



FUNDING SCHEME

«RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation of the Research and Innovation Foundation

PROGRAMME

CO-DEVELOP

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CODEVELOP/0824



Co-funded by
the European Union



Republic of Cyprus



RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
FOUNDATION

This call for proposals is co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund.

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) announces the Call for Proposals for the “**CO-DEVELOP**” Programme within the framework of the «RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals) that fall into the selected Smart Strategic Specialization described below.

The present Call will be co-financed by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in the frame of the Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ» 2021-2027 under Priority 1: «Competitive, Smart and Digital Economy» and the Specific Objective (1i): «Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies».

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	I. SMART GROWTH
Programme	CO-DEVELOP
Call Identifier	CODEVELOP/0824
Source of Funding	Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ» 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Call Budget	6.000.000 Euro Budget Per Priority Sector of the Smart Specialization Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Technologies: €1.200.000• Advanced Materials: €1.200.000• AgriFood: €1.200.000• Health: €1.200.000• Environment: €1.200.000
Maximun Funding Per Project	600.000 Euro
Publication Date	1 August 2024
Submission Deadline	22 November 2024, 13:00

The English version of the Call, even though an official translation endorsed by the Research and Innovation Foundation, is provided for information purposes only. Only the Greek version of the Call is legally binding and shall prevail in case of any divergence in interpretation.

OBJECTIVES

The "CO-DEVELOP" Programme aims to enhance the effective collaboration between enterprises and the research community, with the aim of jointly identifying challenges and jointly designing and implementing research and development projects to develop new cost-effective solutions to address these challenges. In the context of effective collaboration, the sharing of resources and infrastructure and the mobility of staff are expected, among other things, in order to enable the technology transfer and the exchange of knowledge.

The ultimate objective is bridging the gap between academia and industry and the utilization of the existing know-how to meet specific needs and challenges, thus contributing to the strengthening of the competitiveness of the economy and the improvement of the quality of life in Cyprus.

DESCRIPTION

The effective cooperation between academia and industry is emerging as a crucial component for the development of innovation by: (a) enabling the industry to communicate its real research and technological needs to the organisations implementing research in cutting-edge sectors, (b) facilitating the knowledge and technology transfer from academia to industry and vice versa, and (c) providing a boost to research organisations and universities to conduct research focused on real problems and market needs. Therefore, the "CO-DEVELOP" Programme will act as a tool that will allow the development / creation of effective collaborations in the above framework.

Basic prerequisites for the development of effective cooperation between the collaborating organisations in order to enhance and facilitate the technology transfer and exchange of knowledge are:

- the exchange of knowledge or technologies to achieve a common goal, on the basis of appropriate agreements for the management of pre-existing and generated intellectual property;
- the joint definition of the scope and objectives of the project;
- the joint contribution to project implementation through an appropriate division of labour, risks and benefits from the results;
- the sharing of resources and infrastructure, and
- staff mobility.

In the frame of the "CO-DEVELOP" Programme, it is expected to fund collaborative research and development projects for the development of technological solutions under selected Priority Sectors (AgriFood, Maritime and Shipping Ecosystems, Health).

The projects are expected to be implemented by consortia consisting of at least one enterprise and one research organisation. Other organisations from the public and private sectors may participate in the consortium, as necessary for the better implementation of the project.

As the Programme is part of Pillar I, “Smart Growth”, the projects must be applicable in one of the designated Priority sub-Sectors:

1	Digital Technologies
1.1	High Performance Computing and Quantum Technologies
1.2	Cybersecurity
1.3	Digital Tourism
1.4	Education, Culture and Creative Industries
1.5	Smart City Applications
1.6	Advanced Manufacturing and Processing
1.7	Acceleration of testing and demonstration applications on smart cities, cyber-physical security or agritech
2	Advanced materials
2.1	Novel, safe, environmentally friendly, and commercially viable methods of recycling a wide range of composite materials and reuse of secondary raw materials
2.2	Methods of processing of nano and composite materials
2.3	Innovative materials with improved characteristics for industrial, construction, energy and health applications
2.4	Use of nanomaterials for articles and components for earth observation and the aviation and space industry
2.5	Innovative materials for environmentally friendly buildings and buildings with better performance under stress
3	Agrifood
3.1	Diversify and improve the competitiveness of the agrifood ecosystem
3.2	Support activities following the principles of agroecology aiming at increasing the resilience and sustainability of the farming system and reducing its environmental footprint
7	Health
7.1	Clinical and genetic investigation and treatment of diseases including molecular and medical genetics
7.2	Digital health including AI, big data, machine learning, IoT and blockchain technologies for improving health services, use of health data and decision making
7.3	Innovative products in the areas of diagnosis, specialised pharmaceuticals, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals, medical equipment and devices
7.4	Promoting public health and quality of life
8	Environment
8.1	Adjustment to climate change
8.2	Monitoring and protection of the environment from economic and human activities
8.3	Greening of industry and economic activities
8.4	Management of natural resources and protection of biodiversity

MANAGEMENT & EXPLOITATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Ownership of background and foreground Intellectual Property (IP), as well as relevant conditions for the use of IP, shall be settled accordingly through bilateral or other agreements

among Consortium Partners. It is also expected that Consortium Partners from industry or the public sector will have the possibility to use research results for the development and production of innovative products and services (i.e. through exclusive or non-exclusive licenses). Additionally, participating enterprises should be granted the right for first refusal on IP generated through project results. At any case, the provisions of the current Work Programme Section III, Chapter 7 - "Exploitation and Dissemination of Knowledge" should be respected.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation or an Enterprise.

Research Organisations, Enterprises or Other Organisations may participate as Partner Organisations.

The consortium must consist of at least one Enterprise and one Research Organisation.

At least 40% of the project budget must be allocated to Enterprises (Type B) that participate in the Consortium.

The participation of Foreign Research Organisations (FRO) is permitted.

Participation of Large Enterprises (including Private Universities) is only permitted when an SME is also participating in the Cypriot Consortium, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4-7 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU¹.

¹ The Technology Readiness Levels adopted by the EU are the following:

TRL 1 - basic principles observed,

TRL 2 - technology concept formulated,

TRL 3 - experimental proof of concept,

TRL 4 - technology validated in lab,

TRL 5 - technology validated in relevant environment,

TRL 6 - technology demonstrated in relevant environment,

TRL 7 - system prototype demonstration in operational environment,

TRL 8 - system complete and qualified,

TRL 9 - actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies)

Projects must include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development Activities.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

24 Months

BUDGET

€ 6.000.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 600.000

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Personnel costs, Costs for Foreign Research Organisations, Instruments and Equipment Costs, Costs for External Services, Costs for Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

SERVICES OF THE CENTRAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER OFFICE (KTO)

The beneficiaries of the following Programmes will automatically become beneficiaries of the services and tools for support and knowledge transfer that will be provided by the RIF in the framework of the Central Office for Knowledge Transfer (KTO).

In order to support the exploitation of research results, the interaction between the Host Organisation and the Central Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) for the preparation of a customised Action Plan for the Provision of Services by the KTO, is obligatory in the frame of the present Call. It is noted that, the adoption of the Action Plan and the acquisition of the Services are not mandatory.

RESTART 2016-2020 WORK PROGRAMME

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organisations and individuals, the eligible activities and costs, as well as the specific information regarding the «Innovation Vouchers» Programme, as well as the other RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in the **RIF's Work Programme for the «RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 12/2024**, which is the main reference document and an important information source for interested

parties and can be found on the Research and Innovation Foundation's **IRIS (Innovation Research Information System) Portal** (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In the frame of the present Call, the following specific conditions apply:

- Project Coordinators of projects funded under the following calls: SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURES/1222, STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURES/1222, CODEVELOP-AG-SHHE/0823 and CODEVELOP-REPOWEREU/1223 are not eligible to submit a proposal under this call, considering that these are large projects with several commitments and therefore the project coordinator is expected to devote significant time to them.
- The supported projects are expected to be implemented by consortia consisting of at least one enterprise and one research organization. Other organisations from the public and private sector can participate in the consortium, as deemed necessary for the better implementation of the project.
- In the context of the implementation of the Project, the cooperating enterprises should be given the right to first refusal regarding the possibility of exploiting intellectual property rights.
- The Host Organisation is required to register the updated data regarding its ultimate beneficial owners in the Competent National Registry / Archive, as per «The prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing Law of 2007 (188(I)/2007)». The RIF maintains the right to proceed with the appropriate checks in the competent Registries to verify the registration of the data and it is possible to request for the submission of official proofs. Furthermore, in case where requested funding exceeds 150.000 Euro, by the organisation of the 2nd Stage of the Evaluation, the Host Organisation will be required to also submit the data (Name and Surname, ID / Passport Number and Date of Birth) of its ultimate beneficial owners through the relevant Declaration.
- Funded Projects should comply with the «Do No Significant Harm» principle, according to which they must not include or support activities that could cause significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives, as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852, on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment.

SUBMISSION

Proposals are submitted through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>).

It is noted that, the Project Coordinator and all local participating organizations of the Cypriot Consortium, should register in advance on the IRIS Portal.

Potential applicants are advised to use the «**Guide for Applicants**», which contains guidelines and clarifications regarding the Submission procedure and the «**IRIS Portal User Manual**» which can be found on the IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

The Research and Innovation Foundation encourages in all its Calls for Proposals:

- *the participation of women as Project Coordinators, and*
- *a gender-balanced participation in Projects.*

The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:

1. Part A – General Information & Budget (electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal).
2. Part B – Technical Annex (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format). *It is noted that the template provided for this Call must be submitted, without any differentiation. The Part B template can be found on the IRIS Portal, under the relevant Call for Proposals (Call Documents).*
3. Annex I – Curricula Vitae (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format and includes the CVs of the Coordinator and the key personnel of the project team – **Optional Submission**). It is recommended that, CVs are created according to the EUROPASS format and do not exceed 5 pages per person.

PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure

For the evaluation of Proposals to be submitted under the « CO-DEVELOP » Programme, a Proposal Preliminary Check and a remote scientific evaluation procedure by three (3) independent evaluators (with a Consensus Report) will be followed, as described in the RIF's «RESTART 2016-2020» Work Programme – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 12/2024.

Prior to the scientific evaluation of each Proposal according to the evaluation criteria, evaluators are requested to assess the Proposal's compatibility with those allowed by the Call for Proposals and:

- the Objectives of the Programme, and the Call for Proposals, and
- the selected priority sector/sub-sector, and
- the «Do No Significant Harm» principle, and

the compatibility of the proposed type(s) of research with the proposed Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and those allowed by the Call for Proposals.

The evaluator will not proceed with the assessment of the evaluation criteria should the Proposal fail the compatibility assessment.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Excellence – Weight 25%

- Degree of Innovation and Originality of the Project in relation to the existing knowledge (state-of- the-art) at international level.
 - Rationale for the selection of the proposed project.
 - Identification and scientific / technical justification of the project’s innovation in relation to the existing knowledge at international level and the relevant field of application in industry.
- Quality of Project Objectives.
 - Justification of the ability to address specific needs and challenges of the industry, through the development of technological solutions in specific sectors of the economy for the benefit of the effective collaboration of industry with the research community and the exploitation of results with the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of the enterprise and the economy, and improving the quality of life in Cyprus.
 - Clarity, completeness, quality, scientific / technical justification.
 - Relevance to the Programme’s objectives.
- Soundness, credibility and feasibility of the proposed idea.

2. Added Value and Benefit – Weight 45%

- Scientific and/or technological and/or social and/or economic impact and measures to maximize it.
 - Quantitative justification that the activities and results of the proposed project will have a substantial impact on the enhancement of the competitiveness of the enterprise and the Cyprus economy through the joint development and application of existing knowledge and know-how and its transfer from academia/research to industry.
 - Potential benefits for the participating organisations from project implementation.
 - Development of new and application of existing know-how and knowledge and their exploitation for the production of new cost-effective products / services / processes.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures for the exploitation (including management of Intellectual Property Rights) and dissemination of results for achieving maximum Project visibility.
 - Exploitation plan of project results.
 - Degree to which the proposed innovation is expected to have other positive effects (employment, social, environmental, scientific).
 - Dissemination plan of the project’s results in Cyprus and abroad.
 - Management and protection of intellectual property rights that may arise from the implementation of the project and its relevance to the objectives of the

project and the Programme, including the “right of first refusal” to the participating enterprises.

3. Implementation – Weight 30%

- Completeness and appropriateness of the Work Packages’ content, the allocation of the various activities, the timetable and the budget.
 - Relevance of the proposed budget to the content and the actual needs of the proposed project.
 - Completeness and reliability of the Contingency Plan in the context of the implementation of the project.
- Effectiveness of the proposed methodology for the implementation of the Project Proposal (deliverables).
- Completeness, quality and capacity of the Consortium (at the level of organisations and/or persons) for the implementation of the Project Proposal and achievement of the proposed objectives.
 - Adequate participation of all consortium members.
 - Existence of effective collaboration as defined in the Call.
 - Ability and experience of the consortium in the implementation of research and innovation projects, particularly related to the subject of the proposed project.
- The suitability and contribution of organisations and individuals in the Consortium (including Foreign Research Organisations, where applicable) to the implementation of the project according to their specialization and real capabilities.
 - Adequacy of the project’s research team: qualifications and research experience of the Project Coordinator and of the other members of the research team.
 - The adequacy of the existing/proposed infrastructure to achieve the levels of technological maturity (TRL 4-7). It is recommended and promoted to use existing publicly funded infrastructures.
 - The ability and motivation of the team members to exploit the results of the project.

Selection

The following shall be selected for funding:

- the top ranked eligible proposal, of the proposals, belonging to the same Priority Sector, until the available budget of each Call Priority Sector is exhausted,
- the rest of the eligible proposals, regardless of Priority Sector, in order of score, until the total available budget of the Call is exhausted.

In case of Proposals with equal score, if there is no available budget to fund all of them, then the proposals will be ranked according to the procedure described in Ch. 4.3.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

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The Research and Innovation Foundation may at its discretion, proceed to the extension or revocation of the present Call by applying the same publication procedure.