



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Athens, 9/1/2017  
Ref. No.: 3094/I2**

**1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR HFRI RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT  
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS**

**The General Secretary for Research and Technology**

**Having regard to:**

1. article 90 of the “Legal Code for Government and Government Bodies” as codified by art.1 of P.D. 63/2005 (GG Is. A’ 98/ 22.4.2005).
2. Law 4310/2014 (GG Is. A’ 258) “Research, Technological Development and Innovation and other provisions” as amended and in force by law 4386/16 (GG Is. A’ 83/ 11.5.2016) “Regulations for research and other provisions”.
3. article 47 of Law 4415/2016.
4. P.D. 70/2015 (GG Is. A’ 114) “Re-establishment of the Ministries of Culture & Sport, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, Rural Development and Food; Re-establishment of the Ministry of Shipping and the Aegean and renaming thereof into the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy. Renaming of the Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs into the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism into the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism and of the Ministry of Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy into the Ministry of Environment and Energy; Transfer of the General Secretariat for Industry to the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism”.
5. P.D. 14/2014 (GG Is. A’ 181) “Organisation of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs”.
6. Joint Decision with ref. no. 221711/Γ2 (GG 731/Y.O.D.D./30.12.2016) issued by the Prime minister and the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, by which appointed as General Secretary of Research and Technology for the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs is Matrona Kyprianidou.

7. Decision with ref. no. 90534/A1/9-6-15 (GG Is. B' 1132/2015) issued by the Minister and the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs in regard to: "Transfer of signature right 'By Minister order', 'By Alternate Minister Order' Order' to the Title General Secretary of Research and Technology for the Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs, and the Heads of Directorates and Departments of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology of M.E.RA".
8. Ministerial Decision with Ref. No. 196096/I2/17-11-2016 on the distribution of H.F.R.I. funding in line with article 47 of Law 4415/2016
9. the Loan Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank.

## **CALLS**

Postdoctoral Researchers who are interested to submit proposals under the 1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers, in line with the terms and conditions presented below:

### **1. OBJECTIVE**

The call aims to support the implementation of selected research projects of **high scientific quality**, for which principal investigators are Postdoctoral Researchers (PR). **PRs shall have the ability of establishing their own research team and direct the undertaken research project, as Principal Investigators (PI). In this context, they will have the opportunity of improving and enhancing their skills, stimulating their creativity, shaping promising prospects for their scientific and professional progression.**

PR research projects will be implemented in Higher Educational Institutions, Technical Professional Institutions and Research Centers (RC) in the country, **enriching research activities conducted within.**

This action is expected to contribute in creating conditions suitable for **harnessing scientific potential in the country and attracting new scientists working abroad, replacing unilateral outflow with a two-way scientific mobility.**

## **2. CALL GENERAL INFORMATION**

Under this call, **PRs will be funded for implementing self-proposed research projects**, that shall be selected following a scientific evaluation process **for which PRs themselves will be principal investigators**.

The project shall be implemented in a Host Institution (HI) which is a Higher Educational Institution (University or Technical Professional Institution) or Research Centre in the country and will be selected by the PR. A condition for selecting a RC as an HI, is that it is included in the institutions of article 13a of law 4310/2014. In order for selected research projects to be funded, the HI (University Special Account for Research Grants [SARG], Technical Professional Institutions or Administrative Boards of Research Centres) shall provide a project letter of acceptance and be contracted with H.F.R.I. for its management.

Other than the PR who shall be the Principal Investigator to the proposal, the project implementation research team may also include other PRs, PhD candidates, post-graduate students, scientific associates and technicians, as well as ordinary research staff belonging to the HI or other Universities, Technical Professional Institutions and RCs in the country or recognized peer institutions abroad, who will constitute the PR's research team

The proposal shall be original, refer to a cutting-edge research sector, have significant scientific impact and **meet of high scientific quality and excellence criteria**. Proposals will be evaluated by Evaluation Committees, comprised of acclaimed scientists, specializing in the research scientific areas covered by the call.

Indicative deliverables for each research project may be:

- publications in international reputable scientific journals, publications in conference minutes, international conference announcements, monographs, books.
- the dissemination of research project findings, including doctoral dissertations, articles audiovisual material.
- patent awards, ISO, patent registrations, novel scientific arrays, product prototypes resulting from project findings, design plans and proposals for improving provided services, innovative inputs – problem solving proposals for production agents, tools or monitoring protocols, or measurement of variables in anthropogenic or natural systems, social studies, pilot units etc.
- technical reports

Synergies with other research projects is possible on the basis of **complementarity** and **clearly defined roles**, as regarding the provision of funding. In this case, a fully **substantiated justification** shall be provided.

### **3. RESEARCH SCIENTIFIC AREAS**

**3.1** Research proposals shall be submitted under the following broad scientific areas:

- A. Physical Sciences**
- B. Engineering Sciences and Technology**
- C. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)**
- D. Agricultural Sciences**
- E. Mathematics and Information Sciences**
- F. Social Sciences,**
- G. Humanities (and Arts)**
- H. Environment and Energy**

#### **3.2 Interdisciplinary proposals:**

The funding of **interdisciplinary proposals** so to encompass **collaboration between two or three PRs**, active in different scientific areas, is provisioned. In this case, **one (1) PR** shall be nominated as project PI, where interdisciplinarity and its resulting added value are to be fully substantiated.

### **4. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **4.1 Academic age**

**Eligible to submit a proposal are PRs who have obtained their PhD in Greece or a tertiary education institution abroad.** When the PhD has been obtained abroad, the title is required to have been recognized by NARIC, so that successful proposals may be funded.

Eligible to participate are those who have successfully supported their doctoral thesis or have set a date for supporting their doctoral thesis, by proposal submission date, provided they are to submit a pertinent certificate issued by the competent agency of the relevant Institution and will have been declared a PhD, by project start-date.

On the date of proposal submission, **no more than 15 years** shall have elapsed from the year the candidate was awarded a PhD. The above period is increased for male candidates who have fulfilled their military obligations by a period equal to their military service duration, while for female candidates said period is increased by 6 months per child.

#### **4.2 Fulfillment of military obligations or legal exemption (for male PR candidates of greek descent)**

Male candidates shall have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempt of the them or have had their rank postponed. The period

remaining from rank postponement shall cover the whole periodime requested for project implementation. Conditions in this paragraph must be met when final results are issued.

#### **4.3 Non-possession of dependent employment position**

The PRs to become project PIs, as well as remunerated research team members **shall not:**

- be civil servants or employed under a Private Law and Open-term relation (in the Public or broader Public Sector)
- be retirees

#### **4.4 Research project implementation venue**

Research project HIs may be Universities, Technical Professional Institutions or Research Centres in Greece (under the provision of par.2 herein).

In the context of research project implementation, it is possible to collaborate with foreign Research or Academic Institutions. The option to collaborate with foreign Research or Academic Institutions, among others refers to conducting experiments, and requires a **letter of intent** from the foreign Institution, confirming the intention of said foreign Institution for collaborating with the PR *as part of the proposed project*. Initial HI selection shall be recorded and justified in the Proposal. Possible HI replacement shall be feasible following proposal approval or during its implementation, by **full and reasoned justification** of replacement necessity.

#### **4.5 Research project implementation by the PI**

- In case where the PI is appointed to the position of Faculty member or researcher within project duration, they may continue research project implementation without remuneration.

- In case where for any reason PI is to withdraw in final before the project is terminated, the following options are available:

a) **PI replacement:** the PI proposes another PR, holding similar qualifications in the least, to be the new Principal Investigator, either a Faculty member or researcher, who is evaluated by an Evaluation Committee purposely established, or

b) **Research project discontinuation:** in this case the PI shall submit a progress

report as well as deliverables completed until the time of discontinuation. After these have been evaluated, funding is limited to costs already incurred and approved under the above evaluation. If the PI has received funding exceeding the amount finally approved by GSRT, the non-approved amount is returned to GSRT.

**Finally, it is noted that the PR may only submit one proposal as a PI**

## **5. DURATION**

- Duration for research Projects may extend **from 24 to 36 months**.
- **During project implementation, the PR may apply for an extension to the project duration originally declared, without the approved budget being raised**, in line with processes and conditions to be determined in the Implementation Guide. **It is noted that total duration for the research project, including the extension period, may not exceed 42 months.**
- Research project implementation start-date shall be the date the funding decision is signed.
- The implementation of costs for each research project begins on its start-date.

## **6. BUDGET AND COST CATEGORIES**

The **total public cost for this call amounts to €9,000,000.**

The **maximum funding limit** for each research project is **€200,000.**

**Regarding interdisciplinary proposal cases (see § 3.2), the maximum possible budget may amount to:**

- **For collaboration between 2 PRs: Total proposal Budget up to €350,000.**
- **For collaboration between 3 PRs: Total proposal Budget up to €450,000.**

**In this case there will be one (1) PR as principal investigator and other PRs shall be active in different research scientific areas.**

The project budget is analyzed into cost categories presented below:

### **6.1 PR salary:**

For the duration of research project implementation, the PR shall be contracted with the HI under **a dependent employment relationship (a private law fixed-term contract of full employment) or a project lease contract (by keeping timesheets).** Under their contract the PR shall be working for the proposal for at least 80% of their

time. That is, they may be working under other projects or activities for 20% of their time.

Indicatively, monthly salary for the PR shall be determined according to their **research experience**, in line with the following table.

**Table 1. PR salary**

<b>Academic Age</b> (years elapsed from being declared a PhD)	<b>Monthly Remuneration (gross)</b>	To
< 5 years	€1,600	
5 – 9 years	€1,700	
>10 years	€1,800	

above gross amounts shall be added all legal contributions applicable as per case.

To calculate the total salary cost budgeted to the project, legal employer contributions shall be added to above amounts, which are an eligible project cost. For project lease contracts, VAT is added to above amounts, which is an eligible project cost.

## **6.2 Research Team member salary**

These include remuneration for the following Research Team members: postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates, post-graduate students, specialized research staff and technicians.

Salary limits are determined as follows:

**Table 2. Remunerated Research Team Members**

<b>Remunerated project Team member Category</b>	<b>Monthly Remuneration (gross)</b>
1. Postdoctoral researchers (project PIs)	Based on research experience in line with Table 1. PR salary
2. Postdoctoral researchers for conducting Research Project work	Based on research experience in line with Table 1. PR salary
3. PhD candidates	Up to €900
4. Post-graduate students (In the context of preparing their post-graduate dissertation)	Up to €400
5. Scientific Associates/ Technicians	In line with the single payroll

To above gross amounts shall be calculated all legal deductions applicable in each case. For calculating the total salary cost charged to the project, legal employer contributions are also added to the above amounts, which are an eligible project cost. For project lease contracts, VAT is added to above amounts, which is an eligible project cost.

Postdoctoral researchers participating in the research team shall be contracted with the HI **under a dependent employment relationship (fixed-term employment contract) or a project-lease contract (by keeping timesheets).**

It is noted that in case a post-graduate student included in the research Team is to conclude their post-graduate studies and is registered as a PhD Candidate during project implementation, it is possible to be included in the PhD Candidate category with a corresponding increase in monthly remuneration, provided the relevant project budget provision exists.

Apart from staff mentioned in Table 2, who are remunerated participants, the project team may also include the following staff categories **without remuneration.**

**Table 3. Non-remunerated Research Team Members.**

<b>Non-remunerated project Team member categories</b>
1. University, Technical Professional Institution, Research Centre Faculty Members of the HI or other institution (from foreign or domestic Universities, Technical Professional Institutions, Research Centres)
2. HI Research Centre Researchers or Researchers of another foreign or domestic Research Centre
3. Other staff of Higher Educational Institutions and Research Centers employed under a public law relationship or a private law open-term relationship (e.g., Special educational staff, Lab teaching Staff, Technical Scientists etc.)
4. Postdoctoral Researchers in foreign Academic and Research Centers
5. PhD Candidates and Post-graduate Students in foreign Academic and Research Centers

It is noted that above mentioned non-remunerated research team members may receive, for project needs, daily remuneration and travel allowance.

Remunerated research team members not denominated during proposal submission, will be selected following a call for the expression of interest being issued for the respective positions by the HI.

**It is noted that salary costs for the PR (Section 6.1) and the other research team**

**members (Section 6.2) shall account for at least 50% of total Project budget.**

Consumables, equipment usage or purchase costs.

Indicatively, these involve the purchase of direct consumption materials (e.g., lab consumables and reagents) paper, stationery, PC consumables, etc., for research project implementation as well as usage costs for equipment supplied by the HI and the purchase of small equipment.

**6.3 Travel costs**

These involve costs pertaining to the PR and Research Team members travelling in Greece or abroad for participating in conferences to present Research Project findings, to conduct field research or collaborative research, with Research Team members belonging to other Organizations or other Universities or RCs in Greece or abroad.

**6.4 Publicity and research result dissemination costs**

These include costs for PR or Research Team member publications in reputable scientific journals, registration costs in conferences relating to speech - communication or poster, costs for organizing and conducting seminars, for publishing monographs, or preparing audiovisual material.

**6.5 Management costs**

Management costs and overhead for the HI may amount up to 10% of total project costs and shall be reimbursed to the SARGs or HI respective services.

**7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Proposals shall be comprised of **two (2) distinct sections**:

**Section A: PR Information**

PR general information is filled-in, a recent detailed CV written in **English** also containing the contact details of at least two (2) scientists, of whom it may be asked to provide reference in confidence. The PR may also list up to three (3) scientist names that they wish be **excluded** from the evaluation of the submitted proposal.

## **Section B: Research proposal**

The Research Proposal shall be comprised of three (3) sections:

### **Section B1: Abstract**

The abstract may be up to two (2) pages long (1,15 line spacing) and is to be submitted in both **Greek** and **English**.

### **Section B2: Research proposal detailed presentation.**

The presentation may be up to twenty (20) pages long (1,15 line spacing), is to be submitted in **English** and shall include:

- **Title and Scientific Area(s)**
- **Goals of proposed work**
- **Scientific, Economic and Social impact**
- **State of the Art**
- **Scientific methodology, novel aspects and if applicable- rationale for interdisciplinary approach**
- **Work plan, Milestones and Deliverables**
- **Dissemination plan.**
- **Research Team Members:** Brief CVs [two (2) page maximum] for all proposal denominated members, that will also include selected scientific publications in scientific journals or/ and conferences.

### **Section B3: Budget.**

The proposal budget shall be submitted in **English** and include:

- **Analytical Budget**
- **Man-effort and Salaries**
- **Consumables**
- **Access to or purchase of equipment**
- **Travel (conferences, meetings, research collaborations)**

**Proposal submission takes place online by the PR, on the following webpage, from January 30th 2017 at 14:00 until March 31st 2017 at 17:00:**

<https://apps.gov.gr/minedu/elidek-postdoc>

### **8. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

A focal point for the evaluation of proposals will be the level of scientific quality that they maintain. Evaluation will be based on two axes:

1. **PR Evaluation** (scientific accomplishments, maturity to guide and implement the research project).
2. **Proposal Evaluation** (Quality, originality, balanced budget, and implementation feasibility).

## **9. EVALUATION RESULTS**

Results are communicated to the PR by a personalized report including substantiation for each evaluation criterion. **The PR has the right to lodge a substantiated objection within a deadline of ten (10) days from result notification.** Objections are judged by independent three-member committees and their decision shall be final.

The finalization of application Ranking Tables, by Scientific Area, is to follow.

By decision of the General Secretary for Research and Technology, final Ranking Tables are approved and the list of proposals to be funded in line with the available budget is issued.

**The final Ranking Tables (by submission number) of proposals to be funded are posted on the webpage of GSRT.**

Once proposals to be funded are posted, potential beneficiary PRs receive a letter via email, whereby they are invited to submit necessary supporting documents to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, so that the Funding Approval Decision may be issued.

*The candidate accepts that messages sent via email and particularly to the email address they had provided when submitting the proposal online are considered notifications and signal the initiation of all legal processes and deadlines.*

## **10. PUBLICITY**

Detailed guidelines regarding the online submission of proposals will be posted on the webpage of GSRT ([www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr)).

**This call will be posted on the following websites:**

[www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr) and [erevna.minedu.gov.gr](http://erevna.minedu.gov.gr)

## **11. COMMUNICATION INFORMATION**

Detailed information and briefings on this call are provided by the Department of Research Potential Development / Agency for the Support of Research and Technology Actions of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Mesogeion Ave. 14 – 18, P.O. Box 11527 Athens, through email [askelidek@gsrt.gr](mailto:askelidek@gsrt.gr) and contact numbers 210 7458125, 2107458126 and 2107458124.

Technical support regarding the online submission of applications is provided through email [helpelidek@gsrt.gr](mailto:helpelidek@gsrt.gr).