

PERSONAL INFORMATION **Elena Banci**



WORK EXPERIENCE

Ongoing Project Manager

Area Science Park – Padriciano, 99 – 34149 - Trieste – Italy

www.areasciencepark.it

At Area Science Park since January 2012, initially as a research fellow (2012-2015), then as project manager for the Project Development and Management Unit, and since December 2024 at the Institute for Research for Innovation.

In recent years, I have coordinated and managed several international projects funded by the INTERREG ADRIAN, INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA, MED, HORIZON 2020 and ALPINE SPACE programmes.

I have been involved in defining new international project proposals under INTERREG programmes, as well as Horizon Europe.

I have also contributed to the drafting of new national and international research project proposals for research activities and infrastructures.

As a project manager, I was responsible for Cooperation Agreements with scientific organisations such as OGS (National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics) and the Università Politecnica delle Marche.

I have been a member of the evaluation committee in two selection procedures for research fellows.

I have been invited as a speaker and panelist at various international events, where I delivered presentations on trans-regional S3 topics.

I have recently enhanced my professional development by attending several technical and legal training courses, as well as specific courses on technology transfer and project management activities involving advanced IT tools.

From December 2020 to May 2021, I was the coordinator of the **BLUEAIR project 'BLUE GROWTH SMART ADRIATIC IONIAN S3'** funded by the INTERREG ADRIAN Programme. The project was coordinated by Area and had a duration of 32 months (December 2020 to July 2023), with a total budget of €2,440,000.00, of which €474,820.00 was allocated to Area.

Role and main activities:

- Project Coordinator (December 2020 – May 2021), later Co-Coordinator.

Contact person for the Cooperation Agreement with OGS concerning the dissemination of technical and scientific project results.

Speaker at various project presentation events and extended reflection events on the topic of macro-regional S3, building on analyses carried out in other projects.

- Support for staff management and financial management

- Support for internal staff employed in Technology Foresight activities.

In 2022, participation in the drafting of a project proposal for the **Horizon Europe European Digital Innovation Hubs Call (DIGITAL-2022-EDIH-03)**. In the evaluation phase, the proposal submitted by Area was awarded the Seal of Excellence, which enabled to obtain funding from national funds.

From September 2020 to September 2022, project manager of the **BLUEBIOMED project (Mediterranean Innovation Alliance for sustainable blue economy (INTERREG MED))**. The project had a duration of 24 months with a budget for Area of € 150,000.00. Area assumed the role of task leader in this project.

Role and main activities

- Project manager coordination with Lead Partner (ART-ER);
- Responsible for the elaboration of the "RIS3 Country Report". This document aims at mapping the innovation priorities within the regional/national innovation policies (S3) related to the blue bioeconomy sector in the MED area countries;
- Support to the technical staff in drafting a Technology Forecast on the topics of aquaculture, fisheries, maritime surveillance and blue biotechnologies, and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in collaboration of OGS;
- Operational management of the Cooperation Agreement signed with OGS for collaboration in the drafting of the Technology Forecast and S3 analysis;
- Speaker at dissemination events

▪Support financial management From July 2021 to June 2022, project manager of the **A-RING, Alpine Region Research and Innovation Capacity (INTERREG ALPINE-SPACE) project**. Area assumed in this project the role of WP leader responsible for the elaboration of policy briefs concerning the implementation of collaborative processes between local, regional and national administrations and stakeholders concerning the implementation of a joint transregional S3.

Role and main activities

- Project manager of the project from July 2021 to June 2022.
- Collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Le Marche in the elaboration of Policy Briefs, i.e. roadmaps containing recommendations on the definition of joint innovation policies for the territories of the Alpine region;
- Technical and financial operational management and participation in project meetings and events

In 2020, participation in the drafting of a project proposal called **ART-DITEC - Automated Real-Time Digital Twin Enabled Construction (HORIZON 2020)**, coordinated by the Engineering Department of the Università Politecnica delle Marche.

From February 2018 to December 2020, project coordinator of the **OISAIR (Open Innovation System Adriatic-Ionian Region)** project, a territorial cooperation project dedicated to the creation of an Open Innovation System in the Adriatic-Ionian area. The OISAIR project has a duration of more than 2 years with a total budget of more than € 1,500,000.00.

I coordinated the following technical and scientific activities:

- analysis of regional/national S3s and identification of a macro-regional S3 strategy with the definition of territorial development trajectories within the following technological fields: energy and environment, transport and mobility, agro-bioeconomy.
- structuring on an international scale of a model for the provision of innovation services to enterprises by innovation advisors spread over 6 different territories.
- structuring of a transnational call for proposals dedicated to the exploitation of results/technologies produced by research organisations and universities in cooperation with local enterprises.
- design of a web platform aimed at providing innovation services for enterprises and managing a transnational call for innovation projects (<https://oisair.net/>);

Previously, I served as project manager in the following European projects on topics such as energy saving, promotion of renewable energy sources for businesses and local authorities, and technologies for living environments

- **PRO4VIP**- Innovative PROCurement for Visual Impaired People" (Horizon 2020), a project aimed at structuring innovative public procurement (PCP/PPI) dedicated to the development of new technologies for visually impaired people;
- **PINE** - Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE - Intelligent Energy Europe), a project dedicated to the promotion of energy efficiency in companies through the provision of energy audits;
- **PATRES**- Public Administration Training and Coaching on Renewable Energy in their building regulations and codes (IEE - Intelligent Energy Europe), a project aimed at defining new urban planning regulations in line with European directives on energy efficiency in buildings;
- **FIESTA**- Family Intelligent Energy Saving Targeted Action - (IEE - Intelligent Energy Europe), a project aimed at promoting virtuous behaviour in terms of energy consumption;
- **EMILIE**- Enhancing Mediterranean Initiatives Leading SMEs to Innovation in building Energy efficiency technologies - (MED Programme), a project aimed at encouraging SMEs to innovate in the field of energy efficiency technologies for buildings;

In 2018, participation in the drafting of a project proposal for the H2020 Call INNOSUP-06-2018 (Supporting experimentation in innovation agencies) dedicated to the testing of new models of business support by innovation agencies.

In 2017, responsible for drafting a project proposal for the H2020 Call INNOSUP-01-2016-2018 (Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains). In line with a cascading funding model, definition of a funding mechanism for innovative companies operating in Ambient Assisted Living aimed at the creation of transnational value chains

Previously, drafting of several project proposals for various territorial cooperation programmes (Interreg ITALY - SLOVENIA, ITALY - AUSTRIA, CENTRAL EUROPE, ALPINE SPACE, MED).

From April to September 2011 **Project Designer (Vocational Training Area)**

ENFAP FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA - Office of Monfalcone (Training organisation) – Italy

www.enfap.fvg.it

Project designer in the field of vocational training financed by ESF Funds (post diploma courses) and interprofessional Funds (Fondartigianato). Drafting of the Regional Training Plans for craft enterprises in the following topics: regional supply chains and districts, micro enterprises, technological investments, renewable energies, building and construction, nautical, engineering, furniture and wood,

From October 2008 to July 2010 **Coordinator, Tutor and Designer (Vocational Training Area)**

ENFAP FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA - Office of Monfalcone (Training organisation) – Italy

www.enfap.fvg.it

Project manager and coordinator within the framework of interprofessional funds for continuous training, including the analysis of skills and training needs of companies involved in various projects in the construction, personal and business services sectors (i.e. company internationalisation), Training tutor in the apprenticeship sector (management of relations with local companies, creation of training paths for each apprentice and management of classroom training).

From December 2004 to December 2007 **Assistant to the General Director of the Consortium for Industrial Development of the Municipality of Monfalcone**

Consorzio per lo Sviluppo Industriale del Comune di Monfalcone - CSIM – Va Bologna 1, Monfalcone (Gorizia)

www.csim.it

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- Responsible for the search for regional/national /EU funding aimed at the promotion and development of infrastructures pertaining to the entity;
- Drafting of projects concerning technological innovation, management of waste produced by the companies established, environmental protection and territorial marketing aimed at promoting industrial areas and attracting investments. Thanks to my activity, the organisation has obtained important EU funding (two Interreg IIIA Italy-Slovenia projects approved as a promoting body for a total amount of 2,051,000.00, regional funding (LR 30/84 for SMEs, Bando Friuli Innovazione concerning SMEs), and chamber of commerce funding (Gorizia Fund);
- Preparation of the candidature and achievement of the Innovation Award of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (2005 edition) for the participated company Monfalcone Ambiente;
- Collaboration in the institutional communication activities of the authority during workshops, conventions, trade fairs (Transport Logistic - Munich, 2006)
- External representation also on provincial or local employment issues (Pact for the Development of the Province of Gorizia, Local Agenda XXI)
- Drafting of administrative and policy acts for which the Director General is responsible, conventions with third-party or private entities also in English;

From October 2003 to July 2004 **Tutor, course manager, planner (vocational training area)**

IAL FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA- Monfalcone – Italy

www.ial.fvg.it

Responsible for the management and tutoring of postgraduate courses financed with ESF funds in the tourism sector, courses in the commercial sector, and management of extracurricular actions organised with second level institutes in the province of Gorizia;
 Planning of 4 Italian language and culture courses for immigrant users. The courses were developed in collaboration with local authorities and associations supporting immigrants;
 Lecturer in the module "Management of the training and professional project" within the aforementioned courses for a total of 28 hours.

From September 2001 to February 2003 **Junior researcher**

SWG Srl. - (TRIESTE and MILAN offices) (Demoscopia and market research SME)

Researcher in the market research department (customer satisfaction analyses, product testing, pre- and post-testing of advertising and sponsorship campaigns, feasibility testing etc).
 Participation in all stages of research, starting from briefing the client, designing the research, drafting the questionnaire, coordinating the surveys, managing data processing and analysis, through to conducting research presentations also in English;
 Contact person for relations with foreign institutes. Promotion and marketing of projects/products devised by the Institute;

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1995-2001 **Master's degree in Sociology**

University of Trento (Italy)

Degree in Sociology (Specialization in Social planning)

Final mark: 108/110 (March 2001)

Final thesis: "Quale risposta alla disoccupazione giovanile? European pressures and national policies in Italy and Spain in the 1990s" - Supervisor: Prof. Sergio Fabbrini.

October 2004 **Master in Europlanning**

AICCRE – Sezione Italiana – Federazione Veneta - Italy

'Master's degree in Europlanning' (Community institutions, European initiatives and programmes, methodologies for drafting European projects).

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
Spanish	C1	C1	B2	B2	B1
German	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Organisational / managerial skills	<p>As a coordinator of international projects involving large partnerships, I have developed strong interpersonal skills, demonstrated through my ability to communicate effectively and build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.</p> <p>Since 2012, I have worked at Area Science Park, where I have a proven track record of successfully coordinating and leading project teams to ensure smooth collaboration and a seamless workflow, achieving common goals and objectives. Over the years, I have also developed strong negotiation skills, becoming adept at identifying common ground and finding mutually beneficial solutions, resulting in win-win outcomes for all parties involved.</p> <p>By working alongside over 180 individuals from various backgrounds, including researchers, technicians, IT experts, and administrative staff, has made me adept at facilitating productive discussions and meetings. I possess strong active listening and information synthesis skills and am skilled in driving consensus towards effective decision-making.</p>
Computer skills	Good command of Microsoft Office™ tools.
Driving licence	A and B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

External evaluator	Independent External Evaluator under the Interreg IPA ADRIION 2021-2027- First Call- PO 1 -Supporting a smarter Adriatic-Ionian region (November- December 2023)
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-author of the paper presented at the 11th International Congress on Transportation research – ICTR 2023- <i>Blue Innovation in Greece and the Adriatic – Ionian Region: Solutions and Recommendations for Enhancing Cooperation</i> (Vasiliki-Maria, Perra, Maria, Boile, Aggelos, Aggelakakis, Peter, Medica, Elena, Banci, Vanessa, Sanson)
Presentations at Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B-BLUE - Building the Blue Biotechnology Community in the Mediterranean - Virtual Meeting - 26 September 2022 - Promoting Mediterranean and Atlantic alliances for the Blue Economy - Blue Innovation Forum - 14-15 September 2022 - Cadiz (Spain) - Blue Growth Week - First wave - Innovation in the sustainable Blue Economy for a macro-regional strategy in the Adriatic-Ionian region - 8 June 2022 - Budva (Montenegro) - The Blue Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean area: strategies and innovation opportunities for Italian regions - Online event - 12 April 2022 - Overview Governance Platform - Innovation Med Day, Ancona, 1 April 2022 - EU Macroregional Strategies Week - Workshop on S3 Interregional Cooperation - 10 March 2022 - Blue Bioeconomy Innovation Forum - @Sealogy -Ferrara, 18-19 November 2021 - "Smart collaboration in a transnational context: International conference on transnational smart specialisation for EU macro-regions" - online event - 29/10/2021 - 6th Annual EUSAIR Forum - Izola, Slovenia 11-12 May 2021 - Dive into a sea of opportunities: Online roundtable for policy makers: 18-19/02/2021 - online event - ADRIION ANNUAL EVENT - 2020, 3 December 2020 - -Final Blue _Boost event - 27 November 2020. - Blue _Boost Final Event - 27 November 2020. - Workshop & Webinar on the Smart specialisation strategy (s3) in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregional strategy (EUSAIR), 27 October 2020 - ADRIATIC-IONIC REGION S3 NETWORK (EUSAIR). A PUSH FOR STRONGER INTERNATIONALISATION: First meeting of representatives of the governance of the EUSAIR smart specialisation strategies - 23-24 September 2020 - 11th EUSAIR board meeting - 19 February 2020 - Brussels - Panelist at the 3rd EU STRATEGY FORUM FOR THE ADRIATIC-IONIC REGION - Workshop on Research and Innovation in EUSAIR - The role of innovation ecosystems and smart specialisation - 24 May 2018 - "Public demand for innovation to meet territories' needs: the PRO4VIP project Innovation procurement for visually impaired people" - 23 November 2016 - Stazione Marittima Conference Centre -Trieste