

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO
FOR THE YEARS 2023-2025**

In the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of Montenegro, signed in Podgorica on 26th September, 2013, and came into force on 19th February 2018, the second Session of the Italian Montenegrin - Joint Commission was held in Rome (in hybrid format) on September 9th 2022 to examine the present state and further development of scientific and technological cooperation between the two Countries and to define the Executive Programme for the years 2023-2025.

m^c

The Italian delegation was headed by Roberto Frangione, Head of Office IX of DGSP and the Montenegrin delegation was headed by Smilja Kažić Vujačić, Head of the Department of International Cooperation of the MSTD.

The composition of the two delegations is listed in **Annex I**.

The institutions in charge of the co-ordination of the present Executive Programme, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", are:

For the Italian Party: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for the Country Promotion.

For the Montenegrin Party: the Ministry of Science and Technological Development, Directorate for International Cooperation.

The meeting was opened by welcome addresses delivered by HE Andreina Marsella, Ambassador of Italy to Montenegro.

Following the opening remarks, the components of the two delegations were introduced by their respective Heads of delegations.

The following Agenda of the Joint Commission was adopted by the Parties:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
2. Executive Program 2023-2025:
 - Procedures for the evaluation of joint proposals submitted by February, 14 2022
 - Projects to be jointly funded
3. Discussion on activities and proposals to further foster Scientific Cooperation
4. A.O.B.

1. Review of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries

The Parties have expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the Agreement and emphasized the great interest given to the bilateral cooperation by the Italian and Montenegrin scientific community. The Parties have also expressed their commitment to continue promoting close collaboration between Italian and Montenegrin Academies and Research Institutions as an essential instrument for bilateral cooperation, as foreseen by the Agreement.

2. Executive Programme 2023-2025

In the period between 17th January - 14th, February 2022 a joint call for proposals was launched to collect project proposals in the following priority areas:

1. Agriculture and Food Sciences
2. Cultural Heritage and related technologies
3. Environment with particular attention to Blue Growth
4. Natural risk assessment and mitigation

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Involvement of early career scientists
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- Budget adequacy

Additional value was given to projects proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization and to initiatives carrying potential industrial impact and/or involving industrial partners (a letter stating the Expression of Interest of the company could be included in the latter case).

Joint Research Projects of "Particular Relevance" ("Progetti di Grande Rilevanza" according to Law n. 401/90)

Pursuant to the criteria referred above, the Parties have selected 5 (five) joint research projects which may receive financial support.

The list of the selected projects is given in Annex II.

Financial support will be granted according to the guidelines of the relevant authorities of the two Countries.

3. Discussion on activities and proposals to further foster Scientific Cooperation

The Parties expressed their hope that cooperation between the two Countries will be further promoted to strengthen scientific ties and lead to new opportunities for the implementation of the Agreement in all sectors related to the Scientific and Technological fields.

They have agreed to recognize the growing importance of science and technology with respect to the economic, social and cultural relations between the two Countries. To this end they will promote the organization of bilateral workshops as well as mid-term review meeting focused on the on-going projects.

Along with these initiatives both Parties expressed the intention to extend the cooperation in international and European multilateral R&D programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme for research and innovation of the European Union.

Final provisions

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Commission in Podgorica at a convenient time for both Parties in 2025. Details of the next session of the Joint Commission, such as date, agenda, etc. will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

This Executive Programme for the period 2023 - 2025 will remain valid until the coming into force of the next Executive Programme, but no longer than one year after its expiration. Any amendment to the text of this Executive Programme must be authorized by the competent Ministries in both Countries and must be carried out through diplomatic channels.

All initiatives foreseen in this Executive Programme will be carried out within the limits of the budgets and according to the rules prevailing in each Country.

Annexes I and II are attached hereto and are integral parts of the present document.

DF

Signed in Rome on September 26th in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party

Dr. Roberto Frangione

Head of Office IX

Directorate General for the Country Promotion

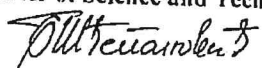
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



For the Montenegrin Party

Prof. Biljana Šćepanović, PhD

Minister of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro



Annex I

MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS

ITALIAN DELEGATION

Roberto Frangione Head Office IX, Directorate General for the Country Promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;

Francesco De Ciantis, Office IX, Directorate General for the Country Promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;

Luciano Catani, Scientific Attaché, Embassy of Italy to Montenegro

Alessandra Scaffidi Abbate, Expert Office IX, Directorate General for the Country Promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;

Alessandro Boero, Office III - Internationalization of Research, Directorate-General for Internationalization and Communication, Ministry of Universities and Research.

MONTENEGRIN DELEGATION

Smilja Kažić Vujačić, Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro;

Ivana Lagator, Senior Adviser, Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro.

Annex II

**RESEARCH PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE SELECTED WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE
EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO
FOR THE YEARS 2023-2025**

RESEARCH AREA	PROJECT TITLE	MONTENEGRIN PARTNER	ITALIAN PARTNER
Agriculture and Food Sciences	Valorization and innovation of Montenegro traditional fermented foods	Aleksandra Martinovic University of Donja Gorica	Cristiana Garofalo Università Politecnica delle Marche
Agriculture and Food Sciences	GRAPEvine TRUnk diSeases forecasTing towards a sustainable viticulture in Montenegro and Italy (GRAPETRUST)	Nedeljko Latinovic University of Montenegro	Tito Caffi Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Environment, with particular attention to Blue Growth	Sea Waste from Adriatic to Enhance Marine Composites	Danilo Nikolic University of Montenegro	Carlo Santulli Università degli studi di Camerino
Natural risk assessment and mitigation	EXPosure assessment for buiLding typOlogies integRating innovAtive survey techniques (Achronym: EXPLORA)	Jelena Pejovic University of Montenegro	Maria Polese Università di Napoli Federico II
Cultural Heritage and related technologies	Ancient and modern routes along the river valleys of Montenegro: from remote sensing and landscape archaeology to the enhancement of cultural sites and itineraries	Tatjana Koprivica University of Montenegro	Lucia Alberti CNR

MF