

**Ministry of Education, Research,
Development and Youth
of the Slovak Republic**

**Ministry of Innovation, Science
And Technology (MOST)
Israel**

Slovak Republic-Israel Scientific Research Program

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

Publication Year: [2026]

For the Years [2027-2028]

Deadline for Submissions: [September 8th, 2026]

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Within the framework of the Slovak Republic-Israel agreement on scientific cooperation, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic through the Slovak Research and Development Agency ("SRDA") and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Israel ("MOST") (hereinafter: "the Parties") have decided to provide financial support and are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out jointly by researchers from both countries.

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Slovak 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 Slovak and Israeli scientists.

The joint research shall focus on one of the main areas of cooperation and its subtopics as detailed in Section A, and preferably concentrate on applied research which could lead to technological applicability and the development of new products (Technology Readiness Level [TRL] 2-4).

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive research grants from SRDA and MOST, respectively, according to the applicable national funding procedures, regulations, and the requirements as detailed in this Call.

A. MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

- 1. Technological solutions for climate change**
- 2. Youth Resilience- social and educational aspects**
- 3. AI safety- technological aspects**

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation will take the form of planning and performing joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research. Each joint research team may submit only one project within this program.

Cooperation may also take the form of:

- a) Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in Slovak and Israeli laboratories;
- b) Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- c) Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
- d) Mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND DURATION OF PROJECTS

It is the intention of the Parties to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of **2 years** and contracts will be signed accordingly. However, funding shall be approved annually, with the funding for each consecutive year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contracts and protocols in each country.

The Parties intend to support **up to 4 joint projects**. The final number of projects to be funded will be determined based on such factors as merits of the proposals upon scientific evaluation, and budgetary considerations.

The total maximum funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 480,000 Euro for the Israeli side (1,824,000 NIS based on the conversion rate of 3.8 NIS/ 1 Euro), for a 2 years period. On the Slovak side, the total maximum funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 480,000 Eur, for a 2 years period.

The maximum funding for each single project will be up to 120,000 Eur, single project funding in Israel is 456,000 NIS for the Israeli, for a 2-year period. On the Slovak side, the maximum funding for each single project will be up to 120,000 Eur, for a 2 years period.

In accordance, research projects should be planned on a 2 years basis beginning approximately in the last quarter of 2026 / first quarter 2027. Contracts will be signed accordingly in each country.

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

D. ELIGIBILITY

Proposals must meet the following preconditions. Proposals not meeting the preconditions will be automatically rejected and will not be passed on to the scientific committee for review and evaluation.

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Slovak and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Proposals must be for research projects in one of the main areas of cooperation and its subtopics as detailed in Section A, and preferably meet the required Technology Readiness Level (TRL2-4).

3. Each joint research team must be led by a "Principal Investigator- Project Coordinator" (PI-PC) from each country who is responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the research team from their country.
4. The Principal Investigators (PIs) on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution or a research institute ("Affiliated Institution"), and must meet the criteria for a PI in their country, as listed below. An Affiliated Institution is determined in each country as follows:

In Israel:

- a) An accredited Institution of Higher Education, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 5718-1958; or
- b) A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization, a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this Call, a "Research Institute" in Israel is a research institute whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading peer- reviewed scientific journals, and who present their research at international scientific symposia. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition does not include publications in internal journals/scientific conferences and/or paid invited reports.

In Slovak Republic:

Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur holding a valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended

Eligibility provisions for Israeli teams:

1. All PIs in the research proposal must meet all of the following cumulative conditions:
 - a. Hold a Ph.D., M.D., DVM, or DMD degree.

A PI who does not meet this condition but meets all the other conditions (subparagraphs b-d below) and according to the procedures of their Affiliated Institution may submit research proposals on the Institutions behalf, may submit a request for exceptional approval to submit a research proposal in accordance with the terms of the Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST
[\[https://forms.monday.com/forms/c33820fd5471ddbcf5a072fa95117c44?r=use1\]](https://forms.monday.com/forms/c33820fd5471ddbcf5a072fa95117c44?r=use1). In this regard, please note the deadline for submitting requests of this nature.
 - b. A senior academic faculty member or equivalent who is permanently employed or is on track for tenure at the Affiliated Institution or may be a retired researcher with a Ph.D. or professor emeritus who continues working on research in affiliation with the Affiliated Institution.
 - c. Head of a research group at an Affiliated Institution - manages an independent research group (has a research team and infrastructure suitable for research).
 - d. Has permission to manage an independent budget in the Affiliated Institution.

2. In compliance with the updated MOST's Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST ("[MOST Regulations](#)"), there is no limit on the number of proposal submissions or active grants per PI within MOST's international cooperation programs.
3. Accordingly, a PI-PC or PI may participate in single proposal submitted within the framework of this Call for Proposals.
4. Researchers should be advised that after a proposal has been submitted, the status of the members of the research team as Principal Investigator- Project Coordinator (PI-PC) and/ or Principal Investigator (PI) may not be changed for the purpose of compliance with the eligibility requirements listed above. It will be clarified that, the aforementioned limitations regarding changing the status of the members of the research team include the addition of a PI who, at the time of submission, was defined as an external consultant or were not listed in the proposal and/or research group.
5. The program is not intended to fund research in the Israeli industry. It should be emphasized that within the framework of a proposal submitted to this Call, it will not be permitted to include a commercial or industrial company with an interest in or ownership of the IP created during the research. Researchers from industry or the third sector may be included in a research proposal submitted to MOST as subcontractors who will provide services to a research group at an academic institution or research institute (whether in consulting hours, or in preparing materials and facilities), but will not be recognized as a separate research group. It should be emphasized that such subcontractors, including consultants from Israel or abroad, may be used in accordance with the above only if unique expertise is required that does not exist in the Affiliated Institutions partnering in the proposal and if an explanation for this need is included within the framework of the submitted research proposal and in the justification of the budget, as follows:
 - a. For the purposes of complying with the terms of this eligibility requirement, subcontractors may not own the knowledge products, including IP, created during the research. A proposal that is found to include such a relationship will be rejected outright.
 - b. A person who meets the definition of a principal investigator under para 1 of the eligibility requirements above, at an institution that meets the definition of an affiliated institution in Israel above (one of the institutions participating in the proposal or any other institution) is not eligible to serve as a subcontractor or external consultant within the framework of a proposal.
 - c. In a proposal that includes subcontractors, including external consultants and/or entities outside the Affiliated Institutions, included in the proposal, the appendix "Subcontractor Questionnaire" (attached in the appendices of the Call) must be submitted with the proposal.

- d. The necessity for a subcontractor/external consultant and the unique expertise will be examined by the relevant representative from the Chief Scientist division who will approve/reject the use of subcontractors/external consultant accordingly.
- e. A proposal that is not approved for the use of a subcontractor/external consultant as stated in subparagraph (d) or due to noncompliance with the terms of subparagraph (b), will only be passed on for further evaluation if the PI-PC agrees to conduct the proposed research without the use of a subcontractor/external consultant and within framework of the research teams included in the proposal.

E. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Joint project proposals must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Slovak project partners and should be submitted simultaneously by both the Slovak and Israeli PI-PCs, to SRDA in Slovak Republic and to MOST in Israel. Each joint proposal should be written in English (**Slovak applicants shall provide proposal also in Slovak to the extent required in national law**) and must be identical for both PIs.

Joint deadline for applications: [September 8th, 2026] at 15:00 (Local time in each country). Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances after the said date and hour.

Further submission instructions for Israeli research teams:

- a) The Israeli PI-PC shall submit the proposal through the Science Forefront system, at <https://kf.most.gov.il>.
In order to apply for the first time, the applicant needs to fill an "account request" at the Science Forefront system. The request should be approved by the Research Authority of the Affiliated Institution. The research authority will approve a new user only after verifying that the applicant meets all the relevant threshold conditions for a PI. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is active. **The approval process may take time and therefore should be done well in advance of the application deadline.**
- b) **Deadline for researchers' submission:** The PI-PC must submit the proposal in English via the Science Forefront system by **[September 1st, 2026] at 15:00 local time (Israel). The online system will be closed for submissions after the said date and hour and no researchers' submissions will be accepted after that time. Israeli researchers who have not submitted their proposals by [September 1st, 2026] at 15:00 local time (Israel) will not be allowed to submit their proposal.**
- c) A proposal that has been submitted can be edited by the PI-PC, in coordination with the Affiliated Institution, until the final joint submission deadline.
- d) The Affiliated Institution must submit the proposal not later than by the final deadline on, **[September 8th, 2026] at 15:00 local time (Israel time)**. Proposals that are not

submitted by the Affiliated Institution through the Science Forefront system by this time, **will not be accepted.**

- e) Please be advised that as technical problems are possible, and the submission process may take a significant amount of time.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended to fulfil the above steps well in advance of the applications deadlines.

Further submission instructions for Slovak Republic research teams:

- a) The term for submitting the applications is **until September 8th, 2026.**
- b) Applications shall be submitted electronically only through the electronic application system available on the SRDA website www.apvv.sk. Only the requested pages generated by the system and signed by the Applicant/partner's statutory representatives are submitted in paper form to the SRDA address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 14, 810 05 Bratislava).
- c) The electronic application system will be closed on **September 8th, 2026 at 12:00 local time (Slovak Republic).**
- d) **The Applicant is obliged to send the required parts (the original signature is required) of the Application in writing and signed by Statutory Representatives, i.e. Declaration of Honour by Statutory Representative of the Applicant Organisation.,**
- e) The deadline for submitting the Applications is retained if the Application is submitted on the last day of the deadline to the authority responsible for its delivering

For both countries:

A valid project application consists of the appropriated application form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team as detailed above, submitted respectively to SRDA in Slovak Republic and to MOST in Israel. **If the applications are not duly received both in Slovak Republic and in Israel by the date and hour indicated above and in accordance with the submission instructions, the proposal will be rejected in both countries.**

F. FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Slovak and Israeli researchers. Therefore, funding may be assigned to costs related to support of the collaboration vectors, such as costs related to the bilateral nature of the project (travel expenses of the researchers, scientific meetings, etc.) as well as to defray costs incurred by the approved research projects (disposables, publication costs, etc.).

In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each applicant.

Participating researchers are encouraged to plan at least one significant visit to their counterparts' institutions and labs, given that such visits are an integral part of the research collaboration. International travel costs and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists, including accommodation, per diem and any other relevant expenses for each visiting scientist, should be included in their project's budget. In this regard when preparing the budget for each team, please note that each side funds their own travel expenses and should budget accordingly. On the Israeli side, funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits taking place in Slovak Republic or Israel; visits to third countries are not eligible for financing by project funds from the budget of the Israeli side.

Further funding provisions for the Israeli side:

- The applicant should reserve a budget for the invitation of the partner, including accommodation, to attend one of the annual international Collaborators meetings, organized by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, during the period of the grant
- Please see full funding provisions on MOST [Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects](#) Funded by MOST ("[MOST Regulations](#)"). All activities and funding pursuant to this Call must be in accordance with MOST Regulations unless otherwise specified.
- According to the MOST Regulations, requests for exceptional approval for additional funding for use of subcontractors must be submitted no less than one week before the deadline for submission by researchers determined in paragraph E(a) above. A request submitted after this date may not be answered in time for submission. Such a request may be submitted using the following link:
<https://forms.monday.com/forms/d85ce1c52e0aa4dbdaacdb2ced1c0cd?r=use1>

Please note, notwithstanding the above, the final approval regarding the need for use of subcontractors and approval of the funding allocated to the use of subcontractors, is subject to the other terms of the evaluation and judging process as determined in this Call and the MOST Regulations.

Further funding provisions for the Slovak side:

Funding provisions will be set out in accordance with national law in the full possible extent¹. Specific conditions will be provided in the provisions, which will be part of the call.

G. RENEWAL OF FUNDING

Renewal of project funding for a subsequent year is subject to the submission of the relevant documents and reports, separately by the Slovak and Israeli PIs. Slovak and Israeli PIs must submit these documents to MINDEU and to MOST, respectively, two

¹ <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2005/172/20220601#paragraf-17>

months before the end of the previous year's contract, according to each country's regulations.

In Israel, an application for the continuation of research funding for the second and third year must be submitted to MOST by the Research Institution of Israeli Principal Investigator on the appropriate forms through the Science Forefront system at <https://kf.most.gov.il>, at least two months prior to the end of the first year and the second year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

H. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING JOINT PROPOSALS

Please note that upon submission, the submitting researcher takes full responsibility for all content included in the proposal and the attached documents, even if technological tools and/or artificial intelligence models were used in preparing the proposal. If it is found that a submitted proposal includes information, facts, or data that are not accurate, reliable, or trustworthy, the proposal may be rejected.

Each joint proposal should be written in **English** (Slovak applicants provide proposal also in Slovak to the extent required by national law) and **must be identical** in both countries with the exception of the sections clearly labeled as "For Slovak applicants only" in the Unified Instructions for Application Form and the Work plan and Gantt for Israeli applicants only as labeled below. The proposal should be submitted using a unified form, available at each side's websites and based on the Unified Instructions for Application Form available on the websites also.

Font: Times New Roman 11; line spacing: 1.5.

1. **Full proposal** should be up to 15 pages, including figures (not including bibliography) and should include the following sections:
 - a) Excellence
 - b) Impact
 - c) Implementation
 - d) Sections labeled in the Unified Instructions as "For Slovak applicants only" are to be included in the proposal submitted on the Slovak side only and alternatively, the proposal submitted on the Israeli side must include a work plan and gantt as follows:

Work plan and Gantt (see the attached format): The work plan will be summarized in a schedule diagram. A verbal description of the work steps must be included. Each stage will be defined by a start time and an end time.
2. **Bibliography**: A complete bibliographic list should be attached to the proposed research. The five most relevant items for the proposed research should be marked with an asterisk.
3. **CV**: A short CV for each researcher involved in the research of up to 2 pages each, including: personal statement (brief description of why the investigator is well-suited for the role on the proposed project); list of ongoing and completed research projects

- from the last three years that the investigator wishes to highlight; citation of up to five publications or research products that highlight the investigator's experience and qualifications for the proposed project; positions, scientific appointments, and honors. On Slovak side there are no restriction on the CV (all necessary information on the PI are provided in the application form)
4. **Confirmation of Collaboration-** On the Israeli side, researchers are required to submit a Letter of intent from the research PIs in both countries affirming their intent to collaborate on the proposed research. On the Slovak side, information for confirmation must be filled out within the application form.
 5. **Additional authorizations needed depending on the type of research** (e.g. Helsinki Committee, animal experiments) shall be submitted along with the proposal. In case the required authorization is still not available at the time of submission, a statement in free text should be attached including the researcher's commitment that if their proposal is approved, the required authorization will be submitted as soon as possible.
 6. **In Israel only** (Additional data for the Science Forefront system):
 7. Short abstract (up to 1500 characters in Hebrew and English).
 8. Applicability (up to 1000 characters in Hebrew).
 9. Adapting the research to the sub-themes defined in the call (up to 500 characters in Hebrew/English)
 10. **Budget request** - enter the requested budget in ILS.
The budget of the researcher from abroad must be entered in a general way in the section designated for this purpose.
 11. Please specify 5 researchers, 3 researchers from abroad and 2 researchers from Israel. All the researches need to have expertise in the field of the proposal, and could serve as potential external reviewers (with no conflict of interest, such as: Joint research, from the same department or supervisor/student relationship, or scientific activity in the past five years, such as joint supervision of a student, research partner, joint writing of an article, affiliation with the same department, etc.).
 12. Do not add any additional documents beyond what is specified above and in the attached guidelines for submission to the Science Forefront system.

I. PROPOSALS REVIEW

The proposals will be evaluated by a committee in each country which will rank the applications from the highest mark to the lowest. The parties will establish a Joint Slovak-Israeli Scientific Committee, composed of up to ten (10) representatives, five (5) from each country ("The Committee"). The Committee will jointly review the evaluation of the proposals and formulate recommendations as to which of them will be funded.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence (33%): The project's scientific, technological, and applied quality, including its relevance to the call priorities, originality, methodology, expected outputs, justification for international cooperation, and the expertise of all participating research teams.
2. Impact (33%): The project's innovation potential, applicability, economic and societal benefits, dissemination strategy, added value of international cooperation, and contribution to the professional development of young researchers.
3. Implementation (33%): The project's feasibility, including the work plan, bilateral cooperation, research methods, requested budget, available infrastructure, and risk-management measures.

J. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Contracts:

Upon approval of a particular project proposal, separate contracts will be signed in Slovak Republic and Israel, between SRDA and the Affiliated Institution of the Slovak PI and between MOST and the Affiliated Institution of the Israeli PI-PC.

2. Payments:

Payments will be made by SRDA and MOST to the Affiliated Institution of each PI-PC, respectively, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

3. Final reports:

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, Israeli PI-PCs must submit a final report in English to MOST through the Science Forefront system at <https://kf.most.gov.il>. It should include a final scientific and financial report covering the work and cooperation carried out during the entire 2-year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements.

Slovak PIs must submit a final report in accordance with contractual provisions.

Each PI and each Affiliated Institution is accountable to MOST or SRDA respectively, for the execution of the project.

K. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

For both sides:

It is strongly recommended that the Slovak and Israeli research teams and their Institutions enter into an agreement regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project prior to the commencement of the collaborative activities.

For Israeli Applicants:

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereinafter, including the eligibility of Affiliated Institutions via which applications must be filed and the eligibility of PI's and Associated-PI's, are subject to MOST Regulations and to MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects ("[Standard Terms](#)"). Additionally, MOST reserves

the right to take into account national security considerations when considering applications.

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 Standard Terms' provisions thereof. Please note any updates made to the standard terms made before the final submission date will apply to proposals submitted to this Call.

In accordance with the MOST Regulations, any publications regarding funded activities under this call, including publication of research must include the following acknowledgment:

"This research was funded by the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science & Technology, and the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research, Development & Youth".

L. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained as follows:

ISRAEL:

On administrative matters:

Israeli researchers should consult administrative matters directly with the Research Authority at their Affiliated Institution. The Institution will contact the Ministry in case of necessity.

On scientific matters:

Dr. David Dahan (AI safety)

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