

ITALY – SLOVENIA
JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

CLOSING DATE: 15th February 2018

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, signed in Ljubljana on February 4th, 1998, and that came into force on June 7th, 1999, and based on the Work Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Slovenia and the Italian Republic, signed at Brdo pri Kranju on October 10th 2017, Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation – Unit IX- of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Government of Slovenia, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, initiate herewith the procedures for the selection of projects to be funded in the framework of the Work Program.

To this end, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint projects proposals for the “Exchange of Researchers”.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. *FUNDING SCHEMES*

Projects for the “Exchange of Researchers” are joint research projects where only the expenses related to researchers’ mobility are funded.

B. *AREAS OF COOPERATION*

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

1. Blue Growth (BG)
2. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

3. Physics and Astrophysics (PH)
4. Technologies applied to agriculture, forestry and food safety (TAFF)
5. Cultural heritage (CH)

C. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- Each project coordinator shall submit only one project proposal.
- Projects for the Exchange of Researchers shall be jointly submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.
- For the Italian Party, the call is open to coordinators having the Italian nationality or any other EU nationality provided they are legally resident in Italy.
- For the Slovenian Party the call is open to coordinators holding the Slovenian nationality or any other EU nationality, provided that they fulfil the national conditions for project coordinators.

D. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Project shall be drafted in English (for Italian coordinators) and Slovenian and English (for Slovenian coordinators).
- b. Projects shall have duration of the Executive Protocol.
- c. A full proposal shall consist of:
 - i. a description of the working teams;
 - ii. a description of the research activities the teams intend to carry out within the project timeframe;
 - iii. a proposed draft plan of visits of both research teams.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.

EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

The proposal shall be jointly submitted to both Parties. In particular, the Italian coordinator shall submit it to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Slovenian coordinator shall submit it to the Slovenian Research Agency (SRA).

Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.

The Italian coordinator shall submit the proposal exclusively through the ad hoc online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

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

The Slovenian coordinator shall submit the project proposal to the Slovenian Research Agency, together with other application forms required by the Slovenian side, in electronic (via e-mail) and printed version (regular post).

Any inquiry about the present call can be sent to:

Marjetica Primožič

Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost

Tel: (01) 400 59 70

Fax: (01) 400 59 75

E-pošta: marjetka.primozic@arrs.si

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

After the expiration of the call, all applications received will be checked for eligibility requirements.

Eligible applications will then move on to a two-step selection process:

- STEP 1. Projects will first be evaluated at the national level taking into account the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance
- Methodology and documentation
- Competence and skill of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Added value in addressing societal challenges
- Exploitation and dissemination of results
- Involvement of early career researchers

For the Italian Party additional value will be given to projects that involve industrial counterparts and/or benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations). Preference will also be given to proposals that take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes such as H2020 and related actions or present potential for such projects.

- STEP 2. In the work of the Joint Commission, defined in Article 4 of the aforementioned Agreement, the Parties will reach consensus on a short list of projects eligible for funding.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of eligibility conditions;
- Submission of more than one proposal by the same coordinator;
- Incomplete application (see section D. Project Requirements).

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively 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/ElementoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm

For the Slovenian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Government of Slovenia (http://www.mizs.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/sluzba_za_mednarodno_sodelovanje_in_evropske_zad_ave/) and the website of the Slovenian Research Agency (<http://www.arrs.gov.si/sl/rezultati/index.asp>)

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

Only the cost of the exchange of researchers will be financed.

For each project 1 short-term (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Slovenia may be financed yearly within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers of the Italian team visiting Slovenia and will provide a contribution for allowances expenses in Italy to visiting Slovenian researchers under the jointly selected projects as follows:

- 93 Euro/day, from day 1 to day 10, up to a maximum of 930 Euro (short-term stay) and
- 18,50 Euro/day, from day 11 to day 30, up to a maximum amount of 1.300 Euro (long-term stay).

The Slovenian Party will pay international travel expenses to researchers of the Slovenian team visiting Italy and will provide a contribution for allowances expenses for stays of Italian researchers in Slovenia:

- for short term stays up to 10 days: paid accommodation up to 100€ per day and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21,39€).
- for stays longer than 15 days: paid accommodation up to 1.250€ monthly and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21,39€).

Starting from the second year of activity, the Italian and the Slovenian coordinators shall submit an annual report on the progress of their project by January 31st. The Italian coordinators have to submit the reports in .pdf to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation (DGSP – Unit IX: ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it). The Slovenian coordinators have to submit the report to the

Slovenian Research Agency in accordance with national procedures.

Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.