



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

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2017

**(Decision No. 1729 adopted at the 18th/20.4.2018 meeting of the Scientific
Council
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2017 represented a milestone for the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, since all fundamental administrative bodies have been staffed during this year and the Foundation issued its first action autonomously.

This year we established the building blocks for the Foundation's staffing. From the day the Director assumed duties, employed staff in H.F.R.I. increased significantly from four people (one in the secretariat, one in procurement, one in the research projects and one in the finance department) to 15 persons, who are currently employed (three in the secretariat, six in the Research Projects Department, one legal practitioner, three in the finance department, one technical expert as well as the Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs).

Today H.F.R.I. stands on a point, where its big action involving proposal submission by Faculty Members/Researchers and high-value research equipment is fully underway. 3,179 proposals in 9 Scientific Areas have been massively submitted under this action. This is a huge project, which reflects, on the one hand, the great need to support the academic and research ecosystem and, on the other hand, the trust of this ecosystem in a new organisation, which primarily aims to support the unrestricted and quality scientific research activities conducted in our country.

H.F.R.I.'s future in 2018 is planned based on these foundations. Continuity and consistency with regard to the actions and funding activities, as well as undeniable transparency and meritocracy in every level should be the key characteristics of this future.

We have all been involved in a difficult and great endeavour, the success of which has the potential to mark one of the most significant (if not an ultimately significant) breakthroughs in our country during the last decades. I am sure that with hard and systematic work we can succeed for the benefit of the academic and research community in our country itself.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas

Director of H.F.R.I.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (H.F.R.I.) is a non-profit legal entity governed by private law, which belongs to the wider public sector and operates driven by public interest. It is supervised by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs through the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

It was founded with Law 4429/2016 on the “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions” (GG 199/A), which was amended as follows:

- By article 28 of Law 4452/2017 on the “Regulation of issues related to the State Certificate of Language Proficiency, the National Library of Greece and other provisions” (GG 17/A);
- By article 69 of Law 4485/2017 on the “Organisation and operation of higher education, regulations on research and other provisions” (GG 114/A);
- By article 20 of Law 4521/2018 (GG 38/A) on the foundation of the University of West Attica.

The aim of the above regulations was to achieve an administrative and functional rationalisation of H.F.R.I. and to clarify the relations of the Foundation’s administrative bodies. Driven by the State’s supervising role, these provisions do not reverse in the least the administrative autonomy of H.F.R.I.

Lastly, the Decision No. 222605/2017 (GG 4586/B) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs regulated issues pertaining to the operation of the H.F.R.I., until its Internal Rules of Procedure were published.

PURPOSE

The Foundation's purpose is to promote research and innovation under a national strategy for research and innovation and, more specifically, to support and deploy young scientists and research staff in the country in order to stop the unilateral 'brain-drain' phenomenon of scientists relocating abroad.

To fulfil its purpose, the Foundation:

- Finances research programmes;
- Grants scholarships for conducting doctoral theses and postdoctoral studies;
- Finances the procurement of research equipment, based on strategic planning;
- Facilitates access for Universities, Technological Educational Institutions as well as research and technological institutions to funding for innovative research programmes.

Furthermore, in order to implement its objectives, the Foundation may conclude any kind of contracts, cooperation agreements and programme deals with the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, other agencies of the Central and General Government, as well as natural and legal persons in Greece or abroad with regard to the evaluation of funding proposals, the management of research programmes and other actions or the overall smooth implementation of its purpose.

The main beneficiaries of the Foundation's funding activities are: Universities and Technological Educational Institutions in Greece, the research and technological institutions of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (GG 258/A) and the University Research Institutes. Co-beneficiaries of funding may be companies, educational and research institutions and other public or private institutions in Greece. Any potential beneficiaries (main and co-beneficiaries) of funding will be specified in the respective calls. In particular, for scholarships in relation to doctoral theses and postdoctoral studies, the beneficiaries are natural persons.

ASSETS - RESOURCES

The Foundation's resources include:

- All types of funding/grants coming from the State Budget (regular and Public Investments Programme).
- Funding and all types of aid or grants coming from European Union bodies and institutions as well as other European or international organisations.
- Funding in line with the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank; said funding is managed by the Foundation as a beneficiary, on behalf of the Hellenic Republic.
- Donations, aid, inheritances, legacies, grants, sponsorships and all types of contributions coming from natural or legal persons of the public or private sector in Greece or abroad.

The Foundation manages its resources through a special treasury management account kept in Bank of Greece, according to the provisions in force, the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank and the H.F.R.I.'s Internal Rules of Procedure.

The funding that shall be granted based on the Agreement dated 15.7.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank constitutes loan income of the Government Budget and an equal amount thereof has been registered in a Foundation-specific budget code of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, amounting to EUR 180,000,000. A front-loaded disbursement of EUR 18,000,000 has been made so far. Article 47 of Law 4415/2016 (GG 159/A) introducing "Regulations on the Greek-speaking education, the intercultural education and other provisions" as well as Decision No.196096/12/2016 issued by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs have created an institutional framework enabling a front-loaded use of these 18 million euro. These resources were managed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology to announce a) scholarships for PhD Candidates, b) research projects for postdoctoral researchers, as well as to cover costs related to the H.F.R.I.'s entry into operation.

Additionally, H.F.R.I. has received funding amounting to EUR 60,000,000 from the co-funded component of the Public Investment Programme.

SEAT

The H.F.R.I.'s seat is located at 127 Vasilissis Sofias Str. Athens, K1 building. The place was granted for free by the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. It is a listed building that was renovated in the interior. The place was designed and gradually equipped with proper logistical infrastructure. The supplies in relation to the design, furniture and other equipment were procured according to the provisions of the Public Accounting Procedures and the cost was covered from the code provided for the H.F.R.I.'s operating expenses through the Special Account for Research Funds (SARF) of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

H.F.R.I. is a new institution, through which a profound reform is attempted in the field of Research and Innovation in the country. For the first time, the research and academic community itself participates in the effort to shape the country's research policy.

The H.F.R.I.'s administrative bodies are the following ones:

➤ **General Assembly**

The General Assembly consists of internationally acclaimed scientists who are selected from Higher Educational Institutions as well as research institutions in Greece, based on criteria set by the National Council for Research and Innovation. Their term of office is three years. Currently there are 36 institutions represented in the General Assembly and the term of office of its members ends on 30.06.2018. The General Assembly was established by Decision No. 83/2017 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 39) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, as amended by the subsequent Decision No. 169420/2017 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 512), as follows:

1. Vasileios Dougalis, son of Achilleas, Professor Emeritus of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, substituted by Christos Chatziiosif, son of Christoforos, Professor Emeritus of the University of Crete (Foundation for Research and Technology);
2. Dimitrios Thanos, son of Nikitas, Researcher Grade A of the BRFAA, substituted by Paschalis Sideras, son of Georgios, Researcher Grade A of the BRFAA (Biomedical Research Foundation - Academy of Athens);
3. Revekka Matsa, daughter of Avraam, Research Director of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute, substituted by Christoforos Kokotos, son of Georgios-Isidoros, Assistant Professor of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute;
4. Athanasios Triantafyllou, son of Christos, Professor of the University of Patras, substituted by Dionysios Mantzavinou, son of Spyridon, Professor of the University of Patras;
5. Christos Zerefos, son of Stylianos, Professor of the Academy of Athens, substituted by Michail Tiverios, son of Andreas, Professor of the Academy of Athens;
6. Alexandros Stavdas, son of Aristeidis, Professor of the University of the Peloponnese;

7. Vasiliki Argyropoulou, daughter of Christos, Professor of the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, substituted by Giorgos Iatrakis, son of Michail, Professor of the Technological Educational Institute of Athens (Higher Technological Educational Institute of Athens);
8. Theodora Kalogeropoulou, daughter of Konstantinos, Research Director of the NHRF, substituted by Sofia Kremydi, daughter of Dimitrios, Researcher of the NHRF (National Hellenic Research Foundation);
9. Theoni Stathopoulou, daughter of Nikolaos, Research Director of EKKE, substituted by Emmanouil Chrysakis, son of Ioannis, Research Director of EKKE (National Centre of Social Research);
10. Markos Papageorgiou, son of Vasileios, Professor of the Technical University of Crete, substituted by Minos Garofalakis, son of Nikolaos, Professor of the Technical University of Crete;
11. Dimitrios Kontogiannis, son of Loukas, Researcher Grade A of the BSRC A. Fleming, substituted by Vasileios Aidinis, son of Athanasios, Researcher Grade A of the BSRC A. Fleming (Biomedical Sciences Research Centre "Alexander Fleming");
12. Theodoros Dalamagkas, son of Dimitrios, Researcher Grade B of the R.C. Athena, substituted by Stylianos Piperidis, son of Artemios, Staff Research Scientist Grade A of the R.C. Athens (Research Centre "Athena");
13. Ioannis Vontas, son of Gerasimos, Professor of the Agricultural University of Athens, substituted by Polydefkis Chatzopoulos, son of Dimitrios, Professor of the Agricultural University of Athens;
14. Christina Papageorgopoulou, daughter of Dimitrios, Assistant Professor of the Democritus University of Thrace, substituted by Ioannis Tokatlidis, son of Stylianos, Professor of the Democritus University of Thrace;
15. Ioannis Kaldellis, son of Kleanthis, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus, substituted by Anastasios Ntounis, son of Isidoros, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus;
16. Ioannis Theodoridis, son of Christos, Professor of the University of Piraeus, substituted by Georgios Vouros, son of Asimakis, Professor of the University of Piraeus;
17. Dimitrios Gournis, son of Panagiotis, Professor of the University of Ioannina, substituted by Michail Kontominas, son of Georgios, Professor of the University of Ioannina;
18. Zisis Samaras, son of Christos, Professor of the Aristotle University, substituted by Konstantinos Triantafyllidis, son of Stavros, Associate Professor of the Aristotle University (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki);

19. Vasiliki Sakellari, daughter of Panagiotis, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Central Greece, substituted by Maria Tzamtzi, daughter of Panagiotis, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Central Greece;
20. Evangelos Terpos, son of Pavlos, Associate Professor of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, substituted by Sofia Rizopoulou, daughter of Theodoros, Associate Professor of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens;
21. Dimitrios Niarchos, son of Georgios, Researcher Grade A of the NCSR Demokritos, substituted by Athanasios Dimoulas, son of Ioannis (National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”);
22. Stylianos Katranidis, son of Dimitrios, Professor of the University of Macedonia, substituted by Anastasios Oikonomidis, son of Achilleas, Professor of the University of Macedonia;
23. Diomidis Spinellis, son of Dionysios-Spyridon-Nikolaos, Professor of Athens University of Economics and Business, substituted by Foivi Kountouri, daughter of Christos, Associate Professor of Athens University of Economics and Business;
24. Andromachi Gkazi, daughter of Spyridon, Assistant Professor of Panteion University, substituted by Maria Symeonaki, daughter of Antonios, Assistant Professor of Panteion University;
25. Georgios Dedousis, son of Vasileios, Professor of Harokopio University, substituted by Apostolos Papadopoulos, son of Georgios, Professor of Harokopio University;
26. Konstantinos Malizos, son of Nikolaos, Professor of the University of Thessaly, substituted by Artemis Chatzigeorgiou, daughter of Dimitrios, Professor of the University of Thessaly;
27. Georgios Froudakis, son of Evangelos, Professor of the University of Crete, substituted by Eleni Anagnostopoulou, daughter of Vasileios, Professor of the University of Crete;
28. Aristomenis Karageorgis, son of Platon, Research Director of the HCMR, substituted by Ilias Dimitriou, son of Ioannis, Researcher Grade A of the HCMR (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research);
29. Emmanouil Kymakis, son of Georgios, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Crete, substituted by Michail Tatarakis, son of Konstantinos, Professor of the Higher Technological Educational Institute of Crete;
30. Konstantinos Charitidis, son of Adam, Professor of NTUA, substituted by Konstantinos Kyriakopoulos, son of Ioannis, Professor of NTUA (National Technical University of Athens);
31. Theodosios Papaliagkas, son of Thomas, Professor of the Alexander Higher Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, substituted by Apostolos Korlos, son of Vyronas, Associate Professor of the Alexander Higher Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki;

32. Nikolaos Melis, son of Spyridon, Research Director of the National Observatory of Athens, substituted by Vasileios Amoiridis, son of Panagiotis, Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing (IAASARS) of the National Observatory of Athens;
33. Angelos Lapas, son of Athanasios, Research Director of CERTH;
34. Alexios Lykourgiotis, son of Sotiris, Professor Emeritus of the University of Patras, substituted by Achilleas Kameas, son of Dimitrios, Associate Professor of the HOU (Hellenic Open University);
35. Gerasimos Pagkratis, son of Dimosthenis-Charalampos, Associate Professor of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, substituted by Ploumpidis Dimitrios, son of Nikolaos, Professor Emeritus of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Ionian University);
36. Vasileios Zervakis, son of Androklis, Professor of the University of the Aegean, substituted by Ioannis Gkialas, son of Theodosios, Professor of the University of the Aegean.

The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

- Selects the members of the Scientific Council.
- Approves partnerships and collaborations with other public and private institutions in Greece or abroad to achieve H.F.R.I.'s objectives.
- Submits proposals to the Scientific Council on issues related to the research actions of H.F.R.I.
- Approves the annual report (financial report and report of actions).

The first meeting of the General Assembly took place on 13th February 2017. Until the end of 2017, 4 meetings were held in total.

➤ Scientific Council

The Scientific Council (SC) of the Foundation consists of nine (9) full members, internationally acclaimed scientists, coming from the following fields:

Agricultural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Information Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Environment and Energy, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology Sciences and Innovative Entrepreneurship.

The members of the SC are elected among individuals who have been distinguished for their international work and experience in the respective field, following an international call for expression of interest. The term of office of the members of the SC is four years.

The Scientific Council was established by Decision No. 288/2017 (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 173) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs as follows:

- Dionysios Tschritzis, son of Konstantinos, Honorary Professor of the Technical University of Crete, Chair (resigned in 2018);
- Constantine Galiotis, son of Georgios, Professor of the University of Patras;
- Matthaios Santamouris, son of Ioannis, Professor of the University New South Wales, Sydney Australia;
- Xenofon Verykios, son of Evangelos, Professor of the University of Patras, Vice-Chair;
- Antonios Rengakos, son of Vasileios, Professor of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki;
- Achilleas Gravanis, son of Georgios, Professor of the University of Crete;
- Antonios Efraimidis, son of Ioannis, Professor of the University of Maryland (resigned in 2018 and was replaced by Mr. Ioannis Emiris, Professor of Informatics and Telecommunications at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens);
- Konstantinos Biliaderis son of Georgios, Professor of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki;
- Xenia Chrysochoou, daughter of Dimitrios, Professor of the Panteion University of Athens.

The Scientific Council manages the Foundation and has the following responsibilities:

- Ensures the achievement of the Foundation's goals, based on the national policy for research and innovation.
- Accepts donations and all types of funding.
- Sets up the judging and objection committees for the evaluation of the proposals and the selection of the final beneficiaries and supervises their proper operation, guided by the principles of meritocracy and transparency. The members of the Scientific Council may not participate in these committees.
- Selects the Director and approves the selection of Deputy Directors.
- Approves the Foundation's budget, upon the recommendation of the Director.
- Recommends collaborations and partnerships of the Foundation with public and private institutions in Greece or abroad to the General Assembly.
- Recommends the amendment of the Internal Rules of Procedure to the Minister.
- Approves the operation of the Foundation's services and offices in other cities of Greece, following recommendation given by the Director.

The meetings of the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council may be attended by up to three (3) members of the Advisory Committee. These members are specified in the establishment decision of the Advisory Committee. Furthermore, the supervising Minister may designate a person entitled to attend the meetings of the Scientific Council.

The first meeting of the Scientific Council took place on 21st April 2017. Until the end of 2017, 13 meetings were held in total.

➤ **Director**

The Director of the Foundation is an internationally acclaimed scientist with expertise, administrative experience and remarkable research activity. The qualifications of the Director are specified in the Internal Rules of Procedure. The Director is selected and appointed by decision of the Scientific Council, following a call for expression of interest for a four-year term, renewable only once. The Foundation's Director selects two (2) Deputy Directors, following an open call for expression of interest, and recommends them for appointment to the SC. The Director implements the strategy of the Foundation, which has been decided by the Scientific Council.

Dr. Nektarios Nasikas was elected as H.F.R.I. Director by Decision No. 301/2017 (GG - Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 436) of the Scientific Council and assumed duty in November 2017.

The Director has the following responsibilities:

- Heads the services of the Foundation, is responsible for its smooth operation and is the authorizing officer of all its expenses.
- Prepares and publishes the calls for actions funded by the Foundation, according to the annual action plan and the decisions of the SC.
- Ensures that the Foundation's budget targets are achieved.
- Is entitled to request, always through the Chair of the respective collective body, for the General Assembly and the Scientific Council to be convened in an extraordinary meeting and participates in their meetings without voting rights.
- Prepares the annual report to be submitted to the SC and then to the General Assembly for approval.
- Seeks funding sources for the Foundation.
- Represents the Foundation in and out of court.

➤ **Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee is established by decision of the Minister and is independent from the other bodies of the Foundation. The Advisory Committee has a consultative role and its purpose is to evaluate the action of the Foundation as well as to formulate opinions and recommendations in order to optimize its operation. It examines issues of particular importance or issues of special interest in terms of the Foundation's operation and the funding of research and innovation.

The Advisory Committee consists of eleven (11) members, who are internationally acclaimed scientists or come from business and/or productive enterprises in Greece or abroad.

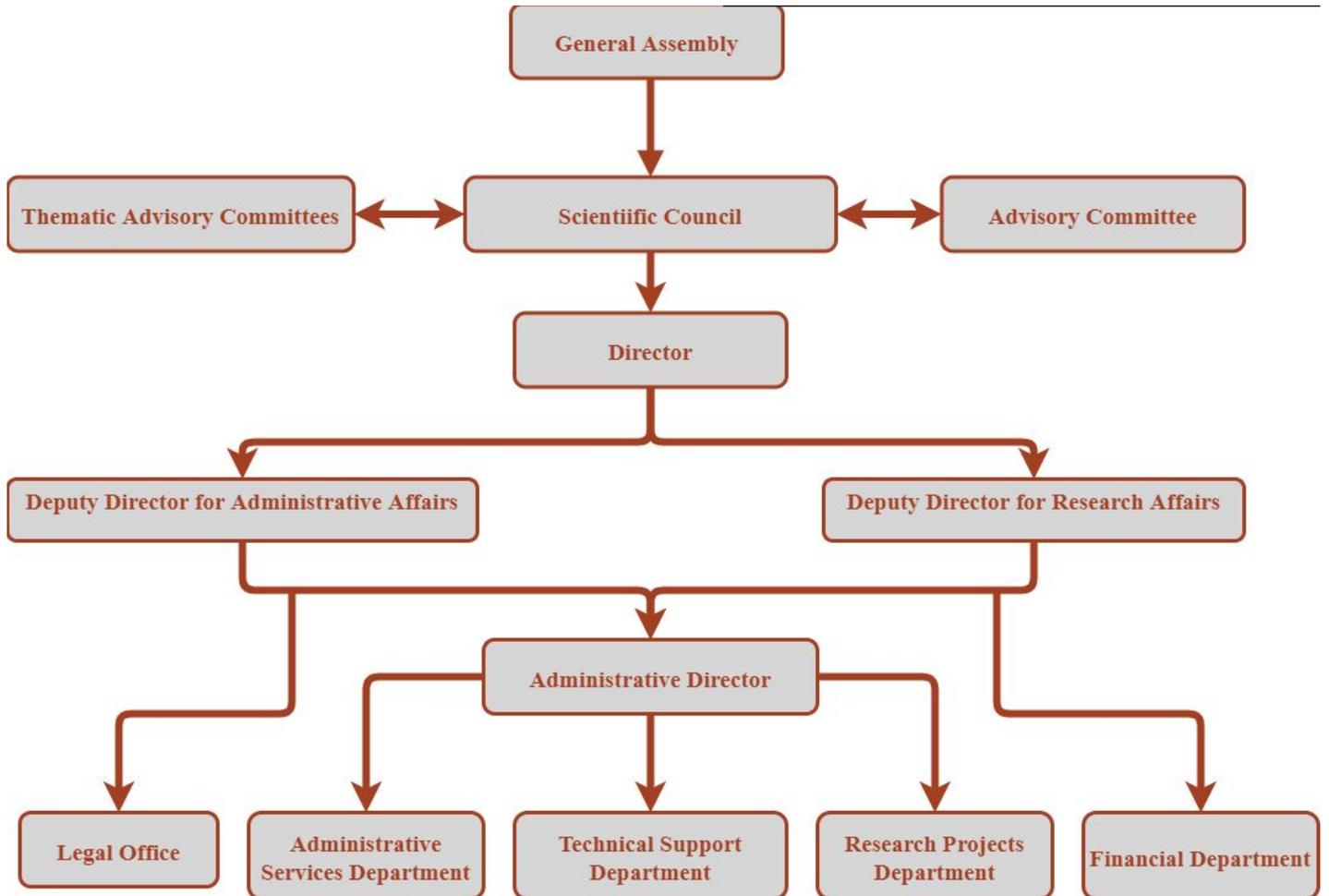
The members of the Advisory Committee are selected as follows: Three (3) months before the expiry of the Advisory Committee members' term of office, the National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI) prepares and submits to the Minister and the Scientific Council a list of twenty-two (22) suggested members, six (6) of which are at the same time members of the NCRI. From this list the Minister selects six (6) members, while five (5) members are selected by the Scientific Council. Up to three (3) out of the eleven (11) members of the Advisory Committee may also be members of NCRI at the same time.

Upon the decision of the Scientific Council or the Advisory Committee, renowned Greek or foreign scientists may be invited to the Committee's meetings. The term of office of the members of the Advisory Committee is four years.

➤ **Deputy Directors**

The Deputy Director for administrative issues and the Deputy Director for research issues: The positions shall be announced within 2018.

ORGANIZATION CHART



H.F.R.I. employed fifteen (15) persons in total, three (3) of which are on a posting and three (3) have been provided by public institutions. These employees have received university education.

According to the authorising Decision No. ΔΙΠΑΑΔ/Φ.ΕΓΚΡ./137/18303/4-10-2017 of the Council of Ministers Act Committee, it has been scheduled to gradually cover thirteen (13) fixed-term positions within 2018, depending on the Foundation's needs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (2016-2017)

A. The financial statements of the year 2016 include:

- The amount of EUR 18,000,000.000 that was disbursed to the Special Account for Research Funds of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology as a first instalment, based on the Agreement dated 15.7.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank (article 47(1) of Law 4415/2016, GG 159/A dated 06.09.2016), in accordance with the following distribution specified at the Joint Ministerial Decision (Ref. No. 196096/I2/2016):
 - Five hundred thousand euro (EUR 500,000) allocated for management expenses related to the entry into operation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation;
 - Eight million five hundred thousand euro (EUR 8,500,000.00) allocated for scholarships to support PhD candidates (1st Call);
 - Nine million euro (EUR 9,000,000) for conducting post-doctoral researches (1st Call).
- A grant of EUR 60,000,000.00 (Ref. No. 222480/B3/28-12-2016) coming from the co-funded project of the Public Investments Programme (No. 2016ΣΕ01320007, Collective Decision for Projects: CDP 0132), which was deposited on 29/12/2016, in a bank account of National Bank of Greece, having as beneficiary the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation.
- Credit interests until 31/12/2016 amounting to EUR 50.00, from which a 15% advance tax rate is withheld, whereas an amount of EUR 10.00 is used to pay bank commission for the above incoming grant transfer.
- Income tax for the financial year 2016, amounting to EUR 11.60.

Therefore, the Foundation's cash flow on 31/12/2016 amounts to EUR 60,000,032.50, with EUR 4.10 due as income tax.

B. The statement analysis for the financial year 2017 is as follows:

- Total collected revenue amounting to EUR 786,516.78 pertains to:
 - Credit interests
from National Bank of Greece between 01/01/2017 and 31/12/2017
- Total expenses amounting to EUR 20,144,305.72 pertain to:
 - Payroll and Employer's Contributions: EUR 26,327.32

one employee on a posting from 6/2017 until 12/2017

one employee on a posting from 8/2017 until 12/2017

and EUR 1,500.00 for payroll advance of the Director

- Transfer of funds to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology:
EUR 20,000,000.00

Public expenditure increase for two (2) calls of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRT) and in particular pertaining to a) five million euro (EUR 5,000,000.00) for the "1st call of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD candidates" under Ref. No. 85494/12/31-10-2016 and b) fifteen million euro (EUR 15,000,000.00) for the "1st call of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology for H.F.R.I. research projects to support post-doctoral researchers" under Ref. No. 3094/12/09-01-2017.

- 15% advance tax withholding: EUR 117,977.52

from credit interests of the National Bank of Greece

- Fine/Surcharge: EUR 0.88

for employment taxes

The Foundation's unused amount (EUR 39,500,000.00) was transferred from the National Bank of Greece to the Bank of Greece on 29/12/2017. The cash flow on 31/12/2017 amounts to EUR 40,641,287.13. The capital income from the treasury management account in the Bank of Greece, amounting to EUR 10,327.95 for the period between 29/12/2017 and 31/12/2017 was paid on 05/01/2018.

The financial statements are annexed to this report.

ACTIONS: PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. According to article 47 of Law 4415/2016, EUR 18,000,000.00 was granted through a loan agreement, before H.F.R.I. was established. The grant was managed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, based on the Decision No. 196096/12/2016 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

B. Decision No. 245/2017 (GG 1066/B) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, which was amended by the subsequent Decision No. 223400/2017, was issued.

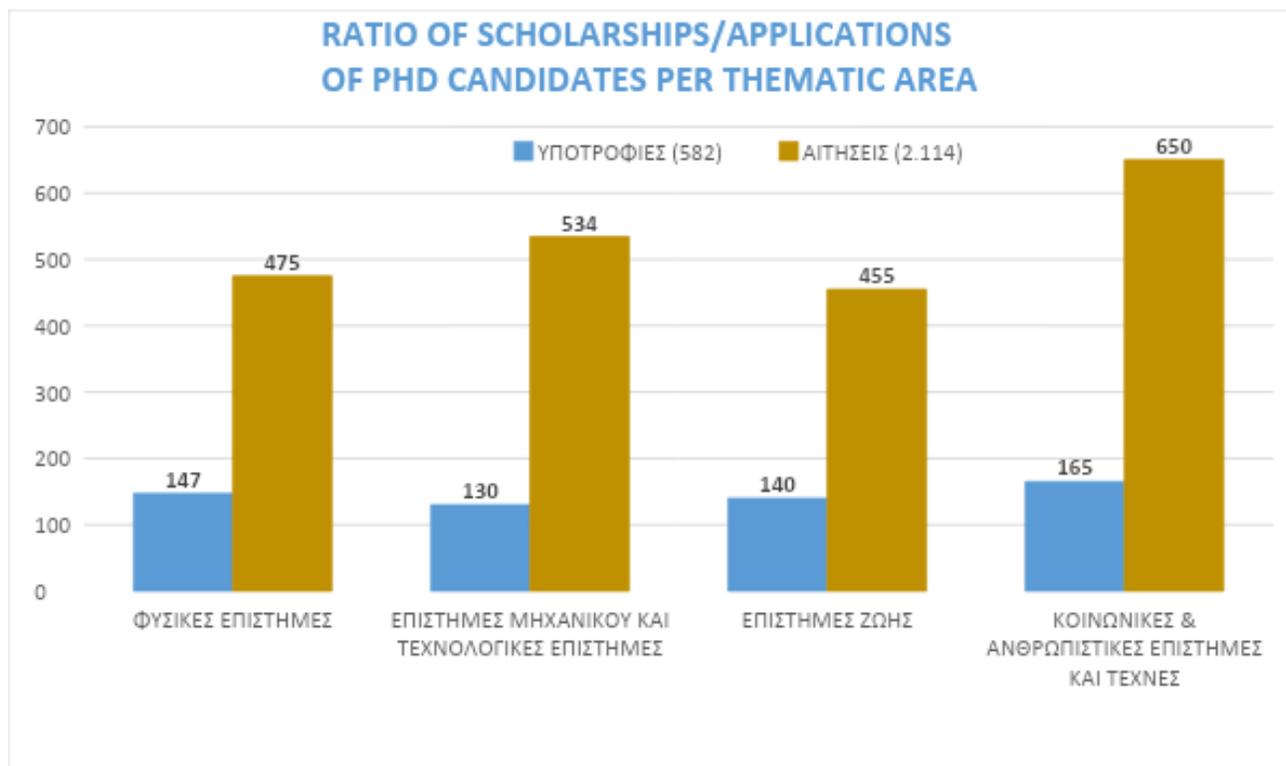
Based on the above, the following actions were announced or pre-published:

- Front-loaded calls announced by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, before the establishment of the H.F.R.I.:
 - **CALLS**

1ST CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PHD CANDIDATES

The initial budget of the action worth EUR 8,500,000 amounted to EUR 13,500,000. The call aimed to fund PhD Candidates for the preparation of their doctoral thesis in Higher Educational Institutions and/or Research Centres collaborating with Higher Educational Institutions in Greece. The duration of funding (in the form of a scholarship) was up to 3 years and the scholarship amount was EUR 900. The scholarship applications were classified into the following 4 areas, upon selection made by the candidate: Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences - Humanities and Arts. 2,114 applications were submitted in total and 582 scholarships were funded (CHART 1). The applications were evaluated by thematic committees consisting of 3-5 members. The evaluation criteria included the academic performance (degree grade and Master's Degree) as well as the Candidate's profile. In total, 214 evaluators were involved in the evaluation process (202 for the evaluation of applications and 12 for the examination of objections).

CHART 1

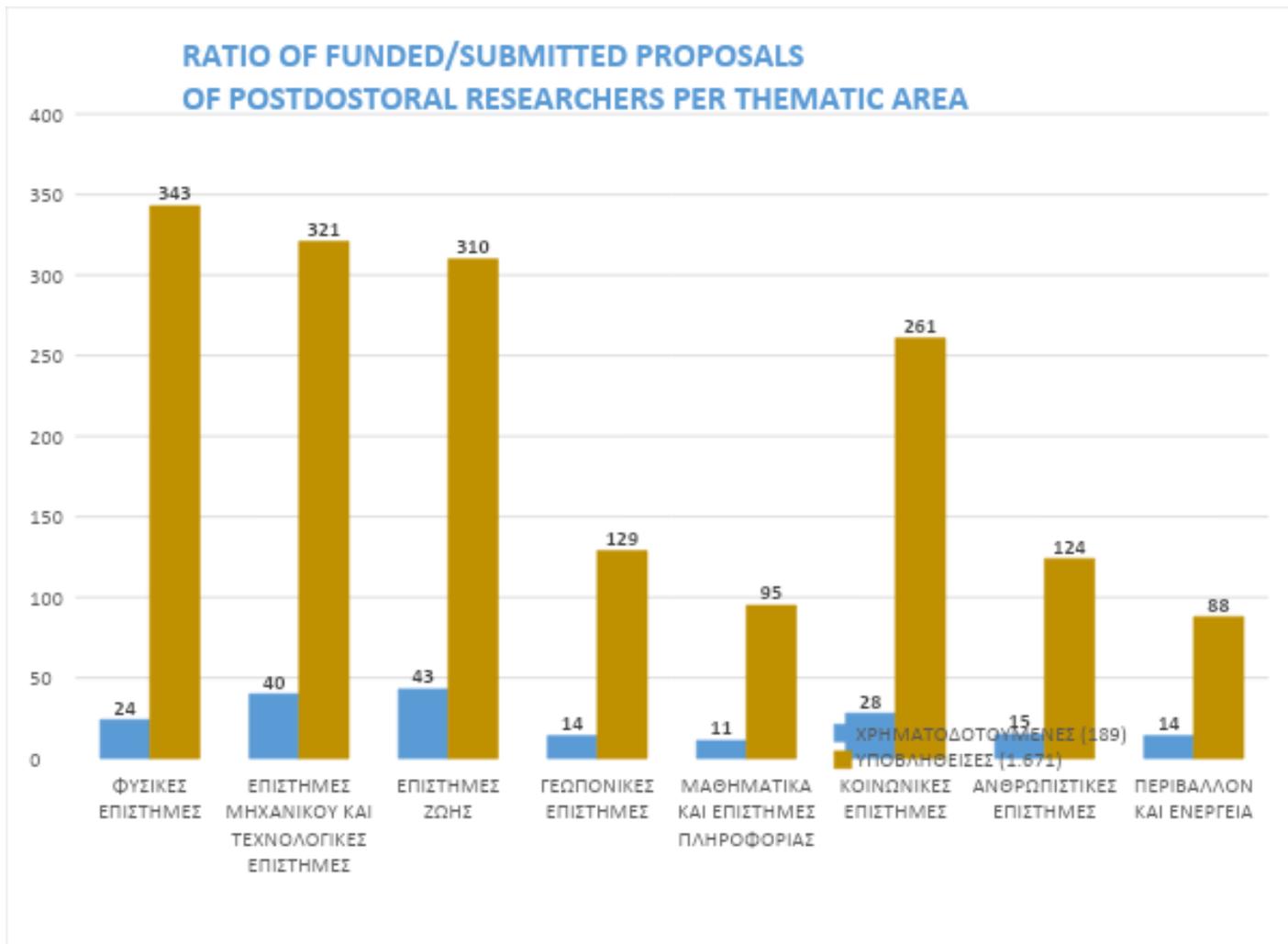


1st CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

The initial budget of the action worth EUR 9,000,000 amounted to EUR 34,000,000. The call aimed to support the implementation of selected research projects of high scientific quality and excellence, where the Principal Investigators (PI) were Postdoctoral Researchers (PR). This action provides the opportunity for PRs to develop good prospects for their scientific and professional course. The PRs' research projects are implemented at Universities, Technological Educational Institutions and Research Centres of Greece (Host Institutions), enriching thus the research activities conducted in them. This action is part of the initiative to deploy the country's scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists in Greece and attracting those working abroad. The proposals were submitted in the following Scientific Areas: Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Life Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Mathematics and Information Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities (and Arts), Environment and Energy. Interdisciplinary proposals were also submitted. The allowed duration of the proposed projects is between 24 and 36 months. Any extension of the project may not exceed 42 months. The maximum funding limit of each proposal was EUR 200,000, whereas the budget of each proposal could amount to EUR 350,000 in case of collaboration of 2 PRs and to EUR 450,000 in case of collaboration of

3 PRs. 1,671 proposals were submitted (160 of which by Greeks living abroad) and 189 proposals were funded (CHART 2). The proposals were evaluated by experts and thematic committees. The evaluation was based on two criteria, namely: 1. the evaluation of the Principal Investigator (scientific achievements and maturity for guidance and project implementation) and 2. the evaluation of the Proposal (quality - originality - balanced budget and implementation potential). In total, 769 evaluators were involved in the evaluation process (733 for the evaluation of applications and 36 for the examination of objections).

CHART 2



➤ By the H.F.R.I.:

- CALLS

1st CALL FOR H.F.R.I. RESEARCH PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS AND PROCURE HIGH-VALUE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT

The action’s budget amounts to EUR 53,000,000. The dual aim of this call is on the one hand to support the implementation of research projects of high scientific quality and on the other hand to procure research equipment of high value and strategic importance, as part of the effort to support research activities in Greece. The research projects of this Call will be implemented in Universities, Technological Educational Institutions, University Research Institutes and Research Centres/Institutes in Greece (Host Institutions), enriching research activities conducted within these and empowering or expanding their existing research structures. Continuing the effort of two previous H.F.R.I. actions, this action is part of the initiative to deploy the country’s scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists in Greece and attracting those working abroad. The Principal Investigators may be Faculty Members of Higher Educational Institutions and Researchers of Greek Research Centres, University Research Institutes and Higher Military Educational Institutions. The proposals were submitted in the following Scientific Areas: Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Life Sciences, Agricultural Sciences - Food Science and Technology, Mathematics and Information Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Environment and Energy, Management & Economics of Innovation. The project duration is between 24 and 36 months. The maximum funding limit of each research proposal is EUR 200,000, whereas the maximum funding limit of each proposal combining research and procurement of research equipment is EUR 1,500,000. 3,177 research proposals were submitted as follows:

| Categories | Submitted proposals | Budget (€) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Faculty Members/Researchers | 2,853 | 33,000,000.00 |
| Proposals concerning high-value research equipment | 324 | 20,000,000.00 |
| Total | 3,177 | 53,000,000.00 |

| Scientific Areas | No of submitted proposals |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Physical Sciences | 437 |
| Engineering Sciences and Technology | 644 |
| Life Sciences (Medicine and Health Sciences) | 675 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Agricultural Sciences – Food Science and Technology | 237 |
| Mathematics and Information Sciences | 235 |
| Social Sciences | 429 |
| Humanities & Arts | 255 |
| Environment and Energy | 191 |
| Management & Economics of Innovation | 74 |
| Total | 3,177 |

The evaluation of proposals will be done by thematic committees in two phases.

Evaluation Phase A includes: 1. Admissibility and eligibility check for the Proposal 2. Evaluation and selection. Evaluation Phase B includes: 1. Admissibility and eligibility check for the Proposal 2. Evaluation and selection. The evaluation will be based on two criteria, namely: 1. the evaluation of the Principal Investigator (scientific achievements and maturity for guidance and project implementation) and 2. the evaluation of the Proposal (quality - originality - balanced budget and implementation potential).

- **PRE-PUBLICATIONS**

2ND CALL FOR H.F.R.I. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PHD CANDIDATES

The Call for Action is expected within April 2018. Total budget: EUR 10,000,000. Scholarship amount: EUR 900.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST “200 YEARS FROM THE GREEK REVOLUTION”

Submission of proposals to promote research initiatives related to the 1821 Greek Revolution and its impact on the development of modern Greece.

The Call for Action is expected within April 2018. Proposals shall be submitted in two phases. During the first phase, up to 30 proposals shall receive funding of up to EUR 1,000 each. During the second phase, up to 10 proposals shall receive funding of up to EUR 100,000 each. Total budget: EUR 1,030,000.

The table and charts (3 & 4) that follow specify the distribution of the total budget into action categories and the actions that have been announced or pre-published.

FUNDING OF ACTIONS 2016-2017

| SECTORS AND DISTRIBUTION RATE ACCORDING TO THE LOAN AGREEMENT | TOTAL AVAILABLE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT PER SECTOR | ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED OR PRE-PUBLISHED | REMAINING AMOUNT |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
| BASIC RESEARCH (FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS) AT LEAST 38% | 82,080,000 | 33,000,000 | 49,080,000 |
| SCHOLARSHIPS | 82,080,000 | 23,500,000 | |
| POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS *(POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS) AT LEAST 38% | | 34,000,000 | 24,580,000 |
| EQUIPMENT UP TO 16% | 34,560,000 | 20,000,000 | 14,560,000 |
| SCIENCE AND SOCIETY UP TO 8% | 17,280,000 | 1,030,000 | 16,250,000 |
| TOTAL | 216,000,000 | 111,530,000 | 104,470,000 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES 10% | 24,000,000 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 240,000,000 | | |

CHART 3

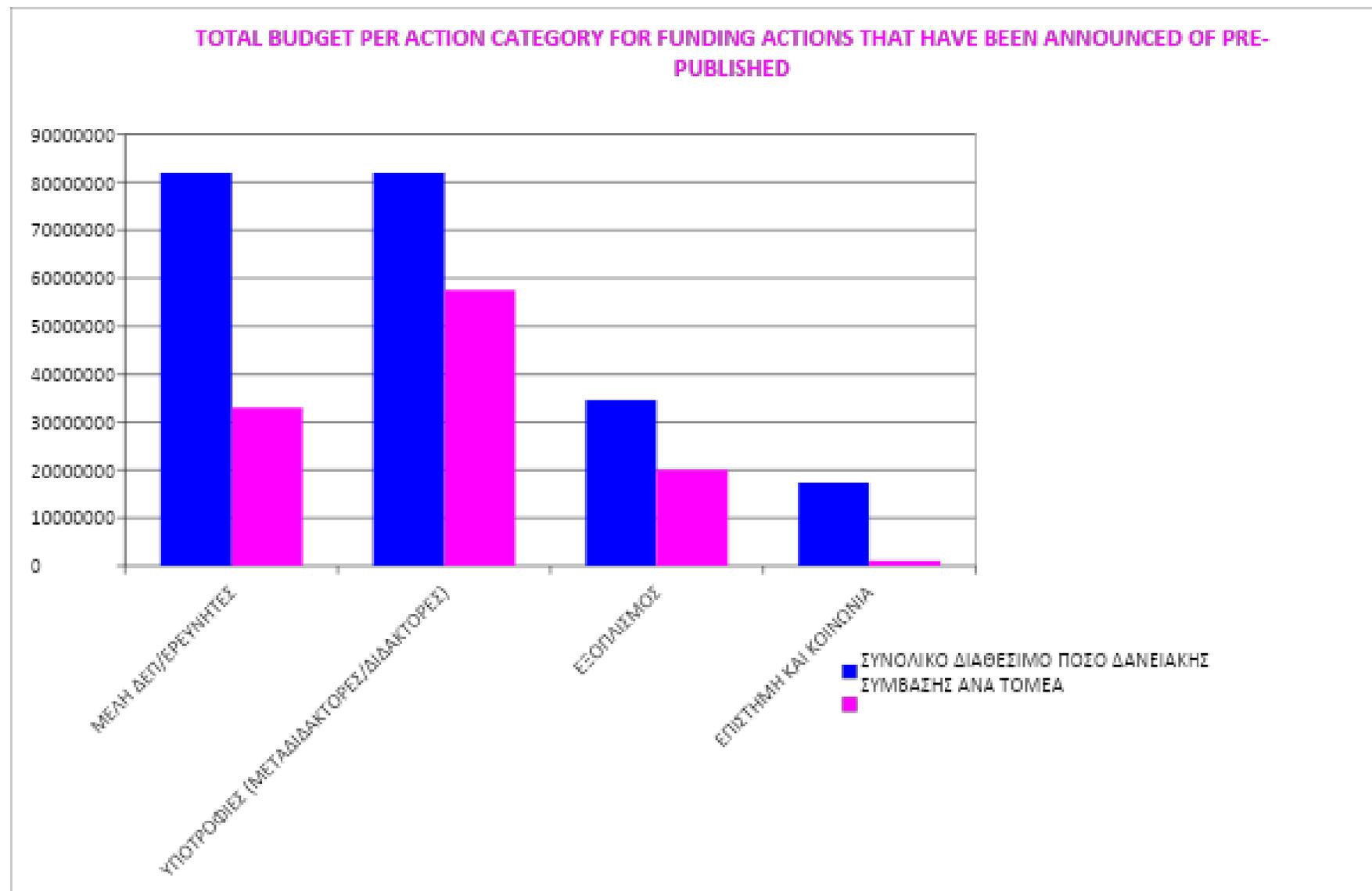
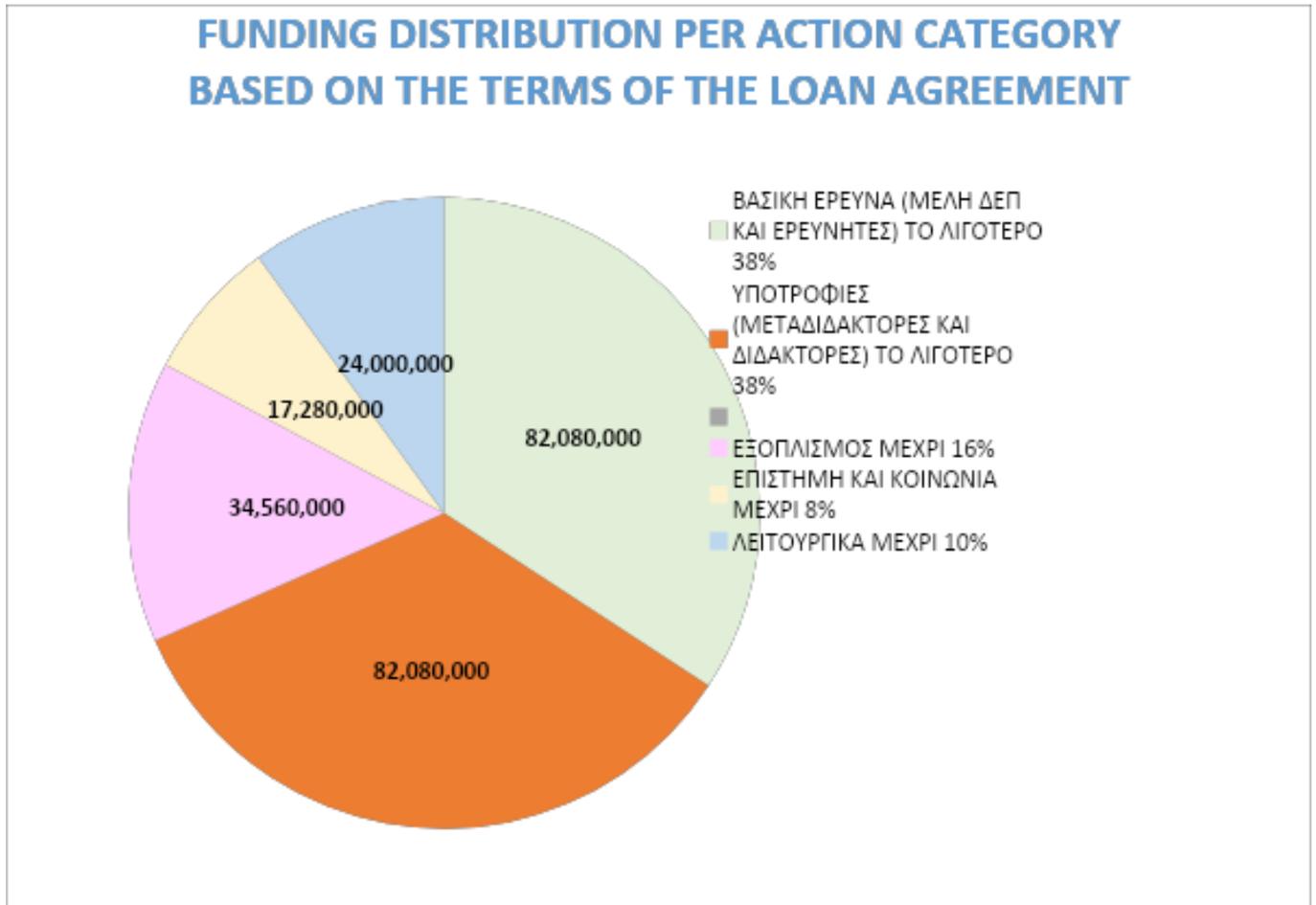


CHART 4



Athens, 19.04.2018

The Director

The Deputy Director

The Head of the Finance Department

Nektarios Nasikas

Christina Foka

Konstantina Kakouri