2016-2020 ReSTART SEARCH

RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS – Key Digital Technologies

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EP/KDT-RIA/0223

Co-funded by the European Union

Republic of Cyprus

RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) announces the Call for Proposals for the **«European Partnerships» Programme** within the framework of the **«RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 09/2022** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call for Proposals covers the participation of local organisations in the following Calls of the «Key Digital Technologies» European Partnership:

- **HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA-Topic-1 - Global call according to SRIA 2023 (RIA)**
- **HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA-Focus-Topic-2 - Focus Topic on Hardware abstraction layer for a European Vehicle Operating System (RIA)**

The present Call will be co-financed by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in the frame of the Operational Programme «ΘΑλΕΙΑ» 2021-2027 under Priority 1: «Competitive, Smart and Digital Economy» and the Specific Objective (1i): «Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies».

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	I. SMART GROWTH
Programme	European Partnerships – Key Digital Technologies
Call Identifier	EP/KDT-RIA/0223
Call Budget	3.000.000 Euros The budget covers all six (6) Calls of the KDT Programme for 2023: HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA-Topic-1 HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA-Focus-Topic-2 HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA- Focus-Topic-3 HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA- Focus-Topic-4 HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA-Topic-1 HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA - Focus Topic 2
Maximun Funding Per Project	**500.000** for the Cypriot Consortium
Publication Date	**24 February 2023**
Submission Deadline to the EU	**Project Outline (PO) Phase:** **03 May 2023, 17:00 Brussels Time** **Full Project Proposal (FPP) Phase:**

	19 September 2023, 17:00 Brussels Time
Deadline for Proposal Submission to the RIF	<u>**Project Outline (PO) Phase:**</u> **10 May 2023, 13:00 Local Time** <u>**Full Project Proposal (FPP) Phase:**</u> **25 September 2023, 13:00 Local Time**

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

«European Partnerships» Programme aims to encourage local organisations to participate in transnational consortia for the implementation of research and innovation projects in areas of high importance for Cyprus, which are implemented in the frame of Joint Programmes of European Partnerships under the EU «Horizon Europe» Programme, in which the country participates. Furthermore, the Programme promotes the extroversion of local enterprises and research organisations, and their collaboration and networking with foreign organisations through their participation in the transnational projects.

Participation in the «Key Digital Technologies» European Partnership, aims to encourage local enterprises and other organisations to participate in transnational research and development projects in the Electronic Components and Systems area. Furthermore, the participation in the Partnership aims to promote the networking and collaboration between Cypriot and foreign organisations through the participation in transnational industrial research and development projects.

DESCRIPTION

«European Partnerships» Programme offers the opportunity to local organisations to participate in transnational research and innovation projects in sectors and thematic areas of high importance for Cyprus. Furthermore, the Programme promotes the extroversion of local enterprises and research organisations, and their collaboration and networking with foreign organisations through their participation in projects implemented in the frame of the European Partnerships in which the country participates.

European Partnerships are initiatives where the EU, national authorities and/or the private sector jointly commit to support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities. Partnerships will:

◇ address complex challenges outlined in «Horizon Europe» Programme, such as accelerating the transitions towards a society and economy that are climate neutral and circular,

○ support the achievement of EU priorities, such as the European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age, an economy that works for people, and a stronger Europe in the world,

○ be impact-driven by deploying a broad range of R&I activities, from concept to demonstration and validation, to those supporting market, regulatory and societal uptake, and

○ contribute to a stronger European Research Area (ERA), by avoiding the duplication of efforts, creating critical scales of investment and enhancing synergies between programmes.

The «Key Digital Technologies (KDT)» European Partnership, is a public-private partnership managing a research and innovation programme aiming to reinforce the EU's strategic autonomy in the electronic components and systems sector.

More specifically, through the funded projects KDT Partnership aims to ensure that the EU has the necessary expertise in key enabling technologies to be a competitive leader of the world's digital economy. This includes developing advanced semiconductors and applications that are critical to European society and contribute to the EU digital strategy and the European Green Deal.

Through the Programme, research and innovation projects are implemented by transnational consortia which consist organisations from the participating countries in the Programme. Central submission and evaluation procedures are followed, while participating organisations are funded both by the EU and by their respective national funding organisations.

«General Call According to SRIA 2022 (RIA)», supports the implementation of Industrial Research Projects in the areas described in the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** of the KDT Partnership.

«Focus Topic on Hardware abstraction layer for a European Vehicle Operating System (RIA)», supports the implementation of Industrial Research Projects in the aforementioned thematic area, as described in the **Work Programme 2023** the KDT Partnership.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participation conditions and requirements for the International Consortium, are described in the **Work Programme 2023** of the «Key Digital Technologies» Partnership.

Host Organisation (of the Cypriot Consortium) could be an Enterprise, a Research Organisation or an Other Organisation.

Research Organisations, Enterprises and Other Organisations can participate as Partner Organisations (in the Cypriot Consortium).

Participation of Large Enterprises is only permitted when an SME is also participating in the Cypriot Consortium.

Maximum number of organisations in the Cypriot Consortium should be between one to three (1-3).

Participation of startups is not allowed except for those with marketable products/services, with a record for sales and turnover and audited financial statements for at least two (2) years.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Projects must include Industrial Research activities.

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

12 - 36 Months

BUDGET

€ 3.000.000

The Budget covers all six (6) Calls of the KDT Programme for 2023:

- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA-Topic-1 (IA)
- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA-Focus-Topic-2 (IA)
- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA- Focus-Topic-3 (IA)
- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-1-IA- Focus-Topic-4 (IA)
- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA-Topic-1 (RIA)
- ⬡ HORIZON-KDT-JU-2023-2-RIA - Focus Topic 2 (RIA)

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 500.000 (For the Cypriot Consortium)

Maximum aid intensity is defined according to the type of each organisation as follows:

Small Enterprise	Medium Enterprise	Large Enterprise	«Research Organisations» and «Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations»
45%	40%	40%	65%

The aforementioned maximum aid intensities are allowed provided that, in the frame of the transnational project, the special provisions described in the Chapter 3.2 of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes Work Programme - Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 03/2023 are met.

It is noted that, further to the national funding, beneficiaries are funded directly by the EU, as follows:

Organisation Type	EU Contribution as a % of Eligible Costs
Large Enterprise	25 %
Small or Medium Enterprise	35 %
Universities/Other Organisations (not for profit)	35 %

It is clarified that, the total aid intensity (EU Funding + National Funding) should not exist the maximum aid intensity allowed for each type of organisations, as described in Chapter 3.2 of the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes Work Programme - Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 03/2023.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

It is noted that, all beneficiaries that have not previously participated in the RESTART 2026-2020 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 «Innovation Vouchers» Programme, as well as the other RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in the **RIF's Work Programme for the «RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 03/2023**, 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:

◇ All private organisations (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) are required to register the updated data regarding their ultimate beneficial owners in the Competent National Registry / Archive, as per «The prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing Law of 2007 (188(I)/2007)». The RIF maintains the right to proceed with the appropriate checks in the competent Registries to verify the registration. For this purpose, all private organisations should submit an official proof for the data registration during the Contract Preparation stage. Furthermore, all private organisations (Host Organisation and Partner Organisations) who request funding exceeding 150.000 Euro, during the Contract Preparation stage will be required to also submit the data (Name and Surname, ID / Passport Number and Date of Birth) of their ultimate beneficial owners through the relevant Declaration.

◇ 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.

◇ 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.

SUBMISSION

The Proposal is submitted electronically (on-line application form) by the Transnational Project Coordinator, through the EU Funding and Tenders **Platform** for Horizon Europe Programme. Participants should **register** in advance on the aforementioned Platform.

Furthermore, the Coordinator of the Cypriot Consortium should also submit a Proposal on the RIF's IRIS Portal (**https://iris.research.org.cy**), not later than the deadline specified in the Table «General Call Information» above.

It is noted that, the Project Coordinator and all local participating organizations of the Cypriot Consortium, should register in advance on the IRIS Portal.

Potential applicants are advised to read 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 Proposal submitted to the RIF includes only general information regarding the Transnational Proposal (Title, Acronym etc), the Coordinator of the Cypriot Consortium and the partner organisations of the Transnational Consortium (including the Cypriot organisations) as well as detailed budget for each partner participating in the Cypriot Consortium. The budget of each organization should be the same with the budget to be included in the Proposal submitted to the EU.

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. Annex III – Call Specific Information (documents to be uploaded as Annexes on the IRIS Portal in PDF format):

   (a) Financial Statements: Audited Financial Statements of the Host Organisation for the previous financial year or the year preceding it, for the purposes of preliminary and financial viability check – Obligatory Submission. Organisations undergone a financial viability check by the RIF in the frame of previous contract preparation, with valid financial viability check results, are exempted.

It is noted that, for Proposals with Cypriot partners which will be selected for funding, the Coordinator of the Cypriot Consortium will be asked to submit supplementary information and supporting documentation regarding the role and activities of the Cypriot Consortium, in the IRIS Portal, during the contract preparation phase.

PROJECT SELECTION

Evaluation Procedure

A Proposal Eligibility Check will be performed for every Proposal with Cypriot participants, as described in the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes Work Programme - Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 03/2023.

«Key Digital Technologies» Partnership applies its own central procedures and regulations for submission and evaluation of proposals and selection of projects, which are described in the Work Programme and relevant guidelines of the Programme. All documents are available in the KDT Website[1]. Interested organisations are strongly advised to read thoroughly the aforementioned documents before submitting a Proposal.

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[1] https://www.kdt-ju.europa.eu/calls/kdt-ju-calls-2023

Evaluation Criteria

Central evaluation criteria of the are described in the KDT Work Programme 2023.

Selection

The final funding decision is taken centrally by all the participating countries in the Programme, based amongst other, on the results of the scientific evaluation, the available EU and National budgets, and the priority focus topics.

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.