



**State Committee on Science and  
Technology (SCST)  
Republic of Belarus**

**משרד המדע  
והטכנולוגיה**  
Ministry of Science & Technology



**Ministry of Science and  
Technology (MOST)  
Israel**

## **The First Belarusian-Israeli Scientific Research Program**

### **CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

**For the Years 2019-2020**

Within the framework of the Belarusian-Israeli scientific cooperation, the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus (SCST) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (MOST) are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out by scientists from both countries.

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

The research shall focus on two main areas and its subtopics as detailed in Section A.

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

#### **A. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

SCST and MOST are providing financial support for joint research activities carried out by scientists from both countries. Belarusian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in any of the following areas:

- 1. Digital agriculture-** Big data, ICT, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and deep learning related to agriculture.
- 2. Social Sciences -** Methodologies and models for shaping national scientific policy.

#### **B. MODE OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in Belarusian and 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 DURATION OF PROJECTS**

It is the intention of the Parties to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of **two years**. However, funding shall be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contracts.

It is the intention of the Parties to support **up to 6 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 project funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 360,000 Dollar for each Side. The total maximum funding for an individual project on the Israeli side on the topic of Digital Agriculture will be up to **80,000 Dollar**, and for the topic of Social Sciences it will be up to **40,000 Dollar**, for a two-year period. On the Belarusian side, the total maximum funding for an individual project will be up to **60,000 Dollar** for both topics for a two-year period.

In accordance, research projects should be planned on a two-year basis beginning approximately at the third quarter of 2019; contracts will be signed accordingly.

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

### **D. ELIGIBILITY**

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Israeli and Belarusian scientific research teams.
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country. The PI must be member of 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:
  - a) An accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958;
  - b) A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF);
  - c) A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization;
  - d) A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is a research institute whose significant portion of 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.
3. The project may include the use of sub-contractors from the private sector, if necessary.
4. Each PI and each affiliated institution is accountable to MOST or SCST, 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.

#### **E. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

The proposal must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Belarusian project partners and should be submitted simultaneously by both the Belarusian and Israeli principal investigators, to MOST and SCST, 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 SCST 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 SCST in Belarus and to MOST in Israel. **If the applications are not duly received both in Belarus 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: [Belarus@most.gov.il](mailto:Belarus@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 17/01/2019 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 22/01/2019,** to the following address:

Ministry of Science and Technology  
"Call for Proposals – Belarus-Israel Program 2019-2020"  
Clermont Ganneau St., Building Gimmel, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

**Instructions for Belarusian research teams:**

Please refer to the Belarusian Call for Proposals.

**F. FUNDED EXPENSES**

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Belarusian 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 Israeli researchers:**

Funding can be provided by MOST for:

- (1) Stipend 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, not including salaries for permanent staff and PI's;
- (2) Consumables. In case they exceed 750 Euro, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required;
- (3) Small scale equipment needed only for the specific research project. MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which they are 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.

**For Belarusian researchers:**

Please refer to the Belarusian Call for Proposals.

**G. MUTUAL VISITS**

It is mandatory for the participating researchers 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. Funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits that take place in Belarus or Israel.

## **H. 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 Belarusian-Israeli Committee. MOST and SCST 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 Belarusian and Israeli research teams.

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

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is the third quarter of 2019. The expected completion date is two years after the starting date of the approved projects.

2. **Contracts:**

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in Belarus and Israel respectively, between SCST and the institution of the Belarusian PI and between MOST and the institution of the Israeli PI.

3. **In Israel**, in principle, the project's period is two 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 work 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 the Israeli PI 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.

**In Belarus**, please refer to the regulations specified on the Belarusian call for proposals.

4. **Payments:**

Payments will be made by SCST 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 SCST or MOST, respectively, by the institutions of each PI as specified in the research contracts.

b) Scientific Reports

Within two months after the conclusion of the project, each PI will submit a full final report to SCST or MOST, respectively, in accordance with the contract or the regulations in force in his/her country and the PIs will submit a joint summary of the final report both to SCST 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.

**J. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING ISRAELI APPLICANTS**

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.

**Sabbatical Leave:**

Israeli researchers who intend a sabbatical leave in the first year of the project cannot be approved as a PI of the research proposal. A PI who intends a vacation or absence longer than three months should request permission from MOST in advance through the relevant R&D Authority. A substitute to the PI will not be approved in the course of the first year.

**K. MISCELANEOUS PROVISIONS**

The Belarusian and Israeli research teams and their Institutions shall enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project.

**L. INFORMATION**

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

**ISRAEL:**

**On administrative matters:**

**Mr. Avi ANATI**

**State Committee on Science  
and Technology (SCST)  
Republic of Belarus**

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**Ministry of Science and  
Technology (MOST)  
Israel**

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

**BELARUS:**

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