

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 CZ02 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 7 January 2014) for submission of Grant Applications for Initiatives financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level – measure “B” under the programme CZ02 funded from the EEA 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 2 239 534 CZK, that means 84 511 EUR.

The maximum grant amount per initiative is **530 000 CZK, that means 20 000 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/or international organisations. The cooperation shall be based on the exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, know-how, experience and best practices **within CZ02 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 CZ02 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. CZ02 programme areas

Programme CZ02	<i>Bilateral initiatives can be realized in following areas/activities</i>
<p>Programme Area: Biodiversity and ecosystem services aim: halt loss of biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to strengthen knowledge of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (monitoring and assessment) • Measures to increase national capacity for the management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites • Development of site management plans • Development, designation and implementation of corridors and buffer zones (green infrastructure) • Public awareness-raising and education activities related to biodiversity with a special emphasis on collaboration with local communities and NGOs • Risk analysis, surveys and improved monitoring and mapping of invasive alien species
<p>Programme Area: Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning Control aim: improving compliance with environmental legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of tools for control and risk-based inspections within national and regional environmental authorities • Education and training schemes for employees at environmental agencies and inspectorates • Measures to increase national administrative capacity for the implementation of climate and energy legislation related to the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS), effort sharing (emissions from sectors not included in the EU ETS), renewable energy, etc. • Measures to strengthen national administrative capacity for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, to act as national nodes and to secure management and data sharing across borders • Production of spatial information in compliance with the INSPIRE Directive and the authorities' participation in related Community and cross-border activities • Measures to promote open access to environmental information for the public and environmental NGOs • Support existing monitoring programmes
<p>Programme Area: Adaptation to Climate Change aim: reduce of vulnerability impacts of ecosystems to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information gathering and exchange by relevant authorities or stakeholders concerned with climate change adaptation • Measures for spatial planning • Measures to include climate gradients (latitudinal and altitudinal) in new protection areas offering alternative and possibly more suitable habitats with changing climatic conditions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to establish corridors and networks between fragmented habitats Measures to establish natural bank vegetation as a measure against erosion • Remedial actions against drainage from agriculture • Development of ecosystem-based management plans that include climate change effects for marine and inland waters • Activities related to flood protection, water and biodiversity Conservation • Measures to protect forest resources against natural hazards (e.g. forest fires) • Contingency systems for extreme weather and climate events
--	--

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 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 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, the 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 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.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.