

**RESEARCH DAY ITALY-SLOVENIA
LJUBLJANA, 18 APRIL 2018**

Italy and Slovenia have excellent cooperative relationships also in the field of science and today's meeting is an evident confirmation of such a situation.

The establishment of a bilateral working group, under the dynamic leadership of DG Krajcar for Slovenia and Rector Fermeglia for Italy, has constituted a very useful framework. Following the Italy – Slovenia first Research day at the AREA Science Park in Trieste on the 17th of November 2016, I am very honoured to give an opening speech at the second Research Day.

The AREA Science Park meeting focused on the project Atlach (Advanced technology laboratory for cultural heritage), created around Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, in collaboration with the Universities of Trieste, Ljubljana, Nova Gorica and Koper, the Institute for the protection of goods cultural heritage of Slovenia and the Jožef Stefan Institute; the numerous active cross-border projects that the University of Trieste has in different areas; the cooperation in the fields of physics and high technology through the partnerships which involved, among others, the National Research Council (CNR); the interesting case of industrial cooperation of Kyma Tehnologija d.o.o., constituted by Elettra Sincrotrone in 2007 and based in Sežana.

Today we will build thanks to the presence and the contribution of relevant scholars and experts a further step in our increasing collaboration.

I am also particularly pleased to note that today's event coincides with the Italian Research Day, a new initiative, whose date of 15th of April has been chosen in connection with the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci (who, by the way, has also been reported to be active in Vipava for defense projects), that has been launched in order to underline the importance of the alliance between science and diplomacy.

In this spirit, let me also recall that on the occasion of the Coordination Committee of Ministers of Italy and Slovenia, myself, on behalf of the Italian Foreign Minister, and the Slovenian State Secretary for Education, Science and Sport, Tomaž Boh, signed a bilateral Work Program on scientific-technological collaboration. Pursuant to that, a call for Joint Projects between Italy and

Slovenia has been published for the period 2018-2020. Mobility costs will be financed for researchers involved in projects focusing on ICT, blue growth, physics and astrophysics, technologies applied to agriculture, forestry and food security, cultural heritage. The project proposals will now be scrutinized and jointly agreed upon.

It is also worth recalling the statement adopted by the third Joint Committee between the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia, whose delegations were led respectively by the President of the Region Debora Serracchiani and by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Karl Erjavec, on the 19th of January 2018. In the S&T sector the parties have declared their interest to work in the field of research, focusing their collaboration on nanotechnologies and maritime technologies. In addition, in view of ESOF 2020, with Trieste as the capital of science, joint events will be promoted with the involvement of Europe and the Western Balkans.

I would like then to note that the major Slovenian research institutes have several cooperation agreements with numerous Italian universities, businesses and Institutes. By way of example, the three-year project "Fast Model Predictive Control for Magnetic Plasma Control" has been completed last December by the Jožef Stefan Institute in collaboration with the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)/Research Consortium for Energy, Automation and Electromagnetism Technologies (CREATE) and Cosylab in Ljubljana.

Finally, I would like to wish the best success to all participants in the conference, looking forward to their deliberations.