

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

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PRESS RELEASE

**Drastically reducing red tape in Research**

Article 72 of newly adopted Law 4160/2019 on “Synergies between universities and Technological Educational Institutes (T.E.I.), access to higher education, experimental schools, General State Archives of Greece and other provisions” introduced a set of provisions which simplify research programme management procedures and help drastically reduce red tape resulting in a faster and more efficient implementation of research programmes as well as a reduction in management costs.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs Research and Innovation Division and in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the financial services of research centres and the Special Research Fund Accounts of Higher-Education Institutions (HEI), responsible for financial management, remain under the scope of public sector accounting but will be governed by special arrangements introduced by the new law in four key areas:

* Commitments are as of now to be allocated by category of expenditure and not by individual expenditure.
* The public procurement procedure has been simplified.
* Travel expenses incurred in the context of programmes will be reimbursed by simple submission of supporting documents.
* Supporting documents can now be electronically submitted.

In the words of Alternate Minister for Research & Innovation Costas Fotakis: «Article 72 effectively reduces red tape in the field of research, a general demand of the Greek scientific community. Research-specific dynamics require special conditions of flexible management for research projects. The challenge here is to ensure this kind of flexibility while protecting the public interest. This new, flexible institutional framework constitutes an example of the potential unleashed after entering the post-bailout era. The new law provisions significantly reduce the administrative burden for Special Research Fund Accounts, without compromising transparency”.

Dr. Patricia Kyprianidou, Secretary General for Research and Technology, stated: “The new law provisions are the result of extensive consultation and improve significantly management of research programmes implemented in Higher Education Institutions and research centres in Greece”.