



ITALY – VIETNAM
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2024-2026

CLOSING DATE: 11 September 2023

In Italy: at 12:00 hr C.E.S.T.
In Vietnam: at 17:00 hr GMT + 7

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, signed in Hanoi on January 5th, 1992 and entered into force on May 10th 1998, the Directorate General for Country Promotion – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam (MOST), hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, are opening a call for proposals for the renewal of the Executive Programme on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2024-2026.

1. DESCRIPTION

1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, the available funding scheme is “**Joint Research Projects**”. The aim of this funding scheme is to encourage bilateral collaboration between research teams of the two countries. The expenses for research activities are funded by both Parties: MAECI will provide funds for the Italian team, MOST will provide funds for the Vietnamese team.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals:

- must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (E.P.): **3 years**.
- Each Principal Investigator (PI) can submit **only one proposal**

Country-specific rules: 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 affiliated with 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 shall be declared in the CV).

Country-specific rules: Vietnamese Party

- The call is open to science and technology organizations, individuals engaged in science and technology activities, state agencies, and organizations and individuals with registration of scientific and technological activities as prescribed by Vietnamese law. Project proposals must comply with Vietnamese national funding policy

1.3 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
- incomplete application (including additional documents where applicable - see point 3 below);
- proposals submitted in different priority research areas in the two countries by the collaborating PIs;
- proposals submitted in only one of the two countries.

2. PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Project proposals must be submitted within one of the following research areas.

1. Agriculture and Food Science (limited to food processing and preservation; agriculture mechanization)
2. Climate Change and Sustainability (limited to energy; mobility; nature based solutions; environmental management);
3. Information Society (limited to artificial intelligence (AI); internet of things (IoT); ICT; Smart Cities; Big Data);
4. Space Science and Earth Observation (limited to remote sensing; monitoring of natural hazards; advanced space technologies)
5. Technologies for Conservation and Restoration of natural and cultural heritage

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

Some of the above listed research areas may not be funded, depending on the scientific quality of submitted proposals.

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Joint proposals must be separately submitted by the Italian and Vietnamese PIs to their respective Parties, following the country-specific submission procedures listed below. Unilateral applications are not accepted and will not be considered for evaluation.

Italian Party

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling the dedicated forms at the following link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>

- **Proposals must be entirely written in Italian or English. Other languages will not be accepted.**
- For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following 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 of the experimental protocol 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 adherence to the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.
- Applications for the Joint Research Projects funding scheme must be accompanied by an endorsement letter signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution or her/his delegate duly authorized by formal provision. The letter, which must be written in Italian using the template available for download at the same URL of the present call, should acknowledge the submission and provide official acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including the institutional co-funding listed in the provisional budget section of the proposal. Moreover, if the PI holds a temporary position, the endorsement letter must also certify that, should the contract be terminated before the end of the project, the Institution will replace the PI with another member of the research team, thus ensuring that research activities are carried out without any interruption. The endorsement letter must be uploaded to the webpage available at the link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>

Vietnamese Party

- **Proposals must be entirely written in Vietnamese with title and summary also in English. Other languages will not be accepted**
- The proposal should include the following: Description of project objectives, main research contents, cooperation plan, human resources for carrying out project, work assignment between Italian and Vietnamese project partners, anticipated results, cost estimates, main regulations for commercialization of project results.
- PIs will be requested to submit full proposals including the following documents:
 - Detailed project description
 - Cooperation Agreement between Vietnamese project participating institutions
 - Cooperation Agreement between Vietnamese and Italian institutions (in English and Vietnamese translations)
- The minimum requirements for an Agreement should be as follow:
 - Project title
 - Name of participating institutions
 - Description of project objectives, main research contents, cooperation plan, human resources for carrying out project, work assignment between Italian and Vietnamese

project partners, anticipated results, cost estimates, main regulations for commercialization of project results.

- The full proposals should be submitted together with other administrative documents according to Vietnamese regulations.
- Projects must have duration of 3 years and written in Vietnamese (according to Annex 1 attached with the title and summary also in English).
- Information about the submission of full proposals will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Science and Technology: www.most.gov.vn
- Proposals have to be submitted simultaneously online and offline: The scanned copy of documents is submitted to the address: <http://stm.most.gov.vn> and the original of documents is sent directly or by post to the Ministry of Science and Technology, 113 Tran Duy Hung, Hanoi. Contact person:

Mr. Dinh Quy Cuong
Department of International Cooperation
113 Tran Duy Hung, Cau Giay, Hanoi
Tel: +(84-24) 39435376
Fax: +(84-24) 39439987
E-Mail: dquong@most.gov.vn

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

4.1 EVALUATION PROCESS

After the closure of the call, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check. The evaluation process will be performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of the top ranking proposals. Subsequently, 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, as defined in Article 4 of the bilateral Agreement, includes representatives of both Parties. The selected projects will be included in the text of the Executive Programme, that will be signed by both Parties and posted on their websites.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance;
- Competence and skill of the research teams;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Budget adequacy

Vietnamese Party:

The project evaluation must follow regulations set forth by the Circular Nr. 10/2019/TT-BKHCHN dated 29 October 2019 regulating procedure for management of joint research projects with foreign partners.

Eligible project proposals will be evaluated by scientific commissions established by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The proposal needs to fully meet the criteria of the national science and technology tasks according to the current regulations of the Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as meet the conditions according to the Circular No. 10/2019/ TT-BKHCH dated October 29, 2019 of the Minister of Science and Technology in accordance with regulations on management of scientific and technological tasks according to the protocol. The Protocol mandate should be technologically disruptive.

The products of the project must reach the advanced level in the region and in the world. The products of the project need to fully meet the requirements of the national science and technology mission with products of type I, type II and type III:

* Type I products must be advanced products with clear technical specifications.

* Type II products prioritize advanced technological processes.

* Type III products include at least 01 articles published in journals in the list of ISI/Scopus, 2 articles in prestigious scientific journals in the country, and are scored by the peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary professor council. issued by the Nafosted Fund.

* Type IV products: Trained at least 01 master's degree or contributed to doctoral training (in the direction of the graduation thesis to comply with the contents of the cooperation protocol).

4.2 OUTCOME OF THE EVALUATION

Italian Party

The official text of the Executive Programme, including the list of selected projects, will be posted 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.

Vietnamese Party

PIs of selected projects will be directly informed.

5. FUNDING PROCEDURES

Italian Party:

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

Italian Party: Funding for projects selected and listed in the EP will be provided on a yearly basis. In particular, according to Italian law Nr. 401/90, and in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the PIs of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding at the beginning of each year of project activity.

The coordinating Institution is expected to anticipate all project expenses and will be reimbursed on a yearly basis, upon submission of the financial documents and positive evaluation of the corresponding scientific report.

The contribution granted by MAECI to “Joint Research Projects” is intended as co-funding support for the project, and therefore co-funding by the coordinating Italian Institution of approximately 50% of the total costs of the project is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs. Any other financial contribution from public or private Italian or Vietnamese Institutions will be positively evaluated.

The funding contribution by MAECI to each project is approximately 40 K€/year, excluding 50% co-funding by the coordinating institution.

For the Vietnamese Party:

The principal investigators of projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit the proposal with detailed financial requirements for financial evaluation according to Circular Nr. 10/2019/TT-BKHCH dated 29 October 2019 regulating procedure for management of joint research projects with foreign partners.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

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

In Italy

Office IX - Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
E-mail: dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it

In Vietnam

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