

DRIVING GROWTH 

AI IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

First Call for Proposals
AIINGOVT/0725



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

► Targets

AI in Government...

- ❑ *Aims to develop innovative solutions that utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address specific challenges faced by public authorities.*
- ❑ *Provides financial support for the development and testing of a prototype in a real environment, with the aim of subsequently developing it into a marketable product, service, or solution.*
- ❑ ***Participants will retain full Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) generated from the process, along with full ownership of the resulting innovation for future commercial use.***





► General Call Information (1)

- ☐ Call Announcement: **24 July 2025**
- ☐ Deadline for Challenge 4: **27 February 2026, 13:00 local time** **DEADLINE**
- ☐ Budget: **€ 5.000.000**
- ☐ Maximum Funding for Challenge 4:
 - ☐ **€ 650.000**
 - ☐ Phase A: Up to € 150.000
 - ☐ Phase B: Up to € 500.000
- ☐ Project Duration: **Up to 36 Months (Phase A: up to 9 months, Phase B: up to 27 months)**



► General Call Information (2)

Each project will consist of the following two phases:

☐ Phase A: Prototype Development

- ☐ Duration: Up to 9 months

- ☐ Target: create a functional prototype that demonstrates its technical and commercial viability.

☐ Phase B: Pilot Installation and Further Development

- ☐ Duration: Up to 27 months

- ☐ Target: install and test the prototype in a real environment, and develop it into a fully functional product, service, or solution. This phase requires cooperation with the competent public authority for each Challenge.

*** The Phase B Contract will only come into effect if Phase A is successfully implemented**

► Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works Challenge 4

- ❑ **Public Authority:** Department of Public Passenger Transport of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (MTCW)
- ❑ **Budget:**
 - Phase A: Up to €150,000
 - Phase B: Up to €500,000
- ❑ **Target:** Upgrade the public transport system based on Artificial Intelligence technologies.
- ❑ **Estimated Time Commitment from MTCW:** A total of 2 person-months per year, contributed by 2 officers (from the existing staff of the Department of Public Passenger Transport and the Department of Public Works.)

*** New challenges will be announced periodically.**



► Conditions for Participation

- ☐ Host Organisation (HO): **Enterprise (Small, Medium or Large)**
- ☐ Partner Organisations: Research organizations, enterprises, and other public and private sector Organizations can participate as Partners.
- ☐ Ministries, Deputy Ministries and their Departments are not eligible to participate.
- ☐ Partner Organisations may only participate in Industrial Research and Experimental Development Activities.
- ☐ **Each person acting as Project Coordinator may submit a maximum of two (2) proposals to the AI in Government programme (not 2 per Challenge).**

► Eligible Activities

☐ Phase A:

- Industrial Research
- Experimental Development
- Feasibility Study

☐ Phase B:

- Experimental Development
- Feasibility Study
- Innovation Activities





► Eligible Costs

- ☐ Personnel Cost
- ☐ Costs for Instruments and Equipment (*depreciation*)
- ☐ Costs for External Services (*up to 40% of Budget*)
- ☐ Consumables
- ☐ Other specific costs
- ☐ Overheads (*up to 20% of the direct costs*)

For private organisations: must receive and evaluate at least three (3) independent tenders for each purchase exceeding Euro 15,000 (excluding VAT) resulting in the selection of the most economical solution that meets their needs.

► Proposal Submission



- ❑ **Proposals are submitted** through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>)
- ❑ The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:
 - **Part A** – General Information & Budget (*electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal*)
 - **Part B** – Technical Annex (*document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format*) - **Maximum number of pages 20**
 - **Annex I** – Curricula Vitae (CVs of the Coordinator and the key personnel– *Mandatory Submission*) - *Recommended that, CVs are created according to the EUROPASS format and do not exceed 5 pages per person. Optional Submission*
 - **Annex II** – Call Specific Information – Obligatory submission when the acquisition of instruments and equipment is required (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format):
 - a) *Estimation of the cost of the equipment based on a minimum of 3 offers from 3 different suppliers who can meet the Host Organisation's requirements. (financial offers must be submitted).*

Part B – Template**1. Scientific and Technical Quality**

Clearly state the aims of the proposed solution and the specific problems that will be addressed. What are the measurable goals and desired outcomes? Describe the overall methodology and research design. Describe how the approach goes beyond the state-of-the-art.

2 Innovation in the Field of Artificial Intelligence

Describe what makes this solution innovative within the AI landscape. Describe how AI will be specifically applied to meet the challenge's needs. Demonstrate alignment with public sector objectives and existing gaps. Indicate whether the solution includes cutting-edge methods.

3 Degree of Addressing the Challenge

Explain how the solution addresses the challenge directly, what features or aspects are uniquely designed for this use case and how the solution supports the goals or operational requirements of the competent public authority.

4 Technical Approach

Provide a technical roadmap, separately for each Phase (A and B). State the resources, platforms, and architectures that will be used. Identify known risks and provide the mitigation measures related to AI accuracy, such as hallucination in LLMs.

Describe and document the feasibility of proposed approach regarding the implementation of the above developments to address these challenges. They may rely on existing routing applications used by the public, tools, their own or third-party data backgrounds, for which they are assumed to have legal access.

5 Ethical and Responsible AI

Detail how fairness will be ensured throughout the AI lifecycle and what steps will be taken to verify results and detect and reduce bias.

6. Policy Relevance

Describe how the proposed solution aligns with national or regional government objectives in Cyprus.

7. Effectiveness and Efficiency

Explain how the solution will streamline or enhance public sector tasks. Quantify expected improvements where possible. Describe the pilot implementation, with an emphasis on measurable results.

8. Benefits for the Public Sector, Industry, Society and the Environment

Describe impact on specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Indicate how the solution creates competitive advantages over existing tools or systems. Mention potential economic, social and / or environmental impact.

9. Voice of the Customer

Provide evidence of stakeholder engagement. Describe plans for user participation and testing of the solution during development and implementation.

10. Scaling Up and Wider Application

Describe how the proposed solution could potentially be adapted for use in other EU Member States or regions.

11. Results and Public Funding Justification

Clearly link expected results to the funding required. Demonstrate value for money with a cost-benefit argument.

12. Maintenance and Upgrade Capability

Describe the maintenance and upgrade capabilities of the proposed solution during Phase B. Provide a clear and adequate plan for continues improvement, support, and further development through regular updates and new releases.

13. Solution Integration Capability

Describe how the proposed solution can be integrated within the currently available systems of the competent authority.

14. Consortium and Team Description

Describe the Host Organisation and each of the other participating Organisations, with emphasis on their competences and scientific and technological expertise (including management experience), available infrastructures and any other resources necessary for the implementation of the project. Briefly describe the role and the activities to be undertaken by each participating Organisation and their contribution in the project. Describe the Project Coordinator and key personnel to be involved in project.

15. Implementation Plan – Phase A

Duration: X Months

Objectives of Phase A:

Phase A Work Package Description:

Briefly describe the objectives of each WP and include a Gantt Chart (mandatory). The Gantt chart should visually outline the timeline of the project, showing the planned start and end dates for each Work Package. Work Package 1 (WP1) should include the management and coordination activities of the project and WP2 should include the proposed dissemination and exploitation activities. Describe the activities included in each WP. Where possible, provide quantitative information on activities and results. Where appropriate describe the work broken down into Tasks indicating the participating Organisations and the lead partner. The person-months required for the implementation of the WP should be sufficiently justified for each participating Organisation.

Deliverables Table (Phase A)

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP	Deliverable Type (Document, Report, Other)	Classification of Dissemination (Public, Confidential)	Completion Date (Project Month)
	Data Management Plan (mandatory)	2			
	Prototype (mandatory)				

Budget Allocation Table (Phase A): Provide a justification of the proposed budget and a description of the activities included in the proposed budget.

► Part B (3)

Duration: **X** Months

Objectives of Phase B:

Phase B Work Package Description:





Briefly describe the objectives of each WP and include a Gantt Chart (mandatory). The Gantt chart should visually outline the timeline of the project, showing the planned start and end dates for each Work Package. Include a WP for management and coordination activities of the project for Phase B and a WP for the proposed dissemination and exploitation activities for Phase B. Describe the activities included in each WP. Where possible, provide quantitative information on activities and results. Where appropriate describe the work broken down into Tasks indicating the participating Organisations and the lead partner. The person-months required for the implementation of the WP should be sufficiently justified for each participating Organisation.

Deliverables Table (Phase B)

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Relevant WP	Deliverable Type (Document, Report, Publication, Poster, Pilot, Prototype, Website, Video, Software, Database, Other)	Classification of Dissemination (Public, Confidential)	Deliverable Completion Date (Project Month)
	Intellectual Property Protection Plan (mandatory)				
	Final product/service (mandatory)				
	Data Management Plan (mandatory)				

Budget Allocation Table (Phase B): Provide a justification of the proposed budget and a description of the activities included in the proposed budget.

Category	Amount (€)	Description
Personnel		
Instruments and Equipment		
External Services		
Consumables		
Other Specific Costs		
Overheads		
Feasibility Study Cost		
Innovation Cost		
De Minimis Cost		
Total – Phase B		

	Organisation	Activity	Direct Costs					Indirect Costs		Other Simplified Costs		Subcontracting		Innovation Costs	Other Cost	Total			
			Personnel	Equipment	Travel	Consumables	Other Specific (Direct) Costs	Overhead Rate	Overheads	Other Simplified Rate	Other Simplified Amount	External Services	Foreign Research Organisations (FRO)			Budget	Aid Intensity	Maximum Funding	Requested Funding
	HO. Org-TypeB1 (5)		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	
	HO. Org-TypeB1	Industrial Research	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	70,00 %	0,00 €	
	HO. Org-TypeB1	Experimental Development	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	45,00 %	0,00 €	
	HO. Org-TypeB1	Feasibility Studies	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	70,00 %	0,00 €	
	HO. Org-TypeB1	Innovation Activities												0,00 €		0,00 €	50,00 %	0,00 €	
	HO. Org-TypeB1	Other Activities Not Classified	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	100,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA1. Org-TypeC1-large (3)		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	
	PA1. Org-TypeC1-large	Industrial Research	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	50,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA1. Org-TypeC1-large	Experimental Development	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	25,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA1. Org-TypeC1-large	Other Activities Not Classified	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	100,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA2. Org-TypeC1-small (3)		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	
	PA2. Org-TypeC1-small	Industrial Research	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	70,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA2. Org-TypeC1-small	Experimental Development	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	45,00 %	0,00 €	
	PA2. Org-TypeC1-small	Other Activities Not Classified	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 %	0,00 €			0,00 €				0,00 €	100,00 %	0,00 €	
Totals			0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €					0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €

► Evaluation

- ☐ Preliminary Check procedure,
- ☐ Evaluation by an **Independent Evaluation Committee** consisting of five (5) experts. Each Committee will draw up a ranking list of proposals submitted in each Challenge.
- ☐ **Evaluation Criteria:** (1) **Excellence 30%**, (2) **Added Value and Benefit 40%**, (3) **Implementation 30%**
- ☐ **Selection for Funding:** The first eligible proposal achieving the highest score per Challenge is selected for funding. (decision is final and cannot be appealed against)





Useful Documents

- ❑ **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme Document**
<https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/index>
- ❑ **Call Documents**
[Call for Proposals \(EL\)](#)
[Call for Proposals \(EN\)](#)
[Part B – Technical Annex](#)
[Guide for Evaluators](#)
[National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence](#)
[National Research and Innovation Strategy 2024-2026](#)
[MTCW Strategic Plan 2024–2026](#)
[European Green Deal - emission reduction and sustainable mobility.](#)
[National Sustainable Mobility Strategy](#)
[National Energy and Climate Plan \(NECP\)](#)
European White Paper on Transport
European Strategy for Zero-Emission Mobility
[**FAQs**](#)
- ❑ **IRIS Guidelines (Registration, Proposal Preparation/Submission)**
<https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/documentlibrary>

► Contact / Support



For More Information:

RIF Website: www.research.org.cy

IRIS Portal: <https://iris.research.org.cy/>



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Thank You

It's not about ideas. It's about making ideas happen!

Scott Belsky, Behance Co-founder