



Research and Innovation Strategy 2017-2020

1. Research and Innovation Mission & Vision

Research activities form one of the core pillars of operation as defined in Frederick University's Charter. The University therefore actively supports the advancement of research and the generation of new knowledge through fostering exploration, innovation and novel application of knowledge at all levels and areas of the academic community, with emphasis on applied research and innovation activities.

Through its research and innovation activities, the University aspires to be an exemplary case in Cyprus in research to industry/society links with significant impact in advancement of the local economy through innovative application of new knowledge developed at the University or through collaborations with other research organizations.

2. R&I Policy Overview

In alignment with the University growth strategy, our overall Research & Innovation Strategy is driven by the aim to promote and foster high value interdisciplinary research, by giving parity of esteem to discovery and scientific publications, expansion of collaborations, and application, knowledge transfer and societal impact.

Beyond the fact that Universities ensure academic freedom in research and teaching, as well as freedom of expression and movement of ideas there is the need of quality assurance in research involving the definition, detailed strategy principles and directives for each University and therefore for Frederick University as well. These principles and guidelines are: the establishment and operation of the Research Committee of the Senate and the Research & Interconnection Service (RIS) to monitor and record the research activities but also for the development of all the actions, rules and processes that contribute to the improvement of R&I activities of the University. The R&I activities fall under those funded externally through funding programs, those that run through limited internal or no funding at all, as well technology transfer and innovation activities.

The European or State level funding of Competitive Research usually has the aim of improving the level of science and the acquisition of new knowledge (excellence). Conditions for participation in such funded research projects is usually the existence of suitable research infrastructures (e.g. laboratory equipment, computer systems, etc.), requirements that cannot be fully met by the newly founded Universities without State subsidy, even if their faculty may have the necessary skills to participate in them. The research activities in this area are expected to steadily increase in the upcoming years as the University's research strategy becomes grounded in faculty's participation in research projects and the necessary research infrastructure develops further. Frederick University, though looking forward to actively claiming funding from Competitive Research Programs, especially at national and regional level as well as European level, particularly encourages the development of partnerships with other research institutions and considers as important element of activity the collaborations that are pursued in this direction regardless of the degree of success of research proposals that emerge.

Apart from the above research for the improvement of international science in which other more established Universities in the world traditionally participate and in which Frederick University wishes to participate as well, of great importance for the University is to develop R&I activities with the society of



Cyprus as recipient (businesses, government, citizens) in the form of applied research for optimally addressing technological, economic, social and other challenges. This relationship of research to society i.e. applied research and technology transfer (through the functions of the Liaison Office, contracts with Companies, Innovation activities, vocational training) is considered of equal stature with academic publications and participation in funded research projects to improve international science level. Therefore Frederick University encourages its members to continuously seek contacts and collaborations with Cypriot institutions and companies for the development of applied research, either through projects funded from competitive programs, or through direct award contract research and consulting services.

Certainly an important element for the University remains the non-funded research outputs by university faculty members as expressed through publications in journals and international conferences, publications of books, or through the participation and awards in reputable international or national competitions and exhibitions, especially in creative disciplines.

3. Research Priorities

The university through a process that will be defined by the Research Committee should identify and focus on the establishment of interdisciplinary research units or centers which would provide research excellence in niche domains. These units should be in the medium term financially autonomous obtaining both internal and external funding.

Fully respecting the principles of academic freedom and the European Charter & Code for Researchers, the Departments or Schools should further define their research domain priorities and form research team/groups. These research domains shall take into account the overall R&I mission of the University, the available or prospective faculty knowhow and the availability or access to the necessary infrastructure, funding and network of partners in Cyprus and abroad.

4. Goals and Actions

The following goals and actions have been prioritised taking into account the availability of resources:

- a. **Focus on Applied Research and Strengthen Links with Industry and Society**, but facilitate those with potential for basic research activities
 - Promote and take into advantage the funding opportunities from the Cyprus RPF's RESTART 2016-20 programs, especially those addressed to enterprises and social innovation, as well as any entrepreneurship funding programs from the Ministry of Commerce.
 - Promote and support the take up of consulting or contract research & innovation projects directly from the industry
 - Promote and facilitate the set-up of formal collaboration agreements and MoUs with industry, NGOs and other organizations
 - Promote and facilitate the participation in public tenders for services that are in line with research and educational activities of the University and its faculty



- Promote the integration of industrial practice to student life, through the adaptation of practical training and industry placement courses as well as industry driven student projects in most degree programs. Facilitate the placement of students through the operation of the Liaison Office.

b. Promote and Support Networking and Research Collaborations

- Promote and support the participation of faculty in COST Actions
- Seek increasing funding from the Erasmus+ KA1 program for mobility of Staff
- Promote and support the participation in H2020 programs, taking into advantage of the faculties' existing network of associates and the collaborations with Universities and Research Organizations that stem from the internationalization strategy and actions of the University
- Support the participation of faculty in reputable international/regional scientific conferences and the organization of scientific conferences in Cyprus
- Support the participation in reputable competitions and exhibitions from faculty and students

c. Advancement of research output

Research production is one of the key elements of university evaluation and often the main domain of concentration in academic assessments.

- Set a Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Policy for monitoring research outputs at the department and individual level (see paragraph 5 below)
- Set clear goals for growth in publications and other quantifiable research work/academic output measures at departmental and school level
- Propose and develop support measures for further growth of Research outputs from the University faculty and activities

d. Establishment of Distinct Research Units and Centers in Areas of Strength

- Through the Research Committee, define and execute a consultation process that will result in the definition of interdisciplinary niche domains and the development of Distinct Research Centers
- Map, monitor and promote the R&I activities of research teams and units established by the Departments and/or Schools
- Take into advantage and apply for funding through programs like: H2020 ERA CHAIRs, H2020 TWINNING, RESTART 2016-20 INFRASTRUCTURE, INTERREG, to support the establishment or further development of the research units/labs/centers of the University

e. Maximise Income from R&I Activities to Support University Growth

- Develop the concept of the Research Fund at University, research unit and individual faculty level and refine its operational rules to support and develop the R&I activities of the University
- Promote and support the participation of staff through the University in funding programs for R&I or educational or consulting activities across all departments
- Refine, adopt and promote the Intellectual Property Policy of the University for protection and exploitation of the University's IPR
- Promote and support tech transfer activities, especially through training courses and exploitation of knowhow and IPR



f. Practice Responsible research & innovation (RRI)

RRI implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society. This will be achieved through the development and/or adaptation of policies and processes for:

- Open Access to scientific publications and research data
- Public Engagement in defining research topics and
- Gender and Ethics principles and rules
- European Charter & Code for Researchers

g. Optimization and Enhancement of Scope of R&I Services and Tools

To support the achievement of previously set goals and actions through a well-functioning Research & Interconnection Service:

- Continually review, refine and change where necessary the rules and procedures for participation of faculty and researchers in R&I activities
- Taking into account the availability of resources and the volume of work generated, expand the staffing of the Research & Interconnection Service, especially to address the sought connection with the industry, tech transfer activities and to support the proposal preparation and administration of participation in funded projects
- Develop an effective Current Research Information System to facilitate the recording and monitoring of R&I activity data and to support the reporting requirements of the University's management
- Propose and develop in consultation with the Research Committee of support schemes to further enhance the R&I activities of the University

5. Key Performance Indicators

It is important to track the R&I performance and the impact generated by FU researchers. This will enable the University to showcase its achievements more prominently to the research community and the wider public and to assess the performance of various levels of academic units* within the University against the defined strategy and take policy measures or set goals where needed to maintain a high level of standard or enable improvement. A separate guidance document on the implementation and monitoring of the KPIs will be issued by the R&I Service and will be provided to the academic units through the Research Committee.

* Academic Unit: School, Department or other unit that is required to define a research strategy