



Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

C A L L
FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS UNDER THE COOPERATION WITH
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ITALY (CNR)

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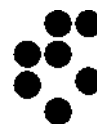
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1. BACKGROUND, RULES AND BASIC INFORMATION

The Jožef Stefan Institute (hereinafter: JSI) concluded an Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Italian Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche; hereinafter: CNR) on 22 December 2022 and a Cooperation Programme for the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation with the CNR on 18 March 2025.

The purpose of the Agreement is to establish a framework for the development of cooperation programmes and projects of common interest to further strengthen cooperation in the field of scientific research and development between the CNR and the JSI.

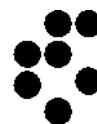
The parties encourage scientific cooperation in projects of common interest between researchers from the CNR and the JSI on the basis of mutual and equitable contributions and benefits.

As specified in the Agreement, proposals for joint scientific cooperation may be submitted within the following thematic areas:

- quantum science,
- artificial intelligence,
- health,
- biotechnology,
- nanostructured materials,
- green energy.

Based on the evaluation procedure, a maximum of six (6) joint CNR and JSI projects will be selected for funding.

Both parties to the Agreement will finance the projects selected under this call. Each project will have CNR and JSI leader, with each receiving 50% of the total funding. The funding due to each of the leaders of the selected projects will be provided by the home institution in accordance with applicable national laws, regulations and procedures.



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1.1. Financing and eligible cost

The release of funds allocated to selected projects will be carried out by direct cash transfer to the department employing the Slovenian project manager, who will manage the allocated funds and report annually on the activities carried out and the costs incurred by the project.

Eligible costs subject to financing:

1. research stays carried out exclusively in Italy or Slovenia and lasting no less than two (2) days;
2. research costs, up to a maximum of 35% of the project costs.

1.2. The Commission for the selection of CNR projects at JSI

The Commission for the Selection of CNR-JSI Projects at the JSI (hereinafter referred to as: the Commission) is appointed by resolution by the Director of the JSI.

A person who has or will apply for a project on the basis of this call cannot be appointed to the Commission.

1.3. Evaluation criteria

The Commission will select projects eligible for funding based on the criteria listed below:

1. **Project quality** (maximum 5 points): scientific relevance, including originality and innovation in relation to the current state of the art; clarity and feasibility of project goals; soundness of methodology and structure of the work plan; expected impact of results: plans for dissemination and potential application.
2. **Research Group Quality** (maximum 5 points): qualifications and expertise of the team: complementarity in terms of scientific content, methods, and infrastructure; clear justification for the necessity of collaboration.
3. **Work plan** (maximum 5 points): structured, realistic, and well-aligned with the project goals; clear timeline and division of responsibilities; logical sequence of activities and justified allocation of resources.



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- 4. Added Value and Broader Impact of Bilateral Cooperation** (maximum 5 points): specific benefits arising from international collaboration; potential for long-term partnerships and knowledge exchange; contribution to capacity building and wider scientific or societal impact.

The Commission will evaluate the projects based on the applications received and rank them according to the number of points received. Before the substantive evaluation, the Commission will first check whether the project application meets the formal conditions. The joint evaluation procedure and selection of projects for co-financing by both commissions (CNR and JSI) will take place in November 2025.

1.4 Basic steps of evaluation

1. Preparation of expert evaluations of proposals (JSI Commission)
2. Consolidation of evaluations (JSI Commission)
3. Final selection of proposals (JSI and CNR Commissions)
4. Final decision by the Directors of JSI and CNR

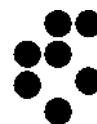
1.5. Grounds for rejection

The project application will be rejected and excluded from the selection if:

- the project proposal is not submitted to both parties to the agreement according to the procedures specified by each party in the call;
- the project proposal is not submitted within the prescribed deadline or in the manner specified by this call; the titles of the joint project (title of the project proposal of the Italian project leader and the title of the project proposal of the Slovenian project leader) are different or not written in English;
- the mandatory form or any annexes to the form (curricula, consent to the processing of personal data) are not consistent and/or not signed;
- the CV of the Slovenian project leader and the CV of the Italian project leader are not signed or not signed correctly;
- the Italian project leader does not declare, by using the appropriate mark in the online application process at CNR, that he/she has read the information regarding the processing of personal data;
- the Slovenian project leader has not signed or not signed correctly the consent to the processing of personal data.

1.6. Timeline

- Publication of the call for proposals: 8 May 2025.
- Deadline for submission of project proposals: 8 September 2025 at 12:00 noon.



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- Evaluation procedure and selection of projects for co-financing by both commissions by the end of November 2025.
- Launch of the projects January 1, 2026.

Based on a joint agreement, CNR and JSI will select the projects to receive funding.

1.7. Mandatory elements of project proposal

The project submitted by the Slovenian project leader by 8 September 2025 must be submitted in English on the prescribed application form, which is Annex 1 to this call.

Italian project leaders must submit an application to the CNR by 8 September 2025 (for the same project submitted in Slovenia by the Slovenian project leader), based on the rules, procedures and regulations set by the CNR.

The titles of the joint project (the title of the Slovenian project leader's project and the title of the Italian project leader's project) must be **identical** in both applications (application to the JSI and applications to the CNR) and must be written **in English**.

1.8. Scope of financing

The agreement provides for the financing of a maximum of six (6) joint projects, with a maximum annual contribution of each party to the agreement of EUR 7,000.00 for each project.

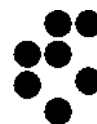
The maximum total amount of co-financing for one (1) project is EUR 14,000.00 for a maximum duration of two (2) years.

1.9. Persons eligible to propose projects

Researchers who have an employment contract with JSI.

1.10. Limitations regarding the submissions of applications

1. Members of the Commission responsible for project evaluation may not submit project applications.
2. A project leader may not submit more than one project proposal within a single call for proposals.



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1.11. Language

Project proposals must be written in English in accordance with the instructions set out in this call.

1.12. How to file a project application

The project application must be sent by September 8, 2025 at 12:00 (noon) to the email address ijs-cnr@ijs.si.

The header of the email containing the project proposal must include:

"Application for the CNR-JSI call". If the application does not contain the specified text, it will not be considered.

1.13. Reporting

Research project leaders who will obtain funding are obliged to report on the results achieved during the implementation of the project, at the request of the Commission.

1.14. Formal basis for the Call

The formal basis of this Call is the following:

- Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Italian Research Council concluded by CNR and JSI of 22 December 2022, and
- Cooperation Programme for the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation concluded by CNR and JSI of 18 March 2025.

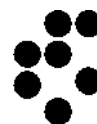
2. PURPOSE AND MISSION

The purpose of the agreement and funding is to promote joint cooperation between Italian and Slovenian researchers and to encourage the development and implementation of joint research projects for participation in Horizon Europe calls published by the European Commission, or in other international programmes, including the following activities:

- joint research programmes,
- visits and exchanges of research academic staff,
- other mutually acceptable cooperation activities.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions regarding the call and tender may be addressed to:



Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Contact person at JSI:

Ms. Romana Jordan, PhD

Assistant Director for EU Affairs

Jožef Stefan Institute, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tel.: +386 1 477 3808

Email: romana.jordan@ijs.si

Contact person at CNR:

Salvatore Di Napoli

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Unità Relazioni Internazionali

Tel.: 06 4993 3791

Email: salvatore.dinapoli@cnr.it

4. APPLICATION FORM

Project applications are submitted using the CNR-JSI Project Application Form, which is Annex 1 to this call.

5. ANNEXES

01 Application Form

02 Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and the Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) of 22 December 2022

03 Cooperation Programme of the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and the Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) of 18 March 2025