



E C C P
**European Coordination
of Committees
and Associations
for Palestine**

BRIEFING: EU RESEARCH FUNDING AND ISRAELI APARTHEID

Israel is currently escalating **home demolitions and forced displacement** of Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including in occupied East Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills. This comes as Israel continues its illegal **crackdown** on Palestinian civil society organizations and its **violent repression** of peaceful protests.

[Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) and Israel's most prominent human rights organization, [B'Tselem](#), all issued detailed reports finding Israel guilty of the **crimes of apartheid and persecution**.

The European Union has **legal and moral obligations** not to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the territories it has occupied since June 1967, not to further empower Israel's unlawful military occupation and its oppression of millions of Palestinians, and not to further undermine the Palestinian people's inalienable and universally-recognised human rights.

Yet EU funding programmes are **doing just that**.

SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION IN EU RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

- Tel Aviv University collected [soil samples](#) from the **occupied West Bank** for the Horizon 2020-funded [GEO-CRADLE](#) project.
- Illegal settlement company **Golan Heights Winery** was also [involved](#) in the GEO-CRADLE project.
- Illegal Israeli settlement-based **Ariel University** has been [involved](#) in past and ongoing Horizon 2020-funded projects, including BOUNCE and GEO-CRADLE.

- EU-funded [research papers](#) include Ariel University affiliations **falsely indicating** it is located in Israel. Ariel University professors [admit](#) to devising schemes to **circumvent** the guidelines to gain access to EU research funding and mobility programmes.

UN SETTLEMENT COMPANY DATABASE AND EU FUNDING

Six companies listed in the UN [database of companies complicit in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise](#), including British multinational JCB, Motorola Solutions Israel, French multinational Alstom and France-based Egis, and Israeli companies Mekorot and Bank Leumi, have received or are currently receiving European taxpayers money channelled through EU research programs.

EU FUNDING FOR ISRAELI WEAPONS COMPANIES

Two Israeli weapons producers [accused](#) of **war crimes**, privately-owned Elbit Systems and government-owned Israel Aerospace Industries, are [benefiting](#) from European funding in the framework of their participation in research programs such as Horizon 2020.

ISRAELI CYBER WEAPONS

Israeli cyber weapons, such as NSO Group's **Pegasus spyware**, have not only been used against Palestinian human rights defenders and NGOs, but the technology is also sold around the globe to oppressive regimes to spy on journalists and civil society organizations. A letter signed by 60 MEPs recently [called](#) to investigate such technology and any direct or indirect ties to EU research programmes.

ETHICS SCREENING FAILING TO UPHOLD EU OBLIGATIONS

The Commission is failing to properly instruct against, monitor for, and rectify project management transgressions. The weakness of the ethics criteria for eligibility, along with the lack of monitoring from the European Commission, often leaving it to civil society to identify and denounce transgressions, create a **link of complicity** between the EU and companies involved in illegal Israeli settlements and other Israeli violations of international law and human rights.

MOUNTING CALLS TO ENSURE EU FUNDING IS NOT SUSTAINING ISRAELI APARTHEID

Just last year, **60 MEPs, 522 academics and 160 EU research funding recipients** all [called](#) on the EU to ensure that companies and institutions complicit in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights are excluded from taxpayer-funded programmes.

EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe states its vision is for a “sustainable, fair and prosperous future for people and planet based on European values.” Israel's ongoing and escalating human rights violations are clearly incompatible with this vision. Until Israel ends its apartheid policies oppressing millions

of Palestinians and becomes fully compliant with international law, it has **no place in Horizon Europe**.

For additional information:

[EU MECHANISM OF ETHICAL SCREENING IN EU RESEARCH PROGRAMS: WHY DOES IT NOT WORK?](#)

[UN DATABASE: 6 COMPLICIT COMPANIES RECEIVING EU TAXPAYERS MONEY](#)

[EU TAXPAYER-FUNDED RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ENTITIES](#)

[EU AND ISRAEL: THE CASE OF COMPLICITY](#)