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| Description: stemma-della-repubblica-italiana-timbro  **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** | Israel Innovation Authority Logo  **ISRAEL INNOVATION AUTHORITY**  **STATE OF ISRAEL** |

**Israel-Italy Joint Innovation Program**

for Industrial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation in R&D

**Nineteenth Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects – 2021**

**(“INDUSTRIAL TRACK”)**

**Submission deadline: in Italy by October 26th, 2020 | in Israel by November 25th, 2020**

Within the activities foreseen by the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Research and Development Cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called “the Agreement”), the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the Italian Party, and the International Collaboration Division, on behalf of the Israel Innovation Authority (hereinafter called “the Parties”), are starting the procedures for the selection of projects eligible for financial support as in Article 4 of the Agreement.

Joint Italian-Israeli R&D projects can be presented in the following areas, as listed in Article 2 of the Agreement:

* medicine, biotechnology, public health and hospital organization;
* agriculture and food science;
* application of information technology to education and scientific research;
* environment, water treatment;
* new energy sources, oil alternatives and exploitation of natural resources;
* innovation in production processes;
* information technology, data communications, software, cybersecurity;
* space and earth observation;
* any other area of mutual interest.

The projects approved by the Italian and Israeli Authorities, which will be selected in the framework of the present Call, will be financed by both contracting Parties of the Agreement. The support will be given to each partner by its Party in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in force.

**Criteria**

1. The **Italian partner** can be an industrial entity (company) or a non-industrial entity (university, research center, etc.). The applying industrial entity must be a company that runs R&D activities and realizes the project either independently or in association with other public or private companies or entities. In case the company does not run R&D activities directly, it must be assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research center, technological park) able to carry out the proposed research as an associate. The product or service resulting from the research activities must show evident potentialities of improving already existing products or creating new ones on the market, in order to guarantee sale profits to the participating company. The applying non-industrial entity (university, research center) must be associated with an industrial entity, whether or not it runs R&D activities, for the realization of the project;
2. The **Israeli partner** must be an R&D performing company, which will incur revenue from selling the product/service developed during the project. The Israeli partner may be technologically and scientifically assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research center, etc.) as a subcontractor;
3. The Italian and Israeli partners must express their willingness to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service;
4. The product, process or service must be innovative;
5. The project’s content and budget should be well balanced between the Italian and Israeli partners;
6. Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities;
7. The intellectual property regarding the output of the financed projects must be regulated in accordance with the “Partnership Agreement” finalized by the winners of the approved projects.
8. **Project Duration** must not exceed 24 months

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfil, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the applicants are asked to refer to the "*Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana 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.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present Call in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in force.

1. 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). In Italy, projects involving experiments on 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.

**Application Process**

The Application must be completed in all its parts and signed by the persons responsible for the project: in Italy by the Legal Representative of the applying entity or company and the Scientific Project Leader; in Israel by the CEO of the Main Israeli Partner. Wherever an additional participant is foreseen, the additional form has to be filled and signed by the legal representative(s) of such an entity.

**In Italy**

Projects must be submitted by **Monday, October 26th, 2020, at 17:00 CET** exclusively and mandatorily, on penalty of exclusion of the project, by certified electronic mail to the following address: dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it

Projects sent by different means will not be accepted.

## 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 2020 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002*", according to the “Check List” (Annex A).

# In Israel

The Israeli partneris required to submit the full IIA application **by November 25th,2020, at noon**, in accordance with the Israel Innovation Authority regulations, through an [online system](https://my.innovationisrael.org.il/company) following the instructions on the relevant incentive program on the [IIA’s website](https://innovationisrael.org.il/node/2763/maslulim). In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU and a Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must be submitted by Israeli companies.

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

**Evaluation and Selection Process**

The National Authorities (as in Article 8 of the Agreement) will evaluate the received Applications and will select the projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Italian-Israeli Joint Committee will receive the pre-selected projects from the two national Authorities, identifying those to be jointly endorsed as projects supported under the bi-national agreement.

The criteria for evaluation are as follows:

* 1. The novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities in terms of technological innovation;
  2. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks, and added value of the cooperation between project partners;
  3. Expected economic results from the accomplishment of the project;
  4. The relevance of the proposal to the main strategic objectives in industrial R&D of the respective Italian and Israeli Governments;
  5. Congruity of cost estimates for the support with the proposed project and with the expected results;
  6. Capability and resources of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.).

The Italian and Israeli authorities might ask, at any moment of the selection phase, further information about the adequacy of the budget proposal.

The Italian-Israeli Joint Committee will draw up a list of winning projects.

Afterward, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Israel Innovation Authority will inform the applicants admitted to financing, by certified electronic e-mail, on the evaluation outcome, the proposed amount of the grant and the related conditions for its settlement, as well as the rules concerning the definition of the expenses and the issue of the scientific and financial reports.

Before formal acceptance of the grant, the selected applicants have to jointly sign a “Standard Cooperation Agreement” regulating the future marketing of the outcome product, process or service, after completion of the R&D activities.

After receiving the necessary documents, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Israel Innovation Authority will issue an official letter on the financing of the project.

**Funding modalities of the projects**

Projects in the frame of this Call will be financed by the respective national and/or regional authorities in Italy and Israel, in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in force. Each project that is selected can be financed up to 50% of the documented and eligible costs of research and development.

**In Italy**

The contribution assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will be paid in two possible modalities:

1. At once, after the finalization of the project.
2. Upon request by the applicant, through an advanced payment exclusively under the following terms and conditions
3. One year after the formal acceptance of the contribution;
4. Upon presenting a letter requesting an advanced payment to be sent to MFAIC, within a maximum of 50% of the granted contribution.
5. Upon submitting the necessary documentation proving the coherence of the project implemented compared to the project proposal during the first year. Expenses eligible according to the “norm integrative” have to be documented for at least 30% of the contribution.
6. The issue of the financial support is subordinated to the submitting, by the company, of a bank surety bond corresponding to the amount of the requested advance payment, and with a validity of one year after the project implementation deadline. Any expenses for the amount recovering as well as any further incidental expenses have to be covered by the enterprise. The financial support will be granted only after the final financial report has been received and the project has been positively evaluated.

**In Israel**

1. Funding will be provided in the form of a conditional grant to the projects selected under the Call for Proposals.
2. The total funding from the Government of Israel via the IIA will not exceed 50% of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.
3. 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). If the project does not result in sales, no repayment is required.
4. For more information on funding conditions, applicants should visit the Israel Innovation Authority’s [website](https://innovationisrael.org.il/international/).

**For further information**

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| ITALY  Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale  D.G.S.P. – Ufficio IX  certified electronic mail: dgsp09.accordoisraele@cert.esteri.it  (for official submission)  E-mail: [accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it](mailto:accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it)  (for general information) | ISRAEL  Uzi Bar-Sadeh  Program Manager  Innovation Authority  Tel: +972-3-5118185  email: uzi[@innovationisrael.org.il](mailto:uzi@iserd.org.il) |