

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF**  
**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**BETWEEN ITALY AND JAPAN FOR THE YEARS 2017-2019**

**Closing date 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 h. 17:00 c.e.s.t.**

**OBJECTIVES**

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between Japan and Italy, signed in Tokyo, on October 7th, 1988, 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 Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the XI Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2017-2019.

To this, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint proposals for projects of “Particular Relevance”. Proposals shall concern activities which exhibit strong bilateral impact either by strengthening existing or creating new Joint Laboratories, aiming at concrete industrial impacts or targeting relevant scientific objectives.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

***FUNDING SCHEMES***

With regard to the present call, the following funding scheme is available:

Projects of “Particular Relevance”, namely joint research projects where research activities are funded by the Italian Party. In this scheme a significant funding contribution by the applying proponent is mandatory.

***AREAS OF COOPERATION***

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

- Agriculture and Food Science
- Basic Sciences (Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry)
- Biotechnologies and Health
- Energy and Environment
- Information and Communication Technologies, including Robotics and Automotive
- Nanosciences and Advanced Materials
- Space Sciences
- Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage.

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

## ***ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS***

Each proposal shall be submitted, by the Italian Principal Investigators, to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In principle, if there is an enterprise being involved in the project, the enterprise should fund the project at least as much as from the government.

The call is open to:

- a) Public or private Research Organizations
- b) Enterprises (preferably SMEs) that can carry out scientific or industrial research activities.

Principal Investigators (PI) shall have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy and a permanent working contract with one of the entities described in a) and b).

## ***PROJECT REQUIREMENTS***

Projects shall be drafted in English and shall have the same duration of the Executive Programme.

A full proposal shall consist at least of:

- a description of the working teams
- a description of the research activities that the teams intend to carry out within the project timeframe
- a detailed description of costs involved.

## **PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

The Italian Principal Investigator shall submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform:

<http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>.

Any inquire concerning the present call can be sent to: [DGSP.UST2@esteri.it](mailto:DGSP.UST2@esteri.it)

## **PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

At the closure of the call, all proposals received will be checked for eligibility. Eligible proposals will undergo to a two-step evaluation process.

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

- Scientific relevance
- Methodology and documentation
- Competence and skill of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Added value in addressing societal challenges
- Exploitation and dissemination of results
- Technology transfer
- Appropriateness of the budget requested with respect to methods and expected results.

Beside that, preference will be given to:

- Projects involving more than one national public/private research organization;

- Initiatives having potential industrial impacts and/or involving industrial partners;
- Structured mobility programmes, with staying periods of up to 3 months, to the benefit of existing Italian-Japanese Joint Laboratories.

STEP 2. In the work of the Joint Commission, defined in Article 4 of the aforementioned Agreement, the Parties will reach consensus on a short list of projects eligible for funding. Selected projects will be included in the Executive Programme and will be eligible for funding.

## REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

Reasons for exclusion of the project will be:

- Lack of eligibility conditions
- Submission of more than one proposal by the same Italian Principal Investigator
- Incomplete application (see section: Project Requirements).

## PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted 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](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html)

**Direct information on the results will be given only to the contact person of each selected project.**

## FINANCING OF PROPOSALS

According to the Italian law Nr. 401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the principal investigators of projects listed in the Executive Programme 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](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html)

The contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding and therefore a significant funding participation by the coordinating Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Japanese Institutions is mandatory.

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