



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS & SECURITY  
ITALIAN REPUBLIC**



**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE OF  
THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL**

**Fourth Call for Proposals on Scientific  
and Technological Cooperation  
(Scientific Track 2015)**

**Submission by April 14th 2015**

**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 and International Cooperation for the Italian side (referred to hereafter as "MAECI") 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. Novel Technologies for Water and Soil Treatment.**
- 2. Cyber Security.**
- 3. Pharmacogenomics in the Context of Personalized Medicine.**

## B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which 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 Israel researchers.

## C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

**The total maximum funding for each individual project is approximately € 100,000 for each side** for the entire two-year project period. It is the intention of each Ministry to fund projects up to a maximum amount of € 900,000 per year and **to support a maximum of 9 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. 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:** 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.

**Funding of approved projects is subject to the approval of the State budget for 2015 for both participating Ministries and to the availability of funds in the relevant line of the State Budget of both countries.**

**Furthermore, MAECI 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.**

**It should be noted that the financing of the approved projects is subject to the availability of the relevant funds allocated by MOST for fiscal year 2015.**

**It should also be noted that this Joint Call will be published in Israel in the near future. Therefore applicants should not contact the MOST before the Israeli Ministry will publish it.**

## 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;

The Principal Investigator of each side must be affiliated with an academic or research institution, meaning a research institute/university, whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals as well as presenting their research at international symposia.

In addition:

- In Israel a research institution must be an accredited institution of higher learning, 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/University, of Italian nationality.

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

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfill, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the MAECI, Italian researchers are asked to refer to the "*Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2015 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

3. Each Principal Investigator and research institution is accountable to MOST or to the MAECI, respectively, for the execution of the project.
4. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Council for Animal Experiments **in Israel** before the project starts. In Italy they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU laws.
5. Proposals for which funding is approved and involves 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 from the output of the financed project (a model "Standard Cooperation Agreement" is attached as **Annex B**).

**In Italy** project will not be accepted if the “Cooperation Agreement” is not finalized before the contract between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the research institution of the Principal Investigator has been signed.

## F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The project proposal shall be submitted jointly by the Italian and Israeli PIs to both addresses (MOST and MAECI) that are specified below. Each of the two PIs shall fill out the Forms which are enclosed in **Annex 1**. Both forms shall be signed by each of the two PIs. The submitted projects will be evaluated by both Parties.

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

The Israeli Principal Investigator should submit the 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 3 hard copies** by **delivery** to the following address:

### **Mr. Avi ANATI**

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science, Technology and Space

Call for Proposals for Israel –Italy 2015

Clermont Ganneau, Kiryat Begin, Building 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 309

P.O. Box 49100

Jerusalem 91490

Tel: 02-5411170/173/800

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 April 14th 2015 at 15:00 local time.**

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

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

The application must be sent by **April 14th 2015 (at 14:00 CET)** exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: **DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it**.

The Italian applicants must send exclusively the documents as laid down in the “Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l’anno 2015 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti -

Legge n. 154/2002", 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.

A valid application consists of all the required documents from each side of a joint research team, being submitted, respectively, to both the MAECI and MOST .

**Applications that are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli authorities, in accordance with the procedures and by the dates indicated above 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 vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration.

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. For Italian research teams please 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 2015 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 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 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 inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

## 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 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 initially be evaluated separately by each Ministry. 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. 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 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 implementation 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. The level of involvement of young researchers;
9. Possibility of continuing the scientific cooperation within “Horizon 2020”;
10. 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 MAECI.

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

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is **October/November 2015**.

## 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 research 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 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.

## 3. **Payments**

Payments will be made by the MAECI or by MOST, respectively, to the research 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 research 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 in English and to the MAECI in English and in Italian.

## **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: 02-5411170/173/800

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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. Tareq Abu Hamed**

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##### **Dr. Fadil Salih**

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##### **Dr. Hagit Schwimmer**

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#### **Ministry of Science, Technology and Space**

P.O. Box 49100

Jerusalem 91490



**ITALY:**

**On Administrative matters:**

***dr. Federica Campioni***

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**For further scientific information:**

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