

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN JAPAN AND ITALY FOR THE YEARS 2013-2015.

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between Japan and Italy, signed in Tokyo, Japan, on October 7th, 1988, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the X Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2013-2015.

1. PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

Submission of joint research projects by researchers of both countries is requested with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between Italy and Japan. Each researcher may submit one project only. Financing will be granted exclusively for the exchange of researchers holding Italian (or EU nationality and legally resident in Italy), within the annual financial resources available from the Italian Party.

1.1 RESEARCH AREAS

Projects may be submitted in the following priority research areas of co-operation:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology) | (BS) |
| 2. Life Sciences (Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture) | (LS) |
| 3. Space | (SP) |
| 4. Energy and Environmental | (EE) |
| 5. Information and Communication Technology and Robotic | (ICT&R) |
| 6. Nanosciences, Advanced Materials | (NSAM) |
| 7. Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage. | (TCH) |

1.2 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

The projects will be first evaluated at national level then, in a meeting of the Joint Committee, referred to in Art. IV of the Bilateral Agreement, consensus will be reached on those projects eligible for funding.

The projects will be assessed, both at national level and by the Joint Committee, according to the following evaluation criteria:

- 1. Qualifications and experience of research teams**
- 2. Methodology, approach, strategy, structure, and documentation**
- 3. Level of originality and innovation**
- 4. Social and developmental added value for Italy and Japan**
- 5. Purpose of cooperation among the groups**
- 6. Exploitation and dissemination of results**

Preference will be given to projects that involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Seventh Framework Programme and the next Horizon 2020 Programme, of the European Union.

1.3 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

Only the cost of the exchange of researchers will be financed. Annually one long term stay (30 days) or one short-term stay (up to 10 days) will be financed per project.

The Italian Party will pay researchers holding Italian nationality (or EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) international travel expenses.

Funding of the projects will be granted only within the limits of yearly available financial resources. Furthermore, starting from the second year of activity, **funding will be considered only upon presentation of the progress report** as specified in Section 1.6.

1.4 SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROJECTS

The Italian co-ordinators must submit their proposals to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Co-operation. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send the collected proposals to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Italian coordinator must prepare and submit her/his proposal exclusively through the dedicated web-interface reachable here: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

The deadline for the submission of joint projects is February 7th, 2013.

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: DGSP.UST2@esteri.it.

The project, covering up to three years (2013 - 2015), must be drafted in English.

1.5 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The list of the selected projects and funding procedures, which are integral parts of the Executive Programme signed by both Parties, will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the address:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm

1.6 REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

By January 31st of the following year, the Italian and the Japanese co-ordinators shall submit a report on the progress of their projects to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report, in pdf format, shall be signed by both coordinators.

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

Each researcher may submit one project only; the application of a proposal as a joint research project (funding for the exchange of researchers) excludes the possibility for the project co-ordinator of the same project to apply for funding as a significant bilateral project pursuant to point 2 of the present call for proposals.

2. PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROJECTS

("Progetti di Grande Rilevanza" ai sensi della l. 401/90)

In the course of validity of the Executive Programme, the Italian Party may also consider granting an annual special financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources, to significant bilateral research projects ("Progetti di Grande Rilevanza"). Only projects selected by the Joint Committee upon renewal of the Executive Programme, will be eligible for funding. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' contribution is intended as a **co-funding** of the Project and therefore **a significant funding participation by the coordinator Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Japanese Institutions is mandatory.**

The application procedures consist in two stages:

FIRST STAGE

2.1 RESEARCH AREAS

Projects may be submitted in the following priority research areas of co-operation:

1. **Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology)** (BS)
2. **Life Sciences (Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture)** (LS)
3. **Space** (Sp)
4. **Energy and Environmental** (EE)
5. **Information and Communication Technology and Robotic** (ICT&R)
6. **Nanosciences, Advanced Materials** (NSAM)
7. **Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage.** (TCH)

2.2 PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

The Italian co-ordinators must submit their proposals to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Co-operation. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send the collected proposals to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Italian coordinator must prepare and submit her/his proposal exclusively through the dedicated web-interface reachable here: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

The deadline for the submission of projects is February 7th, 2013

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: DGSP.UST2@esteri.it.

The project, covering up to three years (2013 - 2015), must be drafted in English.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs all the collected proposals.

Please note that, as the Executive Programme will be signed in the course of 2013, the co-funding of the activities carried out in 2013 might be proportionally reduced taking into account the time available from the awarding of the funds until the end of the year. Moreover, only the activities carried out after the signature of the EP will be considered for funding.

2.3 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

The projects will be first evaluated at national level, then, in a meeting of the Joint Committee, referred to in Art. IV of the Bilateral Agreement, consensus will be reached on those projects eligible for funding.

The projects will be assessed, both at national level and by the Joint Committee, according to the following evaluation criteria:

- 1. Qualifications and experience of research teams**
- 2. Methodology, approach, strategy, structure, and documentation**
- 3. Level of originality and innovation**
- 4. Social and developmental added value for Italy and Japan**
- 5. Purpose of cooperation among the groups**
- 6. Exploitation and dissemination of results**
- 7. Budget adequacy**

Preference will be given to projects that involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Seventh Framework Programme and the next Horizon 2020 Programme, of the European Union.

2.4 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The list of the eligible projects and funding procedures, which are integral parts of the Executive Programme signed by both Parties, will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the address:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm

Each researcher may submit one project only; the application of a proposal as significant bilateral project excludes the possibility for the project co-ordinator to apply for funding for the exchange of researchers pursuant to point 1 of the present call for proposals.

SECOND STAGE

2.5 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

The significant joint research projects selected and listed in the Executive Programme will constitute a short-list of projects entitled to apply for funding in accordance with the specific call for proposals issued by the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and published on the web every year. The call for proposals is usually published every autumn, for the following funding year.

Please note that, as the Executive Programme will be signed in the course of 2013, the co-funding of the activities carried out in 2013 might be proportionally reduced taking into account the time available from the awarding of the funds until the end of the year. Moreover, only the activities carried out after the signature of the EP will be considered for funding.

Details on such projects (in compliance with Law 401/90) are available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the link:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ProgettiGrandeRilevanza/