



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



**1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE JOINT PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT CALL FOR
RUSSIAN-ITALIAN PROJECTS FOR 2021-2023**

CLOSING DATE: AUGUST 2 2021 h. 13.00 C.E.T.

Within the framework of the Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Russian Federation, signed in Rome, on December 1, 1995 and entered in force in the year 1999, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, agreed to launch a call for joint projects for the years 2021-2023.

FUNDING SCHEME

The Parties agree to support up to 7 projects (hereinafter - the projects) in the priority areas on a co-financing basis. With regard to the present call, the funding scheme available concerns projects of outstanding quality selected according to the evaluation and selection criteria described below; grants will be assigned following the specific call priorities selected by the Parties, namely joint research projects where research activities are co-funded by both Parties.

In this scheme, for the Italian Party only, a significant co-funding participation (tenure and tenure-track personnel costs) by the applying Italian research organization is mandatory, while other personnel cost (non-tenured scientists involved in the project) can be covered by the grant.

Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources and in accordance with the general lines of foreign policy of the Parties.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects must be submitted in one of the following priority research areas:

- *Aerospace*
- *Life Sciences*
- *Energy and Environment*
- *Astrophysics, Physics and Applied Physics*
- *Chemistry*
- *Mathematics*
- *Geoscience*

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

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

For the Italian Party the call is open to public or private no-profit research organizations. The Italian Project Coordinator (henceforth Principal Investigator or PI) must hold:

- Italian or any other EU nationality;
- legal residence in Italy;
- a permanent position, or a temporary position covering at least the time extent of the project, in the applying research organization.

For the Russian Federation Party the call is open to Russian scientific organizations and educational organizations of higher education.

The project proposal must be jointly elaborated and must be submitted by the Principal Investigator for the Italian Party and the Russian partner organization to their national funding bodies, in the same priority research area. The Russian submitting organization will provide to the Italian PI a contact reference person for mutual contacts and proposal development.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Project proposals must be written and applied in each country languages, i.e. in Italian and in Russian respectively. Documents submitted in other languages will not be considered for evaluation.
- b. According to the Joint Program, Projects selected through the Evaluation and Selection processes will have the following duration: three years (2021 – 2023).
- c. The Parties recognize that actions within the projects should be carried out in compliance with:
 - ethical principles (including the highest standard of research integrity) and
 - applicable international, EU (for EU partner countries) and national regulations.

For the Italian party:

- projects involving experiments with animals, ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. This approval is mandatory to obtain the formal authorization from the competent Ministry of Health to start the activities (D.Lgs 26_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. The Italian coordinator must provide a self-declaration of adherence to the above-mentioned rules, to be included in the Methods section of the online application form.
- In case of exchange of biological material from a Russian laboratory to an Italian one, the Italian and Russian coordinators should guarantee that the material has been obtained in compliance with Italian legislation.
- an Endorsement letter, signed by the legal representative of the applying research organization, must be sent by the call deadline to the following address: dgsp-09.selezionepe@esteri.it indicating in the subject of the e-mail: **Bilateral Call Italy/Russian Federation**. Any other letter of support by other institutions, whether public or private or by private companies, must be sent to the same email address by the call deadline. Attachments to each email cannot weigh more than 8 MB.
- each scientist can submit **only one** project proposal as Principal Investigator (PI). In case of multiple applications, all submitted projects will not be considered.

PROJECT SUBMISSION

The Italian principal investigator must submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr>

Any inquiry about the present call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it

For the Russian submitting organizations the information on project submission will be available on the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation: <https://minobrnauki.gov.ru>

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

At the closure of the call, all applications received will be checked for eligibility requirements. Eligible projects will then move on to a three-step selection process:

- STEP 1 Project proposals will be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:
 - Scientific relevance;
 - Methodology and documentation;
 - Qualification of the applicants;
 - Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
 - Active involvement of early career researchers in the research teams;
 - Budget adequacy with respect to methods and expected results.

Preference will be given to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization;
 - Initiatives having a potential industrial impact and/or involving industrial partners (support letters can be included). Support letters of Italian applications can be sent to the e-mail: dgsp-09.selezionepe@esteri.it together with the endorsement letter by legal representative of the applying organization.
 - Projects supporting mobility and involvement of young researchers.
- STEP 2. Each Party will make a list of the projects eligible for funding, while rating them on the basis of evaluation results performed by independent experts, and will propose the list for joint discussion between the Parties.
 - STEP 3. The final list of projects eligible for funding will be negotiated between the Parties, and as a result of joint discussion the Parties will reach consensus on eligible projects as defined the aforementioned Agreement.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of selected projects will be posted on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following address:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

For the Russian Party, the list of selected projects will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation at the following address:

<https://minobrnauki.gov.ru/>

Information on the results will be given to the PI or to contact persons indicated in the selected projects.

FINANCING OF PROPOSAL

According to the Italian law Nr. 401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the Principal Investigators of projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance

with a specific call issued by Office IX-Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding and therefore a significant funding participation by the coordinating Italian research organization and/or other public/private Italian institutions in terms of personnel costs is mandatory. Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources.

The Italian Party will identify the financial allocation to each project on a yearly basis after the evaluation process and the identification of eligible projects, taking into consideration their financial request within the limit of the available financial resources for these projects.

The financial contribution by the Parties should be determined on a parity basis.

The Russian Federation Party will also consider granting an annual special financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources for these projects. Funding from the Russian Party will be carried out within the framework of the national program “Scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation”.

The planned funding allocation from the Russian Party shall not be more than 8 million Russian rubles (appr. 88 thousand euro¹) per year per project. Total planned funding for all projects from the Russian Party shall not be more than 168 million Russian rubles for the whole projects duration.

Each Party shall be responsible for the projects’ implementation and financial management of the projects’ funds allocated for the implementation of the projects in their country.

¹ Exchange rate in April 2021.