

Work Program
for Scientific and Technological Cooperation
between the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
of the Republic of Slovenia
and
the Ministry of Science and Technology
of the State of Israel

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as "MESS"), and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "MOST"), both hereinafter referred to as the "Sides",

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Ljubljana, on 16 June, year 1993.

Desiring to promote further development of Slovenian - Israeli scientific and technological cooperation,

Aware that scientific and technological cooperation is an essential part of the bilateral relations between the countries,

Have agreed to establish a Work Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between MESS and the MOST, hereinafter referred to as the "STC Program".

Article 1

The Sides shall promote research exchange in the scientific fields which both Sides consider important in order to achieve sustainable growth. The research fields will be selected by mutual consent of MESS and MOST.

Article 2

Each Side shall encourage the participation of the representatives of their countries in round tables, seminars and conferences on issues of scientific and technological cooperation, organized by the other Side's scientific research institutions and other relevant bodies.

Article 3

The Sides shall encourage direct contacts between scientific institutions and higher education institution regarding scientific and technological cooperation, as well as the realization of joint scientific and technological programs and projects, and encourage the exchange of scientists, technical experts and PhD students.

Article 4

The Sides will support joint scientific and technological projects based on mutual interest, according to the proposals that will be prepared jointly by Slovenian and Israeli research teams.

The research proposals will be submitted in accordance with a joint call for proposals, which will be issued in parallel by both Sides, and will be agreed upon following a scientific evaluation process.

Article 5

1. To coordinate this STC Program, the Sides shall establish a Joint Slovenian-Israeli Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Committee".

2. The members of the Joint Committee shall include representatives of MESS, Slovenian Research Agency (hereinafter referred to as SRA) and MOST.

3. Each Side shall appoint a Chairperson and Secretary of the Joint Committee from among its representatives in the Joint Committee.

4. Between meetings, information shall be shared through the Co-Chairpersons or Secretaries of the Joint Committee.

5. Approval and adoption of decisions of the Joint Committee may be performed by means of electronic communication or exchange of mail, upon decision of both Sides of the Joint Committee.

6. Each Co-Chairperson shall be responsible for organizing the work and activity of their side of the Joint Committee. The Secretaries shall ensure the ongoing work of their side of the Joint Committee and prepare the necessary materials for the meetings of the Joint Committee.

7. Decisions of the Joint Committee shall be made by general consensus.

8. The meetings of the Joint Committee shall be organized in turn by each of the Sides. Expenditures for the organization of the meetings of the Joint Committee shall be covered by the host Side. Each Side shall pay the costs of travel of its members of the Joint Committee, as well as insurance policies and accommodation.

9. The Joint Committee shall meet at least once every two years. In case of need, MESS and MOST may agree on further meetings.

10. The decisions of the Joint Committee shall be recorded in protocols. The protocols of the meetings shall be signed by the Co-Chairpersons of the Joint Committee.

Article 6

1. The selection of projects in the framework of this STC Program shall be done on a competitive basis. Calls for proposals for funding projects will be announced at the same time in the Republic of Slovenia and the State of Israel.

2. Scientists and other researchers from all scientific institutions and higher educational institutions of the Republic of Slovenia and the State of Israel may participate in the announced calls. The main condition to apply is having a partner in the State of the other Side, as well as additional eligibility conditions which should be stipulated in the call.

3. The principal researchers of the projects shall apply to SRA and MOST respectively.

4. A project must meet the requirements stipulated in the call and pass the scientific evaluation. Subsequently it must be approved by the Joint Committee.

Article 7

1. Scientists and researchers from all scientific institutions and higher education institutions from the Republic of Slovenia shall submit their projects in the Slovenian and English language to SRA.

2. Scientists and researchers from all scientific institutions and higher education institutions from the State of Israel shall submit their projects in English to MOST.

Article 8

MESS/SRA and MOST will be assisted by experts in the evaluation process of the received project proposals. The evaluation process shall be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

- Conformity with the definition of the program research topics presented in the call for proposals;
- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the project;
- Significance (quantitative whenever relevant) of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it;
- The infrastructure quality of the institutions involved in the project;
- Feasibility of the research program;
- The possibility of practical use of project results;
- Extent of genuine collaboration between Slovenian and Israeli research teams;
- Justification for the size of funding applied for the project;
- Active participation of "early career researchers", such as PhD students or postdoctoral researchers (up to 5 years after PhD degree).

Article 9

MESS and MOST shall submit their review results for consideration to the Joint Committee. At a meeting of the Joint Committee the overall list of projects for funding shall be approved.

Article 10

Funds for implementation of this STC Program shall be allocated by the Sides on an equal basis, according to their availability and in accordance with the respective applicable laws and regulations of each Side.

Article 11

In the framework of this STC Program, the following activities may be funded within an approved project:

- The cost of visits to the Republic of Slovenia and/or to the State of Israel of scientists and other researchers participating in the project;
- Organization of joint seminars, conferences and meetings in the Republic of Slovenia and/or in the State of Israel;
- Manpower and materials for the research project;
- Other activities related to the project may be funded, in accordance with the laws and regulations of each Side.

Article 12

1. Visits to the Republic of Slovenia and/or to the State of Israel by scientists and other researchers participating in the project, will be in accordance with the following conditions:

- a. The visits take place within the framework of a joint project.
 - b. The visits are no more than one (1) month long.
2. The financial terms of the visits:
- a. The Sending Side shall bear:
 - The cost of the flight of its scientists / researchers;
 - The cost of health insurance (only Israeli side);
 - The cost of accommodations;
 - b. The Receiving Side shall bear:
 - The cost of the organization of the joint seminars, conferences and meetings of the visit;
 - The cost of the internal transportation of the visiting scientists / researchers.

Article 13

The Slovenian and Israeli researchers and their institutions shall enter into cooperation contacts, regarding the allocation of intellectual property rights created from the output of the financed project.

Article 14

1. Following the completion of a project, its coordinator shall submit a final report to the supervising Office of this STC Program in his/her country. This report shall include the results of the project, possible areas and prospects of using these results and further cooperation.

2. Each Side shall prepare a summary report on the results of the projects and submit it to the Joint Committee.

Article 15

Any activities carried out pursuant to this STC Program shall be done in accordance with the respective applicable laws, regulations and procedures of the Sides, and subject to the availability of funds.

Article 16

Any differences of interpretation of the provisions of this STC Program shall be settled through negotiations or consultations between the Sides.

Article 17

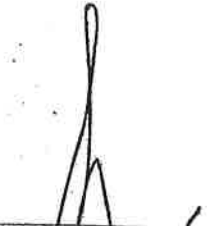
This STC Program may be modified by mutual written consent of the Sides.

Article 18

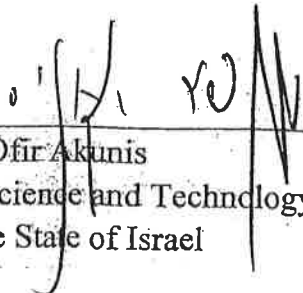
1. This STC Program shall come into effect on the date of its signature and shall remain in effect for a period of three years. This STC Program shall be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years each, unless a written notification of termination has been given by either Side six months in advance.

2. The termination of this STC Program shall not affect the validity of any projects and programs or other forms of cooperative activities undertaken prior to the termination of this STC Program and still in progress at the time of termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Sides.

Done in Tel Aviv on the 6 day of June 2017, which corresponds to the 12 day of Sivan 5777 in the Hebrew calendar, in duplicate, in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.


Maja Makovec Brenčič

Minister of Education, Science and Sport
of the Republic of Slovenia


Ofir Akunis

Minister of Science and Technology
of the State of Israel