

Bilateral meeting Italy Slovenia on the role of research in the society

The interactions among science, technology and society already play a major role in the evolution of our countries and this role is expected to further expand in the near future. Several signals are indicating this convergence: we could mention the societal challenges-driven pillar of Horizon 2020, but also the relevant research investments in this direction in the US and in China. Societal challenges cannot be tackled by a single-discipline approach: they require a much broader multidisciplinary approach involving different way of thinking and the contribution of different cultural backgrounds.

Slovenia and Italy, together, have the possibility to build a significant critical mass of researchers and innovators to take a leading role in this scenario, due to their pre-existing intense scientific and cultural relationships and their key position in Europe, as a door to the Mediterranean and the Danube regions.

The event aims at presenting our strategic research and innovation agendas, the key enabling technologies and the available (human, material and intangible) resources that can be used to tackle the major societal challenges facing the two countries. Furthermore, commonalities and synergies among the smart specialization strategies developed in different regions of Italy and Slovenia could be identified, with a view to foster networking and facilitate collaborations for designing and implementing joint projects.

The expected output of the meeting is to enhance collaborations between the two countries in the domains of higher education, science and technology on themes having a strong impact on the society by:

- a. the identification of interdisciplinary themes in areas where collaborations between the two countries already exist, such as, e.g., energy, environment, cultural and natural heritage, new and advanced materials, health, water, agro-food;
- b. the upgrade of research infrastructures of common interest and/or the enhancement of the use of the existing ones, to make open access of Italian and Slovenian researchers to these resources more effective and efficient;
- c. the involvement of the stakeholders, such as research performing institutions and companies (large enterprises and SMEs), which will help identifying actions in the domains of higher education, science and technology enabling the enhancement of the quality of life, the protection of the environment (with a particular emphasis on the seas), and the social and cultural growth of the citizens of Italy and Slovenia.

Program of the bilateral research day: November 15, 2016.

The program is organized into two sessions. The first session is divided into three parallel sessions, one for each ERC sector, in which two scientists - one per country - will summarize how the main research topics of interest for EU are tackled, identifying possible collaborations and evidencing obstacles and challenges. During each parallel session, some selected success stories of collaboration will be presented. In the plenary session, rapporteurs will summarize the results achieved in the morning and present them to the Ministers.

9.30 – 10.00: registration and welcome coffee

First session: research activities and challenges in the ERC sectors

10.00 – 10.30: Welcome address by Ministers of Slovenia and Italy (plenary session)

10.30 – 13.00: Parallel sessions:

ERC Physical and Engineering Sciences (PE) sector: addressing EU strategies and challenges by transnational jointed research. Moderators: Dragan Mihailović, Jožef Stefan Institute, Corrado Spinella, CNR Dept. of Physical Sciences and Technologies of Matter.

ERC Life Sciences (LS) sector: addressing EU strategies and challenges by transnational jointed research. Moderators: Gregor Anderluh, National Institute of Chemistry, Daniela Corda, CNR Institute of Protein Biochemistry.

ERC Social sciences and Humanities (SH) sector: addressing EU strategies and challenges by transnational jointed research. Moderators: Irena Lazar, University of Primorska, Daniele Malfitana, CNR Institute for Archeological and Monumental Heritage.

13.00 – 14.30: Lunch break

Second session: summary of research activities and future collaborations

14.30 – 16.00: Summary of the results of the 3 round tables of the morning sessions in presence of the Ministers. Discussion

16.00 - 16.30: Coffee break and press conference by Ministers

16.30 – 17.00: Closure by the Ministers

During the parallel sessions, the following topics could be addressed by the panelists:

- How the relevant topics of the EU research strategy are covered by the two countries?
- How to enhance collaborations between Slovenia and Italy?
- What can we learn from success stories of collaboration in research between the two countries?
- Highlight obstacles and challenges in common research projects and actions researchers can do in the two countries.

Call for participation

The participation to the seminar is free of charge. During the seminar, some selected success stories of collaboration between Italy and Slovenia will be presented and free time for discussion and networking will be available. We encourage the participation to scientists that have experienced positive collaboration with Slovenian partner and/or are planning collaborations in the future.

Participants should register at the following web page: <https://www.areasciencepark.it/research-day-slo-ita/>. Participation to the event is by registration only, access allowed upon availability of places.

Location

Location of the event is AREA Science Park, Padriciano 99, 34149 Trieste (GPS: 45.657691, 13.827814) ~ 10km from the city center. <https://www.areasciencepark.it/chi-siamo/dove-siamo/>.

Congress Centre, Building C - free parking is available