



Grants announced for innovation in aquaculture

Preliminary GSRT announcement on special funding programs

On 1 August 2016, Greece's General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) announced an upcoming call for proposals for special activities supporting research, innovation and technological development, to be funded under the Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework (ESPA) 2014-2020. Eligible beneficiaries may receive cash grants.

Specific activities in the aquaculture sector will support research and innovation projects in Greece, carried out by consortiums of research institutions and dynamic domestic enterprises. The main goal is to

create the necessary knowledge base for promoting innovation, industry competitiveness and economic growth at a regional and national level.

The specific goals of the program relating to aquaculture are as follows:

- Concentrate efforts and resources in targeted R&D priorities that are important for the Greek economy and society, aiming to maximize the benefits for the economy according to priorities set out in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization - RIS3;
- Develop new or improved products and services or methods of production with high added value, aiming to improve the competitiveness of enterprises and their entry into new markets;
- Enhance and upgrade the knowledge of research personnel of enterprises through participation in R&D activities that are directly applied in the production process; and
- Facilitate the engagement of enterprises in R&D activities by more efficiently interconnecting the research system of the country with the production sectors of the economy.

The detailed call for proposals, to be published on the GSRT website (www.gsrt.gr), will specify the conditions, the beneficiaries and the details for participating, as well as how to submit proposals and how projects will be funded.

Innovation priorities in aquaculture

Each proposal should address one of the following R&D priorities:

1. Improvement of sea bream and sea bass farming
1.1 Development of seasonal diets for better food utilization and growth of farmed populations, including the design of species-specific diets and seasonally adjusted (i.e., winter and summer) food
1.2 Development of disease management and prevention measures, including vaccines and new preventive therapies of zero environmental impact
1.3 Development of high density microarrays of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNP-chip) for sea bream and sea bass
2. Farming of new fish - Diversification of production
2.1 Improvement of management practices for the production of the yellowtail fish descendant
2.2 Implementation of the first selection program for <i>Argyrosomus regius</i> , based on molecular indices (Marker Assisted Selection, MAS) for the genetic improvement of productive properties (growth rate, body weight and other morphometric characteristics) of a species with high potential in the aquaculture production of the country. The selection will be done using RAD, (restriction-site associated DNA), aiming at mapping gene areas of quantitative properties (QTL) in the genome of <i>Argyrosomus regius</i> that may affect production features of economic importance.
3. Sustainable production of fish food

3.1	Optimization of raw material control methods and comparative testing of available methodologies for the detection of phyto-estrogen in Mediterranean species
3.2	Determination of alternative raw materials made of micro- and macro-algae, worms and insect larvae to be tested for suitability (digestibility, bioavailability etc.) and the possibility of mass production
3.3	Improvement of the control and evaluation of fish food for sea bream and sea bass and identification of supplements that would turn possible anti-nutritional factors inactive in existing raw materials
4.	Manufacturing - Processing
4.1	Development of new methods of processing existing farmed species
4.2	Development of new methods of increasing the product life cycle
5.	New farming technologies - Development of a knowledge base for open sea aquaculture
5.1	Development of new materials for cages and nets (e.g. nets for a 15-year use)
5.2	Development of new automation technologies (e.g. for feeding, monitoring, escape control), including self-control of aquaculture equipment
5.3	Development of normal farming units in open sea environments, with present electromagnetic fields
6.	Production of new biotechnological products (domestication of the sea)
6.1	Detection and isolation of bioactive substances from marine organisms (e.g. algae, mollusks) of medicinal or other interest (e.g. cosmetics, food)
6.2	Identification and cultivation of local phytoplankton species , including the production of algae products (e.g. oils, antioxidants, natural pigments, active polysaccharides, bioactive additives, dietary supplements)

Main features

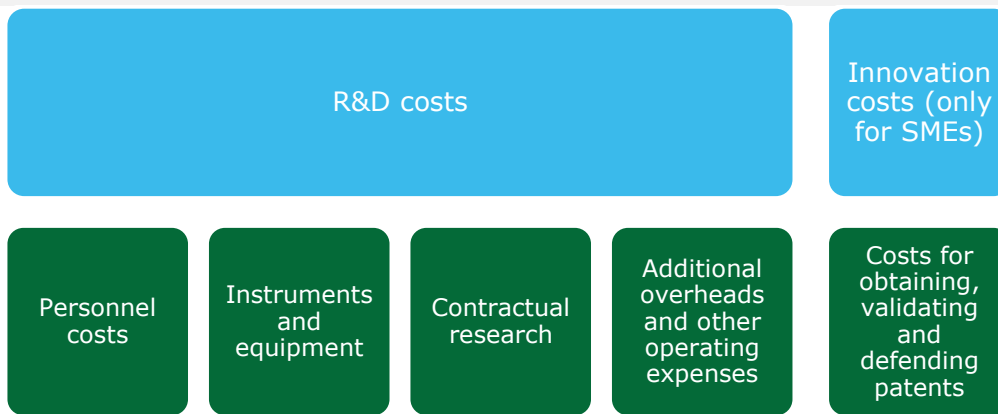
Below is a summary of the main features of the upcoming program, according to the announcement.

What will be the budget range for an eligible proposal?

The public funding for an eligible proposal in the aquaculture sector will be between EUR 50,000 and EUR 350,000.

What expenditure will be eligible?

Eligible expenditures fall under two main categories, R&D costs and innovation costs for SMEs, as shown in the following table:



What is the structure of an eligible consortium?

The structure of an eligible consortium will depend on the specific priority for which a proposal is submitted. The accepted collaboration schemes for each priority are shown in the following table:

R&D priorities	Collaboration schemes
1.1	
1.2	Consortium of at least one research institution and one private enterprise
1.3	
2.1	
2.2	
3.1	Consortium of at least two research institutions
3.2	
3.3	Consortium of at least one research institution and one private enterprise
4.1	
4.2	
5.1	Consortium of at least two research institution
5.2	Consortium of at least one research institution and one private enterprise
5.3	
6.1	Consortium of at least two research institution
6.2	

What type and amount of state aid will be granted?

All beneficiaries included in the program will be entitled to cash grants.

- **Private enterprises** will receive a cash grant based on their size (small, medium or large) and the content of the project. For industrial research, the amount of the cash grant will be equal to 65%-80% of eligible expenditure. For experimental development, the percentage will be 40%-60% of eligible expenditure.
- **Research organizations** will receive a cash grant equal to 100% of their eligible expenditure.

How will a proposal be evaluated?

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality and caliber of entities forming the consortium;
- Scientific and technological quality of the proposal; and
- Potential benefits from the proposed project.

Each criterion will be specified in detail when the call is issued.

What will be the duration of each project?

Each project will last between 18 and 24 months, depending on the content of the proposal.

What will be the total budget for the program?

The public funding of the action will be EUR 5.25 million. The total budget of submitted proposals is estimated to reach EUR 7 million.

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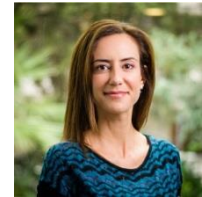
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Contact us



Maria Trakadi
Tax Managing Partner
mtrakadi@deloitte.gr
+302106781260



Stelios Sbyrakis
Tax Principal
R&D/GI
ssbyrakis@deloitte.gr
+302106781196



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3a Fragoklissias & Granikou str., 151 25 Maroussi, Attika – Greece, Tel: +30 210 6781 100

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