



ITALY – POLAND

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

PROGRAMME CANALETTO - BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 17th 2024 h. 15.00 (C.E.S.T.)

0. BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Poland, signed in Warsaw on November 27th, 1960, which came into force on July 31st, 1961, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation - Office IX - of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange – NAWA, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, issue the present call for the submission of joint projects proposals for the “Research staff exchange” to be included in the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2025-2026.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, the funding scheme “Research staff exchange” is available.

The expenses for this activity are co-funded by both Parties. This funding scheme aims at supporting the exchange of researchers (travel and stay) between collaborating laboratories in both countries, whose research activities are supported by themselves or third-party funding entities. No support for research expenses (consumables, manpower, equipment etc.) should therefore be expected or proposed under this funding scheme.

Preference is awarded to mobility projects involving researchers, whose PhD or equivalent title was obtained less than 7 years before the datum of application as well as PhD students.

Research staff exchange shall aim at supporting the development of a transnational partnership, or strengthening an existing collaboration, by including the added value of bilateral cooperation and fostering the interaction between the two partners.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals:

- must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (E.P.), i.e. 2 years (2025-2026);
- must be jointly submitted;
- can be submitted (under penalty of exclusion) exclusively referring to one of the following research areas:
 - Agriculture and Food
 - Sustainable Environment
 - Health and Life Sciences
 - Nano-sciences and Advanced Materials
 - Astrophysics (Universe observation from ground based GW detector: impact of the environmental noise, low noise electronics, high precision optics)

• Please notice: mandatory languages

- Title of the proposal – **in English (identical wording for both parties)**
- Abstract - **in English (identical wording for both parties)**
- CV of the coordinator from the partner group - **in English**
- Every further part of the proposal - **in Italian (by Italian applicants) and Polish (by Polish applicants)**

Each applying Institution may submit more than one proposal. Each coordinator, i.e. Principal Investigator (P.I.) is anyway allowed to submit only one proposal.

For the Italian Party, the P.I.s willing to apply have to:

- hold at least a doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent)
- hold the Italian or any other EU nationality, provided they are legally resident in Italy;
- be affiliated staff members of a public or private (no-profit) Italian University or research institution;
- hold within the applying research institution a permanent position, or a temporary position covering at least the first year of the project (the termination date of the contract shall in such cases be declared in the CV), provided the proposing institution must guarantee his /her replacement.

For the Polish Party,

P.I.s willing to apply have to:

- hold at least a doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent)
 - be a person employed by the Applicant.
 - have a valid power of attorney granted by an authorized person to represent the Applicant (e.g., granted by the rector of the university or the director of the research institute) and attach it to the submitted application.
- Members of the research team can be members of the Project coordinator's current research team, employed in their unit or other units that are part of the Polish science and higher education system.
- Applications for funding may be submitted by the entities indicated in Article 7, paragraph 1 subparagraphs 1-8 of Law on Higher Education and Science.

1.3 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
- incomplete application (also in the lack of additional documents, if relevant for the Parties - see point 2 below);
- proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries, or referring to research areas not listed above
- proposals submitted in only one of the two countries;
- applications written in languages other than indicated in point 1.2 above.

2. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties and have the same duration as the E.P. (2 years: 2025-2026).

Italian Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling in the dedicated forms at: <https://pgr.esteri.it/>. **As to the mandatory languages to be used, see above, point 1.2.**
- **For projects involving experiments with animals**, the status of ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. A declaration of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) in the project description by the P.I. is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. 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). **Projects involving experiments with human beings** must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. The Italian Principal Investigator should declare his/her adhesion to the above-cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.
- **Whenever the P.I. ceases or is not able to serve for the entire two-year period, the parent institution is required to ensure his/her seamless replacement by giving simultaneous notice via certified mail to dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it. Without such fulfilment, no further secondments can be funded.**
- For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the email address dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it

Polish Party:

- Submitting the application is possible following the registration in the System available at <https://programs.nawa.gov.pl> **As to the mandatory languages to be used, see above, point 1.2.** For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the email address WPB@nawa.gov.pl.

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

3.1 EVALUATION PROCESS

After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo in both countries formal eligibility checks before entering the two-step evaluation process. The first step is performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals to be considered for funding. The second step of the evaluation process is 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, comprising representatives from both countries. The selected projects will be included in the text of the Executive Programme, to be posted on the websites of both Parties as indicated below.

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualifications and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation and prospects for its continuation
- Involvement of early career scientists
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results

Priority for funding will be given to teams not funded in previous calls for Canaletto Joint Research Projects.

3.2 PUBLICATION

Italian Party

The list of selected projects will constitute an annex to the official text of the Executive Programme signed by both Parties, and will be published [on the MAECI website](#)

P.I.s of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail of the positive outcome of their submission.

Polish Party

The list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be published At [NAWA website](#)

P.I.s of the selected projects will be directly informed via email of the positive outcome of their submission.

4. FUNDING PROCEDURES

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

- For each year of the funded project, a maximum of 2 short-term secondments (up to 11 days each) or 1 short-term secondment (up to 11 days) and 1 long-term secondment (up to 30 days) will be funded. Such secondments might be also carried on in one solution not exceeding 41 days per year.

Italian Party:

The Italian Party will cover air travel expenses to researchers of the Italian team visiting Poland and provide scientists of the Polish team visiting Italy with contribution for sustenance and accommodation.

1) Travel expenses of Italian scientists to Poland:

- The competent office buys the tickets on behalf of the researcher, requesting the return of sums in case of rebooking or renouncing the trip.

2) Costs of secondment of Polish scientists in Italy:

- Short secondments: € 99 per day, from day 1 to day 10; € 38 for day 11
- Long secondments: € 99 per day, from day 1 to day 10; € 38 per day, from day 11 to day 30

Applications by Polish scientists (accommodation expenses) and by Italian scientists (travel expenses) for each individual visit must be submitted online in the dedicated section of the MAECI website, at least 35 days before the beginning of the scheduled research visit (i.e. before the day of departure).

Any changes in the composition of the two research teams during the 2 year-validity of the EP must be notified in advance by the Italian P.I. via certified e-mail to dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it

On the Italian side, funding for the second year cannot be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports by January 31th 2026.

Polish Party

The Polish Party will cover international air travel expenses to researchers of the Polish team visiting Italy and provide scientists of the Italian team visiting Poland with contribution for sustenance and accommodation. The maximum yearly amount of funding a Project may receive from NAWA's budget shall be PLN 30,000. The aforementioned amount can be freely increased with the Applicant's own funds.

Under the funds allocated by NAWA, eligible expenditure on the Polish side shall be:

1. travel expenses of Polish scientists to Italy – a lump sum amounting to PLN 2,000.00
- 2) costs of stay of Italian scientists in Poland:
 - a) Secondments lasting for up to 11 days – PLN 400 a day;
 - b) In case of a longer secondment (from 12 to 30 days) - PLN 4,400 for the entire stay.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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

In Italy

Office IX - Directorate General for Country Promotion
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
E-mail: dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it

In Poland

National Agency for Academic Exchange
e-mail: wpb@nawa.gov.pl
tel: +48 22 390 3569