

**ITALY – SOUTH KOREA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2023-2025**

CLOSING DATE: April 27, 2022
Italy: at 17:00 hr - South Korea: at [hr]

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 16, 2007 and entered into force on September 18, 2019, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation - Office 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) are opening **a call for proposals for the 13th Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2023 - 2025.***

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, the following funding scheme is available:

- **“Joint Research Projects”**: the expenses for research activities are co-funded by both Parties. This funding scheme is aimed at supporting joint research activities. Inclusion of early career scientists in the research team will be positively evaluated.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals:

- must be written in English;
- must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (E.P.): 3 years, 2023-2025.

Each Principal Investigator (P.I.) must submit only one proposal

Italian Party:

- the call is open to public or private (no-profit) research institutions
- the PI must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy, working in a public or private (no-profit) Italian research institution, a permanent position, or a temporary position covering at least the entire duration of the proposed project.

Korean Party:

- 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”.

1.3 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
- incomplete application (including additional documents where applicable - see point 3 below);

- proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries;
- proposals submitted in only one of the two countries.

2. PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

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

- Environmental sciences and energy transition
- Agrifood for biotech and biopharma applications
- Physics and astrophysics
- Advanced materials and nanotechnologies
- Biomedicine, and technologies to face new infectious diseases
- Prevention of natural disasters, including Vulcanology
- S&T applied to cultural heritage
- Marine Resources for biotechnologies

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

Only some of the above listed research areas may be funded, depending on the scientific quality of the submitted proposals,

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties. The proposals must be written English and have the same duration of the E.P. (3 years: 2023-2025)

Italian Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling the dedicated forms at the following link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgpr/>. For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it
- For projects involving experiments with laboratory animals, the status of ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. Please note that formal authorization by the competent Ministry of Health is mandatory to start the activities (D.Lgs 26_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Proof of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. Projects involving experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. ***The Italian Principal Investigator should include a self-declaration of adherence to the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.***
- Italian applications must be accompanied by an endorsement letter, written in Italian and signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution or by her/his officially authorized delegate, certifying the acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including institutional co-funding. A template is provided within the call documents. The signed letter must be uploaded in the indicated section of the submission portal (<http://web.esteri.it/pgpr/>).

Korean Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively through the dedicated online platform at the following link: <http://ernd.nrf.re.kr>
- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling the dedicated forms at the following link: <http://www.nrf.re.kr/> For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address: crosslight@nrf.re.kr
- The submission of the application takes place in two compulsory steps (as stated in the call

guidelines):

- a. Submission of your application details via the application form online.
 - b. Upload of your application form with the requested appendices in one single document via the application form online.
- The application shall include:
 - a. Completed research plan including a project description and details
 - b. Personal information utilization agreement, etc.
 - Prior to deadline, Proposals shall be submitted and authorized by the authority

4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

4.1 Evaluation process

After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check before moving to the two-step evaluation process. The first step will be performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals. The second step of the evaluation process will be performed at the bilateral level. The two Parties will reach consensus on the final list of projects eligible for funding during the meeting of the Joint Commission, which includes representatives from both countries. The selected projects will be included in the text of the Executive Programme that will be posted in the websites of both Parties at the end of the process.

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Contribution of the project in addressing societal challenges
- Involvement of early career scientists
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- 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 can be included in this latter case)

4.2 Outcome of the evaluation

Italian Party The official text of the Executive Protocol, including the list of selected projects, will be published in the MAECI website at the following link:

https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici/

Only the PIs of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail of the outcomes of the selection process.

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

5. FUNDING PROCEDURES

Funding will be granted to the projects listed in the Executive Programme within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

Italian Party: Funding for projects selected and listed in the EP will be provided on a yearly basis. In particular, according to Italian law Nr. 401/90, and in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation 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.

The coordinating Institution is expected to anticipate all project expenses and will be reimbursed on a yearly basis, upon submission of the financial documents and positive evaluation of the corresponding scientific report.

The contribution granted by MAECI to “Joint Research Projects” is intended as co-funding support for the project, and therefore co-funding by the coordinating Italian Institution of approximately 50% of the total costs of the project is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs. Any other financial contribution from public or private, Italian or Korean Institutions, will be positively evaluated.

The average cost of a projects is approximately 30-35 K€/year, excluding co-funding by the applying institution.

Considering the strategic importance of bilateral collaboration between Italy and South Korea, the Italian Ministry of Health can fund projects presented by IRCCS Institutions, if selected according to the procedures indicated in the present call. To accelerate the eligibility check, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance before submission of project proposals. To this end, Italian PIs affiliated with an IRCCS institution must fill in and return to the MoH an eligibility check form through the “Workflow della Ricerca” (WdR System), using ER communication code, before submitting their proposal to MAECI. Moreover, IRCCS applicants must adhere to the Italian MoH regulations reported in Annex 1.

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

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on the present call, applicants can refer to the following contacts:

In Italy

Office IX - Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
E-mail: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

In South Korea

Director General for International Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)

ANNEX 1 – Guidelines for Italian applicants affiliated with IRCCS Institutions

Italy – IT-MOH Italian Ministry of Health	
Specific rules	<p>Only Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalisation and Healthcare (IRCCS) are eligible. No academic and industrial partners are eligible. Researchers are not allowed to participate as PI/WP Leader in more than one annual call launched in the framework of different transnational calls (ERANET and/or other European Joint Actions- MAECI EPs) funded by the Italian Ministry of Health MoH. Researchers are requested to indicate the IRCCS as unique affiliated Institution and to use exclusively the IRCCS's email.</p>
	<p>Only the costs generated throughout the duration of the project can be eligible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel (only ad hoc contracts/consultants/fellowships, max 50% of the requested fund); • Travel costs and subsistence allowances only for Italian researchers (max 10% of the requested fund) . Travel expenses and subsistence allowances are authorized only if associated with activities linked to the project. • Equipment (rent/leasing only, no limits), consumables (no limits), dissemination of results (publications, meetings/workshops etc.- max 1% of the requested fund); • Data handling and analysis (no limits); • Overhead (maximum 10% of the requested fund). <p>Transfer of eligible funds abroad for leasing, sub-contracts, etc. is not allowed. Sub-contractors are not allowed, except in case of absolute necessity. The costs for sub-contracts shall be authorized by the It MoH in advance, following a detailed request. In this case, the pre-eligibility must be requested 20 working days before the deadline of the call. The requested budget must be in line with the planned activities and with that granted to the Korean partner. If more than one IRCCS is involved in the Italian team, the total amount will be shared between the beneficiary Institutions.</p>
Additional documents required	<p>The Italian Ministry of Health will check for the pre-eligibility of the applicants before the submission of the pre-proposals to speed up the eligibility check process. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return a pre-eligibility check form (sent to all IRCCSs) through the IRCCS Scientific Directorate using the WdR System (Code ER) before the submission of their pre-proposals to the Joint Call Secretariat. The form, completed and duly signed, has to be returned at least 10 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. Applicants will receive a written notification of their eligibility status.</p>
Further information	<p>The pre-eligibility form can be downloaded here: http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_listaFile_itemName_0_file.pdf</p>