

**System mechanisms for achieving synergic effects between the  
Operational Programme Research & Development for Innovations  
and the Operational Programme Enterprise & Innovation**

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One of the principal aims of the two Operational Programmes – the OP EI (gestion of the Ministry of Industry and Trade) and the OP RDI (gestion of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports) is to provide for the creation of new advanced know-how in science and research and to transfer it to the commercial sphere. In order to maximize the use of these opportunities, the measures described below have been adopted. The approved measures will be taken into account in the final text of the two Operational Programmes.

## 1. Main areas of system interaction between the operational programmes and measures in support of the development of synergies

### 1.1 Object of synergies

The OP RDI is a system of aid programmes channelled to the academic sphere, universities, research institutes and other corporate bodies.

The OP EI will support measures for establishment to the aid programmes for establishment of new innovative firms (Priority Axes 1 and 5 OP EI – link to Intervention Area 3.1 OP RDI), development of R&D capacities for firms and commercialization of outputs from R&D through individual firms (Priority Axis 4 OP EI – link to Intervention Areas 1.1 and 2.1 OP RDI).

There is a close linkage between the two Operational Programmes. Therefore it is necessary to focus the cooperation between the two Operational Programmes also on creation of a suitable environment for establishment and development of an innovative enterprise, cooperation platforms and support of infrastructure for industrial research, development, and innovation (Priority Axis 5 OP EI – link to Intervention Area 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 OP RDI).

### 1.2 Synergies

Two types of synergies are taken into account in the Operational Programmes. The vertical and the horizontal synergy.

The vertical synergy within the individual Operational Programme will be generated through the identification and use of the measures by the commercial sphere. This type of synergy means that:

- a) the definition of measures, programmes, projects and individual calls for project proposals is created by the way of consultation with the commercial sphere and their representatives - the Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of Industry, Branch of Industry Associations;
- b) this effect is maximized via necessary condition for approval of projects supported by the OP RDI. The projects must prove sustainable financial backing for the operational phase through cooperation with the private sector. This condition will be implemented in Priority Axes 1 and 2 of the OP RDI. As for the OP EI, this condition is automatically assured by the co-financing of all projects from the private sector.

The horizontal synergies between the two individual Operational Programmes will be particularly generated through the projects planned in parallel and the follow up projects. The horizontal synergies are specified in detail in the chapter 3.

The horizontal synergies will be implemented within the two basic levels:

- a) **“projects planned in parallel”** established in the same period and referring to each other. The applicants are using the OP RDI and the OP EI at the same time, e.g. jointly prepared projects within the planned joint calls for proposals (i.a. 5.1 and 3.1);
- b) **“follow up projects”** planned in a different period, i.e. projects submitted to the OP EI are linked to outputs from the OP RDI projects, in particular Priority Axes 1. European Centres of

Excellence, 2. Regional R&D Centres, and 3. Commercialization, Popularization and Internationalization of R&D.

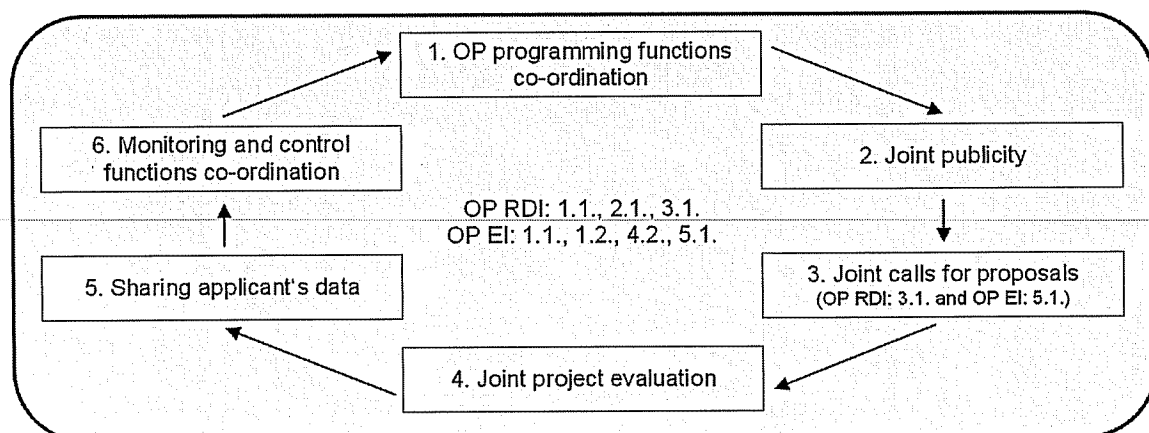
The horizontal synergy effects will be set, planned and monitored within the so called synergic projects.

### 1.3 The following key measures will be used in order to achieve horizontal and vertical synergies:

- **Synergic projects fitting the definition will be supported by bonus points** awarded in the assessment of project proposals within the OP EI or the OP RDI.
- A specific qualification criterion is introduced at the level of the OP RDI for Intervention Areas 1.1 European Centres of Excellence and 2.1 Regional R&D Centres. **With regard to the assessment of sustainability of the project outputs, the only projects and beneficiaries that qualify must prove that they have sustainable financial backing for the operational phase of a research institution through cooperation with the private sector** to an extent defined in the call for project proposals (for ex. partnership agreement, agreement on future agreement). This condition will be implemented in Priority Axes 1 and 2 of the OP RDI. Projects envisaging financing of the operational phase from national resources only, will be disqualified.
- Calls for proposals contributing to the achievement of specific targets of Priority Axes 1 and 2 and Intervention Area 3.1 of the OP RDI will be specified on the basis of proven interest of trade associations (Chamber of Commerce of the Czech Republic, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, Key Entrepreneurs representatives, etc.).
- Implementation of the two Operational Programmes will be carried out by the CzechInvest agency which will assure joint presentation and administration of both programmes.

## 2. Institutional coordination between OP EI and OP RDI

The joint programme coordination of projects will be essential in order to ensure the synergies. The scheme below shows the programme coordination in the key Priority Axes and Intervention Areas of the OP RDI and the OP EI within the 6 joint activities at the level of the Managing Authorities and both ministries (the MIT and the MEYS).



The institutional coordination proceeds from the mandate given by the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) of the Czech Republic (Chapter 11, Management and Coordination of the Economic and Social Cohesion Policy) which establishes the Coordination Committee Competitive Czech Economy. This Committee will report to the Monitoring Committee of the NSRF (i.e. Management and Coordination Committee). The Research and Development Council of the Czech Republic's Government will be also represented in the Committee.

The Committee will, in particular, monitor and evaluate the process of achievement of the horizontal and vertical synergies agreed in accordance with the NSRF and this document. The Committee will also coordinate the national co-financing of the OP RDI part and the fulfilment of following obligations:

**a) Coordination at the level of Monitoring Committees**

According to the obligation at the level of the NSRF calls, project qualification criteria and indicators of the OP EI and the OP RDI in the Intervention Areas between which synergy arises will be approved by both Monitoring Committees. The private sector will be represented in the Monitoring Committees. In order to manage and monitor the synergies, the "synergic projects" will be monitored at the level of output indicator. In order to better follow the synergic projects, specific reporting will be provided at the level of the Monitoring Committees and annual reports.

**b) Coordination at the level of Evaluation Committees**

According to the obligation at the level of the NSRF members of the Evaluation Committees evaluating the OP EI and the OP RDI projects in the Intervention Areas between which synergy arises will be approved by the two Managing Authorities. The chairperson of the Evaluation Committee will be appointed by the Managing Authority within whose purview the relevant Intervention Area falls.

**c) Coordination at the level of external evaluators of projects**

The evaluation of the OP EI and the OP RDI projects in the Intervention Areas between which synergy arises will use a joint database of external evaluators approved by both Managing Authorities.

**d) Coordination of calls for project proposals, joint call for project proposals**

A call for project proposal made at the level of the OP RDI will be preceded by discussion of relevant partners (Chamber of Commerce of the Czech Republic, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, representatives of enterprises, universities, R&D institutes, etc.) led by the Coordination Committee Competitive Czech Economy. The output from this discussion will be a definition of the calls so that they meet as much as possible long-term directions in research in technical and natural disciplines which are an input qualification criterion in the OP RDI, taking into account demands from representatives of the private sector.

Joint calls for project proposals will be made in the Intervention Areas 5.1 OP EI and 3.1 OP RDI in the field of R&D and private sector cooperation. Projects in joint calls for project proposals will be evaluated by external evaluators from a common database by a common Evaluation Committee, whose members, including the chairperson, will be approved by both Managing Authorities.

**e) Supportive measures**

- Projects of technical assistance providing information on support for synergic projects and creation of analytical data for synergic projects;
- Sharing of data on applicants and projects.

### 3. Intervention Areas producing the horizontal synergies between OP EI and OP RDI <sup>1</sup>

Intervention Area of the OP EI	Intervention Area of the OP RDI
<b>Support for establishment of innovation start-ups</b>	
<p><b>1.1 – Support of starting entrepreneurs</b>  <b>1.2 – Use of new financial instruments</b>  <b>5.1 – Cooperation platforms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonification points for OP EI projects</li> <li>• Identification of call for proposals aims</li> <li>• Implementation through the CzechInvest agency (5.1 OPEI a 3.1 OPRDI)</li> <li>• Approval of calls, selecting criteria and indicators by the both MCs</li> <li>• Joint Evaluation Committees (5.1 OPEI a 3.1 OPRDI)</li> <li>• Joint database of external evaluators (5.1 OPEI a 3.1 OPRDI)</li> <li>• Joint publicity and analysis</li> <li>• Sharing of data on applicants and projects (5.1 OPEI a 3.1 OPRDI)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intervention Area: 1.1</b>  <b>Objective:</b> encourage and support the activities of first time and returning entrepreneurs  <b>Form of support:</b> interest-free loan, preferential guarantee with financial subsidy  <b>Type of projects:</b> purchase of machines and facilities into the leased real estates and start-up purchase of stock; reconstruction of premises, machines and facilities refilling  <b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs  <b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p> <p><b>Intervention Area: 1.2</b>  <b>Objective:</b> stimulate and facilitate the formation of new innovation-oriented firms by the use of appropriate financial instruments  <b>Form of support:</b> risk capital investment, micro-credits (JEREMIE)  <b>Type of projects:</b> innovative activities particularly in the starting period of firm development (seed, start-up and spin-off)  <b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs  <b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p> <p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 5.1</b>  <b>Objective:</b> increase quality and extend of infrastructure for innovative business  <b>Form of support:</b> subsidy  <b>Type of projects:</b> establishment and development of business incubators, business innovation centres (BIC),</p>	<p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 3.1</b>  <b>Objective:</b> support of new ideas, resp. R&amp;D results which have proven potential for being brought to the phase of commercialization in areas previously approved by the Coordination Committee Competitive Czech Economy. The areas will be specified in the relevant call for proposals.  <b>Form of support:</b> subsidy  <b>Type of projects:</b> pre-seed fund set up for researchers and students to finance completion of development of a product or service before a firm is set up. This will comprise costs of consulting (patent, legal, accounting, economic) costs of protection of intellectual property, costs of services to complete R&amp;D, wage costs of project  <b>Beneficiaries:</b> universities and R&amp;D institutes, non-profit organizations, corporate bodies that fall within the Community Framework for the state support of research, development and innovations established by these institutions  <b>Note:</b> OP R&amp;DI focuses on the phase before a firm is established. The selection of ideas will take into account demands from the business sphere, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of Industry.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Applicable to OP RDI version of 17/9/2007.

Intervention Area of the OP EI	Intervention Area of the OP RDI
<p>scientific and technological parks and Business Angels networks</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs, large companies, non-profit organizations, universities and R&amp;D institutes – not as independent entities but as joint applicants in case of establishment of a new legal entity, regions, towns and municipalities</p> <p><b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> OPEI focuses on the phase after a firm is established</p>	
<b>Support for development of R&amp;D capacities</b>	
<p><b>4.2 – Capacities for industrial development</b></p> <p><i>Intervention Area: 4.2</i></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> increase research and development capacities of enterprises</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> purchase of land, buildings, machines, facilities and equipment necessary to run industrial research centres</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs, large companies</p> <p><b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p>	<p><b>Centres of Excellence R&amp;D Centres</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonification points for OP EI projects</li> <li>• Identification of call for proposals aims</li> <li>• Implementation through the CzechInvest agency</li> <li>• Approval of calls, selecting criteria and indicators by the both MCs</li> <li>• Joint Evaluation Committees</li> <li>• Joint database of external evaluators</li> <li>• Joint publicity and analysis</li> <li>• Sharing of data on applicants and projects</li> </ul> <p><i>Part of the Intervention Area: 1.1</i></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> build a limited number of centres of excellence with state-of-the-art equipment (in material and personnel terms), so that they can produce a significant quantity of know-how that can be used in enterprises and their groupings</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> reconstruction and expansion of R&amp;D capacities and economically justified construction of new capacities, acquisition of laboratory and information equipment, and training in the use of new equipment and methods</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> universities and R&amp;D institutes, non-profit organizations, corporate bodies that fall within the Community Framework for the state support of research, development and innovations established by these institutions</p> <p><b>Eligibility criterion:</b> contractual agreement between the applicant and the commercial sphere on co-financing operational project costs</p> <p><i>Part of the Intervention Area: 2.1</i></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> building a network of advanced regional R&amp;D establishments concentrating on applied and industrial research and strengthening their collaboration with the application sphere (enterprises, hospitals)</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> dtto Intervention Area 1.1</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> dtto Intervention Area 1.1</p> <p><b>Eligibility criterion:</b> contractual agreement between the applicant and the commercial sphere on co-</p>

Intervention Area of the OP EI	Intervention Area of the OP RDI
	financing operational project costs <b>Note:</b> The selection of ideas will take into account demands from the business sphere, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of Industry. This condition will be implemented in Priority Axes 1 and 2 of the OP RDI.
<b>Cooperation of enterprises with science and research sphere</b>	
<p><b>5.1 – Cooperation platforms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonification points for OP EI projects</li> <li>• Identification of call for proposals aims</li> <li>• Joint call for project proposals (5.1 OPEI a 3.1 OPRDI)</li> <li>• Implementation through the CzechInvest agency</li> <li>• Approval of calls, selecting criteria and indicators by the both MCs</li> <li>• Joint Evaluation Committees</li> <li>• Joint database of external evaluators</li> <li>• Joint publicity and analysis</li> </ul> <p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 5.1</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> create infrastructure for cooperation of enterprises, research and educational institutes and the community sphere at the regional and supra-regional level and international cooperation of new and existing groupings</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> identification, establishment and development of clusters (for ex.: joint purchase and use of facilities, joint workshops, seminars or marketing presentations)</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs, non-profit organizations, universities and R&amp;D institutes – not as independent entities but as joint applicants in case of establishment of a new legal entity, regions, towns and municipalities</p> <p><b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p>	<p><b>Centres of Excellence &amp; D centres</b></p> <p><b>Realization of results of research and protection of their</b></p> <p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 1.1</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> building of Centres of Excellence will serve as knowledge bases for clusters or other groupings</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> participation of clusters or other groupings through contract research purchased by firms on market terms</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> universities and R&amp;D institutes, non-profit organizations, corporate bodies that fall within the Community Framework for the state support of research, development and innovations established by these institutions</p> <p><b>Eligibility criterion:</b> contractual agreement between the applicant and the commercial sphere on co-financing operational project costs</p> <p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 2.1</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> building of R&amp;D capacities in relevant disciplines and regions</p> <p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> primary goal of the project in this intervention area is not a participation in technological platform or cluster, but participation in cooperation with the industrial sector</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> dtto Intervention Area 1.1</p> <p><b>Eligibility criterion:</b> contractual agreement between the applicant and the commercial sphere on co-financing operational project costs</p> <p><b>Part of the Intervention Area: 3.1</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> support of new ideas, resp. R&amp;D results which have proven potential for being brought to the</p>





Intervention Area of the OP EI	Intervention Area of the OP RDI
<p><b>Form of support:</b> subsidy</p> <p><b>Type of projects:</b> product and process innovation, organizational and marketing innovation</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> SMEs, large companies</p> <p><b>Bonification points:</b> given only in case of proven synergy with OP RDI projects.</p>	<p>to different Intervention Areas OP RDI, and results of activities of European Centres of Excellence and Regional R&amp;D centres.</p> <p><b>Eligibility criterion:</b> contractual agreement between the applicant and the commercial sphere on co-financing operational project costs</p>