



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

## **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **A. ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **Introductory Note**

2018 was certainly an exceptionally creative year for the H.F.R.I., since four (4) in total big Actions were announced. The Foundation received overall approximately 4,500 funding applications for these actions and many of them have been evaluated. Meanwhile, the foundation was staffed with eighteen (18) persons and started implementing its technological infrastructures (information systems).

Despite the inherent difficulties related to the implementation of a new reform endeavour, such as the H.F.R.I., the Foundation has now managed to stand out as a main pillar of support for the Academic and Research community in our country. Already through the funding granted under the 1st call for research projects of Postdoctoral Researchers, it has managed to become the vehicle for 37 young Greek scientists of the diaspora to return to the country, thus serving as an effective tool in our country's effort to prevent the Brain Drain phenomenon.

By making steady steps, the H.F.R.I. can now satisfy the need, as expressed by the scientific community, to announce research projects with continuity and consistency as well as to finance research projects based on quality and excellence as sole criteria.

**Dr. Nektarios Nasikas**

**H.F.R.I. Director**

## Mission - Strategic Goals - Values

During 2018, the H.F.R.I. realised activities and actions to support:

### a) its Mission

The H.F.R.I.'s mission is to promote research and innovation under the national strategy for research and innovation. In particular:

- ✓ To support young scientists
- ✓ To deploy the existing research potential
- ✓ To strengthen the country's research infrastructure

### b) its strategic goals

- Contributing to prevent phenomena of one-sided outflow of scientific potential abroad and employment mismatch in the country.
- Contributing to shape the conditions that will lead to the Knowledge Economy, the development and productive reconstruction of the country.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the Foundation:

- **Finances research programmes.**
- **Grants scholarships for conducting doctoral theses and postdoctoral studies.**
- **Finances the procurement of research equipment, based on strategic planning.**
- **Funds actions for the interconnection between science and society as well as emblematic actions**

The main funding beneficiaries of the Foundation include Universities and Technological Educational Institutions in Greece, the research and technological institutions of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (GG 258/A) and the University Research Institutes. Co-beneficiaries of funding may be companies, educational and research

institutions as well as other public or private institutions in Greece. Any potential beneficiaries (main and co-beneficiaries) of funding will be specified in the respective calls. In particular for scholarships related to the preparation of doctoral theses and the conduct of postdoctoral studies, the beneficiaries are natural persons.

### **c) its Values**

The H.F.R.I. continues to have the same values and it supports and pursues them with persistence and patience

- **Excellence**
- **Scientific quality**
- **Meritocracy**
- **Transparency**
- **Continuity**
- **Consistency**

## Institutional Framework

The H.F.R.I., a non-profit legal person governed by private law, belongs to the broader public sector, operates in line with public interests and is supervised by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

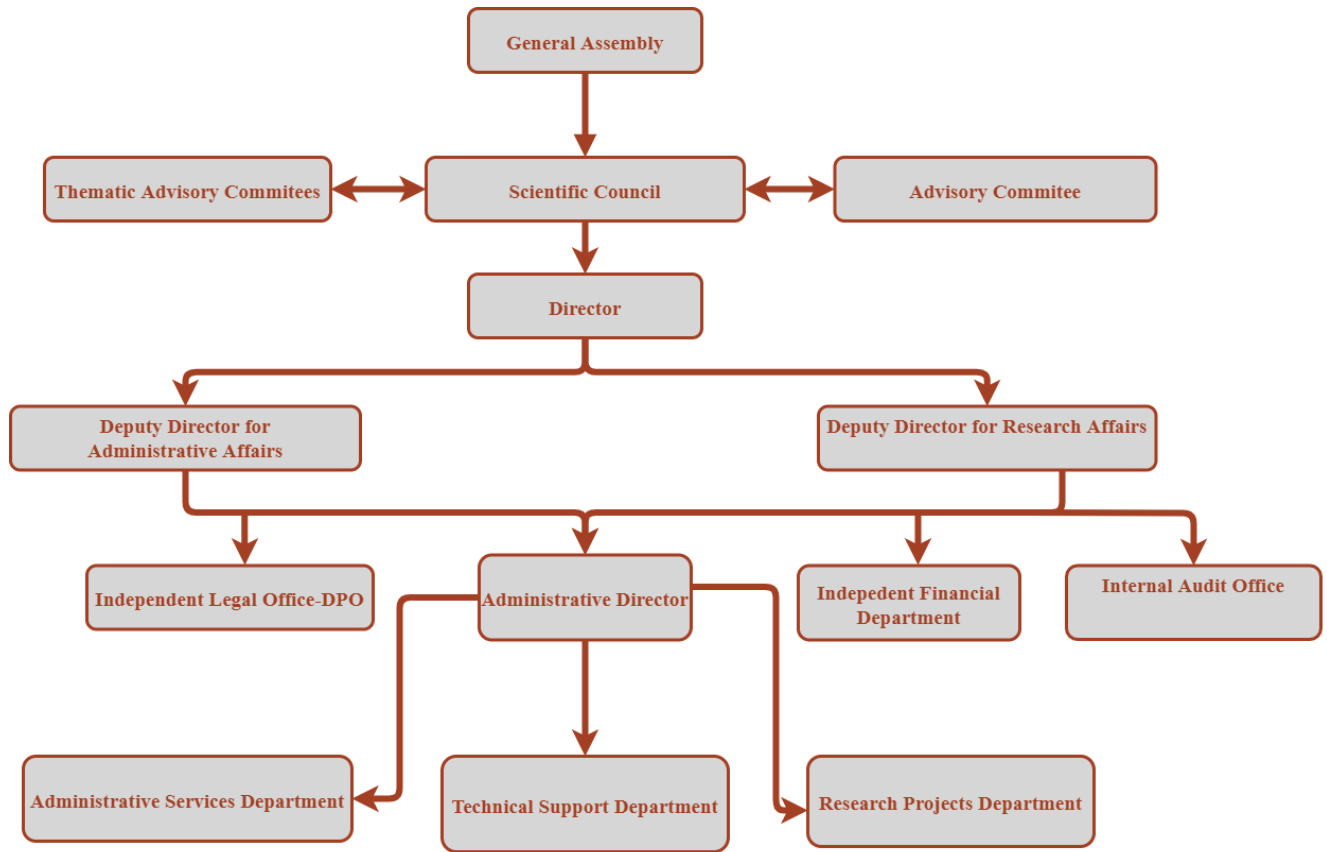
It was founded with Law 4429/2016 on the “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions” (GG 199/A), which was amended as follows:

- By Article 28 of Law 4452/2017 on the “Regulation of issues related to the National Foreign Language Exam System, the National Library of Greece and other provisions” (GG 17/A) which regulates issues regarding the procedure of evaluation, the operation of the Scientific Council and the supervision of the GSRT.
- By Article 69 of Law 4485/2017 on the “Organization and operation of higher education, regulations for research and other provisions” (GG 114/A) regarding the establishment and operation of the Foundation’s Advisory Committee and the evaluation process.
- By Article 20 of Law 4521/2018 (GG 38/A) on the establishment of the University of West Attica, regarding the responsibilities of the Scientific Council and the Director.
- By Article 98 of Law 4547/2018 (GG 102/A) on the “Reorganization of support structures for primary and secondary education and other provisions” regarding the procedure of postings to H.F.R.I.

The above amendments aim to achieve a proper operation and support the Foundation’s goals.

Finally, the joint Decision No. 195245 (GG 5252/B dated 23.11.2018) on the "Internal Rules of Operation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)" adopted by the Alternate Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Economy and Administrative Reform concretised issues related to the H.F.R.I.’s organisation and operation.

## Organization Chart



## Administrative Bodies



The H.F.R.I.'s administration scheme represents a profound reform in public administration and in particular in the field of Research and Innovation in the country. For the first time, the research and academic community itself participates in the administration of a research funding institution and has the possibility to be a key factor in shaping our country's research policy.

The H.F.R.I.'s administrative bodies are the following ones:

### ❖ **General Assembly (GA)**

The second General Assembly of the Foundation, in which 40 institutions are represented, was established by Decision No. 146206/2018 (GG, Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 526) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs as in force. The term of office of the members of this General Assembly expires on 18/09/2021.

In 2018, 2 GA meetings were held in total and 8 Decisions were adopted. The following were the most important ones:

- Approval of the 2016 Annual Report (2016 Financial Report and Activity Report 2016-2017)
- Approval of the partnership between H.F.R.I. and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES)
- Validation of the election of a new SC member for the field of Engineering Technology and Sciences
- Approval of the Financial Report – Financial Statements for the year 2017
- Acceptance of resignation of a member of the Scientific Council
- Election of the GA's Chair

## ❖ **Scientific Council (SC)**

The Scientific Council was established by Decision No. 288/2017 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 173) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. This Decision was amended by Decisions No 29705/2018 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 138) and No. 123829/2018 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 427) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, which designated new members in the areas of Mathematics and Informatics as well as Engineering and Technology Sciences.

The Council held 26 meetings (11 ordinary and 15 extraordinary) in 2018 and adopted 138 decisions, the most important of which pertain to issues such as:

### **Administrative Bodies**

- Assignment of responsibilities to H.F.R.I.'s Director
- Assignment of responsibilities to the Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs and to the Deputy Director for Research Affairs
- Election of the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Council
- Election of new temporary members of the Scientific Council
- Election of five members of the Advisory Committee

### **Staff**

- Approval of publication of calls for expression of interest for twenty (20) posts of temporary staff under a fixed-term private law employment contract
- Approval of selection practices for filling posts of temporary staff (out of 279 applications submitted in total)

### **Financial Department**

- Appointment of the Head of H.F.R.I.'s Financial Services Department
- Designation of persons in charge of the activity of H.F.R.I.'s bank accounts (electronic or not) in Commercial Banks and the Bank of Greece
- Validation of a commodatum/concession contract for part of the property of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute
- Approval of the 2016 Balance Sheet
- Approval of the 2017 financial report
- Approval of the 2017 Financial Statements
- Approval of the 2018 budget and related amendments
- Payment approval of Management costs for H.F.R.I.'s actions to GSRT
- Audit Report of Certified Public Accountants (Financial Year 2017) and its communication to the General Assembly
- Multi-annual commitment decisions
- Approval of 2019 overtime employment

### **Collaborations**

- H.F.R.I.'s international collaborations - Exploration of possibilities for attracting financial resources to H.F.R.I.
- Funding and international collaborations

#### **Actions**

- 2018 Operational Planning of H.F.R.I.'s actions
- Recommendation to the Alternate Minister regarding the allocation of H.F.R.I.'s resources for 2019
- Formation and establishment of Thematic committees for the first and second evaluation phases of proposals submitted under the "1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support Faculty Members and Researchers and procure high-value research equipment" (Ref. No. 452/01.12.2017, as in force) and amendments thereof
- Establishment of objection committees regarding the Call for Faculty Members and Researchers and the procurement of high-value research equipment
- Approval of an evaluation guide regarding the Call for Faculty Members and Researchers and the procurement of high-value research equipment
- Approval of Calls: a) 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships for PhD Candidates, b) 1st Call Science and Society - 200 years from the Greek Revolution (1821), c) 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers and amendments thereof
- Approval of rules of operation for the Thematic Committees under the a) "1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support Faculty Members and Researchers and procure high-value research equipment" and b) 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers
- Approval of the announcement of re-evaluation results and final ranking tables of the first evaluation phase for proposals submitted under the "1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support Faculty Members and Researchers and procure high-value research equipment" in all Scientific Areas
- Formation and establishment of Thematic Committees of experts for the evaluation of applications submitted by PhD Candidates as well as formation and establishment of an Experts Evaluation Committee for the first evaluation Phase of Proposals submitted under the Action regarding 1821
- Creation of a new online submission platform for research proposals and scholarship applications  
Budget increase for the 1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment

#### **❖ Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee was appointed by decision No. 75065/2018 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (GG, Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 300). The Advisory Committee has a consultative role and its purpose is to evaluate the action of the Foundation as well as to formulate opinions and recommendations in order to optimize its operation. It examines issues of particular importance or issues of special interest in terms of the Foundation's operation and the funding of research and innovation.

❖ **Director and Deputy Directors**

A. The Director has made recommendations on the above decisions of the Scientific Council and the General Assembly and has implemented the decisions or makes sure they are implemented.

B. The Deputy Director for administrative affairs, replacing also the Director in case he is absent or prevented from his duties, was appointed by Decision No. 815/2018 (GG, Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 173) of the Scientific Council. She is responsible for and takes care of the H.F.R.I.'s administrative affairs, makes recommendations to the Director regarding issues under her responsibility and implements the decisions of the General Assembly, the Scientific Council and the Director.

C. The Deputy Director for research issues is responsible for and takes care of matters, which are under the responsibility of the research department as well as of any other matter assigned to her by decision of the Director or the SC.

## Human Resources

In 2018, none of the thirty-five (35) regular staff positions was filled, whereas ten (10) persons have been hired as temporary staff with a fixed-term private law employment contract. Furthermore, the foundation's resources include one (1) person on secondment and one (1) person provided by other public institutions. One out of these two persons holds the position of the Head of the Finance Department, while external partners are also used for various issues.

The H.F.R.I.'s human resources possess high standards, special training and faith in the Foundation's vision. Our aim is to complete the staffing of the Foundation and to continuously train and upgrade its human resources.

## Technological Resources

In 2018, the design of an upgraded, user-friendly web portal <https://hfri.grnet.gr/> for the submission of scholarship and research proposals applications has already started. Proposals under the 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers have already been submitted in this platform.

An important innovation in the design of the new Portal will be its individual orientation and adaptation to the user according to the category, in which he/she submits the proposal/application: PhD Candidate for scholarship, Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty Member/Researcher.

Furthermore, an information system for the evaluation, the Certified Evaluators / Experts Register and statistical data with possibility of interconnection with existing information systems shall be designed in 2019.

## Financial Resources

The resources of the Foundation may be:

- ❖ All types of funding/grants from the Government Budget (regular and Public Investments Programme).
- ❖ Funding and all types of aid or grants coming from European Union bodies and institutions as well as other European or international organisations.
- ❖ Funding in line with the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank; said funding is managed by the Foundation as a beneficiary, on behalf of the Hellenic Republic.
- ❖ Donations, aid, inheritances, legacies, grants, sponsorships and all types of contributions coming from natural or legal persons of the public or private sector in Greece or abroad.

The Foundation manages its resources through a special treasury management account kept in Bank of Greece, according to the provisions in force, the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank and the H.F.R.I.'s Internal Rules of Operation. Said funding amounts to EUR 180,000,000. EUR 54,000,000 from this amount have already been disbursed, EUR 36,000,000 out of which in 2018.

Furthermore, at the end of 2018 the H.F.R.I. received funding of EUR 60,000,000 in the framework of a budget increase for a project of the co-funded component of the Public Investments Programme. In 2018, the H.F.R.I. made a donation request to Stavros Niarchos Foundation amounting to EUR 5,000,000 to be used as a bridge funding for researchers who have submitted research proposals to Calls announced by the European Research Council (ERC), have been evaluated and scored with A in the second phase but have not been funded. The budget of this action is expected to be EUR 10,000,000.

## Actions – Institutional Framework

H.F.R.I.'s actions are implemented according to the general and special national institutional framework, the terms and conditions of the loan agreement dated 15/7/2016, the ministerial decisions, the Foundation's internal regulation as well as the decisions of the Scientific Council and the Director as follows:

A. According to article 47 of Law 4415/2016, EUR 18,000,000.00 were granted through a loan agreement, before the H.F.R.I. was established. The grant was managed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, based on the Decision No. 196096/12/2016 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

B. The decision No. 245/2017 (GG 1066/B) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs was issued on the "Annual planning of H.F.R.I. actions and resource allocation for 2017", as amended by the subsequent Decisions No. 223400/2017 and 77320/2018.

C. The decision No. 69615/2018 (GG 1907/B) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs was issued on the "Annual planning of H.F.R.I. actions and resource allocation for 2018".

D. The decision No. 2351/03.07.2018 of the SC was issued on the "2018 Operational Plan". Objectives and General Information of Actions

## A. Applications for Scholarships of PhD Candidates

The Action aims to support PhD Candidates in order to conduct high-level research in Greece. The purpose of this action of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) is to fund PhD Candidates engaging in the preparation of their doctoral thesis in Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) in Greece. The duration of funding (in the form of a scholarship) is from 12 to 36 months.

Applications shall be classified based on the choice of the applicant in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering and Technology Sciences, C. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences, D. Agricultural Sciences - Food Science and Technology, E. Mathematics and Information Sciences, F. Social Sciences, G. Humanities and Arts, I. Environment and Energy, J. Management & Economics of Innovations.

## B. Proposals for research projects with Postdoctoral Researchers being the Principal Investigators

The Action aims to support the implementation of selected research projects of high scientific quality and excellence, where the Principal Investigators (PI) are Postdoctoral Researchers (PR-PI).

The Action is designed so as to support Postdoctoral Researchers in order for them to guide the implementation of a Research Project as Principal Investigators (PI) and to create their own independent Research Team. The ultimate goal of the action is to form new perspectives in the scientific and professional course of both the PR-PI and the members of the Research Team (RT) of the project, as well as to create appropriate conditions for utilizing the existing scientific potential of the country and attracting young scientists working abroad.

The proposed research project ("Proposal") should be original, refer to a cutting-edge research sector, have significant scientific impact and meet criteria of high scientific quality and excellence. The Principal Investigators of the research projects should be Post-Doctoral Researchers (par. 12 of article 24 of Law 4386/2016).

The proposals shall be classified based on the choice of the applicant in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering and Technology Sciences, C. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences), D. Agricultural Sciences - Food Science and Technology, E. Mathematics and Information Sciences, F. Social Sciences, G. Humanities and Arts, I. Environment and Energy, J. Management & Economics of Innovations.

PRs-PIs must demonstrate the pioneering nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal. Their main concern will be to continuously monitor and ensure the proper implementation of the project, both in its physical and financial scope, in line with the suggestions of the research proposal.

Apart from the PR-PI, other Postdoctoral Researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students, scientific and technical associates, as well as other personnel belonging to either the Host Institution (HI) or a Collaborating Organization (CO) may participate in the Research Team of the project. The Project can be implemented in a Host Institution that may be a Higher Educational Institution (University or Technological Educational Institution) or a Research Centre – Institute (RC-I) or a University Research Institute (URI) or a Higher Educational Military Institution (ASEI). The research projects to be funded will be selected through an evaluation process.

### C. Proposals for research projects with Faculty Members and Researchers being the Principal Investigators

This action aims to support the implementation of selected research projects of high scientific quality, in the context of the effort to promote research activity in Greece. The research projects of this action will be implemented in Universities, Technological Educational Institutions, University Research Institutes (URIs) and Research Centres – Institutes of Greece, which are called Host Institutions (HI), thus enriching the research activities carried out in them. This action follows and complements the actions of H.F.R.I. to support PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers within the framework of providing practical support for research conducted in the country. Furthermore, this action is part of the initiative to deploy the country's scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists in Greece and attracting those working abroad.

The Principal Investigators may be Faculty members (article 2 item k of Law 4485/2017) of Higher Educational Institutions (AEI), researchers of Research Centres (RC, article 18 of Law 4310/2014), University Research Institutes (URI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of the country. These shall belong to the staff of the Institutions, which are the main beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.'s funding (article 2 par. 2a of Law 4429/2016), as specified for the needs of this call below. The action is adapted to the specific characteristics of the research effort in each of the scientific areas covered and no thematic or geographical restrictions of any kind apply.

The research Proposal should be original, refer to a cutting-edge research sector, have significant scientific impact at international level and meet criteria of high scientific quality and excellence.

Each research proposal will be submitted to a scientific field in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering and Technology Sciences, C. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences), D. Agricultural Sciences - Food Science and Technology, E. Mathematics and Information Sciences, F. Social Sciences, G. Humanities and Arts, I. Environment and Energy, J. Management & Economics of Innovations.

### D. Proposals concerning high-value research equipment

This action aims to procure research equipment of high value and strategic importance, in the context of the effort to support research activity in the country. The action is implemented in Universities, Technological Educational Institutions, University Research Institutes (URI) and Research Centres-Institutes of Greece, which are called Host Institutions (HI), thus strengthening or expanding their existing research structures.

This action follows and complements the actions of H.F.R.I. to support PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers and Faculty Members / Researchers within the framework of providing practical support for research conducted in the country. Furthermore, this action is part of the initiative to deploy the country's scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists in Greece and attracting those working abroad. The Principal Investigators may be Faculty members (article 2 item k of Law 4485/2017) of Higher Educational Institutions (AEI), researchers of Research Centres (RC, article 18 of Law 4310/2014), University Research Institutes (URI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of the country. These shall belong to the staff of the Institutions, which are the main beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.'s funding (article 2 par. 2a of Law 4429/2016), as specified for the needs of this call below. The action is adapted to the specific characteristics of the research effort in each of the scientific areas covered and no thematic or geographical restrictions of any kind apply.

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Each research proposal will be submitted to a scientific field in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering and Technology Sciences, C. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences), D. Agricultural Sciences - Food Science and Technology, E. Mathematics and Information Sciences, F. Social Sciences, G. Humanities and Arts, I. Environment and Energy, J. Management & Economics of Innovations.

## Evaluation process for Scholarship applications and Research Proposals

The evaluation of the research proposals and scholarship applications is carried out in accordance with article 5 of Law 4429/2016 as in force, the provisions of the Foundation's Internal Rules of Operation and the decisions of the Scientific Council. The submission and evaluation of proposals is performed through the Web portal of the Foundation, following procedures that ensure a rapid and free from unnecessary administrative burden completion of the programmes.

The evaluation of the candidate beneficiaries shall be performed by a committee of evaluators. The evaluation committee may be assisted in its work by one or more independent experts, depending on the type and number of scientific fields covered by an action or a programme. These experts and the members of the evaluation committees come from the Register of Certified Evaluators provided in article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (GG 258/A) and have the qualifications related to the scope of the project to be evaluated. If for a certain evaluation there are not any specialist scientists, as required in that specific case, or the existing ones do not cover the needs of a specific evaluation, it is allowed, by decision of the Scientific Council, to appoint special scientists from Greece or abroad, not included in the Register of Certified Evaluators as members. The experts and the committee are appointed by the Scientific Council.

The acts concerning the selection, the appointment, the travels and the remuneration of the experts and the committees' members are published and posted on Diavgeia portal immediately after the evaluations are performed and completed.

The evaluation results are immediately communicated to the candidates, along with a personalized report and documentation of the evaluation decision. The candidate has the right to file an objection for reasons of legality with regard to the decision, within a period of ten (10) days starting from the communication of the evaluation decision, before an objection committee specially established for this purpose by decision of the Scientific Council.

The objection committee consists of three (3) members coming from the Register of Certified Evaluators provided in article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (GG 258/A). These have the qualifications mentioned in these provisions and related to the scope of the project to be evaluated. The members of the objection committee are different from those of the evaluation committee. The objection committee decides within an exclusive period of ten (10) days from the expiration of the deadline for filing objections. The decision of the committee is communicated to the Director of the Foundation and to the interested party.

After the evaluation of the proposals is completed, the funding decision is issued by the Director of the Foundation. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to petition for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeal. The whole process is governed by strict rules regarding conflict of interest and confidentiality that bind all parties involved.

## Planning of Actions

### ACTIONS AT FUNDING STAGE

Two (2) actions with a total budget of **EUR 47,500,000** are at the implementation stage of research projects:

**1ST CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS TO PHD CANDIDATES (With the help of GSRT)** (*Ministerial decisions No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018*)

- Budget: EUR 13,500,000
- Total number of applications submitted: 2,114
- Total scholarships: 561
- Start date of funding: September 2017

**1ST CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS (With the help of GSRT)** (*Ministerial decisions No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018*)

- Budget: EUR 34,000,000
- Total number of proposals submitted: 1,671
- Total proposals to be funded: 189
- Start date of funding: October 2018

## ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

### **1ST CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS AND PROCURE HIGH-VALUE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT** (Ministerial decisions No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018)

- Budget: EUR 65,000,000 (EUR 45,000,000 + EUR 20,000,000)
- Total number of proposals submitted: 3,179
- **Expected schedule:**  
Evaluation completion: Category I and II: 9th 2019  
Category III 10th 2019

Start date of funding: Category I and II: 12th 2019-1st 2020

Category III 1st-2nd 2020

### **2ND CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS TO PHD CANDIDATES** (Ministerial decisions No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018)

- Budget: EUR 10,000,000.
- Total number of applications submitted: 1,327
- **Expected schedule:**  
Evaluation completion: 6th 2019 Start date of funding: 10th 2019

### **CALL FOR 1st ACTION “SCIENCE AND SOCIETY” “200 YEARS FROM THE GREEK REVOLUTION”** (Ministerial decisions No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018)

- Budget: EUR 1,030,000
- Total number of proposals submitted: 79
- **Expected schedule:**  
Evaluation completion: 10th-11th 2019  
Start date of funding: 12th 2019

### **2ND CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS** (Ministerial Decision No. 69615/3.5.2018, GG 1907/29.5.2018)

- Budget: EUR 16,580,000
- Total number of proposals submitted: 1,162
- **Expected schedule:**  
Evaluation completion: 3rd 2020  
Start date of funding: 9th 2020

## Impact of the first two H.F.R.I. Actions on the outflow abroad phenomenon and the employment mismatch of young scientists

Regarding the **1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Postdoctoral Researchers**, according to H.F.R.I.'s data\*, 21% of Postdoctoral Researchers returned back home, as they lived and worked abroad before receiving the H.F.R.I.'s funding.

It is worth to mention the high percentage (83%) of Postdoctoral Researchers, who, answering a relevant question, consider their stay in Greece to be very important, while the vast majority of them (92%) consider the H.F.R.I.'s funding to be very important.

49% of Postdoctoral Researchers living in Greece would have left the country, if they had not received funding from the H.F.R.I. (see Figure 1), while 72% of those returning from abroad would NOT have returned to Greece, unless they had received the H.F.R.I.'s funding (see Figure 2).

Through the H.F.R.I.'s funding, more than 80% of Postdoctoral Researchers, who were already engaged in research, now have the opportunity to continue their research work, while the remaining 17% engaged in a non-research activity prior to their funding from H.F.R.I. have now returned to research.

*\*These data were collected by the H.F.R.I. in February 2019 through structured questionnaires sent to the beneficiaries of the action.*

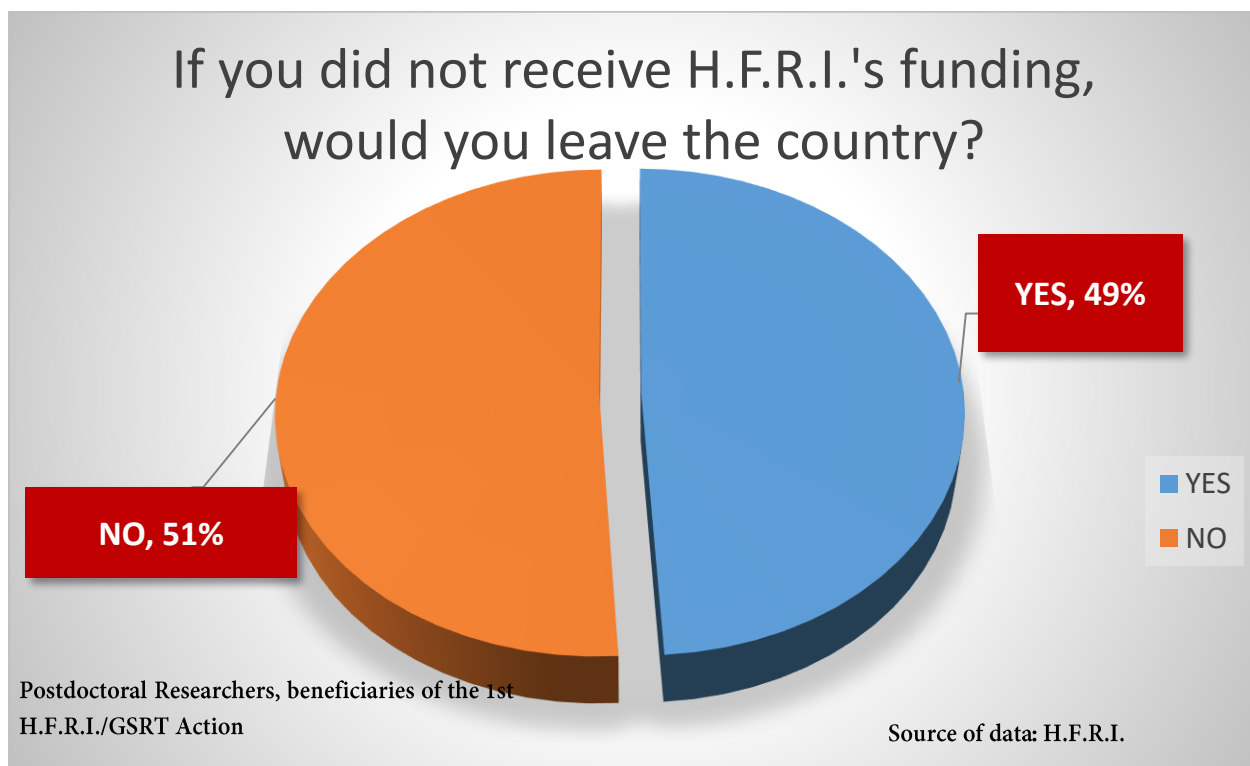


Figure 1: The question is addressed to Postdoctoral Researchers coming from institutions, such as Greek Universities/Research Institutions

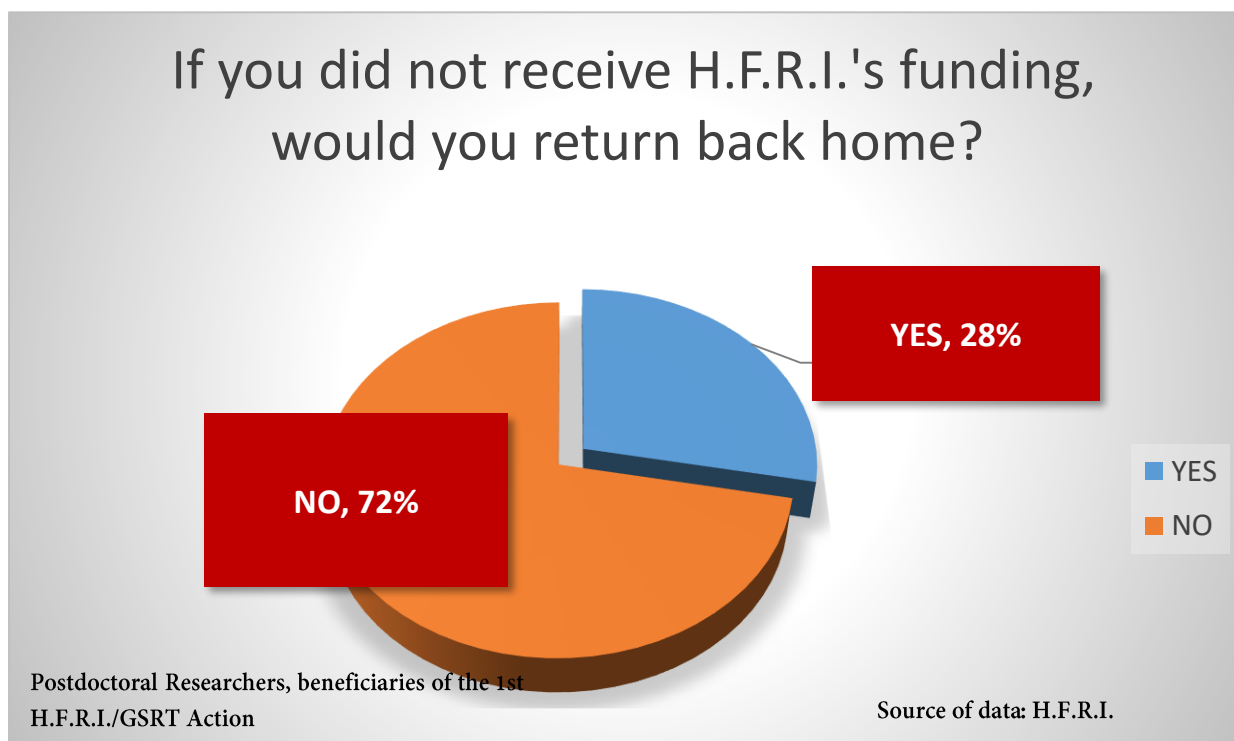


Figure 2: The question is addressed to Postdoctoral Researchers coming from institutions, such as foreign Universities/Research Institutions

Regarding the **1st Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates**, according to H.F.R.I.'s data\*, 96% of PhD Candidates who lived in Greece before receiving the H.F.R.I.'s funding remained in the country to continue their doctoral thesis.

Significant is the 45% percentage of PhD Candidates who answered to a relevant question that they would have left the country, if they hadn't received the H.F.R.I.'s scholarship, (see Figure 3), while 76% answered that they returned from abroad due to the H.F.R.I.'s scholarship (see Figure 4).

It should be noted that a significant percentage (34%) of PhD Candidates previously engaged in a non-research activity are now able to continue research in Greek Universities and Research Institutions through the H.F.R.I.'s scholarships. The remaining 66% of the beneficiaries continue their research activity through the funding from H.F.R.I.

An overwhelming 95% of PhD Candidates consider H.F.R.I.'s scholarship to be very important, while a high percentage (79%) consider their stay in the country to be very important.

It should be underlined that 74% of the beneficiaries believe that the scholarship allows them to devote themselves to their doctoral thesis without engaging in other activities (employment mismatch).

*\*These data were collected by the H.F.R.I. in February 2019 through structured questionnaires sent to the beneficiaries of the action.*

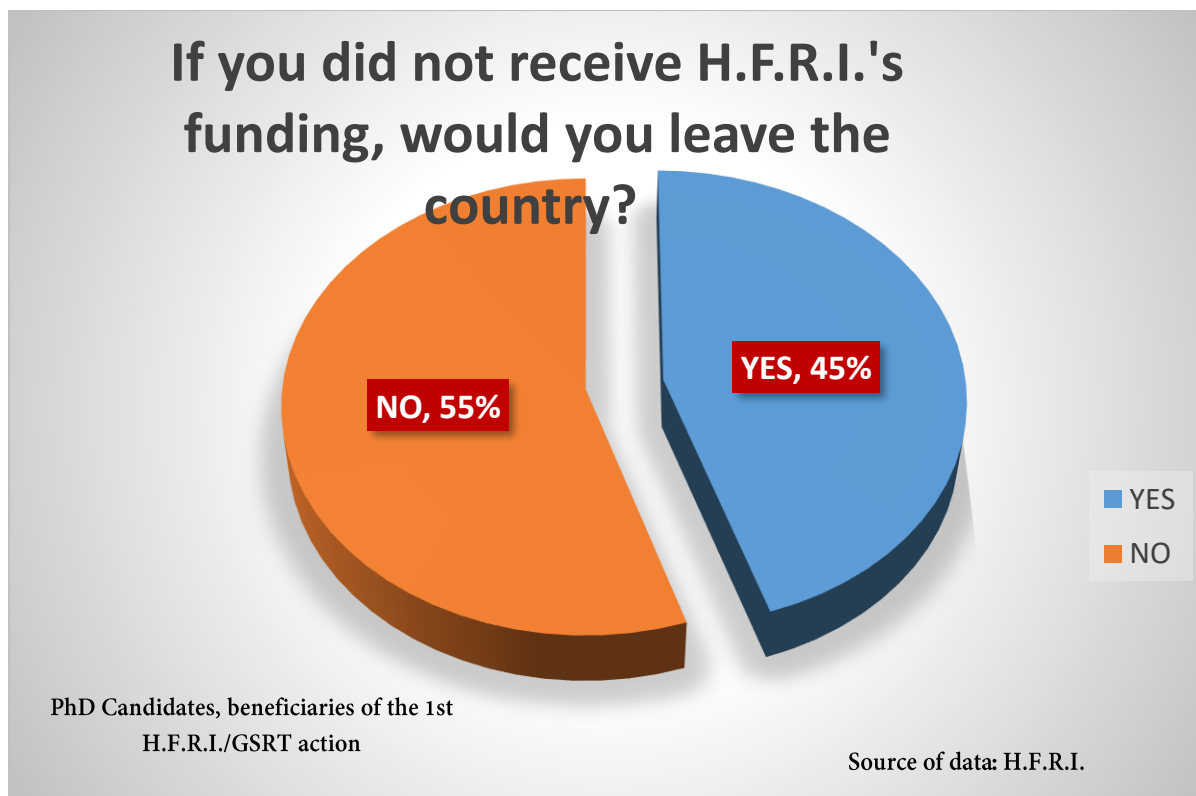


Figure 3: The question is addressed to PhD Candidates coming from institutions, such as Greek Universities/Research Institutions

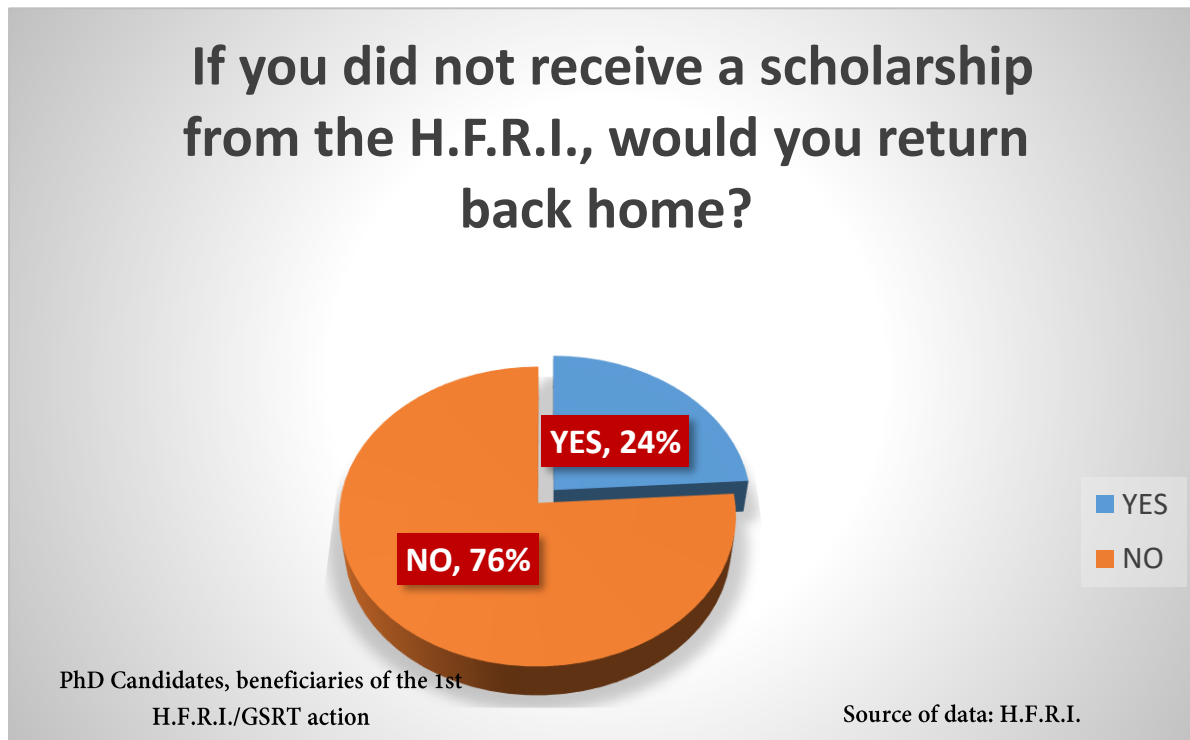


Figure 4: The question is addressed to PhD Candidates coming from institutions, such as foreign Universities/Research Institutions

## Openness – Collaborations

### Strategic goals

The strategic goals for the Foundation's openness can be developed in two main pillars pertaining to:

- A.** Attracting financial resources and making them available, on the one hand, for the continuation of the Foundation's existing actions to support young scientists in the country and, on the other hand, for emblematic or other actions with a particular aim and nature. Such actions may involve, for example, the interconnection of Research with Innovation or the creation of actions that will bring together different sciences with particularly interesting common characteristics, such as culture and science or arts with science.
- B.** The development of high-profile collaborations with similar institutions abroad, as well as the establishment of communication channels and links with the Greek academic/research and business community abroad.

For this reason, detailed mapping of the potential institutions/organizations, with which the H.F.R.I. can have a future cooperation, has taken place.

Indicatively the H.F.R.I. aims at collaborations with:

- ✓ Internationally acclaimed institutions and foundations abroad aiming at designing joint actions and exchanging good practices.
- ✓ Financial Institutions with particular interest in targeted actions relating to the achievement of results and/or innovation resulting from research activity.
- ✓ Public welfare institutions in Greece or abroad which, due to their nature, can become strategic allies for the fulfilment of H.F.R.I.'s goals.
- ✓ Internationally renowned Universities & Research Centres abroad, through which actions and practices can be designed to strengthen the relations of domestic academic and research staff with the staff of these institutions.
- ✓ The business community in Greece and abroad with the obvious goal of attracting resources for the design and implementation of actions interconnecting research and innovation.
- ✓ The Greek community of the diaspora, which has the potential to become a powerful ally on H.F.R.I.'s side.

In particular, openness activities and collaborations with the following institutions are imminent:

- ✓ Praxi Network/FORTH

- ✓ Onassis Foundation
- ✓ ERCEA: Organization of a workshop aiming at acquiring the H.F.R.I.'s know-how in evaluation issues
- ✓ Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Regarding the Foundation's openness, the following activities have been implemented to date:

- January 2018 – Meeting with the European Research Council in Brussels. Briefing the Council on H.F.R.I.'s action in order to create communication channels and strategic alliances in fields of common interest.
- January 2018 – Meeting with the European Investment Bank to inform its executives about the Foundation's course and progress and to explore possibilities for continued funding.
- February 2018 – Visit to the University of Texas A&M. Meetings with the academic and research community there and especially with the highly dynamic Greek community being active there. The visit resulted in a Memorandum of Cooperation aiming to achieve a closer interconnection between the two Institutions regarding research and/or other activities of common interest.
- April 2018 – Start of contacts through the Chinese Embassy in order to establish links with similar Chinese institutions (NNSFC).
- May 2018 – Start of contacts through the Israeli Embassy in order to establish links with similar Israeli institutions.
- June 2018 – Working meeting with public welfare institutions of Greece to create links and foster cooperation in areas and actions of common interest. It is highlighted that by initiative of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, all the country's institutions that are oriented to support research came for the first time in contact and established communication. The first objective is to communicate and coordinate with each other in order to achieve optimum results.
- June 2018 – Working meeting of the H.F.R.I. with the European Research Council (ERC) in Athens with the aim of exchanging know-how and good practices on issues of common interest. This meeting is the inaugural event in a continuous sequence of contacts and cooperation aimed at strengthening the H.F.R.I. through strategic allies of the range of ERC.
- October 2018 – Signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) and TEXAS A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), a component of the University of Texas A&M in order to develop beneficial collaborations enhancing research and supporting Greek scientists.
- November 2018 – Visit to the Qatar National Research Fund aiming at developing cooperative actions to enhance quality research and international scientific mobility.

## Promotion, Dissemination and Visibility of H.F.R.I.'s Work

### ➤ Promotion of research projects funded by the H.F.R.I.

Promotion of funded research projects with Postdoctoral Researchers (1st Call) being the Principal Investigators in a special e-section on H.F.R.I.'s website

### ➤ Events

#### **8-16 September 2018: Dynamic first presence of the H.F.R.I. at the 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF)**

The main objective of H.F.R.I.'s presence in the largest exhibition event of the country was to present the results of its actions for the period 2017-2018 and the planning of the next actions for the period 2018-2019 to the exhibition's visitors. Dr. Nektarios Nasikas, the H.F.R.I.'s Director, gave a talk there entitled: "H.F.R.I.: An important antidote to the brain drain phenomenon", which took place on Saturday, 8th September at the Open Event of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) organised at the main venue of Pavilion 14.

## **B. FINANCIAL REPORT**

H.F.R.I.'s financial statements for 2018 were approved by Decision No. 14462/25-6-2019, which was adopted at the 56th Meeting of the Scientific Council (IUN: ΨΛΥ046Μ77Γ-4Φ5). ANNEX 1