



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2nd STEP

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS UNDER AN ACTION TO SUPPORT
NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES
NSRF 2021 - 2027

MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR
RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
SECOND (2nd) STEP
2025

The General Secretariat for Research and Innovation launches a **Call for expression of interest** with the aim of collecting proposals submitted by National Research Infrastructures (RIs), to be used for the update of the Multiannual Budgeting Plan (MBP) for Research Infrastructures 2014-2020 and the development of the National Roadmap for 2021-2027 Programming Period – Second (2nd) Step.

This Call is addressed **exclusively to the Consortia that have successfully completed the procedure of the First (1st) Step and have received a relevant letter – invitation from the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) to participate in the Call for Expression of Interest for the submission of proposals for National Research Infrastructures (NRIs) – Second (2nd) Step.**

It is pointed out that submission of proposals under this call does not constitute a funding application; instead, its goal is to contribute to developing the RI Roadmap for the 2021-2027 programming period. The Research Infrastructures that will be included in the Roadmap will be invited to submit funding proposals in a future call under the “Competitiveness 2021-2027” OP.

It is estimated that the maximum number of NRIs to be included in the 2021–2027 Roadmap will not exceed twenty (20).

Proposals submitted under this call must take into account the fact that duration of the projects cannot exceed 4 years. **It is emphasized that the eligibility period for expenditures ends on 31/12/2029.**

The maximum public expenditure per proposal is specified as follows:

- **Mergers of Research Infrastructures:** Public funding per proposal may amount to €8,000,000 for mergers of existing Research Infrastructures (RIs)—defined as those included under the Multiannual Budgeting Plan 2014–2020—provided that all original partners are retained in the funding proposal submitted under this Call.
- **Mature Research Infrastructures (in Full Operation Phase):** Public funding for mature¹ existing infrastructures shall not exceed €6,000,000 per proposal. The participation of new partners is permitted in cases of significant expansion of the range of services offered by the mature infrastructure, provided that the core objectives and character of the RI are not altered.
- **New or Existing Research Infrastructures (in Preparatory Phase):** Public funding for new or existing RIs requiring completion of their preparatory phase may reach up to €4,000,000.

It is pointed out that, upon completion of three years of project implementation, all the Research Infrastructures will be evaluated by the Managing Authority for the “COMPETITIVENESS” Programme for their performance progress based on specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

RIs that successfully pass the performance evaluation based on these KPIs may receive additional funding equivalent to 15% of the approved public expenditure, depending on specific deliverables. These deliverables must be explicitly included in the description of the physical and financial scope of the project at the time of proposal submission under this Call.

The total approved budget of the proposals to be submitted will include the potential 15% increase after the completion of the three-year period, which—if granted—will be linked to concrete additional workload and deliverables, that will be implemented in parallel with the rest of the approved workload during the fourth, and final year of the project’s timeframe, and after the positive evaluation of their project based on the obligatory KPIs mentioned.

¹ For clarifications, please refer to the Supporting Document: Evaluation of the 28 Research Infrastructures by the Policy Support Facility of the European Commission.



The table below presents the five mandatory Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The target values for each KPI will be defined by the consortium submitting the proposal. The level of ambition and difficulty associated with achieving these five mandatory performance indicators will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposals submitted under this Call for Expression of Interest.

Table of mandatory KPIs for NRIs 2021-2027

Category	Indicator(s)	Detailed indicators
Research Infrastructure usage	Usage of the NRI	<p>For NRIs providing access to facilities/equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of requests for use received and granted. • Total annual usage hours by users external to NRI consortium partners as % of total available usage hours. <p>Broken down by academic users, business users (and other user types depending on the NRI) and whether Greek or internationally located.</p> <p>For resource/data NRIs one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of registered users of collections or data services, • Number of downloads of datasets or digital resources. <p>Broken down by academic users, business users (and other user types depending on the NRI) and whether Greek or internationally located.</p>
Training and education	Number of students using and being trained at the NRI	<p>Number of masters and PhD students who have been trained at or performed some of their studies/research at the NRI. Each student should only be counted once per year (not per access). The indicator can also further quantified by the number of training hours at the NRI provided (per student).</p> <p>Data should be broken down by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters / PHD / others (e.g. short courses for industrial researchers). • Distinguishing between students funded/hosted by NRI consortium partners and external to NRI students. • by nationality (Greek or international).
Income		Total income generated broken down by source:

Category	Indicator(s)	Detailed indicators
	Income generated by the NRI additional to ERDF grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grant (e.g. Horizon Europe, other national or regional programmes, etc.), • charitable donation, • payment for services provided • intellectual property licence payments, etc.), • others (to specify). <p>By type of organisation providing the funding: public, private, NGO, etc. Where funding is provided by business, categorise by the relevant S3 priority.</p> <p>By share of income from Greece, other EU Member States', EU level programmes (Horizon Europe, etc.) or non-EU countries.</p>
Publications	Number of publications acknowledging use/services provided by the NRI	<p>Number of publications based on research performed using facilities and (digital) resources provided by the NRI.</p> <p>Distinguishing between publications authored by researchers of the NRI consortium partners and external researchers.</p> <p>Over time this indicator can be further refined, e.g. to track the percentage of open access publications, the percentage of publications in the top (10%) cited publications in the same field and the percentage of publications co-published with industry.</p>
Open Science	Number of publicly accessible datasets used externally	<p>Number of data sets produced as a result of researchers using the NRI that are subsequently accessed by other users.</p> <p>For date NRIs, number of datasets (digital objects), metadata, software, etc. made available to users.</p> <p>For NRIs that do not yet have publicly accessible datasets, alternative indicators may be used that measure progress towards making open research data available.</p>

In addition to the above mandatory KPIs, it is strongly recommended that National Research Infrastructures develop, define, and apply an additional set of KPIs tailored to their specific nature and aligned with their strategic objectives. These indicators should reflect the areas in which they wish to be assessed in terms of performance and should include clearly defined baseline values as well as corresponding target values. It is emphasized that these additional KPIs, along with their baseline and target values, must be included and described in detail in the funding proposal submitted under this Call.

It is recommended that each NRI adopts a limited number of KPIs, and not more than 10 KPIs.

Eligibility

Eligible to participate are the Research Infrastructures (RIs) that received an invitation letter to submit proposals under the **Call for Expression of Interest** for the submission of proposals for National Research Infrastructures, aiming at the update of the Multiannual Budgeting Plan (MBP) 2014–2020 and the formulation of the National Roadmap for the 2021–2027 Programming Period – Second (2nd) Step. New applications for proposal submission from other entities and/or RIs that were not approved in the First (1st) Step of evaluation will not be accepted.

It is noted that the invitation letter from the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) **indicates whether an RI was classified as new or mature, and whether it results from a merger of existing RIs** (where “existing RIs” are those included under the MBP 2014–2020). This classification also determines the **maximum eligible project budget (i.e., €4M, €6M, or €8M, respectively)**.

The evaluation of proposals submitted under this Call will apply all the criteria recommended by the European Commission’s Policy Support Facility in the Final Assessment Report of the 28 RIs included in the MBP 2014–2020. The report is available at the following link: <https://gsri.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Support-to-Greece-for-policies-developing-research-infrastructures-and-the-RI-ecosystem.pdf>.

Adhesion to Open Science principles and application of the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) criteria constitute conditions for supporting RIs.

Proposals that successfully passed the First Step of Evaluation are invited through this Call to submit full proposals for the **Second Step**. These full proposals must include a four-year financial/development plan that provides detailed information on the governance structure, user access policy, development strategy, open science policies, international collaborations (e.g., with European ESFRI Infrastructures, other European Research Infrastructures, international organizations, etc.), as well as the requested budget and its justification.

In the Second Step, the following elements will be evaluated separately and assigned a score from 1 to 10:

- **RI Governance And Management - Weight 15%.** Proposals should comprise a clear and operationally effective governance scheme that will describe the appropriate organizational structure and the necessary procedures for the smooth operation of the RI, the offer of quality services and, in general, the implementation of the proposal.

More specifically the evaluation will include the following:

- The organization of the RI (whether in the form of a consortium or a legal entity)² so as to ensure a central/single access point for users, as well as a central/cohesive financial management, the procurement procedures and the quality assurance plan in place for the services etc.
- the composition and expertise of the RI management team (including the technical personnel responsible for facilities and equipment), forecasting the need for new personnel and developing a strategy for its recruitment.
- governance bodies and strategic planning processes (international advisory panels, interdisciplinary approaches, user involvement in the RI strategic choices, etc.).
- the performance indicators proposed, both qualitative and quantitative, for the management and monitoring of the NRI.
- comprehensiveness of the proposed budget, both overall and across individual expenditure categories, as well as per partner of the proposal.

² The legal form of R.I. is determined (informal consortium or legal entity), as well as the coordinating body of the R.I.

- **RI Operation / Policy and Quality of Access. - Weight 10%.** Proposals must include a description and justification of the envisaged user access policy and the evaluation procedure for access requests.

More specifically, they must comprise:

- a concrete description of the conditions for access (who, when and which type of access is provided), the procedures for request submission and evaluation and the evaluation criteria (applying criteria of excellence or offering broad access, or a mixture of both)
 - the costing and pricing policy (cost/price of access to the various services including by user type)
 - access policy for external users (from the scientific or/and the productive sector) based on the “capacity” of the RI and the potential number of users. Implementation plan for research security – ensuring research security readiness.
 - the level of digitalization and electronic equipment including relative costs in the budget and for ensuring the necessary access to HPC/cloud services (e.g. via GRNET)
 - a data management strategy (extent to which the Data Management Plan is complete and comprehensive) and evidence of applying the principles of Open Science and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), as well as ensuring interoperability with other national and European RIs and with ESFRI infrastructures); To be noted that Open Science, in addition to open access practices, data management, FAIR criteria, establishing incentives through the evaluation of research and researchers, etc., include actions for citizens engagement in Science and awareness in the research process.
 - ethics and gender equality aspects and plan to combat discrimination.
 - Finally, it is noted that in the specially designed proposal submission platform, there is a dedicated field in which the detailed equipment of the infrastructure, the knowledge resources, the technological and IT infrastructure, software, communication networks, etc., must be described for each partner.
- **Outward orientation / International Affiliations. - Weight 15%.** The RI must demonstrate a potential to become an internationally recognized facility conducting high-quality research which could attract users from the wider region and beyond.
 - significance of the proposed RI for science at the European and international level, and existence of any competitive infrastructures.
 - whether the proposal contributes to an internationally unique/leading RI and strengthens the position of Greece globally;
 - level of alignment with the long-term strategy in the context of the international research landscape (Multiannual Plan for RIs, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, ESFRI, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc.).
 - **Viability. – Weight 25%.** The operational and financial viability of the infrastructure must be documented in a concrete viability plan comprising the various sources of funding and income, based on the scope of its operation and the services to be offered.

Aspects under evaluation include the following:

- the quality and feasibility of the 4-year RI financial/development plan describing the ability of participants to cover part of the costs, the plans to attract additional public funding or generate income through economic activities³, the envisaged use and capacity of the RI, as well as the costing of services provided to users. Completeness of the risk analysis study.

³ Regarding economic activity, please refer to the Commission Communication “*Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation*”, C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022, point 21, which states: “Where the research organisation or **research infrastructure** is used almost exclusively for a non-economic activity, its funding may fall outside state aid rules in its entirety, provided that the economic use remains purely ancillary, that is to say corresponds to an activity which is directly related to and necessary for the operation of the research organisation or research infrastructure or intrinsically linked to its main non-economic use, and which Date of issue: July 2025



- the suitability and justification of the requested public funding.
 - proof of suitability of then organizational and operational structure of the NRI (which may include the establishment of a new legal entity) so as to ascertain the sustainability of NRI's operation in the long run.
 - scope of operation of the RI in different Centers/Laboratories.
- **Expected impact. – Weight 15%.**
 - expected impact of services provided by the RI to users from the research community in the thematic area of its specialization (by type of service, including training/education) with the purpose of achieving scientific excellence in Greece
 - expected impact of services provided by the RI in other thematic areas beyond its field of specialization (through interdisciplinary and collaborative activities)
 - expected impact from the uptake/reuse of RI-generated data from third parties (in addition to the participants)
 - expected impact of services provided by the RI to users from the business sector, especially on the specific Smart Specialization Strategy priority areas
 - expected impact of services provided by the RI to other users (public sector, education bodies, the civil society, public awareness/information actions).
 - **Maturity. – Weight 15%.** In order to strengthen the Full Operation Phase, the infrastructure must have the basic equipment, the appropriate personnel and know-how required for its efficient operation; the RI must also document efficient use of any previous funding from national or European sources. In particular, the existence of a critical mass of partners for the effective operation of the EY and the provision of quality and comprehensive services should be documented.
 - **Level of difficulty to achieve the 5 mandatory performance indicators. - Weight 5%.** In order to ensure the level of excellence and the resulting difficulty of achieving the mandatory performance indicators, both the target values and the way in which the specific indicators are described and analyzed will be taken into account when evaluating the proposals.

The total public expenditure of the Action is 120 M euros, including the potential 15% increase of the total budget, corresponding to additional physical deliverables, contingent upon a positive performance evaluation by the Managing Authority for the “COMPETITIVENESS” Programme, in the context of monitoring the implementation of the Research Infrastructures It is emphasized that the eligibility period for expenditures ends on 31/12/2029.

The proposals will be submitted in English on the digital platform of the General Secretariat of Information Systems and Digital Governance, which was specially configured for the needs of the General Secretariat of Research and Innovation under the link: <https://webapps.gsis.gr/dsae/researchinfrastructures>.

For a proposal to be considered potentially eligible for funding, it must achieve a weighted average score of at least 8 points, provided that it also receives a minimum score of 7.5 points in each of the above evaluation criteria.

The evaluation will be carried out by international experts based on the above criteria (two independent evaluations per proposal, which will result in a Consensus Report).

In the context of evaluating the appropriateness of the requested budget, the Public Expenditure may be subject

is limited in scope. For the purposes of this framework, the Commission will consider this to be the case where the economic activities consume exactly the same inputs (such as material, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities and the capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20% of the relevant entity's overall annual capacity.

Date of issue: July 2025

Σελίδα 6 από 12



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



to reduction if considered necessary by the experts.

Proposals deemed potentially eligible for funding by the experts will be submitted in the form of a recommendation. **to a Committee composed of five internationally renowned experts, along with the Directors of the Directorate of Planning and Programming for Research and Innovation and the Directorate for International R&I Cooperation of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation.** The Committee, based on the recommendations of the experts, will decide on the final score of the proposals **ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions for inclusion in the revised National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2021–2027.** Subsequently, the Committee will recommend the approval of the said Roadmap.

Further information on the goals of the undertaking and on the procedures for expression of interest, and for proposal submission and evaluation aimed at developing the National Roadmap 2021-2027 are provided on the detailed background document below.

¹ According to Communication from the Commission “Framework for state aid for research, development and innovation”, C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022, *«research infrastructure» means facilities, resources and related services that are used by the scientific community to conduct research in their respective fields and covers scientific equipment or set of instruments, knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives or structured scientific information, enabling information and communication technology-based infrastructures such as grid, computing, software and communication, or any other entity of a unique nature essential to conduct research. Such infrastructures may be “single-sited” or “distributed” (an organized set of resources).*



NATIONAL RTDI INFRASTRUCTURES BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Introduction

Research Infrastructures (RIs) constitute an essential component of the research system in each country, of the European Research Area (ERA) and of the global innovation system. Research infrastructures are high on the EU agenda, with a specific Action to “Strengthen sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA” –in which Greece is a participant– included in the new ERA policy agenda 2022-2024. As pointed out in the ESFRI High-Level Expert Group report⁴, supporting research infrastructures contributes to transforming the way of conducting research in Europe, through the establishment of an open, meritocratic access to state-of-the-art research facilities and equipment.

Research infrastructures are facilities, research resources, organizational systems and services that are used by the scientific communities to conduct research and generate innovation in their respective fields. Where necessary, they may be used for purposes beyond research, e.g. for training or public services. Research infrastructures comprise basic scientific equipment (or sets of instruments), knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives or scientific information, e-infrastructure, computing systems and software, communication networks and systems promoting open access and digital trust, and any other infrastructure of a unique nature essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation.

The General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI), in its capacity as the public body in charge of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) developed a **Multiannual Budgeting Plan** for the 2014-2020 programming period which funded 28 national research infrastructures, most of them distributed. Development of a Multiannual Plan for Research Infrastructures fully aligned with the strategic priorities set by RIS3 2014-2020 was an ex-ante conditionality for the mobilization of the total funding allocated to RTDI actions under OP Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EPAnEK) 2014-2020.

Later, as part of the development of a new strategy to further support and upgrade National Research Infrastructures (NRIs) for the 2021-2027 period, including updating of the Multiannual Budgeting Plan (MBP) 2014-2020, the GSRI sought assistance from the Policy Support Facility (PSF) at the DG for Research and Innovation in June 2021. The PSF contribution involved an independent review of the 28 research infrastructures covered by the MBP 2014-2020, with a view to contributing to the reforms necessary for strengthening the Greek research and innovation system including through enhanced international visibility and competitiveness of research infrastructures (RIs).

The review (available at <https://gsri.gov.gr/apotimisi-ton-erevnikon-ypodomon-2014-20/>) resulted in a Final Report comprising a set of recommendations seeking to optimize operation and efficiency of RIs during the 2021-2027 period by introducing a long-term viability model promoting scientific excellence while simultaneously helping address socioeconomic challenges. This call is in line with the expert panel recommendations, both on the application of the selection procedure for candidate RIs, on evaluation criteria and on performance-based funding and KPIs, and regarding the broader directions for the RI support strategy and international good practices. In the evaluation of the proposals in terms of the criteria of uniqueness, maturity, access policy, international recognition and the impact achieved, the final assessment of the existing 28 Research Infrastructures, as recorded in the final report of the PSF study, will be taken into account however without having a binding nature.

During the current 2021-2027 programming period, funding for the support of Research Infrastructures, in addition to the NSRF “Competitiveness” OP, will be provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, regional programs, the Just Transition Fund, the European Investment Bank, etc.

A. Conditions for participation: the present call is addressed exclusively to the Consortia that have successfully

⁴ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Supporting the transformative impact of research infrastructures on European research: report of the High-Level Expert Group to assess the progress of ESFRI and other world class research infrastructures towards implementation and long-term sustainability, Publications Office, 2020
Date of issue: July 2025



completed the procedure of the First (1st) Step and have received a relevant letter – invitation from the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) to participate in the Call for Expression of Interest for the submission of proposals for National Research Infrastructures (NRIs) – Second (2nd) Step.

New proposal submissions from other consortia and/or Research Infrastructures that were not approved in the First (1st) Step of evaluation will not be accepted.

B. Project Duration: 4 years.

C. Amount of requested public spending. The maximum public funding for the Full Operation Phase of Research Infrastructures (RIs) may reach €8,000,000 in the case of mergers of existing RIs (under the Multiannual Budgeting Plan 2014–2020). Funding for mature existing infrastructures shall not exceed €6,000,000, while funding for new or existing RIs requiring further maturation may reach up to €4,000,000.

It is noted that the invitation letter from the GSRI specifies whether a Research Infrastructure (RI) is considered new or mature, as well as whether it results from a merger of existing RIs (where 'existing RIs' are defined as those included in the Multiannual Budgeting Plan 2014–2020). Accordingly, the maximum project budget is set at €4, €6, or €8 million, respectively.

It is emphasized that the eligibility period for expenditures ends on 31/12/2029.

D. Eligible actions and expenditure.

- Provision of access to members of the academic/research community for implementation of high-quality research projects. Access will be provided after evaluation of proposals to use facilities and equipment. Evaluation will be carried out by a committee independent from the bodies involved in the RI. The said Committee will evaluate the number of access days, and the entity will receive an amount corresponding to the number of days (X) multiplied by the average operating cost of the entity of the Research Infrastructure.
- Development of collaborative research projects aimed at improving quality of the provided access.
- Networking at the national and European/international level.

A number of eligible expenditure are listed below by way of example (subject to compliance with Decision no 114947/1-12-2022 by the Deputy Minister of Development & Investments “National eligibility rules for NSRF 2021-2027 Programmes”).

1) Personnel costs:

- a) Expenditures for temporary personnel (including researchers—such as postdoctoral and doctoral candidates—technicians, and other support staff) are eligible to the extent required for the implementation of the Action and provided they are employed by the Beneficiary either under a fixed-term employment contract (full-time or part-time) or a service contract, provided that the conditions set out in paragraphs 2(c) and 3 of Article 15 of Ministerial Decision No. 114947/1-12-2022 are met

It is clarified that for postdoctoral researchers participating in the implementation of the Action, any type of remuneration they receive must correspond to at least 90% of the remuneration received by Grade C researchers, in accordance with Article 16, paragraph 12(a) of Law 4386/2016.

To be noted that in all contracts, project or fixed term, the timeline of the project’s implementation, the deadline, the work packages involved and the total sum of the remuneration received by the individual must be clearly stipulated. The remuneration of the individual must be based on the time constraints imposed by the project implementation and should not divert significantly from the remuneration the entity provides to its personnel which carries out similar work, or personnel employed in other businesses with similar qualifications or job description. The compensation/remuneration of the individual must be closely linked with the work packages of the project.



Regarding the costs of temporary personnel these must be recorded in global timesheets and the gross cost of employment that is financed by the grant should not exceed the amount of 4000Euros/month and National Tax Number (ΑΦΜ) for all the present Action.

b) costs of existing personnel based on their actual hourly additional occupation according to the provisions of article 15, 114947/1-12-2022 Decision.

2) fixed equipment costs: purchase costs of equipment for the establishment and/or modernization of the infrastructure, is eligible and must correspond to at least 50% of the total budget of the project.

It is clarified that:

a) Costs related to the upgrading and or extending the work viability of equipment is eligible, since it increases the value of the existing asset according to the provisions of National Legislation and the depreciation costs do not constitute eligible expenditure for the present Action.

b) Costs related to impromptu repair/ maintenance of existing equipment, used for the implementation of the Act, are not eligible, except if those costs increase the value of the existing asset and is declared in the Act as depreciation (article 21, para 4-b of the 114947/1-12-2022 Decree.

c) Costs for preventive/scheduled equipment maintenance and purchase costs of consumables required for proper operation of equipment are eligible for the time period this equipment is used for the purposes of the action (article 21 para. 48c of Decision no 114947/1-12-2022).

d) Costs for purchasing spare parts (as fixed assets) are eligible if are considered indispensable parts of the main components of the purchased equipment, that is imperative for the proper operation of the equipment according to its terms of purchase that the supplier offers. These costs should not exceed 10% of the purchasing cost of the equipment (article 21, para 5 Decision 114947/1-12-2022).

3) Costs for the purchase and use of intangible assets such as IPR rights, software etc. (article 23, Decision 114947/1-12-2022)

4) Costs for contract research, consultancy, and equivalent support services used exclusively for the project. Consultancy services include assistance and professional training in the areas of knowledge transfer, acquisition, protection, and exploitation of intangible assets, as well as the use of standards and regulations that encompass them⁵. Support services in the field of innovation include the provision of office space, databases, libraries, market research, laboratory use, quality labeling, testing, and certification (Article 43 of Decision No. 114947/1-12-2022).

5) Costs for laboratory consumables and supplies and for the purchase of software for project implementation (article 43, Decision 114947/1-12-2022).

6) Costs for building infrastructure and laboratory refurbishing, including costs for improving accessibility for persons with disabilities, up to 10% of the total equipment cost.

7) Indirect costs including general expenses and other operating costs, are defined with implementation of a flat rate of 25% of the total eligible direct costs of the Action, excluding direct eligible costs of subcontracting and capital investment (fixed), third party financial support and any unit costs or lump sums that include indirect costs. In addition, this category includes expenses for travel and hosting, networking, promotion and dissemination of results, expenses related to the education and training of the users of the R.I. but also the training of new researchers, as well as costs for networking actions with related or complementary R.I. of abroad. Expenses for the

⁵ Feasibility studies are included if they are required for the implementation of the project.

organization of conferences and seminars with the aim of disseminating and promoting the activities of R.I. to the scientific community or the general public.

The above categories of expenditure are eligible if they are directly related to the implementation of the co-funded project and if this relation can be firmly established.

Regarding Value Added Tax (VAT) the provisions of article 25 of the 114947/1-12-2022 Decision apply.

E. Content of proposals – submission: The proposals will be submitted in English on the digital platform of the General Secretariat of Information Systems and Digital Governance under the link: <https://webapps.gsis.gr/dsae/researchinfrastructures>.

F. Submission Deadline: The deadline for the submission of proposals of the Second step (Selection of Proposals) is Wednesday, September 24th, 2025, at 17.00 local time (Athens).

G. Evaluation Procedure: Evaluation will be carried out by panels of highly-esteemed international experts according to the procedure and the criteria set in this Call.

H. Submission of Objections. Objections may be submitted after the publication of the evaluation results, in accordance with the provisions of Decision No. 110565/22-11-2022 on “Submission and assessment procedure for objections raised against evaluation results of proposals to participate in NSRF 2021-2027 programmes [“objection” in accordance with Law 4914/2022 (A’ 61) article 36 paragraph 7]”.

Subsequent Steps

Coordinators of proposals that obtain a positive result under the Second (2nd) Evaluation Step of this Call for Expressions of Interest will be invited to submit a Technical Project Sheet (TPS) to the Managing Authority of the “Competitiveness” Programme, in order to be considered for funding under the “Competitiveness” Programme 2021–2027.

All nationally significant RDI infrastructures selected for funding—whether through the “Competitiveness” Programme or other sources—will be included in the National Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2021–2027.

