-party liability (R.C.T.) amounting to € 3.50 (three/50) per month, and accident insurance coverage amounting to € 2.50 (two/50) per month.

ARTICLE 9 – PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

For the purposes of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation – Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data) and Legislative Decree no. 196/2003 (Privacy Code), the data provided by applicants shall be processed by the University for purposes connected with and instrumental to the comparative selection procedure and to the possible conclusion and management of the contract, in compliance with the applicable provisions, as specified in the Privacy Notice (Annex E to this call).

ARTICLE 10 – CODE OF CONDUCT

The contractor shall comply, where applicable, with the provisions and obligations set out in Presidential Decree no. 62 of 16 April 2013, “Regulation containing the Code of Conduct for Public Employees pursuant to Article 54 of Legislative Decree no. 165 of 30 March 2001.”

Pursuant to Article 2 of Presidential Decree no. 62 of 16 April 2013, violation of the obligations deriving from the Code of Conduct shall result in termination or forfeiture of the contractual relationship.

In performing the assignment, the contractor must comply with the current Integrated Plan of Activities and Organization (PIAO), with particular reference to the three-year plan for corruption prevention and transparency of the University of Sassari.

Furthermore, the contractor acknowledges that, pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 81/2008, where applicable and where the relevant conditions arise, they are required to cooperate in the proper implementation of safety measures by fulfilling the obligations established by current legislation and complying with prevention and emergency measures.

The collaborator is required to consult the Department's Biosafety Manual, containing all instructions and materials necessary for workplace prevention and safety, available for download on the dedicated page of the [Department's website](#).

ARTICLE 11 – PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCEDURE

Pursuant to Article 5 of Law no. 241/1990, the person responsible for the procedure of this call is Prof. Enrico Pietro Luigi De Santis, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Via Vienna 2, Sassari.

ARTICLE 12 – PUBLICITY

Notice of this comparative selection procedure will be published on the [Department website](#), on the University website www.uniss.it and on the European Commission website, EURAXESS, in the [“Jobs & Opportunities”](#) section.

ARTICLE 13 – FINAL PROVISIONS

For matters not expressly provided for in this notice, the provisions governing competitive examinations set out in the Consolidated Act approved by Presidential Decree no. 686 of 3 May 1957, and subsequent amendments and additions, shall apply where relevant.

ARTICLE 14 – COMPETENT COURT

For any dispute arising between the parties in relation to the interpretation, execution, and/or validity of this comparative selection procedure, the Court of Sassari shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

The Director of the Department
Prof. Enrico Pietro Luigi De Santis