

ECCSELLENT Transnational Access CALL 2024

Access To Italian ECCSEL-ERIC Facilities To Extend Knowledge In CCUS

SCOPE OF THE CALL

The first ECCSELLENT Transnational Access (TA) call offers funded access to Italian ECCSEL-ERIC facilities. Target groups for the call are to researchers or research teams from Academia, Research Institutes, Industry and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs).

Goal of the call is to extend knowledge in CCUS (Carbon Capture, Transport, Utilization and Storage) and to improve the access to Italian ECCSEL ERIC facilities, extending the user base to industry and SMEs.

The call opens on **June 7th 2024** and will stay open until TA funds are exhausted or at latest **May 2025**. Funds are available on a first come first served basis for the peer review highest ranked projects. Early applications are therefore advisable.

CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

Eligible applicants: Researchers from academia working in the CCUS research field. Researchers from industrial companies and SMEs covering all industrial sectors relevant for CCUS. Transnational Access projects can be merged with other ongoing activities, if required. Research done in collaboration between industry/SMEs and universities/research institutes will also be eligible.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL): All TRLs are covered in the call.

ECCSEL facilities accessible: All Italian ECCSEL ERIC facilities are eligible for application. The full list can be found on **Table 1**. ECCSEL ERIC factsheets for each facility can be retrieved from the catalogue link included in **Table 1**. The full list of Italian facilities are also available on the ECCSEL ERIC website (www.eccsel.org); to find information on the facilities, from the website homepage select facilities and the CCUS category of interest and Italy as nationality.

The access to the facility should be liaised prior to application with the Facility contact and/or with the Access Provider Contact reported in the **table 1**.

Access Provider	ECCSEL ERIC ID	Short Name	CCUS category	ECCSEL Catalogue link	Facility contact / Access provider contact
OGS	IT1.1	Research Aircraft	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/125	ppaganini@ogs.it cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.2	Biomarine Lab	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/123	cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.3	Panarea NatLab	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/124	cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.4	Latera NatLab	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/128	apavan@ogs.it cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.5	Pitop	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/126	aschleifer@ogs.it cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.7	CTMO	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/131	rgerin@ogs.it cdevittor@ogs.it
OGS	IT1.8	Deeplab	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/121	ddeponete@ogs.it cdevittor@ogs.it
LEAP-POLIMI	IT5.1	CO2box	Capture Transport Storage Utilisation	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/75	stefano.signorini@polimi.it daniele.dibona@polimi.it manuele.gatti@polimi.it
ENEA	IT3.1	Zecomix	Capture Utilisation	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/74	marialuisa.grilli@enea.it umberto.pasqual@enea.it
UNIBO-DICAM	IT4.1	MemLab	Capture	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/77	marco.giacinti@unibo.it matteo.minelli@unibo.it
CNR-ITAE		GTL4CCU	Transport Utilisation	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/309	giuseppe.bonura@cnr.it
CNR-STEMS		Made4CO2_Lab	Capture Transport	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/310	michela.alfes@stems.cnr.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.1	COHYGEN	Capture	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/73	gabriele.cali@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.2	PEC Lab	Utilisation	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/78	francesca.ferrara@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.3	XTL Pilot Plant	Capture Utilisation	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/79	francesca.ferrara@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.4	Sotacarbo Fault Lab	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/168	alberto.plaisant@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.5	Advantest Rock	Storage	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/167	alberto.plaisant@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it
SOTACARBO	IT2.6	MECO2	Capture	https://www.eccsel.org/catalogue/105	alessandro.orsini@sotacarbo.it alberto.pettinau@sotacarbo.it

Table 1: List of ECCSEL ERIC Italian Facilities available for ECCSELLENT - TA Call 2024.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

TA funds up to the maximum budget available, will be allocated to travel and subsistence support to support User Groups, according to the following criteria:

- ECCSELLENT reimburses up to **two users** per proposal;
- the maximum contribution per person per site accessed is **500€ for travel expenses**. The refund is capped to the upper ceiling if the travel costs incurred exceed this limit or are equal to the cost incurred if lower. The users must provide evidence of the travel titles (ticket invoice/receipt, boarding cards) incurred only on the onward and return journey days per for the facility location included in the proposal. No reimbursement is due for the local transportation costs incurred during the access to the facility;
- the maximum contribution per person per day is **100€ for subsistence**. The refund is capped to the upper daily ceiling if the subsistence costs incurred exceed this limit or are equal to the cost incurred if lower. The user must provide evidence of the subsistence titles (meal tickets, invoices/receipts, hotel bills) incurred on the two travelling days (onward and return journeys) and per each day of stay per access site visited. No compensation is allowed between days in which the daily subsistence ceiling is exceeded and those in which the daily subsistence costs are lower than the daily subsistence ceilings;
- **access will only be considered for a single facility per proposal** (no multi-site access will be funded);
- a proposal may also require **multi-leg access sessions to one single access site**. In such cases, the overall maximum contribution for travel expenses **cannot exceed 500€ in total**;
- the contribution for subsistence per day will be allowed for **maximum 2 weeks (14 days)**;
- the overall **duration of each access must be consistent with the amount of days of access declared in the proposal**. One day before and one day after the scheduled access are acceptable and will be reimbursed. If users extend their stay, no additional subsistence costs will be refunded;
- the reimbursements are based on the accountancy standards and procedures in force at the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS);
- once access is granted, more detailed guidelines specific to the requested ECCSEL ERIC Italian facility will be provided. The User Group Leader of the awarded proposal will be contacted by the local coordination of access activities for further instructions.

BEST PRACTICES

Best practice #1: users are supposed to arrive/depart as close as possible to the beginning/end dates of the access session. One day before and one day after the scheduled access are acceptable and will be reimbursed. If users extend their stay, no additional subsistence costs will be refunded. Extra travel costs, up to reaching the maximum ceiling for travel cost (500€), will only be refunded if the extension is due to activities on the same scientific topic complementary to the proposed project at application stage. In such cases, users must justify the extra days with a note in the reimbursement claim.

Best practice #2: Tickets, receipts, bills, invoices printed on thermal paper tend to fade away quite soon. It will be the user's responsibility to preserve the readability of the receipt by producing a PDF scansion or a photograph. Similarly, for QR codes that replace boarding passes, air- and train tickets, it will be the user's responsibility to produce a readable transcript of the QR code. In any case original printed receipts, invoices and bills will have to be provided by the Users for the reimbursement of subsistence and travel costs.

APPLICATION RULES

The call opens on **June 7th 2024** and will stay open until TA funds are exhausted or at latest by **May 2025**. Funds are available on a first come first served basis for the peer review highest ranked projects. Early applications are therefore advisable.

Applications will be reviewed every month, with the first cut-off date being on **3rd September 2024**. Research projects must be completed by **31st August 2025**, and costs reported by **30th September 2025**.

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN APPLICATION

- Personal (and group) information;
- Project description and objectives;
- Equipment required & preferred facilities;
- Consumables and equipment available from the researcher;
- Ethical considerations & negative environmental impact;
- Publication plans.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

(a) Access which must be provided:

- the Transnational Access to Research Infrastructure or installations for the selected user groups or users must be free of charge;

- the Access must include the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training that is usually provided to external researchers using the infrastructure.

(b) Categories of users that may have access:

- transnational access must be provided to selected ‘users or user-groups’, i.e. teams of one or more researchers (users) led by a ‘user group leader’;
- a user working in an EU or associated country or user groups with a majority of users that are working in an EU or associated country.

Only User Groups that are entitled to disseminate the results they have generated under the project may benefit from the access, unless the users are working for SMEs. Intellectual Property Rights related to use of ECCSEL facilities may be protected under specific conditions agreed between the User Group and the facility owner.

PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING USER GROUPS

The user must request access by submitting (in writing) a description of the work that they wish to carry out and the names, nationalities and home institutions of the users by compiling the **ECCSELLENT TA 2024 Application Form** enclosed to this Call.

Submitted projects will be reviewed, evaluated and selected by a Scientific Panel (Peer Review Panel) formed by the Access Providers and by the Italian ECCSEL ERIC National Node.

The Scientific Panel must assess all proposals received and recommend a short-list of user groups of which the access request will be funded.

The Scientific Panel must base its selection on scientific merit, considering that priority should be given to user groups composed of users who:

- have not previously used the installation;
- are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists.

The selection is based on several criteria¹ where the scientific quality of the application ranks high. This process aims for transparent, fair and impartial access to available funds.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The User Group is responsible to comply with the **ECCSEL ERIC Access policy**² and must attend and follow all health and safety instructions in place at the hosting facility.

¹ The Peer Review Criteria can be found here: <https://www.eccsel.org/aboutresources/policies/>

² See <https://www.eccsel.org/media/112852/eccsel-eric-ap-v2.pdf>

At the end of the access period the user must:

- **Provide a Project Summary Report (PSR)**, highlighting the scientific output of the access received (preferably with one/two images) regarding the access to the Italian facilities of ECCSEL Research Infrastructure. The PSR must include the names of the concerned Research Infrastructure and Facility and its researchers/technology experts involved in the user-project. The PSR form will be provided to the User Group Leader at the end of the Access.
- To claim back subsistence and travelling expenses the User Group Leader will have to **provide ALL original bills, receipts and tickets** as well as complete a Expenses Claim Form which will be provided to the User Group Leader at the end of the Access.
- In case of Scientific Publications arising from the work carried out during the access, the results should be published, within a reasonable time, in the open literature, specifying that the project leading to the publication was co-funded from the PNRR ECCSELLENT project, which allowed the access to the ECCSEL ERIC facility in which the work was undertaken, and include the following statement: **“This research and the access possibility to the ECCSEL ERIC facility “FACILITY NAME” “ECCSEL ERIC ID” was cofunded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Mission 4 Component 2 Investment 3.1 “Fund for the realisation of an integrated system of research and innovation infrastructures” - Call for tender No. 3264 of 28 December 2021 of the Italian Ministry of University and Research funded by the European Union—NextGenerationEU—PNRR IR0000020, Concession Decree No. 244 of 8 August 2022 adopted by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, CUP F53C22000560006, ECCSELLENT—Development of ECCSEL-R.I. Italian facilities: user access, services and long-term sustainability”.**

INFORMATION ON DATA PROTECTION

Data Controller: the Data Controller is the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics – OGS (hereinafter also “OGS” or “Data Controller”), with headquarters in Borgo Grotta Gigante 42/c - 34010 Sgonico (TS).

To exercise the rights recognized by REGULATION (EU) 2016/679 (hereinafter "GDPR" or "Regulation") or to request clarification regarding the processing of personal data, you can contact the Data Controller at the following numbers: Telephone (+39 040 21401), e-mail: ogs@pec.it.

The Data Controller has appointed a Data Protection Officer who can be contacted at the following address: dpo@ogs.it.

Purpose and legal basis of the Project:

- Project presentation

Purpose: Collection and management of project proposals submitted by researchers and research teams. This phase includes the reception of applications, verification of eligibility requirements, communication with applicants and preliminary administrative management.

Legal basis: Performance of a task of public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller (Art. 6, par. 1, letter e, GDPR).

- Project evaluation

Purpose: Evaluation of project proposals by project partners, including the transmission of evaluation results to applicants and the management of all subsequent communications.

Legal basis: Performance of a task of public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller (Art. 6, par. 1, letter e, GDPR).

- Disbursement of funds

Purpose: Management and reporting of expenses and funds disbursed for the project, including payments to suppliers, management of reimbursements and financial oversight of the project.

Legal basis: Compliance with legal obligations to which the Controller is subject (Art. 6, par. 1, letter c, GDPR).

- Final reporting

Purpose: Collection and management of the final project documentation, including evaluation of the results achieved, preparation of final reports and communication with project partners and competent authorities.

Legal basis: Compliance with legal obligations to which the Controller is subject (Art. 6, par. 1, letter c, GDPR) and the performance of a task of public interest or connected to the exercise of public powers referred to the data controller is vested (Art. 6, par. 1, letter e, GDPR).

Categories of Data Processed:

- Identification and contact data (first name, last name, e-mail address, telephone number);
- Project proposal data (project title, abstract, team member details);
- Data on professional and academic background (CV, previous experience, publications);
- Financial data (bank details, project cost details).

Provision of Data and consequences of any refusal: The provision of personal data is necessary for participation in the project selection procedure and for the administration and implementation of the project itself in the event of acceptance. If the requested data is not provided, the OGS cannot evaluate the submitted proposal and consequently cannot allow participation in the project.

Recipients of Personal Data: Only the persons authorised to process the data and the persons identified as data processors on behalf of the Data Controller, have access to the personal data. These persons are also bound to secrecy and confidentiality on the basis of specific internal regulations. The personal data collected may be disclosed to the following recipients:

- Project partners: the data will be shared with the partners involved in the project for the purpose of evaluating, managing and execution of the project itself;
- Ministry of University and Research (MUR): Data may be communicated to the MUR in order to fulfil legal and regulatory obligations related to the management and funding of the project;
- Funding bodies: The data will be communicated to the bodies that provide the necessary funding for the realisation of the project;
- Competent authorities: The data will be communicated to public and judicial authorities in accordance with legal obligations.

As a rule, the personal data collected will not be transferred outside the European Economic Area (EEA). Should it be necessary to transfer data to third countries in the future, the Data Controller undertakes to adopt all the appropriate security measures required under the GDPR to ensure the protection of personal data. This includes the use of standard contractual clauses approved by the European Commission, adequacy decisions or other appropriate safeguards to ensure that the transfer is carried out in accordance with the applicable data protection regulations.

Data Retention Criteria: Personal data shall be processed for as long as necessary to achieve the purposes for which they were collected or for other related legitimate purposes. If personal data are processed for different purposes, these data are stored until the expiry of the purpose with the longest retention period; however, they are no longer processed for the purposes for which the retention period has expired.

The collected personal data will be retained for a period not exceeding that necessary to achieve the purposes for which they are processed. Specifically, the data will be retained for the entire duration of the project and for an additional period of 10 years after its conclusion, in compliance with legal obligations and applicable sector regulations. This additional retention period is justified by the need to ensure the possibility of verification, ascertainment, and protection of the Controller's rights, project partners, and competent authorities. At the end of these terms, the data will be deleted, anonymized, or aggregated so that identification of the data subjects is no longer possible unless further retention is required by legal or regulatory obligations.

In case some processing operations are subject to dispute and/or some data are necessary for exercising a right, the retention may exceed the above limits, extending until the resolution of the dispute.

Data Subject's Rights: The Controller informs you that the Data Subject has the right to request:

- Access to personal data and information (Art. 15 GDPR);
- Rectification or deletion of the same (Arts. 16 and 17 GDPR);
- Restriction of processing of personal data (Art. 18 GDPR).

The Data Subject may also:

- Object to the processing of personal data under the conditions and within the limits of Art. 21 GDPR;
- Exercise the right to data portability (Art. 20 GDPR).

Regarding processing operations based on consent - pursuant to Art. 6, para. 1, letter a), and Art. 9, para. 2, letter a) GDPR - it is reminded that the Data Subject has the right to withdraw such consent at any time (without affecting the lawfulness of the processing based on the consent given before the withdrawal). Finally, the Data Subject, if they believe that the processing concerning them violates the Regulation, has the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority (Data Protection Authority or other competent authority) pursuant to Art. 77 et seq. GDPR.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECT

Before submission, potential applicants are strongly advised to email the contact person associated with the installation of choice to seek guidance on the feasibility of their project (details available in **Table 1**).

User groups requesting access must apply in written form by completing the **ECCSELLENT TA 2024 Application Form** and providing the requested documentation. All documentation must be organised in **one single pdf** file and uploaded on the webpage available at the link found at the end of this section. Only the applications submitted according to this procedure will be admitted to evaluation.

The User Group Leader is responsible for the submission and will be the contact point between the user group and the facility. Therefore, the User Group Leader must provide their first name, last name, email address, attach the application form and accept the privacy statement as well as complete the PSR, and provide the receipts - for claim back the expenses - at the end of the access.

Necessary Documentation (organised in a single pdf file):

- application Form compiled in by the User Group Leader;
- short CV of the User Group Leader and team members (2 pages max each group member), showing their capability of performing the experiment;
- in case of User Group Leaders which are undergraduate students or PhD candidates, a support letter from their University Supervisor.

For questions regarding the submission of proposals, you can contact Dr Cinzia De Vittor (cdevittor@ogs.it). For any further questions and information upon facilities and viability of projects, please consult the contact person in the facility of your choice (Details available in **Table 1**).

Please apply using the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECCSELLENT_TA_CALL_2024

GLOSSARY

Access provider: The ECCSEL participant in charge of providing access to the infrastructure/s or installation/s.

Infrastructure: A facility, a resource (or a coherent set of them) together with the related services, that are used by the scientific community to conduct research.

Installation: A part of a (research) infrastructure that could be used independently from the rest.

User: A researcher within a User Group, including the User Group Leader.

User Group Leader: Researcher within the user group responsible of communication with the facility contacts and providing all necessary documentation

User Group: A research team of one or more researchers given access to the infrastructure under the project. A User Group is led by a user User Group Leader.