



## Innovation vouchers - Call II

The main goal of the innovation vouchers call is to develop communication and sharing of knowledge and know-how between the business and research sectors, which business entities can use to start or intensify their own innovation activities.

### TIMETABLE

#### Receipt of grant applications:

- 01. 02. 2023 – 01. 02. 2024

### SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- Purchase of advisory, expert and support services in the field of innovation from research and knowledge dissemination organizations<sup>1</sup> or accredited laboratories<sup>2</sup> with a view to starting or intensifying the innovation activities of SMEs.

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<sup>1</sup>According to the Art. 2, point 83, of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it.

<sup>2</sup> An accredited laboratory is a laboratory that has a valid certificate of accreditation issued in the Czech Republic by the Czech Institute for Accreditation, public benefit organization, outside the Czech Republic it must have a valid certificate of accreditation issued by a national accreditation body notified to the EC and proceeding according to defined internationally recognized standards which are based on the New EU legislative framework that also includes Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products. The admissibility of an accredited laboratory for the purposes of this Call is assessed by API. An accredited laboratory can only supply the applicant/beneficiary with services for which the given laboratory is accredited - i.e. the areas that it has listed in the annex to its accreditation certificate. An accreditation certificate and its attachment will be required in the grant application. The accreditation certificate must be valid for the entire duration of the

## THE APPLICANT

- is a **natural person** or **legal entity** pursuing business, that has been **assigned a Czech ID number** and is **authorized to do business**<sup>3</sup>.
- is authorized to conduct business corresponding to an **economic activity**<sup>4</sup> 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),
  - 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 periods<sup>5</sup> 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 acceptability 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.
- 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

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project. If the accreditation certificate is valid for a shorter period of time, a new accreditation certificate will be required after its expiry.

<sup>3</sup> 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 - special section).

<sup>4</sup> 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 under the title "Unsupported CZ-NACE".

<sup>5</sup> 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.

withdrawn from the project. A similar project is a project that shows 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 PIC, or whether it will end the administration of this project and submit the project proposal in OP TAC.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Consulting, expert and support services in the field of innovation, i.e. in particular measurements, diagnostics, testing, tests, analysis, analysis, verification, product certification, calculations, designs of new systems, technological procedures, unique design solutions, modelling, development of software, hardware, material, equipment, system elements, prototype, functional sample in connection with the development or introduction of a new product (product, service or process), optimization of processes, properties of products, services, methods, parameters, etc.

## 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 50,000<sup>6</sup> and up to a maximum of CZK 1 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"<sup>7</sup> 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.

## AID INTENSITY AND BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES<sup>8</sup>

- The aid is provided for small and medium-sized enterprises in two modes, depending on the required amount of eligible project expenses, i.e. in the modes of the aid intensity of 75% and 50% of documented eligible expenditure.

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<sup>6</sup> Valid at the stage of approval by the selection committee.

<sup>7</sup> Document of the Ministry of Finance approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in Resolution No 354 of 12 April 2021.

<sup>8</sup> The chapter shows the EU share. The remaining part of the funding will be covered from the beneficiary's resources.

- a) The aid per project ranges from CZK 50,000 to CZK 375,000 (75% of the documented eligible expenditure - the maximum amount of eligible expenditure in this mode is from CZK 66,667 to CZK 499,999).
- b) The aid per project ranges from CZK 250,000 to CZK 1,000,000 (50% of the documented eligible expenditure - the maximum amount of eligible expenditure in this mode is from CZK 500,000 to CZK 1,999,999).

Type of entity	EU share
Variant a) Small and medium-sized enterprise	75%
Variant b) Small and medium-sized enterprise	50%