



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

2019 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Decision under Ref. No.: 13587/29.05.2019, 54th Meeting of the Scientific Council, as in force

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Introductory Note

The past year, the year 2018, was undoubtedly extremely creative for the Foundation, very productive for its actions and particularly important for its staffing and consolidation.

In 2018, 4 major actions were announced and evaluated by the Foundation, for which it received a total of around 6500 applications for funding. We immediately understand, on the one hand, the great need for support existing in the Academic and Research community and, on the other hand, the enormous administrative burden (administrative, financial, etc.) which the foundation must carry out daily in the best possible way.

The attempt becomes all the more impressive considering that at the beginning of 2018 H.F.R.I.'s services consisted of 5 people under any employment relationship, while at the end of 2018 the Foundation's human resources amounted to only 18 people.

However, despite the inherent difficulties of a new initiative that began from scratch, literally rather than as a manner of speaking, H.F.R.I. has now managed to stand out as a main pillar of support for the Academic and Research community of the 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 making the foundation an effective tool in the country's effort to prevent the Brain Drain phenomenon.

The community's need for continuity and consistency in the Foundation's actions is met with steady steps by H.F.R.I. and the 2019 Operational Plan is essentially the roadmap based on which the Foundation will proceed during the year.

There are many and big challenges for the future but the importance of the work carried out daily by H.F.R.I. is even greater. For this reason H.F.R.I. remains strongly committed to the objective of strengthening the Academic and Research community according to merit, based on scientific excellence and quality.

We are therefore confident that 2019 will be an even better and more productive year for all, especially for the scientists we support and for the Foundation as it grows and matures.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas

Director of H.F.R.I.

Foreword

The 2019 Operational Plan, drawn up for the second year, aims at describing and emphasizing the reform and independent nature of the Foundation as well as what has been achieved so far and at setting new objectives and priorities for the future.

The challenge for H.F.R.I.'s Administration and personnel remains the same. Continuity and consistency in actions, quality and independent evaluation. In this context, it is important to develop a new evaluation culture based on meritocracy and transparency and to search for additional financial resources.

Revision of the Operational Plan

The 2019 Operational Plan was drawn up in collaboration with all H.F.R.I.'s departments, in accordance with applicable legislation, by decisions under Ref. No.: 245/2017 as in force, 69615/2018 and 29898/2019 issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, as well as the pertinent decisions of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council.

This Operational Plan reviews certain points of the 2018 Operational Plan and may be revised in case of significant changes in the internal and external environment of H.F.R.I.

Mission

H.F.R.I.'s mission is the promotion of research and innovation under the national policy for research and innovation. In particular:

- ✓ The support of young scientists**
- ✓ The utilization of research potential**
- ✓ The support of the country's research infrastructures**

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 fulfill its objectives, the Foundation shall:

- **Fund research programs**
- **Grant scholarships for the preparation of doctoral theses and the conduct of postdoctoral studies**
- **Fund the purchase of research equipment based on strategic planning**
- **Fund actions for the interconnection between science and society and emblematic actions**

The main beneficiaries of the Foundation's funding are: Universities and Technological Educational Institutions (TEI) in Greece, the research and technological institutions of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (Official Government Gazette A' 258) and the University Research Institutes. Co-beneficiaries of funding may be companies, educational and research institutions and other institutions, public or private, 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.

Values

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

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

Institutional Framework

H.F.R.I., as a private non-profit legal entity, belongs to the broader public sector, operates in line with public interest and is supervised by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

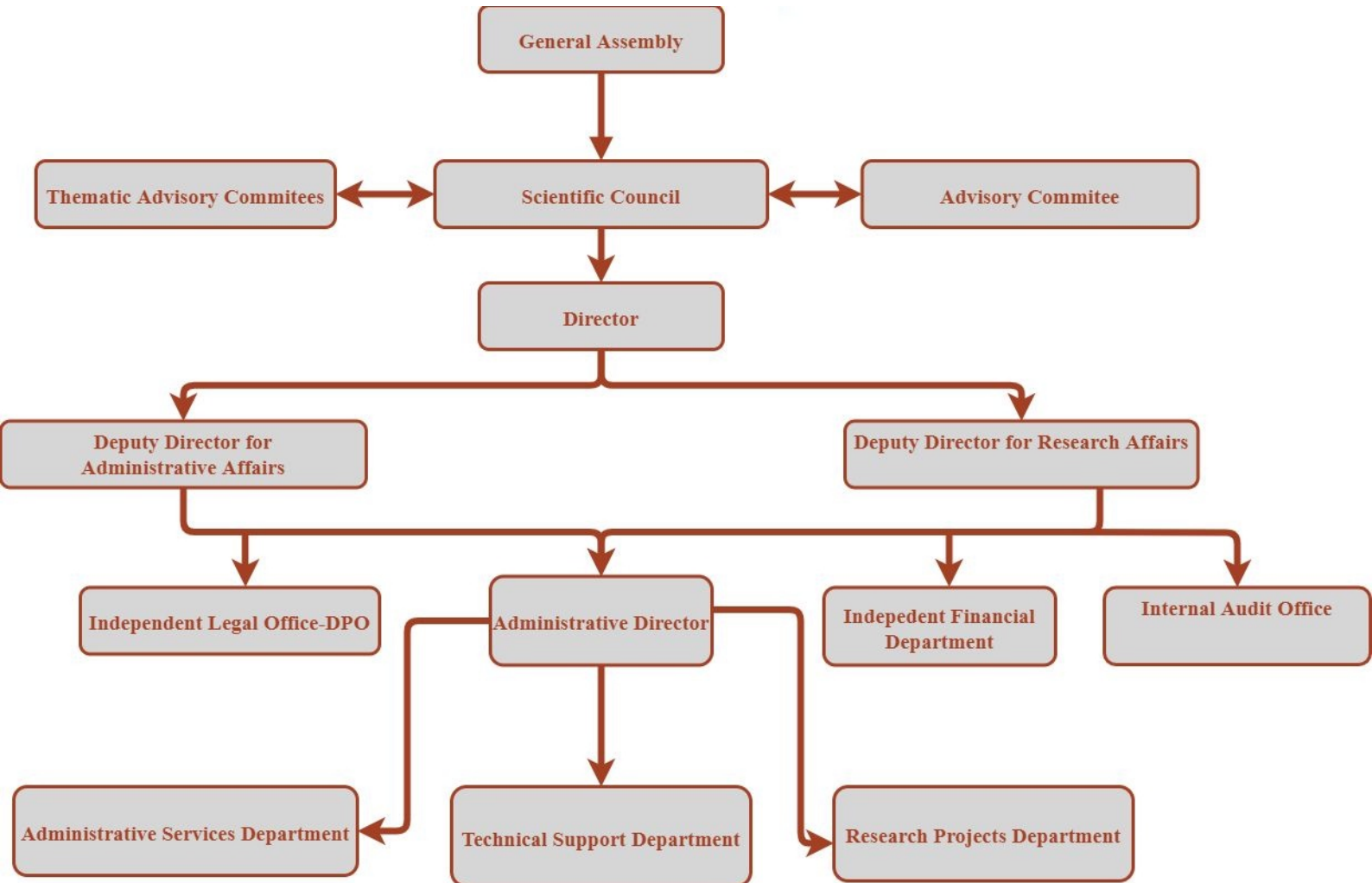
It was established by Law 4429/2016 on the "Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions" (Official Government Gazette A' 199), as amended by:

- Article 28 of Law 4452/2017 on the "Regulation of issues of the State Certificate of Language Proficiency, the National Library of Greece and other provisions" (Official Government Gazette A' 17) which regulates issues regarding the procedure of evaluation of the operation of the Scientific Council and the supervision of the GSRT.
- Article 69 of Law 4485/2017 on the "Organization and operation of higher education, regulations for research and other provisions" (Official Government Gazette A' 114) regarding the establishment and operation of the Foundation's Advisory Committee and the evaluation process.
- Article 20 of Law 4521/2018 (Official Government Gazette A' 38) on the establishment of the University of West Attica, regarding the responsibilities of the Scientific Council and the Director.
- Article 98 of Law 4547/2018 (Official Government Gazette A' 102) on the "Reorganization of support structures for primary and secondary education and other provisions" regarding the procedure of postings to H.F.R.I.
- Article 35 of Law 4589/2019 (Official Government Gazette A' 13 "Synergies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and other provisions" regarding the establishment of the Thematic Advisory Committees (THACs), the creation of a Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts as well as the financial management of H.F.R.I.

Based on the supervisory role of the State, these provisions do not detract from the administrative autonomy of H.F.R.I. to a minimum, but rather aim at the smooth operation and support of the Foundation's goals.

Finally, by a joint decision under Ref. No. 195245 (Official Government Gazette B' 5252/23.11.2018) "Internal Rules of Procedure of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) of the Alternate Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Economy and Administrative Reform, any issues of H.F.R.I.'s organization and operation were specialized.

Organization Chart



Administrative Bodies



H.F.R.I.'s administration scheme is 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 can be a key factor in shaping the country's research policy.

The administrative bodies of H.F.R.I. are:

➤ **General Assembly**

The General Assembly (GA) consists of renowned internationally acclaimed scientists who are selected by the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions of the country based on criteria set by the National Council of Research and Innovation. The term of office is three years. By decision under Ref. No. 146206/2018 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 526) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs as in force, the second General Assembly of the Foundation was set up, in which 40 institutions are represented. The term of office of the members of this General Assembly expires on 18/09/2021.

The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

- Elects the members of the Scientific Council
- Approves partnerships and collaborations with other bodies of the public and private sector in Greece or abroad for the achievement of H.F.R.I.'s objectives
- Submits proposals to the Scientific Council on issues related to the research activities of H.F.R.I.
- Approves the annual report (financial report and report of actions)

In 2018 a total of 2 GA meetings were held and 8 Decisions were made with the most important being:

- Approval of the 2016 Annual Report (2016 Financial Report and Report on the Activities 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 and Technology 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 Chairman

➤ **Scientific Council**

The Scientific Council (SC) of the Foundation consists of nine (9) full members, internationally acclaimed scientists coming from the following fields:

Agricultural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Information Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Environment and Energy, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology Sciences and Innovative Entrepreneurship.

Individuals who have been distinguished for their international work and experience in the respective field shall be elected as members of the SC, following an international call for expression of interest. The term of office of the members of the SC is four years. By decision under Ref. No. 288/2017 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies

No. 173) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs as in force, the Scientific Council was set up. Two (2) new members in the fields of "Medicine and Health Sciences" and "Environment and Energy" are expected to be elected in 2019 to replace the ones resigned.

The Council held 26 meetings (11 ordinary and 15 extraordinary) in 2018 and made 138 decisions, the most important of which concern 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 issues.
- Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair of H.F.R.I.'s 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 the filling of posts of temporary staff (out of a total of 279 applications submitted).

Financial Department:

- Appointment of the Head of H.F.R.I.'s Financial Services
- 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 lending/concession contract for part of the property of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute
- Approval of 2016 Balance Sheet
- Approval of 2017 financial report
- Approval of 2017 Financial Statements
- Approval of 2018 budget and related amendments
- Approval of payment of cost for the Management of H.F.R.I.'s actions to GSRT
- Audit Report of Certified Public Accountants (Financial Year 2017) and 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

- Suggestion to the Alternate Minister for the allocation of H.F.R.I.'s resources for 2019
- Formation and setting up of Thematic committees of 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. 500/15.12.2017) and amendments thereof
- Setting up 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 for scholarships for PhD candidates b) 200 years from the Greek Revolution (1821) c) 2nd for postdoctoral researchers and amendments thereof
- Approval of rules of procedure of 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 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. 500/15.12.2017) in all Scientific Areas
- PhD Candidate Evaluation Committees, 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 (Ref. No. 500/15.12.2017)

➤ **Advisory Committee**

An Advisory Committee is set up by decision of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, which is independent from the other bodies of the Foundation. The Advisory Committee is of a consultative nature and aims at evaluating the Foundation's action and at presenting opinions and recommendations with a view to optimizing 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.

The Advisory Committee was appointed by decision No. 75065/2018 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 300).

It consists of eleven (11) members, who are distinguished internationally acclaimed scientists or come from business and/or production agencies, domestic or foreign.

The members of the Advisory Committee are elected as follows: The National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI), three (3) months before the end of the term of the members of the Advisory Committee, prepares and submits to the Minister and the Scientific Council a list of twenty-two (22) suggested members, six (6) of which are at the same time members of NCRI. From this list the Minister selects six (6) members, while five (5) members are

selected by the Scientific Council. Up to three (3) out of the eleven (11) members of the Advisory Committee may also be members of NCRI.

Upon the decision of the Scientific Council or the Advisory Committee, renowned Greek or foreign scientists may be invited to the Committee's meetings. The term of office of the members of the Advisory Committee is four years.

The Advisory Committee, within the framework of its responsibilities, has already submitted to the Minister its suggestion for the Thematic Advisory Committees (THACs) of par. 13 of article 8 of Law 4429/2016.

➤ **Director**

The Director of the Foundation shall be a scientist with international prestige and experience, administrative experience and remarkable research activity. The qualifications of the Director are specified in the Internal Rules of Procedure. The Director was elected and appointed by decision under Ref. No.: 301/2017 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 436) of the Scientific Council after a call for expression of interest for a four-year term, renewable only once. The Director of the Foundation recommended to the SC the appointment of two (2) Deputy Directors, whom he selected following an open call for expression of interest. The Director shall implement the strategy of the Foundation decided by the Scientific Council.

The Director has the following responsibilities:

- Heads the services of the Foundation, is responsible for its smooth operation and is the authorizing officer of all its expenses.
- Prepares and publishes the calls for actions funded by the Foundation, according to the annual action planning and the decisions of the SC.
- Takes care of the realization of the Foundation's budget targets.
- May request the convening of the General Assembly and the Scientific Council in an extraordinary meeting, always through the Chairman of the respective collegiate body, and participates in their meetings without the right to vote.
- Prepares the annual report to be submitted to the SC and then, for approval, to the General Assembly.
- Seeks funding sources for the Foundation.
- Represents the Foundation in court and out of court.

The Director has recommended on the above decisions of the Scientific Council and the General Assembly and has implemented or ensures their implementation.

➤ **Deputy Directors**

A. The Deputy Director for administrative affairs, replacing also the Director should he be absent or prevented from his duties, was appointed by decision under Ref. No. 815/2018 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 173) of the Scientific Council. She is responsible for and takes care of H.F.R.I.'s administration affairs as well as of any other matter assigned to her by decision of the Director or the SC.

B. The Deputy Director for research issues is responsible for and takes care of matters of competence of the research department as well as of any other matter assigned to her by decision of the Director or the SC.

Both Deputy Directors recommend to the Director on matters relating to their responsibilities, while they have implemented or implement all decisions made by the General Assembly, the SC and the Director.

Human Resources

None of the thirty-five (35) positions of regular staff has been filled in H.F.R.I.

H.F.R.I.'s human resources relate to:

- Two (2) persons on a posting and one (1) following the availability from public bodies, one of whom holds the post of the Head of Financial Services.
- Twenty-three (23) persons of temporary staff approved by the Internal Rules of Procedure and according to the relevant decisions of the SC have been recruited in open call procedures, twenty-two (22) persons under fixed-term employment contracts of private law with the possibility of renewal, while the immediate recruitment of another person for the Foundation's Financial Services is scheduled. A suggestion to amend the Internal Rules of Procedure of H.F.R.I. has been sent to the Minister by decision of the SC in order to increase the temporary staff from 23 to 35 persons and the relevant decision is expected.
- Externals for issues that mainly concern legal support, computerization, travel/accommodation of evaluators and cleaning, while the conclusion of service provision contracts to support the audits and management of Research Projects and scholarship applications funded by H.F.R.I. is scheduled.

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

Technological Resources

In order to achieve the operational goals of H.F.R.I. for speed, reliability and transparency in the call, evaluation and management of its actions, an upgraded and user-friendly web portal <https://hfri.grnet.gr/> has already been developed for the submission of scholarship applications and research proposals. The submission of proposals under the 2nd call of H.F.R.I. has been already carried out in this platform with postdoctoral researchers being the principal investigators.

An important innovation in the design of the new Portal is 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.

Access to H.F.R.I.'s web portal – User sign-up



Αρχική Χρήσιμα έγγραφα

Είσοδος

Χρησιμοποιήστε το στοιχεία λογαριασμού σας για την είσοδο στο σύστημα

Email

Κωδικός πρόσβασης

[Ξεχάσατε τον κωδικό σας?](#)

Αρχική Χρήσιμα έγγραφα

Διαδικτυακή πύλη ΕΛ.ΙΔ.Ε.Κ.

Submission environment (e.g. Section A – General information of the proposal)

Αρχική		Χρήσιμα έγγραφα		Επικοινωνία		
Τμήμα Α		Τμήμα Β		Υποβολή		
Γενικά Στοιχεία Πρότασης	Επιστημονικός Υπεύθυνος (ΕΥ)	Φορέας Υποδοχής (ΦΥ)	Συνεργαζόμενοι Φορείς (ΣΦ)	Μέλη Ερευνητικής Ομάδας & Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή	Θέματα Δεοντολογίας	Κριτές

Επιστημονική Περιοχή (ΕΠ)

Επιστημονικό πεδίο

Υποπεδίο

Τίτλος πρότασης

Ακρωνύμιο πρότασης

Περίληψη (στα Ελληνικά)

2000 chars left

Περίληψη (στα Αγγλικά)

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Λέξεις & όροι κλειδιά (έως δέκα)

Για την εισαγωγή λέξης/όρου, πληκτρολογείτε τη λέξη ή τον όρο και πατάτε **Enter**. Ο όρος που μόλις δώσατε περικλείεται σε έγχρωμο πλαίσιο. Μπορείτε να διαγράψετε τον όρο πατώντας το [X] στα δεξιά του ή με το πλήκτρο backspace. Ένας όρος κλειδί μπορεί να περιλαμβάνει παραπάνω από μία λέξεις.

Χρονική Διάρκεια έργου (σε μήνες)

Συνολικός Προϋπολογισμός έργου (σε €)

Το ποσό του προϋπολογισμού θα πρέπει να είναι ακέραιος αριθμός χωρίς δεκαδικά ψηφία.

In 2019, in the context of the completion of H.F.R.I.'s information system, which has even been institutionalized, the creation of the below components is in progress:

- A system for evaluating funding proposals/applications and extracting statistical data, consisting of two subsystems:
 1. A subsystem for the evaluation of proposals and applications for all H.F.R.I.'s actions
 2. A subsystem for the extraction of statistical data which will support H.F.R.I.'s research policy for its future actions
- H.F.R.I.'s Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts according to par. 11 of article 5 of Law 4419/2016.

These systems have the following characteristics:

- ✓ Scalability, so that they can (a) interconnect with existing information systems of the Contracting Authority, such as the Information System for the submission of applications and proposals for actions and (b) support further subsystems and/or procedures that may be required in the future, such as the monitoring and management of the funded projects of the Contracting Authority, the user satisfaction survey subsystem etc.
- ✓ Reliability, so that they can handle: (a) a big number of submissions to be carried out simultaneously, probably from different actions (indicative annual number: 5000) and (b) a great number of evaluators, who will process and submit their evaluations, possibly for different calls.
- ✓ Setup capability to support the different requirements of each action.
- ✓ Security and compatibility with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for all data (personal or not) to be handled.
- ✓ Efficiency
- ✓ Effectiveness

Moreover, H.F.R.I. has a new program to support the increased needs of its Financial Services, which has even been installed in a unit created in the Foundation.

Financial Resources

The resources of the Foundation may be:

- All types of funding/grants from the State Budget (regular and Public Investment Program).
- Funding and all types of aids or grants from European Union bodies and institutions, and other European or international organizations.
- 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, aids, inheritances, legacies, grants, sponsorships and all types of contributions from natural persons or legal entities of the public or private sector, in Greece or abroad.

The Foundation, in compliance with 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 Procedure, manages its resources through a special treasury management account in the Bank of Greece. The funding that was granted based on the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank is a loan income of the State Budget and an equal amount thereof has been registered in a Foundation-specific budget code of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, amounting to €180,000,000. From this, an amount of €54,000,000 has already been disbursed and the rest €36,000,000 will be disbursed within 2019.

In addition, H.F.R.I. has received funding amounting to €120,000,000 from the co-funded component of the Public Investment Program, of which €60,000,000 at the end of 2018. In 2019, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation is expected to approve a donation of €5,000,000 to be used as a bridge financing for researchers who have submitted research proposals to Calls by the European Research Council (ERC), have been evaluated and rated A or B during the second phase but have not been funded, having a total budget of €10,000,000.

Sectors and Calls for actions

Table 1 below shows the allocation of actions by sector and call as well as their source of funding in accordance with the loan agreement, ministerial decisions, decisions of the Scientific Council and the Director.

Table 1: Allocation of H.F.R.I.'s actions per sector and call

BUDGET PER ACTION			SOURCES OF ACTION FUNDING		
H.F.R.I.'s ACTION SECTORS	CALLS	BUDGET	EIB	PIP	SNF DONATION
BASIC RESEARCH (FACULTY MEMBERS / RESEARCHERS) 38% the minimum	1ST	45.000.000	18.000.000,00	27.000.000,00	
	2ND	24.500.000	24.500.000,00		
	3RD	24.580.000	24.580.000,00		
	TOTAL	94.080.000	67.080.000	27.000.000	
SCHOLARS	1ST GSRT*	13.500.000			
	2ND	10.000.000	2.500.000,00	7.500.000,00	
	3RD	8.000.000	8.000.000,00		
	4TH	5.000.000	5.000.000,00		
	TOTAL	36.500.000	15.500.000	7.500.000	
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS (SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS 38% the minimum)	1ST GSRT*	34.000.000			
	2ND	16.580.000	16.580.000,00		
	3RD	12.250.000	12.250.000,00		
	TOTAL	62.830.000	28.830.000		
EQUIPMENT up to 16%	1ST	20.000.000	8.280.000,00	11.720.000,00	
	2ND	14.560.000	14.560.000,00		
	TOTAL	34.560.000	22.840.000	11.720.000	
SCIENCE AND SOCIETY up to 8%	1ST	1.030.000	250.000,00	780.000,00	
	2ND	3.000.000	3.000.000,00		5.000.000
	3RD	5.000.000	5.000.000,00		
	4TH	1.000.000	1.000.000,00		
	TOTAL	10.030.000	9.250.000	780.000	
GSRT*	GSRT* (1ST-1ST GSRT)		17.500.000	30.000.000	
TOTAL ACTIONS		238.000.000	161.000.000	77.000.000	5.000.000

Cash Flows

A. Table 2: Outflows of funded projects per funding source (Provision for 2019-2027)

OUTFLOWS OF FUNDED PROJECTS PER FUNDING SOURCE (PROVISION FOR 2019-2027)			
YEARS	PAYMENTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY EIB	PAYMENTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY PIP	PAYMENTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER SNF DONATION
2016	17.500.000		
2017		20.000.000	
2018			
2019		25.630.000	
2020	13.978.000	31.370.000	3.750.000
2021	33.900.000		750.000
2022	26.587.000		500.000
2023	38.546.000		
2024	11.004.500		
2025	10.658.500		
2026	6.368.000		
2027	2.458.000		
TOTALS	161.000.000	77.000.000	5.000.000

B. Table 3: Inflows (Provision for 2019-2021)

INFLOWS (PROVISION FOR 2019-2021)				
YEARS	EIB PAYMENTS	PIP PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS UNDER SNF DONATION	TOTAL INFLOWS
2016		60.000.000		60.000.000
2017	18.000.000			18.000.000
2018	36.000.000	60.000.000		96.000.000
2019	36.000.000			36.000.000
2020	36.000.000		3.750.000	39.750.000
2021	36.000.000		750.000	36.750.000
2021	18.000.000			18.000.000
2022			500.000	500.000
TOTAL	180.000.000	120.000.000	5.000.000	305.000.000

The cash inflows of the loan agreement are implemented under the conditional conclusion of contracts for the 80% of the previous bank disbursements to H.F.R.I.

Interest is not included.

Assessing Current Situation (SWOT ANALYSIS)

S

Strengths

- Evaluation based only on quality and excellence without thematic, geographical or other restrictions
- Highly qualified human resources
- Vision
- Innovative administration scheme: Participation of the scientific community in the administrative bodies
- Independent evaluation committees

W

Weaknesses

- Tight financial rules framework
- Limited buildings

O

Opportunities

- Cash flow tactics (medium-term)
- Collaborations with third parties
- Definition and standardization of ongoing procedures
- Evaluation information system, Register and management in progress
- Ongoing staffing and training of staff
- Establishment of a new culture and evaluation conditions
- Friendly environment

T

Threats

- Inability to obtain new funding
- Inability to find evaluators
- Inability to ensure evaluation quality
- Inability to have continuity and consistency in actions

Actions – Institutional Framework

- A. According to article 47 of Law 4415/2016, €18,000,000.00 was granted through a loan agreement, before H.F.R.I. was established. The grant was managed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, based on the Decision No. 196096/I2/2016 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.
- B. The decision No. 245/2017 (Official Government Gazette B' 1066) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs was issued on the “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of H.F.R.I. for 2017”, as amended by the subsequent Decisions No. 223400/2017 and 77320/2018 (ANNEX 1).
- C. The decision No. 69615/2018 (Official Government Gazette B' 1907) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs was issued on the “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of H.F.R.I. for 2018” (ANNEX 2).
- D. The decision No. 2351/03.07.2018 of the SC was issued on the “2018 Operational Plan”.
- E. The decision No. 29898/2019 (Official Government Gazette B' 809) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs was issued on the “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of H.F.R.I. for 2019” (ANNEX 3).

Objectives and Action General Information

A. Applications for Scholarships for PhD Candidates

The aim of the Action is to support PhD Candidates in order to conduct a high level of research in Greece. This action of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) aims at funding PhD Candidates for 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 at the choice of the applicant in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering Sciences and Technology, 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, H. Environment and Energy, I. Management and Economics of Innovation.

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

The aim of the Action is to support the implementation of selected research projects of high scientific quality and excellence, where the PIs are Postdoctoral Researchers (PR-PI). The Action is designed to support Postdoctoral Researchers in order to guide the implementation of a Research Project as Principal Investigators and to create their own independent Research Team. The aim of the action is to shape new perspectives in the scientific and professional course of both the PR-PI and the members of the Research Team (RT) of the project, and to create the necessary conditions for the exploitation of the country's existing scientific potential and for the attraction of young researchers 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. Postdoctoral Researchers should be the Principal Investigators of the research projects (par. 12 of article 24 of Law 4386/2016).

Proposals shall be classified at the choice of the applicant in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering Sciences and Technology, 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, H. Environment and Energy, I. Management and Economics of Innovation.

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 the physical and the financial scope, in line with what is proposed in 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 Institute (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

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

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 may be PIs and they 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 it covers and no thematic or geographical restrictions of any kind apply.

The proposed research project 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 proposal for research project will be submitted to a scientific field in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering Sciences and Technology, 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, H. Environment and Energy, I. Management and Economics of Innovation.

D. Proposals for high-value research equipment

The aim of this action is the procurement of high-value scientific equipment of strategic importance, in the context of the effort to support the country's research activity. The action is implemented in Universities, TEI, University Research Institutes (URI) and Research Centres-Institutes of the country called Host Institutions (HI) by strengthening or expanding their existing research structures.

This action follows and complements the actions of H.F.R.I. for the support of PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers and Faculty Members within the framework of practical support for research conducted in the country. Furthermore, this action is part of the utilization of the country's scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists and attracting those working abroad. 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 may be PIs and they 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 it covers and no thematic or geographical restrictions of any kind apply.

Each proposal for research project will be submitted to a scientific field in one of the following broad scientific areas: A. Physical Sciences, B. Engineering Sciences and Technology, 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, H. Environment and Energy, I. Management and Economics of Innovation.

Evaluation Procedure of Applications for Scholarships and Research Proposals

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

The evaluation of the candidate beneficiaries shall be performed by a committee of evaluators, consisting of five (5) to twenty (20) members. 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 program. These experts and the members of the evaluation committees come from the H.F.R.I.'s Register of Certified Evaluators and until its creation from the Register of Certified Evaluators of article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) and have the qualifications related to the scope of the project to be evaluated. If for a certain evaluation there are not any specific scientists or the existing ones do not cover the needs of the 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, following a recommendation from the Thematic Advisory Committee (THAC). Each member of the Foundation's SC is assisted in its work by a THAC consisting of five (5) renowned scientists specialized in the thematic area it supervises. The Chairman of the respective thematic Sectorial Scientific Council (SSC) participates automatically in THAC, with the Vice-Chairman of SSC being his/her deputy.

For the establishment of THAC, the Foundation's Advisory Committee suggests to the Minister twice the number of members at least, who come from NCRI or the corresponding thematic SSC. The Minister issues the act of establishment of THAC. THAC's coordinator becomes automatically the (1) member of the SC, on whose initiative THACs meet at least (2) twice a year. The term of office of the members of THAC is annual with the possibility of renewal. During their term of office, THAC's members are subject to incompatibility.

In order to evaluate the proposals of each call, THACs must be convened within fifteen (15) days from the proposal submission end date so that they suggest to the Scientific Council within an exclusive period of thirty

(30) days from their convening twice the number of experts at least required for the establishment of the evaluation committee. If a THAC does not submit for any reason the list of candidate experts, their selection is made by the SC.

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

The evaluation's results are immediately communicated to the candidates, with personalized report and documentation of the evaluation decision. The candidate may file an objection for reasons of legality of the decision, within a period of ten (10) days, starting from the communication of the evaluation decision, before an objection committee set up for this purpose by decision of the Scientific Council.

The objection committee consists of three (3) members coming from the H.F.R.I.'s Register of Certified Evaluators and until its creation from the Register of Certified Evaluators of article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) and have the qualifications provided so 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, the funding decision is issued by the Director of the Foundation. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to an application for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeal. The whole process is governed by strict rules of conflict of interest and confidentiality that bind all parties involved.

H.F.R.I.'s Register of Certified Evaluators-Experts

In order to evaluate proposals, examine objections and certify funded actions of the Foundation, a Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts shall be established, consisting of acclaimed scientists. The independent experts

and the members of the committees of experts and objections as well as the certifiers of the funded projects shall be drawn from this Register.

The determination of formal and essential qualifications and the certification of Register members of paragraph 6 is carried out by a five-member committee, formed under the Minister's decision, consisting of three (3) Advisory Committee members and two (2) Scientific Council members of the Foundation.

Evaluation Data per Action

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment Category I, II, III			
Scientific Area	Submitted proposals 1st Phase	Members of the Thematic Committees (THC)	Meetings of the Thematic Committees (THC)
SA1. Physical Sciences	416	21	3
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	648	43	5
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	686	25	5
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	238	13	4
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	237	23	3
SA6. Social Sciences	434	27	2
SA7. Humanities and Arts	255	18	3
SA8. Environment and Energy	191	23	4
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	74	7	4
Totals	3179	200	33

Table 1: Aggregate data of members of Thematic Committees and Experts per Scientific Area for the 1st Evaluation Phase of Category I, II, III Proposals.

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment Category I, II				
Scientific Area	Submitted proposals 2nd Phase	Members of the Thematic Committees (THC)	Experts	Meetings of the Thematic Committees (THC)
SA1. Physical Sciences	84	17	37	1
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	207	18	93	2
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	136	21	0	1
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	72	12	8	3
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	84	18	0	3
SA6. Social Sciences	119	19	40	1
SA7. Humanities and Arts	66	12	27	2
SA8. Environment and Energy	95	10	2	1
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	17	7	0	2
Totals	880	134	207	16

Table 2: Aggregate data of members of Thematic Committees and Experts per Scientific Area for the 2nd Evaluation Phase of Category I & II Proposals.

1st Call for Action Science and Society “200 Years from the Greek Revolution”				
	Submitted proposals	Members of the committee	Experts	Meetings of the committee
Total	79	8	19	3

Table 3: Aggregate data of members of Thematic Committees and Experts

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates				
Scientific Area	Submitted applications	Members of the THC	Experts	Meetings of the THC
SA1. Physical Sciences	213	16	0	3
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	255	37	0	3
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	244	22	0	2
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	62	8	0	3
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	81	11	0	3
SA6. Social Sciences	229	24	50	4
SA7. Humanities and Arts	176	12	3	4
SA8. Environment and Energy	43	13	0	3
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	24	7	0	5
Totals	1.327	150	53	47

Table 4: Aggregate data of members of Thematic Committees and Experts per Scientific Area.

Planning of Actions

An amendment of the decision of the SC (2351/3.7.2018, 21st Meeting of the Scientific Council) has been included.

Actions at Funding Stage

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

- **1st CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS TO PHD CANDIDATES (*With the help of GSRT*)** (*Ministerial decision No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018, 28384/22.2.2019*)

Budget: EUR 13,500,000

Implementation stage: Funding

Total number of applications submitted: 2114

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 decision No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018, 28384/22.2.2019*)

Budget: EUR 34,000,000

Implementation stage: Funding

Total number of proposals submitted: 1671

Total proposals to be funded: 189

Start date of funding: September 2018

Actions in Progress

Four (4) actions of a total budget of **EUR 91,610,000** are in progress:

- **1st CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS AND PROCURE HIGH-VALUE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT** (*Ministerial decision No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018, 28384/22.2.2019*)

Budget: EUR 65,000,000 (EUR 45,000,000 + EUR 20,000,000)

Implementation stage: 2nd Evaluation phase

Total number of proposals submitted: 3.179

Expected timetable:

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 decision No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018, 28384/22.2.2019*)

Budget: EUR 10,000,000

Implementation stage: Evaluation

Total number of applications submitted: 1.327

Expected timetable:

Evaluation completion: 6th 2019

Start date of funding: 10th 2019

- **CALL FOR 1st ACTION "SCIENCE AND SOCIETY" "200 YEARS FROM THE GREEK REVOLUTION"** (*Ministerial decision No. 245/2017 as amended and in force 223400/19.12.2017, 77320/14.5.2018, 28384/22.2.2019*)

Budget: EUR 1,030,000

Implementation stage: Evaluation

Total number of proposals submitted: 79

Expected timetable:

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, Official Government Gazette 1907/29.5.2018)

Budget: EUR 16,580,000

Implementation stage: Evaluation

Total number of proposals submitted: 1162

Expected timetable:

Evaluation completion: 3rd 2020

Start date of funding: 9th 2020

Expected Actions 2019 -2022

Nine (9) actions of a total budget of **EUR 102,890,000** are expected:

2019

- **2nd CALL FOR ACTION “SCIENCE AND SOCIETY” Collaboration of H.F.R.I. with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation**

(Ministerial decision No. 29898/26.2.2019, Official Government Gazette 809/7.3.2019)

Budget: EUR 10,000,000 (5,000,000 of which come from SNF)

Expected timetable:

Submission: 9th 2019

Start date of funding: 3rd 2020

- **3rd CALL FOR ACTION “SCIENCE AND SOCIETY”**

(Ministerial decision No. 69615/3.5.2018, Official Government Gazette 1907/29.5.2018)

Budget: EUR 3,000,000

Expected timetable:

Submission: 11th-12th 2019

Evaluation completion: 11th 2020

Start date of funding: 3rd 2021

2020

- **2nd CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS**

(Ministerial decision No. 69615/3.5.2018, Official Government Gazette 1907/29.5.2018)

Budget: 24.500.000 €

Expected timetable:

Submission: 1st – 2nd 2020
Evaluation completion: 5th 2021
Start date of funding: 11th 2021

- **3rd CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS TO PHD CANDIDATES**
(Ministerial decision No. 69615/3.5.2018, Official Government Gazette 1907/29.5.2018)
Budget: 8.000.000 €

Expected timetable:

Submission: 4th 2020
Evaluation completion: 4th 2021
Start date of funding: 9th 2021

- **3rd CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS** (Ministerial decision No. 29898/26.2.2019, Official Government Gazette 809/7.3.2019)
Budget: 12.250.000 €

Expected timetable:

Submission: 9th 2020
Evaluation completion: 1st 2022
Start date of funding: 7th 2022

2021

- **2nd CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO PROCURE HIGH-VALUE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT**
(Ministerial decision No. 69615/3.5.2018, Official Government Gazette 1907/29.5.2018)
Budget: EUR 14,560,000

Expected timetable:

Submission: 2nd 2021
Evaluation completion: 4th 2022
Start date of funding: 10th 2022

- **4th CALL FOR ACTION “SCIENCE AND SOCIETY”**
(Ministerial decision No. 29898/26.2.2019, Official Government Gazette 809/7.3.2019)
Budget: 1.000.000 €

Expected timetable:

Submission: 4th 2021
Evaluation completion: 4th 2022

Start date of funding: 9th 2022

- **4th CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS TO PHD CANDIDATES**
(Ministerial decision No. 29898/26.2.2019, Official Government Gazette 809/7.3.2019)
Budget: 5.000.000 €

Expected timetable:

Submission: 6th 2021

Evaluation completion: 6th 2022

Start date of funding: 11th 2022

2022

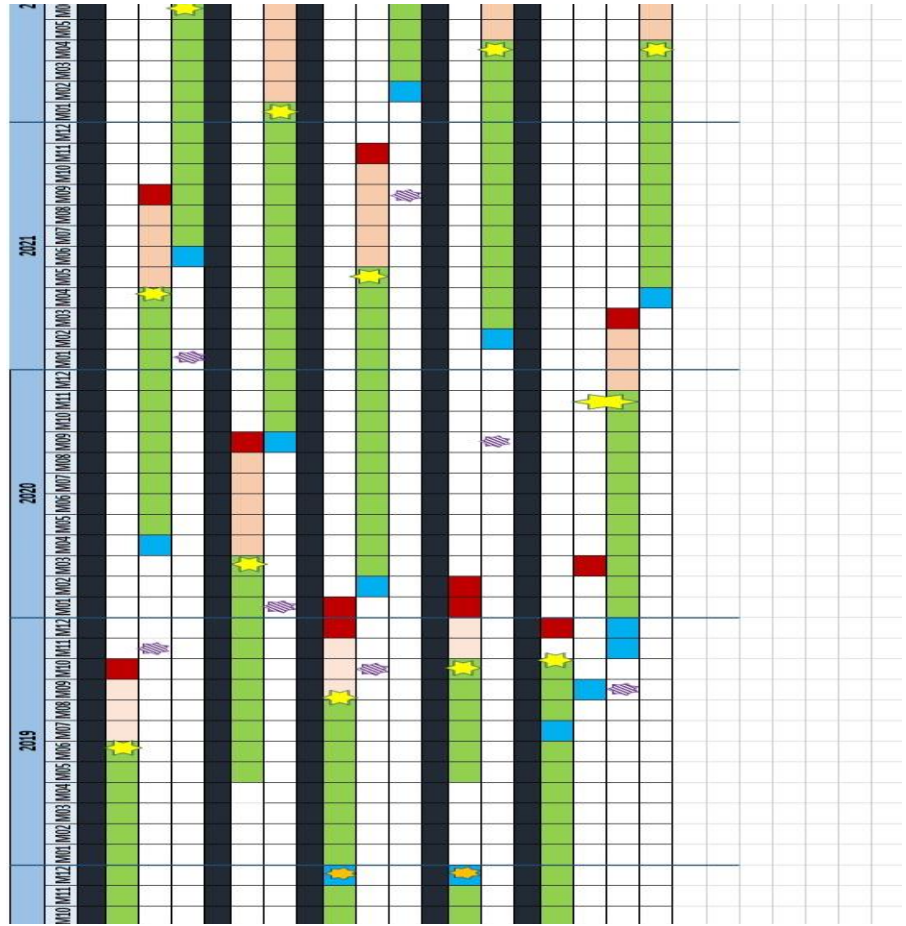
- **3rd CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS**
(Ministerial decision No. 29898/26.2.2019, Official Government Gazette 809/7.3.2019)
Budget: EUR 24,580,000

Expected timetable:

Submission: 2nd 2022

Evaluation completion: 5th 2023

Start date of funding: 11th 2023



Impact of the first two Actions of H.F.R.I. on the outflow abroad 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 H.F.R.I.'s funding.

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

49% of Postdoctoral Researchers living in Greece would leave the country if they did not receive funding from H.F.R.I. (see Figure 1), while 72% of those who returned from abroad WOULD NOT return to Greece, if they did not receive funding from H.F.R.I. (see Figure 2).

Through 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 H.F.R.I. in February 2019 through structured questionnaires sent to the beneficiaries of the action.*

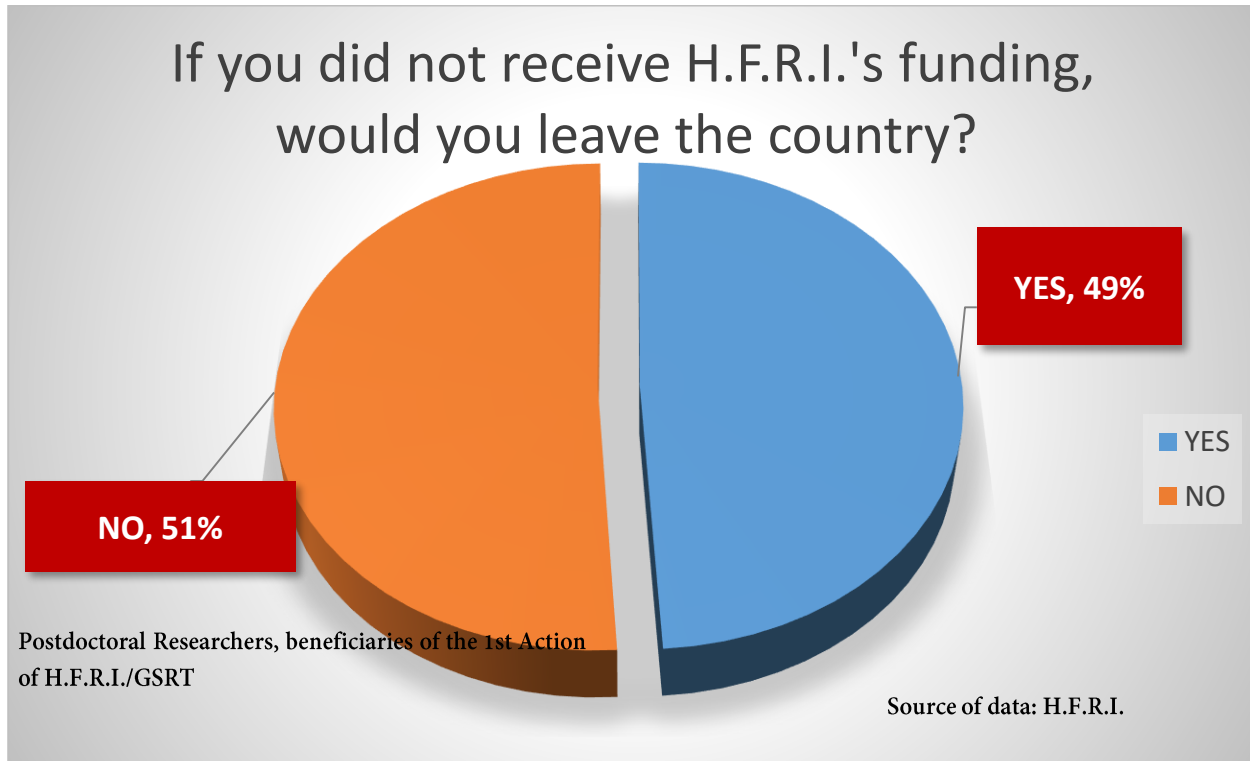


Figure 1: The question is addressed to Postdoctoral Researchers coming from institutions, such as Greek Universities/Research Institutions

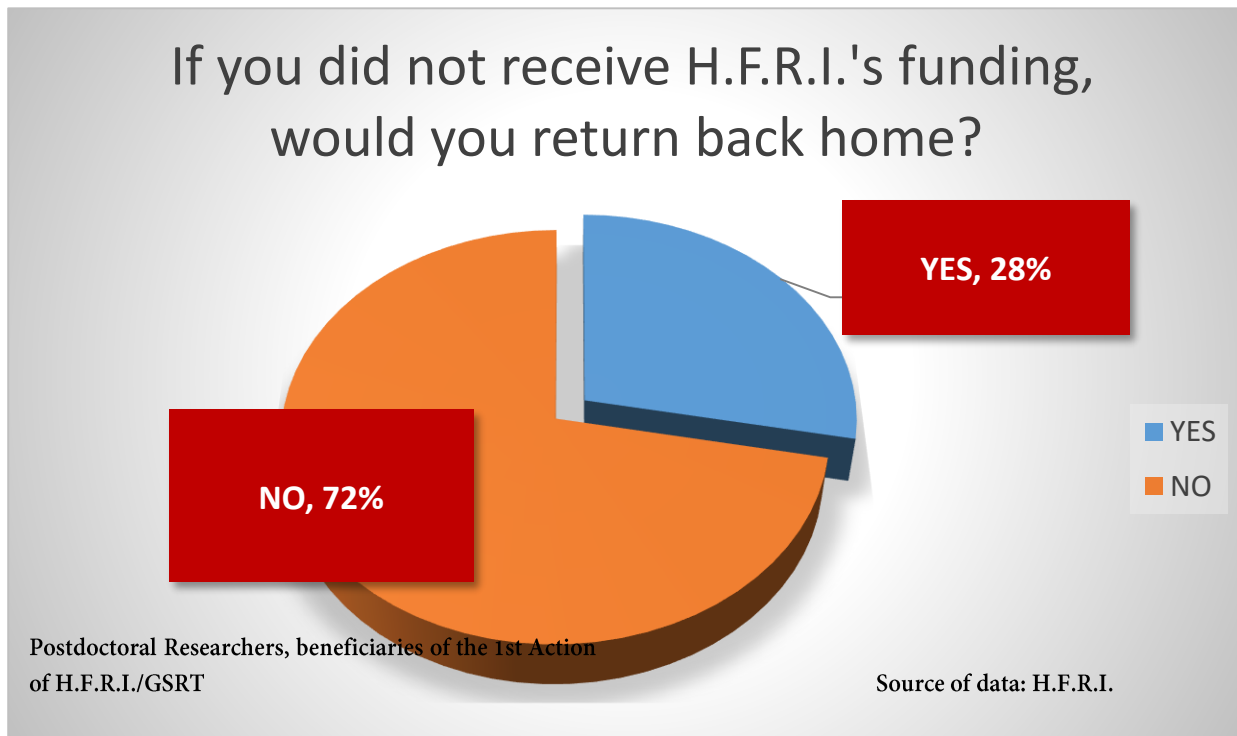


Figure 2: The question is addressed to Postdoctoral Researchers coming from institutions, such as foreign Universities/Research Institutions

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 H.F.R.I.'s funding remained in the country to continue their doctoral thesis.

45%, a significant percentage, of PhD Candidates who answered to a relevant question that they would leave the country if they did not receive H.F.R.I.'s scholarship, (see Figure 3), while 76% answered that they returned from abroad due to 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 H.F.R.I.'s scholarship. 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 H.F.R.I. in February 2019 through structured questionnaires sent to the beneficiaries of the action.*

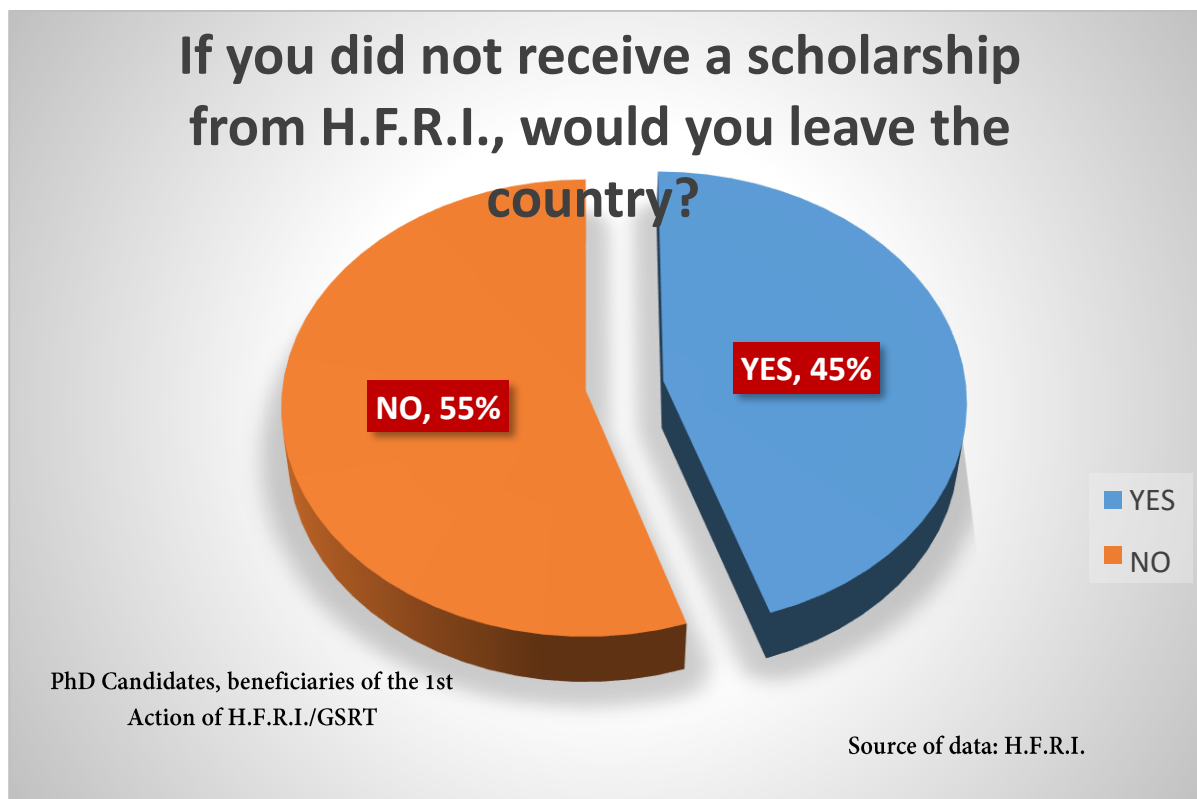


Figure 3: The question is addressed to PhD Candidates coming from institutions, such as Greek Universities/Research Institutions

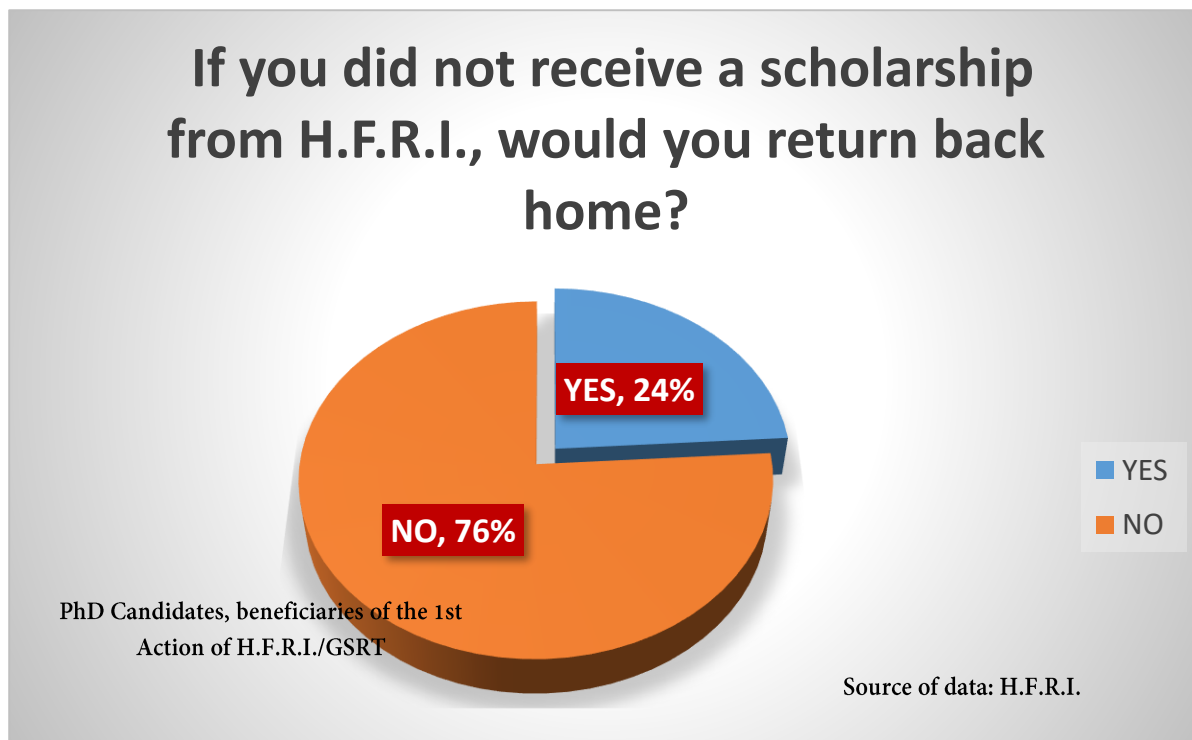


Figure 4: The question is addressed to PhD Candidates coming from institutions, such as foreign Universities/Research Institutions

Submission and Evaluation Data of H.F.R.I.'s Actions in Progress

Table 1: Submission data per Scientific Area

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates	
Scientific Area	Submitted applications ¹
SA1. Physical Sciences	213
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	255

¹The allocation of applications in the Scientific Areas was based on the relevant statement by the PhD candidate when submitting the application, as it may have been revised during the evaluation process in cases where it was found that the scope of the application falls within a different Scientific Area than the one originally declared.

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SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	244
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	62
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	81
SA6. Social Sciences	229
SA7. Humanities and Arts	176
SA8. Environment and Energy	43
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	24
Totals	1.327

Table 2: Submission data per Scientific Area

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Post-Doctoral Researchers	
Scientific Area	Submitted proposals
SA1. Physical Sciences	149
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	178
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	268
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	96
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	77
SA6. Social Sciences	149
SA7. Humanities and Arts	143
SA8. Environment and Energy	80
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	22
Totals	1162

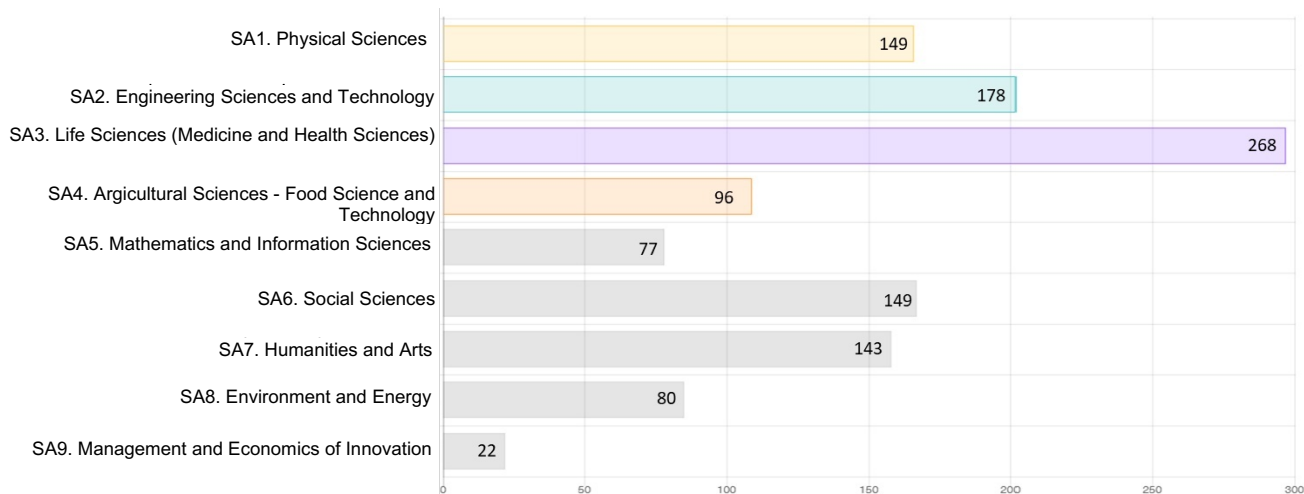


Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the number of proposals submitted per Scientific Area

Table 3: Submission data of the 1st and 2nd phase per Scientific Area

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment			
Scientific Area	Submitted proposals 1st phase²	Approved proposals 2nd phase	Submitted proposals 2nd phase
SA1. Physical Sciences	416	102	101
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	648	248	239
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	686	157	154
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	238	81	78
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	237	90	89
SA6. Social Sciences	434	132	122
SA7. Humanities and Arts	255	72	72
SA8. Environment and Energy	191	115	109
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	74	19	18
Totals	3179	1016	982

²The allocation of proposals in the Scientific Areas was based on the relevant statement by the Principal Investigator when submitting the Proposal, as it may have been revised during the evaluation process in cases where it was found that the scope of the Proposal falls within a different Scientific Area than the one originally declared.

Table 4: Number of proposals submitted during the 2nd phase per Category and Scientific Area

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment					
Scientific Area	Submitted proposals 2nd phase				
	Categories I&II		Category III		Total
	Category I	Category II	Category III.a	Category III.b	
SA1. Physical Sciences	21	63	8	9	101
SA2. Engineering Sciences and Technology	61	146	14	18	239
SA3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)	61	75	11	7	154
SA4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology	24	48	0	6	78
SA5. Mathematics and Information Sciences	25	59	2	3	89
SA6. Social Sciences	41	78	2	1	122
SA7. Humanities and Arts	20	46	5	1	72
SA8. Environment and Energy	25	70	7	7	109
SA9. Management and Economics of Innovation	5	12	1	0	18
Totals per category	283	597	50	52	
Totals	880		102		982

Openness – Collaborations

Strategic goals

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

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 having 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) developing high-profile collaborations with similar institutions abroad, as well as establishing communication channels and links with the Greek academic/research and business community abroad.

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

Indicatively 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 benefit purpose foundations of the country or abroad which, due to their nature, can become strategic allies for the fulfillment 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 of both 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 H.F.R.I.'s know-how in evaluation matters
- ✓ Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

To date

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

- January 2018 – Meeting with the European Research Council at 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 course and progress of the Foundation 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 at 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 benefit purpose foundations in the country to create links and cooperation in areas and actions of common interest. It is highlighted that on the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs all the country's institutions that are oriented to support research are for the first time in contact and communication. The first objective is to communicate and coordinate with each other in order to achieve optimum results.
- June 2018 – Working meeting of H.F.R.I. with the European Research Council (ERC) at 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 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 for the enhancement of research and Greek scientists.
- November 2018 – Visit to the Qatar National Research Fund aiming at developing cooperative actions to enhance quality research and international scientific mobility.
- Implementation of Cooperation (30/01/2019-06/03/2019) between H.F.R.I. and the Department of Information and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the dissemination of the 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers through the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the official websites of our 75 embassies abroad.

- May 2019 – Initiation of cooperation with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation under the 2nd Call “SCIENCE AND SOCIETY” for the joint funding of research projects rated A or B during the second phase of the ERC evaluation.

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

To date

➤ Promotion of funded research projects by 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. website

➤ Events

8-16 September 2018: Dynamic first presence of 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 in the country was to present to the exhibition's visitors the results of its actions for the period 2017-2018 and the planning of the next actions for the period 2018-2019. Dr. Nektarios Nasikas, the H.F.R.I.'s Director, gave a talk there titled: “H.F.R.I.: An important antidote to brain drain phenomenon” on Saturday, September 8th at the Open Event of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) at the main venue of the Pavilion 14.

19th March 2019: Open Debate between the Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Greek Scientists on the subject: “The future is here: From brain drain to brain gain” at the Library Room of the NCSR “Demokritos”

A live debate between the Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Greek Scientists who have received funding from H.F.R.I. took place on Tuesday, March 19 at the Library of the NCSR “Demokritos” with the participation of the Alternate Minister of Research and Innovation Mr. **Kostas Fotakis** and the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs Mr. **Konstantinos Gavroglou** as well as the General Secretary for Research and Technology Dr. **Matrona Kyprianidou**. In the packed room of the library, the Prime Minister had the opportunity to discuss and listen to the experiences and concerns of Greek Researchers who stayed or even returned to Greece with the funding from the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. The coordinator of the debate was the Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NCSR “Demokritos” Mr. Georgios Nounesis.

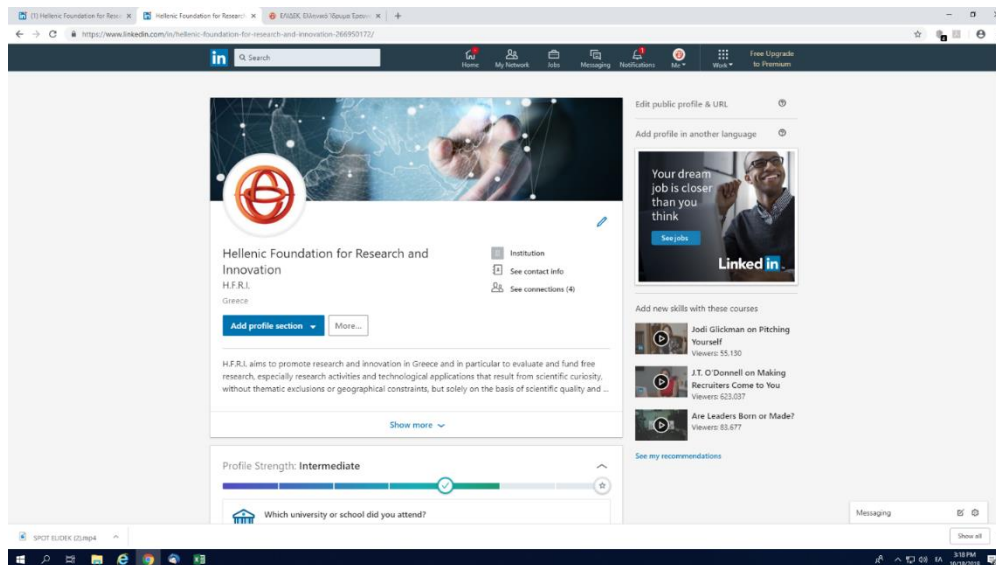
➤ **Social Media:**

H.F.R.I., benefiting from the power and influence of social media with the main aim of disseminating its mission and actions, created the Foundation's official accounts on the following social media:

- LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hellenic-foundation-for-research-and-innovation/?viewAsMember=true>
- Twitter:
https://twitter.com/ELIDEK_HFRI
- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/ELIDEKgr/>
- YOUTUBE:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRXAI0pOnBmx7bZOp4a5O0Q/featured?disable_polymer=1

Creation of an online community of beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.'s actions

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation took the initiative to create an online community in the form of a “closed group”, which now belongs to the official account of the Foundation at LinkedIn in order to facilitate the internal communication of the beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.'s actions under the title “**H.F.R.I. Research Community**”.



The aim of this closed group is to develop a dialogue on research matters and activities and to exchange research views, activities, ideas, presentations, publications, good practices and research news or information.

Next Actions for the promotion, dissemination and visibility of H.F.R.I.'s work

- June 26-28, 2019 – H.F.R.I. as a supporter in the workshop titled: “TECC: Technology, Entrepreneurship & Commercialization. Cloud for Innovation. An Intensive Workshop Experience”. Organization: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
- September 2019 - H.F.R.I. as a supporter of the 9th International Conference on “Innovation on Aviation & Space” co-organized by the NTUA, the Polytechnic School of Patras and EASN (European Aeronautics Science Network)
- Organization of an H.F.R.I. event in order to promote its mission and work
- Targeted workshops to be held by H.F.R.I. at Universities and Research Centres in the country
- Redesign and new functionality of the Foundation’s Website www.elidek.gr with the support of FORTH
- Creation and sending of an electronic communication bulletin (Newsletter)

By way of Conclusion – Setting Goals for the Year 2019

GENERAL

- Filling the Scientific Council's vacancies
- Completion of staffing and training of staff
- Creation of an Evaluation Information System and a Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts
- Definition and standardization of procedures
- Creation of an Information System for Financial Management
- Completion of ongoing collaborations with third parties
- Resolving a lack of buildings
- Reconfiguration of H.F.R.I.'s website

ACTIONS

Submission

- July: Submission start date for the 1st Action "Science and Society" – 1821 (2nd phase)
- September: Submission start date for the 2nd Action "Science and Society" - Collaboration of H.F.R.I. with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- November – December: Submission start date for the 3rd Action "Science and Society"

Evaluation

- May: Start of evaluation of the 2nd Action for Postdoctoral Researchers (The appointment of Committees and Independent Experts comes first)
- May: Start of evaluation of the 1st Action for High-Value Research Equipment (2nd phase)
- June: Completion of evaluation of the 2nd Action for PhD Candidates
- September – October: Completion of evaluation of the 1st Action for Faculty Members and High-Value Research Equipment (Categories I, II, III)
- October – November: Completion of evaluation of the 1st Action "Science and Society" – 1821

Funding

- October: Start of funding of the 2nd Action for PhD Candidates
- December: Start of funding of the 1st Action "Science and Society" – 1821
- December: Start of funding of the 1st Action for Faculty Members (Categories I & II)