



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

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

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PRESS RELEASE

**The H.F.R.I. connects research and entrepreneurship
by holding an online workshop titled “The Next Step: Creation & Operation of Start-up Businesses”**

The online workshop “The Next Step: Creation & Operation of Start-up Businesses” was held on Wednesday, 27th January. The event was aiming to establish an interactive communication among the H.F.R.I.’s funding beneficiaries / new scientists, the representatives of entrepreneurship actors as well as the forces of production and development in order to support the creation and development of innovative start-up businesses. The online panel included outstanding scholars, State representatives, researchers, representatives of relevant organisations as well as beneficiaries of the H.F.R.I.’s actions.

Greetings were given by Dr. Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister for Research and Technology, Professor Athanasios Kyriazis, General Secretary for Research and Innovation, and Professor Konstantinos Charitidis, H.F.R.I. General Assembly Chair.

Dr. Christos Dimas presented a new platform named Elevate Greece, through which the State designs a long-term strategy to support start-up businesses, and highlighted the following: *“Our fundamental aim is to officially and reliably record start-up businesses, map the innovation ecosystem in an integrated way, including business incubators, accelerators and venture capital funds, and enable networking among them, monitor start-up entrepreneurship progress based on specific KPIs and provide targeted State support.”*

Professor Athanasios Kyriazis referred to the Start-up Business Registry initiative of Elevate Greece as well and further talked about the way it was created, the benefits for the registered businesses and the importance of this endeavour for the Greek economy. In addition, he stated the following: *“Elevate Greece as well as other actions in the portfolio of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation reveal its new philosophy aiming at raising and boosting start-up entrepreneurship. We hope and we believe that such actions will provide valuable help to young and innovative Greek entrepreneurs, both in financial and moral level, by recognising and rewarding their effort, so that they can decisively contribute to the elevation of our country as a force to be reckoned with in the global map of start-up entrepreneurship.”*

Professor Konstantinos Charitidis referred to the H.F.R.I.'s role to support the research potential in the country and use research results, concluding that: *"Except for technical training and specialisation, innovation also calls for the encouragement and emergence of talents and the so called soft skills. Namely, critical thinking, inventiveness, creativity, cooperativeness, flexibility and adaptability are needed as well. To cultivate these skills that will contribute to innovation, we need respectively a modern understanding of education, in order to consolidate values able to trigger the potential of young scientists."*

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas, H.F.R.I. Director and Prof. Emeritus Xenofon Verykios, Chair of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council coordinated the three parts of the workshop.

In the 1st part, Professor Nektarios Tavernarakis, Vice-president of the European Research Council and President of the Foundation for Research and Technology talked about the promotion and management of innovation at national and European level. Next, Mr. Michalis Dritsas, Office Director to the Deputy Minister for Research and Technology, referred to the Start-up Register and other legislative initiatives, while Mr. Giannis Kaltsas, Investment Activity Director of the European Investment Bank, focused on the role of the bank in the post-Covid-19 era. Mr. Aristos Doxiadis, Vice-president of the National Council for Research, Technology and Innovation as well as Partner at the anonymous venture capital firm BIGPI, talked about the obstacles in transferring research to the market. Finally, Katerina Pramatari, Associate Professor at Athens University of Economics and Business, explained the determining factors for business acceleration and research development in the international market.

In the 2nd part, H.F.R.I. beneficiaries and post-doctoral researchers Dr. Olga Siskou, Dr. Anthia Matsakidou, Dr. Fotios Spyropoulos, Dr. Efthymios Karatzas and Dr. Georgios Kozyrakis presented their research projects and the possibility of using their results for commercial purposes.

Finally, in the 3rd part, Professors Dimitris Kouretas (University of Thessaly), Achilleas Gravanis (Medical School of the University of Crete) and Zisis Samaras (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) shared their valuable experience on establishing knowledge intensive start-ups (spin-offs) supported by universities.

The workshop reached its end with the participants' questions on the connection of research and entrepreneurship and the answers of the outstanding speakers.

About the H.F.R.I.

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation was established (Law No. 4429/2016) in response to the vital need for supporting Greek scientists. It is a legal person governed by private law, monitored by the Ministry of Development and Investments. The H.F.R.I. aims to promote research and innovation in the country. In particular, it aims to evaluate and finance unrestricted research, namely research activities, research infrastructure and their technological applications, arising from scientific curiosity, without any thematic or geographical limitations, having scientific quality and excellence as a unique criterion.

