



CALL OF INTEREST



“BRIDGES FOR SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS”

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Table of Contents

1. Purpose and objectives of the “Bridges Awards” Programme.....	3
2. Role of the Implementing Bodies	3
3. Terms and conditions of participation	3
4. Participation application	4
5. Special Evaluation Committee	6
6. Evaluation Process	6
7. Cash prizes	8
8. Obligations of award winners	9
9. Publicity-Communication	9
10. Documents supporting participation.....	9

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

The national initiative ‘Knowledge and Partnership Bridges’ is launching the “Bridges Awards” Programme with the aim of rewarding and promoting partnership and cooperation by granting cash prizes. The Programme 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 Scientific Networks’ aims to reward networks whose members collaborate in one or more disciplines and involve both Greeks, foreign nationals residing in Greece, and Greeks living abroad.

The goals of the award 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 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 Awards of Scientific Networks' are networks already in cooperation or individual networks, meeting overall the following conditions of participation:

1. They involve the cooperation of members in one or more disciplines to implement joint actions, for example, promote scientific synergies, sharing information, finding new solutions to address important issues on research and society, or the optimisation and further exploitation of research, scientific and technological results.

2. They should be non-profit in formal or informal legal form and governed by statute or other private co-operation agreement which stipulates at least the purpose, members and the representation of the network.
3. They consist of at least fifteen (15) natural persons, including at least three (3) living and working in Greece and at least eight (8) residing and working abroad (one or more countries need to be represented). The country of residence is considered as country of representation.
4. The total minimum number of members (15) should meet 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 lived and worked in the country they represent (Greece or 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 undergraduate (2nd degree), postgraduate, doctoral or post-doctoral programmes, and any form of employment in research centres and voluntary work programmes, apprenticeships and practice, paid or unpaid.

In the case of networks already in cooperation, the minimum number of fifteen members meeting the above requirements is an aggregate of all their members and need not be met by each of the partner networks individually.

Grounds for exclusion:

- Natural persons involved in more than one network with the role of the network representative
- Natural persons working in the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' Support Team

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 of at least 15 members of the network participating in the competition to the 'Knowledge and Partnership Bridges' platform (<https://www.knowledgebridges.gr/en>)

These conditions must be met at the time of application.

4. Participation application

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

Candidates are requested to complete the following:

Part 1: Network Identification

- Title of Network/Cooperation Proposal
- Scientific field (or scientific fields when an interdisciplinary proposal) to which the network(s) ascribe to.
- Contact person

- Legal representative of the network entitled to receive the award and to receive the corresponding prize for network account.

In the case of networks in cooperation, the contact person and the legal representative, can be the same for all cooperating networks.

Part 2: Description of the Members of the Network

- Name, status (e.g. employee, graduate student, participant in apprenticeship), nationality and country of residence, qualifications and contact details (phone number, email) of at least the required 15 members of the network.

Part 3: Description of the Proposal

- **Summary** of the award proposal (no more than 300 words)
- **Idea:** brief description of idea, the object of the collaboration, the goals, vision and mission (no more than 1000 words)
- **Accomplishments:** detailed description of area of activity, also activities or results that have been implemented to date or are expected to be implemented in the near future (no more than 1000 words)
- **Team & organisation:** 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 (no more than 2000 words).
- **Impact & Synergies:** description of contribution of networks in cooperation or individual network towards promoting relations between Greeks worldwide and addressing the brain drain phenomenon. Reference to any cooperation between existing networks of Greek and/or prestigious foreign scientific networks. Reference to contribution of networks in cooperation or individual networks towards addressing important social or scientific issues (no more than 1000 words).
- **Sustainability:** description of future award-based activities of the partner networks or individual network for the next 12 months, human resources and means of implementation and expansion prospects (eg. Geographical and / or number of members and / or area of activity) and how to achieve it (no more than 1000 words).

Attached Documents

- CVs of all members of the network (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 Program complies with article 8 N.1599 / 1986 (Gazette A 75) for the details included there. 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 licenses,
 - 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 Program and its promotion.

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

On the Program 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:

- The General Secretariat for Strategic and Private Investment, Ministry of Economy and Development
- The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)
- General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Hellenic Universities Rectors' Synod
- Select Permanent Committee on Greeks abroad
- Synod of Leads of Greek Research Centers
- A representative of National Research and Technology Council

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 and their alternates will be appointed by the participating institutions according to their own internal procedures. Representatives should be designated before the closing date for the submission of candidate applications. 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 scheme will undertake to replace them with their deputy. The Evaluation 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 4th 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 are presented in the following table:

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

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 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 all 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 grant 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: 15.000 euro

2nd Prize: 12.000 euro

3rd Prize: 10.000 euro

3 Distinctions: 5.000 euro (per distinction)

The date and venue of the awards will be announced by the 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 Program's 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 Program on production of all relevant receipts and vouchers.

Prize money may 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 scientific network 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 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 Program'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:

Fulfillment of conditions of participation	
A.	<i>Validation of the network composition</i>
A.1	Association or co-operation agreement, whether or not the network has a legal personality, which defines at least the purpose, the members and the representation of the network.
B.	<i>Validation of connection between network members and Greece</i>
B.1	<i>To meet the requirements of Greek citizenship: Identity card or passport</i>
B.2	<i>To meet the criterion of Greek origin when the participant is a national of a 3rd country: 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>

Fulfillment of conditions of participation	
B.3	<p><i>To meet the criterion of legal residence in Greece for at least three (3) years, when the participant is a foreign national:</i></p> <p>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 consecutive.</u></p>
C.	<i>Validation of education level</i>
C.1	<p><i>To meet the qualification criterion:</i></p> <p>Degree from a recognised University or Technological Education Institute in Greece or abroad.</p>
D.	<i>Validation of place of residence and employment status</i>
D.1	<p><i>To meet the criteria relating to the status of worker, student (studying for a second degree, or postgraduate, doctoral or post-doctoral studies):</i></p> <p>Certificate of employment, or contract / self-employment contracts, or proof of payment of social security or tax contributions, or contracts or certificates of participation in voluntary work programs, internships or apprenticeships or certificate of attendance at a recognized educational institution or research organization, or other official document, which proves the status of employee, student, trainee <u>for the period of one (1) continuous year prior to the date of application.</u></p> <p>The above documents are used to document both the employment and the residence status of network members.</p>

The documents described in sections B, C, D are required for the minimum number of fifteen (15) members irrespective of whether the proposal is for individual or networks in cooperation.

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

CONTACT

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