

PROGRAM OF
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL,
YOUTH, AND SPORTS COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2020-2023

The Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides");

Guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science;

Considering the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the State of Israel signed in November 11th 1971 in Rome;

Taking into account the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Research and Development Cooperation between Italy and Israel, signed in Bologna on June 13th 2000;

Taking note of the establishment of the "Italy-Israel foundation for culture and arts" with the purpose of promoting the common values and ideas found within both cultures;

Convinced that the cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, youth and sport will 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;

Willing to promote further cooperation in these fields in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries;

Taking into account the cooperation established within the EU Project *"Establishment of the Israeli National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a mechanism to fostering the development of Israeli Human Capital" (Twinning Contract ENI/2018/395-237)*;

Have agreed on the following Program of cooperation for the years 2020-2023.

I. EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

1. PRIMARY EDUCATION

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

1.2. The Sides will encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutes of both countries.

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

- The education system of both countries;
- Initial and in-service teacher training;
- School organization and management;
- Education regulations;
- Education for students with disabilities and special needs;
- Decentralization and school autonomy;
- Civic Education and education for Gender Equality;
- Gifted children education;
- Cultural integration of minority groups (including joint projects);
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects);
- Foreign language teaching;
- Formal and informal 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;
- Holocaust education and research;
- Vocational training and technical education;
- Technologies and innovation industry for schools, teachers and students.

1.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

1.5. Both Sides agree to cooperate in the field of e-learning, including design, development, and implementation of software, hardware and professional practice such as: digital books, learning management software, long distance learning environments, teacher training, etc.

1.6. The Sides will encourage development of school partnerships, particularly in the fields of mathematics and technology. Partnerships can be designed through different means, such as virtual joint projects, school twinning

programs, exchange of delegations and mutual visits of teachers and pupils from the respective schools.

In Italy, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.miur.gov.it.

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

1.7. The Sides will 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. 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 will perform their respective activities in the receiving country will be negotiated between their respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

1.8. The Sides are committed to preventing the publication of text books and youth-oriented materials which encourage racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Side will bring to the attention of the other if such publications or materials are detected.

1.9. The Sides will put special emphasis on documentation, 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 Side will continue to include the study of the Holocaust in the school curriculum.

1.10. Recognizing the Italian chairmanship of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) during 2018, as well as the recent opening of MEIS (the National Museum of Italian Judaism and the Shoah) in Ferrara, the Sides stress the importance of enabling young people in Italy 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 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, antisemitism, and xenophobia. In this context, the Sides will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and antisemitism.

1.11. The Sides will encourage participation of teachers and particularly history teachers, in professional development seminars focusing on aspects of Holocaust education organized by Yad Vashem – The World Holocaust

Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, as per the relevant existing agreements between MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education and Ministry of University and Research) and Yad Vashem, dated June 13 2011; December 2 2013 and February 28 2018.

The Sides will make constructive use of the accreditation that the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Italy has granted to Yad Vashem's educational programming as per the Ministry's directive No. 2003/90.

The Sides will encourage Italian educators to study in Yad Vashem as outlined in existing memoranda of understanding already signed by Yad Vashem such regions as Emilia Romagna and Lombardia.

1.12. The Sides will encourage documentation of and research on the Holocaust in Italy, and the exchange of relevant archival documents and historical information, and shall investigate the possibility of further widening and enhancing existing cooperation between Archives Division as well as the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem with their colleagues and counterparts in Archives, Research Institutes, Universities and independent scholars in the field of Holocaust studies in Italy.

1.13. Both Sides will encourage the exchanges and cooperation in the field of creativity and innovation, to cultivate the sense of innovation and creativity among teachers and students.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION

2.1. Without prejudice to the authority of the Council for Higher Education (CHE) in the field of higher education and the autonomy of higher education institutions, the Sides will cooperate as follows.

2.2. The Sides will address higher education institutions in order to explore the possibility of joint programs/double degrees arrangement between higher education institutions from both countries.

Higher education institutions in Israel have academic freedom according to law and the Council can not intervene in this matter.

2.3 The Sides will encourage, subject to their budgetary frameworks, students and professors mobility under the Erasmus+ program or other mobility programmes, and any other cooperation between the higher education institutions of the two Countries, exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

2.4 The Sides will 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 effect. The exchange conditions will be established through diplomatic channels.

2.5. The Israeli Side will offer, subject to available resources, four (4) annual Modern Hebrew summer language course and four (4) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) each, for post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli higher education institution. 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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.mfa.gov.il>) and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.6. The Italian Side will offer scholarships for Israeli students in accordance with the provisions of the annual call for application.

2.7 All mentioned scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

2.8 The Sides note with satisfaction the launch and implementation of the Twinning Project “Establishment of the Israeli National Qualifications Framework NQF as a mechanism to fostering the development of Israeli human capital 2018/2020”, a two-year project activated and funded by the European Commission, linking Israeli Ministry of Education and Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

II. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

1.1. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between the academic and scientific communities of the two Countries and will promote and support, in areas of mutual interest, joint scientific, activities and the exchange of scientific and technical information and publications.

1.2. Based on the Agreement mentioned in the preamble, the Sides will encourage joint projects, joint laboratories and direct cooperation between higher education institutions, scientific and research center and innovative companies, particularly SMEs and startup companies. The content of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both Countries.

1.3. The Sides will encourage mutual exchange of scholars and researchers with the objective of research, studies, consultations, and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges will be agreed upon by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

III. CULTURAL COOPERATION

1. GENERAL REVIEW

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

1.2. The Sides will 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.

1.3 The Italian Side informs that, through its diplomatic network abroad, will organize annual cultural seasons dedicated to some priority sectors (in particular Italian language, cuisine, design, contemporary art, music, cinema and creative industries), with cultural events taking place simultaneously worldwide.

2. ARTS

2.1. The Sides will encourage 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 Sides will 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.

2.2. Performing arts festivals

The Sides will encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The 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 Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

The Sides will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about 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.

2.3. Visual Arts, photography and design

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

2.4. Architecture

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

2.5. Museums and Exhibitions

The Sides will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information. The Sides will 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.

2.6. Music

The Sides will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They will 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 Sides will strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both Countries.

2.7. Dance

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

2.8. Theatre

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

2.9. The Sides will 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 will be agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

3. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging information about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition, they will encourage activities aimed at preserving sites of mutual interest.

3.2. The Sides shall devote particular attention to cooperation in compliance with the obligations provided for the 1972 UNESCO International Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

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

3.3. The Sides will encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national Laws and regulation.

3.4. The Sides 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 Sides.

3.5. The Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archaeological content. They will 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 will be determined by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

3.6. During the course of this Program, the Sides will exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to five (5) days. Details in this regard will be determined by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

4. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

4.1. The Sides will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. The Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

For this purpose, the Sides will annually exchange three (3) persons (writers, poets or translators) each for a stay of up to five (5) days, while this program is in effect.

4.2. The Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The Sides will support participation of poets and writers in festivals and literary events for up to five (5) days annually.

4.3. The Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

4.4. Each Side will 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 effect.

ICBSA is interested in receiving, for documentation purpose, a copy of any volume published in Israel concerning Italian music and audiovisual production.

5. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

5.1. The Sides will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides will promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their Country. Information regarding major film festivals will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

5.2. The Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side's country in their own country. Films that are screened in this framework will have English subtitles, if the language of the film is not English.

5.3. Each Side will encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose the Sides will exchange annually two (2) experts each in the fields of cinema and audiovisual for a period of up to five (5) days to participate in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events.

5.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

The Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of students and teachers in this field.

5.5. The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Israeli and Italian film producers also under the Agreement on Film Co-production between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the State of Israel, signed in Rome on December 2 2013 designed to facilitate future co-productions.

5.6. The Sides shall encourage exchanges and cooperation in the radio and television sector, promoting the conclusion of direct agreement between the competent bodies of both Sides.

6. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

6.1. The Sides will promote reciprocal cooperation between archives and libraries of the State and other public bodies, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges will take place in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

6.2. The Sides will 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.

The Sides express their satisfaction with the collaboration that begun within the Minerva projects (2004-2008) and are currently cooperating in the Ariadne Plus EU Project, research infrastructure per archeology.

6.3. The Sides will encourage the continuation of collaboration between Italian archives (including of Italian governmental ministries) and Yad Vashem, aimed

at enlarging and enhancing existing documentation via the exchange, scanning and acquisition of Holocaust-related documents.

6.4. Efforts will be made to facilitate the participation of senior representatives of the national archives of Italy in periodic seminars at Yad Vashem, to share best practices in handling and making accessible collections of Holocaust-related documentation.

IV. YOUTH COOPERATION

1.1. The Sides agree that the youth exchange constitutes a major contribution to the relations between the two Countries. They will 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 the specific youth activities.

1.2. The Sides will encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and the "Agenzia Nazionale Giovani".

V. SPORT COOPERATION

1.1. The Sides will encourage cooperation in sports, mainly in exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details will be worked out through mutual consultation between interested organizations of both Countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges will be agreed upon between interested organizations of both Countries.

1.2 The Sides will comply with the obligations under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport, adopted by the 33rd UNESCO General Conference in Paris, October 2005, entered into force on February 1 2007.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1.1. The Sides will cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of international organizations,

such as the Council of Europe, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

2.1. Each Side will ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights of all materials obtained in the framework of this Program, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its Country.

2.2. 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 arrangements prior to commencing the joint activity.

2.3. No Side will transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Side from which such information originated.

3. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

3.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, will be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both Countries. Failing any special arrangements, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

- the sending Side will cover the international travel expenses of their delegations and representatives;
- the receiving Side will cover the costs of accommodation in its Country.

3.2. Exchange of individuals (artists, experts etc.)

The exchange will be regulated as follows:

- each Side will send to the other relevant information (curriculum vitae, objectives of the visit, languages spoken, proposed itinerary and scheduled arrival and departure dates) in English, at least sixty (60) days prior to the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals;
- the receiving Side will confirm the acceptance of the proposal within thirty (30) days, or as soon as it is possible;
- invited persons or delegations should be able to communicate in either the language of the receiving country or institution, or English or any other language mutually agreed upon;
- each individual and delegation will be responsible for their own medical insurance.

3.3. Scholarships

The terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year will be published yearly through governmental channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.mfa.gov.il>).

The Israeli Side will provide participants in the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School / beneficiaries of the scholarships accepted within this Program, with the following:

- full tuition;
- allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school / academic institutions;
- health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The terms and conditions of the scholarships granted by the Italian Side will be published yearly on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Italian Side will provide participants in the scholarship Program with the following:

- monthly allowance;
- health insurance, with the exceptions stated in the insurance contract.

3.4. Exchange of exhibitions

The financial provisions for each project will be separately agreed upon between the Sides.

4. FINAL PROVISIONS

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

4.2. The Sides agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

4.3 This Program operates in accordance with applicable international law obligations and in full compliance with the national legislation of both Sides and, as for the Italian Side, the obligations deriving from its membership within the European Union.

4.4. Any activities carried out by a Side pursuant to this Program will be in accordance with its national laws, regulations, procedures, policies and mechanisms.

4.5. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program will be settled amicably through diplomatic channels.

4.6 The Sides entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

4.7 This Program may be modified by mutual consent of the Sides. The modifications will be made in writing.

4.8 This Program will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 31 December 2023. It will be automatically extended for an additional period of three (3) years, unless either Side 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.

4.9. The termination of this Program will not effect ongoing activities agreed upon prior to its termination.

Signed in Jerusalem on the 29th day of October, 2020, which corresponds to the 11th day of Cheshvan, 5781, in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Government
of the Republic of Italy**
Luigi Di Maio
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation**



**For the Government
of the State of Israel**
Gabi Ashkenazi
Minister of Foreign Affairs

