



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

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

Greece 2.0

**NATIONAL RECOVERY AND
RESILIENCE PLAN**

“FUNDING BASIC RESEARCH”

(Horizontal support for all Sciences)

ID 16618 – Subproject 1 (MIS: 5163923)



LIST OF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

for Subproject 1 “Funding Basic Research”

(Horizontal support for all Sciences)

A. General for the Action (Sub-actions 1 and 2)

A.1. Conditions of Participation

Question 1: What is the aim of the Action “Funding Basic Research (Horizontal support for all Sciences)” (ID 16618 – Subproject 1)?

The aim of the Action is to strengthen Basic Research carried out in the country's Academic and Research Institutions through two (2) distinct Sub-Actions under which original research Projects of high scientific quality and excellence will be funded.

Question 2: What is the total budget of the Action?

The total budget of the Action amounts to €58,226,253.03 and is distributed among the two Sub-actions as follows:

- Sub-action 1: €14,477,475.03
- Sub-action 2: €43,748,778.00

Question 3: What may be the duration of the proposed research projects?

The duration of the proposed research Projects under both Sub-actions may vary from 18 to 24 months. It is underlined that the Projects to be funded must be completed by **30.06.2025**.

Question 4: May Professors Emeriti and Researchers submit a proposal as Principal Investigators (PI)?

No. According to Section 9.2. of the Call, Professors Emeriti or retired and Researchers may participate in the Action only as members of the Research Team (RT).

Question 5: Members of Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS) of H.E.I. may submit a Proposal as PI?

No. According to Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of the Call, LTS members of H.E.I. may participate in the Action only as RT members.

Question 6: Postdoctoral researchers collaborating with H.E.I. or RC-I may submit a Proposal as PI?

No. According to Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of the Call, Postdoctoral researchers may participate in the Action only as RT members.

Question 7: Is there a limit to the number of Proposals that a PI can submit and/or participate in?

Yes. According to Section 9.1. of the Call, a PI may submit only one (1) Proposal and participate as a member of the RT in one more Proposal under the Action.

Question 8: May a Faculty Member or Researcher on leave submit a Proposal as PI?

Yes. Faculty Members and Researchers on leave may submit a Proposal as PI. In case their Proposal is approved for funding, they will have to interrupt their leave in order to undertake Project PI's duties in accordance with the provisions of the current legislation.

Question 9: May a Project PI funded in the context of another Action of H.F.R.I. submit a Proposal as PI?

Yes. Project PIs funded under any of the previous Actions of H.F.R.I. may submit a Proposal to this Action as well.

Question 10: Who may participate as members of the Research Team (RT)?

The following persons can participate in the RT (apart from the PI): Academic and Research staff of the HI and the Collaborating Organizations (COs), postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates, postgraduate students, other staff working for the HI and the COs under 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 temporary staff who shall be contracted with the HI (or the COs-Beneficiaries in case of Sub-action 2) exclusively for project implementation purposes.

Question 11: Can a RT member participate in two Proposals?

Yes. According to Section 9.2 of the Call, each RT member (except for the PI) may participate (as a member) in a maximum of two (2) Proposals under the Action.

Question 12: Do the above (under 7 and 11) limitations on the number of Proposals, in which the PI and the RT members can participate, concern only the Proposals submitted to the same Sub-action?

No. According to the Call, these limitations apply to the Action as a whole, that is, regardless of whether the Proposals are submitted to the same or a different Sub-action.

Question 13: Can staff (e.g. Postdoctoral researchers or scientific and technical staff) employed in the public sector, but not belonging to the regular staff of the HI, participate in the RT?

Yes. Staff of the above categories already employed in the public sector may be employed in the research Project provided that a letter of intent to collaborate has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.4. of the Call and that they will be authorized to have a concurrent employment by their Institution. They will be paid an additional fee of up to €500.00 per month for additional work, beyond their working hours, in accordance with current legislation.

It is noted that academic and research staff employed in Academic and Research foreign Institutions under any employment relationship may only participate in the RT as non-remunerated staff.

Question 14: Which Institutions may act as Host Institutions (HIs) in the context of the Action?

According to Section 9.3 of the Call, the following may be designated as HI:

- Higher Educational Institutions (H.E.I.) of Greece as specified under article 3 of Law 4957/2022 (A' 141), as in force.
- Research Centres – Institutes (RC-I) of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258), as in force.
- University Research Institutes (URI), i.e. private law legal persons established by virtue of the provisions of Laws 2083/1992 (A' 159) and 3685/2008 (A' 148).
- Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (A' 233).
- The Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).

Question 15: Which Organizations may participate in the Action as Collaborating Organizations (COs)?

According to Section 9.4 of the Call, all types of national or foreign public and private sector organizations may participate as COs, in addition to the Institutions that can operate as HIs.

Question 16: Is there a limit to the maximum number of Proposals in which an Academic or Research Institution can participate as HI and/or as CO?

No. The Call does not set any restrictions regarding the number of Proposals an Institution may participate in as HI and/or as CO.

Question 17: Is it necessary for all RT members to be denominated when submitting the Proposal?

No. According to Section 9.2 of the Call, it is not necessary that all RT members have been denominated when submitting the Proposal. If a RT member has not been named, the required qualifications for their position should be specified when submitting the Proposal, so that any selection is made based on these qualifications, following a call for expression of interest published by the HI, in accordance with the provisions of Law 4957/2022 and other current legislation.

Question 18: Should PhD Candidates and Postdoctoral Researchers be fully employed in the Project?

No. The Call does not set any restrictions regarding the working time of RT members in the Project.

A.2. Budget and Cost Categories

Question 19: Is there a limit to the percentage different cost categories can cover in relation to total budget?

Percentage restrictions per cost category are presented in detail per cost category in Table 3 (Section 10) of the Call.

Question 20: Can the provision of services by an Academic or Research Institution or company in Greece or abroad be considered as an eligible cost?

The provision of services by Academic or Research Institutions and/or private companies is subject to the cost category “Costs for third party services” pursuant to Section 10.1.4 of the Call.

Question 21: What are the applicable provisions regarding the PhD Candidates’ remuneration?

According to Section 10.1.1.2 of the Call, the PhD Candidates are part of the Scientific staff of the Project and therefore their gross monthly earnings in the Project are calculated as follows:

- a) for a fixed-term private law employment contract: configured according to the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.
- b) for a project lease contract: may amount to €1,500.00 (including all contributions) plus VAT.

Question 22: What are the applicable provisions regarding the Postdoctoral Researchers' remuneration?

According to Section 10.1.1.2 of the Call, the gross monthly earnings of the Postdoctoral Researchers in the Project are calculated as follows:

a) for a fixed-term private law employment contract: to a minimum equal to the thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 point a) of Law 4310/2014 and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.

b) for a project lease contract: monthly earnings can amount to up to €2,000.00 (including all contributions), plus VAT and must be to a minimum equal to the thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 point a) of Law 4310/2014.

Question 23: Can PhD Candidates and Postdoctoral Researchers be remunerated by a compensatory scholarship under the Call?

No, the Call does not provide for the award of compensatory scholarships to PhD Candidates or Postdoctoral Researchers. According to the Call, PhD Candidates and Postdoctoral Researchers are remunerated on the basis of project lease contracts or fixed-term employment contracts and their remuneration is subject to the provisions of Section 10.1.1.2 thereof.

Question 24: What are the applicable provisions regarding the remuneration of Faculty Members, Researchers and Staff Research Scientists participating as RT members not belonging in the HI's staff?

According to Section 10.1.1.2 of the Call, the remuneration of Faculty Members and Researchers, regardless of whether they belong to the staff of the HI or of another Institution in Greece, cannot exceed the amount of €1,000.00 per month and is subject to the maximum salary and additional fees limit provided for 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), as in force.

Question 25: Can regular staff members of the HI participate in the RT as remunerated members?

Yes. According to Section 10.1.1.2 of the Call, regular staff members of the HI and the COs-Beneficiaries (where applicable) holding a public law or an open-term private law employment contract may participate in the RT and receive additional fees of up to €500.00 per month for providing additional work beyond their normal working hours and in accordance with the current legislation. The same applies to the members of the regular staff of the COs.

Question 26: What happens if a member of the RT is remunerated under another action of H.F.R.I.?

According to what is mentioned in Section 10.1.1.2 of the Call: *“In case the Project is funded, remunerated RT members cannot receive salaries from another H.F.R.I. action for full-time employment status and for the duration of their remunerated employment in the Project funded under this action”*. Consequently, the remunerated RT members may receive salaries under another H.F.R.I. action, provided they do not exceed any contractual time corresponding to full-time employment as long as they are employed in the funded Project.

Question 27: Is the equipment acquisition cost eligible?

Under the Action, the depreciation costs and not the purchase costs of scientific equipment are eligible. Therefore, the prescribed depreciation rate must be applied.

A.3. Submission and Evaluation Process

Question 28: How many stages of submission and evaluation are necessary for the completion of this Call?

The submission of all documents and supporting documents under both Sub-actions will be performed in one (1) phase. The evaluation of the submitted Proposals will be also completed in one (1) phase in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Call.

Question 29: Who is responsible for the submission of the Proposal on H.F.R.I. web portal?

According to the provisions of the Call, the PI of the Project shall be exclusively responsible for submitting the Proposal on H.F.R.I. web portal (<https://portal.hfri.gr/>).

Question 30: What about the selection of a Scientific/Thematic Area?

The selection of a Scientific/Thematic Area is the sole responsibility of the PI and it is not possible to change it after the deadline for submission of proposals and/or transfer a Proposal from one Scientific/Thematic Area to another during the evaluation. It is underlined that the relevance of the Proposal to the Scientific/Thematic Area to which it is submitted is subject to evaluation (under Criterion 2A of the Call).

Question 31: Where does the minimum score required to make a Proposal eligible for funding (evaluation A) apply?

According to Section 12.4. of the Call, in order for a Proposal to be eligible for funding it should receive a minimum score of **3.5** in each of the two main Criteria (“1. Principal Investigator and Head of COs-Beneficiaries” and 2. “Research Proposal”) as well as in total.

Question 32: How is the final evaluation of Proposals determined in A and B?

Proposals are ranked into A and B based on the Proposals' score combined with the minimum score.

Question 33: How are the results communicated to the potential beneficiaries?

The results are communicated to the PI of the Proposals through H.F.R.I.'s web portal, where the PIs can access the ranking of their Proposal (A or B) as well as the evaluation report with the Evaluation Committee's comments.

B. Sub-action 1

Question 34: Who is eligible to submit a proposal as a Project Principal Investigator (PI) in Sub-action 1?

As a Project PI in Sub-action 1, the following persons may submit proposals: a) term Faculty Members (pursuant to par. 2 of article 16 of Law 4009/2011) and b) term Researchers and Staff Research Scientists (pursuant to article 18 of Law 4310/2014), provided that on the Proposal submission start date, a period of time greater than three (3) years has not elapsed since the date of assumption of duties.

Question 35: Can an elected Faculty Member, whose appointment decision has not yet been published, submit a proposal as a PI?

Yes. According to Section 9.1 of the Call: *"Eligible to participate as PIs are also those who have been elected in the respective position until the proposal's submission date, regardless of whether they have assumed their duties or not. In that case, by submitting the proposal, they are required to submit the minutes or the decision of their election and then they must present the act of assumption of duties or a corresponding act, in order for the Funding Award Decision to be issued. Failure to meet this condition will result in the proposal being incomplete and therefore ineligible for funding".*

Question 36: What happens if the PI's employment status changes at any time prior to the completion of the Project?

If during the submission of the Proposal the PI is a Faculty Member/Researcher in active service, they may submit a proposal as a PI and remain in this role, even if they are made permanent before the project is completed. In case the term of office of the PI automatically expires before the completion of the project (due to a negative judgment), then the possibility is given to continue and complete the project, provided a relevant certificate is submitted by the HI.

Question 37: Can a Proposal be submitted for a collaborative project under Sub-action 1?

No. According to the Call, under Sub-action 1, the funding of collaborative projects is not provided

for.

C. Sub-action 2

Question 38: Who is eligible to submit a proposal as a Project Principal Investigator (PI) in Sub-action 2?

Eligible to submit Proposals as a Project PI are Faculty Members (article 140 par. 1 of Law 4957/2022) of AEI and ASEI, as well as members of the research staff of Research Centres-Institutes (RC-I, article 18 of Law 4310/2014) in Greece.

Question 39: Staff Research Scientists may submit a Proposal as PI in Sub-action 2?

Yes. According to Section 9.1. and 9.2. of the Call, Staff Research Scientists may submit a Proposal as PI under Sub-action 2.

Question 40: May a term Faculty Member or Researcher submit a Proposal as PI in Sub-action 2?

Yes. A term Faculty Member or Researcher may submit a Proposal as PI in Sub-action 2, provided that the other conditions defined in Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of the Call are met.

Question 41: What are the applicable provisions for collaborative projects?

Under Sub-action 2, collaborative projects are those involving the participation of one or more Collaborating Organizations-Beneficiaries. In collaborative projects, the HI acts as the Coordinating Institution of the Project and is responsible for the entire project management. The Coordinating Institution is responsible for both the communication with H.F.R.I. and the continuous information-coordination of the Collaborating Organizations-Beneficiaries. The total budget in collaborative projects results from the sum of individual budgets presented by the participating Collaborating Organizations-Beneficiaries.

It should be noted that the cooperation agreement, which is signed by the participating institutions with regard to the joint implementation of the Project and also contains the cooperation terms, is included among the supporting documents required for the issuance of the Funding Award Decision concerning a collaborative project.

Question 42: Which institutions are eligible to participate in Sub-action 2 as Collaborating Organizations (COs)-Beneficiaries? What provisions are applicable for the COs-Beneficiaries?

The Collaborating Organizations of the Project, who may be main H.F.R.I. beneficiaries and therefore may be potentially designated as HIs as well, according to Law 4429/2016, are designated as COs-

Beneficiaries. The above institutions are mentioned in detail in Section 9.3 of the Call. The COs-Beneficiaries are entitled to have a budget for their participation in the Project.

Question 43: If during the submission of the Proposal the PI is a Faculty Member or Researcher or Staff Research Scientist in active service but retires any time prior to the completion of the Project, are they allowed to submit a Proposal as PI?

If during the submission of the Proposal the PI is a Faculty Member or Researcher or Staff Research Scientist in active service, they may submit a Proposal as PI and remain in this role, even if they retire before the Project is completed.

Question 44: Can a Postdoctoral Researcher assume the role of Head of CO-Beneficiary in a Collaborative Project?

No. In Collaborative Projects, the heads of COs-Beneficiaries should be Faculty Members or Researchers or Staff Research Scientists.