

DRIVING GROWTH 

Shaping the Future of Research & Innovation in Cyprus

Proposed Funding Portfolio 2028 - 2034

Public Consultation

Announcement Date: 29 September 2026
Deadline for Submission: **2 November 2026**



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

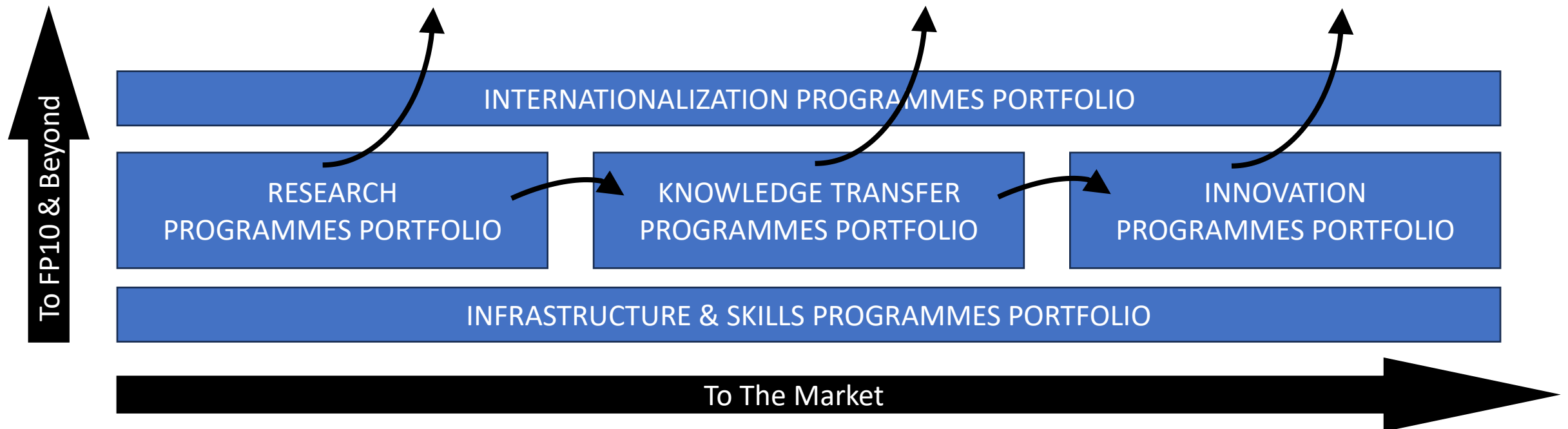
INTRODUCTION

- As we prepare for the new programming period 2028-2034, the Research & Innovation Foundation has developed a proposed new funding portfolio to ensure that public investment continues to effectively support Cyprus' evolving research and innovation ecosystem and maximize its economic and societal impact.
- The aim of the proposed funding portfolio is to create an even more integrated and impact-oriented framework that:
 - Inspires and develops the next generation of talent;
 - Strengthens research excellence and national capabilities
 - Supports the development of state-of-the-art infrastructure;
 - Facilitates knowledge transfer and commercialization;
 - Supports innovative entrepreneurship and business innovation that fuels growth;
 - Mobilizes private investment; and
 - Enhances the international competitiveness of Cyprus.
- As part of this process, we are seeking feedback on the proposed portfolio architecture and its underlying intervention logic which is structured around five pillars (Research, Knowledge Transfer, Innovation, Infrastructure & Skills, Internationalization) presented on the next slide.
- Each pillar comprises a portfolio of programmes designed to address specific challenges and opportunities while creating coherent pathways through which talent, knowledge, technologies and ideas can progress, grow and deliver measurable economic and societal impact.
- Together these five pillars create a coherent support system in which talent can be developed, knowledge can be generated and transferred, innovations can be commercialized and solutions can reach the local and global markets. This journey is enabled by world-class infrastructure and strengthened through access to international partnerships and funding opportunities that enhance prospects for success.

INTERVENTION LOGIC 2028-2034

From idea to global impact

- At its core are the **Research, Knowledge Transfer and Innovation** programme portfolios which create pathways that allow talent, knowledge, technologies and ideas to progress from scientific discovery through commercialization and ultimately deliver market and societal impact.
- The **Infrastructure & Skills** portfolio acts as a horizontal enabler, building the future talent pipeline while providing the equipment and infrastructure required to support activities across all stages of the journey.
- At the same time, the **Internationalization** portfolio serves as a cross-cutting layer that connects beneficiaries to international partners, research infrastructures, consortia and funding opportunities in FP10 and beyond, thereby strengthening excellence, competitiveness and growth.



SCOPE OF THIS CONSULTATION

- The purpose of this consultation is **to gather views on the underlying intervention logic of the proposed portfolio** and to assess whether it adequately addresses the needs of the ecosystem.
- This consultation is **not intended to focus on the detailed design of individual funding programmes**. That will be the scope of subsequent programme specific consultations.
- As such, we invite stakeholders to provide feedback on:
 - Is the proposed portfolio complete and does it address the needs of different ecosystem actors and development stages?
 - Does it address the key challenges and opportunities facing Cyprus' R&I ecosystem?
 - Does it create coherent pathways for talent, ideas, results to progress and deliver impact?
 - Are any important pathways or connections missing?
 - Are there overlaps and/or duplications?
 - Does it adequately address key market failures and systemic barriers?
 - Should any interventions be strengthened, merged, repositioned or removed?
 - What wider reforms (policy, regulatory, institutional) are needed for the proposed portfolio to succeed?
- We encourage respondents to look beyond individual funding instruments and consider the portfolio as a whole. Your feedback will help ensure that the resulting framework reflects the needs of the entire ecosystem and the many actors that contribute to its development.
- The insights gathered through this consultation will be used to further refine the intervention logic and inform the subsequent development of programme specifications that will be put on consultation at a later stage.
- The insights will also help the RIF to formulate its budget requirements for the 2028-2035 period and submit appropriate requests to competent authorities.

We thank you in advance for your valuable contribution and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Research Funding Portfolio 2028-2034

Key Objectives: Develop research talent, strengthen scientific excellence and build capabilities across the entire national research system that enable Cyprus-based researchers and organisations to compete internationally. Create pathways from doctoral training and investigator development to research leadership, international collaboration and success in highly competitive European funding programmes.

DOCTORAL TALENT

The Next Generation

PHD MINT

€30k

Milestone-based Doctorates

PHD IN INDUSTRY

€150k

Industry-driven Doctorates

BRAIN CIRCULATION

Attract Connect Advance

LEADERSHIP RELOCATION

€500k

Attracting Research Leaders

MSCA OPPTY

€150k

Capturing unfunded MSCA excellence

ERC FELLOWSHIP

€50k

Learning from ERC grantees

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Empower & Advance Frontiers

EMERGING

€150k

Supporting early career researchers establish themselves

INDEPENDENT

€200k

Advancing research frontiers
PhD awarded 5-15 years

DISTINGUISHED

€250k

Advancing research frontiers
PhD awarded >15 years

RESEARCH AWARDS

€60k

Rewarding 3 Young & 1 Distinguished Researcher

CAPACITY BUILDING

Institutional Excellence

LEAP

€350k

Spreading Excellence Across Cyprus

SUCCESS IN ERC

World Class Research

VISION ERC

€100k

Preparing future ERC winners

ERC OPPTY

€50k

A second chance for ERC success

LEGEND



Grant



Blended
(Grant + Equity)
Figure shows the grant component



Co-Funded
(Grant + Private Financing)
Figure shows the grant component



Public Procurement



Annual Call



Continuous until
budget runs out



3 Calls



2 Calls



2 Cut-offs
Annually

KT Funding Portfolio 2028-2034

Key Objectives: Transform research knowledge, technologies and intellectual property into solutions that respond to validated market and industry needs. Provide connected pathways from market discovery and IP protection to co-development, licensing, commercialisation and the placement of talent within enterprises.

BRAIN CIRCULATION

People Move Knowledge

ENTERPRISE INNOVATION TALENT

€100k

R&I Talent fueling enterprise growth



MARKET DISCOVERY

Attract Connect Advance

TECH TO MARKET

€30k

Support Market Discovery and Proof of Concept



COMMERCIALIZATION AWARD

€60k

Reward the best research commercialization effort



COLLABORATE

From Research to Application

CO-DEVELOP

€500k

Industry-RO joint R&D



IP PROTECTION

From Knowledge to Property

IP VOUCHER

€10k

Support for IP filing



CAPACITY BUILDING

Develop KT Skills

LOCAL KTOs ENHANCEMENT

€35k

Support to hire a KT Officer



CKTO SERVICES

Support with IP protection



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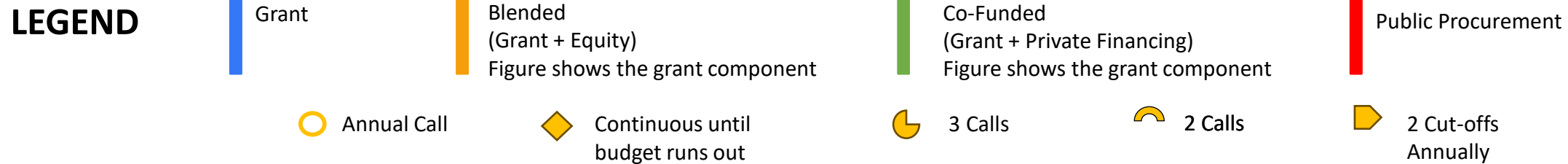
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2 Cut-offs
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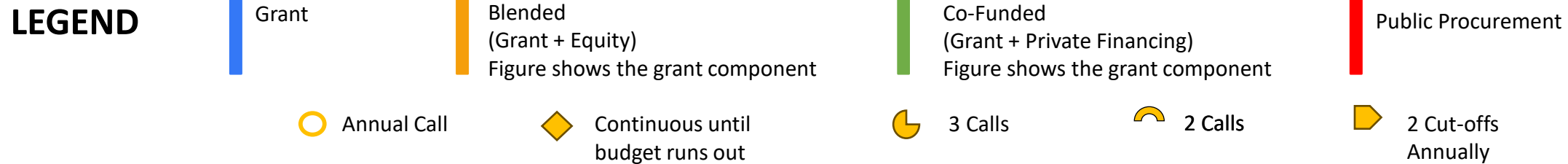
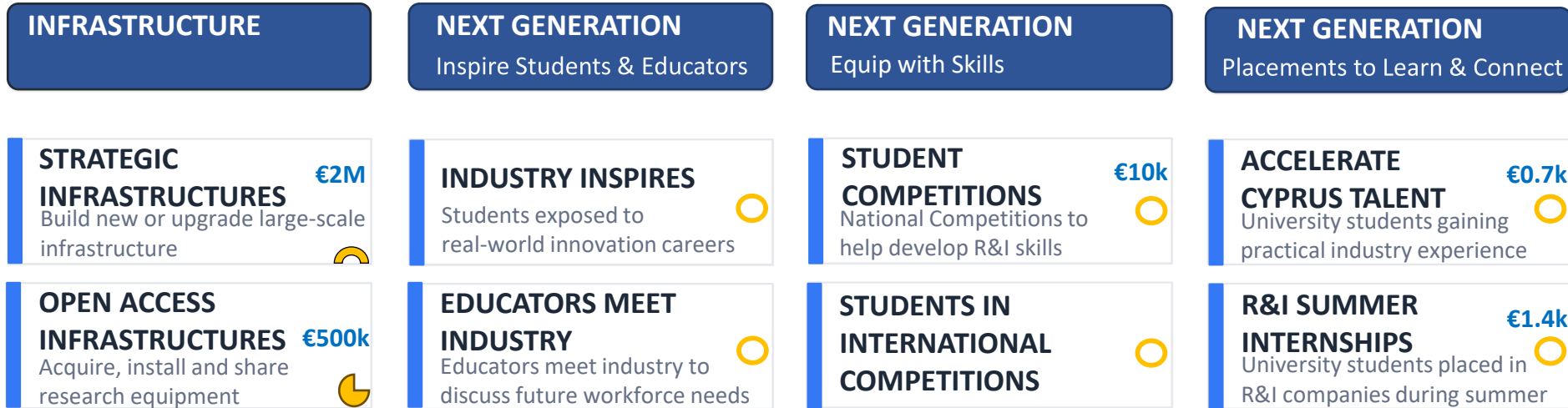
Innovation Funding Portfolio 2028-2034

Key Objectives: Support innovative ideas and businesses across the full journey from opportunity exploration and venture creation to product development, market entry, manufacturing in Cyprus, international expansion and scale-up. Mobilise private capital, corporate collaboration and public-sector demand to accelerate business innovation, sustainable growth and value creation in Cyprus.



Infrastructure & Skills Funding Portfolio 2028-2034

Key Objectives: Build the talent, skills and world-class research infrastructure required to strengthen Cyprus' long-term research and innovation capacity. Connect students, educators, researchers and industry while providing open access to strategic facilities and equipment that enable collaboration, experimentation and innovation.



Internationalization Funding Portfolio 2028-2034

Key Objectives: Connect Cyprus-based organisations with leading international partners, networks, infrastructures and funding opportunities. Build strategic collaborations that strengthen national capabilities, address shared challenges and position Cyprus for meaningful participation and leadership in major European and international initiatives.

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS



Participation in selected European Partnership programmes that align with National Priorities.

BILATERALS



Support joint research and innovation projects between Cyprus-based organizations and counterparts in strategically selected partner countries.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIPS



Support researchers without prior participation in EFP to establish partnerships with international research and innovation organizations to address challenges of national importance with the aim to springboard them to EFP Pillar II challenges.

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