

PROGRAMME: COOPERATION – TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS – CALL I

The Cooperation – Technology Platforms programme aims to support the development of innovative networks – technology platforms as tools to increase the intensity of joint research, development and innovation activities between business entities and the research sector.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of aid applications:

- 4 January 2016 (04:00 hours) – 4 May 2016

AIDED ACTIVITIES

- Support for the development of national technology platforms (TP), resulting in links between the public and private sectors in research, development and innovation in technology areas that are important to the business sector. Aid is provided for the coordination activities of a technology platform, especially in the following areas:
 - Addressing industrial (and related social) challenges within the given sector and applying new technologies (technology foresight).
 - Establishing deeper cooperation with European Technology Platforms (ETP) and involving Czech research organisations and businesses in their activities.
 - Coordinating Czech business entities and research organisations in joining the Horizon 2020 programme and other European programmes.
- In addition, aid is provided for activities aimed at developing the field and TP, improving the innovation environment, eliminating identified barriers to its development, knowledge and information sharing, further creating/updating strategic documents, and initiating research and development projects in areas that are defined in the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and Implementation Action Plan (IAP) as key areas for future competitiveness and sustainable development.

APPLICANT

- The beneficiary may be a legal entity within the meaning of Section 118 et seq. of Act No 89/2012 Sb., the Civil Code, as amended, if it is an association of businesses along with research and knowledge dissemination organisations or other institutions and organisations that has been established for a special purpose and is oriented towards implementing the objectives set out in Parts 2 and 12 of the Call. The beneficiary's articles of association must

state that the beneficiary's main activities include promoting innovation and improving competitiveness.

- In addition, the scope of the beneficiary's activities as specified in its memorandum or articles of association must also include the establishment and activities of a technology platform in line with the initiative of the European Commission dated 16 June 2004 concerning the setting up of technology platforms, which was published in COM(2004) 353 final, and is in line with the Innovation Union initiative within the Europe 2020 strategy.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant is registered with the tax authority as an income-tax payer pursuant to section 125 of Act No 280/2009 Sb., the Tax Code, as amended.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant does not have any outstanding arrears towards selected institutions or towards the providers of aid within projects that are co-financed by the European Union budget. Deferment of the payment of arrears or the existence of an agreement on the 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 does not have any outstanding liabilities arising under a recovery order that has been issued – following a previous decision – by the Commission declaring the aid illegal and incompatible with the common market.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

- Aid is not provided to projects whose outputs will have an effect in any of the following sectors:
 - The production, processing and marketing of products which are specified in Annex 1 to the Treaty on EU.
 - The agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) 14 No 104/2000.

THE MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must be implemented within the Czech Republic, except for within the capital city of Prague and, at the same time, the registered offices of most technology platform members must be located in the Czech Republic, except for within the capital city of Prague. The applicant must clearly prove ownership or other rights to the real estate and land where the project will be implemented.
- The project does not envisage aid to activities that are linked to any quantity exported (export subsidies), to the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or to other current costs linked to export activities (customs duties, insurance); and aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods.
- A technology Platform (TP) brings together business entities, tertiary education institutions and research organisations whose activities are closely related to the subject-matter of the project and whose number and composition are significant in relation to the field of operation at the national level.

- The Strategic Research Agenda and Implementation Action Plan documents developed by the TP must be publicly accessible no later than the date of submitting the aid application.
- In the memorandum/articles of association, the primary and secondary objectives of the TP are defined, which are in line with the programme's objectives.
- A connection between the TP's focus and the focus of the existing ETP (European Technology Platform) in which it will participate must be proven.
- The TP's openness to new members and the transparency of the TP's management must be ensured.
- The project must not violate the EU horizontal policies and their basic principles including, without limitation:
 - Equal opportunities for men and women (compliance with EU and Czech legislation on non-discrimination, especially the Labour Code).
 - Sustainable development (compliance with EU and Czech legislation on environmental protection).
- An applicant may submit 1 project per ID number.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Salaries and insurance premiums, travel expenses, services of consultants and experts, studies, marketing and promotional materials and activities, seminars, conferences, rent, materials, hardware and software.
- Salaries, services of consultants and experts and the costs of studies will only be considered eligible by the aid provider up to the amount of the customary and usual prices in the market.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- The subsidy is provided up to a maximum of 75% of eligible expenditures.
- The subsidy is only provided under the de minimis scheme.
- Aid intensity:
 - Minimum total subsidy for one project: CZK 500 000.
 - Maximum total subsidy for one project: CZK 5 000 000.