The Israeli Networking Center

Fellows:

Chen Arieli |Co—Chair of the Israeli National LGBT Task Force, a nonprofit organization representing the LGBT community in Israel

Lia Nirgad | Chairperson and Co—founder of the Social Guard, an organization that strives to change the relationship between Parliament and the Israeli people. The Social Guard maintains a constant presence in the Knesset, monitors the work of Knesset members, and keeps the public informed about issues of social justice and civic equality

The Israeli Networking Center (INC) will support action initiated by individuals and organizations seeking to cross the boundaries between sectors, and lacking the adequate funding and access.
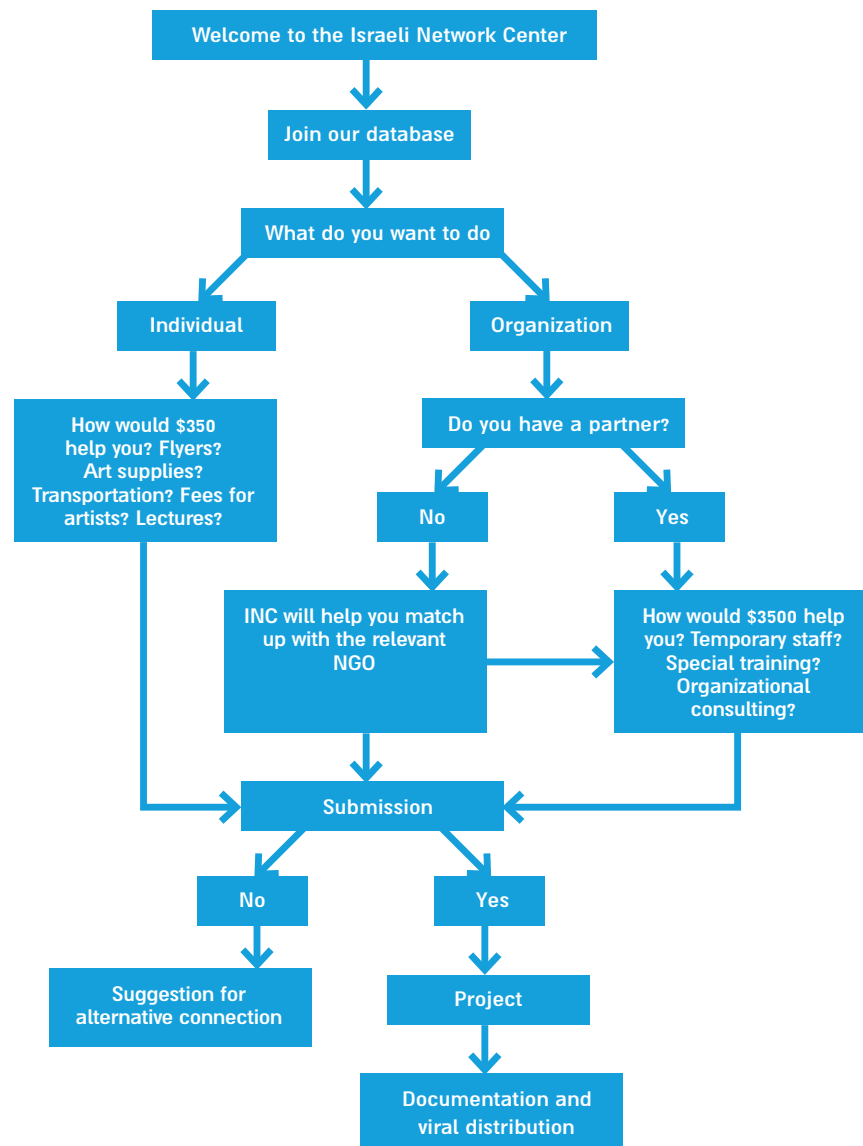
Our project is based on two main facts:
• There already is a wonderful abundance of initiatives, activists and organizations in Israel who focus on creating a better future.
• The main missing factor is networking: What we need to do is raise awareness and provide the means. We must make cohesion accessible.

INC's resources will include:
• Micro—grants (up to $350) for individual action
• Small joint grants (up to $3,500) for NGOs who want to create new collaborative projects across any one of the divides (Arab—Jewish, Haredi—secular, Orthodox—Conservative etc...)
• An open database mapping all the activity on the ground, and facilitating independent networking.

Both of us know, from our experience as activists and leaders of low—budget organizations, how meaningful such grants can be. Indeed, the LGBT task force has had an incredible response to its micro—financing program, with hundreds of submissions for $120 grants.

INC will thoroughly map all current activity on the ground and make it accessible through its open, multilingual database; we will invite people to submit their networking proposals using a simple online form; and will encourage NGOs to identify opportunities for collaboration that only need a modest "first step" contribution to become viable.

The Center will be virtual, and thus able to act equally at each point of the emerging network. Low overhead is another prime consideration for doing away with offices and cumbersome infrastructure. INC is aiming for a benchmark of 65% Israeli funding within three years of activity: We believe that Israelis can and should take greater responsibility for their future, owning both their problems and their solutions.