



# Knowledge transfer partnerships – Call I

The main goal of the Call is to strengthen mobility and develop knowledge transfer between business and academia in order to support and accelerate innovation processes in companies and to approximate public research topics to the needs of companies.

## TIMETABLE

### Receipt of grant applications:

- 27. 01. 2023 – 28. 04. 2023

## SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

The project must be focused on at least one of the following activities and must be of strategic importance for the further development of the company:

- introduction of advanced technologies in the enterprise;
- development/innovation of new products and services or process innovation in the development and introduction of new products and services, including design;
- improvement of production and/or business processes, including the product certification process.

## APPLICANT

- is a **natural person** or **legal entity** pursuing business, that has been **assigned a Czech ID number** and is **authorized to do business**<sup>1</sup>.
- is authorized to conduct business corresponding to an **economic activity**<sup>2</sup> in which the project is implemented.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a trade license or license to do business according to other legal regulations (unless otherwise stated in the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP TAC - special section).

<sup>2</sup> In the application in IS KP21+, the applicant indicated the CZ-NACE in which the project is implemented, which corresponds to the activity recorded in the public registers. The registered CZ-NACE must not be listed in the Call Annex under the title "Unsupported CZ-NACE".

- A partner knowledge organization<sup>3</sup> must meet the definition of a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation according to point 1.3 ff) of Communication from the Commission — Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation C(2022) 7388 final;
- provided **the data to the extent required in Section 14, paragraph 3, letter e) of Act No 218/2000 Coll.**, the Act on Budgetary Rules and amending certain related acts, as amended:
  - in IS KP21+ it entered information on the identification of persons acting on behalf of the applicant, indicating whether they act as its statutory body or whether these persons act on the basis of a granted power of attorney,
  - has registered the real owners of the legal entity in accordance with Act No 37/2021 Coll., on the registration of real owners (fulfilment of the condition will be verified by IB),
  - in IS KP21+ it entered information on the identification of the entities in which it has a share and the amount of this share.
- According to its sworn statement, it **is not in liquidation**.
- According to its sworn statement, it has been registered as an income tax payer in the Czech Republic, continuously for at least two tax periods<sup>4</sup> preceding the date of submission of the grant application.

## TERRITORIAL FOCUS

- Target territory: The territory of the Czech Republic, except NUTS 2 Prague
- The territorial acceptability is not assessed based on the registered office of the applicant (beneficiary) but based on the actual place of project implementation, i.e. the territory where the physical implementation takes place and the project expenses are incurred. For the purposes of this Call, this is the business establishment in which the project is implemented.

## MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must not violate horizontal EU policies and their basic principles. In particular, the project must comply:
  - with principles of non-discrimination (primarily non-discrimination based on race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age or sexual orientation),
  - with the principles of sustainable development,
  - with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The project objectives shall be in line with the objectives of the operational programme and the Call.
- For projects whose total eligible expenses are equal to/higher than CZK 5 million, the score obtained in the simplified economic evaluation, which expresses the financial health of the applicant<sup>5</sup>, must not be lower than 5 points.

<sup>3</sup> The knowledge organization will receive the aid indirectly through the business entity on the basis of the conditions specified in the concluded partnership agreement between the business entity and the knowledge organization. The binding template of this agreement is attached as Annex 7 to the Call.

<sup>4</sup> This is a tax period according to Section 16b for natural persons / Section 21a for legal entities of Act No 586/1992 Coll., on income taxes.

<sup>5</sup> It does not apply to the partner knowledge organization.

- According to the declaration form for the application of DNSH (the principle of "do no significant harm"), the project does not significantly harm the environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Grant applications of applicants who have submitted a similar active project (in any PP status) under OP PIC will not be approved in the phase of appraisal of formal requirements and eligibility, unless the applicant has withdrawn from the project. A similar project is a project that has the same place of implementation (up to the level of the municipality), similar activities and a similar amount of budget and its structure. The aim of the above-mentioned measure is to prevent blocking of budget funds by the fact that the still unfinished project proposals from OP PIC are submitted again identically, or slightly modified, in OP TAC. The applicant must choose whether it can realistically complete the project in OP PIC, or whether it will end the administration of this project and submit the project proposal in OP TAC.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- For SMEs: hardware and networks, machinery and equipment, software and data, personal expenses, travel, material
- For the knowledge organization: personnel expenses, travel expenses, seminars, workshops, expert services, access to information, databases,
- The knowledge organization can further claim indirect (overhead) expenses at a flat rate of up to 15% of the Personnel expenses budget item (does not include SME Personnel expenses).
- The final amount of the knowledge organization's indirect eligible expenses is directly proportional to the knowledge organization's actual direct eligible expenses incurred for Personal expenses.
- When checking the amount of indirect eligible expenses, the MA does not check the accounting documents or other supporting documentation related to the beneficiary's indirect expenses, but verifies the actual amount of direct costs.

## FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- The aid is provided in the form of a grant.
- The grant for the project is provided in the amount of at least CZK 1 million<sup>6</sup> and up to a maximum of CZK 8 million.
- The aid will be paid in accordance with the "Rules for the co-financing of the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for financial support for border management and visas for the 2021-2027 programming period<sup>7</sup>" and will be reimbursed **retrospectively after the end of the project** or its stage (if the project is staged in accordance with the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries - general part) provided that the conditions of the Decision are met.

<sup>6</sup> Valid at the stage of approval by the selection committee.

<sup>7</sup> Document of the Ministry of Finance approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in Resolution No 354 of 12 April 2021.

- The beneficiary is obliged to ensure the financing of expenses for the implementation of the project, including VAT.
- The aid may not be provided for the same project expenses for which other aid from public sources has already been or will be provided, including an aid from Union funds that are centrally managed by bodies, agencies, joint ventures and other Union entities and that are not directly or indirectly under control of member states.
- The aid may not be provided to a beneficiary who has an unpaid obligation arising from a recovery order issued after a previous decision of the Commission declaring that the aid received from a provider from the Czech Republic is illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

## AID INTENSITY AND BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES<sup>8</sup>

Type of entity	EU share
Small enterprise	70%
Medium-sized enterprise	70%

- In the mode that does not establish State aid, the aid is provided in accordance with the Framework, namely for entities that meet the definition of a research organization. The maximum intensity of aid here may not exceed 85% of the total eligible expenses of the research organization, the aid is provided for activities of a non-economic nature within the framework of knowledge transfer according to point 20 b) of the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation<sup>9</sup>.
- The SME must provide the partner organization with a financial contribution of at least 15% of the partner organization's eligible expenditure related to the project, either from its own resources or through external funding, in a form that does not contain any public aid.

<sup>8</sup> The chapter shows the share of the EU. The remaining part of the funding will be covered from the beneficiary's resources.

<sup>9</sup> Any profit from these activities carried out by the research organization must be reinvested in the primary activities of that organization.