



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

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Ref. No. 24764

4th Call for Action “Science and Society”

Emblematic Action

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

Call Opening: 01.06.2020, 12:00 (GMT+2)

Submission Deadline: 15.06.2020, 17:00 (GMT+2)

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The Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, having regard to:

1. Law 4429/2016 on “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions”, and especially Articles 2(1), 5(2-9), 8(9) and 9(7),
2. Decision no. 2195245/15.11.2018 issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs on “Internal Regulation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)” (5252/B), as in force,
3. Decision with Ref. No. 133182/20.12.2019 issued by the Alternate Minister of Development and Investments on the “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2020” (4885/B),
4. Decision with Ref. No. 288/03.04.2017 issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs on the establishment of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council (173/YODD), as in force after its 1st amendment by virtue of Decision No. 6933/22.012.2020 issued by the Alternate Minister of Development and Investments (YODD 48),
5. Decision with Ref. No. 301/04.08.2017 issued by the 6th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, appointing Dr. Nektarios Nasikas as H.F.R.I. Director (436/YODD),
6. Decision with Ref. No. 565/16.01.2018 issued by the 14th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, assigning duties to the H.F.R.I. Director,
7. Decision with Ref. No. 24630/27.04.2020 by the 77th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council regarding the call for a new action entitled “Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic”,
8. The fact that the Action budget is funded by the H.F.R.I. budget,
9. Decision with Ref. No. 7886/21.12.2018 issued by the 39th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on “Approval for undertaking long-term commitment”, as amended and in force.

CALLS

Faculty members (DEP) and Researchers to submit proposals under the Emblematic Action **“Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic”**, as part of the Action “Science and Society”, in line with the terms and conditions presented below.

1. ACTION OBJECTIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

This action aims to contribute in addressing the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and developing financially exploitable technologies which will aid in dealing with related problems. In detail, the action pertains to the development of technology/know-how applications related with facing the COVID-19 pandemic and/or its effects (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, addressing social and economic consequences, etc.).

Principal Investigators (PIs) of the Projects may be Faculty Members (Article 2, ind. xi of Law 4485/2017) of Greek Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) in the Country, as well as Researchers of Research Centres and Institutes (EK-I, Article 18 of Law 4310/2014), and University Research Institutes (EPI) in the Country.

The proposed Research Project must be implemented in a Host Institution (HI), which may be a Higher Educational Institution or a Research Centre - Institute (EK-I) or a University Research Institute (EPI) or a Higher Military Educational Institution (ASEI) in the country. In order for the selected Research Projects to be funded, the HI shall provide Certification of Host Institution Commitment and be contacted with H.F.R.I. for its management.

The projects to receive funding must have immediate results that can be capitalized upon within a brief time period and within the context over the COVID-19 pandemic or/and its effects; they will be selected by an Evaluation Committee consisting of distinguished scientists, experts in the research sectors of the Call, and aided, if deemed necessary, by independent experts, as provisioned in articles 5(6) of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force. The whole process is governed by strict confidentiality rules binding for all participating parties.

2. RESEARCH SECTORS

Under the Call, projects will be funded in the sectors of:

1. **Economy:** Study of individual areas of the economy and aspects of economic policy in the light of the experience and implications of the pandemic.

Indicatively mentioned: the investigation of the pandemic effects on the public and private debt of countries and the effects for future financial crises. The formulation of appropriate policies and consequences for global economic architecture. The development of alternative economic activity forms based on digital economy. The formulation of economic values that define basic social goods, such as health, education and services of social organizing. As part of the long-term measures to address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic spread, the need has arisen to study the effective integration of appropriate environmental protection strategies, through policies to reduce air pollution, better land-use planning, and biodiversity protection policies. The social capital, that is the network of relations which supports and empowers societies, as a counterbalancing agent to crisis consequences and the definition of policies necessary for its support so that it can act complementarily with the human, financial and natural capital.

2. Production: Technologies for the development of production in the **agri-food sector**.

Indicatively mentioned: production maintenance and support, in terms of plant and animal capital, with environment-friendly methods, with respect to animal rights and with the country's sufficiency in food products held as an objective; the effect of the epidemic crisis on the production, processing and supply chain of domestic or even imported agricultural products; the development of alternative agri-food systems based on low food miles and direct connection to the farmer-producer; labor market effects on the primary, secondary and tertiary agri-food sector; management of worker-employee personnel, associated with agricultural production, transport and food trade.

3. Society: The pandemic as also the restriction measures, have effects on individuals and social groups, institutions, and in ensuring Democracy and privacy as well as in social cohesiveness.

Indicatively mentioned: the psychological effects of fear, of confinement and of forced cohabitation, or of loneliness or of domestic violence phenomena. Furthermore, groups living in different social and cultural environments in conditions of social exclusion, experience these effects differently. The pandemic and its management may endanger social cohesiveness on different levels (local, national, european), as also it arrives to further the downturn that followed the recent economic crisis. What is important in this context, is how societies devise and process the new given conditions (restrictive measures, tele-employment, tele-education, social distancing), how they communicate, how they set meaning to public goods and draw public policies, and how they ensure democratic institutions and social cohesiveness.

4. Medical Technology: Development of medical / medical technology products and services.

Indicative subjects: development of economically exploitable medical technology products and services related to practices against coronavirus (e.g. special clothing, means of protection) and the effects of the pandemic; development of diagnostic tests to detect antibodies, emphasizing on the development of highly sensitive receptors and quick response time; delivering remote location social care, for the effective capitalization of volunteers, for improving mental health support, rapid prototyping, smart structures/rapid constructions.

3. BUDGET / PROJECT FUNDING LIMITS

The total initial cost of the Call amounts to **€1.500.000**, with the possibility of increase in case of supplemental public funding or/and private donations.

The maximum funding limit for each Research Project amounts to €100.000, and up to €150.000 for partner projects of two or more beneficiaries (A.E.I., E.K.).

The **implementation duration** of proposals may run **from 12 to 15 months**.

Prevention of Double Funding

It is not permissible for the physical scope of the research proposal to have been funded or to be funded in full or in part by any other institution.

4. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions for participating in this Call are the following:

4.1. Principal Investigator and project Research Team

Each proposal is submitted by one (1) Principal Investigator (PI), who is a faculty member (DEP) or Researcher, is part of the HI's regular staff and **has documented experience in the object of the proposal**.

In this call it is also possible for Emeritus Professors and Researchers to participate as PI's.

It is noted that the PI may only submit one (1) research Proposal as a PI and cannot participate as a Research Team member in any other Proposal.

In the **Research Team (RT)**, other than the PI, may participate Academic and Research staff, Post-doctoral researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate students, other staff working for the HI with a public law contract of employment or with an open-term private law employment contract (e.g. special educational staff, lab teaching staff, technical scientists, specialized scientific associates, technicians, auxiliary staff etc.) or/and other temporary staff who shall be contracted to the HI exclusively for research Project implementation purposes.

Members from other Institutions, foreign or/and domestic, may also participate in the RT. It is noted that personnel employed under any employment relationship in Organizations of the Private or broader public sector (other than the Beneficiary-Institutions mentioned in section 4.2) or in foreign Institutions may only participate to the RT as non-remunerated staff.

It is noted that in case where the project is being funded, remunerated members of the RT cannot be remunerated for their participation in another H.F.R.I. action, for the duration of their remunerated employment in the project and under full employment status.

Each RT member may only participate in one (1) proposal.

4.2. Host Institution – Project Coordinator

As Host Institutions of the proposed research project (HIs), also operating as Project Coordinators in the case of Partner Projects, are defined:

- The Higher Educational Institutions in the Country as provisioned under article 1 of Law 4485/2017 (G.G. Is. A' 114/2017),
- The Research Centres – Institutes (EK-I) under article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (G.G. Is. A'/2014), as amended and in force,
- The University Research Institutes (EPI), i.e. The private law legal entities established by virtue of provisions in Laws 2083/1992 (G.G. Is. A' 159/1992) and 3685/2008 (G.G. Is. A' 148/2008),
- The Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (G.G. Is. A' 233/2003).

The PI must state HI details upon Proposal submission.

All potential HIs will be available for selection in the digital submission platform, in the form of a drop-down menu, allowing for only one selection.

In case of funding, the PI is obligated to submit a Project Letter of Commitment from the HI.

Failure to submit the Project Letter of Commitment from the HI, renders the proposal non-eligible for funding.

4.3. Collaborating Organizations (CO's)

In the context of implementing the research project, it is possible to collaborate with research and educational institutions and any kind of Organization from the public and private sector, domestic or foreign. If the CO is included in the organizations listed in section 4.2 (“Beneficiary-Institutions”), then it is eligible to receive part of the budget. Collaboration with these organizations pertains to the support/assist of project implementation; where depending on the sector of research and project particularities, this may pertain to (indicatively) conducting experiments, accessing files, collections and libraries, equipment usage training etc. and requires (in order to be evaluated) a relevant Letter of Intent to Collaborate from the Collaborating Organization (CO). Within the Letter of Intent to Collaborate, the CO's legal representative certifies of its intent to collaborate with the HI under the research Proposal, sufficiently describing the kind of collaboration; namely the staff involved, the equipment, the infrastructure or the special resources to be used as well as the estimated duration of the collaboration. In case where providing the letter of intent to collaborate is not possible, the PI shall submit a solemn declaration of corresponding content in its replacement.

5. BUDGET AND COST CATEGORIES

The research Project budget is analyzed into direct and indirect costs.

In order to be considered eligible, each cost should fall under the terms described herein and be provisioned in the Proposal. **Forwarding of eligible costs for each funded Proposal begins on the research Project start-date.**

5.1. Direct Costs

Direct costs of the Research Proposal include staff remuneration, consumables, travel allowances, dissemination, use or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources, for equipment procurement and other costs.

5.1.1. Salary costs

These include remunerations for the PI and RT members, as follows:

5.1.1.1. PI salary cost

The PI's salary cannot exceed the sum of € 800,00 per month and is subject to the maximum limit of earnings and additional fees provisioned in Article 2 of the Law 3833/2010 combined with provisions of Laws 4354/2015 (Articles no 13 and 28) and 4472/2017 (Articles no 130-135 and 156).

5.1.1.2. Research Team member salary cost

Faculty members (DEP) and Researchers may only participate to the RT as non-remunerated members.

Research Team remunerated members may include Post-Doctoral Researchers (PRs), PhD Candidates, Post-Graduate Students and other scientific and technical staff.

PRs employed in the Research Team will hold a fixed-term private law employment contract or project lease contract with the HI.

For **Post-Doctoral Researchers** participating in the project as full-time employees, gross monthly payments are calculated as follows:

1. In the case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly earnings must be equal to the minimum limits specified in Article 18(12) case a) of Law 4310/2014.
2. In the case of a project lease contract, gross monthly earnings must be equal to the gross monthly earnings the PR would have received on the basis of a fixed-term private law employment contract as noted (under 1) above (the corresponding VAT being added).

For **PhD Candidates, Post-Graduate Students and other scientific and technical staff** participating in the RT under full employment, gross monthly payments are calculated as follows:

1. In the case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly earnings are equal to gross payments for fulltime employment provisioned in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.
2. In the case of a project lease contract, monthly gross payments must be equal to the gross monthly earnings that said RT member would have received on the basis of a fixed-term private law employment contract as noted (under 1) above (the corresponding VAT being added).

RT members belonging to HI staff (by Public Law or an open-term private law employment contract) may receive an additional monthly fee of €400,00 for additional work, exceeding their timetable, in accordance to the legal framework in force.

Auxiliary staff salary costs for Research Project administrative/financial services are not eligible.

In case where the project is funded, remunerated members of the RT cannot be remunerated in the context of another H.F.R.I. action, for the duration of their remunerated employment in a Project funded under the current call and for full employment status.

Above conditions and remuneration limits are grouped in [Table 1](#), as follows.

Table 1. *Compensation of remunerated RT members*

Categories of Remunerated RT members	Gross Payment Determination
1. Post-Doctoral Researchers	Monthly gross payments: a) fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to minimum limits specified in Article 18(12) case a) of Law 4310/2014. b) project lease contract: equal to minimum limits specified in Article 18(12) case a) of the Law 4310/2014 (plus VAT).
2. Scientific Faculty (PhD Candidates, Post-Graduate Students), Technical and Other Staff	Monthly gross payments: a) fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to gross payments for full employment, as provisioned in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force. b) project lease contract: equal to those provisioned for full employment in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force (plus VAT).
3. Personnel of beneficiaries listed in Section 4.2 (HIs and COs - Beneficiaries) employed under a Public Law relationship or Private Law Open/Closed Term relationship	According to the pertinent legislation in force, as an additional fee for additional work, by maximum limit of €400 per month.

Above figures are gross amounts over which all legitimate duties and employee contributions are calculated, as per case, as they apply. In calculating the total amount of staff remuneration charges for the project, legal employer contributions have to be added to aforementioned amounts, which constitute eligible project costs. For project lease contracts, VAT is also added to aforementioned amounts, provided it is provisioned in the legislation, which also constitutes an eligible project cost.

Members of the Research Team employed abroad under any employment relationship or belonging to the staff of a Collaborating Organization not included in H.F.R.I. beneficiaries (section 4.2) are non-remunerated.

Non-remunerated members of the project's Research Team may receive, for proposal needs, a daily allowance and travel allowance, for transit directly linked to its physical scope.

RT remunerated members not denominated during Proposal submission, will be selected by the HI following a call for the expression of interest in filling the respective positions, in line with the legislation in force.

5.1.2. Consumables

Costs for consumables are eligible when pertaining exclusively to Project implementation and are listed separately in the Proposal. Indicatively, these apply to the purchase of direct consumption materials (e.g. lab consumables and reagents etc.) deemed necessary for Project implementation. This category does not include costs for general office supplies, such as paper, stationery, PC consumables etc., as these are included in the overhead costs; these may be eligible only when research Project singularities require an unusual amount of such costs for its implementation. In this case, sufficient relevant documentation in the Project budget is required.

5.1.3. Travel allowances

These involve expenses incurred by the PI and Research Team members regarding travel in Greece or abroad, for conference participation in order to present research Project results, conduct fieldwork and facilitate research collaboration with RT members belonging to other Institutions, in Greece or abroad. In the case of research collaboration, a compulsory condition in order for costs to be eligible, is that a pertinent Letter of Intent be submitted by the Collaborating Organization in the funding stage.

This category also includes eligible costs for covering the travel and accommodation allowances of non-remunerated RT members, belonging to COs abroad.

5.1.4. Dissemination costs

Indicatively, these costs include publication fees in scientific journals, registration fees in conferences for oral or poster presentations, costs for organizing and hosting scientific meetings and/or conferences, costs for publishing monographs and books, as well as costs for audio-visual productions, for developing websites and communicating the research through social media networking. In addition, this category includes patenting costs for applying to Greek Organizations and corresponding foreign Organizations, as well as costs for the protection of any type of research result. In order for all above to be considered eligible, they must be associated to Project implementation.

5.1.5. Use of and/ or Access to Equipment, Infrastructure & Other Resources

This category includes costs that must be reimbursed for using or gaining access to lab research equipment, research infrastructure or other resources necessary for research Project implementation. Indicatively, apart from the costs for using or accessing lab research equipment or infrastructure, this category may include eligible costs for accessing resources necessary for research Project implementation, such as: access to databases, subscriptions to libraries, archives and collections of Institutions in Greece and abroad, procurement of software for specialized research purposes, costs for updating existing software, for digitization of printed and audio-visual archives and their further capitalization, costs for acquiring satellite data etc. Concluding, this Category includes eligible costs pertaining to the supply of services on the part of Greek and foreign Academic or Research Institutions or/and private companies, which are considered necessary for Project implementation.

5.1.6. Equipment

The procurement of new or used small lab equipment is provisioned when deemed necessary for Project implementation. The total eligible amount must not exceed 20% of total Proposal budget. For this cost to be considered eligible, it is required that the usefulness of said equipment to Project implementation is substantiated and that it is purchased within the first half of Project implementation duration at the latest.

5.1.7. Other Costs

This category includes costs that cannot be included in other categories. Indicative costs included in this category are: special telecommunication expenses (such as use of satellite communications), repair costs of important equipment etc.

These costs are considered eligible, provided they are specifically mentioned in the submitted Proposal and there is relevant dedicated justification as to the successful implementation of the Project

Especially in the case of costs for repairing research equipment and in addition to the above, the request must be documented with a simple cost/benefit analysis and pertain to equipment significant to the research Project implementation. Costs for necessary components and replacement parts, labor costs and possible transport expenses, are also eligible.

5.2. Indirect Costs

Considered as indirect costs, are research Project management costs and overhead for the HI. These are reimbursed to the Special Account for Research Funds (SARF) or the respective department of the HI. These include costs of financial management support, office supply costs (stationery, PC consumables etc.) and main utilities (telecommunications, electricity, internet access, etc.). **Indirect costs can amount to as much as 8% of the total cost of all other categories and are included in the budget of the Research Project.**

6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

To submit Proposals, the following are required:

- General information of proposed Research Project (Section A),
- Research Project (Section B)

6.1. Section A: General information

Filled out in the electronic submission platform, they include the following general information regarding the PI and the proposed Research Project:

Proposal general information

- Research Sector

- Proposal title
 - Proposal acronym
 - Proposal summary (up to 2,000 characters, in English)
 - Keywords (up to 10)
 - Project duration (in months)
 - Project budget (in €)
- **PI Information** (Full name, contact details, VAT number, etc.)
 - **Host Institution** (School, Department or Research Centre-Institute, etc.)
 - **Collaborating Organizations** (School, Department or Research Centre-Institute or Organization/Institution, Country etc.)

The PI may also specify up to two (2) names of scientists he/she wishes to be excluded from the evaluation of the submitted Proposal.

Information in Section A is submitted in **English** (except for the Proposal summary, to be submitted both in Greek and in English).

The summary must provide a clear presentation of Proposal objectives, the way they are to be achieved, its maturity and expected impact. It is noted that in case the project is funded, this summary may possibly be published and therefore must be brief and precise, not including confidential information.

6.2. Section B: Research Proposal

Section B consists of two (2) separate sections: Section B1 and Section B2, which are submitted in **English**.

Templates to these two separate Sections will be available on the H.F.R.I. website, www.elidek.gr/call/, where listed are the sections and fields to be respectively included in Proposal Sections B1 and B2.

The initial page (cover page) of the proposal should feature: i) the PI's full name, ii) the title, iii) the acronym, iv) the Research Sector (RS), v) the Project Duration (in months), vi) the Project budget (in €), vii) the project Host Institution and viii) the Collaborating Organizations (if any).

Each page of the Proposal should include a header, featuring the PI's full name, the Proposal's Acronym and the corresponding Research Sector, as well as a footer listing the current and total number of pages.

[Table 2](#) lists the technical specifications that all submitted documents are suggested to follow. Page margin limits of each section must be strictly observed. Information and text in excess of page limits will not be evaluated.

Table 2. Technical specifications of documents

Page Size	Fonts	Font Size	Lin Spacing	Page Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri or similar	11 pt (at least)	Single (at least)	Top-Bottom: 1,5 cm Left-Right: 2 cm

Document length limitations (number of pages) are strictly observed. Only text within above mentioned limits will be taken into consideration during evaluation.

6.2.1. Section B1: PI and RT member CV's

Section B1 consists of the following separate sections:

Section B1.1. Principal Investigator's CV (maximum 6 pages)

Section B1.1 includes a detailed Curriculum Vitae where listed among others, are the PI's scientific achievements of the last 10 years which are related to the proposal.

Section B1.1. is submitted in **English**, as a PDF file, and may cover up to six (6) pages in length. Text in excess of these limits will not be taken into consideration during evaluation.

Section B1.2. Research Team Members (1/2 page per member)

The brief CVs of all denominated members of the Research Team are submitted in Section B1.2, which may also include selected scientific journal publications related to the object of the Project.

To each of Research Team positions not assigned to a person by name, the qualifications required of the person to be contracted with the HI will be listed.

The section in question is submitted in English and may cover as much as half (1/2) a page per RT member. Section B1.2 is submitted exclusively as one unified PDF file.

6.2.2. Section B2: Proposal detailed presentation

Section B2. Proposal detailed presentation (maximum limit: 10 pages)

The detailed presentation of the Proposal should describe the scientific, technical, and/or academic aspects of the Project, as well as the methodology and working plan. The Project's level of maturity and expected impact should also be documented. Section B2 should further include a complete estimate of the Project's real cost, as well as describe the role of the PI and all RT members in Project implementation.

Indicatively, the presentation of the Proposal must describe the following:

- **Excellence, State-of-the-art and Objectives**

This section will include clear definitions of project objectives and their relation to the object of this call, which is to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The description of the Proposal must document said Project maturity and mention the ways in which the Project will substantially

contribute to the scientific sector it is applied in, the added value it shall offer and its broader impact on economy, or/and technology or/and society, always in relation to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. This section will also define the particularly innovative or non-conventional aspects (if any) of the Proposal.

Indicative subsections that may be included in this section are:

- Proposal objectives and challenges
- State-of-the-art & Innovation
- Added Value and impact
- **Methodology and Implementation**

This section provides the detailed description of suggested methodology, including, as per case, the basic interim objectives. The suggested methodology must be described and justified in relation to the current state-of-the-art, including any particularly innovative or non-conventional aspects, relating to the “high risk/high gain” balance. Also mentioned, should be any middle stages where the results may impose adjustments in project planning. The participation of all Research Team members as well as any Collaborating Organizations suggested, must be fully documented, emphasizing on the scientific added-value they bring to the project.

Indicative subsections that may be included in this section are:

- Research Methodology.
- Working plan: Work Packages, Gantt Chart, Deliverables and Milestones Table, Table of Risks and Contingency plan.
- Structure of Project Research Team: Roles and responsibilities of Research Team members as well as of COs (especially when regarding to COs-Beneficiaries).
- **Budget**

This section should include of the budget being analyzed into cost categories, as mentioned in Section 5 of the Call, along with their being documented. In case of partner projects, the budget analysis corresponding to the CO(s)-Beneficiary(s) should be submitted separately.

The initial page (cover page) of Proposal (Section B2.1) should feature: i) the PI’s full name, ii) the title, iii) the acronym, iv) the Research Sector, v) the project duration (in months), vi) the project budget (in €), vii) the project Host Institution and viii) the Collaborating Organizations (if any).

Section B2 is submitted in English and may cover up to ten (10) pages, cover page and reference listings included. Text exceeding these limits will not be taken into consideration during evaluation. Section B2 is submitted exclusively as a PDF file.

Proposal submission is concluded by the project's PI electronically, exclusively on the H.F.R.I. web portal.

(<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>)

Call opening: June 1st 2020, 12:00 (GMT+2)

Submission deadline: June 15th 2020, 17:00 (GMT+2)

*The PI holds exclusive responsibility for the validity of data submitted
to the on-line submission platform.*

7. CHECKING AND EVALUATION

Proposal evaluation is implemented by a Topic-specific Committee(s) (TC) and independent experts, if deemed necessary, and according to provisions of Article 5(6) of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force.

7.1. Admissibility and eligibility check

Proposals are checked as to the inclusiveness of all data and documents required, the observance of participation terms and limitations as well as other terms in this Call, as they are described in detail in [Section 4](#). Irrespective of the fact that all proposals are checked as to their admissibility and eligibility prior to the evaluation of their content, if at any stage of the screening and evaluation process it is verified that a proposal fails to meet any of the relevant criteria, it shall be excluded from the evaluation process.

7.2. Evaluation

To evaluate Research Proposals and by decision of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, one or more Topic-specific Committees comprised of acclaimed scientists are established and constituted for each Scientific Area. If deemed necessary, owing to the singularity of a proposal subject and according to the judgment of each TC, a non-binding evaluation of one or more proposals may be requested from one or more independent experts. The final evaluation decision for each proposal shall be made by the Topic-specific Committee.

Said experts, independent or Topic-specific Committee members, are included in the Register of Certified Evaluators of Article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (258/A) and hold qualifications related to the object of the research Project to be evaluated. TC members and experts are nominated by the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council. If expert scientists required for a specific evaluation are not available or existing ones do not meet the needs of the specific evaluation, expert scientists from Greece or abroad not included in the Certified Evaluator Register may be appointed as Committee members or independent experts, pursuant to the Scientific Council's decision, and all other provisions under Article 5(6 & 7) of Law 4429/2016 provided.

7.3. Confidentiality

The whole process is governed by the rule of confidentiality. TC members and independent experts sign a confidentiality and non-conflict of interest declaration. All TC members and independent experts owe full confidentiality before, during and after the evaluation, as to the entire evaluation process.

7.4. Evaluation Process

Proposal evaluation will be conducted in one Phase by an Evaluation Committee(s) and experts, if deemed necessary (as provisioned in Law 4429/2019), based on the following criteria (Table 3):

Table 3. Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria	Weighting factor
1. Quality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity and relevance of Proposal objectives in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic or/and its effects. ▪ State of the art research approach/methodology. 	30%
2. Project Maturity and Impact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal maturity. • Anticipated contribution in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, emphasizing on the possibility of project results being capitalized upon immediately. • Impact on a scientific or/and social level. Anticipated technological, financial, or/and social benefit. • Plan effectiveness regarding the dissemination and publicity of proposal results. 	40%
3. Implementation capability	
3.1. Research Team	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI ability and role regarding project implementation. • Ability, level of expertise and complementarity of RT members, in relation to the proposal. • Appropriateness of suggested partnership between institutions (and means to accomplish it) [in case there is an institution partnership] 	15%
3.2. Implementation plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness and effectiveness of proposal working plan (appropriateness in allocating separate duties and resources). • Appropriateness of infrastructures and processes (risk and contingencies plan) [if applicable]. • Realism of suggested budget. 	15%

Proposals will be marked according to the extent by which they satisfy separate criteria, as described above.

Grading is done on a scale of 0 – 100.

0-19. The Proposal cannot be evaluated due to inadequate or incomplete information.

20-39 Weak. The Proposal meets the criteria in part, while there are serious inherent difficulties.

40-59 Moderate. While the Proposal does meet the criteria in general, there are significant weaknesses.

60-79 Good. The Proposal does meet the criteria on a good level, but there are certain shortfalls.

80-89 Very Good. The Proposal does meet the criteria on a very good level, but there is a small number of shortfalls.

90-100 Excellent. The Proposal meets all relevant aspects of the criteria successfully. Any shortfalls are minor and are described as of secondary importance.

The minimum total score acceptable for Proposal funding eligibility is 70 units.

7.5. Possibility of budget's partial approval

By its substantiated decision, the Evaluation Committee may revise the requested budget of the Research Proposal, approving it partially or on condition of amendments.

8. EVALUATION RESULTS

Following evaluation completion, PIs are notified of results by a personalized report, which includes the grading marks received by the Proposal and the evaluation report drafted by the Topic-specific Committee.

PIs have the right to lodge an objection, **exclusively on decision legality grounds and substantiated**, on a deadline of ten (10) days from when the results of each evaluation were issued.

Objections are judged by three-member Objections Committees to an exclusive deadline of ten (10) days (Article 5(8) of Law 4429/2016). The Objections Committee decision is forwarded to the H.F.R.I. Director and the objecting party.

The Foundation Director issues the funding decision by which final Ranking Lists are approved and a list is issued, containing the proposals to be funded according to the available budget. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to petitions for annulment filed with the Administrative Court of Appeals.

Once the proposals to be funded are posted, potential beneficiary PIs receive a letter of approval via email, whereby they are invited to submit necessary supporting documents to H.F.R.I., so that the Funding Approval Decision may be issued.

The Project PI accepts that messages sent via email to the email address they provided when submitting the Proposal online are considered notifications and signal the initiation of all legal processes and deadlines.

9. PUBLICITY

The Call and the Implementation guide to this Call will be posted on the websites of H.F.R.I. (www.elidek.gr) and G.S.R.T. (www.gsrt.gr).

10. COMMUNICATION - INFORMATION

Detailed information and briefings regarding this Call will be provided by the H.F.R.I. Research Department, via electronic mail,

through email: researchdepartment@elidek.gr

and telephone numbers 210-6412410, 210-6412420.

The Director of H.F.R.I.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas