



Italy-Israel Joint Innovation Programme

Twenty-first Call for Proposals for Joint Research, Development & Innovation Projects

Submission by August 12, 2025.

In Italy: at 15:00

In Israel: at 12:00

Within the activities foreseen by the Agreement for Research and Development Cooperation in Industrial, Scientific and Technological fields, signed by Italy and Israel on June 13, 2000 (hereinafter called “the Agreement”), the Directorate General for Country Promotion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) for the Italian Party, and the International Collaboration Division of the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) for the Israeli Party, hereinafter called “the Parties”, have agreed to issue a call for proposals for the selection of joint Italian-Israeli Research and Development (R&D) projects eligible for financial support, as foreseen in Article 4 of the Agreement.

1. Priority Research Area:

1.1 - The topic of the present call addresses a broad area of research on

“Sustainable technologies to tackle the challenges resulting from climate change in the Mediterranean region”.

This overarching theme can be addressed using various approaches and/or cross-cutting themes, which must be linked to one or more of the following sub-topics:

- Water management
- Water technologies
- Agri-food technologies
- Energy transition / clean energy
- Life sciences, including biotechnologies and medical technologies

1.2 - The joint R&D projects will be funded by both Parties. Financial support will be provided to each partner of the selected joint project by their respective national funding agency, in accordance with the applicable national and/or regional laws, rules, regulations, and procedures.

2. Eligibility requirements

2.1

- a) The Italian applicant must be represented by a non-profit research institution (university, research center, etc.) in collaboration with an R&D performing company to facilitate technology transfer by the conclusion of project.
- b) The Israeli applicant must be an R&D performing company, which will be able to generate future revenue based on the developed or transferred IP post the project. The industrial partner must be technologically and scientifically assisted by a research institution (university, research center, etc.) acting as a subcontractor.

- c) The outcome of research activities (product or service) must display clear potential for improving existing products or creating new marketable products that guarantee sale profits to the participating company.
- d) The Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the proposed project should be within the range of TRL 2 - TRL 5, where TRL 5 is the highest TRL that is expected to have been reached by the end of the project.
The final goal of the project must include company's validation of processes previously tested in the laboratory, or leveraging academic expertise to meet specific company needs.
- e) The Italian and Israeli applicants must express their commitment to cooperate on a balanced basis, towards the development of new products, innovative processes or services;
- f) The planned activities and provisional budget should be equally balanced between the Italian and Israeli applicants, including cost estimates for each planned activity.
- g) The intellectual property arising from the outputs of funded projects must be governed by the "Cooperation Agreement," which must be finalized by the project partners prior to the project's commencement.
- h) The total duration of the project must be 24 months, beginning from the official start of the joint project.
- i) Research proposals involving technologies designed either for military, or for both civil and military applications (so called "dual use" technologies), will not be accepted under the present call.

2.2 - In relation to the additional requirements that Italian applicants must fulfil and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the applicants are requested to refer to the attached document "*Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana ai Bandi per la raccolta di progetti congiunti e per la rendicontazione*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

2.3 - In Italy, for projects involving experiments with animals, the status of ethics approval of the experimental protocol by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. A declaration of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. Please note that formal authorization by the competent Ministry of Health is mandatory 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 in the Methods section of the proposal.**

3. Submission of Project Proposals

3.1 - Italian and Israeli applicants must submit their Project Proposal, as outlined below. All sections of the Application Form must be completed and the final version of the Proposal must be signed:

- In Italy, by the Legal Representative of the applying institution and by the Principal Investigator (PI);
- In Israel by the authorized company's executive.

If additional participating Institutions are involved, the additional Application Form has to be filled in and signed by the Legal Representative(s) of such entity.

3.2 - The Italian applicant is required to submit the Project Proposal to the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation* – Directorate General for Country Promotion by **August 12, 2025 at 15:00** exclusively and mandatorily, under penalty of exclusion, by certified electronic mail to the following address: dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it. Project Proposals submitted by other means will not be accepted. The Italian applicants must submit only the documents as laid down in the attached document "*Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana ai Bandi per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca e per la rendicontazione*", in accordance with "Check List" (Annex A).

3.3 - The Israeli applicant is required to submit the full application by **August 12, 2025 at 12:00**, in accordance with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) regulations, through an online system following the instructions provided for on the relevant incentive program on the IIA's website. In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU and a Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must also be submitted by Israeli companies.

3.4 - If the Project Proposals are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli Parties, through the procedures and by the deadlines indicated above, the Project Proposals will not be accepted.

4. Selection procedures

4.1 - The Parties will carry out the scientific evaluation of the eligible Project Proposals independently at the national level, in order to select a shortlist of projects to be proposed for funding. The "Italian-Israeli Joint Committee" foreseen in Art. 9 of the Agreement will receive the shortlists from both Parties and will jointly select the winning proposals to be financially supported under the Agreement in accordance with the national laws and regulations of both Parties.

4.2 - The evaluation criteria are the following:

- a. Novelty of the proposal and potential for technological innovation;
- b. Qualification of the applicants in performing the specific tasks, and the added value of the bilateral cooperation between partners;
- c. Scientific and technological relevance of the proposed activities;
- d. Expected economic outcomes from the accomplishment of the project;
- e. Adequacy of the cost estimates in relation to the proposed project plan and expected results;
- f. Capability and resources available to both partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.).

4.3 - Both Parties may request additional information regarding the provisional budget included in the proposal at any time during the evaluation phase.

4.4 - Following the selection by the "Italian-Israeli Joint Committee" of the joint projects to be financially supported under the Agreement, the respective Parties in Israel and Italy, (i.e. Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Israel Innovation Authority) will inform the applicants via certified electronic mail about the evaluation outcome, the proposed amount of the awarded grant and the related conditions for its disbursement, as well as the rules regarding the definition of the expenses and the expected timing for the submission of scientific and financial reports.

4.5 – Prior to the formal acceptance of the grant, the selected Italian and Israeli applicants are required to jointly sign a "Standard Cooperation Agreement" (annex B) which will govern all aspects related to future commercialization of the product(s), process or service(s) resulting from the planned R&D activities upon completion of the project.

4.6 - MAECI will govern its relationship with the Italian institutions hosting the winning proposals in accordance with national regulations.

4.7 - The *Israel Innovation Authority* will govern its relationship with the Israeli applicants in accordance with the national policies and procedures. Particular selection criteria for the industrial companies are stated in the Grant Program #5, Appendix B.

5. Funding procedures

5.1 - Projects selected within the framework of this Call will be funded by the respective national and/or regional Authorities in Italy and Israel, in accordance with national laws, regulations, rules, and procedures.

Funding for this Call amounts to €300.000 per project for both the Italian and Israeli sides.

5.2 - In Italy, the selected projects will be funded up to 50% of the documented and eligible research and development costs.

The contribution assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will be disbursed according to one of the following schemes:

1. In one instalment at the end of the project, following evaluation of the scientific and financial reports.
2. In two instalments: advance payment and final balance. The advance payment can be requested, exclusively under the following terms and conditions:
 - a. At least one year after formal acceptance of the contribution;
 - b. Following a formal request for advance payment, not exceeding 50% of the granted contribution, which must be submitted to MAECI via certified electronic mail;
 - c. The formal request for advance payment must be accompanied by:
 - I. A financial report and corresponding documentation certifying eligible expenses equal to at least 30% of the approved contribution, according to the attached document *"Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana ai Bandi per la raccolta di progetti congiunti e per la rendicontazione"*
 - II. A progress report detailing the scientific activities carried out during the first year of the project.
- d. When the project results in commercialization of a product, service or process, giving rise to profits, the financial support received from MAECI must be repaid by the Italian Partner through royalties at a rate of 2% of the total revenue derived from the sales. The total amount may be repaid to MAECI in multiple instalments, until 100% of the amount received has been reimbursed.

5.3 - In Israel:

- a. The support is in the form of a conditional grant amounting generally up to 60% of the eligible R&D budget.
- b. When a project results in sales of a product, service or process, the financial support must be repaid to the Israel Innovation Authority according to its regulations (in general, royalties are paid at rates beginning at 3% of sales, depending on various criteria. Royalties are payable until 100% of the amount of the grant has been repaid with interest as provided in the applicable regulations).
- c. For further information regarding funding mechanisms of IIA see here:
<https://innovationisrael.org.il/node/4698/rules>

6. Notification of the results

6.1 - The Italian Party will inform the applicants of the projects selected by the Italian-Israeli Joint Committee via certified electronic mail. The list of the selected projects will also be published on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

6.2 - The Israeli Party will inform the Israeli applicants by email.

7. Further information

ITALY

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (MAECI)

D.G.S.P. – Ufficio IX

certified electronic mail: dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it (for official submission)

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ISRAEL

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