



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

2018 ACTION PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

2017 was a landmark year for the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, as it was the year when executives were appointed to all its main governing bodies, staff started being hired and the Foundation issued its first autonomous action.

Today the H.F.R.I. is at a point when its major action in terms of submission of proposals by academic staff / researchers and proposals for the procurement of high value research equipment is under way. As part of this action, 3,179 proposals were submitted simultaneously across 9 scientific fields. A major feat which reflects both the dire need of supporting the academic and research community, and the trust this community has placed in a new body, which mainly aims to reinforce the free and quality scientific research conducted in Greece. In this context, submissions for applications for PhD scholarships have already been completed with a total budget of 10.000.000€. Also the submission of proposals for the emblematic action of H.R.F.I. «Science and Society», «200 Years from the Greek Revolution» was completed with a total budget of 1.030.000€.

These foundations are mapping the future of the H.F.R.I. within 2018; a future that must be marked by ongoing and consistent actions and funding, but naturally also by transparency and meritocracy, which must govern all levels of operation of the Foundation.

We have all been charged with a huge and challenging task; its success may carry a momentum that could constitute a significant, if not the most significant, breakthrough in Greece. I am confident that with hard and consistent work, we can make it, to the benefit of the academic and scientific community of the country.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas
H.F.R.I. Director



PREFACE

This 2018 Action Plan, Decision with Ref.No.: 2351/3.7.2018, 21st Meeting of H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, includes a presentation of the H.F.R.I., in terms of the Foundation's governance structure, mission, resources and strategic directions, as well as the direct action planning of the H.F.R.I. for the years 2017 and 2018, based on the relevant ministerial decisions and the decisions of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council.

The aim of this action plan is to be the basis for planned and coordinated actions so as:

- To address the problems that arose in the first one and a half years of the Foundation's operation and lay the basis that will lead it to fulfil its mission.
- To establish the terms and conditions for H.F.R.I. to not only support Greece's research community in times of economic and social crisis, but also become a pillar in shaping the national policy on research and knowledge economy.
- To set values based on the needs of society, with quality and excellence as the sole criteria, and without thematic, geographical or other constraints.

The major wager for the Management and the H.F.R.I. executives is:

- To announce, evaluate and manage the actions specified in the existing budget of the Foundation in a continuous, consistent, meritocratic and transparent manner.
- To bring a new momentum into the academic/research arena through partnerships and affiliations with internationally acclaimed academic/research and other institutions.
- To secure new sources of funding so as to continue its task.

The H.F.R.I. is part of our answer to the question once posed by the Greek poet Yiannis Ritsos: "How is it that others establish our fate, little by little, prescribe it for us and we accept it?"

MISSION

The mission of the H.F.R.I. is to promote research and innovation, in the context of the national strategy for research and innovation. Specifically its mission is:

To support young scientists

**To make use
of the research human capital**

**To reinforce the research
infrastructure of Greece**

ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The 2018 Action Plan was drawn up in partnership with all the H.F.R.I. departments, in line with the decisions issued by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 196096/12/2016, 245/2017 (as amended by decisions 223400/2017 & 77320/2018) and 69615/2018, and was published with decision of the Foundation's Scientific Council, upon recommendation of the Director.

The Action Plan may be revised in case of significant changes to the internal and external environment of the H.F.R.I.

STRATEGIC TARGETS

- To curb the unilateral brain drain phenomenon.
- To shape the knowledge economy so as to develop and restructure the country in terms of production.

To meet its goals, the H.F.R.I. :

- Funds research programmes.
- Grants scholarships for doctoral theses and postdoctoral studies.
- Funds the purchase of research equipment, based on strategic planning.
- Funds emblematic actions to interconnect science with the society.

The Foundation's main funding beneficiaries are: The Universities and Technological Educational Institutes registered in Greece, the research and technological organisations under Article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (GG 258/A), and the University research institutes. Potential funding co-beneficiaries include companies, educational and research foundations, and other private or public bodies in Greece. The potential beneficiaries (main and co-beneficiaries) shall be specified in each call. Especially with regard to scholarships for doctoral theses and postdoctoral studies, the beneficiaries must be natural persons.

OUR VALUES



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The H.F.R.I., a non-profit Private-Law Legal Entity, is part of the broader public sector, operates guided by public interest and is supervised by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, via the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

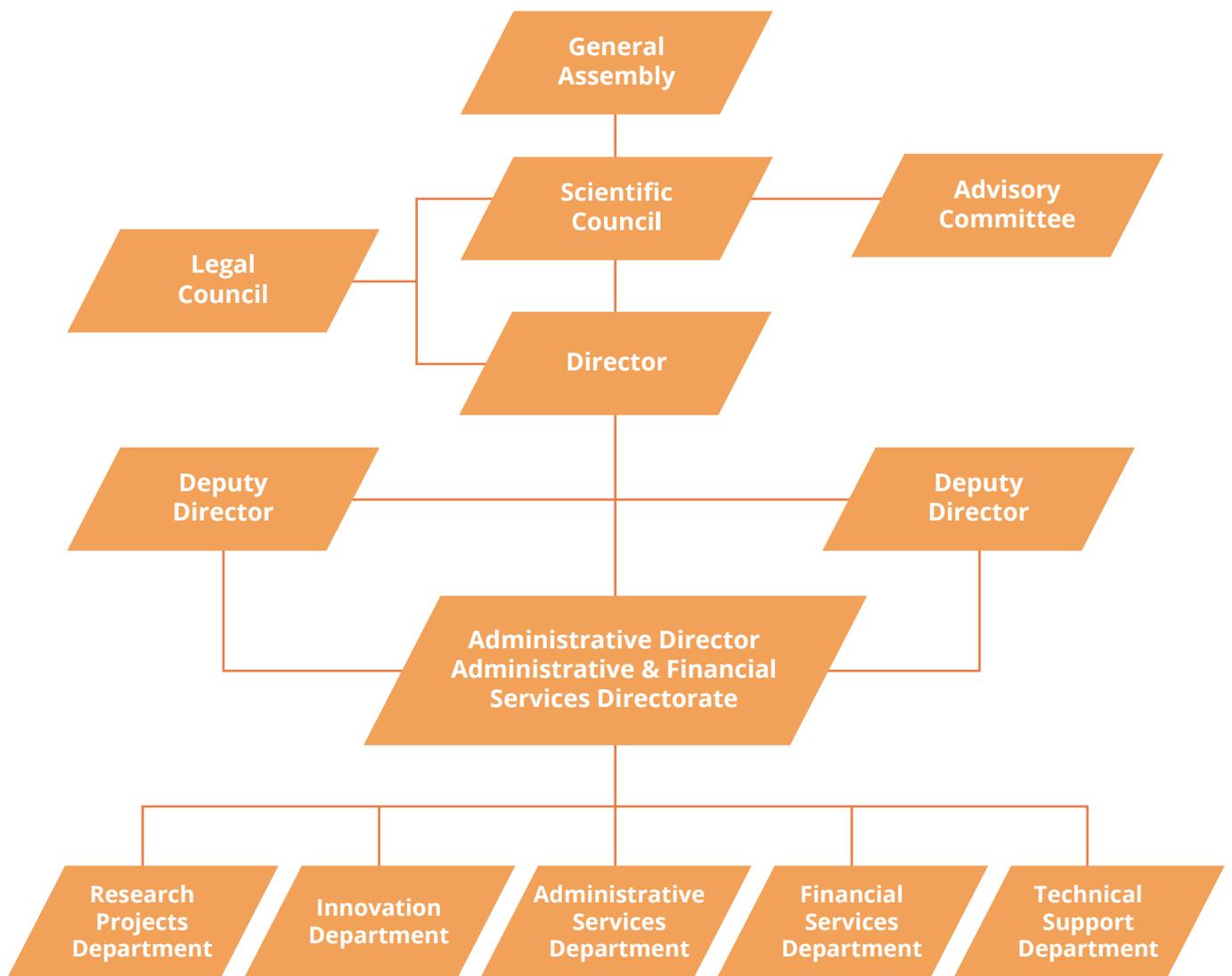
It was founded with the Law 4429/2016 on “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions” (Government Gazette [GG]199/A), as amended by:

- Article 28 of the Law 4452/2017 on “Regulation of matters concerning the State Certificate of Language Proficiency, the National Library of Greece and other provisions” (GG 17/A).
- Article 69 of the Law 4485/2017 on “Organisation and operation of higher education, regulations on research and other provisions” (GG 114/A).
- Article 20 of Law 4521/2018 (GG 38/A) for the establishment of the University of West Attica.
- Article 98 of Law 4547/2018 (GG 102/A) on “Restructuring the support structures of primary and secondary education and other provisions”.

Bearing in mind the supervisory role of the State, these provisions do not in any way contravene the administrative independence of the H.F.R.I.

Lastly, by virtue of the decision issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 222605/2017 (GG 4586/A), the matters concerning the operation of the H.F.R.I. were regulated, including the Foundation’s Internal Regulation.

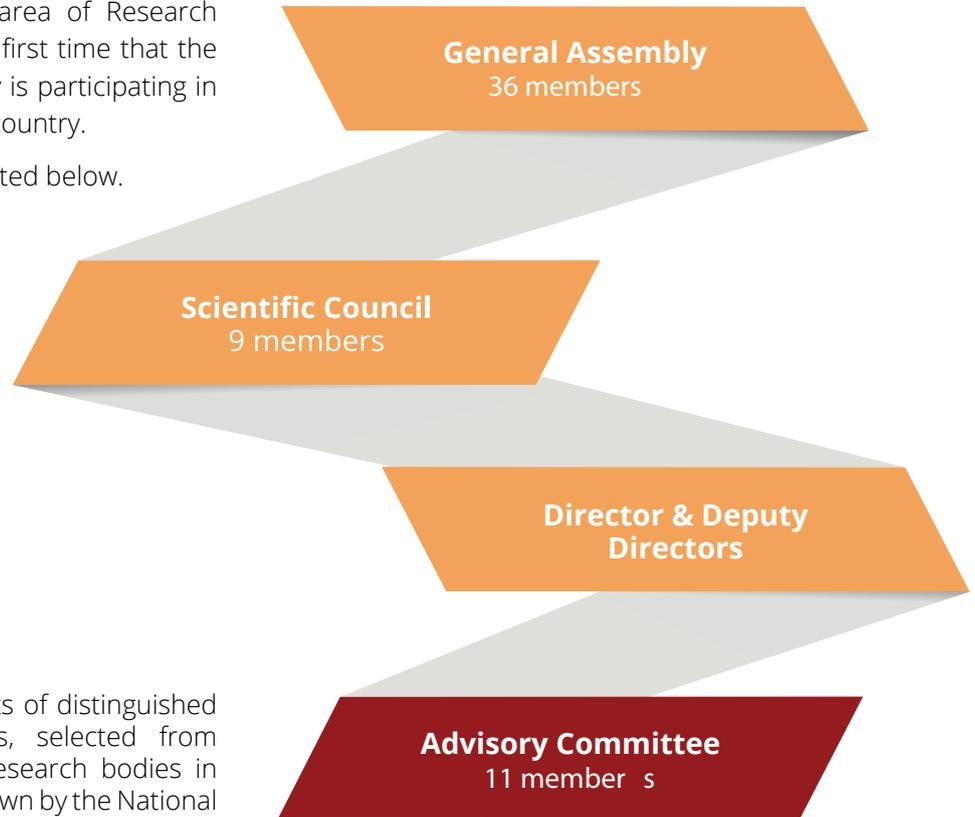
ORGANISATIONAL CHART



GOVERNING BODIES

The H.F.R.I. is a new institution, attempting a major breakthrough of reforms in the area of Research and Innovation in Greece: It is the first time that the research and academic community is participating in shaping the research policy of the country.

The H.F.R.I. governing bodies are listed below.



The H.F.R.I. Governing Bodies

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (GA) consists of distinguished internationally-acclaimed scientists, selected from higher education institutes and research bodies in Greece, based on the criteria laid down by the National Council for Research and Innovation. They serve a 3-year office term. A total of 36 bodies are represented in the current General Assembly and their office term ends on 30/06/2018. It was set up pursuant to the decision issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 83/2017 (GG 39/YODD*), as amended by subsequent decision, Ref. No. 169420/2017 (GG 512/YODD), as follows:

The General Assembly is vested with the following powers:

- It selects the members of the Scientific Council.
- It approves consortia and collaborations with other public and private bodies in Greece and abroad to meet the objectives of the H.F.R.I.
- It submits proposals to the Scientific Council on matters relating to research activities of the H.F.R.I.
- It approves the annual report (financial and report).

The first meeting of the General Assembly took place on 13 February 2017, while another 4 meetings were conducted until the end of 2017.

**YODD stands for: Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies*

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The Foundation's Scientific Council (SC) consists of 9 regular members, all internationally-acclaimed scientists, from the following fields:

Agricultural Sciences, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and IT, Social Sciences, Humanities, Environment & Energy, Medicine & Health Sciences, Engineering & Technology, and Innovative Entrepreneurship.

The SC members are elected following an international call for expression of interest, and must be leading scientists who have excelled for their international work and experience in their relevant field. The SC members serve a 4-year office term.

The SC was set up pursuant to the decision issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 288/2017 (GG 173/YODD).

DIRECTOR

The Director of the Foundation must be an internationally-acclaimed scientist, with experience in management and significant research activities. The qualifications of the Director are specified in the Internal Regulation of Operation. The Director was selected and appointed by decision no. 301/2017 (GG 436/YODD) of the Scientific Council, following a call for expression of interest. He will serve for a 4-year office term, which may be renewed once. The Director of the Foundation recommends to the Scientific Council the appointment of 2 Deputy Directors, after having selected them following an open call for expression of interest. The Director implements the Foundation's strategy, as decided by the Scientific Council.

The Director is vested with the following powers:

- Heads the services offered by the Foundation, is responsible for its unhindered operation and is the authorising officer for all its expenses.
- Prepares and publishes calls for actions funded by the Foundation, in line with the annual action plan and the Scientific Council decisions.
- Ensures that the aims of the Foundation's budget are met.
- May ask for the extraordinary convocation of the General Assembly or the Scientific Council, always via the Chair of the relevant governing body, and may participate in their meetings, without voting rights.
- Prepares the annual report and submits it to the Scientific Council and to the General Assembly for approval.
- Seeks funding resources for the Foundation.
- Represents the Foundation in and out of court.

Deputy Directors

- A.** The Deputy Director for administrative matters, who stands in for the Director if there is none appointed or if there is a problem, was appointed by decision of the Scientific Council Ref. No. 815/2015 (GG 173/YODD). She is responsible for running the H.F.R.I. and for any other issues assigned to her by decision of the Director or the Scientific Council.
- B.** The Deputy Director for research matters is responsible for any H.F.R.I. research issues and any other issues assigned to him/her by decision of the Director or the Scientific Council.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Advisory Committee was set up by decision of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. This Committee is independent from the rest of the Foundation's governing bodies. The Advisory Committee provides opinions. Its purpose is to assess the Foundation's activities, and form opinions and recommendations on how to optimise its operation. It reviews matters of great importance or matters that present special interest as to the operation of the Foundation and the funding of research and innovation.

The Advisory Committee was appointed pursuant to the decision issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 75065/2018 (GG 300/YODD).

It consists of 11 members, who are either distinguished, internationally-acclaimed scientists or come from the business or production arena, in Greece or abroad.

The Advisory Committee members are selected as follows: Three months before the end of office term of the Advisory Committee members, the National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI) compiles a list of 22 candidate members, 6 of whom are also NCRI members, and submits it to the Minister and the Scientific Council. From this list, the Minister selects 6 members and the Scientific Council another 5. Up to 3 out of the 11 Advisory Committee members can also be NCRI members.

By decision of the Scientific Council or the Advisory Committee, it is possible to invite distinguished Greek or foreign scientists to the latter's meetings. The Advisory Committee members serve a 4-year office term.

RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES

A total of 21 people are currently employed by the H.F.R.I., including:

- 2 people by posting and hiring from other public bodies. The posting of at least another 3 people from public bodies and the wider public sector in general is being planned until the end of the year, in accordance with Article 98 of Law 4547/2018.
- 6 people with private law fixed-term employment agreements (with the option of renewal). The gradual coverage of another 17 jobs with private-law employment agreements is being planned by the end of 2018 – in line with the needs of the Foundation.
- 13 people as external contractors.

The H.F.R.I. employees are highly qualified, with deep understanding of and faith in the vision of the H.F.R.I.

TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The submission and evaluation platform of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology is used to submit and evaluate proposals in the context of the calls issued by the H.F.R.I.

There are plans in place to implement a modern and flexible IT system to meet the high business targets of the H.F.R.I. for:

- Submitting and evaluating proposals, as well as supporting the evaluation committees.
- Managing the evaluator register and extracting statistical data.
- Managing the funded research projects, i.e. monitoring them as to their physical and financial dimensions.

The new IT system shall consist of the following components:

- A system for submitting and evaluating proposals, as well as supporting the evaluation committees.
- A system for managing the evaluator register and extracting statistical data.
- A system for monitoring and implementing the funded research projects.

The aim of the said system is to meet the aforementioned business needs of the Foundation rapidly and flexibly, with a deep sense of credibility and transparency.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Foundation’s resources may include:

- All types of funding/grants from the State Budget (ordinary and Public Investment Programme).
- Funding and all types of aid or grants from European Union bodies and organisations, and other European or international organisations.
- Funding in line with the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank; the 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 from natural persons or legal entities of the public or private sector, in Greece or abroad.

In compliance with the provisions in force, the Agreement dated 15/07/2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank, and its Internal Regulation of Operation, the Foundation manages its resources through a special treasury management account it holds at 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 constitutes loan revenue of the State Budget and an equal amount has been registered in a special for the Foundation budget code of the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, amounting to €180.000.000. Out of this amount, €18.000.000 have been disbursed as front-loaded funds. Pursuant to Article 47 of Law 4415/2016 (GG 159/A) on “Regulations on Greek education abroad, on cross-cultural education and other provisions” and the decision issued by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 196096/12/2016, a regulatory framework has been established for the front-loaded use of the €18.000.000. The General Secretariat for Research and Technology used these resources for the call for i) Scholarships for PhD candidates, ii) Research studies by postdoctoral researchers, and to cover the expenses to set up the H.F.R.I. Article 98 of Law 4547/2018 secured the institutional framework for increasing the budgets for the aforementioned actions managed by the GSRT.

In addition, the H.F.R.I. has received funding amounting to €60.000.000 from the co-financed part of the Public Investment Programme.

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION PER ACTION CATEGORY BASED ON THE LOAN AGREEMENT

- Main Research (Academic Staff & Researchers) at least 38%
- Scholarships (Postdoctoral & Doctoral) at least 38%
- Equipment up to 16%
- Science & Society up to 8%
- Operating Costs up to 10%

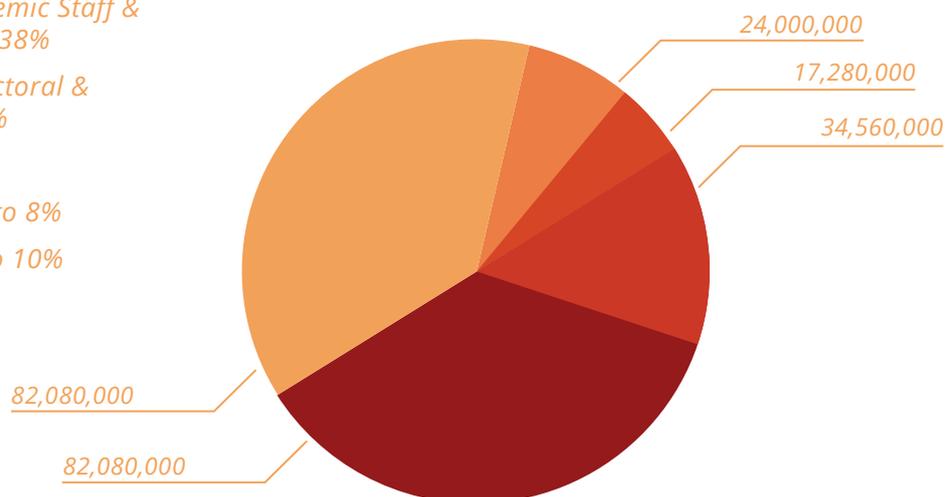


FIGURE 1

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION PER ACTION CATEGORY

Based on the Agreement dated 15/07/2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank, the budget per action category must be distributed according to column 1 of Table 1. Columns 2 and 3 depict the distribution of the said budget for the years 2017 and 2018 respectively, in line with the relevant ministerial decisions. The calls for the actions are issued on the same or the next year. The last column (4) depicts the remaining budget balance.

TABLE 1

CATEGORIES	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	BUDGET	2017 CALLS (PUBLISHED)	2018 PROJECT PLANNING (HAVE BEEN DECIDED)	2019 BUDGET BALANCE
MAIN RESEARCH (AT LEAST 38%)	82,080,000	33,000,000	24,500,000	24,580,000
PhD SCHOLARSHIPS	82,080,000	23,500,000	8,000,000	
POSTDOC SCHOLARSHIPS (AT LEAST 38%)		34,000,000	16,580,000	
RESEARCH EQUIPMENT (UP TO 16%)	34,560,000	20,000,000	14,560,000	
SCIENCE & SOCIETY AND EMBLEMATIC ACTIVITIES (UP TO 8%)	17,280,000	1,030,000	3,000,000	13,250,000
TOTAL	216,000,000	111,530,000	66,640,000	37,830,000
OPERATING EXPENSES (UP TO 10%)	24,000,000			
TOTAL	240,000,000			

CASH OUTFLOW

TABLE 2

OUTFLOW	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
OPERATION EXPENSES		440,540	2,035,688	2,900,000	2,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,023,772	1,000,000
FUNDING	1,851,180	5,269,644	21,925,751	34,051,000	49,270,400	45,468,000	35,939,000	16,330,000	4,570,025	1,325,000
TOTAL	1,851,180	5,710,184	23,961,439	36,951,000	52,170,400	49,368,000	39,839,000	20,230,000	7,593,797	2,325,000

CASH INFLOW

TABLE 3

INFLOW	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	60,000,000									
LOAN AGREEMENT		18,000,000	36,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	23,000,000	26,000,000			
TOTAL	60,000,000	18,000,000	36,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	23,000,000	26,000,000			

The cash inflows from the loan agreement take place by lifting the contract for up to 70% of the previous disbursement of the bank towards the H.F.R.I.

REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION (SWOT ANALYSIS)

S STRENGTHS

- Vision
- Evaluation with quality and excellence as the sole criteria, and without thematic, geographical or other constraints.
- Highly qualified human resources
- Participation of the scientific community in the governing bodies

W WEAKNESSES

- Lack of standardised procedures
- Lack of comprehensive IT system for submitting, evaluating and managing proposals
- Restrictive context of fiscal regulations
- Understaffing
- Limited facilities

O OPPORTUNITIES

- Possibility for regular funding inflow
- Collaboration with third parties
- Friendly environment

T THREATS

- Inability to find new funds
- Inability to find evaluators
- Inability to safeguard the quality of evaluations
- Inability to maintain continuous and consistent actions

ACTIONS

- A.** In accordance with Article 47 of Law 4415/2016, before the establishment of the H.F.R.I., €18.000.000,00 were granted through a loan agreement, which were managed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), in line with the decision issued by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ref. No. 196096/12/2016.
- B.** The Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs issued a decision on the “Annual planning of actions and distribution of resources for the H.F.R.I. for 2017”, Ref. No. 245/2017 (GG 1066/B), as amended by subsequent decisions with Ref. No. 223400/2017 and 77320/2018.
- C.** The Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs issued a decision on the “Annual planning of actions and distribution of resources for the H.F.R.I. for 2018”, Ref. No. 69615/2018 (GG 1907/B).

ONGOING ACTIONS

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates

The action was implemented by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, with front-loaded funds. The initial budget for the action was €8.500.000, which rose to €13.500.000. The call aimed to fund PhD candidates for preparing their doctoral thesis at higher education institutes and/or research centres that collaborate with higher education institutes in Greece. The duration of the funding, in the form of a scholarship, was up to 3 years and the scholarship amounted to €900. By decision of each candidate, the scholarship applications were separated into the following 4 fields: Natural Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities & Arts. A total of 2,114 applications were submitted and 582 scholarships were granted. The applications were evaluated by thematic committees, consisting

of 3-5 members. The evaluation criteria were: The candidate's academic performance (degree grade and MA specialisation) and the full profile. A total of 164 evaluators participated in the evaluation process (152 to evaluate the applications and 12 to review the objections).

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Application submission period:* 01/11/2016-30/11/2016
- *Evaluation completion:* 03/07/2017
- *Commencement of funding:* 10/2017

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Postdoctoral Researchers

The action was implemented by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, with front-loaded funds. The initial budget for the action was €9,000,000, which rose to €34,000,000. The call aimed to support selected research projects of high scientific calibre and excellence, with postdoctoral researchers (postdocs) as scientific heads. This action gave postdocs the opportunity to shape best prospects for their scientific and professional progress. The research projects of the postdocs were carried out at universities, technological educational institutes and research centres in Greece (host entities), enriching the research activities conducted within these. This action is part of the initiative to capitalise on the country's scientists, aiming to keep young scientists in Greece and attract the ones working abroad. Proposals were submitted in the following scientific fields: Natural Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Mathematics & IT, Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts, Environment & Energy. Multidisciplinary proposals were also submitted. The permissible duration of the proposed projects ranged from 24 to 36 months. Any extension granted to the project shall not exceed 42 months. The maximum funding limit for each proposal was €200,000, while the budget for each proposal could have reached up

to €350,000 for a partnership between 2 postdocs and €450,000 for a partnership among 3 postdocs. A total of 1,671 proposals (160 from Greeks living abroad) were submitted and 192 proposals were funded. The proposals were evaluated by experts and thematic committees. The evaluation was two-fold:

1. Evaluation of the scientific head (scientific feats and maturity in terms of guiding and implementing the project) and
2. Evaluation of the proposed project (quality, originality, balanced budget and possibility of implementation). A total of 891 evaluators participated in the evaluation process (855 to evaluate the applications and 36 to review the objections).

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Application submission period: 30/01/2017-31/3/2017*
- *Evaluation completion: 23/03/2018*
- *Commencement of funding: 08/2018*

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Academic Staff and Researchers and to Procure High-Value Research Equipment

The budget for the action amounts to €53.000.000. The aim of this call is two-fold: on the one hand to support the implementation of research projects of high scientific calibre and on the other hand to procure research equipment of high value and strategic importance, as part of the effort to support the research activities of the country. The research projects of this call will be carried out in universities, technological educational institutes, university research institutes and research centres/institutes in Greece (host entities), enriching the research activities conducted within these, and empowering or expanding existing research structures. Following the previous two H.F.R.I. actions, this action forms part of the initiative to capitalise on the country's scientists, aiming to keep young scientists in Greece and attract the ones working abroad. The scientific heads may be members of the higher education academic staff and researchers from Greek Research Centres, University Research Institutes and Higher Education Military Institutes. Proposals were submitted in the following scientific fields: Natural Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Agricultural Sciences - Food, Mathematics & IT, Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts, Environment & Energy, Business Administration & Innovation Economics. The duration of the projects ranges from 24 to 36 months. The maximum funding limit for each proposal is €200.000 while the maximum funding limit for proposals combining a research project with procurement of research equipment is €1.500.000.

The proposals will be evaluated in two phases by thematic committees.

Phase A' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

Phase B' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

A total of 3.179 proposals for research projects have been submitted, as follows:

TABLE 4

CATEGORIES	Submitted proposals	Budget (€)
Academic staff / Researchers	2.855	33.000.000,00
Proposals for high value research equipment	324	20.000.000,00
TOTAL	3.179	53.000.000,00

TABLE 5

SCIENTIFIC FIELDS	No. of submitted proposals
Natural Sciences	437
Engineering & Technology	644
Life Sciences (Medicine & Health Sciences)	676
Agricultural Sciences / Food	237
Mathematics & IT	235
Social Sciences	430
Humanities & Arts	255
Environment & Energy	191
Business Administration & Innovation Economics	74
TOTAL	3.179

The evaluation will be two-fold:

1. Evaluation of the scientific head (scientific feats and maturity in terms of guiding and implementing the project) and
2. Evaluation of the proposed project (quality, originality, balanced budget and possibility of implementation).

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 01/12/2017-16/1/2018*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase A): 09/2018*
- *Proposal submission period (Phase B): 10-11/2018*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase B): 03/2019*
- *Commencement of funding: 08/2019*

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates

The budget for the action was €10.000.000. The Call aims to fund PhD candidates for preparing their doctoral thesis at higher education institutes and/or research centres that collaborate with higher education institutes in Greece. The duration of the funding, in the form of a scholarship, is up to 3 years and the scholarship amounts to €900. By decision of each candidate, the scholarship applications will be separated into the following fields: Natural Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Agricultural Sciences - Food, Mathematics & IT, Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts, Environment & Energy, Business Administration & Innovation Economics. The applications shall be evaluated by thematic

committees. The evaluation criteria will be: the scientific profile of the PhD candidate (CV, degree grade and MA specialisation, publications, awards, distinctions, references), the subject of the doctoral thesis (quality, originality, outreach), and the motivation statement.

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 15/06/2018-15/07/2018*
- *Evaluation completion: 05/2019*
- *Commencement of funding: 09/2019*

1st Call for the Science & Society Action "200 Years from the Greek Revolution"

The budget for the action is €1.030.000. The main aim of the Call is to fund proposals dedicated exclusively to the public promotion of research projects or actions relevant to the 1821 Greek Revolution. Specifically, the Call aims to fund the public promotion of research projects and actions of top scientific and/or artistic quality, which use innovative methods to showcase all the aspects of the 1821 Greek Revolution, such as its impact on how the Greek economy, society, culture and politics were developed and shaped within Greece and/or the European perspective.

The main condition for funding a proposal is that it touches on existing or ongoing research, or it constitutes new research about the 1821 Greek Revolution, but only to the extent that it supports the aforementioned aim of the Call.

Proposals may be submitted by academic staff

of Universities (Article 2 of Law 4485/2017) and Higher Education Military Institutes (Article 8 of Law 3187/2003), and the research staff of research centres and institutes (Article 18 of Law 4310/2014), while there is also the opportunity to work with research and academic institutes abroad. Natural persons may also participate, provided their proposal has been accepted by a university department or a research centre/institute.

The proposed project may run from 24 to 36 months.

The evaluation takes place in two phases, with two stages each:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

The evaluation will be two-fold:

1. Evaluation of the project coordinator (CV, work [scientific or artistic], achievements [academic or artistic], scientific/artistic maturity/experience of the project coordinator, ability of the project coordinator to fulfill their duty as such, commitment of the project coordinator based on their role in the project implementation and the time they are willing to dedicate to this, evaluation of the project team composition, scientific/artistic profile of its members based on their CVs, their scientific/academic experience, how they complement each other and how suitable the distribution of roles is, and the team's overall adequacy/drive to implement the proposed project) and
2. Evaluation of the proposed project (quality, originality, outreach, realistic timeframe, realistic and rational correlation of the budget to the proposed project and its requirements).

Up to 30 proposals will be selected during Phase A of the evaluation. They will be funded by up to €1.000 each, exclusively for covering the expenses to submit a complete file with the project proposal during Phase B of the evaluation, with the criterion being the type of proposed public exposure. Up to 10 proposals will be selected during Phase B of the evaluation and will receive up to €100.000 funding each.

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 15/06/2018-10/07/2018*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase A): 12/2018*
- *Proposal submission period (Phase B): 04/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase B): 09/2019*
- *Commencement of funding: 01/2020*

ACTIONS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN 2018-2019

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Postdoctoral Researchers

The budget for the action is €16.580.000. The Call aims to support selected research projects of high scientific calibre and excellence, with postdoctoral researchers (postdocs) as scientific heads. This action gives postdocs the opportunity to shape best prospects for their scientific and professional progress. The research projects of the postdocs are carried out at Universities, Technological Educational Institutes and Research Centres in Greece (host entities), enriching the research activities conducted within these. This action forms part of the initiative to capitalise on the country's scientists, aiming to keep young scientists in Greece and attract the ones working abroad.

The proposals will be evaluated in two phases by thematic committees and/or independent experts.

Phase A' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

Phase B' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

The evaluation will be two-fold:

1. Evaluation of the scientific head and
2. Evaluation of the proposed project.

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 01-02/01/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase A): 08/2019*
- *Proposal submission period (Phase B): 09-10/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase B): 03/2020*
- *Commencement of funding: 08/2020*

2nd Call for the Science & Society Action

The budget for the action is €3.000.000 and may be broken down into individual axes.

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 02-03/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase A): 08/2019*
- *Proposal submission period (Phase B): 10-11/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase B): 04/2020*
- *Commencement of funding: 08/2020*

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Academic Staff and Researchers ant to Procure High-Value Research Equipment

The budget for the action amounts to €39.060.000 (€24.500.000 & €14.560.000). The aim of the Call is two-fold: on the one hand to support the implementation of research projects of high scientific calibre and on the other hand to procure research equipment of high value and strategic importance, as part of the effort to support the research activities of the country. The research projects of this call will be carried out in Universities, Technological Educational Institutes, University Research Institutes and Research Centres/Institutes in Greece (host entities), enriching the research activities conducted within these, and empowering or expanding existing research structures. This action forms part of the initiative to capitalise on the country's scientists, aiming to support the researchers of Greece and fund research equipment. The scientific heads may be members of the higher education academic staff and researchers from Greek Research Centres, University Research Institutes and Higher Education Military Institutes.

The proposals will be evaluated in two phases by thematic committees and/or independent experts.

Phase A' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

Phase B' includes:

1. Completeness review and proposal eligibility stage.
2. Evaluation and selection stage.

The evaluation will be two-fold:

1. Evaluation of the scientific head and
2. Evaluation of the proposed project.

Timeframe for action implementation

- *Proposal submission period (Phase A): 06-07/2019*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase A): 03/2020*
- *Proposal submission period (Phase B): 04-05/2020*
- *Evaluation completion (Phase B): 10/2020*
- *Commencement of funding: 03/2021*

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3rd SCHOLARSHIP											█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
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EVALUATORS

The scholarship applications and the proposals for research projects and research equipment are evaluated based on the legislation in force, with quality and excellence as the sole criteria, and without thematic, geographical or other constraints. The criteria are further specified in the calls and the evaluation guides, taking into account the messages from the scientific community and specifically the members of the General Assembly.

A total of 1.055 distinguished scientists were used to evaluate the applications and proposals submitted in the context of the first two actions.

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ONGOING ACTIONS

FIGURE 1:
No. of submitted/funded PhD candidate applications (1st Call)

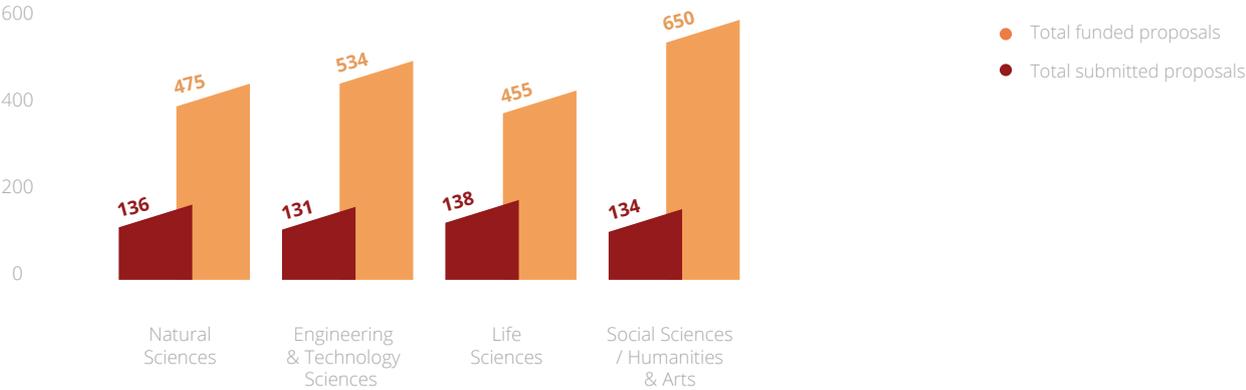


FIGURE 2:
No. of submitted/funded Postdoc proposals (1st Call)

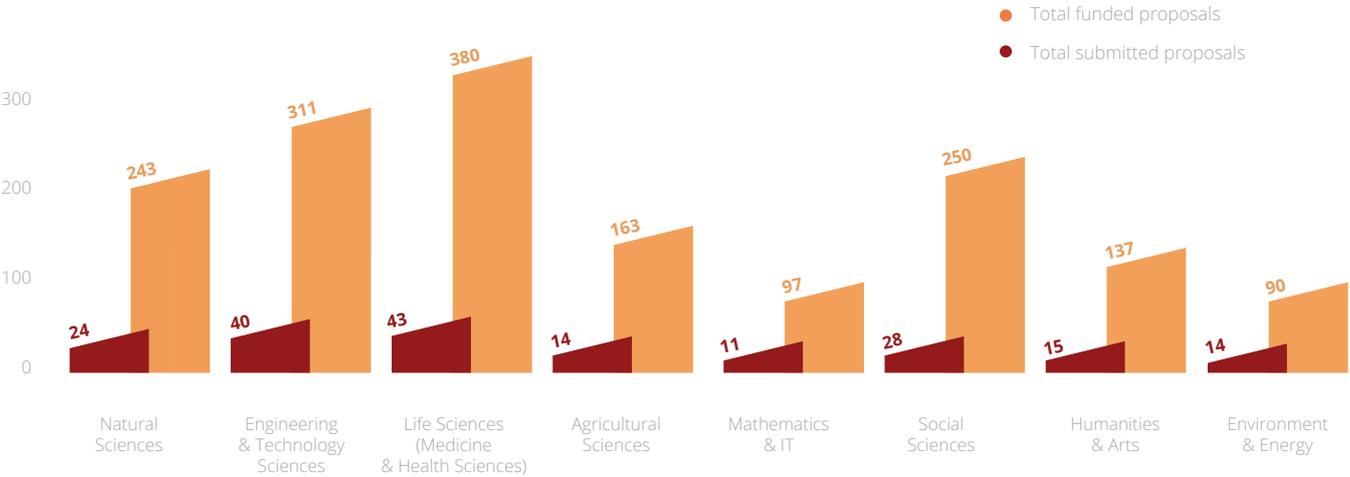
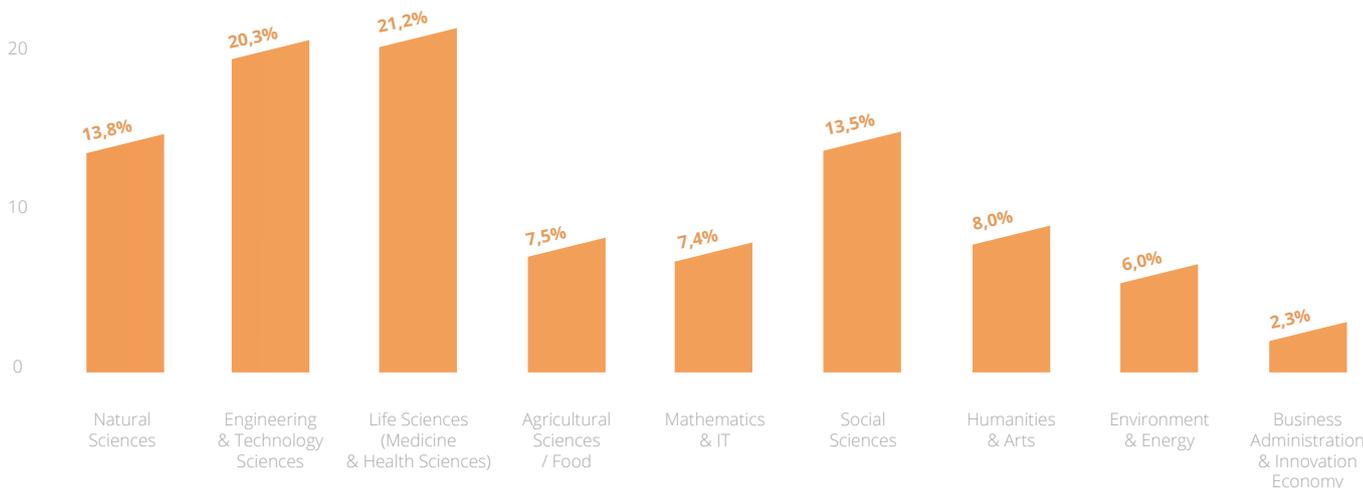


FIGURE 3:
No. of submitted proposals by Academic Staff / Researchers (1st Call)



EXTROVERSY / PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC TARGETS

The strategic targets for the extroversy of the Foundation can expand onto two main pillars, which are necessary both for assisting the Foundation to grow and become connected to corresponding bodies abroad, and for attracting private funds, with exponential benefits for the Foundation. Specifically, the pillars relate to:

- A.** Attracting funding resources and using them to continue funding the existing actions of the Foundation that aim to support scientific staff and young scientists within the country, and to fund symbolic and other actions of a specific aim and nature. These actions include, for example, linking research to innovation or establishing actions that will bring together various disciplines with interesting common ground, such as culture and science or arts and science.
- B.** Fostering distinguished partnerships with corresponding bodies abroad, but also establishing communication channels and bonds between the Greek academic/research community and the business community abroad.

Examples of the directions we are targeting include:

- Internationally acclaimed institutions and foundations, similar to the H.F.R.I., located abroad, with the aim to plan common actions and exchanging good practices.
- Financial institutions interested in targeted actions linked to innovation that stems from research activities.
- Greek or foreign charitable institutions, which, due to their nature, may become strategic allies in meeting the aims of the H.F.R.I.
- The Greek community of the diaspora, which has the potential to become a strong ally and stand by the H.F.R.I. Keeping them informed of the actions, aims and mentality of the Foundation may trigger their reaction, so that the Foundation may gain strategic allies from the diaspora to meet its aims.
- Internationally acclaimed foreign universities and research centres, through which the Foundation may plan actions and practices that aim to establish ties between the domestic academic and research staff and the staff of the said institutions.
- The Greek and foreign business communities, with the obvious aim being to attract funds for planning and implementing actions that link research with innovation. Issues that concern both arenas, such as intellectual property, transfer of technology, etc., may contribute significantly to this effort.

As to these directions, the following actions have already been implemented within the first half of 2018:

January 2018 – Meeting with the European Research Council (ERC) in Brussels. The Council was briefed on the activities of the H.F.R.I., with the aim to establish communication channels and forge strategic partnerships in areas of common interest.

January 2018 – Meeting with the European Investment Bank, with the aim to brief its executives on the progress of the Foundation, but also to explore the option of continuing to receive funding.

February 2018 – Visit to Texas A&M University. Meetings with the academic and research community, especially the strong Greek community active in the area. A memorandum of cooperation arose from the visit, with the purpose of establishing a closer connection between the two bodies, in terms of research and/or other common-interest activities.

April 2018 – Talks commenced through the Chinese Embassy so as to establish ties with the corresponding Chinese bodies (NNSFC). A cooperation plan arose from the visit, which could form the foundation for closer ties in areas of common interest. The plan will be submitted to the Scientific Council for deliberation.

June 2018 – Working meeting with charitable institutions of Greece, so as to build ties and establish cooperation in common-interest sectors and actions. Note that at the initiative of the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, this is the first time that all of the country's charitable institutions are in contact, looking to support research. The primary aim is communication and coordination among them to get the best results.

June 2018 – Working meeting between the H.F.R.I. and the European Research Council (ERC), with the aim to exchange know-how and good practices in areas of common interest. This meeting signalled the first event in a series of continuous communication and cooperation meetings that will strengthen the H.F.R.I. through strategic allies of the calibre of the ERC.

Lastly, the following actions are being planned for disseminating the work of the H.F.R.I.:

- ▶ H.F.R.I. event to promote the research projects by postdoctoral researchers (1st Call) and the added value that this action has offered to both the bodies where the projects are carried out and the researchers who are conducting them (October 2018).
- ▶ Common event between the H.F.R.I. and Greek charitable institutions for the symbolic action "200 Years from the Greek Revolution" (beginning of 2019).
- ▶ Presentation of the results of the H.F.R.I. actions in printed and electronic (e-book) form (Greek and English), aiming at the greatest possible dissemination of the impact and significance of the Foundation's actions.
- ▶ Creation of a special digital section on the H.F.R.I. website for posting the results of the Foundation's actions.
- ▶ Targeted one-day events organised by the Foundation in Universities and Research Centres across the country, so as to brief the staff on the actions and task of the H.F.R.I. in person, exchange views and conclusions, and strengthen the ties between the Foundation and the scientific community.

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