

Work Program

for Scientific and Technological Cooperation

between

the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia

and

**the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
of the Italian Republic**

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Italian Republic on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Ljubljana on February 4, 1998, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Desiring to promote further development of Slovenian - Italian scientific and technological cooperation,

Aware that scientific and technological cooperation is an essential part of the bilateral relations between the countries,

Have agreed to establish the Work Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, hereinafter referred to as the "STC Work Program".

Article 1

The Parties shall promote research exchange in the scientific fields, which both Parties consider important in order to achieve sustainable growth. The research fields will be selected by mutual consent of both Parties.

Article 2

Each Part shall encourage the participation of the representatives of their countries in round tables, seminars and conferences on issues of scientific and technological cooperation, organized by the other Party's scientific research institutions and other relevant bodies.

Article 3

The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between scientific institutions and higher education institutions regarding scientific and technological cooperation, as well as the realization of joint scientific and technological programs and projects, and encourage the exchange of scientists, technical experts and PhD students.

Article 4

1. The Parties will support joint scientific and technological projects based on mutual interest, according to the proposals that will be prepared jointly by Slovenian and Italian research teams.

2. The research proposals will be submitted in accordance with a joint call for proposals, which will be issued in parallel by both Parties, and will be agreed upon jointly following a scientific evaluation process.

Article 5

1. To coordinate this STC Work Program, the Parties shall establish an Slovenian – Italian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Commission".

2. The members of the Joint Commission shall include representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as MESS), Slovenian Research Agency (hereinafter referred to as SRA) and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as MAECI).

3. Each Party shall appoint a Chairperson and Secretary of the Joint Commission from among its representatives in the Joint Commission.

4. Between meetings, information shall be shared through the Co-Chairpersons or Secretaries of the Joint Commission.

5. Approval and adoption of decisions of the Joint Commission may be performed by means of electronic communication or exchange of mail, upon decision of both Parties of the Joint Commission.

6. Each Co-Chairperson shall be responsible for organizing the work and activity of their side of the Joint Commission. The Secretaries shall ensure the ongoing work of their side of the Joint Commission and prepare the necessary materials for the meetings of the Joint Commission.

7. Decisions of the Joint Commission shall be made by general consensus.

8. The meetings of the Joint Commission shall be organized in turn by each of the Parties. The host Party shall cover expenditures for the organization of the meetings of the Joint Commission. Each Party shall pay the costs of travel and accommodation of its members of the Joint Commission.

9. The Joint Commission shall meet at least once every two years. In case of need, MESS and MAECI may agree on further meetings.

10. The decisions of the Joint Commission shall be recorded in protocols. The Co-Chairpersons of the Joint Commission shall sign the protocols of the meetings.

Article 6

1. The selection of projects in the framework of this STC Work Program shall be done on a competitive basis. Calls for proposals for funding projects will be announced at the same time in the Republic of Slovenia and in the Italian Republic.

2. Scientists and other researchers from all scientific institutions and higher educational institutions of the Republic of Slovenia and the Italian Republic may participate in the announced calls. The main condition to apply is having a partner in the State of the other Party, as well as additional eligibility conditions, which should be stipulated in the call.

3. The principal researchers of the projects shall apply to SRA and MAECI - Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation (DGSP) Unit IX, respectively.

4. A project must meet the requirements stipulated in the call and pass the scientific evaluation. Subsequently, it needs to be approved by the Joint Commission.

Article 7

1. Scientists and researchers from all scientific institutions and higher education institutions from the Republic of Slovenia shall submit their projects in the Slovenian and English language to SRA.

2. Scientists and researchers from all scientific institutions and higher education institutions from the Italian Republic shall submit their projects in English to MAECI - DGSP, Unit IX.

Article 8

MESS/SRA and MAECI - DGSP, Unit IX shall be, if needed, assisted by experts in defining the priority areas of calls and in the evaluation process of the received project proposals. The evaluation process shall be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance
- Methodology and documentation
- Competence and skill of the research teams
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation
- Added value in addressing societal challenges
- Exploitation and dissemination of results
- Involvement of early career researchers

Article 9

MESS and MAECI - DGSP, Unit IX shall submit their review results for consideration to the Joint Commission. At a meeting of the Joint Commission, the overall list of projects for funding shall be approved.

Article 10

Funds for implementation of this STC Work Program shall be allocated by the Parties on an equal basis, according to their availability and in accordance with the respective applicable laws and regulations of each Party. Any activities pursuant to this STC Work Program shall be done in accordance with the respective applicable laws,

regulations and procedures of the Parties, and subject to the availability of funds, within the respective ordinary budgets.

Article 11

In the framework of this STC Work Program, the following activities may be funded within an approved project:

- The cost of visits to the Republic of Slovenia and/or to the Italian Republic of scientists and other researchers participating in the project;
- Organization of joint seminars, conferences and meetings in the Republic of Slovenia and/or in the Italian Republic;
- Materials for the research project;
- Other activities related to the project may be funded, in accordance with the laws and regulations of each Party.

Article 12

1. Visits to the Republic of Slovenia and/or to the Italian Republic by scientists and other researchers participating in the project, will be in accordance with the following conditions:

- a. The visits take place within the framework of a joint project.
2. The financial terms of the visits:
- a. The Sending Party shall bear:
 - The cost of the flight of its scientists / researchers;
 - b. The Receiving Party shall bear:
 - The cost of accommodations and living of scientists and researchers of the counterpart;
 - The cost of medical insurance coverage against work accidents and illnesses, excluding already existing and chronic diseases.

Moreover, in the framework of an approved project, the principal researchers, once per year, can organise, on a reciprocity basis, joint seminars/conferences or meetings on the visit contents. These activities will be carried out alternatively in both Countries, and the Sending Party will cover the cost of the flight of its scientists / researchers, while the organizational expenses will be in charge of the Receiving Party.

Article 13

The Slovenian and Italian researchers and their institutions shall enter into cooperation contacts, regarding the allocation of intellectual property rights created from the output of the financed project.

Article 14

1. Following the completion of a project, its coordinator shall submit a final report to the supervising Office of this STC Work Program in his/her country. This report shall include the results of the project, possible areas and prospects of using these results and further cooperation.

2. Each Part shall prepare a summary report on the results of the projects and submit it to the Joint Commission.

Article 15

Any differences of interpretation of the provisions of this STC Work Program shall be settled through direct negotiations or consultations between the Parties.

Article 16

This STC Work Program may be modified by mutual written consent of the Parties.

Article 17

1. This STC Work Program shall come into effect on the date of its signature and shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years. This STC Work Program shall be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years each, unless a written notification of termination has been given by either Party six months in advance.

2. The termination of this STC Work Program shall not affect the validity of any projects and programs or other forms of cooperative activities undertaken prior to the termination of this STC Work Program and still in progress at the time of termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

Done in ~~Breda pa Kenja~~ on the 10 day of OCTOBER 2017, in duplicate, in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.



For the Ministry of Education,
Science and Sport
of the Republic of Slovenia



For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation
of the Italian Republic