



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS – SBEP

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EP / SBEP / 0324



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 – 12/2023 and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call for Proposals covers the participation of local organisations in the second Call for Proposals¹ of the “Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP)» European Partnership.

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 – Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP)
Call Identifier	EP/ SBEP /0324
Call Budget	1.300.000 Euros The budget covers all modules of the Call
Maximun Funding Per Project	250.000 for the Cypriot Consortium
Publication Date	13 March 2024
Submission Deadline to the EU	Stage 1: Pre-Proposals 10 April 2024, 15:00 (Brussels Time) Stage 2: Full Proposals 6 November 2024, 15:00 (Brussels Time)
Deadline for Proposal Submission to the RIF	Stage 1: Pre-Proposals 17 April 2024, 13:00 (Local Time) Stage 2: Full Proposals 13 November 2024, 13:00 (Cyprus time)

¹ <https://bluepartnership.eu/>

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 «Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP)» European Partnership, aims to encourage local enterprises and other organisations to participate in transnational research and development projects o tackle urban challenges. 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.

SBEP is realised as a co-funded European partnership of more than 60 partners from 25 countries to invest in R&I. SBEP's vision is to plan, steer and support an equitable and inclusive transition to a regenerative, resilient and sustainable blue economy. SBEP aims to boost the transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy by 2030, while creating and supporting the conditions for a healthy ocean for the people by 2050.

This Call covers the following 4 topics:

- (1) Digital Twins of the Oceans (DTO) at regional sub-sea-basin scale
- (2) Blue economy sectors, development of marine multi-use infrastructure
- (3) Planning and managing sea uses at the regional level
- (4) Blue Bioresources

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Organisations

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participation conditions and requirements for the International Consortium, are described in the [relevant Call for Proposals 2024](#) of the « Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP)» Partnership.

Host Organisation (of the Cypriot Consortium) could be an Enterprise, a Research Organisation or an Other Organisation, provided that an Enterprise will be included in the local consortium.

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).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Projects can include Basic Research and/or Industrial Research and/or experimental development.

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

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

12 - 36 Months

BUDGET

€ 1.300.000

The Budget covers all topics of the Call.

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 250.000 (For the Cypriot Consortium)

ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

The calculation of the Proposal Budget will be based on the simplified cost method “Personnel costs plus 40% on Personnel Costs for covering the rest of the Project costs”.

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 «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 – 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:

- The Host Organisation is required to register the updated data regarding its 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 of the data and it is possible to request for the submission of official proofs. Furthermore, in case where requested funding exceeds 150.000 Euro, by the organisation of the 2nd Stage of the Evaluation, the Host Organisation will be required to also submit the data (Name and Surname, ID / Passport Number and Date of Birth) of its 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.

SUBMISSION

The Proposal is submitted electronically (on-line application form) by the Transnational Project Coordinator, through the [SBEP electronic submission system](#).

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 II – Call Specific Information to be disclosed to the Evaluators – **Mandatory Submission** (document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format and includes the «SMART SPECIALISATION SECTORS (S3Cy 2023-2030)» Table for the selection of the Priority Sector/ of the Smart Specialisation Strategy that the Proposal is applied to). *The relevant document is available in IRIS Portal, under the specific Call (Call Documents). The selection is obligatory and should be limited to only one Priority Sector.*

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 Work Programme.

The «Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP)» 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 [SBEP Website](#). Interested organisations are strongly advised to read thoroughly the aforementioned documents before submitting a Proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

Central evaluation criteria of the are described in the SBEP Work Programme 2024.

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 topics.

As a rule, the first ranked Proposal with Cypriot participation in each list of successful proposals (ranking list) and then the Proposals in order of ranking list until the budget is exhausted will be supported for funding by the RIF.

In cases of a tie of proposals with Cypriot participation, the proposals will be ranked as specified in the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Program.

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.