



FUNDING SCHEME

Research and Innovation Foundation 's «RESTART 2016-2020»
Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation

PROGRAMME

«Research in Enterprises»

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ENTERPRISES/0223/Sub-Call1



**Funded by the
European Union**
NextGenerationEU



Republic of Cyprus



RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
FOUNDATION



INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the «**Research in Enterprises**» Programme within the framework of the «**RESTART 2016-2020**» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period **05/2022 – 03/2023** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call will be financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Next Generation EU instrument, in the frame of the action C3.212 «Innovation Funding Programmes and Funding Schemes for the Enhancement of Growth and Competitiveness of Startups, Innovative Companies and SMEs» of the Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan. The Action is implemented under Policy Axis 3: «Strengthening the Resilience and Competitiveness of the Economy», and specifically the Component 3.2 «Enhanced Research and Innovation».

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	I. Smart Growth
Programme	Research in Enterprises
Call Identifier	ENTERPRISES/0223/Sub-Call1
Call Budget	5.000.000 Euro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the case of unallocated budget, the RIF may transfer unused budget to the Call «ENTERPRISES/0223/Sub-Call2» ▪ Call budget may be increased with unused budget from Call «ENTERPRISES/0223/Sub-Call2»
Maximum Funding Per Project	200.000 Euro
Publication Date	17 February 2023
Deadline	24 April 2023, 13:00

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 “Research in Enterprises” Programme aims at (a) enhancing the competitiveness of Cypriot enterprises thus resulting in making a contribution in the country’s economic growth, through the development of new products / services / production methods of high added value, or significantly enhanced products / services / production methods which will be commercially



used, and (b) intensifying the participation of Cypriot enterprises in research activities resulting in raising the contribution of the private sector in the country's RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation) investments.

DESCRIPTION

«Research in Enterprises» Programme supports the involvement of Cypriot enterprises in research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) activities, for the development of new or the significant advancement of existing products / services/ production methods of high added value with market entry potential.

The Programme is expected to contribute to the enhancement of the capacity and the competitiveness of Cypriot enterprises, the increase of private investments in RTDI activities, and the country's economy growth. Furthermore, it is expected to create new employment at participating enterprises, thus contributing positively in dealing with unemployment at national level.

The Programme covers a wide range of industrial research and experimental development activities. The experimental development activities should include the production of a prototype, demonstration, pilot operation, testing and validation of new or significantly optimised products / services / production methods in an environment representative of real-life operating conditions. Research and development activities should be relevant to the core area of activities of the beneficiaries, while project results should be of commercial value for the beneficiaries.

The Programme does not cover projects that are concerned with customary modifications or modifications that incur over time on products, production lines, services, production methods, even if these modifications are considered as improvements.

As the Programme is part of Pillar I, "Smart Growth", the projects must be applicable in one of the designated Priority Sectors:

- Energy
- Tourism
- Transport-Shipping
- Agriculture-Food Industry
- Built Environment-Construction Industry
- Health



and/or one of the Horizontal Priority Sectors:

- ICT
- Sustainable Growth-Environment

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Host Organisation (HO) of a project must be a Small, Medium or Large Sized Enterprise (B1, B2, B3).

The project should be initiated by the Enterprise/Host Organisation, which should have a direct and significant commercial interest in achieving the project's results. Furthermore, the core activities of the Host Organisation should be relevant to the project activities.

Please note that participation of a Large Enterprise in a RESTART 2016-2020 Programme project is possible after the justification, through the proposal, of the incentive effect that the funding will have for the Large Enterprise, as specified in the Chapter 1.2, Section III, of the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme.

Research Organisations, Enterprises or Other Organisations may participate as Partner Organisations.

Partner Organisations shall support the Host Organisation in accomplishing the project's objectives and may have their own commercial and/or scientific interests in achieving the Project results.

Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is allowed.

Participation of Startups is not allowed except for those that have sold at least one product or service, in the last two (2) years and can document sales and turnover through audited financial statements.

In the frame of the present Call, each organisation can receive funding as Host Organisation in up to (2) Projects.

The submission of the same or similar Proposal in both Calls «ENTERPRISES/Sub-Call1/0223» and «ENTERPRISES/Sub-Call2/0223», is not allowed. Same or similar proposals are proposals with the same or similar scientific content and relevant activities. If it is found that the same or



similar proposals are submitted in both Calls, the Proposal submitted first, will only be forwarded for evaluation.

Funding of same activities that have already been supported by the RIF in the frame of previous funded projects, is not allowed.

Within the framework of the present Call the following specific conditions also apply:

- All private organisations (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) are required to register the updated data regarding their ultimate beneficial owners in the Competent National Registry / Archive, as per «The prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing Law of 2007 (188(I)/2007)». The RIF maintains the right to proceed with the appropriate checks in the competent Registries to verify the registration. For this purpose, all private organisations should submit an official proof for the data registration during the Contract Preparation stage. Furthermore, all private organisations (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) who request funding exceeding 150.000 Euro, during the Contract Preparation stage will be required to also submit the data (Name and Surname, ID / Passport Number and Date of Birth) of their ultimate beneficial owners through the relevant Declaration.
- Funded Projects should comply with the «Do No Significant Harm» principle, according to which they must not include or support activities that could cause significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives, as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852, on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment.
- In order to support the exploitation of research results, the interaction between the Host Organisation and the Central Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) for the preparation of a customised Action Plan for the Provision of Services by the KTO, is obligatory in the frame of the present Call. It is noted that, the adoption of the Action Plan and the acquisition of the Services are not mandatory.
- In the event that it is found that the Proposal (or a similar one with minor deviations regarding the content and / or participants) has been submitted under any other Programme / Call of the RESTART 2016 - 2020 Programmes, and this has not been duly declared by the Project Coordinator at the Proposal Submission Stage (Part-A), the RIF has the right to declare the proposal ineligible and/or to consider to impose sanctions to the Host Organisation and/or the Project Coordinator.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The projects must necessarily include Experimental Development activities. They may also include Industrial Research activities.



Project activities should fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4-7 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU¹.

It is noted that by completion of the Project Implementation, the Host Organisation must prepare a “Commercialization Plan” which will be submitted to the RIF as a Deliverable along with the Final Report. The “Commercialization Plan” must include an assessment and analysis of the project results’ market potential, in order to support future decisions by the Host Organisation and/or the Consortium, and the planning of exploitation of results. It is noted that, activities related to the implementation of actions included in the “Commercialization Plan”, are not eligible in the frame of the funded projects.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

12-24 Months

BUDGET

€ 5.000.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 200.000

The maximum aid intensity for Enterprises and Other Private Sector Organisations cannot exceed 70%.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Personnel costs, Instruments and Equipment Costs, Costs for External Services, Costs for Foreign Research Organisations, Costs for Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

The calculation of the Proposal Budget will be based on the simplified cost method “Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs”.

¹ The Technology Readiness Levels adopted by the EU are:

TRL 1- basic principles observed

TRL 2- technology concept formulated

TRL 3- experimental proof of concept

TRL 4- technology validated in lab

TRL 5- technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6- technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7- system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8- system complete and qualified

TRL 9- actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies)



All beneficiaries that have not previously participated in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, should make use of the simplified cost Method «Standard Scales of Unit Costs» for the calculation of personnel costs.

RESTART 2016-2020 WORK PROGRAMME

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organisations and individuals, the eligible activities and costs, as well as the specific information regarding the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in the **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 03/2023**, which is the main reference document and an important information source for interested parties and can be found on the Research and Innovation Foundation’s **IRIS (Innovation Research Information System) Portal** (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

SUBMISSION

Proposals are submitted through the Research and Innovation Foundation’s **IRIS Portal** (<https://iris.research.org.cy>).

The Project Coordinator and the Host Organisation and, if there is a Project Consortium, all Partner Organisations, should register in advance on the IRIS Portal.

Potential applicants are advised to use the «**Guide for Applicants**», which contains guidelines and clarifications regarding the Submission procedure and the «**IRIS Portal User Manual**» which can be found on the IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

The Research and Innovation Foundation encourages in all its Calls for Proposals:

- *the participation of women as Project Coordinators, and*
- *a gender-balanced participation in Projects.*

The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:

- 1.** Part A – General Information & Budget (electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal).
- 2.** Part B – Technical Annex (a separate document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format).
- 3.** Annex I – Curricula Vitae (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format – Non-Mandatory). It is recommended that, CVs are created according to the EUROPASS format and do not exceed 5 pages per person.



PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure

For the evaluation of Proposals to be submitted under the «Research in Enterprises» Programme, a Proposal Preliminary Check and a remote scientific evaluation procedure by three (3) independent evaluators (with a Consensus Report) will be followed, as described in the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme.

Prior to the scientific evaluation of each Proposal according to the evaluation criteria, evaluators are requested to assess the Proposal's compatibility with the objectives of the Programme and the relevant Call for Proposals. The evaluator will not proceed with the assessment of the evaluation criteria should the Proposal fail the compatibility assessment.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Excellence – Weight 20%

- Technological Breakthrough:
 - The technology has a high degree of novelty compared to other technologies available, or in development.
 - The Novelty creates the potential for new applications and functionalities.
 - The results of the technology demonstration and validation so far indicate the potential for application.
- Project Objectives:
 - The proposed research activities (experimental development, industrial research) are relevant given the core activities of the Host Organisation and compatible with the project's, the Programmes's and the Call's Objectives (activities fall within technology readiness levels (TRL 4-7).
 - Objectives for the planned technology development and validation of the innovation in relevant application environments are appropriate, credible and feasible.
 - Potential applications been identified and are they plausible.
 - The timing for this technology/innovation is right.

2. Added Value and Benefit – Weight 40%

- Credibility of the Impacts:



- Expected impacts described are credible and realistic within the project and beyond.
 - The technology has added value for users/customers in factors such as, usability, functionality, cost and ease of use.
 - The proposed business model of the Host Organisation, as described in the proposal (Business Model Canvas) is sound and credible.
- Economic, Scientific and/or Societal Benefits:
- The project is expected to contribute to the enhancement of the Host Organisation’s competitiveness in domestic and/or international markets, and subsequently in the growth of the local economy.
 - There is substantial demand for the proposed innovation, including the willingness of buyers to purchase the product/service.
 - The project is expected to generate other benefits such as the increase of employment in the Host Organisation or the broader economy (Partner Organisations, Vendors etc), contribute in addressing one or more existing environmental, societal, scientific and/or other local or EU challenges etc.
- Investment readiness and go-to-market Strategy:
- The proposal and its activities, including IPR Protection and Market Validation, contribute to a large extent to make the technology and the team investment ready from internal and/or external sources. There is demonstrated awareness of potential funding sources.
 - There is a convincing go to market pathway/strategy, including what regulatory approvals, standardisation, certifications may be needed (if relevant), time to market, possible business and revenue model.

3. Implementation – Weight 40%

- Quality and Motivation of the Team:
- The project team has the necessary capabilities and motivation to implement the proposed technological innovation and market-related activities.
 - The applicant(s) have the necessary expertise to create a unique commercial value from the emerging technology and develop an attractive business and investment proposition.
- Workplan and Allocation of Resources:
- The allocation of resources (person-months, budget and equipment) in the workplan/work packages and project partners is appropriate.



- Milestones and KPIs are present, relevant and clearly defined (measurable, timed, comparable etc.) to track progress along the pathway towards objectives.
- Risk assessment:
 - The main risks (technological, market, financial etc.) have been identified, together with measures to mitigate in order to achieve the project objectives.
 - Risks that might prevent the validation of the innovation in relevant application environment and/or market success been appropriately considered.

Selection

Proposals will be selected for funding according to their ranking as determined by their score until the exhaustion of the Call Budget.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

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The Research and Innovation Foundation may at its discretion, proceed to the extension or revocation of the present Call by applying the same publication procedure.