



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR COUNTRY PROMOTION

ITALIAN REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE OF THE
STATE OF ISRAEL

**Call for Proposals on Scientific and Technological Cooperation
(Scientific Track 2017)
Submission by Monday, January 16th 2017**

A. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Within the framework of the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Research and Development Cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called the "Agreement") and in particular under the Subcommittee for Scientific Cooperation, the Israeli Ministry of Science, Technology and Space (referred to hereafter as "MOST") and the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the Italian side (referred to hereafter as "MFAIC") are providing financial support for joint Italian-Israeli research projects carried out jointly by scientists from both countries. Italian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint research proposals in the following areas:

1. Protein folding and protein-protein interactions: applications to metabolic diseases.
2. Development and implementation of novel geophysical methods for a) improved earthquake forecasting, b) discovery and exploring sub-surface natural resources (gas, oil, minerals), and c) environmental monitoring of natural water bodies (aquifers, lakes, seas).

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in the Italian and the Israeli laboratories;
- Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists.

Submission of joint research projects by researchers of both countries is requested with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between Italy and Israel. Each joint research team may submit one project only. Financing will be granted exclusively for joint projects by Italian researchers (or researchers of EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) and Israel researchers.

C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The total maximum funding for each individual project is approximately € 100,000 for each side for the entire two-year project period. It is the intention of each Ministry to fund projects up to a maximum amount of € 800,000 per year and to support a maximum of 8 joint projects. However, the final number of projects to be funded as well as the final budget approved for each project will be determined based on budgetary and scientific considerations. Research projects can span a maximum period of two years. Contracts will be signed accordingly.

In Italy: Each project that is selected can be financed up to 50% of the documented and eligible costs of research. In Italy the financial support will be granted only after the final financial report has been received and the project has been positively evaluated. If the project is profitable, the Italian Partner will have to gradually repay the grant to the Authorities, in compliance with rules and regulations. Repayment of contribution must be made, through royalties, according to applicable rules and procedures, as in Article 5 of the Agreement. No repayment is due if the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

In Israel: MOST will cover 100% of the documented and eligible costs of the research up to the amount of the approved budget, in accordance with the project proposal, subject to the terms and conditions as specified below.

Funding of approved projects is subject to the approval of the State budget for 2017 for both participating Ministries and to the availability of funds in the relevant line of the State Budget of both countries.

Furthermore, MFAIC and/or MOST reserve the right to cancel this Call or not to fund a second year of research for scientific-professional, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Israeli and Italian research teams;
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator from each country;
3. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country. The PI must be member of an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who continues working on research in academic or research institution (hereinafter called the "Affiliated Institution"). In addition:
 - In Israel, the "Affiliated Institution" must be one of the following:
 - An accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958;
 - A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF);
 - A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization;
 - A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is a research institute whose significant portion of activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, possessing appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employing researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

- In Italy a research institution must be a public or private University, a public or private, Research Institute/University, acting under Italian law.

The project may include the use of sub-contractors from the private sector, if necessary.

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfill, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the MFAIC, Italian researchers are asked to refer to the *"Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2017 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002"*, which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

4. Each Principal Investigator and research institution is accountable to MOST or to the MFAIC, respectively, for the execution of the project.
5. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Council for Animal Experiments in Israel before the project starts. In Italy they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU laws.
6. Proposals for which funding is approved and involves human beings, must submit a request to the relevant Helsinki Committee in Israel before the project starts. In Italy they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU law.

E. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

The approved Israeli and Italian research teams and their respective research institutions shall enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project (a model "Standard Cooperation Agreement" is attached as Annex B).

In Italy the project will not be eligible for funding if the signed "Cooperation Agreement" is not sent within the term requested by the MFAICI.

F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The project proposal shall be submitted jointly by the Italian and Israeli PIs to both addresses (MOST and MFAIC) that are specified below. Each of the two PIs shall fill out the Forms which are enclosed in Annex 1. Both forms shall be signed by each of the two Principal Investigators as well as by each of the legal representatives of the research Institution to which they belong. The submitted projects will be evaluated by both Parties.

For Israeli research teams:

The Israeli Principal Investigator should submit the proposal by e-mail in English, using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following email address: italy@most.gov.il ((in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures).

The proposals should actually reach the abovementioned email address by **Monday, January 16th 2017 at 23:59** (local Israel time), **and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour**. Proposers are hereby advised that no human answers will be available after 15:30 of the said day.

Because of technical constraints, an email over 20 megabytes will not be received. If the email and its attachments exceed 20 MB, it must be split. Shortly after submitting the email the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. If an email confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST contact persons detailed below to

make sure the email was duly received. **It is solely the sender's responsibility** to receive confirmation that the email was received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.** A valid project application consists of the Application Form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to MOST and MFAIC. **If the applications are not duly received by both MOST and MFAIC by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted.**

In addition, Israeli Principal Investigators **should send also 2 hard copies** of their proposals by Sunday, **22nd January 2016** to the following MOST address:

Mr. Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control
Ministry of Science, Technology and Space
Call for Proposals for Israel –Italy 2016
3 Clermont Ganneau St., Kiryat Begin, Building 3, 3rd floor, room 309
Begin Government Offices
Jerusalem 91490
Tel: 02-5411170/173/800
Fax: 02-5823030
E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

For Italian research teams:

In Italy the Italian Principal Investigator must submit the application to the MFAIC.

The application must be sent by **Monday, January 16th 2017** exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: dgsp.unita-cst@cert.esteri.it.

The Italian applicants must send exclusively the documents as laid down in the *“Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l’anno 2017 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002”*, according to the “Check List” (Annex A). If one of the necessary documents is not attached, the applicant will not be able to participate in the Call.

A valid application consists of all the required documents from each side of a joint research team, being submitted, respectively, to both the MFAIC and MOST.

Applications that are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli authorities, in accordance with the procedures and by the dates indicated above will not be accepted.

G. FUNDED EXPENSES

All budget items and expenditures must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration between the two partners and the local research that is necessary for the collaboration.

Support for the successful Italian applicants will be given at the end of the project, with no advance payment, upon presentation of a financial report of eligible expenses.

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. For Italian research teams please refer to "Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2017 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

Italian Principal Investigator will provide budget details as detailed in Annex 1.

For Israeli research teams, funding provided by MOST can be used for the following types of expenses:

- (1) Stipend or salary for PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers (i.e. a temporary position up to 2 years) retained specifically for the purpose of the project;
- (2) Consumables- in case the consumables' mounts exceed NIS 3,000, a detailed explanation what equipment or materials are required, their necessity and quantities;
- (3) small scale equipment which is only needed for the specific research project; MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which the computer or laptop is part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research
- (4) Travel and visiting costs;
- (5) Joint seminars and workshops;
- (6) Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

H. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts' institutions. As long as the visits are an integral part of the research collaboration, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists should be included in the project's budget. The visits must take place in Italy or in Israel only. Visits to third countries will not be financed by project funds.

I. PROPOSAL REVIEW

The projects will initially be evaluated separately by each Ministry. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Sub Joint Committee of the two Ministries in order to select the projects admitted for funding.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Conformity with the definition of the program research topics of this Call;
2. Scientific Qualification of the Principal Investigators (one for each country per research project): The Principal Investigator should have experience, appropriate expertise and ability to manage the collaboration and carry out the project goals within the two-year project period;
3. Significance of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it. (Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible.);
4. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
5. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed program of work;
6. Feasibility of implementation of the proposed research and access to relevant resources;
7. Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation; extent of genuine collaboration between the Italian and Israeli research teams;
8. The level of involvement of young researchers;

9. Possibility of continuing the scientific cooperation within "Horizon 2020";
10. Justification of the requested project budget.

J. NOTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS

Project partners whose projects have been selected by the Sub Joint Committee will be informed of the results in Israel by means of letters. In Italy, the list of selected projects will furthermore be published on the Website of the MFAIC.

K. AWARDING PROCEDURES AND PAYMENTS

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is September 2017.

2.1. In Italy, after the selection of the Project the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will inform the Academic or Research Institution of the Principal Investigator about the amount and the conditions of the grant. Upon receipt of formal acceptance by the beneficiary, the Ministry will send an official letter to the beneficiaries confirming the financing of the project.

2.2. With regard to Israeli research teams: An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted to MOST by the research institution of Israeli Principal Investigator on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

3. Reports

Reporting requirements for each national research team are set out in the research agreements between each team's research institution and the relevant Party to this Call.

In particular, the Italian Principal Investigator has to submit to the MFAIC the following:

1. An interim scientific and financial report, according to the exchange of letters with the above mentioned Ministry.
2. Within 30 days after the conclusion of the project, a final scientific and financial report covering the work carried out during the two-year project period.

Both Principal Investigators will submit a joint summary of the final report to MOST in English and to the MFAIC in English and in Italian.

4. Payments

Payments will be made by the MFAIC or by MOST, respectively, to the research institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, in keeping with the provisions of the agreements referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

L. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI APPLICANT

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST Procedures Regarding International Collaborative Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST and to the MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this Call; filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof. In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Call and the standard terms, the terms of this Call shall prevail.

Sabbatical Leave:

Israeli researchers who intend a sabbatical leave in the first year of the project cannot be approved as a PI of the research proposal. A PI who intends a vacation or absence longer than three months should request permission from MOST in advance through the relevant R&D Authority. A substitute to the PI will not be approved in the course of the first year.

It should also be noted that this Joint Call will be published in Israel in the near future. Therefore applicants should not contact the MOST before the Israeli Ministry will publish it.

M. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

ISRAEL

On administrative matters:

Mr. Avi Anati

Deputy Director-General for Planning & Control

Tel: 02-5411170/173/800

Fax: 02-5823030

E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

Mrs. Claire Levaton

Division for International Relations

E-mail: claire@most.gov.il

On scientific matters:

Dr. Yossi Kalifa

Director of Life Sciences Research

Tel: 02-5411130

Mobile: 050-6231137

Email: yossik@most.gov.il

Dr. Moshe Ben Sasson

Director for Water, Agriculture, Environment

[Tel:02-5411862](tel:02-5411862)

Mobile: 050-5859530

Email: MosheBS@most.gov.il

MOST website: www.most.gov.il

ITALY

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

e della Cooperazione Internazionale

D.G.S.P. - Direzione Generale per la Promozione del Sistema Paese –

Unità per la Cooperazione Scientifica e Tecnologica Bilaterale e Multilaterale

P.le della Farnesina, 1

00135 Roma

certified electronic mail: dgsp.unita-cst@cert.esteri.it
(for official submission)

accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it
(for general information)

scienza.telaviv@esteri.it

Scientific Attaché Office - Embassy of Italy in Israel
(for scientific information)