



Terms of Reference for Consultancy Replication Lab Facilitator

CONTEXT

The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM), a member of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), focuses on higher education, lifelong learning, research, and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

The [GRANULAR project](#) (Giving Rural Actors Novel Data and Re-Usable Tools to Lead Public Action in Rural Areas), funded by Horizon Europe and led by CIHEAM-IAMM, aims to enhance the understanding of rural diversity through a multidimensional analysis of rural-urban interrelations. The project involves 23 partners and employs participatory methods across 16 pilot territories in Europe.

CIHEAM-IAMM leads a Replication Lab in Albania's Vjosa Valley, Përmet region, to evaluate the applicability of project tools, data, and methods for supporting decision-making in rural areas. This initiative focuses on the multifunctionality of activities in the region and developing local strategies in response to the newly protected area status of the Vjosa.

OBJECTIVES

The consultant will support the territory by managing the Replication Lab, including tasks related to data collection, organization, analysis, and monitoring within the scope of the GRANULAR project (GRANULAR's Work Package 6, Task 6.3).

SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will be responsible for:

1. Action Plan Development:

- Formulate an annual action plan to address the research question on the multifunctionality of activities in the Përmet region and the implications of the Vjosa's protection.

2. Territorial Diagnosis Support:

- Compile and analyze existing data.
- Implement methodologies to provide indicators and tools for evaluating development strategies, supporting a LEADER strategy implementation.

3. Result Synthesis:

- Synthesize results for potential scaling up in Albania.
- Development of a Practice Abstract as a synthesis of take-away messages and good practices regarding the use of novel data methods to guide policy that are expected to be achieved under the project and disseminated to practitioners in rural areas.

4. Reporting and Documentation:

- Contribute to writing reports and scientific papers.
- Present findings to scientific partners, the network of Multi-Actor Labs, and the broader scientific community.

DELIVERABLES

All dates and deadlines listed below correspond to the current GRANULAR Gant Chart and project advancement. Those could be revised during the project by GRANULAR Coordinator and General Assembly, pending approval by the European Commission for all formal project deliverables (see below).

The expertise is intended to start in **Mid-September 2025**.

The Consultant should produce:

- Comprehensive Action Plan for the Replication Lab by **October 2025**
- Indicators and tools for territorial evaluation (list of indicators by **February 2026**; and identification of existing data and data collection to capture the indicators, **by December 2025**)
- Detailed territorial diagnosis report by **April 2026**

The Consultant should also produce dedicated contributions to synthesized reports and scientific papers, including the GRANULAR Deliverable D6.4 (Practice Abstracts, due by **August 2026**). Draft contributions for D6.4 will be submitted by the consultant or under their supervision at the latest in **June 2026**.

Location: The consultant is expected to ensure a close coordination of the Replication Lab to be conducted in Albania's Vjosa Valley, Përmet region.

CONFIDENTIALITY- CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Consultant contracted will be expected to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement and a Declaration of an absence of Conflict of Interest to warrant independence and the provision of fair ethical judgements and expertise.

The Consultant will maintain regular contact with the Project Coordinator (CIHEAM-IAMM), and will participate in consortium's meetings (mainly virtual meetings).

QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Master (or PhD) in rural development, environment, or a related field.

Skills and Experience:

- Deep understanding of rural development challenges.
- Proficiency in mapping tools and spatial databases.
- Clear understanding of stakeholders and biodiversity conservation.
- Strong scientific curiosity, dynamic, collaborative team player with data handling expertise.
- Leadership, dialogue, autonomy.
- Experience in fieldwork and participatory practices.
- Familiarity with the Vjosa valley and local stakeholders in Albania is highly appreciated.
- Excellent writing skills.

Languages:

- **English:** Good oral and written communication.
- **Albanian:** Excellent oral communication required for fieldwork.

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

The mission will begin on the day the contract is signed and will end on 30/08/2026, the final date corresponding to the deadline for submission of the final deliverable (D6.4 Practice Abstracts).



SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND MAIN CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Interested applicants are invited to submit the following:

- CV detailing relevant previous experience for the candidate expert(s);
- A step by step description of the proposed methodology;
- A provisional budget including a breakdown of the main planned tasks and specific identification of travel and subsistence costs.

Proposals should be submitted in **English** by email with the subject “**GRANULAR Replication Lab Facilitator proposal**” addressed to Tristan Berchoux, GRANULAR Scientific Coordinator: berchoux@iamm.fr and Aurélie Kirsch, Project Manager: kirsch@iamm.fr

Main criteria for evaluating the proposals will be: the qualification of the candidate, relevant experience, proposed methodology and price. The selection process may include interviews (through Zoom or phone), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

A maximum of EUR 14 000 for human resources and of 2000 euros for travel and field subsistence costs is expected.

Deadline for submission: 31 August 2025 CEST

CONTACT AT IAMM

For any information, please liaise with the GRANULAR Scientific Coordinator and Project Manager using the emails listed above. Additional information on GRANULAR project can also be found on GRANULAR website: <https://www.ruralgranular.eu/>

