



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

HORIZON EUROPE- 2nd OPPORTUNITY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

OPPTY- MSCA / 0125



Co-funded by
the European Union



Republic of Cyprus



RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
FOUNDATION



INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the «**HORIZON EUROPE- 2nd Opportunity**» Programme within the framework of the **RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period May 2022 – December 2023** 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	HORIZON EUROPE- 2nd Opportunity
Call Identifier	OPPTY- MSCA/0125
Call Budget	1.000.000 Euro
Maximun Funding Per Project	150.000 Euro or 170.000 Euro if the proposal includes Industry Placement in Cyprus
Publication Date	22 January 2025
Deadline	Open Call until the 26/04/2025, 13:00 or the exhaustion of the available budget

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 Programme’s objective is to provide a second opportunity to entities and natural persons (researchers) who attempted to receive a grant under Horizon Europe Programme, and whose proposals despite of being of high quality did not manage to secure funding due to budget exhaustion.

DESCRIPTION

The «HORIZON EUROPE- 2nd Opportunity -MSCA» Call for Proposals offers a second opportunity to researchers who attempted to obtain a grant under the “Marie Skłodowska



Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowships” Action of the Horizon Europe, whose proposals were eligible for funding, but did not manage to secure a grant due to budget exhaustion and received a Seal of Excellence.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Host Organisation is the Cypriot Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

Proposals can be submitted in two categories as follows:

Path 1: Project coordinators can be researchers whose proposals "Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions" - European Postdoctoral Fellowships received a Seal of Excellence from the EU (score $\geq 85/100$), but, due to the exhaustion of the budget they were not funded by the European Commission and the Host Organisation was a Research Organisation, Enterprise, or Other Organisation from Cyprus that would host the Researcher for the implementation of the project in Cyprus.

Path 2: Project Coordinators can be researchers whose "Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions" - European Postdoctoral Fellowships proposals received a Seal of Excellence from the EU (score $\geq 85/100$), but, due to budget exhaustion they were not funded by the European Commission and the Host Organisation was in another EU country and has been replaced by an organisation in Cyprus that will host the Researcher for the implementation of the project in Cyprus, provided that the mobility criterion of the MSCA is fulfilled. It is noted that the researcher should work and implement the project at the Host Organisation in Cyprus. The original Host Organisation may participate as a Foreign Research Organisation in the proposal, if deemed necessary.

The participation of Foreign Research Organisations is only allowed in case the proposal to the EU has an Original Host Organization outside Cyprus and the Foreign Research Organisations will be that Organisation.

The participation of Partner Organisations is only allowed in the case there is an industry placement in Cyprus (Enterprises or Other Organisations).

The relevant EC’s Letter regarding the evaluation result of a proposal must be dated after the announcement date of the “Horizon 2020 - 2nd Opportunity -MSCA” Call for Proposals. This condition forms a criterion of the eligibility check.



In case where the proposal funded by the RIF is re-submitted to the EC and is selected for funding, the Host Organisation should immediately inform the RIF and the project Contract will be terminated. The Host Organisation should also notify the EC.

Proposals that are submitted to the EC and include activities that are implemented before RIF's funding decision will not be funded. This is in compliance with RIF's general rule that project activities and expenditures must necessarily fall within the project's timeframe.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

It includes activities that had been described in the proposal submitted to the European Commission and which have been adapted accordingly to the rules and procedures of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

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 EU.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Up to 24 Months for projects that do not include Industry Placement and up to 30 months for projects that include industry placement in Cyprus. In any case the duration cannot exceed the duration of the proposal that was submitted to the EC.

BUDGET

€ 1.000.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 150.000 or €170.000 for proposals that include Industry Placement in Cyprus.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

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.



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”.

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 – 12/2023**, 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>).

SERVICES OF THE CENTRAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER OFFICE (KTO)

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.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

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

- All private law entities (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) should submit to Competent National Registries updated data regarding their ultimate beneficial owners as per «The prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing Law of 2007 (188(I)/2007)». RIF reserves the right to carry out checks in the competent Registers and to request an official proof for the registration. Furthermore, during contract preparation, all private law entities are obliged to submit the Declaration of Beneficial Owners accompanied by the official proof of registration. In addition, all Private Law Entities applying for funding exceeding EUR 150.000 must also submit in the Declaration of Beneficiaries the details of their actual beneficiaries (Name, Identity Card/Passport Number and Date of Birth).
- 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>).

The Project Coordinator and all local participating organisations in the Project 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*
- *the gender-balanced formation of 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).
4. Annex II – Call Specific Information to be disclosed to the Evaluators - **Obligatory Submission**: (a) Copy of the notification letter (and of the Evaluation Summary Report, where applicable) on the evaluation results for the proposal submitted to the EC and (b) Copy of the proposal submitted to the EC with submission verification - electronic timestamp by the EC.
5. Annex III: Call Specific Information –For Project Coordinators falling under PATH 2 category, an obligatory "Host Organisation Change - Comparative Impact Assessment Report" must be submitted in accordance with the relevant template.

Please note that if the requested documents are not submitted at the proposal submission stage, the proposal will not be submitted for evaluation.

PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure



An internal evaluation procedure will be used for the evaluation of proposals submitted under the “Horizon Europe – 2nd Opportunity” Programme, carried out by RIF’s staff. The decision as to whether a particular entity is a beneficiary in the frame of the said Programme is taken in accordance to the result of the Scientific Evaluation of the European Commission. During the internal evaluation procedure the RIF can ask for additional information or / and an expert’s recommendation. Specifically for proposals submitted to Path 2, the Foundation will request an external expert opinion on the impacts of the proposed change of the Contractor with a Go/No-Go assessment.

Selection

Proposals are selected for funding according to the Path to which they have been submitted and **prioritised in order of submission** (not subject to competitive procedures). Specifically:

- (a) Priority will be given to proposals submitted to Path 1, according to the date of submission of each proposal and provided that they have been deemed eligible for funding on the basis of the evaluation as described above,
- (b) Subsequently (subject to available budget), proposals submitted under Path 2 will be selected, according to the date of submission of each proposal and provided that they have been deemed eligible for funding on the basis of the evaluation as described above, until the Call budget 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.