**Investment Memorandum (B below 300K NIS (**

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| **Internal Information:** | | **Information on Suggested Grant** | |
| **Portfolio area:** | Inclusive Society | **Organization name:** | The Society for Advancement of Education (SAE) |
| **Sub-Portfolio area:** | Haredim | **Grant amount: (NIS)** | 200K |
| **Project title:** | Time for Everything | **% Of SFPI from project budget:** | 33% |
| **Project lead:** | Alon Misgav | **Term:** | 12 Months |
| **Track:** Portfolio Area | | | |
| **Sub Track:** B below NIS 300K | | | |

1. **Summary and Recommendation:**

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| **Opening** |
| This application is for a 12-month grant of 200K NIS for two projects led by Rabbi Bezalel Cohen. The projects are focused on the development of new Haredi leadership and growth in the (new) publics of modern/new Haredi. About half of the funding will go toward supporting a Bet Midrash for rabbinical leaders for ‘new’ Haredim; the other half towards the development of an open digital platform for spreading relevant ideas and discourses emerging from this group.  Due to the sensitivity surrounding Rabbi Bezalel Cohen, the grant will be transferred through SAE, which is a widely-recognized and respected organization |
| **SFPI Goals** |
| This is a relationship-building grant in the field of new Haredi leadership with the possibility of creating a pertinent role within the SFPI’s Haredi Portfolio. |
| **Project Goals** |
| * To assist in the growth of new Haredi rabbinical leadership; * to assist in the creation of a new platform for spreading and discussing new Haredi ideas; * To study how new Haredi ideas and discourses are accepted by the wider Haredi community. |
| **Success and Failure** |
| Project success would be determined by two factors:   * The creation of an ‘outgoing’ new Haredi leadership measured by participation of Beit-Midrash members on the online public platform (i.e. the proportion of participants consistently posting pieces over the course of the year); * Success of the online platform itself – site visits in absolute terms and in terms of a positive upward trend; sharing on other platforms; development of more substantial debates; social effects, etc. |

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| **Project Description:** |
| Changes in the Haredi community over the past few decades have led to the emergence of new groups and identities within the community ranging on a spectrum from conservative to modern. In a study conducted on behalf of IDI, Dr. Lee Cahaner suggests that the ultra-Orthodox community in Israel be classified into four main groups: conservative (28%); the classic core group (32%); a group leaning towards modernity (29%); and the modern group (11%). These groups vary in their attitudes toward various issues such as demography, higher education, employment, lifestyle, media, attitudes towards the State of Israel, society, and economics.  The new/modern group is currently in the process of framing and shaping its identity vis-à-vis ‘mainstream’ Haredi identity. A major barrier to this process is a lack of rabbinical leadership able to provide rabbinical rulings that are adapted to this new lifestyle and way of thinking as well as providing the spiritual leadership needed to guide and expand the community. Because they tend to choose to leave their traditional focus on Torah Study and to join the general Israeli job market, there is a critical shortage of new Haredi rabbis.  The development of a New Haredi Rabbinical Leadership requires both options for meeting and learning (a Bet Midrash) and a platform for sharing and discussing opinions. The project focus is support for an existing Bet Midrash of this kind and the development of an online platform. |
| **Project Budget (Sources and Uses):** |

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| **Sources** | | **Uses** | |
| **Source** | **Amount** | **Item** | **Budget** |
| SFPI (requested) | NIS 200K | Bet Midrash operation | NIS 500K |
| Mandel Foundation, Hochstein Family Foundation, New Israel Foundation, Russel Barry Foundation, Matanel Foundation | NIS 400K | Development and Operation of a Digital Platform | NIS 100K |
| **Total** | **NIS 600K** | **Total** | **NIS 600K** |

1. **Measurement and Evaluation:**

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| **Highlights** |
| * No formal M&E process will take place. We will focus on getting direct measures for platform activity from the grantee. * New projects and the extent to which they are aligned with SFPI strategy are contingent on the development of a relationship with Rabbi Bezalel Cohen. |
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1. **Grant Management**

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| **Risk Management** | |
| **Risk** | **Mitigation/Other Implications** |
| Rabbi Cohen is a somewhat controversial figure. | Grant will be transferred through SAE. |
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| **Exit Strategy** | |
| This is a one-time grant without a planned continuation.  The default is exit; renewal will happen only if project is included in our future strategy. | |

1. **The Organization:**

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| **About the Organization\*** | | | |
| **General**  The Society for Advancement of Education (SAE) of Jerusalem, established in 1962, is a non-profit organization with the goal of bridging social and educational gaps in Israel while cultivating educational and moral excellence among youth.  SAE has 16 secondary educational institutions – both schools and residential campuses. The institutions are diverse in character, vision, and structure, and they are located in Jerusalem, Kfar Adumim, Kfar Saba, and Netanya. In addition, SAE initiates and develops innovative pedagogical programs and operates national and international projects in the field of immigration and integration. | | | |
| **Organization Budget and Sources** | | | |
| * + 2019 annual report is attached | | | |
| **Main Funders of the Organization** | | | |
| Funder Name | Amount | Status | Type |
| Israel Ministry of Education | NIS 86M | Committed | General funding |

**\***This section can be moved up if it is needed to better evaluate the previous sections.  
\*\*This section is particularly relevant for General Support grants. In other cases, it is optional.

1. **Previous Grants: None**