



## RESTART 2016-2020 WORK PROGRAMME

FOR RESEARCH,  
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION

Since April 2019, the Research Promotion Foundation was renamed to Research and Innovation Foundation in order to reflect its expanded role as the executive arm of the new National Research and Innovation Governance System.



RESEARCH  
& INNOVATION  
FOUNDATION



The Framework Programme RESTART 2016-2020 for Research, Technological Development and Innovation is co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund.



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Regional Development Fund



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## INTRODUCTION

This document forms the Work Programme of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation of the Research and Innovation Foundation<sup>1</sup>.

RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme is the principal reference document and an important information instrument for interested organisations and persons regarding the Programmes of the Research and Innovation Foundation that support activities of Research, Technological Development and Innovation, for the 2016-2020 period. It includes the following parts:

**Part I “Call”**, includes the Public Call of the Research and Innovation Foundation towards interested organisations and persons to participate in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, as well as the general description of the objectives, basic principles and structure of the Programmes.

**Part II, “Programmes”**, includes the description of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, categorised in three main Strategic Pillars.

The description of each Programme comprises its objectives and specific aims, beneficiaries, the Call for Proposals’ schedule, as well as the general characteristics of each Programme, such as budget, permitted activities, project duration and funding, eligible costs, and other specific participation restrictions.

**Part III, “Procedures and Participation Rules”**, includes the description of general rules and procedures of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, regarding the participation of organisations and natural persons.

It specifically contains information for beneficiary participation, activity and cost eligibility, evaluation, selection and funding procedures, project management and monitoring, principles of dissemination, protection and exploitation of research results, as well as the legal framework governing the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

During the present Programming Period, the Research and Innovation Foundation is entitled to issue circulars with regards to the procedures and participation rules of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and retains the right to update the content of the present Work Programme in consultation with relevant authorities, especially in matters of Call for Proposals’ scheduling and budget allocation.

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<sup>1</sup> Since April 2019, the Research Promotion Foundation was renamed to Research and Innovation Foundation in order to reflect its expanded role as the executive arm of the new National Research and Innovation Governance System.

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

## SECTION I- CALL

### CALL

The Board of Directors of the Research and Innovation Foundation, taking into consideration the following:

- the priorities set by the Foundation's Charter and in particular its guidelines in accordance with its basic purposes and objectives,
- the strategic goals and main objectives, stated in the strategic programming documents for the utilisation of European Regional Development Fund's (ERDF) resources, in accordance with the "Investment for Growth and Jobs" objective for the 2014-2020 period, and in particular the "Partnership Agreement" and the Operational Programme "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020",
- the National Policy Statement for Strengthening the Business Ecosystem in Cyprus, that has been adopted by the Council of Ministers on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2015,
- the objectives, aims and priorities of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy) that has been adopted by the Council of Ministers on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, as well as the proposed matrix of measures and policies and the Action Plan,
- the trends and development in matters of research, technological development and innovation at a European level and Cyprus' commitments in the frame of the National Reform Programme for the achievement of the "Europe 2020" strategy targets,
- Cyprus' opportunities and commitments that derive from its compliance with international conventions, agreements and protocols for transnational cooperation as well as from its participation in international and European programmes or organisations for the support of research and innovation activities,
- the comments, suggestions and opinions of research organisations, Enterprises, researchers and other stakeholders (organisations and persons) from Cyprus, collected in the frame of an extensive public consultation carried out by the Foundation during the preparation of its Programmes for the 2016-2020 period, and
- the overall experience the Foundation has gained over time, especially through the management and implementation of Research, Technological Development and Innovation Programmes and its cooperation with similar foreign organisations,

on its session dated 6 September 2016, has decided to announce the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme for Research, Technological Development and Innovation for the 2016-2020 period, which will hereinafter be referred to as "RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes", and

- will refer to three (3) Strategy Pillars, which reflect the strategic objectives of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and to 22 specific Programmes, each having its individual specialised objectives,

- will be co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus (through the RIF budget) and the European Regional Development Fund for the 2016-2020 period,
- will apply the Community Framework for the State Aid and specifically the Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain aid categories, compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty Text with EEA relevance, as well as the Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union to De Minimis aid,
- will be in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the “Investment for growth and jobs” goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, as well as the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council regarding the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Omnibus Regulation), [passage amending Regulation 1303/2013] and Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the provisions of the Common Provisions Regulation and the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulations for the programming period 2021-2027 and
- will apply the internationally accepted standards of ethics in Science, the provisions of the 2001 Law “on the Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine” and other provisions supplementing this Convention, as well as other relevant Laws of the Republic of Cyprus.

On the basis of the abovementioned considerations and decision, the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) invites all interested entities, organisations, enterprises and natural persons that meet the requirements of the present Work Programme and those of the specific Programmes, to submit proposals for the implementation of quality projects and activities within the framework of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

Submission of proposals should take place after the announcement by the RIF, of the relevant Call for Proposals for each Programme. The announcement may determine specific terms and conditions for participation, or provide possible additional information.



## BASIC PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

The RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes comprise a multi-annual development framework of Programmes for the support of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Cyprus, which is co-funded by national and European resources and is implemented in conjunction with other national initiatives and Programmes.

The vision of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes is to promote the field of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) as a principal factor for Cyprus' economic development, thus contributing in addressing major economic and social challenges and setting the conditions for sustainable growth, in accordance with the "Europe 2020" strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The design of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes focuses on particular objectives, as well as on the Priority Sectors identified through the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy)<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, it is part of the Operational Programme "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020", which is the development strategy of Cyprus for the utilisation of the resources of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of Priority Axis 1: "Strengthening the Competitiveness of Cyprus Economy".

The main objectives of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, which reflect on the three (3) main Strategy Pillars, are the following:

1. **Smart development, with focus on selected priority sectors**, through supporting the effectiveness of the RTDI System in Cyprus, its association with the productive base of the Economy, the enhancement of its extroversion and the reinforcement of its links and interoperability between its components.
2. **Ensuring the sustainability and dynamics of the Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) system** and to reinforce its future perspectives, focusing on excellence and on the support of human resources, especially those of the younger generation.
3. **Support the operational framework of the RTDI system and production of added value resulting from research and innovation activities**, through the development of supportive instruments and pilot measures, the encouragement for dissemination and exploitation of research results, and the cultivation and promotion of appropriate culture.

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<sup>2</sup> The Council of Ministers approved the Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus on its meeting on 26 March 2015. As mentioned, the preparation and adoption of Smart Specialization Strategy is an ex-ante conditionality set by the European Commission to the Member States during the programming period 2014-2020, for the exploitation of resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds for enhancing Research and Innovation (R&I) in areas where each country has a competitive advantage.

The three Pillars of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are classified in Sections, each Section comprising of specific Programmes of specialised objectives, described in detail in the present Work Programme.

The design of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes is governed by the following horizontal objectives:

- The effective utilization and further development of **Human Resource** potential in Cyprus, and especially the younger generation of researchers.
- The enhancement of the cooperation between the **Production System and the RTDI System** as this is considered to be the keystone for the developmental process and the maximisation of the return of public investment in the field of RTDI.
- The enhancement of **Extroversion and Development of International Collaborations** to the benefit of the fulfilment of Cyprus's strategic objectives.

At the same time, **Innovation** is viewed in its broad sense, as an essential component of the economic process, in gaining competitive advantage for Enterprises, and in overcoming social challenges.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The General Principles applicable in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are the following:

#### Open Participation

The RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are addressed to entities and natural persons based in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, in the EU, or any other state recognised by the Republic of Cyprus. The Programmes and the Competitions, depending on their objectives and activities, are open for participation to entities such as research organisations, higher education institutions, scientific and professional organisations, enterprises, business associations, public services, public benefit organisations, and natural persons such as academic staff, scientists, researchers, technical staff, students and pupils.

#### Competitive Procedures

The funded projects are selected on a competitive basis and, generally, after evaluation which is carried out by external experts in accordance with three evaluation criteria which apply to all Programmes: Excellence, Added Value and Benefit, and Implementation. Certain Programmes are excluded from competitive procedures, and the selection of projects is based on meeting minimum requirements and criteria as described in the Calls for Proposals, and on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Confidentiality**

All Proposals and any attached documents, information and data are confidentially handled by the RIF. To ensure confidentiality during the evaluation procedure, the external experts who evaluate the Proposals are obliged to sign a Confidentiality Agreement. Moreover, all necessary precautions are taken in order to ensure personal data protection.

### **Equal Treatment and Objectivity**

All proposals submitted in the frame of Calls for Proposals of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are equally treated and impartially evaluated according to their value, irrespective of the origin, identity and gender of participants.

### **Transparency**

The selection of projects to be funded and the management of the funded projects, are subject to specific rules and procedures, clearly described in the present Work Programme, the Calls for Proposals, the respective Project Management guidelines and in the Project Contracts. All participants receive appropriate feedback regarding the outcome of the evaluation procedure of their proposals and progress reports.

### **Simplification and Efficiency**

The procedures that apply to evaluation, selection and funding of proposals and to project monitoring, are such that participating bodies and the Foundation are subjected to the least possible administrative burden and to the point where project quality and compliance to participation and management rules is maintained.

### **Compliance with the Legislation and Ethical Issues**

During project selection and implementation of funded projects, all necessary measures are taken to ensure that all Research, Technological Development and Innovation activities are carried out in accordance to national and Community/European legislation and in compliance to the fundamental principles and existing regulations regarding ethical and safety matters. Projects with defence or military purposes cannot be funded.

### **Broad Dissemination of Knowledge and Exploitation of Results**

The exploitation of project results by participating organisations is one of the fundamental priorities of the Framework Programme RESTART 2016-2020, as a means of benefiting economy and society. Particular emphasis is given on the optimisation of the research results' promotion and the broad dissemination of knowledge to the international and local scientific and business communities, as well as to the general public.

### Co-funding

Projects are generally co-funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation and the participating organisations. The level of funding (Aid Intensity) for participating organisations is determined in accordance with the Community Framework for State Aid.

### Monitoring

The RIF monitors the implementation progress of funded projects, in accordance with relevant procedures, in order to ensure qualitative implementation of projects, promotion of notable results and quick release of funding. Participating bodies are fully responsible for the timely and qualitative implementation of projects and for proper management of public funding, in compliance with relevant regulations and procedures. The RIF may enforce measures and sanctions in cases of serious deviations to the implementation of planned project activities and/or improper financial management of projects.

## STRUCTURE

The basic layout of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes is in direct association to the abovementioned vision and horizontal objectives.

At a first level, three (3) main **Strategy Pillars** are being set, which correspond to the main objectives of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, as follows:

- **PILLAR I “Smart Growth”**
- **PILLAR II “Sustainable RTDI System”**
- **PILLAR III “Transformation of RTDI System”**

At a second level, each Pillar is divided into **Sections**, each Section particularly aiming to achieve the objectives and priorities of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

At a third level, each Section comprises specific **Programmes** which are the instruments and implementation measures used to achieve the set objectives and priorities of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes. The Programmes may be implemented through Competitions.

## RESTART 2016-2020 PROGRAMMES BUDGET

The total budget of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes is **137.740.000 Euro**.

A total amount of 45.000.000 Euro is foreseen to be covered by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and in particular by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Programmes which are co-funded by the ERDF, contribute to the achievement of the Operational Programme's (OP) "Sustainable Development and Competitiveness" objectives, which is the multiannual development programme analysing the development strategy of Cyprus that will utilise the ESIF's resources.

The co-funded Programmes are those included in Priority Axis 1 "Enhancement of Economy's Competitiveness" and the Thematic Objective 1 "Support of Research, Technological Development and Innovation" of the Operational Programme. The main objective of Pillar I is to enhance the competitiveness of the Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs), through a bunch of interventions that aim to make use of the competitive advantages of Cyprus in particular sectors and to address particular factors that result in low competitiveness. The introduction of innovation to enterprises through their involvement in research and innovation activities, the liaison with academic and research bodies, as well as the technological upgrade of business units are expected to play an important role in the improvement of the competitiveness.

The ERDF co-funded Programmes of the Research and Innovation Foundation are classified, according to their objectives, to the Investment Priorities 1a and 1b and contribute to the fulfilment of Special Objectives 1a.1 and 1b.1 respectively. Table i.1 describes the abovementioned Investment Priorities and their Special Objectives.

<b>Table I.1 INVESTMENT PRIORITIES AND SPECIAL OBJECTIVES OF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME</b>	
<b>INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>	<b>SPECIAL OBJECTIVE</b>
1a – Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	Increase the research capacity of the country
1b – Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	Increase private investments in research and innovation activities.

The interventions of Investment Priority 1a aim at:

- The development of research units and infrastructure, able to implement top level research in the Priority Sectors that were highlighted along S3Cy. This aim is supported by the Programme "New Strategic Infrastructure Units – Young Scientists" that concerns the development of new research infrastructures, under the coordination of young

scientists, to implement top level, cutting edge research that applies to the Priority Sectors.

- The increase of human resource potential, through the introduction of new researchers to the RTDI system, in order to implement quality research projects in research organisations and enterprises, aiming to enhance the organisations' capacity and the development of hubs of excellence. This aim is supported by the "DIDAKTOR" (Post-Doctoral Researchers) Programme that concerns the introduction of young scientists at postdoctoral level to the RTDI system for implementing quality research projects, the "Bilateral Collaborations", "International Collaboration - Dual Targeting" and "European Initiatives - National Development" Programmes that concern the networking and collaboration of Cypriot and foreign organisations in order to implement joint research projects in frontier areas that apply to the Priority Sectors and the "Excellence Hubs" Programme that concerns the development of hubs of excellence in the frame of collaboration between research/academic organisations and enterprises as well as collaboration with foreign organisations.
- The complementarity between actions funded by the ERDF and the Horizon 2020 Programme of the EC. This aim is supported by the "Horizon 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity" that concerns the support of high-quality research proposals that were submitted in the framework of "Horizon 2020" Programme and did not secure funding as a result of budget exhaustion.

The interventions of Investment Priority 1b aim at:

- The promotion of holistic, integrated solutions that enhance the competitiveness in the subsectors of the Priority Sectors of S3Cy. This objective is supported by the "Integrated Projects" Programme that concerns the implementation of large, interdisciplinary projects that aim to provide integrated interventions in major challenges of the Priority Sectors and integrated solutions with significant impact on the economic development and the reform of productive sectors.
- The support to SMEs, including start-ups, to develop innovative products and services, either individually or in cooperation with a research organisation or with other SMEs active in research and innovation activities, as well as the encouragement of collaboration between enterprises and research organisations. This objective is supported by the "Research in Enterprises", "Research in STARTUPS" and "Eureka Cyprus" Programmes, which concern the involvement of enterprises, including start-ups, in research and development activities and the development of new, or improvement of existing, added value products/services/production methods of, either individually or in cooperation with research organisations and enterprises in Cyprus and abroad. The objective is also supported by the "Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications" Programme that concerns the initial investigation of possible industrial applications of a technology/knowhow held by an enterprise.
- The establishment of a research and innovation culture across enterprises and the society in general. This objective is supported by the "Social Innovation" Programme that concerns the application of innovative ideas, products, services, technologies, models and strategies in addressing social challenges and in the cultivation of a social innovation culture, i.e. the application of socially oriented innovation and the "Innovation Vouchers" Programme which supports the cooperation of enterprises with knowledge intensive organisations in order to obtain support in innovation related issues.

- The protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights and the commercialisation of research results. This objective is supported by the “Industrial Property” Programme that concerns the protection (patents, industrial designs) of important research and innovation results, aiming to maximise the benefits that derives from the exploitation of research results and the “Commercial Exploitation of Research Results in Enterprises” Programme which aims to support the added value of entrepreneurial activities in Cyprus, through the commercial exploitation of the results of research carried out by Cypriot Enterprises.

RIF’s Programmes for entrepreneurial innovation for STARTUPS and existing enterprises, will be co-financed partly by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and partly by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the period 2021-2027. In addition, the Calls for Proposals of other Programs that will be announced in 2021 will be co-financed by the ERDF for the period 2021-2027 ("THALIA 2021-2027" Programme) and other sources.

Table I.2 demonstrates the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes layout structure and the indicative budget allocation per Programme. The table also shows the classification of ERDF co-funded Programmes to the Investment Priorities of Priority Axis I of the Operational Programme.

It is noted that the Research and Innovation Foundation has the right to modify the total budget of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, and its allocation to the Programmes, depending on the implementation progress and budget spending of Programmes, the number of proposals and eligible proposals for funding, etc. Budget modifications are made on regular basis and are available to interested parties in the relevant Calls for Proposals.

The Programs that will be announced in 2021 and will be co-financed by the ERDF for the period 2021-2027 and the Republic of Cyprus ("THALIA 2021-2027" Operational Programme) under PRIORITY 1 "Competitive, Smart and Digital Economy" and will serve the Specific Objective 1 (i) "Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies". These actions seek to enhance the intensity of Research and Innovation and to increase private and public investment in R&D with the ultimate goal of developing the country, supporting competitiveness and enhancing extroversion towards international markets.

<b>Table I.1. STRUCTURE AND BUDGET FOR FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME RESTART 2016-2020</b>					
<b>PILLAR</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET (Euros)</b>	<b>INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>	<b>SPECIAL OBJECTIVE</b>
<b>PILLAR I</b> Smart Growth	<b>R&amp;I Partnerships</b>	Integrated Projects	20.000.000	1b	1.b1
		Infrastructures	11.000.000	1a	1.a1
	<b>Participation of Enterprises</b>	Research in Enterprises	9.300.000	1b	1.b1
		Research in Enterprises (THALIA)	3.600.000	1*	1.(i)*
		Research in STARTUPS	1.000.000	1b	1.b1

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		Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications	1.000.000	1b	1.b1
		Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications (THALIA)	1.000.000	1*	1(i)*
		Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications (HYDRO)	200.000	N/A	N/A
	<b>Extroversion – Open Horizons</b>	Bilateral Collaborations	1.600.000	N/A	N/A
		International Collaboration- Dual Targeting	1.200.000	N/A	N/A
		EUREKA Cyprus	1.200.000	N/A	N/A
		European Initiatives- National Development	8.000.000	N/A	N/A
<b>PILLAR II</b> Sustainable RTDI System	<b>Excellence</b>	Excellence Hubs	17.100.000	1a	1.a1
		Excellence Hubs (THALIA)	10.000.000	1*	1(i)*
		EUROSTARS Cyprus	2.500.000	N/A	N/A
		Creation and Initial Development of STARTUPS with International Orientation (PRE-SEED)	4.000.000	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call - 1*	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call- 1(i)*
		Development of Internationally Competitive Innovative Products and Services by STARTUPS (SEED)	11.000.000	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call - 1*	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call- 1(i)*
		Development and Promotion of Internationally Competitive Innovative Products and Services by Existing Enterprises (INNOVATE)	11.000.000	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call - 1*	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – N/A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call- 1(i)*
	<b>New Researchers, New Ideas, New Opportunities</b>	DIDAKTOR (Post-Doctoral Researchers)	9.400.000	1a	1.a1
		Horizon 2020 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Opportunity	5.500.000	1a	1.a1
		Social Innovation	1.500.000	N/A	N/A
<b>PILLAR III</b> Transformation of	<b>Support Mechanisms</b>	Innovation Vouchers	260.000	1b	1.b1
		Industrial Property	400.000	N/A	N/A
		Participation in International Brokerage Events	140.000	N/A	N/A



## RESTART 2016-2020 WORK PROGRAMME

RTDI system		Encouragement of Project Coordination in Horizon 2020	1.000.000	N/A	N/A
	<b>Alternative Forms of Funding</b>	Commercial Exploitation of Research Results	Stage A: 270.000 Stage B: 1.000.000	N/A	N/A
		Commercial Exploitation of Research Results (THALIA)	200.000	1*	1(i)*
		Commercial Exploitation of Research Results by Enterprises	Stage A: 270.000 Stage B: 1.000.000	N/A	N/A
		Commercial Exploitation of Research Results by Enterprises (THALIA)	200.000	1*	1(i)*
		Complementary Funding	4.000.000	N/A	N/A
	<b>Culture</b>	Nurturing an RTDI Culture	500.000	N/A	N/A

\* **Note:** These Programs will be announced in 2021 and will be co-financed by the ERDF for the period 2021-2027 and the Republic of Cyprus (**Operational Program "THALIA 2021-2027"**)

## SECTION II - PROGRAMMES

### PILLAR I: SMART GROWTH

Pillar I, “Smart Growth”, aims at smart development, focusing on the selected priority sectors, through the liaison of academic and research organisations with the productive base of the economy, the enhancement of the RTDI System’s quality and effectiveness, the enhancement of its extroversion and the reinforcement of its links and interoperability between its components.

#### Priority Sectors

The study of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy) highlighted the most prevailing productive activities in fields where Cyprus is realistically expected to play a major role in the next years. As the country has comparative advantages such as relevant infrastructure, technical knowhow and human resources in the priority sectors, these sectors may become levers for growth of the economy, while at the same time it is expected to support and adapt them to the current state-of-the-art, new technologies and needs, in order to promote entrepreneurship and innovation at the highest possible degree.

The Priority Sectors that have been selected through the study for Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy) are the following:

- The Sectors of “Tourism” and “Energy” as the dominant priority sectors.
- The Sectors of “Agriculture- Food Industry<sup>3</sup>”, “Built Environment- Construction Industry”, “Transport- Shipping” and “Health”, as secondary priority sectors, and
- The Sectors of “Information and Communication Technologies”, “Sustainable Growth- Environment” and “Key Enabling Technologies (KET)” as important Horizontal Sectors which, beyond their intrinsic importance, deeply affect the qualitative development of the Priority Sectors.

Tables II.1a- II.1h describe the Priority Sectors, Sub-Sectors and Focus Areas. The description of the Focus Areas is **explanatory and not restrictive**.

#### Priority Sectors with Thematic Focus

Table II.1a PRIORITY SECTOR “TOURISM”	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Sustainable Tourism Development</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>The Social, Economic and Environmental Dimension of Tourism</b>
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Assessment and Monitoring of Tourist Bearing Capacity</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Specific Forms of Tourism</b>

<sup>3</sup> In the framework of “Agriculture- Food Industry” Sector only activities relating to research and development in this sector, will be funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation through the European Regional Development Fund. Activities relating to the active involvement of farmers in the cultivation of cooperation culture and the adoption of innovative methods and practices in order to solve problems in the field of Agriculture, will be financed by the relevant Programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

<b>B.1</b>	<b>Promoting Special Forms of Tourism-</b> Enriching Tourism Experience <i>Indicative areas: Conference and Incentive Tourism, Sport Tourism, Cycling Tourism, Golf Tourism, Wedding and Honeymoon trips, Hiking Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Religious Tourism, Health Tourism (Medical &amp; Wellness), Agro-Tourism, Educational Tourism (Learning), Cruising, Gastronomic Tourism &amp; Wine Tourism, Diving Tourism and Gambling Tourism</i>
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Mitigating Seasonal Variation</b> through the development of special forms of Tourism
<b>Г.</b>	<b>Digital Age and Tourism</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Optimising the Tourist experience</b> through the use of ICT
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Social Networks and electronic booking systems as competitive advantages</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Organisation, Management and Promotion of the Tourism Product</b>
<b>D.1</b>	<b>Tourism Satellite Account Tables-</b> Instrument for monitoring competitiveness
<b>D.2</b>	<b>System Organisation for Managing and Promoting</b> the Tourism Product

Table II.b PRIORITY SECTOR “ENERGY”	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Development of New or Optimised Technologies for Renewable Energy Sources</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Solar Energy</b> <i>Indicative areas: Solar Photovoltaic Technologies, solar, crystalline-silicon-based solar cells, thin films and deposition techniques, development of solid aggregate PV systems, advanced materials, and procedures of creation/transportation of results during processing, concentrated solar energy, high concentration technologies, thermal solar energy storage, co-production of electricity and desalinated water using solar energy.</i>
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Technologies for Solar Heating and Cooling</b> <i>Indicative areas: Heat Pump Technologies for heating and cooling, co-production and biomass systems for hot water and heating, photovoltaic systems and co-production systems for energy production, integration of solar systems in buildings, research for the development of new materials for storage, optimised transportation of heating, insulation and optimised collectors.</i>
<b>A.3</b>	<b>Wind Energy</b> <i>Indicative areas: Modelling and simulation studies for new procedures and optimised use of wind energy for the production of electricity, research for materials used in wind systems, fluid mechanics for wind application, and new CFD modelling techniques.</i>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Innovative Applications of Renewable Energy Sources</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Solar Thermal Technologies</b> <i>Indicative areas: Solar heating and cooling, great scale systems, district heating systems, co-production of electricity and desalinated water using solar energy, seasonal heating storing.</i>
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Solar Photovoltaic</b> <i>Indicative areas: Efficiency studies, integration systems in new and existing buildings, new photovoltaic architecture systems for increased efficiency, photovoltaic collectors, reliability of natural characteristics of solar cells.</i>
<b>B.3</b>	<b>Innovative Renewable Energy Sources applications in tourism, agriculture, livestock, fish-farming, etc.</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Exploitation of Hydrocarbons</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Natural Gas Storage</b>
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Natural Gas Use</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Efficient Use- Energy Saving</b>
<b>D.1</b>	<b>Developing Innovative and cost Effective Technologies</b> for Optimised Use of Energy in New and Existing Buildings
<b>D.2</b>	<b>ICT Systems for Monitoring Energy Consumption and Optimising Efficiency in Urban Environments and Transportation</b>
<b>D.3</b>	<b>Networks for Energy Transportation and Distribution</b> <i>Indicative areas: managing, monitoring, distribution, network control, smart networks, measuring sensors, data management for optimal system control. Optimal integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the electricity distribution system, new technologies for energy transformation, optimised management coordination of various types of RES.</i>

Table II.1c PRIORITY SECTOR "AGRICULTURE- FOOD INDUSTRY»	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Competitiveness of Agricultural and Livestock Production</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>New Technologies, ICT and Robotics</b> in Agricultural and Rural Production
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Utilisation of Biotechnology in Agriculture, Aquaculture and Livestock</b> <i>Indicative areas: increase of efficiency of plants and livestock, use of biological resources in agriculture and livestock systems, molecular genetics and reproduction of plants</i>
<b>A.3</b>	<b>Protected Designation of Origin, Geographical Indication and Traditional Products</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Food Quality and Safety</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Addressing Nutritional Chain Risks</b> in all stages: Farm, Harvest, Transport, Processing, Market, Consumer
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Food Quality and Safety</b> <i>Indicative areas: monitoring indicators, risk analysis and critical control point systems, food metabolic profile, etc.</i>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Livestock Development</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Optimal Animal Management and Nutrition Practices</b> to Ensure Safety and Quality of livestock Products
<b>D.</b>	<b>Climate Change: Agriculture and Food</b>
<b>D.1</b>	<b>The Impact of Climate Change on Agro-climatic Zones of Cyprus</b> <i>Indicative areas: complete monitoring system, simulation and observation models for the monitoring of agriculture and livestock with the use of GPS</i>
<b>D.2</b>	<b>Food Systems Risk Analysis</b> <i>Indicative areas: imbalances due to natural phenomena and its relation with the market-quantification of impacts on resource availability for sufficient production, food quality and safety</i>
<b>E.</b>	<b>Environmental and Socio-Economic Dimension</b>
<b>E.1</b>	<b>Effective Use of Biodiversity and Ecosystems</b> <i>Indicative areas: evaluation of interactivity and viable management of food production, effective use in intensive agricultural systems, etc. Sustainable management of resources and waste: management of soil, water resources, animal waste, recycled water, etc.</i>
<b>E.2</b>	<b>Optimal Use of Water Resources</b> <i>Indicative areas: measures to face pollutants, ensuring the quality, best use and saving of water supplies.</i>
<b>E.3</b>	<b>Exploitation of Renewable Energy Sources</b> in Agricultural Production

Table II.1d PRIORITY SECTOR "BUILT ENVIRONMENT- CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY"	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Sustainable Urban Development</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Urban Networks, Infrastructures and Connectivity</b> <i>Indicative areas: knowledge, mobility, transports, ICT, energy, utility projects, waste management, etc.- implementations of previous urban technologies</i>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Contemporary Construction and Infrastructure Design</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<b>High Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Buildings</b>
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage Buildings</b> <i>Indicative areas: maintenance, restoration, integration, promotion and reutilisation of the cultural heritage buildings in the urban built environment and urban life</i>
<b>B.3</b>	<b>Upgrading Existing Buildings</b> <i>Indicative areas: optimised use of existing buildings, anti-seismic upgrade and energy efficiency upgrade, modification of use, use of smart managing systems, accessibility, etc.</i>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Planning and Management of Building and Infrastructure Construction</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Exploiting Sustainable Construction Methods</b>

	<i>Indicative areas: use of building materials with high additional value, reduction of resource consumption, reduction of environmental impacts and increase of reutilisation of available resources</i>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Construction Materials</b>
<b>D.1</b>	<b>Development of Innovative and Smart Construction Materials</b> <i>Indicative areas: materials with high additional value, with reutilisation ability, based on knowledge and on the needs of each client</i>
<b>D.2</b>	<b>Exploitation of Local Raw Materials</b> in the Manufacture of Construction Materials

Table II.1e PRIORITY SECTOR "TRANSPORT-SHIPPING"	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Contemporary Public Transport</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Development of Urban Transport Systems and Modern Public Transport</b> <i>Indicative areas: increase of attractiveness and quality of urban public transports, traffic management in the urban and interurban network, optimised functioning and maintenance of transport infrastructure</i>
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Energy Saving</b> <i>Indicative areas: use of alternative fuel forms, "green" cars, etc.</i>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Maritime Transport/Shipping</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Managing, Planning and Developing Ports</b> <i>Indicative areas: improving the quality of function, better use of capacity, etc.</i>
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Maritime and Coastal Tourism</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Sustainable Transport Development</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Intelligent Transport Systems</b>
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Safe Transport Development</b> <i>Indicative areas: road safety, avoiding marine accidents, optimisation of security level of air transports</i>

Table II.1f PRIORITY SECTOR "HEALTH"	
<b>A.</b>	<b>E-Health</b>
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Integrated Health Information System</b> <i>Indicative areas: Complete national system for management, monitoring and evaluation of illnesses, Electronic Patient Register</i>
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Safety and Quality Assurance of Health Services</b> <i>Indicative areas: Development of National Quality and Safety Indicators, Evaluation of Patients, Customers and Professionals Satisfaction, National Quality Clinical Control System- traceability</i>
<b>A.3</b>	<b>Digital Mapping of Health</b> <i>Indicative areas: Geographic distribution of diagnostic centres and specialties, Information systems for management and connection of medical centres, biological databases- advanced computational instruments and software: data mining, management, efficient use of information taken off the biological data, implementation of computerised system of medicine management</i>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Clinical and Genetic Investigation and Treatment of Diseases</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Monitoring- Management- Care</b> <i>Indicative areas: Modern Systems of Primary Patient Care (with non-transmittable diseases): monitoring, primary care, management after cure, palliative care, etc. Early stage detected and curable forms of diseases: frequency, mortality, detection in later stages, check-ups</i>
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Diagnosis- Prevention/ Risk Factors/ Treatment</b> <i>Indicative areas: Prevention/ Treatment (diagnosis, cure) – Causes of the appearance of diseases in the Cypriot population, understanding quality/quantity connections between diet and phenotype/genotype, gene-expression and risk factors, exposure to environmental factors, psychological disorders, treatment of diseases and increase of productivity, quality, safety and effectiveness of intervention and early detention programmes, modern mapping methods</i>
<b>B.3</b>	<b>Molecular and Medical Genetics (Medical Translational Research)</b> <i>Indicative areas: Research on the human genome of the Cypriot population and utilisation in treatment of diseases, complete approach for the understanding and cure of mechanisms involved in diseases- gene therapy, advanced DNA and protein sequence, structure and modelling technologies,</i>

	<i>ability to comprehend the complicated biological mechanisms that lead to pathology, playing an important role in supporting the process of discovery of new medicinal and treatment targets</i>
<b>B.4</b>	<b>Promoting Public Health and Quality of Life</b> <i>Indicative areas: Healthy and active ageing, the impact of exercise, nutrition and climate change- Biomonitoring and Risk Assessment, Impacts of the financial crisis on public health</i>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Development of Safe and Effective Pharmaceuticals.</b>
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Molecular Diagnosis and Development of Specialised Pharmaceuticals</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Medical Tourism</b>
<b>D.1</b>	<b>Development of Preventive Medicine, Climatic Therapy, Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery and In-Vitro Fertilization.</b>

## Horizontal Priority Sectors

The emphasis of horizontal sector “Sustainable Growth- Environment” is placed upon the following areas, which present important prospects and challenges:

Table II.1g HORIZONTAL PRIORITY SECTOR “SUSTAINABLE GROWTH-ENVIRONMENT”	
<b>1</b>	<b>Adjustment to Climate Change- Prevention and Management of Risks: Monitoring and Management Systems, Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Mitigation of Desertification</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Rational Management of Nature Resources with Emphasis on Water Resources and the Protection of Ecosystem and Biodiversity</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Conservation, Promotion and Exploitation of Cultural Heritage</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sustainable Blue Growth</b>

In the “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)” horizontal priority sector, the emphasis is placed, but not limited to, on the following areas:

Table II.1.h HORIZONTAL PRIORITY SECTOR «INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES”	
<b>Information Technologies:</b>	
(a)	Software: innovative software, multimedia and graphics applications, knowledge and content management technologies- bigdata, language technologies, new internet applications- cloud services
(b)	Hardware: smart systems, optimisations of hardware and processing power, high efficiency computational systems, system interoperability, Artificial Intelligence, robotics, sensors
<b>Communication Technologies:</b>	
(a)	Networks: security, high capacity, flexibility network management
(b)	Wireless and Satellite Communication: new generation wireless and mobile networks, mobile broadband networks, 4 <sup>th</sup> generation network applications, remote sensing
(c)	High Speed Transmission Media: optical fibres, light wave networks
<b>Horizontal ICT Applications:</b>	
(a)	Digital Tourism and Culture: tele-service, web observatories, product management and promotion, digitalisation of cultural heritage, 3D representation
(b)	Digital Education: e-learning, computer assisted and interactive learning

(c)	Digital Health and Quality of Life: health management, systems, tele-medicine, tele-examination, digital integration and assistance, ICT assisted independent living, innovative diagnostic imaging approaches
(d)	Promotion of Ecological Technologies: smart distribution systems, water management, environmental monitoring, smart energy applications
(e)	Digital Governance, Labour and Entrepreneurship: tele-working, e-commerce, citizen service systems, integrated public service management systems.

The horizontal priorities include the field of Key Enabling Technologies (KET). KETs are the technological building blocks which provide important prospects for innovation and contribute to the development and manufacturing of advanced products and the application of reforms and improvements in productivity and performance, thereby being of vital importance for the involvement of the industry sector and for addressing significant societal challenges.

In the frame of the present Work Programme, KETs include the following fields of technology and science:

- **Nanotechnology:** An umbrella-term that covers the design, characterisation, production and application of structures, devices and systems by controlling shape and size at atomic, molecular and supramolecular scale. Nanotechnology holds the promise of leading to the development of smart nano- and micro- devices and systems and to radical breakthroughs in vital fields such as healthcare, energy, environment and manufacturing.
- **Advanced Materials:** This field refers to new reduced-cost substitutes to existing materials and to new higher added-value products and services. Advanced materials offer major improvements in a wide variety of different fields, e.g. in aerospace, transport, building and healthcare. They facilitate recycling, lowering the carbon footprint and energy demand as well as limiting the need for raw materials that are scarce.
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Processing:** This field is relevant to the development and supply chain of basic Key Enabling Technologies, which include nanotechnology, advanced materials, micro- and nano-electronics, photonics and industrial biotechnology. It is related to the high technology involved in manufacturing and processing, leading to the optimisation of product properties, production time, cost, energy and material consumption, efficiency of operations, waste management and environmental pollution.
- **Life Sciences, Biomedical Sciences and Technology and Biotechnology:** It includes the fields of life sciences, industrial biotechnology, basic and clinical medicine, biotechnology in medicine, medical engineering, environmental biotechnology, health sciences and agrosiences.
- **Micro-Nanoelectronics:** Deals with semiconductor components and/or highly miniaturised electronic subsystems and their integration into larger products and systems. They include the fabrication, design, packaging and testing from nano-scale transistors to micro-scale systems integrating multiple functions on a chip.
- **Photonics:** A multidisciplinary domain dealing with light, encompassing its generation, detection, and management. Among other things, it provides the technological basis for the economic conversion of sunlight to electricity (which is important for the production of renewable energy) and a variety of electronic components and equipment such as photodiodes, LEDs and lasers.

The classification of KETs in the abovementioned fields is presented in detail in Annex I of the present Work Programme.

The RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes highlight the importance of KETs in the development of all Priority Sectors by including the “New Strategic Infrastructure Units - Young Scientists” Programme which focuses on the abovementioned technology and science fields and on the field of ICT, aiming at the development of new research units with the potential to evolve into centres of research excellence of great prospects during the coming years.

### **Association between Programmes and Sectors**

The relation between the Programmes of Pillar I with the Priority Sectors with Thematic Focus and the Horizontal Priority Sectors is shown in the Table II.1.i. This is further specified in Programme descriptions.



Table II.1.i. REQUIREMENTS FOR TARGETING OF PROJECTS OF PILLAR I IN PRIORITY SECTORS WITH THEMATIC FOCUS AND / OR HORIZONTAL PRIORITY SECTORS										
SECTION	PROGRAMME	SECTORS WITH THEMATIC FOCUS						HORIZONTAL SECTORS		
		TOURISM	ENERGY	AGRICULTURE- FOOD INDUSTRY	BUILT ENVIRONMENT- CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY	TRANSPORT- SHIPPING	HEALTH	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH- ENVIRONMENT	ICT	KET
<b>R&amp;I Partnerships</b>	Integrated Projects	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Infrastructures</b>	New Strategic Infrastructure Units- Young Scientists	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X
<b>Participation of Enterprises</b>	Research in Enterprises	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Research in STARTUPs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Extroversion-Open Horizons</b>	Bilateral Collaborations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	International Collaboration-Dual Targeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	EUREKA Cyprus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	European Initiatives-National Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

**\* The New Strategic Infrastructure Units- Young Scientists Programme anticipates the implementation of Projects in the field of ICT and KETs, with applications in the six Thematic Priority Sectors as well as the Horizontal Sector “Sustainable Growth- Environment”.**

## 1. “INTEGRATED PROJECTS” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Integrated Projects” Programme aims at enhancing the effectiveness of the RTDI system and its targeted association to the productive base in the Priority Sectors, thus acting as a strengthening factor for the competitiveness of the economy and quality of life in Cyprus.

The Programme is anticipated to be a key instrument in the implementation of Pillar I objectives, contributing in overcoming the current financial crisis through the implementation of research, technological development and innovation activities.

### Description

The “Integrated Projects” Programme, is expected to fund interdisciplinary, large scale, collaborative projects, within one or more focus areas of one of the Priority Sectors that have emerged through the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3Cy): “Energy”, “Tourism”, “Agriculture-Food Industry”, “Built Environment and Construction Industry”, “Transport-Shipping”, and “Health”.

The “Integrated Projects” Programme attempts to enhance the reform of selected productive sectors, their modernisation, their technological distinction, the utilisation of new forms of innovation and in effect the penetration to new markets.

The projects are expected to be implemented by integrated, mainly local consortia, which will make use of the significant links and synergies between all components of the quadruple helix, namely research centres, higher education institutions, enterprises, policy makers, and other interested organisations. The participants are expected to have a direct or indirect interest or be able to positively contribute to devising a strategy and implementing projects that develop the respective Sector.

During the implementation of the projects it is also anticipated to utilize the most significant local infrastructures that can assist in the achievement of projects’ objectives and the development of the Priority Sectors. Foreign research organisations which offer specific scientific expertise and/or research infrastructure which is considered necessary for the project implementation could participate in the “Integrated Projects” Programme.

The ultimate objective of the projects must be the integrated intervention towards major challenges of the Priority Sector, through the implementation of research, technological development and innovation activities, in order to produce tangible results with an impact on economic growth.

The proposed projects may have other objectives, such as:

- the promotion of holistic, integrated, complex where necessary and multi-attribute solutions which enhance the competitiveness of the Priority Sector in the selected Focus Areas,

- the development of new and/or the upgrade of existing innovative products and services that promote competitiveness, and
- the resolution of important problems that hold back or endanger the Sector's prospects for further strengthening of its sustainable growth.

Moreover, the implementation of "Integrated Projects", aims to:

- the development of substantial links and synergies between all components of the quadruple helix,
- the creation of a critical mass of researchers and the utilisation of young scientists for the development of top level research activities,
- the utilisation of existing infrastructures and centres of excellence, and the contribution to the development of new competitive ones, and
- the facilitation, where appropriate and possible, of the horizontal and technological priorities of S3Cy.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

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

The participation of Enterprises in the consortium is obligatory. At least 35% of the project budget must be allocated to Enterprises (Type B) that participate in the Consortium.

The participation of Foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

No further restrictions or conditions apply in regards to the number or type of organisations which will compose the project's Consortium. It is however expected that the participating organisations of the "Integrated Projects" will represent all four components of the quadruple helix, according to their specialisation and real capacities and in accordance to the requirements and targets of each project, such as:

- academic and research institutions from the public and the private sector,
- enterprises, federations, chambers and enterprise associations,
- representatives of the general public and end users, such as local authorities, associations, non-profit organisations, scientific chambers, and
- policy makers such as the competent public services, public organisations, the wider public sector.

### **Project Activities**

The Projects must necessarily include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development Activities. They may also include Fundamental Research activities.

It is also noted that the contribution to overcoming the current financial crisis through research, technological development and innovation activities is an important objective of the Projects. It is therefore expected that Experimental Development activities should constitute an important part of each Project.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

24-36 months

### **Budget**

€20.000.000

The budget breakdown to each Priority Sector will be specified in the Calls for Proposals.

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€1.000.000

The maximum aid intensity for Enterprises and other private sector organisations cannot exceed 70%.

### **Eligible Costs**

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

It is noted that for this Programme, and in accordance to the general limits for eligible costs which are included in Chapter 3.4, Section 3 of the current Work Programme, the following differentiations apply:

- Costs for Foreign Research Organisations: Up to €50.000 per Foreign Research Organisation and up to 10% of the total RIF funding, and
- Instruments and Equipment Costs: Up to 15% of the total budget.

### **Evaluation**

The Proposals are evaluated in two stages:

In Stage I of the Scientific Evaluation, each proposal is remotely evaluated by two (2) experts, with expertise in the field of the proposal, according to Method I as described in Chapter 4.3 of Section 3 of the present Work Programme. At least one of the two experts chosen should have a good

perception of entrepreneurship in the specific Sector. The top five (5) ranked eligible proposals in each Priority Sector qualify automatically to Stage II of the Evaluation. The ranking of Stage I is not taken into account in Stage II of the Evaluation procedure.

The number of proposals that proceed to Stage II of the Evaluation procedure may be increased in the following occasions:

- Eligible proposals marked equally which are ranked at the bottom of the ranking list in any given Priority Sector. In this occasion proposals with equal marks proceed to Stage II.
- Re-evaluation of proposals, in the event a redress appeal is submitted and approved with regards to the outcome of the Evaluation in Stage I. In this case, re-evaluated proposals that receive the same or higher mark than the last proposal on the ranking list in the relevant Priority Sector, will proceed to Stage II.

Stage II of proposal evaluation is carried out by six (6) Scientific Evaluation Committees (SEC), one for each Priority Sector, in accordance to Method II as described in Chapter 4.3 of Section 3 of the present Work Programme. Each Committee generally consists of the experts who evaluated the Proposals that have qualified from Stage I.

In the frame of Stage II of the Evaluation, the Project Coordinator presents the Project, in person, to the members of the SEC, who will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications and discuss the content of the Proposal between them and also with the Project Coordinator. The SEC's objective is to compare Proposals in each Priority Sector and rank them in a priority order for funding. The SEC may decide that one or more proposals cannot be funded by the RIF.

After completion of the procedure, the relevant Evaluation Report will be communicated to the Project Coordinator, stating the rationale behind the SEC decision. The SEC decision is final and cannot be appealed against.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 25%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 45%, (3) Implementation 30%

It is noted that the same Evaluation Criteria and weighting apply to both Stages of the Evaluation Procedure.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of ranking until the exhaustion of the available Budget per Priority Sector, according to the Budget Breakdown, as specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

It is expected that two (2) Calls for Proposals will be announced in 2016 and 2018.

## 2. “NEW STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE UNITS- YOUNG SCIENTISTS” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “New Strategic Infrastructure Units - Young Scientists” Programme aims at creating new, distinct research units under the coordination of young scientists. The new research units shall pursue high level frontier research, and the proposed projects shall focus on topics of specific Groups of Technologies / Science Fields and be applicable on the Priority Sectors, while it is expected that they will significantly contribute to upgrading the research level in Cyprus, the development of new ideas for innovative solutions and products and the future reinforcement of the competitiveness of the Priority Sectors with:

- the creation of development hubs for excellence centres, with significant prospects in the following years,
- the development of a critical mass of researchers in cutting-edge sectors and the creation of jobs for young scientists,
- the promotion of research cooperation on a national and international level, and
- the widening of prospects to attract additional competitive research and innovation funds from other funding sources.

### Description

The Programme is addressed to young scientists, holders of a doctoral degree, with a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fifteen (15) years from the day receiving the title to the day of the announcement of the Call for Proposals, to undertake the Unit’s lead as project Coordinators forming new dynamic and ambitious research teams, within modern research infrastructure and equipment. These new research units are expected to be autonomous to a high degree, within the organisation. In addition to that, the research units will not just be an infrastructure upgrade for support of the existing research activities of the organisations. The new research unit must be hosted by the project Host Organisation.

Proposed projects must be submitted in one of the following four (4) Groups of Technologies / Scientific Fields:

1. ICT- Information and Communication Technologies (see Table II.1.h).
2. Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing and Processes.
3. Biosciences, Biomedical Sciences and Technology and Biotechnology.
4. Micro-Nanoelectronics and Photonics (MNE).

More details for Groups 2, 3 and 4, can be found in Annex I of the present Work Programme (Key Enabling Technologies).

The proposed projects must find applications in at least:

- two focus areas of one Priority Sector (Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Food Industry, Built Environment and Construction Industry, Transport-Shipping, Health), or
- two focus areas of two different Priority Sectors (Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Food Industry, Built Environment and Construction Industry, Transport-Shipping, Health), or

- one focus area from the Horizontal Priority Sector “Sustainable Growth – Environment” in conjunction with one focus area from a Priority Sector (Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Food Industry, Built Environment and Construction Industry, Transport-Shipping, Health).

The new research units are expected to be hosted by organisations that are active in the Priority Sectors.

The infrastructures developed within the new research units must be available for use by other organisations.

The Host Organisation must maintain the infrastructure developed in the frame of the project in fully operational mode for up to five (5) years after the project completion, and be in accordance to the provisions of Article 71 of the Regulation for the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 (Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013).

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Special Restrictions and Conditions for Participation**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

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

Participation of foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

The Project Coordinators must be holders of a doctoral degree, with a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fifteen (15) years from the day receiving the title to the day of the announcement of the Call for Proposals.

The reference date for calculating the eligible period should be the date of the actual award/graduation date for the doctoral degree, in accordance to the national regulations of the country where the title was obtained.

The maximum time limit may be extended in exceptional cases (i.e. maternity/paternity leave), as described in the Call for Proposals.

### **Project Activities**

The projects must necessarily include Industrial Research activities. They may also include Fundamental Research and/ or Experimental Development activities.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

36- 48 months

## **Budget**

€11.000.000

The budget breakdown in the different Groups of Technologies/ Scientific Fields will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

## **Maximum Funding per Project**

€1.000.000

## **Eligible Costs**

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

For the entities that are excluded from the Regulation (EU) 651/2014 for State Aids (Types A and C.2), the provision for depreciation does not apply in the cost category “Instruments and Equipment Costs”, and for funding purposes the eligible cost is the full cost of equipment to be purchased.

## **Evaluation**

The Proposals are evaluated in two Stages:

On Stage I of the Scientific Evaluation, each proposal is remotely evaluated by two (2) experts, specialists in the proposal topic, according to Method I as described in Chapter 4.3, Section 3 of the present Work Programme. The top five (5) ranked eligible proposals in each Group of Technologies/Science Fields qualify to Stage II of the Evaluation. The ranking of Stage I is not taken into account in Stage II of the Evaluation procedure.

The number of proposals that proceed to Stage II of the Evaluation procedure may be increased in the following occasions:

- Eligible proposals marked equally which are ranked at the bottom of the ranking list in any given Priority Sector. In this occasion proposals with equal marks proceed to Stage II.
- Re-evaluation of proposals, in the event a redress appeal is submitted and approved with regards to the outcome of the Evaluation in Stage I. In this case, re-evaluated proposals that receive the same or higher mark than the last proposal on the ranking list in the relevant Priority Sector, will proceed to Stage II.

The evaluation of Proposals on Stage II is carried out by four (4) Scientific Evaluation Committees, each for every Group of Technologies/ Science Fields, according to Method II as described on Chapter 4.3 of Section 3 of the present Work Programme. Each Committee generally consists of the experts who evaluated the Proposals that have qualified from Stage I.



In the frame of Stage II of the Evaluation, the Project Coordinator presents the Project, in person, to the members of the SEC, who will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications and discuss the content of the Proposal between them and also with the Project Coordinator. The SEC's objective is to compare Proposals in each Group of Technologies/Science Fields and rank them in a priority order for funding. The SEC may decide that one or more proposals cannot be funded by the RIF.

After completion of the procedure, the relevant Evaluation Report will be communicated to the Project Coordinator, stating the rationale behind the SEC decision. The SEC decision is final and cannot be appealed against.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Excellence 40%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 30%, (3) Implementation 30%

It is noted that the same Evaluation Criteria and weighting apply to both Stages of the Evaluation Procedure.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of ranking until the exhaustion of the available Budget per Group of Technologies/Science Fields, according to the Budget Breakdown, as specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

It is expected that one (1) Call for Proposals will be announced during 2016.

## **3. "RESEARCH IN ENTERPRISES" PROGRAMME**

### **General 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 economy growth, through the development of new products / services / production methods of high added value, or significantly optimised 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 investments.

### **Description**

Enterprise involvement in research and innovation activities is considered to this day to be a determining factor to the development of their ability to successfully respond to the demands of the single European and the globalised markets.

This Programme focuses on the development of new or the significant optimization of products / services/ production methods of high added value, and is expected to contribute to the enhancement of the competitiveness of Cypriot enterprises and the country's economy growth.

In addition, it is expected to create new jobs 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 may include the production of a prototype, demonstration, pilot operation, testing and validation of new or significantly optimised products / services / production methods in a representative, real conditions operating environment. 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 Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be a Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (B.1, B.2).

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

Participation of foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

Participation of STARTUP Companies is not permitted to except from enterprises that fall under the category of a STARTUP with marketable products / services and present sales and turnover and audited financial statements.

### **Project Activities**

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

It is noted that upon completion of the Project Implementation, the Host Organisation must prepare an "Exploitation Plan" which will be submitted to the RIF as a Deliverable along with the Final Report. The "Exploitation Plan" must include the assessment and analysis of the project results' potential, in order to support future decisions of the Consortium, and the planning of exploitation of results.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

12-24 months

### **Budget**

€9.300.000

### **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 Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 20%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 40%, (3) Implementation 40%.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of ranking.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

It is expected that three (3) Calls for Proposals will be announced in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

### **NOTE:**

For the ENTERPRISES/0521 Call for Proposals the following will apply, which differ from the basic description of this Program:

- Budget: €3.600.000

- Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4-7 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU<sup>4</sup>.
- Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is allowed.
- Participation of STARTUP Companies is not allowed except for those with marketable products / services, with a record for sales and turnover and audited financial statements for at least two (2) years.
- 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”.
- A remote evaluation procedure involving three (3) Independent Evaluators with a Consensus Report will be followed.
- In the case of proposals with equal score, if there is no available budget to fund all of them, then such proposals will be ranked according to the procedure described in Chapter 4.3 of the Work Programme. The only differentiation is that, following the ranking according to the score received in the “Added Value and Benefit” criterion (Pillar I) and the ranking in descending order of the budget size allocated to the enterprises participating in these proposals, they will then be ranked in descending order of number of collaborations between enterprises that they foresee. If they still cannot be ranked, then priority is given to the proposals showing gender balance in relation to the research content of the project and the project research team composition in terms of the number of male/female participants.
- Each Organisation can receive funding as Host Organisation for a maximum of two (2) projects.

## 4. “RESEARCH IN STARTUPS” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Research in STARTUPS” Programme aims at encouraging STARTUPS Companies to be involved in research activities with a scope to develop or significantly optimise existing products / services / production methods of high added value. In general terms, by designing this Programme, the RIF aims to contribute to the enrichment of the Cypriot business ecosystem with innovative and research performing enterprises.

### Description

This Programme focuses on enhancing the endogenous capacity of STARTUPS for active involvement in research activities and the development of new products/ services/ production

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<sup>4</sup> 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)

methods of high added value, by significantly contributing to the enhancement of these companies' capacity to penetrate international markets.

The Programme aims at intensifying the research activities in STARTUPS, covering a wide range of Industrial Research and Experimental Development activities. Experimental Development activities may include the production of a prototype, demonstration, piloting, testing and validation of new or significantly optimised products/ services/ production methods in representative environment of real operating conditions.

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 or Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be a Start-Up Company.

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

Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

It is noted that if a proposal is submitted by a group of natural persons, the registration of the company should be completed until the signing of the Contract.

It is possible that additional participation restrictions regarding Start Ups that have received funding from other RIF Programmes, are set in the Calls for Proposals for this Programme.

### **Project Activities**

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

It is noted that upon completion of Project Implementation, the Host Organisation must prepare an “Exploitation Plan” which will be submitted to the RIF as a Deliverable along with the Final Report. The “Exploitation Plan” must include the assessment and analysis of the project results’ potential, in order to support future decisions of the Consortium, and the planning of exploitation of results.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

12- 24 months

### **Budget**

€1.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

Will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

The aid intensity for the Start Up acting as a Host Organisation is 85%.

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 Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 20%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 40%, (3) Implementation 40%

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

It is expected that two (2) Calls for Proposals will be announced in 2016 and 2018.

## 5. “PROOF OF CONCEPT FOR TECHNOLOGY/KNOWHOW APPLICATIONS” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications” Programme aims at the preliminary investigation of possible industrial applications of a technology/knowhow.

### Description

Through this Programme it is expected that Enterprises will have the opportunity to verify the industrial application potential of a technology/knowhow before being involved in a broader scale research project of Technological Development and Innovation.

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

Enterprises

### Participation Restrictions and Conditions

The Host Organisation can be a Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (B.1, B.2).

The participation of Partner Organisations or Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

RIF reserves the right, in exceptional cases and in order to deal with extraordinary circumstances, to proceed with an amendment of the provisions of the Work Programme including Beneficiaries, Specific Participation Restrictions, Project Activities, Duration of Project Implementation, etc. All amendments will be specified in the respective Call for Proposals.

### Project Activities

The projects must only include Industrial Research activities.

The projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels 3-4 (TRL 3-4)<sup>5</sup> in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 6 months

### **Budget**

€1.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€25.000

The maximum aid intensity for Enterprises cannot exceed 70%.

### **Eligible Costs**

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

### **Evaluation**

The evaluation procedure will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 40%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 30%, (3) Implementation 30%

### **Selection of Projects**

The selection of projects is specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Two (2) Calls for Proposals are expected to be announced in 2016 - 2020.

The first pilot Call for Proposals is planned to be announced in 2016.

### **NOTE:**

For the CONCEPT/0521 Call for Proposals the following will apply, which differ from the basic description of this Program:

- Budget: €1.000.000 (for 2 Calls for Proposals)
- The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise (Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (B.1, B.2)) or Other Organisation.



- The participation of Partner Organisations (Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation) is allowed. The participation of Foreign Research Organisations is not allowed.
- Each Organisation can receive funding as Host Organisation for more than one (1) Projects.
- Maximum Funding per Project can be up to €40.000.
- At least 50% of the Call Budget will be dedicated to Projects with an Enterprise as the Host Organisation (if any).
- The duration of Project implementation may be up to nine (9) months.
- 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".
- The Maximum Aid Intensity for Enterprises cannot exceed 80%. The Maximum Aid Intensity for each category of beneficiaries, based on the State Aid Framework, is summarized in Table III.1 of the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme.
- The evaluation criteria weights have been revised to reflect the emphasis set on the impact of expected Project results: (1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Impact 40%, (3) Implementation 30%.

For the **CONCEPT-HYDRO/0421** Call for Proposals the following will apply, which differ from the basic description of this Program:

- Budget: €200.000
- The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise (Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (B.1, B.2)) or Other Organisation.
- The participation of Partner Organisations including Foreign Research Organisations is not allowed.
- Each Organisation can receive funding as Host Organisation for only one (1) Project.
- Maximum Funding per Project can be up to €50.000
- The duration of Project implementation may be up to nine (9) months.
- The Maximum Aid Intensity for Enterprises cannot exceed 80%. The Maximum Aid Intensity for each category of beneficiaries, based on the State Aid Framework, is summarized in Table III.1 of the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme.
- 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".
- The evaluation criteria weights have been revised to reflect the emphasis set on the impact of expected Project results: (1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Impact 40%, (3) Implementation 30%.

## 6. "BILATERAL COLLABORATIONS" PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Bilateral Collaborations” Programme aims in developing collaborations and networking of Cypriot organisations with organisations of a specific collaboration country through the implementation of joint research projects in selected thematic areas of interest of both parts.

Specific targets and objectives:

- The development of collaborations between Cypriot organisations and leading European and/or international organisations.
- Expansion of the role and upgrade of existing bilateral agreements.
- The development of new bilateral agreements with countries of specific interest.
- Activation of general agreements - cooperation frameworks in matters of research and technological development through the promotion of joint programmes.
- Promotion of the participation of Cypriot organisations in international RTDI programmes.

### **Description**

The starting point for the “Bilateral Collaborations” Programme is the Bilateral Agreements or Cooperation Protocols signed by the Cypriot Government and the Government of another country. Usually one of their fundamental provisions is the launch of a Joint Collaboration Programme in the areas of Research and Innovation which allows interested organisations from the two countries to submit proposals for the implementation of joint projects in selected thematic areas that reflect the common interests of the two parts.

The Research and Innovation Foundation for Cyprus, and another organisation/agency from the other country undertake the responsibility for implementing the provisions set by each Agreement or Cooperation Protocol.

So far Joint Cooperation Programmes with Greece, France, Slovenia, Italy, Egypt, Romania and Israel have been announced. In the frame of the Programme, it is anticipated to announce Calls for Proposals regarding cooperation with the abovementioned countries, as well as with other countries with which an Agreement or Protocol may be signed.

Usually, in each Call for Proposals in the frame of the “Bilateral Collaborations” Programme, different evaluation, selection, funding and monitoring procedures may apply, depending on the provisions of the Agreement between the two countries.

In the frame of the Programme, it is expected that the supported projects apart from networking activities will also include research activities that serve the Priority Sectors of the S3Cy. Therefore, although it is possible to specify Thematic Areas within a Call for Proposals according to the provisions of the Agreement between the two countries, it should be in the frame that has emerged through the S3Cy.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

In every project the participation of at least one organisation from each collaborating country is necessary, while the Cypriot Consortium may include up to two (2) Cypriot Partner Organisations. The participation conditions regarding the number and type of participating entities from each the collaborating country is specified in the Call for Proposals.

As a rule, the Cypriot organisations that participate in successful proposals receive RIF funding, while the Collaboration Country Organisations receive funding from their respective national funding organisation/agency.

### **Project Activities**

The Projects must include Fundamental and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

Specific requirements towards the type of project activities depending on the collaborating country, are specified in each Call for Proposals.

In the frame of the implementation of these projects, representatives of the Cypriot research teams must pay at least one (1) visit per annum to the Collaboration Country Organisations.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Project duration is set according to the provisions of each Agreement or Protocol. Usually the duration of Bilateral Collaboration projects varies between twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.

### **Budget**

€1.600.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

The maximum amount for the funding of each project is set in the respective Call for Proposals.

### **Eligible Costs**

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

Any specific particular requirements regarding Eligible Costs depending on the collaboration country are defined in each Call for Proposals.

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence, (2) Added Value and Benefit, (3) Implementation.

The weighting for each Evaluation Criterion is defined will be defined in each Call for Proposals.

### **Selection of Projects**

The final selection of proposals to be funded is made by the Joint Cyprus - Collaboration Country Committee based on the evaluations of both parts.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Depending on the signing of relevant Agreements. Calls are usually announced every two (2) years upon signing of an Agreement,

## **7. “INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION- DUAL TARGETING” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “International Collaboration-Dual Targeting” Programme aims to the networking of Cypriot organisations with research organisations of excellence from countries that are advanced or are emerging in the field of research, and to the joint implementation of research to the benefit of the quality of life and competitiveness of the economy. In particular, the Calls for Proposals are about collaboration with organisations from third countries, with which Cyprus does not have a Collaboration Agreement<sup>6</sup>.

The objective is to develop collaborations between Cypriot Research Organisations and leading Research Organisations at a European and/or International level to the benefit of Cypriot Organisations in gaining valuable experience and technical knowhow. The collaborations also widen the prospects for securing international funding for the implementation of research projects.

### **Description**

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<sup>6</sup> Countries/Territories not being:

(a) EU Member States, and

(b) Countries and Territories linked to EU Member States.

“Horizon 2020” useful links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-3cpart\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-3cpart_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-a-countries-rules\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-a-countries-rules_en.pdf)

It is often hard to promote the collaboration with a country that is advanced or emerging in the field of research, because concluding and signing a bilateral agreement is not always possible, even though it is known that such a collaboration would be beneficial to the development of the RTDI system of Cyprus.

The “International Collaboration- Dual Targeting” Programme is part of Pillar I “Smart Growth” of the S3Cy, and it concerns the materialisation of the main objective which is to enhance the mechanisms that address contemporary developmental challenges and perspectives in the selected Priority Sectors through widening the opportunities for international collaborations and extroversion.

The term “Dual Targeting” concerns both the collaboration country (target-country) and the scientific research topic. On one hand, it aims at the networking and collaboration between research teams which are active in a related object and wish to develop collaboration with organisations from third countries (e.g. USA, Canada, BRICS, etc<sup>7</sup>) and at exchanging expertise and technical know-how. On the other hand, the scientific fields that will be addressed must be included in the Priority Sectors of the S3Cy. The Target-Countries do not include countries that have already signed Bilateral Agreements with Cyprus or countries covered by other cooperation frameworks (e.g. Mediterranean countries).

The Target-Countries include third countries for which: (a) it is currently not possible to create and sign a Collaboration Agreement or Protocol in the fields of Research and Technological Development for a variety of reasons, and (b) there is no traditional collaboration through other funding sources (e.g. The current EU Framework Programme<sup>8</sup>) or any other collaboration framework in place (e.g. Mediterranean countries).

The programme is addressed to research teams from Cyprus and the Target-Countries that are active in relevant research scientific fields and wish to form collaborations and networks. The Programme aims at the collaboration between the organisations of the Consortium and the promotion of researchers’ mobility, and is not limited to just enabling access to the equipment and infrastructure of Target-Countries.

In the frame of the Programme, the following two (2) Calls will be announced:

- Collaboration with the USA (CY-USA)
- Collaboration with another target-country (CY-TARGET).

### **Beneficiaries**

Research organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

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<sup>7</sup> Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

<sup>8</sup> Associated Countries in relation to the “Horizon 2020” Programme of the EC (i.e. Switzerland, Norway, etc) are not considered as third countries and are therefore not included in the Target-Countries  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

Each project may include only one (1) Target-Country, with at least one (1) participating organisation from the Target-Country. In total, the maximum number of project participants is two (2) organisations from the Target-Country and two organisations (2) from Cyprus. The foreign organisation participate under the type of “Foreign Research Organisation”. As a rule, the replacement of organisation(s) from the Target-Country is not allowed.

The Target-Countries are specified in the Calls for Proposals.

### **Project Activities**

The Projects must include Fundamental and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

In the frame of project implementation, it is obligatory to include at least two exchange of visits between the two countries’ organisation representatives, per project, at any direction.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 24 months

### **Budget**

€1.200.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€80.000

### **Eligible Costs**

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

It is noted that for this Programme, the differentiation below applies with regards to the usual cost limits included in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme:

- Costs for Foreign Research Organisations: Up to 30% of the total RIF funding.

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 35%, (3) Implementation 35%.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

It is expected that two (2) Calls for Proposals will be announced during 2016 and 2018.

## **8. “EUREKA CYPRUS» PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Eureka Cyprus” Programme aims at the enhancement of the Cypriot enterprises’ competitiveness and the resulting contribution to the country’s growth of economy, through the development of new products/services/production methods of high added value, or by the significant optimisation of products/services/production methods in view of commercial exploitation in the European area, in the frame of cooperation and networking of Cypriot organisations with foreign organisations for the implementation of international research and development projects of the EUREKA Organisation.

### **Description**

The EUREKA Organisation was established in 1985 by 17 countries and the European Union, and comprises a European network for the promotion of Industrial Research and Development. It is considered to be the frame through which industry, research centres, and universities develop and use technologies that are necessary for the growth of the global competitiveness and improvement of the quality of life. Currently, full membership to EUREKA extends to 40 countries and the EU. Cyprus became a full member of the Organisation in 2002, and since then, the RIF operates as the national EUREKA Office responsible for the administration of Cyprus’ participation in the Organisation’s activities and for supporting Cypriot organisations wishing to participate in EUREKA projects.

The “EUREKA CYPRUS” Programme constitutes the instrument for selecting and supporting Cypriot organisations wishing to participate in international EUREKA projects. In a EUREKA project the participation of at least of two (2) organisations from two (2) member countries of the EUREKA organisation is obligatory. Participants secure funding through national resources (their respective National Funding Agency or other funding organisation), or through self-financing. The projects endorsed by the EUREKA organisation receive the EUREKA Label which is considered as an indication of quality status in the European area, and often offers the projects a competitive edge in their dealings with financial, technical and commercial partners.

Through the Programme the following can be funded:

- “EUREKA Network Projects” which either offer the possibility for cooperation with all the EUREKA Organisation Network countries, or with specific countries in the frame of a Multilateral or Bilateral Call of Cyprus with the said countries, or
- “Sub-Clusters Projects” implemented in the frame of chosen EUREKA Clusters, in the Priority Sectors of the S3Cy. EUREKA Clusters are long-term industrial initiatives of strategic importance, usually composed of a large number of participants, and aim at the development of technologies that are significant for European competitiveness. In the frame of EUREKA Clusters, large enterprises cooperate with Small Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), research institutions and universities, and share the risks as well as the benefits of innovation. They focus on the development and commercial exploitation of new technologies, aiming at keeping Europe’s leading position in the global market. Every Innovation Cluster, led by the industry and in close collaboration with the national funding programmes, based on a technological roadmap, determines the most important strategic fields and objectives for the solution of technological challenges. The specified objectives are achieved through the results of the individual projects.

The EUREKA projects must have civilian objectives and meet the criteria set by the EUREKA Organisation:

- They should be top level technology projects which aim at the commercial exploitation of research results,
- They should aim at the development of innovative products, processes, or services, and
- They should support the objectives of the EUREKA Organisation to enhance European competitiveness.

The Programme follows a bottom-up approach, which means that the participants may implement Projects in the scientific or technological field of their choice. However, as the Programme is part of Pillar I “Smart Growth”, the projects must have applications in the selected Priority Sectors:

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

and/or the Horizontal Priority Sectors:

- Information and Communication Technologies, and
- Sustainable Growth- Environment.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research organisations, Enterprises or Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**



The Transnational Consortium, apart from the Cypriot participation must include a minimum of one participant from another Collaboration Country (full or associate member country) of the EUREKA Organisation<sup>9</sup>. The task allocation within the Transnational Consortium must be balanced whereby no partner organisation or country is performing more than 80% of the project work.

The Host Organisation (of the Cypriot Consortium) can be a Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (B.1, B.2) or a Research Organisation provided that an Enterprise (B.1, B.2) is included in the Cypriot Consortium.

Research Organisations, Enterprises and Other Organisations can participate as Partner Organisations (of the Cypriot Consortium).

It is noted that the foreign organisations are funded by their respective national funding organisations/agencies. The EUREKA status is obtained when a project is supported by at least two member countries.

The RIF shall withdraw its support if a proposal is not endorsed by the EUREKA Organisation or is not successfully evaluated by the respective EUREKA Cluster (in the case of Sub-Clusters Projects) within nine (9) months of the official announcement of the results by the RIF to the Project Coordinator.

### **Project Activities**

The Projects must include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

12- 36 months

### **Budget**

€1.200.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€175.000 (For the Cypriot Cooperation Network)

In the occasion that the Cypriot Organisation undertakes the coordination of the Transnational Consortium, the maximum funding for the Cypriot organisations can be up to €200.000.

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

### **Eligible Costs**

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eurekanetwork.org/eureka-countries>

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

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

The Evaluation Criteria take into consideration the fundamental principles of project selection of the EUREKA Organisation and will be announced in each Call for Proposals.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Two (2) Calls for Proposals are expected to be announced in 2017 and 2018.

## **9. “EUROPEAN INITIATIVES- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “European Initiatives - National Development” Programme aims at enhancing the extroversion of the national Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) system which is one of the horizontal priorities of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy).

RIF’s participation in European initiatives enables Cyprus to contribute to the formulation of single frameworks of research priorities, the coordination of funding of research activity at a European level and the formation of the European Research Area (ERA).

Through international partnerships in the frame of Joint European Programmes in which RIF participates, Cypriot organisations and enterprises gain technical knowhow and valuable experience, while widening the possibilities for securing international funding for the implementation of research projects. These partnerships also contribute to:

- Align Cypriot research units’ activities towards new research and technology directions, concerning subjects important to the development of their activities,
- Overcome or mitigate of the country’s weaknesses, such as its small market size and the lack of critical mass of stakeholders and infrastructure in order to achieve the implementation of high level research and innovation activities, and
- Enhance the exploitation opportunities of the RTDI outputs produced in Cyprus.

## Description

The Programme offers the opportunity to implement research projects in cutting-edge fields of the priority sectors, in order to improve the quality of life and competitiveness of Cyprus' economy. At the same time, it promotes extroversion, collaboration and networking of Cypriot research organisations and enterprises with organisations from other countries through their participation in research projects implemented in the frame of joint pan-European programming initiatives, in which Cyprus participates.

Cyprus, through the RIF, participates in the following European initiatives, which aim at coordinating the funding of research activity and the establishment of research priorities at a pan-European level, through the formulation and implementation of Joint Research Programmes:

### I. Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs)<sup>10</sup>

These are EU member-states initiatives, their activities being coordinated and funded by the participating member-states. The EU supports the JPIs and on several occasions contributes to the implementation of their activities through the funding of projects under Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) and ERANET COFUND in which the Members of the JPIs participate.

### II. ERA-NET COFUND<sup>11</sup>

The ERA-NET COFUND instruments of the "Horizon 2020" Programme support the coordination of national research activities at a European level, with the objective to set the base for the formation of the ERA. They are powerful instruments that promote the creation of consortia between organisations that formulate and implement research policies. The implementation of joint activities provides the opportunity for exchanging opinions, experience and best practices regarding the way of planning, launching and implementing research programmes.

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<sup>10</sup> The RPF participates in the following four JPIs:

- Water Challenges for a Changing World: Environment- Tourism,
- URBAN EUROPE: Global Challenges – Local Solutions: Urban development- Construction Industry- Environment,
- Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE): Agriculture- Food Industry- Environment, and
- Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A New Challenge for Europe: Cultural Heritage- Tourism- ICT- Environment.

<sup>11</sup> The RPF currently participates in the following ERA-NET COFUND projects:

- M.ERA-NET: Materials-Energy,
- SOLAR ERA-NET: Solar Energy

### III. Programmes under the Article 185 of the EU Treaty<sup>12</sup>

Article 185 of the EU Treaty enables EU member states to develop Joint Programmes in which the European Commission contributes with co-funding of the selected projects.

The implementation of activities of the abovementioned European initiatives is carried out by consortia consisting of similar to the RIF organisations/agencies which are responsible for the promotion and development of RTDI activities in other countries. One of the most important actions of these initiatives is the development and implementation of Joint European RTDI Programmes. The Calls for Proposals are announced in the frame of Joint Programmes, inviting interested research organisations and enterprises of the participating countries to submit joint proposals for the implementation of research projects.

The “European Initiatives- National Development” Programme is the institutional framework for announcing the Transnational Calls for Proposals, in which Cyprus participates through the RIF, its content being relevant to the S3Cy Priority Sectors.

#### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations, unless otherwise specified in the Call for Proposals.

#### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation, unless otherwise specified in the Call for Proposals.

Projects can be collaborative projects, implemented by Transnational Consortia. The restrictions and conditions of each Joint Transnational Call for Proposals apply.

Each Cypriot Consortium participating in a proposal may consist of up to three (3) participating organisations.

The organisations from Partner countries are funded by their country’s respective national funding organisations/agencies.

#### **Project Activities**

The projects may include Fundamental and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities, as specified in the Call for Proposals, according to the objectives of each Joint European Programme.

#### **Duration of Project Implementation**

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<sup>12</sup> The RPF currently participates in two such programmes, one of which is in accordance to the S3Cy priorities: Active and Assisted Living (AAL) Programme: ICT- Health- Ageing Population.

12- 36 months, unless otherwise specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Budget**

€8.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€175.000 (For the Cypriot Consortium), unless otherwise specified in the Call for Proposals.

In the occasion that the Cypriot Organisation undertakes the coordination of the Transnational Consortium, the maximum funding for the Cypriot organisations can be up to €200.000, unless otherwise specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Eligible Costs**

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

### **Evaluation**

Each European Initiative applies its own rules and procedures regarding the submission and evaluation of proposals and selection of projects. As a rule, the Proposals are submitted in two Stages, and are centrally evaluated by each European initiative.

In each submission Stage, the RIF carries out a preliminary check of the proposals with Cypriot participation, according to Chapter 4.3 of SECTION III of the present Work Programme. The RIF carries out Scientific Evaluation only when is required to select the proposals to be forwarded for central evaluation.

The evaluation procedure is described in each Call for Proposals.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Each European initiative applies its own evaluation criteria. In general, though, the evaluation criteria are similar to those applied for respective Programmes of EC's HORIZON 2020 Programmes.

### **Selection of Projects**

The selection of projects is jointly carried out by the national/regional funding organisations/agencies, taking into consideration the outcome of the Scientific Evaluation, the respective national evaluations and the available budget of each country/ region.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

As a rule, each European initiative announces one Call for Proposals per annum. The RIF is expected to allocate sufficient budget for funding a minimum of two (2) projects for each Call it participates.

### **PILLAR II: SUSTAINABLE RTDI SYSTEM**

Pillar II “Sustainable RTDI System”, aims at ensuring the sustainability and dynamics of the RTDI System. In contrast to Pillar I which deals with the implementation of specific targeted Programmes in the Priority Sectors, Programmes of Pillar II aim at addressing the needs of the RTDI System and enhancing its prospects. The Programmes focus around “excellence”, following a bottom-up approach meaning that participants may implement projects in the scientific or technological field of their choice.

The objectives of Pillar II are reached through the following Sections which include specific Programmes for the support of the RTDI System in terms of activities and human resources and in a way that contributes to the restructuring and transformation of Cyprus’ economy and also towards addressing social challenges:

- “Excellence” Section: It includes Programmes that aim at the promotion of scientific, technological and industrial excellence for the development of pioneering research concepts in cutting-edge fields, and the development of effective, internationally competitive solutions and products.
- “Young researchers, New Ideas, New opportunities” Section: It includes Programmes targeting the strengthening and mobility of human resources and creation of new jobs for researchers in enterprises and research organisations. It also aims to optimise the use of synergies between the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and the Horizon 2020 Programme of the EC for the implementation of frontier research and innovation projects. It also supports new concepts for addressing social challenges.

## 1. “EXCELLENCE HUBS” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Excellence Hubs” Programme aims to promote scientific excellence, which is a fundamental part for the sustainable development of the RTDI System, by funding frontier research projects in cutting-edge fields.

Additionally, the Programme aims to contribute to the development of growth prospects of the local economy and to address current social and other challenges.

### Description

The “Excellence Hubs” Programme will fund projects that fall under the following three Scientific Fields:

- Life Sciences,
- Physical Sciences and Engineering, and
- Social Sciences and Humanities.

The analysis of the abovementioned scientific fields is based on the Science and Technology Field Classification, included in Annex II of the present Work Programme, as follows:

- Life Sciences: Fields coded 1.6, 3.1 to 3.5 and 4.1 to 4.5.
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: Fields coded 1.1. to 1.5, 1.7 and 2.1 to 2.11.
- Social Sciences and Humanities: Fields coded 5.1 to 5.9 and 6.1 to 6.5.

The basic objective of the Programme is to reward and invest in research excellence. The Programme can also contribute to the collaboration of national research/academic institutions and enterprises as well as to the development of consortia with foreign organisations. The implementation of projects is expected to result into new, internationally significant knowledge, which can form the base for future exploitation in terms of social and economic development. The projects can be intersectoral and interdisciplinary.

### Beneficiaries

Research Organisations, Enterprises, or Other Organisations

### Specific Restrictions and Conditions or Participation

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise, or Other Organisation.

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

Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

### Project Activities

The Projects may include Fundamental and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

24- 36 months, unless otherwise specified in the Calls for Proposals.

### **Budget**

€17.100.000

The Programme budget is allocated in the Scientific Fields as follows:

- Life Sciences: €6.840.000
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: €6.840.000
- Social Sciences and Humanities: €3.420.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€250.000 for “Life Sciences” and “Physical Sciences and Engineering” projects and €150.000 for “Social Sciences and Humanities” projects.

### **Eligible Costs**

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

### **Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 50%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 20%, (3) Implementation 30%.

### **Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking, per Scientific Field.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Two (2) Calls for Proposals are expected, during 2016 and 2018.

### **NOTE:**

For the EXCELLENCE/0421 Call for Proposals the following will apply, which differ from the basic description of this Program:

- Budget: €10.000.000



- Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-4 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU .
- The duration of project implementation must be between 18 and 24 months.
- Young Researchers (YR) who are PhD holders, can submit proposals as project coordinators, while being employed by a Cypriot Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation. The YR shall be employed by the Host Organisation for the implementation of the project as the main object of the employment, while being able at the same time to participate in other research or teaching activities. The Young Researcher' man months allocation should be at least 70% of the project implementation duration in months. If the Young Researcher leaves the project, he/she can be replaced by a person that fulfills the YR definition. In case this is not possible, the project and its funding will be terminated.
- The Young Researcher must hold a doctoral degree for a maximum of seven (7) years from the date receiving the title until the announcement of the Call for Proposals. The Young Researcher must hold a doctoral degree on the proposal submission date.
- The maximum time limit of seven (7) years from the acquisition of the PhD title by the Young Researcher until the date of the Announcement of the Call can be extended, taking into account career breaks for maternity, paternity leave, military service or documented sick leave for a continuous period of more than three months, as follows: (a) for maternity leave, eighteen months for each child born after obtaining his/her doctorate, (b) for paternity leave, the corresponding certified time, (c) for military service, the duration of service certified by the respective authority, and (d) for sick leave, the respective certified time which is longer than three months.
- The five (5) top-ranked eligible proposals in each Scientific Area with a YR as Project Coordinator will be prioritized for funding. The selection of the rest of the proposals for funding will be made according to their ranking until the exhaustion of the available Budget in each Scientific Area.
- In proposals involving a collaboration between at least one privately funded research centre / university and a publicly funded research centre / university, the maximum funding may be increased by 25%, provided that no partner organisation's budget exceeds 70% of the total budget.
- 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".

## 2. "EUROSTARS CYPRUS" PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The "EUROSTARS Cyprus" Programme aims to encourage innovative SMEs to participate in transnational research activities and to enhance their competitiveness through the development of new products/ services/ production methods of high added value or the development of significantly improved existing products/services/production methods which are expected to be commercially exploited by the participating Organisations. In addition to that, the Programme promotes the networking and collaboration between Cypriot and foreign organisations through

the participation in transnational research projects of industrial research and development of the EUROSTARS Programme.

### Description

The «EUROSTARS Cyprus» Programme is the funding instrument for enabling Cypriot organisations to participate in transnational projects of the EUROSTARS joint European Programme. The Programme, which counts 34 European participating countries, is an initiative of the EUREKA Organisation, under Article 185 of the Treaty of the EU, which provides joint funding of research programmes by member-states of the Union and the EU. The EUROSTARS Programme's main objective is to encourage R&D performing SMEs to participate in research activities.

The EUREKA Organisation was established in 1985 by 17 countries and the European Union, and comprises a European network for the promotion of Industrial Research and Development. It is considered to be the frame through which industry, research centres and universities develop and use technologies that are necessary for the growth of global competitiveness and improvement of quality of life. Currently, full membership to EUREKA extends to 41 countries and the EU. Cyprus became a full member of the Organisation in 2002, and since, the RIF operates as the national EUREKA office responsible for the administration of Cyprus' participation in the Organisation's activities and for supporting the Cypriot entities that wish to participate in EUREKA projects and initiatives. The Cypriot government has expressed its interest to participate in the EUROSTARS Programme and its commitment to fund Cypriot organisations that participate in successful EUROSTARS proposals with an annual budget of 500.000 euros that will be used solely for the funding of Cypriot Organisations.

EUROSTARS projects must have civilian objectives and meet the criteria of the EUREKA Organisation:

- They should be top level technology projects which aim at the commercial exploitation of the research results,
- They should aim at the development of innovative products, processes or services, and
- They should support the objectives of the EUREKA Organisation to enhance European competitiveness.

The introduction of new products, processes or services resulting from EUROSTARS projects is expected to take place within the first two (2) years following project's completion. In the case of projects in the field of Medicine, Biomedicine and Biotechnology, clinical trials are expected to begin within the first two (2) years following the completion of the project.

The Programme follows a bottom-up approach, meaning that the participants can implement projects in the scientific or technological field of their choice.

### Beneficiaries

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions

The Transnational Consortium, apart from the Cypriot participation must include at least one participant from another Collaboration Country that participates in the EUROSTARS Programme<sup>13</sup>. The participating organisations must be legal entities (in accordance to their country's legislation), independent to each other, while none of the two entities is under the direct or indirect control of one another, nor are they under the same direct or indirect control. The allocation of tasks within the Transnational Consortium must be well balanced, whereby no partner organisation or country is allocated more than 75% of the project work.

The Host Organisation (of the Cypriot Consortium) can be a Small or Medium sized Enterprise (B1, B2) or a Research Organisation provided that an Enterprise (B.1, B.2) is included in the Cypriot Consortium.

Research Organisations, Enterprises and Other Organisations can participate as Partner Organisations (in the Cypriot Consortium).

The coordinator of the Transnational Consortium must be an R&D Performing SME. In the case where a Cypriot SME wishes to coordinate the Transnational Consortium, it must meet the definition adopted by the EUROSTARS Programme regarding R&D performing SMEs, as follows:

For SMEs of a personnel size of up to 100 full-time employees (FTE):

- have at least 5.0 FTEs dedicated to R&D activities, or
- dedicate at least 10.00% of their FTE to R&D activities, or
- dedicate at least 10.00% of their turnover to R&D activities.

For SMEs of a personnel size more than full-time employees (FTE):

- have at least 10.0 FTEs dedicated to R&D activities, or
- dedicate at least 10.00% of their FTE to R&D activities, or
- dedicate at least 10.00% of their turnover to R&D activities.

A minimum of 50% of the project's budget (excluding Costs for External Services) should be allocated to R&D performing SMEs, according to the abovementioned definition.

It is noted that Organisations from the Collaboration Countries are funded by their respective national funding organisations/agencies.

### **Project Activities**

The Projects must include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

12- 36 months

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/eurostars-countries/europe>

**Budget**

€2.500.000

**Maximum Funding per Project**

€175.000 (For the Cypriot Cooperation Network)

In the occasion that a Cypriot Organisation undertakes the coordination of the Transnational Consortium, the maximum funding for the Cypriot organisations can be up to €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 Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

**Evaluation**

Scientific Evaluation Procedure in accordance to the EUROSTARS Programme, which will be described in detail, in each Call for Proposals.

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

The Evaluation Criteria/Weighting are those of the EUREKA Organisation applicable to the EUROSTARS Programme. The criteria will be described in each Call for Proposals.

**Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking.

**Indicative Call Planning**

The Calls for Proposals will be announced on an annual basis, for the 2016-2020 time period.

**3. "CREATION AND INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF STARTUPS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION" PROGRAMME**

**General Objectives**

"Creation and Initial Development of STARTUPS with International Orientation (PRE-SEED)" Programme aims to support the creation and initial development of innovative STARTUPS which intend to develop innovative products and services with global market penetration prospects.

## **Description**

The Programme aims to support STARTUPS with international orientation with significant prospects for rapid development, which are still in the idea stage and their product or service is not yet fully developed.

Funding to beneficiaries is expected to cover the investigation, evaluation and development of the idea, the development of an initial product / service and the first efforts towards the commercialization of the product / service. More specifically, funding is expected to cover, amongst others, the initial operation of the enterprise, prototype development, market research, identification of the appropriate business model, business plan, intellectual property protection, investor search, etc.

## **Beneficiaries**

Enterprises, Research Organisations, Other Private Sector Organisations

## **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be a start-up Company.

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

It is noted that if a proposal is submitted by a group of natural persons, the registration of the company should be completed until the signing of the Contract.

In the frame of the present Call for Proposals an enterprise can only receive funding as Host Organisation, only in one Project.

## **Project Activities**

For the Host Organisation, Start-ups Activities which indicatively can be the following:

- Prototype Development.
- Market Research.
- Identification of the appropriate Business Model.
- Business Plan.
- Obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets.
- Obtaining consulting, legal or accounting services.
- Seeking of partners and investors.

It is noted that, further to the aforementioned activities of the funded projects, beneficiaries will have to obtain Mentoring-Coaching Services, by specialized consultants, which may concern the formulation of their business strategy, the improvement of their investment readiness, their

access to finance etc. The Foundation, in the frame of its activities, may provide support to beneficiaries to assess their needs and select the appropriate consultants.

For Partner Organisations, only Experimental Research activities are allowed.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 18 Months.

### **Budget**

€ 3.600.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€ 100.000

The Aid Intensity of the Host Organisation is 85%.

It is noted that, Aid Intensity for Partner Organisations is calculated according to the provisions of Chapter 3.2 of the present Work Programme. It is noted that, Aid Intensity for Partner Organisations is calculated according to the provisions of Chapter 3.2 of the present Work Programme. For Research Organizations, the aid intensity for Experimental Development activities cannot exceed the aid intensity of the Host Organisation which amounts up to 85%.

### **Eligible Costs**

Within the frame of the Programme, the following costs are eligible for the Host Organisation:

- Personnel Cost.
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (full cost).
- Costs for External Services (up to 50% of total project budget).
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs (related to the project activities but cannot be included in the above cost categories).
- Overheads (up to 20% of the direct costs).

For the purposes of auditing and approving the eligible costs, for the above STARTUP's expenses, the provisions of Charter 5.4 of the present Work Programme apply.

For Experimental Research activities of the Partner Organisations, the following costs are eligible:

- Personnel Cost.
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (depreciation).
- Costs for External Services.
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs.

- Overheads.

The total costs of the Partner Organisations, should not exceed 40% of the total project budget.

### **Evaluation**

The Proposals are evaluated in two Stages:

During Stage I of the Evaluation, each proposal is remotely evaluated by one (1) expert, specialist in the proposal topic and with good knowledge of the business environment in the proposal field. Proposals which secure an Evaluation Score of at least 12.00/15.00 qualify to Stage II of the Evaluation.

The evaluation of Proposals in Stage II is carried out by an Independent Evaluation Committee, consisted by experts with business background. In the frame of Stage II of the Evaluation, the Project Coordinator presents the Project, in person, to the members of the Committee, who will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications and discuss the content of the Proposal between them and also with the Project Coordinator. The final decision regarding the selection of a proposal for funding, is at the discretion of the Committee.

After completion of the procedure, the relevant Evaluation Report will be communicated to the Project Coordinator, stating the rationale behind the Committee's decision. The Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed against.

The Evaluation Committee is expected to meet in specific dates to be included in the Calls for Proposals. Representatives of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and of the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) will participate in the Committee's meetings as observers.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 35%, (3) Implementation 35%.

### **Selection of Projects**

Proposals that have been deemed eligible for funding following the evaluation procedure, will be selected for funding until the total funding of the approved projects equals the total Call budget. In the case of budget exhaustion in the frame of one of the deadlines, the Evaluation Committee will rank the proposals in a priority order for funding (ranking list) and the top proposals according to their ranking will be selected for funding until the available budget is exhausted.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

One Call for Proposals, with two deadlines, is expected to be announced in 2019, which will be open until budget exhaustion.

#### **4. "DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BY STARTUPS" PROGRAMME**

##### **General Objectives**

"Development of Internationally Competitive Innovative Products and Services by STARTUPS (SEED)" Programme aims to support the rapid development of dynamic and innovative STARTUPS which intend to develop internationally competitive products or services, as well as to mobilize private investment funds for this purpose.

##### **Description**

The Programme aims to support innovative STARTUPS which, based on their business plan, aim to attract investment funds and are seeking rapid growth at an international level. The Companies have already been active for a short period of time, they may have carried out a small scale and on a test basis activity towards commercialization, but their product or service has not yet penetrated the market.

The Programme supports every activity that will allow the rapid development of the innovative idea, the attraction of investment and the successful global market penetration of the product / service.

In the cases where the new product or service is based on new technology, it is expected that the technology fall within a high technological readiness level, having already been validated in laboratory and relevant environment and is at least being demonstrate at relevant environment. This will also apply to non-technological innovations, accordingly.

##### **Beneficiaries**

Enterprises, Research Organisations, Other Private Sector Organisations

##### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be a start-up Company.

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

In the frame of the present Call for Proposals an enterprise can only receive funding as Host Organisation, only in one Project.

RIF reserves the right, in exceptional cases and in order to deal with extraordinary circumstances, to proceed with an amendment of the provisions of the Work Programme including Beneficiaries, Specific Participation Restrictions, Project Activities, Duration of Project Implementation, etc. All amendments will be specified in the respective Call for Proposals.

##### **Project Activities**



For the Host Organisation, Start-ups Activities which indicatively can be the following:

- Development / completion of prototypes, demonstration, pilot operation, test and validation of new or improved innovative products / services.
- Scientific / technical Feasibility Study for the innovative business idea, including the investigation of its commercial potential.
- Participation of the company in trade fairs / exhibitions with private stand for the promotion of the product / service.
- Acquisition, validation and protection of patents / industrial designs and other intangible assets.
- Hire of highly qualified personnel.
- Innovation advisory services, assistance and training in the fields of:
  - (a) Knowledge transfer,
  - (b) Acquisition, protection and exploitation of intangible assets, and
  - (c) Use of standards and regulations embedding them.
- Innovation support services for:
  - (a) Testing and certification,
  - (b) Access to research infrastructures, libraries and databases,
  - (c) Market Research, and
  - (d) Quality Labeling.
- Promotional (Marketing / branding) activities of the company for the products / services such as publications, advertisements, audio-visual material, graphics, travelling abroad for promotional purposes and/or for attracting investors.
- Activities to enhance investment readiness and attract private equity.

It is noted that, further to the aforementioned activities of the funded projects, beneficiaries will have to obtain Mentoring-Coaching Services, by specialized consultants, which may concern the formulation of their business strategy, the improvement of their investment readiness, their access to finance etc. The Foundation, in the frame of its activities, may provide support to beneficiaries to assess their needs and select the appropriate consultants.

For Partner Organisations, only Experimental Research activities are allowed.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 24 Months.

### **Budget**

€ 9.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€ 500.000

The Aid Intensity of the Host Organisation is 85%.

It is noted that, Aid Intensity for Partner Organisations is calculated according to the provisions of Chapter 3.2 of the present Work Programme. For Research Organizations, the aid intensity for Experimental Development activities cannot exceed the aid intensity of the Host Organisation which amounts up to 85%.

### **Eligible Costs**

Within the frame of the Programme, the following costs are eligible for the Host Organisation:

- Personnel Cost.
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (full cost).
- Costs for External Services (up to 50% of total project budget).
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs (related to the project activities but cannot be included in the above cost categories).
- Overheads (up to 20% of the direct costs).

For the purposes of auditing and approving the eligible costs, for the above STARTUP's expenses, the provisions of Charter 5.4 of the present Work Programme apply.

For Experimental Research activities of the Partner Organisations, the following costs are eligible:

- Personnel Cost.
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (depreciation).
- Costs for External Services.
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs.
- Overheads.

The total costs of the Partner Organisations, should not exceed 40% of the total project budget.

### **Evaluation**

The Proposals are evaluated in two Stages:

During Stage I of the Evaluation, each proposal is remotely evaluated by two (2) experts, specialists in the proposal topic and with good knowledge of the business environment in the proposal field. Proposals which secure an Evaluation Score of at least 12.00/15.00 qualify to Stage II of the Evaluation.

The evaluation of Proposals in Stage II is carried out by an Independent Evaluation Committee, consisted by experts with business background. In the frame of Stage II of the Evaluation, the Project Coordinator presents the Project, in person, to the members of the Committee, who will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications and discuss the content of the Proposal between them and also with the Project Coordinator. The final decision regarding the selection of a proposal for funding, is at the discretion of the Committee.

After completion of the procedure, the relevant Evaluation Report will be communicated to the Project Coordinator, stating the rationale behind the Committee's decision. The Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed against.

The Evaluation Committee is expected to meet in specific dates to be included in the Calls for Proposals. Representatives of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and of the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) will participate in the Committee's meetings as observers.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 35%, (3) Implementation 35%.

### **Selection of Projects**

Proposals that have been deemed eligible for funding following the evaluation procedure, will be selected for funding until the total funding of the approved projects equals the total Call budget. In the case of budget exhaustion in the frame of one of the deadlines, the Evaluation Committee will rank the proposals in a priority order for funding (ranking list) and the top proposals according to their ranking will be selected for funding until the available budget is exhausted.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

One Call for Proposals, with two deadlines, is expected to be announced in 2019, which will be open until budget exhaustion.

## **5. "DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BY EXISTING ENTERPRISES" PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

"Development and Promotion of Internationally Competitive Innovative Products and Services by Existing Enterprises (INNOVATE)" Programme aims to support existing enterprises from all activity sectors, that will invest in research and innovation, for the development of competitive innovative products or services with quick global market penetration prospects. Moreover, the Programme facilitates the mobility of private investment funds for the support of rapid development innovative businesses.

### **Description**

The Programme aims to support existing enterprises already active in commercial activities, or have innovative products / services at a test or pilot phase. Funding is mainly aimed to support the development or optimization of the product / service, the launch of the commercial production, the promotion / marketing, and ultimately the global market penetration of the product.

Specifically, in the frame of funded projects, experimental development activities may be carried out, which may include prototyping, demonstration, pilot operation, testing and validation of new or improved innovative products / services. New products or services may belong to a family of innovative commercial products of the company. In addition, new products or services may have entered the market in limited quantities or in a specific geographic area for trial purposes in the two previous years prior to the year of the application and need redesign, which requires experimental development, prototype development, testing and other production preparations in order to penetrate the market successfully.

The Programme also covers innovation activities, which may include the protection of intellectual property rights, secondment of highly qualified personnel from a research organisation to the beneficiary, and the acquisition of advisory services and innovation support services aimed at developing a scientifically and technically sound, innovative business idea, in a ready-to-sell product or service.

Through the Programme, beneficiaries are also given the opportunity to update their strategic business plan for the innovative business idea.

Finally, the Programme covers promotion / marketing activities for the products / services in order to support global market penetration with significant prospects, activities to enhance the investment readiness of the company, and activities aiming to attracting private equity.

In the cases where the new product or service is based on new technology, it is expected that the technology fall within a high technological readiness level, having already been validated in laboratory and relevant environment and is at least being demonstrate at relevant environment. This will also apply to non-technological innovations, accordingly.

### **Beneficiaries**

Enterprises, Research Organisations, Other Private Sector Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be an Enterprise.

Research Organisations, Enterprises, or Other Organisations may participate as Partner Organisations. Partner Organisations may only participate in Experimental Development activities.

Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

In the frame of the present Call for Proposals an enterprise can only receive funding as Host Organisation, only in one Project.

RIF reserves the right, in exceptional cases and in order to deal with extraordinary circumstances, to proceed with an amendment of the provisions of the Work Programme including Beneficiaries, Specific Participation Restrictions, Project Activities, Duration of Project Implementation, etc. All amendments will be specified in the respective Call for Proposals.

## **Project Activities**

For the Host Organisation, projects may include the following activities:

### Experimental Development

Prototyping, demonstration, pilot operation, testing and validation of new or improved innovative products / services.

### Feasibility Study

Scientific / technical Feasibility Study for the innovative business idea, including the investigation of its commercial potential.

### Participation in Trade Fairs / Exhibitions

Participation of the company in trade fairs / exhibitions with private stand for the promotion of the product / service.

### Innovation

The following Innovation Activities are allowed:

- Acquisition, validation and protection of patents / industrial designs and other intangible assets.
- Secondment of highly qualified personnel from a research and knowledge dissemination organisation or large enterprise, working on research, development and innovation activities in a newly created function within the beneficiary and not replacing other personnel,
- Innovation advisory services, assistance and training in the fields of:
  - (a) Knowledge transfer,
  - (b) Acquisition, protection and exploitation of intangible assets, and
  - (c) Use of standards and regulations embedding them.
- Innovation support services for:
  - (a) Testing and certification,
  - (b) Access to research infrastructures, libraries and databases,
  - (c) Market Research, and
  - (d) Quality Labeling.

### Promotional / Marketing Activities of the Products / Services

Promotional (Marketing / branding) activities of the company for the products / services such as publications, advertisements, audio-visual material, graphics, travelling abroad for promotional

purposes. For costs related to these activities funding will be in the form of De Minimis Aid (Commission Regulation, No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013).

It is noted that, further to the aforementioned activities of the funded projects, beneficiaries will have to obtain Mentoring-Coaching Services, by specialized consultants, which may concern the formulation of their business strategy, the improvement of their investment readiness, their access to finance etc. The Foundation, in the frame of its activities, may provide support to beneficiaries to assess their needs and select the appropriate consultants.

For Partner Organisations, only Experimental Research activities are allowed.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 24 Months

### **Budget**

€ 11.400.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€ 1.000.000

The Aid Intensity of the Host Organisation for Experimental Development Activities and Feasibility Studies is calculated according to the provisions of Chapter 3.2 of the present Work Programme. Aid Intensity for Innovation Activities and Participation in Trade Fairs / Exhibitions is 50% and for activities to be funded as De Minimis Aid is 100%.

The final Aid Intensity for the Host Organisation, taking into account all of its activities, cannot exceed 65%.

It is noted that, Aid Intensity for Partner Organisations is calculated according to the provisions of Chapter 3.2 of the present Work Programme. For Research Organizations, the aid intensity for Experimental Development activities cannot exceed the aid intensity of the Host Organisation which amounts up to 65%.

Furthermore, Aid Intensity for Large Enterprises, as Host Organisations, for Innovation Activities and Participation in Trade Fairs / Exhibitions which will be funded as De Minimis Aid will be 50%.

### **Eligible Costs**

In the frame of the present Programme, the following costs are eligible for the Host Organisation:

#### Costs for Experimental Research Activities and Feasibility Studies:

- Personnel Cost.

- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (depreciation).
- Costs for External Services.
- Costs for Foreign Research Organisations (applies only for Experimental Development activities).
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs.
- Overheads.

It is noted that, for Feasibility Studies the restrictions of maximum cost limits for “Cost of External Services” as described in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme do not apply.

Costs for Participation of the Company in Trade Fairs / Exhibitions: (Up to 20% of the total project budget)

Renting, setting up and running the stand for the participation in any particular fair or exhibition.

Innovation Costs of the Company: (Up to 30% of the total project budget)

- Acquisition, validation and protection of intellectual property.
- Secondment of highly qualified personnel.
- Innovation advisory and support services.

Promotional / Marketing Activities and Other Activities of the Projects:

The following costs of the Host Organisation, related to activities not covered by other cost categories, including the costs for promotional / marketing activities and the costs for mentoring / coaching, are covered:

- Personnel Cost (for activities not related to Experimental Development and Feasibility Study).
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment, including industrial production equipment (full cost).
- Costs for External Services (Up to 20% of the total project budget).
- Costs for Travelling Abroad (for promotional/marketing purposes and/or for investment attraction).
- Other specific costs (real costs for promotional/marketing activities).
- Overheads (20% of direct costs).

It is noted that, the abovementioned Promotional / Marketing Activities and Other Activities of the Project will be funded as De Minimis Aid. For the purposes of auditing and approving the eligible costs, for the above expenses, the provisions of Charter 5.4 of the present Work Programme apply.

For Experimental Research activities of the Partner Organisations, the following costs are eligible:

- Personnel Cost.
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (depreciation).

- Costs for External Services.
- Costs for Travelling Abroad.
- Consumables.
- Other specific costs.
- Overheads.

The total costs of the Partner Organisations, should not exceed 40% of the total project budget.

### **Evaluation**

The Proposals are evaluated in two Stages:

During Stage I of the Evaluation, each proposal is remotely evaluated by two (2) experts, specialists in the proposal topic and with good knowledge of the business environment in the proposal field. Proposals which secure an Evaluation Score of at least 12.00/15.00 qualify to Stage II of the Evaluation.

The evaluation of Proposals in Stage II is carried out by an Independent Evaluation Committee, consisted by experts with business background. In the frame of Stage II of the Evaluation, the Project Coordinator presents the Project, in person, to the members of the Committee, who will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications and discuss the content of the Proposal between them and also with the Project Coordinator. The final decision regarding the selection of a proposal for funding, is at the discretion of the Committee.

After completion of the procedure, the relevant Evaluation Report will be communicated to the Project Coordinator, stating the rationale behind the Committee's decision. The Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed against.

The Evaluation Committee is expected to meet in specific dates to be included in the Calls for Proposals. Representatives of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and of the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) will participate in the Committee's meetings as observers.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 35%, (3) Implementation 35%.

### **Selection of Projects**

Proposals that have been deemed eligible for funding following the evaluation procedure, will be selected for funding until the total funding of the approved projects equals the total Call budget. In the case of budget exhaustion in the frame of one of the deadlines, the Evaluation Committee will rank the proposals in a priority order for funding (ranking list) and the top proposals according to their ranking will be selected for funding until the available budget is exhausted.

### **Indicative Call Planning**



One Call for Proposals, with two deadlines, is expected to be announced in 2019, which will be open until budget exhaustion.

## **6. “DIDAKTOR” (Post-Doctoral Researchers) PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “DIDAKTOR” Programme aims to integrate young, post-doctoral scientists in the Cypriot RTDI System, to carry out high level research projects, seeking to involve the young scientists in novel research activities, to stimulate critical mass of researchers in cutting-edge scientific areas and to create sustainable, top level specialised job positions for young scientists.

The Programme also aims to address the brain drain challenge which has increased in recent years due to the weak financial situation of the country.

### **Description**

The Programme refers to the implementation of a research project by a Young Researcher, holder of a doctoral degree, in the frame of his/hers employment by a Cypriot Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation. The Young Researcher, who may also be the coordinator of the proposed project, shall be employed by the Host Organisation, for the implementation of the project as the main object of the employment, while being able at the same time to participate in other research or teaching activities. The participation of more researchers in the project is possible.

The proposed projects must fall in one of the below three Scientific Fields:

- Life Sciences,
- Physical Sciences and Engineering, and
- Social Sciences and Humanities.

The analysis of the abovementioned Scientific Fields is based on the Science and Technology Fields Classification, included in Annex II of the present Work Programme, as follows:

- Life Sciences: Fields coded 1.6, 3.1 to 3.5 and 4.1 to 4.5.
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: Fields coded 1.1 to 1.5, 1.7 and 2.1 to 2.11.
- Social Sciences and Humanities: Fields coded 5.1 to 5.9 and 6.1 to 6.5.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation.

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

The participation of Foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

The Young Researcher must hold a doctoral degree for a maximum of seven (7) years from the date receiving the title until the announcement of the Call for Proposals. The Young Researcher must hold a doctoral degree on the proposal submission date.

The reference date for calculating the eligible period should be the date of the actual award/graduation date for the doctoral degree, in accordance to the national regulations of the country where the title was obtained.

The maximum time limit may be extended in exceptional cases (i.e. maternity/paternity leave), as described in the Call for Proposals.

Each proposal may include only one Young Researcher. The Young Researcher should be named and the man months allocated to him/her should be at least 70% of the project implementation duration in months. If the Young Researcher leaves the project, the project and its funding will be terminated.

Young Researchers who have secured a funding under the “DIDAKTOR” Programme of the DESMI 2008-2010 Framework Programme, may participate on the condition that the Host Organisation of their proposal in “DIDAKTOR” Programme in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, is an enterprise.

### **Project Activities**

Projects may include Fundamental and/or Industrial Research and/ or Experimental Development.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

24 - 36 months, unless otherwise specified in the Calls for Proposals.

### **Budget**

€9.400.000

Indicative Budget allocation in the Scientific Fields: €3.760.000 for Life Sciences, €3.760.000 for Physical Sciences and Engineering, and €1.880.000 for Social Sciences and Humanities.

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€160.000 for Life Sciences and Physical Sciences and Engineering projects, and €120.000 for Social Sciences and Humanities projects.

### Eligible Costs

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

### Evaluation

Remote Evaluation.

### Evaluation Criteria/Weighting

(1) Excellence 40%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 20%, (3) Implementation 40%.

### Selection of Projects

By order of evaluation ranking until exhaustion of available Call Budget per Scientific Field, according to the Budget Breakdown between the three Scientific Fields, after fulfilling any commitment for funding of projects where the Host Organisation is an enterprise, as described in the Call for Proposals.

The Call may set a minimum number of Projects where the Host Organisation should be an enterprise.

### Indicative Call Planning

It is expected that two (2) Calls for Proposals will be announced during 2016 and 2018.

## 7. "HORIZON 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> OPPORTUNITY" PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The Programme aims to provide a second opportunity to organisations and natural persons (researchers) who attempted to obtain a grant under Horizon 2020 Programme, and whose proposals despite of being of high quality did not manage to secure funding due to budget exhaustion. At the same time, the Programme aims to integrate and make the best use of young, high-level scientists in the Cypriot RTDI System, as well as to promote the implementation of globally competitive innovation projects by Cypriot SMEs. The Programme acts also as an incentive for Cypriot organisations and natural persons to participate in specific actions of the "HORIZON 2020" Programme of the EU.

### Description

The Programme consists of two Modules: (a) the “Young Researchers- 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module, and (b) the “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module.

### “Young Researchers- 2nd Opportunity” Module

This module supports the integration of young scientists in the Cypriot RTDI System by offering a second opportunity to researchers who attempted to obtain a grant under the “ERC Starting Grant” and “ERC-Consolidator Grant” funding instruments of the European Research Council (ERC), and the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions”- Individual Fellowships (IFs) / European Fellowships (EFs), whose proposals were eligible for funding, but did not manage to secure a grant due to budget exhaustion.

### “SME Instrument- 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

This module supports innovative enterprises who have submitted proposals in the frame of the “SME Instrument” of the HORIZON 2020 Programme, which is addressed to enterprises that have the potential and ambition for rapid growth and internationalisation through the commercial exploitation of pioneering innovations. Specifically, enterprises are given the opportunity to: (a) investigate the technical feasibility and potential for exploitation and commercialisation of a global innovation (Phase I), and (b) develop new products/services/production methods of international level, to be introduced to the market (Phase II). The RIF will support enterprises that have submitted Proposals in Phase I or Phase II of the “SME Instrument”, were deemed, upon evaluation, as eligible for funding, but did not manage to secure funding due to budget exhaustion.

### **Beneficiaries**

#### “Young Researchers-2nd Opportunity” Module

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations.

#### “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

Enterprises

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The relevant EC’s or ERC’s Letter regarding the evaluation result of a proposal must be dated after the announcement date of the Call of the “Horizon 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme. This condition forms a criterion of the eligibility check.

In case where the proposal funded by the RIF is re-submitted to the EC or the ERC and is selected for funding, the Host Organisation should immediately inform the RIF and the project Contract will be terminated. The Host Organisation should also notify the EC or the ERC.

Proposals that are submitted to the EC or the ERC and include activities that are implemented before RIF’s funding decision will not be funded. This is in compliance with RIF’s general rule that project activities and expenditures must necessarily fall within the project’s timeframe.

### “Young Researchers-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

The Host Organisation is the Cypriot Research Organisation, Enterprise or Other Organisation that would have been responsible for hosting the Researcher for the implementation of the Project in Cyprus, on the following condition:

- (a) Proposals under the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions” – Individual Fellowships (IFs) / European Fellowships (EFs) have received an evaluation score greater or equal to 85/100, but were not funded by the European Commission due to budget exhaustion (Below Available Budget), and
- (b) Proposals under the “ERC-Starting Grant” and “ERC – Consolidator Grant” have received a final evaluation score ‘A’ by the ERC during Step 2 of the ERC’s evaluation, but were not funded due to budget exhaustion (Fundable but not sufficient funds available).

Organisations that fulfil the abovementioned conditions should submit a proposal to the RIF under the “Horizon 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme. The Proposals submitted at the RIF must meet the terms and conditions of participation of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

Research Organisations, Enterprises and Other Organisations may also participate as Partner Organisations.

Foreign Research Organisations may also participate. Consortium partners that were included in the original proposal submitted to the EC but do not fall under the Foreign Research Organisation definition, as described in Chapter 1.5 of Section III of the present Work Programme, may participate as subcontractors.

### “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

The Host Organisation should be a Small or Medium size Enterprise (B.1, B.2) its proposal having been submitted under the “SME Instrument” (Phase I, Phase II) and deemed eligible for funding by the EC, but was not funded due to budget exhaustion.

Organisations that fulfil the abovementioned conditions should submit a proposal to the RIF under the “Horizon 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme. The Proposals submitted at the RIF must meet the terms and conditions of participation of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

Enterprises may also participate as Partner Organisations.

Foreign Research Organisations may also participate. Consortium partners that were included in the original proposal submitted to the EC but do not fall under the Foreign Research Organisation definition, as described in Chapter 1.5 of Section III of the present Work Programme, may participate as subcontractors. Participation of these entities is exempted from provisions mentioned in Chapter 5.5 of Section III of the present Work Programme relating to Tender Procedures.

### **Project Activities**

Projects may include Fundamental Research, Industrial Research, Experimental Development or Feasibility Studies.

### “Young Researchers-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

It includes activities that had been described in the proposal submitted to the European Commission or the European Research Council and which have been adapted accordingly to the rules and procedures of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

### “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

#### Phase I

A Feasibility Study relating to activities that were included in the proposal submitted to the EC and which have been adapted accordingly to the rules and procedures of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

#### Phase II

Relates to Industrial Research and Experimental Development activities that had been included in the proposal submitted to the EC and which have been adapted accordingly to the rules and procedures of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes. Innovation activities are not included.

It is noted that for proposals submitted under the “SME Instrument-Phase II”, activities that fall under the Technology Readiness Level 9 (TRL 9 - actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies) are eligible for funding by the EC. However, those types of activities do not comply with the definition of Experimental Development and thus are not eligible for funding under the “Horizon 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Equal to the duration mentioned in the proposal that was deemed eligible for funding by the EC or the European Research Council, reduced, where needed, so that the project is completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

### **Budget**

€5.500.000

The maximum budget amount available for funding of projects relating to “Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions” – Individual Fellowships (IFs) / European Fellowships (EFs) proposals, is €1.200.000.

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

Project funding will be adapted as needed, in order to comply with the rules and procedures (i.e. aid intensity, eligible costs, funding payments etc.) of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

### “Young Researchers-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

- €150.000 for projects that relate to “MSCA-Individual Fellowships (IFs) / European Fellowships (EFs)” proposals
- €700.000 for projects that relate to “ERC-Starting Grant” proposals
- €1.000.000 for projects that relate to “ERC- Consolidator Grant” proposals

### “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

#### Phase I

€50.000

#### Phase II

€700.000

The maximum aid intensity for Enterprises cannot exceed 70%.

### **Eligible Costs**

#### “Young Researchers-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

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

#### “SME Instrument-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Module

#### Phase I

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

The abovementioned costs should be directly related and necessary for carrying out the Feasibility Study.

#### Phase II

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

It is noted that for the “SME Instrument-2nd Opportunity” Module, the restrictions regarding maximum cost limits for the “Costs for External Services” category as described in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme do not apply.

### **Evaluation**

Internal evaluation.

The decision as to whether a particular organisation is a beneficiary in the frame of the said Programme is taken in accordance to the result of the Scientific Evaluation of the European Commission or the European Research Council.

In the case where project activities should be modified in relation to the proposal submitted to the EC or the European Research Council, something more likely to be justified in the case of ERC-Starting and Consolidator Grants and SME Instrument-Phase II, the RIF will seek the opinion of an independent external expert, regarding the quality of the proposals submitted to the “Horizon 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme in order to assert that the proposals retain the soundness, scientific level and achievability of their objectives, in comparison with the original proposal that was submitted to the European Commission or the European Research Council. The opinion of the external expert will determine whether a proposal will be funded by the RIF.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not Applicable

### **Selection of Projects**

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply) on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing Projects,  
and
- (b) the approved funding for Projects that have been completed,  
equals the total Call budget.

The total amount for requested funding of proposed projects which are submitted to the RIF relating to “Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions” – Individual Fellowships (IFs) / European Fellowships (EFs) proposals, cannot be higher than €1.200.000.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

One open Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will be open until 2019 or until budget depletion.

The RIF holds the right to amend the content of the “HORIZON 2020-2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity” Programme in case the EC amend the relevant Programmes or Actions, by discontinuing the Call and announcing a new, amended Call for Proposals.



## 8. “SOCIAL INNOVATION” PROGRAMME

### General Objectives

The “Social Innovation” Programme aims to the application of innovative ideas, products, services, technologies, models (for organisation, governance, enhancement and development of abilities) and strategies for facing social challenges and the establishment of new relationships and collaborations between social organisations and other stakeholders.

It also aims to cultivate a social innovation culture, being the application of innovation with social dimension both in terms of its objectives and the means of achieving it.

### Description

The ever-increasing recognition of social aspects in the existing major global challenges (such as addressing poverty, health care, population ageing, climate change, energy security, etc.), has gradually, during the last years, highlighted the importance of Social Innovation to overcoming fundamental social problems and challenges.

In this frame, social innovation is shown to be one of the main routes for investigating and accomplishing the principal objectives of the “Europe 2020” Strategy of the EU, for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This is also highlighted through specific initiatives supported by the Flagship Initiative “Innovation Union”, such as the “European Platform Against Poverty”, the “Digital Agenda for Europe”, and the Innovation Partnership for “Active and Healthy Ageing”, as well as the “Horizon 2020” Framework Programme of the EC for Research and Innovation.

The projects have a dual social aspect, depending on the implementation approach/method as well as the social aspect of their results (achievement of social objectives).

As a rule, social innovation is materialised through the involvement of all sectors, including: (i) the public sector, (ii) the private sector and the market, (iii) enterprises and social organisations, and also (iv) the private initiative of socially active persons and entrepreneurs.

Social innovation<sup>14</sup> is specifically materialised through approaches:

- Open in regards of exchange and ownership of knowledge.
- Cross-thematic and integral, driven by problem solving.
- Participatory and empowering, in relevance to the role of citizens and end-users.
- Led by need/demand, rather than by supply
- Specific and adaptable to the specific needs of each case.

The “Social Innovation” Programme focuses on the promotion of projects which plan and develop social innovation for addressing a recently identified or insufficiently addressed social need in

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<sup>14</sup> Guide to Social Innovation” DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Feb. 2013 ([http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/social\\_innovation/social\\_innovation\\_2\\_013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/social_innovation/social_innovation_2_013.pdf))

Cyprus. The projects apart from the problem recognition and the analysis and conception of idea, must also proceed to the stage of the applying the solution to the problem, on a pilot basis or to the stage of testing and validation within a representative environment of real operating conditions for further technical improvements. They must showcase the possibility for a more effective way of addressing the problem in comparison to existing solutions, and establish a quantitative improvement, in terms of results, of the conditions of the targeted social group. At the same time, they must strengthen the activities of beneficiary organisations that participate in the Consortium, and facilitate the creation of new roles and relationships between social organisations and other stakeholders, by developing instruments and capacities and/or leading to a better use of instruments and resources. Finally, they should secure the viability of resulting actions.

Specifically, it is anticipated that, among other considerations, the planning of social innovation projects will be based on the following<sup>15</sup>:

- Innovation:
  - Social Need - the project addresses a usually non addressed or not sufficiently addressed social problem or need.
  - Solution - the project showcases the possibility of addressing the specific social need in a quantitative way, more effective than other existing solutions.
  - Implementation - the project is implemented through a new type of cooperation or governance mechanism and/or with the participation of new stakeholders and participants.
- Objective:
  - The project's objective is to address a social challenge or an existing social need.
- Instruments/Means:
  - A social character or a dimension is identified in the way of securing the human, financial, technical, and/or administrative resources which are necessary for the project.
- Participation:
  - The project has distinct participation and cooperation of the involved organisations and end users.
- Escalation/Expansion:
  - Having estimated the project's added value and benefit, this is used for the aims of the project or to the benefit of other initiatives and projects.
  - Justification of the possibility for expanding the project application in regional, sectoral, and/or national level.
- Sustainability:
  - Showcase of the long-term viability of the resulting activities and/or the solution.

As the programme is part of "Pillar II- SUSTAINABLE RTDI SYSTEM", thematic orientation does not apply in the selection of projects, and a bottom-up approach applies. In this frame, the projects may be applicable to one or more thematic fields. Furthermore, the Programme may be used for issues of social dimension relevant to the Cyprus Problem and/or a possible solution.

As the main objective is the support of the creation of new roles and relationships between organisations, in order to address the specific social problem, it is obligatory to form Consortia for the implementation of Social Innovation projects. Furthermore, the existence of a Consortium facilitates the technical knowhow in developing new instruments and capacities while enabling direct access and acceptance of the solution by the targeted social group.

It is also noted that, when a social target group is represented by an organisation, it is advisable for this organisation to participate as the Host Organisation, undertaking the leading role and guide the project's activities. The objective is the active and decisive involvement of the social target group, so that the concept / product / service / technology / model / strategy resulting from the project, is fully aligned to the group's real needs. This way, the acceptance of the resulting solution by the target group will be secured, along with the possibility to apply the solution in the frame of the project on a pilot basis or the possibility to test and validate the solution in a representative environment of real operating conditions for further technical improvements.

The widespread dissemination of research results of funded projects is a fundamental obligation and should be sufficiently showcased.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations.

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation may be a Research Organisation, Enterprise, or Other Organisation.

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

The Consortium must be composed by at least the Host Organisation and one Partner Organisation.

Participation of Foreign Research Organisations is permitted.

### **Project Activities**

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

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

12- 36 months

### **Budget**

€1.500.000

**Maximum Funding per Project**

€100.000

**Eligible Costs**

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

**Evaluation**

Remote Evaluation.

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 35%, (3) Implementation 35%.

**Selection of Projects**

By order of evaluation ranking.

**Indicative Call Planning**

The announcement for a total of two (2) Calls for Proposals is expected, during the 2016-2020 programme period.

In this frame, the announcement of the first pilot Call of the Programme is planned in 2017.

## **PILLAR III: TRANSFORMATION OF RTDI SYSTEM**

Pillar III “Transformation of RTDI System”, contrary to the first two Pillars, does not concern the implementation of RTDI Projects, but the application of policy measures for supporting and upgrading the complete RTDI System, the optimisation of its results exploitation, the promotion of research and innovation activities, and generally overcoming the main challenges of the System.

The objectives of Pillar III are achieved through the following sections, which include specific Programmes that supplement the research and innovation development actions:

- “Support Mechanisms” Section: It includes Programmes aiming to the involvement of the SMEs in innovative activities, the enhancement of research result exploitation mechanisms, the management of intellectual property rights, the technology transfer, the enhancement of extroversion of Cypriot organisations, and the creation of collaborations.
- “Alternative Forms of Funding” Section: It includes Programmes aiming at the commercial exploitation of research results by research organisations and Enterprises, and the enrichment of the funding instruments and mechanisms by utilising European initiatives and attracting foreign investments.
- “Culture” Section: It includes Programmes aiming to the cultivation of research and innovation culture for the three levels of the educational system, the enterprises, the public sector, and the general public.

### **1. “INNOVATION VOUCHERS” PROGRAMME**

#### **General Objectives**

The “Innovation Vouchers” Programme, aims to introduce SMEs to the concept of Innovation, and to encourage the cooperation between enterprises and knowledge intensive organisations, aiming at the involvement of SMEs in innovative activities, therefore positively affecting their competitiveness.

The award of Innovation Coupons aims to contribute to the mitigation of one of the most important challenges that usually appear during the application of programmes and measures aiming to develop innovative activities, which is the difficulty to be exploited by a large number of enterprises.

### **Description**

The experience gained from national and European programmes that the RIF promotes, shows that in recent years positively changed Cypriot SMEs’ involvement in activities of research, development and innovation. However, those are limited to the participation of a relatively small number of enterprises, which either have the ability to get involved in research and innovation projects on their own, or have received assistance by other organisations who have consistently supported their efforts for participation.

There is therefore the need to adopt measures addressing the majority of SMEs. These measures should comprise simple participation procedures during the proposal submission, and fast implementation of projects.

The “Innovation Vouchers” Programme is a simple, yet effective instrument that allows SMEs to realize the importance and benefits that could emerge from their involvement in innovative actions, and to exploit the technical knowhow of organisations that can contribute by offering solutions to the problems they are facing, while increasing their abilities in the research and innovation areas.

The “Innovation Vouchers” are internationally considered as one of the simplest forms of funding towards enterprises, aiming to support them to obtain basic knowledge and to improve their ability for innovation and development through their cooperation with knowledge intensive organisations.

They are characterised by the relatively simple proposal submission procedure, short timeframes for evaluation and announcement of the results, as well as the fast project implementation and problem solving.

For establishing the partnership, the RIF offers interested SMEs, “Innovation Vouchers” which can be used in exchange of specific services offered by specific organisations to the SMEs.

Through the Programme, the country’s SMEs are anticipated to approach knowledge intensive organisations, aiming to receive support in matters of innovation for issues concerning their products / services / production methods.

As the Programme is part of Pillar III of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which aims to upgrade the RTDI System in Cyprus, the thematic selection of projects does not apply.

## **Beneficiaries**

Enterprises

## **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

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

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

The Innovation Vouchers can be redeemed by knowledge intensive organisations.

Each SME is entitled to one Voucher for every type of Innovation Voucher.

## **Project Activities**

The projects concern the purchase of specific consulting services in issues related to innovation.

## **Duration of Project Implementation**

Not Applicable

The deposit of a Voucher at the RIF for redemption must be done within a period of six (6) months of its issue date. After the period of six (6) months, the Voucher will be considered as invalid without any possibility for extension.

## **Budget**

€260.000

## **Maximum Funding per Project**

There are two (2) types of Vouchers, worth €2.500 and €5.000, as follows:

### **I. Innovation Voucher A – (€2.500)**

- Consulting services for the development of technological applications,
- Consulting services for technology transfer and technical knowhow, and
- Techno-economic studies for innovative products and services.

### **II. Innovation Voucher B – (€5.000)**

- Measurements, tests and analyses,
- Access to research infrastructure and databases,
- Secondment of highly qualified research personnel, from research/academic organisations, to carry out innovation projects, and
- Prototype design and construction.

The Innovation Voucher cannot be used for:

- Personnel training,
- Purchase of equipment,
- Purchase of software / configuration of software (off the shelf solutions),
- Marketing or branding of products, and
- Usual consulting services, without particular innovative dimension.

### **Eligible Costs**

Cost for External Services for the abovementioned services.

Funding is carried out as a one-off payment, in the form of De Minimis aid (Commission Regulation, No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013).

In any case, the total funding may not surpass the real cost of services provided, according to the relevant invoice.

The VAT is eligible.

### **Evaluation**

Internal Evaluation.

Approval of applications for funding is not subject to competitive procedures.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not applicable

### **Selection of Projects**

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

One (1) open Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, until budget exhaustion.



## **2. “INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Industrial Property” Programme aims to increase the number of patents and industrial designs rights, granted to Cypriot entities, in order to maximize the benefits that derive from the exploitation of research, development and innovation results.

### **Description**

The protection of industrial property is considered as one of the fundamental mechanisms of promoting innovation, as it provides motivation to the organisations to get involved in activities of research and development of new products, methods and procedures, in anticipation of exploiting exclusive rights.

The Programme provides the opportunity to protect important research and innovation results, resulting from the implementation of research projects which have been self-funded, or funded through Programmes launched by the RIF, the EU, or other research funding organisations, and have started or have been completed in the last five years from the date of the proposal submission.

As the Programme is part of Pillar III of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which aims to upgrade the RTDI System in Cyprus, the thematic selection of projects does not apply.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations.

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation must be an SME (B1, B2), Research Organisation, or Other Organisation (C1 C2).

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

Proposals for funding by the RIF should be submitted by the organisation who owns the Intellectual Property Rights. In the occasion where the application for patent / industrial design is submitted by a natural person, RIF accepts as evidence the relevant agreement for granting the Intellectual Property Rights to the organisation submitting the proposal.

### **Project Activities**

The projects must include Innovation Activities, which concern patenting and industrial designs, resulting from the implementation of a research project which has been self-funded, or funded through Programmes launched by the RIF, the EU, or other research funding organisation, and has started or been completed within five years from the date of proposal submission. In the case that the industrial property rights are the result of self-funded research in Enterprises, then: (a) the Enterprises’ activities must be relevant to the rights, and (b) the Enterprises must be able to

prove that a specific research methodology has been followed to the production of the specific research result.

The activities that are eligible for funding should fall into at least one of the following stages:

- Patent protection or industrial design rights on a national level, covering Cyprus, or another European country, or a third country, through the submission of a relevant application at the respective national authority,
- Patent protection through the submission of an application at the European Patent Office (EPO), or industrial design protection through the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), or
- Patent protection in the frame of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) or industrial design protection through the Hague System of International Registration of Industrial Designs administered by the World Intellectual Property Office – WIPO).

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Up to 30 months

### **Budget**

€400.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

€10.000

The maximum aid intensity is up to 50% of the eligible costs.

### **Eligible Costs**

Innovation Costs.

Eligible costs:

- All costs preceding the application until the grant of the right in the first level of jurisdiction, including costs relating to the preparation, filing and processing of the application.
- Translation and other costs incurred in order to obtain the granting or validation of the right for other jurisdiction level.
- Costs incurred in defending the validity of the right during the official evaluation of the application and possible appealing proceedings.

It is noted that the following are not considered eligible costs: (a) personnel costs of the Host Organisation for the purposes of preparation, translation and defending the patent / industrial design application, and (b) costs incurred in renewing the patent protection / industrial design protection, after the right is granted.

## **Evaluation**

Internal Evaluation.

Approval of applications for funding is not subject to competitive procedures.

## **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not Applicable

## **Selection of Projects**

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

## **Indicative Call Planning**

One (1) open Call for proposals is expected to be announced in 2016 which will remain open until 2020, until budget exhaustion.

## **3. “PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENTS” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Participation in International Brokerage Events” Programme aims to the international networking of Cypriot organisations. The enhancement of Cypriot organisations’ extroversion and the elimination of the weaknesses attributed to the small size of the Cypriot market and lack of critical mass of resources and infrastructures are expected through the implementation of the Programme. Furthermore, Cypriot organisations’ efforts in exploiting research results of Cypriot origin that cannot be utilised in the local market, as well as identifying technologies and technical knowhow which are not available in Cyprus, will be supported.

### **Description**

The participation of Cypriot organisations’ representatives in selected international brokerage events can have multiple positive outcomes. In particular, it is anticipated that the participation in international brokerage events will provide to the participating organisations the opportunity to investigate possibilities of involvement in research activities, the exchange of knowledge, experiences, best practices and business cooperation for technology transfer, knowhow and innovation.

Each interested organisation should submit a proposal to the RIF for participating in an international brokerage event enlisted in a catalogue of events which is compiled and regularly updated by RIF, at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the event. It is noted that the enlisted events are mainly organised in the frame of EU Programmes, supported by RIF, such as the “Enterprise Europe Network”<sup>16</sup>, “Horizon 2020”, etc.

As the Programme is part of Pillar III of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which aims to upgrade the RTDI System in Cyprus, the thematic selection of projects does not apply.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Special Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, Enterprise, or Other Organisation.

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

At least fifteen (15) calendar days before the day of the event the organisation submits a proposal concerning the participation to an international brokerage event. The event should be enlisted in the catalogue of events which is compiled and regularly updated by RIF.

The participants must have at least three (3) one-to-one meetings with other participants in the frame of the international brokerage event. The meetings must be arranged through the dedicated online partnering tool of each event. For this purpose, during registration for the event, a technology/knowhow offer or request, or a partner search, etc. may be submitted.

### **Project Activities**

Participation in selected international brokerage events.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Not applicable

### **Budget**

€140.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

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<sup>16</sup> The Enterprise Europe Network is the largest service support network toward the SMEs, with more than 600 member-organisations in over 50 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and America. Horizon 2020 is the new Framework Programme of the EU for Research and innovation for the 2014-2020 period.

€900 (one-off payment) per participant.

Funding of beneficiaries is subject to the De Minimis Aid Regulation (EU Regulation No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013).

**Eligible Costs**

Not applicable

**Evaluation**

Internal Evaluation.

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not applicable

**Selection of Projects**

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

**Indicative Call Planning**

One open Call for proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will remain open until 2020, or until budget exhaustion.

**4. “ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROJECT COORDINATION IN HORIZON 2020” PROGRAMME**

**General Objectives**

The objective of the “Encouragement of Project Coordination in Horizon 2020” Programme is to act as an incentive to encourage researchers in Cyprus to take the initiative and lead pan-European networks that will submit a research project proposal under the EU’s Horizon 2020 Programme (Horizon 2020), as Coordinators. In this way, the inflow of funds from the Horizon 2020 budget is maximised, and the cooperation between Cypriot and leading European and/or world-wide research organisations is encouraged.

**Description**

Despite the significant successes of Cypriot Organisations in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and the first stages of Horizon 2020, a relative weakness of Cypriot Organisations to lead pan-European networks for the submission of successful research proposals has been observed.

The RIF, bearing the responsibility to promote the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020 (Horizon 2020), has developed multiple activities to support the participation of research Organisations and Enterprises.

The Programme offers Cypriot Organisations a monetary incentive to participate in Horizon 2020 Proposals as Coordinators of pan-European Networks. The funding is expected to be utilised to cover costs for the preparation period of the Proposal, e.g. travel costs.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

The Host Organisation can be a Research Organisation, an Enterprise, or Other Organisation.

The main condition for proposal submission is the beneficiary's intent to submit a proposal as a Coordinator under any Horizon 2020 Call that requires the creation of a consortium.

The Programme does not cover Projects that are funded in the frame of Joint European Calls for International Networks (i.e. ERANET, JPI), or organisations (i.e. AAL) in which the RIF participates and funds the participation of Cypriot Organisations.

The Programme also covers two-stage submission/evaluation Calls under Horizon 2020, but a proposal may be submitted only for the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of each Call.

The beneficiaries should be actively involved in the research activities of the proposed project, and their participation should not be limited to an administrative role.

### **Project Activities**

Not applicable

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Not applicable

### **Budget**

€1.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

The funding, which can be up to a total amount of €7.000, is potentially paid in two (2) phases (in De Minimis form in the case of Organisations type B.1, B.2, B.3 and C.1 up to the max amount stipulated in EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis aid), as follows:

- If the proposal submitted to the RIF is deemed eligible for funding, then the beneficiary receives a €2.000 funding within thirty (30) calendar days from the day the proposal was submitted to the Foundation.
- If the proposal to be submitted under Horizon 2020 secures an above threshold score following scientific evaluation, but cannot be funded, then the beneficiary receives an additional funding of €5.000.

**Eligible Costs**

Not applicable

**Evaluation**

Internal Evaluation.

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not applicable

**Selection of Projects**

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

**Indicative Call Planning**

One (1) Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will be open until 2020 or until budget exhaustion.

**5. “COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS” PROGRAMME**

**General Objectives**

The “Commercial Exploitation of Research Results” Programme, aims to the commercial exploitation of the results produced through research activities of Research Organisations or Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations, and to the enhancement of the added value of entrepreneurial activities in Cyprus. The objective is that part of the research outputs, which may result from public funding, to form the foundation for the development of internationally competitive innovative products and services, with consequent benefits to the employment of young scientists and the general growth of economy. At the same time, the Programme aims to

encourage the growth of the high-risk investment fund market in Cyprus, emphasising on funds for investments in spin-offs established by Research Organisations and Other Organisations.

### **Description**

The Programme is expected to contribute in the investigation of the possibilities for exploitation of research results and the implementation of preparatory actions for development, demonstration and promotion of products at a “prototype” stage, as well the establishment of spin-off companies for the commercial exploitation of the produced products and services.

The Programme consists of two independent stages. The first stage is preparatory, while the second stage refers to the actual investment for the exploitation of research, technological development and innovation results, as follows:

- Stage A - Preparation: Supports the development of a business plan for the commercial exploitation of results generated from research activities carried out by Cypriot Research Organisations or Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations. It also supports preparatory actions for product refinement, development of a business strategy, promotion and access to finance.
- Stage B - Investment: Support activities for setting a new company and its operational activities according to the business plan for the commercial exploitation of research results. Stage B may (it is not obligatory) be the continuation of the support received during Stage A.

It is anticipated that the Programme will contribute to increase the number of research projects that will result in business activity, thus making a positive contribution to the support of entrepreneurship within the research community.

As the Programme is part of Pillar III of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which aims to upgrade the RTDI System in Cyprus, the thematic selection of projects does not apply.

### **Beneficiaries**

#### Stage A:

Research Organisations, Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations

#### Stage B:

STARTUP Companies

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

#### Stage A:

The Host Organisation must be a Research Organisation or Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisation, wishing to proceed to the commercial exploitation of a result generated from a



research activity of the Organisation, which was successfully completed within the last five (5) years from the date of the proposal submission.

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

### Stage B:

The Host Organisation must be a start-up Company, established by a Research Organisation or an Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisation, aiming to the commercial exploitation of a result generated from research activity carried out by the Organisation, and was completed within the last five (5) years of the date of the proposal submission.

It is clarified that at the proposal submission phase, the relation between the STARTUP company and the Research organisation or the Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisation must be documented through a special “Technology Transfer Agreement”, which regulates the jurisdiction issues regarding the commercial exploitation of the research result by the company, and describes the way in which the said Organisation is compensated for granting its rights to the STARTUP company.

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

### **Project Activities**

#### Stage A:

The projects may include a Feasibility Study and/or the following Innovation activities:

- Protection of intellectual property rights and licencing agreements,
- Technology and knowhow transfer activities,
- Measurements, tests and analyses, and
- Access to research infrastructures and databases.

#### Stage B:

- All activities of the start-up company.

### **Duration of Project Implementation**

Stage A: 6- 18 months

Stage B: 12- 36 months

### **Budget**

Stage A: €270.000

Stage B: €1.000.000

### **Maximum Funding per Project**

Stage A:

€30.000

The aid intensity is 80%.

Stage B:

€250.000

The RIF provides an amount equal to the amount invested by an independent private investor that meets certain criteria which will be set in the Call for Proposals, with a maximum amount of €250.000.

**Eligible Costs**

Stage A: Innovation Costs (only for the innovation activities described above) and/or Personnel costs, Costs for Foreign Research Organisations, Instruments and Equipment Costs, Costs for External Services, Costs for Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads. The abovementioned costs should be directly relevant and be necessary for the Feasibility Study.

It is noted that for Stage A, the restrictions of maximum cost limits for “Cost of External Services” as described in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme do not apply.

Stage B: All costs of the start-up Company.

**Evaluation**

Stage A: Remote Evaluation.

Stage B: Internal Evaluation. RIF will check whether the provisions set in the Call for Proposals are met.

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Stage A:

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 50%, (3) Implementation 20%

Stage B:

Not applicable

**Selection of Projects**

Stage A:

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

### Stage B:

Will be specified in the Calls for Proposals.

For Stage B, funding is provided after verification of the participation of investors-shareholders in the shared capital, and examination of the “Technology Transfer Agreement” between the company and the Research Organisation or the Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisation.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Stage A: One open Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will be open until 2020 or until budget exhaustion.

Stage B: One Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2017.

### **NOTE:**

This Program will be further elaborated regarding the Call for Proposals that is expected to be announced in 2021. The indicative budget of the Call is € 200,000.

## **6. “COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS BY ENTERPRISES” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Commercial Exploitation of Research Results in Enterprises” aims to support the added value of entrepreneurial activities in Cyprus, through the commercial exploitation of the results of research carried out by Cypriot Enterprises. The objective is to use research results as the basis for the development of internationally competitive, innovative products and services, with consequent benefits regarding the employment of young scientists and the general growth of economy. At the same time, the Programme aims to encourage the growth of the high-risk investment fund market in Cyprus, emphasising on investment funds for high-tech STARTUP companies.

### **Description**

The Programme consists of two independent stages:

- Stage A: Supports the development of a business plan for the commercial exploitation of results generated from a research project funded by the RIF and implemented by the Enterprise that submits the proposal. It also supports preparatory actions for product refinement, development of a business strategy, promotion and access to finance
- Stage B: Provides funding for activities for commercial exploitation of research results in the frame of the operation of a new high-tech company established by a private, independent investor. The investor must fulfil certain conditions to be set in the Call for Proposals.

As the Programme is part of Pillar III of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which aims to upgrade the RTDI System in Cyprus, the thematic selection of projects does not apply.

### **Beneficiaries**

#### Stage A:

Enterprises

#### Stage B:

Start-up companies

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

#### Stage A:

The Host Organisation must be an SME (B1, B2), wishing to proceed to the commercial exploitation of the research result generated from a research project funded by RIF, in which the SME participated, and was successfully completed within the last five (5) years of the date of submission of the proposal. It is expected that the Enterprise owns the rights to use the research result.

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

#### Stage B:

The Host Organisation must be a high-tech start-up Company which was established with the objective of the commercial exploitation of a research result, produced within the last five (5) years of the date of the submission of the proposal. It is expected that the company has the rights to use the research result.

The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not permitted.

### **Project Activities**

Stage A:

The projects may include a Feasibility Study and/or the following Innovation activities:

- Protection of intellectual property rights and licencing agreements
- Technology and knowhow transfer activities,
- Measurements, tests and analyses, and
- Access to research infrastructures and databases.

Stage B:

- All activities of the start-up Company.

**Duration of project implementation**

Stage A: 6- 18 months

Stage B: Specified in the Call for Proposals

**Budget**

Stage A: €270.000

Stage B: €1.000.000

**Maximum Funding per Project**

Stage A:

€30.000

The aid intensity is 50%.

Stage B:

The maximum aid intensity per project and the funding procedure of Stage B will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

**Eligible Costs**

Stage A: Innovation Costs (only for the innovation activities described above) and/or Personnel Costs, Instruments and Equipment Costs, Costs for External Services, Costs for Travelling Abroad, Consumables, Other Specific Costs, Overheads.

The abovementioned costs should be directly relevant and be necessary for the Feasibility Study.

It is noted that for Stage A, the restrictions of maximum cost limits for “Cost of External Services” as described in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme do not apply.

Stage B: All costs of the STARTUP Company.

### **Evaluation**

Stage A: Remote Evaluation.

Stage B: Will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

#### Stage A:

(1) Excellence 30%, (2) Added Value and Benefit 50%, (3) Implementation 20%

#### Stage B:

Will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Selection of Projects**

#### Stage A:

Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

#### Stage B:

Will be specified in the Call for Proposals.

### **Indicative Call Planning**

Stage A: One open Call for proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will be open until 2020 or until budget exhaustion.

Stage B: One Call for proposals is expected to be announced in 2017.

**NOTE:**

This Program will be further elaborated regarding the Call for Proposals that is expected to be announced in 2021. The indicative budget of the Call is € 200,000.

## **7. “COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Complementary Funding” Programme aims on the one hand to maximise the benefit from the participation of Cypriot Organisations in Horizon 2020 projects and, on the other hand to reward these organisations by enhancing their potential to maintain and upgrade their ability to carry out international level research and continue to attract funds from Horizon 2020 or other international Programmes.

### **Description**

A percentage of the funding secured by the beneficiary organisation from the EU in the frame of one or more Horizon 2020 research projects is provided as Complementary Funding by the RIF, aiming to enhance its research capabilities by covering actions such as hiring researchers or research management personnel, and the purchase of new or the upgrade of existing equipment.

### **Beneficiaries**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

### **Specific Participation Restrictions and Conditions**

In this Programme the beneficiaries are Research Organisations, Enterprises or Other Organisations that participate in one or more Horizon 2020 projects as Coordinators or Partners. It is noted that the date of the notification letter from the EU informing the participants of the success of their proposal, must be later than the date of announcement of the Call for Proposals by the RIF. In any other case, the Projects will not be taken into account in the frame of this Programme.

The beneficiaries are able to submit a proposal to the RIF if they have secured their participation in one or more Horizon 2020 Projects, securing a total funding of at least €200.000 (cumulatively), from the date of the announcement of the relevant Call by the RIF, and have also signed the Grant Agreement(s) or the Accession to the Grant Agreement document(s) with the EU.

It is noted that the total funding secured by Organisations from Horizon 2020, will not include funding secured in the frame of Joint European Calls for International Networks (i.e. ERANET, JPI), or the “Teaming” Action of the “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation” Programme or

organisations (i.e. AAL) in which the RIF participates and funds the participation of Cypriot Organisations.

**Project Activities**

Not applicable

**Duration of Project Implementation**

The beneficiaries must use the Complementary Funding in a period of thirty-six (36) months from the day it is granted.

**Budget**

€4.000.000

**Maximum Funding per Project**

The Maximum Funding for each selected proposal is set to 5% of the total amount the beneficiary organisation has secured from the EU in the frame of one or more H2020 research projects for which the proposal is submitted.

The total Complementary Funding that can be received by a beneficiary organisation, for all the Horizon 2020 Projects in which it participates, cannot exceed €1,000,000 for the duration of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, or the max amount stipulated in EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis aid in the case of Organisations type B1, B2, B3 and C1, where the funding is in the form of a one-off payment (in De Minimis form).

**Eligible Costs**

Not applicable

The use of the Complementary Funding must exclusively concern the upgrade of the beneficiary organisation's research activities, capabilities and infrastructure. It is noted that the Funding can only be used for activities that are not already funded by other sources. It is expected that the needs of the research teams that have secured the H2020 project(s) on which the RIF proposal is based, will be met as a priority.

**Evaluation**

Not applicable

**Evaluation Criteria/Weighting**

Not applicable

**Selection of Projects**



Prioritised in order of submission to the RIF (non-competitive procedures apply), on the condition that proposals have been deemed eligible for funding following the internal evaluation procedure until the sum of:

- (a) the requested funding in proposals submitted to the RIF and that of ongoing projects, and
- (b) The approved funding for projects that have been completed,

equals the total Call budget.

### **Indicative Call Timeframe**

One Call for Proposals is expected to be announced in 2016, which will be open until 2020 or until budget exhaustion.

## **8. “NURTURING AN RTDI CULTURE” PROGRAMME**

### **General Objectives**

The “Nurturing an RTDI Culture” Programme aims to the cultivation of a research and innovation culture and the understanding of the importance of research, technology development and innovation (RTDI) in society.

### **Description**

The Programme includes activities (competitions, awards, exhibitions, workshops, and other activities) concerning:

- The cultivation of culture in all three levels of the educational system,
- The acknowledgement of excellent scientists and entrepreneurs, and
- The raise of public awareness regarding RTDI, and especially the youth, end-user associations (i.e. Consumers), the public sector and the policy makers.

### **Budget**

€500.000

### **Call Scheduling**

Annual Calls

## SECTION III – PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

The general participation regulations and procedures **shall apply to all RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes**, unless otherwise defined in the Programme Description, in SECTION II of the present Work Programme. Special participation provisions may be defined in the Call for Proposals.

### 1. BENEFICIARIES

#### 1.1. PARTICIPATION IN THE RESTART 2016-2020 PROGRAMMES

##### Eligibility

Eligible for participation in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are organisations such as research organisations, higher and tertiary education institutions, scientific and professional associations, enterprises, associations of enterprises, non-governmental organisations, public services, public benefit organisations as well as natural persons, such as academics, scientists, researchers, technicians, students and pupils.

Participation of organisations and natural persons engaged in an economic activity in a proposal shall be deemed valid, if they have their registered address in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus. Organisations and natural persons whose registered address is in the European Union or in another State recognised by the Republic of Cyprus, shall participate under the terms and conditions stipulated in the Work Programme and in the individual Programme Calls for Proposals.

The specific restrictions and conditions for participation pertaining to the eligibility for participation of different types of organisations and individuals are specified in the Programme Description in Section II of the present Work Programme and the Calls for Proposals.

##### Participation Restrictions

The Research and Innovation Foundation's (RIF) intention is to create the conditions for free and unimpeded participation of the interested parties in the proposals of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes. The restrictions described below, however, were deemed necessary to ensure the rational and efficient Programme implementation.

More specifically, the restrictions pertaining to participation in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, can be summarised as follows:

- Each person acting as Project Coordinator may submit to each Call for Proposals a maximum of two (2) proposals unless otherwise stated in the Programme Description, as described in Section II of the present Work Programme or in the Call for Proposals.
- Participation is not permitted to:
  - (a) Persons employed by the RIF or members of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

- (b) Organisations and individuals with respect to which a ruling has been issued by the EU excluding them from the procedure of concluding contracts with the EU.
- (c) Organisations for which there is an outstanding aid recovery order following a prior ruling of the European Commission, declaring such aid to be illegal and incompatible with the Common Market.
- (d) Organisations and individuals whom the RIF<sup>17</sup> Board of Directors has decided to exclude from the Foundation's Programmes, for the period of time that the exclusion applies to.
- (e) Organisations and individuals convicted by a Cyprus and/or foreign court and/or any Cyprus and/or foreign supervisory and/or regulatory authority for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude and/or participation in a criminal organisation and/or an offence relevant to their professional conduct.
- (f) Organisations against whom an outstanding petition and/or an order of liquidation has been issued.
- (g) Organisations for which there is an outstanding application to appoint an examiner and/or an order has been issued to appoint an examiner pursuant to Law 62(I)/2015.
- (h) Undertakings in difficulty as determined in Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 on State aid<sup>18</sup>. Undertakings in difficulties may participate only as Partner Organisations with own funding. The following Programmes are exempted: (a) "Innovation Vouchers", (b) "Participation in International Brokerage Events", (c) "Encouragement of Project Coordination in HORIZON 2020", and (d) "Complementary Funding", where participation of undertakings in difficulty is permitted, funded with a lump sum in the form of de minimis aid (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013).

Unless the Foundation's Board of Directors have decided otherwise, any organisation showing outstanding financial obligations towards the RIF in the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes or previous RIF Frameworks of Programmes, may participate on condition that they have reached an agreement in writing with the Foundation regarding the settlement of such outstanding financial obligations.

Besides the aforementioned general participation restrictions, more specific restrictions defined in the Programme Description, in Section II of the present Work Programme and/or the individual Calls for Proposals may apply in relation to proposal submission or the participation of organisations and individuals in a proposal. The specific restrictions shall not apply for Calls for Proposals of other Programmes or even for subsequent Calls for the same Programme, if not expressly referred to them.

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<sup>17</sup> The appropriate body for examination and implementation of any sanctions is the Specific Issues Examination Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

<sup>18</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014

[http://www.publicaid.gov.cy/publicaid/publicaid.nsf/6B5E883AFAB5AADFC2257B8F00360DC6/\\$file/%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%9F%CE%A3%20%CE%93%CE%95%CE%9D%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A3%20%CE%91%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%9B%CE%9B%CE%91%CE%9A%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A3.pdf](http://www.publicaid.gov.cy/publicaid/publicaid.nsf/6B5E883AFAB5AADFC2257B8F00360DC6/$file/%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%9F%CE%A3%20%CE%93%CE%95%CE%9D%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A3%20%CE%91%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%9B%CE%9B%CE%91%CE%9A%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A3.pdf)

## **1.2. ORGANISATION TYPES**

The organisations eligible for participation in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are classified into one of the types described below.

The Research and Innovation Foundation will examine the legal standing of the organisations during the Legal Status Check, which, as a rule, shall be carried out prior to proposal submission.

If, during its participation in a project, an organisation that has been classified in a specific Organisation Type on the basis of the Legal Status Check, is found not to meet any of the conditions classifying it as such, then the RIF reserves the right to change such Classification to another one. Classification to another Organisation Type may entail modifications in the organisation's rights or the conditions for participation thereof in the project, pursuant to the regulations and conditions for participation in the present Work Programme.

### **A. Research Organisations**

For the purposes of the present Work Programme, a Research Organisation is a university or research institute irrespective of its legal status (public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently<sup>19</sup> conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development and the extended, non-exclusive dissemination of said activities' results without discrimination, through teaching, publishing or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it. "Economic" and "non-economic activities" are defined in the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01).

Such organisations are required to submit to the RIF, on an annual basis, a certificate from an independent external certified auditor confirming that it keeps separate accounts for its "economic" and "non-economic activities" and that it meets the relevant conditions for their separation, as defined in the state aid rules for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01).

In the cases where an Internal Audit Department / Sector / Unit operates within the organisation, the submission of a relevant certificate issued by the organisation's Internal Audit Department / Sector / Unit confirming that the organisation keeps separate accounts for its "economic" and "non-economic activities" and that it meets the relevant conditions for its separation, as defined in the state aid rules for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), will be acceptable.

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<sup>19</sup> Independent Research is the research for further knowledge and better understanding, including collaborative research and development. It should be explained that the provision of research and development services and the research and development conducted by enterprises is not considered to be independent research and development.

## **B. Enterprises<sup>20</sup>**

This type generally covers private sector undertakings active in any sector of the economy, as follows:

### **B.1. Small Enterprise<sup>21</sup>:**

It is an enterprise which employs fewer than fifty (50) employees and has an annual turnover or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding ten (10) million Euros. Start-ups are also included in this category.

It is noted that a Start-up is any small enterprise not listed in the stock exchange up to five years after its registration, which (a) has not taken over the activity of another enterprise, (b) has still not distributed profits, and (c) has not been incorporated through a merger. For eligible enterprises not subject to registration, the five-year period may be deemed to start from the time that the enterprise either starts its financial activity or becomes liable to pay tax for its financial activity. By way of derogation from point (c) of the first subparagraph, enterprises formed through a merger between undertakings eligible for aid under this Article shall also be considered eligible undertakings up to five years from the date of registration of the oldest enterprise participating in the merger. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Programme, in the case of start-ups, the company registration must pre-date the proposal.

Aid for Start-ups should meet the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 Article 22 on State Aid.

### **B.2. Medium-sized Enterprise:**

It is an enterprise which employs fifty (50) to up to two hundred forty-nine (249) employees and has an annual turnover of up to fifty (50) million Euro or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding forty three (43) million Euro.

### **B.3. Large Enterprise:**

It is an enterprise which employs two hundred fifty (250) or more employees and/or has an annual turnover exceeding fifty (50) million Euro or an annual balance sheet total exceeding forty-three (43) million Euro.

Please note that the participation of a Large Enterprise in a RESTART 2016-2020 Programme project is possible only after prior proof through the proposal of the incentive effect that the funding will have for a Large Enterprise. To this end, one of the following criteria must be met:

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<sup>20</sup> The classification of enterprises (cat. B.1, B.2, B.3) will be re-examined at the time of drawing up of the contracts prior to the final decision on funding.

<sup>21</sup> The full definition of "Small and Medium-sized Enterprises" (SME) is included in Annex III of this Tender and refers to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003, concerning the definition of very small, small and medium-sized enterprises, EU L 124 of 20.5.2003, p. 36. The RPF shall adopt each EU Regulation that replaces the applicable Regulation.

- increase of the project size: increase of the total project cost (without reducing the Large Enterprise's expenses relative to the case of non-funding); increase in the number of persons employed in research, development and innovation,
- expansion of scope: increase in the number of expected project results; increase in the expectations from the project, proven by the larger number of participating partners, the higher possibility of success of scientific or technological break-through or the higher risk of failure (in particular in conjunction with the long-term character of the project and the uncertainty of its results),
- increase of speed: project implementation requires less time compared to the implementation time required for the implementation of the same project without aid, and
- increase in the total amount spent: increase the total expense for research, development and innovation on behalf of the Large Enterprise in absolute terms or as a percentage of the turnover, changes in the project budget (without a corresponding reduction in the budget for other projects).

## **C. Other Organisations**

### **C.1. Other Private Sector Organisations:**

Private Academic Institutions not classified as Research Organisations, Non-Profit Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Professional and Scientific Organisations and Unions, Associations of Enterprises, Chambers of Enterprises, etc.

These types of organisations will be funded pursuant to the applicable terms for the corresponding type of enterprise they belong to (B.1, B.2 or B.3). It should be explained that in the case of Associations of Enterprises, Chambers of Enterprises or other organised groups having a Large Enterprise as member, those will automatically be classified as a Large Enterprise (B.3).

### **C.2. Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations**

Government Departments, Municipalities, Communities, Broader Public Sector, Government Organisations, etc. Organisations operating in conditions of free competition are excluded and will be classified as "Enterprises".

## **1.3. NATURAL PERSONS CATEGORY**

The persons eligible for participation in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, may be classified in the following categories:

### **Researcher**

An employee<sup>22</sup> of one of the organisations participating in the Consortium of a project, who performs research work in the context of said project is included in this category. The researcher

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<sup>22</sup> Persons participating as members of Associations, Scientific Societies or other Entities not employing personnel, are exempted and can participate by means of a Contract for the Provision of Services.

must be employed by the organisation participating in the project during its participation period in the project.

For the purposes of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, a person is considered an “employee” of an organisation, if:

- the employee-employer relationship can be proven (employment contract, job control, supervision and work approval, provision of work related materials and so forth),
- such person is included in the organisation’s official payroll on a regular basis, and
- all the employer’s obligations pursuant to the law are fulfilled.

This category may also include personnel that provides specialized technical support for research work or, in the Programmes for Entrepreneurial Innovation, personnel involved in innovation activities or other relevant activities.

It is noted that, that persons providing services to an organisation that do not meet the requirements regarding the employer-employee relationship, shall not be considered to fall under the “Researcher” category.

### **Student - Pupil**

This category may include:

- an undergraduate or postgraduate level student, and
- a pupil attending a public or private school<sup>23</sup> in Cyprus.

## **1.4. ORGANISATION TYPE COMMITMENT**

All organisations wishing to participate in proposals in the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, shall fall under only one of the aforementioned types of organisations, according to their characteristics.

The type of the organisation can only be changed if the organisation’s characteristics change. In this case, the RIF should be notified immediately.

## **1.5. ROLES OF PARTICIPANTS IN A PROJECT**

### **Host Organisation**

The Host Organisation (HO) shall be the organisation submitting the proposal, signing the Project Contract and duly authorising the Project Coordinator for the purposes of the project implementation and Contract modification. The HO must have its registered address in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus. The HO is legally liable against the RIF amongst others for:

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<sup>23</sup> The schools must be recognised by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

- the supervision, control and generally smooth implementation of the project, in accordance with the Project Contract stipulations,
- the management of the funding in accordance with the approved budget and the financial management regulations included in the Project Contract, and
- the submission of the project's scientific and financial progress reports or any other supplementary information that may be requested.

### **Partner Organisation**

The Partner Organisation (PA) is an organisation participating in the Consortium, which undertakes the implementation of part of the project. The PA must have its registered address in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

### **Foreign Research Organisation**

A Foreign Research Organisation (FRO) is any non-profit organisation whose registered address is in a European Union State or in other State recognised by the Republic of Cyprus and one of its main activities is the conduct of research. Foreign businesses (for-profit organisations) cannot be funded as FROs in the context of the Foundation Programmes.

The FRO may participate nominally in a proposal describing in detail its specialisation and role in the project implementation, but shall not be member of the Consortium. Therefore, FROs are not contracting parties in the Project Contract and shall not sign the Consortium Agreement, while their budget shall be included in that of the HO, in a specific cost category.

### **Collaboration Country Organisation**

An organisation from a Collaborating Country that participates in the project and is funded by its country's relevant funding organisations. This concerns the Programmes "Bilateral Collaborations", "EUREKA Cyprus", "European Initiatives – National Development" and "EUROSTARS Cyprus".

### **Project Coordinator**

The Project Coordinator (PC) must be employed by the HO starting from the Project start date and throughout the Project implementation period, and must participate in the work and coordinate Consortium activities. The PC must be duly authorised by the HO for the purposes of project implementation and Contract modification.

Furthermore, the PC, shall amongst others:

- oversee the project implementation progress,
- represent the Consortium on all stages of proposal submission, contract preparation, project implementation and Contract modification and communication with the RIF,
- communicate with the RIF and be responsible to notify the Consortium on matters related to the physical and economic objective of the funded project,



- inform the responsible persons of all Consortium member organisations and ensure their approval whenever so required, in particular, in relation to the relevant project activities, participation of human resources, use of the facilities and the potential financial obligations arising from participation of the organisations in the project;
- check the validity of participation of all organisations and individuals, as defined in the relevant general provisions of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and the special provisions of each Call for Proposals,
- collect from the members of the Consortium and check any documents and information requested by the RIF and/or other competent authorities,
- submit the required project Progress Reports and Payment Requests and check their correctness and completeness taking into consideration the project's scientific objective, or other supplementary data that might be requested, and
- ensure that all payments are timely made to the Consortium and respectively inform the RIF, if and when required.

It is clarified that the PC's responsibilities may not be assigned to another member of the Consortium or subcontracted to a third party.

### **Financial Contact Point**

At the stage of Project Contract preparation, the HO will appoint a Financial Contact Point (FCP) for the project, for the purpose of facilitating communication between the Consortium and the RIF's Accounts Department on economic issues (accounting entries, provision of accounting information etc.) in the context of the Financial Audits conducted by the RIF.

All communication between the RIF and the HO's FCP will be notified to the PC and the HO's legal representative.

Furthermore, each member of the Consortium shall appoint a FCP for the purpose of using the electronic system for matters of financial management.

The cost of such FCP will be covered by the "Overheads" cost category.

### **Organisation's Legal Representative**

The Organisation's Legal Representative (OLR) shall be the person representing it and has the authority to legally bind it.

## **1.6. CONSORTIUM**

The Consortium consists of the group of organisations included in each proposal and project contract. Depending on the intended targets of each Programme, a Call for Proposals may set forth any possible requirements of the Foundation with regard to the types or number of organisations that must jointly comprise a Consortium.

In the cases where a minimum Consortium is required, it must consist of legal entities, independent of one another, none of them being under the direct or indirect control of the other or under the same direct or indirect control.

## **2. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR AID**

The proposals submitted within the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes may refer to one or more of the following types of activities, as defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 on State aid and in the Framework regarding State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C/ 198/01), as follows:

- Research and Development Activities,
- Innovation activities,
- Participation of SMEs in Fairs / Exhibitions, and
- Start-ups Activities.

Furthermore, and if provided for in the Call for Proposals, it is possible to include activities not falling under the above types, which will be funded as De Minimis aid.

The eligible activities that may be included in a project are defined in each Call for Proposals.

### **2.1. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Types of Research and Development Activities**

Research and Development activities may refer to:

##### **A. Fundamental Research:**

Fundamental Research means the experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view.

##### **B. Industrial Research:**

Industrial Research means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

##### **C. Experimental Development:**

Experimental Development means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new

or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.

Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set.

This may include development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes. Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

### **D. Feasibility Study:**

Feasibility Study means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success.

### **The Project's Research Character**

The “research character” of a project is determined by the types of research in which its activities fall under.

A project may include one or more of the above types. Depending on the objectives of each individual Programme, the eligible types are defined in the Programme description, in Section II of the present Work Programme and/or the Call for Proposals.

## **2.2. INNOVATION ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are supported in the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes:

- Obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets,
- Secondment<sup>24</sup> of highly qualified personnel from a research and knowledge dissemination organisation or large enterprise, working on research, development and innovation activities in a newly created function within the beneficiary and not replacing other personnel,
- Innovation Advisory Services: Consultancy, assistance and training in the fields of knowledge transfer, acquisition, protection and exploitation of intangible assets, use of standards and regulations embedding them, and
- Innovation Support Services: means the provision of office space, data banks, libraries, market research, laboratories, quality labelling, testing and certification for the purpose of developing more effective products, processes or services.

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<sup>24</sup> Temporary personnel employment by a beneficiary of aid with the personnel having the right to return to its previous employer.

### **2.3. PARTICIPATION OF SMEs IN FAIRS / EXHIBITIONS**

The participation of SMEs in trade fairs / exhibitions is supported in the frame of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

### **2.4. START-UPS ACTIVITIES**

Start-ups are supported in the frame of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, if they meet the relevant definition (Chapter 1.2 of Section III of the present Work Programme), for their involvement in research and development activities. Furthermore, support is provided for the activities of start-ups established for the commercial development of existing research results, as well as the activities of start-ups which develop products and services with significant global market penetration potential. Eligible activities and relevant costs are described in Section II of the present RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme, in the descriptions of the Programmes which include this activity type.

## **3. BUDGET-FUNDING**

Funding of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the European Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 on State Aid.

Support for a project implemented in the frame of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes by the RIF shall be made in the form of a grant. The funding amount varies depending on the activities implemented and the beneficiary.

Usually, the organisations involved are required to contribute financially, however, subject to certain conditions, RIF's funding may cover the total (100%) amount of eligible costs.

### **Entitlement to Funding**

The beneficiaries funded by the RIF must have their registered address in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

Organisations with a registered address outside the Republic of Cyprus in a European Union State or other State recognised by the Republic of Cyprus that wish to receive funding from the RIF through the Consortium's Host Organisation, must be non-profit organisations, having the conduct of research as one of their main activities (Foreign Research Organisations). FRO funding may amount to 15% of the total project funding by the RIF, unless otherwise stated in the Programme description and/or the Call for Proposals. It must be noted that additional restrictions regarding FRO funding may be provided for in the Calls for Proposals.

### **3.1. PROJECT BUDGET**

The budget of a project is the total amount of eligible costs required for its implementation and is covered by RIF funding and by self-funding, namely by contributions of the Consortium members.

The amount of funding that a project may secure from the RIF is limited by:

- (a) the Maximum Funding Amount, namely the maximum amount that a project may secure as funding from the RIF, as defined in the Programme description and the individual Calls for Proposals; and
- (b) the Maximum (in accordance with the State Aid framework) or the Maximum Permitted (in accordance with the limitations of the individual Programmes) Aid Intensity.

The Budget amount, the Requested Funding and the Final Aid Intensity of each organisation, which is defined as a rate of the Required Funding related to each organisation's Budget, are defined in the project's Budget form, which is included in the research project Contract. The Final Aid Intensity for each organisation may not change, unless the organisation type has changed and the Final Funding by the RIF may not exceed the Requested Funding defined in the Contract.

It should be noted that aid may be cumulated with other State Aid granted to the beneficiary by another local, regional, national or community funding scheme for the purpose of covering self-funded eligible costs, which will not exceed the maximum aid intensity in accordance with the State Aid framework.

### 3.2. MAXIMUM AID INTENSITY

Aid Intensity is calculated separately for each organisation and according to the type of activity, as follows:

#### Research and Development Activities

The Maximum Aid Intensity, pursuant to the State Aid framework, for each beneficiary category in RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, is summarised in Table III.1 that follows.

For beneficiaries classified as "**Research Organisations**" and "**Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations**", the Aid Intensity amounts, as a rule, to 100% of the project's eligible costs, and their funding does not fall under the control system of state aid.

The Maximum Aid Intensity for beneficiaries not classified as one of the above types of organisations, will be that of the Type of Enterprise to which they belong (Small, Medium-size or Large Enterprise).

Table III.1 MAXIMUM AID INTENSITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES					
A. BASIC INTENSITY					
Calculated according to the project research character					
	The Project’s Research Character	Small Enterprise	Medium-sized Enterprise	Large Enterprise	“Research Organisations” and “Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations”
A.1	Fundamental Research Activities	100%			100% <sup>25</sup>
A.2	Industrial Research Activities	70%	60%	50%	
A.3	Experimental Development Activities	45%	35%	25%	
A.4	Feasibility Studies	70%	60%	50%	
B. SUPPLEMENTARY INTENSITY					
Is added to the Basic Intensity in the event that the project covers one of the following special provisions (besides Feasibility Studies) if one of the following conditions is met:					Enterprise
I.	The Project involves effective collaboration <sup>26</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>between enterprises of which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two member states or in one member state and one contracting party of the European Economic Area (EEA) and no single enterprise bears more than 70% of the eligible costs, or between one enterprise and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results</li></ul>				+15%
II.	The Project results are widely disseminated through conferences, publications, free access repositories or through free software or open source software.				

*It should be noted that:*

*(a) for Industrial Research projects or project parts thereof, the maximum Aid Intensity that may be received by a beneficiary funded as an Enterprise shall not exceed 80%.*

*(b) the supplementary intensity shall be granted only when criteria I and/or II above are met. If upon Completion of the projects' Implementation these criteria are not met, then the aid intensity will be limited to the Basic Intensity.*

<sup>25</sup> The rate is valid on the condition that funding does not concern financial activities for the said organisation (e.g. infrastructure leasing, provision of services to enterprises, implementation of research on contract for the benefit of enterprises). In the event that the funding concerns financial activities, then the organisation will receive the rate of aid relevant to the type of Enterprises to which the organisation belongs.

<sup>26</sup> "effective collaboration" means collaboration between at least two independent parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to achieve a common objective based on the division of labor where the parties jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share its risks, as well as its results. One or several parties may bear the full costs of the project and thus relieve other parties of its financial risks. Contract research and provision of research services are not considered forms of collaboration.

It should be clarified that the Supplementary Intensity is not applied in Feasibility Studies and applies only to Industrial Research and Experimental Development.

The maximum permitted Aid Intensity for **start-ups** is equal to the maximum Aid Intensity corresponding to Small Enterprises, unless otherwise defined in the Programme.

### Innovation Activities

The Maximum Aid Intensity for innovation activities, as described above, is summarised in Table III.2 that follows.

Table III.2 MAXIMUM AID INTENSITY FOR INNOVATION ACTIVITIES	
Small and Medium-sized Enterprise	"Research Organisations" and "Other Public and General Government Sector Entities"
50%	100%

Large Enterprises (cat. B.3) are excluded from this aid category.

### Participation of SMEs in Fairs / Exhibitions

The maximum Aid Intensity for costs related to the participation of SMEs in trade fairs / exhibitions is 50% of total eligible costs.

### Aid Intensity for De Minimis Aid

The Aid Intensity for De Minimis Aid may total up to 100% of the project's eligible costs and will be defined in the individual Call for Proposals of each Programme and may not exceed the amount stipulated in EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis Aid (the De Minimis Aid Regulation will be applied to said aid).

In cases where activities and/or beneficiaries may not be funded in the context of Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 on State Aid, funding may be carried out on the basis of EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis Aid. In the event that the beneficiaries cannot be funded pursuant to the De Minimis Regulation either, due to the fact that the Regulation conditions are not met, then:

- (a) if the enterprise is a Host Organisation, the contract preparation procedure will be terminated, and
- (b) if the enterprise is a Partner Organisation, it will either participate on a self-funding basis or will be replaced.

Not exceeding the maximum limit shall be achieved by adhering to the procedure provided for in EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis Aid, as modified or replaced, prior to the aid being granted by the competent national authority.

### 3.3. COST ELIGIBILITY

In the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, eligible costs are those that:

- Are Included in the project Budget,
- Are real and necessary for the project implementation,
- Have been incurred by the organisation declaring them,
- Pertain to activities carried out during project implementation,
- Have been settled by the date of the Final Payment Request submission at the latest,
- Are directly related and have been incurred entirely and exclusively for the completion needs of the specific project,
- Are consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and
- Have been registered in the organisation's accounting records.

Each organisation's accounting system must allow for the reconciliation of declared costs with its financial statements, as well as with the supporting documents.

#### Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is eligible only in the cases where the beneficiary has no obligation or right to register in the VAT Registry or cannot recover VAT on revenue stemming from research activities. In order to consider VAT as an eligible cost, the beneficiary must submit to the RIF the relevant correspondence with the VAT Commissioner proving the above. Until submission of said correspondence, VAT shall be deemed non-eligible.

#### Costs in Foreign Currency

In cases of transactions in foreign currency, eligible costs shall be the organisation's actual costs on the basis of the Euro foreign exchange reference rates of the European Central Bank<sup>27</sup> on the dates of payment.

#### Non-Eligible Costs

The costs referred to below are not eligible:

- Costs exceeding Euro 100 paid in cash and for which the provisions of Chapter 5.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme are not met,
- Costs settled in non-monetary payment (e.g. payroll payment through loan or rental payment, redemption in kind, through exchange of services etc.),
- Costs made prior to the project start date excluding "Costs for Instruments and Equipment" and "Consumables" the eligibility conditions for which are defined in Chapter 3.4 of Section III of the present Work Programme,
- Charges between Consortium members,
- Internal charges between departments of the same organisation,
- Transactions between linked/associated organisations,
- Interest payable and other bank costs,

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>



- Forecasts for potential future losses or charges,
- Foreign exchange losses,
- Return on capital cost,
- Costs that are funded by and/or pertain to activities relevant to other projects,
- Charges related to loans (e.g. loan issue and management costs),
- Excessive and reckless expenditure,
- Indirect tax that is refunded by the competent authorities to the organisation (namely they do not comprise real cost for the organisation), and
- Parts of the personnel costs defined in Chapter 3.4 and 5.4.1 of Section III of the present Work Programme (e.g. overtime, commissions, bonuses etc.), and
- Cost for property acquisition and/or buildings construction.

### **3.4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COST CATEGORIES**

The cost categories for research and development are classified into direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include Personnel Cost, Instruments and Equipment Costs, Costs for External Services, Costs for Foreign Research Organisations, Costs for Travelling Abroad, Consumables and Other Specific Costs, whereas, Indirect Costs consist of Overheads. The research and development cost categories are described as follows:

In the case that a Call for Proposals requires the use of the simplified cost option method “Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs”, the eligible costs of the Project consist of the direct costs of Personnel Costs and other expenses (direct and indirect) calculated at a fixed rate of 40% on personnel costs.

#### **Personnel Cost**

This category pertains to the cost of employing research team members during their participation in the project. The researcher’s man-hours on a project must be calculated on the basis of the productive hours of the organisation that employs him/her for the project, irrespective of the amount of time he/she spends working for the organisation. The monthly productive working hours are defined as the year’s business days (365 days), minus weekends (104 days), annual vacation days, official holidays, sick leave and others, multiplied by the productive hours per day and divided by 12 months.

The eligible costs for personnel consist of the gross salary plus contributions payable to the State’s authorities pursuant to relevant Legislation, plus the employer’s contributions for Health Insurance and Provident Fund. The employer’s contributions are eligible provided that:

- (i) they are specified in the employment document or by law,
- (ii) they are in line with the legislation referred to in the employment document and/or the normal practice applicable in the country and/or the organisation where each specific staff member is actually working at,
- (iii) they are not recoverable by the employer, and
- (iv) the general principles (e.g. equal treatment between the Beneficiary’s employees) and rules applicable for contributions to the specific funds are being met.

It is pointed out that personnel cost does not fall under eligible costs per se and, therefore, the following are not taken into consideration when calculating eligible costs:

- Overtime (time declared in the Time Sheets for projects funded by the Foundation and other funding organisations beyond the organisation's monthly Productive Hours),
- Additional fee/Bonus, and
- Commission, allowances (e.g. rent) etc.

Additionally, for organisations whose personnel costs are directly or indirectly covered by the State budget, the only costs eligible for funding by the RIF are any additional costs for personnel hired specifically for the purposes of the project. Furthermore, the employment cost of a person whose main salary is directly or indirectly covered by the State budget is not considered eligible for funding, even if he/she is cooperating with another organisation for the purposes of the project.

### **Costs for Instruments and Equipment**

This category pertains to costs for instruments and equipment to the extent and for the time they are to be used on the project. The cost of depreciation is eligible when calculated on the basis of the equipment purchase price and the time it is used for the purposes of the project. In the frame of the "New Strategic Infrastructure Units - Young Scientists" Programme, organisations exempted from the European Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 on State Aid (Categories A and C2) the concept of depreciation does not apply for the costs of Instruments and Equipment, and the full purchase price of the equipment is eligible for funding. The cost of second hand equipment and instruments is not covered.

The time period of use for the project purposes is defined as the shortest between:

- (a) The project implementation period,
- (b) The time period from the purchase date of the equipment until the Completion of the Project Implementation or sale of the equipment, and
- (c) The duration in months equal to the sum of the eligible work Person-Months of the organisation's researchers.

The cost for equipment includes the total amount of direct costs necessary for installation thereof in the area intended for its use, including costs for transportation, customs clearance etc.

As a rule, in relation to equipment purchased/acquired prior to the start of a project, the costs pertaining to depreciation thereof for the time it is used on the project are eligible for funding provided the equipment was acquired/purchased after the Proposal submission date.

The cost of equipment maintenance is not eligible (it is covered by Overheads) nor is the operating cost of equipment used by the same organisation or another member of the Consortium. Furthermore, the cost relevant to training the organisation's personnel to operate the equipment is not eligible.

Costs for instruments and equipment pertain to two sub-categories:

- **Durable Equipment:** Pertains to the purchase cost of state-of-the-art research instruments and specialised research equipment (service life: 5 years).
- **Computers and Software:** Pertains to specialised computers and software required for the project implementation and not standard office computer and software (which are covered by Overheads) (Service life: 3 years).

### **Costs for External Services**

The category pertains to the cost for covering subcontracts, including consulting and similar services, used for research purposes. These can cover, indicatively:

- Contracted research costs,
- Costs for access to research infrastructure for the purpose of implementing experimental processes that cannot be implemented within the Consortium,
- Costs for the purchase of technical know-how and patents as well as licensing patent rights from external sources at free market prices,
- Costs for the dissemination of the project results to the scientific community and/or the interested social or business bodies, such as, for example, posters at conferences and organisation of information days. The eligible cost for organising a local information dissemination day may not exceed Euro 500, unless otherwise documented in the Project Contract. This amount may cover cost pertaining to, amongst other things, rent for the venue and audio-visual equipment, as well as tea/coffee breaks. Costs pertaining to lunch/dinner are not eligible.

Costs for development of research project websites for the purpose of dissemination are not eligible. It is expected that all Consortium members will present their research work and results on their own websites. Furthermore, organisations will be able to upload information regarding their research work and results on RIF's website.

The relevant transactions must be carried out under conditions of fair competition without any element of collusion.

The Costs for external services must not exceed 10% of the total project budget pursuant to the Project Contract and 40% of the budget of the organisation implementing the cost.

The Costs for external services are exempted from the direct costs on which the Overheads calculation is based.

It is pointed out that additional restrictions or different limits may be defined in the Programme description, Section II of the present Work Programme and in the Call for Proposals relating to the Costs for external services.

### **Costs for Foreign Research Organisations**

This cost category of includes the costs of Foreign Research Organisations participating in the project. The Foreign Research Organisation costs may not exceed 15% of RPS's overall project funding. It is pointed out that additional restrictions or different limits relating to the costs for Foreign Research Organisations, may be defined in the Programme description, Section II of the present Work Programme and in the Call for Proposals.

The costs for Foreign Research Organisations are exempted from the direct costs on which the Overheads calculation is based.

### **Costs for Travelling Abroad**

This category covers costs for travelling abroad when necessary for project implementation (dissemination, coordination, research implementation, access to foreign research infrastructures, etc.).

The longest duration that the RIF can fund, irrespective of the purpose of the trip, as a rule is 5 calendar days unless a request is approved by the RIF for a longer duration, or is otherwise defined in the Project Contract and the individual Calls for Proposals, or it is undertaken for the purpose of participating in a conference lasting more than 5 calendar days.

In the event that travel is undertaken for multiple reasons beyond those pertaining to project activities, only the part of the cost pertaining to the project will be considered eligible.

Costs pertaining to participation in conferences are acceptable only for the researchers participating in the project and presenting its results in the context of the conference official schedule, either through an oral presentation or with a poster and on condition that the regulations for information and publicity for projects co-funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds are met. The participation of a second or more researchers from the same project at the same conference is not an eligible cost unless there is a respective or higher number of presentations pertaining to the project results.

### **Consumables**

The category pertains to the consumables necessary for the implementation of experimental processes in the context of the research activity, which have been acquired after the Proposal submission date.

The category does not include stationery, printing paper, ink, digital disks etc., which are covered under the “Overheads” category.

In the event of purchase of consumables in large quantity for the purpose of multiple activities of an organisation, the allocation of costs pertaining to the project will be acceptable, on the condition that the allocation is adequately documented at the absolute discretion of the RIF.

As a rule, costs pertaining to the purchase of consumables acquired/purchased prior to the start of the project, are eligible for funding, provided that they have been purchased after the Proposal submission date and have been used/consumed during the project implementation period.

Costs pertaining to consumables customs clearance are also acceptable.

Each cost for the purchase of consumables must be documented with the corresponding purchase invoice. Costs arising from a costing system that takes into consideration multiple purchase invoices (e.g. weighted average cost) are not considered eligible.

### **Other Specific Costs**

The category pertains to costs resulting directly from the research activity that cannot be included in the above cost categories, such as, for example, the cost of publication in technical and scientific journals and/or repositories, conference registration costs, traveling expenses within Cyprus etc. This category shall not include costs considered ineligible in one or more of the remaining categories.

### **Other Expenses (Simplified Cost Option and Declaration of Expenses)**

The category pertains to direct and indirect operating expenses arising from the research activity and may include costs for instruments and equipment, cost for external services, costs for foreign research organisations, costs for travelling abroad, consumables, other specific costs, and overheads. Expenses in this category are calculated at a fixed rate of 40% on eligible personnel costs.

### **Overheads**

The category pertains to indirect operating costs arising either from the employment of personnel in a research activity at the organisation's facilities (e.g. utility bills for power, water, telephone, administrative support, FCP fees, accounting, regular office computers and software) or the maintenance of durable equipment. Overhead costs are defined at a rate of up to 20% of the direct costs, with the exception of costs for the external services and Foreign Research Organisation costs.

## **3.5. INNOVATION COSTS**

Innovation costs pertain to costs related to Innovation Activities as defined in Chapter 2.2 of Section III of the present Work Programme.

## **3.6. PARTICIPATION OF SMEs IN FAIRS / EXHIBITIONS**

Renting, setting up and running the stand for the participation of an SME in any particular fair or exhibition.

## **3.7. FUNDING PAYMENT**

The payment method of the RIF funding is specified in the research Project Contracts and may vary for each Programme. In any event, the project funding is paid by the RIF to the HO, who is responsible for transferring the funding to the Partner Organisations.

As a rule, funding payments are made in instalments as follows:

- **Pre-Financing**, which corresponds to **40%** of the Requested Funding, is paid upon Contract signature.
- **Interim Payment**, which may correspond to up to **40%** of the Requested Funding, taking into consideration the eligible costs of the first period and on the condition the Interim Progress Report is approved by the RIF. In particular, the second funding instalment is paid, as a rule, only in the event that the eligible costs for the first period exceed 50% of the pre-financing.
- **Final Payment**, which may correspond to up to the balance of the Requested Funding, taking into consideration the eligible costs of the project, the Final Aid Intensity and on the condition the Final Progress Report has been approved by the RIF.

For “Small Projects”, as these are defined in Chapter 6 of Section III in the present Work Programme, the Pre-Financing corresponds to 70% of the Requested Funding and is paid upon Contract signature. The Final Funding Payment, which may correspond to up to the balance of the Requested Funding, taking into consideration the eligible costs of the project and the Final Aid Intensity, is paid upon approval of the Final Progress Report by the RIF.

For a specific number of Programmes, funding is provided in the form of a lump sum payment.

In special cases, different arrangements regarding the funding payments could be defined in the Calls for Proposals.

Host Organisations of the private sector not meeting the financial viability criteria as set out in Chapter 4.4. of the present Work Programme:

- must submit a bank guarantee equal to the pre-financing, or alternatively;
- will receive a pre-financing of 15% and bi-annual instalments on the basis of their eligible costs declared in the corresponding Payment Requests that will be checked and approved by the RIF.

Furthermore, before the payment of each Funding Instalment, the RIF shall examine whether private organisations have adhered to their obligations towards the State, as specified in the applicable Legislation and/or decisions of the Council of Ministers. In the event that an organisation has already submitted the relevant supporting documents and their validity period has not expired, then it is not required to submit them again.

Instalments will be paid immediately after completion of the financial verifications irrespective of whether the PC submits a request for redress.

#### 4. SUBMISSION - EVALUATION - SELECTION

The procedures included in the path from preparing the submission of a research proposal to signing the project contract will include, as a rule, the following five main stages:

- Organisation and PC Registration,
- Proposal Submission,
- Proposal Selection,
- Contract Preparation, and
- Final Decision - Contract Signing.

### 4.1. REGISTRATION

As a rule, prior to the project proposal submission stage, participating organisations will be subject to a **Legal Status Check** by the RIF. To this end, they will be asked to register their details using the electronic system, before submitting the proposal. Upon registration, the organisations will receive a unique **Identification Code (UNIC)**, which will apply for the entire duration of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

The organisations, acting through their Legal Representative, will complete their details on the electronic system and will upload the relevant certificates, depending on the type of beneficiary they fall under and as these are defined on the electronic system.

With regard to the Organisation's Legal Representative, a Certificate must be submitted by the organisation using the electronic system certifying that the specific person is acting on behalf of the organisation and is duly authorised to bind it (e.g. Board of Directors meeting minutes authorising the Legal Representative etc.). In the cases of individuals or groups of individuals, the relevant Written Declaration with respect to the authorisation of the Legal Representative must be submitted.

The information is checked by the RIF and the organisation is classified under the appropriate beneficiary type in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes on the basis of their characteristics. The RIF must be immediately informed if there is any change in the Organisation's Legal Representative.

The organisations are obligated to immediately inform the RIF (using the electronic system) regarding any change in their characteristics, such as a change in ownership, a modification that affects the size of the enterprise, cessation of activities etc.

For the Foreign Research Organisations a Declaration is submitted at the stage of Contract Preparation, confirming their non-profit nature and that the conduct of research is one of their main activities.

### 4.2. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

#### Submission Procedure

In the frame of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes a proposal can be submitted following the Call for Proposals announcement by the RIF for a specific Programme, which invites the interested parties to submit proposals and includes information relevant to the objectives, the budget, the eligible cost categories, the beneficiaries and the proposal submission deadline. The submission

procedure will be defined in the individual Calls for Proposals and will, as a rule, be “Online” or “By hand”. All proposals shall be submitted in English.

For better preparation regarding proposal submission, the interested parties are advised to utilise the “Proposal Preparation Guide” that provides instructions and clarifications for better guidance regarding the submission procedure and is available on the Research and Innovation Foundation online services Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>).

### **“On-line” Proposal Submission**

Proposals are submitted via the electronic proposal submission system, through the internet and the Foundation’s website.

Where appropriate, it is possible for the Call for Proposals to require submission of specific documents by hand as these may require signing.

### **“By Hand” Proposal Submission**

This procedure requires submission at the RIF offices or the delivery via postal mail of the required documents in printed form, as well as digital disks that will include the relevant files in electronic form. It is also possible that signed documents may be required to be submitted by the HO.

### **Submission Time**

The following apply as to the submission time for the RESTART 2016-2020 Programme proposals:

- The proposals are submitted by the submission deadline defined in the Call for Proposals.
- No changes or additions to the proposal shall be accepted after its definitive submission.
- With the exception of an extraordinary event affecting all candidate Organisations and the Foundation at the same time, deadlines for submission shall not change. In any event, any change in the submission deadline shall remain at the discretion of the RIF.
- When submitted after the predefined deadline, the proposal shall be deemed to be overdue and will be excluded from the remaining procedure.

The submission deadlines will be defined in the Calls for Proposals. In special cases it is possible to determine cut-off-dates for proposal submission. Furthermore, if so defined in the relevant call for Proposals, in the context of specific Programme implementation, a two-stage proposal submission may be adopted.

In the case of “By Hand” Submission, proposals submitted via post mail must have delivered to the RIF PO Box by the submission deadline and the date of dispatch shown on the post office stamp will not be taken into consideration.

### **Proposal Number**

Each proposal submitted to the RIF receives a Proposal Number. This number defines the Call for Proposals in the frame of which a proposal was submitted. The Proposal Number is unique and is subsequently used by the RIF for the announcement of the results and the correspondence with the HO.



Furthermore, as a rule, the proposal will also be characterised by the Acronym stated on the submission documents, in order to facilitate communication between the RIF and the Consortium.

### 4.3. PROPOSAL SELECTION

The procedure of Proposal Selection for funding includes the Preliminary Check and the Scientific Evaluation of the Proposal.

#### Preliminary Check

The compatibility of the submitted proposal to the specific criteria is examined during the Preliminary Check. Non-compatibility of the proposal to any one of the criteria renders it ineligible and it is not forwarded for evaluation.

Table III.3 includes the general criteria for Preliminary Check that may be adjusted accordingly in the Calls for Proposals:

Table III.3 CRITERIA FOR PRELIMINARY CHECK OF A PROPOSAL		
No.	Criterion	Interpretation
1.	<b>Submission validity (procedure and documents)</b>	The proposal is checked to ascertain:  (a) if it has been submitted within the deadline and in accordance with the procedure set out, and (b) whether it includes all the necessary documents and accompanying documents.
2.	<b>Language</b>	It is checked to ascertain whether it has been submitted in English.
3.	<b>Consortium and Participation Right</b>	It is checked, on the basis of the proposal content, to ascertain whether:  (a) requirements are met with regard to the Consortium insofar as the participation of individuals and organisations is concerned, (b) the proposal was submitted by individuals/organisations entitled to participate.  The types of organisations and individuals entitled to participate in each research project proposal are defined in the corresponding Call for Proposals.
4.	<b>Duration</b>	It is checked whether the duration of project implementation follows the stipulated time frame.
5.	<b>Funding</b>	It is checked whether the requested funding is in line with the Maximum Funding Amount defined in the Call for Proposals.

Proposals meeting all prerequisite Criteria are forwarded for evaluation. Some of the Preliminary Check Criteria will be examined automatically at the time of submission by the electronic proposal submission system.

It should be clarified that if a person, acting as Project Coordinator, submits more than two (2) proposals in the frame of a Call for Proposals, then the first two proposals will be considered valid, on the basis of order of submission, and the remainder will be considered invalid unless otherwise stated in the Programme Description as described in Section II of the present Work Programme or in the Call for Proposals.

Upon completion of the Preliminary Check procedure, the results are communicated to the beneficiaries by correspondence from the RIF. Beneficiaries are entitled to submit a request for redress, as described in the section “Redress Procedure” in Chapter 4.3 of Section III of the present Work Programme.

### **Evaluation Methods**

As a rule, the RIF will use one of the following methods for the proposal evaluation or a combination of them, depending on the Programme requirements and according to the provisions of the corresponding Call for Proposals.

#### **Method I - Remote Evaluation**

- **Remote evaluation by One (1) Independent Evaluator**

The proposal shall be evaluated by one (1) independent evaluator. As a rule, the method is used for Programmes with a low Maximum Funding Amount per project.

- **Remote evaluation by Two (2) Independent Evaluators**

The proposal shall be evaluated by two (2) independent evaluators and their average score shall be set as its final score. If the difference between their scores is greater than 3.00/15.00 in total, then the proposal shall also be evaluated by a third evaluator and the final score will be the average of the two closest to each other.

If both initial scores are lower than 12.00/15.00<sup>28</sup> then the proposal shall be considered ineligible and shall not be forwarded to a third evaluator even if there is a bigger difference than 3.00/15.00 between the two scores.

- **Remote evaluation by Three (3) Independent Evaluators**

The proposal is evaluated by an Evaluation Team (Consensus Group) consisting of three (3) independent evaluators and a rapporteur. The Evaluation Team reaches a common position regarding the evaluation of the Proposal, including common scores and comments on each Evaluation Criterion and submits a Consensus Report which will be sent to the Project Coordinators. In case the Evaluation Team cannot reach a common Consensus Report, a voting is held between the three (3) independent evaluators and a decision is made by a majority.

#### **Method II - Evaluation by a Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)**

The proposal shall be evaluated by a Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC). The SEC composition shall be defined, where applicable, in the Programme description in Section II of the present Work Programme. The proposals forwarded for evaluation by the SEC may have been evaluated in a previous stage either by the SEC members or by other independent evaluators.

As a rule, the Project Coordinator shall be invited to present the proposal to the SEC in person. The presentation shall be carried out either at a venue determined by the RIF, or at the premises of the HO, if the on-site visit of the evaluators is deemed necessary. It should be noted that the SEC sessions are attended by RIF executives and external Observers in a supporting role.

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<sup>28</sup> For Calls for Proposals announced before July 2019, the threshold is 11.00/15.00.

As a rule, during the SEC session, its members shall classify the Proposals in a ranking list and shall justify the rationale of their decision in the relevant Evaluation Report. Any special provisions (especially in cases of Competitions) will be included in the relevant Calls for Proposals. It is noted that, for Programmes supporting entrepreneurship, the Evaluation Committee is not primarily scientific but is generally consisted by experts with business / market background.

### **Method III - Internal Evaluation**

This method may be applied to specific Programmes where evaluation is not primarily scientific. The proposals shall be evaluated by the RIF in accordance with a specific procedure the purpose of which is to ensure that special specifications and conditions shall be met and shall be defined in the Programme description or the relevant Call for Proposals. Alternatively, in the context of the said Evaluation Method, the RIF may use external experts or observers. In the context of the internal evaluation procedure, the Research and Innovation Foundation may request submission of additional supplementary information, which should be submitted within a reasonable time period specified by the Foundation.

### **Evaluation Method Combination**

Where deemed necessary, a combination of the above methods shall be used.

### **Evaluator Selection**

The scientific evaluation of the proposal shall be carried out by international independent experts selected pursuant to specific criteria as follows:

- Based on the "keywords" suggested by the applicants in the proposal to find suitable evaluators. It is recommended where possible to state two "keywords" in the scientific field of the proposal and one in the proposal's field of application. In cases where it is not possible to identify suitable evaluators on the basis of the declared "keywords", additional "keywords" may be used which are considered appropriate after studying the proposal.
- Based on the Fields of Science and Technology Classification (Frascati Manual) selected by the applicants in the proposal.
- Evaluators' CV quality/content (e.g. position, education, research experience, business experience, publications relevant to the research field, patents, experience in research proposal evaluations, participation in various boards and/or professional/scientific bodies).
- Good knowledge of English language.
- In the case of Proposals with interdisciplinary content, the evaluators shall be selected in such a manner that the scientific background of the team of evaluators shall cover the various subjects addressed in the proposal. For proposals with industrial application content, participation of evaluators with knowledge of the market will be sought.

It should be noted that evaluators are selected using the EU Evaluator database, commercial databases and/or other tools according to each case.

When selecting evaluators, care is taken with regard to the following:

- It is investigated whether there is a possibility that the candidate evaluator has any direct or indirect relation with the Consortium submitting the proposal. Candidate evaluators who are either participating in or related to the Consortium (are referred to in Consortium publications, come from organisations belonging to the Consortium or are mentioned in the scientific section of the proposal), shall be rejected.
- The applicants' statement with regard to the persons and/or organisations that they wish not to be involved in the evaluation of their proposals shall be taken into consideration. It should be noted that the proposal submission documents provide the Coordinator with the possibility to recommend the evaluators' expertises, as well as the exclusion of specific persons/organisations from their proposal evaluation procedure.
- Priority shall be given to evaluators from European Union States for ease of adherence to personal data protection laws.

In order to ensure optimum substantiation and, in general, to ensure quality and maximum transparency of the procedure, evaluators will carry out their activities in accordance with clear instructions on the evaluation procedure defined in the corresponding Guides for Evaluators. It should be noted that evaluators will be requested to adequately justify their evaluation score. For transparency purposes, the RIF will announce a list of the names of the evaluators used to evaluate the proposals, at regular intervals, during the implementation of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

On the Evaluation Report Form, as a first step, the evaluator is required to assess to what extent the proposal is compatible with the Programme objectives. The extent to which the project activities meet the requirements of the Call for Proposals is evaluated in the context of the compatibility assessment. If the proposal is not compatible with the Programme objectives, the evaluator rejects the proposal and does not proceed with examining the evaluation criteria.

The scientific evaluation will be based, as a rule, on the following three general criteria:

#### **1. Excellence**

- Quality of Project Objectives.
- Degree of Project Innovation and Originality in relation to the existing knowledge (state-of-the-art) at international level.
- Soundness, credibility and feasibility of the proposed concept.

#### **2. Added Value and Benefit**

- Scientific, technological, social and/or economic impact and measures to maximize it.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures for the exploitation (including management of Intellectual Property Rights) and dissemination of results for achieving maximum Project visibility.

#### **3. Implementation**

- Completeness and appropriateness of the Work Packages' content, the allocation of the various activities, the timetable and the budget.
- Effectiveness of the proposed methodology for the implementation of the deliverables.
- Completeness, quality and capacity of the Consortium for the qualitative implementation of the Project (at the level of Organisations and/or individuals) and achievement of the proposed objectives.
- Suitability and adequacy of the proposed coordination and management activities, including identification and handling of potential risks.

The content of the criteria is specified in each Call for Proposals so that it may express each Programme's philosophy and aims. Differences shall pertain to the interpretation, analysis and specialisation of each criterion and its weight over the total evaluation score.

The evaluators are required to give an adequately justified score to the above criteria.

Furthermore, the evaluators' opinion (without evaluation score) is requested with regard to:

- The need of a bioethic evaluation of the proposal,
- The eventuality of negative impact and/or risks to the environment as a consequence of the proposed activities or the project results/products, and
- Gender equality with regard to the research content of the project and the composition of the project research team.

### Confidentiality

The entire evaluation procedure is confidential. The proposal content as well as the identity of the evaluators who performed the evaluations for each proposal shall not be disclosed by the RIF. At the same time, the evaluators who will evaluate the proposals, are bound by a "Confidentiality Statement" pursuant to which they undertake the obligation to maintain strict confidentiality during the project proposal evaluation with regard to all data, information, documents or any other information they may be brought to their knowledge, including personal data.

### Evaluation Score

Proposals shall be graded by the evaluators for each evaluation criterion. The evaluation score interpretation is shown in Table III.4:

Table III.4 GRADE INTERPRETATION	
Evaluation score	General
0	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
< 0.99	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
1.00 - 1.99	The proposal addresses the criterion to a limited degree and there are significant weaknesses.
2.00 - 2.99	The proposal addresses the criterion partly and a number of shortcomings/weaknesses are observed.

<b>3.00 - 3.99</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion quite sufficiently but a small number of shortcomings/weaknesses are observed.
<b>4.00 - 5.00</b>	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Evaluation score for each criterion will be recorded with an accuracy of 0.25 marks and will range from 0 to 5.

Overall evaluation score results from the weighted score aggregate of the three criteria on the basis of their relative weight, as set in the description of the corresponding Programmes and/or the individual Calls for Proposals.

Proposals are deemed eligible for funding if they secure a Final Evaluation Score of at least 12.00/15.00.<sup>29</sup>

### Proposal Ranking

Eligible proposals will be ranked by order of success on the basis of their evaluation score. Special provisions defined in the Programme description and/or the Calls for Proposals will be taken into consideration in the selection of eligible proposals for funding.

In the case of open Calls for Proposals, the ranking by order of success on the basis of evaluation score will not apply, proposals for funding will be selected by order of priority.

### Special Cases

After completion of the Evaluation Procedure, cases may arise requiring special handling as are, for example, the ones that follow:

- **Proposals with equal score if there is no available budget to fund all of them:** Proposals with equal scores will be ranked, in the Pillar I Programmes, in order of the score received in the “Added Value and Benefit” criterion, and in the Pillar II Programmes, in order of the score received in the “Excellence” criterion. If the proposals cannot be ranked on the basis of the above criteria, then they will be ranked on a descending order of the budget size allocated to the enterprises participating in said proposals. If they still cannot be ranked, then priority is given to the proposals showing gender balance in relation to the research content of the project and the project research team composition in terms of the number of male/female participants.
- **Same Proposals:** If it is found that two or more proposals in two different Calls for Proposals are the same insofar as their scientific content and the relevant activities are concerned, then only one of the proposals will be funded, to be selected in order of priority on the basis of: (a) the highest score, and (b) the lowest requested funding amount.

<sup>29</sup> For Calls for Proposals announced before July 2019, the threshold is 11.00/15.00.

- **Proposals with Possible Activity Overlap:** If it is found that there may be significant overlaps between two or more proposals selected for funding, the RIF may seek the opinion of one or more experts as well as clarifications from the Project Coordinators on the subject. In the event that significant overlaps are ascertained, it will decide in each case the possibility of: (a) funding one of the similar projects, or (b) funding the common activity in one of the similar projects and reducing respectively the budget of the projects in which said activity will not be funded.

### **Announcement of the Results**

Upon completion of the proposal evaluation procedure, the evaluation results shall be approved by the RIF Board of Directors (BoD), unless the BoD decides to follow a different approval procedure for specific Programmes. Upon approval, the results shall be posted on RIF's website by means of a Table of Results showing the ranking of the project proposals in descending order of evaluation scores, anonymously (stating the Proposals' Number).

In the context of transparency procedures that the RIF follows, after the evaluation procedure is completed, the evaluation results (including, where applicable, the Evaluation Report Forms with the detailed comments and individual scores and/or the Evaluation Reports) shall be communicated to the beneficiaries by relevant letter sent by the RIF.

In cases of a two (2) stage evaluation procedure is followed, the beneficiaries shall receive their evaluation results for each stage separately.

After announcement of the results, the beneficiaries shall be entitled to submit request for redress, as described in section "Redress Procedure" of Chapter 4.3 of Section III of the present Work Programme.

### **Redress Procedure**

A Host Organisation rejected at any stage of the Proposal Selection process as described below, shall be entitled to submit a request for redress via their Legal Representative or the PC by sending the completed Redress Form through the electronic system within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt of RIF's letter notifying the HO of the results, and in any case no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days from the sending date of the original email notification. For proposals which will be evaluated after 1 October 2019, the above deadlines for redress request submission will change to seven (7) and ten (10) days accordingly.

Redress requests are examined by a three-member Redress Committee established for this purpose by the RIF's Board of Directors.

### **Scientific Evaluation**

The request for redress may refer to:

- The erroneous rejection of a proposal during Preliminary Check, or

- The selection of the proposal evaluators, as it is evidenced by virtue of the comments in the relevant Evaluation Report Forms, in the opinion of the entity filing the redress form, expect in the case of the “Remote evaluation by Three (3) Independent Evaluators” evaluation method.
- The procedure followed, in the case of the “Remote evaluation by Three (3) Independent Evaluators” evaluation method.

In the event of proposal evaluation by a Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC), the SEC’s decision is final and the submission of request for redress is not permitted. Furthermore, a request for redress is not permitted for Joint Programmes implemented in cooperation with foreign funding organisations (European Initiatives-National Development, EUROSTARS), where a central evaluation procedure is carried out in international level and in the “Bilateral Cooperation” Programme, where the decision for proposals to be selected for funding is taken by the Cyprus-Cooperation Country Joint Committee.

The Redress Committee shall examine in each case:

- The content of the proposal in relation to the reasons for which it was not forwarded for scientific evaluation as set out in the Preliminary Check Sheet. If any decisive omission or error during the Preliminary Check is ascertained, then the proposal shall be forwarded for evaluation.
- That selection of evaluators was appropriate. If the Redress Committee ascertains that any omission or error occurred during the selection of one or more evaluators, then it shall forward the proposal for re-evaluation by another evaluator or evaluators., (expect in the case of the “Remote evaluation by Three (3) Independent Evaluators” evaluation method.)
- Possible non-observance of the evaluation procedure in the case of the “Remote evaluation by Three (3) Independent Evaluators” evaluation method.

The Redress Committee does not examine the content of the evaluators’ judgement, nor does it re-evaluate the proposals.

Proposals, for which the request for redress is approved, receiving an evaluation score bigger than the score of the last proposal selected for funding / invited to contract preparation, then the HOs and the PCs are invited to initiate the contract preparation procedure.

### Internal Evaluation

With respect to Programmes for which Internal Evaluation applies, the request for redress may pertain to the erroneous rejection of a proposal during internal evaluation. The Redress Committee shall examine the correctness of the proposal rejection during the internal evaluation.

After completion of the procedure, the interested parties are informed regarding the result of their request for redress in writing. It is pointed out that the Redress Committee’s decision is final.

## **4.4. CONTRACT PREPARATION**



### Invitation for Contract Preparation

After completion of the evaluation procedure and announcement of the results, the RIF invites the Host Organisations and the PCs of the eligible proposals to initiate the Contract preparation procedure. The invitation is made by order of priority, according to their ranking on the Table of Results (where applicable) and until the exhaustion of the available budget for each Call. For a project to be invited for Contract Preparation there must be available budget in the Call covering at least 70% of the requested funding for the proposal.

In the event where the Contract preparation procedure with the Host Organisations of one or more Proposals is terminated, the following Proposals with the highest rank will be invited to the Contract Preparation stage.

### Contract Preparation Procedure

The Contract Preparation procedure is followed to ensure that the Project Contract that will be prepared contains the appropriate provisions for the smoothest possible project management and, as a rule, includes a meeting which is arranged either at the Host Organisation's premises or that of the RIF.

It is clarified that the invitation for contract preparation does not necessarily means that the RIF will commit to funding the Project. In order for a project to be funded, it is required that agreement is reached on all matters of the procedure.

In the frame of this procedure, the Host Organisation is invited to submit to the RIF additional data and supporting documents on issues that might affect the Contract and the future implementation of the project, within a reasonable time period determined by the RIF.

After taking into consideration the relevant Call for Proposals and the procedures and regulations for funding of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes in general, a meeting will be held between RIF's representatives and the organisations during which the following issues will be discussed and/or clarifications and/or additional information and/or amendments will be requested where appropriate:

- **Consortium/Beneficiaries:** Ascertaining the validity of the participation of persons and organisations by completing the Legal Status Check for all organisations and the Financial Viability Check for Host Organisations (see Chapter 4.1. Registration)
- **Project Budget:** Checks shall be conducted to ascertain that: (a) the aid intensity for each organisation is compatible with the limits determined in the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and with the classification of each organisation's type of activity as those are included in the proposal; and (b) the costs provided for are eligible and that the provisions of the present Work Programme and of the individual Programmes described in Section II of the Work Programme and/or in the corresponding Calls for Proposals, are met.
- **Deliverables:** Checks shall be conducted to ascertain inclusion of the minimum required Deliverables shown in the "Proposal Preparation Guide", such as, for example, the Progress Reports and the Deliverables pertaining to dissemination activities.

Furthermore, checks shall be conducted to ascertain whether the Deliverables are delivered in a form that permits their submission to the RIF and their possible evaluation by an external expert, in the context of project monitoring.

On rare occasions, the possibility of project changes shall be discussed, the need for which arose during the period from the submission deadline to the contract preparation meeting. In this case, a relevant request will be submitted in writing by the Coordinator to the RIF and it will be possible to obtain an opinion from an external expert on the matter.

Prior to completion of the contract preparation procedure, the following must be submitted to the RIF:

- The signed Consortium Agreement by and between the members of the consortium,
- Consent regarding the Personal Data Protection Regulations signed by the Host Organisation,
- All necessary authorisations/licenses required pursuant to applicable legislation related to the project objective (see Chapter 8 Broader Legal Framework) unless the issuing authority confirms in writing that approval will be granted at a later stage (Note: the Project Coordinator is obliged to submit an application to the competent authorities within 30 calendar days from the date of announcement of the results. Otherwise the Foundation reserves the right to terminate the contract preparation process),
- Other declarations or documents that may be required from time to time by the competent State authorities or that may arise from decisions of the Council of Ministers, and
- Written Declarations from all Consortium members pertaining to adherence to applicable legislation etc.

Furthermore, Private Sector organisations (Categories B.1, B.2, B.3, C.1 and private sector Organisations of Category A), must submit a Written Declaration regarding the following:

- The Organisation is not under bankruptcy, in liquidation, cessation of activities, forced administration and has not entered into an arrangement with creditors or in any other relevant circumstance arising from a similar procedure pursuant to national legislative or regulatory acts,
- No proceedings have commenced against the Organisation with regard to bankruptcy, liquidation, forced administration, arrangement with creditors or similar procedure pursuant to national legislative or regulatory acts, and
- The Organisation has not been convicted by ruling of a Cyprus and/or foreign court and/or any Cypriot and/or foreign supervisory and/or regulatory authority for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude and/or participation in a criminal organisation and/or an offence relevant to their professional conduct.

Further to the above, it is pointed out that in the case of private sector organisations, the following will be required at the Contract Preparation Stage: (a) For the purposes of the HO's Financial Viability Check, audited financial statements for the previous financial year (N-1) or the year preceding it (N-2), where "N" is the year when the Contract Preparation procedure shall be conducted, (b) Certification from an independent external certified auditor that the undertaking is not in difficulty based on the audited financial statements for the previous financial year (N-1)

or the year preceding it (N-2), where “N” is the year when the Contract Preparation procedure is conducted, and (c) where applicable, an Declaration for De Minimis Aid.

For the purposes of the contract preparation, the Certification from an independent external certified auditor that the undertaking is not in difficulty (see (b) above) will be valid for twenty-four (24) months since the reference date of the financial statements submitted and examined according to the check procedure.

If a Foreign Research Organisation (FRO) participates in the Consortium, the relevant FRO Declaration must be submitted through the HO stating the said organisation is not a for-profit undertaking and that one of its main activities is the conduct of research.

In general, the correctness of the organisations’ information will be examined during the Contract Preparation stage. To this end, the RIF reserves the right to request any additional documents that may be deemed necessary to confirm that such information is correct. Where possible, the documents will be requested once for each organisation.

The Contract Preparation procedure may be terminated, if one of the following occurs:

- The entire project or a significant part thereof has received in the past or is currently receiving concurrent funding from the RIF or another source and the funding has cumulatively exceeded the maximum aid limits,
- The project contains any information that has resulted from an illegal or unethical action by anybody,
- The evidence submitted for the Consortium’s Legal Status Check is not adequate,
- The HO has not reached a written agreement with the Foundation with regard to settlement of previous outstanding financial obligations towards the RIF,
- The participating organisations and individuals are not classified as beneficiaries of the Call for Proposals or are not entitled to submit/participate in the proposal,
- If it is proven that the content of the project proposal or the additional information submitted contain false information,
- If it is found that the HO is under bankruptcy, in liquidation, cessation of activities, forced administration or has entered into an arrangement with creditors or in any other relevant circumstance arising from a similar procedure pursuant to national legislative or regulatory acts, and
- It is not possible to reach agreement on the contract preparation issues within the time frame determined by the RIF.

### **Financial Viability Check**

The Organisations’ Financial Viability Check will be conducted at the Contract Preparation stage and will concern only the Host Organisations of Projects of the private sector (legal and natural entities engaged in an economic activity), who will be funded by the RIF with an amount:

- a) equal to or higher than Euro 120,000 per Project, or

b) less than Euro 120,000 per project but cumulatively<sup>30</sup> equal or more than this amount for more than one projects.

Furthermore, in exceptional cases the RIF reserves the right to assess the financial viability of organisations of the private sector participating as Host Organisations, irrespectively of the amount of funding they will receive.

Private organisations the earnings of which are derived from State subsidies at a percentage equal or higher to 50%, are exempted from the financial viability check (this amount does not include earnings derived from State subsidy as a result of the organisation's participation in competitive or other programmes or projects).

For the purposes of the financial viability check the Organisations must submit audited financial statements for the previous financial year (N-1) or the year preceding it (N-2), where "N" is the year when the Contract Preparation procedure shall be conducted. The audited financial statements must include at least:

- Balance Sheet,
- Profit and Loss account and Other Comprehensive Income, and
- Independent External Certified Auditor's Report.

The explanatory notes comprise part of the Financial Statements and must be submitted.

Separate audited financial statements of a Host Organisation belonging to a group of companies must be submitted and the group's consolidated financial statements will not be acceptable.

If the organisations do not have audited financial statements for one of the two years mentioned above, then the Contract Preparation Procedure shall be suspended. Organisations that are not obligated to prepare Financial Statements, pursuant to national legislation are excluded. For the purposes of the financial viability check, such organisations will be classified in the category with a score of 1-3, as described in Table III.5.

The financial viability check method used by the RIF, is based on the relevant method applied by the EC in its Framework Programmes for assessing financial viability of organisations. For the present Framework Programme of the EC, "Horizon 2020" Programme, the method is presented in detail in the Horizon 2020 "Guide on beneficiary registration, validation and financial viability check"<sup>31</sup>.

Organisations are classified in four (4) categories on the basis of the financial viability check. Table III.5 shows the possible results of the financial viability check and the measures taken by the RIF to complete the Contract Preparation procedure:

<b>Table III.5 FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF ORGANISATIONS</b>
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<sup>30</sup> Funding for "Innovation Vouchers", "Participation in International Brokerage Events" and "Encouragement of Project Coordination in Horizon 2020" Programmes are not taken into account.

<sup>31</sup> Guide on beneficiary registration, validation and financial viability check [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/lev/h2020-guide-lev\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/lev/h2020-guide-lev_en.pdf)

Evaluation score	General	RIF Measures
0	Unsatisfactory	Contract Preparation procedure suspension
1-3	Infeasible	(a) Bank guarantee required from the Organisation equal to the amount of the pre-financing the duration which will be from project start to six (6) months after the Contract End Date (letter template to be obtained from the RIF), or (b) Organisation will receive a lower pre-financing of 15% and semi-annual instalments on the basis of the its eligible costs, which will be stated in the corresponding Payment Requests that will be approved by the RIF.
4-5	Satisfactory	No measures taken.
6-10	Good	No measures taken.

Organisations will be able to check their financial viability using the Financial Viability Self Check Tool which is available in the RIF IRIS Portal.

For the purposes of contract preparation, the organisations' financial viability check results will be valid for twenty-four (24) months since the reference date of the financial statements submitted and examined according to the check procedure.

### Stamp Duty

In accordance with the relevant law and the Stamp Duty Commissioner, the RIF is exempted of stamp duty. Nevertheless, the research project contracts entered into by and between the RIF and the Beneficiaries must be submitted to the Stamp Duty Commissioner in order to separately examine whether the activities thereof concern technical projects, which are subject to the provisions of the Stamp Duty Law.

Consequently, each research Project Contract with a budget exceeding Euro 5,000 must be submitted by the Host Organisation to the Stamp Duty Commissioner at the latest ten (10) calendar days after signature thereof.

## 4.5. FINAL DECISION - CONTRACT SIGNATURE

The final decision for the projects to be funded is made on the basis of the Contract Preparation procedure results.

The Aid Granting Date is the date of contract signing, or, in the cases where no contract is requested, the date of the RIF letter to the beneficiary regarding funding approval.

In the context of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, all decisions for funding, pertaining to State aid, will be made by 31 December 2023, based on the revised duration of the General block exemption Regulation (GBER).

As a rule, a Project Contract is signed for every project selected for funding. The Contract is signed by the legal representatives of the RIF and the Host Organisation. The project Implementation Completion Date is set as the project's scientific implementation date. The Contract End date is

set as the date on which the Host Organisation transfers to the Partner Organisations their share of the funding disbursed by the RIF. In the cases where there are not any Partner Organisations, the Contract End date is set as the disbursement of the final payment to the Host Organisation.

The RIF reserves the right to cancel the Project Contract, if the Host Organisation representatives fail to sign it within one (1) month from their invitation date to sign the Contract.

## **5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### **5.1. BASIC PRINCIPLES**

The project management shall be conducted in accordance with the Project Contract provisions.

The RIF shall be entitled to act in a manner that shall ensure the smooth implementation of the projects it funds, by means of effective audits and, if any irregularities are found, it shall enforce dissuasive sanctions.

The Host Organisation (HO) shall be responsible for the proper implementation of the project's total Budget. Furthermore, the HO shall provide guidance to other Consortium members, as to the project management regulations and procedures.

Each Consortium member shall be responsible for the proper management of the funding aid it shall receive and the implementation of the costs pertaining to it in the context of the project implementation.

If the HO finds that a Consortium member fails to meet its obligations relating to project implementation and budget management, then it must take the appropriate measures and update the RIF immediately.

#### **Legal Liability**

The Host Organisation is legally liable for the project management and implementation.

#### **Record Keeping and Document Submission**

The Host Organisation shall be obligated to keep all information and documents pertaining to the project implementation progress (such as progress reports, payment requests, expenditure invoices, information on the project indicators, the required licenses, information and publicity actions etc.) in a separate printed or electronic Project Documentation File, which they are required to keep for at least ten (10) years from the aid granting date pursuant to the General Block Exemption Regulation EU 651/2014. To this end, the HO must request copies of such documents from the other members of the Consortium.

All Consortium members shall be obligated to keep printed or electronic records of all original documents (invoices, receipts, agreements, information and publicity actions etc.) pertaining to the project implementation for at least ten (10) years from the aid granting date pursuant to the General Block Exemption Regulation EU 651/2014.

If the Project Documentation File is not properly kept, as set out above, resulting in financial loss by the State of resources that derive from the European Structural and Investment Funds, then the HO is liable for refunding the relevant aid bearing interest, in accordance with Chapter 5.6. of the present Work Programme.

The Project Documentation File and/or the records of Organisations will be checked by the RIF during the on-the spot financial verifications that will be conducted at the Host Organisation or the Partner Organisations, as appropriate.

### 5.2. PROJECT CHANGES PROCEDURE

The Project Coordinator (PC) shall be able to proceed with project changes in the following cases, without prior approval from the RIF:

- **Research Team Composition:** Changes as to the research team members with the exception of the PC and research members specifically targeted by the Programme (e.g. Young Researchers on a DIDACTOR Programme).
- **Minor Project Activity change/amendment:** Where the PC considers that a research or other project activity requires a small change or modification that will not have major impact on the course of the Project, then they may unilaterally apply the modification.

In the cases that follow, project changes are possible, but prior approval of the RIF is required:

- **Project Extension:** Where necessary, it is possible to submit a request for project duration extension. As a rule, the extension duration is up to 6 months, while in exceptional circumstances, this may be extended to up to one year. The request for extension pertains to the project implementation completion date and, as a rule, is granted only once. For Calls for Proposals that will be announced after January 2021, the duration of the extension will not exceed 3 months.
- **Consortium Composition:** The request may pertain to change, addition or removal of a Partner Organisation from the Consortium. The RIF examines the reasons for which the change in the Consortium's composition is requested, while the PC makes sure that the provisions of the Work Programme and of the Consortium Agreement, in the context of which the project was approved, are met.
- **Foreign Research Organisation Change:** The request may pertain to change, addition or cessation of cooperation of a Foreign Research Organisation with the Consortium.
- **Major Project Activity change/amendment:** The PC may request from the RIF approval for research activity modification that is of major significance to the project.
- **Request for Project Termination:** In exceptional circumstances, the RIF may consider and accept a request for project termination. Acceptance of such request may be accompanied by a demand on behalf of the RIF to be refunded the entire or part of the funding amount it has disbursed for the project implementation until that time.
- **Request for PC Replacement:** In exceptional circumstances, the RIF may consider and accept a request for PC replacement, which, as a rule, is submitted by the Host Organisation's Legal Representative, accompanied by information stating the reasons for which such change is requested.

In the above cases, the RIF may consult a specialized expert before deciding on acceptance or rejection of a request.

The main condition for the acceptance of request for a project change by the RIF is that it will not decrease the scientific quality of the project, affect the exploitation and dissemination capability of the results and cause significant deviation from the objectives of the Call of Proposals under which the project is being funded. Furthermore, additional factors are taken into consideration such as the avoidance of negative impact on the Foundation's financial planning, the timely absorption of resources from the EU Structural and Investment Funds, etc.

Where RIF approval is required, this is communicated to the Coordinator or the Host Organisation within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt of the request. The time frame for examining a request for a major activity change or a change of PC is forty-five (45) calendar days. If additional information is required to complete examination of a request, the time required for its submission is added to the time the RIF will need in order to communicate its decision. If the additional information is not submitted to the RIF within twenty-one (21) calendar days from the day requested, the RIF reserves the right to reject the request.

All changes made, either following RIF's approval or by virtue of a unilateral decision of the PC, are specifically reported in the progress reports.

### **Budget Revision**

The Project Coordinator (PC) is entitled to revise the Consortium Budget without prior approval from the RIF, if this pertains to:

- Amendment in the amount of a Cost category not exceeding the amount mentioned in the initial budget by more than  $\pm 40\%$  with a maximum of €15,000, or
- Transfer to a Cost category with zero budget that does not exceed €2,000.

For Projects funded with the method "Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs" no revision of budget for the participating organization can be accepted without the prior approval of the RIF.

Upon examination of the Payment Request, the RIF reserves the right not to approve the changes, if it is found that the general requirements for cost eligibility, as described in Chapter 3.3. of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programme Work Programme are not met.

In cases showing the need for:

- (a) Project budget revision exceeding the limits mentioned above, and
- (b) Transfer of funding from one consortium member to another irrespective of the size of the amount.

The Project Coordinator (PC) must submit a relevant request and obtain approval from the RIF. Budget Revision Requests within the above limits will not be examined by the Foundation.



### 5.3. PROJECT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

All expenditure made in the context of the project must be supported with invoices, payment receipts or other documents issued for the Consortium member they refer to.

The Organisation's record keeping must allow for direct matching of the copies submitted with the Payment Request to the original documents.

In Projects funded with the method "Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs" in the Payment Request, only the expenses of the Personnel Remuneration category are declared as described below.

The Simplified Cost Option and **expenditure** declaration "Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs" in a funded project does not revoke the obligation to follow the National Law and the Union Regulatory Framework, as described in Part 8.6 of the present document. The competent auditing bodies of the Republic of Cyprus reserve the right to carry out a relevant audit for the implementation of the Laws and Regulations.

#### **Detailed Ledger**

All members of the Consortium are obligated to post transactions in the project account in the organisation's accounting system, which must be adequately codified for the purpose of identifying and grouping expenditures pertaining to the specific project.

In any event, the direct matching of the conduct of transaction stages must be ensured from beginning to end, and the expenditures pertaining to the project must be entered in such a way as to permit reconciliation between the detailed ledgers, the supporting documents and the funding management.

The project's detailed ledger kept by each Partner Organisation is submitted to the RIF with each payment request.

### 5.4. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR PROJECT EXPENDITURE

The necessary supporting documents that must be submitted to the RIF for the purposes of examination and approval of eligible costs per expenditure category, are shown in detail below. It is made clear that electronic transactions are eligible provided that the requirements mentioned below, are satisfied.

As a rule, a supporting evidence for a specific expenditure shall be submitted to the Foundation only once.

#### **5.4.1. Personnel Cost**

##### **Time Sheets and Employment Contracts**

All members of the Consortium must maintain Time Sheets (TSs) for all members of their research team. TSs must cover 100% of the employees' working time. TSs must reflect the actual employment hours per day for each project funded by the RIF or other funding organisations and any other activities of the organisation's employee.

TSs must be kept on a daily basis and indicate the Proposal Number of each project funded by the RIF and the Work Package for which the stated time was dedicated. Each Sheet must show the reference month and year and bear the signatures of the researcher and his/her supervisor. With regard to personnel costs for members of research groups that cannot be funded by the RIF, the TSs may be submitted on a monthly, semi-annual, or annual basis, or according to the period for which the report is submitted.

The following are instances when TSs submission is not required:

- Researchers working under full time employment for the project implementation.
- Researchers working on the project at a fixed proportion of their time each month.

In such cases, the researcher's Employment Contract may be submitted instead of the TSs, stating the time he/she will be dedicating to the project implementation. If the need arises to terminate the fixed proportion of employment in the project implementation, TSs must be submitted for the period after the modification.

The following must apply for the researcher's Employment Contract:

- It describes the scope of the agreement between the two parties,
- It sets out information regarding the employment, namely the remuneration, the corresponding time of work, working hours, supervision, duties and other employment terms,
- If the employee is not employed by the organisation on a full time basis, the time he/she shall dedicate to the organisation to facilitate calculation of his respective hourly rate should be defined, and
- The duration of the Contract must cover the period of the salary payments as appearing in the payroll.

The eligible personnel cost is calculated according to one of the following methods. Each Organisation will use a specific method for calculating personnel cost, which will be defined in the Project Contract. At the stage of Contract Preparation for the chronologically first project of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes in which the organisation participates and which is selected in the frame of a Call for Proposals covering personnel expenses, the Legal Representative of each participating organisation will be called upon to select the method for calculating the organisation's Personnel cost. The selection will be binding throughout the duration of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and the method will apply to all projects that the organisation will be participating in.

### **Standard Scales of Unit Costs:**

The standard scales of unit costs are amongst the measures for simplification and reduction of the administrative load, proposed by the European Structural and Investment Fund Regulations

(ESIF 2014-2020). Based on historical data and other objective information the average hourly rate for specific research categories has been calculated by external consultants on behalf of the RIF. This cost is considered eligible expenditure for all corresponding cases and does not require the submission of supporting documents and their examination.

The standard scales of unit costs to be applied to the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are presented in Table III.6, as follows:

Table III.6 Standard Scales of Unit Costs		
Researcher Category	Hourly Rate Until 29/02/2020 (€)	Hourly Rate From 01/03/2020 (€)
Researcher at Professor level at a Higher and Tertiary Education Institution	38.00	45.00
Researcher at Associate Professor level at a Higher and Tertiary Education Institution or PhD holder with at least seven (7) years since the date awarded	29.00	34.00
PhD holder with at least two (2) to six (6) years since the date awarded	21.00	25.00
PhD holder with less than two (2) years since the date awarded	20.00	23.00
PhD Candidate	14.00	16.00
Holder of Degree or Post Graduate Title with at least five (5) years since the date awarded	19.00	22.00
Holder of Degree or Post Graduate Title less than five (5) years since the date awarded	16.00	19.00
Technical staff	16.00	19.00

The calculation of eligible personnel cost in accordance with the Standard Scales of Unit Costs method is as follows:

<b>Eligible Cost</b>	=	<b>Personnel Hourly Rate</b>	x	<b>Researcher's Hours on the Project</b>
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- **Researcher's Hourly Rate:** The Hourly Rate corresponding to the researcher category each researcher falls under at the time the expenditure is made. In case the researcher changes category, the corresponding staff hourly rate will apply from the first day of the month following the change.
- **Hours on the Project:** The time dedicated on project implementation by the researcher, as declared on the Time Sheets (TSs) or the Employment Contract (if the proportion of employment on the project per month is fixed).

The supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Certificate of Studies (Degree, Post Graduate Title, PhD), and
- Time Sheets (TSs) or Employment Contract as appropriate, and
- Decision by the competent body for appointment of the researcher at Professor or Associate Professor level at a Higher and Tertiary Education Institution (as applicable).

**Specific Hourly Staff Cost:**

In accordance with the ESIF Regulations 2014-2020 the Specific Hourly Staff Cost is determined as follows:

<b>Specific Hourly Staff Cost</b>	=	<b>Annual Gross Staff Cost</b>
		<b>1720</b>

The number of 1720 hours has been defined by the EU as the standard annual productive working time.

The numerator must be justified on the basis of the latest documented annual gross personnel cost.

As such, this method may apply only in the case of Researchers who have been working for their Organisation for at least the last three (3) consecutive months prior to the announcement of the evaluation results.

Otherwise, personnel cost will be calculated pursuant to Actual Staff Costs.

The calculation of eligible personnel cost in accordance with the Specific Hourly Staff Cost method is as follows:

<b>Eligible Cost</b>	=	<b>Specific Hourly Staff Cost</b>	×	<b>Researcher's Hours on the Project</b>
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- **Specific Hourly Staff Cost:** It is calculated three (3) months prior to the completion of the specific reporting period for the chronologically first project of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes in which the organisation participates in and which is selected in the frame of a Call for Proposals covering personnel expenses. The numerator must be justified on the basis of the latest documented annual gross personnel cost in accordance with the researcher's Payroll as shown in the organisation's accounting system wherein the researcher's gross salary and the employer's contributions are recorded in detail for the last twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the date the results are announced. The Payroll must be in a form which allows the audit by the RIF. RIF may request the submission of additional documentation (e.g. Terms of Employment, Time Sheets etc) justifying the personnel cost. It should be noted that the eligible costs for personnel cost

consist of the gross salary plus contributions payable to the State authorities pursuant to relevant legislation, plus the employer's contributions pertaining to Health Insurance and Provident Fund. Costs such as the following are not taken into consideration: (a) Overtime, (b) Bonuses, and (c) Commission, allowances (e.g. rent) etc.

In the case where the researcher has not been employed by the organisation for twelve (12) months but has been employed by the organisation for at least the last three (3) months prior to the announcement of the evaluation results, the calculation of the annual gross personnel cost is based on the justified gross personnel cost for the months of employment extrapolated in a twelve months' period.

The Specific Hourly Staff Cost of each researcher remains fixed for all projects funded by the RIF for a period of two (2) years from the start of the chronologically first project that the researcher participates in and which is selected in the frame of a Call for Proposals covering personnel expenses, for the Programming Period 2014-2020.

- **Hours on the Project:** The time dedicated on the project implementation by the researcher, as declared on the Time Sheets (TSs) or the Employment Contract as appropriate. For the purpose of calculating the eligible costs, the number of hours of work in a twelve (12) month period that will be taken into consideration by the RIF, is 1720.

In the case of a researcher for whom the Specific Hourly Cost has been calculated in advance, the supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the Time Sheets (TSs) or the researcher's Employment Contract, if the researcher's proportion of employment on the project per month is fixed.

**Actual Staff Expenditure:**

The eligible cost for personnel will be calculated on the basis of the organisation's actual expenditure.

Initially, the researcher's hourly cost is calculated for the specific month:

<b>Researcher's Hourly Cost for a Specific Month</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Gross Cost for the Researcher for a Specific Month</b>
		<b>Monthly Productive Hours of the Organisation</b>

Subsequently, the eligible expenditure is calculated for the researcher's remuneration for the specific month as follows:

<b>Eligible Expenditure for a Specific Month</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Hourly Cost for the Researcher for a Specific Month</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Researcher's Hours on the Project for a Specific Month</b>
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The supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Time sheets (where applicable),
- Employment Contract,
- Pay Slips,
- Employer's contributions payment receipt (Social Insurance Services, Tax Department etc.),
- For contributions to Provident Funds: Statutes of the Provident Fund with a rate of contributions that can be reconciled with the contribution shown in the payroll, and for contributions to a Health Insurance Plan: Document showing that the Health Insurance Plan is provided to all the employees of the organisation with the same conditions and document from the Insurance Company confirming the plan provision. The Insurance Company must be included in the approved list of Insurance/Reinsurance Companies of the Insurance Companies Control Service.

The following Payroll Settlement Documents are required along with supporting documents of expenditures, which must reconcile exactly with the researcher's net salary as shown in the payroll:

- Bank transfer advice slip or copy of a cheque issued by the organisation clearly evidencing clearance of the cheque in the bank account statement, and
- Social Insurance Services settlement documents (Salary and Contributions Statement (YKA 2-002) and Payment Receipt (YKA 2-001)).

It is noted that costs will be deemed eligible only when supported by bank documents, it is clear that they are paid directly to the specific researcher and relate to his/her salary and not any other obligation (e.g. dividends, personal expenses, loan repayments etc.). If the monthly salary payments are not consistent with the net salary shown in the organisation's payroll, the overall payment pertaining to salaries for the entire reference period is checked. If the total amount supported by the payment evidence is lower than the corresponding amount in the payroll, the eligible cost is limited to the amount supported by the payment evidence.

It is noted that in relation to Personnel cost the following are not eligible costs and therefore are not taken into consideration in calculating eligible costs:

- Overtime,
- Additional fee/Bonus, and
- Commissions, allowances (e.g. rent) etc.

With regard to Overtime, it is clarified that the cost for overtime and the corresponding time will not be taken into consideration in the calculation. The time declared in the TSs, for projects funded by the Foundation, beyond the total Productive Hours used for the calculation of the researcher's hourly cost which correspond to his/hers working period in the Project, will also not be taken into consideration. In case more hours than the relevant productive hours corresponding to the researcher's employment period are declared, but the hours charged in total on projects funded by the Foundation and other funding organisations do not exceed this number, no hours will be deducted. Otherwise, namely if overtime is identified on funded projects overall, the difference will be deducted from the Foundation's projects. In accordance with this practice there will not be a detailed check of TSs for deducting hours charged on a daily basis, weekends and public holidays.

It is noted that, the researchers' working hours per month should be real, reasonable and consistent with the Labor Legislation.

Payroll is not required for the fees paid to members of Associations, Scientific Organisations or other organisations that do not employ personnel. The following supporting documentation will be required to calculate eligible costs:

- Contract of Collaboration / Provision of Services,
- Invoices issued pursuant to the Contract,
- Payment evidence, and
- Time Sheets.

### **5.4.2. Cost for Instruments and Equipment**

The supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Equipment Purchase Agreement for expenditure exceeding Euro 15,000 excluding VAT (this also applies in cases where the expenditure charged to the project is lower than Euro 15,000 but the total expenditure of the Organisation with regard to the corresponding invoice exceeds this amount)
- Purchase, customs clearance invoices, etc.,
- Receipts from the supplier clearly showing invoice settlement, and
- Delivery/installation sheets.

Each invoice must have a unique document and VAT number. The invoices pertaining to equipment must show the equipment reference numbers (e.g. serial number).

One of the following is acceptable as proof of settlement:

- Receipt issued by the equipment supplier to the organisation,
- Bank transfer advice slip,
- Copy of the organisation's cheque with obvious evidence of the cleared cheque in the bank account statement, and
- Supplier's statement of account clearly showing payment of the entire invoice amount.

Equipment acquired for project implementation purposes will belong (after completion thereof) to the Organisation in whose budget the cost of acquisition is recorded.

### **5.4.3. Costs for External Services**

A Contract (Agreement) for the External Services is required for this cost category, which must indicate amongst others:

- The agreement objective (description of the work to be implemented or service to be provided),
- Contract duration,
- The fee payable to the service provider.

The supporting documents required to calculate eligible costs are the following:

- Contract/Agreement of Collaboration/provision of services for expenditure exceeding Euro 15,000 excluding VAT (this also applies in cases where the expenditure charged to the project is lower than Euro 15,000 but the total expenditure of the Organisation with regard to the corresponding invoice exceeds this amount),
- Invoices,
- Settlement documents, and
- Deliverables (such as, for example, activity report, information day's schedules / agendas / participant lists, posters in conferences etc.).

**One** of the following is acceptable as proof of settlement:

- Receipt issued by the service provider to the organisation,
- Bank transfer advice slip,
- Copy of the organisation's cheque with obvious evidence of the cheque being cleared in the bank account statement, and
- Supplier's statement of account clearly showing payment of the entire invoice amount.

#### **5.4.4. Costs for Foreign Research Organisations**

The minimum number of documents submitted to the RIF to calculate eligible expenditures are:

- Collaboration Agreement of the Foreign Research Organisation (FRO) with the HO,
- Invoice issued by the FRO to the HO,
- Settlement documents, and
- Activity Report describing the work carried out by the FRO (relevant Deliverable).

#### **5.4.5. Costs for Travelling Abroad**

Eligible costs of the travelling abroad include:

- The actual cost of a return airline economy class ticket for travel to the destination city.
- The actual cost of transportation from the accommodation venue to the airport and back (taxi, train etc.). It is noted that the cost for car rental is not an eligible expense.
- Use of private vehicle for transportation from and to the airport in Cyprus pursuant to the applicable relevant Circular of the Ministry of Finance posted on the RIF electronic services Portal. Any other use of a private vehicle in Cyprus (except for the specific case defined in the Other Cost category) and the use of a private vehicle abroad are not compensated.
- The actual expense for accommodation with a maximum of 60% of the daily allowance as determined by the "Daily Subsistence Allowance Rate" Table for Travelling Abroad which is uploaded in the RIF's Portal and is updated frequently, for the days of the meeting/conference during which presence is considered necessary, as well as the day before (if travel took place on the previous day).
- Daily allowance of 40% of the daily living allowance approved for the city so as to cover cost of food and other personal expenses for the days of the meeting/conference during



which presence is considered necessary, (20% for each meal/dinner). For meals/dinners provided free of charge by the meeting/conference organiser, the allowance amount is limited to half the applicable one. For travel days from and to a destination irrespective of its duration, times of arrival/departure or any stopovers, a lump sum allowance is paid, which corresponds to 2.5 allowances for meal/dinner and other personal expenses. The said lump sum allowance is calculated on the basis of the amount of the daily living allowance of the country or city where the relevant person will travel on business. Said arrangement also applies in the case when the day of travel to/from a destination is the same as the day of the meeting/conference.

For trips with duration longer than the duration approved by the RIF, for the calculation of eligible costs, the Daily Subsistence Allowance Rate is reduced by 20% after the completion of 30 consecutive calendar days of stay in the same city. Temporary interruption of up to 5 days of the stay, either before the completion of the 30 days, or after, is not considered as interruption of the consecutive stay in the same city.

It is noted that if the actual cost of the Organisation for a trip is lower than the highest permissible (as resulting from the above calculations), then the amount that corresponds to the actual cost will be considered the eligible expense.

The supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Boarding passes,
- Invoice and settlement receipt for airline ticket and other transport media to and from the destination city,
- Invoice and settlement receipt for the hotel bill,
- Expense requisition document from the researcher for the travel and the corresponding receipt for the researcher's compensation by the Beneficiary,
- Invoice and settlement receipt for parking costs at the airport of Larnaka or Paphos (as applicable), and
- Invitations from organisers, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations etc.

### **5.4.6. Consumables**

The supporting documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Consumables Purchase Agreement for expenditure exceeding Euro 15,000 excluding VAT (this also applies in cases where the expenditure charged to the project is lower than Euro 15,000 but the total expenditure of the Organisation with regard to the corresponding invoice exceeds this amount),
- Invoices corresponding to the requested expenditures (including the cost for customs clearance), and
- Settlement documents.

**One** of the following is acceptable as proof of settlement:

- Receipt issued by the supplier to the organisation,
- Bank transfer advice slip,

- Copy of the organisation's cheque with obvious evidence of the cheque being cleared in the bank account statement, and
- Supplier's statement of account clearly showing payment of the entire invoice amount.

#### 5.4.7. Other specific costs

The documents required to calculate the eligible costs are the following:

- Invoices,
- Settlement documents,
- Invoice and settlement receipt for Conference Registration Fee, as applicable,
- Researcher's Claim Form for traveling costs within Cyprus and the relevant proof of reimbursement of the Researcher's costs by the Beneficiary. It is noted that traveling costs within Cyprus will be deemed eligible according to the applicable Circular of the Ministry of Finance only in the cases where a special provision is included in the Project Contract or an important need arises during the implementation of the project, and
- Deliverables (such as e.g. copies of publications in scientific magazines, repositories etc.), as applicable.

Please note that all activities pertaining to dissemination and exploitation of the research project results (Cost Categories "Costs for External Services" and "Other Specific Costs"), even those to be carried out after project Implementation Completion, must acknowledge the RIF financial support with the use of logos and/or appropriate reference.

Furthermore, for projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), all actions of exploitation and dissemination of research project results must make provision for recognition of the ERDF financial support, in accordance with the "Handbook for the Conduct of Actions of Information and Communication for projects co-funded by the Programme Period 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)<sup>32</sup>", which is posted on the ESIF Managing Authority website (<http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/>).

In the event of non-compliance with the EU information and publicity regulations, the relevant expenditure may be deemed ineligible, requiring the recovery of part or all of the relevant amount disbursed.

Submission of receipts for expenditures under category "**Overheads**" and "Other Expenses (Simplified Cost Option and Declaration of Expenses)" is not required.

### 5.5. TENDER PROCEDURES

Organisations obligated to apply National and Community legislation and policies pertaining to public procurements and related matters, must comply with the relevant guide of the Managing Authority ("Guidelines for the Procedures for Compatibility Assurance for Projects Co-Funded by the ESIF 2014-2020 with National and Community Policies"<sup>33</sup>) and attach the relevant compliance

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/uploadfiles/e-Library/BROCHURE\\_2014-20.pdf](http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/uploadfiles/e-Library/BROCHURE_2014-20.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/>

certificates or the corresponding annexes as well as the evaluation report of the tender procedure in the context of the Payment Requests.

The “Law on Public Procurement of 2016” applies to public procurements for research and development services covered under code numbers CPV 73000000-2 to 73120000-9, 73300000-5, 73420000-2 and 73430000-5 of the single classification system for public procurement<sup>34</sup>, provided the following conditions are cumulatively met:

- (a) The products belong exclusively to the organisation for their own use while they engage in the contract activity, and
- (b) The provision of services is paid by the organisation in its entirety.

The remaining 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. Expenses for research and development services for which the Research and Innovation Foundation will examine whether the organisations apply basic principles such as fair competition, selection of the most economical solutions meeting their needs and their evaluation, selection and award is in accordance with their regulations, shall be excluded.

## 5.6. FINANCIAL VERIFICATIONS

### Payment Requests

The HO must submit to the RIF Payment Requests at the intervals defined in the Project Contract. As a rule, Payment Requests are submitted up to one (1) month from the submission of the corresponding Progress Report and, at the latest, two (2) months after the completion of the half (Interim Payment Request) and the entire project implementation (Final Payment Request).

Payment Requests are submitted electronically through the Electronic Project Monitoring System and include Tables of Expenditures for each member of the Consortium.

### Payment Request Check

The RIF checks all Payment Requests and disburses the corresponding funding to the beneficiaries within a period of ninety calendar days (90 days) at the latest from Request submission and provided that the corresponding Progress Report has also been submitted.

The Payment Request Check procedure is temporarily suspended and as a result the above period is extended in the following circumstances:

- The necessary supporting documents have not been submitted or are not clear, and
- An investigation has been launched in relation to a possible irregularity.

In such circumstances, the Project Coordinator and the Host Organisation’s Financial Contact Point (FCP) will be informed in writing with regard to the suspension in the Payment Request

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<sup>34</sup> <https://simap.ted.europa.eu/el/web/simap/cpv>

examination procedure and the reasons thereof. The suspension will be valid from the date of communication from the RIF up to the submission of the required supporting documents and/or clarifications.

It is noted that the RIF will ask for the submission of the necessary outstanding supporting documents and/or clarifications, as a rule, up to twice. After the deadline for submission of the supplementary information, which is set at twenty-one (21) calendar days, the RIF will proceed to the completion of the financial verification on the basis of the information at hand.

In any event, Payment Requests for research projects, for which the corresponding Progress Reports have not been submitted to the RIF, will not be examined.

### **Financial Verification Procedure**

The purpose of the financial verification procedure is to ensure proper implementation of the research project's budget and its compliance with relevant rules and regulations.

Financial verifications are conducted on all Payment Requests and for all the expenditures included therein. It is checked that each expenditure, among other things:

- Pertains to an activity/transaction occurred within the eligible period corresponding to the duration of project implementation (for the depreciation of equipment and consumables see Chapter 3.4) and was settled at the latest by the submission of the final Payment Request,
- Is related to an approved activity and complies to the Project Contract terms,
- Meets national and Community eligibility rules,
- Is documented with adequate supporting evidence also ensuring the audit trail,
- Meets the terms for payments, for simplified cost calculation methods, and
- Where applicable, it complies with Community and national public procurement rules and adheres to national and Community publicity rules.

Verifications may be administrative and/or on-the spot and are conducted via the examination of Payment Requests and accompanying documents and evidence. The RIF or its authorised representative (e.g. Audit Firm acting on behalf of the RIF), conducts:

- Administrative verifications on all Payment Requests, and
- If deemed necessary, on-the spot verifications of Final Payment Requests, as a rule, only in Host Organisations.

Furthermore, the RIF or its authorised representative, may conduct on-the spot verifications of interim Payment Requests or on Partner Organisations, when deemed necessary.

Prior to the conduct of an on-the spot verification, the Foundation shall timely inform the Host Organisation's Project Coordinator (PC) and Financial Contact Point (FCP) so that they prepare as appropriate and put at the disposal of the RIF all necessary documents.

### **Expenditure Verifications on a Sample Basis**

The RIF is obligated to check all the expenditures included in a Payment Request. The only exception may be Payment Requests submitted by organisations that are qualified for expenditure checks on a sample basis, after taking into consideration various risk factors (expenditure value and nature, beneficiary category, past experience etc.).

Expenditure checks on a sample basis may apply to both Public and Private Sector entities, taking into consideration the number of their participations in RIF Programmes and the Foundation's experience relative to their capability in the financial management of research projects.

The application of sample testing methodology for the purposes of performing verification of Payment Requests is based on Circular 5 - "Guidelines for the Verification Procedures for the Projects funded under the Operational Programs" Competitiveness and Sustainable Development", "Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion" and "Sea". The following provisions apply:

- Verification of costs on a sample basis is performed when the population of the entries included in a Payment Request consists of more than 20 (twenty) items. In case the items are equal to or fewer than 20 (twenty) the Payment Request is verified on a 100% basis,
- It is ensured that the sample selected includes items from all cost categories in the Payment Request,
- The methodology can also be applied to the verifications of Payment Requests submitted by Large Enterprises.

Based on the above provisions, it is not necessary to attach any supporting documentation to the Payment Requests of projects funded under the RESTART Programme 2016 - 2020.

Based on the review of the submitted Payment Request, the Foundation informs the Organisations about the expenses for which the necessary supporting documents must be submitted, in accordance with the Provisions of the RESTART Programme 2016-2020.

The verification of Payment Requests on a sample basis does not apply to organisations which:

1. have no previous participation in RIF's programmes, or
2. during their previous participation in RIF's programmes, they did not perform adequately in the financial management of research projects. This exception relates to the first Payment Request submitted by Organisations against which sanctions have been imposed.

In case a Call for Proposals provides for the use of a simplified method of calculation and declaration of costs, the calculation of the eligible costs of the Projects will be done under the method "Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs". RIF has the obligation to verify only the expenses included under the category "Personnel Costs" with regards to the Payment Requests that are submitted in the framework

of the Projects funded under these Calls. The verification of the costs in this category is performed on a sample basis according to the methodology described above.

**Financial Verification Results**

The results of the financial verification are communicated to the PC by the Foundation's Accounting Department with a notification to the FCP of the HO and the RIF Project Officer, by sending the Decision of Instalment Disbursement.

**Redress Procedure**

The Host Organisation is entitled to submit a request for redress regarding the result of the Final Payment Request Verification.

Requests for redress are submitted only by the Legal Representative of the Host Organisation or the PC by sending the relevant Form through the electronic system together with the necessary documents, within twenty-one (21) calendar days from the communication of the Verification Decision on the Final Payment Request.

Request for redress submitted by other individuals and organisations are not examined. Where necessary, however, the RIF may communicate directly with the Partner Organisations for clarifications and supplementary information concerning the request for redress. The supplementary information will be requested by the RIF only once and if not submitted by the date specified in the relevant message, the examination of the request for redress will be conducted taking into consideration the information submitted by the end date.

All relevant electronic communication will be notified to the Project Coordinator, the RIF Project Officer and the Financial Contact Point of the Host Organisation.

If during the request for redress examination further expenditures are found to be eligible, then a further amount of funding will be disbursed.

**Funding Recovery**

Under circumstances where for any reason (e.g. termination, low budget implementation etc.), the amount of funding already disbursed is higher than the funding amount that the Consortium is entitled to receive on the basis of eligible costs, the RIF is obligated to recover the balance. To this end, the PC is informed of the reasons and the exact amount that must be returned to the Foundation including legal interest, where applicable.

If this amount is not returned within ninety (90) calendar days, the HO is charged legal interest calculated from the date of receipt of the letter sent by the RIF pertaining to the demand for funding refund, up to the date the amount due is fully settled.

Finally, the Foundation may take all required legal measures to achieve refund of the amount due, if such amount is not returned.

Please note that the HO is exclusively liable for returning the funding, irrespective of whether the debt is generated due to a Partner Organisation in the Consortium.

### **Debt Settlement Procedure**

A Settlement Process may be applied in cases where the Host Organisation (HO) is unable to make a lump sum payment within the deadline for amounts exceeding Euro 10,000.

### **Funding Transfers**

The HO is responsible to transfer the amount corresponding to their share of the funding to the other members of the Consortium, in accordance with the provisions of the project Budget, the progress of the work and each one's participation in the implementation of the project and the Decision for Instalment Disbursement, taking into consideration the Consortium Agreement. The transfer of the amount must be carried out as soon as possible and the documents confirming such transfer to the Partner Organisations must be submitted to the RIF within two (2) months from the date of Instalment disbursement.

One of the following may be submitted as proof:

- A copy of a cheque clearly showing its settlement on the Host Organisation's statement of account.
- Bank transfer advice slip.

It is noted that transfer of funds from one Consortium member to another in cash will not be accepted by the RIF.

If the supporting evidence pertaining to the Final Funding Instalment for transfer by the HO to the Partner Organisations of amount corresponding to their share of the funding is not submitted within the deadline indicated above, the relevant costs of the Partner Organisations will become ineligible and the return of the relevant funding plus legal interest, will be requested back from the HO.

### **Receipts in the Frame of the Project**

The RIF funding must not result in profit for the organisation or in double funding (namely funding of the same expenditure from more than one source).

The following are considered receipts:

- Cash transfers to the organisation by third parties (funding by third parties) if transferred for no other reason than funding the project and to the extent that they are not refunded or repaid by the organisation to the third party.
- Income generated in the frame of the project (e.g. income from the sale of equipment acquired for the purposes of the project, charges for participation to events organised by the organisation etc.).

All income generated in the frame of the project must be declared in the Payment Request of the organisation involved to be taken under consideration in calculating its funding (reducing the eligible cost by an amount equal to the revenue). This rule applies at organisation level.

### **Audits from other Competent Authorities**

National competent authorities and the European Commission or their authorised representatives are entitled to conduct Administrative and On-the Spot Financial Audits during project implementation and up to ten (10) years from the date the aid is granted (see Chapter 5.1 and 5.3 in Section III of the present Work Programme) on all members of the Consortium.

### **Audits after Payment of the Final Installment**

For Projects co-funded by the Structural Funds that include investment in infrastructure or production investment, audits may be conducted up to ten (10) years after the payment of the final funding instalment to ascertain that the investments continue to comply with Article 71 of EU Regulation No. 1303/2013.

## **6. PROJECT MONITORING**

The Project Monitoring procedure pertains to the implementation of measures to facilitate the research activity and at the same time, to ensure the qualitative implementation of the Projects through effective tools and procedures.

The progress and results of the projects are monitored and evaluated by the RIF through the submission of progress reports, the application of a scientific evaluation procedure for the progress of projects and the conduct of on-the spot visits at the areas where the research is carried out.

Selection of the tools and procedures applied with the aim of the optimal monitoring of the projects is performed according to the Maximum Funding Amount (the maximum funding a project can receive) as defined in the Programme description and/or the corresponding Work Programme. Projects are categorised in three levels as follows:

- Large Project: Maximum funding amount exceeding Euro 500,000
- Medium-sized Project: Maximum funding amount between Euro 120,000-500,000
- Small Project: Maximum funding amount lower than Euro 120,000

### **6.1. PROGRESS REPORTS**

The Host Organisation is responsible for the submission of progress reports to the RIF via the Project Coordinator. The progress reports are filled in on standard forms provided by the RIF in electronic form and are submitted to the RIF within a predetermined time frame. The progress reports pertain to the implementation of the work as defined in the Contract.

The types of reports, depending on their content are the following:



- **Interim Progress Report:** Includes a brief description of the work implemented during the first half of the project and the completed Deliverables of the project.
- **Final Progress Report:** It includes the description of the work carried out during the entire project implementation period as well as other information required in the provided forms. The project Deliverables are also attached.
- **Payment Request:** It includes expenditures pertaining to the time period of project implementation for which the report is being submitted and for which the disbursement of part of the funding is required, or specific expenditures (irrespective of the project implementation time period) for which the disbursement of an instalment is required (e.g. equipment).

The frequency and time frame for Report submission are as follows:

- **Medium-sized and Large Projects:** Interim Progress Report and Final Progress Report. The reports are submitted up to thirty (30) calendar days following the end of the time period they pertain to. A Payment Request is submitted when a funding aid instalment is required, as defined in the Project Contract. When the Payment Request pertains to expenditures for the first half of the project, it is submitted up to sixty (60) calendar days after completion of half the duration of project implementation. When the Payment Request pertains to disbursement of the final instalment of the funding aid, this is submitted up to sixty (60) calendar days after the date of project implementation completion. In Large Projects with an implementation duration longer than thirty six (36) months, it is possible to set different intervals for submission of Progress Reports in the Project Contract.
- **Small Projects:** Final Progress Report, which is submitted up to thirty (30) calendar days after project implementation completion. The Payment Request is submitted up to sixty (60) calendar days after the project implementation completion and pertains to expenditures occurred throughout the project duration.

In special circumstances it is possible for RIF to require the submission of periodic progress reports (e.g., projects receiving a low pre-financing). In such circumstances, the report period submission will be defined in the Project Contract. Furthermore, in special circumstances (e.g., in small projects) different arrangements may be specified in the Calls for Proposals in relation to report submission and payment requests.

The RIF reviews the reports within ninety (90) days from the day of submission of the corresponding payment request and the outcome of the review is communicated to the Project Coordinator. If additional information is required to complete the examination of the report, the time period until their submission is added to the ninety (90) calendar days from the date of submission of the corresponding payment request. If the supplementary information is not submitted within twenty-one (21) calendar days, the Report evaluation procedure continues without them.

All participating organisations will be asked to submit a Report on the impact of the project results two (2) years after Completion of its Implementation.

## 6.2. SCIENTIFIC VERIFICATIONS

The RIF conducts at least one monitoring visit for each funded project in order to be informed in person by the PC and the project team on the implementation and progress of the project activities, to check the equipment purchased (where applicable), to ascertain the implementation of the different tasks and the active involvement of the project team members and the organisations, and in general to ascertain the qualitative and problem-free project implementation. Furthermore, the monitoring visit enables the project team to get clarifications and advice from the RIF in matters of project management.

As a rule, no monitoring visits are conducted for the following Programmes:

- Innovation Vouchers,
- Industrial Property,
- Participation in International Brokerage Events,
- Encouragement of Project Coordination in “Horizon 2020 Programme”, and
- Specific Actions of the “Nurturing a RTDI Culture” as it will be defined in the Call for Proposals.

The monitoring visit is conducted by the RIF Project Officer and/or other RIF executives or by specialized experts selected by the RIF for this purpose.

As a rule, the monitoring visit, to ascertain the smooth implementation of the project activities, is carried out as follows:

- Medium-sized and Large Projects: Upon completion of half the project implementation duration and, as a rule, after the submission of the Interim Progress Report.
- Small Projects: Upon completion of the project implementation duration and after the submission of the Final Progress Report.

Additional monitoring visits may be conducted by the RIF for On-the Spot Verifications when deemed necessary (e.g. at a kick-off meeting, a consortium meeting after an invitation, etc.), or if there is indication of insufficient implementation of the project activities. It is anticipated that the PC informs and invites the Project Officer in a reasonable time in advance for scheduled meetings of the Consortium.

### **Project Evaluation by Independent Experts**

Project Evaluation by Independent Experts aims to showcase the valuable results that derive from the funded projects, as well as finding and dealing with cases where public funding does not end up to the results sought. Furthermore, the Evaluation Procedure contributes to the assessment of the RIF Programmes and to the improvement of the Foundation’s processes.

The RIF Officers evaluate the implementation of a project on the basis of deliverables implementation, progress report examination and the conduct of on-the spot verifications. The quality of implementation and results of a project are evaluated in a larger extent by specialized experts in the project field who perform the Project Evaluation.

The Project Evaluation by Independent Experts is a systematic way of evaluation by specialized experts of the research projects funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation and may cover scientific, technological and other aspects related to the proper implementation of funded projects and the compliance of the activities carried out with the targets of the Call for Proposals and the Contract terms.

Depending on the nature and content of its activities, a research project may undergo Evaluation using one of the two following methods:

- Remote Evaluation, or
- On-the Spot Evaluation.

As a rule, the Evaluation is carried out by one evaluator. If deemed necessary, a project may also be evaluated by a second evaluator or even by a group of evaluators.

The type and frequency of the Evaluation is scheduled on the basis of the project size and features, as follows:

- Large Projects: Evaluation by Independent Experts of the interim and final progress report. As a rule, the interim Evaluation is carried out on-the spot, while the final Evaluation is carried out remotely.
- Medium-sized Projects: The final Evaluation by Independent Experts is carried out remotely and pertains to the final progress report.
- Small Projects: They are not subject to Evaluation by Independent Experts, unless it is found that they present significant problems in the project implementation thus rendering a scientific evaluation necessary.

The RIF reserves the right to conduct Evaluations by Independent Experts (on-the spot and remotely), where it deems that the project implementation is not satisfactory, irrespective of the project budget or the stage that the project is in. In special cases, different arrangements regarding the conduct of Project Evaluations by Independent Experts could be defined in the Calls for Proposals.

In the context of the Evaluation, the evaluators will be called to classify the projects into categories depending on their performance. The category interpretation is shown in Table III.7:

Table III.7 ScE SCORE INTERPRETATION		
Category	Performance	Interpretation
A	Excellent	Project activities and objectives have been fully achieved and the results are deemed particularly important.
B	Very Good	Project activities and objectives have been achieved with relatively small deviations.

<b>C</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	Project activities and objectives have been partially achieved. The participating organisations have undertaken the necessary actions for successful implementation of the project to a satisfactory degree.
<b>D</b>	<b>Low</b>	Project activities have been implemented to a very low degree. The participating organisations have not undertaken the appropriate actions for successful implementation of the project.
<b>E</b>	<b>Not Satisfactory</b>	Project activities and objectives have not been achieved. The participating organisations have undertaken no effective actions for successful implementation of the project.

The Evaluation result is communicated to the Project Coordinator (PC) and he/she is given the opportunity to express his/her views. The PC's opinion is communicated to the Evaluator, who has the opportunity to modify his evaluation. If according to the Evaluation the project falls under categories D and E and the PC disagrees with the evaluation result, a second expert will be consulted to confirm the results of the Evaluation. If more than one (1) independent expert is used, the evaluation that will be taken into consideration will be the most favourable one.

### 6.3. LOW QUALITY PROJECTS / PROJECT TERMINATION / IMPOSING SANCTIONS

The Project Contract regulates all matters governing the research project implementation, including the project termination procedure, funding repayment and the imposition of sanctions. Not adhering to Project Contract obligations and conditions on the part of the beneficiaries may lead to a temporary project funding withdrawal (freezing) and/or the permanent suspension of the project funding (project termination and/or repayment of part or the entire funding amount plus legal interest). Furthermore, the RIF may exclude the project from the Operational Programme and, depending on circumstances, impose sanctions either on the Beneficiaries (Host Organisation and/or Partner Organisations) or on specific individuals, members of the Consortium. Finally, low quality of project implementation on behalf of the Consortium results in the enforcement of certain measures by the RIF.

#### 6.3.1. Handling Low Quality Projects

The RIF takes all the necessary measures and precautions to ensure the best use of public resources. In the case of projects with low quality results, which fall under categories D and E, the RIF will take the appropriate measures as described in Table III.8:

Table III.8 Handling Low Quality Projects

Category	Measures	
	Monitoring Stage: Interim Report	Monitoring Stage: Final Report
<b>D</b>	Approval of the project's Interim Progress Report and request for corrective actions by the Host Organisation.	Approval of the project's Final Progress Report and imposition of a monetary fine equal to 20% percentage of the eligible costs.  Two (2) year exclusion of the Project Coordinator from participation in future Calls for Proposals and other initiatives supported by the RIF if the Scientific Evaluation of more than one (1) of the PC's projects falls within Category D or E.
<b>E</b>	Non-approval of the project's Final Progress Report and demand for repayment of the disbursed funding.  Two (2) year exclusion of the Project Coordinator from participation in future Calls for Proposals and other RIF initiatives if the Scientific Evaluation of more than one (1) of the PC's projects falls within Category D or E.	

### 6.3.2. Project Termination

The project and/or the Project Contract may be terminated by the RIF, if the Contract terms are not adhered to, such as, for example, if the required progress reports are not submitted despite reminders by the RIF, incomplete project implementation and/or management or refusal or negligence in undertaking corrective actions, Host Organisation withdrawal, key researcher withdrawal in person-oriented projects, etc.

In special cases the project may be terminated following a request submitted by the Host Organisation to the RIF. Specifically, in cases such as this, the Host Organisation's Legal Representative or Project Coordinator will submit a request to the RIF for examination.

Decisions for project termination may require the repayment of part or the entire funding amount. Those decisions are not considered as sanctions and are made by the RIF Management, unless there is suspicion of fraud or unethical behavior. In the latter cases, the matter is forwarded to the Foundation's Board of Directors Specific Issues Examination Committee (SIEC) for possible imposition of sanctions.

The RIF reserves the right to examine the possibility to terminate the participation of a Partner Organisation in the Consortium (e.g. on information resulting from Project Monitoring, Consortium request and imposition of sanctions - if applicable).

Furthermore, the RIF reserves the right to terminate the Project and Project Contract, if during project implementation it is ascertained that the Host Organisation is under bankruptcy, in

liquidation, cessation of activities, forced administration or has entered into an arrangement with creditors or in any other relevant circumstance arising from a similar procedure pursuant to national legislative or regulatory acts.

### **6.3.3. Sanctions**

In the event that there is suspicion of fraud or unethical behavior then the matter will be forwarded to the Foundation's Board of Directors Specific Issues Examination Committee (SIEC), which is the competent body for examining serious issues arising in relation to problems during project management and imposing sanctions. The sanctions that may be imposed by the SIEC for fraud or unethical behavior, in addition to the possible termination of the project and repayment of part of and/or the entire funding amount are:

- Exclusion of the Host Organisation and/or Partner Organisation from participating in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and other Calls for Proposals and initiatives supported by the RIF for up to five (5) years, and/or
- Termination of all funded projects that the organisation undertakes the role of the Host Organisation and/or termination of its participation in Programmes and other Calls for Proposals and initiatives supported by the RIF, whereas, if the organisation is a Partner Organisation, then the termination of its participation from funded projects and other Calls for Proposals and initiatives supported by the RIF may be imposed, as well as its replacement.

If the project has been terminated due to mismanagement by the Host Organisation and/or the Partner Organisation and/or a person responsible for the project implementation and it is found that there is another instance of mismanagement on another RIF funded project by the same Host Organisation and/or the Partner Organisation and/or person responsible for the project implementation, then up to five (5) year exclusion may be imposed on the Host Organisation and/or Partner Organisation and/or person responsible for the project implementation from participating in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes and other Calls for Proposals and initiatives supported by the RIF.

Before the imposition of any sanction, the organisations or natural persons involved are called to submit a written statement with their response and are given the opportunity to be heard by the SIEC.

## **6.4. COMMUNICATION AND NOTIFICATION MATTERS**

As a rule, the RIF communicates with the Host Organisation, the Project Coordinator and the Host Organisation's Financial Contact Point (FCP), who will be responsible for notifying Consortium Members on matters pertaining to the physical and financial objective of the funded project. As a rule, communication between the RIF and the project representatives is done via email. The RIF responds to requests made by the Consortium within the following deadlines:

- All messages received by the RIF are answered within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt at the latest.

- All reports are examined by the RIF and the result of the examination is communicated to the Host Organisation and the Project Coordinator within ninety (90) days from the date of submission of the corresponding payment request. If additional information is required, the time period until their submission is added to the ninety (90) calendar days from the date of submission of the corresponding payment request.
- The requests for which RIF approval is necessary are examined and the RIF decision is communicated to the HO and PC within fifteen (15) days from their receipt (with the exception of cases where the request pertains to a major activity change). If additional information is required to complete the examination of the report, the time period until their submission is added to the days required to examine the request.

If the deliverables are not being normally implemented, the PC and the HO are responsible for notifying the RIF in good time, either by submitting an explanatory note or by reporting it in the progress report.

The organisations are obligated to immediately inform the RIF (using the electronic system) regarding any change in their characteristics, such as a change in ownership, a modification that affects the size of the enterprise, cessation of activities etc.

## 7. EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The regulations governing ownership, exploitation and dissemination of knowledge resulting from a RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes project:

### 7.1. OWNERSHIP OF KNOWLEDGE - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

With regard to ownership of knowledge resulting from projects implemented within the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, the following rules shall apply for its allocation and management:

- Organisations participating in projects implemented in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes have the right to use pre-existing knowledge (acquired by another participant in the same project), without charge and for the sole purpose of project implementation. This right may be of limited duration and must be specified in the Consortium Agreement. Pre-existing knowledge that is deemed necessary for project implementation is defined in the Consortium Agreement and/or the proposal.
- Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights<sup>35</sup> resulting from a project implemented within the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, belong to the participating organisations carrying out the work that produced them.

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<sup>35</sup> This includes intellectual property and related rights, rights concerning designs or models, patents or their supplementary certificates, trademarks, plant variety protection rights, geographical indications and designations of origin, particularly those referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No. 1383/2003.

Additionally and for the purposes of this Article, this definition includes Know-how, i.e. all non-patented practical information resulting from experience and testing, which is secret (meaning not generally known

- Knowledge and intellectual property rights resulting from work jointly carried out by more than one participating organisation, without it being possible to specify individual participation in this work, are jointly owned by those participants. These participants shall mutually agree with regard to the sharing of knowledge and applicable terms of ownership.
- During the preparation phase of the contract, the RIF retains the right, where special reasons exist, to seek information confirming:
  - (a) acquisition of knowledge ownership or any part thereof, or
  - (b) allocation of knowledge ownership to one or more participants.
- In a case where persons working in an organisation participating in a project claim rights to knowledge, such organisation is required to take appropriate measures or to conclude a relevant agreement ensuring that these rights are exercised in a manner compatible with RESTART 2016-2020 Programme regulations.
- The right of a participating organisation to transfer ownership of knowledge to third parties must be stipulated in the Consortium Agreement entered into by and between the participating organisations regarding allocation and ownership of knowledge. Concerning the transfer of rights to third parties, it is understood that the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) 651/2014 regarding State Aid and the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), which address intellectual property rights, must be respected. Non-compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 651/2014 regarding State Aid and the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), shall constitute unlawful aid, which must be immediately recovered.
- In cases research activities taking place following completion of a research project, the organisation choosing to continue the research activities shall have obtained prior consent from the other participants (who are entitled to a share in the ownership of knowledge). This may be stipulated in the Consortium Agreement and shall be in agreement with the provisions of state aid regulations.

### 7.2. PROTECTION OF KNOWLEDGE - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Regarding the protection of knowledge and intellectual property rights, the following regulations shall apply:

- Organisations having ownership of knowledge that can be used in industrial or commercial applications are exclusively responsible for ensuring adequate and effective protection of such knowledge in accordance with the relevant provisions of national,

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or easily accessible), substantial (meaning that it includes information which is significant and useful for the production of the contract products) and identified (meaning that it is described in a sufficiently comprehensive manner so as to make it possible to verify that it fulfils the criteria of secrecy and substantiality).



community and other relevant legislation<sup>36</sup>, the Project Contract and the Consortium Agreement.

- Suitable and effective protection of knowledge by interested parties could be at local, European or international level, as appropriate.
- If participating organisations that have ownership of knowledge have not proceeded with dissemination activities or ensured suitable and effective protection of such knowledge within five (5) years following the RIF's Final Report approval date for a project implemented under RESTART 2016-2020 programmes, the RIF reserves the right to secure such intellectual property rights in its favor.
- If an organisation participating in a research project chooses to waive its intellectual property protection rights, it must promptly notify the Research and Innovation Foundation regarding this intention. In all cases, this must be done prior to any exploitation, patent registration, or dissemination of new knowledge gained through RESTART 2016-2020 Programme research projects and be consistent with the provisions of state aid regulations.
- Furthermore, in cases where a Research Organisation wishes to transfer its rights to enterprises (cooperative research projects), this may only be authorized by the Research and Innovation Foundation and under the condition that the compensation is equal to the market price, allowing the relevant Research Organisations to derive full economic benefit from these rights when meeting one of the following prerequisites:
  - (a) the compensation amount is determined through an open, transparent and non-discriminatory competitive sale process, or
  - (b) through an expert's independent valuation, it is confirmed that the compensation amount is at least equal to the market price, or
  - (c) the Research Organisation as the seller can prove that it has substantially negotiated the compensation under competitive conditions in order to obtain maximum economic benefit at the time of contract conclusion, taking into account objectives based on its articles of association, or
  - (d) where the consortium agreement gives the partner company the right of first refusal with respect to intellectual property rights produced by the cooperating research organizations when these entities retain a reciprocal right to seek the most economically beneficial offers from third parties, so that the partner company may be invited to adjust its offer accordingly.

If none of the aforementioned conditions are met, the full value of the participation of Research Organisations in the project is considered an advantage for the cooperating companies, for which state aid regulations apply.

### **7.3. KNOWLEDGE EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION**

The following regulations apply for exploitation and dissemination of knowledge gained through a project carried out in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes:

- Participating organisations shall exploit knowledge owned by them resulting from a project carried out in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, or shall ensure the

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<sup>36</sup> For relevant information, interested parties may contact the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver.

exploitation of such knowledge by third parties in accordance with the interests of the participants. Participants are responsible for establishing conditions of exploitation and dissemination in a mutually agreed, detailed and verifiable manner.

- All exploitation and dissemination activities regarding new knowledge resulting from projects partially or fully funded through RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, must acknowledge the RIF's financial support. With regards to projects co-funded by the ERDF, and in particular regarding all activities concerning dissemination of project results, even those taking place following completion thereof, must make reference to the financial support received from the European Regional Development Fund.
- Organisations are required to comply with the provisions of the "Guide for Information and Communication Activities for projects co-funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds for the programming period 2014-2020", which is in force.
- Any organisation or individual participating in a project carried out within the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes intending to undertake dissemination activities regarding new knowledge resulting from the project, must give prior notice of such intention to the other participants before performing any such activity. All communication between the parties pertinent to this subject may be defined in the Consortium Agreement.
- Participants may publish data in any form or allow such publication regarding knowledge they own or have acquired within the context of their participation in a project implemented in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, provided it does not adversely affect the protection of such knowledge.
- Provided that dissemination of knowledge does not adversely affect its protection or exploitation, participants are required to ensure broad dissemination as soon as possible and certainly within a period of two years following the RIF Final Report approval date for a project implemented in the frame of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes.
- In cases where the participants do not fulfil the aforementioned obligations, the RIF may proceed with dissemination of this knowledge without the participants' approval.

### 7.4. OPEN ACCESS

Open Access means the free, immediate and continuous on-line access to digital academic and scientific content, free of charges or copyright restrictions, aimed at facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge and the free use thereof for research, educational and other purposes.

Within the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, organisations must comply with the "National Open Access Policy for Scientific Information in the Republic of Cyprus"<sup>37</sup>, approved by the Council of Ministers on February 25, 2016. In accordance with the National Policy, digital copies of publications (post-prints) resulting from implementation of Projects and their metadata, must be available on Open Access.

Researchers may choose one of the two models for Open Access, as mentioned below:

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<sup>37</sup> National Open Access Policy for Scientific Information in the Republic of Cyprus: [http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy/dgepcd/dgepcd.nsf/B6E053491803C681C2257C7D004841CA/\\$file/Cyprus%20OA%20Policy%20to%20Scientific%20Info.pdf](http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy/dgepcd/dgepcd.nsf/B6E053491803C681C2257C7D004841CA/$file/Cyprus%20OA%20Policy%20to%20Scientific%20Info.pdf)

- **Self-archiving (Green route):** Submission of the published article or its final form (final quality assured or peer reviewed version), before or at the time of publication in a digital archive (bibliographic databases and local and/or international repositories), to which there is free access for those interested via the Internet - possibly after a waiting period (embargo period) if required by the publisher.
- **Electronic open access journals (Gold route):** Refers to publication in freely accessible electronic scientific journals without charge to interested parties wherein academic and research articles that have undergone evaluation (final quality assured or peer reviewed versions) are published, with author publication charges paid separately for each article. Said journals are published either by traditional publishing houses, exclusive Open Access publishers, or new types of publishing formats.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the National Policy, researchers submit to a suitable repository:

- The necessary metadata (such as title, abstract, authors, attribute, name of journal accepting the publication, etc.) for all publications resulting from the funded Project. Metadata must be readily accessible.
- A digital copy of each publication resulting from the funded Project upon final acceptance for publication (final quality assured version or peer reviewed version). Researchers are responsible for consistent and complete submission of their work to the repository.

The text of the articles must be openly available when submitted to the repository. In cases where the publisher has imposed an embargo period, a publication abstract must be submitted and the text of the publication may be “inaccessible” only until expiration of the embargo period.

In all cases, article metadata must be readily open and accessible and reference must be made to them in Progress Reports to be submitted to the RIF.

In cases where researchers choose the Gold Model for Open Access, the relevant expenditure may be eligible for funding through the Project Budget, while, at the same time, metadata and the published article must also be filed at an appropriate repository.

Suitable repositories are defined as those which offer Open Access to scientific information, allowing data citation through persistent identifiers (Digital Object Identifiers - DOI) and/or other means that provide quality metadata (including reference to research funding), based on accepted guidelines and standards for interoperability with international digital harvesters, as well as compatibility with OpenAIRE or corresponding infrastructures.

Organisations that do not have repositories compliant with the required specifications are recommended to submit publications and metadata for open access in other local, thematic, or international repositories, (e.g., the digital Zenodo repository).

## 8. BROADER LEGAL FRAMEWORK

According to the law, the implementation of research, development and innovation in matters relating to bioethics, scientific research on wild birds and quarry and scientific experiments on

animals, are subject to the control of the state, which assigns supervisory responsibility and approval rights to competent departments or special committees as appropriate.

## **8.1. MANAGEMENT OF PERSONAL DATA**

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) has the legal obligation when collecting, processing and using personal data to do so in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 "General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)" as the Data. To this end, the present Policy determines the way in which the RIF collects and processes personal data (information) relating to natural persons (individuals), as well as the way in which it obtains their consent in relation to the processing of their data.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide adequate and consistent safeguards for the management of personal data (as defined below) which in accordance with the principles and provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 "General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)" entered into force on 25 May 2018.

Personal data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ("data subject") an identifiable natural person being one whose identity can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to a recognisable element of identity, such as a name, identity number, location data, online identity card, or one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, psychological, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Processing of personal data is interpreted to mean any work or set of operations performed by any person with or without the use of automated methods and which applies to personal data and includes the collection, registration, organization, maintenance, storage, amendment, removal, use, transfer, transmission or any other means of distribution, matching or association, connection, locking, deletion or destruction.

The RIF's Personal Data Protection Policy is available in the Foundation's website ([Http://www.research.org.cy](http://www.research.org.cy)).

## **8.2. BIOETHICAL ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS**

### **In general**

Bioethics is the study of moral, ethical, social, humanitarian and legal issues arising from the use of modern biotechnology, biology, medicine, genetics and pharmaceutical methods, but mainly arising by human intervention in biological processes and the human genotype and is based on principles of prudent avoidance and promotion of health.

Bioethical evaluation of projects implies the moral consciousness in scientific research involving humans, since it ensures that the research done on humans is to the benefit of every potential participant. Bioethical considerations must be taken into consideration during research process and must determine its methodology, while potential benefits should not constitute the sole

criterion for choosing methods or procedures used, as the main concern should be to respect a suffering human, which is firstly human and secondly a patient.

In accordance with the Law of 2001 “On Bioethics” (Establishment and Operation of the National Committee) (Law 150(I)/2001), the law for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Ratified) and Other Relevant Provisions for Implementation of the law, (Law 31 (III)/2001), the good Clinical Practice regarding Pharmaceuticals law (Law 70 (I)/2001) and the Codes of Practice of Regulatory Administrative Act 175/2005, which refer to “Codes of Practice for the Establishment and Operation of a Bioethics Committee for the Monitoring of Biomedical Research in Cyprus”, bioethical monitoring is required as defined in the aforementioned Laws and Regulations on research activities carried out in Cyprus, which include human participation.

### **Cyprus National Bioethics Committee**

The monitoring of research projects regarding moral issues, bioethics and ethics is the responsibility of the National Bioethics Committee (CNBC). The CNBC’s mission, in accordance with Law 150(I)/2001, is the ongoing monitoring, survey, systematic analysis and evaluation of issues and problems related to scientific research progress and application of biotechnology, biology, medicine, genetics and pharmaceutical industries, as well as human intervention on the biological procedure and the human genotype, and exploration of moral, ethical, social, humanitarian and legal dimensions thereof.

In accordance with the Codes of Practice of Regulatory Administrative Act 175/2005 on the Establishment and Operation of a Bioethics Committee for the Monitoring of Biomedical Research in Cyprus, biomedical research includes research using drugs, medical devices, radiation for medical purposes, surgical procedures, medical records, and biological samples, as well as epidemiological, genetic, social and psychological studies.

Moreover, under Article 16 of the Law, which provides for the ratification of the Convention for the protection of human rights and human dignity with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Law 31(III)/2001), *“research on a person may only be undertaken if all the following conditions are met: ..... (iii) the research project has been approved by the competent body after independent examination of its scientific merit, including assessment of the importance of the research objective, and multidisciplinary review of its ethical acceptability.....* . In accordance with Article 5 of the Ratification Law, the competent body is the National Bioethics Committee.

Similarly, provisions of Article 14(1) of the Law state that, for the safeguarding and protection of patients’ rights and related issues (Law 1 (I)/2005), patient participation in scientific research or experimental treatment is permitted only under specific conditions. One of the conditions laid out by this Law is that *“the research study has been approved by the competent body after independent examination of its scientific merit, including assessment of the importance of the research objective, and multidisciplinary review of its ethical acceptability”*.

In accordance with “the Decree on Codes of Practice (Establishment and Operation of a Bioethics Committee for the Monitoring of Biomedicine in Cyprus)” and under the authority granted to the National Committee on Bioethics (CNBC) by Law 150 (I)/2001, The Bioethics Law, (Establishment

and Operation of a National Committee), the CNBC proceeded to establish three Bioethics Review Committees:

- The Bioethics Committee for Review of Research Protocols in Relation to Clinical Research in Medicines for Human Use,
- The Bioethics Committee for Review of Biomedical Research, and
- The Bioethics Committee for Review of Research Protocols in Biomedical and Clinical Research in Medicines for Human Use.

The CNBC supervises, directs and coordinates the work of the above Bioethics Committees, whose role is:

- To contribute to ensuring the dignity of rights, safety and well-being of all those who participate, or may participate in research,
- The exercise of independent, adequate and timely review of the ethics of proposed programs, and
- Assessing proposed projects before their launch and assuring that they are suitable for approval.

Irrespective of monitoring of biomedical research programmes by Bioethics Committees, the CNBC retains the right, when and if it so decides, to investigate and monitor any project falling within its authority. Regardless of any Bioethics Committee decision, the CNBC has the right to modify, suspend, terminate or confirm the Bioethics Committee's initial decision at any time.

### **Application Submission and CNBC Approval**

Pursuant to the Codes of Practice, only projects that will be implemented should be submitted to Bioethics Committees for approval after having first secured the necessary funding. In exceptional cases, Bioethics Committees shall decide, after a full justification by the applicant, whether to accept projects for review that have not secured the necessary funding. Regardless of the aforementioned, no project shall be implemented without first having received the approval of the Bioethics Committee. It is the responsibility of every organisation/researcher to address the National Bioethics Committee for obtaining approval.

Details regarding the research proposal submission process for consultation and complete bioethics evaluation, as well as all relevant forms, are available on the CNBC website (<http://www.bioethics.gov.cy>).

### **8.3. Research that Includes the Utilization of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources**

In accordance to the EU Regulation No 511/2014, funded beneficiaries that carry out research involving the utilization of genetic resources (GR) and traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources, are obliged to ascertain that access to GR and TK is in accordance with the applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the provider countries which are parties to the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, if this is required by applicable legislation or regulatory requirements of the provider country, users must ascertain that transfer

and utilization of GR and TK as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization is in accordance with mutually agreed terms.

The abovementioned obligation of funded beneficiaries is fulfilled by the submission of a due diligence declaration to the competent authority of the member state in which the beneficiary's is established, or to the competent authority of the member state where the research is carried out in case the beneficiary is not established in the Union. In accordance with Law No. 49(I)/2018 (the national Law on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union), the competent authority of the Republic of Cyprus, where the due diligence must be submitted, is the Director of the Environment Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. The due diligence declaration must be made by submitting a completed template which is available to funded beneficiaries by the Department of Environment. The declaration must be submitted after the first instalment of funding has been received and after all the GR and TK associated with GR that are utilised in the funded project have been obtained, but no later than at the time of the final report, or in absence of such report, at the projects end.

Funded beneficiaries whose research work may fall under Regulation 511/2014, can seek information on whether a country is a Party to the Nagoya Protocol and whether the country has access measures in place for GR and TK, by searching the country profiles on the Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing House, <https://absch.cbd.int/countries>) which is the main mechanism under the Protocol for sharing information related to access and benefit-sharing. In addition, beneficiaries may consult the Department of Environment for further information and clarifications relevant to obligations arising from Regulation 511/2014.

### **8.4. RESEARCH ON WILD BIRDS AND QUARRY**

In accordance with sub-paragraph (2) of Article 95 of the Law on Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Quarry (Law 152(I)/2003), any investigation, action or measure relating to the management of wildlife by any person, is authorized only after the applicable Permit is issued by the Minister of Interior.

It is noted that pursuant to the Law (Law 152(I)/2003), "wildlife" means quarry, wild birds and the mouflon.

### **8.5. SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS**

In accordance with the Laws on Animals (Scientific Experiments) of 1995 and 2000 (Laws 30(I)/95 and 115(I)/2000) and the Regulations on Animals (Scientific Experiments) of 2000 (Regulatory Administrative Act 18/2000) a controlled experiment on an animal is permitted only when:

- The person conducting the controlled experiment on animals holds a Personal Permit granting the right to conduct a specifically described controlled experiment on an animal or animals of a specific description and specified area or areas, and

- The experiment is conducted within a Programme framework, which is defined in the Project Permit and authorizes a controlled experiment of a specific description on an animal or animals in a specific space or spaces.

The Personal Permit and Project Permit are issued by the Director of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

In accordance with Law 30(I)/95, “controlled experiment” means any experimental or other scientific procedure applied on a protected animal that may result in causing that animal pain, suffering, fear, stress, or permanent damage.

Therefore, project Contracts that require the securing of these Permits shall be signed only after the relevant permits are secured and submitted to the RIF.

The securing and provision of any other Permit required by the Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Cyprus for conducting research experiments is considered an essential element for the signing of Research Contracts and their securing and provision are the sole responsibility of the researcher submitting the proposal.

### **8.6. OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

All RESTART 2016-2020 programme beneficiaries must comply with National Legislation and EC Regulations regarding relevant issues, which include, amongst others:

- State aid,
- Protection of the environment,
- Equal opportunities for men and women,
- Protection of personal data,
- Non-discrimination, and
- Information and disclosure.

Implementation of research, development and innovation projects is subject to state control, which delegates the responsibility of monitoring and approval to competent services or special committees, as applicable. Appendix IV of this present Work Programme includes a List of the relevant Legislation and Other Regulations.

Applicants must comply with all national laws and regulations falling under the scope of implementation of a research, development and innovation project, regardless of the List of Legislation and Other Regulations. It is noted that this List is indicative and not exhaustive and in no way binding for the RIF.

### **8.7. CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCHERS**



Within the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, it is recommended that organisations take all necessary steps to adopt the European Charter for Researchers<sup>38</sup> and the relevant Researchers' Code of Conduct<sup>39</sup>.

The European Commission has adopted the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for Researcher Recruitment, providing researchers with the same rights and obligations throughout the EU. The European Charter for Researchers includes the roles, responsibilities and entitlements of researchers and their employers or funding organisations. It aims to ensure that the relationship between these parties contributes to successful results regarding the transfer and exchange of knowledge and the development of researchers' careers.

The Code of Conduct for Researcher Recruitment aims to improve recruitment procedures so that they are transparent and fair.

### **8.8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN - NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Within the context of RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, organisations must comply with the applicable laws concerning equal opportunity for men and women and non-discrimination (a non-exhaustive list of relevant laws appears in Appendix IV of the present Work Programme). It is also advised that organisations consider gender equality with regard to the research content of the project and the composition and contribution of the members of the project research team.

### **8.9. OBTAINING AND SUBMITTING AN APPROVAL/PERMISSION FROM THE COMPETENT COMMITTEE OR SERVICE**

The signing of the Project Contract, which, according to the Law, requires monitoring, authorisation, or permission by the competent committee or service, will only take place after having obtained and submitted a positive assessment, approval or authorization to the RIF on behalf of the Host Organisation/Project Coordinator.

In order to accelerate the process, an application may be submitted to the competent committee or service immediately after the RIF announces its results and in parallel with the contract preparation process between the RIF and of the Host Organisation.

Compliance with the aforementioned laws and regulations is the sole responsibility of the researchers and organisations submitting the proposal.

The RIF reserves the right not to proceed with the signing of the Project Contract where a positive assessment, approval or authorization by the competent committee or service is delayed due to liability on behalf of the Host Organisation.

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<sup>38</sup> Further information regarding the European Charter for Researchers may be found on the EU website, <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/europeanCharter>

<sup>39</sup> Further information regarding the Researchers' Code of Conduct for Researcher Recruitment may be found on the EU website, <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/europeanCharter>

## 9. ANNEXES

### ANNEX I: Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) <sup>40</sup>

#### Group 1: Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing and Processes

##### Nanotechnology (NT)

An umbrella term that covers the design, characterization, production, and application of structures, devices, and systems by controlling the shape and size at an atomic, molecular, and supramolecular scale. Nanotechnology holds the promise of leading to the development of smart nano- and micro-devices and systems and to radical breakthroughs in vital fields such as healthcare, energy, environment, and manufacturing.

##### Taxonomy

- Nanoparticles
- Nanocomposites
- Nano based catalytic technologies
- Carbon based Nanostructures
- Nanofibers and wires
- Nanotech based catalysts
- Nanophotonics materials technologies
- Nanofluids and dispersions
- Nanowires
- Nanosensors
- MEMS and NEMS
- Other NT

##### Advanced Materials (AM)

Leads both to new reduced-cost substitutes to existing materials and to new higher-added-value products and services. Advanced materials offer major improvements in a wide variety of different fields, e.g., aerospace, transport, building, and healthcare. Advanced materials facilitate recycling, lowering the carbon footprint and energy demand as well as limiting the need for raw materials that are scarce in Europe.

##### Taxonomy

- High performance materials (strong, lightweight)
- Materials to withstand more aggressive environments
- Surface engineering and coatings
- Biomaterials

<sup>40</sup> The grouping is in accordance to the following:

- KETs Observatory Methodology Report, prepared for DG Enterprise & Industry - European Commission, 16 October 2014.
- «Horizon 2020: Key Enabling Technologies, Booster for European Leadership in the Manufacturing Sector», Study for the ITRE Committee, IP/A/ITRE/2013-01, PE 536.282, DG for Internal Policies, European Commission October 2014.
- A European Strategy for Key Enabling Technologies – A bridge to growth and jobs, Communication from the European Commission COM (2012) 341, Brussels: European Commission.
- Preparing for our future: Developing a common strategy for key enabling technologies in the EU, Communication from the European Commission COM (2009) 512, Brussels: European Commission.
- Committee, IP/A/ITRE/2013-01, PE 536.282, DG for Internal Policies, European Commission October 2014.
- HORIZON 2020, Work Programme 2016 - 2017 Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing.
- “Revised Field of Science and Technology (FOS) Classification in the Frascati Manual (DSTI/EAS/STP/NESTI(2006)19/FINAL)”, Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators, 26-Feb-2007, OECD

- Smart and multifunctional materials, devices and structures
- Industrial materials
- Energy materials
- Materials for Micro-, Nanoelectronics
- Materials for Silicon Photonics
- Other AM

#### Advanced Manufacturing and Processes (AMP)

In the supply chain of Key Enabling Technologies (NT, AM, MNE, PHOT, Industrial Biotechnology), AMP denote the range of high-technologies involved in manufacturing, leading to improvements in terms of new product properties, production speed, cost, energy and materials consumption, operating precision, waste and pollution management.

#### Taxonomy

AM:	Materials production technologies; Materials processing technologies; Rapid prototyping technologies; Product assembly technologies; Other AMP-AM technologies.
NT:	Nanomanufacturing technologies for nanostructures; Nanomanufacturing technologies for nanoparticles; Nano metrological technologies; Other AMP – NT technologies.
PHOT:	Photolithographic technologies; Inspection, analysis, testing and metrology technologies; Advanced technologies for monitoring and diagnosis of manufacturing systems; PV substrate and wafer manufacturing technologies; Communication technologies for logistics and manufacturing; Advanced human machine interface technologies; (Extremely) high precision positioning and mounts technologies; Advanced technologies for monitoring and diagnosis of manufacturing systems; Technologies for automated production; Advanced tooling, cutting, sawing, chilling, welding, molding technologies; Other AMP – PHOT. technologies.
MNE manuf:	Clean room technologies; Packaging technologies; (Extremely) high precision positioning and mounts technologies; Industrial robot technologies; Logistical positioning technologies; Communication technologies for logistics and manufacturing; Autonomous maintenance technologies; Intelligent machinery components and architectures; Advanced technologies for monitoring and diagnosis of manufacturing systems; Technologies for automated production; Inspection, analysis, testing and metrology technologies; Rapid prototyping technologies; 3D printing technologies; Micro-factory technologies; High speed manufacturing technologies; High productivity and “self assembly” technologies; Other AMP - MNE manuf. technologies.
IB:	DNA/RNA technologies; Molecular biotechnologies; Cell and tissue engineering; Process biotechnologies; Gene and RNA vectors; Bioinformatics; Nano-biotechnologies; IB biomass production technologies; Other AMP-IB technologies.
Other:	Advanced design software for manufacturing; Logistics supporting software for manufacturing; Production supporting software; Energy Efficient Buildings, Other AMP technologies.

Group 2. Biosciences, Biomedical Sciences and Technology and Biotechnology

Group 2 includes the fields of Biological Sciences, Medical Engineering, Environmental Biotechnology, Industrial Biotechnology, Basic and Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences, Medical Biotechnology and Agricultural Sciences.

Taxonomy	
<u>Biological Sciences:</u>	Cell biology; Microbiology; Virology; Biochemistry and molecular biology; Biochemical research methods; Mycology; Biophysics; Genetics and heredity; Reproductive biology; Developmental biology; Plant sciences; botany; Zoology; Ornithology; Entomology; Behavioural sciences biology; Marine biology, freshwater biology, limnology; Ecology; Biodiversity conservation; Biology (theoretical, mathematical, thermal, cryobiology, biological rhythm); Evolutionary biology, Other biological topics.
<u>Medical Engineering:</u>	Medical engineering; Medical laboratory technology (including laboratory samples analysis; diagnostic technologies)
<u>Environmental Biotechnology:</u>	Environmental biotechnology; Bioremediation, diagnostic biotechnologies (DNA chips and biosensing devices) in environmental management; Environmental biotechnology related ethics.
<u>Industrial Biotechnology:</u>	Industrial biotechnology; Bioprocessing technologies, biocatalysis, fermentation; Bioproducts, biomaterials, bioplastics, biofuels, bioderived bulk and fine chemicals, bio-derived novel materials.
<u>Basic Medicine:</u>	Anatomy and morphology; Human genetics; Immunology; Neurosciences (including psychophysiology); Pharmacology and pharmacy; Medicinal chemistry; Toxicology; Physiology (including cytology); Pathology.
<u>Clinical Medicine:</u>	Andrology; Obstetrics and gynaecology; Paediatrics; Cardiac and Cardiovascular systems; Peripheral vascular disease; Hematology; Respiratory systems; Critical care medicine and Emergency medicine; Anaesthesiology; Orthopaedics; Surgery; Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging; Transplantation; Dentistry, oral surgery and medicine; Dermatology and venereal diseases; Allergy; Rheumatology; Endocrinology and metabolism; Gastroenterology and hepatology; Urology and nephrology; Oncology; Ophthalmology; Otorhinolaryngology; Psychiatry; Clinical neurology; Geriatrics and gerontology; General and internal medicine; Other clinical medicine subjects; Integrative and complementary medicine (alternative practice systems).
<u>Health Sciences:</u>	Health care sciences and services; Health policy and services; Nursing; Nutrition; Dietetics; Public and environmental health; Tropical medicine; Parasitology; Infectious diseases; Epidemiology; Occupational health; Sport and fitness sciences; Social biomedical sciences (includes family planning, sexual health, psycho-oncology, political and social effects of biomedical research); Medical ethics; Substance abuse.
<u>Medical Biotechnology:</u>	Health-related biotechnology; Technologies involving the manipulation of cells, tissues, organs or the whole organism (assisted reproduction); Technologies involving identifying the functioning of DNA, proteins and enzymes and how they influence the onset of disease and maintenance of well-being (gene-based diagnostics and therapeutic interventions, pharmacogenomics, gene-based therapeutics); Biomaterials (as related to medical implants, devices, sensors); Medical biotechnology related ethics.
<u>Other Medical Sciences:</u>	Forensic science; Other medical sciences.

Agricultural Sciences:

Agriculture; Forestry; Fishery; Soil science; Horticulture, viticulture; Agronomy, plant breeding and plant protection;  
Animal and Dairy science;  
Husbandry; Pets;  
Veterinary science;  
Agricultural biotechnology and food biotechnology; GM technology (crops and livestock), livestock cloning, marker assisted selection, diagnostics (DNA chips and biosensing devices for the early/accurate detection of diseases); Biomass feedstock production technologies, biopharming; Agricultural biotechnology related ethics;  
Other agricultural sciences.

Group 3: Micro-Nanoelectronics and Photonics (MNE)	
<p>Micro- and Nanoelectronics (MNE)</p> <p>Deals with semiconductor components and/or highly miniaturised electronic subsystems and their integration into larger products and systems. They include the fabrication, design, packaging and testing from nano-scale transistors to micro-scale systems integrating multiple functions on a chip.</p>	
<p>Taxonomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Semiconductor materials technologies</li> <li>▪ Passive electronic materials</li> <li>▪ Sensor technologies</li> <li>▪ Actuator technologies</li> <li>▪ RF technologies</li> <li>▪ Photonics based communication technologies</li> <li>▪ Energy storage technologies</li> <li>▪ Energy harvesting technologies</li> <li>▪ Power electronics</li> <li>▪ Microcomputing technologies</li> <li>▪ Computer memory technologies</li> <li>▪ Hardware architectures</li> <li>▪ Alternative computing technologies</li> <li>▪ MEMS and NEMS</li> <li>▪ Other MNE</li> </ul>	
<p>Photonics (PHOT)</p> <p>A multidisciplinary domain dealing with light, encompassing its generation, detection, and management. Among other things, it provides the technological basis for the economic conversion of sunlight to electricity (which is important for the production of renewable energy) and a variety of electronic components and equipment such as photodiodes, LEDs and lasers.</p>	
<p>Taxonomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Display technologies</li> <li>▪ (O)LED based lighting technologies</li> <li>▪ Photonics based communication technologies</li> <li>▪ Photonics based sensor technologies</li> <li>▪ Signal analysis, data processing, and computer technologies</li> <li>▪ PV technologies</li> <li>▪ CSP technologies</li> <li>▪ Laser technologies</li> <li>▪ Other PHOT</li> </ul>	

**Notes:**

- *The classification of Key Enabling Technologies included in this Annex is only for the purposes of the RESTART 2016-2020 “New Strategic Infrastructure Units-Young Scientists” Programme and is possible to be reviewed and updated in the frame of the present Work Programme.*
- *For individual KET categories included in this Annex there is no univocal definition. The categories, particularly those in Groups 1 and 3, reasonably exhibit overlaps. At selecting the appropriate KET field, one should select the field most relevant to the principal activities of each research project.*

## **Annex II: Science and Technology Field Coding<sup>41</sup> of Projects implemented in the Frame of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes**

### **1. Natural sciences**

#### **1.1 Mathematics**

- 1.1.1 Pure mathematics
- 1.1.2 Applied mathematics
- 1.1.3 Statistics and probability (This includes research on statistical methodologies, but excludes research on applied statistics which should be classified under the relevant field of application (e.g. Economics, Sociology, etc.))

#### **1.2 Computer and Information Sciences**

- 1.2.1 Computer sciences, information science and bioinformatics (*hardware development to be 2.2, social aspect to be 5.8*)

#### **1.3 Physical Sciences**

- 1.3.1 Atomic, molecular and chemical physics (physics of atoms and molecules including collision, interaction with radiation; magnetic resonances; Moessbauer effect)
- 1.3.2 Condensed matter physics (including formerly solid state physics, superconductivity)
- 1.3.3 Particles and fields physics
- 1.3.4 Nuclear physics
- 1.3.5 Fluids and plasma physics (including surface physics)
- 1.3.6 Optics (including laser optics and quantum optics)
- 1.3.7 Acoustics
- 1.3.8 Astronomy (including astrophysics, space science)

#### **1.4 Chemical Sciences**

- 1.4.1 Organic chemistry
- 1.4.2 Inorganic and nuclear chemistry
- 1.4.3 Physical chemistry
- 1.4.4 Polymer science
- 1.4.5 Electrochemistry (dry cells, batteries, fuel cells, corrosion metals, electrolysis)
- 1.4.6 Colloid chemistry
- 1.4.7 Analytical chemistry

#### **1.5 Earth and related Environmental Sciences**

- 1.5.1 Geosciences, multidisciplinary
- 1.5.2 Mineralogy
- 1.5.3 Palaeontology
- 1.5.4 Geochemistry and geophysics
- 1.5.5 Physical geography
- 1.5.6 Geology
- 1.5.7 Volcanology
- 1.5.8 Environmental sciences (*social aspects to be 5.7*)
- 1.5.9 Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- 1.5.10 Climatic research
- 1.5.11 Oceanography
- 1.5.12 Hydrology

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<sup>41</sup> OECD (2015), Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development, The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities, OECD Publishing, Paris, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264239012-en>.

Classification at a third level is done according to the "Revised Field of Science and Technology (FOS) Classification in the Frascati Manual (DSTI/EAS/STP/NESTI(2006)19/FINAL)", Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators, 26-Feb-2007, OECD.

1.5.13 Water resources

**1.6 Biological Sciences (*Medical to be 3, and Agricultural to be 4*)**

1.6.1 Cell biology, Microbiology

1.6.2 Virology

1.6.3 Biochemistry and molecular biology

1.6.4 Biochemical research methods

1.6.5 Mycology

1.6.6 Biophysics

1.6.7 Genetics and heredity (*medical genetics to be 3*)

1.6.8 Reproductive biology (*medical aspects to be 3*);

1.6.9 Developmental biology

1.6.10 Plant sciences, botany

1.6.11 Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology, Behavioural sciences biology

1.6.12 Marine biology, freshwater biology, limnology

1.6.13 Ecology

1.6.14 Biodiversity conservation

1.6.15 Biology (theoretical, mathematical, thermal, cryobiology, biological rhythm), Evolutionary biology

1.6.16 Other biological topics

**1.7 Other Natural Sciences**

**2. Engineering and Technology**

**2.1 Civil Engineering**

2.1.1 Civil engineering

2.1.2 Architecture engineering

2.1.3 Construction engineering

2.1.4 Municipal and structural engineering

2.1.5 Transport engineering

**2.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering**

2.2.1 Electrical and electronic engineering

2.2.2 Robotics and automatic control

2.2.3 Automation and control systems

2.2.4 Communication engineering and systems

2.2.5 Telecommunications

2.2.6 Computer hardware and architecture

**2.3 Mechanical Engineering**

2.3.1 Mechanical engineering

2.3.2 Applied mechanics

2.3.3 Thermodynamics

2.3.4 Aerospace engineering

2.3.5 Nuclear related engineering (*nuclear physics to be 1.3*);

2.3.6 Audio engineering, reliability analysis

**2.4 Chemical Engineering**

2.4.1 Chemical engineering (plants, products)

2.4.2 Chemical process engineering

**2.5 Materials Engineering**

2.5.1 Materials engineering

2.5.2 Ceramics

2.5.3 Coating and films

2.5.4 Composites (including laminates, reinforced plastics, cermets, combined natural and synthetic fibre fabrics; filled composites)

2.5.5 Paper and wood



2.5.6 Textiles (including synthetic dyes, colours, fibres)  
(*nanoscale materials to be 2.10; biomaterials to be 2.9*)

## **2.6 Medical Engineering**

2.6.1 Medical engineering

2.6.2 Medical laboratory technology (including laboratory samples analysis; diagnostic technologies)  
(*Biomaterials to be 2.9 [physical characteristics of living material as related to medical implants, devices, sensors]*)

## **2.7 Environmental Engineering**

2.7.1 Environmental and geological engineering, geotechnics

2.7.2 Petroleum engineering (fuel, oils)

2.7.3 Energy and fuels

2.7.4 Remote sensing

2.7.5 Mining and mineral processing

2.7.6 Marine engineering, sea vessels

2.7.7 Ocean engineering

## **2.8 Environmental Biotechnology**

2.8.1 Environmental biotechnology

2.8.2 Bioremediation, diagnostic biotechnologies (DNA chips and biosensing devices) in environmental management

2.8.3 Environmental biotechnology related ethics

## **2.9 Industrial Biotechnology**

2.9.1 Industrial biotechnology

2.9.2 Bioprocessing technologies (industrial processes relying on biological agents to drive the process) biocatalysis, fermentation

2.9.3 Bioproducts (products that are manufactured using biological material as feedstock), biomaterials, bioplastics, biofuels, bioderived bulk and fine chemicals, bio-derived novel materials

## **2.10 Nano-technology**

2.10.1 Nano-materials (production and properties)

2.10.2 Nano-processes (applications on nano-scale)  
(*biomaterials to be 2.9*);

## **2.11 Other Engineering and Technologies**

2.11.1 Food and beverages

2.11.2 Other engineering and technologies

# **3. Medical and Health Sciences**

## **3.1 Basic Medicine**

3.1.1 Anatomy and morphology (*plant science to be 1.6*)

3.1.2 Human genetics

3.1.3 Immunology

3.1.4 Neurosciences (including psychophysiology)

3.1.5 Pharmacology and pharmacy

3.1.6 Medicinal chemistry

3.1.7 Toxicology

3.1.8 Physiology (including cytology)

3.1.9 Pathology

## **3.2 Clinical Medicine**

3.2.1 Andrology

3.2.2 Obstetrics and gynaecology

3.2.3 Paediatrics

3.2.4 Cardiac and Cardiovascular systems

3.2.5 Peripheral vascular disease

- 3.2.6 Hematology
- 3.2.7 Respiratory systems
- 3.2.8 Critical care medicine and Emergency medicine
- 3.2.9 Anaesthesiology
- 3.2.10 Orthopaedics
- 3.2.11 Surgery
- 3.2.12 Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging
- 3.2.13 Transplantation
- 3.2.14 Dentistry, oral surgery and medicine
- 3.2.15 Dermatology and venereal diseases
- 3.2.16 Allergy
- 3.2.17 Rheumatology
- 3.2.18 Endocrinology and metabolism (including diabetes, hormones)
- 3.2.19 Gastroenterology and hepatology
- 3.2.20 Urology and nephrology
- 3.2.21 Oncology
- 3.2.22 Ophthalmology
- 3.2.23 Otorhinolaryngology
- 3.2.24 Psychiatry
- 3.2.25 Clinical neurology
- 3.2.26 Geriatrics and gerontology
- 3.2.27 General and internal medicine
- 3.2.28 Other clinical medicine subjects
- 3.2.29 Integrative and complementary medicine (alternative practice systems)

### **3.3 Health Sciences**

- 3.3.1 Health care sciences and services (including hospital administration, health care financing)
- 3.3.2 Health policy and services
- 3.3.3 Nursing
- 3.3.4 Nutrition, Dietetics
- 3.3.5 Public and environmental health
- 3.3.6 Tropical medicine
- 3.3.7 Parasitology
- 3.3.8 Infectious diseases
- 3.3.9 Epidemiology
- 3.3.10 Occupational health
- 3.3.11 Sport and fitness sciences
- 3.3.12 Social biomedical sciences (includes family planning, sexual health, psycho-oncology, political and social effects of biomedical research)
- 3.3.13 Medical ethics
- 3.3.14 Substance abuse

### **3.4 Medical Biotechnology**

- 3.4.1 Health-related biotechnology
- 3.4.2 Technologies involving the manipulation of cells, tissues, organs or the whole organism (assisted reproduction)
- 3.4.3 Technologies involving identifying the functioning of DNA, proteins and enzymes and how they influence the onset of disease and maintenance of well-being (gene-based diagnostics and therapeutic interventions (pharmacogenomics, gene-based therapeutics)
- 3.4.4 Biomaterials (as related to medical implants, devices, sensors)
- 3.4.5 Medical biotechnology related ethics

### **3.5 Other Medical Sciences**

- 3.5.1 Forensic science
- 3.5.2 Other medical sciences

## **4. Agricultural Sciences**

### **4.1 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

- 4.1.1 Agriculture
- 4.1.2 Forestry
- 4.1.3 Fishery
- 4.1.4 Soil science
- 4.1.5 Horticulture, viticulture
- 4.1.6 Agronomy, plant breeding and plant protection  
(*Agricultural biotechnology to be 4.4*)

### **4.2 Animal and Dairy science**

- 4.2.1 Animal and dairy science (*Animal biotechnology to be 4.4*)
- 4.2.2 Husbandry
- 4.2.3 Pets

### **4.3 Veterinary science**

### **4.4 Agricultural biotechnology**

- 4.4.1 Agricultural biotechnology and food biotechnology
- 4.4.2 GM technology (crops and livestock), livestock cloning, marker assisted selection, diagnostics (DNA chips and biosensing devices for the early/accurate detection of diseases)
- 4.4.3 Biomass feedstock production technologies, biopharming
- 4.4.4 Agricultural biotechnology related ethics

### **4.5 Other agricultural sciences**

## **5. Social Sciences**

### **5.1 Psychology and Cognitive Sciences**

- 5.1.1 Psychology (including human - machine relations)
- 5.1.2 Psychology, special (including therapy for learning, speech, hearing, visual and other physical and mental disabilities)

### **5.2 Economics and Business**

- 5.2.1 Economics, Econometrics
- 5.2.2 Industrial relations
- 5.2.3 Business and Management

### **5.3 Education**

- 5.3.1 Education, general (including training, pedagogy, didactics)
- 5.3.2 Education, special (to gifted persons, those with learning disabilities)

### **5.4 Sociology**

- 5.4.1 Sociology
- 5.4.2 Demography
- 5.4.3 Anthropology, ethnology
- 5.4.4 Social topics (Women and gender studies; Social issues; Family studies; Social work)

### **5.5 Law**

- 5.5.1 Law, criminology, penology

### **5.6 Political science**

- 5.6.1 Political science
- 5.6.2 Public administration
- 5.6.3 Organisation theory

### **5.7 Social and economic geography**

- 5.7.1 Environmental sciences (social aspects)
- 5.7.2 Cultural and economic geography
- 5.7.3 Urban studies (Planning and development)
- 5.7.4 Transport planning and social aspects of transport (*transport engineering to be 2.1*);

**5.8 Media and communications**

- 5.8.1 Journalism
- 5.8.2 Information science (social aspects)
- 5.8.3 Library science
- 5.8.4 Media and socio-cultural communication

**5.9 Other social sciences**

- 5.9.1 Social sciences, interdisciplinary
- 5.9.2 Other social sciences

**6. Humanities**

**6.1 History and Archaeology**

- 6.1.1 History (*history of science and technology to be 6.3, history of specific sciences to be under the respective headings*);
- 6.1.2 Archaeology

**6.2 Languages and Literature**

- 6.2.1 General language studies
- 6.2.2 Specific languages
- 6.2.3 General literature studies
- 6.2.4 Literary theory
- 6.2.5 Specific literatures
- 6.2.6 Linguistics

**6.3 Philosophy, Ethics and Religion**

- 6.3.1 Philosophy
- 6.3.2 History and philosophy of science and technology
- 6.3.3 Ethics (except ethics related to specific subfields)
- 6.3.4 Theology
- 6.3.5 Religious studies

**6.4 Arts (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)**

- 6.4.1 Arts, Art history
- 6.4.2 Architectural design
- 6.4.3 Performing arts studies (Musicology, Theater science, Dramaturgy)
- 6.4.4 Folklore studies
- 6.4.5 Studies on Film, Radio and Television

**6.5 Other humanities**

**Note:**

*The abovementioned listing may be subject to updates.*

**ANNEX III: Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises**

**Article 1**

**Enterprise**

An enterprise is considered to be any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form. This includes, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity.

**Article 2**

**Staff headcount and financial ceilings determining enterprise categories**

1. The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.
2. Within the SME category, a small enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 million.
3. Within the SME category, a microenterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 million.

**Article 3**

**Types of enterprise taken into consideration in calculating staff numbers and financial amounts**

1. An "autonomous enterprise" is any enterprise which is not classified as a partner enterprise within the meaning of paragraph 2 or as a linked enterprise within the meaning of paragraph 3.
2. "Partner enterprises" are all enterprises which are not classified as linked enterprises within the meaning of paragraph 3 and between which there is the following relationship: an enterprise (upstream enterprise) holds, either solely or jointly with one or more linked enterprises within the meaning of paragraph 3, 25 % or more of the capital or voting rights of another enterprise (downstream enterprise).

However, an enterprise may be ranked as autonomous, and thus as not having any partner enterprises, even if this 25 % threshold is reached or exceeded by the following investors, provided that those investors are not linked, within the meaning of paragraph 3, either individually or jointly to the enterprise in question:

- (a) public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or groups of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses ("business angels"), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than EUR 1250000;
- (b) universities or non-profit research centres;
- (c) institutional investors, including regional development funds;
- (d) autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than EUR 10 million and fewer than 5000 inhabitants.

3. "Linked enterprises" are enterprises which have any of the following relationships with each other:

- (a) an enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
- (b) an enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
- (c) an enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence over another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;
- (d) an enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

There is a presumption that no dominant influence exists if the investors listed in the second subparagraph of paragraph 2 are not involving themselves directly or indirectly in the management of the enterprise in question, without prejudice to their rights as stakeholders.

Enterprises having any of the relationships described in the first subparagraph through one or more other enterprises, or any one of the investors mentioned in paragraph 2, are also considered to be linked.

Enterprises which have one or other of such relationships through a natural person or group of natural persons acting jointly are also considered linked enterprises if they engage in their activity or in part of their activity in the same relevant market or in adjacent markets.

An "adjacent market" is considered to be the market for a product or service situated directly upstream or downstream of the relevant market.

4. Except in the cases set out in paragraph 2, second subparagraph, an enterprise cannot be considered an SME if 25 % or more of the capital or voting rights are directly or indirectly controlled, jointly or individually, by one or more public bodies.

5. Enterprises may make a declaration of status as an autonomous enterprise, partner enterprise or linked enterprise, including the data regarding the ceilings set out in Article 2. The declaration may be made even if the capital is spread in such a way that it is not possible to determine exactly by whom it is held, in which case the enterprise may declare in good faith that it can legitimately presume that it is not owned as to 25 % or more by one enterprise or jointly by enterprises linked to one another. Such declarations are made without prejudice to the checks and investigations provided for by national or Community rules.

### Article 4

#### **Data used for the staff headcount and the financial amounts and reference period**

1. The data to apply to the headcount of staff and the financial amounts are those relating to the latest approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. They are taken into account from the date of closure of the accounts. The amount selected for the turnover is calculated excluding value added tax (VAT) and other indirect taxes.

2. Where, at the date of closure of the accounts, an enterprise finds that, on an annual basis, it has exceeded or fallen below the headcount or financial ceilings stated in Article 2, this will not result in the loss or acquisition of the status of medium-sized, small or microenterprise unless those ceilings are exceeded over two consecutive accounting periods.

3. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply is to be derived from a bona fide estimate made in the course of the financial year.

**Article 5**

**Staff headcount**

The headcount corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU), i.e. the number of persons who worked full-time within the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year under consideration. The work of persons who have not worked the full year, the work of those who have worked part-time, regardless of duration, and the work of seasonal workers are counted as fractions of AWU. The staff consists of:

- (a) employees;
- (b) persons working for the enterprise being subordinated to it and deemed to be employees under national law;
- (c) owner-managers;
- (d) partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not included as staff. The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.

**Article 6**

**Establishing the data of an enterprise**

1. In the case of an autonomous enterprise, the data, including the number of staff, are determined exclusively on the basis of the accounts of that enterprise.
2. The data, including the headcount, of an enterprise having partner enterprises or linked enterprises are determined on the basis of the accounts and other data of the enterprise or, where they exist, the consolidated accounts of the enterprise, or the consolidated accounts in which the enterprise is included through consolidation.

To the data referred to in the first subparagraph are added the data of any partner enterprise of the enterprise in question situated immediately upstream or downstream from it. Aggregation is proportional to the percentage interest in the capital or voting rights (whichever is greater). In the case of cross-holdings, the greater percentage applies.

To the data referred to in the first and second subparagraph is added 100 % of the data of any enterprise, which is linked directly or indirectly to the enterprise in question, where the data were not already included through consolidation in the accounts.

3. For the application of paragraph 2, the data of the partner enterprises of the enterprise in question are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To these is added 100 % of the data of enterprises which are linked to these partner enterprises, unless their accounts data are already included through consolidation.

For the application of the same paragraph 2, the data of the enterprises which are linked to the enterprise in question are to be derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To these is added, pro rata, the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included in the consolidated accounts with a percentage at least proportional to the percentage identified under the second subparagraph of paragraph 2.

4. Where in the consolidated accounts no staff data appear for a given enterprise, staff figures are calculated by aggregating proportionally the data from its partner enterprises and by adding the data from the enterprises to which the enterprise in question is linked.



**ANNEX IV: List of applicable Laws and Regulations**

The List of Applicable Laws and Regulations can be found in the Greek version of the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme.