

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME
OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
FOR THE YEARS 2016-2018

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and Government of the Republic of Serbia, signed in Rome, on December 21st 2009, and entered into force on February 5th 2013, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2016-2018.

1. PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

Submissions of joint research projects by researchers of both countries are invited with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological cooperation between Italy and Serbia. Each researcher may submit one project only.

The researchers will be entitled to the exchange only if they hold nationality of one of the two countries signing this Executive Programme or if they hold an EU nationality and are legally resident in one of the two countries.

Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

1.1 RESEARCH AREAS

Projects may be submitted in the following priority research areas of cooperation:

1. Basic Sciences
2. Health and Well-being
3. Agriculture and Food Technology
4. Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy - Environmental Development and Protection
5. Information and Communication Technologies, including technologies applied to Cultural Heritage
6. Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology

1.2 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

The projects will be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, a joint assessment will be carried out by representatives of the two Parties (in the meeting of the Joint Commission referred to in article n. 8 of the aforementioned Bilateral Agreement) in order to select the projects admitted for funding.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the project
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Social and developmental added value
- Use and dissemination of results

Preference will be given to projects that involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Union.

1.3 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

GRANTING PROJECTS

Only the cost of the exchange of researchers will be financed. For each project 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) in Italy and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) in Serbia may be financed yearly within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and resident in Italy) and will provide a contribution of 93 Euro per day for short-term stay towards accommodation expenses in Italy to researchers holding Serbian nationality (or any EU nationality and permanently resident in Serbia).

The Serbian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Serbian nationality (or an EU nationality and resident in Serbia) and will provide a contribution of 90 Euro (converted in RSD) per day for short-term stay towards accommodation expenses in Serbia to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and permanently resident in Italy).

Funding of the projects will be granted only within the limits of yearly available financial resources. Furthermore, starting from the second year of activity, **funding will be considered only upon presentation of the progress report** as specified in Section 1.6.

1.4 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

The same project **must be submitted by the Italian and Serbian coordinators** to the Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation in the two Countries. Projects submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.

The projects, covering up to 3 years, must be drafted in English.

Procedures applicable to Italian researchers.

The Italian coordinator must prepare and submit her/his proposal exclusively through the dedicated web-interface reachable here: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

The **deadline** for the submission of projects is **June 12th, 2015**.

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: DGSP.UST2@esteri.it

Procedures applicable to Serbian researchers.

The Serbian coordinator must prepare and submit her/his proposal through the dedicated web-interface reachable here: <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/bilateral/italy>

and also send signed paper version of her/his proposal to following address:

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development,
11000 Belgrade, 22-26 Nemanjina str.

The **deadline** for the submission of projects is **June 12th, 2015**.

1.5 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following address:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm

For the Serbian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development at the following address:

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/sajt/page.php?page=284>

1.6 REPORTS ON THE PROJECT.

Starting from the second year of activity, the Italian and the Serbian coordinators shall submit a report on the progress of their projects to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation by January 31st of every year. The report, in pdf format, shall be signed by both coordinators.

Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.

Each researcher may submit one project only; the application of a proposal as a joint research project (according to article 1 of the present Call for Proposals, related to projects for exchange of researchers) excludes the possibility for the project coordinator of the same project to apply for funding under article 2 of the present call for proposals (namely for significant bilateral projects).

2. PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR BILATERAL PROJECTS OF “PARTICULAR RELEVANCE” (“Progetti di Grande Rilevanza” ai sensi della l. 401/90)

In the course of validity of the Executive Programme, the Italian Party may also consider granting an annual special financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources, to significant bilateral research projects (“Progetti di Grande Rilevanza”). Only projects selected by the Joint Commission upon renewal of the Executive Programme will be eligible for funding. The contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a **co-funding** of the project and therefore **a significant funding participation by the coordinator Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Serbian Institutions is mandatory.**

The application procedures consist in two stages:

FIRST STAGE

2.1 RESEARCH AREAS

Projects may be submitted in the following priority research areas of cooperation:

1. Basic Sciences
2. Health and Well-being
3. Agriculture and Food Technology
4. Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy - Environmental Development and Protection
5. Information and Communication Technologies, including technologies applied to Cultural Heritage
6. Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology

2.2 PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

Project Proposals for bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” must be presented only by the Italian coordinators, **no submission is required to Serbian coordinators**.

The Italian coordinator must prepare and submit her/his proposal exclusively through the dedicated web-interface reachable here: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo> .

The **deadline** for the submission of projects is **June 12th, 2015**.

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: DGSP.UST2@esteri.it.

The project, covering up to three years (2016 - 2018), must be drafted in English.

2.3 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

Projects will be first evaluated at national level. Subsequently, a joint assessment will be carried out by representatives of the two Parties, in the meeting of the Joint Commission referred to in article n.8 of the aforementioned Bilateral Agreement, in order to select the projects eligible for funding.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the project
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Social and developmental added value
- Use and dissemination of results
- Budget adequacy

Preference will be given to projects that: involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Union.

2.4 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.

The list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the address:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm

SECOND STAGE

2.5 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

The significant joint research projects selected and listed in the Executive Programme will constitute a short-list of projects entitled to apply for funding in accordance with the specific call for proposals issued by the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and published on the web every year. The call for proposals is usually released in the month of January for the current funding year.

Details on such projects (in compliance with Law 401/90) are available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation under the following link:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ProgettiGrandeRilevanza/

Each researcher may submit one project only; the application of a proposal as significant bilateral project excludes the possibility for the project coordinator to apply for funding for the exchange of researchers according to article 1 of the present call for proposals.