



Memorandum of Understanding
between
the **Ministry of Universities and Research**
of the Italian Republic, on one side
And
the **Ministry of Science,**
Technological Development and
Innovation of the Republic of Serbia and
The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia on the other side,
on
Cooperation in the fields of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

The Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) of the Italian Republic, the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia, hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”,

Recognizing the crucial role of higher education, research and innovation in driving sustainable development and socio-economic transformations;

Taking into account the long-standing and positive collaboration developed over the course of the last decades;

Recognizing the fundamental role of education, science and technology in the dialogue between Italy and Serbia;



Acknowledging the potential of cooperation in higher education, technology and innovation based on the principles of mutual benefit, and with the aim of strengthening knowledge and sharing applications;

Considering the shared interest between the two countries in the field of higher education, research and innovation;

Considering the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, done at Rome on December 21st, 2009;

Considering the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Italian Republic on cooperation in the field of culture and education done at Rome on November 13th, 2009;

Recognizing the need for a specific cooperation arrangement, on a technical level, for strengthening the collaboration, the exchange of knowledge and joint applications in research and innovation on shared scientific, technological and societal challenges;

Have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MoU”):

Article 1

Objective

This MoU aims at further strengthening cooperation in higher education, research and innovation between Italy and Serbia through joint actions aimed at supporting scientific and industrial research projects, mobility of scholars and researchers and innovative infrastructures.

Article 2

Types of cooperation

The cooperation may include the following activities:

- a) promoting cooperation between respective national research and innovation programmes, institutions, infrastructures and innovative businesses;
- b) supporting joint research and innovation projects;
- c) promoting research mobility among Italian and Serbian universities and research institutions;
- d) fostering the establishment of co-tutored doctorates, double degrees and joint degrees;
- e) promoting joint activities in the fields of higher education, research, applied research and innovation.

Article 3

Areas of cooperation

The Participants will cooperate specifically, but not exclusively, in the following areas of research and innovation:

- A) High Performance Computing and Big Data;
- B) Artificial Intelligence and its applications;
- C) Agri and Food technologies;
- D) Bio and RNA technologies;
- E) Sustainable Economy and Sustainable Mobility;

Article 4

Support joint research and innovation projects

1. Regarding the joint research and innovation projects referred to in Article 2(b), the Participants may launch joint calls for proposals to fund collaborative Serbian-Italian research and innovation projects.
2. Each Participant will allocate a budget for each call, taking into account the importance of the research sector potentially interested in the thematic call areas in its own country.
3. For each call, the Participants will appoint a joint Call Management Committee in charge of:
 - a) define the thematic call areas and topics;
 - b) define the call procedures, including the evaluation criteria;
 - c) evaluate the proposed projects, with the help of independent experts, and select the projects for funding in accordance with the ranking list and the available funds;
 - d) monitor the project execution.
4. Participants will define and publish the first joint call for proposals during the year 2023. The call will be aimed at funding bilateral research projects on the above-mentioned focus areas. Details concerning the financial commitment of the Participants in 2023 will be further articulated in written management plans.

Article 5

Mobility of scholars and researchers

1. Regarding the mobility actions referred to in Article 2(c) of this MoU, the Participants will establish a "Serbia-Italy Mobility Academic Program" (SIMAP).



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2. This action will be the subject of a specific technical protocol between the Participants, which will define priority areas of interest having regard to available resources.

Article 6

Co-tutored doctorates

1. Regarding the actions aimed at enhancing the establishment of co-tutored doctorates referred to in article 2(d) of this MoU, the Participants will establish the “Serbia-Italy Academic Program” (SIAP).
2. The establishment of the SIAP will be governed by a specific technical protocol between the Participants, which will define priority areas of interest, having regard to available resources.

Article 7

Other joint activities

1. Regarding the actions aimed at enhancing joint activities in research and innovation referred to in Article 2(e) of this MoU, the Participants will strengthen the academic and scientific collaboration in terms of higher education and scientific and technological cooperation in consolidated research areas and to extend to further areas of cooperation, in order to contribute to the development and deepening of joint activities including the establishment of joint research partnerships with private sector.
2. These actions will be the subject of a specific technical protocol between the Participants, which will define priority areas of interest having regard to available resources.

Article 8

Joint Steering Committee

1. In order to facilitate the implementation of this MoU, the Participants will establish a Joint Steering Committee, which involves representatives from both countries.
2. The functions of the Joint Steering Committee will be:
 - a) the establishment of a working plan for the implementation of this MoU;
 - b) formulation of policies and guidance on the objectives of this MoU;
 - c) formulation and guidance on the scientific and technological objectives.
3. Concerning the areas of cooperation referred to in Article 3 of the present MoU, the Joint Steering Committee may propose additional priority areas of cooperation to be endorsed by the Participants by mutual consent.
4. The Joint Steering Committee will be composed of a maximum of three (3) members from each Participant. Its composition may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants.
5. Bi-annual physical or video-conference meetings of the Steering Committee will take place to review the work performed and to present and report the progress achieved by the Participants.
6. The mission costs related to the Joint Steering Committee will be covered by the existing resources in the budget of each Participant. There will be no remuneration for participation in the Joint Steering Committee.

Article 9

Financial aspects and implementation



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- 1 The activities set forth in this MoU will be implemented by the Participants according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and of the Republic of Serbia;
- 2 Unless specifically decided by the Participants, each Participant will fund beneficiaries of its own country. MUR will coordinate and manage public funding sources in Italy, and the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation will coordinate and manage public funding sources in Serbia;
- 3 Without prejudice to art. 9(1) and 9(2), the actions aimed at encouraging joint activities in the areas referred to in Article 3 of this MoU should be jointly funded, according to the recommendations of the Joint Steering Committee;
- 4 Cooperation activities involving other interested entities will not entail any exchange of funds; any entity interested in cooperation activities will bear the costs related to their implementation, subject to the availability of appropriate funds.

Article 10

Intellectual Property Rights and Personal Data Protection

1. The Participants will require the entities and institutions involved in cooperation activities to ensure the adequate protection of the intellectual property rights resulting from projects funded within the framework of this MoU.
2. In the implementation of this MoU, no information concerning a natural person or enabling his/her identification will be transmitted to a third party or processed in a manner that is incompatible with the agreed purposes, without the prior written consent of the data controller who provided this information.
3. The protection of intellectual property rights will be guaranteed in accordance with the Italian and Serbian intellectual property legislations and applicable international laws.
4. The acknowledgment of the contribution offered by each Participant in the joint projects will be expressly mentioned in the publications deriving from the

activities under the present MoU, according to the terms decided by the mutual consent of the Participants.

Article 11

Safeguard clause

This MoU does not constitute an international agreement under international law and no rights and obligations may arise from the present MoU. This MoU will be implemented in compliance with the Italian and Serbian legislations as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Participant, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

Article 12

Duration and termination

1. This MoU takes effect on the date of signature.
2. This MoU remains valid for five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for further periods of five (5) years.
3. Each Participant may terminate this MoU by notifying the other of its intention to terminate the MoU at least six-(6) month before the intended date of expiration. The termination will not affect the already ongoing cooperation activities.
4. The Participants may amend this MoU in writing by mutual consent.
5. Any differences in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.



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Signed in *Belgrade...* on *22 March 2023...*, in three originals, each in the English language.



For the Ministry of
Universities and Research
of the Italian Republic



For the Ministry of Science,
Technological Development and
Innovation of the Republic of Serbia

For the Ministry of Education of the
Republic of Serbia

