

Ref. No.: MSMT–36066/2015

Prague, 25 January 2016

## **Czech Republic — Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**

**MANAGING AUTHORITY OF THE Operational Programme Research, Development and Education**

announces

### **Call “Research Infrastructures”**

**for submission of grant applications to individual projects within the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education**

This Call supports research infrastructure projects in research and investment activities. The objective of this Call is to complementarily support the construction, upgrade, modernization and research activities of large infrastructures for research, experimental development and innovation detailed in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022, a document taken into account by the Government of the Czech Republic at a meeting on the 30th of September 2015, ref. no. 1150/15.



## 1. CALL IDENTIFICATION: RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

- 1.1. **Priority axis:** PA 1 – Strengthening capacity for high-quality research
- 1.2. **Investment priority:** IP 1 – Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacity to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
- 1.3. **Specific objective:** SO 1 – Improving international quality of research and its results
- 1.4. **Call number:** 02\_16\_013
- 1.5. **Type of supported operations/projects:** individual project
- 1.6. **Call type:** round-type a complementary Call to the activity of MEYS for support of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (LM)
- 1.7. **Evaluation model:** single-round

## 2. TIME SCHEDULE

- 2.1. **Date of publication of the Call on the website:** 17. 12. 2015
- 2.2. **Date of announcement of the Call, i.e. date of accessibility of the grant application in IS KP14+:** 25. 1. 2016 from 10.00am.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.3. **Start date of acceptance of grant applications:** 25. 1. 2016 from 10.00am.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.4. **End date of acceptance of grant applications:** 2. 8. 2016 until 2.00pm.
- 2.5. **Latest date of completion of physical implementation of the project:** 31. 10. 2022
- 2.6. **Minimum project duration:** 24 months
- 2.7. **Maximum project duration:** 48 months

## 3. FORM AND AMOUNT OF SUPPORT

- 3.1. **Allocation for the Call:** CZK 4,000,000,000
- 3.2. **Minimum amount of total eligible expenditure:** not specified
- 3.3. **Maximum amount of total eligible expenditure:** CZK 700,000,000
- 3.4. **Fund:** ERDF
- 3.5. **Mode of financing:** Ex-ante financing, ex-post financing in the case of state organisation units

**3.6. Amount of the 1st advance payment:** in the ex-ante method of financing, the amount of the first advance payment shall be a maximum of 25% of the total eligible project expenditure.

**3.7. Scope of aid and conditions of co-financing – decomposition of financing sources:**

Within this Call, the co-financing on part of the applicant / beneficiary is determined at the minimum level of 5 % from the total eligible expenditure of the project. In the case of state organisation units and contributory organisations of state organisation units, co-financing by the applicant/beneficiary is 0%. Individual decomposition of sources of financing according to the category of the region and according to the legal subjectivity of the applicant / beneficiary are mentioned in Chapter 8.1.5 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section. The specification of this Call from the viewpoint of co-financing are mentioned in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section.

**Pro rata ratio:** the pro rata ratio (the ratio of the division of financial resources among the programme areas of OP RDE) approved by the Monitoring Committee of OP RDE is 61% (less developed regions) and 39% (more developed regions).

**3.8. Information on the conditions of state aid:**

The granted funds do not have character of state aid within the meaning of Art. 107, paragraph 1 of The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. All aid shall be provided for implementation of non-economic activities, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 2.1.1. Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) (hereinafter “Framework”)

## 4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND SPECIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIP

**4.1. Eligible applicants:**

Entities fulfilling the definition of an organisation for research and dissemination of knowledge sharing as per the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) and simultaneously functioning as a research infrastructure, which are a host or partner institution of a large infrastructure detailed in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022 (taken into account by the Government of the CR at a meeting on the 30th of September 2015, ref. no. 1150/15):

- State organisation units and contributory organisations of state organisation units,
- public higher education institutions, research organisations
- private law subjects performing publicly beneficial activity,

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<sup>1</sup> In case when IS KP2014+ is made accessible for acceptance of grant applications sooner or later than the date stated, applicants will be informed about this fact on web pages of MEYS under the section for applicants and beneficiaries within OP Research, Development and Education (OP RDE)

<sup>2</sup> In case when IS KP2014+ is made accessible for acceptance of grant applications sooner or later than the date stated, applicants will be informed about this fact on web pages of MEYS under the section for applicants and beneficiaries within OP Research, Development and Education (OP RDE)

- other subjects.

Only one grant application may be submitted for every research infrastructure (or alternatively Large Research, Development and Innovation Infrastructure) in this Call.

#### **4.2. Specification of partnership:**

Applicants may submit a project independently, or in co-operation with a partner/partners. The applicant's partner/partners participate in the preparation and implementation of the project, and they are even allowed to implement a larger part of the project. A partnership may not replace procurement of services regularly available in the market, or procurement of regular goods (the partner may not be a hidden supplier).

Partners may only be institutions which are detailed in the large infrastructure in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022 (taken into account by the Government of the CR at a meeting on the 30th of September 2015, ref. no. 1150/15). This may be a host institution and/or its partner institutions participating in the operation of large infrastructure for research, experimental development and innovation.

Eligible partners:

Entities complying with the definition of organisation for research and dissemination of knowledge as per Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01):

- state organisation units and contributory organisations of state organisation units
- public higher education institutions, research organisations,
- private law subjects performing public beneficial activity,
- other subjects.

## **5. CALL OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this Call is to support the construction, upgrade, modernization and research activities of research infrastructures detailed in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022.

### **5.1. Specific objective:** Improving international quality of research and its results

#### **5.1.1. Description of supported activities:**

- a) the completion, construction, modernization and upgrade of infrastructure in the Czech Republic, including the supply of parts of research infrastructures or research equipment to research infrastructures located in other EU states – to materially and technologically modernize research infrastructure;
- b) the support of quality original research by the host institution, and possibly partner institutions, with the utilization of the research infrastructure;

- c) project management – a description of the content of this activity is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section; see chapter 5.2.4. for more information,

The activities detailed in sections b) and c) are an obligatory part of the project.

The activity detailed in section a) is a supported activity in the case that the budget chapter Investment of the large infrastructure of the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022 is not zero (for more information see section 7.5.2. of the Call).

#### **5.1.2. Description of excluded activities:**

Excluded, i.e. unsupported activities are activities which are supported from the activity of MEYS support for Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (LM). Expenditure associated with these activities is ineligible in the OP RDE Call. The classification of these activities as excluded in the OP RDE Call does not contradict implementation of these activities, and their financing from other sources. More detailed information is detailed in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, see chapter 5.2.4..

- a) research by users/external subjects of the research infrastructure, including research in “open access” mode or in contract research mode;
- b) membership in foreign or international research infrastructures or international research and development organisations (in particular mandatory and other membership fees).

**5.1.3. Target group:** staff in research organisations, university students, research staff in the private sector

**5.1.4. Information on initial / related synergic Calls (only if it concerns synergy)<sup>3</sup>:** Irrelevant

#### **5.1.5. Connection to strategies:**

Compliance of the project with the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic (National RIS3 Strategy) and/or its appropriate regional annexes – the project is implemented in accordance with at least one generic knowledge domain, or with at least one key branch of applications and application themes detailed in the National RIS3 Strategy or regional annex.

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<sup>3</sup> In follow-up Calls, information about projects within the framework of the initial synergetic Call shall be available to applicants in IS KP14+. The Managing Authority which announces the follow-up Call is obliged to include it in the time schedule of Calls.

**5.1.6. Sustainability:** The sustainability of the project is stipulated for a period of 5 years from the last payment to the beneficiary. The fulfilment of the conditions during the period of sustainability of the project is based on article 71 of the General Regulation.

**5.1.7. Indicators:** See Annex no. 1 of the Call.

## 6. TERRITORIAL FOCUS:

**6.1. Eligible place of the operation implementation impact or type of territory as per the National Document for Territorial Dimension:**

The place of impact of the implementation is the territory of the Czech Republic.

**6.2. Eligible place of implementation**

The project must be implemented in the territory of the EU.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE <sup>4</sup>

**7.1. Objective eligibility (eligible expenditure):**

Objective eligibility is defined in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section (chapter 8.7.1.) and specific information relating to this Call is detailed in chapter 8.7. Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section).

**7.2. Time eligibility (the period during which the given expenditure is time eligible):**

Time eligibility is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section. At the same time it applies that expenditure is time eligible from 1. 1. 2016. Grant cannot be awarded, if the physical aspect of the project had been completed or fully implemented before the applicant submitted the grant application disregarding whether the applicant effected all associated payments or not. Further information and specifics about time eligibility within the scope of this Call are specified in chapter 8.7.1. of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section.

**7.3. Monitoring period: 6 months**

**7.4. Method of reporting of total eligible expenditure:**

Within the scope of this Call, part of the expenditure shall be reported in the form of indirect costs (see chapter 8.6. Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section). If the applicant is a state organisation unit, the total eligible expenditure shall be reported in the mode of full reporting of expenditure. The flat rate of indirect costs will be determined as a ratio of administrative costs to eligible direct project costs while the rate of indirect costs must not exceed 25%. The particular flat rate will be stated in the legal act on grant award / transfer of aid.

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<sup>4</sup> Detailed rules for the eligibility of expenditures will be mentioned in the form of a reference to the related documentation - Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries.

## **7.5. Budget limits:**

**7.5.1.** The purchase of outsourced services budget item - the limit is set at a maximum of 49 % of the total eligible expenditure.

**7.5.2.** Expenditure for Direct activities – investment – the amount of this budget chapter must not exceed the sum of the chapter Investment for the years 2016 to 2019 of Large Infrastructure in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022, listed as Operational Programme Research, Development and Education Investment in the material Proposed Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for the years 2016 to 2022, submitted in the year 2015 by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports for approval by the Government of the Czech Republic (ref. No. 1544/15) and subsequently approved by the Government of the Czech Republic (resolution no. 1066), specifically in annex 2 of the material and chapter 4 of the material.

**7.5.3.** Limit of the ratio of investment and non-investment expenditure:

- Projects with investment expenditure (budget chapter Expenditure for Direct Activities – Investment) to 12 million CZK (inclusive) – the maximum total eligible expenditure in OP RDE project in this Call must not exceed 20 million CZK;
- Projects with investment expenditure (budget chapter Expenditure for Direct Activities – Investment) within a range of 12 million CZK to 50 million CZK – the portion of the non-investment expenditure of OP RDE project (sum of the budget chapters Expenditure for Direct Activities – Non-investment and Administrative Expenditure/ Indirect Expenses) in this Call must not exceed 50 % of investment expenditure (budget chapter Expenditure for Direct Activities – Investment);
- Projects with investment expenditure (budget chapter Expenditure for Direct Activities – Investment) of 50 million CZK and more – the portion of the non-investment expenditure of OP RDE projects (sum of the budget chapters Expenditure for Direct Activities – Non-investment and Administrative Expenditure/ Indirect Expenses) in this Call must not exceed 30 % of investment expenditure (budget chapter Expenditure for Direct Activities – Investment).

## **8. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT APPLICATION**

The list of relevant annexes to the grant application including availability of sample documents is stated in the associated documentation of the Call, in particular in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - the Specific section. The Managing Authority of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education is authorized to update the Template Annexes to the grant application during the course of this Call. The current version of these documents is always available at: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>. The updating of sample appendices to the grant application does not constitute an amendment to this Call.

Submission of the grant application is performed through IS KP14+, link: <https://mseu.mssf.cz/index.aspx>. Grant application is submitted in Czech language, English version including relevant annexes will be documented in form of an annex.

A compulsory part of the grant application is also a CBA, in relevant cases (see Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section). The applicant fills it in as part of the grant application in IS KP14+.

**The grant application must be provided with electronic signature of the applicant's statutory body or of a person authorized to sign under a power of attorney.**

**8.1. Consultation to the preparation of the grant application:** before submission of a grant application, the applicants may consult the wording of the grant application with representatives of the Managing Authority – contact person.

- Contact persons with respect to inquiries concerning the grant application: Ing. Irena Havlová
- E-mail: [irena.havlova@msmt.cz](mailto:irena.havlova@msmt.cz)
- Telephone: +420 234 814 597

Notice for applicants:

- **Telephone consultations** shall be provided only on Mondays and Thursdays, from 9.00am to 12.00pm and from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.
- **E-mail queries** shall be dealt with regularly, no later than 5 working days from receipt of the e-mail.
- **Personal Consultation** can be performed only on previously agreed date.
- We recommend to send an e-mail to the contact person for the Call containing the project proposal/grant application or at least to specify what will be the subject-matter of the Consultation at the latest 5 business days before Consultation.
- The subject of the consultation shall not be an inspection of the correctness of the filled out grant application; the applicant is fully responsible for this.

Dates of seminars for applicants: published on the website under the link:

<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/seminare> .

**8.2. Possibility to change the Call:**

Changes of formal nature can be performed for announced Calls. Change in the text of the Call in the area of call objectives is possible only for the purpose of wording clarification. The substance of the call objectives must not be changed. The Call and the documentation, which represents part of Call, can be changed in cases forced due to amendment in legal regulations or change in the methodical environment.

**In the case of round-type Calls it is not permitted to perform follow-up changes in the conditions for grant award (if they are not caused due to legal regulations or change in the methodical environment):**

- cancel the Call,
- reduce allocation for the Call,
- change the maximum amount of the total eligible project expenditure,
- change the aid intensity,

- change the Call objective<sup>5</sup>,
- change the definition of eligible applicant,
- shift of the latest date for completion of physical operation implementation to an earlier date,
- shift of the end date for accepting grant applications to an earlier date,
- change the criteria for evaluation and selection of projects.

In case of changes caused by a change in the methodical environment discrimination or worsening of applicant's position must not occur.

Changes in the Call will be published on web sites of MEYS and announced Calls under the link: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vyhlasene-vyzvy>. Applicants will be informed on publication of change of the Call through internal despatch sent through IS KP14+.

### **8.3. Annexes to the Call:**

- a) Annex no. 1 – Indicators
- b) Annex no. 2 – Evaluation criteria

### **8.4. Other documents to the Call:**

- a) Sample of the legal act on grant award / transfer of aid is published under the link: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>.
- b) Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section: are published under the link: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>
- c) Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - Specific section: are published under the link: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>

### **8.5. Other provisions:**

The aid is provided in the form of a grant. In the case that the justified applicant is a state organisation unit, the grant is provided in the form of a direct assignment of financial funds. No legal title is attached to the grant award. The granting authority will make final decision on the final grant amount. The Managing Authority reserves the right to suspend or prematurely terminate the Call (for example due to the allocated funds having depleted). Sanctions for non-observance of the conditions of the Call and Operational Programme will be determined in the legal act on grant award / transfer of aid.

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<sup>5</sup> Change in the text of the Call in the area of call objectives is possible for the purpose of wording clarification. The substance of the call objectives must not be changed.