



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

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**Fieldwork for the collection of data in Greece in the context of the
European Social Survey Round 11**

Submission start date: Friday, February 24th 2023, 12:00 (Greece time)

Submission end date: Friday, March 10th 2023, 13:00 (Greece time)

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The Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation

Having regard to:

1. Law 4429/2016 (OGG A' 199) on the "Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions", as in force, and especially articles 2 par. 1, 5 par. 2 to 9, 8 par. 9 and 10 and 9 par. 7 thereof;
2. Decision No. 195245/15.11.2018 issued by the Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, as well as Finance and Administrative Reconstruction on the "Internal Rules of Operation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)" (OGG B' 5252), as in force, and especially articles 33 to 39 thereof;
3. Decision No. 38750/21.04.2022 issued by the Deputy Minister for Development and Investments, whereby Dr. Aikaterini Kouravelou was appointed Director of the H.F.R.I. (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Entities No. 335),
4. Law 4310/2014 (OGG A' 258) on "Research, technological development and innovation and other provisions", as in force;
5. Law 4485/2017 on the "Organization and operation of higher education, regulations on research and other provisions" (OGG A' 114), as in force;
6. Law 4957/2022 on "New Horizons in Higher Educational Institutions: Strengthening the quality, functionality and connection of Higher Educational Institutions with society and other provisions" (OGG A' 141), as in force,
7. Law 3187/2003 on "Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI)" (OGG A' 233), as in force;
8. The fact that the Action budget is funded by the H.F.R.I.'s budget and more specifically is covered by resources resulting from return on capitals,
9. Decision No. 104217/01.11.2022 issued by the Deputy Minister for Development and Investments on "a) Amendment of the Ministerial Decision No. 29898/26.02.2019, b) Amendment of the Ministerial Decision No. 133182/20.12.2019, c) Approval of the annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2023" (OGG B' 5687),
10. Decision No. 7886/21.12.2018 issued at the 39th Meeting of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council on the "Approval of the assumption of multi-year obligations" (IUN: 78E046M77Γ-Φ37), as in force and following its 13th amendment by Decision No. 60966/23.1.2023 issued at the 140th Meeting of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council; (IUN: 656A46M77Γ-3ΥΨ),
11. Decision No. 125385-22-12-22/22.12.2022 of the Minister of Development and Investments on approving H.F.R.I.'s budget for the financial year 2023 (IUN: ΨΤΩΕ46ΜΤΑΡ-Ζ7Ε),
12. Decision No. 61583/03.02.2023 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 141th meeting on the 2nd Reform of the H.F.R.I.'s detailed budget for the financial year 2023 (IUN: Ψ2Ζ546Μ77Γ-Λ89),

13. Decision No. 62211/20.02.2023 adopted by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council at its 142nd meeting on approving the plan of the Call "Fieldwork for the collection of data in Greece in the context of the European Social Survey Round 11" and granting power to H.F.R.I.'s Director for specifying the terms and the publishing of the above Call.

INVITES

Interested potential beneficiaries to submit proposals under the new Action titled "Fieldwork for the collection of data in Greece in the context of the European Social Survey Round 11", in line with the terms and conditions presented below.

1. OBJECTIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE ACTION

The aim of this Action is to conduct the 11th round of the European Social Survey-ESS in Greece, including the disposal and dissemination of the scientific findings that will arise in the scientific community for secondary analysis, as well as the implementation of all preparatory actions required for the launch and completion of this European Social Survey.

Host Institution of the research Project and beneficiary of funding can be one of the Higher Educational Institutions, the Research Centres-Institutes (RC-I), the University Research Institutes (URI) and the Higher Military Educational Institutions of Greece, **provided that it has undertaken to conduct at least two rounds of the European Social Survey in Greece.**

Principal Investigator (PI) and at the same time National Coordinator of the research project may be a faculty member (Article 140 of Law 4957/2022) of the Higher Educational Institutions and the Higher Military Educational Institutions of Greece, as well as a Researcher of Research Centres-Institutes (RC-I, article 18 of Law 4310/2014) and University Research Institutes (URI) of Greece.

The project's Research Team may include: Academic and Research staff, postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates, Postgraduate students, other staff working for the Host Institution with 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 Host Institution exclusively for research project implementation purposes.

The Project to be funded shall be selected following an evaluation conducted by an Evaluation Committee (EC), consisting of acclaimed scientists specializing in the research field the Call relates to, as well as of independent experts, if deemed necessary and 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.

This Call is part of H.F.R.I.'s action programme in line with Decision No. 104217/01.11.2022 issued by the Deputy Minister of Development and Investments on the "a) Amendment of Ministerial Decision No. 29898/26.02.2019, b) Amendment of the Ministerial Decision No. 133182/20.12.2019, c) Approval of

the annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2023”

2. BUDGET AND DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The total public expenditure for the Call amounts to **250,000.00€**.

The duration of the proposed project may vary **from 10 to 18 months**.

The project funded under this Action must be completed **by July 2024**.

Costs for the Project may be incurred from its start date.

3. PREVENTION OF DOUBLE FUNDING

A necessary condition for a Project to be funded is that it shall not have received or is not currently receiving funding by any means from any other institution for its full scope or part thereof. Synergies with other Projects shall only be permitted on the basis of complementarity and given that there is 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. ENSURING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

In all stages of the evaluation process pertaining to the Proposal as well as during the funding and implementation of the Project, PIs and Research Team members should behave 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 exclusion from the evaluation process or to the revocation of the Funding Award Decision. 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 of participation in this Call are as follows:

5.1 Principal investigator of the Project (PI)

Each Proposal is submitted by one (1) Principal Investigator (PI) of the Project, who belongs to the HI's regular staff and is the sole person in charge for submitting the proposal

The PI may submit only one (1) Proposal.

Failure to meet the above requirement entails the ineligibility for the Proposal's evaluation.

5.2 Host Institution (HI) – Beneficiary of funding

Under the Call, Host Institution (HI) of the research project and beneficiary of funding may be one of the following Host Institutions, **provided that it has undertaken the implementation of at least two rounds of the European Social Survey in Greece:**

- Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) of Greece as specified under article 3 of Law 4957/2022 (OGG A' 141), as in force.
- Research Centres – Institutes (RC-I) of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (OGG 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 (OGG A' 159) and 3685/2008 (OGG A' 148).
- Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) of Law 3187/2003 (OGG A' 233).

When submitting the Proposal, the PI must declare the details of the HI.

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.

In case funding is approved, the PI must submit a Project acceptance certificate by the HI (Letter of Commitment).

Failure to submit the Project acceptance certificate by the HI renders the Proposal non-eligible for funding.

5.3 Project Research Team (RT)

Academic and Research staff of the HI, postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates, postgraduate students, other staff working for the HI 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 exclusively for project implementation purposes may participate in the Research Team (RT), apart from the PI.

There is no limitation regarding the maximum number of members that constitute the Research Team of a proposal.

Each RT member (except for the PI) may participate (as a member) in maximum two proposals under the action.

It is not necessary to name all RT members when submitting the Proposal. If a RT member has not been named for a position, the required qualifications for the position should be defined when submitting the

Proposal. These positions shall be filled based on these qualifications and following a call for expression of interest issued by the HI, in line with provisions of Law 4957/2022 and other current legislation.

6. BUDGET AND CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE COSTS

The Project budget is broken down into the following direct and indirect costs.

In order to be considered eligible, each cost should fall under the terms described in the present Section and be provisioned in the Proposal. Cost eligibility begins on the Project start date.

6.1 Direct costs

The direct costs of the research Project include the fees of the PI and RT members, the costs for consumables, dissemination and mobility, as well as costs for third party services and other costs.

6.1.1 Personnel costs

This category includes remunerations for the PI and the Research Team (RT) members.

Remuneration for the Principal Investigator

The PI's remuneration may not exceed the amount of €800.00 per month and 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).

Research Team members' remuneration

The remunerated RT members may be Faculty Members and Researchers, Postdoctoral Researchers, PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students as well as other scientific, technical or auxiliary staff.

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

- a. The salary of **Faculty members and Researchers** joining the RT may not exceed the amount of €800.00 per month and 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).
- b. For **Postdoctoral Researchers (PR)** participating in the project, gross monthly remuneration is calculated as follows:
 1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly remuneration is configured according to the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force and is to a minimum equal to the thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 indent a) of Law 4310/2014.

2. In case of 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 lowest thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 indent a) of Law 4310/2014.

c. For **PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students and other scientific, technical and auxiliary staff of the RT**, gross monthly earnings are calculated as follows:

1. In case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, gross monthly remuneration is configured according to the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force.

2. In case of a project lease contract, monthly remuneration may amount to €1,500.00 (including all contributions) plus VAT.

RT members who belong to the staff of the HI can receive an extra remuneration up to €500.00 per month for providing additional work, beyond their working schedule, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Table 1 below summarizes the above terms and payment limits.

Table 1. RT members remuneration

Remunerated RT member categories	Determination of monthly salary
1. Faculty Members, Researchers and Staff Research Scientists	The salary of Faculty Members and Researchers may not exceed the amount of €800.00 per month and 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).
2. Postdoctoral Researcher	Gross monthly earnings: a) Fixed-term private law employment contract: in line with the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force and to a minimum equal to the thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 indent a) of Law 4310/2014. b) Project lease contract: up to €2,000.00 plus VAT per month and to a minimum equal to the lower thresholds set in article 18 par. 12 indent a) of Law 4310/2014.

<p>3. Scientific staff (PhD Candidates, Postgraduate Students), Technical and Auxiliary staff</p>	<p>Gross monthly earnings: a) Fixed-term private law employment contract: in line with the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force. b) Project lease contract: up to €1,500.00 plus VAT per month.</p>
<p>4. Staff that works in the HI or other Institution of the public sector (art. 14 par. 1 point a of Law 4270/2014) under a public law employment contract or an open-term private law employment contract.</p>	<p>Extra remuneration for additional work up to €500 per month, according to the relevant legislation in force.</p>

The above are gross amounts, upon which all legal deductions and employee contributions are calculated, as in force and per case. In order to calculate the total amount of staff remuneration charged to the project, legal employer's contributions are added to the above amounts and constitute eligible project costs. Regarding project lease contracts, if provided for under law, Value Added Tax (VAT) shall be also added to above amounts, which is an eligible project cost.

The salary of Research Team members working abroad under any employment contract is not an eligible cost.

All non-remunerated Research Team members may receive travel allowances for the project's needs (e.g. commuting costs, overnight lodging and daily allowance) for transit which took place in the context of project implementation.

6.1.2 Consumables

Costs for consumables are eligible when pertaining exclusively to Project implementation. Indicatively, they involve the purchase of direct consumption materials that are necessary for the implementation of the Project. 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 project particularities require an unusual amount of relevant costs for its implementation. In this case, special and sufficient documentation is required in the project budget.

6.1.3 Travel and dissemination costs

These are expenses incurred in the context of disseminating the results of the Project. Indicatively, these

include publication costs in scientific journals, registration costs in conferences relating to speeches / communication or posters, costs for organising and conducting workshops and/or conferences, costs for publishing monographs and books, costs for producing audio-visual material, costs for website development and publicity in social media. For all of the above to be considered eligible, they have to be connected to the implementation of the Research Project.

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 other Institutions in Greece or abroad.

6.1.4 Third Parties costs

This category includes costs that must be paid in order to use or access research infrastructure or other resources that are necessary for the implementation of the research project. Indicatively, apart from the costs for using or accessing research 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 or partnerships 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. Finally, this category includes eligible costs related to the provision of services by domestic or foreign Academic or Research Institutions and/or private companies and which are necessary for the implementation of the Project.

6.1.5 Other Costs

This category includes costs that cannot be included in other categories. Indicative costs included in this category are: special telecommunications costs (such as the use of satellite communication), repair costs for important equipment, etc.

These costs are considered eligible, provided they are specifically mentioned in the Proposal and there is special relevant justification of such need for the successful implementation of the Project.

6.2 Indirect costs

This category includes costs that are not directly connected to the implementation of the Project. These costs are paid to the SARFs or the respective HI's department.

Indirect Costs are eligible without the presentation of the corresponding documents and may be up to 10% of the total remaining (direct) costs.

7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

When submitting Proposals, the following shall be filled in:

- General information (Section A)
- Proposal (Section B1 and Section B2)
- Additional documents (**any document proving the participation of the HI in at least 2 rounds of the National Social Survey in Greece**).

7.1 Section A: General information

Section A includes the PI's details and information about the Proposal, including the title, acronym, duration of the project and the (short) abstract of the Proposal. The abstract should clearly present the objectives of the Proposal and the way these should be accomplished. In case the Project is funded, this abstract may possibly be published (something that the PI shall explicitly and unreservedly accept by submitting the Proposal) and therefore must be brief and precise, not including confidential information.

More specifically, in Section A, the following information shall be filled in:

- **General information of the Proposal**
 - Title (in Greek and English)
 - Acronym
 - Abstract (up to 2,000 characters, in Greek and English)
 - Keywords (up to 10)
- **PI details** (Full name, contact details, TIN, etc.)
- **Host Institution** (School, Department, Institute, etc.)
- **Research Team Members**

The table of ethics is also completed in this Section and serves to identify possible ethical aspects of the research Project. This table should be filled in even if there are no issues.

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.

Information in Section A is submitted in English (apart from the Proposal title and abstract, which are also submitted in Greek).

7.2 Section B: Proposal

Section B consists of two (2) sub-sections, Section B1 and Section B2, which shall be submitted in **English**.

Each Proposal page might contain a header presenting the PI's full name, the acronym of the Proposal and the respective Section of the Proposal (Section B1, Section B2), as well as a footer with reference to the total number of pages.

Table 2 lists the suggested technical specifications to be followed in all submitted documents. The page limits for each part should be strictly applied. Information and texts outside these limits will not be evaluated.

Table 2. *Technical specifications for texts*

Page Size	Font	Font Size	Line Spacing	Page Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria or similar	11 pt (at least)	Single (at least)	Top-Bottom: 1.5 cm Left-Right: 2 cm

7.2.1 Section B1: PI's CV and Scientific Achievements (maximum: 5 pages)

Section B1 includes the PI's curriculum vitae, which among other things mentions their scientific achievements that relate to the proposed Project.

Section B1 is submitted in **English** as a PDF ("Portable Document Format") file and can be up to five (5) pages long. Any text outside these limits will not be taken into consideration during evaluation.

7.2.2 Section B2: Detailed Proposal presentation (maximum: 10 pages)

Section B2 should describe the scientific, technical and/or academic aspects of the research Project as well as the methodology and work plan. This section should describe the role of the PI and all members of the Research Team in the implementation of the Project and include a full assessment of the real Project cost.

In detail, Section B2 should describe the following:

- **Excellence, State of the art and Objectives**

This section shall clearly define the Proposal objectives in relation to the current scientific state of the art. When describing the proposed research project, it should be mentioned how and why the research project is important for the scientific field to which it applies, as well as its broader impact on science and society.

Indicative units that may be included in this section are:

- Proposal objectives and necessity
- State-of-the-art & Innovation
- Scientific and/or social impact
- Support/Progress/Perspectives in Social Sciences

▪ **Methodology and Implementation**

This section provides a detailed description of the suggested methodology, including, as per case, basic interim targets. The suggested methodology should be described and justified in relation to the current scientific state of the art. The involvement of all Research Team members should be justified, emphasising the scientific added value they bring to the project and their complementarity.

Indicative units that may be included in this section are:

- Research Methodology
- Work plan: Work Packages, Gantt Chart, Deliverables and Milestones Table, Table of Risks and Contingency plan
- Structure of the project Research Team: Roles and responsibilities of the PI, the RT members.

▪ **Budget**

This section should present an analysis of the budget in the cost categories mentioned in Section 6 of this Call, along with supporting documentation for them.

The initial page (cover page) of the research Proposal (Section B2) might include: i) the PI's full name, ii) the title, iii) the acronym, iv) the project duration (in months), v) the budget (in €) and vi) the project's Host Institution.

Section B2 is submitted in English and 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. Section B2 is submitted exclusively as a single PDF ("Portable Document Format") file.

The Proposal is submitted by the PI

exclusively online via the H.F.R.I.'s web portal

(<https://portal.hfri.gr/>)

Submission start date: Friday 24th of February 2023, 12:00 (Greece time)

Submission end date: Friday 10th of March 2023, 13:00 (Greece time)

The PI is exclusively responsible for the accuracy of data submitted on the online submission platform.

8. CHECK AND EVALUATION

The evaluation will be conducted by an Evaluation Committee (EC) in line with the provisions of article 5 par. 5 to 8 of Law 4429/2016, as in force.

8.1 Completeness and eligibility check

Proposals are checked as to the completeness of all necessary data and documents required, the observance of participation terms and limitations as well as other terms of this Call, as described in detail in Section 5 herein.

The completeness check of the submitted proposals is carried out through the H.F.R.I.'s web portal, based on a standardized completeness check questionnaire, in order to ensure the appropriate filling in, drafting and submission of the proposal in accordance with the terms of the Call. Once the relevant check is completed, potential beneficiaries are informed whose proposals are incomplete and therefore not forwarded for evaluation.

Irrespective of the fact that all Proposals are checked as to their completeness and eligibility prior to the evaluation of their content, if, at any stage of the check and evaluation process, it is ascertained that a Proposal fails to meet any of the relevant criteria, it shall be excluded from the evaluation process.

8.2 Evaluation

The evaluation of the Proposals shall be performed by an EC, consisting of five (5) to twenty (20) members. If deemed necessary due to the specialised scope of the Proposals, a non-binding evaluation of one or more Proposals may be requested from one or more independent experts, at the discretion of the EC. The final decision for the evaluation of each Proposal shall be made by the Committee. Said experts and members of Evaluation Committees are pulled from the Register of Certified Evaluators of paragraph 11, article 5 of Law 4429/2016 or from the Register of Certified Evaluators of article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258). They shall have the qualifications related to the subject matter of the project to be evaluated. The Evaluation Committees and independent experts are determined by the Scientific Council in line with the provisions of article 5 of Law 4429/2016. If expert scientists required for a specific evaluation are not available or the existing ones do not meet the needs of the evaluation in question, expert scientists, not included in the Register of Certified Evaluators, who are foreign tax residents may be designated as members, pursuant to a decision made by the Scientific Council.

8.3 Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

The whole process is governed by rule of confidentiality. The Evaluation Committee members and independent experts sign a declaration of confidentiality and non-conflict of interest. All Evaluation

Committee members and independent experts owe full confidentiality before, during and after the evaluation, as to the entire evaluation process.

8.4 Evaluation Process and Criteria

The process of evaluating the Proposals will be completed in one (1) Phase, during which the Proposal will be evaluated for each one of its two main evaluation criteria.

In particular, the full Proposal (Section B1 and Section B2) will be evaluated in terms of the scientific profile of the PI and their capacity for successful implementation of the Project as well as in terms of the scientific excellence of the Proposal [originality, appeal and possibility of implementation of the suggested Project by the Host Institution and the members of the Research Team].

The evaluation criteria and their weighting factors are listed in detail in *Table 3*.

Table 3. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting factor
Criterion 1. Principal investigator of the Project	0.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific work (scientific publications, participation in conferences, distinctions, awards, participation in international and national research programs, etc.) ▪ To what extent the PI has the necessary scientific expertise/experience and ability for the successful implementation of the research proposal ▪ PI's role in the implementation of the project 	
Criterion 2. Research Proposal	0.6
<p>A. Objectives, originality and potential impact of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity and cohesion of the Research Proposal objectives based on the Action's aim. ▪ Degree to which project results will support the development/advance/prospects of the relevant Social Sciences field and produce important benefits for the society. ▪ Degree to which new methods/approaches will be adopted/integrated/developed in addressing important challenges. ▪ Innovative nature and potential impact of the research proposal. ▪ Degree to which project results are used and disseminated as well as resulting data is managed. 	0.3

<p>B. Methodology and Implementation</p> <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 project implementation plan, time schedules and budget are necessary and justified. 	<p>0.3</p>
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The Evaluation Committee initially grades the evaluation criteria on a scale of 0 to 5 (per 0.5 points), as follows:

- **0 – Insufficient:** The proposal either fails to meet the criterion or cannot assess the criterion due to insufficient or incomplete information.
- **(0.5 – 1) – Weak:** The proposal does not sufficiently meet the criterion and/or there are inherent weaknesses.
- **(1.5 – 2) – Moderate:** The proposal meets the criterion in general but there are significant and substantial weaknesses.
- **(2.5 – 3) – Good:** The proposal meets the criterion at a good level but there is a number of shortcomings.
- **(3.5 – 4) – Very Good:** The proposal meets all aspects and dimensions of the criterion at a very good level but there is a small number of shortcomings.
- **(4.5 – 5) – Excellent:** The proposal meets all relevant aspects and dimensions of the criterion. Any shortcomings shall be classified as minor.

In case two or more Proposals receive the same overall score, priority is given to the Proposal that has received the highest score in the criterion "2. Research Proposal".

In order for a Proposal to be eligible for funding it should receive a minimum score (threshold) of **3.5** in each of the two Criteria separately but also in total.

Based on the above grading combined with the minimum grade (**3.5**), the proposals are ranked based on an A - B scale, as described in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Grading of Proposals

Grade	Description
A	The Proposal sufficiently meets all evaluation criteria and is recommended for funding.
B	The Proposal does not sufficiently meet all evaluation criteria and is not recommended for funding.

8.5 Possibility of partial budget approval

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

8.6 Verification of copies

In order to verify the accuracy of data and supporting documents submitted online through the Web Portal (either at the submission stage or at the implementation stage), H.F.R.I. conducts a sample check on at least five percent (5%) of the copies submitted by the beneficiaries during the immediately following quarter, requesting the assistance of the agencies or bodies that issued the original documents in line with paragraph 2 of article 11 of Law 2690/1999, as in force.

9. EVALUATION RESULTS

After the evaluation of the Proposal is completed, the results are communicated to the PI along with a personalised report, which includes the Proposal's evaluation (A or B) and the evaluation report of the Evaluation Committee.

PIs are entitled to submit a **substantiated objection solely on decision legality grounds** within a deadline of ten (10) days from the communication of the evaluation results. Objections are judged by a three-member Objection 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 Proposals, the H.F.R.I. Director issues the Funding Decision, in line with the available budget. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to petition for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeal.

Following the issuance of the Funding Decision, the potential beneficiary PI receives a letter via email, whereby they are invited to submit the necessary supporting documents to H.F.R.I., so that the Funding Award 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.

10. COMMUNICATION - INFORMATION

Detailed information and briefing on this Call will be provided by H.F.R.I.'s Department of Research Projects via email: researchdepartment@elidek.gr and by calling +30 210-6412410, +30 210-6412420.

The Call and its Management-Implementation Guide will be posted on H.F.R.I.'s website www.elidek.gr as well as on GSRI's website <https://gsri.gov.gr/>.

The Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation

Dr. Aikaterini Kouravelou