

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH OF THE
ITALIAN REPUBLIC

AND

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND ICT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

ON

COOPERATION IN ADVANCED SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and jointly as the “Participants”);

In light of the Italy-Korea Summit held in Seoul on 19 January 2026;

Recalling the Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology, done at Rome on 16 February 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the “2007 Agreement”); and

Seeking to expand comprehensive and practical cooperation opportunities in the fields of science and technology and the digital domain,

Have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) is to promote mutually beneficial cooperation across advanced science and technology and information and communications technology (hereinafter referred to as “ICT”) and to establish a substantive bilateral partnership through the launch of joint research projects, the sharing of research infrastructure, and policy coordination.

Paragraph 2

Areas of Cooperation

The Participants will cooperate in areas of mutual interest in science, technology, and ICT, including:

- a) artificial intelligence (including safety, trustworthiness, and ethics) and the digital economy (including data-driven emerging industries);
- b) quantum science and technology and next-generation communications (including 6G);
- c) biotechnology and life sciences;
- d) robotics, microelectronics, and advanced manufacturing technologies;
- e) future energy and advanced materials technologies;
- f) joint utilization of research infrastructure; and
- g) other strategic areas of science, technology, and ICT as may be jointly decided upon by the Participants.

Paragraph 3

Forms of Cooperation

The Participants will promote cooperation through various forms including:

- a) planning and implementation of joint research and technology development projects, including cooperation within global bilateral and multilateral frameworks;
- b) exchange of researchers, experts, and technical personnel;
- c) organization of joint conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars, including virtual formats;
- d) exchange of information on policies, legislative developments, and industrial trends in the areas of science, technology and ICT;
- e) promoting joint collaboration in relevant multilateral programmes;
- f) establishment of working-level networks between relevant institutions;
- g) sharing of infrastructure for the joint use of research facilities and equipment;
and
- h) any other forms of cooperation as may be jointly decided upon by the Participants within the scope of their respective competence.

Paragraph 4

Principles of Cooperation

1. The cooperative activities under this MoU will be carried out in accordance with the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit, excellence, and equity.
2. The Participants recognize the importance of ensuring mutual respect for the principles of research security and integrity, and of implementing initiatives aimed at preventing situations or activities that may pose concerns to their respective research

and innovation ecosystems.

3. The Participants will jointly identify areas for cooperation by mutual consent, based on shared national priorities.

Paragraph 5

Financing and Implementation

1. The activities set forth in this MoU will be implemented by the Participants according to their ordinary budget availability, without any additional cost to the public finances of the Italian Republic or the Republic of Korea.

2. Each Participant will bear its own expenses for its participation in the activities under this MoU. The capacity of each Participant to carry out the activities and programmes under this MoU will be subject to the availability of its funds, personnel, and other resources.

3. Each Participant will fund the beneficiaries of its own country.

4. Cooperative activities involving other interested entities will not entail any exchange of funds; any entity interested in participating in cooperative activities will bear the costs related to its own participation.

5. Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph 8(1), the details concerning any future financial aspects will be set out in subsequent arrangements between the Participants.

Paragraph 6

Intellectual Property Rights, Confidentiality, and Personal Data Protection

1. All intellectual property generated through the cooperative activities under this MoU

will be protected in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of each country and the international agreements to which the two countries are parties.

2. Specific arrangements concerning the ownership and allocation of intellectual property arising from joint research will be determined through separate written arrangements between the Participants or project-specific contracts between the concerned entities.

3. Neither Participant will disclose confidential information obtained under this MoU to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Participant.

4. In the implementation of this MoU, no information concerning a natural person or enabling his/her identification will be transmitted to any third party or processed in a manner that is incompatible with the purposes of this MoU. Any processing of personal data necessary for the performance of the institutional tasks carried out by the Participants will be carried out in accordance with general principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency, limitation to the purposes, and data minimization, as well as the national legislation of the Participants and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU).

5. The provisions of this Paragraph will survive the expiration or termination of this MoU.

Paragraph 7

Monitoring and Implementation Support

1. The implementation status of this MoU will be reviewed periodically through the Italy-Korea Joint Committee on Science and Technology established under Article 8 of the 2007 Agreement, where progress will be assessed and future directions discussed.

2. The Participants may, as appropriate, involve relevant government agencies, institutions and experts in working-level consultations to facilitate the effective implementation of this MoU.

Paragraph 8

Amendments

1. This MoU may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants.
2. Designated working-level departments of the Participants may elaborate a specific document, containing the list of research facilities and equipment of joint interest, which will be considered, through an exchange of notes, a specific implementation act of the present MoU, useful for the cooperation activities identified in Paragraph 3, lett. g. The same procedure will be applied to the amendments and updates of the document.

Paragraph 9

Resolution of Differences

Any differences arising from the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU will be resolved amicably through direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

Paragraph 10

General Provisions

1. This MoU does not constitute an international agreement which may create legally binding rights or obligations under international law. No provision of this MoU is to be understood or performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants.
2. This MoU will be implemented in accordance with the national legislation of the Participants, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Participant, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

Paragraph 11

Final Provisions

1. This MoU takes effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. It will be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years unless either Participant notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months prior to its expiration.
2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Participant may terminate this MoU at any time by notifying the other Participant in writing of its intention at least three (3) months in advance.
3. The expiration or termination of this MoU will not affect ongoing cooperative activities, unless otherwise jointly decided by the Participants.

Signed in duplicate at Rome, on 12 June 2026, in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of
Science and ICT of
the Republic of Korea

For the Ministry of
University and Research of
the Italian Republic




