

EXECUTIVE PROGRAM OF THE 1st JOINT COMMISSION ON S&T CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA FOR THE YEARS 2004-2007

In accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, signed in Rome on November 30th 1990, that came into force on January 15th 1991, the first Session of the Italian-Slovak Joint Commission was held in Rome on March 18 and 19, 2004 to examine and define the present state and the future development for S&T Co-operation between the two countries as well as to negotiate and approve the new Executive Program for years 2004-2007.

The Italian delegation was lead by Min. Plen. Lucio Alberto Savoia, Deputy General Director of the General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. The Slovak delegation was lead by Dr. Dusan Valachovic, Director, Department of International Science and Technology Co-operation, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. The members of two delegations are given in Annex 1.

The administrations in charge of the co-ordination and the implementation of the present Executive Program will be:

- for the Italian party: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Direction for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation;
- for the Slovak party: the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, Department of International Science and Technology Co-operation.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Present state of scientific and technological co-operation;
2. New program of co-operation;
3. Planning of future meetings;

1. Present state of scientific and technological co-operation

The two parties exchanged information on scientific and technological policies and priorities, as well as on the context and directions of the mutual international scientific and technological co-operation. The two parties have agreed to recognise the growing importance of science and technology for the economic, social and cultural development of the two Countries.

The two parties, considering the good relationships between the two Countries, have stressed the need to develop and further strengthen the co-operation in the fields of science and technology.

The two parties also agreed to pay serious attention to extending the co-operation in international and European multilateral research and development programs, and more specifically the European Union Framework Programs, COST, EUREKA as well as in other initiatives.

2. New Program of co-operation for the years 2004-2007

In the period August 1st – September 20th 2003 a joint call for proposals was launched to collect bilateral projects in the following priority areas:

- Basic sciences
- Information and Telecommunication Technologies

- Energy Resources
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Biology
- Medicine
- New Technologies and Innovative Materials
- Geology and Earth Science

A total number of 19 bilateral projects have been received. The two parties, in deciding which projects should be given priority financial support, have agreed on the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance of the project;
- Impact on the bilateral S&T relations;
- Potential for creating R&D;
- Potential for social and economic impact;
- Quality of project's presentation.

Based on these criteria, 11 projects have been selected to be granted financial support for the exchange of researchers. The list of the selected projects is given in Annex 2.

Agreed rules and provisions for implementation of the Program are given in Annex 3.

The Italian party will consider granting a financial contribution to significant bilateral research projects. A preliminary list of such projects is given in Annex 4. Financial support will be granted upon evaluation of the applications to be submitted according to indications that will be given by the Italian party.

Both parties agree to support also human and social sciences projects in future.

3. Planning of future meetings

The two parties have agreed that the next session of the Joint Committee will be held in Slovakia. Details about the date will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The present Program for the years 2004-2007 will remain into force until the signature of the next one, but no longer than one year after its expiry.

The two parties agree that all the initiatives foreseen in this Program will be carried out within the limits of their respective budgets and according to the rules prevailing in each Country. Any amendment to the text of this Program must be authorised by the competent Ministries and carried out through diplomatic channels.

The present document, including Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4, which are an integral part of it, has been drawn up in Rome, on 19 March 2004, in two originals in English language, both texts being valid.

Head of Delegation
For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Italy

Min. Plen. Lucio Alberto Savoia

Head of Delegation
For the Ministry of Education
of the Slovak Republic

Dr. Dušan Valachovic

Annex 1: Members of the two delegations

Annex 2: List of the selected projects

Annex 3: Administrative and financial provisions

Annex 4: List of Significant bilateral projects.

Annex 1: Members of the two delegations

Italian Delegation:

Minister Lucio Alberto Savoia	Head of the Italian delegation Deputy Director General, General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation
Secretary Massimo Carnelos	Deputy Head of Office V, General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation
Ms. Federica Ruzzier	Scientific Programs Office, Ministry of Education, University and Research
Mr. Andrea Fasulo	National Research Council (CNR)
Ms. Paola Cordone	Office V, General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation
Ms. Lucilla Alagna	Science Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Slovak Delegation:

Dr. Dusan Valachovic	Head of the Slovak delegation Director, Department of International Science and Technology Co-operation, Ministry of Education
Ms. Anna Sitarova	Counsellor, Department of International Science and Technology Co-operation, Ministry of Education
H.E. Ambassador Jozef Miklosko	Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Italy
Mr. Miroslav Musil	Cultural Counsellor, Slovak Embassy
Ms. Jarmila Matejkova	Slovak Embassy, Department of Cultural Affairs
Ms. Ivana Kniezova	Slovak Embassy, Assistant to the Ambassador

Annex 2: List of the selected projects

Legend: BS- Basic Sciences
 ICT- Information and Telecommunication Technologies
 ER- Energy resources
 Ag- Agriculture
 En- Environment
 Bi- Biology
 Me- Medicine
 NT- New Technologies and Innovative Materials
 GES- Geology and Earth Science

N.	Code	Title	Italian Co-ordinator	Slovak Co-ordinator
1	GES	Hybrid Finite-element Finite-difference Modelling of Earthquake Source Dynamics	Massimo Cocco Sezione di Sismologia e Tettonofisica Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia – Roma Via di Vigna Murata 605, 00143 Roma	Peter Moczo, DrSc. Katedra fyziky Zeme a planét Fakulta matematiky, fyziky a informatiky UK Mlynská dolina F1 842 48 Bratislava
2	Bi	Characterisation of natural recombinant Plum pox virus populations from two epidemiological different areas and detection improvement of this emerging pathogen	Arben Myrta Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari Via Ceglie 9 70010 Valenzano (Ba)	Miroslav Glasa, PhD Oddelenie rastlinnej virológie Virologický ústav SAV Dúbravská cesta 9 845 05 Bratislava
3	Bi	Characterisation of parasitoozotic agents circulating in Slovakia and Italy using genetic and immunological approaches	Stefano D'Amelio Ricercatore Dipartimento di Scienze di Sanità Pubblica Università di Roma "La Sapienza" P.le Aldo Moro 5 00183 Roma	Viliam Šnábel Parazitologický ústav SAV Hlinkova 3 040 01 Košice
4	BS	Algebraic and Logical Systems of Soft Computing	Antonio Di Nola Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica Università degli Studi di Salerno Via S. Allende 84081 Baronissi (Sa)	Anatolij Dvurecenskij Matematický ústav SAV Štefánikova 49 814 73 Bratislava

5	En	Radionuclides removal from nuclear power plant wastewater by cation exchange using zeolitic materials and solidification/inertization of resulting sludge by vitrification /ceramization	Domenico Caputo, Professore Associato di Scienza e tecnologia dei materiali Dipartimento di Ingegneria dei Materiali e della Produzione Università di Napoli Federico II – P. le Vincenzo Tecchio 80 80125 Napoli	Eva Chmielewská Prírodovedecká fakulta UK Odbor environmentálny Mlynská dolina 842 15 Bratislava
6	NT	Prediction and verification of the mechanical performance of heterogeneous material microstructures	Gianni Nicoletto Dip. di Ingegneria Industriale Università di Parma Parco Area delle Scienze 181/A 43100 Parma	Radomila Konečná, Žilinská univerzita v Žiline Strojnícka fakulta Katedra materiálového inžinierstva Veľký diel 010 26 Žilina
7	Bi	Rapid detection of <i>Salmonella spp</i> and listeria monocytogenes in food by endpoint 5' nuclease PCR and PCR-ELISA	Stefano Girotti Unità Complessa Scienze Chimiche, Radiochimiche e Metallurgiche Università di Bologna Via S. Donato 15 I 40127 Bologna	Tomáš Kuchta, CSc. Výskumný ústav potravinársky Oddelenie mikrobiológie a chémie Priemyselná 4 P.O. Box 25 824 75 Bratislava 26
8	Bi	Interaction between bacteria and intestinal cells and molecular mechanisms involved (Molecular Diagnosis of microbial interactions in the healthy gut)	Elena Mengheri Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca per gli Alimenti e la Nutrizione (INRAN) Via Ardeatina 546, 00178 Roma	Vladimir Kmet Institute of Animal Physiology Slovak Academy of Sciences (UFHZ SAV) Solesovej 4 040 01 Kosice
9	ICT	Design and Testing of Digital Systems-on-chip	Paolo Prinetto Politecnico di Torino Dipartimento di Automatica e Informatica C.so Duca degli Abruzzi 24 10129 Torino	Elena Gramatová, Ústav informatiky SAV Dúbravská cesta 9 845 07 Bratislava
10	NT	Composition dependence of shape memory effect in Cu based alloys	Mario Pitteri Dipartimento di Metodi e Modelli Matematici per le Scienze Applicate Università di Padova Via G.B. Belzoni 7 I 35131 Padova	Svätoboj Longauer, Katedra náuky o materiáloch Hutnícka fakulta TU Košice Letná 9 04200 Košice

11	En	Study of relations of mineralization, acidity and autochthonous bacteria occurrence in acid mine drainage.	Stefano Ubaldini CNR - Istituto di Geologia Ambientale e Geingegneria (IGAG) Via Bolognola 7 00138 Roma	Mária Kušnierová, Ústav geotechniky SAV Watsonova 45 043 53 Košice
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Annex 3: Administrative and financial provisions

Financial Provisions for implementing the joint research projects financed by the two parties

The financed projects of the present Program are exclusively those mentioned in Annex 2. For each project listed in Annex 2, 2 short term stays of 10 days each will be financed each year.

The researchers will be entitled to the exchange only if they hold the nationality of one of the two countries signing this agreement, or if they hold an EU nationality and are legally resident in one of the two countries.

The travel expenses between the two countries shall be borne by the sending party, while the receiving party shall bear the expenses of lodging and boarding by means of an all inclusive cash allowance.

The host party shall provide medical insurance coverage (emergency health care), on the basis of the rules in force in each Country, against accidents and illness, excluding already existing and chronic diseases and dental prosthesis.

The researchers must submit to the two responsible administrations, within 30 days after finishing their visit, a report on the activities of study carried out.

STAY OF SLOVAK RESEARCHERS IN ITALY

The Italian party will finance, annually, for each project listed in Annex 2, 2 short term stays of 10 days each.

The application for the stays must be submitted exclusively through diplomatic channels, no less than two months before their beginning, to the Office V – General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The application concerning the research stay must comprise the following documents, in two copies:

- 1) Letter of invitation of the host Institution;
- 2) Application form undersigned by the Slovak researcher indicating the applicant's personal and professional data, title and number of the research project, date and length of the visit, list of the institutes to visit (2 original application forms); the application form is available at the web address: <http://www.esteri.it> under Foreign Policy (Policy Areas > Cultural Policy > Activities > Scientific Technical Co-operation > Mobility of Foreign Researchers)
- 3) Detailed work program;
- 4) Curriculum Vitae of the researcher;
- 5) Letter of appointment by the head of the project (in favour of his/her replacement in the event that the head of the project does not personally go to the other country for research).

The above mentioned application shall be completed with a declaration, in which the researcher commits him/herself:

- To respect the indicated period of visit;
- Not to receive retributions by other International Organisations or Corporations during his/her stay;
- Not to change work program, Research Centre and not to depart from Italy without authorisation;
- To present, at the end of his/her research, a final report on the activities carried out;

- To transmit to INA Assitalia, Lungotevere Flaminio 34, 00196 Roma, notice of accidents and/or illness for the insurance coverage;

Renunciations, unless seriously documented, shall prevent the hosting party from accepting further applications for related missions.

In order to cover the necessary insurance cost for the Slovak researchers during their stay in Italy, each researcher is requested to send to the Italian Party (General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation - Office V, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Fax n.: --3906 36917121) a fax on the first day of his/her arrival at the Italian Scientific Institution to notify his/her presence in Italy.

The Italian party shall provide Euro 93,00 per day for the stays (10 days), as all inclusive allowance.

The above amount shall be paid to the Slovak researchers entirely on their arrival in Italy.

Slovak researchers can receive the payments either at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or at the nearest Provincial Treasury (local Branch of the Banca d'Italia). They will indicate where to be paid in the application form.

Any and all documents listed above and required by the Italian party will be submitted in English language.

STAY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS IN SLOVAKIA

The Slovak party will finance, annually for each project listed in Annex 2, 2 short term stays of 10 days each.

Financial coverage is provided to the Slovak institutions which are directly in charge of the stay of Italian researchers in Slovakia.

The application for the stays must be submitted by the Italian researchers directly to the relevant Slovak host institutions.

Renunciations, unless seriously documented, shall prevent the hosting party from accepting further applications for related missions.

In order to cover the necessary insurance costs, the Italian researchers shall notify the exact date of their arrival to the host institution one week prior to the beginning of their visit.

The Slovak party shall provide Slovak Korunas 790 per day for the stays (10 days). Accommodation and insurance will be handled directly by the host institutions in Slovakia.

JOURNEY OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO SLOVAKIA

Italian researchers travelling to Slovakia for stays at the local Institutions, must submit, two months before the date of departure, a formal application to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Direzione Generale per la Promozione e la Cooperazione Culturale, Ufficio V, Piazzale della Farnesina 1, 00194 – Roma.

The Italian party will provide the participants with a remuneration concerning only the travelling expenses in economic class.

The application must be completed with:

- Name and address of the hosting Institution;

- Foreseen dates of departure and arrival;
- Title of the research project;
- Letter of invitation by the hosting Institution
- Declaration of the Italian researcher with the engagement: to pay penalties in case of renunciation to travel; to deliver the air ticket and boarding card within 15 days after returning, and a final report on the activities carried out;
- Declaration of the project's co-ordinator concerning the participation of the researcher in the project (only in case the researcher is not the co-ordinator of the project).

These rules are available at the following address: <http://www.esteri.it> under Politica estera (grandi temi > politica culturale > attività > cooperazione scientifica e tecnologica > mobilità dei ricercatori italiani).

JOURNEY OF SLOVAK RESEARCHERS TRAVELLING TO ITALY

Slovak researchers shall submit an annual progress report to the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, Department of International Science and Technology Co-operation describing the results of the current year and documenting the use of received financial support.

Rules are available at the following address: <http://www.education.gov.sk>

Annex 4: Significant bilateral projects

N.	Title	Italian Head of project	Slovak partner
1	Landslide Risk Mitigation and Protection of Cultural Heritage	Nicola Casagli Dip. Scienze della Terra Università di Firenze	Ian Vlcko Faculty of Natural Science Comenius University