



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



**ITALY – AZERBAIJAN
JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

CLOSING DATE: 31 July 2019

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Agreement on Cultural, Educational, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed in Baku on 1st of June, 2002 and entered into force on 6th of September 2006, the procedures for the drafting of the first Executive Programme on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years **2020-2022** are hereby initiated.

To this purpose, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint project proposals for the “Exchange of Researchers”.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FUNDING SCHEMES

Only the expenses for researchers’ mobility are funded.

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

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects of Exchange of Researchers must be submitted in one of the following priority research areas only:

- Earth Sciences
- Medicine and bio-medicine
- Physics and Astrophysics
- Technology and Research applied to Cultural Heritage.

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

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

Each project coordinator shall submit only one project proposal.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must be drafted in English
- Projects must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (three-year 2020-2022)
- Projects must be jointly submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.
- 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).

Projects not compliant with the above requirements shall not be accepted.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.

The proposal must be jointly submitted to both Parties; in particular:

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 inquiry about the present call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

the Azerbaijani coordinator must submit the proposal to the Department of International Relations of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences through the following platform <http://science.gov.az/news>

Any inquiry about the present call can be sent to: esmira.alirzayeva@science.az

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

At the closure of the call, all applications received 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

Additional value will be given to projects involving industrial counterparts and/or benefiting from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations).

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:

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

For the Azerbaijani Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences at the following address:

<http://bei.science.gov.az/en/>

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

For each project 1 short-term (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Azerbaijan 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 of the Italian team and will provide Azerbaijani researchers with a contribution for the accommodation expenses in Italy of 93 Euro per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days), up to a maximum of 930 Euro, and 18,50 Euro/day, from day 11 to day 30 for long-term stays, up to a maximum amount of 1,300 Euro.

The Azerbaijani Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers of Azerbaijani team and will provide Italian researchers with a contribution for the accommodation expenses in Azerbaijan of 93 Euro per day for short-term stays (up to 10 days), up to a maximum of 930 Euro, and 18,50 Euro/day, from day 11 to day 30 for long-term stays, up to a maximum amount of 1,300 Euro.

Starting from the second year of activity, the Italian and the Azerbaijani coordinators must submit an annual report on the progress of their project by the end of January.

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