



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

European Partnerships – Accelerating farming systems transition (AGROECOLOGY)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EP/AGROECOLOGY/0424



**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 May 2022 – December 2023** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call for Proposals covers the participation of local organisations in the 2024 Call for Proposals of the “Accelerating farming systems transition” (AGROECOLOGY)¹ 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 – Accelerating farming systems transition
Call Identifier	EP/AGROECOLOGY/0424
Source of Funding	Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ»
Call Budget	€2.000.000 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theme 1: Enhancing agroecology at the farm level – 1.000.000 euros• Theme 2: Implementing agroecology at the landscape level – 1.000.000 euros
Maximun Funding Per Project	€500.000 for the Cypriot Consortium
Publication Date	11 April 2024
Submission Deadline to AGROECOLOGY	Stage 1: Pre-Proposals 26 April 2024, 14.00 (CEST) Stage 2: Full Proposals 19 September 2024, 14.00 (CEST)
Submission Deadline to RIF	Stage 1: Pre-Proposals 9 May 2024, 13.00 (local time)

¹ <https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1>

	Stage 2: Full Proposals 26 September 2024, 13.00 (local time)
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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 «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, 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 “Accelerating farming systems transitions” (AGROECOLOGY) European Partnership, aims to encourage local enterprises and other organisations to participate in transnational research and development projects to support the agroecological transition of farming systems. 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 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.

AGROECOLOGY is a co-funded European partnership of 70 partners from 26 countries and relies on a common vision to team-up and unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are resilient, productive and prosperous, place-sensitive, as well as climate, environment, ecosystem, biodiversity and people-friendly by 2050

This Call includes two Themes:

- Theme 1: Enhancing agroecology at the farm level
- Theme 2: Implementing agroecology at the landscape level

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.

BENEFICIARIES

Research Organisations, Enterprises, Other Public or Private Sector 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 AGROECOLOGY Partnership.

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

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

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

Participation of Large Enterprises (including Private Universities) is only permitted when an SME is also participating in the Cypriot Consortium, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

It is noted that Organisations from foreign countries are funded by their respective national funding organisations/agencies.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Projects can include Basic Research and/or, 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 EU².

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

24-36 Months

BUDGET

€ 2.000.000 (€1.000.000 per Theme)

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 500.000

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 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,**

² The Technology Readiness Levels adopted by the EU are the following:

TRL 1 - basic principles observed,

TRL 2 - technology concept formulated,

TRL 3 - experimental proof of concept,

TRL 4 - technology validated in lab,

TRL 5 - technology validated in relevant environment,

TRL 6 - technology demonstrated in relevant environment,

TRL 7 - system prototype demonstration in operational environment,

TRL 8 - system complete and qualified,

TRL 9 - actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies)

Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period May 2022 – December 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

- The budget of the proposal to be submitted to the RIF should be the same with the budget of the Cypriot participant(s) included in the transnational proposal budget. If the two budgets differ, during the contract preparation stage the RIF will accept as budget for each cost category, the amount included in the transnational proposal. In any case, requested funding in the Contract should not exceed: (a) the requested funding included in the transnational proposal, and (b) the maximum funding per project as defined in the national Call for Proposals.
- All Private Sector 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 of the data and it is possible to request for the submission of official proofs.
- Furthermore, all Private Sector organisations whose requested funding exceeds 150.000 Euro, will be required during the Contract Preparation stage 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.

SUBMISSION

The submission of a Proposal includes the submission of the required information and documents on both the AGROECOLOGY electronic submission system and the RIF’s IRIS Portal.

More specifically, the Transnational Project Coordinator should submit the Proposal electronically (on-line application form) on the AGROECOLOGY 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 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. Annexes (documents to be uploaded as Annexes on the IRIS Portal in PDF format).
 - Annex II: Smart Specialisation Sectors – **Obligatory Submission**. *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 that the project is applied to must be chosen (e.g. 1.1.2) or one sub-Sector where no Focus Areas are available (e.g. 2.3).*

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. It is noted that in case a Proposal with Cypriot participants is not submitted on IRIS according to the procedure laid down, then it will be deemed ineligible.

The AGROECOLOGY 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 [partnership 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 AGROECOLOGY Call Text 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.

RIF will choose to fund eligible Proposals with Cypriot participation in each Theme according to the list of successful proposals (ranking list) that is prepared by the partnership. In case the available budget is not exhausted, eligible Proposals with Cypriot participation in order of ranking list until the budget is exhausted will be supported for funding by the RIF.

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.