

**Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**  
**Managing Authority of the OP RDI**

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS**

### **IN OP RDI**

## **An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes**

<b>Call identification</b>	An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes
<b>Priority Axis</b>	3 – Commercialisation and popularisation of R&D
<b>Supported area</b>	3.2 – Promotion and providing information on R&D results
<b>Call number</b>	5.3 – An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes
<b>Date of call announcement</b>	31 May 2013
<b>Call deadline</b>	30 August 2013
<b>Receipt of registration applications</b>	28 June – 30 August 2013 At the address of the announcer and support provider
<b>System of collecting applications</b>	Round calls
<b>Planned allocation for this call</b>	CZK 50 million

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Basic provisions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>An effective system of evaluation of targeted support in RDI .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Main objective of the call.....</b>	<b>4</b>
	<i>3.1 Specific objectives of the call.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Supported activities .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Expected outputs .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Grant beneficiary.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Form and amount of support .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Implementation period and expense eligibility.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Location of project implementation .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Application for support and its submission .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Other stipulation .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Address of the announcer and support provider.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Annexes .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## 1 Basic provisions

The call is announced and the support will be provided by the OP RDI Managing Authority – Ministry of Youth, Education and Sports (hereinafter MEYS), ([www.msmt.cz](http://www.msmt.cz)).

## 2 An effective system of evaluation of targeted support in RDI

An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programme is a system in which programmes of providers of targeted support in the Czech Republic are effectively and comprehensively evaluated (while respecting the specificities of the individual providers and their programmes). Such evaluations are not limited to descriptive analyses of the implementation of individual programmes, but present a complex evaluative assessment of success and effectiveness. Failure to implement an effective system of evaluation and inconsistent evaluation of the RDI programmes may lead to inefficient use of public funds. The necessity to change the current system for RDI in the Czech Republic was also formulated in the conclusions of IPn Audit.

The evaluation of RDI programmes is an integral part of the process of their creation and implementation and should cover the entire life cycle of the programme. An ideal system should enable and set up rules for programme evaluation designed for the preparatory (ex-ante) stage, the implementation stage, i.e. the interim and on-going stage, and the ex-post stage (once the projects have finished). The methodology setting up such a system should take into account or be based on internationally recognised standards (e.g. OECD/DAC criteria<sup>1</sup>) together with relevant methodologies and recommendation materials of the European Commission and relevant national institutions.

Ex-ante evaluation should in particular focus on assessing the concept of programme strategy (structure of the programme's intervention logic), the setting of individual investment priorities, proposed system of monitoring and evaluation, design of the system of monitoring indicators, setting and adequacy of administrative capacities and the involvement of potential partners, adequacy of financial allocation for individual planned interventions and expected benefit of the programme for fulfilling the objectives of relevant strategies.

Interim evaluations should primarily focus on assessing programme implementation, how successful it is in achieving its objectives, how efficiently it is implemented etc.

In ex-post evaluation, the new system should in particular allow the evaluation of programme results and impacts, assessment of the effectiveness of spent funds and efficient use of human resources. In evaluating impacts, the rate of utilisation of R&D results existing due to the intervention, impact on social and economic development of the affected area/region, effects achieved on the level of applicant organisations

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationofdevelopmentprogrammes/49756382.pdf>

(in targeted support programmes) as well as impact on the providers of support should be among the aspects considered.

The basis for the effective system of evaluation described above will be a general part, defined in a methodological document, establishing the basic principles for the evaluation and the rules for their implementation depending on evaluation type, i.e. what purpose should the evaluation serve. This general part is developed in the project titled Effective System of Evaluation and Financing of Research, Development and Innovation (IPn Methodology) implemented in OP EC as a partial output of key activity 2: Evaluation system. This general framework should be further developed in the subsequent part of the evaluation system which will be a description of the method for applying the general principles to individual programme types.

These detailed methodologies must take into account current legislation of the Czech Republic, meaning the proposed evaluation system e.g. must not assume that the costs of all evaluations during a programme's life cycle will be higher than the limit defined in Act No. 130/2002 Coll<sup>2</sup>.

An integral part of a functioning evaluation system is also the ability of users, in this case primarily providers of targeted support, to implement the system and ensure its long-term sustainability. In the system, it is therefore necessary to set up the competencies of individual entities involved in the creation and implementation of RDI programmes and secure sources for carrying out regular evaluations.

### **3 Main objective of the call**

The objective of this call is to improve the evaluation culture in RDI in the Czech Republic by creating a functioning system of evaluation of targeted support programmes by their providers<sup>3</sup> and to expand the use of evaluation as one of the main tools for managing support programmes.

#### **3.1 Specific objectives of the call**

- a) Analysing the current status of the system of evaluation of targeted support programmes for all providers of targeted support in the Czech Republic and comparing the current state in the CR with systems operated abroad.
- b) Establishing principles for the evaluation of targeted support for individual types of targeted support programmes, following the partial output of Key activity 2 – IPn Methodology with the utilisation of foreign know-how, and publishing the principles as freely available methodologies.
- c) Securing the conditions for applying the proposed evaluation system (consolidation of the monitoring system, setting up an information system,

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<sup>2</sup> Act No. 130/2002 Coll., Section 3, Par. 3, Clause d)

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this call, a provider of targeted support is an entity defined by Act No. 130/2002 Coll., On the support of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and the amendment of some related acts (Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Support Act), as amended.

stabilisation and building of evaluation capacities etc.) and its use for strategic management of further development of RDI in the Czech Republic.

- d) Pilot testing of the newly defined system of evaluation of targeted support programmes.

#### **4 Supported activities**

- a) Processing an analysis of the current status of the system of evaluation of targeted support programmes for all providers in the Czech Republic, including a comparison with systems abroad. (Available sources may be used, e.g. the results of IPn Audit.)
- b) Creation of methodologies, adaptation of a general standard (partial output of IPn Methodology) for the needs of individual providers of targeted support and their programmes, summarized in methodologies provided to specific support providers, including a list of recommendations and related draft action plan and implementation schedule. All resulting methodologies and related documents in the project should be created in close cooperation with specific providers. In terms of time, the methodologies must allow evaluation of programmes in all of their stages, i.e. ex-ante, interim and ex-post. During the creation of each methodology, foreign know-how must be utilised. For specific evaluations, economic aspects must also be taken into account, meaning e.g. the proposed evaluation system must not assume that the costs of all evaluations during a programme's life cycle will be higher than the limit defined in Act No. 130/2002 Coll<sup>4</sup>. The minimum scope of the project must include all types of targeted support programmes administered by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and MEYS.
- c) Pilot testing of the evaluation methodologies described above in the environment of individual programmes. As a minimum, it is necessary to verify the functionality of at least one selected evaluation methodology on one targeted support programme for each provider that methodology<sup>5</sup> was prepared for. The type of evaluation should be chosen with regard to the stage of the life cycle of the evaluated programme.
- d) Cooperation with foreign evaluators, shadowing foreign evaluators by project employees/representatives of the providers of targeted grants.
- e) Organisation of public expert discussions.
- f) Promotion of the project and partial project outputs.
- g) Establishing and strengthening evaluation capacities on the level of individual providers of support – development of human resources capable of carrying out programme evaluation. (Supported activities include hiring new employees and

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<sup>4</sup> Act No. 130/2002 Coll., Section 3, Par. 3, Clause d)

<sup>5</sup> This duty is established with the creation of the first methodology for the given provider.

educating new professionals as well as increasing the qualification of current employees – training, education, evaluator mentoring, preparing education plans for new evaluators, creating educational modules.)

h) Other activities leading to the fulfilment of the call objectives.

Activities listed above under a) to f) are a mandatory part of every project. For activities b) and c), a minimum required scope is defined.

## 5 Expected outputs

The expected output is a working system of evaluation of targeted support programmes in RDI. One of the users of this call's output is, in addition to the beneficiaries of support, also the Research, Development and Innovations Council, as the received outputs should serve as a basis for the future direction of RDI in the Czech Republic.

Expected outputs are in particular:

- An analysis of the current situation, comparing and assessing the system of evaluation of individual targeted support programmes, especially with regard to assessing the suitability of used evaluation types and the utilisation of evaluation results.
- Newly created methodologies used by individual providers to evaluate their targeted support programmes. The new methodologies will also include a description of the full implementation process of the evaluation.
- Pilot testing of some of the newly created methodologies, implemented by carrying out the evaluation on selected targeted support programmes, including final reports informing about the course of the pilot stage and its results, as well as about the measures adopted for the future etc.
- Proposal of system changes for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of targeted support programmes.
- Specification of the technical and administrative capacities required for the evaluation of targeted support programmes in the Czech Republic and a proposal of how to obtain them.
- Available expert and administrative capacities required for the evaluation of targeted support programmes.
- Consolidated system of monitoring and evaluation of individual targeted support programmes in RDI.

## 6 Grant beneficiary

For the purposes of this call, a beneficiary or project partner is a provider of targeted support as defined by Act No. 130/2002 Coll., On the support of research,

experimental development and innovation from public funds and the amendment of some related acts (Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Support Act), as amended.

The beneficiary together with partners must be the provider of at least 60% of the volume of targeted support approved for 2013<sup>6</sup>.

Participation of partners and cooperating organisations must fulfil conditions stipulated in the OP RDI Guide for Applicants.

In this call, an entity can have a share in eligible project expenses of one project only (as an applicant/beneficiary or partner).

## 7 Form and amount of support

Priority axis 3, supported area 3.2 will be fully financed from public funds as follows: 85% from the European Regional Development Fund and 15% from the state budget.

The support is provided as a grant. In line with the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01), the provided support does not constitute state aid within the meaning of Article 107 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The funds will be earmarked for eligible project expenses.

The minimum amount of project eligible expenses is CZK 10 million. The maximum amount of project eligible expenses is CZK 50 million. The total costs of a project must not exceed CZK 1.1 billion.

## 8 Implementation period and expense eligibility

Eligible project expenses can occur before the issuance of the Grant Award Decision (hereinafter Decision), however not before **1 October 2012**. Expenses occurring from 1 October 2012 until the Decision must be directly related to the project preparation. The nature of preparation activities is specified in Rules of expenditure eligibility for call 5.3, supported area 3.2 of priority axis 3 OP RDI (see annex B to the call). Expenses related to the implementation of the project will only be eligible after the issue of the Decision. Detailed information regarding the rules and an overview of eligible expenses are provided in the Expenditure Eligibility Rules for call 5.3 of OP RDI supported area 3.2, Priority Axis 3. The implementation of projects under this call must be completed no later than by **30 September 2015**.

## 9 Location of project implementation

The project must be executed in the territory of the Czech Republic with an impact on the regions listed under the objective of Convergence.

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<sup>6</sup> Act No. 504/2012 Coll. on the state budget of the Czech Republic in 2013.



## **10 Application for support and its submission**

The applicant submits a written application for support to the MA of the OP RDI.

## **11 Other stipulation**

- a) No one has a legal title to receiving the grant.
- b) Detailed information for the elaboration of the project application and conditions not mentioned herein are available in the OP RDI PA 3 Guide for Applicants, available at [www.msmt.cz](http://www.msmt.cz).
- c) The Managing Authority of the OP RDI is entitled to prolong, discontinue or cancel the call.
- d) The Managing Authority will establish an expert group that will monitor the evaluation system being created and submit its comments.

## **12 Address of the announcer and support provider**

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports  
CORSO IIa  
Křižíkova 34/148  
Prague 8 – Karlín  
186 00

## **13 Annexes**

- A) Selection criteria for Call 5.3 – An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes;
- B) Expenditure eligibility rules for Call 5.3 – An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes;
- C) Monitoring indicators for Call 5.3 – An effective system of evaluation of targeted support programmes.