



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
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Athens, 17.02.2020

Ref. No. 21990

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - ANSWERS

regarding the

2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support
Faculty Members and Researchers
(Ref. No. 20741/08.01.2020)

(Decision with Ref. No. 21989/17.02.2020 of the H.F.R.I. Director)

FREQUENT QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

A. Eligibility Terms and Conditions

Question 1: Who is eligible to submit a proposal as project Principal Investigator (PI)?

Faculty Members (DEP) (article 2, component 11 of Law 4485/2017) of Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) as well as researchers of Research Centers and Institutes (RC-I, article 18 of Law 4310/2014) in the country, may submit a proposal as project PIs.

Question 2: Are PIs who have submitted a Category III proposal in the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, for which the announcement of evaluation results is still pending, eligible to submit a proposal as PIs in this Call?

PIs who have submitted a proposal of Category III.b in the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, may submit a proposal in the framework of this action as well and be funded for both actions.

PIs who have submitted a proposal of Category III.a in the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, may also submit a proposal in the framework of this action, however it will be considered as non-eligible in the event that the Category IIIa proposal submitted in the framework of the 1st Call is funded.

Question 3: In the event where the PI is an active faculty member (DEP) or researcher on the date the proposal is submitted and retires at any time prior to project completion, may he/she still submit a proposal as a PI?

Should the PI be an active faculty member (DEP) or researcher on the date the proposal is submitted, he/she can still submit a proposal as a PI and remain a PI even if he/she retires prior to project completion. The PI cannot be receiving salary following retirement.

Question 4: Are Emeritus Professors and Researchers eligible to submit a proposal as PIs?

Emeritus Professors and Researchers are only eligible to participate in this Call as Research Team (RT) non-salaried members. The PI and Research Team salaried members cannot be retirees or/and Professors Emeritus.

Question 5: Are Professors to the Hellenic Open University (EAP) eligible to submit a proposal as PIs?

The Hellenic Open University (EAP) is included to the Host Institutions as they are specified under Section 5.3 of the Call. Consequently, a Professor to the EAP is eligible to submit a proposal as a PI, provided that remaining Call eligibility terms/conditions are met.

Question 6: Can permanent Academic/research staff positioned to an Institution located abroad who at the same time hold the position of Adjunct Academic Staff (AAS) to a Higher Educational Institution of Law 4485/2017, as in force, be eligible to submit a proposal as PI?

No. According to the Call, project PIs may be faculty members (DEP) and researchers belonging to the permanent staff of HIs specified in Section 5.3 of the Call. Academic and Research staff working under any type of employment contract in Institutions located abroad, can only participate in an RT as non-salaried staff.

Question 7: Can a faculty member (DEP) or researcher, participating as an RT member in a project funded within the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, submit a proposal as PI to this Call?

Yes. A faculty member (DEP) or researcher, participating as an RT member in a project funded within the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, can submit a proposal as PI to this Call. Ineligible to participate in this Call, either as PIs or RT members, are PIs whose proposal has been funded within the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”. Said limitation does not apply for PIs who submitted a Category III.b proposal in the framework of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. research projects to support faculty members (DEP) and researchers and the procurement of high-value equipment”, as analyzed above (question 2 in this List).

Question 8: Is an elected Faculty Member (DEP) eligible to submit a proposal as PI, when his/her decision of appointment has not as yet been published?

According to Section 5.1 of the Call, *“Eligible to participate as a PI is anyone elected to a correlating position at the HI until the proposal submission date, regardless of whether or not the decision of their appointment has been issued until that date. Upon submitting their proposal, they are obligated to submit the pertinent election decision to the HI, while they have to adduce the decision of their appointment until project starting date”.*

Question 9: Under which category is a Faculty Member (DEP) or Researcher, who has been elected or/and advanced to a higher academic position (e.g. an Assistant Professor to an Associate professor) while his/her appointment has not been as yet published in the Government Gazette, eligible to submit a proposal?

In this case, the Faculty Member (DEP) or Researcher may submit a proposal according to the academic position that he/she has been elected to, regardless of whether his/her appointment has been published in the Government Gazette.

Question 10: Under which category is a Faculty Member (DEP) or Researcher who may be reviewed by the special review committee shortly before or immediately after proposal submission, obligated to submit the proposal in?

The PI is obligated to submit his/her proposal under the category corresponding to his/her obtained academic position at the time of his/her proposal submission.

Question 11: Is a Post-Doctorate PI, whose proposal has been submitted in the framework of the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Post-Doctorate Researchers” and he/she has been elected as Faculty Member (DEP) in the meantime, eligible to submit a proposal to the Call as PI?

Yes, he/she may submit a proposal as PI to the Call. His/her participation to the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Post-Doctorate Researchers” falls under the provisions of Section 4.1 therein: *“In case where the PR-PI is appointed and serves as a faculty member (DEP) or researcher during research Proposal evaluation or research Proposal implementation, he/she may continue implementing the project as PI without receiving a salary and is included to the list of Non-salaried members, starting from the date that his/her appointment is issued to the Government Gazette, with eligible travel allowances*

and dissemination costs for actions directly related to the project scope”.

Question 12: Can an RT member participate in two proposals?

According to the Call, every RT member (apart from the PI) may participate (as a member) to a maximum of two (2) proposals of any category.

Question 13: Can regular staff members to the HI participate in the RT?

According to terms set in the Call, regular staff members to the HI employed there under public law contract, or open-term private law employment contract, or under fixed-term private law employment contract, may participate to the RT and receive additional payment for additional work of up to €400,00 per month, beyond their work schedule, according to the legislation in force.

Question 14: Can regular staff members of an Organization other than the HI, participate in the RT?

Regular staff members of an Organization other than the HI may participate in the RT, on condition that the Letter of Intent to cooperate has been submitted in accordance to provisions of Section 5.4 in the Call. Their reimbursement is regulated by the pertinent legislation in force, as additional fee for additional work with a maximum limit of €400,00 per month.

Question 15: Can someone not holding the greek nationality become a salaried member to the RT?

The Call does not set any limitation in regard to the nationality of salaried RT members. It is noted that in case of funding, relevant contracts are to be signed in accordance to the legislation in force. Similarly, according to the Call, RT members holding an employment contract of any kind with an organization located abroad cannot be salaried, regardless of their nationality.

Question 16: Is there a limitation as to the maximum number of proposals that an Academic or Research Institution may participate to as HI or/and as Collaborating Organization (CO)?

No, the Call does not set any limitation as to the number of proposals that an organization can participate to as HI or/and CO.

Question 17: Should Candidate doctorates and post-doctorates be engaged in full-time to the project?

The Call sets no limitation as to the hourly work engagement of RT members to the project.

Question 18: Can candidate doctorates already receiving a scholarship from H.F.R.I. or another organization, participate as salaried members to the RT?

Candidate doctorates already receiving a scholarship from H.F.R.I. or another organization in order to prepare their doctoral thesis, may participate as salaried members to the RT under the condition of observing double funding restrictions; of abiding to any relevant limitations of the existing funding agreement and of course by abiding to the terms and conditions of this Call. It is noted that especially in the case of candidate doctorates who are receiving a scholarship in the framework of the 1st and 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to support candidate doctorates, the corresponding income limitation must be observed.

Question 19: What has been provisioned in the event where an RT member is salaried in the framework of another H.F.R.I. action?

According to what is mentioned in section 6.1.1.2 of the Call, *“In case where the Project is funded, salaried RT members cannot be receiving payments in the context of any other H.F.R.I. Action, while their full-time employment contract is in force within a research Project of this Action”*. Consequently, salaried team members may be receiving payment in the framework of another H.F.R.I. action, under the condition that so long as they are employed in the funded project, the work-hours corresponding to full-time employment are not being exceeded. The above restriction does not apply to candidate doctorates receiving scholarship in the framework of the 1st and 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to support candidate doctorates.

Question 20: Are State-employed staff members (but not HI staff members) eligible to participate as RT salaried members?

A State employee may participate in the RT as a salaried member, having been granted permission by the Departmental Board (permission to exercise additional work) of his/her Organization. Their compensation is payable in accordance with the relevant legislation in force as an additional fee for additional work with a maximum limit of €400,00 per month.

Question 21: Is a person employed in the private sector eligible to participate in the RT?

The Call sets no limitation for persons employed in the private sector to participate in the RT.

Question 22: Is staff not belonging to the HI eligible to participate in the RT?

Yes, persons not belonging to the HI are able to participate as RT members in any of the staff categories listed in Section 5.2 of the Call.

Question 23: How is the concept of a Post-Doctorate Researcher defined in the Call?

Any person holding a doctorate diploma is perceived as a Post-Doctoral Researcher, irrespective of whether he/she holds an employment contract with an organization/institution.

Question 24: Is it necessary for all RT members to have been named during proposal submission?

According to the Call, it is not necessary for all RT members to have been named during proposal submission. If an RT member has not been specified by name, the required qualifications for his/her position must be specified during proposal submission, so that the selection is made based on these qualifications and following a call for the expression of interest issued by the HI, according to provisions of Laws 4386/2016 and 4485/2017.

Question 25: What applies for the proof of expenditure?

Non-regular staff to be participating in the RT by way of a project contract can be salaried by proof of expenditure, provided they are not free-lancers through another capacity and are not obligated to keep books and records in accordance with the applicable tax legislation. It is noted that the amount of annual remuneration of staff paid under proof of expenditure should be within the limits specified by the provisions in force.

B. Budget and Eligible Cost Categories

Question 26: Is there a limitation as to the percentage that different cost categories may rise to in relation to the total budget?

The above-mentioned quota limitations are listed in detail as per cost category in Table 2 (Section 6) of the Call.

Question 27: Can services provided by an Academic or Research Organization, or a company located in domestic or abroad, be considered as eligible costs? In example, is it possible to acquire the services of privately-owned laboratories in the country, in the context of conducting experiments necessary to project implementation?

The provision of services by Academic or Research Organizations or/and private companies are included in section 6.1.5 of the Call “Use of and/or access to equipment, infrastructure & other resources”.

Question 28: Is the cost of using the infrastructures of a domestic or/and foreign Collaborating Organization (CO) an eligible cost?

Yes, the cost of using the infrastructures/resources of COs is an eligible cost (Section 6.1.5. of the Call).

Question 29: What is provisioned for the salary of Candidate Doctorates?

According to the Call (Section 6.1.1.2), full-employment gross monthly payments for CDs are calculated as follows:

- a) for a fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to those provisioned in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force, gross payment for full employment.
- b) for a project lease contract: equal to those provisioned in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment (plus VAT).

Question 30: What is provisioned for the salary of Post-Doctorates?

According to the Call (Section 6.1.1.2), gross monthly payments for post-doctorates are calculated as follows:

- a) for a fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to the minimum limits set out in article 18 par. 12 case a) N. 4310/2014.
- a) for a project lease contract: equal to the minimum limits set out in article 18 par. 12 case a) N. 4310/2014 (plus VAT).

Question 31: Is it possible for Candidate Doctorates and Post-Doctorates to be salaried by an inter-university fellowship in the framework of the Call?

The framework of the Call does not provision granting inter-university fellowships to Candidate Doctorates or Post-Doctorates. According to the Call, Candidate Doctorates and Post-Doctorates are salaried based on project lease or fixed-term private law employment contracts, for which the provisions of section 6.1.1.2 apply.

C. Proposal submission

Question 32: How many submission and evaluation phases will the present Call be concluded in?

Within Call framework, the submission of documents and supporting documents will be done in one (1) phase, while the evaluation will be done in two (2) phases, according to Call provisions of Section 8.

Question 33: Will template documents be available for the submission?

Template documents for the submission have been posted to the H.F.R.I. website and are available through the submission platform.

Question 34: Who is responsible for submitting the Proposal in the H.F.R.I. Web Portal?

According to the Call, the project PI is solely responsible for submitting the Proposal in the H.F.R.I. Web Portal (<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>).

Question 35: What applies in relation to Scientific Area selection?

Selecting the scientific area is the exclusive responsibility of the PI, whereby changing the scientific area after the submission deadline has expired or/and transferring the proposal from one scientific area to another is not possible. In the event where evaluation committee expert scientists are not sufficient, domestic or foreign expert scientists will be designated as Committee members or independent experts by decision of the SC, who can cover the scientific object of the proposals under evaluation.