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ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ



27 January 2025

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Participation of Cypriot Startups in the "4YFN 2025" Event, Barcelona, 03 - 06 March 2025

The **Research and Innovation Foundation** (RIF) announces a **Call for Expression of Interest** for the selection of Cypriot start-ups to participate in the **4YFN 2025** (<https://www.4yfn.com/>) Event, which will take place in Barcelona, on 03 – 06 March 2025.

4YFN 2025 is a festival-conference that attracts thousands of start-ups and investors and offers opportunities for promotion, attract customers and network with more than 1,000 investors and other businesses.

Cyprus' participation in **4YFN 2025** is an initiative of RIF to promote the Cypriot innovation ecosystem and support domestic start-ups, especially those funded by its Innovation Programs. The support for participation is part of the activities of Enterprise Europe Network Cyprus, in which RIF participates as a partner.

The selected enterprises will receive an entrance ticket worth 799 euros (incl. VAT) and a subsidy of 300 euros per person for travel expenses. Depending on the number of selected businesses and ticket availability, more persons per enterprise may be allowed to participate. The selection process is described below.

Participation Fee – RIF Funding

Participants must cover travel and accommodation costs themselves. For ongoing projects funded by the Foundation, these costs are eligible through the project, if they are project-related.

RIF will cover the entrance fee worth **799** euros (incl. VAT) and will provide a subsidy **of 300** euros per person for participation fees. The total cost will not exceed **€1099** per person and will be granted as indirect state aid, in accordance with EU Regulation No. Commission Regulation (EC) No 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid importance (De Minimis). A De minimis Declaration and a Single Company Declaration will be required at the submission stage.



Beneficiaries

Cypriot enterprises **from all technology sectors that are economically active in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus**, can **submit an Expression of Interest for participation in the 4YFN 2025 Event**, as follows:

1. Enterprises that have received funding from RIF as Host Organisations, under the following Programs:
 - Pre-Seed
 - Seed (incl. Call SEED-COVID/0420)
 - Innovate (incl. Call INNOVATE-COVID/0420)
 - Disrupt
2. Enterprises that had submitted a proposal as Host Organisations and were invited to participate in the second evaluation phase, in the framework of the following Programs:
 - Pre-Seed
 - Seed (incl. Call SEED-COVID/0420)
 - Innovate (incl. Call INNOVATE-COVID/0420)
 - Disrupt
3. Start-ups.
4. Enterprises that have obtained a "Certificate of Innovative Enterprise" from the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus.

It is clarified that for the purposes of the call, Start-ups are considered enterprises with technological orientation and potential for high growth rate, which are established with the aim of developing a product/service that the founders of the company seek to market internationally.

In addition, it is clarified that enterprises can participate through their representatives, who must either be founders of the company or hold an organic position in the business.

Submission of Application

Each company submits the standard **Expression of Interest Form – 4YFN 2025**, in **PDF format**, in **English**, signed by the **Legal Representative of the Company**, at the email address skambanellas@research.org.cy

In addition, when submitting the application, the "Solemn Declaration of a Single Enterprise" must be submitted.



The **Deadline for submission** is the **31st of January 2025**, at **13.00**.

Evaluation / Selection Process

For the Expressions of Interest that will be submitted, **an eligibility and evaluation procedure will be followed**, based on the following criteria:

- All **necessary forms as specified in this Call** have been submitted.
- The minimum **requirements regarding beneficiaries** as set out in this Call are met.
- The feasibility of the **company's participation in the Event and the proposed** promotional and networking actions **are justified**.

For eligibility purposes, RIF will follow the "Internal Evaluation" method as described in the [RESTART Call 2016-2020](#). The decision of the RIF will be final and there is no possibility of submitting an objection.

A maximum of fifteen (15) companies will be selected, provided that they have been deemed eligible on the basis of the evaluation, and in the following order of priority:

1. Enterprises that have concluded a Project Contract with RIF as Contractors under the Programs mentioned above, in order of submission of Expression of Interest,
2. Enterprises that had submitted a proposal as Contractors and had been invited to participate in the second evaluation phase, within the framework of the above Programs,
3. Start-ups in order of submission of Expression of Interest,
4. Enterprises that have obtained a "Certificate of Innovative Enterprise" from the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus, in order of submission of an Expression of Interest,

In case of no significant interest, RIF reserves the right to cancel the procedure.

The selected companies must create **a Partnership Profile** before the ticket is issued by RIF, which will be posted on the relevant [business profile database of the Enterprise Europe Network](#), for networking purposes and promotion of their technologies abroad.

Other Information

The allocation of tickets will be made with the approval of the company while the payment of the lump sum will be made upon confirmation of the company's participation in the event.



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