

Ministry of Science, Technology  
and Higher Education, Portugal

Ministry of Science and  
Technology, Israel

## Portuguese-Israeli Research Program on Marine Sciences

### CALL FOR JOINT EXPLORATORY PROJECTS 2018

**For the years 2019-2021**

Within the framework of the Portuguese-Israeli agreement on scientific cooperation, the Portuguese Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) 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 Portuguese 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 Portuguese and Israeli scientists.

Therefore, FCT and MOST invite Portuguese and Israeli researchers to submit joint proposals for **exploratory research**, carried out by scientists from both countries. Qualifying scientific applicants from Portugal and Israel may receive research grants from FCT and MOST, respectively, according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulations.

#### **A. AREAS of COOPERATION**

The research should be multi-disciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the field of **marine sciences**.

Within that scope, Portuguese-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for exploratory research projects in one of the following areas:

1. **Operational oceanography – developing improved methods/technology such as improved maritime monitoring techniques, improved modeling forecasting, big data analyses;**
2. **Marine pollution – stress on the ecological systems and mitigation technologies;**

#### **B. MODE of COOPERATION**

Projects will be supported in the typology '*Research projects of explanatory type (PeX)*', oriented to supporting original ideas without being based on preliminary outputs. Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities conducted in Portuguese and Israeli laboratories;
- 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.

The project shall be structured in a way to contribute as a new added value that researchers, funded by all the Parties, could not achieve on their own.

### **C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND DURATION**

It is the intention of the Parties to fund **up to 3 exploratory research proposals** selected hereunder for a term of **two years**. Funding shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. MOST and FCT will equally finance the research teams of their countries, each in a maximum budget of 100.000 € (50.000 euros per year) for each project.

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 Portuguese and Israeli 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" as per paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) above 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.

The **Portuguese** individual or co-promotion beneficiaries are listed in Article 3 of the National Regulations

(<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/proyectos/regulamentofundosnacionais.phtml.en>). The Portuguese beneficiaries and project eligibility rules are displayed in Articles 5 and 6 of the above-mentioned Regulations.'

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 FCT or MOST, respectively, for the execution of the project.

5. The projects must be consistent with the scope and objectives of the Call and must relate to (at least) one of the program research topics defined in (A)

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

The proposal must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Portuguese and the Israeli project partners and should be submitted simultaneously in English by both the Portuguese and Israeli principal investigators, to FCT in Portugal and to MOST in Israel, on the appropriate "Application for Research Grant" form. The application form is obtainable in Portugal at FCT's website, <http://www.fct.pt>, and in Israel at MOST's website, [www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il). The use of the updated form is obligatory.

A valid project application consists of the application form **duly filled in**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to FCT and to MOST. **If the applications are not duly received both in Portugal 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: [Portugal@most.gov.il](mailto:Portugal@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 January 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 15:00 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.**

**In addition, Israeli PIs shall send as well 2 hard copies** of their proposals by **January 14<sup>th</sup> 2019**, to the following address:

Ministry of Science and Technology

"Call for Exploratory Projects – Portugal-Israel Program on Marine Sciences 2017-2019"

Clermont Ganneau St., Building Gimmel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 309

Kiryat Hamemshala Hamizrahit – Begin Government Offices

Jerusalem

**Contact person:**

Mr. Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Tel: 02-5411170/173/805

Fax: 02-5823030

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

**Instructions for Portuguese research teams:**

Portuguese PIs should submit proposals in English using the following link:

[https://concursosfct.formstack.com/forms/research\\_program\\_portugalisrael](https://concursosfct.formstack.com/forms/research_program_portugalisrael) **The proposals should be submitted by January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 17:00 (GMT), and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.**

It is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.

In the case of a positive funding decision, all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application. For Portuguese institutions affiliated participants the national regulations will apply, namely with regard to: eligibility of participants and eligible costs. The aforementioned regulations are available at

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/proyectos/regulamentofundospnacionais.phtml.en>.

Portuguese teams also need to send a Declaration of Commitment to the National Programme Manager(s) from FCT, duly signed, dated and stamped by the Head of the Portuguese applicant organization and by the Principal Investigator.

**F. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Portuguese 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 2 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 Portuguese researchers:**

The eligible expenses are displayed in Article 8 of the Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds -

<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamentofundosnacionais.phtml.en>.

**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 are eligible and must 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 Portugal or Israel; visits to third countries will not be financed by project funds.

**H. STATUS SEMINAR**

A status seminar may be held at a place and date to be announced in order to evaluate the progress made at this program and its results. At the status seminar every Portuguese-Israeli research group will present its research results, including each side's contribution to the research, the overall result, and the cooperation between the two research groups. The relevant expenses for travel and accommodations for the status seminar should be included in the project proposal's budget.

**I. PROPOSAL REVIEW / EVALUATION**

Both sides will coordinately send the submitted proposals to international external reviewers for their evaluation. Both sides will collect the individual evaluations and prepare a draft rank list to be discussed at the Joint Portuguese-Israeli Working Group (FCT and MOST), that will decide which and how many projects will be funded and in what amounts based on the ranking and in view of budget requirements and other constraints.

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

1. Significance 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 (15%);
2. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research (35%);
3. 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 (10%);
4. Feasibility of the research program (20%);
5. Practical applicability of expected research results (10%);

6. Extent of genuine collaboration between the Portuguese and Israeli research teams as proposed for the exploratory project and as proven in the first year for the full project (10%);

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

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

2. **Contracts:**

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in Israel and Portugal respectively, between FCT and the institution of the Portuguese PI, and between MOST and the institution of the Israeli PI.

**In Portugal**, once all evaluation steps have been completed, FCT Board of Directors will make the final approving of funding. In the case of a positive funding decision all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application to FCT's project management platform. The projects' starting date cannot exceed 90 consecutive days after the date of the notice related to the funding decision to the PIs, except in situations duly justified to FCT and by decision of its Director Council.

3. **Payments:**

Payments will be made by FCT and by MOST, respectively, to the institution of each Principal Investigator, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

4. **Reports:**

- a) **Financial Reports**

Financial reports will be submitted to FCT and to MOST, respectively, by the institutions of each PI as specified in the research contract, and according to national regulations from both sides.

- b) **Scientific Reports**

Each PI will submit a full final report to FCT and to MOST, respectively within two months (after the conclusion of the project, in accordance with the contract or the regulations in force in his/her country. In addition, the PIs will submit a joint summary of the final report to FCT and to MOST, respectively, 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 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.

**L. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PORTUGUESE APPLICANTS**

All projects solely by national funds must strictly follow the Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds, available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamentofundosnacionais.phtml.en>

**M. MISCELANEOUS PROVISIONS**

The Portuguese and Israeli research teams and their Institutions are strongly encouraged to enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project, prior to the start of collaborative activities.

**N. INFORMATION**

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons at MOST and FCT:

**ISRAEL:****On administrative matters:**

Mr. Avi Anati  
Deputy Director General for Planning & Control  
Tel: +972-2-5411170/173/805  
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**Ms. Shani Edri**

Head Department, Division for International Relations.  
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**On Scientific matters:**

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Director for Water, Agriculture and Environment  
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**MOST website:** [www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il)

**PORTUGAL:**

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