

Norway Grants

Czech-Norwegian Research Programme

(formerly CZ09 Research Support Fund)

Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014

Call for Proposals 2013

Call Opening Date: 29/11/2013
Call Closure Deadline: 14:00 03/02/2014

Approved by the Programme Committee on 4 April 2013

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter MEYS), in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway, is pleased to announce a call for proposals under the Czech-Norwegian Research Programme (CZ09 Research Support Fund) (hereinafter the Programme).

The overall objective of the Programme is to enhance research cooperation between Czech and Norwegian entities and fund the creation of new scientific knowledge and quality outputs through bilateral research projects in basic and applied research and experimental development.

Projects supported by the Programme shall contribute to this aim by strengthening Czech-Norwegian bilateral relations and promoting sustainable relationships between Czech and Norwegian research communities.

Proposals for research projects are invited in the following areas of research:

- **Social Sciences and Humanities;**
- **Environment; and**
- **Health.**

Interdisciplinary projects are welcome.

The Programme will support joint research projects in the field of basic¹ and applied² research and experimental development.³

¹ Article 2.2. letter (e) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01).

² Article 2.2. letter (f) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01).

³ Article 2.2. letter (g) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01).

Important objectives of the Programme include:

- promoting mobility (for example research visits between project partners);
- supporting young researchers (for example by involving Ph.D. students and postdocs);
- supporting women in research (for example by involving researchers who have returned after maternity leave).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants (**Project Promoters**) are research organisations⁴ as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01) from the Czech Republic and small or medium-sized enterprises⁵ as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01) from the Czech Republic.

Project Partners from the Czech Republic and Norway have to be research organisations as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 232/01) or small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 232/01).

Cooperation between at least one research team in the Czech Republic and at least one research team in Norway (Donor Project Partner) is mandatory. Potential partners from Norway/Czech Republic may be found in a link:

http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Partner_search_database/1253981564483

Application

Proposals are submitted electronically to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic by the Project Promoter (the Czech entity), who submits the proposal on behalf of the project partners. The online submission system will be available for applicants as of 14:00 29/11/2013 to 14:00 03/02/2014. Identical copies of the electronically submitted documents furnished with the required stamps and signatures shall be delivered also by post (recommended post, postal stamp of 03/02/2014 at the latest, postal address: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Department of Higher Education and Research Support, Karmelitska 7, 118 12 Prague 1).

The maximum eligible duration of projects is up to 36 months. The end of the period of eligibility of expenditures in the projects is 30 April, 2017. The projects are planned to start

⁴ Article 2.2. letter (d) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01).

⁵ Article 2.2. letter (a) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01).

in May 2014/June 2014, but not before the date on which the Programme Operator decides to award the project grant.

The rules and procedures for submission of proposals, a description of the negotiation and award process and provisions on the payment model are described in the “Guide for Applicants”.

Preparatory costs

Financing of costs related to searching for partners and preparation of project proposals are eligible. Project Promoters may apply for reimbursement of costs incurred by project promoters and project partners from Norway while applying for a project under the call for proposals. Up to € 5 000 (128 000 CZK) may be reimbursed in case of recommendation of project funding.

Project grants

The total amount available from the Programme through the call is € 13 088 235 (336 236 000 CZK). This amount will be combined with resources made available by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the amount of € 3 272 051 (84 059 000 CZK). The portions are 80 % Programme : 20 % MEYS.

At least 20 % of € 13 088 235 shall be allocated to projects under the first area of research described above, “Social sciences and the humanities”, including research on the bilateral relations between Norway and the Czech Republic.

The minimum amount of grant assistance per project applied for is € 100 000 (2 569 000 CZK); the maximum amount is € 1 000 000, (25 690 000 CZK; including overhead costs), co-financing by MEYS included.

Each project selected from the Programme call will be thus further co-financed from the budgetary chapter of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports at the level of 20 %.

The budget in the project proposal will be represented in Czech Crowns (CZK).

All projects have to be based on an equal partnership between research institutions in the Czech Republic and Norway.

Grants may cover up to 100 % of the total eligible project costs, provided that all applicable national and EU rules on state aid are complied with. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter and the Project Partners. Eligible costs consist of direct costs (personnel costs, travel costs, equipment, consumables and supplies, other costs) and indirect costs (overhead), as defined in detail in Article 7.3 of Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009–2014. Purchase of land and real estate is not an eligible direct expenditure in the project under the Programme.

Costs are eligible if they are justified, necessary and appropriate, and directly related to the project. Eligible costs are further described in the “Guide for Applicants”.

Evaluation and selection

Proposals are evaluated by three international independent experts. Evaluation rules are defined and the selection process is described in the “Guide for Evaluators”.

The main selection criteria are:

- Scientific and/or technical excellence,
- Relevance in relation to the objectives and prioritised areas of the research programme,
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management, including quality and implementation capacity of the applicants and contribution to capacity and competence building, and
- The potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Call documents include:

1. A project proposal form and its annexes
2. Guide for Applicants
3. Guide for Evaluators

Relevant legal acts:

- Regulation on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014
- Annex 12 Rules for the establishment and implementation of donor partnership programmes falling under the Programme Areas “Research within Priority sectors” and “Bilateral Research Cooperation” (Annex of Regulation on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014)
- Community framework for state aid and for research and development and innovation (2006/C 323/01)

Related information and materials, e.g.

<http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj/czech-norwegian-research-programme>
http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Funding/EEA_Czech_Republic/1253990540637?lang=en
<http://eeagrants.org/>

Questions and queries to the Programme Operator

For additional information, contact (working days, from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm CET /Prague/)

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- Contact at the Research Council of Norway
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