

FONDAZIONE UNIPOLIS: €300 THOUSAND TO SUPPORT RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED, SMALL AND MEDIUM NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN SOCIALLY-DRIVEN PROJECTS

LAUNCH OF *POP - PICCOLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PROTAGONISTE* CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM 15 SEPTEMBER TO 15 OCTOBER

Bologna, 15 September 2026

Fondazione Unipolis, the Unipol Group corporate foundation, is launching its new ***POP – Piccole Organizzazioni Protagoniste (small organisations) Call for Applications*** geared towards recently-established, small and medium non-profit organisations. With a total budget of €300 thousand, the call for applications is structured into three categories corresponding to the Foundation's areas of interest: inequality, mobility and welfare.

Many voluntary sector enterprises manage to generate social value in their early years, but find it hard to consolidate their organisational structures. Unlike other initiatives funded by the Foundation, the ***POP* Call for Applications** is not intended to finance individual projects, but to **help organisations to strengthen their structures, skills and capacity for sustainable growth** to ensure that they continue to make a social impact.

The main objectives of the Call for Applications are therefore as follows: to consolidate and improve the work of non-profit organisations that provide services of benefit to the community and to promote growth and innovation with a focus on areas like internal governance and management, planning, fundraising and communication.

Applications can now be made by Italian-based, non-profit organisations that have been established for at least 2 years and no more than 10, with annual income no higher than €500 thousand, engaged in socially driven projects in one or more of the following categories covered by the Call for Applications:

- **Inequality:** support to organisations that encourage the social and economic growth of people and communities, that subvert educational, economic and social inequality and discrimination including that linked to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability;
- **Mobility:** support to organisations engaged in building safer, more sustainable, people-centred mobility, that promote road safety as a collective responsibility with a focus on more vulnerable people and that experiment with infrastructural, educational and digital solutions for safer, higher-quality public spaces;
- **Welfare:** support to organisations that work to protect the universal right to psychological and physical well-being, that develop social and healthcare services for those who find them hard to access, that provide empowerment and social agency courses, territorial control and local services as well as encouraging active aging.

Marisa Parmigiani, Executive Director of Fondazione Unipolis said *“the POP Call for Applications gives us a chance to support recently-established organisations and help them consolidate in accordance with the principles of strategic philanthropy to achieve a stronger, more effective voluntary sector, as also required under the National Action Plan for the Social Economy”*.

From 15 September 2026 to 1:00PM on 15 October 2026, Italian non-profit organisations who are interested may submit their applications using the online forms available on the Fondazione Unipolis website. Candidate organisations will have to submit a specific development plan outlining how they wish to reinforce or grow their enterprise and activities.

Up to 6 organisations will be chosen, each of which will receive a **contribution of €50 thousand**. The development plans must start from January 2027, with a maximum duration of 18 months. The financial support will be paid in two instalments: one in December 2026 after notification of selection and the second in June 2028 upon completion and presentation of a report.

Fondazione Unipolis

Fondazione Unipolis is the corporate foundation of the Unipol Group which plays a significant role in the development of CSR projects in the context of the overall sustainability strategy. In line with this long-term vision, the Foundation pursues - on a non-profit basis - goals involving the cultural, social and civic growth of people and the community, focusing primarily on the development of awareness and training.

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