



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



**BRAZIL – ITALY
COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

CALL LAUNCH: 23 September 2024

CLOSING DATE: 23 October 2024

For Italy: 17:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time)

For Brazil: 13:00 PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Brazil, signed in Rome on February 12th, 1997 and entered into force on December 15th, 1998, and of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), and the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Brasília on 30 July 2019, the Directorate General for Country Promotion– Office IX of MAECI, and CONFAP, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, are opening a call for joint proposals toward the renewal of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2025-2027.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, one funding scheme is available:

- **Joint Research Projects**, where research activities are co-funded by both Parties.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects must be submitted within one of the following priority research areas:

1. Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence

2. Renewable Energies
3. Biodiversity and its bioeconomic implications
4. Infectious diseases in the One Health perspective
5. Sustainable Agriculture
6. Physics of Matter and advanced materials
7. Astronomical and Space sciences

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

Depending on the scientific quality of submitted proposals, one or more of the above listed research areas may not be funded.

Research proposals involving technologies designed either for military, or for both civil and military applications (so called “dual use” technologies), will not be accepted under the present call due to their inherent risks and ethical implications.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals:

- must be written in English;
- the project plan and title must be identical in the applications to both Parties
- must refer to activities to be completed within the period of validity of the Executive Programme (E.P.), i.e. 3 years (2025-2027);
- must be submitted to both Parties. Proposals submitted in only one Country will not be considered for evaluation.

Each Principal Investigator (P.I.):

- must submit only one proposal, under penalty of exclusion for multiple submissions.

Italian Party:

- The call is open to public or private (no-profit) research institutions;
- The PI must hold Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy, and must be an affiliated staff member of a public or private (no-profit) Italian research institution, with a permanent position, or with a temporary position covering at least the first year of activity of the proposed project (the termination date of the contract must be declared in the CV).

Brazilian Party

- the call is open to:
 - Coordinators/researchers, who are implementing research activities within Brazilian universities, institutes or research centres based in Brazilian States whose State Funding Agencies (FAPs) confirmed their participation to the present call (detailed in the document Annex I – Brazil, available in CONFAP’s webpage);

- Additional eligibility criteria may be requested by the supporting State Funding Agencies - FAPs, which shall, in such cases, provide the needed orientations or publish specific guidelines:
- Participants from Brazil must verify with their respective FAPs such rules and modalities.

The project proposals must be jointly elaborated and must be submitted by the Principal Investigators of both Parties within the same priority area.

Proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties or in different research areas will not be considered.

For the Brazilian side, in case of involvement of more than one State within the same proposal, the submission must be done by each Brazilian PI - from the respective Brazilian State, indicating details of the PIs from other Brazilian States jointly submitting the proposal, so as the PI from Italy. The submission must refer to the same proposal, maintaining the same title and acronym.

3.1 REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed above;
- Incomplete application (including additional documents where relevant - 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;
- Applications written in languages other than English.
- Institution of the Brazilian PI located in States not supporting the present call (for the list of supporting FAPs see section 9: Participating Brazilian FAPs)

4. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Joint proposals must be submitted to both Parties. The proposals must be written in English and have the same duration of the E.P. (3 years: 2025-2027):.

Italian Party:

- Proposals shall be submitted exclusively online, by filling in the dedicated forms at: <https://pgr.esteri.it/>. For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the email address dgsp-09bandi1@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. A declaration of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) within project description is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. 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). 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 must be accompanied by an endorsement letter signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution or by his/her delegate duly authorized by formal provision. The letter, which must be written in Italian using the template available for download at the same URL of the present call, should acknowledge the submission and provide official acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including the institutional co-funding listed in the provisional budget section of the proposal. Moreover, if the PI holds a temporary position, the endorsement letter must also certify that, should the contract be terminated before the end of the project, the Institution will replace the PI with another member of the research team thus ensuring that research activities are carried out without any interruption. The endorsement letter must be digitally signed and uploaded using the dedicated tab of the submission form.

Brazilian Party

- The coordinator/PI must submit the project proposal to CONFAP, through the following submission platform: <https://sistema.confap.org.br/>.
- Brazilian PIs/coordinators and Brazilian PIs part of the consortium must verify with their respective State Funding Agency if their proposals must be also submitted directly in the FAP's submission platform, apart from submitting to CONFAP, in the link mentioned above.
- In case of project proposals involving more than one Brazilian State, each Brazilian PI shall have to submit the proposal, indicating their respective State and FAP, so as the other Brazilian PIs and Italian PI which submit within the same proposal.
- The proposal must include all the relevant information regarding the involved researchers (PIs), including:
 - Endorsement letter from the University or Research centre of Origin of the Brazilian PI.
 - In case more than one Brazilian State is involved, the PI from each Institution should annex the endorsement letter of his/her corresponding institution.
 - Curriculum Vitae of all the involved Brazilian PIs.
 - All these supporting documents should be included as Annexes to the project proposal (in the same document).

5. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- A. After the call closure, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility checks before moving on to the two-step evaluation process.

- B. The first step of the evaluation process is performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals to be considered for funding.
- a. From the Brazilian side, CONFAP shares the submitted proposals with the involved State Funding Agencies. The FAPs will perform individually their evaluations, which are then consolidated by CONFAP, with the overall outcomes from Brazil.
- C. The second step of the evaluation process is performed at the bilateral level: during the meeting of the Joint Commission, which includes representatives from both countries, the two Parties will compare the shortlists emerging from national evaluations and will reach consensus on the final joint list of projects recommended for funding.
- D. The selected projects will be included in the text of the Executive Programme, to be published on the websites of both Parties, as indicated below.

Project proposals will be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Involvement of early career scientists in the research teams;
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results;
- Budget adequacy with respect to methods and expected results;

Only for Brazilian Party:

- The involvement of more than one Brazilian State in the same proposal will be considered as an added value.

6. PUBLICATION OF THE OUTCOMES

Italian Party, the official text of the Executive Programme, including the list of selected projects, will be published on 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 notified by e-mail of the outcomes of the selection process

Brazilian Party, the list of selected projects and funding procedures will be published on the website of CONFAP at the following address: <http://www.confap.org.br>; the involved FAPs will also publish these results on their respective websites.

7. 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.

Italian Party, Funding for projects selected and listed in the EP will be provided on a yearly basis. In particular, according to Italian law Nr. 401/90, and in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Directorate General for Country Promotion of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the PIs of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding at the beginning of each year of project activity.

The coordinating Institution is expected to anticipate all project expenses and will be reimbursed on a yearly basis, upon submission of the financial documents and positive evaluation of the corresponding scientific report.

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 50% of the total costs of the project is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs.

The funding contribution by MAECI to each project is approximately 30 K€/year, excluding 50% co-funding by the coordinating institution.

Brazilian Party, each participating FAP defines the maximum contribution for the call, so as the specific eligible costs. Such definitions, referred to the present call, are provided through orientations given by the involved FAPs or published in their respective Guidelines.

8. CONTACTS:

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

In Italy:

dqsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

In Brazil:

internacional.confap@gmail.com

Any inquiry which refers to the support given by the participating FAPs must be sent to the respective FAPs (contacts available in Annex I – Brazil, in CONFAP’s webpage).

9. PARTICIPATING BRAZILIAN STATE FUNDING AGENCIES:

From the Brazilian side, the present call is supported by the Brazilian State Funding Agencies (FAPs) listed here below.

Additional details on their respective allocated budget and contacts can be consulted in CONFAP's webpage, in the document – Annex I - Brazil.

1. Alagoas – FAPEAL
2. Amazonas – FAPEAM
3. Bahia – FAPESB
4. Espírito Santo – FAPES
5. Federal District – FAPDF
6. Maranhão - FAPEMA
7. Mato Grosso - FAPEMAT
8. Pará – FAPESPA
9. Paraíba - FAPESQ
10. Paraná – Fundação Araucária
11. Rio de Janeiro – FAPERJ
12. Rio Grande do Sul - FAPERGS
13. Santa Catarina – FAPESC
14. São Paulo – FAPESP
15. Tocantins - FAPT