

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MARKET RESEARCH AND COLLECTION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE AWARD OF THE SERVICE RELATING TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR THE TERRITORY AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 SITES AND THEMAB OFFICE OF THE TICINO VAL GRANDE VERBANO BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TASK 1.4 OF WP1 OF THE INTERREG VI-A ITALY-SWITZERLAND 2021-2027 VISTA TICINO - TOWARDS THE RIVER CONTRACT FOR INTEGRATED ITALIAN-SWISS MANAGEMENT OF THE TICINO - CUP C81G24000130006

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: Lombardy Park of the Ticino Valley – Via Isonzo, 1 – 20013 Magenta (MI)

RUP: Valentina Parco – Head of U.O.9 and Natura 2000 Site Management Sector – natura2000@parcoticino.it

PEC: parco.ticino@pec.regione.lombardia.it

Published on the client's profile <https://ente.parcoticino.it> in the section **TENDERS AND COMPETITIONS – SERVICES – TENDERS IN PUBLICATION.**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS: 7/01/2026.

Given that

- With Management Board Resolution No. 37 of 09/04/2024, the Ticino Park approved its participation in the VISTA TICINO – TOWARDS A RIVER CONTRACT FOR INTEGRATED ITALO-SWISS MANAGEMENT IN TICINO project as an associated beneficiary. At the same time, the related financial framework was approved, which stipulates that, in the event of a positive outcome, the Park will receive an amount equal to INTEGRATED ITALO-SWISS MANAGEMENT OF THE TICINO as an associated beneficiary. At the same time, the related economic framework was approved, which provides that, in the event of a positive outcome, the Park will receive an amount equal to €127,100, covering 100% of the expenses incurred.
- the Managing Authority of the INTERREG VI-A ITALY-SWITZERLAND 2021-2027 cooperation programme approved the project 'VISTA TICINO - Towards a River Contract for Integrated Italian-Swiss Management of the Ticino', of which the Park is an associated beneficiary, as shown in Decree No. 18858 of 02.12.2024 approving the ranking;
- by Resolution of the Management Board No. 141 of 14/12/2024, participation in the project was definitively approved and, at the same time, the cooperation agreement between the Italian lead partner, the Swiss lead partner and the other project partners was signed;
- the duration of the project starts on 1 January 2025, as indicated by the Managing Authority in the funding communication and request for acceptance;
- The project area falls largely within the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve, recognised in 2019 by UNESCO as part of the MAB 'Man and Biosphere' Programme.
- the Lombardy Ticino Valley Park is the managing body of the Reserve in collaboration with the Val Grande National Park, the Campo dei Fiori Park and the Management Body for the Protected Areas of Ticino and Lake Maggiore;
- in order to carry out activities related to UNESCO recognition, the Park has set up a MAB Office for the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve;
- the objectives of the Interreg VISTA TICINO project are fully consistent with the principles of UNESCO's MAB programme, which aims to promote participatory dialogue, the sharing of knowledge and good practices, including through the networking of institutions, businesses and stakeholders and the implementation of cooperation initiatives;

- the Ticino Park is the project contact for action 1.4 of WP1, which aims to activate synergies with the Ticino Val Grande Verbano MAB Reserve.

The Lombardy Ticino Park therefore intends to award a service contract to support the Territory and Natura 2000 Site Management Sectors and the MAB Office of the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve in the management of Task 1.4 *Synergies with the TICINOVALGRANDEVERBANO MAB Reserve* of WP1 *Regulations, involvement, scope of action and partnership River Contract* of the INTERREG VI-A Italy-Switzerland 2021-2027 Vista Ticino Project.

With this exploratory public notice, approved by Resolution No. 490 of 4.11.2025, the Lombardy Ticino Valley Park therefore intends to address economic operators in the sector (CPV 79421000-1 *Project management services, excluding construction projects*) to ascertain their willingness to proceed with direct award, pursuant to Article 50(1)(b) of Legislative Decree No. 31.03.23 36 Public Contracts Code, for an assignment to support the MAB office of the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve in the management of Task 1.4 of WP1 of the Interreg VI-A Italy-Switzerland 2021-2027 Vista Ticino Project.

This procedure is aimed exclusively at receiving expressions of interest from parties potentially interested in providing the services specified in the notice itself, with a view to verifying the existence of any definite cross-border interest in the activities described below and, consequently, the methods of awarding the contract.

Based on the outcome of the above assessment and in the event of a confirmed lack of cross-border interest, the services will be carried out within the scope of the project referred to in the title, after first ascertaining the interest of economic operators through a selection process following a public notice. If cross-border interest is confirmed, ordinary procedures will be initiated as established by Article 48(2) and Article 50(5) of Legislative Decree 36/2023 and subsequent amendments and additions.

This investigation does not entail the establishment of legal positions or contractual obligations and does not bind this Contracting Authority in any way, which reserves the right to proceed or not with the award procedure in question.

1. Subject of the contract

The activities to be carried out primarily concern support for the MAB Office of the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve for activities related to Task 1.4 of WP1.

Task 1.4 will be developed as follows:

Most of the project area falls within the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve and the objectives of this proposal are fully consistent with the principles of UNESCO's MAB 'Man and Biosphere' programme, which aims to promote participatory dialogue, the sharing of knowledge and good practices, including through the networking of institutions, businesses and stakeholders and the implementation of cooperation initiatives. Within the scope of this project and in particular this specific activity, the partnership and the MAB Reserve will work to ensure the consistency of planning tools and the implementation of joint activities, including by activating synergies with other Reserves involved in River Contracts (e.g. CdF Alto Po-MAB Monviso Reserve, CdF Media Valle del Po/Mincio/Oglio sud-MAB Po Grande Reserve, etc.). This collaborative effort aims to create a network of entities committed to environmental conservation and biodiversity support, so that we can work together to address environmental challenges and maximise the impact of conservation actions, giving priority to issues related to climate crisis resilience, the protection and rational use of water resources, and the ecosystem functionality of the basin. The feasibility, mutual interest and possible common objectives will also be assessed in order to lay the foundations, in consultation with Swiss stakeholders, for the possible establishment of a cross-border Biosphere Reserve, as requested by the UNESCO Commission, following the process of reviewing and expanding the MAB area to the Swiss border.

Specifically, the main activities covered by this request for proposals will be as follows:

- a) Support for Park staff in promoting synergies and creating information and exchange networks between the MAB Ticino Val Grande Verbano Reserve, the Reserves participating in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Po (RB Monviso, Collina Po, Po Grande, Delta Po) and other Reserves involved in River Contracts already in place or in progress;

- b) Collection of documentation on project topics (resilience to climate crisis, protection and rational use of water resources, ecosystem functionality of the basin).
- c) General support aimed at advancing the planned initiatives and preparing the documentation required by the INTERREG project working group;
- d) Support for the reporting activities that the Park must carry out as a project partner and in the preparation of progress and monitoring reports;
- e) Organisation of engagement meetings/working groups with stakeholders identified together with the Park Authority and the Biosphere Reserve;
- f) Management, implementation and updating of the Biosphere Reserve's social media channels (Facebook, website, YouTube, newsletter, etc.) with the development of media content to raise awareness of the INTERREG project and the Reserve's activities consistent with its objectives;
- g) Preparation of press releases on project activities involving the Reserve;

The above activities must be carried out in support of and under the coordination of the client, according to agreed schedules and work plans. The contractor must therefore comply with the guidelines and instructions provided, while retaining full autonomy in the execution of the assignment. In carrying out the assignment, the contractor must in any case guarantee their availability to participate in periodic (weekly) meetings, either in person at the headquarters of the Ticino Park or remotely, for technical, coordination and joint work meetings with the staff of the Authority.

2. Duration of the contract

The contract, starting from the date of assignment, will last until 31/12/2026 and in any case no later than the end of the project, unless extended.

3. Unit costs for the activities requested

The total amount is € 30,000.00, including social security contributions and VAT.

As this is an intellectual service, the offer does not include a breakdown of labour and safety costs.

4. Participation requirements

The following entities are eligible to apply for participation:

- referred to in Article 65 of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023;
- who are not subject to any of the grounds for exclusion referred to in Articles 94, 95 and 98 of Legislative Decree 36/2023, nor to any other grounds for exclusion from contracting, participation in tenders or the conclusion of contracts with the Public Administration;
- who are registered on the SINTEL e-procurement platform.
- who are **familiar with the UNESCO MAB programme and the territory of the Ticino Val Grande Verbano Biosphere Reserve;**
- have carried out, in the five years prior to this notice, similar services related to the type of service requested in this notice: **support in the development and implementation of project activities.**

5. Required documents

The economic operator must guarantee that it meets the technical and professional requirements set out in Article 100(1)(c) of Legislative Decree 36/2023, as evidenced by the following documentation:

- application to participate in the expression of interest drawn up in accordance with Form 1 - Expression of interest, attached to this notice, stating the exact company name and the name of the legal representative, as well as the address and any other contact details to which subsequent communications should be sent, with specific indication of the telephone number and/or e-mail address;
- copy of the signatory's identity card or other equivalent identification document pursuant to Article 35 of

Presidential Decree 445/2000;

- curriculum vitae of the interested party and/or a presentation of the organisation, association or company, with particular reference to professional experience similar and/or analogous to that required;
- any additional information deemed useful.

6. Contractor selection procedure

Contractors will be selected subsequently by requesting quotations for direct award through the SINTEL – ARIA platform, addressed to all operators who have expressed interest and who meet the requirements set out in this notice.

7. Award procedures

The subsequent direct award procedure will be awarded according to the lowest price criterion. Following the procedures set out in the expressions of interest, the Lombardy Ticino Valley Park will initiate the direct award procedure through the SINTEL electronic intermediation system, inviting the economic operators identified through the expression of interest procedure.

8. Terms and conditions for submitting expressions of interest

Interested parties must complete the expression of interest application form in accordance with Form 1 Expression of Interest, attached to this notice, also indicating their previous experience as specified in point 5. The aforementioned documents, digitally signed by the legal representative, must be uploaded to the SINTEL platform by 22/12/2025.

Applications will be excluded if:

1. without the documentation required in point 5;
2. made by parties who are subject to a clause excluding them from participating in tenders for the award of public services, contracts or negotiations with the public administration, as provided for by the legal system in force, ascertained at any time and by any means.

Additional or replacement applications received after the deadline for receipt indicated in this notice will not be accepted.

When submitting an application using the SINTEL electronic procedure, the System requires a mandatory field to be filled in with the "Financial offer". However, as it is not necessary to specify any financial value at this preliminary stage of the application process, it should be noted that the economic operator must not indicate any offer, under penalty of exclusion, but must only enter the value 0.1 (zero point one) in this field to allow the System to complete the process.

9. Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Legislative Decree 196/2003 as amended and EU Regulation No. 2016/679 (hereinafter also referred to as "GDPR"), The Data Controller, Ente Parco Lombardo della Valle del Ticino, with registered office in Magenta, Via Isonzo No. 1, hereinafter also referred to as 'the Data Controller' or 'the Park', provides the data subject with the following information. The purposes for which the data subjects' data are intended are related to participation in the subsequent procedure for awarding the contract in question. Personal data may be disclosed to other public and private entities, as independent Data Controllers or Data Processors, in accordance with the purposes and legal bases indicated above.

No transfer of data to Member States of the European Union or to third countries outside the European Union is envisaged, except for data intended for publication, which will be publicly accessible from anywhere in the world. Any transfers will be carried out in accordance with Articles 45, 46 and 49 of the GDPR.

The data included in the list approved by the competent bodies following the expression of interest procedure will be disseminated through publication in the forms provided for by the relevant regulations and through the Authority's website in accordance with the principles of relevance and non-excess. The data will be stored according to the criterion of minimum data processing. To determine this period, the data will be stored

in relation to the processing in question and the relevant legislation, if applicable (e.g. publication and legislation on transparency, storage and anti-corruption legislation).

Data subjects have the right to access their personal data, to request its correction, updating and deletion, if incomplete, incorrect or collected in violation of the law, as well as to object to its processing for legitimate reasons by addressing their requests to the Personnel Office. The GDPR also guarantees data subjects the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority if they believe the conditions are met and to be informed of data breaches that may present a high risk to the data subjects themselves. Requests from data subjects may be addressed to the Data Controller c/o the Personnel Office or to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) at the email address rpd@parcoticino.it. The provision of such data is mandatory. Failure to provide such data will make it impossible to proceed with the activities related to the call for applications, including participation. By submitting the application form, the professional declares that they have received and understood this information notice.

10. Final provisions

This notice is published on the SINTEL portal of the Lombardy Region and in the 'Transparent Administration' section, subsection 'Competition Announcements', of the Park's website www.parcoticino.it.

Any requests for clarification of a technical or administrative nature and regarding the procedural aspects of this notice should be addressed via the 'Communications' procedure on the Sintel platform or by email to parco.ticino@pec.regione.lombardia.it for the attention of Dr Valentina Parco, Head of the NATURA 2000 Site Management Sector.

The data provided will be processed in accordance with the laws and regulations in force, exclusively for the purposes of the procedure to which this notice refers.

The Head of U.O. 9
Valentina Parco

Document digitally signed in accordance with Legislative Decree 10/2002, TU No. 445/00 and related regulations.