



Aid programme Knowledge Transfer Partnership – Call VI

The main objective of the aid programme is to enhance interaction between businesses and research and knowledge-dissemination organisations and to make higher education institutions more open to cooperation with the business sector.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of applications for support:

- 01. 04. 2020 – 10. 09. 2020

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- The supported activity is establishment of partnership between a small and medium-sized enterprise and a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation ("knowledge organisation") for the purpose of transferring knowledge, related technologies and skills to which the enterprise does not have access.
- Knowledge transfer is carried out with the participation of a graduate of Master's or doctoral studies ("Knowledge Transfer Assistant") directly in the establishment of the enterprise under the supervision of a selected expert centre.
- The project must focus on at least one of the following activities and must be of strategic importance for further development of the enterprise:
 - (a) improvement of production processes,
 - (b) development/innovation of new products and services or process innovation in the development and marketing of new products and services including design
 - (c) improvement of business processes including the process of product certification.

APPLICANT

- The applicant may be a business entity; a small and medium-sized enterprise as defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014; and the beneficiary may be a research and knowledge dissemination organisation (i.e. an entity meeting the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation in point 1.3 (ee) of the Communication from the Commission: Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01). Research and knowledge dissemination organisations must also meet the definition of a Knowledge Organisation as stated in item 3.1 of the Call; the

beneficiary shall keep accounting or tax records expanded with special requirements or keep separate accounts for the project in line with the conditions of the programme.

- The applicant/ beneficiary is authorised to conduct business corresponding to the supported economic activity which is to be carried out through the project;
- The applicant/ beneficiary is, based on their sworn declaration, registered as an income tax payer in any of the EU member states; the applicant notes that it will have to have an establishment or a branch established in the Czech Republic at the moment of receiving the support. The applicant must have the branch registered, as of the first request for payment, in the Register of Licensed Trades.
- The applicant is not, based on its sworn declaration, in arrears to selected institutions in the country of its registration, or in the country where its branch is registered, and to providers of support from projects co-financed from the EU budget;
- The applicant does not have any outstanding liabilities, according to its sworn declaration, based on its employees' wage and salary claims.
- A demonstrative list of the types of supported legal forms: Domestic enterprising individual, General partnership, Limited liability company, Limited partnership, Foundation, Endowment, Public limited company, Public benefit organisation, Institute, Cooperation, Contributory organisation funded by a territorial self-governing unit, State contributory statutory organisation, State contributory organisation, other Public-law institutions, Branch of a foreign legal entity, Organisational unit of a foreign endowment, Organisational unit of a foreign foundation, a Foreign natural person, Branch of a foreign natural person, Branch, Higher education institution (public, state), School legal entity, Public research organisation, Association, Subsidiary society, Interest grouping of legal entities, Foreign association, International non-governmental organisation, European economic interest grouping, European company, European cooperative society, Foreign subsidiary society or a foreign legal form similar to those above where the applicant is a foreign entity.

SECTORAL DEFINITION

- The aid shall not be provided to projects with outputs affecting any of the below stated sectors:
 - production, processing and marketing of products listed in the Common Annex - Annex I to the EU Treaty - in Annex 3 to this Call.
 - agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture (CZ-NACE A 01, A 02, A 03).

KEY CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic outside NUTS 2 Prague, the location of the establishment where the project of the enterprise is to be implemented is decisive.
- 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.
- The project does not expect any aid for activities linked to the quantities exported (export subsidies), aid for the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad or for other current expenditure linked to the export activity (customs duties, insurance, etc.) or any aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods instead of imported goods and/or contingent upon the use of domestic services.
- The project has not started before the date of filing the application.
- 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.

- The objectives of the project must comply with the objectives of the programme and of the Call.
- The financial health of the applicant, expressed in a simplified economic assessment of the intermediate body, must not be lower than 5 points.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- For SMEs: hardware and networks, machinery and equipment, software and data, wages and contributions, travel costs, material
- For Knowledge Organisations: wages and contributions, travel costs, workshops and seminars, services of experts, access to information, databases
- Moreover, knowledge organisations may submit indirect (overhead) expenditure at a flat rate of up to 15% of budget item Wages and contributions (does not include wages and contributions of the SME). Eligible expenditure for indirect expenditure is: personnel costs of administration staff, costs of the use of the knowledge organisation's facilities, accounting, phone fees, network deliveries, consumables, costs of organising workshops, mandatory publicity.
- The final amount of indirect eligible expenditure of the Knowledge Organisation is directly proportional to the actually incurred direct eligible expenditure of the Knowledge Organisation on wages and contributions.
- When checking the amount of indirect eligible expenditure, the Managing Authority does not check the accounting documents nor any other support documentation relating to indirect expenditure of the beneficiary but checks the actual amount of direct costs.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- Aid is provided through grants.
- The project grant shall be provided at the minimum amount of CZK 500 thousand and up to the maximum amount of CZK 5 million.
- Aid will be provided in accordance with the “European Structural and Investment Funds Co-Financing Rules for the 2014–2020 Programming Period” and will be reimbursed ex-post on the basis of documents submitted by the beneficiary in the request for payment. It requires initial full pre-financing of the expenditure on the project (or a completed project phase) from the beneficiary’s private resources.

AID INTENSITY AND BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES

- The grant shall not exceed 70% for all types of applicants.
- In the case of SMEs, grant will be provided only in the de minimis mode, Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013.
- Knowledge Organisations may receive aid at up to 70% of eligible expenditure on specified activities, if the condition under point 9.2.8 of this Call is met and if the activities are non-economic within the knowledge transfer under point 19(b) of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation.
- The SME must provide to the partner organisation a financial contribution of at least 30% of the eligible expenditure of the partner organisation associated with the project, either from its own resources or through external financing, and in a form which does not include any state aid.