

Declaration of Intent
on Cooperation in Research and Innovation
between
the Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic
and
the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia

The Republic of Italy and the Republic of Serbia share a longstanding tradition of collaboration in research and innovation, built on mutual respect, shared values, and common interests. This partnership has consistently strengthened the ties between their respective research ecosystems, fostering scientific excellence and innovation to address global challenges. Recognizing the success of past collaborations and the potential for further joint achievements, both parties reaffirm their commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation in research and innovation.

On the occasion of the first Serbia-Italy Science Forum, held in Belgrade on March 22, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in higher education, research, and innovation, was signed between the Ministry of University and Research of the Republic of Italy and the Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation, along with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia. Under this MoU, a Call for Proposals was issued for the First Executive Programme for Cooperation in Research and Innovation for 2024–2026. This call aims to foster bilateral, interdisciplinary research collaborations in priority areas, including High-Performance Computing, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Agrifood Technologies, and Sustainable Economics.

At the second Italy-Serbia Science Forum, held in Trieste on November 28, 2024, both parties acknowledged the overwhelming success of the Call for Proposals, which attracted 83 submissions. They committed to conclude the expert evaluations in view of the next bilateral Intergovernmental Summit, allowing selected projects to commence operations. This initiative underscores Italy and Serbia's commitment to enhancing collaboration between their research and innovation ecosystems.

The signatories also reaffirm their intention to deepen bilateral cooperation through new agreements and joint research projects, advancing shared interests. Specific measures to strengthen Italy-Serbia cooperation in research and innovation include:



Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- Supporting joint research programs in different research fields such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Agri-tech, Bio-tech, Sustainable Economy, and Mobility.
- Promoting the mobility of researchers between Italy and Serbia.
- Facilitating Transnational Access (TNA) programs for shared use of research infrastructures by Italian and Serbian scientists.
- Encouraging joint seminars, workshops, conferences, and scientific events.

Both parties recognize the achievements of their collaboration and commit to concluding the evaluation process for the current Call for Proposals, ensuring that selected projects commence operations promptly. Furthermore, they will ensure that future agreements and joint research projects advance the shared interests of both nations and enhance their global scientific standing.

The signatories extend their best wishes for the upcoming 2025 Serbia-Italy Intergovernmental Summit, which will highlight the strong partnership between the two nations and provide another opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation in research and innovation.

This Declaration of Intent is not legally binding and does not create enforceable rights or obligations under international law. The commitments expressed herein reflect the shared goodwill and strategic priorities of the signatories.

Trieste, 28 november 2024

**Ministry of University and Research of the
Italian Republic**

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

Anna Maria Bernini

Jelena Begović