



22 April 2020

## Covid-19 Call for Expression of Interest (COVID EoI 04/2020) Research Activity and Development of Innovative Approaches & Solutions

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) in collaboration with the Deputy Ministry for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, aiming at establishing an open channel of communication and collaboration with the national research and innovation ecosystem, is launching a Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) from organisations and individuals from the Cyprus ecosystem to join forces and contribute to the national strategic approach to respond to COVID-19.

The purpose of this Call is to coordinate national efforts, as well as seek and develop synergies at local level, considering the regional, European and global initiatives, priorities and needs as well. The Call also aims at identifying priority R&I work streams for coordinated action between the Government and members of the national ecosystem against the COVID-19 pandemic, that could lead to the development of innovative approaches responding to COVID-19, delivering timely results relevant to the society and the economy.

With the present Call, RIF invites the national research and innovation community to submit Expressions of Interest for the development of innovative approaches / solutions / products & services in all areas relating to the challenges (immediate as well as longer term to facilitate the recovery process back to normality) imposed by COVID-19, including on social, psychological, etc challenges.

The current Call is looking to attract proposals with emphasis on medium-to-long-term solutions rather than quick fix ideas. Below are indicative topics to be addressed through the present Call for EoI:

- Artificial Intelligence for data collection and management of epidemiological and other data.
- Protection, support and facilitation of frontline workers (Production of medical equipment, personal protective equipment, 3-D printing of equipment and materials).
- Telemedicine and health monitoring.
- Development of new diagnostic methods, kits, medicines, therapies.
- Facilitate sharing of information and interaction between the local science and healthcare community with Europe and other countries.
- Development of policies and technological solutions to mitigate non-health related challenges resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, such as supply shortages, school closures, travel restrictions, quarantines, etc.
- Ensure availability of and access to critical products and services, such as; supply chains, logistics, reuse, recycling.
- Facilitate distance learning, continuous education and re-training of students and the workforce.
- Tackle social isolation and enhance mental health, fitness and mobility.
- Enhance accessibility of public services.
- Development of platforms and solutions for the central management of healthcare supplies, food supplies, volunteers, donations & funding, etc.

Furthermore, Expressions of Interest may also be submitted for proposals addressing specific needs of the public authorities such as:

**A. Citizen movement and tracing management system**

- Creating an electronic system/database for monitoring employees' travelling to and from the workplace during working hours (Form A)
- Creating a central database and APIs to existing approval channels (SMS and IVR) to manage citizens' requests for movement by way of exception (Form B)
- Tracking applications aiming at reducing the COVID-19 R-0

**B. Citizen Information**

- Citizen Call Centre
- e-Signature
- Identification via e-Banking for public services
- KEP Operations Management – e KEP

**C. Business Center Continuity**

- Electronic company registration process (name approval, issue of Certificates, company registration)
- Electronic financial statement submissions

**D. Other needs**

- Electronic submission of applications for the Ministry of Labor and Social Security
- Tele-working for the public sector
- Platform for construction sites for the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works
- Call Centre for mental health related issues
- Platform for the repatriation of Cypriot citizens abroad for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Crisis coordination systems

Proposals on any other COVID-related topic of interest are also welcome as long as their relevance is adequately justified.

Further to the specific topic proposed in the Expression of Interest, a brief description of the ways of addressing the identified challenge is also expected.

**All ideas and proposals submitted in relation to the present Call for Expression of Interest should be able to demonstrate ability to deliver timely results which are relevant to the society and the economy. Furthermore, submissions must include an estimate of the funding and any other support required to implement the proposed idea.**

The Call is addressed to scientists, researchers, innovators, software developers, entrepreneurs and all other professionals from private and public entities and organisations across the national research and innovation ecosystem in Cyprus, including – but not limited to – Universities, Research Organisations, Startups, Enterprises, Enterprise and Professional Associations, NGOs and entities of the Public and Broader Public Sector.

**It is noted that the current Call carries no budget and it aims to gather potential solutions. Expressions of Interest submitted through the present Call will be reviewed by the Deputy Ministry for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy in collaboration with the Research and Innovation Foundation for potential implementation according to the needs. Relevant funding decisions will be taken accordingly, i.e. that could include**

innovation procurement procedures, and participating teams, individuals and organisations will be informed in due time on the possibility and intention of the State to provide funding, facilitation or any other kind of support for the implementation of the proposed idea.

**Submission of Expressions of Interest:**

Expressions of Interest to the present Call (**COVID EoI 04/2020**), should be submitted through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>).

The relevant Submission Form can be found at <https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/calls>. The Form should be downloaded and filled in. The final electronic document should then be uploaded through the IRIS submission system as an Annex to the proposal.

Please note that all those interested in submitting an Expression of Interest and all local participating organisations, should register first on the IRIS Portal in order to be able to submit their EoI.

Information and guidelines regarding registration and submission are available in the «IRIS Portal User Manual» and the «Guide for Applicants» which can be found on the IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/documentlibrary>). Assistance can also be provided through the RIF Help Desk ([help\\_desk@research.org.cy](mailto:help_desk@research.org.cy) / +357 22 205000).

**Deadline for submission: Monday, 18 May 2020, 13.00 (EEST time)**

Building on the response and ideas to be received through the present Call for Expression of Interest, the Deputy Ministry for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, in collaboration with the Research and Innovation Foundation will create a **COVID-19 Innovative Solutions Think Tank (CIS Think Tank)** to support and address challenges imposed by COVID-19, building on science and innovation.

Dr. Nikolas Mastrogiannopoulos,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)  
Chairman of the Board of Directors RIF  
Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation