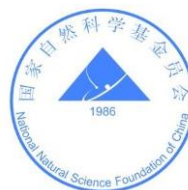




*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



**ITALY– CHINA**  
**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION**  
**CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS**  
**CLOSING DATE: June 22, 2017 h. 17.00 CEST**

**OBJECTIVES**

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (hereinafter referred to as MoU), signed in Beijing on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation, Unit IX, of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Bureau of International Cooperation, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, initiate herewith the procedures for the identification of joint research projects in the field of natural sciences for the years 2018-2020.

For this purpose, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint proposals for bilateral research projects.

Proposals shall concern activities which exhibit strong bilateral impact either by strengthening existing or creating new links targeting relevant scientific objectives.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

***FUNDING SCHEME***

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

Bilateral research projects, namely joint projects where research activities are co-funded by both Parties. 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:

- New Materials, with particular reference to Two-dimensional systems and graphene;
- Environment, with particular reference to Urban Circular Economy;
- Physics and Astrophysics with particular reference to quantum technology and dark matter;
- Health, with particular reference to personalized Medicine, Genomics and chronic diseases.

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

### ***ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS***

Each proposal shall be submitted, by the Italian and Chinese Principal Investigators, to their respective Party. Proposals submitted to only one Party, will not be considered for evaluation.

#### **For the Italian Party:**

- a. PI shall have Italian or any other EU nationality and be legally resident in Italy
- b. PI shall have a permanent working contract with a Public or Private Research Organization recognized by the Ministry of Education, University and Research
- c. PI is entitled to submit only a single proposal
- d. Proposal shall be written in English language

Proposal shall be duly completed in each section of the online submission forms.

For the Chinese applicants, eligibility criteria are referred to the call for proposal published on the NSFC website: <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>.

For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that all facets of animal care of the International and use meet the requirements Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. This includes a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of animals used. Institutional ethics committee approval and informed consent are obligatory parts in all interventional studies (human or animal).

### ***PROJECT REQUIREMENTS***

- Projects shall have a duration of 36 months
- A proposal shall contain the following sections:
  - description of the working teams;
  - description of general and specific objectives, research activities involved, role of the research teams within those activities, expected results and outreach.

- detailed description of costs involved.

Chinese applicants, besides the English version of the proposal, shall also submit a Chinese version and other additional documents, as listed in the Chinese call for proposals.

## PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

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

Any inquiry concerning the present call can be sent to: [dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it](mailto:dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it)

The Chinese PI shall submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform:

<http://isisn.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb>

Any inquiry concerning the present call can be sent to: [liwc@nsfc.gov.cn](mailto:liwc@nsfc.gov.cn)

## PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

All proposals received will initially be checked for eligibility. Eligible proposals will then undergo 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;
- Qualification of the applicants;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Exploitation and dissemination of results;
- Budget adequacy.

STEP 2. In the framework of art. 3 of the MoU, the Parties will meet and reach consensus on a short list of projects. The selected projects will be attached to the Agreed Minutes signed by both Parties at the end of the meeting and will be eligible for funding.

## PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be published 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/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm). The PI of the selected projects will be directly informed.

For the Chinese Party, the list of selected projects will be posted on the NSFC website.

## FINANCING OF PROPOSALS

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

**For the Italian Party**, according to the Italian law Nr.401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the principal investigators of projects listed in the aforementioned Agreed Minutes will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance with the specific call issued by the Unit IX, DG for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation 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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy to bilateral projects funded within this call is intended as a **co-funding** and therefore **a significant funding participation by the coordinating Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Chinese Institutions is mandatory.**