

DRIVING GROWTH ▲



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

PROGRAMME

«Sponsorships 2022»

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SPONSORSHIPS/0522

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the Sponsorships Programme 2021 regarding the following actions:

- I) Organisation of an Event to promote research, technological development and innovation to the public, and
- II) Representation of Cyprus in International Science, Research and Innovation Competitions,

and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant applications, in the frame of the Call objectives and according to the rules and eligibility conditions.

The RIF may at its discretion extend or revoke the Call.

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Programme	Sponsorships Programme
Call Identifier	SPONSORSHIPS/0522
Call Budget	150.000 Euro <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 80.000 Euro for Category A (Organisation of Large Scale Events)○ 50.000 Euro for Category B (Organisation of Medium Scale Events)○ 20.000 Euro for Category C (Representation of Cyprus in International Competitions)
Maximum Funding per Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 40.000 Euro for Category A○ 10.000 Euro for Category B○ 500 Euro (lump sum) per student for Category C
Publication Date	16 May 2022
Deadline	14 July 2022, 13:00 for Categories A and B 16 May 2023, 13:00 for Category C or until budget exhaustion.
Implementation Period	01/09/2022 – 01/09/2023

The English version of the Call, even though an official translation endorsed by the Research and Innovation Foundation, is provided for information purposes only. Only the Greek version of the Call is legally binding and shall prevail in case of any divergence in interpretation.

OBJECTIVES

The RIF's Sponsorships Programme promotes the Foundation's strategic goal of nurturing a Culture of Research and Innovation (R&I) in the ecosystem and the wider public through actions that support R&I, including skills development.

The target of the Program is twofold. On the one hand, the aim is to **support entities** for the organisation of high-quality events with significant impact, with **a central theme that aims to promote research, technological and innovation to the general public.**

On the other hand, through **the support of the participation of groups of students** in International Competitions, the following are pursued:

- (a) encouragement of interaction and engagement with science, research, technological development and innovation;
- (b) enhancement of efforts to successfully participate in activities promoting extroversion and contributing to the visibility of their activities and Cyprus internationally, and
- (c) contribution, in the long run, to nurturing a culture of research and innovation in society at large and in particular in the younger generation.

CONDITIONS AND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

I) Organisation of an Event

Beneficiaries: An application for sponsorship can be submitted by entities legally established and active in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus, in the EU, or any other state recognised by the Republic of Cyprus. The submission of applications by natural persons is not permitted.

The application must be about the organisation of an event that:

- (a) has as its central theme the promotion of research, technological development and innovation, enhancing relevant actions of the RIF,
- (b) aims to inform participants and raise public awareness regarding the importance and role of research, technological development and innovation, as well as to present relevant examples or achievements in a practical and comprehensive way,
- (c) attracts a large audience, regardless of the target group (age, gender, etc.), and (d) will be implemented in the period from 01/09/2022 to 01/09/2023.

Each application may include a large number of activities that are part of a single event (eg. festival).

The same event or part of an event (including events within events) cannot be funded in the framework of two categories (Category A and B).

The organisation of the following events is not eligible for funding:

- scientific conferences, workshops, info days to present the results of research projects or other activities aimed at a specific audience,
- events that are not open to the public,
- award ceremonies for competitions or other activities (unless they are part of the overall event),
- events that have a similar objective and/or overlap with activities and/or events organised by the RIF, and
- events that receive funding for the same activities from projects funded by the RIF or the EU and/or other sources.

The Call covers two categories of events as follows:

Category A – Large Scale Events

Category A partially funds events with **international reach** mainly aiming at promoting research, technological development and innovation, enhancing relevant measures undertaken by RIF, promoting Cyprus as an R&I hub abroad.

Each event to be funded under Category A must:

- address an audience of **more than 750 participants**,
- have a **total budget exceeding 80.000 Euro**,
- have an **international dimension and/or reach**, aiming to attract participants and/or co-organisers from abroad,
- include, among others, **important presence of distinguished speakers on R&I matters** from Cyprus and abroad, as well as actions **encouraging mobilization and networking among members of the Cyprus R&I ecosystem**, bringing together local and international entities and enterprises and/or supporting the development of R&I skills.
- include in the event programme, to be submitted in advance:
 - Welcoming / keynote speech by the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus and / or a member of the RIF's Board of Directors and / or the Director General of the RIF,
 - Panel discussion on a subject to be decided by the Chief Scientist / the RIF with a moderator and panel members to be defined by the Chief Scientist / the RIF.
 - A RIF kiosk on the premises where the event will be held, hosting two RIF staff members and 10 startups or other entities funded by the RIF.

The event may be supported by more than one sponsors. The RIF must be presented as a **Premium sponsor**, ensuring that its role is adequately promoted within the event's media and communications plan, before, during and after the event.

Part of the event income may be a result of ticket sales. The organizer will have to provide ten (10) VIP tickets and ninety (90) regular tickets for RIF.

Events funded under Category A may receive **up to 40.000 Euro** in funding.

Category B – Medium Scale Events

Category B partially funds **events with major reach** mainly aiming at promoting **research, technological development and innovation**, enhancing relevant measures undertaken by RIF, **and/or** partially funds events contributing to the development of R&I skills, attracting audience from Cyprus including the local R&I ecosystem.

Each event to be funded under Category B must:

- address an audience of **more than 200 participants**,
- have a **total budget exceeding 30.000 Euro**,
- include, among others, **important presence of distinguished speakers on R&I matters** from Cyprus and abroad **or** in the case of events contributing to the development of R&I skills, to be part of a wider initiative **organised in more than ten countries**.
- include actions to mobilize the R&I ecosystem of Cyprus, encouraging networking and bringing all local entities together.
- Include in the event programme, which must be submitted to RIF in advance:
 - Welcoming / keynote speech by the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus and / or a member of the RIF's Board of Directors and / or the Director General of the RIF,
 - Panel discussion on a subject to be decided by the Chief Scientist / the RIF with a moderator and panel members to be defined by the Chief Scientist / the RIF or a RIF Info-Corner and/or session to present and promote the role of the RIF and its activities during the event.

The event must be presented as **main sponsor** and may include funded by other organisations and/or income resulting from ticket sales.

Organisers must ensure that the RIF's role is adequately promoted within the event's media and communications plan, before, during and after the event.

Events funded under Category B may receive **up to 10.000 Euro** in funding.

II) Representation of Cyprus in International Competitions

Beneficiaries: An application for sponsorship can be submitted by a group of students from public and / or private schools in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus.

Category C

Category C partially funds groups of students that will be represent Cyprus in International science, research and innovation competitions abroad.

Each application in Category C must:

- (a) be about the participation of the group in competitive activities and the award ceremony of an established, important and highly publicised international open competition to be held abroad, on a subject related to science, research, technological development and innovation,
- (b) be about the participation of **up to three (3) students** for competitions for individuals (first 3 winners) and **up to six (6) students** for team competitions,
- (c) follow the completion of a competitive process at national level resulting in the selection of the group of students as representatives of Cyprus in the international competition.

Proposals for sponsorships by groups of students can only be submitted following the completion of the national competition, indicating clearly the connection between the national and international competition.

The sponsorship per person is 500 Euro (lump sum) and each team or student can only receive funding once in the frame of this Call.

Given that the sponsorship is provided to students, the sponsorship is not governed by the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application Content

The application must include information regarding the following:

- Event description and objectives / Description and objectives of the Representation in an International Competition (including information regarding the Competition in which the team will participate (organiser, topic, objectives, venue, date and other related information), the idea / product / project / service with which the group will compete and the process of selecting the group at national level, in order to prove its competitive nature, as well as evidence that the selection process resulted in the choice of a national representative of Cyprus in the international competition),
- Description of the team that will organize the Event, including references to previous relevant experience of the team members / Description of the members of the team participating in the International Competition
- Description of the Event / International Competition Target Group
- Event / Competition Programme
- Curriculum Vitae of each Speaker from abroad / Information regarding the students taking part in the Competition
- Implementation and media plan for the event (only required for Categories A and B)

- The budget of the event (requested amount of sponsorship, analysis of costs, description of how the RIF sponsorship will be used, funding received from additional resources).

Submission of Applications and Timeframe

Applications should be submitted in a PDF form at sponsorship@research.org.cy **until the 14th of July 2022 for Categories A and B** and **until May the 11th, 2023 for Category C** or until budget exhaustion.

Beneficiaries should submit their applications in **English using the relevant application form**, which should not exceed **five (5) pages**.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee consisting of **members of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the RIF, chaired by the Chairman of the BoD**, based on the following General and Specific Evaluation Criteria:

General Evaluation Criteria

- ❑ Quality of event objectives / Quality of objectives relating to the representation of Cyprus in an International Competition,
- ❑ Impact with regards to promoting Cyprus as a Research and Innovation Hub abroad and/or the promotion of research, technological development and innovation, enhancing RIF's relevant actions and/or the contribution to the development of skills and the successful participation of target audience,
- ❑ Effectiveness of proposed activities in nurturing an R&I culture, including the development of skills, within the ecosystem and among the wider public through actions that enhance R&I,
- ❑ Completeness and appropriateness of the project plan and media plan, as well as the activities in relation to the action's objectives, timeline and budget,
- ❑ Inclusion of all necessary actions to promote the RIF's role and sponsorship, as defined in this Call,
- ❑ Completeness, quality and capacity of the Beneficiary to organize the Event (at the level of the entity as a whole and/or individual team members) and implement the proposed objectives (*only applicable for Categories A and B*).

Specific Evaluation Criteria (Categories A και B)

Category A – Large Scale Events

- ❑ The Beneficiary must have previously organized at least two events of a similar scale in the last five years, one of which with a similar central theme,
- ❑ The core members of the organizing team must have previous experience in implementing events of a similar scale and theme,
- ❑ Submission of the Curriculum Vitae of each Speaker from abroad, proving their expertise in R&I,
- ❑ Participation of at least ten venture capital investors from Cyprus and the international ecosystem, as well as successful serial entrepreneurs,
- ❑ Sufficient media plan promoting the event as well as the Cyprus R&I ecosystem and the Chief Scientist for R&I of the Republic of Cyprus / the RIF abroad,
- ❑ Presentation and justification of the total impact of the event for the R&I ecosystem of Cyprus following completion of the event.

Category B – Medium Scale Events

- ❑ The organizer must have organized at least two events of a similar scale in the last five years, one of which with a similar central theme,
- ❑ The core members of the organizing team must have previous experience in implementing events of a similar scale and theme,
- ❑ Participation of Representatives from at least: two publicly funded research organizations, three privately funded research organizations, as well as more than ten innovative existing enterprises and startups (not applicable in the case of events addressing the development of skills)
- ❑ Sufficient media plan promoting the event as well as the Cyprus R&I ecosystem and the Chief Scientist for R&I of the Republic of Cyprus / the RIF abroad,
- ❑ Presentation and justification of the total impact of the event for the R&I ecosystem of Cyprus following completion of the event.

The evaluation of proposals will take into account the extent to which each proposal addresses the different criteria, as well as the amount of sponsorship requested.

The RIF has the right to allocate the Call budget, regardless of the amount of requested sponsorship for each application. In addition, the RIF has the right not to use all the available budget for this Call.

Each entity will receive information regarding the evaluation outcome for each application, and the full list of sponsored actions will be made available on the RIF's website (www.research.org.cy) annually.

OBLIGATIONS OF SPONSORED BENEFICIARIES

Promotion of RIF's role

The obligations of sponsored beneficiaries are outlined below and include (beyond those referred to in the description of each Category above):

(a) promotion of the role of RIF as a sponsor / supporter, using the official logo of the RIF and the inclusion of clear and distinct references, in all printed and electronic material promoting the event (programme, publications, posters, banners, advertising, website, social networks etc.) and media material (press releases, participation of event representatives in television and radio shows etc.), and

(b) invitation for the participation of the RIF's representatives in the Event, including an invitation to participate in other related activities (eg. press conference) relating to the whole event and presenting important opportunities to underline the role and contribution of the sponsor / supporter.

The aforementioned obligations apply in proportion to the size of each sponsorship and the planned publicity and promotion actions.

Completion of Activities

I) Organisation of an Event

Upon completion of the Event, the beneficiary must submit an Impact Assessment Report for the implemented activity to the RIF within one (1) month, at sponsorship@research.org.cy. The Report should include a description regarding the achievement of the initial objectives and expected impact with specific reference to the overall participation and outreach of the event, as well as an analysis of the total expenses incurred for the event.

II) Representation of Cyprus in an International Competition

Upon completion of the participation in an International Competition, the student / student groups must submit an Activity Report to the RIF within one (1) month at sponsorship@research.org.cy. The Report should describe the participation in the competition, the final ranking of the team (where applicable) and an analysis of expenses incurred in order for reimbursement to be provided.

The RIF may request clarifications or additional information in relation to the Impact / Activity Report at the stage of evaluation of the reports.

In case of deviation from the conditions and regulations of participation on the basis of which the sponsorship was evaluated and approved and / or the obligations of the beneficiaries, the RIF reserves the right to withdraw the sponsorship and / or to exclude the entity from future relevant Invitations.

SPONSORSHIP

In the case of private sector entities (excluding Research Organisations), the funding will be provided on the basis of the De Minimis Aid Regulation, for which a Declaration on De Minimis Aid and Single Entity Declaration will have to be submitted upon approval of the sponsorship. The amounts of De minimis Aid will be recorded in the Electronic Central System for State Aid and De Minimis Aid.

Payment of Sponsorship

The Sponsorship will be paid to the entity/students after the completion of the action and the submission of the Impact / Activity Report.

The sponsorship provided by the RIF is supportive **and does not cover the entire cost of the event / participation in the competition**. Therefore, interested parties are expected to use their own resources or other sources of funding to cover the remaining costs. Registration / participation fees will be taken into account when evaluating applications. In case participation in the event does not exceed the expected number of participants, the RIF has the right to reduce the amount of sponsorship accordingly.

The RIF sponsorship can only be used for the costs of implementation of the proposed activity.

Eligible Costs

Event Organisation: costs may relate to expenses for carrying out online events and / or events with physical presence and include any cost that is necessary, reasonable and at the best possible price for the successful implementation of the event. Personnel costs are not eligible under this Call.

Representation of Cyprus in an International Competition: costs may include (a) travel (airfare, train, etc.), (b) accommodation, (c) registration / participation costs, and (d) costs for preparing promotional material.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

For more information, interested parties should contact the RIF's Partner Support Center (tel: 22205000, email: support@research.org.cy).