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**INDIA- ITALY**

**JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION**

**CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2025-2027**

**CLOSING DATE: [31st July 2024]**

**For Italy: [14:00 hrs] CET; For India: [17.00 hrs]**

**Proposals for Exchange of Researchers**

*Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Italy, signed in New Delhi on 28th November 2003 and entered into force on 3rd November 2009, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Directorate General for Country Promotion – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) (hereafter referred to as “the Parties”) are opening a call for joint proposals toward the renewal of the Executive Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the three-year period 2025–2027 (hereafter referred to as E.P.).*

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES**

With regard to the present call two funding schemes are available:

* **“Exchange of Researchers** This funding scheme aims at supporting the exchange of researchers between collaborating laboratories in both countries. Only the expenses for travel and subsistence are funded by both Parties. Preference will be given to projects involving early career scientists.
* **“Joint Research Projects”**: joint research projects where research activities are co-funded by both Parties.

Each Principal Investigator (PI) must submit **only one proposal and can apply to only one of the two funding schemes (either (1) Exchange of Researchers, OR (2) Joint Research Projects),** under penalty of exclusion from the Call for multiple submissions. Further details on each funding scheme are given in Section X of the present Call.

**1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Project proposals:

* must be written in English;
* the project plan and title must be identical in the applications to both Parties;
* must refer to activities to be completed within the period of validity of the Executive Programme (E.P.), i.e. 3 years (2025-2027);
* must be submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted in only one Country will not be considered for evaluation.

Each Principal Investigator (PI):

* must submit only one proposal and apply to only one of the two funding schemes, under penalty of exclusion for multiple submissions.

**Indian Party**

* The PIs should be scientists/faculty members working in a regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes. The Indian Principal Investigator (PI) should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.
* The Indian applicants who are in any way involved in the implementation of two or more projects that were previously supported by the DST (International Group) and that are not expected to be completed by 31st December 2024 are not eligible to be a member of the research team.

**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, and must be an affiliated staff member of a public or private (no-profit) Italian research institution, with a permanent position, or with a temporary position covering at least the first year of activity of the proposed project (the termination date of the contract must be declared in the CV).

**1.3 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION**

* Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
* Incomplete application (including additional documents where relevant - 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;

• Applications written in languages other than English.

1. **PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS**

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

* **Information and Communication Technologies and Artificial Intelligence**
* **Biotechnology & Sustainable Agrifood**
* **Astrophysics and Space Science**
* **Chemical Sciences**
* **Climate Change and Geohazards**
* **Advanced Manufacturing**

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

***Depending on the scientific quality of submitted proposals, one or more of the above listed research areas may not be funded*.**

Research proposals involving technologies designed either for military, or for both civil and military applications (so called “dual use” technologies), will not be accepted under the present call due to their inherent risks and ethical implications

1. **SUBMISSION PROCEDURES**

*Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties. The proposals must be written in English and have the same duration as the E.P. (3 years: 2025-2027).*

**Indian Party**

Indian applicants seeking for funding can download the proposal formats from websites <https://onlinedst.gov.in> and should submit completed application form and all relevant information through e-PMS portal. Proposal must be submitted to DST through the e-application system provided at <https://onlinedst.gov.in> by 31st July 2024 (17.00 hrs IST). Additionally, Indian Applicants also requested to send two hard copies to DST (Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Scientist F, DST) by 7th August 2024 through proper channel. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Italian counterpart by due date. Proposal not submitted through ePMS portal by due date will not be considered.

**Italian Party:**

* Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling in the dedicated forms at: Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling in the dedicated forms at: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>**.** For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the email address dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it
* **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) within the project description 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 include a self-declaration of adhesion to the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.
* **Applications for the “Exchange of Researchers” funding scheme:**
* An endorsement letter *is not required* when submitting the application, but will be requested in the shortlisting-phase;
* Should the PI cease to serve in his/her position before the end of the project (e.g. termination of a temporary position), the parent institution must ensure their seamless replacement, and immediately notify the name of the new PI via certified mail to dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it. Without this fulfilment, no further secondments will be funded.
* Any changes in the composition of the two research teams during the period of validity of the E.P. must be notified in advance to MAECI by the Italian PI via certified e-mailto dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it***.***

**4** **EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility checks before moving to 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, which includes 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.

*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 proposed researchers exchange for project activities
* Added value of the bilateral cooperation
* Involvement of early career scientists
* Exploitation and dissemination of the results

**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.***

* Only the costs for travel and subsistence will be supported by the Parties. **No support for research expenses (consumables, manpower, equipment etc.) should be expected or proposed under this funding scheme.**
* For each year of the project, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in each of both countries will be funded. Such secondments might also be carried on in one solution not exceeding 40 days per year.
* The sending Party will pay travel expenses whereas the hosting Party will fund subsistence costs.

**The Italian Party** will pay international travel expenses to scientists of the Italian team visiting India, will provide scientists of the Indian team visiting Italy with medical insurance and will cover their subsistence costs with the following contribution:

* Short stays 99 €/day, from day 1 to day 10
* Long stays 99 €/day, from day 1 to day 10; 38 €/day, from day 11 to day 30

**The Indian Party** will pay the international travel expenses including visa fee to the Indian scientists visiting their Italian partner under the jointly funded proposals. Indian party will also provide local hospitality and medical insurance for the visiting Italian scientists (fully furnished accommodation and per diem @ Rs. 4000 per day for 1st 14 days i.e day 1 to day 14; Rs. 3000 per day for subsequent days i.e day 15 to day 30) under the jointly selected proposals.

**6. PUBLICATION OF THE OUTCOMES**

**Indian Party:** the list of selected projects will be uploaded on the DSTwebsite: <https://dst.gov.in>

**Italian Party**: The official text of the Executive Programme, including the list of selected projects, will be published on 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 notified by e-mail of the outcomes of the selection process.**

**7. CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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| **In India** | **In Italy** |
| *Dr. Rajiv Kumar Scientist `F’, International Division**Department of Science & Technology,**Ministry of Science & Technology,**Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road,**New Delhi – 110 016., India*E-mail: rajivarc@nic.inURL: <https://dst.gov.in> / <https://onlinedst.gov.in>  | *Office IX Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation* *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*E-mail: dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it |

ANNEX I

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

**Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

The IPR agreement shall include the following:

1. The Italian and Indian project partner/s (each the "Party" and collectively the "Parties") will ensure appropriate protection of Intellectual Property Rights generated from their cooperation, consistent with their respective laws, rules and regulations and multilateral agreements to which both Parties are party to.
2. Each Party is and shall remain owner of its Background IP. For the purpose of these guidelines "Background IP" shall mean (a) the intellectual property rights of a Party that is owned or controlled by that Party prior to the execution of the cooperation agreement, or (b) created by a Party outside the scope of cooperation agreement or without use or reliance on the confidential information or intellectual property rights of the other Party, as evidenced by written records.
3. Access rights to background IP of one Party may be granted to the other Party only to the extent necessary for the execution and during term of the joint project.
4. Ownership and rights to Foreground IP will be agreed upon by the Parties mutually. For the purpose of these guidelines, "Foreground IP" shall mean any invention conceived and reduced to practice, or know-how generated, solely by employees, agents, or independent contractors of a Party as a result of performing the activities under the cooperation agreement.
5. The IPR agreement should expressly reflect the contribution of each Party in the creation of the Foreground IP.
6. Joint IP rights will be applicable only when both Parties have an inventive contribution to Foreground IP. The Parties shall not assign any rights and obligations arising out of the joint IPR generated to inventions/activities carried out under the cooperation project to any third Party without consent of the other Party, unless such joint IPR is in a different field than the field of the other Party and as further elaborated in the relevant cooperation agreement.



**Confidential Information:**

The IPR agreement shall include the following:

1. All information and documents to be exchanged pursuant to the cooperation agreement will be kept confidential by the Parties and will be used subject to such terms as each Party may specify. The Parties will not use the information for purposes other than that specified without the prior written consent of the other Party. The Parties shall set forth the exact terms and conditions for the protection of confidential Information under the cooperation agreement.
2. All Confidential Information shall remain the exclusive property of the disclosing Party. The Parties agree that this agreement and the disclosure of the Confidential Information do not grant or imply any license, interest or right to the Recipient in respect to any intellectual property right of the other Party.
3. Unpublished information, whether oral, in writing or otherwise, discovered or conceived by the scientists or technicians and exchanged under the provisions of this MOU will not be transmitted to a third party, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.

**INDO‑ITALIAN EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION**

**IN SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION**

**(Proforma for Application)**

**Exchange of Researchers**

**A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

1. Title of the Project:

2. Duration of the Project in months:

3. Field of Science & Technology covered by the proposal:

 (Please specify the exact area as given in the call)

4. Key words qualifying the scope of the proposal:

5. Project Investigators (PI) & Collaborating Institutions

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Indian** | **Italian** |
| Name of PI DesignationDate of BirthInstituteContact AddressTelephone No. : Office MobileFax No. e‑mail |  |  |
| Name of the Co‑Investigator(s)DesignationDate of BirthInstituteContact Address Telephone No. : Office MobileFax No.e‑mail |  |  |

**B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

1. Objectives of the Project: (What will you achieve with the project?)

2. Justification for collaboration: (Why do you want to make the project as a joint Indo-Italian project?)

3. Brief information about national and international scenario in the proposed area of research and relevance of the project:

3. Scientific & technical description of the project including methodology, Research plan etc.

4. Plan of work

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time Schedule** | **Indian Responsibilities** | **Italian Responsibilities** |
| 1st Year |  |  |
| 2nd Year |  |  |
| 3rd Year |  |  |

5. Number of exchange visit required to achieve the Project Objectives (Year wise)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **India to Italy** | **Italy to India** |
|  | **Number** | **Duration** | **Number** | **Duration** |
| 1st Year | No. of Persons | days | No. of Persons | days |
| 2nd Year | No. of Persons | days | No. of Persons | days |
| 3rd Year | No. of Persons | days | No. of Persons | days |

**6. Expected results of this cooperation *(****e.g. joint publications, patents etc.)*

**7. Information about ongoing national projects and overlapping of objectives, if any.** *(Pls must inform in brief about ongoing national project, if any and how Indo-Italian collaboration will help them in bridging the research gap while executing their ongoing national projects.)*

**8. Available resources at collaborating institutions:** *(Pls state whether necessary infrastructure support available at both Indian and Italian institutions to carry out the research in the proposed area.*

**9. Information about completed projects under the Indo-Italian Executive Programme of Cooperation, if any:** *(Pls inform brief outcome of the earlier collaboration with total number of joint publications)*

**10. Bio‑data of Indian and Italian PIs to be appended in about 2 pages each.**

[The description should highlight the expertise of the PI(s) in the proposed field of work supported by citing relevant latest publications only].

**C. ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1. Project Cost

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Exchange  | Visits | Total |
|  | India to Italy (in Rs.) | Italy to India (in Rs.) | In Rs. |
| 1st Year |  |  |  |
| 2nd Year |  |  |  |
| 3rd Year |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |

*(Applicable for proposal under category 1 (PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS). No other support like contingency, consumables, manpower or equipment etc should be expected or proposed under the Mobility programme.*

2. Signatures of the Project Investigators & Co‑investigators

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| **INDIAN** | **ITALIAN**  |

3. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions:

 It is certified that :

1. The Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
2. the Institutions shall provide infrastructure & necessary facilities for implementing the joint project;
3. the Institutions assume to undertake financial & other management responsibility for the part of the project work to be carried out at their institution; and
4. the back‑up funding for manpower, consumable etc. is available to this project.

Signature & Seal of the Head of the Institutions

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| **INDIAN** | **ITALIAN** |