



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

“We Support Research, We Strengthen Innovation”

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation at the 7th Exhibition of Innovation and Know-how Transfer - Patras Innovation Quest 2021.

On Saturday, 4th December, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation participated for the first time in the annual Exhibition of Innovation and Know-how Transfer - Patras Innovation Quest 2021. Dr. Kouravelou Aikaterini, executive member of H.F.R.I.'s Research Projects Department, presented the Foundation's vision and work during its five years of operation in her speech about “Funding Basic Research”, where she praised H.F.R.I.'s significance in promoting research and innovation.

The Foundation's presentation was attended by Professor Panagiotis Dimopoulos, Vice Rector for Research and Development at the University of Patras, Mr. Xenofon Verykios, former Chair of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council and Professor Emeritus at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Patras and Mr. Stylianos Neofytidis, Research Director at the Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (FORTH/ICE-HT), head of the Laboratory of Electrochemical Processes at FORTH/ICE-HT and member of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council, who were physically present at the event.

Driven by scientific quality and excellence

Supporting fundamental research is among the Foundation's strategic objectives. Driven by scientific quality and excellence as sole criteria for its work and without any thematic or geographical restrictions, H.F.R.I.'s establishment came as a response to the need of deploying Greek scientists and preventing their outflow abroad.

Until now the Foundation has announced 15 actions to support PhD Candidates, Post-doctoral Researchers and Faculty Members-Researchers, as well as emblematic actions aiming primarily at interconnecting Science with Society. 14,711 scholarship applications and research proposals have been submitted in total, out of which 938 scholarships and 675 research projects have been funded, while approximately 277 million Euro have been reserved for projects under implementation or/and preprints. Concerning statistical data on funding received by the co-organisers of Patras IQ Exhibition, the H.F.R.I. has funded 92 scholarships and 52 research projects at the University of Patras with a budget over 21 million Euro, while the success rate of 14 scholarship applications and 38 research proposals submitted in total by the Hellenic Open University amounts to 13%. The budget for funding projects submitted by the FORTH/ICE-HT exceeds 2 million Euro.

"Through the eyes of beneficiaries"

An interesting point of the speech was the emphasis regarding the impact of H.F.R.I.'s actions on the production of foreground knowledge and on the society "through the eyes" of beneficiaries at the University of Patras and the FORTH/ICE-HT. Some of the funded research projects develop innovative mechanisms and therapeutic approaches for serious diseases, such as cancer and Parkinson's, aiming to improve human life and raise awareness of prevention among the community, while others promote new designs and computer models to mitigate climate change by studying the environment. Funded projects in the area of Information Sciences implement game theories and machine learning, develop open-source systems and provide improved social networking services, thus contributing to the protection and security of citizens. Finally, funded projects in the area of Arts and Humanities utilize the potential of digital technologies, aiming to upgrade the quality of education in Greek schools, encourage dialectology research and promote Greek cultural heritage.

Concluding her speech, Dr. Kouravelou presented the H.F.R.I.'s web portal, a specialised and reliable system used to submit proposals and applications as well as to manage and evaluate funded projects and scholarships. Referring to future H.F.R.I. actions, she confirmed that the Foundation intends to continue supporting basic research in Greece, following international standards.

Please find photos from the Exhibition attached.

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.

