

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME
OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
FOR THE YEARS 2014-2016**

*V Session of the Italian-South African Joint Commission
Pretoria, 5 August 2014*

Based on the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation between the Republic of South Africa and the Italian Republic, which was signed in Pretoria on 15 January 1998, and came into force on 19 February 2000, the V Session of the Italian-South African Joint Commission was held in Pretoria on 5 August 2014 to examine the present state and further develop the scientific and technological co-operation between the two Countries, and to define the new Executive Programme for the years 2014-2016.

The Italian delegation was led by H.E. the Ambassador of Italy to South Africa, Mr Vincenzo Schioppa.

The South African delegation was led by Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Resources of the Department of Science and Technology.

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: the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy.

For the South African Party: the National Research Foundation.

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

1. Present the state of the scientific and technological co-operation
2. New Executive Programme for the years 2014-2016
 - 2.1 Approval of the joint Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions
 - 2.2 Approval of the joint research Projects of Particular relevance
3. Final provisions

1. Present state of scientific and technological co-operation

The Parties have 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 are pleased to underline the favourable trend in scientific relations between the two Countries and the outcomes of the collaboration in the period 2010-2013.

Both sides place particular emphasis on the role of international co-operation for the further development of the S&T system in the two Countries. They also agreed to pay serious attention to extending co-operation in international and European multilateral R&D programmes such as Horizon 2020.

2. New Executive Programme for the years 2014-2016

In the period between 2 January and 28 February 2014 a joint call for joint research proposals was launched in the following priority areas:

- Physics, Astrophysics & Radio-Astronomy
- Information Communication Technology
- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology & New Advanced Materials
- Medicine & Health
- Green and Renewable Energy and Environment

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific and technical merit of the project
- Methodology
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- National priority
- Capacity building
- Use and dissemination of results.

2.1 Projects for the Exchange of Researchers and Financial Provisions

Based upon the above mentioned criteria, 10 joint research projects for the exchange of researchers have been selected to be granted financial support. 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

Pursuant to the criteria referred, the Parties selected 5 joint research projects of particular relevance which may receive unilateral financial support from the Italian side. The list of such projects is given in **Annex IV**.

These financial contributions are intended to partly cover the research activities of the projects and may be granted to the Italian partners, upon evaluation of the applications submitted according to the guidelines that will be given by the Italian side.

3. Final provisions

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Commission in the year 2016, details of which will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

This Executive Programme for the years 2014 -2016 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 Ministries 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.

Signed in Pretoria, on this 5th day of August 2014 in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative

For the Italian Party

For the South African Party



H.E. Mr Vincenzo Schioppa
Ambassador of Italy

Mr Daan du Toit
Department of Science and Technology

Annex I
Members of the two delegations

Italian delegation

H.E. Mr Vincenzo Schioppa
- Ambassador of Italy

Mr Paolo Bonissone - Counsellor

Mr Alessandro Costa
- First Secretary

South African delegation

Mr Daan du Toit - Deputy
Director-General: International
Cooperation and Resources, DST

Dr Neville Arendse – Acting Chief
Director: Overseas Bilateral
Cooperation, DST

Mr Khaya Sishuba - Director:
Bilateral Cooperation - Europe and
Middle East, DST

Mr Moratabatho Sefora – Deputy
Director: Bilateral Cooperation –
Europe and Middle East, DST

Ms Huvhangwani Mulaudzi –
Assistant Director: Bilateral
Cooperation- Europe and Middle
East, DST

Ms Prudence Makhura – Director:
International Relations and
Cooperation, NRF

Mr Teuns Phahlamohlaka -
Professional Officer: International
Relations and Cooperation, NRF

Mr Joseph Senona - Director:
Africa Bilateral Cooperation, DST

Ms Pukah Mdaka – Director:
Bilateral Cooperation- Americas
and the Asia, DST



Annex II
Projects for the exchange of researchers

Research Area	Project Title	Italian Partner	South African Partner
Green and Renewable Energy and Environment	Building products from Eucalyptus trees	Michela NOCETTI, National Research Council, CNR	Brand WESSEL, Stellenbosch University
Green and Renewable Energy and Environment	Estimating key hydrological properties through acquisition and modelling of electrical parameters	Giovanni SANTARATO, University of Ferrara	Valeriya HALLBAUER-ZADOROZHAYA, Council of Geoscience
Biotechnology	Conjugated Linoleic Acid: effects on spermatogenesis, sperm quality and freezability in bovines	Bianca GASPARRINI, University of Napoli, Federico II	Giulia ESPOSITO, University of Pretoria
Biotechnology	Genetic diversity and phylogeographic structure in some indigenous sheep breeds by molecular markers	Emiliano LASAGNA, University of Perugia	Nokuthula KUNENE, University of Zululand
Physics, Astrophysics and Radio-Astronomy	Synergy between Italy and South Africa: Galaxy Clusters: a pivotal case for SKA precursors	Tiziana VENTURI, National Institute for Astrophysics, INAF	Gianni BERNARDI, Rhodes University
Medicine and Health	Bioactive metabolites from South Africa plants with anticancer activity	Antonio EVIDENTE, University of Napoli, Federico II	Willem VAN OTTERLO, Stellenbosch University
Medicine and Health	Role of bioactive compounds from Rooibos extracts on metabolism, and oxidative stress in dysmetabolic patients. Effects on plasma lipoprotein functionality and endothelial functionality	Luca TIANO, Technical University of Marche	Christo MULLER, South African Medical Research Council
Medicine and Health	HIV associated neurotoxicity	Nicola SIMOLA, University of Cagliari	Willem DANIELS, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Medicine and Health	Targeting abnormal MicroRNA and splicing signatures in cancer	Giovanni BLANDINO, Regina Elena Institute	Zodwa DLAMINI, University of South Africa
Nanotechnology and New Advanced Materials	Synthesis and characterization of hybrid nanostructures	Cinzia CEPEK, National Research Council, CNR	Muzi NDWANDWE, University of Zululand

Annex III

General administrative and financial provisions

Within the present Executive Programme, the bilateral projects to be funded for the exchange of researchers are exclusively those mentioned in **Annex II**.

For each project listed in Annex II, one short-term stay (up to 10 days) and one long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy and one short-term stay (up to 10 days) and one long-term stay (up to 30 days) in South Africa may be funded yearly, within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

Researchers are entitled to the exchange only if they hold Italian nationality (or any EU nationality resident in Italy) for those who travel to South Africa and the South African nationality for those who travel to Italy.

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

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

TRAVELLING OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCHERS TO ITALY

South African researchers travelling to Italy are required to submit VISA application to the Italian consulate general before date of departure. Details of the above mentioned rules and the online application are available on the web site at:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/MobilitaRicercatori/MobilitaRicercatoriItaliani.htm. The South African Party will pay the international travel expenses and insurance to researchers.

STAY OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCHERS IN ITALY

The date of the visit should be agreed between the visiting researchers and the hosting Institution the Italian co-ordinator is affiliated to.

South African researchers may obtain the authorization for the visit from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) only by submitting online the application form at the following link: <http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/default.asp>

An invitation letter from the hosting Italian Institution, signed by the Italian co-ordinator, must be uploaded to the online application. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after checking the application for accuracy, if necessary funds are available, will authorize the visit and will arrange for the payment of the allowance. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will timely inform on the proceedings the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, the South African researcher and the Italian project co-ordinator.

The application must be submitted **at least two months before the scheduled visit**. Any cancellation of the visit by the researcher, except for serious and valid reasons, might prevent the hosting Party from accepting any further application for subsequent missions.

The Italian Party will assign a contribution to the visits of South African Researchers to Italy as follows:

- 93 Euro/day, from day 1 to day 10, up to a maximum of 930 Euro (short-term stay) and,
- 18.50Euro/day, from day 11 to day 30, up to a maximum amount of 1.300,00 Euro (long-term stays)

The above-mentioned amounts will be paid to the South African researchers entirely in one instalment at their arrival in Italy. South African researchers will receive their grants at the nearest Provincial Treasury (local branch of the Banca d'Italia).

TRAVELLING OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Italian researchers travelling to South Africa 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 at:

<http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/ricercatoriItaliani/Start.asp>

Applications must be submitted to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs **no later than 45 days prior to the foreseen date of departure**. Details of the above mentioned rules and the online application are available on the web site at:

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

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 SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Party will assign a contribution covering accommodation, meals and internal transports for the visits of Italian Researchers to South Africa as stipulated on their project schedules. Italian researchers will receive their Subsistence and Travelling (S&T) allowance from the South African Principal Investigator.

REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

At the end of each year the Italian and the South African coordinators will jointly submit a report on the progress of their project. The progress report, signed by both coordinators, shall be submitted by 31 March, in pdf format, to the following e-mail addresses: - for Italy: ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it and for South Africa: Dlamini@nrf.ac.za. Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.



Annex IV
Significant research projects selected within the frame of the Executive Programme
of Scientific and Technological Cooperation
between ITALY and SOUTH AFRICA for the years 2014-2016

Research Area	Project Title	Italian Partner	South African Partner
Green and Renewable Energy and Environment	Plasmonics for better efficiency of solar cells	Giancarlo RIGHINI, Centro Studi Enrico Fermi	Alex QUANDT, University of the Witwatersrand
Physics, Astrophysics and Radio Astronomy	Mapping the universe on the pathway to SKA. From black holes to large cosmic structures: a multi-scale approach to next-generation radio surveys	Isabella PRANDONI, National Institute for Astrophysics, INAF	Mattia VACCARI, University of Western Cape
Medicine and Health	Modifier genes and the risk for sudden cardiac death for channelopathies and cardiomyopathies: when molecular biology refines risk stratification	Peter SCHWARTZ, IRCSS Istituto Auxologico Italiano	Paul BRINK, Stellenbosch University
Nanotechnologies and Advanced Materials	Nanostructured materials for the (bio) chemical sensing of pesticides	Dario COMPAGNONE, University of Teramo	Emmanuel I. IWUOHA, University of Western Cape
Information and Communication Technologies	The App factory	Adolfo VILLAFIORITA MONTELEONE, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, FBK	Alfredo TERZOLI, Rhodes University

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