ECOSYSTEMIC TRANSITION HUB ETU

ETU Call 2: **Terms of Reference**

Interreg Euro-MED Green Living Areas Mission



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Green living areas | Interreg Euro-MED | Co-funded by the European Union

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1 Background and Context

The Ecosystemic Transition hUb (ETU) is an initiative of the Interreg Euro-MED Green Living Areas Community, aimed at supporting local, supra-municipal and regional authorities in advancing greener and more resilient territories through practical tools, methodologies and transferable solutions.

Within the framework of the Community4GreenLivingAreas (C4LA) project, three complementary ETU Open Calls contribute to expanding the portfolio of available solutions, facilitating their transfer and supporting their uptake in Mediterranean territories.

ETU Open Call 2 focuses on the transfer and adaptation of selected Transferable Solutions to concrete territorial challenges. It invites local and regional public authorities to apply for structured mentoring or knowledge exchange with the organisations and experts providing these solutions (givers).

The available solutions address challenges related to sustainable mobility, energy transition, climate resilience, nature-based solutions, community engagement, territorial planning and financing the green transition.

The Call provides access to a programme-supported transfer process, connecting participating authorities with tested solutions and technical expertise developed through Interreg Euro-MED projects of the Green Living Area Mission. Through a mentoring scheme of approximately six months, selected Takers will receive support to explore their adaptation and potential integration into territorial policies, plans and institutional practices.

2 Objectives of the Call

2.1 Overall Objective

ETU Open Call 2 aims to facilitate the transfer and adaptation of selected innovative solutions developed within the Interreg Euro-MED Programme Green Living Areas Mission to address concrete challenges in Mediterranean territories, strengthen local and regional capacities and support their integration into territorial policies, planning processes and institutional practices.

2.2 Specific Objectives

The Call seeks to:

- Identify territorial challenges and transfer opportunities where available Transferable Solutions can provide relevant tools, methodologies and knowledge to support local or regional action.

- Facilitate cooperation and capacity-building between solution providers (givers) and participating authorities (takers), enabling the exchange and adaptation of transferable knowledge through mentoring and learning activities.
- Support concrete transfer results, such as assessments, methodological adaptations, scenarios, recommendations or Transfer Roadmaps, according to the characteristics of each solution and the scope of the mentoring scheme.
- Promote institutional uptake and long-term contribution, encouraging the integration of transferred solutions into territorial strategies, policies, plans, programmes and governance arrangements.
- Foster Mediterranean cooperation and transferable learning, generating experiences and knowledge that may inform similar initiatives in other territories.

3 Transferable Solutions Available for Replication

ETU Open Call 2 offers a portfolio of Transferable Solutions developed through Interreg Euro-MED projects and selected for their potential to be transferred and adapted to different Mediterranean territorial contexts.

The solutions include tools, methodologies, digital platforms and planning frameworks addressing five thematic areas:

- **Green Resilient Planning**: Climate adaptation, territorial resilience and nature-based solutions.
- **Green Community Engagement:** Citizen participation, behavioural change and community involvement.
- **Green Mobility:** Sustainable transport, mobility planning and urban logistics.
- **Green Energy Systems:** Renewable energy integration and local energy transition.
- **Financing the Green Transition**: Financial assessment and investment planning for sustainable territorial initiatives.

3.1. Transferable Solution Catalogue

The accompanying Transferable Solution Catalogue provides a dedicated sheet for each available solution, describing its purpose, potential territorial applications, transfer requirements, available technical support, indicative activities and expected results.

Applicants should consult the relevant Transferable Solution Sheets to identify suitable solutions and assess their preliminary feasibility for transfer.

3.2. Selection of Transferable Solutions by Applicants

Applicants may select one or two complementary Transferable Solutions to address a single territorial challenge within a proposed territorial case.

Where two solutions are selected, applicants must explain their complementarity and the added value of their combined application.

The selection of a solution does not automatically guarantee its transfer. Feasibility will be assessed against the eligibility criteria, solution-specific requirements and evaluation procedure established in this Call.

3.3. Solution-specific Transfer Requirements

Each Transferable Solution may require specific technical capacities, data, institutional arrangements or operational conditions.

The Transferable Solution Sheets distinguish between:

- Essential requirements that must be fulfilled to initiate transfer.
- Requirements that may be developed during mentoring.
- Requirements for subsequent implementation, which are not prerequisites for starting the transfer.

Applicants should demonstrate their capacity to fulfil the essential requirements before the mentoring process begins. Other capacity gaps may be addressed during mentoring, depending on the solution and the support available.

The verification of these conditions is described in Section 7.

4 Mentoring and Transfer Schemes

ETU Open Call 2 supports the transfer and adaptation of selected Transferable Solutions through structured cooperation between solution providers (givers) and selected applicant organisations (takers), with the support of C4LA facilitators and thematic experts.

The mentoring process aims to facilitate the adaptation and potential application of selected solutions to specific territorial challenges, while strengthening technical capacities and supporting their future integration into territorial policies, plans and institutional practices.

The mentoring period is expected to last five months, from February to June 2027. Full implementation of the selected solution within this period is not a prerequisite for successful participation.

4.1. Participation Modalities

Two participation modalities are envisaged under ETU Open Call 2:

Full Taker modality

Full Takers are selected organisations participating in a structured mentoring and transfer process aimed at adapting and advancing the application of one or more Transferable Solutions to a specific territorial context.

The process includes:

- Technical exchanges and mentoring with the giver, supported by a facilitator.
- Assessment of the solution's replicability and adaptation requirements in the taker's territory.
- Joint development of a **Transfer Roadmap**, defining the main steps, conditions and resources needed for adaptation and subsequent implementation.
- Participation in study visits to territories where the solution has been tested or implemented.
- Follow-up exchanges to support progress towards the application of the solution.

The Full Taker mentoring scheme is supported through the C4LA project. Selected Full Takers will benefit from dedicated technical mentoring, knowledge exchange with solution providers and support in developing a Transfer Roadmap, without participation fees.

The scheme covers the mentoring and transfer support provided within the C4LA framework. Any resources required for subsequent implementation of the selected solution remain outside the scope of this support.

Soft Taker modality

Soft Takers are organisations interested in learning about the application and potential transfer of selected Transferable Solutions but not participating in the full mentoring process.

They may be invited to participate in study visits and related knowledge-sharing activities, allowing them to observe solutions in practice, exchange experiences with givers and other participating territories, and explore opportunities for future application.

Participation as a Soft Taker does not include dedicated technical mentoring or the development of an individual Transfer Roadmap.

Participation in study visits is subject to available resources and organisational arrangements.

4.2. Mentoring Structure and Technical Support

The Full Taker mentoring process involves three main actors:

- **Giver:** The organisation or technical expert responsible for sharing the selected solution, providing methodological and technical guidance, and supporting its adaptation.
- **Taker:** The selected organisation responsible for engaging in the transfer process, providing relevant territorial information and capacities, and advancing the adaptation or application of the solution.
- **Facilitator:** A C4LA partner or designated thematic expert supporting the technical dialogue between giver and taker, assessing transfer conditions, coordinating the development of the Transfer Roadmap and accompanying the mentoring process.

The specific technical assistance, mentoring activities and transferable resources will depend on the selected Transferable Solution and the arrangements confirmed with its giver.

Following selection, the giver, taker and facilitator will jointly define the scope, activities and expected results of the transfer process.

4.3. Expected Transfer Results

The Full Taker mentoring process is expected to generate a **Transfer Roadmap** adapted to the participating territory, identifying the conditions, actions and resources required to advance the application of the selected solution.

Depending on the characteristics of the solution and the scope of the mentoring process, additional results may include technical assessments, methodological adaptations, scenarios, recommendations or capacity-building outcomes.

The mentoring process will also contribute to a **Mentoring Scheme Factsheet**, documenting the transfer experience, key enabling conditions, adaptation needs, implementation considerations and lessons learnt.

The mentoring scheme supports progress towards replication and institutional uptake. Subsequent implementation may require additional resources, decisions or arrangements beyond the mentoring period.

5 Eligibility Requirements

Applications under ETU Open Call 2 must fulfil the general eligibility requirements below. These will be assessed on a **Pass/Fail** basis.

5.1. General Eligibility Criteria

A1. Eligible Applicant Organisation: Applicants must be local or regional public authorities with competence and capacity to act in the proposed territory. Applicants are eligible from Euro-Mediterranean countries and the following South Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Türkiye. Other organisations are not eligible as lead applicants.

A2. Proposed Territorial Context: Applications must identify a concrete geographical area and demonstrate the applicant's competence, responsibility or capacity to act within it.

A3. Eligible Transferable Solution: Applicants must select one or two eligible Transferable Solutions addressing a single territorial case. Where two are selected in the same application, their complementarity must be justified.

A4. Institutional Commitment: Applicants may submit a Letter of Commitment signed by an authorised institutional representative, according to their selected participation modality. It will **only be compulsory for the final selected applications**, and should be presented by starting the Mentoring Scheme Programme.

Only applications fulfilling **A1, A2, and A3** criteria will proceed to the corresponding evaluation procedure.

5.2. Solution-specific Essential Requirements

Each Transferable Solution may have indispensable technical, institutional, data-related or operational conditions for initiating transfer, as specified in its Transferable Solution Sheet.

These requirements will be verified separately from the numerical assessment, using as possible statuses: **Pass or Not eligible.**

Applicants may be requested to provide additional information where necessary. A confirmed inability to fulfil an indispensable requirement, with no feasible resolution, will prevent the corresponding solution from proceeding to transfer, regardless of the assessment score.

Requirements that can be developed during mentoring or are only necessary for subsequent implementation will not be treated as prerequisites for initiating transfer.

6 Application Form Requirements

Applicants must submit the Application Form completed specifying their participation modality as Soft or Full taker. Applications must refer to a specific territorial challenge and identify one or two eligible Transferable Solutions from the accompanying Catalogue.

The Letter of Commitment (LoC) signed by an authorised representative of the applicant public authority, confirming institutional support and willingness to participate in the mentoring process. The LoC is optional as for the call stage, but becomes compulsory for final selected proposals to start the Mentoring Scheme.

6.1. Full Taker Application

Applicants seeking structured mentoring and transfer support must submit the **Full Taker Application Form**, providing information on:

- Applicant authority, institutional contact and territorial context.
- Territorial challenge, selected Transferable Solution(s) and envisaged application, including their complementarity where relevant.
- Technical team, available capacities, data and other resources, capacity-building needs and potential transfer risks.
- Institutional responsibilities, links to existing policies or initiatives, expected longer-term contribution and opportunities for continuity.

Applicants are not required to submit a detailed implementation project or Transfer Roadmap at the application stage. The Transfer Roadmap will be jointly developed during mentoring.

6.2. Soft Taker Application

Applicants seeking participation in study visits and related learning activities must submit the **Soft Taker Application Form**, defining:

- Applicant public authority,
- Description of the territorial challenge,
- The selected Transferable Solution(s), their relevance for possible future application,
- At least one designated technical representative with an appropriate professional profile.

Selected Soft Takers will be expected to provide a brief post-visit learning report, summarising key lessons, potential territorial applications and possible next steps.

Full and Soft Takers' applicants may include references to relevant reports or publications as a support to the candidate. No additional technical annexes are required at the application stage.

7 Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed according to their selected participation modality. Full Taker applications will undergo a structured evaluation using the C4LA Replicability Assessment Tool (REPTOOL), while Soft Taker applications will follow a simplified eligibility and relevance assessment.

7.1. Full Taker Evaluation

Stage 1. Application Eligibility (Block A)

- Applications will be screened against the general eligibility criteria A1–A3 established in Section 5.
- Transferable solutions are proposed to apply in the same case.
- The indispensable conditions for initiating transfer, as specified in the corresponding Transferable Solution Sheets, will be verified separately. Applicants may be requested to provide clarifications where necessary.

Stage 2. Replicability and Mainstreaming Potential Assessment

Eligible applications will be evaluated using the following criteria to sum 100 points:

- Block B. Territorial Challenge and Proposed Transfer (20 points)
  - B1. Problem addressed and territorial challenge (10 points)
  - B2. Envisioned application of the solution (10 points)
- Block C. Technical and Operational Readiness (50 points)
  - C1. Technical resources and team availability (20 points)
  - C2. Capacity-building needs and feasibility (10 points)
  - C3. Availability and accessibility of other resources (15 points)
  - C4. Risks and mitigation (5 points)
- Block D. Institutional Integration and Long-term Contribution (30 points)
  - D1. Governance, institutional integration and continuity capacity (15 points)
  - D2. Long-term contribution and expected territorial benefits (15 points)

Each criterion will be scored using the REPTOOL scoring descriptors and corresponding weighting. The assessment will consider the feasibility of achieving meaningful transfer results during the mentoring period. Full implementation of the solution within this period is not required.

Stage 3. Technical Suitability

- Applications scoring more than 60/100 points, fulfilling all general eligibility criteria and meeting the indispensable solution-specific requirements will be considered technically suitable for selection.
- Applications scoring less than 40 points, even fulfilling all general eligibility criteria, will be qualified not suitable as Full Taker.
- Technical suitability does not automatically guarantee selection, which remains subject to the available mentoring capacity and the Selection Committee's decision.

7.2. Soft Taker Evaluation

Soft Taker applications will undergo a simplified assessment based on:

- Eligibility as a local or regional public authority and identification of a relevant territorial context.
- Relevance of the selected Transferable Solution(s) to the territorial challenge and potential future application.
- Suitability and availability of at least one designated technical representative.
- Institutional commitment to participate in the study visit, share the knowledge acquired and provide a brief post-visit learning report.

Applications will be classified as **Eligible and suitable**, or **Not eligible/not suitable**.

Soft Taker applications will not receive a numerical REPTOOL score, except in the case of Full Taker applications that have been deemed eligible to participate as Soft Takers. Participation under the Soft Taker Mentoring Scheme will depend on the relevance of the application and the available places and resources for study visits.

7.3. Evaluation and Selection Committee

To ensure fairness and transparency, each eligible Full Taker application will be independently assessed by two different C4LA partners, using the common REPTOOL criteria and scoring descriptors.

A **Selection Committee**, composed of designated representatives of the C4LA Consortium Steering Committee, will review the assessment results, consult relevant technical doubts to Thematic Projects Lead Partners and approve the final selection of Full and Soft Takers.

The committee will document its selection decisions, including the reasons for prioritising applications where the number of technically suitable candidates exceeds the available capacity.

7.4. Final Selection and Prioritisation

The Selection Committee will primarily consider the technical assessment results and the feasibility of the proposed transfer. Where the number of suitable Full Taker applications exceeds the available mentoring capacity, the committee may consider complementary factors:

- Territorial and geographical balance across Mediterranean countries and territorial contexts.
- Thematic diversity of the selected transfer cases.
- Availability of givers and feasible mentoring arrangements for the proposed solutions.
- Mediterranean learning potential, including the relevance of the transfer experience for other territories.

These factors will inform the committee's deliberation but will not generate additional points or modify the technical scores.

For Soft Takers, final selection will consider the relevance of the learning opportunity, the suitability and availability of technical representatives and the capacity of the corresponding study visits.

The committee may establish a reserve list of suitable applications that cannot be accommodated within the available resources.

8 Commitments and Responsibilities

Selected applicants are expected to actively engage in the activities corresponding to their participation modality and to designate the institutional and technical representatives needed to fulfil their commitments.

8.1. Full Taker Commitments

Selected Full Takers commit to:

- Designate a technical contact person and ensure the participation of relevant institutional and technical staff throughout the mentoring process.
- Provide the territorial information, data and resources reasonably required to support the agreed transfer activities.
- Participate in scheduled mentoring exchanges, study visits and other agreed activities.
- Collaborate with the giver and C4LA facilitator in developing the Transfer Roadmap and documenting the transfer experience.
- Participate in the elaboration of the mentoring report.
- Explore opportunities to integrate the transfer results into relevant institutional policies, plans or practices.

8.2. Soft Taker Commitments

Selected Soft Takers commit to:

- Designate at least one relevant technical representative and ensure their availability for the agreed study visit and associated activities.
- Participate actively in knowledge exchange with givers and other participating territories.
- Share the knowledge acquired within their institution and provide a brief post-visit learning report identifying potential applications and next steps.

8.3. C4LA Support

The C4LA consortium will coordinate the mentoring and study visit arrangements, facilitate exchanges between participating organisations and provide the technical support corresponding to each participation modality, within the available project resources.

The specific activities, schedule and practical arrangements will be communicated to selected participants following confirmation of their participation.

9 Application and Selection Procedure

9.1. Submission of Applications

Applications must be submitted using the official Full Taker or Soft Taker Application Form, together with the corresponding signed Letter of Support and Institutional Commitment.

The application forms, Transferable Solutions Catalogue and supporting documents will be made available through the official ETU Call channels.

- Application deadline: 31/12/2026 at 23:59 PM (CET)
- Submission procedure: EUSurvey - Survey
- Contact for enquiries: community4livingareas@interreg-euro-med.eu

9.2. Assessment and Selection

Following the application deadline, submissions will undergo eligibility screening and evaluation according to the procedures established in Section 7. Applicants may be contacted to clarify information relevant to their eligibility or assessment.

The C4LA Selection Committee will confirm the final selection of Full and Soft Takers, taking into account the evaluation results and the available mentoring and study visit capacity.

9.3. Notification and Next Steps

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process through the contact details provided in their application:

- Selected Full Takers will be contacted to confirm their participation and initiate the planning of mentoring activities with the corresponding giver and C4LA facilitator.
- Selected Soft Takers will receive information on the study visit opportunities and participation arrangements available to them.

10 Annexes and Supporting Documents

The following documents accompany ETU Open Call 2:

- **Annex I. Transferable Solutions Catalogue.** Description of available solutions, transfer requirements and mentoring opportunities.
- **Annex II. Full Taker Application Form.** Application for structured mentoring and solution transfer.
- **Annex III. Soft Taker Application Form**. Simplified application for study visits and knowledge exchange.
- **Annex IV. Full Taker Letter of Commitment.** Institutional endorsement and commitment to the mentoring process.

- Annex V. Soft Taker Letter of Commitment. Institutional endorsement and commitment to participation and learning activities.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Transferable Solutions Catalogue and the relevant participation requirements before submitting their application.