

INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA PROJECT ECOFOODCYCLE

**Expression of interest
for participation in the
pilot action organized by
the University of Foggia
(PP7)
(Activity 2.2)**

Expression of interest for participation in the pilot action organized by the University of Foggia (PP7) within the project “ECOFOODCYCLE – Reducing Food Waste and its Environmental Footprint through Sustainable Food Systems”, ID ITHR0200316, Interreg Italy- Croatia 2021-2027 Programme

1. INTRODUCTION

The ECOFOODCYCLE project, funded under the Interreg Italy–Croatia 2021–2027 Programme, aims to contribute to the prevention and reduction of food waste across the Programme area by strengthening cross-border cooperation, improving knowledge and capacity among stakeholders, and promoting sustainable practices along the food supply chain.

The project brings together Italian and Croatian partners to develop shared methodologies, pilot innovative solutions, and test transferable approaches addressing food waste prevention, management, and awareness-raising. Particular attention is given to the involvement of key actors along the food supply chain, including the retail sector, as well as to end users, in order to foster responsible behaviours and more efficient food systems.

Within this framework, the University of Foggia (PP7) will implement a local pilot action in the Puglia Region (Italy). The pilot action will test an innovative and replicable approach to food waste reduction, contributing to the achievement of the project’s objectives and to the development of concrete, practice-oriented solutions that may be scaled up or transferred to other contexts.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this expression of interest is to identify a business from the large-scale retail sector interested in collaborating with the University of Foggia in the implementation of a local pilot action aimed at reducing food waste, in the framework of the ECOFOODCYCLE project.

The pilot action will serve as a testbed for an innovative and replicable approach to food waste prevention and awareness, promoting collaboration between the retail sector and the general public. The selected retail operator will play an active role in implementing the pilot, which will involve the recovery and repurposing of surplus food products close to expiry through the creation of thematic food boxes, made available to consumers via selected in-store points.

The initiative is expected to generate measurable outcomes, raise awareness, and contribute to behavioural change among end users, while highlighting the commitment of the retail sector to sustainability and food waste reduction.

The selected candidate will contribute to the co-design and operational implementation of the pilot, in coordination with the University of Foggia. For this reason, any additional ideas and suggestions regarding the refinement and implementation of the proposed concept for the pilot action will be considered as part of the evaluation process.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS



The target applicants for this expression of interest are businesses operating in the large-scale retail sector (GDO) in the Puglia Region (Italy), who are interested in collaborating with the University of Foggia in the implementation of the local pilot action under the ECOFOODCYCLE project.

In order to be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of submission:

- Be a legally constituted company, duly registered with a Chamber of Commerce;
- Operate in the large-scale retail distribution sector;
- Have a registered office and/or an operational unit located in the Puglia Region (Italy);
- Not be subject to bankruptcy, liquidation, receivership, or any equivalent procedure under applicable laws.

4. LOCATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD OF THE ACTIVITY

The pilot actions will take place in the Foggia area (Puglia Region, Italy), by the end of March 2026.

5. MODALITIES FOR SUBMITTING THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

In order to express your interest in participating in the pilot action organized by the University of Foggia, it is necessary to fill out the form attached to this document.

The completed form must be sent to the University of Foggia by 29th January 2026 at 19:00, via e-mail to [piervito.bianchi@unifg.it], specifying in the subject line “**ECOFOODCYCLE project – Expression of interest for participation in the pilot action of University of Foggia**”. A photocopy of a valid identity document of the signatory must be attached to the application form.

6. MODALITIES FOR SELECTING PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

One business will be selected based on the following criteria:

- 1. Relevance and motivation – Max. 7 points**
Clarity and coherence in explaining how the applicant intends to contribute to the implementation of the pilot action, based on the general concept outlined in this document.
- 2. Feasibility and operational capacity – Max. 8 points**
Demonstrated capacity to support the logistics and implementation of the pilot action within the timeframe and scope defined by the project.
- 3. Innovative potential and added value – Max. 8 points**
Potential of the proposed contribution to strengthen or complement the objectives of the pilot action, including added value in terms of communication, consumer engagement, or sustainability.
- 4. Commitment to the project objectives – Max. 7 points**
Willingness to collaborate closely with the University of Foggia and to engage in awareness-raising actions connected to food waste prevention.

Applications will be evaluated and awarded a maximum of 30 points by a selection committee composed of 3 members from the Department of Economics of the University of Foggia. The



committee will assess all applications received by the deadline and select the candidates deemed most suitable in line with the criteria above.

7. PRIVACY PROTECTION

Pursuant to Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), we hereby inform you that the personal data you provide through the application form hereby attached as Annex 1, including identification and contact data (such as name, date of birth, address, phone number, email), as well as any images, audio or video recordings taken during the project activities (e.g., proposal presentations, participatory meetings, promotional materials), will be processed by the University of Foggia (hereinafter “Data Controller”).

The processing of your personal data will be made in compliance with GDPR as well as with any other applicable laws and regulations and both the supra-national and domestic levels.

Purpose of the processing

The data will be processed solely for institutional, organizational, and promotional purposes strictly related to the ECOFOODCYCLE project.

Legal basis

The processing is based on the data subject’s consent (Article 6(1)(a) GDPR), on the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (Article 6(1)(e)), and/or on the legitimate interest of the project partners in promoting project results.

Recipients

Personal data may be shared with the project partners, subcontractors, and service providers involved in the ECOFOODCYCLE project, and may be transferred to other EU countries for the purposes of cross-border collaboration.

Storage

The data will be stored for the duration of the project and for the time necessary to fulfil administrative obligations, but no longer than 5 years from the end of the project, unless otherwise required by law.

Rights of the data subject

You may exercise your rights at any time, including the right to access, rectify, delete, restrict or object to the processing of your data, and the right to withdraw your consent, by contacting the Data Controller at: [piervito.bianchi@unifg.it].

Image and video use



By submitting Annex 1, you also acknowledge and agree that any images and/or video recordings made during the selection and implementation phases may be used for project dissemination, in compliance with privacy regulations and for non-commercial purposes.

8. INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

- Nunzio Angiola (nunzio.angiola@unifg.it) or Piervito Bianchi (piervito.bianchi@unifg.it)

9. ANNEXES

- Annex 1: *Application form*



FURTHERMORE, I DECLARE TO:

1. be a legally constituted company registered with a Chamber of Commerce;
2. be active in the large-scale distribution sector;
3. have a registered office and/or operational headquarters in the Puglia Region;
4. not be in a state of bankruptcy, liquidation, controlled administration, pre-arranged agreement, or any equivalent situation;
5. expressly accept the terms and conditions set out in the present expression of interest;
6. be aware of the selection and participation methods defined in the present expression of interest;
7. be aware that the expression of interest does not constitute any obligation for the University of Foggia, which reserves the right to cancel it without these constituting grounds for any claim whatsoever by the signatory;
8. be informed that the personal data provided for the participation in the present expression of interest will be processed exclusively for institutional purposes in accordance with the Privacy Protection clause. The processing of the data in question, in compliance with all the applicable laws and regulations at both the domestic and EU level, is an indispensable prerequisite for participation in the expression of interest and for all subsequent activities;
9. have read the Privacy Protection clause above, regarding the protection of personal data for suppliers/contractors, pursuant to and for the purposes of Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR – Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

B) APPLICANT'S BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

Please describe your interest in participating in the pilot action promoted by the University of Foggia within the ECOFOODCYCLE project. In your answer, explain how your organization relates to the general concept of the pilot action outlined in this call and why you consider it relevant for your activities. (max. 200 words)



Please briefly describe how your organization would concretely support the implementation of the pilot action at operational level (e.g. logistics, internal coordination, staff involvement, customer interaction), within the timeframe indicated. (*max. 200 words*)

Based on the general description of the pilot action, please explain how your organization could contribute to strengthening or enriching the proposed initiative. Any additional ideas or adaptations that remain consistent with the pilot action's objectives may be outlined and will be taken into consideration during the evaluation. (*max. 200 words*)

Please describe your organization's commitment to food waste prevention and awareness-raising, including any previous or ongoing initiatives relevant to this topic. Explain how you would collaborate with the University of Foggia during the pilot action and contribute to the visibility and impact of the initiative. (*max. 200 words*)



A photocopy of a valid identification document is attached.

Place and date

Signature

