



ISRAEL

Southern Neighbourhood



Key milestones

- NOVEMBER 1995**
Signature of the **EU-Israel Association Agreement**, which entered into force in June 2000
- APRIL 2005**
Signature of the **EU-Israel Action Plan**. Its validity is being further extended to January 2025
- NOVEMBER 2009**
Signature of the **EU-Israel additional agreement on trade in agriculture**
- JUNE 2013**
Signature of the agreement associating Israel with **Horizon 2020**
- JUNE 2020**
Ratification of the **EU-Israel 'Open skies' Aviation Agreement** (in place since 2013)
- DECEMBER 2021**
Signature of the association agreement for **Horizon Europe**



EU-Israel relations

- EU-Israel relations are based on a long-standing relationship of political dialogue, trade and cooperation in areas of common interest such as economy, finance, research & innovation, culture, people-to-people and security.



Trade & investment

- The EU is Israel's biggest trade partner, accounting for **31%** of its trade in goods in 2023 with **33.5%** of Israel's imports came from the EU, and **28%** of the country's exports went to the EU. Israel is the EU's 27th biggest trade partner, representing **0.8%** of the EU's total trade in goods in 2023.
- In 2023, the EU's imports from Israel in goods were worth **€16 billion**. The EU's exports to Israel amounted to **€25.6 billion**
- In 2022, EU imports of services represented **€9.7 billion**, while exports to Israel accounted for **€14.5 billion**.



Mobility & Erasmus+

- Israel benefits from a visa-free regime.
- Since 2014, **12 927** Israeli students and staff travelled to Europe and **9 822** European counterparts travelled to Israel through Erasmus+.



EU funding¹

The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI)** is the main financial instrument for the EU's international cooperation with partner countries, including Israel, for the period 2021-2027. While Israel is a high-income economy and does therefore not receive NDICI bilateral financial allocation, it remains however eligible to funding through thematic budget lines and regional programmes.

- For the period 2021-2024, Israel benefited from an allocation of **€32 million** under the Southern Neighbourhood regional envelope. This notably includes a grant of €20 million to support the development of the Valley of the Communities initiatives of Yad Vashem – the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre and a grant of €8 million for increased regional cooperation (water, agricultural management, earthquake preparedness) in support to the Abraham Accords.
- Up to **€4 million** have been allocated for Twinning projects for institutional cooperation between public administrations of the EU and Israel. Furthermore, Israel's public administration benefits from the EU's **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX)** since 2019.
- Israel also benefits from other NDICI thematic programmes to support **civil society organisations** (**€5.9 million** for 2021-2024) and to promote **human rights, democracy and governance** (**€4.3 million** for 2021-2024).
- Israel benefits, together with Palestine*, from the regional programme '**European Peacebuilding Initiative**'. The average **€5 million** annual EU contribution to the Initiative supports and promotes the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict through civil society projects and citizens' positive engagement.
- The EU-Israel **Horizon Europe Association Agreement** signed on 6 December 2021 allows continued cooperation in research and innovation for the period 2021-2027.
- Israel benefits from loan financing for **infrastructure and investment projects** channelled by the European Investment Bank with notable recent interventions in desalination (**€150 million**) and innovation in the context of the coronavirus (**€50 million**).
- In the previous financing period 2014-2020, the EU committed **€11.7 million** through the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)**, mainly for institutional Twinning.

¹ All programmes comply with the requirements set in the 'Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967' published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 19 July 2013. All figures refer to grant financing unless otherwise specified.



Last updated: 11/2024

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Member States on this issue.