



## Cooperation PROGRAMME – Clusters - Call III

The programme objective is to support the development of innovative networks – clusters – as tools for increasing the intensity of joint research, development and innovation activities between businesses and the research community.

### TIMETABLE

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#### Receipt of project applications:

- Preliminary application for aid – 7. 11. 2016 – 12. 1. 2017
- Application for aid – 7. 2. 2017 – 7. 4. 2017

### ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

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- a) Collective research – projects must meet the conditions set out in the definition of collective and pre-competitive research. For each project proposal, the applicant must submit at least 3 (or 5) potential users of the project outcomes (small and medium-sized enterprises), which will establish a so-called “user committee” to oversee the implementation of the project and able to adjust the direction of the research with regard to the practical application of outcomes. Projects must be implemented in cooperation with research and development centres through the award of a research contract. The implementation of collective research projects within the Cornet international network is also supported.
- b) Shared infrastructure – the establishment/development and equipment of open access cluster centres for industrial research, development and innovation.
- c) The internationalisation of clusters – the establishment of cooperation within the European research area, involvement in cross-border networks of excellence clusters (emphasising future challenges and key technologies), coordinated access to third markets, etc.
- d) Development of cluster organisations – activities contributing to expanding a cluster and improving the quality of its management, improving cooperation, sharing knowledge, marketing, networking, etc.

### APPLICANT

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- The aid beneficiary may be a legal entity within the meaning of Section 118 et seq. of Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, if it is an association of businesses purposely established, together with research and knowledge dissemination organisations, or with other institutions and organisations, provided it focuses on meeting the objectives set out in Parts 2

and 12 of the Call. Aid beneficiaries must have enshrined in their statutes that one of their main activities involves support for innovation and increasing competitiveness and the scope of business of the aid beneficiary, as set out in its statutes or Memorandum of Establishment, must include the establishment and operation of a cluster.

- The aid beneficiary must meet the definition of a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), which, for the purposes of this Call, means the enterprise meets the conditions set forth in Annex I to 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 on the EC.
- The aid beneficiary must be composed of at least 15 independent members. In the case of businesses, for the purposes of this Call, an independent member is considered to be a business that meets the conditions of independence within the meaning of an SME (regardless of its size). For this purpose, within the framework of the cluster, interconnected or partner companies together make up a single independent member.
- The majority of cluster members (at least 60% of all members) must consist of small and medium-sized enterprises meeting the conditions of the definition of an SME.
- At least one research and knowledge dissemination organisation, i.e. entities meeting the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation pursuant to Article 2, point 83 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014) must be a member of the cluster.
- The cluster must be open to new members, and rules governing the entry and exit of new members will be included directly in the statutes, or Memorandum of Establishment, and must also be managed in a transparent manner. During voting, each member has one vote.
- It must declare in an affidavit that it has been continuously registered as an income tax payer in one of the EU Member States for a period of at least one full tax year preceding the date of submission of the preliminary aid application; the applicant should also realise that it must have established business premises or a branch in the CR at the time the aid is paid.
- It must declare in an affidavit that it has no debt towards selected institutions in the country in which it is based, or in the country its branches are based or towards aid providers from projects co-financed from the EU budget.
- It must declare in an affidavit that it is not in arrears for wages for its employees.
- It may not have any outstanding obligations arising from a recovery order drawn up on the basis of a Commission Decision, declaring the aid as unlawful and incompatible with the internal market.

## **SECTORAL RESTRICTION**

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- Projects whose outputs relate to sectors classified under CZ-NACE codes C10, 11, 13 – 33; E 38.32; J 58, 59, 60, 62, 63 can receive support. Secondary project outputs can be supported if they are classified under CZ-NACE codes M 71.2, 72, 73.2, 74.1 S 95.1.
- Projects whose outputs are classified under any of the following sectors are not eligible for support:  
the production, processing and marketing of products listed in Annex I to the Treaty on the EC, agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture, pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1379/2013.

## MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

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- The project must be implemented on the territory of the CR, outside the Capital City of Prague.
- The applicant must clearly demonstrate ownership or other rights to the property and land where the project is to be implemented.
- The project must contain all the mandatory components set forth in the Call for its submission.
- The project does not envisage aid for activities associated with export volumes (export subsidies) support for the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or for other standard costs related to export activities (customs, insurance, etc.); or aid contingent on the use of domestic goods in preference to imported goods.
- The project has not started before the date of submission of the preliminary aid application.
- The project may not violate EU horizontal policies nor their fundamental principles, such as gender equality and sustainable development.
- The project's objectives must comply with the objectives of the aid programme and the Call.
- Each applicant (1 Co.Reg.) may submit a maximum of four projects (i.e. four active applications in which it appears as the beneficiary), and always only 1 project for each supported activity. This restriction does not apply to projects submitted under the CORNET international network.
- A project submitted under activity (a) may contain 3 R&D sub-projects in a single aid application for a cluster organisation classified as a mature cluster. An applicant assigned to the category of an excellence cluster on the basis of an evaluation may submit a maximum of 5 R&D sub-projects in a single aid application.
- An applicant which, on the basis of an evaluation of the performance of its cluster organisation, has been assigned to the immature cluster category, may only submit projects for supported activities (c) and (d) and a maximum of 1 project to the Cornet network under activity (a).
- Activity (b) may only be carried out at 1 implementation site.
- As a project leader or co-leader, a research and development centre may not be associated with the aid beneficiary either economically or in terms of staffing.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

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Activity (a) Collective research:

- wages, insurance, externally sourced services in research and development (contract research, consulting services), material, additional overhead costs (a flat rate of up to 15% of the Wages and Insurance budget item).

Activity (b) Shared infrastructure:

- acquisition of buildings, technical upgrade of buildings, machinery and equipment inc. hardware and networks, software and data, intellectual property rights, rental.

Activity (c) Internationalisation of the cluster:

- wages and insurance, travel, services of consultants, experts, studies, marketing and promotion, seminars, conferences.

Activity (d) Development of the cluster organisation:

- wages and insurance, travel, marketing and promotion, seminars, conferences, rental, management of cluster equipment, material.

## FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

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- Absolute minimum grant for one project: CZK 500,000
- Absolute maximum grant for one project under activity (a) Collective research:  
from CZK 40,000,000 for excellence clusters / maximum CZK 15,000,000 for 1 sub-project  
from CZK 20,000,000 for mature clusters / maximum CZK 10,000,000 for 1 sub-project
- Absolute maximum grant for one project under activity (b) Shared infrastructure:  
From CZK 15,000,000 for excellence clusters / CZK 10,000,000 for mature clusters
- Absolute maximum grant for one project under activity (c) Internationalisation of the cluster and (d) Development of the cluster organisation:  
from CZK 5,000,000 for excellence clusters / CZK 4,000,000 for mature clusters / CZK 3,000,000 for immature clusters.
- Maximum amount of aid: for Collective research activities 45% of EE for small enterprises and 35% of EE for medium enterprises in the experimental development category; 70% of EE for small enterprises and 60% of EE for medium enterprises in the industrial research category. For activity (b), (c) and (d) 50% of EE.