**Expression of Interest**

for the future participation to a restricted call for Strategic Projects

Deadline for being received by the appointed institutions\(^1\): 17 September 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Concept No.</th>
<th>7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project concept title</td>
<td>Improved governance and management of infrastructures and services in regions and cities affected by demographic change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Applicant</td>
<td>Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia - ISIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(name in original language and in English official translation)</td>
<td>Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia - ISIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of the Applicant</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Technical Secretariat or National Contact Points as mentioned in § 9 of the “Announcement of a restricted call for strategic projects – Step 1 – invitation to the submission of an Expression of Interest to joint the future project partnership”. Contact details are listed in its Annex 2.
NOTICE

Please read and complete this form with all due care, in accordance with the Announcement of a restricted call for strategic projects. Step 1 - invitation to the submission of an Expression of Interest to join the future project partnership.

For any additional information with regard to the Programme goals, general project expected characteristics, structure of the Application Form and eligibility of expenditure, please refer to the Application Manual for the third call for proposals, closed on 7th May 2010. The Manual can be downloaded from the Programme website www.central2013.eu.
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1. Applicant information

| Institution (official name in original language) | Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia - ISIG |
| Institution (official English translation) | Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia - ISIG |
| Addresses of the legal and operational seat (for Lead Applicant only) | Via Mazzini, 13 |
| Address of the operational seat (for Project Partners and associated institutions) | |
| Postal code | 34170 |
| Town | Gorizia |
| Region (NUTS2) | Friuli-Venezia Giulia |
| Country | Italy |
| Website | www.isig.it |
| Contact person (First name, Surname) | Prof. Alberto Gasparini |
| E-mail | isig@units.it |
| Phone (office) | +39 0481 533632 |
| Phone (mobile) | +39 3355370858 |
| Fax | +39 0481 532094 |
| Legal representative (First name, Surname) | Prof. Alberto de Fabris |
| Function | Deputy President |

Legal status (please select one):

| Public authority | ☐ |
| Public Equivalent Body² | ☒ |
| Private institution | ☐ |
| International organisation | ☐ |

Expected role in the Strategic Project (please select one):

| Lead Partner | ☐ |
| Co-financing Project Partner | ☒ |
| Associated institution | ☐ |

² For a definition of public equivalent body please refer to the Operational Programme, page 103.

Expression of Interest for the participation to a restricted call for Strategic Projects
2. Declaration by the applicant

I, the undersigned, representing the International Sociology Institute of Gorizia

declare that:

- I have been authorized by my organization to signing the present Expression of Interest on its behalf;
- All information contained in this Expression of Interest is correct to the best of my knowledge;
- The organization I represent has the adequate legal capacity to be involved - if selected - in the future restricted call for strategic projects;
- The organization I represent is public equivalent body.

I certify that the organization I represent:

- Is not bankrupt, being would up, or having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters nor is it in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- Has not been convicted of an offence concerning its professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of "res judicata";
- Has not been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- Has fulfilled its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established;
- Has not been the subject of a judgement which has the force of "res judicata" for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interest;
- Following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, has not been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with its contractual obligations;

As stated in Articles 93(1) of Reg. No. 1605/2002 and its amendments.

Official stamp of the Applicant:

[Stamp Image]

Signature of the duly authorized person: [Signature Image]

Date: 16 SET 2010

Expression of Interest for the participation to a restricted call for Strategic Projects
3. Indicative involvement in the selected project concept

The applicant is asked to provide indicative information on the work package in which it is interested to be involved, the role it would like to take over and the type of thematic contributions/activities it would like to bring into the project. The applicant shall also give a short overview on its specific interests/rationale for applying and expected benefits resulting from its potential participation in the strategic project *(Indicative length: 2,000 characters)*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP3 and WP5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban shrinkage is a widespread phenomenon at the EU level disproportionately affecting small and medium towns. These often representing the core of regional economic and cultural resources, urban shrinkage becomes a key to achieve better territorial cohesion and to contribute to competitiveness. The concepts of population loss and urban growth need to undergo a strategic re-thinking developing integrated policies focusing on soft factors influencing economic performance positively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing urban shrinkage implies re-thinking urban development trajectories to design sustainable urban development patterns. Sustainability relies on the balanced development of urban functional areas and of rural-urban flows. Issues of rehabilitation and conversion in one city are so linked to the network within which it is set (i.e. infrastructures, resources, cooperation, etc). Thus urban shrinkage becomes a regional (i.e. transnational) issue. Designing common policies, operational standards and implementation measures at the transnational level is essential to ensure the feasibility and sustainability of actions at the city level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The North-East of Italy is no exception: cities need new participatory tools for urban planning and rural-urban approaches. ISIG has carried out several researches and studies on urban planning and innovative development patterns. Through, its “Space, Environment and Society Department” ISIG gathered 40 years long experience on these issues. Currently involved in the urban conversion design of functional areas of Gorizia, ISIG has recently concluded an international study on best-practices of participatory processes in urban planning.</td>
</tr>
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4. Representativeness

4.1. Territorial representativeness

Please describe the applicant’s role in terms of territorial government and/or institutional role in the national framework; please make reference to the partner’s technical requirements described in the “Partnership” section of the selected project concept. In relation to the matters addressed within the project concept, the description shall also include information on the applicant’s geographical scope as well as on its territorial competence within the matters addressed in the project concepts *(Indicative length: 2,000 characters)*.

*Expression of Interest for the participation to a restricted call for Strategic Projects*
As far as regions and cities shrinkage in CE is concerned, the Italian policy implementation process within the Lisbon strategy has been heavily conditioned by the current economic crises. Relevant policies, however, as far as the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia is concerned, are direct responsibility of the regional administration. The design of innovative strategies and governance models, is a key tool aiding the implementation of the urban conversion policies that the Region is currently financing in Gorizia and Trieste through the two municipal administrations. ISIG representativeness, however, extend to the whole Upper Adriatic Region.

The Institute of International Sociology – ISIG (www.isig.it) is an independent research institute carrying out researches, studies and training activities with a compelling sociological dimension. ISIG is organised in five departments operating in an integrated fashion to tackle the political (international relations), social, economic, public administration and environmental research issues and their risk management and mass emergencies implications.

Founded in 1968, ISIG co-ordinates and operates within several regional (i.e. national and international) and international networks among academia, public administration, business world and civil society.

ISIG is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations – ECOSOC-UN and is a consultant for the Committee of the Regions of the European Union (CoR-EU) and of the Council of Europe.

For more than 40 years, ISIG has represented a centre of excellence at the regional, national and international level carrying out studies and researches investigating the European enlargement process, the role played by borders in shaping international relations and in the daily life of local communities, migration, minorities and ethnic studies, group relations and organisations, civil society and the determinants of the quality of life and peace studies.
4.2 Institutional profile

Please describe the applicant’s role in proposing, setting up and implementing policies and/or strategies for the territories and matters addressed by the selected project concept. The description shall also include information on its role in managing EU, national or other funds of relevance for the matters addressed by the project concept. Eventual applicant’s involvement in managing EU, national or other EU funds of relevance for the scope of the strategic project concept, participation in local partnerships for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Structural Funds or applicant’s role in implementing infrastructural investments and/or services shall also be mentioned (Indicative length: 2,000 characters).

In its 40 years long expertise, ISIG built on scientific work and result dissemination efforts, bestowed ISIG the credibility as an internationally recognised partner for many European agencies (eg. Council of Europe, Committee of the Regions, etc), and as a key actor in the analysis and dialogue between the EU, the Balkans and eastern Europe. Moreover, ISIG plays a relevant role at the regional and national level in providing background information, counselling and practical help to civil society initiatives (NGOs, SMEs, etc) starting up their activities in the eastern-European area.

In recent years, ISIG distinctive interest on local development policies has been developed in several researches and studies focusing primarily on the Western-Balkans, on Central-Eastern Europe and on Northern and Baltic Europe and on the Mediterranean. ISIG has elaborated policy recommendation on co-operation among local institutions through researches financed on the INTERREG program, and implemented for the whole area (more than 90 border regions) a SWOT and Euroregional analysis for the Council of Europe. Moreover, ISIG has carried out studies sponsored by the Italian Foreign Office on the international relations (and on consequent strategies for co-operation) between Italy, the EU and the eastern-European area.

The following two researches illustrate two relevant success stories of ISIG work in this field.

1. Mare Hadriaticum Local Democracy Network - MAHLDE.NET (INTERREG IIIA). In 2004, ISIG analysed - within the international European project partnership - an extensive number of successful decentralised municipal management instances within the Adriatic Sea Basin. The case studies were chosen so to acquire a through picture of the matter at hand covering the geographical diversity of the Adriatic context (i.e. Italy, Slovenia, Western Balkans, etc.). ISIG research covered the following topics:
   a) Decentralised management: understanding best-practices;
   b) Participatory urban planning to build an inclusive society;
   c) Local democracy practices and decentralised management: building a model for the self-evaluation of local administrators.


2. SWOT Analysis for cross-border co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Central Europe and the Balkan Danube Area (Council of Europe 2003-2009). Since 2003, ISIG has carried out an unprecedented study on the state-of-the-art of regional cooperation and development practices in the border areas spanning from the Finnish-Russian to the Turkish-Greek border areas.

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4.3 Target groups/stakeholders mobilization

Please describe the target groups and stakeholders that the applicant has the capacity to address, including the estimated number, as well as their relevance in relation to the selected project concept (e.g.: relevant policy makers and other stakeholders not involved as project partners but being essential for the institutional sustainability of the results), as well as its capacity of mobilizing the endogenous potentials of the addressed subjects/territories, through its institutional role as territorial/socio-economic animation maker. Finally, information on its role as representative of stakeholder associations shall also be provided as well as on its degree of representativeness (e.g.: share of stakeholders members within the association) *(indicative length: 2.500 characters)*.

**Organisation/Members/Active partners:**


**Role**

- Regional (i.e. international) communities in the Adriatic Sea Basin; policy makers; regional socio-cultural actors; local authority agencies, civil protection corps; EU institutions (approx. 30 units).

- Province of Gorizia, Agenda 21 Technical Secretariat, local (i.e. cross-border) community stakeholders. (approx. 50 units).

- EU-27 border regions stakeholder; civil society organisation; policy makers; EU-27 scientific community; EU institutions; regional (i.e. international) public; The DG Regionalism and a representation of other relevant European institutions (e.g. CoE; CoR; etc) (approx. 250 units).
5. Transnational dimension

Please describe the applicant’s transnational involvement/role in European networks on the matters addressed by the concerned strategic project concept (e.g. EU-technological platforms, EU-wide sector or institutional associations, associations of entities with transnational geographical scope, etc.), permanent partnerships (beyond specific cooperation projects), institutional agreements (e.g. international protocols of intent, permanent bilateral/multilateral cooperation, etc.) of transnational character and of relevance for the matters addressed by the selected project concept (Indicative length: 1,500 characters).

ISIG actively participates in several international scientific and academic networks. The following graph illustrates the main networks and activities within which ISIG operates:

Expression of interest for the participation to a restricted call for Strategic Projects
6. Awareness raising and spreading of achievements

Please describe the applicant's capacity to reach a wide audience beyond the addressed target groups/stakeholders and in other regions than the one where it is located: the provided information shall also include the applicant's available internal skills for spreading the project results at national level beyond the partnership making reference to the partners' technical requirements described in the "partnership" section of the strategic project concept. The applicant shall also inform on its already existing communication tools (e.g. newsletters, website, media channels, etc.) and on structured and proven media contacts (Indicative length: 1,500 characters).

The institute sets a constant attention on the dissemination of its work both in terms of research result and theoretical production. Thus, ISIG has published more than 250 volumes in several languages which are distributed throughout the world. The books and periodicals published by ISIG are available online at www.isig.it and are organised in two sections: Periodicals and ISIG publications.

The Periodicals collects both ISIG - Quarterly of International Sociology (www.isigmagazine.isig.it) and the journal Futuribili published by Franco Angeli.

The full list of ISIG publications is available on www.isig.it where it is possible to find an abstract and the cover page for each publication.

Moreover, ISIG pro-actively focuses on the dissemination of its research results by upgrading and managing on a weekly basis its mailing lists. Such effort primarily develops into two regular actions:

- Since 1994, the persons and institutions indicated in the mailing list are yearly invited to participate to the International Summer School on the Problems of the New Europe. Every year, more than 100 participants meet at ISIG to discuss issues on the ongoing European integration process. This enables ISIG to update its mailing list with further contacts and to keep track of eventual changes in the information held for each contact. (www.summerschool.isig.it)
- ISIG publishes, four times a year, an international journal with a specific focus on European issues in general and on EU regional discourses in particular. An electronic version is available at (www.isigmagazine.isig.it). ISIG publishes more than 2000 copies every time. More than 130 international experts and scholars contributed to the journal in the past 5 years. ISIG secretary sends an hard copy of the Journal to the vast majority of the persons and institutions included in the mailing list along with a "change of address and contact details" form which enables ISIG to keep the mailing list updated.

Although the above mentioned actions represent the ISIG regular standard in managing the mailing list, the persons and institutions there indicated receive emails with information about ISIG research activities, conferences and other news automatically when the relevant fields of our website are upgraded.