

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
FOR THE YEARS 2017-2019**

Within the framework of Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Republic of India, signed in New Delhi on November 28, 2003 and entered into force on November, 3, 2009, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, of the Republic of India, hereinafter referred as to the "Parties", have agreed on the following Executive Programme for scientific and technological cooperation for the years 2017 – 2019.

The signatory on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy: H.E. Ambassador of Italian Republic in New Delhi, Lorenzo Angeloni.

The signatory on behalf of Ministry of Science and Technology, India: Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Ashutosh Sharma.

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 October, 28, 2016 – December, 7, 2016, a joint call for proposals was simultaneously launched in Italy and India to collect projects in the following priority areas:

Projects for the Exchange of Researchers:

- Information and Communication Technology
- Energy, Environment and Sustainable Agriculture
- Health, Biotechnology and Medicine
- Physical and Chemical Sciences
- Technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage

Significant Research Projects

- Energy, Environment, with particular emphasis to clean technologies for energy, resource efficiency and soil remediation
- Health with particular emphasis to personalized medicine and big data
- Physical and Chemical Sciences with particular emphasis on sciences and devices with 2-D systems

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance
- 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, benefit from third parties funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations).

The Parties also agreed to start negotiations for a new call of proposals for joint industrial research projects involving Global Innovation Technology Alliance (GITA) from the Indian Part and the Directorate General for Economic and Cultural Promotion and Innovation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Italian Republic from the Italian part.

2.1 Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions

Based upon the above mentioned criteria, 13 projects for the exchange of researchers have been selected. The list of the selected projects is given in **Annex I**.

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

2.2 Significant Research Projects

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 10 joint research projects which may receive financial support. The list of such projects is given in **Annex III**.

3. Final provisions

Both Parties acknowledge the importance of "Strategic Bilateral Workshops" for building strategic bilateral science, technology and innovation initiatives under the frame of the present Executive Programme. It was agreed to organise at least one joint workshop each year alternatively in India and in Italy. Detailed topic and coordinators will be worked out through mutual consultation.

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Commission at a convenient time and place, if possible once a year and at latest in 2019.

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 1st, 2017 - December 31st 2019 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 and III are attached hereto and are integral parts of the present document.

Signed in New Delhi, on 18th April 2017, in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party


H.E. Mr. Lorenzo Angeloni
Ambassador of Italy in India

For the Indian Party


Prof. Ashutosh Sharma
Secretary, Department of Science
and Technology

