



ITALY – GERMANY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2023-2025

CLOSING DATE: September 8th, 2023 at 17:00 hr C.E.S.T.

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the 1956 Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Directorate General for Country Promotion - Office IX - of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) issues a call for joint project proposals, as a step towards establishing a science and technology agreement of broader scope between the two Governments (L. 234/2021, art. 1, cl. 1002).

*The objective of the present call is to facilitate the access of Italian scientists to **world-class** large research infrastructures and large research centers located in Germany (see 2. Priority Targets) which provide **enabling and unique** scientific facilities **unavailable or absent in Italy**.*

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 *Funding Scheme*

The present call falls within the Joint Research Projects scheme, aimed at supporting joint research activities.

1.2 *Eligibility Requirements*

- Proposals must be written in English.
- Projects shall have a duration of 24 months **(2023-2025)**
- Each individual Principal Investigator (PI) can submit only one proposal.

The Principal Investigator or PI is the individual responsible for the preparation, conduct, and administration of the research grant.

Italian Party

- The call is open to public research institutions only.
- The PI shall have EU nationality, legal residence in Italy, and be affiliated with a public Italian research institution.

German Party

- The German PI or scientific coordinator shall be affiliated with a German Institution.

1.3 Reasons For Exclusion

- Noncompliance with any of the eligibility requirements listed above.
- Incomplete application (including additional documents as specified in this call).
- Applications written in languages other than English
- Applications submitted after the deadline date

2. PRIORITY TARGETS

Proposals are to be submitted for scientific projects to be carried out at, and in collaboration with, large research infrastructures or centers located in Germany, which provide **enabling and unique technologic or scientific facilities unavailable in Italy**. These include the following facilities: European XFEL; FAIR-GSI; DFKI; MPI-IPP; EMBL; or others of similar unique and enabling character.

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Project proposals shall be jointly elaborated by the Italian and German PI, and the resulting joint proposal shall be **submitted by the Italian PI** exclusively online, using the dedicated forms at the following link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>. **Applications must be submitted before 8th september 2023 at 17:00 hr CEST**. For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

3.1 Endorsement Letter (Italian Party)

Applications for the Joint Research Projects funding scheme must be accompanied by an **Endorsement Letter** signed by the legal representative of the Italian applying Institution or her/his delegate duly authorized by formal provision. The letter must be written in Italian using the template available for download at the above mentioned URL of the present call. 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/>. The identity document of the legal representative must be uploaded on the same webpage as a separate attachment.

3.2 Commitment letter (German party)

A **Letter of Commitment** must be provided stating the amount and type of co-funding the Institution will provide. The Letter shall be signed by the legal representative or official delegate of the Institution of the German coordinator. The letter of commitment must be uploaded to the webpage available at the link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>.

3.3 Experiments with lab animals and human beings

For projects involving experiments with lab 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 from the PI is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. Please note that formal authorization by the competent Ministry of Health is mandatory prior to starting any experiment. (D.Lgs 26_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Projects involving experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with Directive 536/2014/EC. *The Italian Principal Investigator must self-certify his/her acceptance of the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal form.*

4. EVALUATION

4.1 Evaluation Procedures

After an eligibility check, all proposals will be evaluated by experts selected by MAECI according to its standard procedures. Funding will be allocated according to the scientific quality of the proposals and depending on availability. The evaluation will concern

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Early Career Scientists in the research team (less than 7 years from the obtainment of the PhD title) and gender balance*
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- Budget adequacy

*In order to evaluate the Early Career Scientist profile, it is mandatory to add the date of PhD obtainment of each member of the research team in the section "Risorse finanziarie e umane di entrambi i Paesi".

4.2 Publication of The Outcomes

Italian Party

The list of selected projects will be published on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following link:

https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici/

The Italian Principal Investigator of the selected projects will be informed via e-mail of the outcome of the evaluation.

5 FUNDING PROCEDURES

Italian Party:

The maximum cost of a project incurred by the Italian side is 400 K€/year, including co-funding by the applying institution.

The contribution granted by MAECI to the Italian party in Joint Research Projects is intended as co-funding. Therefore co-funding by the coordinating Italian Institution of at least 50% of the total cost of the project is

mandatory.

Institutional co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs. Additional financial contribution by any Institution will be positively evaluated.

Funding for the selected projects will be provided in three allotments. The Italian Institution is expected to advance all project expenses and will be reimbursed upon submission and positive evaluation of financial documents and scientific reports. A first installment of 30% of the total MAECI project co-funding will be provided at the beginning of the project upon presentation of a letter certifying the beginning of the project activities.

Funding will be granted to the selected projects within the limits of the available annual resources.

Further information can be found in the “Additional Rules” annex (“Norme integrative”).

German party:

The German Institution shall provide co-funding, in the form of direct new or existing funds, physical hosting of visits by scientists participating in the project, worktime costs of support personnel, computing time, facility time, access to exclusive databases, in-kind (e.g. durable) contribution, consumables. The amount should be equal to the amount requested to MAECI by the Italian party.

A **Letter of Commitment** must be provided stating the amount and type of co-funding the Institution will provide. The Letter shall be signed by the legal representative or official delegate of the Institution of the German coordinator. A template of the Letter is provided within the call documents. The letter of commitment must be uploaded to the webpage available at the link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>.

6 CONTACT INFORMATION

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Direzione Generale Promozione Sistema Paese, Ufficio IX-Cooperazione Scientifica Bilaterale

e-mail: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it