



Ref. No: MEYS-37309/2016-3

In Prague on 11th July 2017

Czech Republic – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

MANAGING AUTHORITY

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

announces

THE CALL

Long-Term Intersectoral Cooperation for ITI

for applications for support of individual projects

under the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

CALL VERSION:	1
VALID FROM:	11/07/2017
EFFECTIVE FROM:	11/07/2017

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



Annotation of the Call

The purpose of this call is to support intensification of long-term intersectoral cooperation through supporting establishment or development of partnership and cooperation of research organisations with the application sector as part of jointly implemented research.

The cooperations may include establishment and equipment of a joint research workplace.

The call primarily aims to support:

- two-way transfer of unique knowledge and experience of the entities involved – linking research-application problems with options provided by the latest research findings;
- transfer of collective knowledge and experience to target groups.

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

1.2.1 Specific objective

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

1.3 Call number

02_17_049

1.4 Type of aided operations/projects

Individual integrated project

1.5 Call type

Round-based call

Complementary call (OP EIC, PA 1, IP 1b), SO 1.1 and SO 1.2; OP RDE, PA 2, IP 1, SO 5)



1.6 Evaluation model

Single-round

2 Schedule

2.1 Date of Call publication on the website:

19/01/2017, at 10am

2.2 Date of Call announcement, i.e. making the aid application available in IS KP14+:

11/07/2017, at 10am

2.3 Start date for the receipt of aid applications:

11/07/2017, at 10am

2.4 End date for the receipt of aid applications:

15/11/2017, at 2pm

2.5 Latest date for completion of the physical implementation of the project:

31/12/2022

2.6 Minimum/maximum duration of the project:

Minimum duration: 36 months

Maximum duration: 66 months

3 Form of aid

3.1 Call allocation

CZK 1,060,176,470

ITI Ústí-Chomutov agglomeration: CZK 40,000,000

ITI Pilsen agglomeration: CZK 0

ITI Hradec-Pardubice agglomeration: CZK 70,588,235

ITI Olomouc agglomeration: CZK 230,588,235

ITI Ostrava agglomeration: CZK 719,000,000



3.2 Minimum/maximum total eligible expenditure

Minimum expenditure: CZK 30,000,000

Maximum expenditure: CZK 100,000,000

3.3 Fund

European Regional Development Fund

3.4 Method of financing:

Ex-ante financing, ex-post financing (ex-post financing will be applied only to SOU or PCO SOU applicants).

3.5 Amount of 1st advance payment:

Concerning ex-ante financing, the amount of the first advance payment is max. 45 % 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 aid application, and will be specified in the legal act on the granting/ transferring support.

3.6 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 Chapter 8.1.5 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – Specific Part.

3.7 Conditions for State aid

The conditions for the below options are specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Chapter 15.



3.7.1 Option A: Aid for entities which meet the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation will be provided for the implementation of non-economic activities defined by Section 19 of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01, the “Framework”), or activities that meet the provisions of Section 20 of the Framework; therefore, the funds do not constitute State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU.

3.7.2 Option B: Undertakings will receive aid in accordance with Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 ¹ (“Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014”). The aid may be compatible with the internal market within the meaning of Article 107(3) TFEU, which is exempted from notification pursuant to Article 108(3) TFEU. The aided part of a research project which is implemented by an enterprise must fall into the category of fundamental or industrial research.

The aid intensity for the entities aided in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 may not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs of the undertaking, and simultaneously an amount equivalent to EUR 20 million per undertaking per project. The aid may not be paid to an undertaking in respect of which a recovery order has been issued in response to a Commission decision declaring the aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

4 Eligible applicants and partnership conditions

4.1 Eligible applicants

An eligible applicant must belong to one of the following categories and, at the same time, meet all the conditions set out in Chapter 5.2.1 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part.

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 (2014/C 198/01).

- State organisational units and publicly co-funded organizations of State organisational units,
- research organizations (public higher education institutions, public research institutions, etc.)
- private-law entities carrying out publicly beneficial activities

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, pp 1–84;



- other entities²

Call limitation:

The number of applications per applicant entity is not limited.

The applicant must not submit a duplicate application under a call intended for entities outside ITI.

4.2 Partnership

Partnership is mandatory. The partnership conditions are defined by the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP RDE – Specific Part, Chapter 5.2.1.

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). If the partner is an undertaking, it must be involved in the project through effective collaboration with the research and knowledge dissemination organisation.

The project partner(s) must always participate in the research activity (mandatory activity d).

Eligible partners:

Mandatory partner:

- Business corporations (i.e. entities pursuant to Act No 90/2012 Sb., on companies and cooperatives, as amended) or State enterprises (i.e. entities under Section 2 of Act No 77/1997 Sb., on state enterprise, as amended) , which further complies with the following conditions:
 - o The size of the mandatory partner must be at least that of a medium enterprise pursuant to Recommendation 2003/361/EC;

Other potential partners:

Partners with financial participation:

- Entities that meet the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation under the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 3 198/01).

² Breakdown of individual types of eligible applicants based on Rules for ESIF co-financing in the programming period 2014–2020 issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic.



- Business corporations (i.e. entities in accordance with Act No 90/2012 Sb., on companies and cooperatives, as amended) of all sizes
- State enterprise (i.e. an entity pursuant to Section 2 of Act No 77/1997 Sb., on State enterprise, as amended)

Partners without financial participation:

- State organisational units and publicly co-funded organizations of State organisational units
- Territorial self-governing units and their publicly co-funded organizations
- Private-law entities carrying out publicly beneficial activities
- Other entities

Minimum option: a joint partnership must include at least two independent entities: the applicant's research organization and a business corporation as defined by the mandatory partner. In addition to the aforementioned basic settings, the partnership for a joint long-term cooperation may include other entities defined in the call as eligible partners.

Maximum option: a maximum of 9 partners are allowed, i.e. a maximum of 10 entities are allowed in a project partnership (the applicant and 9 partners).

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

5 Substantial focus

5.1 Specific objective

SO 2 – Building capacities and strengthening long-term cooperation between research organisations and the application sector

5.1.1 Eligible activities

For details on the activities listed below, please refer to Chapter 5.2.4 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part.

Activities eligible for entities (applicant/partner) meeting the definition of research and knowledge dissemination organisations according to the Framework:

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) Establishing, implementing or enhancing cooperation under partnerships of research organizations with subjects from application sector.
- c) Preparing and drawing up a strategy of long-term cooperation between research organizations and subjects from application sector.
- d) Cooperation on implementing joint research activities/plans.

Elective activities:

The applicant must choose at least one elective activity:

- e) Activities leading to the establishment and intensification of international cooperation with foreign research entities and from application sector.
- f) Activities leading to establishing and enhancing intersectoral partnerships.
- g) Preparation of jointly designed international project applications related to the activities and focus of the project.

Optional activities:

The applicant may choose any of the following optional activities:

- h) The establishment or development of joint research workplaces , including the purchase of infrastructure.
- i) Activities leading to the dissemination of the results of joint research activity and its outputs.
- j) Professional training of researchers, related to the activities and focus of the project.
- k) Membership in professional organisations / platforms / consortiums
- l) Involvement of application sector representatives in teaching, incl. professional guidance of student papers/projects.

Activities eligible for entities (partners) aided under Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, see the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Chapter 5.2.4.

Activities eligible for foreign partners, see the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Chapter 5.2.4.

5.1.2 Excluded activities

- Any other building alterations not directly related to the installation of acquired infrastructure;
- activities related to the finalising and marketing of a product, including marketing studies and market research;
- Outsourcing of the supported project activities;
- Accreditation of study programmes;



- Experimental development.

5.1.3 Target group

Workers of research organizations, higher education institution students, researchers in private sector, public administration workers in the field of research, development and innovation, and workers in public administration (State administration and self-government).

5.1.4 Information on initial/follow-up synergy calls

Irrelevant

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 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”).

Compliance with the following strategies of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI):

ITI Ústí-Chomutov agglomeration, ITI Pilsen agglomeration, ITI Hradec Králové-Pardubice agglomeration, ITI Ostrava agglomeration, ITI Olomouc agglomeration.

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”; for more details please refer to the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Chapter 7.3.6.

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

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).



6 Territorial focus

The conditions are set out in Chapter 5.2.2 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part.

6.1 Permissible area of impact

Permissible area of impact is the area of ITI Ústí-Chomutov agglomeration, ITI Pilsen agglomeration, ITI Hradec Králové-Pardubice agglomeration, ITI Ostrava agglomeration, and ITI Olomouc agglomeration.

6.2 Permissible area of implementation

The territory of the Czech Republic; selected project activities can also be implemented outside the territory of the Czech Republic (EU territory only).

7 Expenditure eligibility

7.1 Substantive and time eligibility

The conditions for expenditure eligibility are set out in Chapters 8.7.1 and 8.7.2 of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General and Specific Parts.

Expenditure is eligible from the date of the announcement of the Call in IS KP14+ (for entities under Option A) / from the date of submission of aid application (entities under Option B). Aid may not be granted if the project has been physically completed or fully implemented before the applicant submits the aid application, regardless of whether or not the applicant has made all the related payments.

7.2 Monitoring period

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

7.3 Reporting the total eligible expenditure

Total eligible expenditure will be reported under the full expenditure reporting scheme.



7.4 Budget limits

7.4.1 Outsourced services (budget item): this budget item is limited to max. 35% of the total eligible project expenditure.

7.4.2 Expenditure on direct investment activities (budget chapter): this budget chapter is limited to max. 30 % of the total eligible project expenditure.

7.4.3 Local office (budget chapter): this budget chapter is limited to max. 15 % of the total eligible project expenditure.

8 Elements of aid applications

Applications for support are submitted through IS KP14+ at <https://mseu.mssf.cz/index.aspx>. Applications for support must be submitted in Czech and English. The English version of the application must be submitted in the form of an annex to the application for support.

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

An overview of the annexes to aid applications is provided in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Section, Chapter 18. The latest versions of model annexes to aid applications are always available on the websites of announced calls (<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vyhlasene-vyzvy>); selected annexes are also available for download in IS KP14+. The Managing Authority may update the model annexes to aid applications during this call; such an update does not constitute a change of the call.

8.1 Consultation on the preparation of application for support

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

Contact person for the Call: Ing. Tomáš Jeřábek

Email: tomas.jerabek@msmt.cz

Phone: 234 814 011

- **Telephone consultations** will be provided only on Mondays and Thursdays from 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.



- Consultations must concern only specific questions about the call / project.
- Consultations may not involve checking the correctness of completion of an aid application.
- Consultations may not involve assessing the content of the project in terms of its quality and effectiveness, or the economy and efficiency of the required funds. This is to be addressed during substantive evaluation and may not be part of consultations with the Managing Authority.
- Questions / project plan must be sent no later than five working days before the consultation by e-mail (unless otherwise agreed) to the contact person.
- If the applicant fails to deliver a list of questions / project plan 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 Changes to the Call

The Call and follow-up documentation can be changed, especially where required by legislative amendments or changes to the methodological environment. However, such a change must not discriminate against applicants or undermine their position. The wording of the Call concerning its substantive focus may only change in order to clarify the text.

Changes in the Call will be published on the website of the MEYS under the announced Call. Applicants who already have already created an application for support in the IS KP14+ will also be informed about the publication of the change to the Call by an internal memo.

It is strictly prohibited to make the following changes to the conditions for granting support (unless required by legislation or changes to the methodological environment):

- cancel the call,
- reduce the allocation of the call
- change the minimum and maximum amount of total eligible project expenditure,
- change the co-financing rate,
- change the substantive focus of the call,
- change the definition of eligible applicant
- change of the final date for completion of physical completion of a project to an earlier date,
- change of the end date for the receipt of applications for support to an earlier date,
- change the criteria for evaluation and selection of projects.



8.3 Annexes to the Call:

- Annex 1 – Indicators
- Annex 2 – Criteria for project evaluation
- Annex 3 – Background documents for the implementation of the National RIS3 Strategy

8.4 Other documents for the Call:

Applicants and beneficiaries must comply with additional conditions as listed in the following documents:

- Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General Part: available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>
- Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part: available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce-specificka-cast-2017>

Model legal act on the granting/transfer of aid: available at <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>

8.5 Other provisions

The support is provided in the form of a grant or in the form of funds assigned to the budget of SOU expenditure. There is no legal entitlement to the aid. The decision on the final amount of aid is made by the Managing Authority. Deduction for the breach of budgetary discipline / penalties for non-compliance with the conditions of the Call and the Operational Programme will be determined in the legal act on the granting/transfer of aid.

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Deputy Minister for the Management
of the Operational Programme
Section

