This project will investigate the role Italian STEM returnees and diaspora play in transferring knowledge to their home country (i.e. Italy). Despite its relevance, the role of STEM returnees is largely unexplored in Europe, and specifically in Italy. The project will assess not only how much returnees and diaspora contribute at home, but how much novel, impactful and unrelated is the knowledge they bring home. The focus is on the Italian diaspora in the US, which is the country who receives the largest inflow of high-skilled migrants.

The project contribution is fourfold: i) it addresses the chronic lack of data concerning return migration and diaspora networks; ii) it provides more accurate estimates of the impact of returnees and diaspora; iii) it provides a thorough descriptive “mapping” of the technological (inventors) and scientific (scientists) Italian “diaspora” and the mechanisms and channels they use to connect with homeland. iv) the findings of the project will inform policy makers on how to design more effective attraction policies that are able to maximize the knowledge remittances of returnees.