

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION BETWEEN ITALY AND SWEDEN
FOR THE YEARS 2024-2026**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Cultural, Educational, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Italy and the Kingdom of Sweden, signed in Rome on November 29th, 2001 and came into force on January 23rd 2007, the 4th Session of the Italian-Swedish Joint Commission was held at the Italian Embassy in Stockholm on March 26, 2024 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 2024-2026.

H.E. Michele Pala, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Sweden, headed the Italian delegation and Prof. Katarina Bjelke, Director General of the Swedish Research Council, headed the Swedish delegation. The members of the two delegations are listed in Annex 1.

The institutions in charge of the coordination of the present Executive Programme, hereinafter referred as to the “Parties”, are:

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

For the Swedish Party: Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådets, VR).

The Parties adopted the following agenda items of the fourth Joint Commission:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
2. New Executive Programme
3. Final provisions.

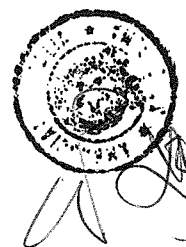
1. Review of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries

The Parties have agreed to recognize the growing importance of science and technology with respect to the economic, social and cultural relations between the two Countries. For this reason and considering the good relationships between the two Countries, the two Parties stressed the need to further develop and promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology.

2. New Executive Programme

In the period between September 12, 2023 and October 10, 2023, Italy and Sweden launched a joint call for proposals to collect bilateral research project proposals, in the following priority areas:

1. Life sciences (molecular medicine, e-health & medical technologies; pharmaceutical chemistry & technology)
2. Physics, accelerator technologies, Synchrotron Radiation and Neutron scattering researches with accelerators
3. Polar Sciences (Arctic and sub-Arctic regions)
4. Information and Communication Technologies



Both Participants expressed their satisfaction for the significant total number of 148 joint proposals validly received in both countries within the above-mentioned research areas, a testimony of the continuing excellent level of scientific collaboration between Sweden and Italy.

The general criteria, adopted by both Parties, in evaluating and selecting the joint research projects were the following:

- *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*

Pursuant to the above criteria, the Parties have jointly selected 8 (eight) joint research projects of Particular Relevance to receive financial support. The list of the 8 projects that will be funded is given in **Annex 2**.

Financial support will be granted on a national basis, within the limits of the available annual financial resources, upon evaluation of applications to be submitted according to the guidelines of the relevant authorities of the two Countries.

3. Final provisions

The Parties agreed that the Swedish Party would host the next Joint Commission.

This Executive Programme for the years 2024-2026 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 has to be authorised by the competent Ministries in both Countries and has to be agreed upon 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 1 and 2, attached hereto, are integral parts of the present document.


Signed on March 26, 2024 in two originals in the English language, both being equally authentic.

For the Italian Party


H.E. Michele Pala
Ambassador of Italy to the
Kingdom of Sweden



For the Swedish Party


Prof. Katarina Bjelke
Director General of the
Swedish Research Council

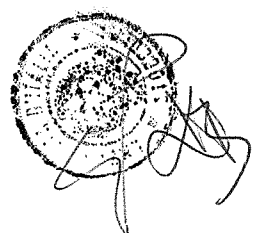
Annex 1

Italian Delegation

Min. Michele Pala, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Sweden
Prof. Augusto Marcelli, Scientific Attaché, Italian Embassy in Stockholm

Swedish Delegation

Prof. Katarina Bjelke, Director General of the Swedish Research Council
Dr. Lucas Pettersson, Head of Department, Swedish Research Council



Annex 2

Research projects selected within the framework of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Italy and Sweden for the years 2024-2026.

AREA	TITLE	ITALIAN Principal Investigator	ITALIAN INSTITUTION	SWEDISH Principal Investigator	SWEDISH INSTITUTION
IT	Trustworthy Cyber-Physical Pipelines	Enrico Bini	Università di Torino Dipartimento di Informatica	Martina Maggio	Department of Automatic Control, Faculty of Engineering, LTH, Lund
Life Science	A new therapeutical strategy for brain lesion repair: bioprinting molecular patterns to guide neuronal rewiring within living brain	Nicola Elvassore	Università degli studi di Padova Dipartimento di ingegneria industriale	Kokaia Zaal	Lund University
Life Science	Exploiting the Ubiquitin System to Target the Undruggable Cancer Proteome	Daniele Guardavaccaro	University of Verona Department of Biotechnology	Olle Sangfelt	Karolinska Institutet - Department of Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB)
Life Science	Understanding the role of cholesterol and the effects of statins and ezetimibe for the prevention and treatment of hepatocarcinogenesis	Luca Aldrighetti	Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele Chirurgia Generale - Medicina	Paolo Parini	Karolinska Institutet
Life Science	The muscle chloride channel CLC-1 as a drug target - a combined structural and functional approach	Michael Pusch	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Istituto di Biofisica	Pontus Gourdon	Dept. of Experimental Medical Science, Lund University
Physics	Development of an innovative neutron detector for the European Spallation Source (ESS)	Gabriele Croci	Università di Milano Bicocca Dipartimento di Fisica "G. Occhialini"	Valentina Santoro	Lund University
Physics	Making and breaking bonds with synchrotron radiation and storage ring experiments	Paola Bolognesi	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Istituto di Struttura della Materia	Henning Zettergren	Department of Physics - Stockholm University
Polar Science	Insights into climate change in the Arctic Ocean: disentangling carbon-climate complexities in Arctic sediments using hyperspectral core imaging	Tommaso Tesi	CNR Istituto di Scienze Polari	Matthew O'Regan	Department of Geological Sciences - Stockholm University

