



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

«NURTURING AN RTDI CULTURE»

COMPETITION

«Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher 2023»

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

CULTURE / AWARD-DR / 0523



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ



INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) launches the Call for Nominations for the “Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher” of the Programme “Nurturing an RTDI Culture” within the framework of the “RESTART 2016-2020” Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) and invites all interested parties to submit nominations for the award.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pillar	: III. Transformation of RTDI System
Programme	: Nurturing an RTDI Culture
Competition	: Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher 2022
Call Identifier	: CULTURE/AWARD-DR/0523
Call Budget	: 60,000 Euros Maximum funding for the ERC Visiting Fellowship: €50,000 depending on the duration of the Fellowship (max. €8,333 per month)
Publication Date	: 12 May 2023
Deadline	: 30 June 2023 and time 13.00

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organizations and individuals regarding the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in the **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme**, which is available on the RIF’s [IRIS \(Innovation Research Information System\) Portal](#).

The English version of the Call, 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 Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF), in the frame of its activities for recognizing and rewarding research excellence, has established an annual Research Award for Cyprus since 2007. In 2013, the Award was modified in order to reward young and more experienced researchers separately, in a parallel attempt to support early-career researchers and at the same time promote distinguished scientists in Cyprus.

The “Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher” is granted to excellent scientists with extensive research experience, who conduct research in Cyprus and can demonstrate recent, significant and internationally recognized research results. The Award aims to appraise and promote the work and personality of these distinguished scientists who honor Cyprus through their high-quality research and its impact.

The “Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher” is awarded annually, in rotation, in the following thematic areas¹:

- *Life Sciences.*
- *Physical Sciences & Engineering.*
- *Social Sciences & Humanities.*

In **2023**, the Award will be granted to a researcher active in the field of *Life Sciences*.

ERC Visiting Fellowship

In addition, RIF bearing in mind that funding from the European Research Council (ERC) of the Horizon Europe Programme indicates high quality research and in order to increase the participation and success of Cypriot researchers in ERC Calls, offers the opportunity to the winners of the Cyprus Research Awards to apply for the ERC Visiting Fellowship. Through the ERC Visiting Fellowship, the winner will have the opportunity to travel abroad for a period of between 3-6 months (not necessarily consecutive) 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 following ERC calls: Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant, Advanced Grant.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominees

The nominated researchers must:

- hold a PhD degree,
- have a minimum of 7 years of research experience since the completion of their PhD and up to the announcement date of the Call,
- have been working and living in Cyprus on a permanent basis for the last three (3) years (between the 12th May 2020 and the 12th of May 2023 inclusive).

The nominated researchers may be of any nationality and must have been working in any Research Organization, Enterprise or other public or private entity legally established and active in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

Nominations

The researchers should be nominated **by another person**. There is no restriction on the number of distinguished researchers a person or organization may nominate for the Award.

Individuals who have already been awarded under the "Cyprus Research Award - Distinguished Researcher" Competition can not apply again.²

¹ The thematic areas and sub-areas are in line with those of the [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#).

² <https://www.research.org.cy/koultoura/vraveia-erevvas/#toggle-id-3>

Nominations should be submitted electronically via the following [link](#) by the 30th May 2023.

Submission of Curriculum Vitae

Following the submission of nominations, the RIF will contact each nominee to confirm their interest in participating in the procedure and request the submission of a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) (up to 10 pages) with specific reference to the aspects corresponding to each of the evaluation criteria. The necessary documents are submitted through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>).

Expression of Interest for the ERC Visiting Fellowship

At the same time, the candidate has the opportunity to express interest in participating in the ERC Visiting Fellowship. Interested candidates are invited to contact the Cyprus National Contact Point for the ERC Programme in advance in order to be informed about the specifics of the ERC Calls (purpose, candidate profile, project characteristics, etc.). In case the applicant will apply for the Visiting Research Fellowship, he/she should already have secured the agreement of the ERC Grantee for his/her hosting and submit a brief description of the research project for which he/she will submit a proposal to the ERC.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Preliminary Check

A preliminary check for each nomination is carried out by RIF to ensure that all relevant criteria and special conditions as outlined in the relevant Call are respected. Following completion of the preliminary check, results are communicated to the nominees that have the right to submit a redress within within seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of RIF's letter notifying the HO of the results, and in any case no later than ten (10) calendar days from the sending date of the original email notification.

Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation of the nominations will be carried out by an Expert Evaluation Committee (EEC). The Committee will consist of the Chief Scientist and evaluators / experts selected on the basis of the annual thematic area for the Award.

The evaluation procedure is implemented in two phases.

First Phase – Remote Evaluation:

In the **first phase**, each member of the Committee studies the CVs of the candidates remotely, indicating the most prominent candidates.

Second Phase – Meeting of the Expert Evaluation Committee:

During the **second phase**, the Committee convenes to discuss the candidates. During the meeting, the Committee selects the winner of the Award and documents its rationale for the

decision in an Evaluation Report. The decision of the EEC is final and the submission of a request for redress is not possible.

It is noted that no feedback is sent to the candidates after the evaluation is completed. The winner and the rationale for the decision is announced during a special Ceremony.

In case the level of nominated researchers is considered by the EEC as unsatisfactory, the RIF maintains the right not to grant the Award.

Evaluation Criteria

In selecting the most prominent candidate, the Committee will examine **the quality of their research activity, the candidates' career so far and their leadership abilities**. For the evaluation, the following criteria are applicable:

1. Quality of the Research Activity

- *Quality of the most important research results of the nominee, with emphasis on the last five (5) years, their importance and impact at an international level.*
- *Evidence of the use and exploitation of the results of the research activity for the improvement of the quality of life in Cyprus, the wider European area or globally or/and the possibility of commercial exploitation, introduction in the international market and patent registration.*
- *Publications in notable international scientific journals, books, chapters in books or monographs and presentations in high impact international conferences.*

2. Overall Career

- *Awards and honorary distinctions, member of scientific boards and academies.*
- *Important collaborations with distinguished researchers/entities abroad.*

3. Leadership skills

- *Leadership skills and ability to inspire the next generation of researchers.*

Evaluation Criteria for the ERC Visiting Fellowship

The Evaluation Committee, after selecting the Winner, will evaluate the expression of interest for the ERC Visiting Fellowship (if submitted by the Award winner).

The criterion will be the Scientific Excellence of (a) the proposed research project idea (its innovative character, ambition and feasibility) and (b) the CV of the Award Winner.

Award

The winner of the “Cyprus Research Award – Distinguished Researcher 2022” competition and the rationale of the EEC, will be announced during the Cyprus Research and Innovation Awards ceremony and will receive a work of art, specially made for the Awards.

In addition, in case of approval for the ERC Visiting Fellowship, a grant of up to 50,000 Euros will be awarded to the Host Organization (HO), depending on the duration of the Fellowship

(maximum 8,333 Euros for each month of duration). The ERC Visiting Fellowship grant will be used for the travel expenses of the researcher receiving the award abroad (salary and travel and accommodation expenses) and will be reimbursed for actual costs. In any case, the proof of submission of the proposal to the ERC will be a deliverable of the relevant ERC Visiting Fellowship project.

The signing of the Contracts must be completed up to 3 months from the date of the invitation to the Contract Preparation procedure. Otherwise, RIF reserves the right to terminate the Contract Preparation process.

The HO must be a Research Organisation, Company or other entity legally established and operating in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus.

It is expected that the winner of the Award will participate in events for the promotion of the “Cyprus Research Awards”.

INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

Email : support@research.org.cy

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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.