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



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Notice for NEH – HFRI Joint Funding Opportunity

**U. S. – Greece Program
for Collaborative Research in the Humanities**

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**The Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation,
having regard to:**

1. Law 4429/2016 (A' 199) on the “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions,” as in force, especially Articles 2 par. 1, 5 par. 2-9, 8 par. 9 and 10 and 9 par. 7(b) thereof;
2. Decision no. 195245 issued by the Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Economy and Administrative Reform on “Internal Regulation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)” (B' 5252), as in force, and especially Articles 33-52 thereof;
3. Law 4957/2022 on “New Horizons in Higher Educational Institutions (H.E.I.): Strengthening the quality, functionality and connection of H.E.I. with society and other provisions” (A' 141), as in force;
4. Law 4310/2014 on “Research, Technological Development and Innovation and other provisions” (A' 258), as in force; 5. Law 3187/2003 on “Higher Military Educational Institutions (H.M.E.I.)” (A' 233), as in force;
5. Decision No. 35627/31.03.2021 issued by the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment on “Establishing the Scientific Council of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation” (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Institutions No. 246);
6. Decision No. 38750/12.04.2022 issued by the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment on the appointment of Dr. Aikaterini Kouravelou as the Director of H.F.R.I. (Issue for Specially Positioned Employees and Administrative Bodies of Public or Broader Public Sector Institutions No. 335);
7. The Commission Notice on the concept of state aid referred to in Article 107 par. 1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016/C 262/01);
8. The Commission Notice on the “Framework on state aid for research and development and innovation” (2022/C 414/01);
9. Joint decision No. 124433/22.12.2023 issued by the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment on the “Amendment of Ministerial Decisions No. 29898/26.02.2019, 133182/20.12.2019, 104217/1.11.2022, and approval of the annual programming of activities and allocation of resources of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for the year 2024” (B' 7724);
10. The Agreement of 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank;
11. The Memorandum of Understanding between the U. S. National Endowment for the Humanities and the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation, executed on 11.09.2024 and the FY 2025 Management Plan for the MoU;
12. 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 following its 16th amendment by Decision No. 80430/25.01.2024 issued at the 173rd Meeting of H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council (IUN: Ψ8EB46M77Γ-ΨTE);

13. The fact that the HFRI budget of the Action is borne by the budget of HFRI and, in particular, is covered by the resources coming from the 15.07.2016 Contract of the Hellenic Republic with the European Investment Bank;
14. Decision No. 125297-27-12-2023/27.12.2023 issued by the Minister of Development and Investment on the “Budget Approval of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.), for the fiscal year 2024” (IUN: 6K0E46NΛΣΞ-YN4);
15. Decision No. 86400/17.5.2024 issued at the 173rd Meeting of H.F.R.I.’s Scientific Council on the “Detailed budget 3rd amendment for the fiscal year 2024” (IUN: 69BΓ46M77Γ-9Δ3);
16. Decision No. 53660/13.09.2022 issued at the 131st Meeting of H.F.R.I.’s Scientific Council on the “Evaluation of proposals/applications within the context of the actions of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation” (IUN: ΩMI246M77Γ-OΞ8), as in force;
17. Decision No. 94480/26.09.2024 issued at the 187th Meeting of H.F.R.I.’s Scientific Council on the approval of the “U. S. – Greece Program for Collaborative Research in the Humanities”.

ANNOUNCES

A Call for Collaborative Proposals under the **U. S. – Greece Program for Collaborative Research in the Humanities** program within the framework established by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Humanities Research Cooperation between the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Hellenic Foundation of Research and Innovation (HFRI) and **invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Proposals.**

1. GENERAL CALL INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES

The **U. S. – Greece Program for Collaborative Research in the Humanities** aims at developing collaborations in Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences between U. S. and Greek scholars through the implementation of joint research Projects whereby Greek scholars may receive funding from HFRI while U. S. scholars may receive funding from the NEH.

Proposals must be submitted to NEH by an eligible U. S. Institution through Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>) under the NEH Collaborative Research programs “**Planning International Collaboration**” or “**Convening**” and must comply with the requirements of the relevant program according to the guidelines or program description provided in the corresponding NEH program webpage (<https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants>).

A separate copy of the Proposal must be submitted by the Greek applicant to HFRI portal within one week of the NEH submission deadline.

The “**Planning International Collaboration**” program supports initial meetings to brainstorm, plan and establish new scholarly collaborations. Examples of funded activities include, but are not limited to, research time to correspond and exchange ideas through videoconferencing; joint travel to a relevant site, archive, library, or collection to investigate a project’s feasibility; exploratory workshops or working group meetings for collaborators; and writing time to complete a plan for future research and publication.

The expected outputs of the “**Planning International Collaboration**” program may include:

- a written plan for collaborative research activities and future print publications or digital scholarly projects;
- livestreamed or recorded video of workshops;
- web-posted papers;
- podcasts, blogs, and discussion boards.

The “**Convening**” program supports a single scholarly conference, symposium, or seminar that is open to members of an intellectual community broader than the invited attendees, or up to two working group meetings that advance a single project and may be restricted to primary collaborators.

The expected outputs of the “**Convening**” program may include:

- livestreamed or recorded video of the event;
- web-posted papers;

- conference papers intended for subsequent edited volumes or peer-reviewed articles;
- podcasts, blogs, and discussion boards.

For further information regarding NEH Collaborative Research Programs you may visit the corresponding NEH program website (<https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants>).

The collaboration under both programs must be between Humanities scholars and Proposals must be in the fields of Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences.

In order to avoid activities that are not funded under the program please consult “Funding Restrictions” section in the NEH [Collaborative Research Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) available in the NEH program website

Please note that Projects involving in-person meetings between U. S. and Greek collaborators are particularly encouraged in order to foster deeper research cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations.

Proposals will be reviewed using NEH’s merit review process as detailed in the corresponding program Notice of Funding Opportunity. HFRI will confirm the Proposal’s eligibility at the onset of the process and assess that the Greek budget is justified.

2. AVAILABLE BUDGET AND PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The total budget for the current Call amounts to **250,000.00€** committed by HFRI for the funding of the Greek scholars and **\$500,000.00** committed by NEH for the funding of the U. S. scholars.

Award amounts per Project and periods of performance are shown below in *Table 1*.

Table 1. Award amounts and period of performance

AWARD	NEH FUNDING	HFRI FUNDING	PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE
Planning International Collaboration	Up to \$25,000.00	Up to 25.000,00€	6 – 12 months
Convening	Up to \$50.000,00	Up to 50.000,00€	6 – 12 months

Please note that HFRI will support the Greek scholars for the duration approved by the NEH for the U. S. scholars. Moreover, the amount requested in Euros from the HFRI must be less than or equal to the amount requested in U.S. Dollars from the NEH.

This will be an open Call with annual cut-off dates until the exhaustion of available funds and thus scholars will have the opportunity to submit their proposal in annual basis in dates that will be announced by NEH and HFRI.

3. AVOIDING THE RISK OF DOUBLE FUNDING

A Project may receive support provided that the funded activities have not and/or do not receive support from any other Fund or Union instrument, or any other national or international program in order to avoid “double funding”.

4. RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Beneficiaries must demonstrate a behavior in compliance with ethical principles including the higher standards of research integrity and in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or any other research misconduct and with respect for scientific truth, academic freedom, human dignity, the environment, intellectual and industrial property. Any case of scientific misconduct may lead to rejection of the Proposal or revocation of the funding award.

5. STATE AID RULES IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

Funding under this Call is outside the scope of EU State aid control and amounts to a percentage of 100% funding when the Host Institutions of the Projects are “Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organizations” (“Research Organizations”) and engage in activities of a non-economic nature as specifically mentioned below:

According to the definition of point 16 (ff) of the European Commission Notice titled “Framework on state aid for research and development and innovation” (2022/C 414/01), a “Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organization” or “Research Organization” is defined as an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer.

In addition, according to point 20 of the above Notice, the following activities are generally non-economic in nature:

- (a) primary activities of research organisations and research infrastructures, in particular:
 - (i) education for more and better skilled human resources. In line with case-law (35) and decisional practice of the Commission (36), and as explained in the Notice on the notion of State aid and the SGEI Communication (37), public education organised within the national educational system, predominantly or entirely funded by the State and supervised by the State is considered as a non-economic activity (38);
 - (ii) independent R&D for more knowledge and better understanding, including collaborative R&D where the research organisation or research infrastructure engages in effective collaboration (39);

- (iii) wide dissemination of research results on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis, for example through teaching, open-access databases, open publications or open software;
- (b) knowledge transfer activities, where they are conducted either by the research organisation or research infrastructure (including their departments or subsidiaries) or jointly with, or on behalf of other such entities, and where all profits from those activities are reinvested in the primary activities of the research organisation or research infrastructure. The non-economic nature of those activities is not prejudiced by contracting the provision of corresponding services to third parties by way of open tenders.

Furthermore, where a Research Organization is involved in economic and non-economic activities, its funding falls within the scope of the state aid provisions to the extent that it covers costs related to its financial activities. In this instance, for the public funding of non-economic activities not to be considered state aid, the two types of activities, as well as their costs, financing and revenues from the provision of services or the sale of goods, must be clearly separated and accounted for, so that the subsidy for the economic activity is not effectively covered by the subsidy for the non-economic activity (cross-subsidy). The annual financial statements of the Institution concerned may constitute evidence of compliance with the planned allocation of expenditure, financing and revenue. It should be noted that the lack of a clear separation brings all the activities of the Institution within the scope of the state aid rules.

According to point 21 of the Notice: *“Where a research organisation or research infrastructure is used for both economic and non-economic activities, public funding falls under State aid rules only insofar as it covers costs linked to the economic activities. Where the research organisation or research infrastructure is used almost exclusively for a non-economic activity, its funding may fall outside State aid rules in its entirety, provided that the economic use remains purely ancillary, that is to say corresponds to an activity which is directly related to and necessary for the operation of the research organisation or research infrastructure or intrinsically linked to its main non-economic use, and which is limited in scope. For the purposes of this framework, the Commission will consider this to be the case where the economic activities consume exactly the same inputs (such as material, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities and the capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20 % of the relevant entity’s overall annual capacity”.*

Furthermore, the European Commission considers other institutions such as a) Public Services constituting part of the Central Administration as defined in Greek Law No 4270/2014 (A' 143), Article 14, par. 1στ, b) Legal Persons governed by Public Law (such as Museums with independent legal Institution, Public Hospitals, the Academy of Athens, the National Library, the National Gallery, etc.) and c) Legal Persons governed by Private Law, established by Law or Presidential Decree and subsidized by the State, albeit not falling under the definition of a Research Organization, may be funded by analogy as Research Organizations and the funding may be considered as non-state aid under point 19 of the above mentioned Notice, and may receive 100% funding for all eligible costs, provided that they meet the following cumulative criteria:

1. The Institution's principal activities are not economic, in accordance with the European Commission's Notice on the concept of state aid (2016/C 262/01).
2. There is a provision for research activity in the Institution's Articles of Association.
3. The research results from this research Project will be widely disseminated on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis, for instance, through teaching, databases, publications or open-access software.
4. Any resulting profits will be reinvested in the Institution's non-financial activities.
5. Separate accounting records will be kept for this infrastructure, as well as separate accounting records for the institution's non-financial and (if any) financial activities.

6. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

For U. S. scholars to be eligible, their organization must be established in the United States or its jurisdictions as one of the following:

- a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- an accredited institution of higher education (public or nonprofit);
- a state or local government or one of their agencies;
- a federally recognized Native American Tribal government.

U. S. scholars must comply with NEH eligibility rules and meet the program's requirements as described in the [Collaborative Research Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

For further information regarding U. S. scholar's eligibility please visit NEH website.

Greek scholars must comply with the following in order to be eligible:

6.1 HFRI eligible Host Institutions

Eligible Institutions for receiving HFRI funding are the following:

- Greek Higher Educational Institutions, as determined in Article 3 of Greek Law No 4957/2022, as in force;
- Higher Military Educational Institutions under Greek Law No 3187/2003 (A' 233);
- Research Centers – Institutes under article 13a of Greek Law No 4310/2014 (A' 258), as in force;
- University Research Institutes, i.e., private law legal entities that have been formed under the provisions of Greek Law No 2083/1992 (A' 159) and 3685/2008 (A' 148);
- the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy;
- the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research.

The list of HFRI eligible Host Institutions will be available for selection on the online submission platform as a drop-down menu.

In case of funding the Greek scholars must submit an Host Institution Letter of Commitment.

6.2 Greek co-Project Director (PI)

Eligible Greek scholars [Principal Investigators (PIs) for the Greek part of the Project] are Faculty members and Researchers working in Greek Universities and Research Centers, affiliated with the Greek Host Institution.

Retired and/or Emeriti Professors and Researchers may participate in the present Call only as research team members.

Please note that Greek scholars should not be listed as co-Project Directors on the NEH Cover Sheet nor in the NEH budget, although **they should be described as co-directors or key collaborators** in the Narrative section and in any list of project personnel of the NEH application.

Greek PIs must be Humanities scholars.

Greek scholars may be part of only one NEH – HFRI award at any given time.

** Any limits for U. S. Scholars on the number of proposals and awards are described in the Collaborative Research Notice of Opportunity (NOFO).*

6.3 Composition of the Greek Research Team

The Greek research team (“RT”) may involve Academic and Research personnel (e.g. faculty members, researchers, postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates, postgraduate students), as well as any other personnel working either in the Host Institution or any other public or private sector organization (e.g. scientific associates, technicians, auxiliary staff, etc.)

There is no limitation regarding the maximum number of the Greek research team members.

Greek research team members’ CVs must be provided in the NEH proposal submission and must be prepared in accordance with the standard biographical sketch format described in the Collaborative Research Notice of Funding Opportunity of NEH.

It is necessary to name all research team members when submitting the Proposal.

Greek research team members may be part of only one NEH – HFRI proposal at any given time.

7. Estimated Greek Budget and HFRI Cost Eligibility

The amount requested (in euros) from HFRI must be less than or equal to the amount requested in U. S. dollars from NEH.

The budget requested from HFRI must be included (in U. S. dollars) as an Appendix in the NEH submission along with a justification of the costs clarifying how the amounts requested from HFRI for each line item of the budget will support the achievement of the Proposal's objectives.

The estimated budget requested from HFRI must be:

- sufficiently detailed to permit identification, monitoring and checking of the costs;
- balanced, i.e. total income and total Project costs must be equal;
- consistent with the work plan;
- expressed in Euros¹.

Costs eligible for an HFRI grant are those that are:

- incurred during the duration of the Project;
- indicated in the estimated budget of the Project;
- necessary for the implementation of the Project which is the subject of the award;
- identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- complying with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

For the verification of cost eligibility, it is necessary to comply with and provide the relevant documents, as defined in the "Guide to Eligibility and Certification of Costs under HFRI Calls" which will be available on the Foundation's website.

7.1 HFRI Eligible Direct Costs

Eligible direct costs may include the following categories:

7.1.1 Personnel Costs

The PI and the research team members travelling in the U.S. for in - person meetings explicitly for the purposes of the Project are remunerated with a maximum of one (1) person - month rate cost (actual rate cost of the Host Institution).

¹ In the Greek budget copy provided as Appendix in the NEH application the budget must be in U. S. dollars.

7.1.2 Consumables (Materials and Supplies)

Costs for consumables are eligible when pertaining exclusively to Project implementation. Indicatively, they involve the purchase of direct consumption materials. 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 requires an unusual amount of relevant costs for its implementation. In this case, sufficient justification along with the necessary documentation must be provided.

For the procurement of consumables, the HI must apply the provisions of Greek Law No 4412/2016 on “*Public Contracts for Projects, Procurement and Services* (adaptation to Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU)” (OGG A’ 147), as in force, when considered contracting authority within the meaning of said law, and the provisions of Greek Law No 4957/2022 (OGG A’ 141, Chapter 27 and in particular Article 250 thereof), as in force.

7.1.3 Travel and Dissemination

This cost category includes expenses related to dissemination and publicity activities. In the framework of the current Call eligible costs may include costs for organizing and conducting workshops and/or conferences, 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 Project.

Furthermore, this category also includes costs related to travel expenses (travel, accommodation, subsistence expenses etc.). This category also includes as eligible costs the travel costs of non-remunerated members of the RT.

Costs in this category are incurred in line with the provisions of Subparagraph D “Costs for Travelling in and out of State” of Paragraph D of Article 2 of Greek Law No 4336/2015 (OGG A’ 94) as in force.

It is noted that in case of cancellation or postponement of meetings or travelling for reasons of force majeure, the costs resulting from the cancellation of tickets, participation, accommodation and/or organization of relevant events may be considered eligible and burden the Project budget, provided that they were incurred at a time when the Host Institution could not have foreseen the cancellation/postponement. Furthermore, it must be ensured that costs or part thereof are not refunded from other sources. Any amounts refunded (e.g. by insurance coverage, air carrier, accommodation, etc.) are not considered eligible costs.

7.1.4 Other

This category includes costs that cannot be included in the other eligible cost categories.

Indicative costs may include: distinct telecommunications costs, repair costs for important equipment, etc. These costs are considered eligible, provided they are described in the Proposal along with a relevant justification related to the successful implementation of the Project. Eligible are also

considered costs of purchasing accessories and replacement parts, labour costs and possible shipping costs.

For the purposes of incurring the costs of this paragraph, the Host Institutions are obliged to apply the provisions of Greek Law No 4412/2016 on “Public Contracts for Projects, Procurement and Services (adaptation to Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU)” (OGG A’ 147), as in force, when considered contracting authorities within the meaning of said law, and the provisions of Greek Law No 4957/2022 (OGG A’ 141, Chapter 27 and in particular Article 250 thereof), as in force.

7.2 Indirect Costs

This category includes the management and operating costs of the Host Institution, which are not directly related to the implementation of the Project and are calculated in relation to the Project’s direct costs. These indirect costs include for example the economic management support, office supplies (stationery, PC consumables, etc.) and energy supplies, telecommunications services, etc.

Indirect Costs are eligible without the need to provide the corresponding receipts/invoices and must be equal to 5% of the total direct costs.

8. Proposal Submission

Proposals must represent an integrated collaborative effort and must include a description of the collaboration, including an explanation of the role(s) of the Greek PI(s) and RT members and an explanation of how the U. S. – Greek research team will work together. Furthermore, it must describe the significance and impact of the proposed research, including the value of the international collaboration and the anticipated benefits to both the U. S. and Greece.

Please note that Projects involving in-person meetings between U. S. and Greek RT members are particularly encouraged in order to foster deeper research cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations.

Proposals must be submitted to NEH by an eligible U. S. Institution using Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>) and must comply with the requirements in the relevant program guidelines or program description provided on the NEH-HFRI participating programs webpage.

The NEH Proposals must include the documents requested in the Collaborative Research NOFO. Additionally, they must include as an Appendix a copy of the proposed Greek budget requested from HFRI in English using U. S. Dollars and a budget justification that explains the amounts requested.

Greek applicants must submit a separate copy of the NEH Proposal to HFRI Portal within one (1) week of the NEH submission deadline along with the additional information described in the following sections (8.1 & 8.2).

8.1 Part A: General Information

Part A includes the Greek PI's (co-Project Director) details and general information of the Proposal, including the title, acronym, keywords, duration of the Project and the (short) abstract of the Proposal².

More specifically, the following information shall be filled in in the corresponding fields:

General information of the Proposal

- Title (in Greek and English)
- Acronym
- Abstract (up to 2000 characters, in Greek and English)
- Keywords (up to 10)
- Project duration (in months)
- Detailed budget and justification of expenses
- Work Packages
- Deliverables
- Milestones

Greek PI's details (Full name, affiliation, contact details, Tax ID, etc.)

Greek Host Institution (School, Department, Institute, etc.)

A table of ethics must also be completed where possible ethical aspects of the Project may be identified. This table should be filled in even if there are no deontology issues.

Information in Section A must be in English (apart from the Proposal's title and abstract, which are submitted both in English and in Greek).

8.2 Part B: NEH Proposal

In Part B, a copy of the NEH Proposal must be submitted as a single pdf file along with a proof of the successful NEH submission (i.e. a copy of the automatically generated confirmation email sent to the U. S. scholars upon NEH submission).

The Proposal is submitted by the Greek PI exclusively online via the HFRI's web portal

(<https://portal.hfri.gr/>) within one (1) week after the NEH submission deadline.

NEH submission deadline November 20th, 2024, 23.59 (Eastern Time Zone)

HFRI submission deadline November 27th, 2024, 13.00 (Athens Time Zone)

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

² 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 be published and therefore must be brief and precise, not including confidential information

9. EVALUATION

Once Proposals are submitted, NEH and HFRI will separately review the eligibility of the Proposals and inform each other of the results. In order to proceed for evaluation and be considered for funding, a Proposal must be eligible for both NEH and HFRI funding.

Eligible Proposals will be reviewed using NEH's merit review process as detailed in the corresponding program NOFO. HFRI will assess the Proposals in two separate stages: a) the admissibility and eligibility of the Proposals in Stage 1, and the justification of the Greek budget requested from HFRI for the NEH fundable Proposals in Stage 2.

9.1 Evaluation Committee

For the assessment of the Proposals, an Evaluation Committee comprised of acclaimed scientists shall be established upon decision of the HFRI's Scientific Council. The Committee members hold the qualifications related to the scope of the Project to be evaluated, are selected in line with the provisions of Article 5(6) of Law 4429/2016, as amended and in force, and are nominated by the H.F.R.I.'s Scientific Council.

9.2 Confidentiality

The whole process is governed by rules of confidentiality. The persons involved in any step of the evaluation procedure (i.e. evaluation committee members) owe full confidentiality before, during and after the evaluation, as to the entire evaluation process and are obliged to sign a confidentiality and non-conflict of interest declaration.

9.3 Stage 1: HFRI admissibility and eligibility assessment

HFRI will assess the completeness of the Proposals (submission of all required data and supporting documents as specified in the Call). Incomplete Proposals will not proceed to further assessment.

Eligibility assessment includes checking that the Proposals meet the eligibility conditions set in the Call, that their content is in line with the Call's description; or/and involve the right participants or is in line with limitations as well as other terms of this Call, as described in detail in Section 7 herein.

Furthermore, the fulfilment of the following conditions is checked:

1. The proposed Project constitutes an "R&D project" as defined in point 16 (dd) of the European Commission Communication "Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation" (2022/C 414/01);
2. The Proposal falls within the concept of a non-economic activity in accordance with point 20 of the abovementioned (1) Communication;
3. a. The Host Institution is a "research and knowledge dissemination organization" according to the definition of point 16 (ff) of the abovementioned (1) Communication or

b. the Host Institution is a legal person governed by public law/legal person governed by private law that has been established by law or presidential decree and is subsidized by the State and may be financed by analogy as a “research and knowledge dissemination organization”, while the funding may be considered as non-state aid under point 19 of the above (under 1) Communication. Furthermore, it may receive 100% funding for all eligible costs, because the following conditions are met:

ba. Their primary activities are not economic, according to the European Commission’s Communication on the concept of state aid (2016/C 262/01).

bb. There is a provision for research activity in the Host Institution’s articles of association.

bc. Research results from the Project will be widely disseminated on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis (e.g. through teaching, databases, publications, open access software, etc.).

bd. Any resulting profits will be reinvested in the Host Institution’s non-economic activities.

be. There will be separate accounting monitoring for the use of the specific infrastructure as well as separate accounting monitoring of the non-economic and (if any) economic activities of the Host Institution.

4. In case the Host Institution conducts activities of economic and non-economic nature, in order for the public funding of non-economic activities not to be considered state aid, both types of activities as well as the costs, the funding and their revenues must be clearly separated and monitored by an accountant, so that cross-subsidization of the economic activity is effectively avoided, i.e. the subsidization of the economic activity is not covered by the subsidization of the non-economic activity (cross-subsidization).

Despite 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.

9.4 Stage 2: Budget Assessment

Proposals will be reviewed by the NEH as detailed in the corresponding program NOFO.

NEH-fundable proposals will not be re-evaluated by HFRI in terms of Scientific Quality, Significance/Impact and Methodology (Work plan/Collaboration), but instead, in Stage 2 HFRI will assess if the requested budget is reasonable in relation to the activities of the Greek collaborators. The fulfilment of the above criteria will be scored with A or B, whereby for the Greek effort of an NEH-fundable proposal to be supported by HFRI the proposal is required to receive a positive score (A). The Evaluation Committee, may partially approve or amend the proposed Greek budget, taking into account the terms and restrictions of this Call.

10. EVALUATION RESULTS

The NEH will notify U. S. scholars as described in the Collaborative Research Notice of Funding Opportunity.

After the completion of each assessment Stage, HFRI will notify Greek PIs via email and provide them access to the Committee’s report via HFRI portal. Following their notification, Greek PIs are entitled to lodge a substantiated objection on legality grounds within a deadline of ten (10) days from the notification of the results. Objections are judged by a three-member Committee, which shall decide within an exclusive deadline of ten (10) days (Article 5, par. 8 of Greek Law No 4429/2016). The objection committee’s decision will be communicated to the person who lodged the objection.

Following the completion of Stage 2 of the assessment, HFRI’s Director issues the Award decision (list of the fundable projects), in line with the available budget. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to a petition for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeals.

Following the publication of the Award Decision beneficiaries are invited to submit the necessary supporting documents to the HFRI portal in order to proceed for funding.

HFRI will monitor the activities of the Project implemented by the Greek research team, according to the provisions of HFRI’s Internal Rules of Operation as well as the Call’s Implementation Guide. However, requests for changes in awards will be discussed by NEH and HFRI before a joint decision is made. Additionally, awardees are expected to submit duplicate copies of documents (i.e. Progress reports, revised budgets and work plans etc.) to both NEH and HFRI.

Finally, awardees will be required to acknowledge both NEH and HFRI in any reports or publications resulting from the award.

11. VERIFICATION OF COPIES

In order to confirm the accuracy of data and supporting documents submitted online through the HFRI Portal (either at the submission stage or at the implementation stage), HFRI shall conduct a sample check on at least five percent (5%) of the copies submitted by the beneficiaries, 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.

12. COMMUNICATION – INFORMATION

Detailed information and briefing on this Call will be provided by the HFRI’s Research Projects Department via email: researchdepartment@elidek.gr and/or by calling +30 210-6412410, +30 210-6412420.

The Call will be posted on HFRI’s website www.elidek.gr as well as on GSRI’s website <https://gsri.gov.gr/>.