



Innovation vouchers – protection of industrial property rights – Call I

The main objective of the Innovation Vouchers Call is to strengthen the innovation performance of domestic firms and to improve their competitiveness in the market.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of aid applications:

- 1 September 2022 – 31 December 2023

AIDED ACTIVITIES

Ensuring industrial property protection in the Czech Republic and abroad in the following forms:

- publication of invention applications,
- registration of utility models,
- registration of industrial designs,
- registration of trademarks.

APPLICANT

- The applicant is a **natural person** or a **legal person** that conducts business, has been **assigned a Czech ID number** and is **authorised to conduct business**¹.
- The applicant is authorised to conduct business activities that correspond to the **economic activity**² in which the project is implemented.
- **The applicant has provided information to the extent required under Section 14(3)(e) of Act No. 218/2000 Sb.**, on budgetary rules and amending some related acts (hereinafter the Budgetary Rules Act), as amended:

¹ This means a trade license or an authorisation to conduct business under other legal regulations (unless otherwise specified in the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries of the OP TAC – special part).

² In the application in IS KP21+, the applicant indicated the CZ- NACE in which the project is implemented and which corresponds to the activity registered in public registers. The registered CZ-NACE must not be listed in the Annex to the Call entitled “Unaided CZ-NACE”.

- The applicant has entered information in IS KP21+ identifying the persons acting on behalf of the applicant, indicating whether they are acting as its statutory body or whether they are acting under a power of attorney.
- The applicant has its beneficial owners of a legal person registered pursuant to Act No. 37/2021 Sb., on the registration of beneficial owners (compliance with this condition will be verified by the IB).
- The applicant has entered information in IS KP21+ identifying the entities in which it has a holding and the amount of such a holding.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, **the applicant is not in liquidation**.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant has been registered as an income-tax payer in the Czech Republic for an uninterrupted period of no less than two tax periods³ preceding the date of the submission of the aid application.

TERRITORIAL DIMENSION

- Target territory: The territory of the Czech Republic, except for NUTS 2 Prague.
- The decisive factor for assessing local acceptability is not the registered office of the applicant (beneficiary), but rather the actual place where the project is to be implemented, i.e. the territory where the physical implementation takes place and where the project expenditure is incurred.

MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must not violate the EU horizontal policies and their basic principles. In particular, it is necessary to ensure compliance with:
 - the principles of non-discrimination (in particular non-discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age or sexual orientation),
 - the principles of sustainable development,
 - the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The project's objectives must be in compliance with the objectives of the operational programme and of the Call.
- At the stage of assessing formal requirements and acceptability, aid applications where the applicant has submitted a similar active project (any PP status) in the OP EIC will not be approved, unless the applicant has withdrawn from the project. A similar project means a project that has an identical place of implementation (down to the level of the municipality), similar activities and a similar budget size and structure. The aim of this measure is to prevent budget funds from being blocked by unfinished OP EIC projects that are resubmitted in identical or slightly modified form under the OP TAC. The applicant must choose whether it can realistically complete the project under the OP EIC or whether it will terminate the administration of that project and submit the project under the OP TAC.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Services of patent agents⁴

³ This means a tax period according to Section 16b (for natural persons) / Section 21a (for legal persons) of Act No. 586/1992 Sb., on income taxes.

⁴ Pursuant to Section 2 et seq. of Act No. 417/2004 Sb., the act on patent agents and on amendments to the act on measures for the protection of industrial property.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- Aid is provided in the form of a subsidy.
- The subsidy for a project is provided in an amount of no less than CZK 50 000⁵ and no more than CZK 500 000.
- The aid will be paid in accordance with the “Co-financing rules for 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, Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa for the programming period 2021–2027⁶” and will be reimbursed **retroactively upon completion of the project** or its phase (if the project is phased in accordance with the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries – general part), provided that the conditions of the Decision are met.
- The beneficiary must secure financing of the expenditure for project implementation including VAT.
- Aid must not be granted for the same project expenditure for which other aid has been or will be granted from public sources, including aid from Union funds that are managed centrally by EU bodies, agencies, joint undertakings and other entities and that are neither directly nor indirectly controlled by member states.
- The subsidy must not be granted to a beneficiary that has any outstanding liability arising under a recovery order that has been issued following a previous decision by the Commission declaring the aid received from a provider from the Czech Republic illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

Type of entity	EU share ⁷
Small and medium-sized enterprise	75%
Research and knowledge-dissemination organisation	75%

⁵ Applies at the stage of approval by the selection committee.

⁶ A Document by the Ministry of Finance approved by the Government of the Czech Republic through Resolution No. 354 of 12 April 2021.

⁷ The remaining portion of the funding will be covered by the beneficiary's resources.