



## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT POLITECNICO DI BARI

### Research project

**Nome and Surname:** Lorenzo Ardito

**Title:** Family Businesses: Management, Performance & Impact

**Description:**

This research project explores the distinctive dynamics of family businesses, which represent a cornerstone of many local and national economies. The project encourages interdisciplinary and multi-method approaches—quantitative, qualitative, or mixed—to understand how family businesses foster and respond to internal and external challenges while maintaining continuity, identity, and socio-economic impact.

Key areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Mapping the Competitive Landscape: Analysis of how family businesses are positioned and evolve within global, national, and local markets.
- Managing Change and Innovation: Exploration of how family firms approach processes such as digital transformation, sustainability transitions, or succession planning, and the effect of these on organizational performance, innovation and resilience.
- Corporate and Transgenerational Entrepreneurship: Investigation of entrepreneurial behaviors within and across generations, including business renewal, spin-offs, and the development of new business models.
- Strategic Leadership and Decision-Making: Study of how leadership—both from within and outside the family—shapes strategic direction and reconciles tensions between family legacy and innovation.
- Paradoxes and Mixed Gambles: Understanding how family firms navigate strategic dilemmas (e.g., tradition vs. change, local roots vs. international growth, financial vs. socioemotional goals) and make decisions involving mixed outcomes and risks.
- Financing Decisions: Analysis of capital structure choices, investment behavior, and the role of long-term orientation in financial strategy.
- Professionalization and Growth Pathways: Examination of how family firms scale and evolve through governance innovation, external talent integration, and professional development.
- Socio-Economic and Territorial Impacts: Evaluation of the impact of family firms on regional development, employment, and social cohesion.



**Dipartimento  
Meccanica  
Matematica  
Management**

MUR  
Dipartimento  
di Eccellenza  
2018-2022  
2023-2027

This topic is particularly relevant to candidates interested in family business studies, strategic management, innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional development. Proposals may focus on a single dimension or adopt an integrative perspective, and may target one or multiple geographic or industry contexts.

**Candidates should provide detailed CV**

**Candidates must be eligible according to the criteria established by the 2026 MSCA Postdoctoral fellowship call:**

- to have a PhD by the call deadline.
- to have up to 8 years of research experience after PhD.
- to be citizens of an EU State or of an Associated Country.
- not to have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the call deadline.

## **Contacts**

Lorenzo Ardito: [lorenzo.ardito@poliba.it](mailto:lorenzo.ardito@poliba.it)