



The PRIMA programme is an Art.185 initiative supported and funded under Horizon 2020,



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Volos, 31/05/2021
R.N.: 23157

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(for proposal for contract with a natural person against payment)

The Special Account Funds for Research (SAFR) of the University of Thessaly, in the context of the project "Innovative tools to combat crop pests in the Mediterranean", INTOMED, which is funded by PRIMA, SECTION 2, (GSRT number 3922-15-01-2020), SAFR No 6348, and Scientific Coordinator Ms Kalliope Papadopoulou

Taking into consideration:

1. The provisions of the Article 93 of the Law 4310/2014 (Official Gazette 258/A/8-12-2014), "Research, Technological Development and Innovation and other provisions", as it was modified with Article 24 paragraph 1 of the Law 4386/2016 (Official Gazette 83/A/11-5-2016) "Regulations for research and other provisions"
2. The provisions of the Article 24 of the Law 4386/2016 "Regulations for research and other provisions"
3. The provisions of the Article 64 of the Law 4485/2017 "Organisation and function of the highest education, regulations for research and other provisions"
4. The 'Guide For Funding and Management of the SAFR of the University of Thessaly'
5. The registration number 11853/001/29-03-2021 SAFR decision of SAFR for approval of the budget of the project, according to which there are the required credits for the expenses and the relevant contract (diavgeia gov no: ΨΥΤ3469Β7Ξ-ΛΒΗ)
6. The 9/2021/11-05-2021 decision of SAFR with which the request for approval for this call for expression of interest was approved (diavgeia gov no: ΩΔΥΓ469Β7Ξ-ΦΧ6)
7. The 2/2020/28-01-2020 decision of SAFR with which the Evaluation Committee was approved (diavgeia gov no: Ψ8ΓΚ469Β7Ξ-ΙΦΛ)
8. The registration number 11853/002/29-03-2021 decision of the President of SAFR's Research & Management Committee for the undertaking or responsibility, that was registered in the Registry of Commitments of the SAFR (diavgeia gov no: 6Π1Ε469Β7Ξ-Ξ0Φ)

Announces the present invitation for call for expression of interest for proposal for contract with a natural person against payment. The individual will undertake the responsibility for production of deliverables, from the date of the signature of the contract till 14/11/2022 with the possibility of extension without new call for expression of interest till the end of the project or the end of possible project extension, as follows:

Call Summary	
Project	"Innovative tools to combat crop pests in the Mediterranean", INTOMED,
	Summary of the project is attached in Annex II
Position (1)	Technician
Number of persons	1
Project object	<p>Participation in the following project Work Packages WP2: Molecular mechanisms WP3: Development of molecular innovative tools WP4: Demonstration and pilot application</p> <p>(Participation in the evaluation of new metabolites, peptides for the defence of plants in pilot experiments and in the field</p> <p>Research on mechanisms that intervene to the interference of the defence of the plants from beneficial microorganisms. Contribution to the preparation of progress reports and dissemination activities. Participation in greenhouses experiments with the use of isolated metabolites and peptides. Participation in experiments for the valuation of the doses of metabolites against the plants' harmful enemies. Participation in pilot field experiments of INTOMED tools)</p>
Duration of the contract	From the signature of the contract till 14/11/2022. The duration of the contract may be extended in accordance with the development of the project. In case the project is extended there is the possibility of new contract without new call for expression of interest, till the new end date of the project.
Budget	The budgeted amount will be up to 22,022 Euros, including all taxes, social security contributions and other deductions.
Place	University of Thessaly, Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Larissa, Greece

Required candidate qualifications:

	Required candidate qualifications
1	Undergraduate University or Technological Institution degree from a Greek or an equivalent foreign institution in biological sciences or equivalent
2	Postgraduate Degree from a Greek or an equivalent foreign institution in biological sciences or natural sciences or equivalent
3	Good knowledge of English

Additional candidate qualifications– Grading:

	Additional candidate qualifications	Grading
1	Professional experience more than 1 year in plants in plants and microorganisms interaction	up to 20%, 1-2 years: 10% 2-3 years: 15% More than 3 years: 20%
2	Knowledge of Bioinformatics *The knowledge is attested with relevant certificate or relevant dissertation/doctoral thesis, or with relevant curricula (analytic report of the University and if it is not mentioned clearly, the analytic report should be accompanied by the curriculum description in the School Guide)	up to 20%
3	First author paper in international peer reviewed journals	up to 40% 8% for each publication, maximum 5 publications
4	Personal Interview (can be performed by means of teleconference)	up to 20%

1. Clarifications

1.1 The candidate should be present at the premises of the University of Thessaly, to participate in work meetings, info-days, seminars, conferences as well as in the area of implementation of the pilot action when it is required. Moreover, the candidate should be in close communication with the Scientific Coordinator.

1.2 The grading takes place for the additional candidate qualifications of the expression of interest and shall be objectively connected to the project requirements.

1.3 Any submitted candidacy that does not meet the required qualifications will not be examined and will consequently be rejected. The candidates who are considered to meet the required qualifications will be

called for a personal interview. The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the educational background, the skills and capacities, the professional experience, the potential of good provision of services, as well as the overall personality of the candidates

1.4 In case there is only one candidate for the position, there is the possibility of not proceeding to an interview if only the candidate fulfils all the required qualifications for the position.

The thematic sections and the grading system to be used to the interview is described to the following table:

	Thematic section of the interview	Level of Knowledge / Grading	Grading rate
1	Personal information and interests	"Weak(1)", "Mediocre(2)", "Satisfactory(3)", "Good(4)", "Excellent(5)"	10%
2	Professional behaviour and communication skills	"Weak(1)", "Mediocre(2)", "Satisfactory(3)", "Good(4)", "Excellent(5)"	20%
3	Ability to work in the context of a team	"Weak(1)", "Mediocre(2)", "Satisfactory(3)", "Good(4)", "Excellent(5)"	20%
4	Understanding of the project requirements	"Weak(1)", "Mediocre(2)", "Satisfactory(3)", "Good(4)", "Excellent(5)"	30%
8	Incentives for candidacy - Professional goals	"Weak(1)", "Mediocre(2)", "Satisfactory(3)", "Good(4)", "Excellent(5)"	20%

2. Required supporting documents

2.1 Application form (See Annex I).

2.2 Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the candidates that will be accompanied by copies of supporting documents as evidence for the skills mentioned in the CV such as the Degrees/Diplomas, certifications, proof of professional experience etc.

For the supporting documents the regulations of article 1 of Law 4520/2014 (Official Gazette 74/A/2014) are applicable as follows:

- a. Documents provided by the Greek Public Sector institutions, regional governance authorities, other public bodies and other institutions of the paragraph 2 a of Article 1 of the Law 2520/2014 can be submitted as simple photocopies of the originals or of their certified copies.
- b. Documents provided by the private sector can be submitted as photocopies certified by an authorised solicitor, as well as photocopies certified from the bodies mentioned in paragraph 2 a of the Article 1 of the Law 2540/2014.

Documents from abroad can be submitted as photocopies certified by authorised solicitor accompanied by an authorised translation from the language of the document into Greek or English.

If the candidates do not submit the required supporting documents, the skills mentioned in their CVs are not to be taken into consideration.

Every candidate can submit **only one application form**. If a candidate submits more than one application form for positions of the same call for expression of interest will be automatically rejected.

2.3 For the Greek candidates, Solemn Declaration of the Law 1599/1986,
where the candidates will declare:

- A) the professional registry / technical chambers if they are registered,
- B) that they understand the terms of the present call for expression of interest and that they accept them without any reservations,
- C) that they do not declare false or inaccurate information to the contracting authority,
- D) that for the undertaking of the project and receiving the remuneration, there is no obstacle and if there are obstacles they will see to the removal of any obstacles if their application is approved,
- E) that they resign of every right of remuneration if the contracting authority decides for the postponement or cancellation of the call for expression of interest or the non-signature of the contract,
- F) that they have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempted from them throughout the duration of the project contract.

2.4 Evidence for skills

For the supporting documents the regulations of Article 1 of Law 4520/2014 (Official Gazette 74/A/2014) are applicable as follows:

- a. Documents provided by the Greek Public Sector institutions, regional governance authorities, other public bodies and other institutions of the paragraph 2 a of Article 1 of the Law 2520/2014 can be submitted as simple photocopies of the originals or of their certified copies.
- b. Documents provided by the private sector can be submitted as photocopies certified by an authorised solicitor, as well as photocopies certified from the bodies mentioned in paragraph 2 a of the Article 1 of the Law 2540/2014.

Documents from abroad can be submitted as photocopies certified by authorised solicitor accompanied by an authorised translation from the language of the document into Greek or English.

2.5 Evidence for experience

Experience to be considered is the experience gained through contracts against payment, for the public or the private sector, in relevance with the project object of this call for expression of interest, after the receipt of the undergraduate degree.

The required supporting documents proving the object and the duration of the experience are the following:

Certificate of the social insurance institution proving the duration of the insurance (for the candidates whose experience derives from the private sector) or certificate of the relevant public institution (for the candidates whose experience derives from the public sector).

If the certificate cannot prove the specific experience that may be required in the context of this call for expression of interest, relevant contracts or invoices that cover the duration of the specific experience are required.

If the candidates will not submit the required supporting documents, the skills mentioned in their CV are not to be taken into consideration.

Deadline of submission

As long as the measures against the COVID – 19 dispersion are applied, the candidates should send their application form with the required supporting documents scanned, using electronic means, till **15/06/2021** (deadline of submission) to the electronic address : ee@uth.gr.

They should mention to the Subject of the e-mail the registration number (RN) of the present invitation for expression of interest for which they submit their application.

The candidate, among others, should provide a solemn declaration of the Law 1599/1956, according to which, if he/she is to be hired he/she will provide all the required documents and immediately after the ending of the measures against the COVID-19 dispersion.

Other terms and conditions

- Any objections for the hiring procedures will be submitted by electronic means and should mention to the Subject of the e-mail and the registration number of the present invitation for expression of interest within a period of 5 working days following the announcement of the results on the website : ee.uth.gr.
- Greek candidates' higher education degrees (undergraduate and postgraduate) that are a required qualification and have been issued by foreign institutions must be accompanied by certificates of recognition by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (Hellenic NARIC)
- If the selected candidates are Greek public servants, they shall bear the responsibility to comply with the requirements of Article 31 of Act 3528/2007.
- Language knowledge for Greek citizens shall be certified according to Article 1

of Presidential Decree 146/2007 "Modification of provisions of Presidential Decree 50/2001 Defining qualifications for the appointments of posts in the public sector" (Official Gazette 185/A/3.8.2007), in conjunction with the last passage of paragraph 1 of Article 1 of the Presidential Decree 116/2006 "Amendment of Article 28 of Presidential Decree 50/2001" (Official Gazette 115/A/9.6.2006). Regarding the certification of knowledge of any foreign language, a photocopy of the original certificate together with a photocopy of its official translation in Greek should be submitted.

- Please note that the call for expression of interest for contract against payment concerning the project is not a competitive tendering procedure, while the potential selection of counterparties shall be interpreted as an acceptance of a proposal and not as "hiring". The said process will be completed with the announcement of a ranking list, and the selected candidates will be notified individually. In case of a tie, the candidate whose application has the highest relevance of subject and longest professional experience will be selected, the better grade of the undergraduate degree, the better grade of the postgraduate degree.

- The evaluation of the applications will be made by a 3-member Evaluation Committee. An application form submitted that does not meet the required qualifications will be rejected.

- Throughout the duration of the project and the contract it is possible that selected candidate(s) may be replaced by other candidate(s) of the present call and in accordance with the ranking list.

-This call for expression of interest is not binding for SAFR to establish cooperation with stakeholders and does not create rights expectation. SAFR reserves the right to select the candidate, as well as full discretion in the conclusion or not of the relevant contracts, excluding any claim by the candidates.

- SAFR may, upon decision, extend the contract, provided that such an extension is in accordance with relevant Greek and International legislation.

This call for expression of interest is published on the website of SAFR(<https://ee.uth.gr>) and EURAXESS (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>).

Contact details: Mr Kontos Theodoros (tel: +30 24210 06413, email: kontos@uth.gr) Ms Evagelia Vasilarou (tel: +30 24210 06403, email: vasilarou@uth.gr)

The President of the Research & Management Committee of SAFR

As. Prof Laliotou Ioanna
Vice Rector of Research and Lifelong Learning

ANNEX I

Place, Date

Name:

Surname:

Father name:

Mother name:

Date of birth:

VAT no (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Position:

Proposal for contract with a natural person against payment

To: Research Committee of SAFR

Subject: Proposal for the call for expression of interest with registration number 23157/31.05.2021 of SAFR of the University of Thessaly, for contract with a natural person against payment in the context of the project "Innovative tools to combat crop pests in the Mediterranean", INTOMED, which is funded by PRIMA, SECTION 2, (GSRT number 3922-15-01-2020), SAFR No 6348, and Scientific Coordinator Ms Kalliope Papadopoulou

The Applicant

Signature

ANNEX II

Project Summary

The overall objective of INTOMED is to identify, develop, validate and promote effective and sustainable **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools** by (a) exploiting **beneficial interactions** between plants and soil-borne microbes and (b) identifying **naturally derived key molecules** (peptides, metabolites and RNAs) to **enhance the resistance** of economically important Mediterranean crops against major agricultural arthropod pests and pathogens, as well as by (c) assessing the **social acceptability** of the proposed tools by end-users.

This project focuses on three important crops: tomato, olive and citrus. With an annual production of approx. 40.12, 17.28 and 13.35 million tons of tomatoes, olives and oranges, Mediterranean represents approx. 23, 90 and 18% of the worldwide production of these crops, respectively (FAOSTAT, 2016). Spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*), whiteflies (*Bemisia tabaci*), the tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*), tomato russet mite (*Aculops lycopersici*), olive fruit fly (*Bactocera oleae*), medfly (*Ceratitis capitata*) and the carob moth (*Ectomyelois ceratoniae*), all dealt with in this project, are among the most difficult to control arthropod pests of the targeted crops in the Mediterranean region. In addition, *Verticillium dahliae*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* and *Pseudomonas savastanoi*, all economically important plant pathogens, are included in INTOMED.

Preventive measures currently developed against these arthropods/pathogens are limited to only few of these organisms and pesticide application is the main control method used often resulting in environmental pollution, failures in control (mainly due to the development of resistant populations of pests to pesticides) and risks to human health. **INTOMED proposes the development of two types of environment friendly, sustainable and natural pest control strategies that use (i) beneficial microorganisms (biocontrol) and (ii) natural molecules (peptides, metabolites, RNAs) to combat the above-mentioned pathogens and pests.**

The project is analysed to the following Work Packages :

Package No	Work Package Title
WP1:	Biological control at multi-trophic levels
WP2:	Molecular Mechanisms
WP3:	Development of molecular innovative tools
WP4:	Demonstration and pilot application