EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR COLLABORATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEEP-FUN PROJECT

The **National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics – OGS** (hereinafter OGS) intends to invite members of its scientific staff to collaborate in the activities of the **DEEP-FUN** project – *Deep-sea Microbial-Fungal Interactions and their role in global ecosystem functioning*, funded by the Italian Science Fund (FIS). Interested applicants are therefore invited to submit an expression of interest in accordance with the provisions set out below.

Background

The deep ocean represents the largest and least explored ecosystem on Earth. The **DEEP-FUN** project, coordinated by Prof. Roberto Danovaro of the Polytechnic University of Marche, aims to clarify the role of microbial components in abyssal ecosystems through a transoceanic expedition and the use of advanced technologies. The results will contribute to a better understanding of global biodiversity and climate processes, with potential applications in biotechnology and climate change mitigation.

A key component of the DEEP-FUN project is the use of the research vessel *Laura Bassi*, which will enable implementation of the project by taking advantage of its routine transfer in support of the National Antarctic Research Program (PNRA).

Art. 1 – Purpose

OGS intends to collect expressions of interest from staff willing to collaborate in the activities to be carried out under the DEEP-FUN project, capitalising the transfer of the research vessel *Laura Bassi* from Italy to Antarctica.

Art. 2–Eligible applicants

Expressions of interest may be submitted by OGS scientific staff, namely researchers and technologists, research fellows, holders of research contracts and postdoctoral positions, as well as scholarship holders of the Institute.

PhD candidates funded by OGS under specific agreements may also apply, provided that the proposed scientific collaboration within the DEEP-FUN project complements their doctoral research project and has been approved by the OGS scientific supervisor and the academic supervisor at their sending university.

Art. 3 – Submission procedure

Applicants interested in this call are required to describe, within their scientific collaboration proposal, the content, objectives, and expected impact, including an implementation plan in line with the DEEP-FUN project. Applicants should also indicate any request for financial support and highlight any existing collaborations with other institutions or researchers at national or international level.

Applicants must submit the following documentation:

1. Proposal form for the expression of interest (**Annex 1**)
2. Scientific CV (including a declaration attesting to the truthfulness and accuracy of the information provided, pursuant to Articles 46, 47, and 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 as subsequently amended)
3. Copy of a valid identity document

PhD candidates must also submit the authorisation to apply, signed by the OGS scientific supervisor and the academic supervisor of the sending university (**Annex 2**).

Expressions of interest must be sent by ordinary personal email (preferably from an institutional address, e.g., ncognome@ogs.it), in PDF format, indicating in the subject line: "**Expression of Interest – DEEP-FUN**", to the following email address: protocollo@ogs.it.

The proposal must be signed according to one of the following methods:

- Digital signature issued in accordance with Legislative Decree 82/2005 (Digital Administration Code – CAD), by means of a smart card, USB token, or remote signature;
- Handwritten signature, where a digital signature cannot be used; in this case the document must be signed manually, scanned and then sent.

The deadline for submission is **11:59 PM on May the 3rd**.

Art. 4 - Evaluation Criteria

Proposals received by the deadline will be assessed on the basis of their scientific quality and feasibility within the framework of the DEEP-FUN project.

The publication of this call and the receipt of applications do not entail any obligation or commitment on the part of OGS to proceed with the selection. OGS reserves the right not to consider proposals deemed incompatible or likely to prejudice the image of the Institute.

Art. 5 – Publication and information

This call for expressions of interest is published on the OGS website in the "Competitions – Procedures reserved for OGS staff" section: https://www.ogs.it/it/concorsi.

Requests for clarification or further information may be send to: pnrr@ogs.it.

Art. 6 – Personal data processing

Pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), the personal data provided by applicants within the framework of this procedure, or otherwise acquired ex officio for the same purposes, will be processed by OGS exclusively for purposes related to the conduct of this procedure.

Processing will be carried out by authorised personnel and, where applicable, by the relevant committee, including by electronic means, in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, fairness, and relevance, and limited to what is strictly necessary for the purposes indicated above.

Under Articles 15 et seq. of the GDPR, applicants have the right to access, rectify, erase, restrict processing, and object to processing on legitimate grounds. These rights may be exercised by contacting the Data Controller: National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics – OGS, Borgo Grotta Gigante 42/c, 34010 Sgonico (TS), email: privacy@ogs.it.

The Data Controller has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO), who can be contacted at: dpo@ogs.it.

In compliance with data protection provisions, this procedure ensures the minimisation of applicants' personal data and the adoption of technical and organisational measures designed to prevent such data from being attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person.

Paola Del Negro