

## **CZECH-ISRAELI COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

### **- Call for Joint Project Proposals 2019-2021 -**

#### **'Artificial Intelligence' and 'Clean-Tech'**

This Call for Proposals is being announced on the basis of the Work Plan for Support of Joint Czech-Israeli Scientific Research Projects for the Years 2019-2021, signed in Jerusalem on June 29th, 2018, between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (referred to as "MEYS") and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (referred to as "MOST").

## **A. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

MEYS and MOST are providing financial support for joint research activities carried out by Czech and Israeli researchers. Joint Czech-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit their joint research proposals on:

### **1. Artificial Intelligence & Robotics-**

- Deep learning
- Machine learning
- Computer vision
- Supervised learning

### **2. Clean-tech-**

- Embedded nano-materials in water/soil/waste/air treatment processes or technologies.
- Embedded nano-materials for real-time environmental monitoring.

## B. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in the Czech and the Israeli laboratories;
- Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;

## C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The total maximum funding for each individual project is 150,000 Euros from each side for a three year period (50,000 Euros each year from each side). The total maximum funding allocated for this program is 900,000 Euros per side.

It is the intention of the two ministries to support **up to 6 joint projects** under this Call in the fields of Environmental Engineering and Information and Communications Technology. 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 three year basis beginning at the third quarter of 2019.**

**Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds in the State Budget of both countries.**

## D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Czech and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator from each country.
3. a) In Israel, the Principal Investigator must be affiliated with an Academic Institution, meaning an accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or a public research institute with experience in the relevant fields, or a Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF). For the purposes of this Call, a "Public research institute" refers to a research institute 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.
- b) In the Czech Republic, applicants may be public universities, public research institutes, other entities that can be classified as research and knowledge dissemination organisations in accordance with Art. 2. 1. Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), or these organisations in cooperation with small and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs") defined by Art. 1.3. hh) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01). Research and knowledge dissemination organisations have to be in position of Principal Investigator in case of cooperation with SMEs.
4. Industrial partners are encouraged to participate in research teams headed by a Principal Investigator from an academic institution.

5. Each Principal Investigator and each affiliated institution is accountable to MEYS or MOST, respectively, for the execution of the project.
6. 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.
7. 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.

## **E. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

1. It is strongly recommended that the Czech and Israeli research teams and their institutions enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights prior to the initiation of collaborative activities.

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

1. The proposal must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Czech project partners and should be submitted simultaneously by both the Czech and Israeli principal investigators, to MOST and MEYS, in English, on the appropriate "Application for Research Grant" form. Application form is obtainable at MOST website ([www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il)), as well as at MEYS website. The use of the updated form is obligatory.

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 MEYS in the Czech Republic and to MOST in Israel. If the

applications are not duly received both in the Czech Republic and in Israel by the date and hour indicated as follows, the project will not be accepted.

**Instructions for Israeli research teams:**

Israeli PIs should submit proposals in English by email using the attached "Application for Research Grant" form to the following email address: [Czech@most.gov.il](mailto:Czech@most.gov.il) (in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures). **The proposals must effectively reach the abovementioned email address by Thursday 31/01/2019 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 15:30 of the mentioned date.

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.

**In addition, Israeli PIs shall send as well 2 hard copies of their proposals by Tuesday 05/02/2019, to the following address:**

Ministry of Science and Technology

"Call for Proposals – Czech Republic -Israel Program 2019-2021"

Clermont Ganneau St., Building Gimmel, 3rd Floor, Room 309

Government Offices, Kiryat Begin

Jerusalem

Contact person:

Mr. Avi ANATI

Deputy Director-General for Planning & Control

Tel: 02-5411170/173/829/800

Fax: 02-5823030

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

2. Czech Principal Investigators should contact the MEYS contact person below for instructions regarding the submission of proposals to MEYS.

## G. FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Czech 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 with the respective national rules of each applicant.

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

- (1) Stipend and/or salary for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers retained specifically for the purpose of the project for a temporary period of up to 3 years;
- (2) Consumables;
- (3) 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 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 the Czech Republic or Israel.

## **I. PROPOSAL REVIEW**

After the proposals are pre-evaluated and rated by international external reviewers, they will be jointly evaluated for final ranking by a Joint Czech-Israeli Committee. MOST and MEYS will decide which and how many projects will be funded and in what amounts based on the results of the evaluation process and ranking and in view of budget requirements and other constraints.

The evaluation process will be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Conformity with the program research topics defined above;
2. Significance (quantitative whenever relevant) 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;

3. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
4. 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;
5. Feasibility of the research program;
6. Practical applicability of expected research results;
7. Extent of genuine collaboration between the Czech and Israeli research teams.

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

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is the third quarter of 2019.

The expected completion date is three years after the starting date of the approved projects.

2. Contracts

Upon approval of a particular project, two separate project contracts will be signed, one between MEYS and the institution of the Czech Principal Investigator and one between MOST and the institution of the Israeli Principal Investigator.

3. In principle, the project period is three years. However, funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. The parties to this Call reserve the right not to fund a second year of research for scientific-professional, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

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.

#### 4. Payments

Payments will be made by MEYS 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.

#### 5. Reports

##### a) Financial Reports:

Financial reports will be submitted to the MEYS and MOST, respectively, by the institutions of each Principal Investigator, as specified in the research contract.

##### b) Scientific Reports:

Within two months (for the Israeli team) after the conclusion of the project, each Principal Investigator will submit a full final report to MEYS or MOST, respectively, in accordance with the contract or the regulations in force in his/her country, and the Principal Investigators will submit a joint summary of the final report both to MEYS and MOST in English.

Additional interim progress reports may be required, according to the practices and regulations of each country, as specified in the research contracts.

## K. 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 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.

## L. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

#### **Ms. Soňa VRŇATOVÁ**

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports  
Management of International R&D Programmes Unit

Karmelitská 7

118 12 Prague 1

Czech Republic

Tel.: +420 234 812294

Fax: +420 234 811 713

E-mail: [sona.vrnatova@msmt.cz](mailto:sona.vrnatova@msmt.cz)

#### **Mr. Zbyněk VEDRAL**

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports  
Management of International R&D Programmes Unit

Karmelitská 7

118 12 Prague 1

Czech Republic

Tel.: +420 234 811185

Fax: +420 234 811 713

E-mail: [zbynek.vedral@msmt.cz](mailto:zbynek.vedral@msmt.cz)

## **ISRAEL**

### **On administrative matters:**

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

Deputy Director-General for Planning & Control

Tel: +972-2-5411170/173/829/800

Fax: +972-2-5823030

Email: [avi@most.gov.il](mailto:avi@most.gov.il)

#### **Mr. Barak GATENYO**

Head of Eastern-Europe Desk, Division of International Relations

Tel: +972-2-5411812

Email: [barakg@most.gov.il](mailto:barakg@most.gov.il)

### **On scientific matters:**

#### **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics:**

#### **Dr. Fadil SALIH**

Director, Physics and Applied Mathematics

Tel: +972-2-5411816

Email: [fadils@most.gov.il](mailto:fadils@most.gov.il)

#### **Clean-tech-**

#### **Dr. Moshe Ben-Sasson**

Director for Environment, Agriculture and Water

**Tel:** +972-2- 5411134

Email: [moshebs@most.gov.il](mailto:moshebs@most.gov.il)

### **Address in Israel for all the above:**

Ministry of Science and Technology

Clermont Ganneau St., Begin Government Offices

P.O. Box 49100

Jerusalem 9149002