



# Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale

## CALL FOR GRANT OF RESOURCES DEDICATED TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR “MUNICIPAL PHD PROGRAMMES” ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS BY MUNICIPALITIES OF THE INTERNAL TERRITORIES, ALSO IN ASSOCIATED FORM

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

*Attachment 4*

#### SELECTED TOPIC

- to guarantee the offer and full access to essential services by inhabitants (local public transport, education and social and health services);
- to promote the wealth of the territory and of the local communities;
- to enhance natural and cultural resources, by creating new occupational courses;
- to counter demographic and cultural depopulation.

#### PROJECT IDEA

**Describe the content of the PhD proposal, highlighting the main objectives as well as the consistency with the selected topic**

The proposal of Municipal PhD Programme is aimed to promote knowledge and support of the Nebrodi area through the implementation of a sustainable development model, with a focus on the services sector, which is the main source of wealth of the territory involved.

In line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, the project aims to define tourism development strategies that achieves a balance between protection of natural and environmental resources and economic and social needs.

The research is aimed at highlighting the impact that the economic operations carried out by individuals have on the environment. The transition to a sustainable development model can not be separated from the active participation of individuals. In these logics, also private law instruments can provide crucial levers for the realization of the values to be promoted.

The contract, also intended as a vehicle of information, on one hand, and the governance of the so called “commons”, on the other hand, are the two main poles around which the project revolves.

The idea is to draw up on the side of the company that operates in the tourism sector a catalogue of eco-sustainable services, that flow into reference contractual models, which respect the natural resources that characterize the territory of the host community.



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Likewise, the proposal aims, on the side of the traveller-tourist, to enhance the principles and identify appropriate techniques that can be placed within the fold of the so called ecosustainable, responsible tourism, or ecotourism.

In this perspective, the tourist, as a contractor, becomes a vehicle of not only individualistic-financial but also collectivist-not financial interests. In accordance with the guidelines set up by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the main characteristic of the sustainable tourism is to satisfy the needs of the traveller and at the same time to benefit the host community: optimally using the environmental resources of the territory, in order to maintain the essential ecological processes and to help preserve the natural heritage and the biodiversity, especially of a charming and unique territory, also for its morphology, like the Nebrodi area; enhancing the local traditions and the artistic heritage.

It is therefore crucial to create information tools able to make the tourists aware about the impact of their choices, and the contribution they can make to the host community.

The project therefore aims to identify and reduce all the negative externalities for the territory that would otherwise be produced by not eco-oriented contractual dynamics of the tourism sector.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **Describe the results expected at the end of the three-year period**

At the end of the PhD course it is hoped to achieve the following results:

- A) identification of inefficiencies and negative externalities produced by the contracts signed by tourists in the territories involved;
- B) development of guidelines to follow for the realization of *sustainable contracts* which respects the environment and the local communities;
- C) enhancement of the peculiarities of the territory and of the social and cultural traditions;
- D) realization of information tools able to make the tourists aware about the respect of certain sustainability *standards*, both by economic operators, and through their active involvement;
- E) increase in *responsible tourist* flows.

## **POTENTIAL AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Describe the added value acquired for the reference territorial area and the future usability of the results**



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The realization of the perfect synergy between local communities and tourist flows aims to make the territories involved a perfect destination of sustainable development and tourism. This model, by reason of its uniqueness and innovation, aims to attract an increasing number of tourists interested in living more authentic experiences, with full respect for the territories and local communities.

The goal is to make sure that the achievements can act as a *case study* also for other territories and for new tourist activities that will arise in the territories involved.