



Researchers' Report 2013

Country Profile: Israel



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1. Key data

National R&D intensity target

"Israel's R&D intensity was already higher than 4% in 2000 and continued to increase until 2007, when it reached 4.84%. It then decreased to 4.40% in 2010 a value which is more than double the EU average. The business sector accounts for around 80% of total R&D expenditure. Although Israel was less affected by the global economic and financial crisis than other countries, business R&D intensity decreased from 3.9% in 2007 to 3.51% in 2010.

Foreign owned firms contribute to increasing the R&D intensity of a country through inward investment in R&D. The level of inward investment in R&D is an indicator both of the degree of internationalisation of business R&D and also of the attractiveness of the country for foreign investors. In 2007 (the latest available year), R&D expenditure of foreign affiliates accounted for 62% of the total R&D expenditure of enterprises. The corresponding shares for Belgium, Austria and Sweden were 59.4%, 53.5% and 33.1%, respectively. In the case of Israel 80% of inward investment in R&D is invested in non-manufacturing sectors^{1,2}.

2. National strategies

In Israel, the private sector is a predominant player in research, providing 79% of all funds. The Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education (VATAT) and the Office of the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment are the two main research funders for Israeli scientists³.

The table below presents a key initiative intended to implement the strategic objective of training enough researchers to reach Israel's R&D targets, to promote attractive working conditions and to address gender and dual career issues.

Table 1: National strategies

Measure	Description
Six-Year Plan for the Higher Education System (2010)	The new framework allocates a total of EUR 1.45 billion in extra funding for universities to be spent on: – recruiting about 1 600 new researchers in universities over the six years; – encouraging excellence in research by putting emphasis on the publication of scientific papers; – increasing the funding for competitive research through the Israel Science Foundation; – attracting more Arabs and Ultra-Orthodox Jews to study in universities; – increasing research infrastructure funding.

Source: Deloitte

3. Working conditions

Measures to improve researchers' funding opportunities

The Magneton and Noffar programmes are designed to support applied academic research in all areas and especially in biotechnology and nano-technology in order to promote technology transfer from academia to industry. Grants are up to 66% and 90% of the approved expenses respectively⁴.

Remuneration

For information, see the new country profile on remuneration of researchers from the MORE2 study (forthcoming, on the EURAXESS website).

¹ Internationalisation of business investments in R&D and analysis of their economic impact, Final Report, Study financed by the European Commission, DG RTD, April 2012.

² European Commission (2013), "Research and Innovation performance in EU Member States and Associated countries. Innovation Union progress at country level 2013"

³ Israel Country Page. Erawatch, Available at: http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/information/country_pages/il/country?section=Overview&subsection=Overview
Accessed 24.04.2012.

⁴ Available at: <http://www.israelbusiness.org.il/financialassistance/rdfound>

Autonomy of institutions

In Israel, there are seven research universities, 27 colleges, 27 teacher training colleges, six regional colleges as well as the Open University. Universities provide teaching activities, carry out research and are responsible for commercialising intellectual property.

The Council for Higher Education is the source of statutory authority in the university based research system. However, its authority is limited due to the national universities' high level of autonomy.

The Committee of University Heads (VERA) represents the country's seven research universities on many issues, principally with regard to budgeting, finances, wages and similar issues⁵.

4. Collaboration between academia and industry

The Kamin programme aims to improve academic-industrial cooperation at an early stage by giving grants to university researchers whose ideas might have commercial potential⁶.

5. Mobility and international attractiveness

Israeli universities have a high international ranking and reputation.

Israel is involved in bi-national programmes funding R&D activities with foreign counterparts⁷, for instance BIRD (Israel-USA), CIIRDF (Israel-Canada), SIIRD (Israel-Singapore), BRITECH (Israel-Britain), KORIL (Israel-Korea) and VISTECH (Israel-Victoria, Australia).

Israel is also involved in various R&D agreements with countries and territories such as Austria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland and the Netherlands⁸.

Matimop (the Israeli Industry Centre for R&D) runs a network of 29 bilateral agreements with various countries. Israel also participates in several EU research-related programmes such as: EUREKA, Eurostars, CIP-EEN, Galileo, ERA-NET and FP7⁹.

⁵ Israel Country Page. Erawatch, Available at: http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/information/country_pages/il/country?section=Overview&subsection=Overview
Accessed 24.04.2012.

⁶ Available at: <http://www.yedarnd.com/Dynamic-Text.aspx?m=sa&id=103>

⁷ Available at: <http://www.israelbusiness.org.il/financialassistance/rdincentives>

⁸ Israel Country Page. Erawatch, Available at: http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/information/country_pages/il/country?section=Overview&subsection=Overview
Accessed 24.04.2012.

⁹ Available at: <http://www.matimop.org.il/programs.html>