



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*  
*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*  
*e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC  
PROMOTION AND INNOVATION  
ITALIAN REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY OF THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL

***Ninth Call for Proposals on Scientific and Technological Cooperation***  
***(Scientific Track 2020)***

**Submission by Monday, October 28, 2019**

**A. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

Within the framework of the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called the "Agreement") and in particular under the Sub-Committee for the implementation of the academic cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (referred to hereafter as "MFAIC"), the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation for the Italian side and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology (referred to hereafter as "MOST") – referred to hereafter as "the Parties" – 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. **Targeted drug delivery** - The aim of targeted drug delivery is to generate pharmacologically effective drug concentration at the site of disease while keeping a very low/minimal drug concentration in other sites that are not involved with the disease. The goal is to prolong, localize, target and have a selective drug interaction with the diseased cell/organ/tissue. This would be achieved by specific delivery to anatomical area or cell/organ/tissue or ideally and exclusively to specific cells that are the focus of the disease to be treated.
2. **Green chemistry and development of novel environment friendly materials**  
Novel environment friendly materials - Development of novel environment friendly materials that are significantly less harmful for the environment than existing materials for their whole life cycle. Examples: degradable polymers, alternative/green pesticides, materials for green electronic, etc.

Green chemistry - Green chemistry is dealing with the design and development of sustainable products and processes that

significantly minimize or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous/toxic/nonrenewable substances that harm the environment. In addition, the use of green chemistry saves resources for the separation of products and byproducts and treatment of the byproducts.

## **B. MODE OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which a project, or 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 Israeli researchers.

## **C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION**

The total maximum funding for each individual project is € 100.000,00 for each side for the entire two-year project period. It is the intention of each Ministry to fund projects up to a maximum total amount of € 800.000,00 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 (24 months).

Contracts between the institutions issuing the contribution and the beneficiaries will be settled as follows:

### **In Italy:**

Each one of the selected projects can be financed up to 50% of the documented and eligible research costs incurred by the Italian applying Institution. 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 financial contribution received to the funding Authorities, in compliance with rules and regulations in force. Repayment of the contribution must be effected by means of 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 commercialization stage.

### **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 2020 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, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

#### **D. Eligibility**

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Israeli and Italian research teams;
2. Each research team in both countries must be led by a Principal Investigator from the applying institution;
3. In both countries, the PI must be a member of an Academic or Research Institution. In particular:  
In Italy, a research institution must be a public or private University, a public or private Research Institute/Centre, acting under the Italian law. For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is an institution whose main activity aims at the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, provided with appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employing scientists who publish their research results in leading, peer reviewed, international scientific journals and present them at international symposia.  
In Israel, a "Research Institution" must be an accredited institution of Higher Learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958; or, a public Research Institute with experience in the relevant sectors; or, a Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF); or, a Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization; or, a Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.
4. Both Principal Investigators and their corresponding Research Institutions are accountable to MFAIC and to MOST, respectively, for the execution of the project and for the appropriate final financial report.
5. In Italy, for projects involving experiments with animals, ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. This approval is mandatory to obtain the formal authorization from the competent Ministry of Health to start the activities (D.Lgs 26\_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Projects involving experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. The Italian coordinator should provide a self-declaration of adhesion to above cited rules.

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 per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2020 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

#### **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 of the output of the financed project (template attached as Annex B).

In Italy the project will not be eligible for funding if the signed "Cooperation Agreement" is not submitted within the terms requested by the MFAIC.

#### **F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

Project proposals shall be jointly submitted by the Italian and Israeli PIs to the addresses specified below (MFAIC and MOST, respectively). Each of the two PIs shall fill out the Forms 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 projects submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be accepted.

### **For Italian research teams:**

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

The application must be sent by **Monday, October 28, 2019 at 17:00 (Italian time)** exclusively and mandatorily, on penalty of exclusion of the project, by certified electronic mail to the following address: **dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it**

The Italian applicants must send exclusively the documents as specified in the "*Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2020 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002*", according to the "Check List" (Annex A).

### **For Israeli research teams:**

The Israeli Principal Investigator should submit the proposal in English by e-mail, using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following e-mail address: [italy@most.gov.il](mailto: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 above-mentioned email address by **Monday, October 28, 2019 at 15:00 (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 e-mail over 20 Megabytes will not be received. If the e-mail and its attachments exceed 20 MB, it must be split. Shortly after submitting the e-mail the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. If an e-mail confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST contact persons detailed below to make sure the e-mail was duly received. It is solely the sender's responsibility to receive confirmation that the e-mail 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.

## **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 of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration.

### **For Italian research teams:**

- The financial contribution for successful Italian applicants will be delivered 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. Italian research teams are invited to 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 2020 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.
- The Italian PI 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;
- 3) Small Scale Equipment;
- 4) Travel and visiting costs;

- 5) Joint seminars and workshops;
- 6) Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project.

## **H. MUTUAL VISITS FOR STUDY PURPOSES**

Participating scientists are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts' institutions. Since these 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 only in Italy or in Israel or in third countries that participate in the selected projects.

## **I. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The projects will initially be evaluated separately by each Party. 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. Competence and expertise of the research teams;
2. Level of involvement of young researchers;
3. Significance of the problem being addressed, and 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 work program;
6. Feasibility 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. Justification of the requested project budget.

### **For the Israeli Side**

The Israeli researchers are required to submit a list of four reviewers from Israel and four overseas reviewers who are suggested by them as potential evaluators of the proposal. (Please specify the name of the reviewer, the institution, e-mail, telephone). Do not include reviewers who meet one or more of the following definitions:

- i. Researcher from the Department of the Principal Investigators (in all research groups).
- ii. Former supervisor or student of the Principal Investigators (in all research groups).
- iii. Research partner in the present or past of the Principal Investigators (in all research groups).
- iv. Associate researcher for an article or any other publication relating to a research proposal.

In addition, one may attach an application to the Ministry to refrain from selecting one or more reviewers or -(up to 3 only). Please include this list after the list of the recommended reviewers.

## **J. NOTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS**

Principal Investigators whose projects have been selected by the Sub Joint Committee will be informed of the results in Italy and in Israel by means of letters.

In Italy, the list of selected projects will also be published on the Website of the MFAIC at the following address:

[http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/ministero/servizi/italiani/opportunita/accordi\\_coop\\_indscietec.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/ministero/servizi/italiani/opportunita/accordi_coop_indscietec.html)

## K. AWARDING PROCEDURES AND PAYMENTS

In Italy, once the selection process has been completed, the MFAIC will inform the Academic or Research Institution of the PI about the amount and conditions of the grant awarded. The Ministry will finalize the administrative procedures for the allocation of the grant upon receipt of formal acceptance by the beneficiary.

In Israel, 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.

### Interim and final report

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.

**For the Italian Party**, the Italian Principal Investigator has to submit the following documents to MFAIC

1. An interim scientific and financial report, according to the above described correspondence with the Ministry.

A final scientific and financial report, covering the work carried out during the two-year project, within 30 days after conclusion of project activities:

### Payments

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

## L. CONSOLIDATOR GRANT

It is the intention of the MFAIC and MOST to issue **a special Call for Proposals during the second year of project activities, directed to the eight approved projects, proposing a one year extension with additional budget.** – The PIs will be requested to submit a proposal for a "**consolidation**" of their results, in case there is a concrete perspective of further development of the bilateral cooperation.

The consolidation proposals will be examined by both MFAIC and MOST, and the Parties will decide at the Sub-Joint Committee meeting whether to grant supplementary funding ("**Consolidator grant**") **to a maximum of two projects**. This possible supplementary funding, **amounting to a maximum of 50,000 euro per project**, will also entail an extension of one additional year of the term of the project, not cumulative with respect to the provisions of point © of this notice.

## M. 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 "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.

**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.

## 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](mailto:avi@most.gov.il)

##### Mrs. Claire Levaton

Division for International Relations

E-mail: [claire@most.gov.il](mailto:claire@most.gov.il)

#### On scientific matters:

##### Dr. Sharon Yagur-Kroll

Director for Bio-Medical Research

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411862

Email: [sharonyk@most.gov.il](mailto:sharonyk@most.gov.il)

##### Dr. Ela Strauss

Director for Chemistry, Material and Energy

Tel: 02-5411136

Mobile: 0562311136

Email: [Elas@most.gov.il](mailto:Elas@most.gov.il)

MOST website: [www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il)

### ITALY

#### On administrative and scientific matters:

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

e della Cooperazione Internazionale

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

Sistema Paese – Ufficio IX

P.le della Farnesina, 1

00135 Roma

[accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it](mailto:accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it)

(for general information)

Certified electronic mail:

[dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it](mailto:dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it)

(for official submission)

#### In Israel:

Scientific Attaché Office – Embassy of Italy in Israel

Trade Tower, 25 Hamered Street, 8th floor - 68125 Tel Aviv

Tel.: +972.3.5104004 (interno 129)

Fax: +972.3.5161755

E-mail: [scienza.telaviv@esteri.it](mailto:scienza.telaviv@esteri.it)

