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

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Athens, 09/04/2021

Ref. No. 35739



Action “Science and Society”

5th Call

“Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou”

1st Amendment

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

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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31320	08.12.2020	Initial edition	
35739	09.04.2021	1st Call Amendment	
		Section 1 Update of the Action objective	6
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The Chair of the Scientific Council, acting also as Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, having regard to:

1. Law 4429/2016 on the "Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions" (199/A) as in force, and especially Articles 2-4, 5 (2-9), 8(9c) and 9(8) therein,
2. Decision No. 195245/2018 issued by the Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, as well as Economy and Administrative Reform on the "Internal Regulation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)" (5252/B), as in force,
3. Decision 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.'s Scientific Council (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 173), as in force after its amendment by the Decision No. 68183/01.07.2020 issued by the Deputy Minister of Development and Investments (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 490),
4. Decision No. 3336/05.09.2018 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 25th Meeting on the election of Prof. Xenophon Verykios as Chair of the Scientific Council,
5. Decision No. 35580/05.04.2021 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 100th Meeting, which assigns the duties of the H.F.R.I. Director to Xenophon Verykios, Professor Emeritus and Chair of the Scientific Council,
6. Decision No. 133182/20.12.2019 issued by the Deputy 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),
7. The H.F.R.I. document under Ref. No. 10021/22.02.2019 addressed to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation,
8. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation's document under Ref. No. 12637/06.05.2019 addressed to the H.F.R.I.,
9. Decision No. 12745/09.05.2019 issued by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 53rd meeting on the approval of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's donation,
10. The donation contract between the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the H.F.R.I.,
11. Decision No. 14472/25.06.2019 issued by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 56th meeting (IUN: 6IX546M77Γ-XNA) on the approval of the draft Call entitled "Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou", as amended by the Decision No. 24616/27.4.2020 issued by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 77th meeting (IUN: ΨK7Z46M77Γ-40Z),
12. Decision No. 7886/21.12.2018 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 39th meeting on the "Approval of a multi-year obligation assumption" (IUN: 78Ξ046M77Γ-Φ37), as in force after its amendment by the Decision No. 33009/29.1.2021 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 96th Meeting (IUN: 4HΦ46M77Γ-Z1B),
13. Decision No. 135278/27.12.2019 issued by the Minister of Development and Investments on the "Approval of the H.F.R.I.'s budget for the financial year 2020" (IUN: Ψ6IY46MTAP-7ΓΞ),
14. Decision No. 139885/31.12.2020 issued by the Minister of Development and Investments on the "Approval of the H.F.R.I.'s budget for the financial year 2021" (IUN: ΨΘΒΛ46MTAP-2K3),
15. Decision No. 34145/01.03.2021 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 98th meeting on the 2nd Reform of the H.F.R.I.'s Budget for the financial year 2021 (IUN: ΩZBΨ46M77Γ-016),
16. The fact that the Action is co-funded by resources provided through a donation of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, by the Public Investments Programme and by the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank,
17. Decision No. 31032/04.12.2020 issued by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 92nd meeting on the approval of the 5th Call "Science and Society" entitled "Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou" (IUN: 6TB646M77Γ-TΩΛ),

18. Decision No. 31230/08.12.2020 regarding the 5th Call for Action "Science and Society" entitled "Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou",
19. Decision No. 35738/09.04.2021 issued by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 101st meeting on the approval of the 1st amendment of the 5th Call "Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou", Action "Science and Society" (IUN: 673746M77Γ-63Ε),

CALLS

Interested Researchers to submit proposals under the 5th Call "Science and Society" entitled "Always Strive For Excellence - Theodore Papazoglou", that is co-funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the 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 research proposals to the Actions of the European Research Council (ERC) from 2018 onwards, namely the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant actions, and during the second evaluation phase they have either received grade B or they have been favourably evaluated (grade A) but did not receive funding due to the insufficient available budget of the respective Call (henceforth "**the ERC Proposal**"). This Action has been designed to support said Researchers, so that they are able to continue their research work and submit an improved version of the ERC Proposal in an upcoming ERC Call*.

The Research Proposal's final deliverable under this Call shall be the re-submission of the improved ERC Proposal to the next upcoming ERC call, while the Host Institution shall be one of the academic and research institutions of Greece, as 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 remarkable Research Projects that have been distinguished in terms of their quality under a competitive funding mechanism, such as the ERC, and, on the other hand, to create the appropriate conditions in order to utilize the existing scientific potential of the country and attract young scientists who are currently working abroad.

Research Proposals under this Call should be implemented in a Host Institution (HI) that may be a Higher Educational Institution (University or Technological Educational Institutions), a Research Centre – Institute (R.C.- I.), a University Research Institute (U.R.I.) or a Higher Educational Military Institute (ASEI) in Greece. In order for selected Research Projects to be funded, the HI shall provide a Project acceptance certificate.

Research Projects to be funded shall be selected following an evaluation conducted by an Evaluation Committee (EC), which is comprised of acclaimed scientists specializing in the Scientific Areas the proposals relate to. If deemed necessary, the EC is aided 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, which are binding for all participating parties.

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

Proposals shall be submitted in two terms per year and for the duration of this Call, following a relevant announcement and in line with the provisions of Section 8.

2. SCIENTIFIC AREAS (SA)

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 that had 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 and Information Sciences

SA.6. Social Sciences

SA.7. Humanities and Arts

SA.8. Environment and Energy

SA.9. Management & Economics of Innovation

3. BUDGET AND DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

The total cost of this Call amounts to **€10,000,000.00** and is co-funded from H.F.R.I. and SNF resources.

The maximum funding limit amounts to €250,000.00 for research Proposals that have received grade A by the ERC and to €100,000.00 for research Proposals that have received grade B by the ERC.

The **duration for the implementation** of the Projects shall extend from **12 to 24 months**.

4. DEONTOLOGY

4.1. Prevention of double funding

The research Proposal (or part thereof) should not have received funding from any other source. The PI should not have received or receive any time in the future funding from any other source for the same or equivalent purpose as the one referred in this Call. Synergies with other research projects shall only be permitted on the basis of complementarity and a clearly defined and separate role with regard to the scope of the respective projects, in order to fully ensure the prevention of double funding.

4.2. Ensuring research integrity

In all stages of the research Proposal evaluation process as well as during the funding and implementation of the Project, PIs and RT members should conduct themselves in line with rules of ethics and deontology and with respect for the scientific truth, the academic freedom, the human dignity, the environment, as well as the intellectual and industrial property. Any case of unethical scientific conduct shall be examined and may lead to the Proposal being excluded from the evaluation process or the Funding Award Decision being revoked. In particular, the appropriation, falsification, plagiarism and misleading presentation of third-party scientific data and achievements is prohibited.

5. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions for participating in this Call are as follows:

5.1. Principal Investigator and Project Research Team

Eligible to participate as **Principal Investigators (PIs)** in this Call are Greek Researchers who have submitted Proposals to the ERC for the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant Actions and, during the second evaluation phase of the ERC, their Proposal has either received grade B or has been favourably evaluated (grade A) but did not receive funding due to the insufficient available budget of the respective ERC Call. Throughout the implementation of the Research Project in the HI, the PI should not hold an employment position abroad that impedes their work in the HI, in line with the provisions of par. 6.1.1.1 herein.

Apart from the PI, the **Research Team (RT)** involved in the Research Proposal may include Faculty Members and Researchers, Post-Doctoral Researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students, other staff working for the HI with a public law employment contract or 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 other staff who shall be contracted with the HI exclusively for implementation purposes of the Research Proposal.

Members from other Institutions, foreign and/or domestic, may also participate in the RT. It shall be noted that personnel employed in foreign Institutions under any employment relationship may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated staff.

5.2. Host Institution – Beneficiary of funding

Host Institutions (HI) of the Research Proposal shall be:

- Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) of Greece as provisioned under article 1 of Law 4485/2017 (114/A/2017),
- Research Centres – Institutes (R.C.-I.) of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (258/A/2014), as amended and in force,

- University Research Institutes (U.R.I.), i.e. private law legal persons established by virtue of the provisions in Laws 2083/1992 (159/A/1992) and 3685/2008 (148/A/2008),
- Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (233/A/2003),
- 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 only one selection.

When submitting the Research Proposal, the PI should attach a solemn declaration, whereby they declare the HI's intent to collaborate with them for the implementation of the Research Proposal.

5.3. Collaborating Organisations ("COs")

In the context of the implementation of the Research Proposal, it is possible to collaborate with Academic and Research Institutions as well as public or private Institutions of any kind or form, in Greece or abroad. The collaboration with such Institutions should contribute to the implementation of the Research Proposal and may (indicatively) pertain to conducting experiments, accessing records, using equipment etc.

6. RESEARCH PROJECT DURATION

- The duration of the Research Proposal may extend **from 12 to 24 months**.
- The project start date is determined by the HI upon the project's inclusion in the HI's budget and may not extend beyond 30 calendar days from the inclusion date.
- A post-dated start of the Research Project is possible for a maximum period of six (6) months, following a relevant justified request submitted by the PI which is approved by decision of the H.F.R.I. Director.
- Costs for each Research Proposal may be incurred from its start date.

7. BUDGET AND COST CATEGORIES

7.1. Direct costs

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

7.1.1. Personnel costs

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

Costs pertaining to the remuneration of the Research Team members (PI and other members) should cover at least 50% of the Research Proposal's total budget.

7.1.1.1. Salary cost for the Principal Investigator

The salary of the PI, who belongs to the regular staff of the domestic Institution, is subject to the maximum limit of earnings and additional fees provisioned in Article 2 of Law 3833/2010 combined with the provisions of Laws 4354/2015 (articles 13 and 28) and 4472/2017 (articles 130-135 and 156).

In case the PI does not belong to the regular staff of the domestic Institution, during the implementation of the Research Project they shall contract with the HI under a fixed-term private law employment contract or a project lease contract. In such case, the gross monthly earnings for full-time employment of the PI shall be calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly earnings should be at least equal to the minimum limits specified in article 18, par. 12 case a) of Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit for full-time employment is specified in line with the provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force.
2. In case of a project lease contract, the gross monthly earnings should equal the gross monthly income the Principal Investigator in question 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 and the corresponding VAT, if necessary).

In the context of the PI's contract with the HI, the PI shall commit themselves to working in Greece in order to implement the Research Proposal for at least 50% of the project's implementation duration. The PI shall further commit themselves to working at the Research Proposal for at least 50% of their time.

7.1.1.2. Salary costs for Research Team members

The total monthly remuneration for Research Team members shall be arranged as follows:

a) The total monthly remuneration for **Post-Doctoral Researchers** is calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly earnings should be at least equal to the minimum limits specified in article 18, par. 12 case a) of Law 4310/2014. The maximum

limit for full-time employment is specified in line with the provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force.

2. In case of a project lease contract, gross monthly earnings should 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).

b) As far as **Scientific Associates** (PhD Candidates, Post-graduate Students) and/or temporary **technical/auxiliary staff** are concerned, gross monthly earnings for full-time employment are calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly earnings shall be equal to the gross monthly income for full-time employment which is defined in the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.

2. In case of a project lease contract, gross monthly earnings should be equal to the gross monthly income the Research Team member in question would have received based on a fixed-term private law employment contract, in line with the above stated (under point 1) provisions (plus employer's contributions and the corresponding VAT, if any).

c) **For Faculty Members, Researchers and other RT members belonging to the permanent staff of the HI or the CO**, the total gross monthly fee should not exceed €500.00, as far as Faculty Members and Researchers are concerned, or €250.00, as far as other members are concerned, complying with the maximum remuneration limits set out in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force, in respect of other issues.

Table 1 presents the above terms in aggregated form.

It is noted that the eligible cost in the "Personnel costs" Category shall equal the total employer's cost, as this results from the gross remuneration, increased in case of a project lease contract by a) employer's contributions, if any, and b) the corresponding VAT.

Table 1. Maximum salary cost limits for remunerated Research Team members

Remunerated RT member categories	Maximum remuneration limits (gross)
1. Faculty Members, Researchers	Maximum monthly payment of €500.00, in compliance with the maximum remuneration limits set out in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015.

2. Post-Doctoral Researchers	<p>a) Fixed-term private law employment contract: gross monthly earnings should be at least equal to the minimum limits specified in article 18, par. 12 case a) of Law 4310/2014. The maximum limit for full-time employment is specified in line with the provisions of Chapter B' of Law 4354/2015, as in force.</p> <p>b) Project lease contract: gross monthly earnings shall be equal to the gross monthly income the Research Team member in question would have received based on a fixed-term private law employment contract, in line with the above stated (under point a) provisions (plus employer's contributions and the corresponding VAT, if any).</p>
3. Scientific Associates (PhD Candidates, Post-Graduate Students) and Technical staff	<p>a) Fixed-term private law employment contract: In line with the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015.</p> <p>b) Project lease contract: gross monthly earnings shall be equal to the gross monthly income the Research Team member in question would have received based on a fixed-term private law employment contract, in line with the above stated (under point a) provisions (plus employer's contributions and the corresponding VAT, if any).</p>
4. Other staff of the HI or the CO (open-term private law employment contracts or public law contracts)	Maximum monthly payment of €250.00, in compliance with the maximum limits set out in Chapter B of Law 4354/2015.

The remunerated RT members who have not been named when submitting the Research Proposal shall be selected by the HI, following a call for expression of interest in filling the corresponding positions, according to the legislation in force.

RT members belonging to the staff of foreign Collaborating Organisations shall be non-remunerated.

Non-remunerated members of the Research Team may receive per diem and travel allowance for transit directly linked to the project's physical scope and other Research Proposal needs.

7.1.2. Consumables

Costs for consumables are eligible when pertaining exclusively to the implementation of the Research Proposal and are recorded separately. Indicatively, they involve the purchase of direct consumption materials (e.g. lab consumables, reagents etc.), which are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Research Proposal. 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 the particularities of the Research Project require an unusual amount of relevant costs for its implementation. In this case, sufficient relevant substantiation is required in the budget of the Research Project.

7.1.3. Travel allowances and dissemination costs

Indicatively, these include publication costs in scientific journals, registration costs in conferences relating to speeches/communication or posters, costs for organizing and conducting workshops and/or conferences, costs for publishing monographs and books, costs for producing audiovisual material, costs 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 protecting research findings, etc. For all of the above to be considered eligible, they have to be related to the implementation of the Research Project.

A necessary condition for the eligibility of dissemination costs is to mention 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.), using the appropriate wording and related logos.

Furthermore, this category also includes costs pertaining to the PI's and RT members' travelling in Greece or abroad for participating in conferences with the purpose to present Research Project outcomes or for conducting field research or collaborative research with RT members belonging to other Institutions in Greece or abroad.

7.1.4. Costs for the use of or access to equipment, infrastructure or other resources

This category includes costs that must be reimbursed in order to use or access lab research equipment, research infrastructure or other resources that are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Research Project in the HI, the COs or third parties. Indicatively, apart from the costs for using or accessing lab research equipment or infrastructure, this category may include eligible costs for accessing resources deemed necessary for the implementation of the Research Project, 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 software updates, digitisation of printed and audiovisual files and further use of them, costs for acquiring satellite data etc.

7.1.5. Costs for equipment procurement

It is possible to purchase (new or used) micro-equipment, when deemed necessary for the implementation of the Research Proposal. In order for this cost to be considered eligible, it is required to provide documentation as to the usefulness of this equipment for the implementation of the Research Project. Especially for the procurement of computers (desktop or laptop), it is necessary to substantiate the purchase need in direct connection with the Research Proposal.

7.1.6. Other Costs

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

Especially for costs related to servicing and repairing research equipment, eligible costs are those incurred for necessary components and replacement parts, labour costs and possible transport costs.

7.2. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs include the management costs of the Research Project and overhead for the HI. These may amount up to 10% of total Research Project budget, and are reimbursed to the Special Account for Research Funds (SARF) or the relevant financial services of the HI. These costs include financial management support, office supplies (stationery, PC consumables, etc.) and main utilities (telecommunications, electricity, internet access, etc.). The amount is calculated against the total cost of all other categories and is included in the Research Project budget.

8. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

To submit Proposals, the following are required:

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

8.1. General information of the Research Proposal

It is filled out in the electronic submission platform and includes the below general information regarding the PI and the Research Proposal:

General information of the Research Proposal

- Scientific Area (SA), scientific field/subfield
- 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
- Grade of the ERC Proposal
- **PI details** (Full name, contact details, VAT No., etc.)
- **Host Institution** (School, Department, Institute, etc.)
- **Collaborating Organisations** (School, Department, Institute, Country etc.)
- **Research Team Members** (Full name, Capacity, VAT No., etc.)

The summary should clearly present the objectives of the Research Proposal and the way these should be accomplished. It is noted that in case the Research Proposal 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 he/she wishes for them to be excluded from the evaluation of the submitted Proposal.

8.2. ERC Proposal (Parts A & B)

The full ERC Proposal shall be submitted, as it was submitted under the ERC Call, according to the respective submission form (Parts A & B).

8.3. ERC Proposal Evaluation Report

The ERC Evaluation Report shall be submitted. This includes the evaluation result issued by the respective evaluation committee as well as the evaluators' comments.

8.4. Research Proposal

A summary of the Research Proposal shall be submitted in English exclusively as a PDF file. The summary may extend up to ten (10) pages, cover page and bibliographic references included. Any text outside these limits will not be taken into consideration during evaluation.

The summary should describe the Research Proposal's scope and objectives, as well as its relevance/connection to the ERC Proposal. Furthermore, it should substantiate the way, in which the ERC Proposal is to be upgraded/improved, based on any comments/observations made by the evaluators of the ERC Proposal. Additionally, it should describe the methodology and the composition of the RT, mentioning the RT members' roles/responsibilities. Finally, the Work Packages, the deliverables, the milestones as well as the Project budget (per cost category) should be filled out in tables.

The initial page (cover page) of the summary should include: 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 of the Project and viii) the Collaborating Organisations (if any).

Each summary page should contain a header presenting the PI's full name, the acronym of the proposal and the respective Scientific Area (SA1, SA2 etc.), as well as a footer with reference to the total number of pages.

Table 2 lists the technical specifications to be followed when drafting the summary.

Table 2. Technical specifications

Page Size	Font	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

**Proposals are submitted by the project's PI
exclusively online (<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>), as follows:**

[For the Proposals that have been submitted in the ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant Actions from 2018 onwards:](#)

2021 1st Submission Start Date: 15th January 2021, 12:00 (GMT+2)

2021 1st Submission End Date: 1st March 2021, 17:00 (GMT+2)

2021 2nd Submission Start Date: 2nd March 2021, 12:00 (GMT+2)

2021 2nd Submission End Date: 30th December 2021, 17:00 (GMT+2)

[For the Proposals that have been submitted in the ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant Actions from 2019 onwards:](#)

2022 1st Submission Start Date: 3rd January 2022, 12:00 (GMT+2)

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

2022 2nd Submission Start Date: 1st July 2022, 12:00 (GMT+2)

2022 2nd Submission End Date: 30th December 2022, 17:00 (GMT+2)

The PI is exclusively responsible for the timely submission of the Proposal and the accuracy of data submitted.

9. CHECK AND EVALUATION

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

9.1. Admissibility and eligibility check

Proposals are checked as to the submission and inclusiveness of all required data and documents, the observance of the participation terms and restrictions as well as other terms of this Call, as described in detail in Section 5. 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 check 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.

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

9.2. Evaluation

For the evaluation of the Research Proposals, an Evaluation Committee comprised of acclaimed scientists shall be established upon decision of the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council. If deemed necessary due to the specialized scope of the Research Proposals, a non-binding evaluation of one or more Projects may be requested from one or more independent experts, based on the Committee's judgment. The final decision for the evaluation of each Research Proposal shall be made by the Committee.

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

9.3. Confidentiality

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

9.4. Evaluation Process

Given that, in line with the terms of this Call, the core of the Research Proposals (ERC Proposal) has already been evaluated by the ERC panels, Proposals that were positively evaluated (grade A) will not be re-evaluated as to their scientific quality, excellence and originality. The same applies for the evaluation of the PI.

Consequently, in case the ERC Proposal has received grade A, the Research Proposals shall only be examined as to the fulfilment of the below criteria:

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

The fulfilment of the above criteria is scored with **A** or **B**, whereby for a Research Proposal to be funded it is required to have received a positive score (**A**).

A positive evaluation (A) may be expressed under conditions or under the proviso that the Research Proposal shall be partially adjusted, following a pertinent decision of the EC.

In case the ERC Proposal has received grade B, the Research Proposals shall be examined according to the criteria of **Table 3** below:

Table 3. Evaluation criteria for research projects concerning ERC Proposals that have received grade B

A. Objectives, originality and potential impact of the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degree to which the Research Proposal addresses important challenges. ▪ Degree to which there are ambitious objectives that go beyond the current scientific/technological state of the art (e.g. development of new techniques, tools, concepts, theories and/or approaches). ▪ Degree to which the proposed research is of "high risk/high gain" nature.
B. Methodology and Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degree to which the proposed scientific approach is feasible. ▪ Degree to which the proposed research methodology is appropriate for achieving the project objectives. ▪ Degree to which the proposal entails the development of new methodologies or the implementation of a methodology which shall lead to progress beyond the current scientific/technological state of the art. ▪ Degree to which the project implementation plan, time schedules and budget are necessary and justified.

All Research Proposals are classified based on the A-B grading scale, as presented in Table 4 below:

Table 4. Evaluation results

Grade	Description
A	The Research Proposal meets in full the evaluation criteria and can be funded.
B	The Research Proposal fails to meet the evaluation criteria in a sufficient way and cannot be funded.

9.5. Partial budget approval possibility

The Evaluation Committee, upon justified decision, may partially approve or amend the proposed Research Project budget, taking into account the terms and restrictions of this Call.

10. EVALUATION RESULTS

After the evaluation is completed, the results are communicated to the PI along with a personalized letter, which includes information about the grade the Research Proposal has received and the evaluation report of the Evaluation Committee.

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

Objections are judged by a three-member Committee, which shall decide within an exclusive deadline of ten (10) days (article 5, par. 8 of Law 4429/2016). The objection committee's decision is announced to the H.F.R.I. Director and communicated to the person who lodged the objection.

Following the evaluation of the Research Proposals, the H.F.R.I. Director issues the funding decision (list of the research projects to be funded), in line with the available budget. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to a petition for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeals.

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

The Project's PI accepts that messages sent via email, and especially those sent to the email address they declared during the online submission of the proposal, are considered notifications and signal the commencement of all legal processes and deadlines.

11. PUBLICITY

This Call shall be communicated to interested parties/beneficiaries through the ERC.

The Call and the Management Guide of this Call shall be published on the SNF website (<http://www.snf.org>) and the H.F.R.I. website (<https://www.elidek.gr/call/>).

The Call shall also be published in the website of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (www.gsrt.gr) as well as the website of the Ministry of Development and Investments.

12. COMMUNICATION - INFORMATION

Detailed information and briefing on this Call will be provided by the H.F.R.I.'s Department of Research Projects via electronic correspondence

through email: researchdepartment@elidek.gr

and by phone: +30 210-6412410, +30 210-6412420.

The Chair of the Scientific Council, acting also as H.F.R.I. Director

Professor Emeritus Xenophon Verykios