

# The Feraki Fund

facilitating Orthoptera research in Greece, the Balkan and Turkey  
Presentation and MoU

## Welcome

Welcome to the “Feraki Fund”. The Feraki Fund was created in 2021 in honor of Fer Willemse, who has devoted his life to the systematics of Orthoptera with a special focus on Greece. During his many collecting trips across Greece, spanning a period of almost 40 years, he not only discovered a large number of species not previously known to occur in Greece but also more than 50 taxa new to science. The publications in which he described these taxonomic and faunistic discoveries lay the foundation for our current knowledge of the Orthoptera fauna of Greece which includes nearly 400 species. Being a self-trained entomologist he did all this, including all the basic groundwork including preparation, labeling and assembling wooden boxes with an incredible zeal and dedication. With his zeal and dedication in mind the “Feraki Fund” is meant to assist and hopefully stimulate young, enthusiastic researchers with their studies on Orthoptera in Greece, the Balkan and Turkey by covering some of their research costs.

## Administration and hosting agent

The fund is administratively and financially hosted by the [Hellenic Zoological Society](#). Founded in 1980, the Society is a non-profit scientific organization that aims at increasing the knowledge on the distribution, ecology and systematics of Greek fauna and contributing to its conservation. It hosts and manages the Feraki Fund account and kindly manages it free of charge. Applications for funding are evaluated though by the Feraki Fund Board.

## Supervision and operations

The Feraki Fund is governed by a three-member Board composed of:

- (a) A family member of the fund’s name bearer or as such designated
- (b) A member of the [IUCN Grasshopper Specialist Group](#), preferably the chair
- (c) A member of the [Hellenic Zoological Society](#), an expert in biodiversity conservation and preferably with background on insect ecology.

The Board functions on a voluntary basis, its members not receiving any financial compensation. The Board meets (virtually) once a year to review the financial update, evaluate ongoing projects, discuss the overall funding limit for the next year, discuss strategic choices and if required select new board members.

The Board itself selects its members and suggest replacements in case of early stepping down. Term of office is five years and members may serve more than one term. Newly selected candidates have to be approved unanimously by the Board. If a member wishes to step down before the end of the term, a three month notice is required.

## Donations

Funds are raised privately by nature enthusiasts particularly Orthopterologists who wish to support young researchers to continue Fer Willemse’s work and contribute to knowledge increase of grasshopper systematics, faunistics, ecology and conservation in Greece, the Balkan and Turkey. If you wish to make a donation, please use this account (in €) Piraeus Bank IBAN: GR63 0172 7540 0057 5404 1886 423 noting in the justification “Feraki Fund”. If you have questions or wish to receive additional information, please contact [FerakiFund@gmail.com](mailto:FerakiFund@gmail.com).

## Research eligible for funding

The Feraki Fund supports research aimed first and foremost at the Orthoptera fauna of Greece, but funding proposals for research taking place in the Balkans or Turkey will also be taken into account. As to the type of research that is eligible for funding this mostly includes studies involving or being the result of fieldwork of some kind: taxonomy, systematics and phylogeny of Orthoptera, faunistics including studies on species distribution, conservation including studies on endangered Orthoptera and their threats, ecology including studies on habitat preferences or population modelling. Although the main aim of the Feraki Fund is to stimulate research on the order of Orthoptera itself, applications for other Orthopteroid orders like Blattodea, Mantodea, Phasmodea and Dermaptera will be considered as well. Overall priority will be given to studies focusing on the conservation of endemic species and species that globally or nationally have been assessed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.

## Costs covered by the Feraki Fund

The total amount available for funding each year is at least € 2.000. Depending on (extra) donations and/or available funds not being fully utilized, the amount may be raised. The exact amount available each year will be announced on the website of the [Hellenic Zoological Society](#). Depending on proposals submitted and budgets requested the total yearly amount is normally allocated to a single proposal, but on an exceptional basis may also be divided over several proposals. The Feraki Fund can be used as a scholarship or to cover travel expenses (fuel, car rental), subsistence expenses (accommodation and food), field and lab equipment and consumables for research. Other expenses such as congress attendance are eligible but only in the context of other costs applied for as part of an ongoing research project. The above costs refer to the applicant and potential volunteers involved in the fieldwork and should be spent in the period indicated in the application but within two years after having received confirmation of the funding.

## Who may apply

Although the Feraki Fund does not impose any restrictions on applicants like age, educational level or nationality, it is especially targeted at undergraduate and post-graduate students, young researchers and early career scientists. The rationale behind the funding is that it hopefully supports the applicants to (further) develop their skills and expertise as future Orthopteroid specialists.

## Applications

Applications can be submitted throughout the year but are only reviewed once each year. Deadline for submission is 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Results are announced by 15<sup>th</sup> of February each year. An application form can be downloaded here <https://www.hzoos.gr/el/node/47301> and once filled in, send it to [FerakiFund@gmail.com](mailto:FerakiFund@gmail.com).

## Proposal Review

For the period 2022-2027 the Board of the Feraki Fund consists of:

- (a) Luc Willemse, Naturalis Biodiversity Center [President of FF]
- (b) Axel Hochkirch, Professor, Trier, Germany, Chair of IUCN SSC GSG.
- (c) Vassiliki Kati, Professor, University of Ioannina, Greece.

Applications are reviewed by the Board based on the below criteria. Once selected, the applicant will be notified by the Board and funds will be transferred to his/her account by the treasurer of the Hellenic Zoological Society as a scholarship, usually before the projects starts. The Board might ask for a financial statement. Therefore, invoices on equipment/consumables, air tickets, congress fees and payment slips for accommodation should be kept.

## Criteria

Research need

Conservation need

Assumed outcome

Motivation/CV

If a Board member is involved in a research proposal submitted for funding, it can provide opinion but cannot evaluate or approve it.

## Deliverables

In return for funding received, a summary of results achieved has to be reported back to the Feraki Fund. For this a template will be available. In order to further stimulate research on Orthoptera of Greece, the Balkan and Turkey, to increase awareness about the Feraki Fund and to inspire other young researchers, it is obligatory for applicants who received funding to prepare:

- an article in a newsletter for instance of the Orthopterist's Society or the IUCN Grasshopper Specialist Group
- a short layman's report (1-2 pages + few photos) to be uploaded to all involved member's web sites

They are further urged to share their research and results via:

- a publication in a scientific journal
- a presentation or poster during a congress or symposium
- outreach activities to raise awareness of local authorities
- a video message
- social media

The above has been approved by the three parties involved and signed below by their representatives

Family Member Name bearer	IUCN Orthopterist's Society	Hellenic Zoological Society
Luc Willemse M.Sc., President of FF	Prof. Axel Hochkirch, Trier, Germany, Chair of IUCN SSC GSG	Dr Petros Lymberakis, Hellenic Zoological Society, Chair