

**ITALY – SOUTH KOREA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

CLOSING DATE: Sept 11th, 2018, h. 12:00 C.E.S.T.

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Korea, signed in Rome on February 3, 1984, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) - Unit IX - of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), and the International Cooperation Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), **launch a call for proposals for the 12th Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2019 - 2021.**

Proposals should include scientific and technological activities exhibiting strong bilateral cooperation, either by strengthening the existing, or by creating new collaborations or joint laboratories, aimed at concrete industrial impacts or targeting relevant scientific objectives.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. FUNDING SCHEMES

The present call concerns joint research projects of “Special Relevance”, according to the Italian Law nr. 401/1990.

Within the course of validity of the 12th Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Korean Republic for the years 2019 – 2021, **the Italian Party may consider granting an annual special funding contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources, to significant bilateral research projects (*Progetti di Grande Rilevanza*). The selected projects will be listed within the 2019-21 Executive Programme.**

B. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Proposals must be submitted in one of the following priority research areas:

1. Biomedicine [1. Ageing (Neuroscience and Neuro-rehabilitation); 2. Pharmacology: novel drugs]
2. Agri-Food and Biotechnology
3. ICT, including Robotics and Automotive
4. Nanosciences and Advanced Materials
5. Energy and environment
6. Marine science
7. Convergence science (S&T applied to Cultural heritage)
8. Basic Sciences

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

C. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- a. Each proposal must be submitted by the Italian and Korean Principal Investigators, **to their respective Parties**. Proposals submitted to one Party only will not be considered for evaluation.
- b. Each project coordinator can submit **only one** proposal;
- c. **Italian Party:**
 - i. the call is open to public or private research institutions.
 - ii. The Principal Investigator (PI) must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy and a permanent position, or a temporary position within their Institution covering at least the entire duration of the proposed project;
- d. **Korean Party:**
 - i. The call is open to recognised researchers affiliated with Korean research institutions eligible under Article 14, Section 1 of “Basic Research Promotion and Technology Development Support Act”.

D. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Project proposals must be drafted in English and have the same duration of the E. P. (3 yrs: 2019-2021)
- b. A **full proposal** must contain:
 - i. Description of the working teams
 - ii. Description of the proposed work for the entire duration of the project
 - iii. Detailed budget description for the first year of the project
- c. For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all aspects of animal care and use meet the requirements of the International Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, including the responsibility to protect and promote animal welfare. Institutional ethics committee approval and informed consent are mandatory for all intervention studies in humans or animals. Details of ethical approval (including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number where appropriate), should be included in the proposal.
- d. For the Italian Party, an **endorsement letter** signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution, should be provided by e-mail to the following address: progetti.st@esteri.it. The letter, to be written in Italian, should contain an acknowledgement of the application by the Chief officer in charge of the institutional budget. If deemed necessary, the strategic significance and its importance for a bilateral cooperation can also be included.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- **Italian PIs** must submit the proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform at the following link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/>
Any inquiry concerning the present call can be addressed to: dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it
- The **Korean PI** must submit the proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform at the following link: <http://ernd.nrf.re.kr>

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check before moving to the selection process. Eligible proposals will then move on to a three-step evaluation process.

1. Evaluation at the national level according to the following criteria:

- a. Scientific relevance
- b. Methodology and documentation
- c. Qualification of the applicants
- d. Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- e. Added value in addressing industrial/societal challenges
- f. Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- g. Budget adequacy

Preference will be awarded to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization
- Initiatives carrying potential industrial impact and/or involving industrial partners (a letter stating the Expression of Interest of the company should be included in this latter case)
- Proposals aligned with multilateral and/or European research programmes, such as the Horizon 2020 framework programme and related actions

2. Each Party will elaborate a short list of priority projects.

3. The two Parties will reach consensus on projects eligible for funding.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of eligibility conditions
- Incomplete application (see Section D. Project requirements)

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the **Italian Party**, the list of selected proposals and the funding procedures will be published exclusively in the Italian MAECI website at the following link:

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

For the **Korean Party**, the list of selected proposals will be published in the following website: http://nrf.re.kr/biz/info/notice/list?biz_no=294

FUNDING PROCEDURES

Italian Party: the contribution granted by MAECI to bilateral projects of “Special Relevance” is intended as co-funding support for the project, and therefore a significant funding contribution by the coordinating Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian and Korean Institutions is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs. The research Institution must anticipate all project expenses, while MAECI funding will be paid out yearly upon submission of the final balance. In particular, according to Italian law Nr. 401/90, and in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, the PIs of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding at the beginning of each year of project activity.

Korean Party: the maximum yearly funding for all Korean partners is 30,000,000 KRW including overhead costs per project.

The call details will be available in due time at the following link:

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html

http://nrf.re.kr/biz/info/notice/list?biz_no=294