

Description of Funded Research Projects

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects
to support Post-Doctoral Researchers



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

Research Project Title:

**Growing & Enabling Information
Technologies for Online
Neighborhoods: Implications &
Applications**

Principal Investigator:
Maria Koletsi

Popular Title:

GEITONIA

Scientific Field:
Social Sciences

Host Institution:
**University of Panteion University of
Social and Political Sciences**



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G.E.I.T.O.N.I.A. project (the word “geitonia” stands for neighborhood in Greek) aspires to advance the current research field on the concepts of neighborhood and community, both on theoretical and empirical level. It will do so by providing, at a pilot level, a free, non-commercial local online application for neighborhoods in Greece, designed according to the findings of a multidisciplinary research study and the members of the local community as co-creators, on the one hand. And on the other, by studying and analyzing the effect of such an application on the strengthening of social bonds across a local physical community that can lead to the formation of a “hybrid” neighborhood (convergence of physical and virtual) from a socio-psychological point of view.

Social interactions influence people's choices and substantially affect the economic activity and the welfare of the community. The impact of social interaction within a community may change over time. People's attitudes, values, trust and civic responsibility, contribute to economic and social development. Associations and inter-connections between people have effect on community productivity and are a source of competitiveness for the market.

The study will investigate how pre-existing relationships between neighbors are formulated and shaped through the local social medium application. The transition from weak bonds between people, to strong and more permanent relationships, depends directly on their desire to interact and on the environmental factors that affect them. G.E.I.T.O.N.I.A. application caters to the ability of neighbors to socialize, motivates them to arrange meetings, find proper solutions to their problems and exchange information within the community.

To me, H.F.R.I. funding
would mean...

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H.F.R.I. funding is of high importance as it offers new researchers the opportunity to organize and implement research designs focusing on innovation, considering new technological advances. More specifically with regards to social sciences, the support of social research promotes the investigation of social relationships, points out their content and environmental context, and contributes to the development of applicable suggestions on complex social phenomena, by exploiting new information and communication technologies.

*The Principal Investigator,
Maria Koletsi*

Funding

Amount: **150,000 €**

Duration: **30 months**

Foundation: **H.F.R.I.**





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GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR
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