

**3rd Update of the Open Call for Submission of Grant Applications for Initiatives financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure „B“
under the programme CZ04 funded from the EEA Grants 2009 - 2014**

The Ministry of Finance, the Operator of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure „B“

updates the 1st Open Call (announced on 29 January 2015) for submission of Grant Applications for Initiatives financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure “B” under the programme CZ04 funded from the EEA Grants 2009 – 2014.

Applications can be submitted continuously from the date of the announcement of the Call for proposals until **July 31, 2017** or until the total allocation is used¹.

The allocated amount under the 1st Open Call is **6 834 101 CZK, that means **257 890 EUR**.**

The minimum and maximum grant amount per initiative: **53.427 – 1.325.000 CZK**, that means **2.016 – 50 000 EUR**

I. Scope of the Fund

The objective of the Fund is to enhance the development and strengthening cooperation between **Czech entities** and entities in the donor states and international organizations. The cooperation shall be based on the exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, know-how, experience and best practices **within CZ04 programme areas (the areas of the programme CZ04 and relating proposed eligible initiatives are defined in par. III).**

II. Eligible applicants

Applicants eligible to draw on the Fund are **entities²** which are active within the programme CZ04 and within its programme areas for at least 1 year. **Bilateral initiatives should be aimed at establishing or deepening co-operation within relevant programme area:**

a) **in cooperation with other donor states entities active in given programme area (i.e. actively involved in the programme area for at least 1 year);**

¹ Grant Application must be submitted in accordance with the Guidelines for Applicants and Final Beneficiaries from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure “B”, available at www.eeagrants.cz.

² **Natural persons, legal entities, public institutions, municipalities, regions, NGOs and other entities.**

b) in cooperation with other **donor states entities** active in given programme area (i.e. actively involved in the programme area for at least 1 year) **and international organization**.

III. CZ04 programme areas

Programme CZ04	<i>Bilateral initiatives can be realized in following areas/activities</i>
<p>Programme Area: Children and Youth at Risk</p> <p>Aim: improve situation of children and youth at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to promote the rights of children and young people and contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child • Support to develop and improve the quality of child welfare systems and child protection measures at national and local levels • Support to prevent children and youth from becoming the object of child welfare systems • Support to establish a national Ombudsperson for Children • Support activities targeted at children and youth with a minority background in their local society • Support leisure time activities for children and young people • Support measures to combat poverty and social exclusion • Support health-service and social-care provisions • Support projects related to children and youth with behavioural problems • Support the overall administration of juvenile justice, at national and local levels • Support national strategies concerning the application of restorative justice in the administration of juvenile justice, and support the development and implementation of alternative reprimand measures for children and youth coming in conflict with the law • Support measures to protect and secure the rights of children in detention and on probation, and to protect the rights of child victims of crime and abuse or living in a violent environment

IV. Eligible initiatives

The Fund is designed to finance targeted short-term supplementary initiatives.

Following initiatives, realized in cooperation with bilateral partner of the initiative which are beneficial for the programme or the programme areas defined in par. III., will be financed from the Fund:

- study trips, study/exchange/working/research stays, work visits and bilateral working meetings aimed at sharing experience and know-how, transferring best practices;
- bilateral/multilateral meetings, workshops, seminars;

- conferences aimed at bi-/multilateral meetings, presentations and building on contacts and working relations;
- the production of studies, analyses and documentation, data collection, their sharing and exchange to strengthen the cooperation between **Beneficiary States and Donor States and international organisations**;
- information and promotional initiatives to strengthen bilateral partnerships;
- other bilateral type actions.

Supported initiatives must be realized till 15 September 2017 at the latest.

V. Eligible expenditures and their reimbursement

According to Article 7.7 of the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, adopted by the EEA Financial Mechanism Committee, following categories of expenditure are eligible for funds:

- fees and travel costs for participation in conferences, seminars, courses, study/exchange stays, work meetings and workshops;
- travel costs for study trips abroad;
- travel costs, per diems and salary costs for visits by experts;
- taxi costs - taxi may be used only in exceptional and justified cases, if transportation cannot be assured by other means of transport;
- expert fees;
- costs related to studies, including feasibility studies, and preparation of financial, economic and technical analyses;
- costs of conferences, seminars, working meetings and workshops, interpreting and translations of working materials;
- costs for promotional and information activities aimed at strengthening bilateral relations;
- external consultancy fees;
- travel insurance, ticket cancellation insurance;
- other costs related to the bilateral initiative (justified within the application).

Dates of the eligibility of expenditures to be covered by the Fund are given in the Grant Award Approval Letter and subsequently in the Grant Award legal act. The final date for the eligibility of expenditures is 1 month after the completion of all initiatives financed from the Fund, till **15 October 2017** at the latest.

The applicant may ask for an advance payment up to maximum 60% of the grant under the condition that the planned grant amount will be equal or higher than CZK 530.000 (EUR 20.000). The advance payment will be disbursed in 10 working days after the receipt of the request for advance payment.

The mechanism of eligible expenditures reimbursement (in CZK) is based on **ex-post** payments of incurred costs after the Final Report on the initiative implementation has been approved by the Fund Operator.

VI. Submission of the grant application

Grant applications will be submitted on a continuous basis, starting from the date of the call launch.

Evaluation of formal requirements and eligibility will be followed by the evaluation of the application relevance. Applications will be evaluated in the order according to the application submission date in the IS CEDR.

The application shall be submitted in the Czech language in given format and the requested grant amount shall be given in CZK.

The form of Grant Application for Initiatives financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level is included in the Guidelines for Applicants and Final Beneficiaries from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – Measure “B”.

Submitting an application does not constitute a legal grant award claim.

Method of application submission in the IS CEDR, system of the ex-post reimbursement of expenditures, **submission of request for advance payment** and Final Report submission procedure, are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Final Beneficiaries from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – Measure “B”. The document is also available online at www.eeagrants.cz.

VII. Further information

Questions may be sent electronically to: fmrealizace@mfcz.cz. Replies will be sent by e-mail within 10 calendar days.

Based on the assessment of the implementation of the Fund and after mutual agreement with the donors, conditions of the Call for Proposals may be revised.

Information on each revision will be always published at www.eeagrants.cz.