



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT  
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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **4TH CALL FOR H.F.R.I.'S RESEARCH PROJECT TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS**

**Version 1.0**

## LIST OF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 01. General

#### **Question 1: What is the aim of the “4th Call for H.F.R.I.’s Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers?”**

The Action aims to support young researchers with a PhD degree (hereinafter “Postdoctoral Researchers”) in the implementation of selected research projects (hereinafter “projects”) of high scientific quality and excellence.

#### **Question 2: How is a Postdoctoral Researcher (Post-Doc) defined?**

In the context of this Call, it is not required to meet the requirements of article 174 of Law 4957/2022, and the term “Postdoctoral Researcher” (hereinafter “PR”) means anyone who holds a doctoral degree regardless of whether he/she already has an employment relationship with an organization/institution.

#### **Question 3: What is the total budget of the Call?**

The public expenditure of the Call amounts to **9.250.000,00€**.

The available budget allocation per Scientific Area (hereinafter “S.A.”) will be determined by a decision made by the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council (hereinafter “S.C.”).

#### **Question 4: What is the duration of the suggested research Projects?**

The duration of the research Projects may span from **18 to 24 months**.

### 02. Terms and Conditions of Participation

#### **Question 1: Who is eligible to submit a Proposal as a Principal Investigator of a Project?**

Participation as Principal Investigators (hereinafter “PI”) of the Project is open to PhD holders who have obtained their PhD degree in Greece or abroad.

#### **Question 2: What are the conditions for the Proposal to be eligible?**

The conditions that must be met for the Proposal to be eligible are the following:

1. At the submission start date, no more than ten (10) years have elapsed since the PI’s promotion to PhD
2. The PR-PI has not received funding under the “3rd Call for H.F.R.I.’s Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers.”

The above conditions must be met cumulatively. Failure to meet them entails the ineligibility of the Proposal to be evaluated.

**Question 3: How do we calculate the maximum permitted time after obtaining the doctorate so that the Proposal can be eligible?**

According to the Call, for the Proposal to be eligible, no more than ten (10) years must have elapsed since the PI was awarded a doctorate on the submission start date. Therefore, those who have received their PhD degree from 15.05.2014 onwards are eligible, subject to any extension of the above period due to military service or pregnancy, as detailed in the Call.

**Question 4: Which Institutions can function as Host Institutions in the framework of the Action?**

According to Section 8.2 of the Call, Host Institutions (hereinafter "H.I.") are defined as:

- Greek Higher Educational Institutions (hereinafter "H.E.I."), as determined in Article 3 of Law 4957/2022 (A' 141), as in force;
- Research Centres-Institutes (hereinafter "R.C.-I.") under article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258), as in force;
- University Research Institutes (hereinafter "U.R.I."), i.e., private law legal entities that have been formed under the provisions of Law 2083/1992 (A' 159) and 3685/2008 (A' 148);
- Higher Military Educational Institutions (hereinafter "H.M.E.I.") under Law 3187/2003 (A' 233).

**Question 5: Can the different Faculties of the same H.E.I. be considered different Institutions?**

**No.** Faculties and different Faculty Departments of the same H.E.I., as well as different Departments/Institutes or laboratories of the same Research Centre-Institute, are not considered different Institutions.

**Question 6: Is there a limit to the maximum number of Proposals in which an Academic or Research Institution can participate as an H.I.?**

**No.** The Call does not set any restriction as to the number of Proposals in which an Institution may participate as an H.I.

**Question 7: What about avoiding double funding?**

According to the Call, a prerequisite for funding the Project is that it has not been or is not funded in any way by any other Institution for all or part of its scope.

**Question 8: How do we calculate the extension of the maximum permitted time after obtaining the diplomas due to military service or pregnancy?**

The maximum permitted time after obtaining the doctorate is extended due to military service or pregnancy as follows:

If the PR-PI served his military service after obtaining the doctoral degree, the time elapsed since obtaining it (10 years) is added accordingly. Similarly, the same applies to female candidates who have borne a child after obtaining their doctorate. Therefore, to calculate the maximum time allowed since obtaining the doctorate, the corresponding period (pregnancy or military service) should be deducted from the time elapsed since obtaining the doctorate.

**Question 9: What about the fulfillment of military service of male candidates?**

Greek male candidates must have completed their mandatory military service, been legally exempt from it, or received military service deferment. The duration of the deferment must cover the entire duration of the research Project implementation. **These conditions must have been fulfilled by the time the Funding Award Decision (hereinafter "F.A.D.") is issued and not at the time of submitting the Proposal.** In case the conditions are not fulfilled, the Proposal cannot be funded.

**Question 10: What about those who have successfully defended their thesis but have not been declared a doctor yet?**

According to the Call, Participation is also open to those who, by the deadline for submission of the Proposal, have proven to have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but have not yet been awarded a doctorate, provided that they submit a relevant certificate from the competent department of the Institution concerned.

**Question 11: What about those who have doctorates from foreign universities?**

According to par. 4 Article 304 of Law 4957/2022 (as in force), recognition of doctoral degrees from foreign universities by the DOATAP is no longer required.

**Question 12: How many proposals can the PR-PI submit?**

According to the Call, the candidate may submit only one (1) Proposal.

**Question 13: Can a PR-PI whose Proposal was funded under the "3rd Call for H.F.R.I.'s Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers" also submit a Proposal in this Call?**

**No.** PR-PIs whose Proposal has been funded under the "3rd Call for H.F.R.I.'s Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers" are not eligible to participate in this Call.

**Question 14: What happens if the PR-PI is appointed as a Faculty member in an H.E.I. or as a Researcher at a research/technological institution in the country during research Project evaluation or implementation?**

If the PR-PI is appointed as a faculty member in an H.E.I. or as a Researcher in a research/technological institution of the Country, **he/she may continue the implementation of the Project as a PI without receiving any remuneration** from the date of issuance of the act of appointment, being entitled to travel and dissemination allowance eligibility for actions directly related to the physical scope of the Project.

**Question 15: What happens if the PR-PI occupies a Faculty member or Researcher position abroad?**

**The Proposal cannot be funded** if the PR-PI is a faculty member or Researcher in a foreign educational, research or technological Institution at any time before the date of the Funding Award Decision (hereinafter "F.A.D."). In case this happens during the implementation of the Project, a Funding Revocation Decision is issued by the Director of H.F.R.I.

**Question 16: Can the PR-PI hold another employment during the funding of the Proposal?**

**Yes.** According to the Call, there is no such restriction.

**Question 17: Is a public sector employee with a PhD who has taken or intends to take unpaid leave for the implementation of the Project eligible for funding?**

**No.** According to the Call, at the issuance of the Funding Award Decision and throughout the funded Project, the PR-PI is not allowed to: be civil servants or dependent employees with open-ended employment agreements with the State, the wider public sector [article 14 par. 1a) of Law 4270/2014] or the private sector whether or not he/she is on leave without pay.

**Question 18: What happens if the PR-PI is appointed in the wider public or private sector during Project implementation? Can the Project proceed? Can the Project proceed?**

**No.** The Project cannot proceed, and a Funding Revocation Decision is issued by the Director of the H.F.R.I.

**Question 19: What does the Letter of Intent of the H.I. include?**

The H.I.'s letter of intent to cooperate should state the H.I.'s intention to cooperate with the PR-PI in the context of implementing the proposed Project. The letter should be signed by the Director/Research Director of the laboratory or by the Chair of the Faculty Department in which the Project will be implemented. Instructions for drafting the letter of intent to collaborate with H.I. are included in the model documents posted on the H.F.R.I. website ( [link](#) ) and the submission platform ( [link](#) ).

### **03. Budget and Cost Categories**

**Question 1: Is there a limit to the percentage of the different cost categories that can amount to the total budget?**

The above percentage restrictions are detailed by cost category in *Table 2: Funding percentages per cost category* (Section 9) of the Call.

**Question 2: What is provided for the remuneration of the PR-PI?**

According to the Call (*Section 9.1.1.1*), for PR-PI, the gross monthly remuneration is calculated as follows:

1. In the case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, the monthly gross remuneration is determined in accordance with the provisions of Chapter B of Law 4354/2015, as in force, and is at least equal to the thresholds set in Article 18 par. 12a of Law 4310/2014.
2. In the case of a Project lease agreement, monthly remuneration may amount to up to **2,000.00€** (including all contributions, regardless of human effort ), plus VAT, and in accordance with the thresholds set in article 18 par. 12a of Law 4310/2014.

**Question 3: Are the amounts of remuneration net or gross?**

In the case of a fixed-term private law employment contract, the amounts of the fees provided are gross amounts on which all legal deductions and employee contributions are calculated, which constitute eligible costs for the Project.

In the case of Project lease agreements, Value Added Tax (VAT) is added to the above amount (2,000.00€), if provided for by law, constituting an eligible cost for the Project.

**Question 4: Can PhD and Postdoctoral Candidates be remunerated by a compensatory scholarship under the Call?**

**No.** The Call does not provide for the award of compensatory scholarships to PhD or Postdoctoral Candidates. According to the Call, PhD and Postdoctoral Candidates are remunerated on the basis of project lease contracts or fixed-term employment contracts, and their remuneration is subject to the provisions of Section 9.1.1.1 thereof.

**Question 5: Can the provision of services by an Academic or Research Institution or company in Greece or abroad be considered an eligible cost? For instance, is it possible for private laboratories in the country to provide services in the context of carrying out experiments necessary for the implementation of the Project?**

The provision of services by Academic or Research Institutions and/or private companies are considered *“Third-party costs”* (Section 9.1.4 of the Call).

**Question 6: Is the cost of using the infrastructure of a domestic and/or foreign research Institution considered eligible?**

Yes. The cost of using the infrastructure/resources of a domestic or foreign research Institution is an eligible cost and is mentioned in the *“Third-party costs”* (Section 9.1.4 of the Call).

**Question 7: Is the cost of acquiring equipment eligible?**

**No.** According to the Call, no provision is made for expenditure on the purchase of research equipment.

**Question 8: Which costs can be included in “Dissemination and travel costs”?**

Travel costs may include travel, accommodation, daily away-from-home allowance, mileage allowance, conference registration costs, etc., as specified in Subparagraph D, “Costs for Travelling in and out of State” of Paragraph D of Article 2 of Law 4336/2015 (A’ 94), as in force.

**Question 9: Are the travel costs of guest speakers in the context of a seminar/conference eligible?**

**Yes.** The travel costs of guest speakers are eligible and are included in the cost category *“Dissemination and travel costs”* (Section 9.1.3 of the Call) on condition that they are provided for in the approved P.T.D. and carried out in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph D, “Costs for Travelling in and out of State” of Paragraph D of article 2 of Law 4336/2015 (A’ 94), as in force, and the relevant supporting documents are submitted.

**Question 10: In the case of third-party services where the subcontractor has been declared at the time of submission of the Proposal, is a competitive tender procedure required?**

For costs relating to the provision of services by third parties (through contracts by natural and legal persons) and, in particular, in the case of public procurement contracts where the beneficiaries are public or public sector entities and where they act as contracting authorities, the procedures laid down in Law 4412/2016 (A’ 147) on “Public Contracts for Projects, Procurement and Services,” as in force, and Law 4957/2022 (Chapter KZ and especially Article 250), regardless of whether the subcontractor has been stated during the submission.

**Question 11: Are travel costs for members of the Advisory Committee eligible?**

**Yes.** According to the Call, travel costs (conferences, workshops, other travel related to the Project) are eligible, provided that they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph D, “Costs for Travelling in and out of State” of Paragraph D of article 2 of Law 4336/2015 (A’ 94), as in force, and the relevant supporting documents are submitted.

**04. Submission and Evaluation**

**Question 1: How many phases of submission and evaluation are necessary for the completion of this Call?**

The submission of all documents and supporting documents under this Call will be conducted in one (1) phase. Similarly, the submitted Proposals will be evaluated in one (1) phase, as specified in Section 11 of the Call.

**Question 2: Who is responsible for the submission of the Proposal to the H.F.R.I. Web Portal?**

As specified in the Call, the PR-PI of the Project is solely responsible for the submission of the Proposal to the Web Portal of the H.F.R.I. (<https://portal.hfri.gr/>).

**Question 3: What about the choice of Scientific Area?**

The selection of the Scientific Area is the sole responsibility of the PR-PI, and it is not possible to change it after the deadline for submission of proposals and/or to transfer a proposal from one Scientific Area to another during the evaluation. It should be noted that the relevance of the Proposal to the Scientific Area in which it is submitted is subject to evaluation (see Criterion 2A of the Call).

**Question 4: Will there be templates available for submission?**

Templates for submission are posted on the H.F.R.I. website ([link](#)) and are available on the submission platform ([link](#)). The use of the templates is mandatory.

**Question 5: How is Part A filled in? Will there be a template available?**

**No.** There will be no template for Part A.

Part A is to be completed by entering information/uploading documents in the corresponding fields of the H.F.R.I. Web Portal.

Indicatively, the following information should be entered:

General information of the Proposal (S.A./scientific field/subfield, Title, Acronym, Proposal Summary, Keywords, Project duration, Detailed budget and cost documentation, Work packages, Deliverables, Milestones),

PI details (Full name, contact details, VAT ID No., etc.)

H.I. details (School, Department, Institute, etc.)

**Question 6: In which part of the Proposal is the budget mentioned?**

The budget by category of expenditure, as well as the documentation of the expenditure, is submitted in Part A in the corresponding fields of the H.F.R.I. Web Portal. It should be noted that any budget information submitted in Section B will not be taken into account during the evaluation.

**Question 7: Where does the minimum score required to make a Proposal eligible for funding (A assessment) apply?**

According to Section 11.4 of the Call, for a Proposal to be eligible for funding, it must receive a threshold score of **70** in each of the two main Criteria (1. "Principal Investigator" and 2. "Research Proposal") separately and in total.

**Question 8: How is the final evaluation of the proposals at A and B determined?**

Proposals are ranked A and B based on their overall score combined with the minimum score per criterion and in total.

**Question 9: How are the results communicated to the candidate beneficiaries?**

The results are communicated to the PR-PI of the Proposals via the H.F.R.I. Web Portal, where the ME-PI can access the evaluation report with the comments of the Evaluation Committee, the score (numerical) and the classification of their Proposal (A or B).