The Researchers Report 2012

Country Profile: Israel

Deloitte.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Key data

National R&D intensity target

"The most recent figures for Israel on R&D intensity are 4.27% for 2009, which is the highest intensity in the world. The evolution of R&D intensity in Israel fluctuated over the period 2000-2009 with a slight increase. However, contrary to the EU average, since 2007 there has been a downward trend, partly reflecting a low average annual growth rate of public R&D expenditures as % of GDP. Concerning the overall public and private expenditure of R&D (GERD), Israel has had an annual average growth rate of 2.8% over the period 2000-2009, which is slightly above the EU average and the US growth of 2.5% and 2.4% respectively. Even if the associated countries to the European research cooperation do not form part of the Europe 2020 strategy of the European Union, certain countries do envisage fixing an objective for research investment and initiatives for fast growing innovative enterprises. This strategy could be justified if based on a consultation with the stakeholders in the country."[1]

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 scientists[2].

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 respectively[3].

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 issues[4].

[1] European Commission (2011), "Innovation Union Competitiveness Report 2011".
[2] 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.
[3] http://www.israelbusiness.org.il/financialassistance/rdfound

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 potential[5].

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 counterparts[6], 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 Netherlands[7].

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 FP7[8].

[4] 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.
[5] http://www.yedarnd.com/Dynamic-Text.aspx?m=sa&id=103
[6] http://www.israelbusiness.org.il/financialassistance/rdincentives
[7] 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.
[8] http://www.matimop.org.il/programs.html