

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 1st 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 1st Call for Proposals is €1,800,000.
- Sub-project shall last 8 -18 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 March 10th, 2008
until 07:00:00 a.m. of May 12th, 2008.**

*(The given date and time are monitored by the Fund's webpage www.eea-researchfund.cz.
The proposal submitted at 07:00:01 of May 12th, 2008 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 Research support Fund (CZ) grant can finance up to 90% of total eligible costs of the sub-project, providing that the total eligible costs will be spent for activities of non-economic character¹.

Apart the Fund's grant, the Final Beneficiary shall finance the sub-project in the share of at least 10% of the sub-project's approved budget (the total eligible costs).

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.

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

Academic research 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:

2. **Protection of the environment:**
 - 2.4 waste management
 - 2.6 measures for decrees of GHG²
 - 2.7 biodiversity losses reduction & preservation of untouched natural habitats
4. **Healthcare:**
 - 4.2 prevention of communicable diseases
 - 4.3 safety & quality of food
 - 4.4 specific health problems of children
5. **Promotion of sustainable development:**
 - 5.1 designing, enforcing and implementation on Strategies of Sustainable Development
6. **Children's living conditions:**
 - 6.1 general, selective and indicated prevention of drug abuse in childhood and in adolescence
 - 6.2 specific economic & social problems influencing children's living conditions.

Implementation of verified HRD schemes, procedures or HRD management methods can be part of all sub-projects.

² GHG – green-house gases

Submitting 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 26,564
- ISK/EUR 91,268
- CHF/EUR 1,642
- NOK/EUR 7,899

(The rates of currency conversion for proving the real expenditures related to the sub-project realisation 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.eea-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 Wednesday, May 7th, 2008).

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

Contact to Fund Intermediary

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