



Aug. 7th, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I highly recommend Prof. Rhonda Sofer as a consultant in international strategy, consortium development, grant writing, and project management.

I have worked with Prof. Sofer for more than 15 years on three major international consortium grants: LLAFF, funded through Tempus, and two Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects, ASSET and HOPE. These projects involved complex partnerships of 7–15 institutions in Israel and abroad.

Prof. Sofer has an exceptional ability to build effective collaborations. She understands not only how to identify strong partners, but also what each member must contribute for a consortium to succeed. Just as importantly, she has the judgment to recognize when a potential partner may not strengthen a proposal. On one occasion, while I was forming a consortium, I invited her college to join. After considering what her institution could contribute, she concluded that it was not the right fit for the project and declined the invitation. That intellectual honesty, combined with her strategic judgment, is one of the reasons colleagues and partners trust her.

Prof. Sofer also has a deep understanding of the priorities and expectations of international funding agencies. She knows how to translate a strong academic or institutional idea into a coherent, competitive proposal that addresses the funder's goals. This ability has been central to the success of the projects on which we have worked together.

Her strengths continue well beyond proposal development. She combines a clear strategic, top-down perspective with close attention to implementation, partnerships, deliverables, and outcomes. She is therefore equally valuable in forming a consortium, developing and writing a proposal, and managing a funded project through successful completion.

I recommend Prof. Sofer without reservation. Organizations that engage her will benefit from her strategic insight, extensive international experience, sound judgment, integrity, and remarkable ability to bring diverse partners together around a common goal.

Prof. Ariela Gordon-Shaag
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