PROGRAMME

«Sponsorships Programme 2021»

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SPONSORSHIPS/0721

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the Sponsorships Programme 2021 regarding the following actions:

I) **Organisation of an Event to promote research, technological development and innovation to the public**, and

II) **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.

The Call will be open until the 29th of July 2022 or until exhaustion of the budget. The RIF may at its discretion extend or revoke the Call.

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Programme	**Sponsorships Programme, Research and Innovation Foundation**
Call Identifier	**SPONSORSHIPS/0721**
Call Budget	**60.000 Euro**
Publication Date	**30 July 2021**
Deadline	**29 July 2022**
Implementation Period	**04/10/2021 – 03/10/2022**

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.

The target of the Program is twofold. On the one hand, the aim is 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 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

Beneficiaries: An application for sponsorship can be submitted by **entities** based in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus. The submission of applications by natural persons is not permitted.

The application should 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

(d) will be implemented in the period from **04.10.2021 to 03.10.2022**.

Each application may include a large number of activities that are part of a single event (eg. festival), or a series of events that will meet the above requirements (a-d).

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.

The Invitation covers two categories of events as follows:

Category A

An event in this category is expected to:

- attract an audience from Cyprus and the local ecosystem of Research and Innovation with **up to 500 participants**, and
- have a total budget that **exceeds 5.000 Euro.**

The events in Category A may receive sponsorship of **up to 30% of the total amount of eligible expenses with a maximum sponsorship of 2.000 Euro.**

Category B

An event in this category is expected to:

- attract an audience of **more than 500 participants** regardless of the target group,
- have a total budget that **exceeds 30.000 Euro**,
- have an international dimension and/or impact, aiming to attract participants and/or co-organisers from abroad,
- include, inter alia, a significant number of distinguished R&I speakers from Cyprus and abroad,
- include actions to engage entities of the R&D ecosystem of Cyprus and promote networking among them, bringing together local and international bodies and companies and/ or supporting the development of R&I-related skills,
- include in the programme of the event, which must be submitted to the RIF in advance:
    - Welcoming / keynote speech by the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus and / or a member of the RIF's Board of Directors and / or the Director General of the RIF,
    - 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.

The events in Category B may receive sponsorship of **up to 30% of the total amount of eligible expenses with a maximum sponsorship of 15.000 Euro.**

Registration / participation fees for participation in the event and profit that may be acquired from the organisation of the event will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposed activity.

II) Representation of Cyprus in International Competitions

Beneficiaries: An application for sponsorship can be submitted by a group of students from public and / or private schools in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus.

The Application 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, and

(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.

Each student and/or group of students can only receive a sponsorship once under this Call.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application Content

I) Organisation of an Event

The application for the Organisation of an Event must include information regarding:

(a) the theme and the objectives pursued as well as the impact of the Event,

(b) the main organiser and team involved, proving the capacity of the entity to successfully organise the planned event,

(c) the target audience, including the expected number of participants,

(d) the implementation plan for the Event, which should include possible collaborations and synergies with other bodies, as well as a plan for dealing with possible problems / risks,

(e) the budget of the event (analysis of costs, description of how the RIF sponsorship will be used, funding received from additional resources, etc.), and

(f) the communication and media plan for the Event (taking into account the conditions outlined in the section "Obligations of Beneficiaries").

II) Representation of Cyprus in an International Competition

The application for the representation of Cyprus in an International Competition must include the following information:

(a) the Competition in which the team will participate (organiser, topic, objectives, venue, date and other related information), the idea / product / project / service with which the group will compete and the process of selecting the group at national level, in order to prove its competitive nature, as well as evidence that the selection process resulted in the choice of a national representative of Cyprus in the international competition,

(b) the expected benefit from the group's participation, and possible collaborations and synergies with other actors, and

(c) the members of the group of students that will participate in the Competition,

(d) the participation costs, with a description as to how the sponsorship will be used and an overview of the funding received from additional resources.

Submission of Applications and Timedrame

Applications should be submitted in a PDF format at sponsorship@research.org.cy, **at least two months before the date of the event / competition.**

Beneficiaries should submit their applications in **English using the relevant application form**, which should not exceed **five (5) pages**.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

An **internal evaluation procedure** will be carried out for the evaluation of submitted applications on a **first come first served basis** (non-competitive procedures apply). The RIF may request clarifications or additional information during the evaluation of an application.

The main evaluation criterion is **the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives** of RIF's Sponsorships Programme. In addition, the expected impact of the proposed actions and the ability for successful implementation will be taken into account.

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.

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

OBLIGATIONS OF SPONSORED BENEFICIARIES

RIF ROLE

The obligations of sponsored beneficiaries are outlined below and include:

(a) 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.). For Category B, the RIF must be promoted as a Premium sponsor.

(b) an invitation for the participation of the RIF's representatives in the Event must be provided, including an invitation to participate in other related activities (eg. press conference) relating to the whole event and presenting important opportunities to underline the role and contribution of the sponsor / supporter, and

(c) allocation of exhibition space / booth and / or time for presentation / promotion of the role, mission and activities of the RIF in the context of the sponsored activity (eg welcoming remarks, keynote speech, presentation, exhibition stand, etc.).

The aforementioned obligations apply in proportion to the size of each sponsorship and the planned publicity and promotion actions.

Completion of Activities

I) Organisation of an Event

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

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

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 sponsorship of events organised by enterprises in the framework of this Call will be provided as De Minimis Aid and cannot exceed the amount defined in the EU's Regulation 1407/2013 for State Aid.

The total sponsorship amount cannot exceed the amount defined within the EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis Aid. The upper limit is secured by abiding by the procedure foreseen by the EU Regulation 1407/2013 for De Minimis Aid, as amended or replaced, before the sponsorship is provided to sponsored beneficiaries by the national body.

Sponsorship

The Sponsorship is paid to the entity/school after the completion of the action and the submission of the Impact / Activity Report. In exceptional cases, the RIF may grant part of the sponsorship in advance.

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.

Eligible Costs

Event Organisation: costs may relate to 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.

Representation of Cyprus in an International Competition: costs may include (a) travel (airfare, train, etc.), (b) accommodation, (c) registration / participation costs, and (d) costs for preparing promotional material.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

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