

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS AS PART OF THE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION BETWEEN
ITALY AND THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN
FOR THE YEARS 2018 - 2020**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Cultural, Educational, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Italy and the Kingdom of Sweden, signed in Rome on November 29th, 2001 and came into force on January 23rd, 2007, the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2018 – 2020 are hereby initiated.

SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROJECTS: PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

During the period of validity of the Executive Programme on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Italian Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden for the years 2018-2020 (hereafter referred as to the “Executive Programme”), the two Parties may consider granting a year after year financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources, to significant bilateral research projects which will be part of the Executive Programme.

The contribution is intended as a **co-funding** of the project and therefore **a significant funding participation by the proposing Institutions and/or other public/private Italian or Swedish Institutions is mandatory**. The contribution will be awarded by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research only to the selected Italian Institutions and by the Swedish Research Council only to the selected Swedish Institutions.

FIRST STEP: PROPOSALS SUBMISSION, EVALUATION AND SELECTION

1. PROPOSALS SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted **by the Italian Coordinators** by a preliminary description of the project through the online platform <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>. Coordinators must register to the website previously filling the project description forms available online.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **July 20th 2017**, at 12.00 (CEST), when the online submission system will be deactivated.

Proposals, covering up to three years activity (2018-2020), must be drafted in English.

Any enquiry about the Italy/Sweden Executive Programme can be sent to the e-mail address dgsp-09bandil@esteri.it

2. RESEARCH AREAS

Project proposals must be submitted in the following priority research areas:

- Technology and Research applied to Cultural Heritage;
- New technologies for scientific instruments;
- Clean energy, Intelligent factory, Cyber security;
- Natural hazards;
- Technology and Research applied to nanoscience;
- Technology and Research applied to neuroscience;
- Technology and Research applied to oncology.

NB: Projects submitted in other research areas will not be considered.

3. PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT THE NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

Projects will be initially evaluated at the national level in both Countries. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Joint Commission in order to select the projects to be listed in the Executive Programme.

Projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- *Scientific relevance and quality*
- *Methodology and documentation*
- *Qualification of the applicants*
- *Added value of the bilateral cooperation*
- *Social and developmental added value for Italy and Sweden*
- *Use and dissemination of results*
- *Budget adequacy*

Preference will be given to projects that: 1) will favour the mobility of young scientists; 2) involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Union.

The project coordinator for the Italian side shall be Italian citizen or European citizen resident in Italy, and working for an Italian public/private Research Institution.

The project coordinator for the Swedish side must hold a PhD, be resident in Sweden and working for an Research Institution approved by the Swedish Research Council.

Additional conditions for applications and grants for the Swedish coordinator can be found following the link:

<https://www.vr.se/inenglish/researchfunding/applyforgrants/conditionsforapplicationsandgrants.4.5adac704126af4b4be280007743.html>.

For questions from the Swedish coordinator, please contact paola.norlin@vr.se

Italian and Swedish coordinators may submit only one proposal. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the evaluation.

For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that all facets of animal care and use meet the requirements of the International 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).

4. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.

The significant bilateral projects selected and listed in the Executive Programme will constitute a short-list of projects entitled to receive a financial contribution in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant authorities of the two Countries.

The list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively 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.htm

SECOND STEP: FINANCING OF PROJECTS

The significant joint research projects selected and listed in the Executive Programme will constitute a short-list of projects entitled to apply for funding in accordance with the specific call for proposals issued by the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation (DGSP Unit IX) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and published on the web every year. The call for proposals is usually released in fall, for the following funding year.

Details on such projects (in compliance with Law 401/90) are available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation under the following link:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/progetti_granderilevanza