# SLOVENIA-ISRAEL COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

#  Call for Project Proposals

# 2018-2020

# Submission by January 31st, 2018

Within the framework of the Slovenian-Israeli agreement and Work program on scientific and technological cooperation, the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MESS) and the Slovenian Research Agency (SRA) and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) have agreed to provide financial support for joint research and innovation activities carried out by scientists from both countries.

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Slovenian and Israeli researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from both countries by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Slovenian and Israeli scientists.

Therefore, MESS/SRA and MOST invite Slovenian and Israeli researchers to submit joint proposals for research and innovation projects carried out by scientists from both countries. Qualifying scientific applicants from Slovenia and Israel may receive research grants, respectively, from SRA and from MOST, according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulations.

1. **AREAS OF COOPERATION**

Slovenian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in any of the following areas:

1. **Innovative Water Management and Monitoring Technologies (Including Remote Sensing)**
2. **Digital Aspects of Research in Social Science and Humanities**
3. **MODE OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation may take the form of:

* Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in the Slovenian and the Israeli research institutions;
* Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
* Mutual visits and joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
* Joint planning of research and evaluation of results;

Submission of joint research projects by researchers of both countries is requested with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between Slovenia and Israel. Each joint research team may submit one project only. Financing will be granted exclusively for joint projects by Slovenian researchers and Israel researchers.

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

The total maximum funding allocated for this program is 400,000 Euro per side. The maximum budget for each individual project is 100,000 Euro from each side for two years' period (maximum 50,000 Euro each year from each side).

It is the intention of the two ministries to support up to 5 **joint projects**. However, the final number of projects to be sponsored will be determined based on scientific merits of the proposals and budgetary considerations. Research projects should be planned on a two years' basis.

**Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds and the approval of the State Budget in each country.**

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Slovenian and Israeli scientific research teams.

2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.

3. The PI must be affiliated with an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who continues working on research in academic or research institution (hereinafter called the “Affiliated Institution”);

**In Israel,** the "Affiliated Institution" must be one of the following:

1. An accredited institution of higher education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Act, 1958;
2. A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF);
3. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization;
4. A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" means an institute whose significant portion of the activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, possessing appropriate infrastructure and equipment and employing researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

4. Each Principal Investigator and affiliated institution are accountable to SRA or MOST, 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 before the
 project can commence.

6． Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must submit the
 approval of the relevant IRB/Helsinki Committee before the project can commence.

1. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

It is strongly recommended that the Slovenian and Israeli research teams and their institutions enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights after their research proposals are approved and prior to the initiation of collaborative activities.

1. **SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

The project proposal shall be submitted jointly by the Slovenian and Israeli PIs to both addresses (SRA and MOST) that are specified below. Each of the two PIs shall fill out the Application Forms which are enclosed in Annex-1.

## Instructions for Slovenian researcher: Slovenian applicants should submit the proposals to the Slovenian Research Agency, together with other application forms required by the Slovenian side, in electronic (via e-mail) and printed version (regular post) by Monday, December 18 2017 by 14.00. [Applicants can find these forms here](http://program.most.gov.cn/):

## https://www.arrs.gov.si/sl/razpisi

Contact person:

Fani Rožič Novak

Slovenian Research Agency,

Mail address: Bleiweisova cesta 30

 Tel: +386 400 59 50

 Email: fani.rozic-novak@arrs.si

**Instructions for Israeli researchers:** Israeli PI's should submit proposals in English by email using the application form to the following email address: Slovenia@most.gov.il (in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures). **The proposals should actually reach the abovementioned email address by Wednesday, January 31st 2017 at 23:59** (local Israel time), **and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.** Proposers are hereby advised that no human answers will be available after 15:00 of the said day.

Because of technical constraints, an email over 20 megabytes will not be received. If the email and its attachments exceed 20 MB, it must be split. Shortly after submitting the email the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. If an email confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST contact persons detailed below to make sure the email was duly received. **It is solely the sender's responsibility** to receive confirmation that the email was actually received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.**

A valid project application consists of the application form duly filled in and signed, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to the SRA in Slovenia and to MOST in Israel. If the applications are not duly received both in Slovenia and in Israel by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted.

In addition, Israeli PI's should send also 2 hard copies of their proposals by Monday, December 18th, 2017 to the following MOST address:

**Mr. Avi Anati**

Deputy Director General for Planning and Control

Ministry of Science, Technology and Space

Slovenia – Israel Cooperative Scientific Research Call for Project Proposals 2018-2020Clermont Ganneau St., Begin Government Offices

Building 3, 3rd Floor, Room 309

P.O.B. 49100, Jerusalem 9149002

Tel : 02-5411170/173/800, E-mail : avi@most.gov.il

Duly signed proposals may only be submitted via the Research Authorities or the management of the eligible institutions by which the projects are to be carried out.

1. **FUNDED EXPENSES**

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Slovenian and Israeli scientists. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each applicant.

**For Slovenian research team**, funding can be provided by SRA for\*:

1. *Salary for researchers and technical associates, including taxes for salaries*
2. *Consumables and services (including travelling costs, organization of workshops and other costs necessary for realization of the project);*
3. *Amortization*

*\*Calculation will be done based on the price category of the project (FTE -full time equivalent).*

**For Israeli research teams**, funding can be provided by MOST for the following types of expenses:

1. Stipend or salary for Ph.D. 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, not including salaries for permanent staff and PIs';
2. Consumables. In case they exceed 1,000 USD, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required;
3. Small scale equipment which is only needed for the specific research project; MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which the computer or laptop is part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research
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.
7. **MUTUAL VISITS**

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time (up to 1 month) visiting their counterparts’ institutions given that such visits are an integral part of the research collaboration. All costs for travel, accommodation, per diem and any other visiting expenses for each visiting scientist will be included in the budget of that scientist's research team. (i.e. "Visiting side pays all"). Funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits that take place in Slovenia or Israel.

1. **PROPOSAL REVIEW**

The projects will initially be evaluated separately by each side. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Sub Joint Committee of the two sides 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 years' project period;
			3. Applicability: significance of the problem being addressed, and the potential future applicability and impact of the proposed approach. (Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible);
			4. Originality and novelty of the proposed research;
			5. Scientific merit: 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 Slovenian and Israeli research teams;
			8. The level of involvement of early career researchers; such as Ph.D students or postdoctoral researchers for Israelis up to 8 years after Ph.D and for Slovenians up to 5 years after Ph.D.
			9. Justification of the requested project budget.
1. **CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS**

The expected starting date for approved projects is **July 2018**. The expected completion date is two years after the starting date of the approved projects.

Contracts:

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in Slovenia and Israel respectively, between SRA and the institution of Slovenian Principal Investigator and between MOST and the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator.

In Israel – although the contract is approved in principle for a two-years period, a renewal of the second year must be requested and approved by MOST. An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the 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.

Payments:

Payments will be made by SRA to the cooperating institutions and MOST to the 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.

Reports
Scientific and Financial reports will be submitted to SRA and MOST respectively by the institutions of each PI as specified in the research contract.

1. **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 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.

1. **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

E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

**Ms. Shani Edri**

Head Department, Division for International Relations.

Tel : 02-5411133

E-mail: shanie@most.gov.il

**On scientific matters:**

**Innovative Water Management and Monitoring technologies (Including Remote Sensing):**

**Dr. Moshe Ben-Sasson**

Director, Agricultural, water and Environment Research

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411134

Mobile : 050-5859530

E-mail: MosheBS@most.gov.il

**Digital Aspects of Research in Social Science and Humanities:**

**Dr. Sky Gross**

Director, Social Science and Humanities

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411182

Mobile : 050-9045189

E-mail: Skyg@most.gov.il

**MOST website**: [www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il)

## SRA website www.arrs.gov.si