



ITALY – MEXICO
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION
CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE YEARS 2023-2025

CLOSING DATE: September 30, 2022
Italy: at 12:00 (C.E.S.T.) - Mexico: at 12:00 local time (GMT-5)

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the United Mexican States, signed in Mexico City on September 19, 1997 and entered into force on July 10, 2000, the Directorate General for Country Promotion - Office IX - of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) are opening a call for proposals for the new Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2023 - 2025.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 FUNDING SCHEMES

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

- **“Research Staff Exchange”**: This funding scheme is aimed at supporting staff exchange within the context of joint research projects whose research activities are independently funded by other entities. Preference will be given to mobility schemes involving early career scientists.
- **“Joint Research Projects”**: This funding scheme is aimed at supporting joint research activities. It is funded by the Ministry of Health in Italy, and therefore financial support is restricted to Italian scientists affiliated to I.R.C.C.S Institutions (*Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico*). In Mexico, funding must be provided by each participating health research Institution.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals must have the same duration of the Executive Programme (E.P.): 3 years, 2023-2025.

Each Principal Investigator (PI):

- must submit only one proposal;
- can apply to only one funding scheme, under penalty of exclusion.

Italian Party

Research Staff Exchange

- The call is open to public or private (no-profit) research institutions.

Joint Research Projects on Health topics

- Only scientists affiliated to I.R.C.C.S Institutions are eligible. No academic and/or industrial partners can be included in the research group.

For both funding schemes

- PIs must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy, and must be affiliated with a public or private (no-profit) Italian research institution with a permanent position, or with a temporary position covering at least the entire duration of the proposed project.
- Project proposals must be written in Italian;

Mexican Party

- The Mexican PI must have Mexican nationality and legal residence in Mexico;
- Project proposals must be written in Spanish.
- Only scientists affiliated to Institutos Nacionales de Salud de Mexico are eligible. No industrial partners can be included in the research group

1.3 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
- incomplete application (including additional documents where applicable - see point 4 below);
- proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries;
- proposals submitted in only one of the two countries.

2. PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Proposals must be submitted in one of the following priority research areas:

Research Staff Exchange scheme

- Basic Sciences (mathematics, chemistry, physics)
- Biotechnology and medicine
- ICT and Artificial Intelligence
- Environment, Energy and Climate change
- Agri-food
- Aerospace engineering
- Technologies applied to cultural heritage

Joint Research Projects scheme

- Long-term effects of Covid-19
- Mental health
- Non Communicable Diseases (NCD)

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

Only some of the above listed research areas may be funded, depending on the scientific quality of the submitted proposals.

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- *Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties.*
- *The proposals submitted to MAECI by the Italian PIs must be written in Italian*
- *The proposals submitted to AMEXCID by the Mexican PIs must be written in Spanish*
- *Project activities must have the same duration of the EP in both countries (3 years: 2023-2025)*

Italian Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online by filling the dedicated forms at the following link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/>. For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address: dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it
- For projects involving experiments with animals, the status of ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. Please note that formal authorization by the competent Ministry of Health is mandatory to start the activities (D.Lgs 26_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Proof of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. Projects involving experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. ***The Italian Principal Investigator should include a self-declaration of adhesion to the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.***

- Applications for the Research Staff Exchange funding scheme should not include a budget estimate, only the number and approximate length of stays.
- Applications for the “Joint Research Projects” funding scheme must be accompanied by an endorsement letter, written in Italian and signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution or by her/his officially authorized delegate, certifying the acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including institutional co-funding. A template is provided within the call documents. The signed letter must be uploaded in the indicated section of the submission portal (<http://web.esteri.it/pgr/>). The endorsement letter is not required for submission of proposals in the Research Staff Exchange funding scheme.

Mexican Party:

- The project proposal must be sent to the Directorate General for Cooperation Policy of AMEXCID to the email dgpcooperacion@sre.gob.mx and physically to the following address: Plaza Juárez No. 20, Piso 5, Col. Centro, Alcaldía Cuauhtemoc, CP 06010, Mexico City. For more information or questions about this call, interested parties may consult the AMEXCID website: <http://www.gob.mx/amexcid> or send an email to: dgpcooperacion@sre.gob.mx
- The letter must be signed by the Director of the Mexican Institution or Department presenting the proposal.
- For projects that involve experimentation with animals and/or humans, it is the responsibility of the project coordinator to protect and promote the welfare of the animals used and to ensure compliance with the conditions established in the international codes for the care and use of living beings in the scientific field, as well as informed consent in the case of human beings. It must be constrained to what is stipulated in the General Health Law and its Regulations, as well as what is mandated by the different regulations in this matter.

4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

4.1 Evaluation process

After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check before moving to the two-step evaluation process. The first step will be performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals. The second step of the evaluation process will be performed at the bilateral level. The two Parties will reach consensus on the final list of projects eligible for funding during the meeting of the Joint Commission, which includes representatives from both countries. The selected projects will be included in the text of the Executive Programme that will be posted in the websites of both Parties at the end of the process (see point 4.2 below).

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the proposed research (including novelty and innovative character)
- Methodology and documentation (including objectives, methodology and detailed workflow)
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation (including degree of complementarity of the experimental approaches)
- Involvement of early career scientists
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- Budget adequacy

Preference will be awarded to:

- Initiatives carrying potential industrial impact
- Proposals that have gender parity in the research team

4.2 Outcome of the evaluation

Italian Party The official text of the Executive Protocol, including the list of selected projects, will be published in the MAECI website at the following link:

https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici/

Only the PIs of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail of the outcomes of the selection process.

Mexican Party The list of selected proposals will be published in the AMEXCID website at the following link:

<http://www.gob.mx/amexcid>

Only the PIs of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail of the outcomes of the selection process

Both Parties commit not to provide information on selected/excluded projects (including the outcomes of the formal eligibility check mentioned at point 4.1 of this call text) until the end of the process, with the signature of the Executive Programme.

5. FUNDING PROCEDURES

Funding will be granted to the projects listed in the Executive Programme within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

5.1 Funding scheme “Research Staff Exchange”

- Only the costs for travel and subsistency will be supported by the Parties. No support for research expenses (consumables, manpower, equipment etc.) should be expected or proposed under this funding scheme.
- For each project, 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) + 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy, and 1 short-term stay (up to 10 days) + 1 long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Mexico will be funded yearly.
- The sending Party will pay travel expenses whereas the maintenance and accommodation expenses will be funded by the hosting Party.

The Italian Party will pay international travel expenses to researchers of the Italian team visiting Mexico and will provide visiting scientists of the Mexican team visiting Italy with medical insurance and with the following contribution for accommodation expenses:

- 99 €/day, from day 1 to day 10
- 25 €/day, from day 11 to day 30

Resulting in a maximum amount of 990 Euro for short-term stays and 1.490 Euro for long-term stays.

Applications by Mexican scientists (accommodation expenses) and by Italian scientists (travel expenses) for each individual visit can be submitted online in the dedicated section of the MAECI website, at least two months before the scheduled research visit.

Any changes in the composition of the two research teams during the 3 years validity of the EP must be notified in advance by the Italian PI through certified e-mail to the address: dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it.

The Mexican Party will cover the expenses of the international round trip by air (does not include ground transportation) to Italy for Mexican researchers and will grant a contribution for the expenses of stay in Mexico for Italian researchers with the following contribution for accommodation expenses:

- \$1,250 MXN/day

Resulting in a maximum amount of \$ 12,500 MXN for short-term stays and \$ 37,500 MXN for long-term stays

5.2 Funding scheme “Joint Research Projects”

The average cost of a project is up to 50,000 € per year per country, plus co-funding by the applying institution according to each countries’ rules.

Italian Party:

In light of the strategic importance of the bilateral collaboration between Italy and Mexico, the Italian Ministry of Health could finance projects presented by IRCCS, if selected according to the procedure indicated in this call.

The contribution granted by MAECI to “Joint Research Projects” is intended as co-funding support for the project, and therefore co-funding by the coordinating Italian Institution of approximately 50% of the total costs of the project is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs.

Mexican Party:

Each Mexican institution must have previously guaranteed the financial resources for up to **50,000 €** per year per project apart from salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs and must explicitly define the source(s) of their financing.

Projects that do not comply with this essential requirement will not be received.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on the present call, applicants can refer to the following contacts:

In Italy

Office IX - Directorate General for Country
Promotion
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation (MAECI)
E-mail: dgsp-09bandi2@esteri.it

In Mexico

Directorate General for Cooperation Policy of
the Mexican Agency for International
Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)
E-mail: dgpcooperacion@sre.gob.mx