

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 CZ14 funded by the Norway 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 11 February 2015) for submission of Grant Applications for Initiatives financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure “B” under the programme CZ14 funded by the Norway Grants 2009 – 2014.

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

The allocated amount under the 1st Open Call is CZK 2 047 445, that means EUR 77 262.

The maximum grant amount per initiative: **CZK 1 060 000 (EUR 40 000)**

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/or international organisations. The cooperation shall be based on the exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, know-how, experience and best practices **within CZ14 programme area (the area of the programme CZ14 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 CZ14 and within its programme area 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);**
- 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.**

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.norwaygrants.cz.

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

III. CZ14 programme area

Programme CZ14	<i>Bilateral initiatives can be realized in following areas/activities</i>
<p>Programme Area: Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups</p> <p>Aim:</p> <p>Increase citizen's security through improvement of the efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the Schengen Member States in fighting organised crime, including trafficking in human beings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the capacity and competencies of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute in cases of organised crime, including trafficking, e.g. through measures aimed at improving international cooperation and exchanges of best practices • Support for developing strategies for combating organised cross-border crime, including trafficking and itinerant criminal groups • Support the development, improvement and efficient use of necessary technical infrastructure, including SIS II, VIS, and possible new technical infrastructure, like Eurosur and Entry Exit through financial support, sharing of technical expertise and competence-building measures • Strengthening of national capacities for efficient use of EU information-sharing instruments, including SIS II, and Prüm-related registers through competence-building measures and financial support • Strengthening of national capacities in order to improve the interaction with Frontex, Eurojust, Europol and Interpol through competence-building and financial support • Strengthening of national capacities on forensic services including competence-building and financial support for necessary technical equipment • Develop and support international networks on an operational level to ensure rapid exchanges of information for investigative purposes as well as regular sharing of best practices • Support measures aimed at preventing recruitment into trafficking and provide assistance and support for victims • Training activities

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 area defined in par. III., will be supported:

- study trips, study/exchange/working/research stays, work visits and bilateral working meetings aiming 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 the Final Beneficiaries and entities in 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 the Article 7.7 of the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 adopted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following categories of expenditure are eligible for funds:

- fees and travel costs for participation in conferences, seminars, study/exchange stays, courses, 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 activities within the approved initiative 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 to 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 to initiatives and objectives implemented within the approved project, the scope of strengthening bilateral relations and the compliance with the Bilateral Fund objectives. 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.norwaygrants.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.norwaygrants.cz.