



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND

INNOVATION

HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND

INNOVATION

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

### **3rd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects**

### **to support Postdoctoral Researchers**

(Ref. No. 32000/28.12.2020, as amended and in force)

Edition 1.0

(Decision under Ref. No. 33137/03.02.2021 by the H.F.R.I. Director, IUN: ΩΔΗΙ46Μ77Γ-0ΩΒ)

## A. Terms and Conditions of Participation

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

Postdoctoral Researchers (PRs) who have obtained their doctorates in Greece or abroad are eligible to participate as Principal Investigators.

### Question 2: What are the conditions for the Proposal to be eligible?

The conditions that must be met for the Proposal to be eligible are the following:

- A time period of more than ten (10) years should not have elapsed from the 1st of January of the year of the doctorate nomination of the PI, i.e. those PRs who received a doctorate nomination from 1.1.2011 onwards.
- The PR-PI should not have been involved for a total period of more than 3 months during the last twelve (12) months before the start date of the proposals submission in a **research project** in the same research team/laboratory/study/clinic at the Host Institution (HI) of the project under any capacity and remuneration, including the award of a scholarship by any Institution of the country or abroad.

The above conditions must be met cumulatively. Failure to meet them entails the ineligibility of the Proposal to be evaluated.

### Question 3: What about the prevention of double funding?

According to the Call, a necessary condition for a project to be funded is that it shall not have received or is to receive funding by any means from any other institution for its full scope or part thereof.

### Question 4: How do we calculate the maximum permitted time after obtaining the doctorate so that the Proposal can be eligible?

According to the Call, in order for the Proposal to be eligible, ten (10) years should not have elapsed from the year of the doctorate nomination. Therefore, the PRs who have obtained their doctorate after 01.01.2011 are eligible, subject to any extension of the above time period due to military service or pregnancy, as provided in detail in the Call.

### Question 5: How do we calculate the extension of the maximum permitted time after obtaining the diplomas due to military service or pregnancy?

The maximum permitted time after obtaining the doctorate is extended due to military service or pregnancy as follows:

If the PR has fulfilled his military obligations after obtaining the diploma, then the time elapsed after being declared a doctor (10 years) is extended accordingly. The same also applies to female candidates who have become pregnant after obtaining the doctorate. Therefore, for the calculation of the maximum permitted time after obtaining the doctorate, the corresponding time period (pregnancy or military service) should be added to 31.12 of the year of obtaining the diploma.

**Question 6: What about the fulfillment of military obligations of male candidates?**

Greek male PR-PI candidates shall have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempt of them or have had their rank postponed. The duration of ranking postponement should cover the duration of research Project implementation. **These conditions must be met when the Funding Award Decision is issued and not during the submission.** In case of non-fulfillment, the research Proposal cannot be funded.

**Question 7: How many proposals can a PR-PI submit?**

According to the Call, the PR-PI can submit only one (1) Proposal.

**Question 8: Can the PR-PI participate as a Research Team (RT) member in any other Proposal under this call?**

No, the PR-PI cannot participate as an RT member in any other Proposal under this Call.

**Question 9: Can a PR-PI whose Proposal was funded under the 1st or 2nd Call for Research Projects to Support Postdoctoral Researchers submit a Proposal also in this Call or participate in the RT as a remunerated or non-remunerated member?**

No. PRs-PIs, whose Proposal was funded under the 1st or 2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Postdoctoral Researchers are not eligible to participate in this Call, either as PIs or RT members.

**Question 10: Can the PR-PI hold another employment during the funding of the Proposal?**

Under the contract between the PR-PI and the HI, the PR-PI shall be full-time and exclusively employed, excluding teaching. Furthermore, the PRs-PIs cannot hold any employment not allowing them to carry out the task assigned to them in line with the Technical Bulletin of the Project.

**Question 11: Is there a limit to the number of members participating in the RT?**

The Call does not set any restrictions on the number of the RT members.

**Question 12: Can the PR-PI be the only member of the RT?**

The Call does not set any relevant restriction.

**Question 13: Is it mandatory to establish an Advisory Committee in the research Proposal?**

According to the Call, the establishment of an Advisory Committee is optional and does not constitute an evaluation criterion [Section 4.1 (page 9) and Section 7.2.2 (page 20) of the Call].

**Question 14: Is there a limit to the number of Proposals in which a member of the Advisory Committee may participate?**

There is no limit to the number of Proposals in which a member of the Advisory Committee may participate. It is noted that the members of the Advisory Committee are non-remunerated and may only receive a travel allowance.

**Question 15: What happens if the PR-PI is appointed as a Faculty member to a Higher Educational Institution or as a Researcher to a research/technological institution in the country during research Project evaluation or implementation?**

Should the PRs-PIs be appointed as a Faculty member to a Higher Educational Institution or as a researcher to a research/technological institution in the country, **they may continue to implement the project as a PI, without receiving remuneration** and they shall be included in the list of Non-remunerated members from the date that their appointment has been published in the Government Gazette, being entitled to travel and dissemination allowance eligibility for actions directly related to the physical scope of the project.

**Question 16: What happens if the PR-PI occupies a Faculty member or Researcher position abroad?**

**The Proposal cannot be funded**, if the PR-PI occupies a Faculty member or Researcher position in any foreign institution, at any time before the Funding Award Decision date of issue. In case they should take a position after the funding award decision date of issue, the possibility or not for the project funding to continue as well as related terms shall be specified in the Management & Implementation Guide.

## **B. Research Team Members**

**Question 1: Can someone who does not have Greek nationality participate as a remunerated RT member?**

The Call does not set any restrictions on the nationality of the PI or the remunerated members of the RT. It is noted that during funding all members of the RT and/or the PR-PI should have a Greek VAT No.

**Question 2: What happens if a member of the RT is remunerated under another action of H.F.R.I.?**

In the event that the Project is funded, remunerated RT members cannot receive payment from another H.F.R.I. action, for the duration of their remunerated employment in the project funded under this action and for full employment.

**Question 3: Can civil servants or employees under a private law and open-term dependent employment relation in the Public or broader Public Sector [article 14 par. 1 case a) of Law 4270/2014] or in the private sector participate as remunerated RT members?**

No. They can participate in the RT only as non-remunerated members.

**Question 4: Can a person working in the private sector participate in the RT?**

Yes, private sector employees can participate in the RT as remunerated members, with the exception of those employed under a private law and open-term dependent employment relation, who can participate in the RT only as non-remunerated members.

**Question 5: 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 Table 2 of the Call.

### **Question 6: 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 7: Is it necessary for all RT members to be denominated when submitting the Proposal?**

According to the Call, it is not necessary that all RT members have been denominated when submitting the Proposal. The Remunerated RT members who have not been denominated when submitting the Proposal shall be selected following an issued call for the expression of interest for the corresponding positions by the HI, in line with the legislation in force (Laws 4386/2016 and 4485/2017).

### **Question 8: What happens if a denominated RT member is appointed as a Faculty member or as a Researcher or is appointed in the broader public or private sector?**

In this case, the member may continue to participate in the research Project as a non-remunerated RT member.

### **Question 9: What about the legal title?**

Temporary staff that will participate in the RT under a project lease contract may be remunerated by a legal title, if they are not professionals under another cause and are not obliged to keep books and records in accordance with applicable tax legislation. It is noted that the amount of the annual fee of the staff remunerated by a legal title must be within the limits, as provided for under the provisions in force.

### **Question 10: What about the participation of PhD Candidates and/or Postgraduate Students in the RT?**

PhD Candidates and/or Postgraduate Students may participate in the RT as scientific or technical staff to be contracted with the HI and remunerated in line with the legislation in force.

### **Question 11: Can members of the scientific or technical staff of the HI or the Collaborating Organization (CO) participate in the RT as remunerated members?**

Scientific or technical staff of the HI or the CO in Greece or abroad can participate in the RT only as non-remunerated members.

## **C. Host Institution and Collaborating Organizations**

### **Question 1: Who can be defined as a Host Institution?**

The following can be defined as Host Institutions for the Research Project: Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) in the country, as specified in article 1 of Law 4485/2017 (A' 114), as in force, Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (A' 233), Research Centers-Institutes (RC-I) of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258), as in force, University Research Institutes (URI), i.e. private law legal entities established by virtue of the provisions of Laws 2083/1992 (A' 159) and 3685/2008 (A' 148) and the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). All potential HIs shall be available for selection on the online submission platform, in the form of a drop-down menu, allowing for only one selection.

### **Question 2: Can a foreign academic or research institution be a Collaborating Organization?**

In the context of research Project implementation, it is possible to collaborate with academic/research Institutions as well as public or private organizations of any kind or form, in Greece or abroad. The collaboration with these institutions must relate to supporting project implementation and may (indicatively) consist of conducting experiments, accessing files, etc. and it requires (in order to be evaluated) the existence of a **relevant Letter of Intent for Collaboration by the Institution**, affirming its intent to collaborate with the PR-PI under the research Project proposed.

### **Question 3: What does the Letter of Intent for Collaboration with the HI and the CO include?**

Instructions for the preparation of the letter of intent for collaboration with the HI and the CO shall be given in the standard documents posted on H.F.R.I. website ([link](#)) and on the submission platform ([link](#)).

### **Question 4: Is a Letter of Intent for Collaboration required from the Members of the Advisory Committee?**

No. The members of the Advisory Committee are not required to submit a Letter of Intent for Collaboration from their Institution.

### **Question 5: Will PRs who will submit a Proposal for a project that will be implemented in the same Department/Faculty of a Higher Educational Institution in which they are employed under an academic experience gain program or under a teaching contract by virtue of Presidential Decree 407/80 or any kind of contract for teaching be eligible?**

Yes, as long as the PR-PI has not been involved in a research project for a total period of more than 3 months during the last twelve (12) months before the start date of the submission of Proposals **in the same research team/laboratory/study/clinic at the HI** of the project.

### **Question 6: Can PRs submit a Proposal for a project to be implemented with the same research team/laboratory/study/clinic where they carry out research as postdoctoral scholars (regardless of the Institution awarding the scholarship)?**

No, since the PR-PI has been involved in a research project for a total period of more than 3 months during the last twelve (12) months before the start date of the submission of Proposals in the same research team/laboratory/study/clinic at the HI of the project under any capacity and remuneration, including the award of a scholarship by any Institution of the country or abroad.

## **D. Budget and Cost categories**

### **Question 1: Is there a limit to the percentage different cost categories can cover in relation to total budget?**

Percentage restrictions are presented in detail per cost category in Table 5 (Section 7) of the Call].

**Question 2: Can the provision of services by an Academic or Research Institution or company in Greece or abroad be considered as an eligible cost?**

Yes, the provision of services by Academic or Research Institutions and/or private companies is provided for in section 7.1.4 of the Call "**Costs for usage or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources**", which stipulates that there can be a provision for costs required to be paid for the use or access to lab research equipment, research infrastructure or other resources necessary for the implementation of the research Project. For example, there can be a provision for costs related to services provision by private companies concerning experimentation which is necessary for the implementation of the project.

**Question 3: The cost of using infrastructure of a CO in Greece or abroad is an eligible cost?**

Yes, the cost of using infrastructure/resources of the COs is an eligible cost (Section 7.1.4. of the Call).

**Question 4: What is provided for the salary costs of the scientific (PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students) and technical staff of the RT to be contracted with the HI?**

According to the Call (Section 7.1.1.2), gross monthly income for full employment is calculated as follows:

- a) in case of a fixed-term private law employment contract: equal to the gross income for full employment provisioned in Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force,
- b) in case of a project lease contract: equal to those provisioned in Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment (plus corresponding VAT and employer's contributions, if any).

**Question 5: What is provided for the remuneration of Postdoctoral Researchers to be contracted with the HI?**

According to the Call (Section 7.1.1.2), gross monthly income for Postdoctoral Researchers is calculated as follows:

- a) 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) of Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit is specified in line with Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force, for full employment,
- b) in case of a project lease contract: Gross monthly income shall equal the gross monthly income the PR would have received based on a fixed-term private law employment contract, in line with the above stated provisions (under point 1) (plus employer's contributions, if any, and the corresponding VAT).

**Question 6: The amounts of remuneration of the PI and RT members are net or gross?**

The amounts of remuneration provided are gross amounts upon which all legal deductions and employee contributions are calculated, as applicable in each case. In order to calculate the total amount of staff remuneration (salary costs), legal employer contributions are added to the above amounts, which are eligible project costs. Regarding project lease contracts, if provided for under law, Value Added Tax (VAT) shall be also added to above amounts, which is an eligible project cost.

**Question 7: 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 7.1.1.2 thereof.

**Question 8: What happens if a Postgraduate Student or PhD Candidate member of the RT concludes the studies during the implementation of the project?**

In case where a Postgraduate Student of the project RT concludes the postgraduate studies in the course of project implementation and registers as a PhD Candidate, their inclusion in the PhD Candidate category with a corresponding monthly salary raise may be possible, provided there is a pertinent provision in the project budget. Respectively, a PhD Candidate who has been declared a doctor can be included in the category of Postdoctoral Researchers, with a corresponding monthly salary raise, provided there is a pertinent provision in the project budget.

**Question 9: Can the PR-PI be non-remunerated in the context of project implementation?**

According to the Call, the PR-PI shall be contracted with the HI under a full-time and exclusive employment relation and cannot be non-remunerated.

**Question 10: Can RT members (apart from PR-PI) be part-time employed in the project and/or participate for a certain period of time?**

According to the Call, only the PR-PI must participate in the project under a full-time and exclusive employment contract. For all other RT members there is the possibility of part-time employment in the project and/or their participation for a time period less than the total duration of the project.

## **E. Duration of the Project**

**Question 1: What is the duration of the research Projects?**

The duration of the research Projects may extend from 12 to 24 months.

## **F. Proposal submission**

**Question 1: 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 at one (1) phase.

**Question 2: Will any standard documents be available for the submission?**

Standard documents for the submission have been posted on H.F.R.I. website ([link](#)) and are available on the submission platform ([link](#)). The use of standard documents is mandatory.



### **Question 3: Who is responsible for the submission of the Proposal on H.F.R.I. web portal?**

According to the provisions of this Call, the PI of the project shall be responsible in exclusive for the submission of the Proposal on H.F.R.I. web portal (<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>).

### **Question 4: What about the selection of a Scientific Area?**

The selection of a Scientific Area shall be the sole responsibility of the PI, whereas a change of the Scientific Area after the submission end-date shall not be possible. If the experts of the Evaluation Committee are inadequate for the evaluation of a specific Proposal, by decision of the Scientific Council (SC), experts in Greece or abroad are designated as independent experts covering the scientific scope of the proposals under evaluation.

### **Question 5: What about those who have successfully defended their thesis but have not yet been declared a doctor?**

According to the Call, eligible to participate are those who at the submission end-date of the Proposal have proven to successfully defend their thesis, but have not yet been declared a doctor, provided they submit **a certificate from the relevant department of the Institution**. It is noted that in case of successful defense of the thesis by a foreign institution, an official translation of the relevant certificate is required.

### **Question 6: What about those who have doctorates from foreign universities?**

Doctorates awarded by foreign institutions must be accompanied by a title recognition certificate by NARIC. If the doctorate has not been recognized during the Proposal submission, the relevant **application to NARIC** may be submitted instead. It is noted that for the funding of the Project it is necessary to present **both the Doctorate and its certificate of recognition by NARIC**.

## **G. Evaluation and funding**

### **Question 1: By which date is the evaluation expected to be completed and the funding expected to start?**

Taking into account the operational planning of H.F.R.I., the evaluation of proposals is expected to be completed in November 2021, while the start of funding is expected in March 2022. It is noted that these dates are indicative and not binding and may change depending on the workflow of the Foundation.

### **Question 2: How can I learn about the results?**

PRs-PIs will be updated on the result of the evaluations via e-mail to the e-mail address with which they registered on H.F.R.I. web portal to submit their proposal.