

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Address: 185 Syggrou Ave. & 2 Sardeon St., 17121 N. Smyrni

Website: www.elidek.gr

Department of Research Projects

Information: researchdepartment@elidek.gr

Contact No.: +30 210 6412410-420, Fax: +30 210 6412429

Athens, 15.05.2020

REF. NO. 24967

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

about the

4th Call for Action “Science and Society”

Emblematic Action

“Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19
pandemic”

(REF. NO. 24746/05.05.2020)

(Decision No. (24966/15.05.2020 by the H.F.R.I. Director, IUN: ΨΦΤ046M77Γ-4BΩ)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

A. Terms and Conditions of Participation

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

Eligible to submit a proposal as Principal Investigators are:

- Faculty Members (article 2, item k of Law 4485/2017) of Higher Educational Institutions and Higher Military Educational Institutions,
- Researchers of Research Centres and Institutes (RC-I, article 18 of Law 4310/2014),
- Professors Emeritus and researchers.

Question 2: What are the applicable provisions for collaborative projects?

According to the Call, collaborative projects are those involving the participation of one or more Collaborating Organisations-beneficiaries. In collaborative projects, the HI acts as the Coordinating Institution of the project and is responsible for the entire project management. The Coordinating Institution is responsible for both the communication with the H.F.R.I. and the continuous information-coordination of the Collaborating Organisations-beneficiaries. The total budget in collaborative projects results from the sum of individual budgets presented by the participating Collaborating Organisations - beneficiaries and may amount to EUR 150,000.

It should be noted that the cooperation agreement, which is signed by the participating institutions with regard to the joint implementation of the project and also contains the cooperation terms, is included among the supporting documents required for the issuance of the Funding Award Decision concerning a collaborative project.

Question 3: Which institutions are eligible to participate in this Action as Collaborating Organisations (CO)-Beneficiaries? What provisions are applicable for the COs-Beneficiaries?

The Collaborating Organisations of the project, who are main H.F.R.I. beneficiaries and therefore may be potentially designated as HIs as well, according to Law 4429/2016, are designated as COs-Beneficiaries. The above institutions are mentioned in detail in Section 4.2 of the Call.

The COs-Beneficiaries are entitled to have a budget for their participation in the project.

Question 4: Are private sector institutions allowed to participate as COs?

Yes, private sector institutions may participate as COs in this call, but they are not entitled to have a budget.

Question 5: Is the PI allowed to submit more than one proposals or participate in another proposal as a Research Team member?

No, according to the provisions of the Call, the PI can only submit one (1) research Proposal in this role and may not participate in any other Proposal as a Research Team member.

Question 6: Are PIs receiving funding under previous H.F.R.I. actions allowed to submit a proposal as a PI in this Call?

Yes, PIs receiving funding under previous H.F.R.I. actions may submit a proposal and be funded under this Call as well.

Question 7: If during the submission of the proposal the PI is a Faculty Member / researcher in

active service but retires any time prior to the completion of the project, are they allowed to submit a proposal as PIs?

If during the submission of the proposal the PI is a Faculty Member / researcher in active service, they may submit a proposal as a PI and remain in this role, even if they retire before the project is completed. The PI may not receive remuneration after their retirement.

Question 8: Are retired Faculty Members/Researchers allowed to participate in the RT?

Yes, retired Professors and Researchers may participate in the RT as non-remunerated members under this Action.

Question 9: Are permanent academic/research staff members of foreign Institutions who are at the same time related as Collaborating Educational Staff (CES) to Higher Educational Institutions of Law 4485/2017, as in force, allowed to submit a proposal as a PI?

No. According to the Call, project PIs may be Faculty Members and researchers belonging to the regular staff of the HIs specified in Section 4.2. of the Call. Academic and research staff members employed in foreign Institutions under any employment relationship may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated staff.

Question 10: Can an elected Faculty Member, whose appointment decision has not yet been published, submit a proposal as a PI?

Eligible to participate as PIs are also those who have been elected in the respective position until the proposal's submission date, regardless of whether their appointment decision has been published by that date or not. By submitting the proposal, they are also obligated to submit the relevant decision pertaining to their election to the HI. Furthermore, they have to submit their appointment decision until the project start date.

Question 11: Under which rank should a Faculty Member or Researcher, who has been elected or/and promoted to a higher rank (ex. Assistant Professor to Associate Professor), but their appointment has not yet been published in the Government Gazette, submit the proposal?

In such a case, the Faculty Member/Researcher submits the proposal under the rank, to which they have been elected, regardless of whether their appointment decision has been published in the Government Gazette.

Question 12: Under which category should a Faculty Member or Researcher, who may be judged by a special judging committee just before or shortly after the proposal submission, submit a proposal?

The PI has to submit the proposal in the category corresponding to their rank by the time their proposal is submitted.

Question 13: Can a RT member participate in two proposals?

No, according to the Call, each RT member may only participate in maximum one (1) proposal.

Question 14: Can a Faculty Member/Researcher participate in the RT as a remunerated member?

According to the provisions of section 5.1.1.2 of the Call, *"Faculty Members and Researchers may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated members.*

Question 15: Can regular staff members of the HI participate in the RT as remunerated members?

According to the provisions of the Call, regular staff members of the HI and the COs-Beneficiaries holding a public law or an open-term/fixed-term private law employment contract may participate in the RT and receive additional fees of up to EUR 400.00 per month for providing additional work beyond their normal working hours and in accordance with the legislation in force.

Question 16: Can regular staff members of an Institution other than the HI participate in the RT?

Regular staff members of an Institution other than the HI and the COs-Beneficiaries may participate in the RT as non-remunerated members, provided a letter of intent has been presented, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.3. of the Call.

Question 17: Can someone who does not have Greek nationality participate as a remunerated member of the RT?

The Call does not set any restrictions on the nationality of the remunerated members of the RT. It should be noted that in case funding is provided, the relevant contracts should be concluded in accordance with the legislation in force. Similarly, RT members under any employment relationship with a foreign institution may not be remunerated regardless of their nationality, according to the Call.

Question 18: Are there any restrictions regarding the maximum number of proposals an Academic or Research Institution can participate in as a HI or/and as a Collaborating Organization (CO)?

No, the Call does not set any restrictions regarding the number of proposals an Institution may participate in as HI or/and as CO.

Question 19: Should PhD and Postdoctoral Candidates be fully employed in the project?

The Call does not set any restrictions regarding the working time of RT members in the project.

Question 20: Can PhD Candidates already receiving a scholarship from the H.F.R.I. or another Institution participate in the RT as remunerated members?

PhD Candidates receiving a scholarship from the H.F.R.I. or another Institution for preparing their doctoral thesis may participate in the RT as remunerated members, provided they comply with the double funding prohibition, any relevant restrictions of the existing funding agreement and of course the terms and conditions of this Call. It should be noted that PhD Candidates receiving a scholarship in particular under the 1st and 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates should also comply with the respective income limit.

Question 21: What happens if a RT member is remunerated under another action of the H.F.R.I.?

According to the provisions of section 5.1.1.2 of the Call, *“in case the Project is funded, remunerated RT members may not receive salaries from another H.F.R.I. action during their remunerated employment in the Project funded under this action and for full-time employment status”*. Consequently, the remunerated team members may receive salaries under another H.F.R.I. action, provided they do not exceed any contractual time corresponding to full-time employment as long as they are employed in the funded project. The above restriction is not valid for PhD Candidates receiving a scholarship under the 1st and 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates.

Question 22: Can a staff member employed in the public sector (but not in the HI or in a CO-Beneficiary) participate in the RT as remunerated member?

Civil servants may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated members, provided they have the assent of the body in charge (permission to provide additional work) in their Institution.

Question 23: Can staff outside the HI participate in the RT?

Yes, persons who do not belong to the HI staff can participate as RT members in any of the staff categories listed in Section 4.1 of the Call.

Question 24: How is a Postdoctoral Researcher defined in the Call?

A Postdoctoral Researcher is anyone who holds a PhD, regardless of whether they are already employed in an institution/foundation or not.

Question 25: Is it necessary to name all RT members when submitting the proposal?

According to the Call, it is not necessary to name all RT members when submitting the proposal. If a RT member has not been named, the required qualifications for their position should be specified when submitting the proposal, so that any selection is made based on these qualifications, following a call for expression of interest published by the HI, in accordance with the provisions of Laws 4386/2016 and 4485/2017.

Question 26: What are the applicable provisions regarding the proof of expenditure?

Temporary staff that will participate in the RT under a project lease contract may be remunerated by a proof of expenditure, in case they are not traders under another cause and are not obligated to keep books and records in accordance with the applicable tax legislation. It shall be noted that the amount of the annual fee received by the staff member who is remunerated by a proof of expenditure must be within the limits, as specified by the provisions in force.

B. Budget and Cost Categories

Question 27: Is there a limit to the percentage different cost categories can cover in relation to the total budget?

Yes, there is a percentage limit, but only for the Category “Indirect Costs”, which may amount up to 8% of the remaining cost categories.

Question 28: Can the provision of services by an Academic or Research Institution or by a company in Greece or abroad be considered as eligible cost? For example, is it possible for private labs in Greece to provide services within the context of conducting experiments, which are deemed necessary for the implementation of the project?

The provision of services by Academic or Research Institutions or/and private companies is included in the Category “Costs for the use of or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources” (section 5.1.5 of the Call).

Question 29: In case the CO is a private institution and is not consequently entitled to budget, in which cost category should the cost for its role in the project be included?

In case the CO does not belong to the COs-Beneficiaries, the cost for its role in the project may be included in the Category “Costs for use of or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources” (Section 5.1.5

of the Call).

Question 30: Is the cost for using infrastructure of a Collaborating Organisation (CO) in Greece or/and abroad eligible?

Yes, the cost for using infrastructure/resources of the COs is an eligible cost (Section 5.1.5. of the Call).

Question 31: What are the applicable provisions regarding the PhD Candidates' remuneration?

According to the Call (Section 5.1.1.2), gross monthly income for full-time employment of the PhD Candidates is calculated as follows:

- a) In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to gross income for full-time employment as defined in the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.
- b) In case of a project lease contract: equal to those defined for full-time employment in the provisions of chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force (plus VAT).

Question 32: What are the applicable provisions regarding the Postdoctoral researchers' remuneration?

According to the Call (Section 5.1.1.2), gross monthly income for Postdoctoral Researchers is calculated as follows:

- a) In case of fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to the lower limits set in article 18, par. 12, point a) of Law 4310/2014.
- b) In case of a project lease contract: equal to the lower limits set in article 18, par. 12, point a) of Law 4310/2014 (plus VAT).

Question 33: Can PhD and Postdoctoral Candidates be remunerated by a compensatory scholarship under the Call?

The Call does not provide for the award of compensatory scholarships to PhD or Postdoctoral Candidates. According to the Call, PhD and Postdoctoral Candidates are remunerated on the basis of project lease contracts or fixed-term employment contracts and their remuneration is subject to the provisions of Section 5.1.1.2.

C. Proposal submission

Question 34: How many phases of submission and evaluation are necessary for the completion of this Call?

The submission of all documents and supporting documents under the Call as well as the evaluation will be carried out in one (1) phase.

Question 35: Will there be any templates available for the submission?

Templates for the submission will be posted on the H.F.R.I. website and they shall be available on the submission platform.

Question 36: Who is responsible for submitting the Proposal to the H.F.R.I. web portal?

According to the provisions of the Call, the PI of the project shall be exclusively responsible for submitting

the Proposal to the H.F.R.I. web portal (<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>).

Question 37: What are the applicable provisions regarding the selection of a Research Sector?

The PI is solely responsible for the selection of the Research Sector. After the submission deadline has expired, it shall not be possible to change the sector or/and transfer the proposal from one sector to another during the evaluation. If the specialist experts of the Evaluation Committee are inadequate for the evaluation of a specific proposal, specialist scientists in Greece or abroad who can cover the scientific scope of the proposals under evaluation shall be appointed as Committee members or independent experts by decision of the Scientific Council (SC).