

**PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, YOUTH
AND SPORTS COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2012-2015**

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science, based on the Cultural Agreement between the State of Israel and the Italian Republic signed in Rome on November 11th 1971, have agreed on the following program of Cooperation for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Both Parties are convinced that this cooperation shall contribute to the development of their relations and to raising awareness, particularly among youth, of the history and culture of the people of both countries and agree to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

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1. EDUCATION

1.1. The Parties shall promote exchange of information and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various fields of education.

1.2. The Parties shall encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutes of both countries.

1.3. The Parties shall, in accordance with their budgetary means, promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education system
- Teacher training and life-long training for teachers
- School organization and management
- Special needs education
- Decentralization and school autonomy
- Civic Education
- Gifted children education
- Cultural and religious integration of minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign language teaching
- Informal and formal education
- Collaborative learning (i.e. Literature, cinema and more)
- Inclusive education
- Culture and Heritage
- Adult education (life long learning)
- Science and technology education
- Youth contribution to the community
- Development of life skills
- Arts education
- Pre-primary education

In Israel, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.education.gov.il.

In Italy, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education, University and Research: www.istruzione.it.

1.4. The Parties are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Party will inform the other if such publications are detected.

1.5. The Parties agree on the importance of teaching their respective languages in the educational systems, including the possibility to upgrade the language examination as part of the Matriculation examinations in their respective education systems. The Parties will encourage the establishment of a mutual framework for teachers' training, exchange of language experts and teachers, exchange of relevant curricula on learning the respective languages as part of a cultural exchange between both countries, agreed standards on teaching the Italian Language in Israel and the Hebrew Language and Jewish studies in Italy, with an emphasis on the scientific and cultural exchange.

The Italian Party (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for the Promotion of the "Country System") will consider the possibility of continuing to support, within the limits of available resources, Italian lectureships at Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa-Universities and at Haifa Technion, and the Israeli Party will consider the possibility of supporting in Italy the lectureships of Hebrew Language and Jewish Studies at the Universities of Bologna, Florence, Pisa, Rome "La Sapienza", Turin, Venice and the Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli

1.6. The Parties shall put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the tragic fate of the Jewish community of Italy during the Second World War under the Nazi occupation.

The Italian Party shall continue to include the issue of the Holocaust in the school curriculum.

1.7. The Parties stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference also to the contents of the Stockholm Declaration of January 2000 and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7, of November 1st 2005, designating 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, which emphasizes the unique historical character of the Holocaust and denounces the still lingering dangers of genocide, racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia. In this context, the Parties shall support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and anti-Semitism.

1.8. The Parties shall encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history teachers, in the courses dealing with the history of the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism organized by the Yad Veshem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, as specifically agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research and the International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem, in Rome, on June 13th, 2011.

1.9. The Parties shall act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions, including Art and Musical Institution system (A.F.A.M.). For this purpose, the corresponding experts from the partner country will be invited to deliver lectures, hold seminars and conduct other educational activities. The conditions under which the experts shall respond their respective activities in the receiving country shall be negotiated between the respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

The Parties shall encourage cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), as electronic twinnings between teachers and students working together (mainly online) on shared projects about history, cultural heritage, way of life, and so on.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. The Israeli Party shall offer 4 annual Modern Hebrew summer language courses and 4 specialization scholarships to Italian post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli university, for one academic year (8 months) each. Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il> and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2. The Italian Party shall offer for the current academic year up to 42 monthly installments worth 775 Euro each, for scholarships of up to 9 months to be granted to best Israeli postgraduate candidates. Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.esteri.it>. The number and amount of scholarships granted for the following academic years will be communicated annually through diplomatic channels.

2.3. These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Parties.

3. COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES

3.1. The Parties shall promote the exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

3.2. The Parties shall enable participation of three (3) academics in national and international conferences/seminars and other similar events to be held in both countries for a period of up to five (5) days each, while this program is in force.

3.3. The Parties shall cooperate in the promotion of studies relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other's country in their respective universities.

3.4. Italy will support Israel in the framework of higher education developments related to the Bologna Process.

3.5. The parties shall promote the establishment of a steering committee that will enable exchange of information and ideas on current and future mechanisms for cooperation in the field of higher education and research.

4. THE "ITALY-ISRAEL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS"

4.1. Considering the dedication of both Countries to human progress and development, of the richness of their common cultural traditions, and of a shared historic legacy which has made Italy and Israel partners in their vision for the future; the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Israel have established the "Italy - Israel Foundation for Culture and the Arts" with the purpose of promoting the common values and ideas found within both Cultures.

4.2. The Foundation's goal is to carry out selected projects in the field of Culture and the Arts which meet the requirements of excellence, innovation and durable impact on society, and which will result in a clear benefit to the Parties' common cultural heritage.

4.3. This Foundation is creating a new and flexible instrument, able to combine all active forces - both public and private - toward boosting those synergies that already exist, as well as seeking out new ones.

4.4. The Foundation will not work in competition with the two Italian Institutes of Culture existing in Israel (Tel Aviv and Haifa), but will search common ground for joint venture in promoting projects which prove to be clearly relevant to both countries.

5. SCIENCE

5.1. The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions, direct cooperation between universities, academies of sciences, and other scientific research institutions, mutual exchange of scientific and research workers with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The content of this cooperation shall be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries within the framework of the activities outlined in the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technology Research and Development Cooperation between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Italian Republic, signed in Bologna on June 13th, 2000.

6. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

General review

The Parties welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by the cultural ties between the two countries. The Parties reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

The Parties shall encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in Italy and cultural activities of Italian origin in Israel.

6.1. The Parties shall support the exchange of music, theatre, dance, visual and plastic arts, design and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Parties shall encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

6.2. Performing arts festivals:

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. Details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on

principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Parties and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

The Parties shall inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about the major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

6.3. Plastic Arts, photography and design:

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of fine arts, handicraft fairs, photography and design. They shall encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, folk craftsmen, art experts and specialists in traditional folk works.

6.4. Architecture:

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions and the exchange of architects, as well as information sharing and the promotion of exhibitions.

6.5. Design:

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between designers, design institutions and museums and design schools.

6.6. Museums and Exhibitions:

The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibitions and information.

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions including works of art from museums, official and alternative exhibition spaces, private galleries, artist training schools and galleries, and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects. The Parties deem important the development of contacts and relations between the main Italian Museums of Arts and Israeli Museums. The Parties welcome the support of Italian cultural organizations to the initiative of the Museum of Art in the Israeli Arab city of Umm El Fahem, with the goal to promote dialogue through culture.

6.7. Music:

The Parties shall encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They shall also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a commercial and non commercial basis.

The Parties shall strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

6.8. Dance:

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Parties shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

6.9. Theatre:

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. The Parties shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

6.10. Gastronomic Studies and Tradition:

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts in the fields of gastronomic studies and tradition.

6.11 The Parties shall enable annual visits of experts/artists/producers/curators in the above mentioned various fields of arts, for a total period of not exceeding five (5) days each year. Projects shall be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

7. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

7.1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging information about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition they shall encourage activities aimed at preserving movable and immovable objects as well as sites of cultural mutual interest.

7.2 The Parties agree to cooperate to implement the obligations ensuing the 1972 UNESCO International Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

7.3. The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection and conservation of cultural heritage. They shall also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars. A natural location for such cooperation will be the International Center for Conservation "City of Rome", created in the year 2010 in the city of Acre by the Israel Antiquities Authority thanks to the cooperation with the Italian Authorities, where the Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration of Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities will provide its consultancy and didactical support in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2005 between the Israel Antiquities

Authority and the Secretary General of Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and presently in force.

7.4. The Parties agree to cooperate in order to contrast and prevent illicit traffic in works of art with preventive, repressive and remedial measures according to their respective national legislations, and also agree to cooperate in the protection of submerged cultural heritage according to their respective legislations dealing with submarine archaeology.

7.5. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with international law and their respective national Law within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, signed in Rome, on August 4th, 2005.

7.6. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation, preventive conservation studies, conservation treatment research, and architecture research. Details of such cooperation shall be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Parties.

7.7. The Parties shall encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They shall also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard shall be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities.

7.8. During the course of this Program, the Parties shall exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of immovable objects of cultural value, for a period of up to four 5 days. Details in this regard shall be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities.

8. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

8.1. The Parties will favor the translation and publishing of classical and high value contemporary works which may contribute to a better knowledge of literature, science and art of both Countries.

Every year the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will consider conferring awards and contributions for Italian and foreign publishers and translators formulating proposals aimed at the diffusion of Italian books and culture, either through the translation and publishing of literary and scientific works, or the dubbing and subtitling of short and long motion and motion pictures.

Applications shall be forwarded to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for the Promotion of the “Country System”, through the Italian Diplomatic Channels.

8.2. The Parties shall encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities.

8.3. The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

8.4. Each Party shall extend invitations to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non commercial basis, while this Program is in force.

The Israeli Party invites the Italian Party to participate in the Jerusalem International Book Fair that takes place every two years in Jerusalem.
www.jerusalembookfair.com/

The Italian Party invites the Israeli Party to participate in the Salone del Libro di Torino international Book Fair. Information regarding the fair can be found at <http://en.fieralibro.it/>

9. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

9.1. The Parties shall favor the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals.

9.2. The Parties shall favor holding film weeks of the other Party in their own country.

9.3. The Parties wish to continue the fruitful cooperation between them in the field of co-production of films, according to the Agreement between their Governments on film co-production, signed in Jerusalem, on January 2nd, 1985.

In light of the interest shown in this cooperation by experts of the two countries, the Parties will explore the possibility to update and renew the existing bilateral Agreement.

10. TELEVISION

Both Parties, in the framework of specific agreements between the relevant radio and television bodies, shall encourage exchanges in the area of radio and television broadcasting.

11. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

11.1. The Parties shall promote reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state and public institutions and libraries, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges shall take place in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Parties.

11.2. The Parties shall consider the exchange of one (1) archivist or librarian for up to five (5) days during period of this program in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions.

11.3. The Parties express their satisfaction with the collaboration that begun within the Minerva projects (2004-2008) and are still active within the Linked Heritage EU project (2011-2013); in this framework, the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities will support Israeli cultural institutions in providing materials for Europeana, the European Digital Library. Parties shall also encourage the annual convention of EVA/MINERVA Jerusalem International Conference on Digitisation of Cultural Heritage.

11.4 The Parties consider of common interest the cooperation in the field of conservation and restoration of library, documentary and photographic arts, and shall encourage the exchange of experts for teaching or lecturing, and students who wish to undertake studies in the Schools of High Formation for restorers at the Central Institute for the Restoration, and the Institute for Conservation of Library and Archival Cultural Heritage (ICRCPAL).

11.5. The Parties shall encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications on library and archival materials conservation and preservation.

COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of UNESCO and other international organizations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

12. YOUTH EXCHANGE

12.1. The Parties agree that the exchange of youth and young adults constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They shall therefore support such programs.

Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of young people in the community and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through specific youth activities.

12.2. The Parties shall encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard will be determined on the Israeli side by the Israel Youth Exchange Council, and on the Italian side by the Italian Ministry of Education and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Department of Youth of the Italian Ministry for International Cooperation and Integration) as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Exchange Programs between the Minister of Education of the State of Israel on behalf of the Israel Youth Exchange Council and the Minister of Education, Universities and Research and the Minister of Youth signed in 2011.

13. SPORTS

13.1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of sport, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines, under the coordination of both countries' sport national federations and organizations. Details shall be worked out through mutual consultations between the interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges shall be agreed upon between the interested organizations of both countries.

13.2. The Parties will comply with the obligations under the 2005 International Convention against doping.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

14.1. The Parties shall ensure proper and effective protection of all intellectual property rights which are created or exchanged within the framework of this Program in accordance with their national laws and regulations, with relevant international agreements' obligations and – as far as Italy is concerned – also in accordance with European Union binding agreements.

14.2. Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity in accordance with this Program will be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in separate agreements prior to starting the joint activity.

14.3. No Party shall transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained through the implementation of this Program to any third Party without prior written consent of the Party from which such information originated.

15. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

15.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the scheduled program of the events, shall be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries, in connection with the existing and quoted Memoranda of Understanding in the different Cultural and Educational Fields, and subject to the budgetary limitations of each Party.

15.2. Exchange of exhibitions: the financial provisions for each project will be separately agreed upon between the Parties.

16. FINAL PROVISIONS

16.1. This Program does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

16.2. The Parties agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program shall be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

16.3. All activities and exchanges realized in accordance with this Program shall be implemented in accordance with the law of the Parties.

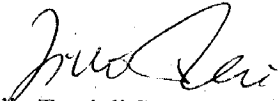
16.4. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

16.5. This Program can be amended or modified by mutual consent of the Parties. The amendments or modifications shall be made in writing.

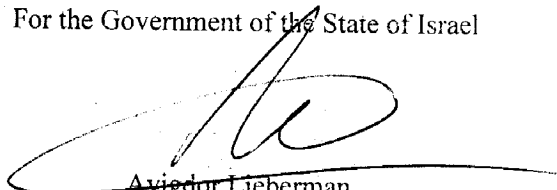
16.6. This Program shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force until December 31st, 2015. It shall be automatically extended for an additional period of three (3) years, unless either Party notifies the other by a Diplomatic Note of its intention to terminate it, at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of its intended termination.

Signed in Jerusalem, on 25th October 2012, which corresponds to the day of 9 Heshvan 5773, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Italian Republic


Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Israel


Avigdor Lieberman
Minister for Foreign Affairs