



Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research
General Directorate of Scientific Research



National Research Council of Italy

MHESR - Tunisia/ CNR - Italy

Final Report of Online Meeting on November 07, 2022

(Call for proposals of joint research projects 2023-2024)

In the framework of the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Tunisia (MHESR) signed in Rome on June 11, 2019, and the Cooperative Program signed in Rome on August 29, 2019, both Parties have jointly launched on March 21, 2022 a second call for proposal of joint research projects that will be funded during the two years 2023 and 2024 granting 6.000 Euros per year from each Party.

The number of eligible proposals submitted to both Parties is 29, which have been evaluated independently by a committee of experts according to the following criteria:

- * Project Quality
- * Quality of the Research Group
- * Appropriateness and justification of the work plan
- * Added value and a predictably wider impact, thanks to bilateral cooperation

Most of the projects submitted received good evaluations from both sides. However, those obtaining the highest marks on both sides were selected by the committee taking into consideration the interest of the research theme and the Tunisian establishment from which the project emanates (encouragement of universities from the interior). Finally, the committee selected five projects for funding on 2023 and 2024

Research area	Projects submitted	Projects selected
Agrifood	14	2
Cultural Heritage	2	1



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Energy	3	2
Water	9	0
Smart cities and Artificial Intelligence	1	0
Total	29	5

List of selected projects for funding (By ranking)

Research area	Project Title	Tunisian Institution	CNR Department
Agrifood	Development of Nanocomposite food Packaging materials from olive mills wastes for Food shelf-life extension-Nano4Food	Dr Khaoula KHWALDIA National Institute of Research and Physicochemical analysis (INRAP)	Dr Letizia VERDOLOTTI Scienze chimiche e-tecnologie dei materiali
Energy	LEAd-Free perovskite nanocrystals embedded in polymeric electrospun nanofibers for fluorescent sensors (LEAF)	Dr Nabil ZOUARI Faculty of Sciences of Sfax University of Sfax-Tunisia	Dr Chiara BOTTA Scienze chimiche e- tecnologie dei materiali
Cultural Heritage	Rediscovering neglected Tunisian durum wheat landraces towards a renewable agriculture	Dr Ines ZOUARI National Institute of Agronomy of Tunisia (INAT)	Dr Fabiano SILLO Scienze bio-agroalimentari
Agrifood	Exploitation of Okra (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> L.) through sustainable approaches for food application (ExplOkra)	Dr Hana MAALEJ Faculty of Sciences of Gabes (FSG), University of Gabes, Tunisia	Dr Fransesca VALERIO Scienze bio-agroalimentari
Energy	Development and optimization of advanced nanoparticles dispersions in Phase Change Materials (nano-PCM) applied for energy efficiency in buildings	Dr Majdi HAZAMI Energy Research and Technology Center, Hamam Lif, Tunisia	Dr Stefano ROSSI Ingegneria, ICT e- tecnologie per l'energia e i trasporti



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Committee recommendations:

- Renew the scientific cooperation agreement and the program of cooperation between the two countries which will end in June 2023
- Increase the program budget and the number of projects to be funded
- Review priority research areas.

Signed on November 10, 2022

For the

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
of Republic of Tunisia

Dr. Mourad BELLASSOUED

Director General of Scientific Research

For the

National Research Council of Italy

Dr. Virginia Coda Nunziante

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