



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



Ref. No.: MSMT-17509/2015

Czech Republic — Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Managing Authority of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

Announces

Call “Excellent Research Teams”

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

1. Call Identification: Support to Excellent Research Teams

- Priority axis: PA 1 – Strengthening capacity for high-quality research
- 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
- Specific objective: SO 1 – Improving international quality of research and its results
- Call number¹: 02 15 003
- Call type: round-type
- Evaluation model: single-round

¹ The number to be completed according to IS KP14+



2. Time schedule

- date of announcement of the Call: 15. 7. 2015
- date of accessibility of the grant application in IS KP14+: 28. 8. 2015²
- start date of acceptance of grant applications: 28. 8.2015³
- end date of acceptance of grant applications: 22. 1. 2016
- latest date of completion of physical implementation of the project: 31. 10. 2022
- maximum project duration: 84 months
- minimum project duration: 36 months

3. Form and amount of support

- Fund: EFRD
- Mode of financing: Ex-ante. The amount of the first advance payment within this Call is fixed for the maximum of 20% of the total eligible expenditure for the approved project. In case of contributory organisations of state organisation units⁴ the financing method within this Call is set for ex – post⁵ financing.
- Allocation for the Call: CZK 2,500,000,000
- Type of supported operations/projects: individual project
- Eligible applicants: entities complying with the definition of organisation for research and dissemination of knowledge under the point ee) paragraph 15 of the Communication from the Commission (EU) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), contributory organisations of state organisation units, which comply with the definition of organization for research and spreading of knowledge under the point ee) paragraph 15 of the Communication from the Commission (EU) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01).
- Scope of aid: the projects will be implemented within both programme areas, this means in less-developed regions and also in the territory of more-developed regions.

Decomposition of financing sources:

For applicants complying with the definition of organisation for research and dissemination of knowledge under the point ee) paragraph 15 Commission communication

² 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).

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 Contributory organisations of the state and of territorial self-governing units, state organisations

⁵ The ex – post financing method is applied only with respect to European reporting and it is not relevant with respect to diction of the Act on budgetary rules and in connection with interpretation of the term of ineligible use of financial resources.



(EU) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), which are not contributory organisations of state organisation units:

Less-developed regions – share of EU – 85%, national share in total 15%, out of which the share of national budget - maximum 10% and co-financing from the side of applicant/beneficiary minimum 5%. In case of determination of the co-financing level it is on the applicant's decision what level of co-financing by own resources will be applied in the submitted grant application. The minimum level of co-financing of 5% is obligatory for the applicant/beneficiary. The maximum possible level of co-financing from the side of applicant/beneficiary represents 15% from the total eligible expenditure of the project (i.e. the amount of total national share).

More-developed regions – In case of more-developed regions, when projects will have impact on both programme areas within one project, the pro-rata proportion will be applied for determination of the aid intensity. With the aid intensity using the pro-rata proportion the minimum share of co-financing from the side of beneficiary will be 5% from the total eligible expenditure (it does not apply to applicants, who are contributory organisations of the state organisation units. The share of EU will amount to - 71.35 % and share of national budget - maximum of 23.65 % from the total project eligible expenditure. This share is calculated on the basis of pro-rata proportion approved by the Monitoring Committee OP RDE, which is 61% (less developed regions) and 39% (more developed regions). In case of determination of the co-financing level it is on the applicant's decision, what amount of co-financing by own resources it will apply in framework of submitted grant application. The minimum level of co-financing of 5% is obligatory for the applicant/beneficiary.

For applicants satisfying the definition of organization for research and dissemination of knowledge under the point ee) paragraph 15 of the Communication from the Commission (EU) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), who are contributory organisations of state organisation units:

With respect to this type of applicant's decomposition of the resources of financing in case of less-developed regions and also more-developed regions is the same as in case when contributory organisations of state organisation units are not concerned **with the difference that the total national share is co-funded from the national budget and co-financing by the beneficiary represents 0% of the total eligible expenditure.**

More detailed information can be found in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific section (chapter 8.1.5).

- The maximum and minimum amount of the total eligible expenditure: minimum amount of the total eligible expenditure for implementation of one project is 40 mil. CZK, the maximum amount of the total eligible expenditure for implementation of one project is 250 mil. CZK.
- Information on the conditions of state aid: All aid will be granted 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), 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.

- Financing of activities in the projects of the National Programme of Sustainability I(LO), the National Programme of Sustainability II (LQ) and projects of Large Infrastructures (LM) is prohibited in the scope of this Call.

4. Call objectives

- Specific objective: Improving international quality of research and its results

The objective of this Call is to create in cooperation with leading international scientific capacities new research teams and equip them with material and technique. These teams will support effective use of infrastructures for research and development, their development for the benefit of region, efficient transfer of knowledge from abroad and the ability to create international compete-able quality.

Projects with potential of top research and development will be supported within this Call, implemented by a new research team managed by a key foreign researcher or a worker in infrastructures of R&D centres. Support will be provided to projects, which will have sufficient quality and potential in order to achieve the critical size and success level in attractive research directions, as minimum within the content of the European research area. Support will be directed to investments to acquisition of instrumentation, laboratory and information facilities for research and technological development and to associated human resources. Strategic development of international cooperation will be supported in form of establishing definite relations with foreign research partners, which will lead to submitting joint project drafts in prestigious international grant competitions (Horizon 2020 etc.).

Supported activities:

- a) Development of capacities of research teams – improve research performance of R&D centres with interconnecting of high-quality international teams with established infrastructure through involvement and permanent engagement of new key staff into infrastructures of R&D centres.
- b) Completion⁶, modernization or upgrade of infrastructure – material and technical facilities for research teams and support creation of knowledge having potential from view of production of applicable results.
- c) Development of strategic partnerships - strengthening of international dimension and intensive scientific cooperation with leading research organizations abroad, international cooperation. Development will be implemented through cooperation with at least one entity and this cooperation will be based on agreement on cooperation.
- d) Project management - description of the content of this activity is given in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section.

⁶ Completion — extension of the existing capacity of R&D centre linked to acquisition or use of new technologies within the existing buildings.



Activities as stated above under letter a) - d) are always obligatory part of projects and must be implemented in connection with one R&D centre.

Description of excluded activities:

- activities associated with construction works, if they are not associated with the necessary installation of acquired instrumentation,
- construction of new buildings.

Compliance of the project with the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic (the National RIS3 strategy) and/or its regional annexes – the project is implemented in compliance with at least one generic knowledge domain as stated in the National RIS3 strategy. The applicant will provide a description compliance and submit it in the annex to the grant application.

The project sustainability is determined for the period of five years from the last payment to the beneficiary. Fulfilment of conditions during the project sustainability come from the Art. 71 of the General Regulation.

- Indicators: see the annex to the Call No. 1
- Target group: staff in research organizations, students in doctoral study programmes at universities.
- Information on initial/connecting synergy Calls: irrelevant.
- Specification of partnership: Partnership is not obligatory. Conditions of partnership are specified by the valid Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section.

5. Territorial focus

Eligible place of the operation implementation impact

- The place of implementation impact is the area of less-developed regions and more-developed regions in the Czech Republic.

Eligible place of implementation

- Operations must be implemented in the territory of the Czech Republic.

However, eligibility will not be considered only from the perspective of the territory, on which project activities will be implemented, but also from the perspective of project activities impact on the target group. This means that activities do not necessarily need to be implemented in acceptable place of implementation, but they must always serve for the benefit of the target group from the specified region/regions.

6. Eligibility of expenditure⁷

⁷ Detailed rules for eligibility of expenditure will be stated in form of reference to associated documentation - Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section.



- objective eligibility (eligible expenditure): The objective eligibility is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – General section
- Time eligibility: Time-limited eligibility is specified in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section. At the same time, it applies that time-eligible expenditure is expenditure associated with activities, which occurred from the start date of the project. In framework of this Call the project start date is possible at the earliest on 1. 1. 2014. 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. Eligible expenditure cannot be financed retrospectively, i.e. in connection with completed activities.
- duration of monitoring period within this Call is determined for 6 months,
- method of reporting of total eligible expenditure: a simplified form of reporting expenditure will be used within this Call. A part of expenditure within this Call will be reported in form of indirect costs. 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%. A particular flat rate will be stated in the legal act on the provision/transfer of aid,
- limits of the budget chapters: human resources expenditure budget chapter - with respect to this chapter the maximum limit of 55% of the total eligible expenditure (this limit applies only to personnel expenditure relating to professional positions) is determined; the purchase of services budget item - the limit is set at a maximum of 49 % of the total eligible expenditure⁸.

Ineligible expenditure:

- Any expenditure directly associated with the supporting activities in the projects of the National Sustainability Programme I (LO), the National Sustainability Programme II (LQ) and in projects of Large Infrastructures for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (LM) are not eligible for this Call.
- Furthermore, it is stated in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - General section and the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries - Specific section.

7. 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.
- Submission of the grant application is performed through IS KP14+, link:

⁸ Limit within the budget chapter purchase of services is more specified in the chapter 5.2.5 in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries- Specific section.



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<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.



- 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.

➤ **Consultation to the preparation of the grant application:**

Contact persons with respect to inquiries concerning the grant application in IS KP14+:

Mgr. Helena Hořáková

E-mail: helena.horakova@msmt.cz

Telephone: 234 814 263

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. We point out that personal Consultation for the Call will be provided only until 18th December 2015.

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

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

➤ **Possibility to change the Call:**

Changes of formal nature can be performed for announced Calls. Change in the text of 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. Through the change of the Call the applicants must not be discriminated and their position must not be worsened. 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,⁹
- 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. 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>
- 4) Samples of annexes to the grant application: <http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>

5) Annexes to the Call:

Annex no. 1 Indicators

Annex no. 2 Evaluation criteria

9. Other provisions

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 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.

Signature of Deputy Minister of the EU
Operational Programmes Section

⁹ 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.