

## Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in preparation of the proposals.

As innovation and digital transformation continue to shape how we work, many applicants are starting to use generative AI tools—such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot—to assist with drafting their project proposals. These tools can support creativity, improve efficiency, and help with the initial writing process.

However, it is essential to use them responsibly and transparently. **Failure to use these tools appropriately or to disclose their use may undermine the quality of the proposal and could lead to a less favourable evaluation of the project.** This annex provides guidance on the correct and ethical use of AI tools during the preparation of proposals for the 3rd Call for Proposals under the Interreg Italy–Croatia Programme.

### Using AI responsibly: applicants remain fully accountable

Generative AI can assist in producing texts, organising ideas, or translating content. However, it is important to remember that the final responsibility for the proposal content lies entirely with the applicant. Every word submitted—whether human- or AI-written—must reflect the actual project idea, be aligned with the objectives of the Programme, and meet the quality expectations of evaluators. Consequently, all project content, whether written by humans or by artificial intelligence, must necessarily reflect the activities that the partnership will be able to implement if the project is approved.

### Reviewing and validating AI-generated content

AI tools can be helpful, but they are not perfect. Their suggestions must always be critically assessed. Applicants must:

- Carefully read and validate every AI-generated section
- Ensure that all information is accurate, consistent, and relevant
- Make sure the text truly reflects the project’s objectives, logic, and cross-border dimension
- It is good practice to keep a record of AI usage (e.g., prompts used, tool versions, responses), in case it is requested during audits or reviews.

Inaccurate or overly generic text generated by AI may weaken the quality score of the proposal.

### Citations and sources

Some AI tools produce references, bibliographies, or data. These may often be incomplete, incorrect. Citations that are not verifiable or misrepresent existing work could be considered a serious compliance issue.



## Italy – Croatia

### *Avoiding plagiarism and protecting intellectual property*

AI models are trained on vast amounts of online text, and sometimes they may reproduce phrases or structures similar to copyrighted materials. This can result in unintentional plagiarism. To avoid this, respect copyright laws and always attribute sources correctly.

**For all beneficiaries, here is an example of a declaration that can be inserted in the appropriate sections of the application form. This declaration is not mandatory**

*“This proposal was partially developed using OpenAI’s ChatGPT (version GPT-4), specifically to support drafting the summary in Section C.2 and initial ideas in the work plan (C.4). All content has been verified and edited by the project team. No citations generated by AI tools have been used without manual verification”.*

