

**PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA  
  
FOR THE PERIOD 2020 - 2022**

In pursuance of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") concluded on January 31, 1995, at New Delhi, between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as "Parties"), have agreed upon the following Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as the "POC"), for the period 2020 - 2022.

**1. COORDINATING AGENCIES**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Research Agency, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, and the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, on behalf of Government of the Republic of India, hereinafter known as the Coordinating Agencies, shall be responsible for the supervision, coordination and implementation of the POC for Slovenia and India, respectively.

**2. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The non-exclusive subject areas of cooperation shall be:

- a) Health, biomedicine and biotechnology;
- b) New materials, including polymers;
- c) Information and communication technologies;
- d) Renewable energy sources;
- e) Urban areas (smart cities);
- f) Artificial intelligence;
- g) Other areas could be added by mutual consent between the coordinating agencies.

### **3. JOINT WORKING GROUP**

- 3.1 According to the Article 5 of the Agreement, the Parties have established a Joint Working Group for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (JWG), which consists of Chairpersons and members from both Parties.
- 3.2 The task of the JWG shall include creation of favourable conditions for the implementation of the Agreement and POC, and for examination and decision-making on issues related to the use of the results, technologies, products etc. realised during the joint work carried out under the Agreement.
- 3.3 The JWG shall meet at least once every two years, alternately in Slovenia and in India. In case of necessity, the representatives of the Parties may organise a short meeting between two consecutive sessions of the JWG.

### **4. JOINT PROJECTS**

The Parties shall support joint scientific projects based on mutual interest, which shall be developed jointly by the Slovenian and Indian institutions.

- 4.1 The Parties shall encourage exchange of scientist, researchers, experts and specialists for the implementation of selected joint projects (one short visit up to 14 days and one long visit up to 1 month each year in each direction).
- 4.2 Joint projects shall aim at developing applicable technology and lead to the dissemination of research results and establishing contacts with industry for the follow up of research and development work.
- 4.3 Timeline to announce call for joint S&T Projects, evaluation and release of funds shall be agreed by mutual consent between Coordinating agencies. Project proposals should be submitted simultaneously, through a joint Call for Projects using their respective (Slovenian and Indian) application forms duly signed by the Slovenian and Indian project leaders (Principal Investigators) and the responsible persons (Head of the institutions) of their respective research organization, and approved at regular meetings or exchange of communications based on the evaluations conducted by Coordinating Agencies The application forms shall be designed according to the internal rules of each Party with certain basic common requirements jointly agreed by the Parties.

- Projects shall be received and evaluated by the Department of Science and Technology from the Indian side and the Slovenian Research Agency from the Slovenian side.
- Both Coordinating Agencies shall exchange the evaluation scores and jointly decide on projects to be funded.
- Project progress reports shall be prepared by the Project Coordinators following the national rules and shall be evaluated by respective coordinating agency.
- The final report as outcome of all jointly funded projects shall be submitted to the JWG through the Coordinating Agencies.

4.4 Scientific and technological information of non-proprietary nature deriving from the co-operation under this POC shall not be disclosed to any third Party without prior written consent of both Parties and co-operating organizations, unless otherwise agreed in writing by both Parties and co-operating organizations in accordance with the laws and regulations of the respective countries.

4.5 The protection of intellectual property rights shall be subjected to laws and regulations of the respective countries and international treaties to which both Parties are engaged.

## **5. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

The Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, in case of India and the Slovenian Research Agency in case of Slovenia shall provide for the respective expense. Following are the financial terms for the visit of the researchers between India and Slovenia under the POC:

- i) The objectives of this POC shall be implemented keeping in view the financial capacity of the Parties and in accordance with laws and regulations in their respective countries.
- ii) The sending Party shall cover all international travel costs and subsistence costs including lodging and boarding for persons sent pursuant to this POC according to its own regulations and allowances.

- iii) The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists including medical care.
- iv) For the mutually agreed workshops and conferences, the receiving Party shall pay local organizational expenses, including accommodation, meals, and local transport.
- v) If necessary, the financial terms may be revised after mutual consultations between the coordinating agencies.

## **6. JOINT COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES**

The Parties shall endeavour to hold at least one workshop each year – alternatively in India and in Slovenia during 2020-2022 period in mutually acceptable areas in which a few specialists from each other's country would participate to work out Joint Collaborative Science and Technology activities. Themes of the workshops are to be decided by the Coordinating agencies.

## **7. NEXT CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Parties shall mutually agree on the launching date for the call for proposals for joint projects through correspondence as well as the date of the next meeting of the JWG.

## **8. LEGAL ASPECTS, VALIDITY, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION**

8.1 This POC may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the Parties in writing.

8.2 Any disputes related to the interpretation or implementation of this POC shall be settled through bilateral negotiations between the Parties.


8.3 This POC shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after its signing and shall remain in force until 31 December 2022. The POC shall be automatically renewed for a further period of one year, unless either Party notifies the other in writing through the diplomatic channels of its intentions to terminate it. The termination of the POC shall be effective in six months following the date of the written notice.

8.4 The termination of this POC shall not affect any joint project or any other cooperative activity undertaken under this POC and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this POC.

Done at Ljubljana, 16.9.2019..... in two originals in the English language.

For the Ministry of Education,  
Science and Sport of the  
Republic of Slovenia



  
For the Ministry of Science  
and Technology of the  
Republic of India