



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

PHD IN INDUSTRY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PHD IN INDUSTRY/1123





INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the «**PhD in Industry**» Programme within the framework of the «**RESTART 2016-2020**» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period **May 2022 – December 2023** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call is funded by the Republic of Cyprus.

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	II. Sustainable RTDI System
Programme	PHD IN INDUSTRY
Call Identifier	PHD IN INDUSTRY/1123
Call Budget	1.750.000 Euro Category A: 750.000 for the following Smart Specialization Strategy Priority Sectors: 4.2 (Decarbonisation of ships), 5 (Renewable energy), 8.3 (Greening of industry and economic activities) Category B: 1.000.000 for all other Sectors of the Smart Specialization Strategy
Maximun Funding Per Project	150.000 Euro
Publication Date	28 November 2023
Deadline	29 March 2024, 13:00

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 “PhD in Industry” Programme aims to fund research projects, implemented by a researcher employed in an enterprise while he is registered at a PhD Programme in a University in Cyprus. The Programme aims to promote effective collaboration between enterprises and the research/academic community since it is based on the collaboration of researchers, universities and industry, and combines the scientific research and cognitive specialization of researchers with the practical application of knowledge in industry.



DESCRIPTION

Within the framework of the "PhD in Industry" Programme, high-level researchers are expected to be employed in enterprises, who will implement doctoral level research in the enterprise in which they are employed. The enterprise will be the Host Organisation.

The institution of industrial doctorates is a tool widely used in developed research and innovation ecosystems. As part of industrial doctorates, a doctoral student implements his/her doctoral dissertation while employed in an enterprise.

The research carried out in the context of industrial doctorates leads to the production of new knowledge which can usually solve a real problem that concerns the enterprise in which the researcher is employed. In addition to the transfer of know-how between academy and industry achieved by such programmes in this case, the real interconnection of the research community with the industry and the utilization of existing know-how to address specific needs and challenges are expected, thus contributing to the strengthening of the competitiveness of the economy and the improvement of the quality of life in Cyprus.

Through the funded Projects of the "PhD in Industry" Programme, the employment of a PhD Student will be funded, in order to carry out his / her research in the context of his / her doctoral dissertation. The content of the proposed research project should be in line with the content of the PhD Student's dissertation and be aligned with the activities of the enterprise.

The research team of the project should include:

- The Industrial supervisor of the PhD Student (holder of at least a master degree) in the company
- The PhD Supervisor of the PhD Student in the academic institution in which he/she is or will be attending.

Within the framework of the "PhD in Industry" Programme, projects will be funded which are part of the following Scientific Areas:

- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences and Engineering

It is clarified that proposals may also be submitted concerning the application of social sciences humanities in these fields.

MANAGEMENT & EXPLOITATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Ownership of background and foreground Intellectual Property (IP), as well as relevant conditions for the use of IP, shall be settled accordingly through bilateral or other agreements among Consortium Partners.



In addition, the following specific provisions will apply to the present Call regarding the management and exploitation of the generated IP:

- Any intellectual property right (IPR) arising from the project, as well as the related access rights, shall be granted to the different consortium members in such a way that their respective work packages, participations and interests are adequately reflected, or the research organisations or research infrastructures shall receive compensation equivalent to the market price for their share of the intellectual property rights resulting from their activities.
- Any IP produced by the PhD Student while working at the Host Organisation (enterprise) belongs exclusively to the enterprise.
- The participating Research Organisation will receive a licensed (at no cost) from the Host Organisation to use any and all IP for which the Research Organisation is a co-inventor for non-commercial research purposes only. Publication and other public dissemination shall be delayed for a reasonable period of time to allow for an application for IP protection ensuring the priority date.
- The HO will be able to exploit the research results for the development and production of innovative products and services (e.g. through exclusive or non-exclusive licenses at its discretion for the use of the results).
- In the context of the implementation of the project, the HO will be granted a right of first refusal to license any and all the intellectual property rights belonging to the Research Organisation at a fair and industry standard royalty rate.

SERVICES OF THE CENTRAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER OFFICE (KTO)

In order to support the exploitation of research results, the interaction between the Host Organisation and the Central Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) for the preparation of a customised Action Plan for the Provision of Services by the KTO, is obligatory in the frame of the present Call. It is noted that, the adoption of the Action Plan and the acquisition of the Services are not mandatory.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Host Organisation must be an enterprise (Small, Medium or Large (B.1, B.2, B.3)) which employs at least 8 employees (full-time equivalent) and has a turnover of €70,000 as of the last audited financial statements (according to the previous financial year (N-1) or the year preceding it (N-2), where "N" is the year of the date of announcement of the Call).

In addition, the Academic Institution (Cyprus) in which the PhD Student attends must necessarily participate.



Partner Organisations: Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects can include Basic Research and/or Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities.

Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-8 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

36 months

BUDGET

€ 1.750.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€150.000

ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

The employment cost of the Phd Student's should be at least €32,680/year.

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 – 12/2023](#)**, 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:

- With the project start date, the PhD Student must be enrolled in a doctoral programme recognized by the CYQAA of a Cypriot academic institution and be employed by the HO at the beginning of the Project.
- Each PhD Student may participate in only one (1) proposal as a PhD Student and each project proposal may include only one (1) PhD Student who will carry out his/her PhD.
- The PhD Student will be named in the proposal, will be the Project Coordinator and will commit to participate in the research project throughout its implementation (even if he/she completes his/her doctoral studies earlier).
- It is not allowed to replace the PhD Student at any stage.
- The PhD Student is employed for the entire time worked in the project and will not have any other employment unless it is related to the preparation of his doctorate. It is not allowed to work at the same time in the context of another project.
- The PhD Student should be employed on a full-time basis at the HO throughout the duration of the project and should divide his time between the company and the academic institution, as deemed necessary to ensure the transfer of knowledge and the acquisition of experience in both environments.
- It is possible to submit a request for an extension of the duration of the project up to 12 months, where necessary.
- Each organisation may be funded as Host Organisation in only one (1) Project under this Call.
- 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, the PhD Student 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 Research and Innovation Foundation encourages in all its Calls for Proposals:

- ◊ *the participation of women as Project Coordinators, and*
- ◊ *a gender-balanced participation in Projects.*

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 (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format – **Obligatory Submission**)

Smart Specialisation Sectors – The specific document for the selection of the Priority Sector that the project is applied to can be found on the IRIS Portal, under the relevant Call for Proposals (Call Documents). The selection is obligatory and only one focus area (e.g. 1.1.2) should be selected or a single sub-Sector where focus areas are not available (e.g. 2.3).

5. Annex III – Call Specific Information (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format – **Obligatory Submission**)

Financial Statements – Audited Financial Statements of the Host Organisation for the previous financial year (N-1) or the year preceding it (N-2), where N is the year of the Call announcement.

PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure

For the evaluation of Proposals to be submitted under the “PhD in Industry” Programme, a Proposal Preliminary Check and a remote scientific evaluation procedure by two (2) independent evaluators will be followed, as described in the [RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme – Programmes for the period 05/2022 – 03/2023](#).

Prior to the scientific evaluation of each Proposal according to the evaluation criteria, evaluators are requested to assess the Proposal’s compatibility with:

- Compatibility with the Objectives of the Programme, and
- Compatibility with the Objectives of the Call for Proposals, and



- Compatibility of the proposed type(s) of activities, and
- Compatibility with the selected scientific area, and
- Compatibility with the selected Smart Specialization Strategy, and
- Compatibility with the «Do No Significant Harm» principle.

The evaluator will not proceed with the assessment of the evaluation criteria should the Proposal fail the compatibility assessment.

Evaluation Criteria/Weighting

1. Excellence - Weight 40%

- Quality of Project Objectives and the level of their contribution towards the advancement of the scientific area of the proposed project.
- 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 idea.
- Relevance of the proposed research activities (basic research and industrial research) with the Project's, Programme's and specific Call's objectives (activities falling under Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 1-8).

2. Added Value and Benefit - Weight 30%

- Scientific and/or technological and/or social and/or economic impact at national level 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.
- Development of long term employment prospects of the PhD Student within the Cyprus RTDI System.

3. Implementation - Weight 30%

- 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 (qualifications/expertise/ available resources and infrastructures) for the joint qualitative implementation of the Project (at the level of Organisations and/or individuals) and achievement of the proposed objectives.



- Research merits of the PhD Student (e.g. publications, invited lectures, awards and prizes, secured research funding) as well as of the other researchers.
- Relevance of the Project with research interests of participating researchers as well as with research activities of the participating organisations.
- Suitability and adequacy of the proposed coordination and management activities, including identification and handling of potential risks (Contingency Plan).
 - Justification of the Coordinator ability for the project coordination.
 - Completeness and reliability of the Contingency Plan within the framework of the Project implementation.

Selection

The top ranked eligible proposals are selected for funding (separately for Categories A and B) as follows:

1. proposals with Enterprises as Host Organisation that have not previously received funding from RIF or/and the “Horizon Europe” and “Horizon 2020” EU Programmes for the period from 2016 until the deadline (funding programmes with less than €15,000 funding are exempt),
2. proposals with Medium or Large Enterprise as Host Organisation,
3. until the total available budget of each Category is exhausted, and
4. finally, until the total available budget of the Call is exhausted **regardless of Category**.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

RIF Support Service

Email

support@research.org.cy

Telephone

+35722205000

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.