



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

**Description of the funded research project**  
**1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty**  
**Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value**  
**Research Equipment**

**Title of the research project: Crisis' Emerging Diaspora's Tendencies Towards Greece**



**CR.E.DI.T.T.GR**

**Principal Investigator: Revecca Pedi**

**Reader-friendly title: CR.E.DI.T.T.GR**

**Scientific Area: Social Sciences**

**Institution and Country: University of Macedonia, Greece**

**Host Institution: University of Macedonia**

**Collaborating Institution(s):**

**Budget: 91,000.00 €**

**Project webpage  
(if applicable): <https://credittgr.uom.gr/>**

**Duration: 26 months**

## Research Project Synopsis

**Our goal is to explore whether the crisis emerging diaspora can become a source of power for Greece. Building on prior research in the areas of International Relations and Migration Studies we set the following research objectives: 1. To explore whether Greek crisis emigrants contribute or have the intention to contribute to the Greek economy through remittances; and, if so, to investigate in what direction their money are going: towards consumption or investments. 2. To explore whether and under what conditions Greek Crisis emigrants are willing to return to Greece and contribute with the know-how acquired abroad to the public or private sectors. 3. To explore whether the members of the emerging diaspora are willing to promote Greece's interests and image abroad. 4. To explore what policies would be appropriate in order for Greece to harness the valuable capital of the crisis emerging diaspora. In order to attain our research objectives we will conduct a survey involving Greek emigrants who left Greece during the crisis or postponed their return to Greece because of it. Our sample will include men and women Greek migrants currently living in the main Greek migrants destinations. We are going to collect our data through focus groups and semi-structured self-report questionnaires that will include questions related to the issues raised above. Our interdisciplinary research addresses a problem that has been of high concern to the Greek society since the beginning of the economic crisis. We will shed some new light on a phenomenon that has been mainly discussed under the 'brain drain' perspective. Therefore the added value of our research lies first in its innovative interdisciplinary approach and in assessing the emerging diaspora's potential to become a resource for the country and in providing new data and alternative ideas for a new diaspora strategy.**

## Project originality

**Our research proposal is innovative in the sense that it is a new approach to the phenomenon of the crisis emigration which has been discussed mainly under the ‘brain drain’ perspective. Moreover, research on the recent economic crisis emigration has been dominated by economists, social anthropologists and sociologists. For the first time, at least in the case of Greece, an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together insights from Migration Studies and International Relations is attempted. That said, we should add that from an International Relations perspective, in the past, Papatotiriou (2000) has discussed the role that diaspora can play in a state’s grand strategy and made a series of interesting proposals concerning the Greek case. Yet, that was a different era. Crisis has impacted upon the capabilities of the Greek state and on its diaspora policies. What is more, emigrants of this new wave of emigration have different characteristics from those of older waves (Mavrodi & Moutselos, 2017). Also, other conditions such as the European integration or progress in communication technology create a total different context for action. However, his study provides valuable insights which we are going to use in our research. In addition, we look at the emigrants not as objects of the diaspora policies, but as subjects. Our goal is to map their tendencies towards Greece and formulate relevant policy proposals based on our findings and in cooperation with members of the Greek diaspora, diaspora organizations, academics and policy experts. We believe that we cannot formulate new policies for the emerging Greek diaspora, without taking into consideration the views of the new Greek emigrants. Therefore, mapping their tendencies towards Greece and engaging them in policy proposals formation is of utmost importance.**

## Expected results & Research Project Impact

Our research will contribute to:

- The literature focusing on the consequences of the economic crisis in Greece and the appropriate strategies for the country's development. Our findings could stimulate further research on the role diaspora can, will or will not play in the development of Greece in the future .
- The literature of the International Relations of Small States, especially to that dealing with the consequences of the recent economic crisis and the country's exit strategies. In addition, our research could lay the foundations for comparative studies including other small states that face the same difficulties.
- The literature of emigration in general, and of economic crisis emigration in particular, which at the moment is growing in other countries.

Moreover, our research addresses a problem, the economic crisis migration, that has been of high concern to the Greek society since the beginning of the crisis. The added value of our research lies in assessing the emerging diaspora's potential to become a resource for the country, providing new data and alternative ideas. We believe that exploring, analyzing and mapping the tendencies of the crisis emerging diaspora towards Greece, is of great importance for employing a new diaspora strategy, as most of the policies and institutional frameworks concerning the Greek diaspora were formed in a different era for a different generation of emigrants who had different levels of education and skills, other habits and perceptions. Our findings and policy proposals can raise awareness among the public and political elites, be of value to researchers, reporters, policy makers and contribute to public debates and the formulation of new national policies in order for Greece to harness the human capital of the Greeks who left the country or postponed their return to it, due to the implications of the economic crisis.

## The importance of this funding

**The realization of this research project would not have been possible without HFRI's funding. We consider funding very important because it highlights the role that research in social sciences can play in shaping national policies for issues that concern the Greek society and Greeks abroad. In this context, the importance of HFRI as a pillar of support for the research in social science is also highlighted. Due to the HFRI's funding we are able to employ and empower a young female scientist with a doctorate, to support the research output of the participating academics to communicate with members of the Greek diaspora all over the world and create communication channels in order to co-design policy proposals for the emerging from the economic crisis diaspora. Last but not least, the funding allows us to publicize our research results and reach out to the international scientific community, by supporting our participation in conferences and open-access publications.**



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