



# **PROGRAMME AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**(hereinafter referred to as the MAECI)**

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND  
RESEARCH**

**(hereinafter referred to as the MIUR)**

**and**

**THE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA AUTONOMOUS REGION**

**(hereinafter referred to as the REGION)**

**FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATION SYSTEM (FVG sis) OF  
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**

## Speakers

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, with registered office in Rome, Piazzale della Farnesina 1, represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni, hereinafter the MAECI.
- **Ministry of Education, University and Research**, with registered office in Rome, Viale Trastevere 76/A, represented by the Minister of Education, University and Research Stefania Giannini, hereinafter the MIUR.
- **Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region** with registered office in Trieste, Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia 1, represented by the President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region Debora Serracchiani, hereinafter the Region.
- Hereinafter the Parties

## Whereas

- Friuli Venezia Giulia is characterised by the presence of two Universities, in Trieste and Udine, by the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste, by prestigious institutions of fundamental and applied research and by national and international higher educational bodies operating prevalently in the fields of Life Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, the Environment, Engineering and Human and Social Sciences, and specifically:
  - a. The University of Trieste is characterised by the quality of its advanced training, by the services to students and the scientific research of the departments and inter-departmental and inter-university centres in an international dimension, with special attention to border areas, the establishment of teaching and study courses in languages other than Italian, the reciprocal granting and recognition of study degrees, the activation of educational programmes integrated with foreign universities.
  - b. The University of Udine offers didactic services linked to the development of society and new professions, valid at an international level and multi-disciplinary research developed in the departments and inter-departmental centres as well as in highly specialised structures, with cutting edge skills translated into publications, books, patents and international scientific partnerships with European and worldwide universities and

institutions.

- c. The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste is a higher learning institute with specialisation in research and education in the fields of Physics, Mathematics and Neurosciences.
- d. The two regional universities and the SISSA of Trieste are developing incremental integration for the creation of a regional university system, starting with the Programme Agreement of June 13, 2012 signed between the two universities and subsequently integrated, following the entry of the SISSA, with the Protocol of July 15, 2013. Specifically, this Agreement is aimed at creating institutional forms of links between the universities to plan and coordinate the respective activities in the field of second and third level educational services, research and technology transfer, internationalisation and services, in order to consolidate the existing collaborative experience in a coordinated framework of reference as well as rendering efficient and effective the use of financial resources.
- e. The international institutions International Centre for Theoretical Physics - ICTP, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology - ICGEB, the Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) and the Inter Academy Panel (IAP), contribute, thanks to the quality of the programmes they develop, to ensuring the level of international excellence of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in the context of its initiatives in favour of sustainable development.
- f. The National Oceanography Institute and Experimental Geophysics - OGS, a public research body under the monitoring of the MIUR, which develops its mission with priority reference to the sectors of basic and applied research in Oceanography, Geophysics and Marine Geology and Experimental Geophysics and Exploration.
- g. The ELETTRA Synchrotron of Trieste S.C.p.A. research centre, a company of national interest pursuant to Italian Law 370/99, which is also the seat of the European Consortium for Infrastructure Research (CERIC-ERIC), pursuant to EC Regulation no. 723/2009, develops service activities for national and international research through the Laboratory of Light Synchrotron and Electro Nano-analysis, as well as through the FERMI facility and the connected Laboratory of Nano-sciences TASC/INFN of the National Council of Research, centres of international excellence in research and technological development in the fields of Nano-sciences and Nano-technology for Innovative Materials and Biomaterials.
- h. The National Institute of Astrophysics - INAF and the National Institute of Nuclear Physics - INFN, a Research Body under the monitoring of the MIUR, contribute to ensuring a level of international excellence in the activities of basic and applied research in Astrophysics and the Physics of Fundamental Interactions.

- that Friuli Venezia Giulia boasts the presence of two music conservatories, the G. Tartini Music Conservatory of Trieste and the J. Tomadini Music Conservatory of Udine;
- that the regional territory, also in consideration of the remarkable presence of research infrastructure and institutions, is accredited as an area of scientific excellence, also characterised by a high percentage of high-level researchers compared to the number of inhabitants. The regional analysis presented by the European Union collocates the region among those that offer a score in the Regional Summary Innovation Index such that it is inserted in the Follower-High group;
- that in this context, the Region is called upon to perform, also on the basis of the skills deriving from its own Statute and by the laws issued to that end, an active role as an engine of the promotion and development of research activities and international cooperation;
- that between the Region, the MIUR and the MAECI over the course of time agreements and protocols of understanding have been stipulated, aimed at promoting the research and innovation system of Friuli Venezia Giulia, specifically:
  - a. The MIUR and the Region, on October 9, 2000 and on November 21, 2003, signed two Protocols of Understanding that included subsequent Programme Agreements;
  - b. The Region, the MIUR and the MAECI signed, on January 27, 2004, an Agreement on the creation of a coordinating structure for the Research Centres of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region; the Agreement is aimed at favouring the promotion of research and scientific potential present in the region for economic and social purposes, the reinforcement of the international role of regional research centres and scientific communication. The functions of coordination and management of the network activities were entrusted to the Consortium for AREA Scientific Research and Technology of Trieste. Over 50 regional scientific institutions have adhered over time to the above-mentioned Agreement;
  - c. The MIUR and the Region, with a Programme Agreement of October 5, 2004, established the Regional Technology District of Molecular Biomedicine (CBM) later integrated with an act signed on March 27, 2009;
  - d. the MIUR and the Region, with a protocol signed on August 8, 2011, linked the high-technology district denominated Naval and Nautical Technology District of Friuli Venezia Giulia (DITENAVE) to one of the districts recognised at a national level;

- that among the priorities on which the MAECI concentrates is the international promotion of scientific research, technology and innovation as a tool to support the internationalisation of the research system and the Italian manufacturing world;
- that present in the region is an institution that operates as a centre of technological transfer of national significance denominated the Consortium for the AREA of Scientific Research and Technology of Trieste, hereinafter referred to as AREA. It operates as a national research body under the monitoring of the MIUR, and is one of the main European multi-sector Science and Technology parks, hosting active Institutions and Centres in the sectors of Life Sciences, Electronics and IT Technology, Physics, Materials and the Environment and it develops activities of technological transfer, training and qualified services for the industry and the public administration, both at a national and international level. AREA, together with partners of national standing, develops projects of excellence such as "Science Technology & Business Foresight" that includes a centre of excellence in technology foresight located in AREA Science Park and the Open Lab to experiment with a new approach to optimise the use of research infrastructure, permitting availability also to the system of private companies;
- that the performance of functions on the topic of technological transfer constitutes a special element characterising the institution, susceptible to supplying high value added to the regional scientific and innovation system;
- that in collaboration with AREA, there are other Science and Technology Parks with a local dimension, whose activity is diversified specifically on a territorial basis: the Luigi Danieli Science and Technology Park of Udine and its managing body, the SCARL Friuli Innovation Consortium, the Technology Centre of Pordenone and the FVG Innova Consortium, with the latter dedicated to topics relating to the mountain areas;
- that in the Region there are currently four certified incubators: the Innovation Factory incubator, an in-house company of AREA, the Techno Seed incubator of Friuli Innovazione, the SCARL Technology Centre of Pordenone and the company BIC Incubators FVG S.p.A;
- that AREA, pursuant to Article 9 of Legislative Decree no. 381/99, convenes every year, on behalf of the MIUR, the Conference of National and International Research Bodies receiving contributions from the State, residing in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, as well as other institutions of scientific importance, so as to evaluate their programmes and activities also under the profile of the

collaboration and interaction undertaken by the centres themselves;

- That the Region, with its deliberation no. 708 of April 17, 2015, later updated with the Deliberation of the Regional Executive 1403 of July 10, 2015, on the basis of the results of the so-called "process of entrepreneurial discovery" approved the Regional Research and Innovation Strategy for the Intelligent Specialisation of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (S3);
- That the Regional document defines the development priorities based on innovation to pursue two fundamental changes:
  - a. Favouring competitive consolidation and a re-positioning of industrial and manufacturing realities of the regional territory that present a high employment rate and characterise the traditional regional production sector, towards supply chain segments and markets with greater added value with processes of know-how and innovative technology and excellence adaptation, favouring investments in research, development and innovation;
  - b. Merging the processes of change of the regional economic productive system towards new contexts that do not necessarily represent distinctive vocations of the regional economy in terms of employment rate and revenues, but which have a high potential to generate new employment, open new markets or market segments, develop new, modern and creative industries, through strong investment in innovation, contamination with key enabling technologies and collaboration deriving from the world of research;
- That to generate such expected changes, the strategic document identifies priority intervention lines:
  - a. The development of collaboration and synergies among private companies and scientific structures;
  - b. The promotion of investments of private companies in innovation and the industrial application of research results;
  - c. The promotion of new innovative entrepreneurship;
- That the strategy identifies five areas of intelligent specialisation:
  - a) Agro-business;
  - b) Strategic production supply chains;
  - Engineering and housing systems;
  - c) Maritime technologies;
  - d) Smart health;
  - e) Culture, creativity and tourism;
- That, with reference to strategic regional orientations in terms of research and innovation, there exists an accentuation of regional policy on clusters, to favour territorial development. Through legal disposition (Article 15 of Regional Law 3/2015, the Region has identified clusters as tools aimed at the development of economies of networking, synergies and improvement of territorial competitiveness, favouring the development of public-private aggregations in a context

of the activation of synergies among the various territorial components;

- That the policy of clusters is strictly related to the identification of those areas, given that a cluster has been identified for each area of intelligent specialisation;
- That with reference to two areas of specialisation, the reference clusters are the districts of innovation as per article 29 of Regional Law 26/2005, recognised at the ministerial level, and more specifically:
  - a. In the "maritime technologies" area the reference cluster is the FVG MAREtc maritime technology district, with the reference body being the Scarl FVG MAREtc (ex- DITENAVE Scarl);
  - b. In the "Smart Health" area the reference cluster is the technology district of Molecular Biomedicine of FVG with the CBM Scarl reference body;
- That the National Research Programme - PNR 2015-2020 of the MIUR, as the national document of strategic programming, gives priority to the most promising initiatives of applied research, identifies the programmes coherent with six macro-objectives in the context of the specialisation area identified at a national level;
- That among the objectives indicated in the NRP the following are especially significant: a) Internationalisation, coordination and integration of national initiatives with European and global ones; b) the centrality of investment in human capital; c) selective support for research infrastructure in line with the European criteria and mechanisms of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI); d) public-private collaboration, as a structural lever for research and innovation in the context of National Technology Clusters, permanent infrastructures for dialogue between public bodies and private companies and between the centre and the territory;
- That the strategic approach of the MIUR through the choice of a development of programmed interventions and actions, as in the definition of the specialisation areas of applied research, is that of guaranteeing coherence to the research policy, avoiding the inefficiency of actions caused by un-coordinated planning; predictability, giving a horizon of time, finances and planning shared among all the public actors; and selectivity, avoiding the dispersion of resources in too many directions, concentrating them instead in the most promising areas;

### Considering

- That at the national level there is a need to rationalise and promote the public research bodies, and on the other hand, at a regional level, the need to establish a "scientific network of excellence" is noted, so that scientific institutions of national and international value that operate in the Region (universities, public research bodies and international bodies) might, by participating in the network, implement in the respect of the single autonomies better coordination in scientific activities, for example through the sharing of several services and research infrastructures so as to increase their own capacity for action, attractiveness and competitiveness at a national and international level;
- That it is in the interest of the MIUR, through this agreement, to enhance a model of research policy that is coherent, predictable and selective to favour the achievement of the objectives identified in the 2015-2020 NRP of internationalisation of national research initiatives, promotion of human capital, enhancement of the research infrastructure and reinforcement of public-private collaboration to boost competitiveness through the structural lever of research and innovation;
- That it is a regional interest, combined with the guarantee of better coordination at the scientific level among the main institutions present on the territory, to favour the development of services in favour of the entire regional scientific community and improve the national and international visibility of the regional scientific system;
- That it is a regional interest to achieve the rationalisation of regional structures operating in the field of the promotion of research and technology transfer for the creation of better opportunities for the social and economic development of the territory, promoting the best skills, also taking advantage of support supplied by the MIUR;
- That this Act, starting with the experience of the Agreement for the coordination of Research Centres of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, is part of its development and evolution.



**Given all the above considerations, the Parties hereby enter into this Agreement**

## **Article 1**

### **(Subject and objective of this Agreement)**

1. With this Agreement, the Parties intend:
  - a. To favour the coordination of scientific activities also through the sharing of several services and research infrastructures between the universities and public research bodies both national and international present in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, through the creation of a "Scientific network of excellence";
  - b. To favour better links between the scientific system and the economic and territorial entities through the rationalisation of regional structures that operate in the field of promoting research and technology transfer;
  - c. To favour the improvement of the national and international visibility of the regional scientific system through the development of internationalisation services for the entire community of regional researchers;
  - d. To favour technical and scientific communication and the spread of knowledge regarding innovation.
2. The MIUR, the MAECI and the Region, in the context of their respective authority and in respect of the purposes indicated in comma 1, commit themselves to promoting the Scientific and innovation System in FVG (SiS FVG), intended as the efficient and effective links between universities, public research institutions, innovation enablers, of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and between these subjects and the production sector, represented also by the territorial clusters.

## **Article 2**

### **(Objectives and intervention activities)**

1. The Agreement includes the achievement of objectives through the development of the activities listed below. Further activities coherent with the same objectives may be defined in the Plan described above in Article 3 and developed in relation to the needs expressed by the institutions belonging to the SiS FVG.

**Objective no. 1:** Creation of a "Scientific network of excellence" in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region among universities, public research bodies and international research bodies to reinforce the capacity for action, attractiveness and competitiveness at a national and international level of the institutions, through:

1.1 The creation and enhancement of integrated research infrastructures, to reinforce the capacity for action of scientific institutions and to optimise the use of the infrastructures themselves, making them available also to private companies, and the creation of shared services for research or the coordination of existing services;

1.2 The promotion and support for the creation and activity of thematic forums to favour the exchange of good practises and the identification in scientific and technical/instrumental contexts of common interest, mapping of their own skills for the elaboration of proposals to the Region and the MIUR, also in the implementation process of regional intelligent specialisation strategies (S3);

1.3 Support for the development of international agreements, cooperation agreements and projects in the sector of research and innovation, which involve the institutions belonging to the scientific network of excellence, first of all inside the strategy areas of the European Union for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) and of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic - Ionian Region (EUSAIR);

1.4 Enhancement of the link with the national experts and delegates of the MIUR in the committees for the management of European programmes under Horizon 2020 and Structural Funds, to favour the participation of the SiS FVG and European research and innovation programmes;

1.5 Consolidation of partnerships and initiatives of international cooperation to benefit the SiS FVG with the support of the appropriate offices of the MAECI and the network of scientific experts located around the territory;

1.6 Promotion of the SiS FVG, also through the SiS FVG making available to the MAECI qualified resources destined to perform promotional activities to support the internationalisation of the Italian research system;

1.7 Reinforcement of the relations with the liaison office in Brussels of the Region so as to promote the SiS FVG at European institutions to favour links and the participation of the SiS FVG in European networks operating in the context of research;

1.8 Participation of the SiS FVG in governing protocols of the MIUR and MAECI regarding the promotion of the National system;

**Objective no.2: Rationalisation of the regional structures that operate in the promotion of research, technology transfer and the development of innovation, through:**

2.1 Definition and implementation, in collaboration with the Region and the MIUR, of an organisational model of innovation enablers that

guarantees the promotion of skills, easy operational decision-making, the non overlapping of activities that involve the accompanying stages of entrepreneurial ideas or the results of research from the proof of concept to the market, with the identification of functions, activities, skills and methods of relations with the regional clusters of reference.

**Objective no.3:** Promotion and services for the internationalisation of the centres present in Friuli Venezia Giulia, through:

3.1 Reinforcement of the services for internationalisation offered by the Welcome Office FVG, the Single Office for Welcoming, international mobility of students and researchers, training and cultural exchange, in collaboration with the services of internationalisation of the universities and regional research offices;

3.2 Enhancement of the links of the FVG Welcome Office with the appropriate offices of the MAECI dedicated to migratory policies and the entry procedures for foreigners, also through the creation of workshops and dedicated working groups with officials and national and European experts;

3.3 Creation of thematic forums and study groups with the MIUR and the MAECI to improve support for the quality and the attractiveness of the Scientific System and to facilitate international mobility and for the career development of researchers through initiatives, good practises and pilot projects around the regional territory of Friuli Venezia Giulia;

3.4 Creation of studies and models for monitoring the flows of researchers and international students entering and exiting the Friuli Venezia Giulia territory;

3.5 Development of mobility programmes for the promotion of human capital engaged in research and innovation, in accordance with the Region, the MIUR and the MAECI with the co-financing of strategic research programmes having an impact on market activities;

3.6 Promotion of the SiS FVG through adequate means of communication also with the implementation of the SiS FVG web site.

**Objective no. 4:** Technical and scientific communication and diffusion of innovation, through:

4.1 Creation of communication initiatives on themes of regional interest to bring science to the wider public and to satisfy the demand for innovation of private companies, also through the participation of speakers of national and European importance;

4.2 Creation of initiatives of communication to favour the transfer of knowledge to the entire scientific community also through the publication of studies and research, and the creation of thematic forums of interest.

**Article 3**  
**(Method of implementation of the Agreement)**

1. For the pursuit of the objectives indicated in article 1, the MIUR, the MAECI and the Region envision the involvement of those institutions under their respective jurisdiction and/or control, which are represented in the Council of Policy indicated in article 5.
2. The subject to whom operating support will be entrusted for the achievement of the objectives indicated under article 2 is the Consortium for the Science and Technology Research AREA of Trieste.
3. AREA shall proceed annually with the drafting of an annual operating plan of activities, respecting the policies of the Council indicated in article 5, to be subjected to approval by the signers of this Agreement.
4. The plan shall be approved by the parties signing this Agreement.
5. The regional structure to which responsibility for the continuation of this Agreement shall be entrusted is the Regional Directorate with responsibility for the area of Research, represented by the Education, Advanced Training and Research Area.

**Article 4**  
**(Assembly)**

1. AREA, pursuant to article 9 of Legislative Decree no. 381/99, shall convene annually, on behalf of the MIUR, the Conference of National and International Research Bodies receiving contributions from the State, residing in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, as well as all other institutions of scientific significance to evaluate programmes and activities under the profile of cooperation and the interactions undertaken among them.
2. The Assembly shall deal with themes of regional interest, also through the participation of speakers of national and European importance, to bring research to the wider public and to favour the transfer of knowledge to the entire scientific community.
3. A representative of the Region, a representative of the MIUR and a representative of the MAECI shall participate in the Assembly.
4. Stakeholders and external representatives of the social and economic system of the regional territory may participate in the Assembly.

**Article 5**  
**(Steering Council)**

1. The Steering Council, within the context of the objectives and strategic aims of this Agreement, shall propose annually to the MIUR, the MAECI and the Region its operating objectives and development activities,

for the definition of the plan contents pursuant to article 3.

2. The Council is made up of *pro tempore* legal representatives or by subjects delegated by them of the public research bodies under the monitoring of the MIUR or financed by them, by the organs of international research, by the bodies operating in the context of research under the control of the Region having their legal residence or operating in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region adhering to the Agreement, according to the following maximum composition:

- 1) The President or his/her delegate of the Region.
- 2) The President or his/her delegate of AREA.
- 3) The Minister or his/her delegate of the MIUR.
- 4) The Minister or his/her delegate of the MAECI.
- 5) The representative of the regional universities:
  - a. The Rector or his/her delegate of the University of Trieste;
  - b. The Rector or his/her delegate of the University of Udine;
  - c. The Director or his/her delegate of the SISSA - International School for Advanced Studies;
- 6) The President or his/her delegate of Sincrotron Trieste S.C.p.A.;
- 7) The representatives of other bodies under the monitoring of the MIUR operating in the Region:
  - a. The President or his/her delegate of the OGS - the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics;
  - b. The legal representative or his/her delegate in the operating offices of the National Research Council in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region;
  - c. The legal representative or his/her delegate of the INAF, the National Institute of Astrophysics;
  - d. The legal representative or his/her delegate of the INFN - the National Institute of Nuclear Physics;
- 8) The representatives of the Regional music conservatories:
  - a. The President or his/her delegate of the G. Tartini Music Conservatory of Trieste;
  - b. The President or his/her delegate of the J. Tomadini Music Conservatory of Udine;
- 9) The representatives of the international research bodies operating in the Region:
  - a. The Director or his/her delegate of the ICGEB - International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology;
  - b. The Director or his/her delegate of the ICTP - The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics;
  - c. The Director or his/her delegate of the TWAS - The Third World Academy of Science;
  - d. The Director or his/her delegate of the IAP - Inter Academy Panel;

- 10) The representatives of the bodies participating or controlled by the Region:
  - a. The legal representative or his/her delegate of the Technology Centre of Pordenone;
  - b. The legal representative or his/her delegate of the FVG Innova Consortium;
3. Also a member of the Council is the President or his/her delegate of the Friuli Innovation Consortium Scarl of Udine.
4. The Council is intended to be validly constituted with the presence of at least half of the representatives of the entities indicated in commas 2 and 3. The representatives of other subjects indicated in commas 2 and 3 may be invited to attend the sessions, whenever topics are under discussion that might render their presence opportune.
5. The Council is presided over by the President of the Region or his/her delegate, who shall represent it officially.
6. Functions related to convening the council, minutes and technical secretariat shall be performed by AREA through the Park Development Office and Coordination of the Research Bodies, which shall manage the performance of decisions taken by the Council.
7. The first meeting shall be convened within 60 days from the signing of this Agreement.

**Article 6**  
**(Management and operational regulations)**

1. AREA, through the Park Development Office and Coordination of Research Bodies, shall arrange for Regulations to discipline the management aspects and functioning of the Steering Council. The regulations shall be approved by the Steering Council.

**Article 7**  
**(Financial provisions)**

1. For the activities of coordination and operating support for the implementation of this Agreement, as well as for the intervention policies of activities as per article 2, comma 1, objective 3 and 4, the Region shall provide for annual financing pursuant to current regional regulations.
2. The activities envisioned in the single Annual Plans pursuant to article 3 may be the subject of specific regional, national and European financing.

**Article 8**  
**(Duration)**

1. This Agreement shall have a duration of 5 (five) years and may be renewed with the approval of the parties.

**Article 9**  
**(Final provisions)**

1. This Agreement substitutes the preceding agreement signed by the Region, the MIUR and the MAECI on January 27, 2004 for the establishment of a coordinating structure of the Research Centres of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni

*(signed digitally)*

The Minister of Education, the University and Research  
Stefania Giannini

*(signed digitally)*

The President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia  
Region Debora Serracchiani

*(signed digitally)*

Date: 01/08/2016 17:14:21