

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GREEK-GERMAN CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON BILATERAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COOPERATION, 2016

Abridged version¹

The General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) aim to pursue their innovation dialogue and agreed on a joint Research and Innovation (R&I) Programme.

The deadline for the submission of proposals² is **February 15, 2017**.

1. Objective of the funding measure

To further strengthen the Greek-German Partnership Initiative of 5 March 2010, the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) intend to continue their research and innovation dialogue and to intensify their support for bilateral research projects of mutual interest. This funding measure is a follow-up to the first Greek-German research programme of 2013 and is aimed at enhancing the overall competitiveness and innovation potential of both countries.

The funding measure offers higher education institutions, non-university research institutions and commercial companies (and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular) the opportunity to engage in joint research projects with partners from Greece and Germany and to take advantage of the existing cooperation potential in both countries. Funding is intended to vitalize Greek-German partnerships in innovative areas of research which will help to intensify relations between the partners.

A particular aim of the bilateral projects is the enhancement of cooperation between Greek and German partners in science and industry. It is key to the long-term effectiveness of the projects that they take into account aspects of knowledge and technology transfer in connection with the utilization of achieved research outcome. As a result, cooperation between the research institutions themselves and with industrial partners will be strengthened. Particular attention will be paid to the involvement of young researchers on both sides. Joint research projects should strive for compatibility with European programmes (for example the thematic priorities of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020) to enable interlinkage of the bilateral funding measure with measures at European level.

2. Priority research areas

The funding measure is focused on collaborative projects of applied research, development and innovation in research areas which are important for both countries:

A. Health:

- Translational epidemiological studies in human zoonotic infectious diseases.

B. Agrofood-Bioeconomy:

- A sustainable primary production and processing

C. Energy:

- Energy-saving technologies, for example for the building, industrial or agricultural sector;
- Technologies for the production and storage of energy from renewable energy systems (RES), for example solar power plants, small hydroelectric systems, wave energy, geothermal energy, small wind farms, hybrid and biofuels, fuel cells and hydrogen production, integrated systems for the use of renewable energy in stand-alone solutions;
- Smart grids, transmission and distribution systems, for example synergies with the ICT/energy sectors, optimization of the transmission and distribution of electricity;
- Reducing the effects of using conventional fuels, for example thermoelectric systems, extraction of hydrocarbons, “green” technologies;
- Scientific and technological (S&T) support for public energy policy: Further development of the value-added chain and strengthening of the interfaces between the energy and transport/tourism/urban development/materials sectors; socio-economic aspects, civic participation and acceptance issues.

D. Culture-Tourism-Culture/Innovation and Social Challenges:

¹ This English-language abridged version is for information purposes only; it is provided for prospective German and Greek applicants for funding under this measure. This version is not legally binding. The respective national versions of the call for proposals are legally binding.

² The German version of the call refers to *Projektskizzen*.

- Digital documentation of cultural heritage;
 - Development of cultural and institutional innovations in industry, government, administration and civil society.
- E. Materials:
- Nanotechnology (focused on nano-carbons and applications in membranes and porous materials) for industrial applications.
- F. Key Enabling Technologies:
- Optical Technologies: industry-led projects (2+2 partners) in the field of optical metrology applied in cross-sectoral interventions³.

3. Funding recipients / Prerequisites for funding

The funding measure is aimed at higher education institutions, non-university research institutions and commercial companies (and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular).

As an orientation, funding will depend on the expected scientific gain and high potential for realization and success in line with the objectives of the funding measure. Applicants must be able to furnish evidence of previous work in the field and must demonstrate considerable willingness to cooperate. The project proposals must as a rule demonstrate an interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approach and help to enhance research collaboration between Greece and Germany.

As an orientation, funding will be provided for a collaboration consisting of two partners per country (research institution/higher education institution and commercial company). Mere alliances of current national projects are not eligible for funding. Specific prerequisites for funding exist depending on orientation of the topic area⁴. Cooperation between the partners in a collaborative project must be laid down in a written cooperation agreement.

4. Scope of funding

This funding measure covers expenditure/costs⁵ for

- project-related personnel to execute scientific tasks specifically related to the project;
- project-related resources and equipment;
- travel and stays, and
- workshops/events.

Funding is provided by the respective national funding providers (GSRT in Greece, BMBF in Germany) in accordance with applicable national laws and guidelines.

The GSRT and the BMBF agreed to allocate up to € million each in funding available under this funding measure. Every research collaboration can generally receive a maximum funding amount of up to 350,000 € from both the Greek and German sides. The duration of a project is a maximum of three years.

Financial and staff participation in the joint project should be virtually equal on both the Greek side and German side.

5. Application procedure

The applications must contain a joint project description in English in addition to the formal and financial information required by the home country.

Information on the national formal and financial guidelines

for Greek applicants is available here: www.ependyseis.gr

for German applicants is available here: <https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/>

Joint applications must be submitted in electronic form (and in written form on the German side) by **February 15, 2017**.

Additional written supporting documents may be requested if needed by either side according to national requirements.

Prior to submission of an application prospective applicants should contact the appropriate central national agencies for detailed information about respective national requirements pertaining to applications and funding. The joint project description should not exceed ten (10) pages (font: Arial 11, single-spaced) or according to respective national procedures and templates.

The description must include the following aspects of the project:

1. details concerning the project coordinator and the Greek and German project partners
2. meaningful summary (objectives, research priorities, utilization of results)

³ Please note: Funding for this topic on the German side is provided for with a total funding rate of 50% (plus potential additional payments ["bonuses"])

⁴ The binding stipulations concerning the composition of project consortia are reflected in the respective national calls for proposals.

⁵ The binding conditions are reflected in the respective national calls for proposals.

3. scientific scope of the project (planned activities to implement the objectives of the funding measure, information on the state of the art, description of the scientific objective of the project)
4. international cooperation in the framework of the project (value added of the international cooperation, contributions made by the Greek and German partners, experience of the participating partners in international cooperation, previous collaborations)
5. sustainability of the measure/utilization plan (expected scientific results, consolidation of cooperation with the partners, involvement of young researchers, planned measures for transfer of results to industry, planned cooperation in follow-up projects (compatibility))
6. detailed description of work plan, distribution of work packages, methodology and cooperation with third parties
7. estimated expenditure/costs.

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a project proposal.

6. Evaluation of proposals

Both countries each carry out an evaluation of the joint proposals received according to the following criteria:

1. fulfilment of the formal prerequisites for funding
2. relevance to the objectives of the funding measure
3. scientific criteria (scientific quality and originality of the project, expertise of the applicant and the participating Greek and German partners, scientific benefit, prospects for the distribution and commercialization of the expected results, quality of the cooperation between the partners from research/science and industry)
4. criteria of international cooperation (preparation/development of new international partnerships, applicant's experience in international cooperation, consolidation of bilateral/international partnerships, quality of the cooperation and value added for the partner institutions, support of young researchers)
5. plausibility and viability of the project (funding; work steps; time frame).

Following a final national evaluation, a joint Greek-German selection committee will identify suitable proposals on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation⁶.

7. Contact persons:

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⁶ On the German side the authors of a proposal which has received a positive evaluation will be invited, in a second step, to submit a formal application for funding. More detailed information is provided in the German guidelines.