

## **Advancing Israeli-German Academic Cooperation through Joint Promotion of Young Scientists**

### **Joint Statement of German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and Association of University Heads Israel (VERA)**

#### **German-Israeli Presidents' and Rectors' Forum, Berlin, November 2015**

Marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and Association of University Heads Israel (VERA) convened the Forum of Israeli and German University Rectors and Presidents in Berlin on November 25, 2015.

Academic institutions, scientists and students played a pioneering role for the establishment of relations between Israel and Germany, and have actively shaped and nurtured this relationship over the past 50 years. Today, the cooperation between the academic communities of our two countries forms one of the most dynamic and innovative bilateral research environments. Building upon this fruitful cooperation, HRK and VERA jointly declare:

- 1) We welcome the long-standing ties, and aim to further strengthen them in the future.
- 2) The cooperation in research, teaching and learning between Israel and Germany will continue to play a central role in shaping the future relations between our countries.
- 3) We place utmost importance on promoting students and young scientists, and on creating frameworks that benefit their career development and teaching abilities, as well as on advancing their international academic networks. This includes also the various opportunities offered by the new media, such as digital teaching and studying technologies.
- 4) Doctoral (PhD) education aims to create new knowledge and to qualify young scientists for careers in science, academia, economy and society in general by actively performing original research. The individual contribution to scientific progress is documented by a dissertation (PhD thesis) or equivalent scientific performance.
- 5) A joint promotion of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers offers a unique opportunity for synergizing two highly dynamic academic communities in Israel and Germany.
- 5) The joint supervision of doctoral candidates and collaborative doctoral programmes between Israeli and German universities, as well as the mobility of the respective doctoral candidates, will be encouraged and expanded.
- 6) The creation of post-doctoral career paths between Israeli and German universities and the establishment of joint junior research groups opens up new innovative perspectives for young scientists, and promotes an enhanced Israeli-German research cooperation.