Within the framework of the Israeli-French agreement on scientific cooperation, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the State of Israel, as well as the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) of France have decided to provide financial support for Research Network Projects carried out jointly by researchers from both countries.

A. Objectives

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between French 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 Israeli and French scientists.
French and Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit proposals for research projects in the fields of:

1. **Digital Humanities**

2. **Computational modeling with functional and evolutionary genomics of infectious diseases.**

### B. Mode of Cooperation

Cooperation will take the form of planning and conducting joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research. It is also recommended to include the funding of young researchers' stay (PhD students and/or Post-doctorates) – in particular Israelis in French laboratories - as part of the Joint project research (hosting supported by the French party).

Each joint research team may submit one project only.

### C. Level of Funding

It is the intention of the Parties to this Call to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of 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.

It is the intention of the program's sponsors to support approximately **6 joint projects**. However the final number of projects to be sponsored will be determined based on such factors as scientific evaluation and budgetary considerations. Research projects should be planned on a two year basis. Contracts will be signed accordingly.
The total maximum project funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 480,000 Euro for the French side and 2,016,000 NIS for the Israeli side, over a two-year period. The allocation for each side approved research proposal will be up to 80,000 Euro for the French side and up to 336,000 NIS for the Israeli side for the two-year project period.

Expected starting date of the approved projects is the first semester of 2018.

Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds on each side.

D. Eligibility

Proposals must meet the following preconditions. Proposals that do not meet 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 French and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Each joint research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.
3. The Principal Investigator (PI) on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution, meaning – in Israel:
   i. An accredited institution of higher education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Act, 1958.
   ii. A research institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).
   iii. A research institute which is a nonprofit organization.
iv. A research institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this Call a "research institute" means an 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.

Industrial partners are encouraged to participate in research teams headed by Principal Investigators from an academic institution.

4. Israeli applicants will use the forms appended to this call and attach the required supplementary documentation as detailed in the Application Form. For the French side, the application procedure follows that of the "Partenariat Hubert Curien" (PHC) rules available on the Campus France website at

http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/appels-a-candidatures

(PHC Maîmonide - Israël).

5. French and Israeli Principal Investigators (and affiliated academic institution) are respectively responsible to French MAEDI/MENESR and to Israeli MOST 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 Experimentation on Animals before the project can commence.

7. Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human subjects, must submit the approval of the relevant Helsinki Ethics Committee before the project can commence.

D1. Additional Provisions

More information on the selection criteria and the arrangements for dissemination of the results can be found on the Campus France website at:

http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/presentation-generale

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

D2. Submission of Research Proposals

Joint deadline for applications:

The proposals must effectively reach the email address mentioned below by Thursday October 19th, 2017 by 23:59 Israeli time and 24:00 by French time, and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.
For Israeli research teams:

Israeli Principal Investigators (PI) should electronically submit proposals in English using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following email address: [french@most.gov.il](mailto:french@most.gov.il) (in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures).

Because of technical constraints, an email over 20 megabytes will not be received. If the email and its attachments exceed 20 MB, it is 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 received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems may occur, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.** 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 the joint research team, submitted respectively to MOST and CAMPUS France.

**It must be stressed that if the applications are not duly received by both MOST and CAMPUS France by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted.**

**In addition,** Israeli Principal Investigators **should send also 2 hard copies** of their proposals by **Tuesday October 24th, 2017** to the following MOST address:

Avi ANATI
For French research teams:

French Principal Investigators should submit proposals in French on line at
http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/appels-a-candidatures (PHC Maïmonide-Israël)

A valid project application consists of all the required application materials from BOTH
countries.

E. Funded expenses

Generally, funding may be assigned to 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.). It is
recommended that funding will be dedicated also to support the mobility of young
researchers (under age 40 and no more of 7 years after their PhD) between the institutions
involved in the approved projects and joint labs.
For the Israeli side only, project funds may be used to finance monthly salaries of research staff members retained specifically for the project. Specific provisions regarding permissible use of project funds are set out in the research contract.

For the **French side**, project funds utilization is divided:

- **Up to 20000€/year from the MENESR can be used to finance materials and salaries**

- **Up to 20000€/year from the MAEDI can be used to finance travel** (French researchers' travel to Israel) and hosting expenses (Israeli researchers' hosting in France); a small part this budget can also be used to buy basic, low-cost, materials (<500€).

**F. Mutual Visits**

Participating scientists are encouraged to plan extended visits to their counterparts’ institutions. So long as the visits are an integral part of research collaboration, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists should be included in the project's budget. International travel costs should be included in the budget of the visiting side, while in-country living expenses should be included in the budget of the host side. The visits must take place in France or in Israel only. Visits to third countries may not be financed by project funds.

For the French Side, mobility is strongly encouraged as the amount of money dedicated to it is significant. It is then greatly advised to plan a long-term (>1 month) Israeli young researcher visit as part of the project and to specify it in advance in the application.
G. Status Seminars

A status seminar will be held in Jerusalem on November 2019 in order to evaluate the progress/results of this program. At the status seminar every Israeli-French 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 seminar should be included in the project proposal.

H. Renewal of funding

Renewal of project funding for a second year is subject to the submission, separately by the French and Israeli PIs, of the following documents:

Israeli and French PIs must submit these documents in English to the MOST and to the French Embassy respectively two months before the end of the first year's contract. The Israeli team should submit the application on the appropriate forms together with the annual scientific report. The applications should be submitted by the Israeli PIs to: Shai Israeli: shai@most.gov.il and by the French PIs to M. Sébastien Linden: s.linden@ambfr-il.org.

I. Proposal Review

A scientific committee on each side will evaluate proposals. A joint Israeli-French scientific committee, composed of expert scientists from each country, will then jointly evaluate the proposals and formulate recommendations as to which proposals will be funded.
Evaluation of the proposals will be based on:

1. Conformity with the definition of the program research topics presented 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 French and Israeli research teams;
8. Level of involvement of young researchers (PhD students and/or post-doctorates).

J. Contracts, Payments and Reports

1. Contracts
   Upon approval of a project proposal, contracts will be signed in Israel and in France between relevant Ministries and the Principal Investigators' institutions.

2. Payments
   On the Israeli side, payments will be made by MOST to the PI's institution, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above.
   On the French side, research funds will be managed by:
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MEAE) of France through Campus France (in accordance with the rules of financial managements established by funders);
- The Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (MESRI) of France.

3. Final Reports

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, French and Israeli PIs must submit a joint final report in English to both MOST and to the French Embassy at:

- Shai Israeli: shai@most.gov.il, Sebastien Linden: s.linden@ambfr-il.org.

These include a final scientific and financial report covering the work and cooperation carried out during the entire two-year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements.

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 - and to the updated MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (the document 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. Additional Information in France

Additional scientific information may be obtained from:

Sébastien Linden,
Attaché de Coopération Scientifique et Universitaire
Ambassade de France, Tel-Aviv, ISRAËL
Tel: +972 (0)3 796 80 39
s.linden@ambfr-il.org

Alexandre Superville,
Chargé de mission Coopération Scientifique
Ambassade de France, Tel-Aviv, ISRAËL
Tel: +972 (0)3 796 80 41
a.superville@ambfr-il.org

M. Additional Information in Israel

Additional scientific information on "Digital Humanities" may be obtained from the following:

Dr. Sky Gross
Director, Social Sciences and Humanities
Ministry of Science and Technology
Tel: 02-5411182
skyg@most.gov.il
Additional scientific information on "Computational Modelling with Functional Genomics of Clonal Evolution of Infectious Diseases" may be obtained from the following:

**Dr. Yossi Kalifa**

Director for Life Science

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411126

yossik@most.gov.il

Additional **administrative information** may be obtained from the following:

**Mr. Avi ANATI**

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411170/173/800/829

Fax: 02-5823030

avi@most.gov.il

**Mrs. Claire Levaton**

Director for Israel-France Scientific Relations

Division for International Relations

Ministry of Science and Technology

claire@most.gov.il
N. Application Forms

This call for proposals and application forms are available at the following internet addresses:

http://www.most.gov.il/

http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/appels-a-candidatures