

**Third Call for Proposals on Scientific  
and Technological Cooperation  
(Scientific Track 2014)**

Submission by May 15th 2014

**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 Sub-Committee 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 for the Italian side (referred to hereafter as “MAE”) are providing financial support for joint Italian-Israeli research projects carried out by scientists from both countries. Italian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint research proposals in the following areas:

1. Restoring, preserving, valuing and managing cultural heritage.
2. Renewable energy for sustainable living.

**B. MODE OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation may take the form of:

- joint research activities where 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;
- joint planning of research.

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 researcher may submit one project only. Financing will be granted exclusively for projects of researchers holding Italian (or EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) and Israel nationality.

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

The total maximum funding for each individual project is around € 66.000,00 for each side for the entire two-year project period. It is the intention of the two ministries **to support a maximum of 6 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 both 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 each country's 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: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Space will cover 100% of the documented and eligible costs of the research, in accordance with the project proposal.

**Funding of approved projects is subject at all times to continued budget availability. Furthermore, MAE 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. The Principal Investigator of each side must be member of an academic or research institution (hereinafter called the "affiliated Institution");
  - In Israel it must be an accredited institution of higher learning, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or with a public research institute with experience in the relevant fields.
  - In Italy it must be a public or private University, a public or private, Research Institute/University, of Italian nationality.

For the purposes of this Call a "research institute" means a research institute/university, whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment and which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals and who present their research at international symposia.

Industrial partners are encouraged to participate in research teams headed by Principal Investigators from an academic or research institution.

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfill, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the proponents are asked to refer to the "*Norme integrative per la partecipazione italiana al bando per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2014 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

4. Each Principal Investigator and affiliated Institution is accountable to MOST or to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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 Committee for Experimentations on Animals **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, which involve human beings, must submit the approval of the relevant Helsinki Committee in **Israel** before the project can commence. **In Italy** they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU law.

#### **E. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

The **Israeli** and **Italian** research teams and their Institutions shall enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project. **In Italy** if the "Cooperation Agreement" is not finalized before the contract between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the winner has been signed, the project will not be accepted.

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

The project's proposal shall be submitted jointly by the Italian and Israeli PI to the addresses (for the Italian and Israeli parts) that are specified below. Each of the two PI shall fill (in English) the forms used by his/her Country, which are reported in Annex A. Both forms shall be signed by each of the two PI. The submitted projects will be evaluated by both Parties.

The projects must be drafted in English and signed by the Italian and the Israeli project Principal Investigators.

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

Israeli Principal Investigator should submit proposal by e-mail in English, using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following email address: [italy@most.gov.il](mailto:italy@most.gov.il) (in "pdf" or "doc" format) and **in 6 hard copies** by delivery the following address of MOST:

##### **Mr. Avi ANATI**

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science, Technology and Space

Call for Proposals for Israel –Italy 2013

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Jerusalem 91490

Tel: 02-5411170/173/805

Fax: 02-5823030

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

All applications, whether electronic or hard copy, including all relevant materials and attachments, must reach MOST by Thursday May 15th 2014 (at 15:00 local time).

**For Italian research teams:**

In Italy the Italian Principal Investigator must send the application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs.

The application must be sent by Thursday May 15th 2014 (at 14:00 CET) exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it.

Projects sent by a different means will not be accepted.

A valid application consists of all the required documents from each side of a joint research team, being submitted, respectively, to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to Israeli Ministry of Science, Technology and Space.

In order for an application to be considered valid, the Israeli research team in a joint project must submit all the electronic and hard copy applications, including all relevant documents and attachments, to the **MOST** and the Italian research team in that joint project must submit the application together with all the necessary documents to the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

Furthermore, the forms submitted by the Italian and Israeli participants shall be identical as for the project's title, the project's acronym and project's abstract as well as the scientific content.

If the applications are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli Authorities, through the procedures and by the dates indicated above, the project will not be accepted.

**G. FUNDED EXPENSES**

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. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration.

**For Israeli research** teams, funding can be provided by **MOST** for:

- (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 inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

For Italian research teams please refer to "*Norme integrative per la partecipazione italiana al bando per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2014 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 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 B.

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

## **H. MUTUAL VISITS**

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts' institutions. So 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 be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Sub Joint Committee of the two Parties 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 program research topics of this Call;
2. Scientific Qualification of 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 the research project;
7. Practical applicability of expected research results;
8. Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation; extent of genuine collaboration between the Italian and Israeli research teams;
9. Relevance as strategic research including technology transfer;
10. The level of involvement of young researchers;
11. The level of new contacts and scientific cooperation created;
12. Possibility of continuing the scientific cooperation within “Horizon 2020”;
13. 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 be published on the Website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **K. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS**

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is October/November 2014.

2. Contracts:

2.1. Upon approval of a particular project, **separate contracts** will be signed **in Italy and Israel** respectively, between the relevant Party to this call and the affiliated institution of the Principal Investigator.

2.2. With regard to Israeli research teams: An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the affiliated institution of Israeli Principal Investigator to MOST 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. Payments

Payments will be made by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by MOST to the affiliated institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

4. Reports

Reporting requirements for each national research team are set out in the research contract between each team's affiliated institution and the relevant Party to this Call. These include a final scientific and financial report covering the work carried out during the entire two-year project period, which must be submitted **in Italy** within 45 days of the conclusion of the project as well as interim scientific reports in accordance with the contract's requirements.

The Principal Investigators will submit a joint summary of the final report to MOST and the MAE in English.

Note: The Israeli PI must submit a scientific report to the Ministry of Science Technology and Space two months prior to the end of the first year of the research contract, together with the application for continuation of research funding

## **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.

## **M. INFORMATION**

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

### **ISRAEL:**

#### **On administrative matters:**

##### **Mr. Avi Anati**

Deputy Director-General for Planning & Control

Tel.: 02-5411170/173/805

Fax: 02-5823030

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

##### **Mrs. Claire Levaton**

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#### **On scientific matters:**

##### **Dr. Ela Strauss**

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Ministry of Science, Technology and Space

P.O. Box 49100

Jerusalem 91490

### **ITALY:**

#### **On Administrative matters:**

##### ***dr. Federica Campioni***

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

D.G.A.P. - Direzione Generale Affari

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**For further scientific information:**

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