KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER OFFICE
FRAMEWORK OF OPERATIONS
RESEARCH INNOVATION FOUNDATION

1. Description

Knowledge transfer (KT) activities in the Cypriot Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystem are particularly limited, both in terms of the exploitation of knowledge generated by the academic and research community and in the exploitation of research results produced by businesses. Collaboration between academia and business and the commercial exploitation of research results have been identified as long-standing challenges of the R&D ecosystem. At the same time, studies at European level highlight the country's limited performance in indicators related to intellectual property (IP) protection. The country's weaknesses also include the absence of an appropriate culture, awareness and skills in terms of IP, commercial exploitation of research results and the development of research and innovation.

In order to strengthen knowledge transfer (KT) activities and support the commercial exploitation of research results produced by the research and business community in Cyprus, the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) is creating a central Knowledge Transfer Office (CKTO). The services of the Office will complement and support the R&D funding provided by the RIF, enhancing the impact of national R&D investments on the local economy and society. At the same time, support will be provided by the CKTO after evaluation, also to R&D projects funded by other funding sources, which show significant potential for commercialisation of research results and impact generation.

1.1. Operation of the Central KTO for Research Organizations with a KTO using the Hub-and-Spoke Model

The CKTO will support research organizations with KTOs on the basis of the "Hub-and-Spoke" model, with the existence of the central hub for support and services in the RIF ("Hub") and the research organizations' KTOs operating as independent entities reporting to the management of their organization ("Spokes"). The local Spokes will provide KT services within their organizations with the support of CKTO. The CKTO will facilitate the development of their structures and capacities. The size and structure of spokes will depend on the needs of each research organization.

The beneficiaries of the RIFs programmes employed or working for research organizations with a spoke will designate the organization's KTO as the "Responsible for KT Issues" for each funded project (please view Par. 2.6).

1.2. Definitions

- Intellectual Asset Bundle (hereby referred to as 'Bundle'): An intellectual asset bundle is one or more discrete related research results (i.e., intellectual assets) emerging from a project which have been documented in a disclosure form and may have commercialization potential. Products, Services and Processes developed as part of RDI projects are also considered as

Intellectual Assets for the purposes of the CKTO.

- CKTO Service Beneficiary (hereby referred to as 'Beneficiaries'): Any organization or natural person with any ownership or other legal right(s) in the Intellectual Asset Bundle.
- Coordinator: The Coordinator for purposes of receiving CKTO Services under a Service Delivery Plan is the person who is the agent appointed by all the Beneficiaries to represent them before the CKTO with respect to a specific Intellectual Asset Bundle and who: (a) has all authority necessary to interact with the CKTO and make any decisions required concerning the delivery and acceptance of Services, reports, and other deliverables under any Service Delivery Plan for that Bundle, (b) is responsible for collecting and providing any information or data required by the CKTO for the provision of services associated with that Bundle, and (c) is responsible for disseminating any information or data provided by the CKTO to the Beneficiaries with regards to that Bundle.
- Spoke: A Spoke is a research organisation that has applied to RIF for Spoke status and maintains an in force intellectual property policy, a form for disclosures and a method of collecting and evaluating which ones are of interest to them, and a Knowledge Transfer Office or Officer authorized to represent the organization for purposes of commercializing intellectual asset bundles, including working with the Central Knowledge Transfer Office for purposes of assessing Bundles and moving them to market. Organizations with Spokes must at least designate a person to be responsible for basic KT activities.
- Services: The CKTO services described in Section 2.2

1.3. Operation of the CKTO for Entities without a spoke KTO

All beneficiaries will designate a person within their organization who will be "Responsible for KT Issues" for each submitted Intellectual Asset Bundle (please view Par. 2.6). In the case of a natural person this may be the beneficiary herself/himself.

1.4. Eligible Beneficiaries

The Services of the CKTO are only available to entities and natural persons that are legally established and are active in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

The CKTO Service Beneficiaries must be all the owners of any right(s) in the asset(s) unless an owner opts out in writing and provides written permission for the other Beneficiaries to receive Services and the other Beneficiaries have agreed to it. An owner may only opt out before the initiation of a discrete Service.

In the event one or more foreign entities is an owner of any part of a Bundle submitted for CKTO services and thus ineligible to receive services, the foreign entities must exclusively license or assign all their rights to a Cypriot entity who is an eligible Beneficiary and can receive the services or formally opt out in writing and provide written permission for the other Beneficiaries to receive any of the Services.

2. Activities and Services of the Central KTO

The CKTO provides the following Support and Services:

2.1. Support for Cultivating Culture, Raising Awareness and Building Capacity in KT & Commercialization

Activities will include information, awareness raising, training, capacity building, development of networking mechanisms between the research community and industry, and preparation of supporting material (guides, model agreements for KT activities, etc.).

These activities will be open to all interested actors in the R&I ecosystem. The content of the activities may be targeted, on a case-by-case basis, to specific groups of organizations and individuals in the R&I ecosystem depending on their needs (e.g. universities, enterprises, researchers, students, KT support staff, etc.).

2.2. Provision of KT Services for Specific Intellectual Asset Bundles (the Services)

The central KTO will provide KT Services to organisations (including enterprises), natural persons (i.e. individuals), or Consortia of organisations and/or natural persons which have conducted, or re currently conducting, a Research, Development and/or Innovation (RDI) project resulting in an intellectual asset bundle (Bundle) and which have any ownership or other legal right in the Bundle. Projects may have been funded either by the RIF or by other public or private sources. Any request for services must be approved by all organisations, enterprises, and natural persons with any ownership or other legal rights in any aspect of the Bundle. (The set of owners are collectively called the Beneficiaries).

Services include the Initial Engagement and the services listed in Section 2.2.2.1. A total of up to 31 person-days of services may be provided per intellectual asset bundle. In addition, an IP Voucher may be offered, as described in Section 3 of this document.

2.2.1. Service Packages

The services of the Central KTO will be provided as follows:

Initial Engagement will involve a discussion of the services available from the CKTO.

Initial Services will involve the allocation of up to fifteen (15) person-days of support from the CKTO, which will be allocated in combination with the services of the central KTO, for Services described in Section 2.2.2.1. below. Initial Services will be delivered under a Service Delivery Plan agreed upon by the CKTO and all the Beneficiaries.

Additional Services will involve the allocation of up to fifteen (15) person-days of additional support from the CKTO. The additional support only will be made available to projects with a high potential for commercialisation and impact generation in the sole determination of the CKTO and

will be provided after approval of a recommendation of the CKTO to the RIF Director General or his designee. The services will be provided under an amended Service Delivery Plan, which will be part of the submittal by the CKTO for approval by the RIF Director General or his designee.

2.2.2. Initial Engagement

The provision of KT Services will be initiated by the arrangement of an INITIAL ENGAGEMENT between the experts of the central KTO and all the Beneficiaries. The main objective of the INITIAL ENGAGEMENT, which will include a meeting with all interested Beneficiaries attending, will be to inform and raise awareness of the Beneficiaries on the services of the CKTO, to address any issues they have with respect to those services, to review all disclosure forms related to the Bundle for their potential for commercial exploitation, to review any market research, IP assessment or other data, information, and analysis previously collected or performed with relation to Bundle, and to define the Services which will be provided by the CKTO under a Service Delivery Plan.

The Service Delivery Plan will be prepared by the central KTO experts as part of the deliverables to the Beneficiaries of the Initial Engagement. It will consist of one or more of the KTO services. The total time which may be allocated by the CKTO to all services associated with a specific Bundle under this Service Delivery Plan cannot exceed fifteen (15) person-days. The CKTO has the sole authority to allocate the total person-hours under each Service to be provided as they deem appropriate based on what is most useful for a Bundle's commercialization. The CKTO may also reallocate unused days from one Service to another for as long as they do not exceed the 15 person-days.

The Service Delivery Plan will be delivered to the Beneficiaries within seven (7) days of the initial engagement, assuming timely provision by the Beneficiaries of all required information for the development of the plan.

Acceptance of the Service Delivery Plan and appointment of a Coordinator for the Plan by all the Beneficiaries, which will be a prerequisite for receiving the services of the CKTO, will be optional. In case of non-acceptance of the Service Delivery Plan or failure to appoint a Coordinator by all Beneficiaries, the provision of the services of the CKTO shall be terminated.

The total time charged by the experts of the CKTO for each project under the INITIAL ENGAGEMENT stage will be one (1) person-day per project.

Expert recommendations shall not aim to replace the services of professional representatives, such as lawyers, patent attorneys, or other consultants. Within this context, the CKTO and its experts shall avoid giving advice which would refer to explicit legal solutions. In the same spirit, the service will not serve to draft intellectual property right applications or IP related contracts. The advice of the CKTO and its experts does not substitute for the evaluation, determinations, and decisions of the Beneficiaries who are solely responsible for what happens with their intellectual asset Bundle. Beneficiaries need not accept the advice of the CKTO and its experts, in

which case the CKTO can elect to terminate further services.

The RIF assumes no liability for the advice, recommendations and the content of deliverables provided by the CKTO and its experts to the Beneficiaries.

INITIAL ENGAGEMENT	Initial meeting of the project team with the central KTO, information and awareness raising on the KT issues, identification of research results with potential for exploitation and definition of the project's needs for KT services.
	DELIVERABLES As part of the service, and following the collection of the necessary data and information provided by the Project Team, the following deliverables will be submitted by the experts of the central KTO: ▪ Initial meeting between the project team and the central KTO. ▪ List of Project Results with potential for exploitation. ▪ Completion of an Invention Disclosure Form (if applicable), including review of investigators' notebooks (if required). ▪ Preparation of a Service Delivery Plan (SDP).

2.2.2.1. Services Provided by the CKTO

The following services are provided by the CKTO.

1. IPR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT (IP OWNERSHIP)	Support the Beneficiaries in determining the ownership of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the relevant required agreements between the parties involved.
	Deliverables As part of the service and following the collection of the necessary data and information provided by the Beneficiaries, a report on the ownership of IPR will be prepared by the experts of the central KTO. The report will include, inter alia: ▪ Project Results Ownership Table (including references to the parties to which specific results belong, whether it concerns "joint" ownership, how third parties may gain access to results and percentages of possible revenue distribution to beneficiaries). ▪ Possible ownership claims from parties involved in the development of the results. ▪ Possible additional Agreements that should be signed by the members of the Consortium and/or with third parties on the ownership, access and exploitation of IPRs. ▪ The results of the report will be discussed with the Project Team in a meeting that will be arranged with the experts of the central KTO.
2. IPR FIELD ANALYSIS (PATENT LANDSCAPING)	Analysis of the relevant patent or other IP scope and initial investigation of the size and needs of the market and the competitive position of the technology. The aim of the service is to support IP owners in the definition of valorisation channels, identifying technologies (or parts of technologies) already covered by third-party IPR, as well as supporting the identification of uses and/or areas of application of the assets being evaluated that may have the greatest potential.
	Deliverables As part of the service and following the collection of the necessary data and information provided by the Beneficiaries, a results report will be prepared by the experts of the central KTO, which will be discussed with the Beneficiaries at an in-person or a virtual meeting. The report will seek to provide feedback on, inter alia, the following: ▪ What new innovation opportunities do the results provide? What major problems does technology seek to solve? What is the target market/ customer

	segments and what are the most important benefits, features and functions sought within the market? ▪ Which technologies (or parts of the technologies) are already covered by patents and other third party IPRs? Who owns these IPRs? ▪ What is the maturity of the relevant technology sectors/fields? What are the known application areas? What are the most attractive uses or areas of application with commercial prospects? What opportunities are there for further development? ▪ What are the most appropriate channels for exploiting the results?
3. STRATEGY FOR IPR PROTECTION (IP PROTECTION STRATEGY)	Assessment of patentability (or other IPR), and identification of pre-existing knowledge and advice on developing the IPR protection strategy (including covering possible claims). Advice on the need to obtain access to third-party IPR to have "Freedom to Operate". Within the framework of the service, a recommendation may be submitted by the experts of the Central KTO to the RIF for possible activation of the **"IP Voucher"** to cover part of applying for patents, industrial designs, or utility models which are eligible costs. IP Vouchers are granted under a separate Call open only to those for whom the Central KTO has recommended activation of an "IP Voucher". Selecting, collaborating and covering the costs of patent attorneys who will undertake the preparation, submission and defence of patent applications will be the responsibility of the members of the Consortium. The CKTO and its experts will be able to cooperate with these consultants of the Consortium, if the members of the Consortium so authorize.
	Deliverables As part of the service, and following the collection of the necessary data and information provided by the Beneficiaries, the experts of the CKTO will develop and provide: ▪ Results report, which will be discussed with the Beneficiaries at a in-person or virtual meeting. The report will seek to provide feedback on, inter alia, the following: ▪ Can the results be patented? If not, is there any other form of IPR protection that can be applied, such as copyright or trademark protection? What is the proposed strategy for the protection of IPR (including types of IPR, geographical coverage and coverage of possible claims)? ▪ Is there any real reliance on other technologies? Does the commercialization of technologies depend on other technologies? Is a third party IPR violation detected? ▪ If appropriate in the sole determination of the CKTO, a recommendation will be submitted to the RIF for possible activation of the "IP Voucher", and Consortium members that are proposed to use the "IP Voucher". ▪ The experts will work with the patent or other attorneys of the Beneficiaries to prepare, submit and defend patent applications is so authorized by the Beneficiaries.
4. ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR COMMERCIAL USE (OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT)	An assessment of the commercial outlook of the results, taking into account market considerations (size, development, trends, etc.), the competitive position of the technology, any barriers to market entry, and the assessment of the economic value of the technology and the relevant IPRs.
	Deliverables As part of the service and following the collection of the necessary data and information provided by the Beneficiaries, a results report will be prepared by the experts of the central KTO which will be discussed with the Project Team at a relevant meeting. The report will seek to provide feedback on, inter alia, the following: ▪ The main characteristics of the market (end-user needs, size, growth, trends and push factors, barriers to entry). What is this sector likely to look like in the future? ▪ Are there any technologies that may pose a threat. Existence of any alternatives and substitutes. How does technology differ effectively from competitors? ▪ What is the economic value of the technology and any relevant IPRs?

5. TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION (TECHNOLOGY MARKETING)	Identify potential partners (enterprises for licensing, investors, etc.) using networks at national and international level. Support communication with potential partners and preparation of relevant technology presentation material.
	Deliverables Within the service, and after collecting the necessary data and information to be provided by the Beneficiaries, the CKTO experts will prepare a report containing a list of potential partners, including companies or other organisations that may be interested in technology licensing, potential investors and research partners (research organisations with activities in similar and/or complementary technologies) and information on possible partnerships between partners (if available). The experts will also provide support for the development of promotional material for project results and communication with potential partners (including an announcement on online networking tools, press releases for commercial publications in the relevant market areas, list of publications and test results, newsletter and an introductory e-mail to be sent to potential partners).
6. SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATIONS FOR MG AGREEMENTS (SUPPORT IN NEGOTIATING KT AGREEMENTS — DEAL MAKING)	Support the preparation of KT cooperation agreements (IPR licensing agreements, agreements with investors, sponsored research agreements, etc.) with potential industry partners, investors, etc. Advice and support will also be provided with respect to collection of revenues under the KT agreements. conduct of any milestone reviews include in such agreements, and management of relations with the other parties to the agreement following the conclusion of the KT agreement.
	Deliverables In the context of the service: ▪ the experts of the Central KTO will provide, inter alia, support to the consortium in defining the negotiation strategy and related milestones. They will also support the consortium in identifying synergies that can be achieved in relation to the existing portfolio of the partner concerned (investor/enterprise), as well as in determining the value of the project results for the partner. ▪ Experts may also participate in negotiation meetings for KT Agreements as requested by the Beneficiaries. ▪ advice and support to the Beneficiaries will also be provided to develop a collection mechanism for revenues and auditing revenues from the KT agreements and to manage their relations with the other parties to these agreements following the conclusion of the KT agreements.

2.3. State Aid and Provision of Services by the CKTO

The Services will be offered in the form of a grant (i.e. funded at 100%) to all Beneficiaries.

The value of the services will be calculated on the basis of the cost of services per person-day and the total person-days allocated by the CKTO for each Bundle and will be distributed between the Consortium members in accordance with their share of ownership of the assets subject to a Service.

In the case an entity opts-out the cost of services which would be allocated to that Beneficiary will be divided among the others in accordance with their share of the rights in the Intellectual Asset Bundle being assessed, or as otherwise agreed upon by the remaining Beneficiaries.

Specifically, the provision of the CKTO Services to the Beneficiaries will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the State Aid Regulations presented in Annex A. The maximum possible support is for thirty-one (31) person-days. The cost per person-day is €760 and the total cost for thirty-one (31) person-days is €23,560 which will be allocated among to the members in

accordance with the percentage of ownership in the intellectual asset package. It is noted that at the beginning of the provision of Services of the CKTO, the Beneficiaries will become eligible for the maximum possible support of sixteen (16) person-days. The cost per person-day is €760 and the total cost for the maximum sixteen (16) person-days is €12.160 which will be allocated among the members in accordance with the percentage of ownership in the intellectual asset package. Upon recommendation of the CKTO and the approval by the RIF Director General or his designee, up to an addition fifteen (15) days of services may be provided at the cost per person day of €760 and the total maximum cost of €11.400. The provision of the services, including the activation of Additional Services, will depend on the progress of each project and subject to compliance with the State Aid Regulations.

2.4. Access to the Services of the CKTO

Access to the Support Services of the Central KTO Support Services is through one of three paths:

Path 1: Access through an accelerated (Fast-Track) process: Eligible Beneficiaries are the beneficiaries of projects funded under RIF's specific Calls for Proposals that have been co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 or the Resilience Recovery Mechanism of the European Instrument Next Generation EU (NextGenerationEU) and are listed below:

- "PRE-SEED Programme" (Call Identifier: PRE-SEED/1221)
- "SEED Programme" (Call Identifier: SEED/1221)
- "INNOVATE Programme" (Call Identifier: INNOVATE/1221)
- "CO-DEVELOP Programme" (Call Identifier: CO-DEVELOP-GT/0322)
- "CO-DEVELOP Programme" (Call Identifier: CO-DEVELOP-ICT-HEALTH/0322)

This process involves submission of a simple application to the RIF for access to CKTO services. The process and the relevant documents to apply for services are defined by the RIF in the context of a Fast Track Call for Proposals (Applications).

Path 2: Direct Access (Direct Entry) process:

Eligible Beneficiaries are beneficiaries of projects funded under specific RIF's Program Calls in which the requirement was set for beneficiaries to participate in at least an Initial Engagement with the CKTO. As such, they automatically become Beneficiaries of Central KTO services.

This process involves submission of a simple application to the RIF for access to CKTO services. The process and the relevant documents to apply for services are defined by the RIF in the context of a Call for Proposals (Applications - Direct Access).

Path 3: Open-Call process:

Eligible Beneficiaries are organisations and natural persons implementing any other RDI project, as follows:

- RDI projects funded by RIF's Calls of Proposals announced from 1/7/2019 onwards and not eligible under the Fast-Track or Direct Entry Call of Proposals for CKTO Services.
- RDI projects or activities funded by other public or private resources, including own/internal funding[1].

Applicants will be able to become beneficiaries of CKTO only after evaluation of their application by the RIF. The specific process, application form, and evaluation procedure are defined by the RIF in the relevant Call Proposals (Applications).

2.5. Appointment of one or more persons responsible for interactions, communications, and decisions in the course of CKTO Services

Regardless of which process is used, each Beneficiary must appoint a legal representative to represent them in the initial engagement except in the case of a natural person who can represent themself. This person will be referred as their "KT Officer". As noted above, for organisations with spokes, the "KT Officer" is expected to be a staff member of a spoke KTO of that Beneficiary, however each Beneficiary, whether a spoke or not, may appoint whomever they wish in their sole discretion, so long as their "KT Officer" is duly appointed and has all necessary powers to perform the role of "KT Officer".

The Beneficiaries are required to jointly appoint a single Coordinator to represent them. The Coordinator will serve as their single point of contact and agent for all services provided under a Service Delivery Plan and all communications in connection with the Services of the Service Delivery Plan. The CKTO will terminate services if all Beneficiaries cannot agree on a single Coordinator.

2.6. Budget for the provision of Services and Support by the Central KTO

The available RIF's budget is €1.368.000 for the period 2023-2028 The amount of €121.000 is allocated for Cultural, Awareness & Capacity Building on Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation over this period.

[1] The Services of the CKTO are only available to organisations and natural persons that are legally established and are active in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus. In the event one or more foreign entities is an owner of any part of a Bundle submitted for CKTO services and thus ineligible to receive services, the foreign entities must exclusively license or assign all their rights to a Cypriot entity who is an eligible Beneficiary and receive the services or formally opt out in in writing and provide written permission for the other Beneficiaries to receive Services

3. Funding for Securing Intellectual Protection through Use of the «IP Voucher» Programme

The «IP Voucher» Programme will complement the services of the CKTO by providing funding to cover part of the costs of securing intellectual property rights (IPRs) for one or more intellectual assets in an Intellectual Asset Bundle which is the subject of services provided by the CKTO.

In the framework of the provision of Service IP Protection Strategy (3. Strategy for IP Protection) above where the proposed IP protection strategy includes the registration of patents, industrial designs and/or utility models, the CKTO will submit a recommendation to the RIF to grant an «IP Voucher» for a designated asset or assets.

3.1. «IP Voucher» Programme Objectives

The «IP Voucher» Programme aims to support obtaining intellectual property protection for intellectual assets which have resulted from RDI activities carried out by Cypriot entities, and which have significant potential for commercialization. A specific Call for the Programme «IP Voucher» will be announced.

3.2. Beneficiaries

The Beneficiaries of the «IP Voucher» are restricted to the Beneficiaries of CKTO Service – IP Protection Strategy.

3.3. Eligible activities

The activities listed below may receive funding through the «IP Voucher»:

- Obtaining a patent or industrial design at national level covering Cyprus or another European or third country, through the submission of an application to the competent national authority.
- Obtaining a patent by applying to the European Patent Office (EPO) or an industrial design through the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), or
- Obtaining IP rights in additional countries under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) or the Hague System of International Registration of Industrial Designs administered by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO)
- Obtaining IP rights in any country through Utility Models.

3.4. «IP Voucher» Programme Budget

The total RIF budget for the Programme for the period 2023-2028 is €500.000.

3.5. Maximum Funding per Project

- € 10.000 per project
- The aid intensity will be 50% of the eligible costs.

- The funding will be granted in accordance with the provisions of the State Aid Regulations presented in **Annex A** and the RESTART 2016-2020 Framework Programme.

3.6. Eligible Costs

Costs relating to the acquisition, validation and protection of patents and/or other intellectual asset protection listed in section 3.3 may receive financial support. Costs incurred by Beneficiaries themselves for their internal activities in this context are not eligible for financial support.

3.7. Duration of project implementation

The period in which expenditures eligible for financial support can be made will not exceed 30 months.

4. Duration of Services by the CKTO and «IP Voucher» Program

The start date of the provision of the CKTO Services and the «IP Voucher» Programme, will be made public by the RIF through one or more announcements.

The last date for awarding new projects for the provision of CKTO Services will be 30 June 2026. In particular:

- For the period 2023, all decisions on the provision of Services of the Central KTO which involve State aid, will be taken by 31 December 2023[2].
- For the period 2023-2028, all decisions on the provision of the services of the Central KTO Service which involve State aid, will be taken by 30 June 2026[3].
- For both periods mentioned above, the provision of services for all projects will be completed on 31 December 2028.

Regarding the «IP Voucher «Programme, all funding decisions involving state aid will be taken no later than31 December 2026[4] .

- For the period 2023[5], all funding decisions involving state aid will be taken by 31 December 2023, while the implementation period of the Programme (Project Implementation) will be completed by 31 December 2026.
- For the period 2023-2028, all funding decisions involving state aid will be taken by 31 December 2026[6] while the implementation period of the Programme (Project Implementation) will be completed by 31 December 2029

It is noted that the RIF reserves the right to reduce the aforementioned duration for the provision of Services of the CKTO and/or the «IP Voucher» Programme.

5. Regulatory Framework for the Provision of Services of the CKTO

The RIF's RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme for Research, Technological Development and Innovation regulatory framework will be applied for the provision of the CKTO Support and Services and the funding through the "IP Voucher" Programme. In particular, SECTION III - PROCEDURES AND RULES OF PARTICIPATION of the Work Document of RESTART 2016-2020 will be utilsed to the extent that the provisions therein apply and any exclusions / differentiation should be specified in this Framework of Operations and/or in the specific Call of Proposals.

[2] Approval Number 404 by the Commissioner of State Aid Control. Calls for Proposals announced in May 2023
[3] Approval Number 439 by the Commissioner of State Aid Control
[4] Approval Number 439 by the Commissioner of State Aid Control
[5] Approval Number 404 by the Commissioner of State Aid Control. Call for Proposals announced in June 2023
[6] Approval Number 439 by the Commissioner of State Aid Control

6. Legal Basis

The legal basis for the operation of the Central Knowledge Transfer Office is based on Decision No. 01/2022/07 of the Board of Directors of the Foundation dated 28.02.2022.

ANNEX A: State Aid Rules which apply per type of Organisation for KTO Services & IP Voucher

Organisation Types[7]	I (a). Central Knowledge Transfer Services	I (b). Funding through the Programme «IP Voucher»
A. Research Organisations	The provision of services / funding does not constitute State Aid. *The conditions set in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01 – replaced 2014/C 198/01) regarding the Research Organisations.*	
B. Enterprises		
• **Small Medium Enterprises (SME)[8]** (It includes the Categories: B.1 Small Enterprises, and B.2 Medium Enterprises	**The provision of services will be counted as state aid which will be granted in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 – Innovation Aid for SMEs of the GBER[9] (par. 2.c costs for innovation advisory and support services).** *The total amount that an enterprise can receive as aid for innovation advisory and support services (aid intensity 100%) cannot exceed € 220,000 per undertaking within any three (3) year period.* *(It is noted that this aid is not added on the De Minimis ceiling).*	The provision of funding will be counted as state aid which will be granted in accordance with the provisions of **Article 28 – Innovation Aid for SMEs of the GBER[10] (par 2.a costs for obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets).** *It is noted that the funding through the «IP Voucher» is not added on the ceiling €220.000 of the GBER Article 28 (par. 2.c costs for innovation advisory and support services).*
• **Large Enterprises** (Category B.3)	The provision of services / funding constitutes state aid which will be granted in accordance with the **EU De Minimis Regulation 1407/2013.**	
C. Other Organisations		
C.1 Other Private Sector Organisations	The provision of services / funding constitutes state aid which will be granted pursuant to the applicable terms for the corresponding type of enterprise they belong to (B.1, B.2 or B.3) *In the case of Associations of Enterprises, Chambers of Enterprises or other organised groups having a Large Enterprise as member, those will automatically be classified as a Large Enterprise (B.3).*	
C.2 Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations	The provision of services / funding does not constitute State Aid. *The organisations operating in conditions of free competition are excluded and the provision of services / funding constitutes state aid which will be granted pursuant to the applicable terms for the corresponding type of enterprise they belong to (B.1, B.2 or B.3)*	

*The supported activities are in line with the definitions of the Article 28 of GBER 651/2014 of the European Commission, as stated in paragraphs 94 «innovation advisory services» and 95 « innovation support services». For more information please view the relevant definition in the EC's Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1315)

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Note: The State Aid Regulations do not apply to the activities of the Central KTO related to the Cultivation of Culture, Raising Awareness and Building Capacity in KT and Commercialization.

[7] According to the definitions set in the RIF's RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme for Research, Technological Development and Innovation

[8] SMEs definition according to the Commission's Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

[9] Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1315)

[10] Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1315)