The Government of the Republic of Italy 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 and education, based on the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the State of Israel signed in Rome on November 11th, 1971, have agreed on the following Program of Cooperation for the years 2008-2011.

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.

1. EDUCATION

The Parties agree to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries:

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

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

1.3. Both Parties shall encourage cooperation among schools also through future direct agreements between the national authorities concerned.

1.4. Each Party, within the framework of its national legal system, will continue acting by all available means in order to develop a culture of universal tolerance within its own school system, also in order to counter racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, as well as prejudice and negative stereotypes. They will exchange any useful information to that effect.

1.5. The Italian Party will continue giving all due emphasis, within its educational system, to the rich history and the tragic fate of the Italian Jewish community as a consequence of the policies of the past Fascist regime and of the events of the Second World War. Any exchange of information of this subject, aimed at making research and educational work more efficient, will be welcome.

1.6. Both Parties shall cooperate to promote the inclusion of the issue of the Holocaust in the school curriculum. 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, 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.
1.7. Both Parties shall cooperate in continuing to ensure, and will further develop, the professional training of school teachers in all concerned disciplines with the aim of improving their capabilities in teaching about the Holocaust. To that effect, the Italian Party welcomes cooperation with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. Such cooperation might include the participation of Yad Vashem experts to the activities held in Italy within the national guidelines of professional training for educators, as well as the participation of specially selected groups of Italian educators to courses held at the Yad Vashem facilities in Jerusalem. On a case by case basis, the Italian Party will provide the Israeli Party will all the relevant information to that effect.

1.8. The Italian Party, within the limit of annual financial resources, invite up to two (2) Israeli school teachers of secondary education of Italian language and literature, to participate in summer courses of specialization organized yearly, by the Ministry of Education, University and Research at specialized institutions teaching Italian as a second language. Any increase of the teachers number shall be defined through diplomatic channels depending on necessity and teaching perspectives of the Italian language in Israel and available resources of the Italian Party. Course fees and accommodation expenses shall be borne by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of Italy.

In Israel information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: [www.education.gov.il](http://www.education.gov.il)

In Italy information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of [www.pubblica.istruzione.it](http://www.pubblica.istruzione.it)

1.9. The Italian Party, who at the moment supports lectureships at the University of Tel Aviv and Haifa and courses of Italian language and culture at the University of Beer Sheva, shall examine, within its financial resources, the possibility of supporting to Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as the University of Beer Sheva aimed at preserving and establishing chairs of the Italian language.

1.10. The Italian Party, through Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Directorate for the Cultural Promotion and Co-operation shall examine the possibility of providing educational and cultural institutions in Israel with textbooks for the teaching of Italian language and for training the refresher courses of teachers and lecturers. The Italian Party underlines the existence of a special project led by the Italian Cultural Institute of Tel Aviv which aims at favouring the teaching of the Italian language and culture in ten Israeli secondary schools and their re-establishment as subjects for the final high school exams (’bagrut”).

1.10. The Parties take note the commitment of the “Società Dante Alighieri”, which operates through its Committees in Jerusalem, Haifa and Nazareth, to organize yearly twenty (20) courses of the Italian language and to offer, for the period of 2008-2010, six (6) scholarships of 1000 Euro each to the best students.

1.11. The Parties underscore the mutual importance of reciprocal recognition of educational certificates, diplomas and academic degrees. The Parties shall exchange information and documentation on this matter, and are ready to hold negotiations in accordance to the laws and regulations of each Party.
2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. The Israeli Party shall offer annually Modern Hebrew summer language courses or/and specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months each) for post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies at an Israeli university.

Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the internet through the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.gov.il, and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2. The Italian Party shall offer, annually, to Israeli graduates a total of sixty (60) months scholarships for specialization courses.

2.3. The Italian Party and the Israeli Party will favour the assignment of one scholarship on Italian Jewish studies.

2.4. The scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Parties (see also point 13.2.).

3. Cooperation between Universities

3.1. The Parties shall encourage direct co-operation between their universities and higher education institutions, through the exchange of publications, literature, data and research materials and information, as well as the realization of joint research projects, seminars and congresses.

3.2 Both Parties will exchange, yearly, up to six (6) university professors for up to five(5)days each visit, in order to create contacts aiming at identifying research fields of common interest, and to commence co-operation between universities and education institutions of both countries in fields of common interest. (see point 13.1).

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 the respective universities.

3.4. In the framework of the program for internationalisation of the Italian university system, in the period 2001-2003 and 2004-2007, the Ministry of University and Research has financed many inter-university collaborations between the two countries.

3.5. The Italian Party informs that in Italy, the artistic-musical education is part of their higher level education system, equivalent to their university academic level. This type of education is performed in the following public institutions:

- Accademie delle Belle Arti;
- Accademia Nazionale d’Arte Drammatica “Silvio D’Amico”;
- Conservatoi di musica;
- Accademia Nazionale di Danza;
- Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche.

4. YOUTH EXCHANGES

4.1. The Parties agree that the youth exchange constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They shall therefore support these programs. Emphasis will be placed on
the active participation of young people and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities.

4.2. The Parties shall encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard shall be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Council and the relevant associations in Italy.

5. 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.

6. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERT

6.1. General review

The Parties welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the countries. The Parties reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in the two 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, as well as continuing to favour the activity of the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv and its Haifa branch and of the Culture Department of the Israeli Embassy in Rome.

The Parties note with satisfaction the operation of the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv and Haifa which has been successfully active for a long time in the field of cultural dialogue.

The Parties shall support the exchange of music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design, dance 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. All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

6.2. Festivals

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of music, dance and theatre. All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels. (see point 13.4)

The Parties shall inform each other in advance about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries. Information will be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities.
The Israeli Party invites the Italian Party to participate in major festivals held in Israel such as:

- The Israel Festival, Jerusalem (in May/June, Annual)
- Artur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition (Triennial, dates variable)
- Carmiel International Dance Festival (Annual, in July)
- International Exposure at the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance Tel-Aviv (Annual, in December)
- International conference, Isra- Darma and international exposure for theatre (annual, in December).
- Jerusalem International Book Fair (Biennial, in February)
- Red Sea International Jazz Festival (Annual, in August)
- Haifa International Theatre Festival for Children and Youth (Annual, in April)
- Safed International Klezmer Festival (Annual, in July or August)
- Dance-Europa at the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theatre (Annual, Oct-Nov)
- Felicja Blumental International Music Festival (Annual, in May)
- The International Festival for Puppet Theater in Jerusalem (Annual, in August)
- The Keshet Eilon International Violin Master courses in western Galilee (annual, September)
- The kfar Blum Chamber Music Festival (Annual, July)

6.3. Plastic Arts, photography and design:

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of fine arts and handicraft fairs. They shall encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, folk craftsmen, art experts and specialists in traditional folk works. (see point 13.3.).

The Parties shall promote visits of exhibition curators or experts in the field of art restoration. Projects in this field shall be agreed upon the Parties through diplomatic channels.

All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

The Italian Party may continue organizing through the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv an annual seminar in design and an annual seminar in conservation (restoration).

6.4. Architecture

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

All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

6.5. Museums and Exhibitions

The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between museums and galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information (see point 13.3.).

6.6. Music

The Parties shall support 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 area of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recording and personal visits on a commercial and non commercial basis.
The Parties shall facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

6.7. 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. All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

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

6.9. Gastronomic culture
The Parties shall welcome the possibilities to cooperate in the domain of gastronomic culture, in order to promote their respective gastronomic traditions including the possibility of promoting studying in the field.

7. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS
7.1. The Parties shall work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Party. The Parties shall also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

7.2. The Italian Party informs the Israeli Party that the following awards and contributions to translators of Italian books into foreign languages are available:

- At the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities are the National Awards for Translation, under the High Auspices of the President of the Republic, awarded to translators and foreign editors.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Co-operation, assigns awards and/or financial contributions to Italian and/or foreign publishers and translators that will collaborate proposals aimed at the spreading of Italian culture, for the diffusion of the Italian book, for the translation of literary and scientific works as well as for the translation, dubbing and subtitling of films and TV series for mass media.

7.3. 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.

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

7.5. Each Party shall extend invitation to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non commercial basis, while the 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.
8. ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES

8.1. The Parties shall promote the reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state, 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.

8.2. The Parties shall consider the exchange of one (1) archivist or librarian for up to five (5) days in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions (see point 13.1.).

8.3. The Parties (for the Italian Party the Ministry of Cultural Goods and Activities) shall encourage initiatives designed to increase the exchanges between the “Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche Italiane e per le Informazione Bibliografiche” with the Israel National Library and the relevant networks and services for academic and public local authorities libraries in Israel. The Parties shall also encourage the annual convention of EVA/MINERVA Jerusalem International Conference on Digitisation of Cultural Heritage.

9. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

9.1. The Parties shall encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other’s international film festivals. The Parties shall encourage the promotion of special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country.(see point 13.4.)

The Israeli Party notifies the Italian Party of the following major film festivals that are held in Israel:

- Jerusalem International Film Festival (Annual, in July)
- Haifa International Film Festival (Annual, in October)
- International Student Film Festival, Tel-Aviv (Biennial, in June)
- International Women’s Film Festival , Rehovot (Annual, in September)
- The Doc-Aviv International Documentary Film Festival in Tel-Aviv (Annual, in April)
- World Jewish Film Festival, in Beer-Sheva (Annual, in November)

9.2. The Parties shall encourage the holding of film weeks of the other Party in their own country. Films should be screened by both countries and have English sub-titles, if the language of the film is not English. All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

Each Party shall encourage mutual visits of an expert or figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose the Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts in the fields of cinema and audiovisual in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events. All details, including the financial clauses, shall be defined through diplomatic channels.

9.3. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes. The Parties welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinemathques and the exchange of students and teachers.

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

10. SPORTS

10.1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details shall be worked out through mutual consultations between interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges shall be agreed upon between interested organizations of both countries.

11. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

11.1. The Parties shall endeavour to upgrade the fruitful co-operation already existing between the two countries in the field of archaeology through the exchange of information and experience, also in the field of the integrated protection of archaeological sites within their environmental context.

11.2. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, keeping each other informed about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition they shall encourage activities aimed at preserving locations of mutual interest.

11.3. The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They shall also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

11.4. The Parties shall encourage cooperation with a view to preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with international law and their respective national Law.

11.5. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this co-operation shall be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Parties.

11.6. The Parties shall encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archaeological 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 Goods and Activities.

11.7. The Parties shall encourage the development of a centre for conservation in the city of Akko.

12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND RELATED

12.1. Each Party shall ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights to the extent and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its country.

12.2. Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity will be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in separate agreements prior to commencing the joint activity.
12.3. The Parties hope to develop bilateral co-operation and activities in the field of protection of intellectual property and the related rights, through the respective governmental administrations competent for this matter. The Italian Party informs that the relevant administrations are Ministry for Cultural Goods and Activities who act in contrasting the piracy according to Law n. 109/2005 with Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

13. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS


The exchange of visits foreseen under this Program shall be regulated as follows:

1. The sending Party will supply the receiving Party in advance, through diplomatic channels, with the following information:
   
a) Name and nationality of the candidate that has to be Italian (or of EU country) for the people who go to Israel, and Israeli for people who go to Italy;
   b) curriculum vitae and their knowledge of foreign languages;
   c) Proposed program for the visit, the name and university of the hosting professor;
   d) Dates and duration of the visit.

2. The receiving Party shall confirm its acceptance of the visit, through the diplomatic channels, as a rule at least a month, prior to the date of departure.

3. Concerning exchanges to point 3.2 (exchange of professors):

   The Israeli sending Party, will cover the cost of the travel expenses from capital city to the capital city and return.
   The Italian sending Party will also cover, for the Italian professors only, travel expenses within its territory;
   The Italian receiving Party will cover the travel expenses of the Israeli professors within its territory from the capital city to hosting university;

   The Italian Party will offer the Israeli guests a daily allowance of Euro 93 per day, all included.
   The Israeli Party will offer the Italian guests the cost of accommodation in its country.

4. Concerning exchanges to point 8.2 (exchange of archivists, librarians) the sending Party will cover international round trip travel expenses.

   The Italian Party will offer to the Israeli guests a daily allowance of Euro 93 per day, all included.
   The Israeli Party will offer to the Italian guests the cost of accommodation in its country.

13.2. Scholarships

The terms and financial conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Party for one academic year shall be published yearly through governmental channels as well as at the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.gov.il.
The Israeli Party shall provide participants in the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School accepted within this Program with the following:

a. free tuition;
b. allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school;
c. health insurance with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The Italian Party shall provide Israeli holders of scholarships with the following:

a) a monthly allowance equal to Euro 700 net.
b) accidents and sickness insurance, excluding pre-existing illness and dental prothesis.
c) full or partial exemption of universities fees, where this is provided by the universities, within the exercise of their autonomy.

13.3. Exchange of exhibitions

Exchanges of exhibitions shall be implemented under the following conditions:

- The sending Party shall cover the cost of transporting exhibits to and from the receiving country “nail to nail”.
- The receiving Party shall cover the cost of transporting exhibits within its territory and cost related to the organization of the exhibition, including installation and dismantlement unless agreed differently by the Parties. The receiving Party shall provide publicity for the exhibition.
- The sending Party shall bear the cost of insurance of the exhibits.
- The receiving Party shall provide accommodation for the specialists (artists/curators) accompanying the exhibition. The Parties shall agree upon the number of persons accompanying the exhibition and the duration of their stay.
- The Parties shall agree on case by case basis on the catalogue issues through diplomatic channels.
- should any material be damaged, the receiving Party (through its Institutions, Galleries, Museum, cultural Centers) shall forward to the sending Party the relevant documentation in its possession. Under no circumstances may restoration be carried out without the explicit authorization of the sending Party;

13.4. Expenses concerning the organization of these performances shall be agreed on a case-by-case basis between the Parties on a basis of the current legislation in force in the countries where they shall be carried out according to the available financial resources.

All the initiatives benefiting by financial support of the Ministry of Cultural Goods and Activities are subject to the favorable advice of the Consultative Commission in this field.

14. FINAL PROVISIONS

14.1 This Executive Program does not preclude the possibility of agreeing, through diplomatic channels, upon other initiatives not foreseen herein, provided they are duly authorized by the Administrations in charge of the co-ordination of the Program itself.

14.2. 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.
14.3. All activities and exchanges realized under this Program shall be implemented in accordance with the Law of the Parties.

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

14.5. The Parties entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

14.6. This program can be amended or modifies by mutual consent of the Parties. The amendments or modifications shall be made in writing.

14.7. The next meeting of the Joint Committee shall take place in Rome at the end of the year 2011.

14.8. This Program shall come into force on the date of signature and shall be in force until 31 December 2011. It shall be automatically extended for additional periods 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 8 of July, 2008, which corresponds to the 5 day of Tamuz, 5768, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Franco Frattini
For the Government of the Italian Republic

Tzipi Livni
For the Government of the State of Israel