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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS
**INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS**

# Two (2) Post Doc positions in the project "SMILE"

## Search for Milli-lenses to discriminate between dark matter models

***(Call: ERC-2021-STG, GA 101040021)***
***Funded under HORIZON.1.1 - European Research Council (ERC)***

Funded by the European Union

Ref. 241184
Heraklion, 06.11.2026

The Institute of Astrophysics (IA) of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), in the framework of the project SMILE, (Call: ERC-2021-STG, GA 101040021) funded under HORIZON.1.1 - European Research Council (ERC) is seeking to recruit **two (2) Postdoctoral researchers**.

**Title:** Search and follow-up of milli-lens candidates within the SMILE project

### Job Description

Two postdoctoral positions in radio Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) data calibration, imaging, and analysis of the large multi-wavelengths data sample at the base of the SMILE project, focused on the search for gravitational lens systems at milliarcsecond scales, i.e. milli-lenses (https://smilescience.info/).
The candidates will contribute to the science within SMILE in multiple ways: 1) exploring automated methods, in the image and visibility planes, to classify multi-component radio sources that could be potential milli-lens candidates; 2) exploring imaging algorithms other than CLEAN and Dog-HIT, already in use in SMILE, and testing

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their performance in producing automated images for the ~5000 sources in the SMILE sample; 3) searching for, following-up on, and analysing milli-lens candidates identified in the search conducted on the main SMILE survey.

**Required qualifications**

- A PhD in astrophysics, physics, or a related field at the moment of the start of the contract (mandatory).
- Demonstrated experience with VLBI data calibration, imaging, and analysis (80%).
- Experience in Python coding (10%).
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills (10%).

**Location:** IA-FORTH, Heraklion Crete GREECE

**Start Date:** 1st January 2027

**Project Duration**: 12 months (renewable up to 2 years upon satisfactory performance)

**Monthly salary:** 3000 euros (gross)

**Application Submission**

Interested candidates who meet the aforementioned requirements are kindly asked to submit their applications, no later than **November 25, 2026, 23:59 local Greece** time to the address (info@ia.forth.gr), with cc to Dr. Carolina Casadio (ccasadio@ia.forth.gr).

Any application received after the deadline will not be considered for the selection.

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In order to be considered, the application must include:

- Application Form (please download file from the job announcement webpage https://www.ia.forth.gr/employment-opportunities);
- CV including publications;
- A research statement that outlines the applicant's research background (half-page);

Please note that reference letters are not required at the time of application. They will be requested only from shortlisted candidates.

**Contact**

For information and questions regarding the application and selection procedure, candidates are asked to contact the secretariat (info@ia.forth.gr), tel. +30 2810-394200.

For information and questions about the advertised position and the research activity of the group or the institute, please contact Dr. Carolina Casadio (ccasadio@ia.forth.gr).

**Evaluation procedure**

Applications will be evaluated by a three-member evaluation committee. In case of interview procedure, candidates will be invited to participate in person or teleconference.

In case of titles and qualifications awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions, the provisions of the Law 55/2023 (article 36) and 4957/2022 (article 304) are implemented.

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**Selection Announcement**

The result of the selection will be announced on the website of IA-FORTH.

Candidates have the right to appeal the selection decision, by addressing their written objection to the IA secretariat within five (5) days since the results announcement on the web. Objections are submitted in one of the following ways: in person, by an authorized person, by post, by courier. They also have the right to access (a) the files of the candidates as well as (b) the table of candidates' scores (ranking of candidates results). All the above information related to the selection procedure will be available at the secretariat of IA-FORTH in line with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. Access to personal data of co-candidates shall be limited to personal data (and relevant data) and supporting documents which have been the basis of the evaluation of the candidates for the specific post(s). Prior to the announcement of the personal data and/or documents of the co-candidates to the candidate, FORTH will inform the data subjects in an appropriate way.

The selected candidates will be notified personally regarding the success of his/her application and will be requested to submit certified copies of his/her degrees. If the submitted documents do not agree with the original application, the candidate will be dismissed.

**GDPR Disclaimer**

FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures for the processing of personal data as defined by the Regulation EU/2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data.

FORTH processes the personal data and relevant supporting documents that applicants have submitted. Processing of that data is carried out exclusively for the needs and purposes of this specific call. Such data shall not be transmitted to or communicated to any third party unless required by law.

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FORTH retains the above data up to the announcement of the final results of the call, unless further process and reservation is required by law or for purposes of exercise, enforcement, prosecution of certain one's legitimate legal rights' as defined in the Regulation EU/2016/679 and/or in national law.

Under the Regulation EU/2016/679, applicants have the rights to be informed about their personal data, access to, rectification and erasure, restrictions of process and objection to as provided by applicable regulation and national laws.

Applicants have the right to file a complaint to the national Data Protection Authority. For any further information regarding exercise of personal data protection rights, applicants may contact the Data Protection Officer at FORTH at dpo@admin.forth.gr.

Applicants have the right to withdraw their application and consent for the processing of their personal data at any time. In this case, FORTH shall destroy such documents and/or supporting documents submitted and shall delete the related personal data.