



ITALY –TÜRKİYE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2025-2027

Deadline for submission: 15 November 2024

BACKGROUND

*Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Government of the Republic of Italy, signed in Rome on February 21st, 2001 and entered into force on June 7th, 2005, the Directorate General for Country Promotion - Office IX - of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Technology are opening **a call for proposals for the third Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2025 - 2027.***

1. FUNDING SCHEMES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, one funding scheme is available:

- **“Joint Research Projects”**: This funding scheme is aimed at supporting joint research activities. A research project should focus on producing new knowledge; making new scientific interpretations or solving technological problems based on scientific principles. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team, the intended time schedule, the estimated results and dissemination strategy. Inclusion of early career scientists in the research team will be positively evaluated. The expenses for research activities are funded separately by both Parties. TÜBİTAK will provide funds for the Turkish team, MAECI will provide funds for the Italian team.
- The objectives of the call are:
 - a. To encourage international collaboration between staff scientist at universities and research institutes;
 - b. To facilitate the access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge and expertise;
 - c. To enhance the quality of research and enable the translation of research and innovation into economic and societal benefits, considering sustainable development.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each proposal received within the designated submission deadline shall pass through an administrative/eligibility check by both Managing Authorities. For applications to be eligible to move forward to the scientific evaluation stage, applicants shall need to satisfy the criteria set forth by both Managing Authorities.

Project proposals for both sides:

- must be written in English (including the PI's CV);
- must refer to activities to be completed within the period of validity of the Executive Programme (E.P.), i.e. 3 years (2025-2027);.

Italian Party:

- Each Principal Investigator (P.I.) must submit only one proposal.
- 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). If the PI holds a temporary position within the Institution, the proposal should be accompanied by a letter, signed by the legal representative of the Institution or by his/her official delegate, certifying that if the contract is 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.

Turkish Party:

- The call is open to public research entities, universities, research institutes or private sector from Türkiye.
- For Turkish team, The Principal Investigator (PI) is expected to hold a PhD degree if he/she is from the academy. If the PI is from the public or private sector, they must have a BA/BSc Degree. Also, if the PI is from the private sector, they should be a full time employee of that company for at least 6 months.

For more information about the eligible applicants, please visit:

https://tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/2024-08/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf .

2. RESEARCH AREAS

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

- *Health*
- *Energy transition*
- *Climate change*
- *Prevention and mitigation of natural hazards*
- *Science and Technology applied to cultural heritage*

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

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

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties separately. Unilateral applications are not accepted. The proposals must be written English and have the same duration of the E.P. (up to 36 months, for the years 2025-2027). Teams from each country must designate a national principal investigator. Projects should be submitted in parallel to respective funding agencies by each national principal investigator. There is no late submission deadline for either Turkish or Italian teams. In addition, projects which are not submitted on both sides will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/Italian project leaders have the responsibility to make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.

Italian Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling in the dedicated forms at <https://pgr.esteri.it>. For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address: dgsp-09bandi2@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) in the project description is acceptable at the proposal submission stage.** Please note that formal authorisation 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.***
- Italian applications must be accompanied by an endorsement letter, written in Italian and signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution or by her/his officially authorized delegate, providing official acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including institutional co-funding. If the PI holds a temporary position within the Institution, the letter should also certify that, if the contract is 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. A template is provided within the call documents. The signed letter must be uploaded in the indicated section of the submission portal (<https://pgr.esteri.it>).

Turkish Party:

- Turkish partners will make their application via TÜBİTAK's electronic application system at <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/> after log-in.
- Turkish partners will use e-signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf. There is no need to send any hard copy to TÜBİTAK.
- Submission of proposals by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

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

Projects are evaluated by TÜBİTAK and MAECI independently by their own evaluation procedures. Only the proposals which are jointly selected by the two sides will be funded. Provided that there are sufficient number of successful projects from each field, a balanced distribution of the projects to be supported will be observed.

4.1 Evaluation process

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 final list of projects jointly selected for funding will be included in the text of the Executive Programme and posted on the websites of both Parties.

Project proposals will be rated according to the following common criteria:

- **Scientific/Technological Excellence**
- **Methodology**
- **Project Management**
- **Importance of collaboration**
- **Impact**

For proposals from Turkish teams, the evaluation will be conducted by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the criteria provided in the Call text.

4.2 Announcing the Results

Italian Party

The list of selected projects will be included in the official text of the Executive Programme signed by both Parties, and 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/

PIs of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail of the positive outcome of their submission.

Turkish Party

The list of selected projects will be published on the TUBITAK website at the following link and via social media:

<http://tubitak.gov.tr/>

PIs of the projects will be directly informed with the evaluation report by e-mail of the outcome of their submission.

Both parties commit not to release information on the selected/excluded projects (including the outcomes of the formal eligibility check) until the process has ended with the signature of the Executive Programme.

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. Each project will be funded up to 36 months. Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams according to their own rules.

Italian Party:

- 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 overhead costs. Any additional financial contribution from public or private, Italian or Turkish Institutions, will be positively evaluated.
- The funding contribution by MAECI to each project is approximately 30 K€/year, excluding 50% co-funding by the coordinating institution.
- Funding for projects selected and listed in the E.P. 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 Country Promotion 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.

Turkish Party:

- Turkish teams will be funded based on the regulations of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program.
- As a rule, Turkish partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 2.000.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project.
- The total duration of international visits in one direction should not exceed 60 days per year. The daily allowance will be provided within the scope of the provisions of per diem Law numbered 6245.

6. MONITORING

Italian and Türkiye corresponding partners will report separately to the TÜBİTAK and the MAECI.

Italian Party:

The Italian PI will be responsible for delivering scientific and financial reports to MAECI, according to the rules specified in the grant contract.

Turkish Party:

For Türkiye, corresponding partner will be responsible for reporting to the TÜBİTAK. TÜBİTAK regulations apply both for financial and scientific reports through TÜBİTAK ARDEB Project Monitoring System. The latter include a qualitative and a quantitative part (output data).

7. PUBLICATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The PIs are obliged to publish research results generated by the JRPs in appropriate form and according to TÜBİTAK and MAECI standards. Intellectual property rights belong to the respective researchers and/or their employing institutions. It is the responsibility of each research partner to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishments of the joint research projects.

8. SCHEDULE

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>
Call Period	30 September 2024-15 November 2024
Deadlines for E-Signatures for TÜBİTAK	22 November 2024

9. 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

In Türkiye

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