



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE YEARS 2025-2027

In accordance with the article n. 8 of the Agreement on the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, signed in Rome, on December 21st 2009, and entered into force on February 5th 2013, the IV Session of the Italian-Serbian Joint Commission was held in Belgrade on January 20, 2025 to examine the present state and further development of scientific and technological cooperation between the two Countries and to define the Executive Programme for the years 2025-2027.

The Italian delegation was headed by **Ambassador** of Italy to Serbia **Luca Gori**, and the Serbian delegation was headed by the **Acting Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ivana Vukašinović**. The members of the two delegations are listed in **Annex I**. The Institutions in charge of the coordination of the present Executive Programme, hereinafter referred as to the "Parties", are:

For the Italian Party, the **Directorate General for Country Promotion – Office IX** - of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;

For the Serbian Party, the **Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation**

The following agenda items of the Joint Commission were adopted by the Parties:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
2. New Executive Programme
3. Schedule of of the next meetings and final provisions

1. REVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

The Parties have agreed to recognize the growing importance of science and technology with the respect to the economic, social and cultural relations between the two Countries. The Parties, considering the good relationships between the two Countries, placed particular emphasis on the role of international cooperation and stressed the need to further develop and promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. They also agreed to favour and extend the cooperation in international and European multilateral R&D programmes, with particular regard to the Horizon Programme of the European Union.

2. NEW EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

In the period between December 13rd 2023 – February 9th 2024, a joint call for proposals was launched to collect project proposals referring to the following priority areas:

- Agriculture and Food Technology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Energy Transition and Hydrogen-focused Research
- Basic research in Physics
- Biotechnology

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed project
- Methodology and documentation
- Qualification of the applicants
- Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation
- Involvement of young scientists
- Use and dissemination of results

80 eligible applications have been assessed based upon the above-mentioned criteria, first by the national evaluation teams, then by the Italian-Serbian Joint Commission. 12 joint research projects for the exchange of researchers, as listed in Annex II, have been selected to obtain financial support.

The general administrative and financial provisions for the implementation of the Programme are given in Annex III.

3. SCHEDULE OF OF THE NEXT MEETINGS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Joint Commission in Rome in the year 2027. Details hereto, such as date, agenda, etc. will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels. This Executive Programme for the period 2025 - 2027 will remain valid until the coming into force of the next Executive Programme, but no longer than one year after its expiration. Any amendment to the text of this Executive Programme has to be authorised by the competent Authorities in both Countries and has to be carried out through diplomatic channels. All initiatives foreseen in this Executive Programme will be carried out within the limits of the budgets and according to the rules prevailing in each Country. Annexes I, II and III are attached hereto and constitute integral parts of the present document.

Signed in Belgrade on January 20, 2025 in two originals in the English language, each text being equally authoritative.

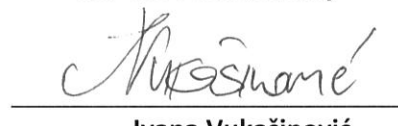
For the Italian Party



H.E. Luca Gori

Ambassador of Italy to Serbia

For the Serbian Party



Ivana Vukašinić

Acting Assistant Minister

Annex I

MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS

ITALIAN DELEGATION

H.E. Luca Gori
Ambassador of Italy in Belgrade

Fabiana Urbani
Commercial Attaché

Luciano Catani
Science Attaché

SERBIAN DELEGATION

Ivana Vukašinović,
Acting Assistant Minister

Jovan Milić
Special Adviser to the Minister

Svetlana Bogdanovic
Senior Adviser

Annex II

PROJECTS FOR EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS SELECTED WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE YEARS 2025-2027

	Area	Italian Principal Investigator	Italian Institution	Title of the project	Serbian Principal investigator	Serbian Institution
1	Information and communication technologies	Niko Muenzenrieder	Libera Università di Bolzano Faculty of Engineering	<i>Development of sustainable plant- wearable sensors for on-site continuous plant monitoring toward precision agriculture</i>	Đurić Snežana	BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad
2	Information and communication technologies	Mercuri Francesco	Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati CNR	<i>Data-integration and digital twins for advanced additive manufacturing</i>	Mladenović Goran	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
3	Information and communication technologies	Picerno Pietro	Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche UNISS	<i>Smartphone-based motion tracking system for the self-assessment of motor capacity</i>	Pešović Uros	Faculty of technical sciences Cacak, University of Kragujevac
4	Agriculture and Food Technology	Vione Davide Vittorio	UNITO	<i>Utilizing nanotechnology and sustainable approaches for environmental remediation in the agri-food systems</i>	Šojić Merkulov Danijela	University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences
5	Agriculture and Food Technology	Masi Antonio	DAFNAE – Dip. di Agronomia, Animali, Alimenti, Risorse UNIPD	<i>Identifying crucial players in desiccation tolerance: a step towards improving crop drought resistance</i>	Vidović Marija	IMGGE (Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering),
6	Basic research in physics	Barone Paolo	SPIN - CNR	<i>Van der Waals heterostructures for altermagnetic spintronics</i>	Stavrić Srdjan	Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences - National Institute of the Republic
7	Basic research in physics	Manti Lorenzo	Dip. Fisica "E. Pancini" UNINA	<i>ENCHANTING- Enhancing radioterapy effectiveness by Targeting cancer resilience</i>	Keta Otilija, Dimitrije	Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences - National Institute of the Republic
8	Biotechnology	Gabano Elisabetta	Dip. per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile e la Transizione Ecologica UNIUPO	<i>Pollution talks: sensors equipped plants for heavy metal pollution detection and bioremediation</i>	Radić Danka	Institute of General and Physical Chemistry
9	Biotechnology	Belardinelli Paolo	CIMeC – UNITN	<i>Development of a personalised target- driven technique for noninvasive enhancement of cognitive functions using transcranial magnetic stimulation</i>	Filipović Saša R	Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade. Department:
10	Energy transition and hydrogen-related research	Di Pietro Maria Enrica	Dipartimento di Chimica, Materiali e Ingegneria Chimica "G. Natta" POLIMI	<i>Towards safer energy storage: next- generation lithium-ion battery electrolytes</i>	Papović Snežana	Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad
11	Energy transition and hydrogen-related research	Iannacci Jacopo	Center for Sensors and Devices (SD) Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)	<i>Ultra-low power consumption Microsystems-based electrical switches for the energy transition in the frame of the Internet of Things, 6G and Future Networks</i>	Marinković Zlatica	Faculty of Electronic Engineering Niš
12	Energy transition and hydrogen-related research	Cinquanta Eugenio Luigi	Istituto di Fotonica e Nanotecnologie CNR	<i>Probing ultrafast dynamics of charge carriers in perovskite-inspired Ag- Bi-1 nanomaterials</i>	Dojčić Radovan	Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, National Institute of the Republic of Serbia

Annex III

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The bilateral projects to be financed for the exchange of researchers within the present Programme are exclusively those mentioned in Annex II.

For each project, 2 short-term stays (up to 7 days each) and 1 long-term stay (up to 21 days) may be yearly funded on both sides within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party. Such stays might be also carried on in one solution not exceeding 35 days per year.

The researchers will be entitled to the exchange only if they hold the Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and resident in Italy) for those travelling to Serbia and the Serbian nationality for those travelling to Italy.

The costs of accommodation and living shall be covered by the receiving Party, while the costs of international travel up to the host institution shall be covered by the sending Party.

Accident and health insurance coverage (excluding already existing and chronic diseases) shall be provided on both sides by the researchers' sending institution.

At the end of each year, the Italian researchers and the Serbian researchers have to submit a report on the activities carried out during their visits to both the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The reports must be signed by both Italian and Serbian project coordinators involved in the joint research project. Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.

VISIT OF SERBIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO ITALY

The Serbian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Serbian nationality. The supplied tickets will be the most economical ones available for the trip, economy class (2nd class) flight/train/ride. Any additional cost shall be borne by the researchers.

STAY OF SERBIAN RESEARCHERS IN ITALY

The date of the visit should be agreed between the visiting researchers and the host Italian coordinator. Serbian researchers may obtain the authorization for the visit from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation only by submitting application form online at the following link: <https://ricercatori.esteri.it>. An invitation letter from the host Italian Institution, signed by the Italian coordinator, must be uploaded to the online application. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, after checking the application for accuracy, if necessary funds are available, will authorize the visit and pay for the visit allowance. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will timely inform the Italian Embassy in Belgrade, the Serbian researcher and the Italian project coordinator. The application must be submitted **at least 35 days before the scheduled visit**.

Any cancellation of the visit by the researcher, unless due to serious and valid reasons, might prevent the hosting Party from accepting further applications for subsequent missions.

For short term stays (up to 7 days), the Italian Party shall provide a contribution of 99,00 € per day. For long term stays (up to 21 days), the Italian Party shall provide a contribution of 99,00 € per day from day 1 to day 10 as well as 38,00 € per day from day 11 to day 21. Further 38,00 € per day shall be provided from day 22 to day 35 in case of bundled stays. The above-mentioned amounts shall be paid to the Serbian researchers entirely in one instalment at their arrival in Italy. Serbian researchers will receive their grants at the nearest Provincial Treasury (local branch of the Banca d'Italia).

VISIT OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO SERBIA

Italian researchers travelling to Serbia for a research stay are required to submit the online application to the 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 at <https://ricercatori.esteri.it>

Applications must be submitted to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation **no later than 35 days prior to the foreseen date of departure**. Details of the above mentioned rules and the online application are available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at <https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmesecutivi/mobilitaricercatori/mobilitaricercatoriitaliani/>

The Italian Party will pay the international travel expenses to researchers holding Italian nationality (or any EU nationality and resident in Italy). The supplied tickets will be the most economical ones available for the trip. Any additional cost shall be borne by the researcher.

STAY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS IN SERBIA

The Serbian Party will finance, yearly, for each project listed in Annex 2, 2 short-term stays (up to 7 days each) and 1 long term stay (up to 21 days). For short term stays, the Serbian Party shall provide a contribution of 90,00 € per day. For long term stays the Serbian Party shall provide a contribution of 90,00 € per day, from day 1 to day 7, as well as 38,00 € per day from day 8 to day 21. Further 38,00 € per day shall be provided from day 22 to day 35 in case of bundled stays.

The above-mentioned amounts will be paid, converted into RSD, to the host institution for Italian researchers entirely in one instalment at their arrival in Serbia. Italian researchers will receive their grants from the host institution in Serbia.

REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

At the end of each year the Italian and the Serbian coordinators will jointly report on the progress of their project. Funding for the next year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit their progress reports.

The Italian coordinators have to submit the reports in .pdf to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation (DGSP – Office IX: ricercatori.italiani@esteri.it)

The Serbian coordinators have to submit the reports in .pdf to the Serbian Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation.