



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**ITALY – USA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

CLOSING DATE: 14/08/2015, h 17:00

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the United States of America, signed in Rome on April 1st, 1988 as emended and extended on October 4th, 1993 and ratified on April 15th, 1994, the procedures for the drafting of the Joint Declaration on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2016-2017, are hereby initiated.

To this purpose, **the Italian Party** issues a call for proposals of joint research projects, according to the Italian Law nr. 401/1990.

Proposals shall concern scientific and technological activities exhibiting strong bilateral impacts either by strengthening existing or creating new collaborations or joint laboratories, aimed at concrete industrial impacts, or targeting relevant scientific objectives.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. FUNDING SCHEMES

The present call concerns only joint research projects of “Particular Relevance”. The contribution granted by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is intended as a co-funding of the selected projects and therefore, **a significant funding contribution by the coordinating Italian Institution and and/or other public/private Italian Institutions, is mandatory.**

B. AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

- Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies;
- Agriculture technologies for crops, fruit trees and vineyards and Food Sciences;
- Earth Sciences, including Natural Hazards, Environment, Space Observations and Oceanography;
- ICT, including Robotics;
- Life Sciences, limited to: Brain Studies and Rare Diseases;
- Physics and Astrophysics;
- Technologies Applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Projects submitted in other areas of cooperation will not be considered for evaluation.

C. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- The Italian coordinator shall have the Italian nationality or any other EU nationality, provided she/he is legally resident in Italy;
- Each project coordinator shall submit only one proposal;
- The US coordinator shall provide clear evidence of available funds (i.e. Grant Number) for carrying out the research activities proposed in the project.

D. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Projects shall be drafted in English;
- b. Projects shall have the same duration of the Joint Declaration;
- c. A full proposal shall consist of:
 - i. a description of the working teams;
 - ii. a description of the research activities that the teams intend to carry out within the project timeframe;
 - iii. a detailed description of the costs of the project.
- d. An endorsement letter, signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution, shall be provided by email to the following address: progetti.gr@esteri.it

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The Italian coordinator shall submit the proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform at the following link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

Any inquire about the call can be sent to: DGSP.UST1@esteri.it

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION.

At the closure of the call, all applications submitted will be checked for eligibility. Eligible applications will then move further to the selection process.

1. Projects will be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Qualification of the applicants;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Added value in addressing industrial/societal challenges;
- Exploitation and dissemination of results;
- Budget adequacy.

Preference will be given to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization;
- Initiatives having a potential industrial impacts and/or involving industrial partners (i.e. including a letter of expression of interest).
- Proposals taking part in multilateral and/or European research programmes such as Horizon 2020 and related actions.

2. Finally, consensus on a short list of proposals eligible for funding will be reached within the work of a bilateral meeting, as defined in Article 6 of the aforementioned Agreement.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of eligibility conditions;
- Submission of more than one proposal by the same coordinator;
- Incomplete application (see section D. General Requirements).

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The list of the selected proposals and the funding procedures will be published 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/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

According to the Italian law nr. 401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the coordinators of the projects listed in the Joint Declaration, will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance with the specific call issued by the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Call details will be available, in due time, at the following link:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html

Financing may be granted by the Italian Party and within the limits of the available annual resources.