

Open Call

English version of Reference Number: TACR/32-4/2019

First Call for Proposals of the KAPPA Programme (CZ RESEARCH Programme EEA and Norway Grants 2014–2021)

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1 CALL FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway (RCN) announced a one-stage Call for Proposals in applied research for funding within the KAPPA Programme for industrial research, experimental development and innovation (Programme) financed by EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms (EEA and Norway Grants) on 20 November 2019.

The objective of the Programme is to enhance research-based knowledge development through international collaboration in applied research and innovation. **Applied research – includes industrial research, experimental development, or a combination thereof.** The Programme shall support capacity building in applied research, including supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social sciences, humanities and arts research, and careers of female researchers and early stage researchers.

In order to achieve the outcome and outputs of the Programme, any project proposal is expected to contribute to the fulfilment of at least one of following indicators:

- Number of joint, peer-reviewed, scientific publications submitted,
- Number of jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection,
- Number of new products/technologies developed.

The Programme shall follow the principles and practice of the European framework programmes for research and innovation (i.e. Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe). The Programme will pay particular attention to the implementation of principles and provisions of Open Science.

The Call for Proposals is focused on two objectives:

- international cooperation of entities from Czechia with partners from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (also referred to as the “Donor States”) in applied research, and
 - connecting research organisations with the application sphere (enterprises and other relevant entities).
- ! **The Call for Proposals is open to projects proposals within all disciplines and topics of applied research and innovation.**
- ! **The Call for Proposals includes a Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) component from Norway Grants.**

Integral parts of this Call Documentation are:

Annex I – Guide for Applicants

Annex II – Guide for Evaluators

All Relevant Documents and web links related to the Call for Proposals are available at kappa.tacr.cz/en.

The Programme is implemented on the basis of the signed Memoranda of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014–2021, and the Programme Agreement. The framework of the Programme was approved by the Czech Government in May 2018¹.

The main language of the Programme is English.

¹ by the Government Resolution No. 308 on 16 May 2018

2 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The total allocation (including EEA and Norway Grants and national co-financing) for the Call for Proposal is 32 523 529 €.

	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	CCS Component (from Norway Grants)
Total allocation for grants	15 177 647 €	17 345 882 €	5 203 764 €
Grant size	500 000 € – 1 500 000 €	500 000 € – 1 500 000 €	500 000 € – 2 500 000 €
Max grant rate	96%	96%	96%
Applicant	Czechia	Czechia	Czechia
Project partners:			
Mandatory Donor partner	Norway, Liechtenstein or Island	Norway	Norway
Optional additional partners	Czechia, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and/or any third country	Czechia and/or any third country (incl. Iceland and Liechtenstein)	Czechia and/or any third country (incl. Iceland and Liechtenstein)

3 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT PARTNERS

- ! The applicant shall be established in Czechia.
- ! All projects shall include partnerships between Czech and Donor States entities. Minimum composition of partnership shall be one applicant (research organization or enterprise) from Czechia and at least one project partner (research organization or enterprise) from the Donor State.
- ! Each applicant and project partners shall fulfil the requirements in line with the Annex I – Guide for Applicants (Chapter No. 5).
- ! Self-employed natural persons are neither eligible applicants nor eligible project partners.
- ! An applicant can submit more than one project proposal and a project partner can be involved in more than one project proposal. An applicant can also be a project partner in other project proposals.

Eligible applicants

- **Enterprises** – legal persons established in Czechia carrying out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 1 of Annex 1 to EU Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 ([EU Regulation](#)).

Enterprises may be small, medium-sized and large enterprises within the meaning of Article 1 of Annex 1 of the EU Regulation.

- **Research organizations** – legal persons established in Czechia that meet the definition of a research organization according to Article 2 paragraph 83 of the EU Regulation.

Eligible project partners

- **Research organizations** according to Article 2 paragraph 83 of the EU Regulation No.651/2014 (EU Regulation) **and enterprises** within the meaning of Article 1 of Annex 1 to the same EU Regulation, established in **Czechia, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein**.
- **Research organizations** according to Article 2 paragraph 83 of the EU Regulation from third countries. A third country is any country with the exception of Czechia and the Donor States. The funding possibilities for third country project partners are stated in the Annex I – Guide for Applicants (Chapter No. 4.2).

Eligible consortia

The cooperation is to be based on equal partnership between entities involved in research and development in the Donor State(s) and entities in research and development in Czechia, with the leading role of the latter.

- For **EEA Grants**, the minimum number of partners shall be an applicant (research organization or enterprise) from **Czechia** and at least one project partner (research organization or enterprise) from **Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein**.
- For **Norway Grants**, the minimum number of partners shall be an applicant (research organization or enterprise) from **Czechia** and at least one project partner (research organization or enterprise) from **Norway**.
- For the **CCS component**, the minimum number of partners shall be an applicant (research organization or enterprise) from **Czechia** and at least one project partner (research organization or enterprise) from **Norway**. Third countries including Iceland and Liechtenstein can take a part of the project.

4 SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

The project proposal shall be submitted only through an electronic form via electronic Information System of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (ISTA) available at <https://ista.tacr.cz/>. The project proposal with attachments shall be submitted by the applicant in English in line with the requirements described in the Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants (Chapter No. 5).

The document Guide to ISTA was created to help applicants and project partners in submission of a project proposal in ISTA. Document will be published on Programme website on the day of the Call for Proposals announcement in the Relevant documents

5 TERMS AND DEADLINES

Dates and deadlines associated with submitting a project proposal and proving the applicant's eligibility:

Call for Proposals announcement	November 20, 2019
Opening of ISTA for elaboration and submission of project proposals	November 21, 2019, at 9:00:00 AM.
End of the Call for Proposals (deadline for submission of <u>ISTA</u> project proposals)	February 27, 2020, at 4:30:00 PM. *
Deadline for delivery of the Confirmation of Electronic Project Proposal Submission in ISTA in the TA CR's data box (official electronic system in Czechia) Data Box ID: afth9xp If this condition is not met, the project proposal will be irretrievably excluded from the Call for Proposals	February 27, 2020 at 11:59:59 PM. *
Deadline for delivery of the Sworn Statement of the Czech applicants and Czech project partners in the TA CR's data box Data Box ID: afth9xp	February 27, 2020 at 11:59:59 PM. *
Estimated timeframe for evaluation of project proposals	February 28, 2020 – – December 31, 2020
Expected announcement of the results of the Call for Proposals on TACR web site	by the end of September 2020
Required start of the project implementation	October 1, 2020 – – March 31, 2021
Ultimate deadline for the completion of the project (Final date of Eligibility of expenditures)	April 30, 2024
Minimum period of implementation of the project	2 years

* Any delay, even in seconds, will be considered a late delivery. The time is decisive for the time zone of the provider (GMT + 01: 00), CET Central European Time.

6 EVALUATION PROCESS

For more detailed information see Annex 2 - Guide for Evaluators.

Individual stages of the evaluation process

1. eligibility check by TA CR – review of administrative and eligibility criteria,
2. evaluation by three independent international experts,
3. consensus assessment – by independent international experts,
4. Programme Committee – sets up the ranking lists,
5. Board of the TA CR – funding decision.

The selection criteria

1. Scope – relevance in relation to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals;
2. scientific and/or technical excellence;
3. quality and efficiency of the implementation and management, including quality and implementation capacity of the applicants and project partners and contribution to capacity and competence building;
4. the potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results.

Additional criteria for project proposals with equal scores

1. potential impact (criterion No. 4),
2. female leadership (the Programme Committee will primarily look for female main researchers – principal investigator, or in the absence of such, then for other female researchers in responsibility of tasks as key persons),
3. scientific and/or technical excellence (criterion No. 2).

7 BASIC FUNDING INFORMATION

There is no legal claim to obtain the funding (grant).

For more detailed information see Annex I – Guide for Applicants (Chapter No. 4).

- ! **The maximum aid intensity of funding per project is 96 %. At the same time, the project proposal must fulfil the condition that at least the applicant or one of the project partners shall have a minimum share of 20 % of the total eligible project costs and its aid intensity shall not exceed 80 %.**
- ! If the applicants or project partners incur eligible costs already in 2020 (in case the project starts in 2020 but no earlier than October 1, 2020), they will include these costs in the 2021 funding statement.
- ! The sum of the total eligible costs of all of the third country project partners may be up to 20 % of the total eligible project costs.

The budget in the project proposal shall be filled in CZK and EUR. For conversion of EUR / CZK, the used exchange rate is the exchange rate of the Czech National Bank, valid on the day of the announcement of the Call for Proposals, i.e. 25, 54 CZK / 1 EUR. Funding will be paid to the applicant in CZK.

8 CONTACT

Contact persons at the Programme Operator (TA CR)

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Contact persons at the Donor Programme Partner (RCN)

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160 00 Prague 6
Czech Republic

Data box ID: afth9xp

Questions in English may be submitted at the earliest from the date of announcement of the Call for Proposals, and no later than 5 working days before the deadline for submission of project proposal in ISTA via the HELPDESK application available at <https://helpdesk.tacr.cz/en>. The maximum response time during the call period is 10 working days. In case of questions sent 5-10 working days before the end of the call, these questions will be answered no later than on the day preceding the date of the end of the call. Only written answers are binding.

To find out the answers to your questions, please also use the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers available at <https://helpdesk.tacr.cz>.