



Cooperation Programme – Clusters – Call VI

The Call follows the programme's objective to support the development of innovation networks – clusters as an instrument to increase the intensity of research, development and innovation-related activities conducted jointly by businesses and the research sector.

SCHEDULE

- The preliminary grant applications shall be accepted from 22 July 2019 to 6 September 2019
- The grant applications shall be accepted from 13 September 2019 to 29 November 2019

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- Collective research – projects must meet the conditions set out in the definition of collective and pre-competitive research = R&D activities that meet the innovation needs of particular small and medium enterprises of the industry or specific technology area within the cluster. The results of the project are always usable by multiple companies, who can develop their own specific solutions for new products, processes and services
- Shared infrastructure – establishment/development and equipment of the cluster's centre with open access for the purposes of industrial research, development and innovation.
- Cluster internationalisation – establishment of cooperation in the European Research Area, participation in cross-border networks of excellent clusters (with emphasis on future challenges and key technologies), coordinated access to third markets, etc.
- Development of cluster organisation – activities leading to expansion of the cluster and improved quality of its management, improvement of cooperation, knowledge sharing, marketing, networking, etc.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- For the activity 3.1a), the grant is provided up to the maximum amount of 45% of eligible expenditure for small enterprises and 35% of eligible expenditure for medium-sized enterprises in the **experimental development category** and 70% of eligible expenditure for small enterprises and 60% of eligible expenditure for medium-sized enterprises in the **industrial research category**
- For the activity 3.1b), c) and d), the grant is provided up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible expenditure
- The minimum grant per project: CZK 500,000

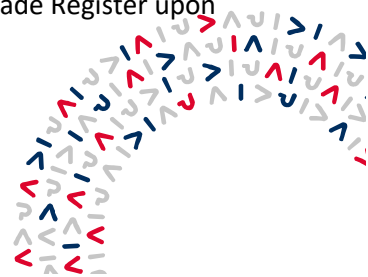
- The maximum grant per project within the activity 3.1a): CZK 40,000,000 for excellent clusters / maximum of CZK 15,000,000 per sub-project, maximum of CZK 20,000,000 for developed clusters / maximum of CZK 10,000,000 per sub-project
- The maximum grant per project within the activity 3.1b): CZK 15,000,000 for excellent clusters / CZK 10,000,000 for developed clusters
- The maximum grant per project within the activity 3.1c) and 3.1d): CZK 5,000,000 for excellent clusters / CZK 4,000,000 for developed clusters / CZK 3,000,000 for developing clusters.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- The eligible expenditures are specified in more detail in Annex No. 2 to this Call and in the Eligibility and Publicity Rules– General Part (only in the Czech language)
- Eligible expenditure is: wages and insurance, outsourced research and development services, material, additional overhead costs which are applied at a flat rate of up to 15% of the wage and insurance (3.1a); purchase of buildings, technical improvement of buildings, machinery and equipment including hardware and networks, software and data, intellectual property rights, rent (3.1b); wages and insurance, travel expenses, consultancy services, expertise, studies, marketing and promotion, seminars, conferences (3.1c); wages and insurance, marketing and promotion, seminars, conferences, rent, overhead costs (3.1d)

APPLICANT

- May be a special-purpose association of entrepreneurs together with research and knowledge dissemination organisations or other institutions and organisations, if it is aimed at achieving the objectives set in parts 2 and 12 of the Call. The applicant/beneficiary must stipulate in its statutes that one of its principal activities is support for innovation and increasing competitiveness, and the beneficiary's line of business defined in the statutes or the memorandum of association must include an establishment and operation of a cluster
- Must meet the definition of a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), which is, for the purposes of this Call, understood as an entrepreneur meeting the conditions stipulated in Annex I to the European Commission Regulation 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 European Union and must keep accounts, or tax records expanded with special requirements, or keep separate accounts for the project.
- The cluster must be composed of at least 15 independent SMEs which meet the definition of a SME. For the purposes of this Call, an independent member is a business entity meeting the conditions of independence within the meaning of the SME definition (regardless of its size). Interconnected or partner enterprises within the cluster represent, for this purpose, a single independent member
- At least 10 SMEs, which meet the definition of a SME in the case of a developing cluster, 15 in the case of a developed cluster and 20 in the case of an excellent cluster, must be a member of the cluster.
- At least one research and knowledge-dissemination organisation, i.e. an entity meeting the definition in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014, must be a member
- The cluster must be open to new members and the rules for entry and exit of new members shall be included directly in the statutes or the memorandum of association, and it must be managed transparently. Each member has 1 vote when voting
- It is authorised to conduct business corresponding to the supported economic activity which is to be carried out through the project
- Based on its statutory declaration, the applicant is registered as an income tax payer in any of the EU member states and has been so continuously for at least one closed tax period preceding the date of submitting the preliminary application and notes that it will have to have an establishment or a branch established in the Czech Republic upon receiving the aid, which must be registered in the extract from the Trade Register upon the submission of the first aid application



- It does not have any outstanding liabilities, according to its sworn declaration, based on its employees' wage and salary claims
- It can be a public company, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint stock company, cooperative, branch of a foreign legal entity, branch, university (public, state), association, branch association, chamber (economic, agrarian), interest group of legal entities, foreign association, European economic interest grouping, European company, European cooperative society, foreign branch association or an analogous foreign legal form to the above, if the applicant is a foreign entity.

SECTORAL DEFINITION

- The aid shall be provided to projects with outputs affecting the sectors defined in CZ-NACE C10, 11, 13-33, E 38.32, J 58, 59, 60, 62, 63. Section CZ-NACE M 71.2, 72, 73.2, 74.1 S 95.1 may be supported as secondary outputs of the project
- The aid shall not be provided to projects with outcomes directly affecting any of the below stated sectors:
 - Production, processing and marketing of products listed in Annex I to the Treaty on European Union
 - Agriculture, forestry, fishery, aquaculture (CZ-NACE A01, A02, A03)

KEY CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic outside NUTS II
- The applicant must have ownership or other rights to the property and land plots where the project will be implemented and demonstrate such rights upon request
- The project must include all mandatory elements listed in the Call for its submission (details only in the Czech language)
- The project has not started before the date of filing the preliminary application
- The project does not expect any aid directly linked to the quantities exported (export subsidies), aid to the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad or any aid to other current costs linked to the export activity (customs duties, insurance, etc.) or any aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods instead of imported goods
- The project must not violate EU horizontal policies and their basic principles, in particular equal opportunities for men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and sustainable development
- Projects with total eligible expenditure at and over CZK 5 million and at the same time with investment expenditure that forms more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will be required to carry out a Financial Analysis of the investment. Projects with total eligible expenditure at and over CZK 100 million and at the same time with investment expenditure that forms more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will be required to carry out an economic analysis taking into account socio-economic impacts of the project based on a set code-book

