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Announcement of available positions		Selection code: 413_CRI_SVI	
Type of position and number of positions vacant	15 Doctoral positions on research topics of paramount importance for the Viticulture & Enology sectors		
Organisational structure and manager for the position	22 project partners, Research and Innovation Centre of Fondazione Edmund Mach as network coordinator. Coordinating organization: Silvia Vezzulli (NC) and Stefania Pilati (vice-NC) from FEM, on behalf of the Sustain Vitis consortium.		
Project title and funding reference	The Sustain Vitis - Improving the sustainability of the wine value chain in a concerted effort of academia and Industry - is a project funded under the Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Industrial Doctoral Network aimed at catalyzing sustainable approaches across the European wine value chain. MSCA-2025-DN-01 – Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions - Doctoral Networks 2025 - MARIE CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 101311966. For more information see the project “ website ”.		
Eligibility criteria - Specific requirements, project rules and exclusion from the recruitment process	To be eligible for recruitment within the MSCA Doctoral Network, applicants must meet the <u>following requirements</u> : - Master’s degree or an equivalent granting access to doctoral studies in the country of the recruiting institution, to be possessed by the date of recruitment; - Doctoral candidate status: applicants must be doctoral candidates, i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible. - Doctoral enrolment: applicants will be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. - Nationality: applicants can be of any nationality. - Mobility rule: applicants must comply with the following mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity¹ (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date. - Exceptions to the mobility rule: compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention 140 are not taken into account. - Industrial Doctorates: doctoral candidates must spend at least 50% (18 months) of their fellowship duration in the non-academic sector. - Knowledge of English (minimum level B1), evaluated during the interview.		
Exclusion from the recruitment process	EU restrictive measures (DN2025): Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine are not eligible to participate in any capacity. A ‘legal entity’ means any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national/EU/international law. The exclusion is based on the place of establishment, not on nationality. It does not automatically exclude individuals solely because they are Russian or Belarusian nationals - it targets legal entities established in Russia, Belarus and non-government controlled		

¹ Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer)

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	territories of Ukraine. Consequently, a French national residing in Russia would not be eligible to participate, whereas a Russian national residing in France may participate, if they are not subject to applicable EU restrictive measures. For more information please see the General Annexes, Horizon Europe -Work Programme 2025. For the projects at FEM, the following may not participate in the recruitment process: temporary staff who have been employed for the Foundation in an equivalent role.
Knowledge level of languages, relative to the Common European Framework (CEFR), and method of verification	The interview will be in English. Knowledge of English will be verified (to be checked by an interview of a technical or scientific nature) at a minimum level corresponding to B1. <i>To understand the levels of knowledge required, consult the dedicated page on the EUROPASS website: https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages</i> Failure to possess a level of English corresponding to B1 will result in exclusion from the selection process.
General requirements	- Enjoy full civil and political rights; - Italian citizenship or other States citizenships (EU or non-EU); - Full completion of the “Application in response to the Recruitment Announcement of the Edmund Mach Foundation (annex A)”, pursuant to Article 14, paragraph 6, of the Foundation Regulation for the selection of human resources.
Physical suitability for the specific work	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, the Edmund Mach Foundation will assess the specific risks connected to the work, and if necessary request a preventive medical examination, pursuant to art. 41 of Legislative Decree 81/2008, in order to ascertain the physical suitability of the employee and absence of contraindications to the work for which they are to be employed. In case of physical unsuitability or suitability with limitations, the Foundation reserves the right not to proceed with recruitment or to withdraw from the contract if it has already been entered into.
Job description	Sustain Vitis will work as a catalyst for sustainable approaches in European viticulture and winemaking. It is designed as an international, interdisciplinary research network aimed at providing world-class intersectoral training to a new generation of 15 Doctoral Candidates (DCs) in the innovative fields of (i) grapevine advanced crossbreeding and gene editing, (ii) precision viticulture and agroecology, and (iii) sulphites and alcohol free winemaking and reduction of its carbon footprint via alternative packaging and valorisation of non-utilised wastes. Our DCs will gain the ability to bridge the gap between basic science and industrial applications. This will be achieved through a combination of personal research, hands-on training, secondments, and local and network-wide activities focused on scientific and transferable skills. The intersectoral, synergistic consortium comprises 5 universities, 3 research centres, and 14 companies from 7 European Countries, all recognised for excellence in their fields (see webpage “About us”). This collaboration will bolster their research and innovation (R&I), training, communications, and networking capacity, fostering an intersectoral learning community working towards a greener future. The primary mission of Sustain Vitis is to develop a fully sustainable business model for the vine&wine sector, utilizing resilient, low-input processes to preserve agro-ecosystem landscapes and their socio-economic value. Specific objectives include: - Training a new generation of 15 highly qualified experts (DCs) with interdisciplinary and intersectoral skills. - Bridging the gap between basic science and industrial applications through academia-industry collaboration. - Advancing innovation in climate change resilience, reducing pesticide use, protecting soils, and promoting a circular economy through waste valorization.



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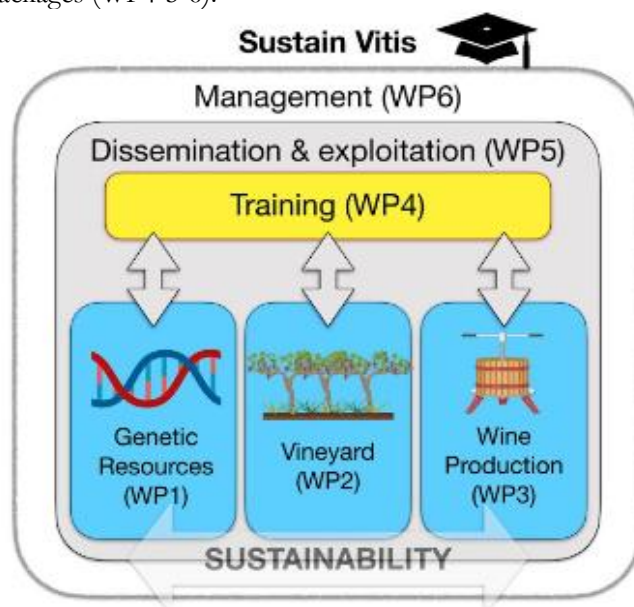
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The research program is organized into three thematic pillars (WP1-2-3), supported by education & training, communication, dissemination & exploitation, and coordination & management packages (WP4-5-6).



Projects

See webpage with the list and details of the [PhD projects](#), find here the list with a brief description:

1. DC1 - Advanced gene editing approaches to improve grapevine sustainability - WP1 ([recruiter FEM, Italy](#));
2. DC2 - Innovative high-throughput phenotyping to explore variation in grapevine rootstock performance - WP1 ([recruiter HGU, Germany](#));
3. DC3 - Phenotypic and -omic characterisation of a clonal population for trade-offs between abiotic stress tolerance and berry composition - WP1 ([recruiter INRAE, France](#));
4. DC4 - Molecular picture and digital phenotyping of a grapevine germplasm collection for resistance and resilience traits - WP1 ([recruiter Hipphen, France](#));
5. DC5 - Genes controlling grapevine phenological traits influenced by climate change - WP1 ([recruiter FEM, Italy](#));
6. DC6 - The vineyard holobiont as a resource for climate resilience - WP2 ([recruiter HGU, Germany](#));
7. DC7 - Smart monitoring of grapevine pests via vibrational signals - WP2 ([recruiter FEM, Italy](#));
8. DC8 - Advanced data management and decision support in precision viticulture and winemaking - WP2 ([recruiter UTAD, Portugal](#));
9. DC9 - Enhancing ecosystem services in Mediterranean climate vineyards - WP2 ([recruiter UTAD, Portugal](#));
10. DC10 - Alleviating smoke taints in wines - WP3 ([recruiter UBx, France](#));
11. DC11 - More sustainable winemaking using non-Saccharomyces yeasts - WP3 ([recruiter BioLF, France](#));
12. DC12 - Shelf life of wines in alternative packaging - WP3 ([recruiter FEM, Italy](#));
13. DC13 - Market adoption and acceptance of sustainable wine packaging and PIWI-wines - WP3 ([recruiter HGU, Germany](#));
14. DC14 - Valorisation of winemaking by-product extracts - WP3 ([recruiter HGU, Germany](#));
15. DC15 - Wines without added sulphites and low alcohol - WP3 ([recruiter UBx, France](#));

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Duties	The Doctoral candidate key responsibilities are: - To manage and carry out a research project within the duration of the Sustain Vitis project. - To write a PhD dissertation. - To participate in research and training activities within Sustain Vitis. - To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles. - To participate in meetings of different Sustain Vitis consortium bodies. - To disseminate project results to the scientific community (international conferences) and non-scientific community through outreach and public engagement. - To liaise with research staff and students working in broad areas of relevance to the research project and partner institutions. - To write progress reports and prepare results for publication and dissemination via journals, presentations and the web. - To attend progress and management meetings as required and network with the other research groups.
Keywords	Grapevine genetics, Grapevine molecular biology, Precision/Digital viticulture, Agroecology, Regenerative viticulture, Wine microbiology, Circular bioeconomy, Oenology/Wine technology, Consumer science.
Selection process	By qualifications as expressed in Annex A (maximum 30 points) and interview (maximum 70 points). The results of the selection are based on the sum of the points awarded for the two phases of the selection process. An applicant can apply for a maximum of two specific DC projects listed in order of preference in the application form. Successful applicants are admitted to their selected DC position and PhD programme following the order of the ranking list. The selected applicants must confirm by email their participation in the Sustain Vitis DC position to the network coordinator within 7 days. Applicants who fail to meet this deadline will be replaced by the next ranked applicant. If there is no suitable applicant, the Sustain Vitis network may recruit a qualified applicant for a different PhD position or launch a new call. The selected DC will be expected to start their research at earliest on February 1st, 2027 (deadline March 31st, 2027).
Assessment of qualifications - Pre-selection	On the basis of the information provided in the application form (Annex A) and in the other attached documents (master's degree thesis), the four Selection committees, one per each scientific WP, will select and admit to the interview the best 10 candidates for each DC position based on the following criteria (maximum 30 points): - Pre-MSc-degree participation in exchange programs, international congresses, or internships (1 points per each experience up to a maximum of 3 points); - Relatedness of the MSc thesis to the topics of the chosen PhD projects (maximum 14 points: 0 point= no relation, 14 points= perfect relation); - Degree score of the MSc thesis (5 points if in the first third); - Post-MSc-degree experience in either Grapevine genetics, Grapevine molecular biology, Precision/Digital viticulture, Agroecology, Regenerative viticulture, Wine microbiology, Circular bioeconomy, Oenology/Wine technology or Consumer science, in qualified labs/research organizations/universities (1 points per year of experience up to a maximum of 5 points); - Knowledge of the English language (up to a maximum of 3 points).
Subjects covered in the interview	During the interview, that will be held in English, the following knowledge and aptitude will be verified (maximum 70 points): - Scientific topics (up to a maximum of 45 points):

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	- for DC1, DC2, DC3, DC4, DC5 (WP1): Grapevine genetics, Grapevine molecular biology, Precision/Digital viticulture; - for DC6, DC7, DC8, DC9 (WP2): Precision/Digital viticulture, Agroecology, Regenerative viticulture; - for DC10, DC11, DC12, DC13, DC14, DC15 (WP3): Wine microbiology, Circular bioeconomy, Oenology/Wine technology, Consumer science. - Cooperation and communication skills (up to a maximum of 25 points). In the interview, the candidate must achieve a minimum score of 42/70 points.
Possession of requirements and recourse to clarification	Acting as network coordinator, on behalf of and as delegated by the recruiting organisations, the Foundation will carry out the preliminary assessment of the admission requirements for all candidates. The Foundation will then forward the applications and all supporting documentation of the candidates who meet the admission requirements to the recruiting organisation(s) responsible for the DC position(s) indicated in their application form. The recruiting organisations will carry out the subsequent stages of the selection procedure, including the evaluation of qualifications by the relevant Selection committee (see the box “Selection committees” below), as well as the recruitment. Candidates who do not meet the admission requirements will be notified of their exclusion by the Foundation. The candidate must meet all the requirements and qualifications laid out on the closing date for submitting applications as stated in the public announcement, as well as on the date of recruitment and placement. Candidates are in any case required to promptly inform the Foundation of any change in the data declared in the application for participation in the public notice. Failure to meet the specific and general requirements will result in exclusion from the selection process. The Foundation reserves the right to verify the above requirements and may at any time terminate the selection process for a candidate who does not meet them. Should the verification reveal inconsistencies, doubts or uncertainties, the Foundation also reserves the right to request further clarifications and/or documents to be produced, within the peremptory deadline indicated by the Foundation. The assessment of the possession of requirements and evaluation of qualifications is based on the information declared in the application form (Annex A) and in the other attached documents (master’s degree thesis). In the event of doubt regarding the assessment of admission requirements or qualifications declared in this application form, the Selection committees reserve the right to verify the consistency of this information with the data contained in the <i>curriculum vitae</i>.
Selection committees	The evaluation of qualifications and the interview phase will be organized separately by the recruiting organizations, in collaboration with the related PhD Doctoral Schools. The interviews will be held by video link by different Selection committees on different days as follows: - for DC1, DC5, DC7, DC12: evaluation committee organized by Fondazione Edmund Mach; - for DC2, DC4, DC6, DC11, DC13, DC14: evaluation committee organized by Hochschule Geisenheim University; - for DC8, DC9: evaluation committee organized by Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro; - for DC3, DC10, DC15: evaluation committee organized by University of Bordeaux.
Selection committees responsibilities	The Selection Committees are required to conduct an open, transparent, and merit-based evaluation process. Furthermore, all selection procedures must be impartial, equitable, fair, and thoroughly documented.

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	The Selection Committees are responsible for communications to candidates who possess the admission requirements, and in particular: 1. exclusion from the list of candidates invited to the interview; 2. invitation to the interview for candidates who are among the top 10 for the position concerned; 3. outcome of the selection with communication of suitable and unsuitable candidates following the interview.
Modality and deadlines for communication to candidates of the dates and locations of the interview	All communications to candidates will take place via email to the contact used to send the application (Annex A) and <i>curriculum vitae</i> and indicated in the appropriate space of the application. Those admitted to the online interview will be informed of the date via e-mail (<u>not by certified email, a.k.a. PEC</u>), sent to the contact address used to send the application (Annex A) and <i>curriculum vitae</i> at least 10 days before the chosen date (unless the date and place are not already indicated in the notice). Each admitted candidate must present in advance a valid photographic identification document. Failure to connect via remote video conference or late arrival not accepted by the Selection committees will result in their exclusion from the selection.
Employment conditions	The selected candidates are employed with a full-time contract. The salary follows the Marie Curie-Sklodowska IDN funding Scheme. All eligible researchers recruited within the IDN are entitled to receive the following salaries (gross amounts): - Living allowance: 4,010 €/month gross amount corrected by a country-specific coefficient established by the European Commission². - Mobility allowance: 710 €/month. - Family allowance: 660 €/month³. The amounts are total gross remuneration, including all social security contributions charged to the recruiting organisation and the PhD candidate. The amount depends on the country of the recruiting organisation and the applied laws and regulations. Tax regulations in the host countries apply. The family allowance is reserved for PhD candidates who have a spouse or are maintaining a child at the recruitment date. Any change in family obligations after this date will not be considered. For the projects at FEM, candidate will be hired with the Provincial Collective Contract for Personnel of Research Foundations (https://trasparenza.fmach.it/Amministrazione-Trasparente/Personale/Contrattazione-collettiva/CCPL-Personale-Fondazioni-di-Ricerca), Fourt level Researcher (R4).
Career development plan and work environment	An individualised career development plan will be prepared for each fellow together with his/her supervisor and will include training, planned secondments and outreach activities in partner laboratories of the network. The DC fellows are expected to complete their PhD thesis by the end of the 3rd year of employment. The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months (i.e. EC funding). Any additional funding after this period will be dependent on the host institution in accordance with the expected time of completing a PhD. Sustain Vitis offers a dynamic and challenging position in an internationally-oriented organisation where each DC will receive advanced education and conduct exciting research. In addition to their research, all DCs will benefit from internships, secondments, and training modules.
Deadline for presentation of applications and recruitment process end date.	Applications must arrive by and no later than 12:00 CET (the date and time of receipt shown in the electronic mail account of the Foundation shall be valid) on November 26, 2026.

²See the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Work Programme 2023-2025, pp. 156-157.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

³Namely, the PhD candidate must be linked to another person by a marriage, or a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised.

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	The recruitment procedure will terminate at the latest by May 26, 2027.
How to present applications	Applications to participate in the selection must be sent in electronic format to the email address (not certified email address, a.k.a. PEC) curricula@fmach.it, indicating the recruitment code (413_CRI_SVI – ITN Sustain vitis) in the subject of the message and must consist of: - the application form Annex A, with basic contact information (name, surname, email), chosen specific DC projects (maximum two) and DC eligibility criteria (date of Master's award, full-time postgraduate research experience in months, country of residence and duration of residence in that country), as per the model available on the webpage announcement, which must be saved with the file name and extension: Surname First Name_Application.pdf. The application must be fully completed, without any reference to other attached documentation and/or information; - the complete master's thesis document, saved as: Surname First Name_Thesis.pdf; - the candidate's <i>curriculum vitae</i> with the list of publications, saved with the file name and extension as follows: Surname First Name_CV.doc or .pdf; - a copy of a valid identity document. Any person encountering difficulty in submitting the application due to disability is invited to contact +39 0461 615542. In the application form (Annex A) the candidate must declare, under their own personal responsibility, the possession of the specific requirements, general requirements and any qualifications as indicated in the relative boxes of this Recruitment Announcement, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000, indicating awareness of the forfeiture of any benefits obtained and the criminal sanctions provided for respectively in Articles 75 and 76 of the aforementioned decree, in the case of untrue declarations, creation or use of false documents. By submitting an application for selection, the candidate assumes responsibility for the truthfulness of all the information provided in the application and in any attached documents, as well as for the conformity to the original of the copies of any documents produced, all this in accordance with Presidential decree 445/2000. For the projects at FEM, the Edmund Mach Foundation reserves the right to carry out checks and if these reveal that the candidate's declarations contain any untrue content, the declarant will forfeit any benefits deriving from any provision issued on the basis of the untruthful declaration; moreover, such a declaration, as a "mendacious statement", will be punished in accordance with the Italian Criminal Code and the special laws on the subject. Candidates who make untruthful declarations concerning the possession of the fundamental requirements for participation in the selection process will be removed from the ranking list and the employment relationship, if already established, will be terminated. The Foundation shall not accept any responsibility for the loss of communications due to the incorrect indication of the address by the candidate or to a missed or late communication of the change of the address indicated in their application, or due to any digital, postal or telecommunications defects or in any case due to third parties, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.
Proof of documentation in the event of hiring and relative deadlines	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, before recruitment, if requested, candidates must provide statements and certificates proving the possession of the "Specific Admission Requirements" and the "Qualifications" provided for in the call.

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Results of the selection	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, the results of the selection will be communicated by: - publication of the suitable candidate ranking on the webpage dedicated to the present recruiting announcement, with the details of ranking order, surname and name; the publication of the candidate's name in the list of suitable candidates shall not be subject to the right of confidentiality, therefore the candidate may not request that their name be removed from the said list; - at the end of the procedure, communication to all candidates (also the one without the requirements), whether included in the ranking of suitable candidates or not, by individual email (<u>not certified email, a.k.a. PEC</u>) to the contact address used to send the <i>curriculum vitae</i> and the application.
Hiring conditions and categories covered by Law 170/2010 or Law 68/99	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, the Edmund Mach Foundation operates in compliance with the legislation in force concerning fixed-term contracts. Candidates are invited to state whether they belong to the categories referred to in Law No. 170 of 8 October 2010 (people with specific learning disorders (SLD)) or in Law No. 68/99 (persons with disabilities or categories referred to in Article 18), and to indicate this in the application form.
Model of Organization, Management and Control (MOG) and Plan for Prevention of Corruption and Transparency (PPCT)	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, with resolution of the Board of Directors of FEM n. 1 dated 26/05/2015, the Model of Organization, Management and Control (MOG) was adopted on the basis of d.lgs. 231/2001 (regulation of the administrative liability of legal persons, companies and associations even without legal personality, according to Article 11 of the law 29 September 2000, n. 300) integrated with the relevance of the offences considered by Law 190/2012 (provisions for the prevention and prosecution of corruption and illegality in public administration). The Organization and Management Model (MOG) is a set of behavioural rules calibrated on the criminal risk that characterizes the entity or functions it consists of and must provide the measures to ensure the conduct of business in compliance with the law, Identifying and removing risk situations in a timely manner. The system also provides for the establishment of an internal control body at the institution with the task of monitoring the operation and compliance with the model and ensuring its updating. The Corruption Prevention and Transparency Plan (PPCT) complements the Model ex d.lgs. 231/2001 with measures aimed at also preventing the phenomena of corruption and illegality in coherence with the aims of the L. 190/2012.
Regulation FEM Code of Values and Behaviour	As defined by each recruiter. For the projects at FEM, the Code of Values and Behaviour sets out the Foundation's reference values and defines the resulting behaviour to be followed by the recipients, directors, auditors, members of other statutory bodies of the Foundation, Employees, project staff and employees of other private entities made available to the Foundation. It also calls for a system of sanctions for behaviour in breach of the rules of the Code.
Privacy Policy and data sharing	In accordance with Article 13 of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 ("GDPR" or "Regulation"), and in general with the principle of transparency set out in the Regulation, the Edmund Mach Foundation provides information on the processing of personal data at the webpage "Privacy Policy". In full compliance with the GDPR and specific consortium agreements (MSCA Grant Agreement n. 101311966), personal data and documentation of eligible candidates will be transferred exclusively to the respective third-party Recruiter institutions based on the specific PhD project preferences indicated in their application forms. Fondazione Edmund Mach performs centralized administrative pre-screening and verification of general and specific requirements for all candidates, whereas subsequent recruitment and evaluation phases are managed directly by the designated partner institutions, ensuring full transparency and legal protection for Fondazione Edmund Mach as network coordinator. The candidate takes full responsibility for all the information included in their application form, <i>curriculum vitae</i> and the other attached documents. For the projects at FEM, the Foundation reserves the right to require that the candidate considered suitable for the post shall offer documentary proof of the qualifications they have listed.

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This Recruiting Announcement is issued in compliance with equal opportunities between men and women for access to employment, pursuant to Legislative decree no. 198 of 11 April 2006 "Code of equal opportunities between men and women, pursuant to Article 6 of Law no. 246 of 28 November 2005".

For any matters not covered by this Recruitment Announcement, reference should be made to “[Procedure for the recruitment of human resources at the Fondazione Edmund Mach](#)”.

Original signed by
Dr. Riccardo Velasco
Director General
Edmund Mach Foundation