



PROGRAMME
"NURTURING AN RTDI CULTURE"

COMPETITION
"Students in Research – **FOITO 2020**"



RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
FOUNDATION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
CULTURE/FOITO/0220

INTRODUCTION

The Research and innovation Foundation announces the Call for Proposals for the Competition **"Students in Research Competition – FOITO 2020"** of the Programme **"Nurturing an RTDI Culture"** within the framework of the **"RESTART 2016-2020" Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI)** and invites potential beneficiaries to submit relevant Project Proposals concerning their scientific and technological research achievements, claiming the respective prizes.

GENERAL INFO

Pillar:	III. Transformation of RTDI System
Programme:	Nurturing an RTDI Culture
Competition:	Students in Research – FOITO 2020
Call Identifier:	CULTURE/ FOITO /0220
Call Budget:	9,000 Euro
Publication Date:	21st February 2020
Deadline:	1st June 2020, 13.00

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.

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organizations and individuals, regarding the RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes, are included in the **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme**, which is the main reference document and can be found on the Research and Innovation Foundation's **IRIS (Innovation Research Information System) Portal** (<https://iris.research.org.cy/#/documentlibrary>).

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the "Students in Research - FOITO" Competition is to involve young scientists from the early stages of their career in research activities and at the same time to publicize their achievements.

More precisely, through this Competition, it is intended that the students:

- are involved in all the stages of the research process,
- organize a complete work plan and develop a suitable methodology and strategy for its implementation,
- experience the way of writing and presenting a research project,
- develop skills of communication, investigation, collection, use and evaluation of scientific information and its sources, so that they develop a critical mind,
- familiarise themselves and use the modern methods of search for scientific information (internet, electronic libraries, etc),
- familiarise themselves with the "research - new technology- innovation - progress" concept and realise the profits that result from the research and technological development of the economy, the society and more generally our daily life,
- develop their skills and talents as well as their creativity, ability to invent, undertake initiatives, responsibilities and judgment, and
- show and project their research achievements, in order to stimulate the public's, as well as their own, research interest.

The Competition foresees the award of prizes to individual students or teams of students.

PARTICIPATION

STUDENTS

The Competition is addressed to the following two categories of students:

- **CATEGORY A': undergraduate students (in their last year of studies)** and
- **CATEGORY B': postgraduate students (doctoral candidates are excluded).**

The Competition applies to students of any nationality that are studying in a University or in a Tertiary Education establishment of the private or public sector in Cyprus.

RESEARCH GROUP

The project can be submitted from a team of one to five students that fulfill the criteria of participation and an experienced researcher. All the participants should fulfill the criteria of participation. In the case of participation of a research team, a coordinator should be assigned between its members, who will submit the project on behalf of all the students of the team.

Each student can participate in only one project to be submitted for the Competition.

ADVISOR

Each team should be supported by a researcher with an advisory role. The researcher should:

- a) Come from the candidates' educational institution and can be of any academic ranking
- b) should be involved in research activities and have relevant experience in the thematic field that the proposal in which he participates is submitted under.

The role of the researcher is strictly advisory and should not be directly involved in the implementation of the project.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

THEMATIC AREAS

The research projects that the students will implement should fall under one of the following three thematic areas:

- **Life Sciences,**
- **Physical Sciences and Engineering, and**
- **Social Sciences and Humanities.**

The prizes will be given to the research projects with the highest mark, in each thematic area respectively.

CONTENT

The research projects should contain elements of innovation and originality and present methodology and planning, supported by the research and the existing international bibliography.

The research project should contain the following parts:

- General profile and participation forms
- Summary
- Introduction – Existing Knowledge
- Importance, originality and inventiveness of the project
- Methodology
- Presentation, documentation and interpretation of research results
- Diffusion and exploitation of research results
- Research group
- Experiences that were acquired
- Bibliography – Sources -Aids

RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION

The Project must have been completed **within the current academic year**. The implementation of the research work is supposed to be carried out exclusively by the student(s) and his/their participation should be clearly evident in the submitted project.



PROJECT SELECTION

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The procedure of Proposal Selection includes the Preliminary Check and the Scientific Evaluation of the Proposal.

PRELIMINARY CHECK

The compatibility of the submitted proposal to the specific criteria is examined during the Preliminary Check. Non-compatibility of the proposal to any one of the criteria renders it ineligible and it is not forwarded for evaluation.

Upon completion of the Preliminary Check procedure, the results are communicated to the beneficiaries by correspondence from the RIF. Beneficiaries are entitled to submit any objections in 15 days.

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION

As described in the RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme, for the evaluation of Research Projects to be submitted under the «Students in Research Competition – FOITO» Competition, a Proposal Eligibility Check and a Remote Evaluation procedure by two (2) Independent Evaluators, will take place. In case the marks differ by more than 3,00 / 15,00 points in total, then the proposal is evaluated by a third evaluator as well, and the final mark is the result of the average of the two closest marks. Please note that, the objections procedure does not apply for this Competition.

Prior to the scientific evaluation of each Proposal according to the evaluation criteria, evaluators are requested to assess the Proposal's compatibility with the objectives of the Programme and the relevant Call for Proposals. The evaluator will not proceed with the assessment of the evaluation criteria if the Proposal fails the compatibility assessment

EVALUATION CRITERIA/WEIGHTING

1. Excellence - (minimum threshold 3 out of 5)

- Investigation of state-of-the art knowledge and existing scientific information.
- Documentation of importance, originality and innovative elements of the project.

2. Added Value and Benefit - (minimum threshold 3 out of 5)

- Critical evaluation, documentation and interpretation of research results.
- Added value of knowledge and benefit stemming from the results of the research / Possibilities for dissemination and exploitation of research results.

3. Implementation - (minimum threshold 3 out of 5)

- Ability and care exercised in the design of the research project - methodology for the implementation of the work: from the conception of the idea up to its application. Thorough report of the research restrictions.
- Effectiveness of the collaboration of the student(s) with the experienced researcher and Experiences that were acquired by the student(s).

AWARDS

The Competition foresees the award of prizes to individual students or teams of students whose work will achieve the higher marks in each thematic area and only if they achieve a minimum of 12,00 / 15,00.

AWARDS	Category A undergraduate students	Category B postgraduate students
Prize in the thematic area 'Life Sciences'	€1.500	€1.500
Prize in the thematic area 'Physical Sciences & Engineering'	€1.500	€1.500
Prize in the thematic area 'Social Sciences & Humanities'	€1.500	€1.500

Provided that the level of projects is judged during the scientific evaluation as unsatisfactory, the RIF maintains the right not to grant an Award.

SUBMISSION

The research projects are submitted in only one file in pdf format using the e-mail: foito@research.org.cy, at the Research and Innovation Foundation. **The size of the file should not exit 3MB and it should be in pdf format.**

The RIF is not responsible if for any reason the research project has not been received or the file submitted is not readable

INFORMATION - CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: help_desk@research.org.cy

Telephone: +35722205000

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.