

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME
OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
FOR THE YEARS 2011-2013**

*IVth Session of the Italian-South African Joint Technical Committee
Pretoria, 29 November 2010*

Based on the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation between the Republic of South Africa and the Italian Republic, which was signed in Pretoria on 15 January 1998, and came into force on 19 February 2000, the IVth Session of the Italian-South African Joint Technical Committee was held in Pretoria on 29 November 2010 to examine the present state and further develop the scientific and technological co-operation between the two countries and to define the new Executive Programme for the years 2011-2013.

The Italian delegation was led by Ambassador Elio Menzione, the Italian Ambassador in South Africa, representing the Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy.

The South African delegation was led by Mr Khaya Sishuba, Director: Bilateral Relations- Europe and the Gulf States, at the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa.

The members of the two delegations are listed in **Annex I**.

The institutions in charge of the co-ordination of the present Executive Programme, hereinafter referred as to the “Parties”, are:

For the Italian Party: Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For the South African Party: The National Research Foundation, on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology.

The following agenda items of the IVth Joint Technical Committee were adopted by the Parties:

1. Present state of scientific and technological co-operation.
2. New Executive Programme
 - 2.1 Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions;
 - 2.2 Joint Research Projects of Particular Relevance

3. Final provisions.

1. Present state of scientific and technological co-operation

The Parties have agreed to recognize the growing importance of science and technology (S&T) with the respect to the economical, social and cultural relations of the two countries.

The Parties are pleased to underline the favourable trend in scientific relations between the two countries and the outcomes of the collaboration in the period 2008-2010.

Both sides place particular emphasis on the role of international co-operation for the further development of the S&T system in the two countries. They also agreed to pay serious attention to extending the co-operation in international and European multilateral R&D programmes such as the EU 7th Framework Programme.

2. New Executive Programme

In the period between 03 August – 16 September 2010 a joint call for proposals was launched to collect project proposals in the following priority areas:

- **Astrophysics & Radio-Astronomy**
- **Information Communication Technology (ICT)**
- **Physics**
- **Biotechnology**
- **Nanotechnology & New Advanced Materials**
- **Medicine & Health**
- **Energy and Environment**

In addition, the two Parties attach particular importance to the “**Human Capital Development as a Cross-cutter**” (i.e. allowing two annual additional trips per project to Italy for South African students, supported by the South African Party)

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance of the research projects
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Technology transfer
- Social and developmental added value for Italy and South Africa
- Exploitation and dissemination of results

- Budget adequacy

2.1 Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions

Based upon the above mentioned criteria, (ten) 10 joint research projects for the exchange of researchers have been selected to be granted financial support.

The list of the selected projects is given in **Annex II**.

The general administrative and financial provisions for the implementation of the Programme are given in **Annex III**.

2.2 Joint Research Projects of Particular Relevance

Pursuant to the criteria referred, the Parties selected six (6) joint research projects of particular relevance which may receive unilateral financial support from the Italian party.

The list of such projects is given in **Annex IV**.

These financial contributions are intended to partly cover the research activities of the projects and may be granted to the Italian partners, upon evaluation of the applications to be submitted according to the guidelines that will be given by the Italian side.

3. Final provisions

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Technical Committee in the year 2013.

Details of the next session of the Joint Technical Committee, such as date, agenda, etc. will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

This Executive Programme for the years 2011-2013 will remain valid until the coming into force of the next Executive Programme, but no longer than one year after its expiration.

Any amendment to the text of this Executive Programme has to be authorised by the competent Ministries in both Countries and has to be carried out through diplomatic channels.

All initiatives foreseen in this Executive Programme will be carried out within the limits of the budgets and according to the rules prevailing in each country.

Annexes I, II, III and IV are attached hereto and are integral parts of the present document.

Signed in Pretoria, on this 29th day of November 2010 in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party

For the South African Party

**Ambassador Elio Menzione
Italian Ambassador in South Africa**

**Mr Khaya Sishuba
Director: Bilateral Relations-
Europe and the Gulf States
Department of Science and
Technology**

Annex I

Members of the two delegations

Italian delegation

1. H.E. Elio Menzione
Ambassador of Italy in South Africa
2. Dr Giusto Sciarabba
Italian Science and Technology
Expert in South Africa

South African delegation

1. Mr Khaya Sishuba
Director: Bilateral Relations- Europe and
the Gulf States
2. Ms Lorraine Ngwenya
Deputy Director: Bilateral Relations-
Europe and the Gulf States
3. Mr Moratabatho Sefora
Assistant Director: Bilateral Relations-
Europe and the Gulf States
4. Mr Robert Kriger
Executive Director – International
Relations and Cooperation: National
Research Foundation (NRF)
5. Ms Ethel Masihleho
Programme Director: Science &
Technology Agreements Funds –
National Research Foundation (NRF)
6. Ms Puleng Tshitlho
Liason Officer: International Research
Grants – National Research Foundation
(NRF)

Annex II

Projects for the exchange of researchers

Research Area	Project title	Italian partner	South African partner
NNAM	Synthesis and characterisation of porous molecular solids	Dr TEDESCO Consiglia	Prof BARBOUR Leonard J
NNAM	In situ generation of fillers within polymer matrices: an innovative way to reinforced plastics	MESSORI Massimo	Prof LUYT Adriaan Stephanus
Ph	Irradiation and characterization of advanced semiconductor detectors and the defects therein	Prof CAVALLINI Anna	Prof AURET Francois Danie
Ph	Applications of X-rays synchrotron microtomography for non-destructive analysis of palaeontological specimens	Prof MOGGI CECCHI Jacopo	Dr MENTER Colin Glen
BT	Novel α -glycosynthases for the preparation of Mycothiol analogues as potential antituberculosis agents	MORACCI Marco	Prof STRAUSS Erick
BT	Phenotypic and Genetic Characterization of some Nguni Sheep breeds by molecular markers	LASAGNA Emiliano	Dr KUNENE Nokuthula W
EE	Development of robust yeast strains for bioethanol production from starchy and cellulosic plant biomass	Prof CASELLA Sergio	Prof VAN ZYL Willem Heber
EE	Developing an analytic correlation between	Prof SANTARATO	Dr HALLBAUER- ZADOROZHNYA

	electrical and hydraulic properties of aquifers: theory and practice	Giovanni	Valeriya
MH	Public Hospital Chief Executive Officers Mentoring Programme developing management skills for hospital efficiency	CROCE Davide	Prof LETSHOKGOHLA Motlatso Elias
MH	Role of inflammation in HPV11-related oesophageal cancer development	Prof BORASCHI Diana	Prof PARKER Iqbal M

ANNEX III

General administrative and financial provisions

The projects for the exchange of researchers to be financed within the present Programme are exclusively those mentioned in Annex II.

For each project listed in Annex II, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (30 days) in South Africa may be financed yearly within the limits of the available resources of each Party.

The researchers will be entitled to the exchange only if they hold the Italian nationality (or another EU nationality and resident in Italy) for those who travel to South Africa, and the South African nationality (or permanently resident in South Africa) for those who travel to Italy.

The international travel expenses between the 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 cash allowance.

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

In addition to the one jointly funded trip a maximum of two international flights will be allowed for the SA applicant per year and this must include students. The SA researchers must budget from their funds received from the NRF for their own international travel, accommodation and subsistence for the remaining two trips. The researcher can use up to a maximum of R700 per day for subsistence and R900 per day for accommodation in Italy. The South African Party shall also provide comprehensive medical insurance coverage.

STAY OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCHERS IN ITALY

The application for both long- and short-term research stays shall be submitted exclusively through Italian diplomatic Representations in South Africa. These applications shall be received, no less than two months prior to the beginning of the research visit, by the Office V – Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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

- 1) letter of invitation by the host institution;
- 2) application form signed by the South African researcher, indicating personal and professional data of the applicant, title of the research project, date and length of the visit, list of the institutes to visit. The application form is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs web site: http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Politica_Estera/Cultura/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/MobilitaRicercatori/MobilitaRicercatoriStranieri.htm
- 3) detailed work programme of the visit;
- 4) curriculum vitae of the researcher;
- 5) letter of appointment by the coordinator of the project (only in case the researcher is not the project coordinator him/herself)
- 6) declaration in which the researcher commits himself/herself:
 - to respect the indicated period of visit;
 - not to receive retributions by other National/International Organisations or Corporations during his/her stay;
 - not to change the work programme or destination of the visit and not to leave Italy without authorization;
 - to present, within 30 days from the end of the visit, a debriefing report on the activities carried out;

Any cancellation by the researcher, unless due to serious and valid reasons, might prevent the hosting Party from accepting further applications for related missions.

The Italian Party shall provide 1300 Euro per month for long-term stays (30 days) and 93 Euro per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days). The above-mentioned amounts shall be paid to the South African researchers entirely in one instalment at their arrival in Italy.

South African researchers can receive their grants 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 must be indicated in the Application Form.

As for the South African researchers/students sent by the South African Party in addition to the one annual travel allocation per project, they shall provide the relevant Italian authority in South Africa with the following documentation for Visa purposes:

- 1) letter of invitation by the host institution;
- 2) letter of appointment by the coordinator of the project (only in case the researcher is not the project coordinator him/herself)
- 3) declaration of the travelling researcher/student indicating personal and professional data of the applicant, title of the research project, date and length of the visit, list of the institutes to visit.

- 4) proof of medical insurance coverage as per Visa regulation.

STAY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to the South African Law “Decree of 11th November 2001 on criteria and the manner of contribution and accounting of financial means in the state budget for scientific research” the financial support from the South African partner institute, which is necessary for the execution of the project activities, as described in the South African application form, will come from the fund covering the statutory activities of the South African institutes, including international scientific and technological cooperation resulting from intergovernmental agreements and executive programmes.

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

- 1) Letter of engagement of the host Institution;
- 2) Application Form undersigned by the Italian researcher comprehensive of personal and professional applicant data, title and approved list 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 internet address: South African National Research Foundation: <http://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/italyallocations.stm>)
- 3) Detailed work Programme;
- 4) Curriculum Vitae of the researcher;
- 5) 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 respect the indicated period of visit;
- not to receive retributions by other International Organisations or Corporations during his/her stay;
- not to change work Programme, destination and not to depart from Italy without authorisation;
- to present, after 30 days of completing the research visit, a final report on the activities carried out;

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

The South African Party shall provide R500 a day towards the accommodation expenses and R300 a day for subsistence in South Africa to researchers holding Italian nationality (or an EU nationality and resident in Italy).

The above amounts shall be paid to the Italian researcher while in South Africa.

JOURNEY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AFRICA

Italian researchers travelling to South Africa for a research stay at the local Institutions are required to submit an official application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V.

The application must reach the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs no later than two months prior to the foreseen date of departure at the following address:

Ministero degli Affari Esteri
DGPC, Ufficio V, Settore Viaggi
Piazzale della Farnesina 1 – 00135 ROMA

The application shall include:

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

In the application the researcher must declare his/her commitment to:

- paying any due penalty (up to the total amount of the ticket), in case he/she cancels the mission;
- submitting a short report on the activities carried out, and return tickets and boarding cards, within 30 days after completing the mission.

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

- an invitation letter from the foreign institution (university or research centre) that will host the researcher;
- a written statement of the Italian project coordinator confirming the participation of the researcher to the project and authorising the mission (only in case the researcher is not the project coordinator him/herself);
- a short curriculum 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.

Details of the above mentioned rules and the application form to be filled are available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Politica_Estera/Cultura/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/MobilitaRicercatori/MobilitaRicercatoriItaliani.htm

JOURNEY OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO ITALY

The South African partner institute will pay travel expenses in economic class only.

The application is to be completed with: Name and address of the hosting Institution; Foreseen dates of departure and arrival; Title of the research project; Letter of invitation by the hosting Institution; Declaration of South African researcher with the engagement: to pay the due penalties in case of travel cancellation, to deliver travel documents (air tickets and boarding cards) within 15 days after returning and to write final report on the activities carried out within 30 days after return; Declaration of the project's co-ordinator concerning the participation of the researcher to the project (only in case the researcher is not the project's responsible).

All the described rules are available at the internet address:

<http://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/italyallocations.stm>.

Annex IV

Significant research projects selected within the frame of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between ITALY and SOUTH AFRICA for the years 2011-2013

Research Area	Project title	Italian partner	South African partner
ICT	Supporting Virtual Research Communi-ties across Italy and South Africa	BARBERA Roberto	BECKER Bruce
ICT	Polarization effects in next generation high capacity optical fiber systems	GALTAROSSA Andrea	LEITCH Andrew
MH	Rebuilding broken hearts: novel tissue engineering strategy combining stem cells and biomaterials	GNECCHI Massimiliano	DAVIES Niels
SF	Development of Digital Backend Technology for next generation radiotelescope	MONTEBUGNO LI Stelio	JONAS Justin
SF	SISTER:South African Italian Synchrotron training and exchange of researchers	PLAISIER Jasper	MAAZA
MH	Identification of novel genetic mutations causing dilated cardiomyopathy in South-Africa and Italy: impact on management	SCHWARTZ Peter	MAYOSI Bongani