

ISTRC Call for Workshop Proposals in Smart Transportation (תשפ"ו) 2025-2026 The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center

Call publication: April 15, 2026

Final proposal submission: May 31, 2026

POSITIONING

ISTRC invites high-quality proposals for workshops addressing key challenges in smart transportation through interdisciplinary approaches, with a particular emphasis on the integration of data science, engineering, and policy.

BACKGROUND

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC), managed by the Technion in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University, serves as a national platform for advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in smart mobility.

The center connects academia, industry, and government stakeholders to address major transportation challenges through advanced, data-driven, and interdisciplinary approaches.

TYPES OF WORKSHOPS

This call supports **two types of workshops**:

Track A: Interdisciplinary Workshops in Smart Transportation

Workshops in this track should focus on **integrating multiple disciplines** - such as data science, transportation engineering, and public policy - to address transportation challenges.

Requirements:

- Clear and **substantive interdisciplinary integration**
- A **well-defined problem or challenge**
- Participation from **at least two disciplines**
- Preference for inclusion of **non-academic partners** (industry and/or government)

Goal:

To foster collaboration and generate insights that bridge disciplines and sectors.

Track B: AI-Focused Workshops in Transportation

Workshops in this track must place **artificial intelligence at the core**, as a central methodological component applied to transportation systems.

Requirements:

- **AI as a core element** (not a supporting tool)
- At least one organizer with a **strong AI / Data Science background**
- Preferably, at least one organizer with a **transportation research background**
- Clear articulation of how AI methods address transportation problems

Relevant transportation domains may include:

- Traffic control and signal optimization
- Transportation planning and network design
- Travel demand modeling and prediction
- Public and shared mobility systems

Goal:

To advance methodological and applied research at the intersection of AI and transportation.

EXAMPLE TOPICS (Non-Exhaustive)

- AI-driven traffic management and control
- Data-driven transportation policy
- Digital twins and simulation for mobility systems
- Multimodal system optimization
- Regulation and governance of smart mobility
- Decision-making under uncertainty

WORKSHOP FORMAT

- Duration: Half-day or full-day
- Format: Primarily in-person (hybrid format may be considered if justified)
- Suggested components:
 - Short focused talks
 - Panel discussions
 - Interactive sessions / working groups

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (Mandatory)

Each workshop must lead to the submission of a **structured summary report**. The report must be submitted within 4-6 weeks after the workshop. The report should include:

- General information on the workshop (date, location, format)
- Number of participants and their affiliations (academia, industry, government)
- List of presentations, including titles and speakers
- Overview of the workshop structure and sessions

In addition, the report must include:

- **A concise but substantive summary of each presentation**, highlighting key ideas, methods, and findings
- **An integrative synthesis of the workshop discussions**, including main insights, challenges, and emerging directions
- **Actionable recommendations and potential follow-up activities** (e.g., collaborations, research directions, policy implications)

Selected workshops may be featured on ISTRC platforms, and organizers may be requested to present outcomes in a follow-up ISTRC event.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

ISTRC will support a number of workshops under this call, subject to proposal quality and budget availability.

- Maximum funding per workshop: **up to 50,000 NIS**
- **Total available budget: 100,000 NIS**

Workshops may be selected from either track (A or B), based on proposal quality. ISTRC reserves the flexibility to allocate funding across tracks as deemed appropriate.

ISTRC also reserves the right **not to fund proposals that do not meet the expected quality threshold**.

Funding may cover organizational costs such as logistics, invited speakers, and travel support.

In addition, selected workshops will receive:

- Administrative and logistical support
- Dissemination through ISTRC platforms

The grant is intended to support workshop-related activities only, including logistics, invited speakers, travel support, and dissemination. The grant may not be used to cover salaries of

faculty members, payments to researchers at overseas institutions, or the purchase of equipment.

The proposed budget must include institutional overhead and VAT as required by law, and these costs must be included within the maximum grant amount stated above.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The **Principal Investigator (PI)** must be a **faculty member at an academic institution in Israel** (universities and colleges).
- Any individual may serve as a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI). Applicants who wish to apply but are not currently collaborating with a relevant academic expert are encouraged to consult the [ISTRC researchers database](#) or contact the ISTRC team for assistance in identifying potential collaborators.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete applications must be submitted by **May 31, 2026**, through this [EasyChair submission link](#).

Submission specifications

The full application must be submitted as a single PDF and include the following:

- 1) **1st page:** Title of the proposed workshop; name of Organizer/PI and institution; names of all Co-PIs and their affiliated organizations.
- 2) Proposals should clearly indicate the **relevant track (A or B)** and include:
 - a. Workshop title and theme
 - b. Organizers (names, affiliations, contact details)
 - c. Motivation and objectives
 - d. Description of the interdisciplinary integration and/or AI methodology
 - e. Proposed structure and format
 - f. Preliminary list of speakers/participants (if available)
 - g. Expected outcomes
 - h. Target audience
 - i. Proposed date and location
 - j. Budget plan

Workshop proposals must be written in English (Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1.5 line spacing) and **must not exceed 10 pages**.

- 3) **Short CV for all researchers and initiators:** CVs must be written in English (Times New Roman 12-point font size, 1.5 line spacing), and must not exceed 3 pages per CV.

4) **Approval and signatures:** Applications must be signed by the PI's affiliated Research Authority.

Submissions must include all the above-mentioned items. Incomplete applications, or applications received after the deadline, will not be reviewed.

Following the submission of an application, the PI may be asked to provide additional details or clarifications regarding the proposed workshop during the evaluation process.

For questions and clarification, please contact through istrc@technion.ac.il.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with the selected track (A or B)
- Interdisciplinary depth and/or strength of AI methodology
- Scientific and/or practical relevance
- Innovation and originality
- Cross-sector engagement (academia-industry-government)
- Feasibility and organization quality
- Expected impact and concrete outcomes