



Bilateral Agreement for Joint Post-Doctoral Program

The European Scientific Institute (ESI), with offices in Macedonia and Spain, legally represented by its President, Dr. Jovan Shopovski, and the Università degli Studi di Catania (UniCT), lawfully represented by its Rector, Prof. Enrico Foti, mutually agree to foster cultural and scientific cooperation between both institutions based on the following points.

Art. 1 Objective

Both institutions have agreed to become partners in the ESI Post-Doctoral Program in Social Sciences and Humanities in a Post-Crisis Period to be developed voluntarily by the Department of Education and Humanities in a Post-Crisis Period to be developed voluntarily by the Department of Education (DISFOR) and the UniCT Language Centre (CLA) and additionally in the departments of Humanities, Law, Political Science, and Economics if interested in collaborating. This partnership may further serve as an opportunity to explore future joint initiatives, such as developing Erasmus+ project proposals or expanding institutional collaboration.

Art. 2 Scientific and Administrative Committee

The Rector appoints an ESI Post-doctoral Program Committee at the University of Catania consisting of the Academic Director, the Director of the CLA as administrative staff member and one lecturer from each involved department, all specialized in English, to aid in the coordination and management of program-related activities. The Academic Director appointed is Prof. Paola Clara Leotta and will be in charge of overseeing the program and assigning advisors to each admitted candidate. The reference administrative structure, when needed, will be the CLA. This Committee does not require a permanent physical space, and meetings may be convened on an ad-hoc basis, as needed. The Committee may also invite students, PhD candidates, visiting professors, or other affiliated personnel to assist with the logistical and organizational aspects of the program.

Art. 3 Expenses

Within two weeks after each ESI call, the ESI Post-doctoral Program Committee receives notification about candidates interested in being tutored by the University. The University of Catania will supervise up to 10 paying candidates per year and cannot accept non-paying ones. 30% of the candidates' fee shall be compensated through the participation of the Host Institution students and staff in scientific conferences, academic programs, or publications in scientific journals organized or managed by the ESI. The University of Catania has no financial obligations under this partnership. However, it agrees to host the candidates, who shall be personally responsible for covering all travel, accommodation, and personal expenses.

Art. 4 Host obligations

The University shall provide invitation letters and access to its facilities and services, whenever possible, to the post-doc program candidates tutored by scientific lecturers of the departments of the University of Catania participating in the program, and it is responsible for appointing a suitable research advisor to supervise each accepted candidate. Additionally, the University shall support the candidates' research visit, i.e. access to relevant departments, resources, and administrative assistance as needed. Finally, the Rector of the University of Catania will sign, jointly with the ESI President, the final certificate of the candidates tutored by University of Catania professors.



**Art. 5 - Arbitration Clause**

The Parties agree any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this agreement or its subject matter or formation will be solved under the law court of jurisdiction.

Art. 6 - Duration of the Agreement

This agreement will be in force for three years and shall commence on the date of its signature by both the Parties. If signed on least three months prior to the expiry date, the parties can agree to extend the term of collaboration for three more years by exchange of written endorsement letters. Either party may terminate the agreement by giving at least three months' notice in writing to the other Party at any time.

Art. 7 - Effectiveness

The present agreement will be effective and enforceable since the last date of signing. The agreement is written in one copy, in English.

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA**The Rector****Prof. Dr. Enrico Foti**Date: Enrico Foti**EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE, ESI****The President****Dr. Jovan Shopovski**Date: 03.04.2026