



CALL OF INTEREST



“BRIDGES FOR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS”

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1. Purpose and objectives of the “Bridges Awards” Programme

The national initiative ‘Knowledge and Partnership Bridges’ is launching the ‘Bridges Awards’ with the aim of rewarding and promoting partnership and cooperation by granting cash prizes. The action aims to address the outflow of highly-skilled scientists and entrepreneurs (brain drain) abroad and its negative impact on the productive growth of Greece.

The “Bridges for Business Partnerships” aims to award entrepreneurial cooperations whose purpose is to produce products or services in Greece or in Greece and abroad with the participation of Greeks wherever they may reside or businesses with Greek interests abroad.

The goals of the Programme are:

- to identify, encourage and recognise successful combined scientific and research with business activities of the Greek domestic and expatriate human resources
- to develop a culture of collaboration and the exchange of knowledge, of ideas and of experiences for the mutual benefit of the parties involved, whether they reside in Greece or abroad.
- to create and maintain ties between Greek expats and diaspora and Greece, promoting the transfer of best practices and expertise they have gained while living and working abroad
- to increase the openness of Greek scientific activity and entrepreneurship
- to encourage investment and interconnection of research and innovation in Greece in cutting edge economic sectors
- to broaden scientific and professional opportunities of interaction and progress for Greeks regardless of where they reside, thus contributing to creation of conditions curbing outward migration while paving the way for their return to Greece .

The Award Programme is being launched for the first time this year (2019) and calls for expressions of interest are being issued by the National Documentation Centre (EKT) in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by 54540/2019 Ministerial Decree.

2. Role of the implementing bodies

The Programme is being implemented by the General Secretariat for Strategic and Private Investment (GSSPI), Ministry of Economy and Development, in collaboration with the National Documentation Centre (EKT), National Hellenic Research Foundation, according to the Ministerial Decree 54540/2019 (OGG B’ 1870).

In particular, EKT undertakes all the actions required to support the programme, being the main implementing body of the programme.

3. Terms and conditions of participation

Those eligible to apply for participation in the ' Bridges for Business Partnerships ' awards should be business partners meeting the following conditions of participation:

- They relate to an existing or new business cooperation, formal or informal legal form, designed to produce a product or provide services in Greece or both in Greece and abroad.
- They have a statute or other private cooperation agreement to which at least the purpose, scope, duration, the place of manufacture of the product or the service, the parties and their representation is stated.
- They consist of at least two (2) parties, natural persons or legal entities.
- At least one of the parties (in the case of the participation of legal entities, the legal representative or managing director or partner or main shareholder) meets the following requirements:
 - they are Greek citizens or foreign nationals of Greek origin or foreign nationals with at least three (3) years of legal residence in Greece (consecutive or not) prior to the application date
 - they are university graduates
 - they have worked abroad for at least one (1) continuous year.

Employment is defined as engagement in business, self-employment, any form of economically dependent work, participation in doctoral or post-doctoral programmes.

Grounds for exclusion

- Natural persons involved in more than one application of this call as representatives of business partnerships
- Natural persons working in the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' implementation team
- Legal entities who have dissolved or gone bankrupt or are insolvent or have been subject to acquisition or special liquidation by order of an administrative liquidator or the court or suspension of their business activities or any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure, anticipated in special legal provisions.

If one or more of the above criteria apply, then the proposal will be rejected and not evaluated.

Acceptance of applications is subject to prior registration on the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' platform (<https://www.knowledgebridges.gr/el/partnerships>).

These conditions must be met at the time of application.

4. Application procedure

Award applications should be submitted at <http://awards.knowledgebridges.gr> in accordance with the specific instructions provided by the system.

Candidates are requested to complete the following:

Part 1: General Information

- Title of Cooperation/Product/Service
- Scientific field or Productive Sector
- Place of product or service manufacturing
- Contact person

- Legal representative of the business partnership who is responsible for submission of the application, is entitled to receive the award and the corresponding prize money on behalf of the partnership.

Part 2: Description of the Members of the Partnership

In the case of participation of individuals in the partnership: name, citizenship-origin, place and duration of legal residence / employment status (legal representative / managing director / partner / principal shareholder company or self-employed, or working or studying) and qualifications.

In the case of participation of legal entities: name, year of establishment, form and location of business activity, citizenship-origin, place and duration of legal residence / employment, qualification of the legal representative, managing director, partner or main shareholder.

Part 3: Description of the Proposal

- **Summary** of business partnership (no more than 300 words)
- **Idea:** brief description of the idea, the object of the cooperation, the goals and partnership vision (no more than 1000 words)
- **Originality and Innovation:** a description of whether the product / service includes innovation (e.g. organisational, branding, marketing), business models, production process or integration of high technology or know-how or anything innovative that gives it a competitive advantage. (no more than 1000 words)
- **Team:** profiles of network members, their roles and their contribution towards winning the partner networks or individual network award. Description of the organisation and operation of the team of scientists at partner networks or single network level. Reference to the establishment of the partnership and description of the profile and the contribution of each member to achieve the objectives. (no more than 2000 words)
- **Impact & Synergies:** Description of the impact on the local economy and society where a product or service will be/ has been developed, and any contribution to the interconnection of Greeks and / or to address aspects of the brain drain. Reference to any ongoing or planned synergies. (1000 words)
- **Sustainability:** reference data indicating the level of maturity of partnership and description of the activity plan for the next 18 months, as well as human resources and means of implementation. (1000 words)

Attached Documents

- CVs of main partnership members (no more than 2 pages each)
- Any documentation material relating to the network actions that may add to the evaluation of the application (not obligatory)

Part 4: Formal Declaration

Conditions for completion of application:

1. Applicants are responsible for the full and correct completion of the online application.
2. Application for participation in the Programme complies with article 8 N.1599 / 1986 (Gazette A 75) for the details included here. Submission of the application is also a statement by the participants that:
 - a) they are fully aware of and fully accept the terms as specified in the call for expressions of interest,
 - b) the application is legally submitted with the necessary powers of attorney, consents and /or licences,

c) they do not violate intellectual or industrial property rights, trade secrets or any other rights of third parties, natural persons or legal entities, domestic or foreign, have full and sole responsibility for safeguarding any rights associated with the submitted proposal,

d) if selected for an award, they agree to allow their collaborative proposal to be showcased by the implementing bodies in any way and by any means deemed appropriate within the context and for the purposes of the Award Programme and its promotion.

3. Application for participation in the award procedure constitutes authorisation for the implementing body of the Programme to further process submitted personal data, carried out in accordance with applicable national and EU legislation on personal data.

On the Programme website, there is information on the specific terms of personal data processing, the rights of applicants and how to exercise those rights.

5. Special Evaluation Committee

A special pro bono Evaluation Committee for each award category will be set up for the purpose of evaluating the applications, and will consist of representatives of the following bodies:

- General Secretariat for Strategic and Private Investment, Ministry of Economy and Development
- The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)
- Union of Hellenic Chambers
- Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants (GSEVEE)
- Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ESEE)
- General Secretariat of International Economic Relations And Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Enterprise Greece

The Evaluation Committee will be chaired by the National Hellenic Research Foundation. All secretarial and administrative support will be provided by the Support Team of EKT.

Establishment of the Evaluation Committee follows the decision of the General Secretary for Strategic and Private Investment. It convenes by written invitation by its appointed president, in which the date, time and place of the meeting is stated and decisions are made with approval of simple majority of members. The members of the Evaluation Committee must declare inability to participate in the evaluation of proposals which indicate conflicts of interest in compliance with the provisions of article 24 of Law 4412/2016 (A '147). In such an event, the implementing body of the award scheme will undertake to replace them with their deputy. The Evaluation Committee members are bound by data confidentiality.

The institutions reserve the right to change their representative to the Special Evaluation Commission following written notification.

The members of the Evaluation Committee must declare inability to participate in the evaluation of proposals which indicate conflicts of interest in compliance with the provisions of article 24 of Law 4412/2016 (A '147). In such an event, the implementing body of the award Programme will undertake to replace him/her with their deputy. The Committee members are bound by data confidentiality.

The Evaluation Committee may identify specific issues relevant to its operation in order to effectively implement the project in accordance with the terms hereof.

6. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process of the award applications includes the following stages:

Stage 1: Fulfilment of the conditions of participation check

Stage 1 is carried out by the Evaluation Committee assisted by the Support Team through the online application submission system (<http://awards.knowledgebridges.gr>) and involves automated checks on fulfilment of participation requirements based on the details and information submitted in the 1st part of the application and the formal declaration made in the 3rd part thereof.

Only applications which comply with formal conditions for participation will advance to stage 2 of the evaluation process according to the Records of the Committee that reflect the results of the inspection of this stage of evaluation.

Stage 2: Evaluation of award application

Stage 2 is carried out by the Evaluation Committee. Applications are evaluated on the basis of the information submitted in the 2nd part of the application and take into account the CVs of the members and any supporting documentation for the activities of candidates.

The evaluation criteria and weighting factors/co-efficient are presented in the following table:

A/A	Criteria	Weight
i.	Idea	15%
ii.	Originality and Innovation	20%
iii.	Team	20%
iv.	Impact & synergies	20%
v.	Sustainability	25%

Each criterion will be assessed on the basis of the following scale:

Excellent	(9-10 points)
Very good	(7-8 points)
Good	(5-6 points)
Quite good	(2-4 points)
Poor	(1 point)

The final rating of each application will result from the sum of the products of the score of each criterion multiplied by the weighting factor/coefficient.

A proposal gathering a total score of less than five (5) points will not receive an award.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the Evaluation Committee, with the assistance of Support Team, will prepare a scoreboard with ratings for all proposals in descending order.

Stage 3: Criteria for successful fulfilment of the conditions of participation

Stage 3 is carried out by the Evaluation Committee assisted by the Programme Support Team. The implementing body will e-mail the contact person of the six (6) proposals per award category that received the highest evaluation score, requesting them to submit within ten (10) calendar days the scanned documents required and referred to in Section 10. In the event that the ongoing evaluation determines that a proposal does not meet the conditions of participation or has not submitted the relevant supporting documents, it will be rejected and the same procedure will be repeated for the remaining proposals until the indicated number of proposals receiving an award is complete.

On completion of this stage, the Evaluation Committee drafts an official record finalising the Leaderboard and the successful candidates to be awarded. The final Leaderboard will be approved by the GSSPI and posted on the sites of the Program, of the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' Initiative, of the GSSPI and of the EKT. Additionally, both selected award winners (as well as other participants) will be informed of the competition results by e-mail sent to the contact person.

Clarification on data and documents filled or missing supplementary data and documents may be submitted by candidates in stages 1 and 3 of the evaluation process but only if requested by the Support Team.

The implementing body of the Bridges Awards reserves the right to check the accuracy and reliability of the data contained in the Award Application and / or the submitted Documents.

The Evaluation Committee may issue a single record for the aforementioned processes.

7. Cash prizes

The Program will award a total of up to six proposals (three awards and three distinctions). The award consists of a certificate of distinction and prize money, the amount of which is:

1st Prize: 25.000 euro

2nd Prize: 20.000 euro

3rd Prize: 15.000 euro

3 Distinctions: 10.000 euro (per distinction)

The date and venue of the awards will be announced by EKT within thirty (30) days of publication of the final Leaderboard.

EKT will invite all participants by email and/or telephone to attend the award ceremony. EKT and the GSSPI will jointly invite people to award the prizes to the winners who significantly contribute to strengthening the links between the Greek diaspora and Greece, as well as those with an important role in political, social, economic and scientific fields in Greece and internationally. Travel costs for all the above (winners) will be covered by the Programme budget.

The prize money is paid to the legal representative as selected by the networks, as stated in the application submitted. The Implementing Bodies bear no responsibility for the way in which the prizes will be shared within the network or networks in cooperation.

The travel, accommodation and local transport expenses of representatives participating in the award ceremony for winning proposals of up to one thousand five hundred euro (1,500/per network) including taxes etc. will be covered by the Programme on production of all relevant receipts and vouchers.

Prize money shall not be confiscated, nor subject to any deductions and is not offset against any debts of the beneficiary to the Greek State.

8. Obligations of award winners

- At least one (1) member of the business partnership must be present at the award ceremony
- One (1) year after receiving the award they should submit a progress report to EKT on the results of the cooperation and on whether the award has helped them to achieve their objectives.
- Publicise their award win through communication channels (websites, blogs, social media) with reference to the implementing bodies and the award title.
- Collaborate with EKT, in order to explore the possibility of their participation in the forthcoming events of the award competition, and their overall contribution to achieving the objectives of the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' initiative.

9. Publicity-communication

The call for proposals will be published on the websites of the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' initiative, EKT and the Programme's website <http://awards.knowledgebridges.gr>.

For more information, the applicants may communicate with: +302107273-918, 968, 924 from Monday to Friday, 09:00- 17:00.

10. Documents supporting participation

For the fulfilment of the terms of participation the applicants (only those that pass the stage 2 of the evaluation) submit via email the following scanned documents:

A/A	Fulfillment of conditions of participation
A.	<p><i>Validation of form of partnership</i></p> <p><i>(α) Informal partnerships</i></p> <p>Private agreement or contract or memorandum of understanding setting out at least the purpose, scope, duration, the place of manufacture of the product or the service, the parties and the representation of its form.</p> <p><i>(b) Partnerships with legal form</i></p> <p><i>i. within Greece:</i></p>

A/A	Fulfillment of conditions of participation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Activity Code Number from gsis.gr website with date / time printing which will be required after the publication of the Call. ○ SA: current consolidated statute / General Assembly Decision or shareholder register ○ Limited company: current consolidated statute / Act representation if this is not apparent from the statutes. ○ Other types of businesses: current statutes where the management-representation is reflected, current statutes and certificate of registration in the General Register of Social and Economic Solidarity Institutions under national law N. 4430/2016 ○ Cooperative enterprise: legal documents for foreseen composition and representation or existing legislation. Civil Code Company: current consolidated statute ○ Financial details of business: balance sheet of the latest year, when at least one fiscal year has elapsed <p>ii. abroad:</p> <p>Relevant supporting documents, as defined by the provisions applicable from the head office.</p>
B	<i>Validation of ties with Greece</i>
B.1	<p><i>To fulfill the criterion of Greek citizenship:</i></p> <p>Identity Card or Passport</p>
B.2	<p><i>To meet the criteria of Greek origin when the participant is a national of a 3rd country:</i></p> <p><i>Special Identity Card for Aliens of Hellenic Descent or certificate of Greek origin issued by the local consular authority association, link or expatriates community, or any other official document (e.g. Family status certificate, marriage certificate, baptismal certificate, registration in the population register) which verifies Greek origin.</i></p>
B.3	<p><i>To meet the criterion of legal residence in Greece for at least three (3) years, when the participant is a third country national:</i></p> <p><i>Certificates of studies indicating the duration of studies / training or residential / commercial lease contract with contracting parties or employer attestation or documents proving the payment of social security and tax contributions, tax slips), or any other official document which (alone or in combination) demonstrates at least a three-year residence in Greece as an employee and / or student. <u>Note that, to meet this criterion in calculating the residence time, three years need not be</u></i></p>

A/A	Fulfillment of conditions of participation
	<i>consecutive.</i>
C.	<i>Validation of education level</i>
C.1	<p><i>To meet the qualification criterion:</i></p> <p><i>Degree from a recognized University or Technological Education Institute in Greece or abroad.</i></p>
D.	<i>Validation of place of employment status and residence abroad</i>
	<p><i>To meet criteria relating to the status of entrepreneur, employee, student:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the entrepreneur: any official document in accordance with applicable laws of the country of residence and employment which shows the status of the legal representative or managing director or partner or major shareholder of the company.</i></p> <p><i>(b) the employee (including employees of a research centre): a contractual employer certificate or proof of payment of insurance contributions or tax, or any other document proving the status of employment of any type or form,</i></p> <p><i>(c) student as in participating a doctoral or post-doctoral programme) certificate of attendance at a recognised educational institution or research organization fulfilment (1'1' not 2)</i></p> <p>The above documents will be used to substantiate both employment status and place of residence. These conditions should be met by at least one member of the business partnership living abroad <u>for a period of one (1) continuous year prior to the date of application.</u></p>

The documents described in sections B, C, D are required for only one party of the partnership; in the case of a legal entity participating, the entity's legal representative or managing director or partner or major shareholder of the company may possess such criteria as described in sections B, C, D.

Documents not drafted in Greek, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, require a corresponding official translation, otherwise they will be rejected.

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