



Programme: Innovation – Innovation Project – Call IX

The aim of the programme and the Call is to strengthen the innovation performance of domestic firms and to improve their competitiveness through increasing the use of unique know-how created in cooperation with the academic and research sector, expanding the know-how of firms for their own innovation and increasing the efficiency of internal processes in innovation management so that the number of firms, mainly of local origin, in the position of technological leaders grows.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of aid applications:

- 15 June 2021 – 30 August 2021, 12:00

AIDED ACTIVITIES

- Increasing the technical and utility values of products, technologies, and services
- Improving the efficiency of production processes and services provision
- Implementing new methods of organising corporate processes through the deployment of new information systems to integrate and automate intra-company processes targeted especially at interconnecting research and development (R&D) activities, innovation, and production
- Increasing sales of products and services through a substantial change in product or packaging design, or introducing new sales channels

APPLICANT

- The applicant may be a business entity¹; a small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 or a large enterprise².
- The applicant must keep accounting or tax records with special additional requirements, or keep separate accounting for the project.
- The applicant is authorised to conduct business activities that correspond to the aided economic activity to be implemented through the project, no later than the date of submission of the last request for payment;

¹ A natural or legal person engaged in business activity, these must be persons with an assigned ID number or similar identification number assigned in another country.

² Only in the case of projects with a major positive impact on the environment, i.e. those focusing on a low-carbon economy and resilience to climate change.

- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant has been registered as an income-tax payer in an EU member state for an uninterrupted period of no less than two closed tax periods preceding the date of the submission of the aid application; the applicant acknowledges that – as at the date of payment of the aid – it must have an establishment or organisational unit established in the Czech Republic. As at the first request for payment, the applicant must have an establishment registered in an extract from the Trade Register.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant does not have any outstanding arrears towards selected institutions in the country where it has its registered office (or, if relevant, in the country where its branch offices have their registered office) or towards the providers of aid within projects that are co-financed by the European Union budget; deferment of payment of arrears or agreement on payment of arrears are deemed settled arrears.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant does not have any arrears in terms of salary claims by its employees.
- The applicant will confirm that, within two years preceding the aid application, it did not carry out a relocation³ to the establishment where it intends to make the initial investment, for which aid is requested, and will agree not to relocate the establishment until the expiry of two years following the end of the initial investment for which the aid is requested.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

- Aid is provided to projects whose outputs will have an effect in the sectors defined in sections CZ-NACE C 10 (except for C 10.91), 11, 13–33; E 38.32; J 58, 59.20, 60, M 71.2, S 95.1, except for CZ-NACE 19.10 and 20.60 (see Annex b to this Call).
- Aid is not provided to projects whose outputs will have a direct effect in any of the sectors defined in Annex b (parts A, B) to this Call.
 - The production, processing and marketing of products which are specified in Annex b to the Call – Annex I to the Treaty on EU
 - Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture (CZ-NACE A 01, A 02, A 03)
 - Coal industry (CZ-NACE B 05, C 19.1)
 - Steel sectors (the sectors defined in Annex b to this Call)
 - Synthetic fibre production industry (sectors defined in Annex b to this Call)
 - Shipbuilding (CZ-NACE C 30.11)
 - Transport and related infrastructure (CZ-NACE H 49, H 50, H 51)
 - Energy production and distribution and energy infrastructure (CZ-NACE D 35)

MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The applicant must clearly prove ownership or other rights to the real estate and land where the project will be implemented.

³ 'Relocation' means the transfer of the same or similar activity or part thereof from an establishment in one contracting party to the EEA Agreement (initial establishment) to the establishment in which the aided investment takes place in another contracting party to the EEA Agreement (aided establishment). There is a transfer if the product or service in the initial and in the aided establishments serves at least partly the same purposes and meets the demands or needs of the same type of customers, and jobs are lost in the same or similar activity in one of the initial establishments of the beneficiary in the EEA.

- The project must include all mandatory components specified in the Call for its submission.
- The project does not envisage aid to activities that are linked to the quantity exported (export subsidies), to the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or to other current costs linked to export activity (customs duties, insurance, etc.); and aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods.
- The project had not been launched prior to the date of submitting the aid application.
- The project must not violate the EU horizontal policies and their basic principles including, without limitation, equal opportunities for men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and sustainable development.
- The applicant's financial health, expressed through a simplified economic assessment by the Intermediate Body, must not be lower than 5 points.
- Projects with total eligible expenditure of over CZK 5 million (inclusive) and at the same time with investment expenditure accounting for more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will have an obligation to carry out a Financial Analysis of the Investment; and projects with total eligible expenditure of over CZK 100 million (inclusive) and at the same time with investment expenditure accounting for more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will have an obligation to carry out an economic analysis that will take into account the socio-economic impacts of the project according to a pre-set code list; for more information on the cost-benefit analysis see the document entitled CBA – Manual for Applicants.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Design/project documentation including engineering activities
- Structures
- Technology
- Software and data
- Rights to use intellectual property
- Project certification
- Marketing innovation

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

Aid is provided in the form of a subsidy in an amount of no less than CZK 1 million and no more than CZK 100 million.

The aid is provided as percentage – according to the Regional Map of Public Aid Intensity for Czech Regions in 2014–2020 – of eligible project expenditure up to:

- small enterprise: 45% of documented eligible expenditure
- medium-sized enterprise: 35% of documented eligible expenditure
- large enterprise (an enterprise not meeting the SME definition⁴): 25% of documented eligible expenditure

⁴ A natural or legal person engaged in business activity, these must be persons with an assigned ID number or similar identification number assigned in another country.