



Ref. No: MEYS – 37451/2016

Czech Republic – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

MANAGING AUTHORITY
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND
EDUCATION

announces

the Call “Pre-Application Research”

for applications for support of individual projects under the Operational Programme Research,
Development and Education

The Call aims to support research projects in the pre-application phase. The supported research projects will have the potential to contribute to a higher quality of life and to addressing large societal issues. The call also aims to increase the potential for utilising the results in practice and for subsequent establishment of cooperation with application sector.



1. Call identification

1.1 Priority Axis: PA 1 – Strengthening the capacities for high-quality research

1.2 Investment priority: Investment Priority 1 – Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure and capacities to develop research and innovation excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

1.3 Specific objective: Specific Objective 2 – Building capacities and strengthening long-term cooperation between research organisations and the application sector

1.3 Call number: 025

1.4 Type of supported operations/projects: individual project

1.5 Call type: round-based

1.6 Evaluation model: Single round

2. Schedule

2.1 Date of Call publication on the website: 19 January 2017

2.2 Date of Call announcement, i.e. making the application for support available in IS KP14+: 2 February 2017 at 10.00am

2.3 Start date for the receipt of applications for support: 2 February 2017 at 10.00am

2.4 End date for the receipt of applications for support: 20 June 2017 at 2.00pm

2.5 Latest date for completion of the physical implementation of the project: 31 December 2022

2.6 Minimum duration of the project: 24 months

2.7 Maximum duration of the project: 71 months



3. Form of support

3.1 Call allocation: CZK 1 085,000,000

3.2 Minimum amount of total eligible costs: CZK 10,000,000

3.3 Maximum amount of total eligible costs: CZK 150,000,000

3.4 Fund: European Regional Development Fund

3.5 Method of financing: Ex-ante financing, ex-post financing for State organizational units (SOUs)

3.6 Amount of 1st advance payment:

Concerning ex-ante financing, the amount of the first advance payment is max. 35% of total eligible project expenditure. The specific amount of the first advance payment shall be specified for each project individually, taking into account the financial plan included in the application for support, and will be specified in the legal act on granting/transferring support.

3.7 The rates of support and co-financing conditions

The breakdown of financing sources by category of region and by the type of applicant/beneficiary are specified in section 8.1.5 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of the OP RDE – General Part. For additional specific aspects regarding co-financing under this Call, see the relevant Chapter of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – Specific Part.

Pro rata: the pro rata ratio (distribution of funds between programme areas of the OP) approved by Monitoring committee of the OP RDE is 74% (less developed regions) and 26% (more developed regions).

3.8 Conditions for State aid

The provided funds are not considered State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Support will be provided to implement non-economic activities defined by paragraph 19 of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014 / C 198/01, hereinafter the “Framework”); any economic use must be purely secondary, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the Framework.

4. Eligible applicants and partnership conditions

4.1 Eligible applicants

Entities that meet the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation under the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation:

- state organisation units, publicly co-funded organizations of State organisation units,



- public higher education institutions, research organisations,
- private-law entities carrying out publicly beneficial activities,
- other entities.

Maximum number of project applications:

The maximum number of project applications submitted by one applicant (i.e. one ID No) is limited. Further limit on the number of project applications is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part. The applicant must not submit a duplicate application under a call intended for applicants including ITI.

4.2 Definition of partnership

Applicants may submit project applications independently, or in cooperation with partner(s). The partnership conditions are defined by the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – Specific Part.

The partners of the applicant participate in project preparation and implementation. Partnerships must not substitute the provision of services commonly available on the market or supply of ordinary goods (the partner must not be a hidden supplier).

The partners involved in the project may contribute to the eligible project expenditure.

The partner may even be based outside the Czech Republic (but within the EU).

Partner eligibility:

Entities that meet the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation under the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation:

- state organisation units, publicly co-funded organizations of State organisation units,
- public higher education institutions, research organisations,
- private-law entities carrying out publicly beneficial activities,
- other entities.

5. Substantial focus

The call aims to support research projects in the pre-application phase. The call is focused on research projects that have the potential to contribute to a higher quality of life and to addressing large societal themes. The call also aims to increase the potential for utilising the results in practice and for subsequent establishment of cooperation with the application sector.



It is expected that after the completion of the project, the project results will be finalised so that they can be put into practice.

5.1 Specific objective

Building capacities and strengthening long-term cooperation of research organisations with the application sector.

5.1.1. Description of supported activities:

Mandatory activities

The applicant is obliged to implement all of the following mandatory activities:

- a) Project management – the content of this activity is described in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General Part; for more information see Chapter 5.2.4.
- b) Realization of research intents with potential for future practical applicability.
- c) Experimental verification of the research results practical applicability, including the intellectual property treatment.¹

Elective activities

In the case of a partnership in the project, the applicant must choose the following activity:

- d) Implementation of partners' joint activities, leading to strengthening of the research results applicability in the long term.

The applicant must choose at least one of the elective activities (e) to (g):

- e) Establishing and developing cooperation between research teams and application sector (including foreign entities) in order to obtain suggestions for further development, and experimental verification of research intents.
- f) Preparation of international project applications related to the activities and to the focus of the project.
- g) Analysis of the potential of practical application of the research results.

¹ The R&D results that will be a part of the project implementation must be in 100 % ownership of the applicant or, where relevant, the projects partners.



Optional activities

The applicant may choose from the following optional activities:

- h) Purchase of infrastructure necessary for the project research intents and their experimental verification.
- i) Professional training necessary for the implementation of the project's research activities.
- j) Activities leading to the dissemination of the results of joint research and its outputs.

5.1.2 Description of excluded activities

- Construction, building alterations not related to the installation of acquired infrastructure (except for activities defined within supported activities);
- Activities related to the finalization and marketing of a product;
- Outsourcing of the supported project activities (a supported activity cannot be commissioned as a whole to another entity);
- Contractual research or research services carried out by the beneficiary or partner as part of project activities.

5.1.3 Target group

- Workers of research organisations;
- Higher education students.

5.1.4 Information about initial/follow-up synergistic calls (only where synergies are involved)²

Initial synergistic call, synergies in the link of Research, Development to OP EIC, PA 1, SO 1.2.

5.1.5 Links to strategies

Project compliance with National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the “National RIS3 Strategy”) and/or its respective regional annex³ – the focus of the project is consistent with smart specialization domains if it is implemented in accordance with at least one key application sector / application theme referred to in Chapter 7.1. of the National

² For follow-up calls IS KP14+ will allow applicants access to information on projects under the initial synergistic call.

The Managing Authority, which will announce the follow-up call, must specify the call in the schedule of calls.

³ The relevant regional annex is the RIS3 annex of the region which is relevant given the project location.



RIS3 Strategy (at the level of specific defined R&D/application themes that will receive aid⁴) or in the appropriate Regional Annex, and also in accordance with at least one generic knowledge domain relevant to the specific application sector / application theme.⁵ More details on the needs of this call are specified in Annex 3 to the Call (“Background documents for the implementation of the National RIS3 Strategy”).

5.1.6 Sustainability

Project sustainability is set for a period of five years from the date when the project acquired the central status “Project financially terminated by the MA”, and is defined in more detail in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Chapter 7.4. The fulfilment of the conditions during the project's sustainability period is based on Article 71 of the General Regulation.

5.1.7 Indicators

See Annex 1 to the Call.

6. Territorial focus

6.1 Permissible place of impact of an action or the type of area according to the National Document for Territorial Dimension

The place of impact is the area of Czech Republic.

6.2 Permissible place of implementation

The project must be implemented in the European Union.

⁴ As described in individual sub-chapters of Chapter 7.1. of the National RIS3 Strategy and/or its Annex 9.2 – Priorities for research, development and innovation through EDP within the National Innovation Platforms.

⁵ Generic knowledge domains relevant to different priority application sectors / application themes (at national and region-specific levels) are specified by the MA OP RDE in Annex 3 to the Call (“Background documents for the implementation of the National RIS3 Strategy”). The focus of the project must be within at least one of the intersections of the above RIS3 strategy dimensions further specified in Annex 3 to the Call, i.e. in at least one of the intersections of application sectors/themes defined by this Annex (reflecting the economic specialization of the Czech Republic and also societal challenges) and relevant generic knowledge domains (reflecting areas of research specialization of the Czech Republic – cross-cutting knowledge useful in priority application sectors/themes).



7. Expenditure eligibility⁶

7.1 Substantive eligibility (eligible expenditure)

Substantive eligibility is defined in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General Part (Chapter 8.7.1.) and specific information regarding this call are provided in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part. The expenditure must be incurred in connection with the aided project and aided call activities.

7.2 Time eligibility (from/to date when expenditure is temporally eligible)

Temporal eligibility is defined in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – General Part. For additional information and specific aspects regarding temporal eligibility under this call, see Chapter 8.7.1 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part. At the same time, expenditure is temporally eligible from the announcement of the Call in IS KP14+.

7.3 Monitoring period

The length of the reporting period for this call is six months, except for the first reporting period, which lasts 3 months.

7.4 Reporting the total eligible expenditure

In projects under this call, the eligible expenditure will be reported in the form of complete expenditure reporting. For more details on complete expenditure reporting, see the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – Specific Part.

7.5 Budget limits

7.5.1 Budget item Outsourced services – the limit for this budget item is max. 35 % of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

7.5.2 Budget chapter Direct Activity Expenditure – investment – the limit for this budget chapter is max. 30 % of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

7.5.3 Budget chapter Local Office – the limit for this budget chapter is max. 15 % of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

⁶ Detailed rules for expenditure eligibility are incorporated by reference to related documentation - Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries.



8. Elements of application for support

Overview of the relevant Annexes to the application for support, including a link to the electronic version of sample documents is shown in the documentation to the Call, specifically in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part. The Managing Authority of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education is entitled to update the model Annexes to the application for support during this Call. The current version of these documents is always available in IS KP14+ under the announced call. Updates of model Annexes to application for support do not constitute a change in this Call.

Applications for support are submitted through IS KP14+: <https://mseu.mssf.cz/index.aspx>. The application for support is submitted in Czech; the English version is to be submitted as an Annex.

The application for support must be provided with an electronic signature of the applicant's governing body or a person authorized to sign on the applicant's behalf based on a mandate.

8.1 Consultation on the preparation of application for support

Before submitting an application for support, applicants may consult the call project plan with the representatives of the Managing Authority.

The contact person for questions about the form of the application for support:

Helena Hořáková

Email: helena.horakova@msmt.cz

Phone: +420 234 814 263

Notice to applicants:

- **Telephone consultations** will be provided only on Mondays and Thursdays 9.00am to 12.00pm and from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.
- **E-mail questions** will be answered on an ongoing basis, usually within five working days after receiving the e-mail.
- **Personal consultations** are possible only within the above hours and if pre-arranged with the contact person.
- Consultation must concern only specific questions about the call.
- Questions must be sent no later than five working days before the consultation by e-mail (unless otherwise agreed) to the contact person.
- The consultation may also not concern the correctness of completion of an application for support.

If the applicant fails to deliver a list of questions as described above, it is up to the MA's contact person to decide whether to grant the consultation.



The dates of seminars for applicants will be published on the website at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/seminare>.

8.2 Possibility to change the Call

This Call may be subject to formal adjustments or adjustment of its substantive focus. The change in wording of a substantive focus of the Call is only possible in order to clarify the text. The principle of the substantive focus must not be changed. The Call and call documentation can be changed where required by legislation or changing methodological environment. However, changing the Call must not discriminate against applicants or undermine their position.

Changes in the Call will be published on the website of the MEYS under the announced Call at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vyhlase-ne-vyzvy>. Applicants will be informed about the publication of the change through internal dispatches sent via IS KP14+.

It is strictly prohibited to make the following changes to the conditions for granting support in round-based calls (unless required by legislation or changing methodological environment):

- cancel the call,
- reduce the allocation of the call
- change the minimum and maximum amount of total eligible project expenditure,
- change maximum aid intensity,
- change the substantive focus of the call⁷,
- change the definition of eligible applicant
- change of the final date for completion of physical completion of operations to an earlier date;
- change of the end date for the acceptance of applications for support to an earlier date,
- change the criteria for evaluation and selection of projects.

8.3 Annexes to the Call:

- a) Annex 1 – Indicators
- b) Annex 2 - Evaluation criteria
- c) Annex 3 – Background documents for the implementation of the National RIS3 Strategy

⁷ The change in wording of a substantive focus of a call is only possible in order to clarify the text. The principle of the substantive focus must not be changed.



8.4 Other documents for the Call

- a) Model legal act on granting/transferring support: the model is available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>
- b) Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General Part: they are available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>
- c) Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part are available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce-specificka-cast-2016>

8.5 Other provisions

Support is provided through grants. There is no legal entitlement to the support. The decision on the final amount of support is made by the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority reserves the right to suspend the Call. Penalties for non-compliance with the conditions of the Call and the Operational Programme will be determined in the legal act on granting/transferring support.

