

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
FOR THE SELECTION OF YOUNG ITALIAN AND ALBANIAN
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
“EMPOWERHER-LAB” within the framework of the
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT
“EmpowerHer Green: Promoting Women’s
Entrepreneurship and the Green Transition in Albania and
Italy” funded by Puglia Region through the Cooperation
Programme L.R. 20/2003 –Notice 2024**

1. Call for Expressions of Interest: “Call for Innovation”

CIHEAM Bari and AUT – Agricultural University of Tirana, within the framework of the project *EmpowerHer Green – Promoting Female Entrepreneurship and the Green Transition in Albania and Italy*, funded by the Cooperation Programme “L.R. 20/2003 Notice 2024”, hereby invite expressions of interest for the selection of 20 women entrepreneurs (10 Italian and 10 Albanian). The objective is to establish a collaborative partnership to develop “Innovative Green Solutions” in the agri-food sector.

2. Eligibility Criteria

The call is open to young women entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs who satisfy the following conditions:

- Hold Italian or Albanian citizenship
- Have reached the age of 18 by the date of application submission
- Possess at least a secondary school diploma (minimum requirement)
- No criminal convictions, pending criminal proceedings, nor any civil or administrative sanctions recorded on their judicial record Have no criminal convictions, pending criminal cases, or any civil or administrative sanctions recorded in their judicial record
- Are either part of an existing enterprise or of an informal team with innovative ideas in the following **sectors**:
 - SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 - SOCIAL INNOVATION
 - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
 - SMART FARMING
 - CROP PROTECTION & FERTILIZERS

- BIOTECH
- LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
- FARMING & ROBOTICS
- INNOVATIVE FOOD PRODUCTS
- VALORIZATION OF NEGLECTED AND UNDERUTILISED CROPS (NUS)
- NOVEL FARMING SYSTEMS
- POST HARVEST
- FARM TO CONSUMER
- RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
- IRRIGATION & WATER MANAGEMENT
- SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- AQUACULTURE
- SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
- RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
- SUSTAINABLE BUILDING
- SUSTAINABLE DIET
- INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

3. The Project

The project promotes cross-border partnerships to develop ideas, best practices, and collaborative initiatives in the green transition sector. Activities include the organisation of:

- 1 bootcamp at the University of Tirana
- 8 workshops, both in-person and online
- 1 networking event

4. Application Procedure

Interested candidates may submit their applications from 1 July 2025 until 23:59 on 31 July 2025 to the following email address:

youth&innovation@iamb.it

Subject line: "EMPOWERHER-LAB Call"

Documents to be submitted in PDF format:

- Application form (Annex 1)
- Curriculum Vitae in European format
- Privacy policy statement (Annex 2)
- Valid identification document of the applicant

Applications submitted by any means other than the designated email address will not be accepted. The required documentation is available at www.iamb.it (with a direct link provided on the homepage or within the calls section) as well as on the website www.EmpHerGreen.com

Candidates who are part of a business team or informal team shall submit their applications individually, as joint team applications are not allowed. Multiple members of the same team may submit separate applications.

5. Evaluation Criteria

A panel of three experts (project partners, academics, and professionals) will assess the applications based on the following criteria:

- Innovative content of the proposal or business idea (degree of innovation, originality, and relevance to environmental challenges in the agri-food sector): up to 40 points.
- Professional experience and skills of the applicant: up to 35 points.
- Motivation (assessment of personal commitment and dedication to co-developing collaborative and sustainable solutions): up to 25 points.

Successful candidates will be notified by email no later than 29 August 2025.

6. “EMPOWERHER-LAB” Training Programme

Selected candidates will participate in the “EMPOWERHER-LAB” training programme, which includes:

- **A four-day in-person bootcamp at the Agricultural University of Tirana**, scheduled for 23 to 26 September 2025, covering the following modules:
 1. Discover & Define: Framing the Challenges
 2. Build & Explore: Innovation for Sustainability
 3. Validate & Refine: Market Fit and Impact
 4. Pitch & Celebrate: Presentation of Solutions
- **4 virtual workshops** led by international lecturers and experts, focusing on sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and resource efficiency
- **4 online networking sessions** (2 group meetups and 2 individual meetings)
- **Participation in the networking event** during the Mediterranean Innovation Agrifood Week at CIHEAM Bari, from 25 to 28 November 2025.

All travel, board and lodging expenses related to participation in the Bootcamp and Networking event will be covered by CIHEAM Bari.

To receive a certificate of attendance, participants are required to attend both the Bootcamp and the final event, and complete at least 80% of the scheduled workshops and networking sessions.

7. Confidentiality and Data Processing

By submitting their application, candidates:

- unreservedly accept all the terms and conditions of the call
- grant consent for the processing of their personal data solely for the purposes of the project, in compliance with applicable data protection laws
- confirm that the submitted project idea is their own original work and that they hold all relevant rights
- release CIHEAM Bari from any liability arising from errors or technical issues encountered during the application submission process.

8. Organising Secretariat

Support and information concerning applications will be provided up until 12:00 noon on Friday, 25 July 2025.

For assistance, please contact:

- Vito Di Cagno, dicagno@iamb.it
- Michele Pinto, pinto@iamb.it
- Gezim Shuli, shuli@iamb.it