



## **FUNDING SCHEME**

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

## **PROGRAMME**

**ERC Visiting Research Fellowship**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**ERC FELLOWSHIP/0524**



## INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the «**ERC Visiting Research Fellowship**» Programme within the framework of the «**RESTART 2016-2020**» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period May 2022 – December 2024 and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call is funded by the Republic of Cyprus.

## GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	III. Transformation of RTDI System
Programme	ERC Visiting Research Fellowship
Call Identifier	ERC FELLOWSHIP/0524
Source of Funding	National Funding
Call Budget	200.000 Euro
Maximun Funding Per Project	25.000-50.000 Euro
Publication Date	27 May 2024
Deadline	Open Call until the <b>30/09/2025 17/12/2024</b> , 13:00 or the exhaustion of the available budget

*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 “**ERC Visiting Research Fellowship**” Programme aims to encourage more excellent young and advanced researchers to apply for the European Research Council (ERC) Calls for Proposals of the «Horizon Europe» Programme by giving them the opportunity to travel abroad to an ERC Grantee, with the aim of enhancing his/her research profile and knowledge exchange in an international environment and prepare a proposal (with a Host Organisation in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus) for one of the ERC calls listed below.

## DESCRIPTION

Through the ERC Visiting Research Fellowship the Coordinator will have the opportunity to go abroad for a period of 3-6 months (not necessarily continuous) to an ERC Grantee in order to strengthen his/her research profile and exchange knowledge in an international environment. Proposals should include a specific reference to the ERC Call to which the Coordinator intends



to submit a proposal. The submission of a proposal to the ERC should be done during the duration of the project.

ERC Horizon Europe calls to which a proposal may be submitted:

- Starting Grant
- Consolidator Grant
- Advanced Grant
- Synergy Grant

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

## **SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Research Organisations (A1, A2), Enterprises (B1, B2, B3), Other Organisations (C1, C2)

Participation of Partner Organisations is not allowed.

## **DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

3-12 months

## **BUDGET**

€ 200.000

## **MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT**

€25,000 - €50,000 (depending on the duration of the stay abroad with an ERC Grantee, maximum €8,334 for each month of stay abroad. The Coordinator may travel abroad to an ERC Grantee for a period of 3 to 6 months in the frame of the project implementation).

## **ELIGIBLE COSTS**

Personnel costs, Costs for Travelling Abroad.

The ERC Visiting Research Fellowship grant will be used for the Coordinator's personnel costs (during the period he/she is abroad) and travel expenses (travel and accommodation costs). All expenses will be reimbursed for actual costs.



Funding for Enterprises (B1, B2, B3) and Other Organisation of the private sector (C1) is awarded in the form of De Minimis aid (Commission Regulation, No 2023/2381<sup>1</sup>).

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

## RESTART 2016-2020 WORK PROGRAMME

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organisations and individuals, the eligible activities and costs, as well as the specific information regarding the Programme, as well as the other RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in **RIF's Work Programme for the «RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 12/2024**, which is the main reference document and an important information source for interested parties and can be found on the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS (Innovation Research Information System) Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In the frame of the present Call, the following specific conditions apply:

- Project coordinators may be researchers interested in submitting an ERC proposal and must fulfil the criteria for participation in the ERC Programme.
- The Coordinator will have the opportunity to travel abroad for a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 months (not necessarily consecutive) during the duration of the project to an ERC Grantee in order to strengthen his/her research profile and exchange knowledge in an international environment.
- The Coordinator is required to submit a proposal to the ERC within the duration of the project with a Host Organisation which is legally established and operating in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus. The proposal should be submitted to the ERC Horizon Europe Call which will be selected when submitting the proposal to the "ERC Visiting Research Fellowship". The proof of proposal submission to the ERC Horizon Europe is a deliverable of the project and a prerequisite for the payment of the final funding instalment. If the Coordinator also has a project funded under the VISION ERC/0424 Call, then the proposal submission to the ERC can be made under the project which has the later completion date. The final funding instalment will be withheld until the submission of the relevant Deliverable.
- Individuals who have already secured funding under the OPPTY- ERC/0524 or VISION ERC/0524 Call or are a winner of the "Cyprus Research Awards" will automatically become eligible to secure funding under this Call. The submission of a proposal is subject only to a preliminary check procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> EU de minimis Regulation 2023/2831 entered into force on 01/01/2024



- With the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of the proposals to be submitted to the ERC Calls in the frame of this Call for Proposals, pre-screening of the proposal to be submitted to the EC by the National Contact Points of Cyprus for ERC - Horizon Europe is obligatory in the frame of the present Call and will be a deliverable of the project.
- The Coordinator should have already secured the agreement of the ERC Grantee and the Host Organisation abroad for his/her hosting.
- All private law entities (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) should submit to Competent National Registries updated data regarding their ultimate beneficial owners as per «The prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing Law of 2007 (188(I)/2007)». RIF reserves the right to carry out checks in the competent Registers and to request an official proof for the registration.
- Funded Projects should comply with the «Do No Significant Harm» principle, according to which they must not include or support activities that could cause significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives, as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852, on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment.

## SUBMISSION

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

The Project Coordinator and all local participating Organisations in the Project Consortium, should register in advance on the IRIS Portal.

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

### The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:

1. Part A – General Information & Budget (electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal).
2. Part B – Technical Annex (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format). **Note:** *The template provided for this Call must be submitted **without any alterations**. The Part B template for this Call can be found on the IRIS Portal, under the relevant Call for Proposals (Call Documents) – **Obligatory Submission**.*
3. Annex I – Curricula Vitae (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format – **Obligatory Submission**).
4. Annex II – Call Specific Information (documents to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format): *Consent of the ERC Grantee and Host Institution abroad who will host the researcher* – **Obligatory Submission**.
5. Annex III – Single Undertaking Declaration (Obligatory submission for Cat. B and C1)



## PROJECT SELECTION

### Evaluation Procedure

A Proposal Eligibility Check and a remote scientific evaluation procedure by one (1) independent evaluator, as described in the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme, will be performed by the RIF.

### Evaluation Criteria/Weighting

Scientific Excellence of (a) the proposed research project idea for the ERC Proposal (its innovative character, ambition and feasibility) and (b) the applicant's curriculum vitae.

### Selection

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.

### Funding Payment

For this Call, regardless of the provisions described in Chapter 3.7 Funding Payment of the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme, funding payment will be provided as follows:

- **Pre-financing:** pre-financing corresponds to 50% of the Requested Funding and will be paid upon Contract signature.
- **Final Payment:** the Final Payment, 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 that the Coordinator has submitted a proposal to ERC as Principle Investigator and the Final Progress Report has been approved by the RIF as specified in the section "Specific Conditions" of the current Call.



## INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

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