



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

POST-DOC

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

POST-DOC/0524



Co-funded by
the European Union



Republic of Cyprus



RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) announces the Call for Proposals «**Post-Doc**» for the «**Post-Doc**» Programme within the framework of the «**RESTART 2016-2020**» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period May 2022 – December 2024 and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

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	II. Sustainable RTDI System
Programme	POST-DOC
Call Identifier	POST-DOC/0524
Source of Funding	Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ» 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Call Budget	2.500.000 Euro <ul style="list-style-type: none">⬢ 1.000.000 Euro for “Life Sciences”⬢ 1.000.000 Euro for “Physical Sciences and Engineering”⬢ 500.000 Euro for “Social Sciences and Humanities”
Maximun Funding Per Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⬢ 150.000 Euro for “Life Sciences” and “Physical Sciences and Engineering”⬢ 120.000 Euro for “Social Sciences and Humanities”
Publication Date	2 May 2024
Submission Deadline	5 July 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 “Post-Doc” Programme aims to integrate young, post-doctoral scientists in the Cypriot RTDI System, to carry out high level research projects, seeking to involve the young scientists in novel research activities, to stimulate critical mass of researchers in cutting-edge scientific areas and to create sustainable, top level specialised job positions for young scientists.

The Programme also aims to address the brain drain challenge which has increased in recent years.

DESCRIPTION

The Programme refers to the implementation of a research project by a Researcher, holder of a doctoral degree, in the frame of his/hers employment by a Cypriot Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation. The Post-Doc, who should be the coordinator of the proposed project, shall be employed by the Host Organisation, for the implementation of the project as the main object of the employment, while being able at the same time to participate in other research or teaching activities. The participation of more researchers in the project is possible.

The proposed projects must fall in one of the below three Scientific Fields:

- Life Sciences,
- Physical Sciences and Engineering, and
- Social Sciences and Humanities.

The analysis of the abovementioned Scientific Fields is based on the Science and Technology Fields Classification, included in Annex I of the Work Programme, as follows:

- Life Sciences: Fields coded 1.6, 3.1 to 3.5 and 4.1 to 4.5.
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: Fields coded 1.1 to 1.5, 1.7 and 2.1 to 2.11.
- Social Sciences and Humanities: Fields coded 5.1 to 5.9 and 6.1 to 6.5.

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.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations (A1, A2), Enterprises (B1, B2, B3), Other Organisations (C1, C2)

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Host Organisation (HO) can be a Research Organisation or an Enterprise or Other Organisations.

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

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 can include Basic Research and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-8 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU¹.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

24 months

BUDGET

€2.500.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

- €150.000 Euro for “Life Sciences” and “Physical Sciences and Engineering”
- €120.000 Euro for “Social Sciences and Humanities”

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)

ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

The calculation of the Proposal Budget will be based on the simplified cost method “Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs”.

It is noted that, all beneficiaries that have not previously participated in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, should make use of the simplified cost Method «Standard Scales of Unit Costs» for the calculation of personnel costs.

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) and the Innovation Factory.

Aiming at enhancing the projects’ potential for exploitation of research results, all Project Consortia funded under the present Call will be required to contact the Central Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) for the preparation of a specialised Service Delivery Plan.

Acceptance of the Service Delivery Plan by the Project Consortia and utilization of the central KTO services will be optional.

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 May 2022 – December 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:

- The Post-Doc must be named in the proposal and will be the Coordinator of the proposal and will be committed in working in the proposal for its whole duration. If the Post-Doc leaves the project, the project and its funding will be terminated.
- The Post-Doc must hold a doctoral degree² for a maximum of seven (7) years from the date receiving the title until the announcement of the Call for Proposals. The Post-Doc must hold a doctoral degree on the proposal submission date. The reference date for calculating the eligible period should be the date of the actual award/graduation date for the doctoral degree, in accordance to the national regulations of the country where the title was obtained. The maximum time limit may be extended taking into account career breaks for maternity, paternity leave, military service or documented sick leave for a continuous period of more than three months, as follows: (a) for maternity leave, eighteen months for each child born after obtaining his/her doctorate, (b) for paternity leave, the corresponding certified time, (c) for military service, the duration of service certified by the respective authority, and (d) for sick leave, the respective certified time which is longer than three months.
- Each Post-Doc can participate only in one (1) proposal and each proposal can include only one (1) Post-Doc.
- The man months allocated to the Post-Doc should be at least 70% of the project implementation duration in months. This will be proved through timesheets. In case the man months allocation is less than 70% of the project duration, the project and its funding will be terminated.
- Each proposal related to a specific research project can be submitted only to one of the Calls EXCELLENCE/0524 and POST-DOC/0524. If a specific project proposal is identified as having been submitted in both calls, then none of the proposals will be sent to scientific evaluation.
- Payment Requests for the interim and final funding aid instalment are submitted up to thirty (30) calendar days following the end of the time period they pertain to.
- 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.
- 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>).

² [The ERC policy on PhD and equivalent doctoral degrees applies](#)

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 read the «**Guide for Applicants**» and «**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 – **Obligatory Submission**).
4. Annex III – Call Specific Information (documents to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format:
 - (a) Declaration that "*The specific project proposal or a similar proposal has been submitted only once in one of the Calls EXCELLENCE/0524 and POST-DOC/0524*", as per template provided under the call documents in IRIS – **Obligatory Submission**.
 - (b) Copy of the PhD Certificate of the Project Coordinator – **Obligatory Submission**.
 - (c) Where applicable, copies of the documents which account for the extension of the time limit of seven (7) years from the acquisition of the PhD title of the Post-Doc, until the date of the Announcement of the Call.

PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure

For the evaluation of Proposals to be submitted under the «Post-Doc» Programme, a Proposal Preliminary Check and a remote scientific evaluation procedure by two (2) independent evaluators will be followed, as described in the **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme – Programmes for the period May 2022 – December 2024.**

Prior to the scientific evaluation of each Proposal according to the evaluation criteria, evaluators are requested to assess the Proposal's compatibility with:

- the Objectives of the Programme and the Call for Proposals, 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 40%

- Quality of Project Objectives and the level of their contribution towards the advancement of the scientific area of the proposed project.
- Degree of Project Innovation and Originality in relation to the existing knowledge (state-of- the-art) at international level.
- Soundness, credibility and feasibility of the proposed concept.

2. Added Value and Benefit – Weight 20%

- Scientific and/or technological and/or social and/or economic impact at national level and measures to maximize it.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures for the exploitation (including management of Intellectual Property Rights) and dissemination of results for achieving maximum Project visibility according to [Open Science Principles](#).
- Development of long term employment prospects of the Post-Doc within the Cyprus RTDI System

3. Implementation – Weight 40%

- Completeness and appropriateness of the Work Packages' content, the allocation of the various activities, the timetable and the budget.
- Effectiveness of the proposed methodology for the implementation of the deliverables.
- Completeness, quality and capacity of the Consortium (at the level of Organisations and/or individuals) for the implementation of the Project and achievement of the proposed objectives.

–Research merits of the Post-Doc (e.g. publications, invited lectures, awards and prizes, secured research funding) as well as of the other researchers.

- Relevance of the Project with research interests of participating researchers as well as with research activities of the participating organisations.
- Justification of the need for participation of Foreign Research Organizations, where applicable.
- ◊ Suitability and adequacy of the proposed coordination and management activities, including identification and handling of potential risks (Contingency Plan).
- The suitability and adequacy of the Post-Doc for the project coordination should be clearly assessed.
- Completeness and reliability of the Contingency Plan within the framework of the Project implementation.

Selection

The following shall be selected for funding:

- a) The first two (2) eligible proposals with an Enterprise as Host Organization, for each Scientific Field, if any.
- b) The first two (2) eligible proposals with a female Coordinator, for each Scientific Field, regardless of Host Organization, if any.
- c) The rest of the eligible proposals, in order of score, until the total available budget of each Scientific Field is exhausted.
- d) the remaining eligible proposals in order of score, regardless of Scientific Field and until the total available Budget of the Call is exhausted.

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.