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AGENTURA
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A INOVACE



Broadband internet - Call I

The aim of the call is to increase the availability of high-capacity networks that will enable reliable access to electronic communications services of Internet access for end users (households, businesses, public administration and other socio-economic actors).

TIMETABLE

Receipt of grant applications:

- 01.08.2024 - 31.10.2024

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Deployment of public electronic communications networks in the scope of:

Activities I – introduction of optical¹ connecting networks (backhaul) leading to municipalities not yet connected to a backhaul. Such networks shall have characteristics, transmission capacity and quality enabling the connection of all access networks to the core network and enabling the coverage of all postal address points in the municipalities being connected to the VHCN:

- Building new optical backhails leading to municipalities;
- Modernising the existing backhails leading to municipalities to achieve the required parameters of optical backhails;
- Enabling access to the infrastructure of existing non-public optical backhails, including building, modernizing or enabling access to handover points,

and Activities II – introduction of VHCN access networks providing services in a fixed location with a target speed (download/upload)² at least in the values listed below, in the areas listed below, to postal address points not yet covered by networks with the following threshold speeds:

¹ An optical network or network element means a network (network element) based on optical fibres or other technologies that can ensure the same level of performance and reliability as optical fibres, i.e. have the required capacity to cover a municipality with an access network with the required VHCN parameters.

² Speed means the normally available speed according to EU Regulation 2120/2015

Threshold speed (of existing network)	in an area of	min. target speed of the service
< 30 Mb/s	category A (white at 30 Mb/s)	150 / 50 Mb/s
< 100 Mb/s	category B (white at 100 Mb/s)	1 Gb/s / 200 Mb/s
< 300 Mb/s	category C (grey at 100 - 300Mb/s)	not supported

and in accordance with the technical requirements listed in Annex 2 to the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries of OP TAC - specific part (RAB):

- Building new access networks with VHCN parameters and providing the above target speeds;
- Modernization of existing access network infrastructure to achieve VHCN parameters and provide the above target speeds.

THE APPLICANT

- is a natural person or legal entity pursuing business, that has been assigned a Czech ID number and is authorized to do business³ or is an organisational unit of the state or a contributory organisation of the state⁷
- is authorized to conduct business corresponding to the economic activity⁴ in which the project is implemented⁷
- If it is a legal entity, it provided the data to the extent required in Section 14, paragraph 3, letter e) of Act No 218/2000 Coll. on budgetary rules and amending certain related acts (the Budgetary Rules)⁵:
 - 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);
 - has entered information in IS KP21+ on the identification of the entities in which it has a share and the amount of this share; d) is not in liquidation pursuant to its declaration on honour;
- according to its declaration on honour, it has been registered as an income tax payer in the Czech Republic, continuously for at least two tax periods¹⁶ preceding the date of submission of the grant application;
- runs a business in electronic communications, i.e. has notified the Czech Telecommunications Authority (ČTÚ) of its business pursuant to Section 13 of Act No 127/2005 Coll.

TERRITORIAL ELIGIBILITY

- Target territory: The territory of the Czech Republic, except NUTS 2 Prague
- The supported areas are
 - for Activities I - municipalities of up to 2,000 inhabitants, where an optical backhaul is not available.
 - for Activities II - non-covered postal address points in basic residential units which are classified in categories A, B, or C according to the definitions in Chap. 9.3.2 of RAB. Their list is in Annex 8 to the Call.

³ 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 - specific part).

⁴ The CZ-NACE in which the project is implemented, indicated by the applicant in the application in ISKP21+, corresponds to the activity recorded in the public registers. The registered CZ-NACE must not be listed in the call annex titled "Unsupported CZ-NACE".

⁵ Also referred to as the Budgetary Rules Act.

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 applicant provides a declaration on honour);
- The project objectives shall be in line with the objectives of the operational programme and the Call;
- For projects whose total eligible expenses are equal to/higher than CZK 5 million, the score obtained in the simplified economic evaluation, which expresses the financial health of the applicant, must not be lower than 5 points;
- The project does not significantly harm the environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Investments in infrastructure meet the requirement for climate resilience in the sense of Article 2(42) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- For Activities I, the eligible expenditure is as defined in Article 52d(2) GBER.
- For Activities II, the eligible expenditure is as defined in Article 52(2) GBER.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- The aid is provided in the form of a grant.
- The total eligible expenditure (TEE) of the project must be at least CZK 1 million⁶ and no more than CZK 268 million for projects implemented in LDRs, and at least CZK 1.25 million and no more than CZK 325 million for projects implemented in TRs.

Aid intensity - breakdown of funding sources⁷

Funding sources (% shares of documented eligible expenditure)	
Category of region	EU share
Less developed regions (LDRs) ⁸	85%
Transition regions (TRs) ⁹	70%

⁶ Valid at the stage of approval by the selection committee.

⁷ The chapter shows the EU share. The remaining part of the funding will be covered from the beneficiary's resources.

⁸ Northwest (Karlovy Vary and Ústí nad Labem Regions), Northeast (Liberec, Hradec Králové and Pardubice Regions), Central Moravia (Olomouc and Zlín Regions) and Moravia-Silesia (Moravian-Silesian Region).

⁹ Central Bohemia (Central Bohemian Region), Southwest (South Bohemian and Plzeň Regions), Southeast (South Moravian and Vysočina Regions).

