



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

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**Athens, 8.12.2020**

**Ref. No. 31230**



## **Action “Science and Society”**

### **5th Call**

**“Αιέν Αριστεύειν – Theodore Papazoglou”**

**The action is co-funded by a donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in collaboration with the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation**

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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 2-4, 5(2-9) and 8(9) and 10 therein,
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.)” (Is. B’ 5252), as in force,
3. Decision no. 133182/20.12.2019 issued by the Alternate Minister of Development and Investments “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2020” (Is. B’ 4885),
4. Document with Ref. No. 10021/22.2.2019 from H.F.R.I. to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation,
5. Document with Ref. No. 12637/6.5.2019 from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to H.F.R.I.,
6. Decision with Ref. No. 12745/9.5.2019 issued by the 53rd Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on donation acceptance from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation,
7. Donation agreement between the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and H.F.R.I.,
8. Decision with Ref. No. 14472/25.06.2019 issued by the 56th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council (IUN: 6IX546M77Γ-XNA), approving the relevant draft Call entitled “Αιέν Αριστεύειν – Theodore Papazoglou”, as amended by decision with Ref. No. 24616/27.4.2020 issued by the 77th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council (IUN: ΨΚ7Ζ46Μ77Γ-40Ζ),
9. Decision with Ref. No. 15224/24.07.2019 issued by the 59th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on the “Approval of Undertaking a Long-term Obligation” (IUN:6ΑΖΣ46Μ77Γ-ΧΥΘ), as amended by Decisions with Ref. No. 23643/18.03.2020 issued by the 75th Meeting (IUN: 6ΘΡ046Μ77Γ-ΤΩΙ) and Ref. No. 25119/25.05.2020 issued by the 78th Meeting (IUN: Ψ0ΣΙ46Μ77Γ-ΖΦ0) of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council,
10. Decision with Ref. No. 135278/27.12.2019 issued by the Minister of Development and Investments in regard to the “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) Budget Approval, for fiscal year 2020” (IUN: Ψ6ΙΥ46ΜΤΑΡ-7ΓΞ),
11. the fact that the Action is co-funded on the one hand by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and on the other hand by H.F.R.I funds from the agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank,
12. 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 (YODD 173), as in force after its amendment by Decision no. 68183/01.07.2020 issued by the Minister of Development and Investments (YODD 490),
13. Decision with Ref. No. 3336/05.09.2018 issued by the 25th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, appointing Prof. Xenophon Verykios as Scientific Council Chair,
14. 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 (YODD 436),
15. Decision with Ref. No. 12105/23.04.2019 issued by the 52nd Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, assigning duties to the Director of the Foundation,
16. Decision with Ref. No. 31032/04.12.2020 issued by the 92nd Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on the approval of the 5th Science and Society Call entitled “Αιέν Αριστεύειν – Theodore Papazoglou” (IUN: 6ΤΒ646Μ77Γ-ΤΩΛ),

## CALLS

Interested Researchers to submit proposals under the 5th “Science and Society” Call entitled “Αιέν Αριστεύειν – Theodore Papazoglou”, that is co-funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and H.F.R.I., in line with the terms and conditions presented below.

### 1. ACTION OBJECTIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Call aims to support the research effort of Greek Researchers who have submitted proposals under Actions of the European Research Council (ERC) from 2018 onwards, namely the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant, have been favorably assessed during the second evaluation phase (grade A) but did not receive funding, due to available budget insufficiency of respective Calls (hereon “**the ERC Proposal**”). This Action has been designed to support said Researchers, so that they shall be able to continue their research work and submit an improved version of the ERC Proposal in an upcoming ERC\* Call.

Under this Call, the Proposal’s final deliverable shall be the re-submission of the improved ERC Proposal to the next upcoming ERC call, the Host Institution being one of the academic and research institutions in the country provisioned in article 2 par. 2a of Law 4429/2016.

The purpose of this action is, on the one hand, to support research excellence and reward noteworthy Research Projects that have distinguished themselves in terms of quality under a competitive funding mechanism, such as the ERC, and, on the other hand, to create the appropriate conditions so as to utilize the country’s existing scientific potential and attract young scientists who are currently working abroad.

Proposals in this Call shall be implemented in a Host Institution (HI) that may be a Higher Educational Institution (University or Technological Educational Institutions) or Research Centre – Institute (R.C.-I.) or University Research Institute (U.R.I.) or Higher Educational Military Institutes (ASEI) in the country. In order for selected Research Projects to be funded, the HI shall provide the Certification of Host Institution Commitment.

Research Projects to be funded shall be selected following an evaluation conducted by an Evaluation Committee (EC) comprised of acclaimed scientists, specializing in the Scientific Areas that proposals relate to and aided, if deemed necessary, by independent experts, as provisioned in article 5 par. 6 of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force. The whole process is governed by strict rules of confidentiality, binding for all participating parties.

The Call shall remain open until the available budget (€10.000.000,00) has been depleted. Proposal submissions shall take place during two annual periods and for the duration of this Call remaining in force, following a related announcement and in line with Section 7 provisions.

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\* Pertaining exclusively to the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Advanced Grant Calls.

## 2. SCIENTIFIC AREAS (SAs)

The Research Proposal is submitted to that research Field within the following Research Areas, which exhibits the highest relevance to the scientific field of the ERC Review Panel which had favorably evaluated the ERC Proposal.

**SA.1. Physical Sciences**

**SA.2. Engineering Sciences and Technology**

**SA.3. Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences)**

**SA.4. Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology**

**SA.5. Mathematics & Information Sciences**

**SA.6. Social Sciences**

**SA.7. Humanities & Arts**

**SA.8. Environment & Energy**

**SA.9. Management & Economics of Innovations**

## 3. BUDGET / PROJECT FUNDING LIMITS

The total cost of this Call amounts to **€10.000.000,00** and is co-funded by H.F.R.I. and SNF resources. The Call is open and shall remain open until the available budget has been depleted.

The maximum funding limit for each Research Project amounts to €250.000,00, with an implementation duration of 12 to 24 months.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions to participate in this Call are the following:

### 4.1. Principal Investigator or/ and project Research Team

Eligible to participate as **Principal Investigators (PIs)** in this Call, are Greek Researchers who have submitted an ERC Proposal under the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant Actions from 1.1.2018 onwards, for research Proposals to be submitted in year 2021 and from 1.1.2019 onwards, for research Proposals to be submitted in 2022, whereby their Proposal has been favorably evaluated during the second evaluation phase (grade A), but did not receive funding due to the ERC available budget being insufficient in respective calls. For the duration of Research Project implementation in the HI, the PI shall not hold an employment position abroad that impedes their work in the HI, in line with provisions of par. 6.1.1.1 herein.

Other than the Proposal PI, the **Research Team (RT)** for project implementation may include Faculty members and Researchers, Post-doctoral Researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students, other

staff working for the Host Institution under a public law employment contract or an open-term private law employment contract/ fixed-term private law employment contract or a project lease contract (e.g. Special Educational Staff, Lab teaching Staff Members, Technical Scientists, specialized scientific associates, technicians, auxiliary staff etc.), or other staff who shall be contracted to the Host Institution exclusively for Research Project implementation purposes.

To the RT may also participate members from other domestic or foreign Institutions. It is noted that personnel employed under any employment relationship on foreign Institutions, may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated staff.

## 4.2. Host Institution – Funding Beneficiary

Defined as Host Institutions (HIs) for the Research Proposal are:

- Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) in the Country as provisioned under article 1 of Law 4485/2017 (GG Is. A' 114/2017).
- Research Centres – Institutes (R.C.-I.) of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (GG Is. A' 258/2014), as amended and in force.
- University Research Institutes (U.R.I.), i.e., private law legal entities established by virtue of provisions in Laws 2083/1992 (GG Is. A' 159/1992) and 3685/2008 (GG Is. A' 148/2008).
- Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (GG Is. A' 233/2003).

All potential HI's shall available for selection on the online submission platform, in the form of a drop-down menu, allowing for only one selection.

**Upon Research Proposal submission the PI shall attach a solemn declaration**, whereby it is declared that the HI holds the intent of collaborating with him/ her in the framework of Research Proposal implementation.

## 4.3. Collaborating Organizations (COs)

In the context of Proposal implementation, it is possible to collaborate with Academic and Research Institutions as well as Public or Private Organizations of any kind or form, domestic or foreign. Collaboration with these Organizations must contribute to Research Proposal implementation, and may (indicatively) pertain to conducting experiments, accessing archives, using equipment etc.

## 4.4. Prevention of double funding

The Research Proposal (or part thereof) shall not have received funding from any other source. The PI shall not have received or is not to receive in future, funding from any other source for the same or similar purpose to that of this Call. Synergy with other projects is only permitted on the basis of

complementarity and of clearly defined and distinguishable roles, both in terms of the scope as well as funding provided by other Organizations, aiming to ensure the complete prevention of double funding.

## 5. RESEARCH PROJECT DURATION

- The Research Project duration may run from **12 to 24 months**.
- The project start-date is set by the HI at the time it is included in the HI budget and cannot be more than 30 calendar days from the date of inclusion.
- The Research Project start can be postponed for a maximum period of six (6) months, following a relevant reasoned request by the PI which is approved by decision of the H.F.R.I. Director.
- Costs for each Proposal may be incurred from its start-date.

## 6. BUDGET AND COST CATEGORIES

### 6.1. Direct Costs

Research Project direct costs include personnel remuneration, consumables, dissemination and travel, usage or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources, equipment purchase as well as other costs.

#### 6.1.1. Personnel remuneration

Remunerated Proposal RT Members are divided into Research and Technical Staff. Indicatively the first group may include Faculty members and Researchers, Post-doctoral Researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students and other scientific staff, while the second group may indicatively include technical/ auxiliary staff.

**Costs for Research Team (PI and other members) remuneration, must amount to at least 50% of Research Proposal total budget.**

##### 6.1.1.1. Principal Investigator remuneration

Remuneration for the PI belonging to the ordinary personnel of a domestic Institution is subject to the maximum limits for salary and additional fees provisioned in article 2 of Law 3833/2010 combined with provisions of Laws 4354/2015 (articles 13 and 28) and 4472/2017 (articles 130-135 and 156).

Should the PI not belong to the ordinary personnel of a domestic Institution, they are to be contracted with the HI for the duration of Research Project implementation, under a fixed-term private law employment contract or a project lease contract, whereby their gross monthly income for full employment is calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly income shall in the least be equal to the minimum limits set in article 18 par. 12 case a) Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit is defined in line with provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment.



2. In case of a project lease contract, gross monthly income shall in the least be equal to the gross monthly income the PI would have received under a fixed-term private law employment contract as above (under 1) specified (in addition to employer contributions, if any, and corresponding VAT).

Under the PI’s contract to the HI, the PI shall commit to work in Greece for Research Proposal implementation, for 50% of its duration by minimum, and for 50% of their time by minimum.

### **6.1.1.2. Research Team member remuneration**

The total monthly remuneration for Research Team members is formulated as described below.

a) For **Post-doctoral Researchers**, total monthly remuneration is calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly income shall in the least be equal to the minimum limits set in article 18 par. 12 case a) Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit is defined in line with provisions of Chapter B’ of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment.

2. In case of a project lease contract, gross monthly income shall be equal to the gross monthly income the PR would have received under a fixed-term private law employment contract as above (under 1) specified (in addition to employer contributions, if any, and corresponding VAT).

b) For **Scientific Associates** (PhD Candidates, Post-graduate Students) or/ and extraordinary **Technical/ auxiliary staff** gross monthly income for full employment is calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly income shall be equal to those provisioned in Chapter B’ of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment.

2. In case of a project lease contract, gross monthly income shall be equal to the gross monthly income said Research Team member would have received under a fixed-term private law employment contract as above (under 1) specified (in addition to employer contributions, if any, and corresponding VAT).

c) For **Faculty Members, Researchers and other RT members belonging to HI or CO permanent personnel**, total monthly remuneration shall not exceed €500.00, for Faculty Members and Researchers, or €250.00, for other members, otherwise observing the maximum remuneration limits provisioned in Chapter B’ of Law 4354/2015, as on force.

Table 1 lists above terms in summary.

It is noted that the eligible cost in cost Category “Personnel Remuneration” is comprised of the total employer cost, as arising from the gross remuneration, increased, in the case of a project lease contract, by a) employer contributions, if any, and b) the corresponding VAT.

**Table 1. Maximum remuneration limits for Remunerated Research Team Members**

<b>Remunerated RT member categories</b>	<b>Maximum remuneration limits (gross)</b>
1. Faculty Members, Researchers	Maximum remuneration limit of €500, observing the maximum limit of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015.
2. Post-Doctoral Researchers	<p>a) Private law fixed term employment contract: gross monthly income shall in the least be equal to the minimum limits set in article 18 par. 12 case a) Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit is defined in line with provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment.</p> <p>b) Project lease contract: gross monthly income shall be equal to the gross monthly income said Research Team member would have received under a fixed-term private law employment contract as above (under a) specified (in addition to employer contributions, if any, and corresponding VAT).</p>
3. Scientific Associates (PhD Candidates, Post-Graduate Students and Technical staff)	<p>a) Private law fixed term employment contract: In line with provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015.</p> <p>b) Project lease contract: gross monthly income shall be equal to the gross monthly income said Research Team member would have received under a fixed-term private law employment contract as above (under a) specified (in addition to employer contributions, if any, and corresponding VAT).</p>
4. Other HI or CO staff (private law fixed term employment contracts or public law contracts)	Maximum payment limit of €250, observing the maximum limits provisioned in Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015.

Remunerated RT members not denominated during Proposal submission, will be selected from the HI following a call for the expression of interest in regard to respective positions and in accordance with current legislation.

RT members belonging to the personnel of foreign Collaborating Organizations are non-remunerated.

**Non-remunerated Research team members may receive, for Research Proposal needs, daily and travel allowance for transit directly linked to its natural scope.**

### 6.1.2. Consumables

Costs for consumables are eligible when pertaining exclusively to Project implementation and are recorded separately. Indicatively, they involve the purchase of direct consumption materials (e.g., lab consumables, reagents etc.) that are necessary for Project implementation. This category does not include general office supply costs, such as paper, stationery, PC consumables, etc., as these are commonly included in the overhead and may be eligible only when research project particularities

require an unusual amount of relevant costs for its implementation. In this case, sufficient relevant substantiation is required.

### 6.1.3. Dissemination and Travel costs

Indicatively, these include scientific journal publication costs, registration costs in conferences relating to speech/ communication or poster, costs for organizing and conducting seminars or/ and conferences, costs for publishing monographs and books, costs for producing audiovisual material, for website development and publicity in social networking media. Additionally, this category includes costs for patent submission in domestic institutions and in corresponding institutions abroad, as well as different cost types for registering research findings, etc. For all of the above to be considered eligible, they have to be related to Research Project implementation.

**A necessary condition for dissemination cost eligibility** is mention of the fact that the Research Proposal is co-funded (Acknowledgements) by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)- Ίδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος (ΙΣΝ) and the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)- Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας (ΕΛ.ΙΔ.Ε.Κ.), through the use of appropriate wording and related logos.

Additionally, this category includes costs pertaining to the PI and RT members travelling in Greece or abroad for participating in conferences to present Research Project outcomes, for conducting field research or collaborative research with Research Team members belonging to other Organizations in Greece or abroad.

### 6.1.4. Costs for usage or access to equipment, infrastructure or 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, either in the HI or the COs. 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 domestic and foreign Institutions, 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.

### 6.1.5. Equipment

The procurement of small lab equipment (new or used) is provisioned when deemed necessary for Project implementation. In order for this cost to be considered eligible, documentation as to the usefulness of this equipment in Research Proposal implementation is required. In regard to personal computer procurement especially, (desktop or laptop) the necessity of purchase must be substantiated in direct link to the Research Proposal.

### **6.1.6. Other costs**

This category includes costs that cannot be included in other categories and are directly linked to Research Proposal implementation. Indicatively, these may pertain to special telecommunication costs (such as use of satellite communications), repair costs of important equipment etc.

Especially in the case of costs for repairing research equipment, eligible costs are those incurred for necessary components and replacement parts, labor costs and possible transport costs.

## **6.2. Indirect Costs**

Considered as indirect costs, are Research Project management costs and overhead for the HI. These may amount to as much as 10% of the total Research Project and are reimbursed to the Special Account for Research Funds (SARF) or the respective financial services 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.). The amount is calculated on the total costs of all other categories and is included in the Research Project budget.

## **7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

The following are required for Proposal submission:

- Proposal general information.
- The full ERC Proposal, according to the respective submission form (ERC grant application: Parts A & B).
- The ERC Proposal evaluation report and other supportive documents substantiating the positive score received during the second stage of the ERC evaluation process.
- Description of the Proposal to be implemented under the current Call.

### **7.1. Proposal General Information**

This is filled out within the online submission platform and includes the following general information regarding the PI and the Research Proposal:

#### **Research Proposal General Information**

- Scientific Area (SA), scientific field/sub-field
- Proposal title (in Greek and English)
- Proposal acronym
- Proposal summary (up to 2,000 characters, in Greek and English)
- Keywords (up to 10)
- Project duration (in months)
- Detailed Project Budget (in €)
- Work Packages
- Deliverables

- Milestones
- **PI Information** (Full name, contact details, VAT number, etc.)
- **Host Institution** (School, Department, Institute, etc.)
- **Collaborating Organizations Φορείς** (School, Department, Institute, Country, etc.)
- **Research Team Members** (Full name, Capacity, VAT, etc.)

The summary must provide a clear presentation of Proposal objectives and the way these are to be achieved. 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.

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

## 7.2. ERC Proposal (Parts A & B)

The full ERC Proposal is submitted, as it was submitted under the ERC Proposal, in line with the respective submission form (Parts A & B).

## 7.3. ERC Proposal Evaluation Report

The ERC Evaluation Report is submitted, which is to include the evaluation result determined by the respective evaluation panel as well as evaluator comments.

## 7.4. Research Proposal

This is submitted in English exclusively as a PDF file and may cover up to five (5) pages in length, the cover page and bibliography notes being included. Text in excess of these limits will not be taken into consideration during evaluation.

The Synopsis shall describe the Research Proposal’s objectives and scope, as well as its relevance/ link to the ERC Proposal. Also substantiated, shall be the way in which the ERC Proposal is to be upgraded/ improved, based on any comments/ observations listed by ERC Proposal evaluators. Furthermore, also described shall be the methodology and RT composition, mentioning RT member roles/ responsibilities. Finally, work Packages, deliverables, milestones and Project budget (per cost category), shall be filled out in tables.

The Synopsis initial page (cover page) should feature: i) the PI’s full name, ii) the title, iii) the acronym, iv) the Scientific Area (SA), v) the Project Duration (in months), vi) the Project budget (in €), vii) the proposed Host Institution and viii) the Collaborating Organizations (if any).

Each Synopsis page should include a header, featuring the PI’s full name, the proposal acronym, the corresponding Scientific Area (SA1, SA2, etc.), as well as a footer listing the current and total number of pages.

Table 2, lists the technical specifications that the Synopsis is suggested to follow.

**Table 2. Technical specifications**

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

**Proposal submission is concluded by the project PI  
electronically in exclusive,**

**2021 1st Submission Call Opening:** January 15th 2021, 12:00 (GMT+2)

**2021 1st Submission Deadline:** March 1st 2021, 17:00 (GMT+2)

**2021 2nd Submission Call Opening:** March 2nd 2021, 12:00 (GMT+2)

**2021 2nd Submission Deadline:** December 30th 2021, 17:00 (GMT+2)

**2022 1st Submission Call Opening:** January 3rd 2022, 12:00 (GMT+2)

**2022 1st Submission Deadline:** June 30th 2022, 17:00 (GMT+2)

**2022 2nd Submission Call Opening:** July 1st 2022, 12:00 (GMT+2)

**2022 2nd Submission Deadline:** December 30th 2022, 17:00 (GMT+2)

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

## **8. CHECK AND EVALUATION**

Proposal evaluation, per submission period, is implemented by an Evaluation Committee (EC) and independent experts, if deemed necessary, and according to provisions of Article 5(6) of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force.

### **8.1. 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 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.

Responsible for checking the admissibility and eligibility of each Proposal is the Evaluation Committee, in cooperation with the H.F.R.I. Department of Research Projects.

### **8.2. Evaluation**

To evaluate Research Proposals and by decision of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, an Evaluation Committee of acclaimed scientists is established and constituted. If deemed necessary, owing to the specialized scope of Research Proposals and according to the judgment the Evaluation Committee, a non-binding evaluation of one or more Projects may be requested from one or more independent experts. The final decision for the evaluation of each Research Proposal shall be made by the Committee.

Said experts, independent or Committee members, hold qualifications related to the object of the Project to be evaluated, are selected in line with provisions of Article 5(6) of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force, and are nominated by the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council.

### **8.3. Confidentiality**

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

### **8.4. Evaluation Process**

Given that, in line with the terms of this Call, Research Proposals have already been evaluated by ERC committees as to their core, they will not be reevaluated as to their scientific quality, excellence and originality. The same applies for the evaluation of the PI.

Consequently, Research Proposals will be examined as to the admissibility of criteria listed below:

1. Relevance/ Connection to the ERC Proposal (scope, objectives, scientific quality).
2. Degree by which the Research Proposal is estimated to improve the ERC Proposal, so that it may become more competitive in an upcoming submission.
3. Realism of proposed budget.

The fulfillment of above criteria is graded with ‘YES’/ ‘NO’, whereby funding condition for the Research Proposal is having received a positive evaluation (YES) in all criteria.

Positive evaluation (YES) in the respective criterion may be expressed under conditions or under clause of the Research Proposal being partially adjusted, following a pertinent decision by the EA.

### **8.5. Budget partial approval possibility**

By its substantiated decision, the Evaluation Committee may partially approve or revise the requested Proposal, holding regard to Call terms and conditions.

## **9. EVALUATION RESULTS**

Following evaluation completion, PIs are notified of results by a personalized report, which shall include the grading marks received by the Proposal and the evaluation report drafted by the Evaluation Committee.

PIs have the right to lodge a **substantiated objection on decision legality grounds** within a deadline of ten (10) days from the notification of evaluation results.

Objections are judged by three-member 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.

Following the evaluation of Proposals, the H.F.R.I. Director issues the funding decision (list of research projects to be funded), according to the available budget. Said 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 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 and particularly those sent to the email address they provided when submitting the Proposal online are considered notifications and signal the initiation of all legal processes and deadlines.**



## **10. PUBLICITY**

This Call will be notified to interested parties/ beneficiaries through ERC.

The Call and the Implementation guide to this Call will be posted on the websites of SNF (<http://www.snf.org>) and H.F.R.I. (<https://www.elidek.gr/call/>).

The Call will also be posted on website of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology ([www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr)) and the Ministry of Development and Investments.

## **11. COMMUNICATION - INFORMATION**

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

through email: [researchdepartment@elidek.gr](mailto:researchdepartment@elidek.gr)

and telephone numbers 210-6412410, 210-6412420.

The Director of H.F.R.I.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas