



Israel – National Embedment

1. RI definition	
In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?	
Categories	National Roadmap
Funding	
Categorisation of RI	
Access to RI	
Organisation within national procedure	
The 2016 roadmap lists all present ESFRI landmarks in which Israel participates and recommends two new ESFRI projects.	

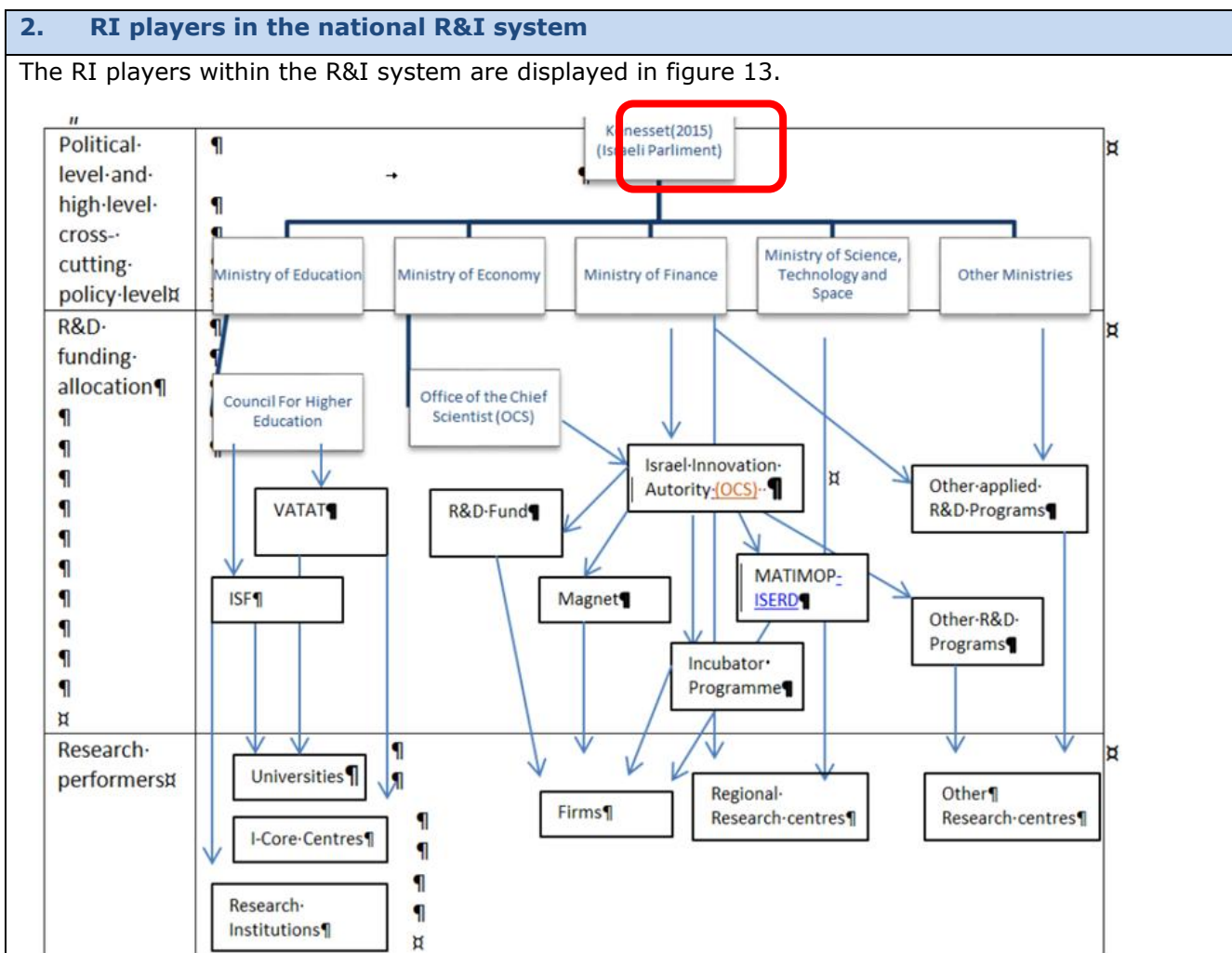


Figure 13: Organisational chart of the R&I system of Israel (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p. 13). Red colour indicates the bodies with the main decision power regarding RI.

Abbreviations: NATI (National Agency for Technological Innovation), VATAT (Planning & Budgeting Committee, CPB), IIA (Israel Innovation Authority), ISERD (Israel Europe R&D Directorate), NCRD (National Council on Research and Development).

National relevance of RI

By introducing an RI roadmap Israel wants to map the existing RI and take advantage of the resulting benefits (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p. 33).



Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

On the political level the Israeli Parliament and all relevant ministries are responsible for R&I. The main actors are the National Agency for Technological Innovation, NATI or Israel Innovation Authority, IIA, and the Planning & Budgeting Committee (known as VATAT) of the Council for Higher Education, which covers academic R&D. Since 2011, the Ministry of Finance, the ultimate source of funds for R&D initiated by the government and academy (GBAORD and HERD respectively), has become much more involved in innovation policy making. The interministerial Israel Europe R&D Directorate (ISERD) is responsible for cooperation in the European research area. (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p. 12)

Outside of the government, most academic research is carried out in eight research universities. Private Research Organisations (PRO) do not play a central role except in the field of agriculture. R&D in the business sector is divided between local firms (many of which went public on NASDAQ), subsidiaries of multinationals (mainly American corporations), and a large number of technological start-up companies. Many of the local subsidiaries of multinationals were set up after the acquisition of local start-ups. One of the problems of Israel's relatively large venture capital industry is that it has become far more difficult to float Israeli companies on NASDAQ, the preferred option in terms of liquidity and visibility, meaning that most of the prevalent strategy for Israeli start-ups is through Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A). (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p. 13)

3. RI in the National R&I System

Israel's innovation policy is not centralised but distributed across different ministries, while regional authorities play a marginal role. The Israeli innovation system is a dynamic one, with a **large investment in R&D mostly from private funding and almost half of it coming from foreign investors.**

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Space promotes projects to encourage research and is focused on leading strategic research infrastructure. The ministry is responsible for the promotion of science and technology infrastructure in Israel, research and development in the periphery, international scientific relations and the Israeli Space Agency.

9 international research infrastructures are funded by governmental budgets. The Ministry of Science and Technology, and the National Council for Research and Development (MOLMOP), deal with the future needs related to establishing new research infrastructures and effecting significant improvements in the existing research infrastructures (Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research).

The Israeli Centres of Research Excellence (I-CORE) programme, which dates from 2011, envisions the establishment of cross-institutional clusters of top researchers in specific fields.

I-CORE is run jointly by the Council for Higher Education's Planning and Budgeting Committee and the Israel Science Foundation (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p.12).

The RI roadmaps of 2013 and 2016 were approved by the CPB (VATAT) but only a small fraction of their recommendations has been implemented.

4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

The government's innovation policy aims at achieving broad national goals in the coming decade, including: encouraging the growth of industrial companies, injecting technological innovation into traditional fields which are not traditionally R&I dependent, strengthening RI as well as capital and labour, harnessing innovation for the improvement of the public sector and increasing the participation of sectors currently under-represented in the high-tech work force. In light of the great importance of innovation in Israel, which in recent years has become the main engine of growth for the Israeli economy and a source of national pride, the government's capabilities must be improved, via a structural change to the OCS which is intended to bring about improved operational capabilities for Israeli industry. The structural change is designed to enable the government to continue to determine its policies in this field.

Establishing the authority will reinforce the government's long-term goals for the high-tech industry, namely, maintaining and even increasing Israel's global leadership in the face of growing competition while at the same time connecting wider parts of the economy to this engine of growth. The authority will have the professional capabilities and maximum flexibility to allow it to take



initiatives and efficiently promote technological innovation in industry at a pace that befits the market. The additional goals of the authority are encouraging growth, increasing productivity and promoting technological innovation in various fields of industry in Israel. (Garcia-Torres, 2016, p. 12.)

References

- Abraham Garcia-Torres (2016) RIO Country Report 2015: Israel. <<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/file/10119/download?token=qScJSI2W>> [Last access 09/2017].
- Getz, Daphne; Tadmor, Zehev (2015). Israel. In: UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030
- Samuel Neaman Institute (2017) <<http://www.neaman.org.il/mapping-infrastructures>> [Last access 09/2017].

Further links

- Getz, D., Segal V., Zalmanovich B., and Katz O 2010. "Mapping of National Research Infrastructures in Israel: Updated Mapping of Israel Research Infrastructures and International Research Infrastructures, Which Are Used by Israeli Researchers (only in Hebrew)."
- Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research: <<http://www.neaman.org.il/mapping-infrastructures>> [Last access 09/2017].

