



PROGRAMME

Sponsorships 2023

CALL NAME

SPONSORSHIPS/0323

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the Sponsorships Programme 2023 regarding the following actions:

- I. Organisation of Events to promote research, technological development and innovation to the public,
 - II. Organisation of Events to promote digital skills, STEM, as well as their use in innovation and entrepreneurship, and
 - III. Representation of Cyprus in International Science, Research and Innovation Competitions,
- and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant applications, in the frame of the Call objectives and according to the rules and eligibility conditions.

For the purpose of this Call, events are split in three Categories (A, B for action I and C for action II) as explained below in the text.

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

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Programme	Sponsorships Programme
Call Identifier	SPONSORSHIPS/0323
Publication Date	06/03/2023
Event Organisation (Categories A & B) – 1st Period	
Call Budget	€150.000 <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ €80.000 for Category A (Organisation of Large Scale Events)○ €50.000 for Category B1 (Organisation of Medium Scale Events)○ €20.000 for Category B2 (Organisation of Medium Scale Events for promotion of digital skills)
Maximum Funding per Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ €40.000 for Category A○ €10.000 for Categories B1 and B2
Deadline	31/03/2023, 13.00 local time
Implementation Period	15/04/2023 – 15/11/2023
Event Organisation (Categories A & B) – 2nd Period	

Call Budget	€150.000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ €80.000 for Category A (Organisation of Large Scale Events) ○ €50.000 for Category B1 (Organisation of Medium Scale Events) ○ €20.000 for Category B2 (Organisation of Medium Scale Events for promotion of digital skills)
Maximum Funding per Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ €40.000 for Category A ○ €10.000 for Categories B1 and B2
Deadline	31/10/2023, 13.00 local time
Implementation Period	16/11/2023 – 15/06/2024
Representation of Cyprus in International Competitions (Category C)	
Call Budget	€40.000
Maximum Funding per competition	€500 (lump sum) per team member
Deadline	31/05/2024, 13.00 local time or until budget exhaustion
Περίοδος κάλυψης δραστηριοτήτων	15/04/2023 – 15/06/2024

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

OBJECTIVES

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

This Programme aims to **support entities** for the organisation of high-quality events with significant impact, with a **central theme that aims to promote research, technological and innovation, as well as the promotion of digital skills and STEM to the general public.**

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

- a) encouragement of interaction and engagement with science, research, technological development and innovation;

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

CONDITIONS AND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

I) Organisation of an Event (Categories A and B)

The Call covers two categories of events as follows.

Category A – Large Scale Events	Categories B1 and B2 – Medium Scale Events
<p>Category A funds events with international reach mainly aiming at promoting research, technological development and innovation, enhancing relevant measures undertaken by RIF, promoting Cyprus as an R&I hub abroad. The event may be supported by more than one sponsors and part of the event income may be a result of ticket sales.</p>	<p>Category B partially funds events with major reach mainly aiming at promoting research, technological development and innovation, enhancing relevant measures undertaken by RIF, and/or partially funds events contributing to the development of R&I skills, attracting audience from Cyprus including the local R&I ecosystem. The event may be supported by more than one sponsors and part of the event income may be a result of ticket sales.</p> <p>In addition, Category B2 is exclusively about events that promote digital skills and STEM, as well as their use in innovation and entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>Each event to be funded under Category A must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> address an audience of more than 750 participants, <input type="checkbox"/> have a total budget exceeding 80.000 Euro, <input type="checkbox"/> have an international dimension and/or reach, aiming to attract participants and/or co-organisers from abroad, <input type="checkbox"/> include, among others, important presence of distinguished speakers on R&I matters from Cyprus and abroad, as well as actions encouraging mobilization and networking among members of the Cyprus R&I ecosystem, bringing together local and international entities and enterprises and/or supporting the development of R&I skills. <input type="checkbox"/> include in the event programme, to be submitted in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcoming / keynote speech by the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus and / or a member of the 	<p>Each event to be funded under Categories B1 and B2 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> address an audience of more than 200 participants, <input type="checkbox"/> have a total budget exceeding 30.000 Euro, <input type="checkbox"/> include, among others, important presence of distinguished speakers on R&I matters from Cyprus and abroad or in the case of events contributing to the development of R&I skills, to be part of a wider initiative organised in more than ten countries. <input type="checkbox"/> include actions to mobilize the R&I ecosystem of Cyprus, encouraging networking and bringing all local entities together. <input type="checkbox"/> Include in the event programme, which must be submitted to RIF in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcoming / keynote speech by the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus and / or a member of the RIF’s

<p>RIF's Board of Directors and / or the Director General of the RIF,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Panel discussion on a subject to be decided by the Chief Scientist / the RIF with a moderator and panel members to be defined by the Chief Scientist / the RIF. ➤ A RIF kiosk on the premises where the event will be held, hosting two RIF staff members and 10 startups or other entities funded by the RIF. 	<p>Board of Directors and / or the Director General of the RIF,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Panel discussion on a subject to be decided by the Chief Scientist / the RIF with a moderator and panel members to be defined by the Chief Scientist / the RIF or a RIF Info-Corner and/or session to present and promote the role of the RIF and its activities during the event.
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Beneficiaries: An application for sponsorship can be submitted by entities legally established and active in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus. The submission of applications by natural persons is not permitted.

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

- a) has as its central theme the promotion of research, technological development and innovation, enhancing relevant actions of the RIF,
- b) aims to inform participants and raise public awareness regarding the importance and role of research, technological development and innovation, as well as to present relevant examples or achievements in a practical and comprehensive way,
- c) attracts a large audience, regardless of the target group (age, gender, etc.), and will be implemented in the period for which the corresponding application is submitted (1st Period: 15/04/2023 – 15/11/2023, 2nd Period: 16/11/2023 – 15/06/2024).

It is noted that, especially for Category B2, the scope of the event must be related to the promotion of digital skills and STEM, as well as their use in innovation and entrepreneurship.

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

Specific Limitations

- **The same event or part of an event (including events within events) cannot be funded in the framework of two categories (Category A and B).**
- **It is not allowed to apply for funding for two events so that one is hosted inside the other.**
- **No application is allowed for events hosted between 15/04/2023 – 01/09/2023 that have been approved for funding from RIF's Sponsorships Programme 2022.**
- **Applications for medium scale events related to promotion of digital skills and STEM must fall under Category B2.**

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

- scientific conferences, workshops, info days to present the results of research projects or other activities aimed at a specific audience,

- events that are not open to the public,
- award ceremonies for competitions or other activities (unless they are part of the overall event),
- events that have a similar objective and/or overlap with activities and/or events organised by the RIF, and
- events that receive funding for the same activities from projects funded by the RIF or the EU and/or other sources.

II) Representation of Cyprus in International Competitions (Category C)

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

Beneficiaries: The sponsorship is given to a group of students from public and/or private schools and their coach/team leader, in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, or occupied areas given that they are under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

In the framework of this Category, the term group includes:

- the students taking part in the competition,
- the team leader, who is an adult responsible for the participation of the students in the competition.

For competitions for individuals, the beneficiaries are the first three (3) winners in the final ranking of the National Competition (or Category of the National Competition).

For competitions for groups, the beneficiaries are the first three winning teams of the National Competition (or Category of the National Competition), with a maximum of six (6) members per team.

The application should be submitted by the team leader.

Each application in Category C must:

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

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application Content

The application is through an application form found in RIF's [website](#). The form should be submitted in PDF format at sponsorship@research.org.cy.

Beneficiaries should submit their applications in Greek or English using the relevant application form, which should not exceed four (4) pages for Categories A, B1 and B2 and one (1) page for Category C.

Submission of Applications and Timeframe

Categories A, B1 and B2

Applications should fall under one of the two Period defined in this Call and before the deadline, as mentioned below.

1st Period: Application submission until **31/03/2023**
Implementation Period: **15/04/2023 – 15/11/2023**

2nd Period: Application submission until **31/10/2023**
Implementation Period: **16/11/2023 – 15/06/2024**

Category C

Applications must be submitted until **31/05/2024** or until budget exhaustion.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications in Categories A, B1 and B2 will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee consisting of members of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the RIF, while applications for Category C will be evaluated internally.

The evaluation is based on the following Evaluation Criteria.

Categories A, B1 and B2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compatibility of the event objectives with the objectives defined in this Call.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Impact with regards to promoting Cyprus as a Research and Innovation Hub abroad and/or the promotion of research, technological development and innovation, enhancing RIF's relevant actions and/or the contribution to the development of skills and the successful participation of target audience. For Categories A and B1 , the following requirements need to be met. Category A: Intention to invite at least ten venture capital investors from Cyprus and the international ecosystem, as well as successful serial entrepreneurs. Category B1: Participation of Representatives from at least: two publicly funded research organizations, three privately funded research organizations, as well as more than ten innovative existing enterprises and startups (not applicable in the case of events addressing the development of skills).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completeness and appropriateness of the project plan and media plan, as well as the activities in relation to the action's objectives, timeline and budget.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inclusion of all necessary actions to promote the RIF's role and sponsorship, as defined in this Call.

- Completeness, quality and capacity of the Beneficiary to organize the Event (at the level of the entity as a whole and/or individual team members) and implement the proposed objectives.

The Beneficiary must have previously organized at least two events of a similar scale in the last five years, one of which with a similar central theme.

The core members of the organizing team must have previous experience in implementing events of a similar scale and theme.

Category C

- Compatibility of the objectives of the participation in the International Competition, with the objectives defined in this Call.

- Inclusion of all necessary actions to promote the RIF's role and sponsorship, as defined in this Call (such as press release, promotional material etc.).

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

The RIF has the right to allocate the Call budget, regardless of the amount of requested sponsorship for each application. In addition, the RIF has the right not to use all the available budget for this Call. In case of available budget in a Category (excluding Category B2), RIF has the right to allocate the budget in other Categories.

Each entity will receive information regarding the evaluation outcome for each application, and the full list of sponsored actions (for Categories A, B1 and B2) will be made available on the RIF's website (www.research.org.cy).

OBLIGATIONS OF SPONSORED BENEFICIARIES

Promotion of RIF's role

The obligations of sponsored beneficiaries include (beyond those referred to in the description of each Category above) promotion of the role of RIF as a sponsor / supporter, using the official logo of the RIF and the inclusion of clear and distinct references, in all printed and electronic material promoting the event (programme, publications, posters, banners, advertising, website, social networks etc.) and media material (press releases, participation of event representatives in television and radio shows etc.).

Category A

The RIF must be presented as a **Premium sponsor**, ensuring that its role is adequately promoted within the event's media and communications plan, before, during and after the event. Moreover, the organizer will have to provide ten (10) VIP tickets and ninety (90) regular tickets for RIF.

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

Category B1

The RIF must be presented as **main sponsor** and organisers must ensure that the RIF's role is adequately promoted within the event's media and communications plan, before, during and after the event.

Category B2

In addition to the requirements for Category B1, the documents and promotional material of the event must:

- Acknowledge funding by the EU and the Recovery and Resilience Plan "Cyprus_tomorrow", via the use of the corresponding logos as described in the relevant [guide](#).
- Make use of the logo of the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy.

The relevant logos will be available in RIF's [website](#).

Category C

The RIF must be presented as **sponsor**, while the participation can be supported by other organisations. It must be ensured that the RIF's role is adequately promoted within the event's media and communications plan, before, during and after the event (e.g. mention RIF's funding and use RIF's logos in press release, social media posts, T-shirts printed etc.).

Completion of Activities

I) Organisation of an Event (Categories A and B)

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

II) Representation of Cyprus in an International Competition (Category C)

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

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

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

SPONSORSHIP

The amount of the sponsorship, the payment and the eligible costs have the following rules.

	Categories A & B	Category C
Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Events funded under Category A may receive up to 40.000 Euro in funding. ➤ Events funded under Category B may receive up to 10.000 Euro in funding. 	The sponsorship per person is 500 Euro (lump sum) and each coach/team leader can receive funding once per competition, while each team or student can only receive funding once in the frame of this Call.
Person/Entity receiving the funding	Legal entity organising the event described in the application.	Coach/Team leader accompanying the student team in the competition described in the application.
De Minimis Aid Regulation and Single Entity Declaration	In the case of private sector entities (excluding Research Organisations), the funding will be provided on the basis of the De Minimis Aid Regulation, for which a Declaration on De Minimis Aid and Single Entity Declaration will have to be submitted upon approval of the sponsorship. The amounts of De minimis Aid will be recorded in the Electronic Central System for State Aid and De Minimis Aid.	Not applied, since the funding is provided to the team leader.
Registration of Ultimate Beneficial Owners	Private sector entities must proceed with the registration of updated data of Ultimate Beneficial Owners in the Competent National Registry / Archive and provide a relevant certificate.	Not applied.
Time of Payment	After the completion of the action and the submission of the Impact Report.	After the completion of the action and the submission of the Activity Report.
Eligible Costs	Expenses for carrying out online events and / or events with physical presence and include any cost that is necessary, reasonable and at the best possible price for the successful implementation of the event. Personnel costs are not eligible under this Call.	Not applied.

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

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

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

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