



FUNDING SCHEME

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

PROGRAMME

EIG CONCERT JAPAN

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CONCERT/JAPAN/0425

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 – June 2025** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals (Proposals).

The present Call for Proposals covers the participation of local organisations in the Call for Proposals of the European Interest Group **«EIG CONCERT-Japan»** ¹.

The present Call will be financed by the Republic of Cyprus.

GENERAL CALL INFORMATION

Pillar	I. SMART GROWTH
Programme	European Initiatives – National Development
Call Identifier	CONCERT/JAPAN/0425
Call Budget	200.000 Euros
Maximum Funding Per Project	100.000 for the Cypriot Consortium
Publication Date	29 April 2025
Submission Deadline to the EIG CONCERT-Japan	22 July 2025, 10:00 (CEST)
Deadline for Proposal Submission to the RIF	29 July 2025, 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.

¹ <https://concert-japan.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The “European Initiatives - National Development” Programme aims at enhancing the extroversion of the national Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) system which is one of the horizontal priorities of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (S3Cy).

Cyprus, through the RIF, participates in a series of European Initiatives (Joint Programming Initiatives, ERA-NET COFUND and Programmes under the Article 185 of the EU Treaty), which aim at coordinating the funding of research activity and the establishment of research priorities at a pan-European level, through the design and implementation of Joint Research Programmes.

The “European Initiatives - National Development” Programme is the institutional framework for announcing the Transnational Calls for Proposals, in which the RIF participates and their content being relevant to the S3Cy Priority Sectors.

DESCRIPTION

EIG CONCERT-Japan (Connecting and Coordinating European Research and Technology Development with Japan) aims to promote scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange and innovation between Japan and Europe. It is a continuation of an ERA-NET project funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research and coordinated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). The programme involves collaborative research projects between Japanese and European research teams in specific areas.

This call relates to proposals to be submitted under the thematic area “Oceans: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”.

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 2025](#) of the EIG CONCERT-Japan.

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).

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

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

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects must include experimental development activities. Projects can also include Basic Research and/or Industrial Research.

Projects must fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-8 in compliance with the relevant definitions adopted by the EU².

DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

36 Months

BUDGET

€ 200.000

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER PROJECT

€ 100.000 (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.

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

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)

the **RIF's Work Programme for the «RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation – Programmes for the Period 05/2022 – 06/2025**, 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 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.
- The project proposals that will be selected for funding within the framework of this Call for Proposals are implemented by Transnational Consortia. Each consortium partner is funded by its national/regional Funding Agency according to its national/regional participation rules and procedures.
- The EIG CONCERT-Japan applies its own rules and procedures for Proposal submission, evaluation and selection, specified in the International Call for Proposals.
- 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, 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 Proposal is submitted electronically (on-line application form) by the Transnational Project Coordinator, through the CONCERT-Japan 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).

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 [EIG CONCERT-Japan](#) 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 [CONCERT-Japan](#). 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 CONCERT-Japan Call 2025.

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 National budgets.

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.