

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF THE JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME
OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
FOR THE YEARS 2019-2021
CLOSING DATE: 12/07/2018, h 12:00 C.E.S.T.

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of Republic of Serbia, signed in Rome, on December 21st 2009, and entered into force on February 5th 2013, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development initiate herewith the procedures for drafting of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2019-2021(hereafter dubbed E.P.).

To this purpose, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint project proposals for the “Exchange of Researchers” The Italian Party will also grant an annual financial contribution to significant bilateral research projects (“Projects of Particular Relevance”). The Serbian Party may also consider granting a financial contribution to the same projects during the Executive Programme 2019 – 2021 (E.P.).

GENERAL INFORMATION

FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call two possible funding schemes are available:

- Projects for Exchange of Researchers: only the expenses for researchers’ mobility are funded.
- Projects of Particular Relevance: research activities are co-founded by the Italian Party. A significant funding contribution by the applying Institution is mandatory. The same projects may receive a contribution from the Serbian party during the E.P.

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

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects must be submitted in the following priority research areas of cooperation:

- Basic Sciences
- Health and Well-being
- Agriculture and Food Technology
- Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy - Environmental Development and Protection
- Information and Communication Technologies, including technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

For the Italian Party, the call is open to public or private research organizations.

Principal Investigators (PI) must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy and a permanent working position or a temporary position covering at least the time extent of the project in the Organization they belong.

For the Serbian Party, the call is open to public or private research organizations.

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).

Each project coordinator can submit only one proposal, independently of the scheme of choice (Exchange or researchers or Particular Relevance).

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must be drafted in English
- Projects must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (Jan. 2019 - Dec. 2021)

- Projects for Exchange of Researchers must be jointly submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered
- Projects of Particular Relevance must be submitted to the Italian Party only
- For the Projects of Particular Relevance, an endorsement letter, signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution, must be provided, contextually to the call deadline, by an email to the following address: progetti.st@esteri.it

The Projects that not comply with the above requirements, will not be accepted.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

PROJECTS FOR EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

The same project must be submitted by the Italian and Serbian coordinators to the Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation in the two Countries.

The Italian coordinator must submit the proposal to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation exclusively through the *ad hoc* online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr>

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it

The Serbian coordinator must submit the proposal to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

The Italian coordinator must submit the proposal to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation exclusively through the *ad hoc* online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr>

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

At the closure of the call, all applications will be checked for eligibility requirements. Eligible applications will then move on to a three-step selection process:

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

- Methodology and documentation
- Competence and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Involvement of early career researchers
- Appropriateness of the budget requested with respect to methods and expected results (for projects of Particular Relevance only).

Preference will be given to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization;
- Proposals involving preferentially young scientists
- Initiatives having a potential industrial impacts and/or involving industrial partners (i.e. including a letter of expression of interest)
- Proposals taking part in multilateral and/or European research programmes such as Horizon 2020 and related actions.

- STEP 2. Each Party will elaborate a short list of priority projects.
- STEP 3. The two Parties will reach consensus on projects eligible for funding.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, 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.html

For the Serbian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development at the following address:

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/sajt/page.php?page=284>

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

Only the cost of the exchange of researchers will be financed. For each project 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) in Italy and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) in Serbia may be financed yearly within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and resident in Italy) and will provide a contribution of 93 Euro per day for short-term stay towards accommodation expenses in Italy to researchers holding Serbian nationality.

The Serbian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Serbian nationality and will provide a contribution of 90 Euro (converted in RSD) per day for short-term stay towards accommodation expenses in Serbia to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and permanently resident in Italy).

Starting from the second year of activity, the Serbian and the Italian coordinators must submit an annual report on the progress of their project by January 31st as indicated in the text of the Executive Programme.

Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.

PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

For the Italian Party, the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding, therefore the applying Institution must finance the remaining part on the basis of salary of involved personnel and indirect costs of the project. The applying Institution must anticipate the project expenses and will be co-financed at the final balance yearly.

According to the Italian law Nr.401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the coordinators of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX 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

The Serbian Party may also consider granting financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources to these projects during the E.P..