



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

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

ITALIAN REPUBLIC

**Call for Proposals for the institution of a Joint Italian - Israeli Laboratories
Submission by Monday 16th January, 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 Directorate General for Country Promotion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (hereafter referred to as "MFAIC") is providing financial support for a joint Italian-Israeli Laboratory project, established and carried out jointly by research institutes and scientists from both countries. Italian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint Laboratory proposals in the following areas:

1. Advanced and innovative materials

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

The Joint Italian – Israeli Laboratory, once established, will have to enhance the cooperation among the two Countries' Academic and/or Research institutes, whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific and technological knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employ researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their field of research in leading scientific journals and present their research at international symposia. In addition:

- In Israel, a research institution must be an accredited institution of higher education, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or a public research institute with experience in the relevant fields.
- In Italy, a research institution must be a public or private University, a public or private Research Institute, acting under Italian law.

Both Israeli and Italian teams will be headed by a Principal Investigator, affiliated with the participating academic or research institution promoting the Laboratory.

Italian and Israeli industrial partners or other research institutions are encouraged to collaborate with the institutions sponsoring the Laboratory, and can be associated with it by providing financing, personnel, equipment or facilities to the activities carried out in the Lab.

Proposals for Joint Laboratory projects must fulfil all the requirements of this Call for proposals and the others rules set out in the “Norme integrative per la costituzione di Laboratori congiunti - Anno 2017” which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

The Laboratory will operate for a minimum period of 3 years from its establishment. The extension of this period may be requested jointly by the Israeli and Italian Principal Investigators to the MFAIC who – after consulting the Israeli authorities – will decide on the matter.

Proposals must contain a description of the facilities involved in Joint Laboratory’s research activity and a detailed plan of the activities to be carried out during the three-year period.

The Joint Laboratory main facility shall be preferably located in Italy.

The Italian Principal Investigator and the Italian research institution promoting the Laboratory will both be accountable to the MFAIC for the execution of the research activities and the financial reporting of the project.

The financing of the institution promoting the Laboratory will be subject to all applicable Italian and European Union legislations.

C. FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The MFAIC will provide the selected Laboratory with a maximum total funding up to 200.000 Euro for the three year start-up phase, on the basis of the program and the budget plan submitted.

The budget plan will have to show the financing plan for the expenses of establishment, management and development of the Laboratory. The financing plan must include the following items:

- direct financing of the Italian institution promoting the Laboratory;
- direct financing of the Israeli institution promoting the Laboratory;
- financing requested from the Italian institution to the MFAIC;
- financing from others institutions and companies.

Proposals of Joint Laboratory projects will have to include a perspective of financial self-sustainability allowing the continuation of the Joint Laboratory’s activities even after the end of the three year grant received from the Italian side.

New research institutions and private companies may join the Laboratory only after one year from the activation of the Laboratory. Participation of institutes from third countries is allowed, provided the consent of the Israeli and Italian institutes promoting the Laboratory, the MFAIC and the Israeli authorities.

If the project generates profits from its research activities, the Italian Partner will have to repay gradually the grant to MFAIC. The repayment of the grant must be made through royalties, according to applicable rules and procedures, as in Article 5 of the Agreement. No repayment is due if the patents obtained through the Laboratory's activities are not commercialized.

D. ELIGIBILITY

The Italian Principal Investigator (Italian citizen or UE citizen resident in Italy) must be affiliated to a University or research institute acting under the Italian law.

The Italian Principal Investigator must secure his commitment to the Laboratory's activities for the entire three-year period. His/Her replacement shall be approved by the MFAIC and the Italian and Israeli partners of the Laboratory.

Amendments to the Budget plans must be authorized by the competent institutions of the hosting country.

In Israel, proposals of Laboratories which include experiments on animals, before experimentation starts application for approval must be submitted to the relevant Council for Animal Experiments. In Italy they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU laws.

Proposals for which funding is approved involving 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 Israeli and Italian research teams and their respective research institutions shall enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights arising from the activity of the Joint Laboratory as well as all the relevant cooperation issues related to the project (technical and scientific cooperation, financing, personnel exchange, funding allocation) .

The project will not be eligible for funding if the signed "Cooperation Agreement" is not sent before the term set out in the letter by which the MFAIC will inform the project coordinator of the Joint Laboratory selection.

F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Laboratory project proposal shall be jointly submitted - in English - by the Italian and Israeli Principal Investigators to the MFAIC. Both parties declare by underwriting the proposal that the scientific project and its preliminary budget are agreed upon, including all the financing provisions related to the laboratory.

The Italian partner must send the Project Application by filling in the attached Application Form called Annex 1 to the email address detailed below duly signed by each of the two parties as well as by each of the legal representatives of the research Institution to which they belong.

The application must be sent by **Thursday, October 27th, 2016** exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: dgsp.unita-cst@cert.esteri.it.

The Italian applicants must send only the documents as listed in the “*Norme Integrative per la costituzione di Laboratori congiunti - Anno 2017*”, 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.

G. FUNDED EXPENSES

All budget items and expenditures must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant.

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate together. It will therefore be provided mainly to support and integrate the financial, technical and human resources mobilized for the cooperation with the counterpart.

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 joint research, 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, in Israel and other countries associated to the project. Visits to countries not associated will not be eligible for financing.

I. EVALUATION CRITERIA

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 Laboratory goals within the project's time frame;
3. Relevance of the research topics and innovation impact of the methodology adopted.
4. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed work plan, to be assessed also taking into account the financial impact of the project;
5. Ability to develop research and growth of the existing research centers and their capacity to access to further sources of funding.
6. Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation
7. Involvement of young researchers;

The evaluation process will be operated by the MFAIC, taking into proper consideration the assessments expressed by the Israeli authorities about the quality of the project.

J. NOTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS

Project partners whose Joint Laboratory project has been selected will be informed of the results by letters. In Italy, the list of selected projects will furthermore be published on the website of the MFAIC.

K. AWARDING PROCEDURE AND PAYMENT

Joint Laboratories must be activated within 6 months from the formal acceptance of the grant.

After the selection of the Project, the MFAIC 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 MFAIC will issue an official letter on the financing of the Project.

Both Principal Investigators will submit a joint annual report and a final scientific and financial report to the MFAIC (in English with Italian translation).

The Italian Principal Investigators shall submit to the MFAIC any other information or scientific and financial reports within 30 days from the formal request by the MFAIC.

Payments will be made by the MFAIC to the research institution of the Italian Principal Investigator, according to the regulations and practices in force in Italy and the provisions referred above and in the "Norme integrative per la costituzione di Laboratori congiunti - Anno 2017."

Payments will be made in three instalments: the first one within 3 months from the activation of the Laboratory; the second upon request by the Italian partner when the first instalment has been completely spent; the third at the ending of the Laboratory's activities within a maximum of 36 months from the activation or 60 months in case of extension.

M. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

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)