



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



**ITALY – EGYPT
JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

CLOSING DATE: 31st May, 2019

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, signed in Cairo on April 29, 1975, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Scientific Research of Egypt, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2019-2021.

To this purpose, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint project proposals for the “Exchange of Researchers” and for the submission of joint project proposals of “Particular Relevance”.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call two funding schemes are available:

- a. “Exchange of Researchers” are joint research projects where only the expenses for researchers’ mobility are funded.
- b. “Particular Relevance” are joint research projects where research activities are co-funded by both Parties. This scheme requires a mandatory significant funding contribution on the part of the applicant’s Institution.

B. AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

1. Science and Technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage (Advances in non-destructive testing and investigations; Indoor environmental monitoring; 3D survey; exploitation and valorization; Innovative conservation and restoration techniques; Geophysical investigations; Interdisciplinary approaches; Disaster prevention)
2. Energy from renewable resources (New trends in renewable energy; Advances in energy storage systems; Biofuel/biogas production; Energy efficiency in production and in end uses - industrial, civil and residential, transportation -).
3. Smart Cities & Smart Mediterranean (Waste management and biofuel production; Blue economy; Sustainable mobility; Urban revitalization, de-urbanization and smart future villages).
4. Affordable & Inclusive Healthcare (Telemedicine; Cancer; Translational medicine; Chronic diseases; Geriatric medicine).
5. Drinking and Waste Water management (Sanitation technology; Advances in desalination technology; Saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers: monitoring and mitigation).
6. Sustainable agriculture and food production (Climatic and extra climatic factors affecting livestock, aqua fisheries and sustainable crop production; innovative solutions for combatting emerging infectious livestock diseases; advanced trends to improve livestock productivity; innovation to reduce loss of soil fertility, desertification, soil erosion and salization);
7. Basic Sciences (Aquaculture; Biochemistry; Biology; Chemistry; Geology; Mathematics; Microbiology; Mineral Resources; Oceanography; Physics).
8. Material sciences and nanotechnologies.
9. Space and related applications (Ground and infrastructure deformation monitoring; Radar interferometry; Climate change; Land, marine and atmospheric monitoring).

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

C. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- For the Italian Party, the call is open to coordinators with Italian nationality or with any other EU nationality provided they are legally resident in Italy.
- For the Egyptian Party, the call is open to coordinators with Egyptian nationality. Applicants to STDF funding programs must hold a Ph. D. Degree, and must be affiliated to a public or private Egyptian research institution (i.e. a research center or university).
- Each project coordinator shall submit only one project proposal.
- Projects must be jointly submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.

- Eligible costs (for Egyptian side) are as follows:
The budget for "Travel" in any project must not exceed 10% of the project's total budget. The total amount for salaries (incentives) must not exceed 25% of the project's total budget and follows the salary rate given by STDF.
- Eligible expenditures from the "Indirect Costs" item of the budget (which is equivalent to 20% of the project's total direct costs)

D. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- a. Projects must be drafted in English.
- b. Projects must have the same duration of the Executive Programme.
- c. A full proposal consists 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 detailed description of the costs of the project (only for projects of Particular Relevance).
- d. Regarding projects of Particular Relevance: for the Italian Party, an endorsement letter signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution shall be provided by email to the following address: progetti.st@esteri.it
- e. For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the coordinator to ensure that all facets of animal care and use meet the requirements of the International Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. This includes a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of animals used. Institutional ethics committee approval and informed consent are mandatory parts in all interventional studies (human or animal).
- f. Regarding projects of Particular Relevance/ Exchange of Researchers: for the Egyptian Party, an endorsement letter by the legal representative of the applying Institution shall be provided (signed and stamped) within the proposal pdf file uploaded on the site

E. DATA TREATMENT COMPLIANCE

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will process personal data requested for applying to this call based on the principles of lawfulness, fairness and transparency to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons. In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UE) 2016/679, an explicit consent to data treatment is being requested during the application procedure.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

A. 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 Egyptian coordinator shall submit it to the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

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/>

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

The Egyptian coordinator shall submit the proposal exclusively through the *ad hoc* online platform: <http://www.stdf.org.eg>. In case of any inquiries, please check the STDF website for the e-mail address of the program STDF coordinator.

Ms. Amany Badr

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Website: <http://www.stdf.org.eg>

B. PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

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

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

The Egyptian coordinator shall submit the proposal exclusively through the *ad hoc* online platform: www.stdf.org.eg. In case of any inquiries, please check the STDF website for the e-mail address of the program STDF coordinator.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

At the closure of the call, all applications will be checked for eligibility requirements. Eligible applications will then move on to a two-step selection process:

- STEP 1. Projects will be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:
 - Scientific relevance
 - Methodology and documentation
 - Qualification of the applicants
 - Added value of the bilateral cooperation
 - Added value in addressing societal challenges
 - Exploitation and dissemination of results
 - Budget adequacy (for projects of Particular Relevance only)

Preference will be given to projects involving industrial counterparts and/or benefiting from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations). Preference will also be given to proposals taking part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, such as *Horizon 2020* and related actions.

- STEP 2. The two Parties will reach consensus on a shortlist of projects eligible for funding.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE EVALUATION PROCESS

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

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and information on funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following address:

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

For the Egyptian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF), www.stdf.org.eg

The maximum budget of project is 75,000 Euro along maximum duration of 3 years.

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

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

A. EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

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

For each project 1 short-term (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy and 1 short-term (up to 10 days) or 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Egypt 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 with Italian nationality (or any other EU nationality who are legally resident in Italy) visiting Egypt and will provide a contribution for accommodation expenses in Italy to researchers with Egyptian nationality as follows:

- 93 Euros/day, from day 1 to day 10
- 18,50 Euros/day, from day 11 to day 30, up to a maximum amount of 1.300 Euros/month

In Italy, applications for mobility from Egyptian (accommodation expenses) or Italian (travel expenses) scientists may be submitted online by granted applicants in the website reserved by the Italian MAECI, from January 15th until October 31st, only. The application must be submitted at least two months before the scheduled research visit. For administrative reasons research visits can take place only after March 10th and must end by December 31st.

The researcher must send a report about the activity carried out within 15 days after the end of the research visit. The report, as a pdf file, must be sent by e-mail to ricercatori.stranieri@esteri.it

Failure to send the report will bar any further application, within the same project, during the following year.

The Egyptian Party will pay international travel expenses to researchers with Egyptian nationality and will provide a contribution of **20,000 EGP for long-term stay** (30 days) or **1600 EGP per day for short-term stay** (up to 10 days), for accommodation expenses in Egypt to researchers with Italian nationality (or with any other EU nationality who are legally resident in Italy).

Starting with the second year of activity, the Italian and the Egyptian coordinators shall submit an annual report on the progress of their project by January 31st, written according to the guidelines indicated in the text of the Executive Programme.

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

B. PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

For the Italian Party, the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding to the projects’ costs. Therefore the applicant’s Institution must finance the remaining part on the basis of in kind contribution (i.e. salary of personnel working for the project and indirect costs of the project). The applicant’s Institution must finance in advance the project expenses.

According to the Italian law Nr.401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the coordinators of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Call details will be available, in due time, at the following link:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html

The Egyptian Party will also consider granting an annual special financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources for these projects.