



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA FOR THE YEARS 2017-2019**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Republic of India, signed in New Delhi, on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2003 and entered into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, the General Directorate for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, (hereafter referred as to “the Parties”) initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the three-year period 2017–2019 (hereafter referred as to “the Executive Programme”).

### **1. EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS: PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.**

#### **1.1 PURPOSES**

From 28th October, 2016, a call for the submission of joint research projects by researchers of both Countries is open, with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological cooperation between Italy and India. Each Principal Investigator (hereafter referred as PI) may submit one project only. All applicants must fulfill national eligibility rules to apply for mobility grants (see below and also national annexes for specific requirements). Proposed collaborations should build on and reinforce already existing research activities between research groups of both Countries and contribute with significant added value to these activities.

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

#### **1.2. APPLICANTS' ELIGIBILITY**

The Call is open to scientists, engineers or faculty members regularly employed in universities and research institutions, including hospitals and foundations, as well as private nonprofit institutions that develop R&D activities, in Italy or in India.

Italian PI's shall hold the Italian nationality or any EU nationality provided they are permanently resident in Italy.

Indian PI should be scientists/ faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/ institutes. The Indian Principal Investigator (PI) should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.

### 1.3 PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Projects may be submitted in the following priority research areas:

1. Information and Communication Technology
2. Energy, Environment and Sustainable Agriculture
3. Health, Biotechnology and Medicine
4. Physical and Chemical Sciences
5. Technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage

**NB: Projects submitted in other research areas will not be considered.**

### 1.4 SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS

The same project proposal must be submitted by the Italian and Indian PIs to the respective Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme. Projects submitted to only one side will not be considered for evaluation. Projects shall be completed within the period of validity of the Executive Programme and shall be drafted in English.

**Procedures applicable to Italian PIs.** The Italian PI shall submit his/her project exclusively online, by filling the dedicated form at the link:

<http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

The deadline for submission of proposals is 7th December, 2016, 5.00 pm, CET.

Any information concerning the present call can be sent to the following email address: [DGSP.UST1@esteri.it](mailto:DGSP.UST1@esteri.it).

**Procedures applicable to Indian PIs.** Indian applicants for funding should submit completed application form and all relevant, clearly labeled as single attachment (single MS word / PDF file) to the email address: **rajivarc@nic.in** to reach by 5:30 pm 7th December, 2016. An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be provided to the applicant in 3-5 working days. They are also requested to submit **three hard copies** to DST by 9th December 2016. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Italian counterpart scientist by due date. **Only applications endorsed by the competent authority will be accepted.**

### 1.5 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

The projects will be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, in order to select the projects for funding a joint assessment will be carried out in a meeting of the Joint Commission.

The projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the research project
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Social and developmental added value
- Use and dissemination of results

Preference will be given to projects that involve industrial participation, benefits from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or EU Research Programmes.

## 1.6 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 address:

[http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica\\_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi\\_programmi\\_culturali\\_tecnologici.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html)

**For the Indian Party**, the list of the selected projects will be uploaded on the DST website [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in)

## 1.7 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

Only the costs for the exchange of researchers will be financed. For each project 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (upto 30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) and 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in India may be financed yearly.

The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers of the Italian team visiting India and will provide a contribution for allowances expenses in Italy to visiting Indian 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 Indian Party will pay the international travel expenses including visa fee and medical insurance to Indian researchers visiting Italy under the jointly funded projects. Indian party will also provide local hospitality for the visiting Italian researchers (fully furnished accommodation and Perdiem @ Rs. 2500 per day) under the jointly selected projects.

**Each PI may submit one project only. The application of a proposal for the Exchange of Researchers excludes the possibility for the same PI to apply for funding for projects of Particular Relevance (see next Section 2.).**

## 1.8 REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

At the end of each year the Italian and the Indian PIs shall jointly report on the progress of their project. Funding for the next year will not be granted if the PIs do not submit their progress reports.

For the Italian party, the progress report, subscribed by both coordinators, shall be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> January, in pdf format, to the following addresses: [ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it](mailto:ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it).

For the Indian party, the progress report, subscribed by both coordinators, shall be submitted to [rajivarc@nic.in](mailto:rajivarc@nic.in) immediately after completion of the financial year i.e 31<sup>st</sup> March of every year (for the Indian Party)

## 2. PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROJECTS ("Progetti di Grande Rilevanza" ai sensi della L. 401/90)

In the course of validity of the Executive Programme, the Italian and Indian Party may consider granting an annual financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources, to bilateral projects with a potential significant impact on the priority research areas (Progetti di Grande Rilevanza). Only projects selected by the Joint Commission upon renewal of the Executive Programme, will be eligible for the annual funding.

The contribution granted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is intended as a **co-funding** of the project and therefore **a significant funding participation by the proposing Italian Institution is mandatory. Any other financial contribution from public or private, Italian or Indian Institutions will be evaluated positively.**

The application procedures consist of two stages:

### 2.1 FIRST STAGE

#### 2.1.1 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

**The Italian PI** shall submit his/her project exclusively online, by filling the dedicated form at the link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

Projects shall be completed within the period of validity of the Executive Programme and shall be drafted in English.

The deadline for submission of proposals is: 7th December, 2016, 5.00 pm, C.E.T.

Any information concerning the present call can be sent to the following email address: [DGSP.UST1@esteri.it](mailto:DGSP.UST1@esteri.it).

**Procedures applicable to Indian PIs.** Indian applicants for funding should submit completed application form and all relevant, clearly labeled as single attachment (single MS word / PDF file) to the email address: [rajivarc@nic.in](mailto:rajivarc@nic.in) to reach by 5:30 pm 7th December, 2016. An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be provided to the applicant in 3-5 working days. They are also requested to submit **three hard copies** to DST by 9th December 2016. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Italian counterpart scientist by due date. **Only applications endorsed by the competent authority will be accepted.**

#### 2.1.2 RESEARCH AREAS

Project proposals may be submitted in one of following priority research areas:

1. Energy, Environment, with particular emphasis to clean technologies for energy, resource efficiency and soil remediation
2. Health with particular emphasis to personalized medicine and big data
3. Physical and Chemical Sciences with particular emphasis on sciences and devices with 2-D systems

NB: Projects submitted in other research areas will not be considered.

### 2.1.3 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

Projects will be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Joint Commission in order to select the projects to be included in the Executive Programme and eligible for funding. Projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific relevance
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Social and developmental added value
- Use and dissemination of results
- Budget adequacy

Preference will be given to projects involving industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations).

### 2.1.4 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

**For the Italian Party**, the list of selected projects and funding procedures will be published exclusively on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the link:

[http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica\\_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/ccordi\\_programmi\\_culturali\\_tecnologici.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/ccordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html)

**For the Indian Party**, the list of the selected projects will be uploaded on the DST website [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in)

## 2.2 SECOND STAGE

### Support for research expenses

Expenditure by project team in their country would be borne by the respective country, i.e., DST would support expenditure on Indian side of the project whereas Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation would meet the expenditure of Italian side.

**For the Italian Party**, the joint research projects selected and listed in the Executive Programme will be entitled to apply annually for funding, in accordance with the specific call for proposals, issued by Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The call for proposals is usually published in the month of January of each year of validity of the Executive Programme at the following link:

[http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica\\_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html)

**All administrative procedures and details will be specified on the dedicated on line portal.**

### For the Indian Party:

- Participating Indian institutions are responsible for expenses regarding equipment.
- A maximum of 20 - 30% of the Indian side's budget may be allowed for consumables.
- Participation of Research students would be encouraged. On the Indian side Fellowship to one student (JRF/SRF/RA) can be supported.

**Each PI may submit one project only; the application of a proposal for projects of Particular Relevance excludes the possibility for the same PI to apply for funding for projects of Mobility of Researchers.**