

**PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT***

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus hereinafter referred to as "The Contracting Parties", in accordance with art. 5 of the Cultural Agreement signed in Nicosia on the 29th of June 1973 and in the spirit of the Agreement of Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and in the field of Education on signed in Nicosia on the 6th of June 2005,

- Recognizing the importance of research and development in the growth of the national economies and in the improvement of their socio-economic standards of living,
- Wishing to strengthen and develop scientific and technological cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Co-operation in the Field of Research and Development**

The Contracting Parties shall encourage and support the co-operation in the field of research and development on the basis of mutual benefit, according to the provisions of the present Protocol and the laws and regulations of each Party.

**Article 2
Establishment of a Joint Committee**

1. For the purpose of implementation of the present protocol, pursuant to art. 5 of the Cultural Agreement of the 29th of June 1973, a Joint Committee, composed of representatives designated by the two Contracting Parties is established.
 2. The tasks of the Joint Committee are as follows:
 - a. Identify the fields of co-operation on the basis of the information received from Institutions of each country and the respective national policies in research.
 - b. Create the favourable conditions for the implementation of the present Protocol.
 - c. Facilitate and support the implementation of joint programmes and projects.
 - d. Examine the progress of activities related to the present Protocol.
 - e. Exchange experience arising from the bilateral research and development co-operation and examine the proposals for the further development of co-operation.
 3. The Joint Committee will meet at least once during the validity of the present Protocol, unless otherwise agreed, in the Italian Republic or in the Republic of Cyprus, and will evaluate past and current activities and identify future fields of co-operation, as well
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as approve the list of mutually accepted projects of co-operation after evaluation of the joint proposals received.

4. The Joint Committee may elaborate its own rules of procedures.

Article 3 Launching of a Joint Research Cooperation Programme

1. The Contracting Parties will launch a Joint Call for Proposals, inviting research and development organisations, Universities, public and private organisations and enterprises from the two countries to submit research proposals falling into one of the thematic priorities specified in the Joint Research Cooperation Programme.
2. The Programme's main aim will be the implementation of joint research and development projects, including the exchange of results and the exchange of scientists, researchers and technical experts.
3. The funding conditions that will rule the Joint Research Cooperation Programme will be described in Annex I and in the Call for Proposals, attached in Annex II of the present Protocol.
4. The joint research project proposals selected by the Joint Committee and are to be funded by the Contracting Parties will be published on the websites of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus.

Article 4 Exploitation of Research Results

1. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the cooperation activities under the Joint Research Programme will be published or commercially exploited with the consent of both co-operating partners and according to the international conventions and laws of the Contracting Parties concerning intellectual property.
2. Scientists, researchers, technical experts and institutions from third countries or international organizations may be invited, upon consent of both cooperating partners, to participate in projects and programmes being carried out under the present Protocol. The cost of such participation shall be borne entirely by the third party, unless the Contracting Parties otherwise agree in writing.

Article 5 Cooperation in European Research Programmes

The Contracting Parties will promote the cooperation of scientists, researchers and technical experts in European Research Programmes.

Article 6 Protocol Implementation: Administrative and Financial Conditions

1. The activities envisaged in this Protocol will be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation of the Italian Republic and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus, within the limits of their respective annual budgets.
2. The two Contracting Parties agree that the scientific and technological cooperation, directly funded by them on the basis of mutually designated resources, will be carried out in accordance with the national rules of both Countries and their international obligations.

3. Further details concerning the administrative and financial conditions applicable to the stay of researchers in either Country are listed in Annex 1, which is an integral part of the present Protocol.

Article 7
Monitoring of Protocol Implementation

1. Any issues relating to the interpretation and implementation of the Protocol should be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee or between the Contracting Parties.
2. With respect to the cooperation established under the present Protocol, each Contracting Party shall take, in accordance with its laws and regulations, all necessary measures to ensure the best possible conditions for its implementation.

Article 8
Movement of Personnel and Equipment

1. With respect to cooperation under the present Protocol, each Contracting Party, subject to its international obligations, national laws and regulations especially regarding economic integration, customs union and other economic issues and on the basis of reciprocity shall endeavour to take steps with its national authorities to facilitate the entry into and exit from its territory of personnel and equipment of the other Contracting Party used in projects under the present Protocol.
2. The researchers exchanging visits on the basis of this Protocol should be adequately medically insured for the time of their stay in the receiving country.

Article 9
Obligations from Other Protocols/Treaties

The present Protocol of Cooperation shall not affect or will not prejudice the validity or execution of any obligations arising from other international Treaties or Protocols concluded by either Contracting Party, including those arising from membership of the European Union.

Article 10
Entry into Force of the Protocol

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of three years
2. The expiration of the present Protocol shall not affect projects or programmes undertaken and not yet fully executed.

Done in Nicosia on 14th July 2006 in duplicate in the English languages.

For the Government of
the Italian Republic

For the Government of
the Republic of Cyprus

Annex I

Administrative and Financial provisions

The projects to be financed within the present Programme are exclusively those selected by the Italian-Cypriot Joint Committee and published on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus (see **Annex III**).

For each project, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (1, 2 or 3 full months = 30 / 60 /90 days) will be financed yearly.

The researchers will be entitled to the exchange only if they hold the nationality of one of the two countries signing this Protocol, or if they hold a EU nationality and are legally resident in Italy or Cyprus.

The travel expenses between the two cooperating partner institutions shall be borne by the sending party, while the receiving party shall bear the expenses of lodging and boarding by means of an all-inclusive allowance.

The researchers of both countries should be adequately medically insured for the time of their stay in the receiving country.

The researchers have to submit to the host country, within 30 days after finishing their research, a final report on the activities carried out. The report must be signed by both the Cypriot and Italian researchers involved in the joint project.

a) Stay of Cypriot Researchers in Italy

The Italian party will finance, yearly, for each project 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (1, 2 or 3 full months= 30 / 60 / 90 days).

The application for both long- and short-term research stays shall be submitted exclusively through diplomatic channels. These applications shall be received, no later than two months before the beginning of the research visit, by the *Office V – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

The application concerning the research stay period shall be completed with the following documents, in two copies:

- Letter of acceptance of the host Institution;
- Application Form signed by the Cypriot researcher, indicating personal and professional data of the applicant, title and number of the research project, date and length of the visit, list of the institutes to visit (2 original application forms); the Application Form is available at the following address: http://www.esteri.gov.it/ita/4_28_67_81_91_91.asp
- Detailed work programme;
- Curriculum Vitae of the researcher;
- Letter of appointment by the head of the project (if the head of the project is not travelling in person).

The above-mentioned application shall be completed with a declaration, in which the researcher commits himself/herself to:

- respecting the indicated period of visit;
- not receiving retributions by other International Organizations or Corporations during his/her stay;
- not changing work programme, destination and not leaving Italy without authorization;

- submitting, 30 days after completion of the research visit, a final report on the activities carried out;
- transmitting to the *INA Assitalia, Lungotevere Flaminio 34, 00196 Roma*, notice of any accidents and/or illness which may have occurred in Italy for insurance purpose.

Cancellations, unless seriously documented, shall prevent the hosting Party from accepting further applications for related missions.

The Italian party shall provide 1300,00 € per month for long-term stays (1, 2 or 3 full months = 30 / 60 / 90 days) and 93,00 € per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days). The above-mentioned amounts shall be paid to the Cypriot researchers in one instalment upon their arrival in Italy. The Cypriot researchers can receive the payments at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or at the nearest Provincial Treasury (Local Branch of the *Banca d'Italia*). The preferred place of payment will be indicated in the Application Form.

b) Stay of Italian Researchers in Cyprus

The Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus will finance 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (1, 2 or 3 full months= 30 / 60 / 90 days) of Italian researchers in Cyprus per year per project (hotel accommodation and subsistence costs).

The Research Foundation of Cyprus will grant to Italian researchers the amount of 70 CYP (approx. 119 €) per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days) and 705 CYP (1200 €) per month for long-term stays (up to three months). The above-mentioned amounts shall be paid to the Italian researchers by the Cypriot Scientific Coordinator in one instalment upon their arrival in Cyprus.

c) Journey of Italian Researchers to Cyprus

In order to obtain travelling documentation, Italian researchers intending to travel to Cyprus for study visits must send a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V. The request must arrive no later than two months before the foreseen date of departure to the following address:

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
DGPC, Ufficio V (Settore Viaggi)
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00194 ROMA*

The request shall specify:

- name and address of the hosting Institution;
- departure and return travelling dates;
- title of the research project object of the mission.

In the request the researcher must declare his/her availability to:

- refund penalty charges relative to travelling expenses (up to the total amount of the ticket) in case he/she cancels the mission;
- submit, within 30 days after completing the mission, a short report on the activities carried out as well as the original travelling documents (tickets and boarding cards).

Moreover, the researcher shall attach the following documentation to the request:

- an invitation letter from the foreign institution (university, body or research centre) which will host the researcher;
- a declaration of the Italian project co-ordinator confirming the participation of the researcher to the Project and authorising the specific mission (only in case the researcher is not the project co-ordinator him/herself);
- a short curriculum vitae of the researcher.

The supplied tickets will be the most economical ones available for the trip, any additional cost shall be borne by the researcher.

Instructions for the presentation of the request and the application form to be filled in are available on the web site of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the following address http://www.esteri.gov.it/ita/4_28_67_81_91_90.asp

d) Journey of Cypriot Researchers to Italy

The Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus will cover the cost of an economy class ticket of the Cypriot researchers visiting Italian in the framework of a selected project.

Annex II

JOINT ITALIAN - CYPRIOT COOPERATION PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In accordance with art. 5 of the Cultural Agreement signed in Nicosia on the 29th of June 1973 and in the spirit of the Agreement of Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and in the field of Education signed in Nicosia on the 6th of June 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation of Italy and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus launch herewith a Joint Research Cooperation Programme and invite the submission of joint research proposals by Higher Education Institutes, Research Centres, enterprises, public and private organizations engaged in research and development of activities established in the two countries.

The following financing conditions will rule the Joint Cypriot-Italian Research and Development Cooperation Programme:

1. ACTIVITIES

The Programme's main aim will be the implementation of joint research and development projects, including the exchange of results and the exchange of scientists, researchers and technical experts.

The Programme will cover the following thematic priorities:

- Applied Technologies for Cultural Heritage Preservation;
- Food Sciences and applied Technologies (including Food Quality and Safety);
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Environment and Energy;
- Marine Environment and Biology and associated Technologies.

2. DURATION OF PROJECTS

The proposed research projects should have duration of up to (3) three years.

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The Call for Proposals will be officially launched on the **1st September 2006**. The proposals, which should be submitted no later than **9th October 2006** to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus, must have specific goals, prove the mutual interest of the research groups from the two countries, and demonstrate the purpose of the specific cooperation.

The proposals must be submitted on specific application forms available from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus. The proposals must be submitted in (2) two copies.

Incomplete proposals or proposals not submitted in both countries will not be accepted for further evaluation.

A scientific coordinator may submit up to two proposals during the present call for proposals. However, only one proposal with the same scientific coordinator can be approved for funding.

In particular, the Italian co-ordinator must submit the research project proposal in two copies, by post, with the words "Programma Italia – Cipro" clearly written on the envelope.

One copy shall be sent to:

Ministero degli Affari Esteri
D.G.P.C.C.– Ufficio V
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00194 Roma

and one copy to:

Ambasciata d'Italia
25th March Street, 11
2408 Engomi
Nicosia

In addition, the Italian project co-ordinator must e-mail one copy of the research project proposal (in MS Word, pdf or text format) to the following address: raffaello.barbieri@esteri.it

The Cypriot co-ordinator must submit the research project proposal, in two copies, to the Research Promotion Foundation

by post:

Research Promotion Foundation
P.O.BOX 23422
Nicosia 1683
Cyprus

OR

by hand:

Research Promotion Foundation
Apelli & Nirvana Corner
Ag. Omologites
5th Floor

4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The evaluation process will be organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus with evaluators assigned by each side. Evaluations will be based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria Table

1. Qualifications and experience of research teams	10%
2. Methodology, approach, strategy, structure, and documentation	15%
3. Sufficiency of existing and proposed research infrastructure	10%
4. Level of originality and innovation	20%
5. Social and developmental added value for Italy and Cyprus	20%
6. Purpose of cooperation among the groups	15%
7. Exploitation of results	5%
8. Dissemination of results	5%

The overall presentation of the proposal will be taken into account during the evaluation.

5. FINANCING OF THE PROGRAMME

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus will fund the Joint Cypriot-Italian Cooperation Programme as follows:

Travel

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation will cover the travel expenses for Italian researchers visiting Cyprus as well as the subsistence costs of Cypriot researchers visiting Italy.

Respectively, the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus will cover the travel expenses for the Cypriot researchers in Italy as well as the subsistence costs for the Italian researchers visiting Cyprus.

The daily allowance that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation will grant to Cypriot researchers the amount of 93 € per day for short-term stays (up to ten days) and 1300 € per month for long-term stays (1, 2 or 3 full months = 30, 60, 90 days). Respectively, the Research Foundation of Cyprus will grant to Italian researchers the amount of 70 CYP (approx. 119 €) per day for short-term stays (up to two weeks) and 705 CYP (1200 €) per month for long-term stays (up to three months).

For each project, 1 short-term stay and 1 long-term stay will be financed yearly.

6. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Scientific Coordinator of each selected project will be legally responsible towards the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus for the implementation of each funded project.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus have the right to monitor the implementation of each funded project.

7. SUSPENSION OF FUNDING

In exceptional cases, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus may either decide the suspension of funding of an approved project or request the return of the whole or part of the funding plus legal interest as reimbursement.

In exceptional cases or in cases of unforeseen circumstances, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate-General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation and the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus and have the right to abrogate and modify a research project.

Annex III

PROGETTI SELEZIONATI								
Nr.	TITOLO	SETTORE	Coordinatore Italiano		Istituzione Italiana	Coordinatore cipriota		Istituzione cipriota
1	Development of new statistical methods and related software oriented to grid computing for genetics	ICT	Claudia ANGELINI	c.angelini@iac.cnr.it	CNR - Istituto per le applicazioni del calcolo "M.Picone" - sez. Napoli	Theofanis SAPATINAS	T.Sapatinas@ucy.ac.cy	University of Cyprus - Dept. of Mathematics - Nicosia
2	Conventional and non-conventional observations of rainfall in the Southern Mediterranean Sea	EE/MEB	Marco GABELLA	marco.gabella@polito.it	Politecnico di Torino - D.to di Elettronica	Silas MICHAELIDES	silas@ucy.ac.cy	Dept. of Metereology Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment
3	Health impact of modified food products typical of Mediterranean dietary style (NicoMed)	FS	Laura ROSSI	rossi@inran.it	INRAN - Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca per gli Alimenti e La Nutrizione - Roma	Chrystalleni LAZAROU	stalolaz@logosnet.cy.net	Cyprus College - Nicosia
4	Evaluation of HIV-1 previral load, as a prognostic marker of clinical progression, in patients receiving Higly Active Antiretrival Therapy	Bio	Claudia BALOTTA	claudia.balotta@unimi.it	Università di Milano - D.to di Scienze Cliniche "L.Sacco"	Leondios KOSTRIKIS	lkostrik@ucy.ac.cy	University of Cyprus - Dept. of Biology - Nicosia
5	Distributed intelligent fault diagnosis of large-scale networked systems	ICT	Thomas PARISINI	parisini@units.it	Università di Trieste - D.to di Elettrotecnica, Elettronica ed Informatica	Marios POLYCARPOU	mpolycarp@ucy.ac.cy	University of Cyprus - Dept. of Computing and Electrical Engineering - Nicosia
6	High-Performance Scientific Computing and Econometric Modelling	ICT	Daniela DI SERAFINO	daniela.di Serafino@unina2.it	Seconda Università di Napoli - D.to di Matematica - Caserta	Erricos John KONTOGHI ORGHIS	erricos@ucy.ac.cy	University of Cyprus - Dept. of Public and Business Administration - Nicosia