



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
MONTENEGRO

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

CLOSING DATE: 6th June 2018 h 12:00 C.E.S.T.

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Italy, signed in Podgorica on September, 26, 2013, and came into force on 19th February 2018, the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and the Directorate-General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the first Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2018/2020.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

FUNDING SCHEMES

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

- Projects for Exchange of Researchers: only the expenses for researchers’ mobility are funded
- Projects of Particular Relevance: research activities are co-founded by both Parties. In this scheme a significant funding contribution by the applying proponent is mandatory.

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

AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

1. Agriculture and Food Sciences
2. Biotechnology and Medicine
3. Blue Growth
4. Cultural Heritage
5. Sustainable Technologies, Engineering and Resources.

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

1. Agriculture and Food Sciences
2. Biotechnology and Medicine
3. Blue Growth
4. Cultural Heritage
5. Natural risk assessment and mitigation
6. Sustainable Technologies, Engineering and Resources.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

For the Italian Party, the call is open to public or private research organizations.

Principal Investigators (PI) must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy and a permanent working position or a temporary position covering at least the time extent of the project in the Organization they belong;

For the Montenegrin Party, the call is open to public or private research organizations. Scientific researchers who are registered in the Register of the Ministry of Science of Montenegro can apply for the competition. The project must meet the requirements in accordance with the Law on Scientific Research Activity as well as the established criteria of the Ministry of Science of Montenegro.

Principal Investigators must have Montenegrin or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Montenegro and a permanent working position or a temporary position covering at least the time extent of the project in the Organization they belong;

Each project coordinator shall submit only one project proposal.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must be drafted in English
- Projects must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (2018/2020)

- Projects must be jointly submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be considered.
- For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the investigator 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 obligatory parts in all interventional studies (human or animal).
- For the Italian Party, an endorsement letter, signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution, must be provided by email to the following address: progetti.st@esteri.it

The Projects that not comply with the above requirements, will be not accepted.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.

The proposal must be jointly submitted to both Parties; in particular:

The Italian coordinator must submit the proposal to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation exclusively through the *ad hoc* online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr>

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

The Montenegrin coordinator must submit the proposal in English and Montenegrin language exclusively through the online platform: www.mna.gov.me (Calls for bilateral cooperation/konkursi za bilateralnu saradnju).

Any inquire about the present call can be sent to the coordinator, in charge for the bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Italy: snezana.vukotic@mna.gov.me

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

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

- STEP 1. Projects will be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:
 - Scientific relevance
 - Methodology and documentation
 - Competence and expertise of the research teams
 - Added value of the bilateral cooperation
 - Involvement of early career researchers

- Appropriateness of the budget requested with respect to methods and expected results (for projects of Particular Relevance only).

Additional value will be given to projects involving industrial counterparts and/or benefiting from third parties' funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations) and/or taking part in multilateral and/or European research programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Union.

- STEP 2. Each Party will elaborate a short list of priority projects.
- STEP 3. The two Parties will reach consensus on projects eligible for funding.

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/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

For the Montenegrin Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted exclusively on the website of the Ministry of Science at the following address: www.mna.gov.me

FINANCING OF PROJECTS

EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

Only the cost of the exchange of researches 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 Montenegro may be financed yearly within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

The Montenegrin party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers with Montenegrin nationality (or any other EU nationality, who are legally resident in Montenegro) and will provide a contribution of 93 Euro per day for short-term stay (up to 10 days) up to maximum of 930 Euro and 18 Euro/day, from 11 to day 30, up to maximum amount of 1290 Euro per day for long-term stay (up to 30

days), for the accommodation expenses in Montenegro to researchers with Italian nationality (or any other EU nationality, who are legally resident in Italy).

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) and will provide a contribution of 93 Euro per day for short-term stay (up to 10 days) up to a maximum of 930 Euro and 18, 50 Euro/day, from day 11 to day 30, up to a maximum amount of 1, 300 Euro for long-term stay, for the accommodation expenses in Italy to researchers with Montenegrin nationality (or any other EU nationality, who are legally resident in Montenegro).

Starting from the second year of activity, the Montenegrin and the Italian coordinators must submit an annual report on the progress of their project by January 31st as indicated in the text of the Executive Programme.

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

PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

For the Italian Party, 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 the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation 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 contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a co-funding and therefore a significant funding contribution by applying Institution and/or other public/private Institutions is mandatory.

The Montenegrin Party will also consider granting financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources to these projects.