

**14th EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE YEARS 2026-2028**

**XIV Italy-Korea Executive Programme Joint Research Commission
25th Nov 2025**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Korea, signed in Rome on February 16, 2007 and entered into force on September 18, 2019, the Meeting of the 14th Executive Programme Joint Research Commission was held at the Embassy of Italy in Seoul on November 25th, 2025 to examine the present state and further developments of the scientific and technological cooperation between the two Countries and to define the details of the Executive Program for the years 2026 – 2028.

The Italian delegation was headed by H. E. Emilia Gatto, Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of Korea. The Korean delegation was headed by Mr. Sunghoon Hwang, Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau at the Ministry of Science and ICT.

The members of the two delegations are listed in Annex I.

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

Italian Party: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for Country Promotion – Office IX.

Korean Party: International Cooperation Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)

The following agenda was adopted by the Parties:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
2. Executive Program for the years 2026-2028
3. The 8th Italy-Korea S&T Forum in 2026
4. Final provisions

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

The Parties recognized the growing importance of science and technology for the economic, social and cultural relations between the two Countries. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the current state of the bilateral cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation, and their intent to further increase the level of collaboration between scientists of the two Countries.

2. New Executive Programme: Joint Research Projects of Particular Relevance

In the period July 3rd -August 3rd 2025, a joint call for proposals was launched in both countries to collect joint project proposals within the following priority research areas:

- Environmental sciences and energy transition
- Physics and Quantum Science
- Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies

- S&T applied to cultural heritage
- Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Biotechnology

The criteria that were adopted to select the joint research projects to be funded in the years 2026-2028 were:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results

On the basis of the above criteria, the Parties jointly selected 8 research projects, which were considered eligible for financial support and are listed in Annex II. Funding for these projects may be granted on a national basis upon evaluation of the financial requests to be submitted by the corresponding Principal Investigators, according to the guidelines defined by the relevant authorities in the two Countries.

3. The 8th Italy-Korea S&T Forum

In light of the successful outcome of the 7th edition of the Italy–Korea Science and Technology Forum, held in Seoul on 20–22 June 2022, organized by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) with the support of the Embassy of Italy, the Parties reaffirm that the Italy–Korea S&T Forum represents a key platform for promoting the integration of basic, applied, and industrial research, as well as for strengthening technology transfer between the two countries. The Forum also constitutes an effective instrument for the early identification of the most promising areas of bilateral cooperation, with potential to generate significant impact in high-tech industrial collaboration. In accordance with the established alternation, the Parties will aim to convene the next edition of the Forum in Italy in 2026. The specific arrangements for the forthcoming edition of the Forum, including its date and agenda, shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.

4. Final provisions

The Parties agreed to convene the next session of the Executive Programme Joint Research Commission before a new Joint Research Program, either in person or through a virtual platform. Further details of the next session of the Joint Commission, such as date and agenda, will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The present Executive Programme will be in force between January 1st, 2026¹ and December 31st 2028, and 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 discussed through diplomatic channels and authorised by the competent Ministries in both Countries.

¹ For the Korean side, the commencement date of the present Executive Programme shall be November 1st, 2025.

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

Annex II, containing the list of selected bilateral projects, is attached hereto and represents an integral part of the present document.

Signed in Seoul, on November 25th, 2025, in two originals written in English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party



H. E. Emilia Gatto

Ambassador of Italy in Seoul

For the Korean Party



Sunghoon Hwang

*Director General of the International
Cooperation Bureau
at the Ministry of Science and ICT*

Annex I

Members of the two delegations

Italian Delegation:

1. H.E. Emilia Gatto, Ambassador of Italy to Korea
2. Cons. Amb. Marco Silvi, Head Office IX, Directorate General for Country Promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
3. Dr. Massimo Passera, Science Counselor, Embassy of Italy in Seoul
4. Dr. Cristina Vaccarezza, Science Advisor, Office IX, Directorate General for Country Promotion (MAECI)
5. Mr. Alessandro Boero, Office III, Department for Internationalization and Communication of Research, MUR
6. Ms. Giusi Condorelli, Head Office V, Department for Internationalization, Italian Ministry of Health.

Korean Delegation:

7. Mr. Sunghoon Hwang, Director General for International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Science & ICT (MSIT)
8. Mr. Youngcheol Lee, Director for Europe & Africa Cooperation Division (MSIT)
9. Mr. Ilju Park, Deputy Director for Europe & Africa Cooperation Division (MSIT)
10. Ms. Hyeonji Ro, Assistant Director for Europe & Africa Cooperation Division (MSIT)
11. Mr. Dongmin Shin, Interpreter (MSIT)
12. Mr. Hoseok Jeon, Director, Office of International Research Cooperation (NRF)
13. Mr. Sungmin Kim, Researcher for Europe & Africa Cooperation Team (NRF)

Annex II

Joint research projects selected within the frame of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Korean Republic for the years 2026-2028

RESEARCH AREA	TITLE	KOREAN COORDINATOR	ITALIAN COORDINATOR
<i>Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies</i>	<i>KIJANA - Korea-Italy Joint Development of Advanced Nanosensor for High-Resolution Breath Gas Analysis</i>	<i>KIM Il-Doo (KAIST)</i>	<i>Stefano ZAMPOLLI (CNR ISMN Bologna)</i>
<i>Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies</i>	<i>Design and optimization of a novel modular PNA-mRNA hybrid nanoassembly as therapeutic agent</i>	<i>BANG Eun-Kyoung (Korea Institute of Science and Technology)</i>	<i>Andrea FIN (University of Torino)</i>
<i>Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies</i>	<i>Tin based perovskites for NIR light sources</i>	<i>NOH Yong-Young (POSTECH)</i>	<i>Annamaria PETROZZA (IIT Milan)</i>
<i>Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Biotechnology</i>	<i>Decoding Tumor Heterogeneity: AI-Driven Single-Cell Detection and Isolation in 3D Spheroids for High-Throughput Drug Discovery</i>	<i>PYUN Jae-Chul (Yonsei University)</i>	<i>Filippo PICCININI (University of Bologna)</i>
<i>Environmental sciences and energy transition</i>	<i>Real-time monitoring of tidal modulation in fluvio-estuarine sedimentary dynamics in micro- and macro-tidal systems</i>	<i>CHOI Kyungsik (Seoul National University)</i>	<i>Massimiliano GHINASSI (University of Padova)</i>
<i>Environmental sciences and energy transition</i>	<i>Sustainable photocatalysis for the green construction of bi-functionalized azetidine</i>	<i>PARK Yoonsu (KAIST)</i>	<i>Luca DELL'AMICO (University of Padova)</i>
<i>Physics and Quantum Science</i>	<i>Characterization of NaI(Tl) scintillators from an ultra-high purity powder for dark matter search</i>	<i>KIM Hong Joo (Kyungpook National University)</i>	<i>Aldo IANNI (INFN LNGS)</i>
<i>S&T applied to cultural heritage</i>	<i>Grains of Insight: A Data Science Perspective on Rice in Gastronomy</i>	<i>PARK Donghyeon (Sejong University)</i>	<i>Andrea VITALETTI (Sapienza Roma U.)</i>