



Infrastructure services - Call I

The aim of this call is to develop research and innovation infrastructure and improve its services, which will lead to an increase in the intensity of joint research, development and innovation activities between business entities and the public and business sectors, focusing in particular on research, development and innovation of new technologies and the introduction of advanced innovative solutions.

TIMETABLE

Receipt of grant applications:

- 09.08.2023 – 18.01.2024

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- Provision of services to innovative enterprises - Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Expansion of premises and modernisation of open R&I infrastructure, including acquisition of new equipment/building of new open R&I infrastructure.

THE APPLICANT

- is a **legal entity** that has been **assigned a Czech ID number** and is **authorized to do business**¹.
- is authorized to conduct business corresponding to the **economic activity**² in which the project is implemented.
- 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),

¹ 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 - specific part).

² 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 titled "Unsupported CZ-NACE".

- 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 periods³ 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 eligibility 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.

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, must not be lower than 5 points. (not applicable for A activity)
- The project, its activities and results do not lead to significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 ("Taxonomy Regulation").
- Investments in infrastructure with an expected lifetime of at least 5 years have been examined in terms of climate impact in accordance with Article 73(2)(j) of Regulation (EU) 1060/2021 of the EP and of the Council on common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.
- 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 EIC, or whether it will end the administration of this project and submit the project proposal in OP TAC.

³ 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.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Under Activity 4.1a), the costs of the intermediary related to the provision of services to final beneficiaries are eligible expenditures:

- personnel costs associated with the provision of specialised services to final beneficiaries;
- purchase of external specialised services;
- costs of investment in tangible and intangible fixed assets (technology, research or testing equipment to be used for the provision of services to final beneficiaries; maximum up to EUR 5 million) CZK 5 million);
- marketing and promotion (de minimis);
- overheads (15 % of personnel costs according to point 6.1a).

Under Activity 4.1(b), eligible expenditures are:

- costs of investments in tangible fixed assets (e.g. research equipment, technology and other equipment necessary for the functioning of R&ID infrastructure, acquisition of buildings, land, new buildings, technical improvement of buildings, etc.);
- costs of investment in intangible assets (acquisition of patents, licences and know-how not exceeding the normal price, the appraisal must not be more than 6 months old at the date of acquisition; software, etc.);
- project documentation (de minimis).

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 5 million and up to a maximum of CZK 150 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"⁴ 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.
- 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.

⁴ Document of the Ministry of Finance approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in Resolution No 354 of 12 April 2021.

AID INTENSITY AND BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES⁵

Support rate for Activity 4.1 a):

- 75 % of the proven eligible expenditure in the case of beneficiaries who are an intermediary of the aid under the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01); the remaining part of the funding of at least 25 % of the eligible expenditure will be covered by the final beneficiary (SME).
- 75 % of the proven eligible expenditure in the case of final beneficiaries (SMEs) - users of consultancy services,

Aid rate for Activity 4.1(b):

- 50 % of the proven eligible expenditure in case the extended or newly built R&I infrastructure meets the definition of research infrastructure according to GBER point 91).
- 25 % of the proven eligible expenditure where the expanded or newly built R&ID infrastructure meets the definition of infrastructure for testing and experimentation under GBER point 98(a). The aid rate can be increased by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises. The aid rate may be increased by a further 5 percentage points for testing and experimental infrastructures where at least 80 % of the annual capacity is allocated to SMEs.

Maximum and minimum amount of aid

For activity 4.1 a)

- The grant for the project is provided in the amount of at least CZK 10 million⁶ and up to a maximum of CZK 30 million.
- The grant for services for the final beneficiary - a specific SME is provided with the amount of at least 50 thousand CZK. CZK and a maximum of CZK 1 million. CZK.

For activity 4.1 b)

- CZK 5-50 million for projects not involving construction work;
- CZK 10-150 million for projects involving construction work.

Projects requesting less than the minimum aid according to the aid rate are unacceptable and will not be accepted in the evaluation process. The maximum aid is unsurpassable.

⁵ The chapter shows the EU share. The remaining part of the funding will be covered from the beneficiary's resources.

⁶ Valid at the stage of approval by the selection committee.