



Ministero della Salute

Ufficio 3 DGOCTS



TMA 2.8: ANALISYS OF RESULTS FROM SURVEY on G&P AMONG ITALIAN ART. 36 ORGANIZATIONS

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Ornella Pinto
Alessandra Perrella
Rossana Valentini

Luca Busani
Cinzia La Rocca

Questions of the survey sent to art. 36 organizations (responses collected in the period June-September 2023)

1. Preparation phase of applications	Administrative critical issues	NON-administrativec critical issues	How many times did critical issues prevent the submission of the application ?
	<i>Description</i>	<i>Description</i>	
2. Submission phase of applications	How many applications were submitted in the last 3 years?	How many applications awarded in the last 3 years?	
3. Implementation phase of awarded calls	Administrative critical issues	NON-administrativec critical issues	
	<i>Description</i>	<i>Description</i>	

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire

Grants (Except EU-FORA)

EU-FORA Grants

Procurements

Numer of responding organizations: 25

APPLICATION RATE

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire	Organizations that reported having applied within the past 3 years	Number of organizations claiming to have been awarded calls in the past 3 years	
Grants (Except EU-FORA)	13	11	85%
EU-FORA Grants	8	7	88%
Procurements	16	16	100%

AWARD RATE

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire	Total number of applications submitted in the last 3 years (declared)	Total number of awards (declared) in the last 3 years	
Grants (Except EU-FORA)	36	19	53%
EU-FORA Grants	16	14	88%
Procurements	31	22	71%

CLARITY OF THE CALLS

General

- LITTLE CLARITY or Absence of Formats

Grants (except EU-FORA)

- LACK OF CLARITY OF THE STAFF RECRUITMENT CRITERIA

Grants (except EU-FORA) – Procurements

- POORLY REGULATED DELIVERABLES, DIFFICULT TO MANAGE (financial and operational consequences)
- DEFECT in EXPLICITATION of the PRESENTATION criteria of the expertise involved, of the work plan, of the contingency plan and of the expected results. **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**

TOPICS COVERED BY THE CALLS

Grants (except EU-FORA) – Procurements

- DIFFICULTY IN ADDRESSING THE TOPICS COVERED (too specific topics compared to the organization's competences) **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**
- Limited number of calls related to new genome techniques (NGT) in the plant and animal sectors. Es: use of GMOs, plant pest, quality of soilless production in relation to the use of inorganic fertilizers and phytoremediate substrates, genetic improvement and enhancement of biodiversity for resistance to plant parasites; molecular genetics in the animal field.

MAIN CRITICALITIES FOUND

PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT

Grants (except EU-FORA)

- PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT CRITERIA (closure to unstructured personnel)

EU-FORA Grants

- STAFF RECRUITMENT CRITERIA (total exemption of the fellow from the activities of the sending organisation)

ORGANIZATION'S EXPERTISE

Procurements

- PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT CRITERIA (excessive expertise required). Too strict requirements for the project coordinator, project manager, team members. Project manager: previous experience in at least 2 interdisciplinary large-scale projects (≥ 100.000 €) of minimum 5 people) **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**

MAIN CRITICALITIES FOUND

EXCESSIVE BUREAUCRATIZATION

Grants (except EU-FORA) – Procurements

- Too strict **TIMELINE** for sub-mitting applications and for reporting the deliverables in the post award phase
- excessive paper documentation

Now all grant and procurement applications must be submitted via the electronic submission system (eSubmission) accessible from the Funding and Tenders Opportunities portal (F&T portal):

[Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu-funding-tenders-portal/)

(Info provided by the Italian Focal point during the 2023 October meeting with art. 36 organizations)

Grants (except EU-FORA)

- Too strict exclusion criteria
- Lack of clarity on the purpose of some documents requiring long time to be issued (es: declaration of honour; Istitutional and dipartimental Dol).

EU-FORA Grants – Procurements

- Bureaucratic procedures that do not allow compliance with the required deadlines

Procurements

- Deadlines too short for the presentation of documents to be requested from other administrations,
- Many meetings to be minuted

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

MAIN CRITICALITIES FOUND

General

- Difficulty in matching project ideas for the purpose of searching for partners, in particular for new designated organizations
- Difficulty in FINDING the scientific matching for PARTNERSHIP (EU-Fora calls) **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**

Grants (except EU-FORA) - Procurements

- Lack of services to support the forward planning of organizations

BUDGET

Grants (except EU-FORA) – Procurements

- BUDGET NOT SUITABLE for workloads required; INADEQUATE BUDGET **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**
- POORLY REGULATED DELIVERABLES, DIFFICULT TO MANAGE (financial consequences resulting in unexpected costs)

Grants (except EU-FORA)

- discrepancy between the presented budget and the accepted one
- 50% FINANCING

EU-FORA Grants

- Global amount of scholarships NOT COMPETITIVE ENOUGH **(BLOCKING CRITICAL ISSUE)**

Procurements

- TIMELINES FOR FINANCING (lack of pre-financing)

EFSA Strategy 2027: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate-pubs/efsa-strategy-2027-science-safe-food-sustainability>

EFSA Programming Documents 2016 – 2026:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate-pubs/programming-documents>

(Info provided by the Italian Focal point during the 2023 May and October meetings with art. 36 organizations)

PROGRAMMING/WORKLOADS

MAIN CRITICALITIES FOUND

Grants (except EU-FORA) - Procurements

- DELIVERABLES POORLY REGULATED and with stringent deadlines, DIFFICULT TO MANAGE (implying non planned reporting activities)
- Too burdensome reporting activity (es. too many “evidences” requested)
- current and planned institutional activity of the organizations which does not always leave space for participation in EFSA grants and procurement

COMMUNICATION - CAUSES INTERNAL TO THE ORGANIZATIONS

General

- INEXPERIENCE IN MANAGING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS RELATED TO THIS TYPE OF TENDER (lack of internal procedures)
- Lack of familiarity with the different administrative procedures between calls for tenders (procurement) and calls for proposals (grants). Therefore, sometimes it is easier to apply in HORIZON, PRIMA or similar calls for tenders.
- Specific courses on how to participate in calls, dissemination sessions on EFSA funding initiatives and training on the preparation of applications would be useful.

Infographic and specific communication material available on EFSA WEB SITE:

[EFSA procurement: why, what, HOW | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EFSA grants: why, what, HOW | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EFSA's Grants and Procurements - enhancing scientific cooperation – YouTube](#)

Dedicated webinars, Corporate documents/publications and Annual lists of grants and contractors, EFSA Scientific Cooperation plan, Individual Scientific Advisor (ISA) Scheme, Calls for data.

(Info provided by Italian Focal point during and after the 2023 October meeting with art. 36 organizations)

Grants (except EU-FORA) - Procurements

- Internal communication (delay in the TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION relating to the call)

MAIN CRITICALITIES FOUND

COMMUNICATION - CAUSES EXTERNAL TO THE ORGANIZATIONS

Grants (except EU-FORA) - Procurements

- Issues related to **COMMUNICATION with EFSA** (poor post-award communication channels on ongoing projects; lack of monthly newsletters on upcoming calls)

TECHNOLOGICAL LIMITS:

Grants EU-FORA

- **TECHNOLOGICAL LIMITS** (PLATFORM stability for conducting remote interviews) - **1 report only**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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CRITICALITIES DURING THE APPLICATION PHASE

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire	Number of organizations that declared administrative criticalities during the application submission stage	Number of organizations that declared non-administrative critical issues during the application submission stage
Grants (Except EU-FORA)	5 out of 13 organizations	4 out of 13 organizations
EU-FORA Grants	4 out of 8 organizations	7 out of 8 organizations
Procurements	10 out of 16 organizations	9 out of 16 organizations

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire	Number of organizations that have declared blocking critical issues	Number of times that blocking critical issues were declared
Grants (Except EU-FORA)	3 out of 13 organizations	<4 out of 36 applications
EU-FORA Grants	4 out of 8 organizations	7 out of 16 applications
Procurements	4 out of 16 organizations	12 out of 31 applications

CRITICALITIES DURING THE POST AWARD PHASE

Type of calls covered by the questionnaire	Number of organizations that have declared administrative issues in post award phase	Number of organizations that have declared non-administrative issues in post award phase
Grants (Except EU-FORA)	6 out of 11 organizations	5 out of 11 organizations
EU-FORA Grants	2 out of 7 organizations	1 out of 7 organizations
Procurements	5 out of 16 organizations	4 out of 16 organizations