



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



Ref. no.: MSMT – MSMT 30857/2015

Czech Republic — Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

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

announces

Call “Excellent Research”

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

The objective of the Call is to support problem-oriented research of an inter-disciplinary character, which shall assist the effective use of research centres and initiate the achievement of an internationally competitive quality of research from the perspective of its originality and practical impacts. The use shall take place via concentrated support for the research plan, the associated research team and the materially technical equipment.



1. Call identification: Excellent Research

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_019

1.5. Type of supported operations/projects: individual project

1.6. Call type: round-type

1.7. Evaluation model: two-round

2. Time schedule

2.1. Date of publication of the Call on the website: 03/12/2015

2.2. Date of announcement of the Call, i.e. date of accessibility of the grant application in IS KP14+: 08/02/2016 from 10.00am.¹

2.3. Start date of acceptance of grant applications – for the 1st round²: 08/02/2016 from 10.00am.³

2.4. End date of acceptance of grant applications – for the 1st round⁴: 30/06/2016 until 2.00pm.

2.5. Start date of acceptance of grant applications – for the 2nd round⁵: 1/12/2016 from 10.00am.

2.6. End date of acceptance of grant applications – for the 2nd round⁶: 15/05/2017 until 2.00pm.

2.7. Latest date of completion of physical implementation of the project: 30/6/2023

2.8. **Minimum** project duration: 48 months

2.9. **Maximum** project duration: 89 months

¹ 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).

² The applicant submits a preliminary grant application. For more information, see Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter. 5.3.

³ 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).

⁴ The applicant submits a preliminary grant application. For more information, see Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.3.

⁵ The applicant submits a preliminary grant application. For more information, see Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.3.

⁶ The applicant submits a preliminary grant application. For more information, see Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.3.



3. Form and amount of support

3.1. Allocation for the Call: 11,850,000,000 CZK

3.2. Minimum amount of total eligible expenditure: 100,000,000 CZK

3.3. Maximum amount of total eligible expenditure:

- The total eligible expenditure must in no case exceed the equivalent of €50,000,000 in CZK as per the effective exchange rate, whereby the EC exchange rate shall be used (the monthly EC accounting exchange rate published at <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/>) effective on the day of approval of the grant application by the Managing Authority.
- In the case of aid provided as per article 25 of (EU) Commission Regulation no. 651/2014⁷, in accordance with point i) paragraph 1 article 4, the eligible expenditure and therefore also the grant amount must not exceed the equivalent of €40,000,000 in CZK as per the ECB exchange rate conversion valid on the day of grant award (i.e. the day of issuance of the legal act on grant award/transfer).

3.4. Fund: ERDF

3.5. Mode of financing: Ex-ante financing, ex-post financing in case of state organization units

3.6. Amount of the 1st advance payment: maximum of 50% of the total eligible project expenditure.

3.7. Scope of aid and conditions of co-financing – decomposition of financing sources: More information about decomposition of financing sources according to the category of region and according to the legal subjectivity of the applicant/beneficiary can be found in chapter 8.1.5. Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section. Others specifics relating to co-financing within the scope of this Call can be found in chapter 8.1.5. Rules for Applicants for and Beneficiaries – Specific section. In the case of the setting of the level of co-financing, it is the applicant's decision what amount of co-financing from own sources they shall apply within the scope of the submitted grant application. The minimum level of co-financing is obligatory for the applicant / beneficiary.

Pro rata: the pro rata ratio (the ratio of the division of financial resources among the programme areas of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education) and approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education is 61% (less developed regions) and 39% (more developed regions).

3.8. Information on the conditions of state aid: the conditions for the below-mentioned variants are detailed in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 15.

3.8.1. Variant A: The provided resources do not have the character of state aid within the meaning of article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. All aid will be provided to beneficiaries for implementation of non-economic activities, in accordance with the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) or activities fulfilling the provision of paragraph 20 of the Framework, so 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.

⁷ See point 3.8 – variant B



3.8.2. Variant B: State aid shall be provided in accordance with article 25 of (EU) Commission Regulation no. 651/2014⁸, and can therefore be compatible with the common market within the meaning of article 107 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and is exempt from reporting obligation as per article 108 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The supported part of the research and development project must fall into the category of fundamental research. The aid intensity must not exceed 100% of the eligible expenditure and 50 % of eligible expenditure in case of the feasibility study.

4. Eligible applicants and specification of partnership

4.1. Eligible applicants:

Applicants satisfying the definition of organization for research and dissemination of knowledge according to the definition of 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 publicly beneficial activity,
- other subjects⁹

4.2. Specification of partnership:

Partnership is not obligatory. The conditions of partnership are specified by the effective Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.2.1..

Eligible partners: Entities complying with the definition of organisation for research and dissemination of knowledge according to the definition of 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.

Other rules and conditions for eligibility of applicant and beneficiaries are specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.2.1.

5. Call objectives

The objective of the Call is to support research which shall assist the effective use of research centres and initiate the achievement of an internationally competitive quality of research from the perspective of its originality and practical impacts. The use shall take place via concentrated support

⁸ Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 dated 17 June 2014, which in accordance with Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty declare certain categories of aid as compatible with the internal market Official Journal EU, L 187, 26. 6. 2014, page 1- 84;

⁹ Czech Government Resolution of 14 July 2014 no 583 on the rules of Co-Financing by the European Structural and Investment Funds in the programming period 2014–2020.



for the research plan, the associated research team and the materially technical equipment. In connection with the achievement of an internationally competitive quality of research, the internalization of research and the building of clear links with foreign research partners shall be supported, which shall lead to the creation of new results (publications, patents etc.), the submission of joint project proposals to prestigious international grant competitions (Horizon 2020, EURATOM, etc.) and the quality management of the project. Projects which have sufficient quality and potential shall be supported (e.g. publications, applied results, participations in international projects) so that they may achieve critical size and success in an international environment.

Financial aid shall be directed at oriented research projects, which have the potential to support the creation of applied results in a longer time horizon. Problem-oriented¹⁰ projects of an interdisciplinary character shall be supported. The concentration of personal and financial resources, to develop capacities for excellent research and the use of existing modern infrastructure, is key.

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

5.1.1. Description of supported activities:

a) Support of research which, by its quality and originality, shall achieve international excellence, which shall result in an increase in research performance by the research centres.

b) Completion¹¹, reconstruction or upgrade of infrastructure – to materially, technically and informationally support and facilitate research activities in relation to the supported activity a).

c) Construction of a new research centre in the territory of the capital city of Prague – the construction of a new research centre or the reconstruction of buildings which shall now serve as a research centre in relation to the supported activity a). This activity is only possible in the territory of the capital city of Prague.

d) Development of research teams – support for research via support for, or an increase in the number of, research teams, including their long-term expansion to include domestic or foreign research or technical workers.

e) Development of internationalization – strengthening of the international dimension and intensive scientific co-operation with at least one leading organization for research and knowledge sharing abroad in relation to the supported activity a).

f) Management of the project – a description of the content of this activity is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section; for more information, see chapters 5.2.1. and 5.2.4.

The applicant is obliged to choose one of the afore-mentioned groups of activities:

- sections a), b), c), d), e) and f), or
- sections a), b), d), e) and f).

The activities must be implemented in relation to one research centre, or alternatively in co-operation with research centres.

For a more detailed specification of the afore-mentioned activities, see the Rules for Applicants and

¹⁰ These are projects focused on solving a specific problem.

¹¹ Extension of the existing capacity of R&D centre linked to acquisition or use of new technologies within the existing buildings



Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 5.2.4..

5.1.2. Description of excluded activities:

- g) Construction of a new research centre outside the territory of the capital city of Prague.
- h) Support to sustainability of projects from the previous programming period (as a support to sustainability is not considered development of the projects from the previous programming period).

5.1.3. Target group: research organization staff, students of doctoral university study programmes

5.1.4. Information about initial/follow-up synergic Calls (only in cases which involve synergy)¹²: irrelevant

5.1.5. Connection to strategies:

Compliance of the project with the Czech Government Resolution of 8 December 2014 no 1028 on the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (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 specified in the National RIS3 Strategy or regional Annex. The applicant shall describe the compliance, and enclose it in the Annex to the grant application.

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 operation implementation impact is the territory of the Czech Republic.

6.2. Eligible place of implementation

The projects must be implemented in the territory of the Czech Republic. In the case of activity c), its implementation is only possible in the territory of the capital city of Prague.

7. Eligibility of expenditure¹³

7.1. Objective eligibility (eligible expenditure): The objective eligibility of expenditure is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section, and specification within the scope of this Call is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section, chapter 8.7.1..

¹² For related Calls, information about projects within the initial synergy of the Call will be accessible for applicants in the IS KP14+. The steering body that announces the related Call must include it into the time schedule of Calls.

¹³ Detailed rules for expenditure eligibility shall be specified in the form of a reference to related documentation – Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries.



In this Call, expenses directly financed within the scope of the National Sustainability Programme I (LO) and National Sustainability Programme II (LQ) projects do not constitute eligible expenditure.

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

Time eligibility of expenditure is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section. Further information and specifics about time eligibility within the scope of this Call is specified in chapter 8.7.1. of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section. The grant cannot be awarded if the project was physically completed or fully implemented before the applicant submits the grant application, regardless of whether the applicant made all the related payments or not. In the case of aid provided as per article 25 of (EU) Commission Regulation no. 651/2014, work on the project must not commence before the submission of the grant application.

At the same time, it applies that:

- **Projects to be implemented in the mode as per variant A:** from the time perspective, the eligible expenditure is in IS KP14+ from the day of the announcement of the Call. Thus, the condition for eligibility is that all acts relating to the eligible expenditure must be executed after the date of the announcement of the Call in IS KP14+ (inclusive of this date).
- **Projects to be implemented in the mode as per variant B:** from a time perspective, expenditure is eligible from the day of submission of the grant application; alternatively, work on the project may commence only after the submission of the grant application.

7.3. Monitoring period: 6 months

7.4. Method of reporting of total eligible expenditure: within the scope of this Call, the simplified form of reporting total eligible expenditure in the project shall not be used. Projects within the scope of this Call shall report the total eligible expenditure in complete reporting mode (see chapter 8.6.1, rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section).

7.5. Limits of the budget chapters:

7.5.1. The purchase of outsourced services budget item - a limit of a maximum of 49% from the Total eligible expenditure budget chapter.

7.5.2. The human resources expenditure budget chapter - a limit of a maximum of 50% from the Total eligible expenditure budget chapter.

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 - 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 the address:

<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvy> . The update of sample Annexes to the grant application does not constitute an amendment to this Call.

The submission of a grant application takes place via IS KP14+, link: <https://mseu.mssf.cz/index.aspx>. The grant application is submitted in Czech language, and an English version is included in the form of an Annex.



Cost-benefit analysis forms an obligatory part of the grant application. The applicant will complete it as a part of 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:

Ms. Helena Hořáková, MA

E-mail: helena.horakova@msmt.cz

Telephone: +420 234 814 263

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 (Call objectives/financial project aspect...) 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 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+. **In 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 and minimum amount of the total eligible project expenditure,
- change the aid intensity,
- change the Call objectives,¹⁴
- 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.

8.3. Annexes to the Call:

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

8.4. Other documents to the Call:

- 1) 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> .
- 2) Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section - are published under the link: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>
- 3) 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

No legal title is attached to the grant award. The managing authority will make final decision on the final grant amount. The Managing Authority reserves the right to suspend the Call.

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. The grant shall not be awarded to an enterprise against which a call for recovery was issued based on a Commission decision, which identified the financial aid as illegal state aid and incompatible with the common market.

¹⁴ 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.