

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
HELLENIC OBSERVATORY

**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS 2013**

**THEMES:**

- 1. Reform of Public Administration in Greece**
- 2. Social Insurance Provisions in Greece**
- 3. Foreign Policy**

The LSE's Hellenic Observatory invites researchers with a recognised interest in contemporary Greece to submit an application for funding in order to carry out a project on one of the themes highlighted above and further clarified on page-3. This call has been made possible by funding generously provided by the National Bank of Greece, to which we wish to record our gratitude. This initiative is consistent with the Observatory's mission to promote public policy research and to foster academic collaboration and networks and follows on from previous successful calls made in 2009 and 2011.

The Call is open to all researchers with a university affiliation, who hold a doctorate (PhD degree) and have at least two years of post-doctoral research experience. Applications from groups of researchers are also eligible, but in this case all member of the research team should meet the eligibility criteria. Applications from researchers who have had an affiliation with the Hellenic Observatory at any time over the past two years as well as from researchers with a current LSE affiliation are not eligible.

Research grants of up to GBP £10,000 will be awarded to the successful applicant(s) for research

on one of the themes, to be undertaken normally within a period of 12 months. It is expected that a total of two projects will be selected from this Call based on the quality of the proposal and the research record of the applicant(s). Payments will be made in two equal instalments, the first on commencement of the project and the second on completion of the defined outputs to the satisfaction of the LSE project leader. The successful applicant(s) must provide a relevant research account in their host institution for the transfer of the grant. It is hoped that the agreements will be drawn up and signed by all parties by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

Applications should be submitted electronically by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (5pm GMT)** to [Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk).

The subject line of the email should read "HO Call 2013" only and all application material should be in MS Word format. In the email applicants should indicate the research theme addressed by their proposal. Applicants who are unable to submit their application in this form must contact the Hellenic Observatory office on +44 (0)20 7955 6066 or +44 (0) 20 7107 5326 at least 10 days before the advertised deadline.

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**Terms & Conditions**

The award will be made by a Selection Committee appointed by the LSE solely on the basis of the application materials submitted. All applicants must provide (a) a project proposal (of up to 8 pages), detailing the research question, the conceptual framework and methodology, the empirical data, and the expected outputs; (b) an indicative budget (see below); (c) a copy of the CVs of all applicants; and (d) a cover letter, summarising the competencies of the applicant and/or research team in relation to the proposed research. For group applications, an additional document highlighting the structure of the team and the allocation of tasks across its members is required.

The indicative budget should justify the costs identified for the project. All types of costs are allowed - including costs for fieldwork, data, travel, consumables and research staff – insofar as they can be accepted as essential parts of the proposed research. Overhead costs of up to 15% are allowed, but these should be included in the budget (the total budget cannot exceed £10,000). The Selection Committee has the right to request additional information regarding budget costs and to award a smaller amount than the one requested or advertised. Awards must be used solely for the purposes set out in the application. An amount of up to 20% of the total budget can be transferred between budget headings without reference to the Hellenic Observatory. Requests for budget transfers in excess of this amount should be addressed to the Hellenic Observatory.

The Selection Committee is solely responsible for approving the eligibility of applications and

reserves the right to request additional information from the applicants. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to participate in a telephone interview. In all cases, the decisions of the Selection Committee will be final. The Committee reserves the right not to make any awards or to adjust the number of awards it makes.

The successful researcher / research team will be required to provide an 'Interim Progress Report' (at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> month of the project), a 'Final Report' (at the end of the project) and a full research/policy paper presenting the results of the project, in a manner suitable for publication in an international academic/scientific journal, for publication in the GreeSE Papers series of the Hellenic Observatory. The prospect of additional publications, in other outlets, stemming from the research project will be a significant criterion for the evaluation of the applications submitted.

The Hellenic Observatory will also cover the basic costs for the researcher (or one team member) to present the research findings at the LSE. The researcher (or research team) will be obliged to give full acknowledgement to the Hellenic Observatory and to the National Bank of Greece in all publicity and outputs related to the project, copies of which should be sent to the Hellenic Observatory. The Hellenic Observatory also retains the right to publicise a summary of the results, with full acknowledgement to the authors of the research, on its website and in its other publicity outlets.

### Call for Research Tender 1-NBG1-2013

Project Title: Reform of Public Administration in Greece

In order to contribute to the debate on the reform of public administration in Greece, we invite empirical research that EITHER:

- (a) Evaluates a recent administrative reform in Greece; or
- (b) Evaluates an administrative reform undertaken in another EU member state and its relevance to solving a problem within Greece.

Research (a) or (b) should focus on mechanisms, procedures, skills, and/or technological innovations within the state or regional administrative process and have a strong empirical base.

### Call for Research Tender 2-NBG2-2013

Project Title: Social Insurance Provisions in Greece

The crisis has put immense strain on social insurance provision in Greece – but it has also revealed a range of problems in the existing social policy model: weak targeting, bureaucratic bottlenecks and – apparently – widespread benefit fraud seem to have produced a system that is both expensive (in terms of per capita expenditures) and ineffective (in terms of depth, width and accuracy of coverage). Pressures for change are mounting, not least due to the fiscal and institutional constraints imposed on the country under the loan agreements signed with the Eurozone-ECB-IMF ‘troika’.

Aiming at stimulating an evidence-based scientific debate on the problems, limitations, and future orientation of social policy in Greece, we invite proposals for empirical research projects that will seek to (a) assess the efficacy (universality, targeting, cost-effectiveness, etc.) of current social insurance provisions in Greece and/or (b) examine, possibly through comparative cross-country research, the applicability to Greece of alternative social insurance systems as have been applied elsewhere (e.g., universal-coverage Beveridge-type systems, or a privately-funded self-insurance systems).

### Call for Research Tender 3-NBG3-2013

Project Title: Foreign Policy

The Greek crisis is rarely discussed in its foreign policy context. Much attention has been focused on relations with European partners. Relations with Germany, often conducted through a discourse of national stereotypes are a good example of this, as is comparison with the situation in other ‘southern’, or ‘poorer’, or ‘smaller’ states in the EU. But very little has been written or said of Greece’s relationship with Turkey, its position of the recognition of Kosovo or on the on-going impasse with FYROM.

One could assume that a Greece weakened by severe economic crisis and dependent on highly conditional external economic support would be vulnerable to external pressure on issues of national interest. Arguably, the leverage is such that EU partners, for example, have sought concession from Greece on matters of foreign policy. In this call, we invite proposals to examine the changing European context and its effects on Greek foreign policy. Has the economic crisis had a direct effect on foreign policy and in what specific ways? Is it a neglected area of activity or is it an area of potential weakness. The proposals should refer to both a conceptual framework and empirical evidence with relation to specific cases such as, Greece’s relations with Turkey, FYROM and on the issue of Kosovo.

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The proposed projects are expected to be small-scale quantitative research projects; however, proposals seeking to answer these questions with more qualitative methods of research, including fieldwork and survey questionnaires are also covered by this Call.

For more information please refer to the General Guidelines of this Call or contact the Hellenic Observatory at [Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk).