



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAMME

"DIVERSITY, INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION"

EEA Financial
Mechanism 2009-2014

CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER ACTION

"RESEARCH WITHIN PRIORITY SECTORS" PROPOSERS GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INFORMATION ON THE ACTION	3
2. GOALS OF THE ACTION	4
3. ACADEMIC RESEARCH PRIORITY SECTORS	4
4. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS	5
5. AID INTENSITY BY TYPE OF BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION	7
6. COST CATEGORIES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCING	9
7. PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	12
8. APPROVAL – FINANCING	14
9. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS	14
10. COMMUNICATION	15
ANNEX 1	15
LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – AID REGIME	15

EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014

“RESEARCH WITHIN PRIORITY SECTORS”

PROGRAMME

“DIVERSITY, INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION”

1. INFORMATION ON THE ACTION

The present Programme, entitled “Diversity, inequalities and social inclusion” addresses the Programme area “Research within Priority Sectors” of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. The objective of the programme is to enhance research based knowledge development in Greece. Specifically, the Programme will support Research and Development (R&D) projects that address:

- Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion
- Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance
- Promotion of diversity in culture and arts within European Cultural Heritage

The programme will also fund mobility of researchers and PHD students, as a part of the selected projects.

The key motivation for the proposed Programme is to address from a research / scientific perspective the rising social and income inequalities in Greece as a result of the ongoing economic crisis.

For this call eligible applicants may be research organisations (as defined in Section 4 below), public utilities, public services, prefectural and local authorities and non-governmental Organisations(NGOs) with research activities. Projects may be implemented in partnership with one or more project partners (as defined in Section 4 below).

The total budget of the present Call under the Action stands at: € 3,226,661 Euro. The minimum grant per project is € 100,000, while the maximum grant is 200,000 €. The duration of projects is 12 months minimum and the final date of eligibility of expenditures under the projects is 30.04.2016 .

Within the total budget, a mobility scheme of at least € 70,501 will be available for mobility of researchers and PhD students and to facilitate their return to their home institutions. The mobility grants will be provided only to individual researchers of R&D actors/entities who participate as partners or project promoters within approved R&D projects. For the this activity the minimum amount per grant applicants can apply for will be € 4,000, while the maximum amount will be € 10,000. The minimum duration for employing the grant is 1 month, while the maximum duration is 3 months (deviations may exceptionally be accepted on a case-by-case basis following sound justification). Applicants intending to apply for the mobility scheme within their project application are required to complete the relevant section in the electronic application platform.

Additionally, € 70,501 will be made available under the call to support networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between Project Promoters and entities in the Donor States¹ (“funds for bilateral relations”). Such activities are primarily aimed at providing the Greek research community and the research and development institutions with the opportunity to establish international best practice standards. Funds for bilateral relations will be allocated on the basis of an application made at the same time as applications submitted under the main call for project proposals. Applications shall include a justification by the potential Project Promoter on the necessity and benefit of involving Donor States R&D actors in order to realise the objectives and expected results of a given project as well as a description of the activities foreseen. A relevant electronic application form will be available in the project application electronic platform. The maximum grant amount is € 7,000 and the grant rate will be 100%. The principles and rules concerning the eligibility of expenditures under the funds for bilateral relations are described below in section 6.2.

The financial resources related to the above mentioned costs shall be accounted for and reported separately.

The allocation made available under this call for proposals is co-financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and by national resources. The financing contributed by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 is intended to stimulate economic, social and territorial cohesion through the reduction of regional imbalances and the support of structural improvements and adjustments in the regional economies.

The Implementing Body of the Action (referred to also as the “Programme Operator” or “GSRT”) is the General Secretariat for Research & Technology, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

2. GOALS OF THE ACTION

The Programme’s goal is to enhance research based knowledge development in Greece. It is expected to boost R&D activities in Greece through the implementation of targeted R&D projects addressing the priority sectors of human and social development and protection of cultural heritage as well other supporting activities (i.e. mobility grants).

Relevance to national priorities and legislation

The Programme is fully aligned with national R&D priorities. In 2014, the Ministry for Education, Lifelong Learning, defined three strategic pillars for all Research and Development activities of Greece as follows:

- Strategic Pillar 1: “Development based on knowledge and specialisation ”Linking R&D to the economy’s production base for promoting innovation”.
- Strategic Pillar 2: Social challenges.
- Strategic Pillar 3: “Excellence in research. Strengthening Research & Technology in two directions: scientific human resources and research infrastructures”.

The activities eligible for financing under the Action are R&D actions expressing the core project scope and seeking to bring about a significant development beyond the current state of affairs in the corresponding know-how (basic and industrial research).

3. ACADEMIC RESEARCH PRIORITY SECTORS

The present Action focuses on three (3) academic research priority sectors (subject areas / fields etc.), under which proposals are to be funded.

The following is an indicative distribution of the public expenditure by R&T priority sector:

¹ Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

The programme will fund research projects in the following areas of research:

1. National inequalities and social exclusion (approximately 40% of the total allocation),
2. Gender equality and work-life balance (approximately 30% of the total allocation),
3. Cultural diversity (approximately 30% of the total allocation).

The detailed research scopes by sector are as follows:

- Approximately 40% of the funds available for projects will be directed to research projects addressing national inequalities and social exclusion.

Indicative research topics include:

- Exploration of methods and processes for a more effective social protection system.
 - Analysis of the roots of unemployment, its impact (in particular on youth) and proposed solutions.
 - Methods for empowering families and supportive structures, with a focus on alleviation of poverty and in particular child poverty.
 - Analysis of the deterioration of working conditions and proposals for the reduction of job insecurity and risk of poverty faced by employed persons.
 - Understanding which social groups are the most and least affected by the economic crisis (i.e. why the rich are not affected as much etc.)
 - Local and regional approaches for addressing national inequalities and social exclusion (case studies)
 - Development of relevant policy recommendations on the basis of evidence-based research
- Approximately 30% of the funds available for projects will be directed to research projects addressing issues of gender equality and work-life balance. Indicative research topics include:
 - Analysis of work-life balance issues depending on different categories of employed women (i.e. by sector of activity and type of employment including female employers and freelancers, sector of activity)
 - Analysis of work-life balance issues depending on different types of families women are a part of (i.e. nuclear families, single parent families, co-habiting partners etc.). Moreover, the impact of work-life balance on gender relationships and roles.
 - Exploration of work-life balance issues in the case of sensitive sub-groups among working female population such as immigrants, people with disability etc.
 - Work-life balance and its relation to the level of access to social services and structures (i.e. childcare services, health services etc.). In this context, the role of immigrant women who provide childcare and house-keeping services to many families in Greece thus 'enabling' women to work and achieve balance with family life, could be further explored.
 - Analysis of rising job insecurity and unemployment among women, with a focus on female youth unemployment.
 - Development of relevant policy recommendations on the basis of evidence-based research
- Approximately 30% of the funds available for projects will be directed to research projects addressing the promotion of cultural diversity. Indicative research topics include:
 - Analysing the rise of xenophobia and development of stereotypes on the 'other'.
 - Understanding the value and contribution of immigrant communities to socio-economic development and cultural advancement
 - Multiple identities and integration of second generation immigrants in Greek society (the role of education, language, required changes in the legal framework etc.)
 - Development of relevant policy recommendations on the basis of evidence-based research

4. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Submission of proposals in response to the present Call is open to research organisations, public utilities, public services, prefectural and local authorities and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with research activities.

For the purposes of the present Action, “**research organisation**” means an organisation, such as a University or research institute, irrespective of its legal status (under public or private law body) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to conduct basic research, industrial research or experimental development and to disseminate their results by way of teaching, publication or technology transfer. All profits must be reinvested in these activities, in the dissemination of their results or in teaching. Enterprises which influence such an organisation, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, shall enjoy no preferential access to the research capacities of such an organisation or to the research results generated by it. Research organisations include, by way of example, Universities, Technical Education Institutes, research centres, research institutes.

Projects may be implemented in partnership (herein also referred to as “Consortium”) with one or more project partners (or “Consortium partners”). Eligible project partners include any inter-governmental organisation(IGO), Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), and legal entity under public or private law, which has been established and operates for the benefit of public interest actively involved in and effectively contributing to the implementation of a project. The consortium partners can be registered either in Greece or in the donor states.

If a project is implemented in partnership with one or more partners with the Project Promoter, the Project Promoter shall sign a partnership agreement with the project partners. The arrangements between the parties as set out in the partnership agreement shall be in line with the approved project proposal.

The partnership agreement shall contain, as a minimum, the following:

- (a) provisions for clear distribution of the roles and responsibilities within the corporate relationship;
- (b) provisions on the project’s budget allocation between members and any other financial arrangements that may affect the project’s implementation, such as the expenditure rate that project partners may finance from the project budget;
- (c) provisions on the method of calculating indirect costs and their maximum amount;
- (d) payment methods;
- (e) provisions and conditions for carrying out audits on the project partners;
- (f)) a detailed budget, with itemised costs and unit prices;
- (g) provisions and terms on dispute resolution.

Partnership agreements shall contain provisions and terms regarding ownership of research results and intellectual property rights. These provisions shall mutatis mutandis be in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006.

The partnership agreement shall be in English if one of the parties is a foreigner.

The eligibility of expenditures incurred by a project partner is subject to the same limitations as would apply if the expenditures were incurred by the Project Promoter.

The creation and implementation of the relationship between the Project Promoter and the project partners shall comply with the applicable national and European Union law on public procurement as well as Article 7.16 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

The signed partnership agreement shall be submitted to the Program Operator after the publication of the selection results and before the issuing of the decision to approve the project’s co-financing under the program. The Program Operator will verify compliance of the partnership agreement with the requirements set out above.

Under the present Action, the following may be considered as distinct organisations (i.e. having legal personality):

-
- Different Departments of a School in the same Tertiary Education Institution (Universities, Technical Education Institutes)
 - Different Institutes of the same Research Centre
 - Different Divisions of the same Department of a School in the same Tertiary Education Institution.
 - Different Laboratories of the same Department of a Tertiary Education Institution or of an Institute, if these are instituted by law.

Laboratories instituted by law means laboratories whose establishment and operation has been introduced by a Presidential Decree or by a decision of the competent bodies of the legal person to which they belong, research centres, institutes, Tertiary Education Institutions, technological, public and NGOs, for the implementation of R&T projects in focused academic research sectors.

The proposals to be submitted by the above organisations should be signed by the legal representative of each organisation – i.e. by the competent Vice-Rector for Universities and by the respective competent representatives for Technological Education Institutes, Research Centres etc.

With regard to the information above, the following are pointed out that

- The proposed total budget of projects should lie between the lower and upper budget limits specified in the Action. Proposals whose budget is higher or lower than the upper or lower limit, respectively, shall be rejected during the preliminary examination.
- Applicants must have completed at least one financial year and must have published the corresponding balance sheet (or other equivalent financial information).

N.B.: No restriction applies as to the number of proposals in which one organisation may participate at the proposal submission stage. During the evaluation stage, however, the capability of such organisations to carry out the project in terms of their infrastructure and of the other obligations they have undertaken, will be examined. In this context, organisations wishing to participate in more than one proposals are advised to check whether or not they are able to meet the requirements for implementation of all such projects for which proposals are to be submitted – i.e. whether they have available the necessary means and infrastructure, also considering their role and level of participation in each project. Interested organisations, especially those participating as Coordinators or with high participation shares, should also take into account their participations (obligations) in other approved RTD projects under programmes/actions, especially those financed under NSRF 2007-13. In all cases, no more than two proposals per organisation (participating either as Coordinator or as project partner) may be financed. In the event that more than two (2) projects with the same organisation are approved, such organisation shall be invited to select which projects will ultimately be implemented.

- In every project, one of the Consortium participants shall be appointed as the **Coordinating Organisation (Coordinator)**. The Coordinator is the representative of the organisations that establish the partnership (Consortium) in order to implement the project and assumes responsibility for the overall management of the project. In parallel, every beneficiary (Consortium partner) shall remain fully liable to the Coordinator for the individual part of the project which it undertakes to implement.
- If a project is approved for financing, the assignment to third parties by any beneficiary of the work assigned, as well of the claim for financing resulting from such assignment, is prohibited.

5. AID INTENSITY BY TYPE OF BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

The intensity of the aid is determined separately for each aid beneficiary. **The share of the aid intensity in the total project is calculated as the weighted average of the intensity of the beneficiaries.**

The intensity of the aid by type of organisation and type of collaboration between organisations is presented below for research organisations.

The maximum intensity of the aid to research organisations, (mainly Universities, Technical Education Institutes, research centres, research institutes), public utilities, public services, prefectural and local authorities, for every type of aided activity, may amount up to 100% of eligible costs if it follows from the submitted proposal that:

- the aided activity falls under the research organisation's usual primary activities which do not constitute an economic activity
- the results of the aided project can be widely disseminated
- there should be **open access to articles/publications resulting from the project into an institutional or subject-based repository, as soon as possible, preferably immediately and in any case no later than six months after the date of publication for Energy, Environment, Health, Information and Communication Technologies, Research Infrastructures and twelve months for Social Sciences and Humanities**
- **research data that result from the project will become publicly accessible, usable and re-usable through digital e-infrastructures.**

The maximum intensity of the aid to Non Governmental Organisations and Intergovernmental Organisations may amount up to 90% of eligible costs.

Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided by the promoter. In case of projects implemented by NGOs, in-kind contribution in the form of voluntary work may constitute up to 50% of the co-financing required by the programme for the project. The appropriate unit prices for voluntary work shall be specified, which shall be in accordance with salary normally paid for such work in Greece, including the required social security contributions.

The last date of eligibility of expenses is 30 April 2016. Costs incurred after 30 April 2016 will not be eligible.

Any intellectual property rights resulting from the activity of the research organisation shall be under its exclusive ownership, even if the utilisation of the outcomes of the project does not result in direct commercial products and benefits for the participant. The same shall apply if the revenue from economic activities of the research organisation, such as income from granting exploitation licences, from the creation of spin-offs and other forms of utilisation of the knowledge produced, are reinvested in the research organisation's primary activities.

For more details on what consists an economic and non-economic activity and on its direct or indirect financing, interested parties are referred to Item 3 of the Community Framework concerning State aid for Research, Development and Innovation (Commission Notice 2006/C 323/01), and the relevant opinion of the State Aid Unit of the Centre of International and European

Economic Law (CIEEL), issued in response to a query submitted by the GSRT (Ref. MoKE 525/5-3-2009).

6. COST CATEGORIES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCING

Eligible direct expenditures in a project

1. The eligible direct expenditures for a project are those expenditures which are identified by the Project Promoter and/or the project partner in accordance with their accounting principles and usual internal rules, as specific expenditures directly linked to the implementation of the project and which can therefore be booked to it directly. To be eligible, expenditures must be incurred between the first and final date of eligibility.

In particular, the following direct expenditures are eligible:

- (a) **the cost of staff assigned to the project**, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that this corresponds to the Project Promoter's and project partner's usual policy on remuneration. The corresponding salary costs of staff of national administrations, public law entities and local government are eligible if they are not covered by the regular budget and to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken, duplication of funding being in any event excluded;
- (b) **travel and subsistence allowances for staff taking part in the project**, provided that they are in line with the Project Promoter's or project partner's approved scales on travel costs and do not exceed the relevant national scales;
- (c) **cost of new or second hand equipment**, provided that it is depreciated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to the Project Promoter/partner for items of the same kind. Only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project shall be eligible.
- (d) **costs for consumables** and supplies provided they are directly assigned to the project;
- (e) **costs entailed by other contracts** awarded by the Project Promoter/partner for the purposes of carrying out the project, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on public procurement in accordance with article 44 of the Joint Ministerial Decision on the Management and Control System for the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009-2014; the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014; and
- (f) **costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract and the terms acceptance agreement** for each project (e.g. publicity, specific evaluation of the action, audits, translations), including the costs of any financial services (especially the cost of letters of guarantee).

2. The following categories of expenditure are eligible for **funds for bilateral relations**:

- (a) **fees and travel costs for participation in conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops;**
- (b) **travel costs for study trips;**
- (c) **travel and salary costs for visits by experts;**
- (d) **costs related to feasibility studies and preparation of financial and economic analysis;**
- (e) **costs of conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops;**
- (f) **purchase of data necessary for the preparation of the application;** and
- (g) **external consultancy fees.**

Indirect costs in projects (overheads)

Indirect costs are all eligible costs that cannot be identified by the Project Promoter and/or the project partner as being directly attributed to the project but which can be identified and justified by its accounting system as being incurred in direct relationship with the eligible direct costs attributed to the project (overheads). Indirect costs shall represent a fair apportionment of the overall overheads of the Project Promoter or the project partner and may not include any eligible direct costs. Indirect costs may be admitted:

a) based on actual indirect costs for those Project Promoters and project partners that have an analytical accounting system to identify their indirect costs as indicated above, or

b) may represent up to 7% of the total direct eligible costs of the Project excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the Project Promoter.

Example:

• Staff Costs	€ A
• Travel & Subsistence Allowance	€ B
• Equipment	€ C
• Consumables, Supplies	€ D
• Subcontracting	€ E
• Costs deriving directly from EEA requirements	€ F
• TOTAL DIRECT ELIGIBLE COSTS(sum of €A TO €F)	= € G
• Indirect Costs @ 7% Max.:	
• € G - € E - Any contribution from third parties	= € H
• € H x 7% - € I being the indirect costs to be claimed under Project	

The method of calculation of indirect costs of a project partner shall be stipulated in the partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and the project partners.

General principles on the eligibility of expenditures

1. Eligible expenditures of projects are those actually incurred by the Project Promoter, or the project partners, which meet the following criteria:

- (a) they are incurred during the approved eligibility period of the project as specified in the decision to award the project grant and the terms acceptance agreement;
- (b) they are connected with the subject of the project contract and they are indicated in the overall budget of the project;

- (c) they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project;
- (d) they must be used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective(s) of the project and its expected outcome(s), in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- (e) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the Project Promoter or the partner and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country or the country where the foreign partner is established and according to generally accepted accounting principles; and
- (f) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

2. Expenditures are considered to have been incurred when they correspond to paid invoices or accounting items of equal value and related to the outcomes that have been delivered. Exceptionally, costs in respect of which an invoice has been issued in the final month of eligibility are also deemed to be incurred within the eligibility period if the costs are paid within 30 days of the final date for eligibility. Overheads and depreciation of equipment are considered to have been incurred when they are recorded on the accounts of the Project Promoter/partner.

3. Payments towards Project Promoters will take the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final balance payment in the form of reimbursement of incurred expenditures. Project Promoters will be granted an advance payment of up to 50% of total eligible project costs. The advance payment and interim advance instalments cannot exceed 80% of total project costs combined. The Programme Operator will retain 20% of the project's total eligible costs, which will be disbursed after approval of the final balance report.

The Project Promoters will need to report on their incurred expenditures monthly. The interim payments will be made on quarterly basis after checking the eligibility of expenses, the financial reports and their compliance with the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the national legislation.

4. The Project Promoter's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the expenditures and revenue declared in respect of the project with the corresponding accounting records.

5. In the case of projects in which partners participate in their implementation under the full responsibility of the Project Promoter real expenditures actually paid by the partners and the Project Promoter shall be eligible, provided that the following conditions shall be complied with:

- (a) documentary evidence on the agreement between the Project Promoter and other entities/partners must be available regarding their contribution to the implementation of the co-financed project;
- (b) Project Promoter shall have overall financial responsibility for the project;
- (c) expenditures paid by the partners shall be accompanied by paid invoices or, when this is not feasible, by accounting documents of equal probative value;
- (d) expenditures paid by the partners shall be reported to the Project Promoter within set deadlines and using the relevant forms .
- (e) the Project Promoter shall be responsible for verifying the existence and eligibility of expenditures reported, as well as the completion of co-financed products and services, before declaring them to the Program Operator or the certifying authority and;

(f) the audit trail shall extend to the level of participating entities/partners.

7. PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The procedure for the evaluation of proposals consists of the preliminary examination (as to the eligibility of proposals in relation to the terms and conditions of the Call), which is followed by the main evaluation and ranking of the proposals. Applicants whose applications are rejected at this stage will be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision. The main evaluation consists of three (3) stages:

- (a) The proposals which are considered admissible shall be examined “by subject area / sector”, by two independent experts appointed by GSRT with respect to the selection criteria and scored separately by each expert selected from a database maintained by GSRT. The selection of experts will be made on the basis of scientific or professional expertise. Experts will sign a confidentiality and impartiality statement confirming that they have no connection to the project proposals under evaluation. Experts will evaluate the proposals remotely or at premises designated by GSRT on the basis of pre-defined criteria in the call and written guidelines provided by the Programme Operator. Following this, they will upload their evaluations on an online platform. GSRT will rank the proposals on the basis of average scores awarded by the two experts. In the case of major discrepancies among the scores of the two evaluators (when the difference between the scores given by two experts is more than 30% of the higher score), GSRT will appoint a third expert to score the proposal independently. Following this, the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of proposals. Applicants will be informed on their proposal evaluation scores by electronic means by the Evaluation Coordinator.
- (b) The selection of projects for financing shall be made by a Selection Committee composed of at least five members of whom two members at least shall not belong to the Program Operator’s staff. The Selection Committee will review the ranked list of projects drawn by the independent experts and may modify the ranking in justified cases. The Selection Committee will thereafter submit the list of recommended projects to the GSRT.
- (c) The GSRT will verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the Programme. Following such verification, GSRT will, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make the final selection of projects to be supported. In justified cases, the GSRT may modify the decision of the Selection Committee, in which case it will inform the applicants affected.

Men and women must have equal rights and opportunities in all facets of society and economy. The applicant must take account of the impacts of the prospective project in terms of gender mainstreaming as well. The applicant must observe and enforce the following considerations during the planning and the implementation:

- the ratios of women and men in the project target group, the characteristics of the target groups;
- in terms of the access to resources, the ratios of men and women in these target groups or among stakeholders;
- the exercising, observance and enforcement of rights, norms and values;
- taking gender-related requirements into account, management of different needs;
- connection of the project to national and other policies and priorities associated with gender mainstreaming,

- separation of activities promoting gender mainstreaming within the budget and work plan of the project,
- ensuring equality of opportunities within the management organisation.

In detail, the evaluation criteria and their respective marks are as follows:

A. Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management, including quality and implementation capacity of the applicants and contribution to capacity and competence building (minimum acceptable mark: 10 points; maximum mark: 20 points)

No.	Description of Group A sub-criteria	Points
1	Suitability of the organisational structure and management procedures of the project.	0-3
2	Adequacy of the infrastructure available by the participants (including the subcontractor, if any) for implementing the project (personnel, technical infrastructure and materials, equipment and administrative support); and	0-8
3	Experience of the participating organisations and individuals in the project's subject field, scientific and technological excellence as established from their previous and current activities, their participation in corresponding Greek and international projects (with emphasis on R&TD programmes), their scientific publications, patents, the relevance of their activities to the scope of the project and the role they undertake for its implementation.	0-5
4	Experience of the Coordinator and of the Scientific Supervisor in the implementation and coordination of research projects and interdisciplinary research, and previous experience of the Coordinator and of the Scientific Supervisor in RTD management and implementation and in the utilisation of project results.	0-4
Total:		20

B. Scientific and/or technical excellence (minimum acceptable mark: 18 points; maximum mark: 35 points)

No.	Description of Group B sub-criteria	Points
1	Quality and clarity of the goals of the proposed project. Quality and suitability of the proposed scientific methodology and of the workplan for its application; completeness and effectiveness of the implementation procedure (obligations of the individual organisations and implementation schedule).	0-10
2	Originality and innovative nature of the proposal in relation to the current scientific and technological state-of-the-art, and progress beyond it to be achieved under the project.	0-8
3	Adequate documentation and correctness of the allocation of work to the partners in the Work Packages.	0-4
4	Clarity of the deliverables by stage and of the final deliverable (the aim being to create a product or production process or service or knowledge which can be directly or indirectly utilised).	0-7
5	Suitability of the required budget in relation to the physical scope foreseen to be implemented, in terms of its allocation to the participating organization as well as to the various cost categories.	0-6
Total:		35

**C. Relevance in relation to the objectives and prioritised areas of the research programme;
The potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results.
(minimum acceptable mark: 27 points; maximum mark: 45 points)**

No.	Description of Group C sub-criteria	Points
1	Contribution of the project to the goals and objectives / expected results of the Call,	0-8
2	- Viability of the project results (product, originality, innovation), as assessed by the submitted products and services utilisation plan, and - Quality and suitability of the utilisation and/or dissemination plan (information, promotion, dissemination and awareness-raising activities) for the project's R&T results	0-11
3	Participation of women at least for 1/3 and other target groups to the preparation and development of the project.	0-9
4	Suitability of the approach used to manage (and/or obtain protection for) the intellectual property rights that exist prior to the project ("background" rights) and/or result from its implementation ("foreground" rights).	0-8
5	- Creation and/or retaining of new jobs; and - Contribution of the project to excellence and to the competitiveness of the economy at the national and/or European level and project benefits of a more general nature for society and economy.	0-9
Total:		45

8. APPROVAL – FINANCING

After the evaluation procedure by the subject area / sector-specific teams of experts is concluded, the proposals which have obtained at least the minimum acceptable mark, in terms of the points obtained in the individual groups of criteria as well as of their total mark, which shall be no less than 55/100 points, will be ranked in a table in decreasing order of their mark by subject area / sector. Where in a specific subject area /sector two proposals have the same mark, priority will be given to the proposal with the highest mark for the Group C criteria and, in the event that the marks of the two proposals are again the same, the proposal with the highest mark in the Group B shall prevail.

At the next step proposals shall be ranked on the basis of their total mark (starting with the proposal which received the highest mark), until the Public Expenditure available is exhausted.

After the completion of the procedure for the evaluation of proposals, before the final selection is done by the GSRT, there is a special check concerning the obligation to comply with EU and national rules on competition and state aid. Then a Project Technical Fiche will be drawn up for each project in collaboration between the project partners and the Project Coordinator, and shall be followed by the issuance of the decision approving the inclusion of the project for financing under the Action.

9. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- 1) Proposals shall be submitted electronically via the Internet and shall be drawn up in the English language using a relevant electronic form. Submission of the proposals shall take place under the responsibility of the Coordinators, who must take care to ensure their timely and valid submission and the completeness of the documents accompanying them. . Proposals (applications) will receive a unique identification code.

The electronic submission platform and registration with the electronic submission platform has been uploaded and is available at: <https://apps.gov.gr/minedu/international/research-priorities-2014/>

Instructions on how to submit proposals electronically are attached to the present Call. For technical assistance, interested parties may address their queries to the following electronic address:
platform_support@gsrt.gr

Submitted proposals will be given a reference (protocol) number, which is unique and shall be used subsequently by the GSRT for the announcement of the results.

Proposals may be submitted from 21.10.2014 and until 19.12.2014 , 15.00 pm EET (closing date).

Detailed information on the Action are supplied from the GSRT website <http://www.gsrt.gr/EOX/central.aspx?sid=123I486I1251I323I506855>, together with all relevant accompanying documents.

10. COMMUNICATION

Interested parties may address their queries to:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY
International S&T Cooperation Directorate
E-mail: eeafm@gsrt.gr

The responses will be given through email within 3 working days.

A Notice of the present Call for Proposals shall be published in the Greek newspapers, on the website of the GSRT (www.gsrt.gr) and of the NSRF (www.espa.gr), in newspapers abroad and on the websites of international research organisations.

ANNEX 1

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – AID REGIME

The basic legal and regulatory framework that will govern the implementation of the Action is the following:

A.

1. Protocol 38b to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014;
2. the Regulation on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation") issued by the Donor States in accordance with Article 8(8) of Protocol 38b;
3. the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU"), entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State;

4. Joint Ministerial Decision 12104/EΥΔ&ΠΛΑΠ 275/ FEK 781 B/28.03.2014, on the Management and Control System for the Implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism (FM) 2009-2014

B.

5. Joint Ministerial Decision 31405 on the “Establishment of a Special Service entitled “Cohesion Fund Management and Monitoring Service” (OJ B’1270/2011) as amended and in force.

6. Law 3614/2007 “Management, Control and Implementation of Development Interventions for programming period 2007-2013” (OJ 267/A/3.12.2007) as amended and in force each time.

8. PD 4/2002 (OJ 3/ /14-01-2002) “Implementing Technical Assistance Actions – Support and management of relevant funds”.

9. Circular 60630/Special Coordination Service 5671/16-09-2003 specifying the implementation of PD 4/2002 on “Implementing Technical Assistance Actions – Support and management of relevant funds”.

10. Decision 1466/ Special Coordination Service 105/17-01-2002 of the State Secretary for National Economy on the “Determination of elements included in the annual program for technical assistance actions”.

12. Decision 5/2010/SC of 09-12-2010 of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States, establishing an EEA Financial Mechanism Committee, for the management of the EEA Financial Mechanism (EEA FM) 2009-2014.

13. Law 2362/1995 on “Public Accounting, control of state expenditure and other provisions” (OJ 247/A/27.11.95) and, in particular, its article 104.

14. Law 1514/85 “Development of Scientific and Technological Research”. The Law 1514/85 sets the legal framework for RTD in Greece.

15. Law 2843/2000 - Article 34 “Utilization of Research results”.

16. Presidential Decree 274/2000 “Terms, conditions and process of funding (subsidy or aid) of projects and programs submitted by industrial or other production units”.

17. Law 2919/2001 “Linking Research and Technology to Production and other Provisions”.

18. L.2919/01 amended L.1514/85 that governs Greek RTD and Innovation system. L 2919/01 re-oriented the aims and operation of research bodies, so that the target of connecting research to production is better served.

19. Presidential Decree 17/2001 was amended by the Article 19 of L. 3777/2009 “Financial support of knowledge-intensive new firms – spin-off

20. Law 2992/2002 introduced tax incentives for RTD, allowing 50% deduction of RTD expenditures from taxable profits of Greek enterprises on an annual basis. The above Law was extended and amended in 2004 (L. 3296/2004), providing for the certification of RTD expenditures by the GSRT.

21. Presidential Decree 128/2008 “Adaptation of Greek Legislation to Council Directive 2005/71/EC of 12 October 2005 on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of conducting scientific research”.

22. Law 3777/2009 Article 18 “Amendment of P.D. 274/2000” (The title of P.D. 274/2000 is replaced as follows: “Terms, conditions and process of funding of projects, programs and activities submitted by companies, research and other organizations for conducting research, technological development and innovation”.

23. Law 3908/2011 “Investment Law” providing incentives to business for technological modernization/ technological & organizational innovation and shifted public support for business R&D and innovation from grants towards subsidised loans, guarantees and tax incentives.

24. Law 4009/2011 introduced major changes in the governance of universities in order to improve the quality of teaching and services delivered to students. It gives universities greater autonomy and introduces a new funding mechanism based on quality indicators.

25. Law 4051/2012 stipulating the restructuring of public research centres (supervised by GSRT) through the merging of different research institutes.

Law 1733/1987, Technology Transfer, Inventions and Technological Innovation Law on Technology Transfer, Inventions and Technical Innovation as amended by Law No. 2516/1997.

26. Law 3842/ 2010, Article 71 “Fiscal incentives for patents” providing for a 3-year tax exemption of profits deriving from the sales of products developed from exploitation of internationally protected patents.
27. Law 2121/1993 Copyright, Related Rights and Cultural Matters. The law provides for the organisation and protection of Intellectual Property Rights.
28. Presidential Decree 259/1997 Industrial Design Law.
29. Law 2239/1994 Trademark Law.

C.

EU Regulations on R&D:

- Community framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C323/01)
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 (General Block Exemption Regulation) declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty

In 2008 the Greek legislation was adapted to Council directive 2005/71/EC of 12 October 2005 which sets the conditions for residence permits for third-country researchers and the Presidential Decree 128/2008 defined the necessary procedures and documentations that should be submitted for that purpose.

As regards State aids, the provisions to apply shall be those on Research, Development and Innovation set forth in articles 30-34 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation) – OJ L214, 09.08.2008, p.3.

In carrying out the projects, consideration should be given to the applicable national and Community laws regarding the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and, in particular, to the following:

- Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.
- Law 2472/97 (GG 50/A/97) on the “Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data”, as in force today.

Furthermore, **in line with the requirement to facilitate access by persons with a disability (PWD)** and with the requirements of the EU regulatory framework (Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006), one of the Action's priorities is the adoption of measures to minimise obstacles and increase accessibility to structures and services for vulnerable social groups. In this context, the adoption of measures to minimise obstacles and increase accessibility to structures and services for vulnerable social groups is a key priority of the Action.