

National Training Fund,
the Intermediary
of
The Research Support Fund (CZ)

financed by EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms
and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

announces 2nd Call for Proposals

within the framework
of
the Measure „A“

The Research Support Fund (CZ) was established within the allocation of the Priority Area No. 6 - *Academic Research* of the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms in the Czech Republic. The Fund shall support sub-projects in the field of academic research aiming to strengthen cooperation and scientific networking between the EEA EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and the Czech Republic.

The Fund is intended to be a supplementary source of financing (rather than substitution) to current activities and supports in the field of Research and Development (R&D) provided by the European Communities and other public funds.

Sub-projects shall involve know-how transfer in the field of research in respect of innovative approaches and complex R&D solutions, of methods, procedures, technologies, setting up of new patents and prototypes, of industrial applications etc.

- The total amount of the grants available for 2nd Call for Proposals is € 2,432,500.
- Sub-project shall last 8 - 21 months.
- End-recipients of the research sub-projects may receive grant assistance up to € 250,000. The minimal amount of the grant is € 25,000.

Proposals can be submitted electronically
from November 3rd, 2008
until 07:00:00 a.m. of January 6th, 2009.

*(The given date and time are monitored by the Fund's webpage www.eea-researchfund.cz.
The proposal submitted at 07:00:01 of January 6th, 2009 and later will be rejected by the default function of the Fund's webpage. Each applicant is responsible for reserving enough time for the preparation of a proposal and its timely submission.)*

Requirements for co-financing:

The grant from the Research Support Fund can support sub-projects with both, economic activities and activities of non-economic character¹.

The intensity of aid will vary according to the character of sub-project's activities and the size of recipient institutions, following the "De minimis" rules or "Aid for research and

¹ Non-economic activities – see point 3.1.1. in OJ 2006/C 323/01: Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation.

development projects (block exemption)” rules in combination with requirements of the EEA/Norway FMs “Guide on co-financing ceilings (grant rates)”.

The following **grant rates** shall be applied (for details see COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation), Articles 30 and 31):

A. Fundamental research :

- **Up to 90%** of the eligible costs for sub-projects with activities of non-economic character.

B. Industrial research and/or experimental development

B1. De minimis²:

- **Up-to 85%** of the eligible costs for subprojects falling under industrial research or experimental development categories;

B2. Aid for research and development projects (block exemption) - under the condition that no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs of the collaboration sub-project:

- **Up-to 80%** of the eligible costs for subprojects/activities falling under industrial research category;
- **Up-to 60 %** of the eligible costs for subprojects/activities falling under experimental development category;

The aid intensity will vary according scale of the enterprises involved³ in the sub-projects – see the Aid intensity table.

Aid intensity table

Type of R&D	Small enterprise	Medium sized enterprise	Large enterprise
Industrial research	<80%	<75%	<65%
Experimental development	<60%	<50%	<40%

Remark: bonuses of 15 percentage points have been already added to the level of aid intensity settled in General block exemption Regulation (EC/800/2108) as Applications according this Call for Proposals can be submitted only in international partnership.

The aid intensity shall be established for each beneficiary of aid, and described in the Application. Final grant recipient and each partner of the sub-project can benefit from a different intensity of the aid.

Apart the Fund’s grant, the Final Beneficiary shall finance the sub-project in the appropriate share of the sub-project’s approved budget (the total eligible costs).

² COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to *de minimis* aid

³ For definition of SMEs see Annex I of the COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 800/2008 (General block exemption Regulation)

Eligibility of applicants

The following legal entities registered in the Czech Republic are eligible to submit the proposal:

- research institutions,
- public or private tertiary education institutions **involved in research activities**,
- businesses **providing and/or supporting R&D activities in Priority Sectors**
- not-for-profit organisations **active in research**

Partnership

- Projects shall be realised in partnership of the Czech applicant with at least one partner from donor states: Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.
- Partner(s) from the Czech Republic can also participate in the proposal.
- The partners shall be registered as one of the types of legal entities listed above.
- Not more than four partners can participate in the sub-project.

Eligible activities

Research & development activities targeted at the priority sectors of the EEA Financial Mechanism are eligible for grants from the Fund, with special focus on environment, health and children's living conditions.

The Steering Committee of the Fund decided according the Fund set-up Item 2.1. that in this call the proposals shall be submitted in **one of the following R&D fields**:

1. **European cultural heritage**
 - 1.1 *protection of historical immovables, focused to industrial ones, and to folk architecture*
 - 1.2 *care and protection of historical movables, preferably with focus to written and/or picture relics, and to natural materials*
 - 1.3 *renewal of historical urban areas and landscapes of regional significance*
2. **Protection of the environment:**
 - 2.3 *environment monitoring systems, in particular their integration, comparability, data quality and validity, and decision-making models*
 - 2.5 *alternative energy sources, primarily used at the level of local municipalities*
 - 2.8 *technologies decreasing exhalations and fuel consumption in the transport, with a view to renewables of the 2nd generation*
3. **Human resource development**
 - 3.1 *modernization of the public administration services, especially at regional and local level, based on community needs analysis*
 - 3.2 *effectiveness, quality and targeting of social services (incl. volunteerism)*
 - 3.3 *inclusion of asylum seekers into society*
 - 3.5 *gender mainstreaming in public services, with regard to distribution of public wealth*
4. **Healthcare:**
 - 4.2 *prevention of communicable diseases of vulnerable social groups*
 - 4.3 *safety & quality of food*
 - 4.4 *specific health problems of children*
6. **Children's living conditions:**
 - 6.2 *specific economic & social problems influencing children's living conditions, with regard to de-institutionalized approaches.*

Submission of Proposals

The proposal shall be submitted in English by filling in the specific web form: *A-Application*.

The A-Application shall be submitted on-line at the Fund's webpage: www.eea-researchfund.cz. *The A-Application* shall be filled in attentively and completely in accordance with the Implementation Manual.

A successful on-line registration is therefore a condition in order to obtain access to the system at the Fund's webpage and fill in *the A-Application*.

Detailed information about the on-line registration and *the A-Application* as well as the Call for Proposals and the Implementation Manual can be found at the Fund's webpage: www.eea-researchfund.cz.

Currency

All financial information in *the A-Application* shall be presented in EUR.
Currency conversion shall be calculated according to these exchange rates:

CZK/EUR	24,6050
ISK/EUR	143,3800
CHF/EUR	1,5845
NOK/EUR	8,3080

(The figures will be replaced by actual exchange rates published in OJ at the end of October.)

(The rates of currency conversion for proving the real expenditures related to the sub-project implementation will follow the actual rates specified according the rules set by the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms. All exchange rate risks are on the side of the Grant Final Beneficiary.)

Appraisal procedure

The appraisal of the submitted proposals (*A-Applications*) consists of three stages:

Stage I – Formal appraisal, which will be carried out by the Fund Intermediary (NVF). The Applicants whose proposal fails to meet formal (administrative and eligibility) criteria set out above and in the Implementation Manual will be asked to correct their *A-Application* within the term of 5 days.

Any Applicant may appeal against the decision of refusal of his/hers *A-Application* with regard to the compliance with formal requirements within 10 days of the notification of results to the Applicant by the Fund Intermediary.

Stage II – Content-related appraisal of *the A-Application* will be carried out by two experts. The Expert Panel will then evaluate proposals according the selection criteria set in the Implementation Manual. Final scoring will be based on Expert Panel members' consensus.

Stage III – *A-Applications* that will reach at least 70 points (out of total 100) will be passed to the Steering Committee.

Decision on co-financing the sub-project is made by the Steering Committee of the Fund. The Steering Committee's decisions will be supported by Expert Panel appraisal, the Secretariat's recommendation and by a short presentation of applicants at the beginning of its session.

The subprojects will be selected with a respect to the award criteria adopted by the Fund's Steering Committee (see the Implementation Manual).

The Applicant can appeal against neither the decisions of a content-related character nor the decisions of the Steering Committee of the Fund.

Questions & consultations

Applicants are recommended to fill in the *Project Idea Form* at the Fund's webpage, consult it with the Intermediary as well as the content of the *A-Application*.

Questions and requests for consultations may be sent by e-mail (in Czech or in English) within the whole period of the open call – preferably through the Fund's webpage <http://www.ea-researchfund.cz>.

All such questions will be answered by e-mail.

Typical questions and answers will be published at the section **Consultation** in the registered part of Fund's webpage (last publication of answers is planned on Tuesday, December 30th, 2008).

Further information related to the Research Support Fund (CZ) and EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms are available at the web sites: <http://www.ea-researchfund.cz>, www.eagrants.org and www.eagrants.cz.

Contact to the Fund Intermediary

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