



Programme
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MSCA FELLOWSHIPS CZ

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INTRODUCTION

The Czech Republic - The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as the Managing Authority of the Operational Programme Jan Amos Komenský (hereinafter also referred to as the "MoEYS", "MA" or "provider") announces a call for submitting applications to support of individual projects with a simplified form of cost reporting from the Operational Programme Jan Amos Komenský.

1. ANNOTATION OF THE CALL

The aim of the call is to develop the internationalisation of the research environment in the Czech Republic and to increase the quality of research organisations in the Czech Republic, including the professional growth of researchers, through support Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) projects, of the fellowship type, projects that achieved at least 70% of the total number of points in the evaluation of Horizon 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "H2020") (call [H2020-MSCA-IF-2020](#)) and Horizon Europe (hereinafter referred to as "HE"), but could not be funded due to lack of funding in the call, hereinafter referred to as "no money projects".

2. IDENTIFICATION OF THE CALL

Policy objective	1
Priority	1 Research and development
Specific objective	1.1 Developing and strengthening research and innovation capacities and introducing advanced technologies
Call number	02_22_010
Type of call	Interim
Type of operations/projects supported	individual project with simplified cost reporting Project attribute: the RIS 3 project
Evaluation model	Single one-round

3. TIME SETTINGS

Date of publication of the call notice on the website	21. 7. 2022
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Date of announcement of the call, i.e. making the application for support available in IS KP21+	2. 8. 2022
Date of opening and closing of applications for each run	2. 8. 2022 - 30. 11. 2022 1. 3. 2023 - 31. 8. 2023 1. 3. 2024 - 30. 8. 2024 3. 3. 2025 - 1. 9. 2025 2. 3. 2026 - 31. 8. 2026 The Managing Authority may terminate the receipt of applications for support earlier than the above deadlines due to the exhaustion of the call allocation.
Minimum/Maximum length for which the applicant is entitled to plan the project	Minimum length: 12 months Maximum length: 66 months
Latest date for completion of the physical implementation of the project	31. 12. 2028
Temporal eligibility of expenditure	Expenditure is eligible from the date of the call.

4. SUBJECT MATTER FOCUS

4.1. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The substantive focus of the call is defined through the activities listed below - see more in chap. 5.7 of the SPD - specific part. An application for support is in line with the substantive focus of the call if the applicant has selected activities in the application for support in line with the call and the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

COMPULSORY OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1: Support for MSCA "no money" projects - arrivals to the Czech Republic

Activity 2: Support for MSCA "no money" projects - departures from the Czech Republic

Activity 3: Support for "no money" MSCA - Global Postdoctoral Fellowships¹

The activities include in particular research stays of the beneficiary's staff - the so-called mobility.

For activities 1 and 2, the duration of mobility must be between a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months.

¹ With a return phase to the Czech Republic.

For activity 3, the length of mobility (i.e. the net working stay of the researcher) abroad must be between a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months and the subsequent mobility in the Czech Republic must be 12 months.

There are differences between the conditions of support from the MSCA Fellowships CZ OP JAK call and support from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowships in HE and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships in H2020:

Generally applicable differences:

- The eligible applicant/beneficiary in the MSCA Fellowships CZ call is always a research and knowledge dissemination organisation as defined in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01).
- In the MSCA Fellowships CZ call, the project will be implemented as an individual project with simplified cost reporting.
- The applicant/beneficiary in the MSCA Fellowships CZ call is obliged to co-finance the project according to the Co-financing Rules for the 2021-2027 programming period², see more in chapter 7 of the call.
- In the MSCA Fellowships CZ call, the researcher must be an employee of the applicant/recipient for the entire duration of the mobility.

4.2 EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Separate activity Project Management;
- Regular teaching at the time of mobility;
- Implementation of projects that have been evaluated in relevant MSCA H2020/HE calls with a final score below 70% of the total score;
- Implementation of projects submitted to H2020-MSCA-Global fellowships.

4.3 TARGET GROUP

Researchers

4.4 INDICATORS

An overview of relevant indicators, including their definition and reporting method, is given in chapter 7.8 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

² Co-financing rules for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border and Visa Facility for the programming period 2021-2027.

4.5 SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is not relevant for this call.

5. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTNERSHIP

5.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An eligible applicant must belong to one of the following categories and meet all the conditions set out in chap. 5.3 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section :

Entities meeting the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation according to the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01):

- public universities,
- public research institutions,
- state organisational units (SOU),
- contributory organisations of a state organisational units (CO SOU) and local self-government units,
- private entities: e.g. s.r.o., a.s., z.ú., o.p.s., interest associations of legal entities.

The applicant or beneficiary must have its registered office or at least a branch or establishment in the Czech Republic within 30 days of the payment of the first payment request.

LIMITATIONS OF THE CHALLENGE:

The provider may only support one application per run for an applicant. The next procedure within a run shall not be conducted until after the previous procedure has been completed, and then only if the Provider discontinues the procedure (in case the application is rejected in the approval process in that run) or if the applicant withdraws the application in that run. In all other cases, the provider will discontinue the procedure for the same matter (support for activities under this call in one run).

5.2 PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are not allowed under the call.

6. ZONING - PERMISSIBLE PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The conditions are set out in Chapter 5.5 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

The permissible place of implementation is the territory of the Czech Republic; the project activities may be implemented outside the Czech Republic, both in the EU and outside the EU.

7. FORM OF SUPPORT

Call allocation	750 000 000 CZK
Structure in terms of funding sources	<p>The ratio of the sources of project financing is based on the Co-financing Rules for the programming period 2021-2027³ and the pro rata ratio specified in chapter 7.3 of the call.</p> <p>Ratio of project funding sources for the beneficiaries, which are SOU and CO SOU: EU 69.70%, SR 30.30%, own share 0.00%.</p> <p>Ratio of project funding sources for all other beneficiaries: EU 69.70%, SR 25.30%, own share 5.00%.</p> <p>The indicative distribution of the call allocation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU share: CZK 522 750 000, - SR share: 190 875 000 CZK, - own share: 36 375 000 CZK.
Minimum amount of total eligible project expenditure	Not determined.
Maximum total eligible project expenditure	It is not limited. Maximum up to the call allocation.
Fund	European Regional Development Fund
Method of financing	Ex-ante financing Ex-post funding
Amount of the 1st advance payment	For ex-ante funded projects: the amount of the 1st advance payment shall be determined on a project-by-project basis, based on the amounts of the projected clearance of accounts for the first two reporting periods indicated in the financial plan. However, the amount of the 1st advance payment may amount to a maximum of 30 % of the total eligible expenditure of the projects.

³ Co-financing rules for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border and Visa Facility for the programming period 2021-2027.

7.1 SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCE

No support may be granted if the project has been physically completed or fully implemented before the applicant submits the application for support, whether or not the applicant has made all related payments.

The substantive eligibility of expenditure is determined by the definition of eligible activities and objectives of the call, for more details see chapter 4.1 of the call and chapter 5.7 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section. The eligibility conditions for expenditure are further regulated in Chapter 8 of the general and specific parts of the call.

7.2 METHOD OF REPORTING TOTAL ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

The total eligible expenditure will be reported under the simplified reporting scheme. Further information is provided in chapters 5.9.1 and 8.2 of the SPP - general and specific part.

7.3. Aid intensity and co-financing conditions

Co-financing is required between 0% and 5% according to the conditions set out in chap. 5.10 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

The pro rata ratio (the ratio of distribution of funds between the categories of OP JAK regions) is 40% less developed regions, 39% transit (transition regions) and 21% more developed region.

7.4. CONDITIONS FOR PUBLIC AID

MSCA (mobility) projects⁴, **which have been awarded the Seal of Excellence** in the H2020/HE evaluation, will be supported in accordance with Article 25b of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014⁵.

MSCA (mobility) projects that have **not been awarded the Seal of Excellence** in the H2020/HE evaluation will be granted aid for the implementation of non-economic activities as defined in paragraph 19 of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), which does not constitute State aid within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

For more information on the conditions of public aid, see Chapter 7.6 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

⁴ In the MSCA Fellowships CZ call, these are individual activities.

⁵ Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in accordance with Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (GBER).

8. REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT APPLICATION

The application for support⁶ is submitted via the IS KP21+ at <https://iskp21.mssf.cz>. The application for support must be submitted in the Czech language. Selected annexes to the aid application may be submitted in English.

The grant application must be signed electronically by the applicant's statutory body or by a person authorised to sign on the basis of a power of attorney.

An overview of the annexes to the application for support is given in the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section, Chapter 13, Annex 7. The current versions of the templates of the annexes to the application for support are always available in IS KP21+, selected annexes are also available for download on the website of the announced call (<https://opjak.cz/vyzvy>). The Managing Authority is entitled to update the models of the annexes to the application for support during the course of this call, updating the models of the annexes to the application for support is not a change to the call.

8.1 CONSULTATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT

Before submitting an application for support, applicants may consult with representatives of the Managing Authority with questions about the call.

- The Managing Authority will provide consultation via e-mail: mscapopjak@msmt.cz.
- **Email enquiries** will be dealt with on a rolling basis, usually within 5 working days of receipt of the email.
- **Personal consultations** will only take place at a time arranged in advance via the above contact email. The subject of personal consultations will be exclusively specific questions concerning the substantive setting of the call (i.e. definition of eligible activities, setting of indicators, etc.).
- The consultation is not intended to check that the aid application has been completed correctly.
- Questions must be sent no later than 5 working days before the consultation by e-mail (unless otherwise agreed).
- If the applicant fails to deliver the list of questions by the required deadline, it is the responsibility of the Managing Authority to determine whether the consultation will take place. Depending on the nature/intent of the applicant's questions, the Managing Authority will assess whether a face-to-face consultation is necessary.
- **The dates of the seminars for applicants** will be published on the website <https://opjak.cz/seminare>.

⁶ An application for support means an application for the provision of a subsidy pursuant to Section 14(3) based on a call pursuant to Section 14j of Act No. 218/2000 Coll., on Budget Rules and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (Budget Rules), as amended, except for eligible OSS applicants.

9. CHANGES TO THE CALL

The Call and the related documentation may be amended, in particular in cases forced by a change in legislation or a change in the methodological environment, or in unexpected cases.

Changes to the call will be published on the OP JAK website for the announced call. Applicants who already have an application for support in IS KP21+ will also be informed about the publication of the call for proposals via an internal dispatch.

The rules for modifying the call are set out in Chapter 5.1 of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries - specific section.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10.1. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TARGETING OF THE CALL

The call aims to promote complementarity with the directly managed EU HE/H2020 programme, specifically the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships / MSCA Individual Fellowships calls, which fund mobility of researchers (postdocs). The call provides alternative funding for projects that scored highly in the HE/H2020 evaluation and received a score of 70% or more, but could not be funded due to lack of funds from the call.

Despite a significant shift in the internationalisation and qualitative level of research activities in the Czech Republic, there is still a need to support the development of human resources in R&D, especially with regard to achieving excellent results in R&D, maintaining the ability of research organisations in the Czech Republic to attract and retain top researchers and develop international cooperation. There is also a continuing need to help reintegrate researchers of Czech nationality into the Czech research environment after their return from studies or work stays abroad, to which MSCA Fellowships CZ activities also respond.

The aim of the MSCA Fellowships CZ call is also to strengthen the complementarity between EU funds and the Horizon Europe programme, and thus to strengthen the motivation of applicants from the Czech Republic to participate in calls under the Framework Programmes for Research, Development and Innovation. The call thus responds to the long-standing problem of the relatively low level of participation of Czech entities in these programmes. The Czech Republic's participation in H2020 calls is one of the lowest in the EU. The Czech Republic has also had a lower participation rate in MSCA actions in the long term compared to the EU average (Czech Republic: 9.1%, EU-15: 12.4%) and financial success rate (Czech Republic: 8.0%, EU-15: 10.8%).⁷

Links to sources of information:

- Work Programme 2021-2022, 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, (European Commission DecisionC(2022)2975 of 10 May 2022): https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-05/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf.

⁷ Report on Czech participation in the H2020 programme for the period January 2014 - May 2020, p. 24.

- Kol.: *From Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe*. Brussels: European Commission, 2018 + *Exploring the performance gap in EU Framework Programmes between EU-13 and EU-15 Member States*, Brussels: European Parliament, 2020.

-Report on the participation of the Czech Republic in the H2020 programme for the period January 2014 - May 2020 , TC CAS (November 2020): <https://www.h2020.cz/files/Zprava-o-ucasti-Echo-5-6-2020.pdf>.

- Kol.: Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030. Prague.

10.2 FOLLOW-UP TO STRATEGIES

The call follows on the National Policy for Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic 2021+⁸ and the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic 2021 - 2027⁹ (National RIS3 Strategy): strategic objective B Increasing the quality of public research.

Consistency of the call with the National RIS3 Strategy:

The call contributes to the specific objectives:

B.1 - Enhancing the quality and societal relevance of public research.

B.2 - Improving the quality of the environment for public research

C.3 - Increasing the potential and motivation of staff in research organisations

Alignment of projects with the National RIS3 Strategy:

All projects supported by this call are in line with the specific objectives of the National RIS3 Strategy B.1 - Increasing the quality and societal relevance of public research, B.2 - Increasing the quality of the environment for public research and C.3 - Increasing the potential and motivation of staff in research organisations in the ratio 32:33:35.

10.3 INFORMATION ON FOLLOW-UP/ADDITIONAL CALLS

Horizon Europe: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, 2021-2027 (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF, HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF).

Horizon 2020: MSCA Individual Fellowships (H2020-MSCA-IF-2020).

11. ANNEXES TO THE CALL

- Annex 1 Evaluation criteria
- Annex 2 Correction coefficients

⁸ [National Policy of Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic 2021+](#).

⁹ [National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Czech Republic 2021 - 2027](#).

12. FURTHER DOCUMENTATION ON THE CALL

Applicants and beneficiaries are bound by the additional conditions set out in the following documentation:

- The general part of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries is published on the website <https://opjak.cz/dokumenty/>;
- The specific parts of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries are published on the website <https://opjak.cz/vyzvy/>.

A model legal act on the granting/transfer of aid is published on the website <https://opjak.cz/vyzvy/>.

13. OTHER PROVISIONS

During the process of approving a grant application, the Ministry of Education and Science applies the procedures pursuant to Section 14k(1), (3) and (4) and Section 14p of Act No. 218/2000 Coll., on Budget Rules and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (Budget Rules), as amended. Detailed information is provided in the general and specific parts of the Rules for applicants and Beneficiaries:

- the procedures for rectifying defects in the aid application are set out in Chapter 5.14;
- the procedures for the submission of other documents necessary for the legal act granting/transferring the aid are set out in Chapter 6.4;
- the procedures for modifying the application for support, or the possibility of formulating reservations and recommendations, are set out in chapters 5.14 and 6.3;
- Procedures for using the stack of replacement projects are given in Chapter 2 and 5.14.

The support is provided in the form of a grant or in the form of funds included in the SOU expenditure budget. The final amount of support is decided by the Ministry of Education and Science. The Managing Authority reserves the right to suspend or terminate the call early (e.g. due to exhaustion of the allocated funds).

In the event of termination of the grant applicant before the date of the decision on the grant award, the provider shall conduct the procedure for the grant award with a legal successor in accordance with Section 14l of Act No. 218/2000 Coll., on Budgetary Rules and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (Budgetary Rules), as amended, if the legal successor meets the conditions for an eligible applicant set out in this call for proposals. In all other cases, the provider shall discontinue the procedure.

The amount of the charges for breach of budgetary discipline for non-compliance with the conditions laid down will be specified in the legal act granting/transferring the aid.