



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN ITALY – JAPAN FOR THE YEARS 2020-2022
CLOSING DATE: 31 October 2019 h. 13.00 C.E.T.**

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between Italy and Japan, signed in Tokyo, on October 7th, 1988, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation initiates herewith the procedures for the drafting of the XII Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2020 – 2022.

FUNDING SCHEME

With regard to the present call, the following funding scheme is available: Projects of “Particular Relevance”, namely joint research projects where research activities are funded by the Italian Party. In this scheme, a significant co-funding contribution by the applying proponent is mandatory.

Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources and in accordance with the general lines of foreign policy.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

- AgriFood
- New Technologies for Active and Healthy Ageing and Homecare
- Regenerative and Predictive Medicine
- Emerging approaches to cancer therapy
- Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
- Artificial Intelligence and its Cybersecurity, Robotics, and Automotive Applications
- Nanosciences and Advanced Materials
- Prediction of climate, ecological, earth and ocean systems changes
- Technologies for the Achievement of Sustainable Goals, with particular focus to Renewable Energy
- Space Sciences, Remote Sensing and Space Technologies
- Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The call is open to public or private research organizations.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy and a permanent position, or a temporary position covering at least the time extent of the project, in the University or Research Centre in which he/she is employed.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Projects must be written in English.
- b. Projects must have the same duration of the Executive Programme: three-year 2020 – 2022.
- c. In Italy, for projects involving experiments with animals, ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. This approval is mandatory to obtain the formal authorization from the competent Ministry of Health to start the activities (D.Lgs 26_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Projects involving experiments on human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. The Italian coordinator must provide a self-declaration of adhesion to abovementioned rules within the Endorsement letter accompanying the submission.
- d. Each researcher can submit as Principal Investigator only one project proposal.
- e. An Endorsement letter, signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution, must be sent by the call deadline to the following address: progetti.st@esteri.it . Any other letter of support by other institutions, whether public or private or by private companies, must be sent to the same email address (progetti.st@esteri.it) by the call deadline.

PROJECT SUBMISSION

The Italian principal investigator must submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr>

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

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Only applications in agreement with the eligibility requirements will enter a two-step selection process:

- STEP 1 Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
 - Scientific relevance
 - Methodology and documentation
 - Competence and expertise of the research teams
 - Added value of the bilateral cooperation
 - Active involvement of early career researchers
 - Appropriateness of the budget requested with respect to methods and expected results.

Preference will be given to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization;
- Initiatives having a potential industrial impacts and/or involving industrial partners (a letter of expression of interest can be included).

- STEP 2. In the work of the Joint Committee, defined in Article 4 of the aforementioned bilateral Agreement, the Parties will reach consensus on a shortlist of projects eligible for funding. Selected projects will be included in the Executive Programme and will be eligible for funding.

To be noted: the above-mentioned evaluation in Step 1 should be considered only as an indication of priority not mandatory for the final bilateral consensus.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

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For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted 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

Direct information on the results will be given only to the contact person of each selected project.

FINANCING OF PROPOSALS

According to the Italian law Nr. 401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the Principal Investigators of 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-Directorate General 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

The contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding and therefore a significant funding participation by the coordinating Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Japanese Institutions is mandatory.

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