

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
FOR THE YEARS 2016-2018**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, signed in Cairo on April 29, 1975, the Italian-Egyptian Joint Commission met in Cairo on May 10, 2016 to examine the present state and further development of scientific and technological cooperation between the two Countries and to define the Executive Programme for the years 2016 – 2018.

The Italian delegation was headed by Stefano Catani, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Italy in Cairo, and the Egyptian delegation was headed by Prof. Mahmoud Zawrah, Acting as Executive Director at the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF). 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: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for the Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science);

For the Egyptian Party: Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

The following agenda of the Joint Commission was adopted by the Parties:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
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. Review of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries


The Parties agreed to recognize the growing importance of science and technology with respect to the economic, social and cultural relations of the two Countries.

The Parties, considering the good relationships between the two Countries, stressed the need to develop and promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology.

2. New Executive Programme

In the period May 5 - July 15, 2015, a joint call for proposals was published to collect projects in the following priority areas:

- Agriculture and Food Science and Technology
- Energy and Environment (including rational use of water resources and desalination)
- Health, Biotechnology and Medicine
- Nanosciences and Advanced Materials
- Technologies applied to Cultural Heritages
- Remote Sensing, Space Sciences and Geophysics
- Basic sciences.

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The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance of the research 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 (only for projects of Particular Relevance)

Additional value has been given to projects involving industrial counterparts and/or benefiting from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations). Preference has also been given to proposals taking part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, such as Horizon 2020 and related actions.

2.1 Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions

Based upon the above mentioned criteria, 7 projects for the exchange of researchers have been selected. 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

Financial support may be granted on a national basis upon evaluation of applications to be submitted according to the guidelines of the relevant authorities of the two Countries.

Pursuant to the criteria referred, the Parties selected 7 joint research projects which may receive financial support. The list of such projects is given in Annex IV.

3. Final provisions

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Commission in the year 2018.


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

This Executive Programme for the period January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018 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 Institutions 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.

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Signed in Cairo on May 10, 2016 in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stefano C...', written in a cursive style.

For the Egyptian Party

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zamir', written in a cursive style.

Annex I

Members of the two delegations

ITALIAN DELEGATION

1. Stefano Catani, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Italy in Cairo.
2. Francesco Meucci, Second Secretary, Embassy of Italy in Cairo.

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

1. Prof. Mahmoud Zawrah, Acting Executive Director, Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

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Annex II

PROJECTS FOR EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS SELECTED WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT FOR THE YEARS 2016 - 2018

Research Area	Project Title	Italian Coordinator	Egyptian Coordinator
Energy and Environment	Application of Advanced Membrane Desalination for a sustainable development of water resources in Mediterranean Countries	Vincenzo NADDEO University of Salerno	Marwa Saied Ibrahim Shalaby National Research Centre
Health, Biotechnology and Medicine	Glycocalyx importance in cellular behavior	Manuela VIOLA Insubria University of Varese	Mona Mostafa Mohamed Cairo University
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Multifunctional Advanced Bioceramics Obtained by 3D Printing Technology	Federica BONDIOLI University of Parma	Hesham Fouly Mohamed Abdelrehim El-Maghraby National Research Centre
Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage	Characterization of black crusts formed on historic buildings under different levels of ambient air pollution in Cairo and Venice	Mauro Francesco LA RUSSA University of Calabria	Nevin Aly Mohamed Suez University
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Modification of the crown of aluminum pistons by means of nanoparticle addition and friction stir processing	Alessandro MORRI University of Bologna	Essam Ahmed Ali Ahmed Suez University
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Advanced BioNano/Ceramics Coatings Strategies on Titanium and its Alloys for Biomedical Applications	Luca CASETTARI University of Urbino	Abdalla Abdal-hay Ali South Valley University
Remote Sensing, Space Sciences and Geophysics	Advanced seismic hazard assessment in the Nile Delta, including site effects from distant earthquakes	Giuliano PANZA University of Trieste	Hussein Hesham National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG)

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Annex III

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The bilateral projects to be financed for the exchange of researchers 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 (up to 30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Egypt may be financed yearly within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

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

The costs of accommodation and living shall be covered by the receiving Party, while the costs of international travel up to the host institution shall be covered by the sending Party.

The receiving Party shall provide medical insurance coverage, on the basis of the rules in force in each Country, against work accidents and illnesses, excluding already existing and chronic diseases.

Within 15 days after finishing their visit, the Italian researchers have to submit to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it) a final report on the activities carried out. The Egyptians researchers have to submit the reports to the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) (ghada.ghaleb@stdf.org.eg).

The reports must be signed by both the Italian and Egyptian visiting researchers involved in the joint research project.

VISIT OF EGYPTIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO ITALY

The Egyptian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Egyptian nationality.

The supplied tickets will be the most economical ones available for the trip, economy class (2nd class) flight/train/ride. Any additional cost shall be borne by the researchers.

STAY OF EGYPTIAN RESEARCHERS IN ITALY

The date of the visit (both for long and short terms) should be agreed between the visiting researchers and the host Italian coordinator. Egyptian researchers may obtain the authorization for the visit from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) only by submitting the application form online at this url: <http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/default.asp>.

An invitation letter from the host Italian Institution, signed by the Italian Coordinator, must be uploaded to the online application. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, after checking the application for accuracy, if covering funds are available, will authorize the visit and pay for the visit allowance; the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will inform the Italian Embassy in Egypt, the Egyptian researcher and the Italian Coordinator. The application must be submitted at least two months before the scheduled date of the visit. The letter of grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation can be used for obtaining the Italian visa.

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Details of the above mentioned rules and the online application are available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/MobilitaRicercaRicercaStranieri.htm?LANG=EN.

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

The Italian Party will finance, yearly, for each project listed in Annex 2, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (30 days).

The Italian Party shall provide 1300,00 Euro per month for long-term stays (30 days) or 93,00 Euro per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days). The above-mentioned amounts shall be paid to the Egyptian researchers entirely in one instalment at their arrival in Italy.

Egyptian researchers will receive their grants at the nearest Provincial Treasury (local branch of the Banca d'Italia).

VISIT OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO EGYPT

Italian researchers travelling to Egypt for a research stay are required to submit the online application to the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation – Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at this url: <http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/RicercaItaliani/Start.asp>. Applications must be submitted to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation no later than two months prior to the foreseen date of departure. Details of the above mentioned rules and the online application are available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/mobilitaricerca/mobilitaricercaitaliani.html. The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and resident in Italy).

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

STAY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS IN EGYPT

The Egyptian Party will finance, yearly, for each project listed in Annex II, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (30 days).

The Egyptian Party will provide a contribution of 10.000 EGP per month for long-term stay, or a daily allowance of 800 EGP per day for short-term stay, towards accommodation and living expenses in Egypt to Italian researchers visiting Egypt.

Italian researchers will receive their grants directly from the Egyptian host institution.

REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

At the end of each year, within January 31st, the Italian and the Egyptian coordinators will jointly report on the progress of their project. The report has to be signed by both the coordinators. Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinator fails to submit the progress report.

The Italian coordinators have to submit the report to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation: ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it.

The Egyptian coordinators have to submit the report to the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF): ghada.ghaleb@stfd.org.eg.

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Annex IV

**SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH PROJECTS SELECTED WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE EXECUTIVE
PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
FOR THE YEARS 2016 - 2018**

Research Area	Project Title	Italian Coordinator	Egyptian Coordinator
Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage	Survey, documentation and characterization of the metallic artefacts stored in the basement of the Egyptian Museum and monitoring of the basement environmental conditions	Emma ANGELINI Politecnico of Torino	Venice Kamel Gouda National Research Centre
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Novel plant silk/multiple nano-metals hydrogels with bactericidal and anticancer applications.	Assunta BORZACCHIELLO National Research Centre (CNR)	Wafa Ismail Abdel Fattah National Research Centre
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Oligomethine cyanine dyes/multioxide photoanodes/ionic liquid-biopolymer composites as novel efficient DSSCs candidates (CYAMOXSOLAR)	Isabella CONCINA University of Brescia	Reda M. Abd El-Aal Suez University
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials	Development of novel polymer bio-nano-composites for load bone substitution	Donatella DURACCIO National Research Centre (CNR)	Hamdy Amal Egyptian Petroleum Research Institute (EPRI)
Health, Biotechnology and Medicine	Implementation of an Innovative Set of Biomarkers for Early Measuring Radiation Dose in Case of Emergency	Anna GIOVANETTI Italian national Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Development (ENEA)	Noha Mahmoud Nasr Awad Alexandria University
Energy and Environment	Managing air quality and health risk: from airborne fine particulate (PM2.5) characterization to the biological mechanism of action	Paride MANTECCA Milano Bicocca University	Hassan Salwa K. National Research Centre
Energy and Environment	Self-Organised nanostructures for solar energy harvesting	Francesco BUATIER de MONGEOT University of Genova	Mohamed Farhat Othman Ismail Hameed Zewail City of Science and Technology

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