

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

1. What types of entities are eligible for funding?

Research organisations as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), established in Romania, are eligible for funding as Project Promoters (PP) and project partners.

Companies (SME and large sized enterprises) as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), established in Romania and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, can participate in the call only as project partners.

Useful documents:

[Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation \(2014/C 198/01\) Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014](#)

2. Are non-governmental organizations eligible under the Programme?

The NGOs and Foundations are eligible to participate in the call. They could be considered as research organizations or enterprises, according to the approved [State Aid Scheme](#).

3. Can be a company considered as Project Promoter?

Yes, it could be, if it is a Research organisation as is defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01).

4. It is mandatory to have a company in the consortium?

No, this is not a condition.

5. Can entities from countries other than Romania, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein be partners in the project?

According to the Guide for Applicants, other eligible partners are Research organizations from third countries but they cannot receive funding from the project grant.

6. Where can be founded a list of eligible partners from Donor State?

The Research Council of Norway published a list of eligible research organizations on their website: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/General_application_requirements/1184159007037 (for other information please contact Mrs Birgit Jacobsen (bija@forskningsradet.no)). For Icelandic eligible partners please contact Mr Viðar Helgason (vidar@rannis.is) from RANNIS.

7. For interdisciplinary projects, in what field the PI must have the PhD?

The PI must have a PhD in one of field of the project.

8. How many proposals can submit an entity as Project Promoter (PP)?

There is no condition imposed in terms of number of applications submitted by a PP.

Note: PP public institutions have the obligation to make public the intention to establish a partnership with private entities (from Romania and Donor States) in order to implement a project funded by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, except for accredited private higher education institutions (art.24, Government Emergency Ordinance, No.34/2017).

9. How many entities can be part of a consortium?

A proposal has to be submitted by a consortium comprising at least one Romanian entity and one from Donor States (Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein).

FINANCE AND BUDGET

10. What is the minimum and maximum grant amount in the Call?

The minimum amount of grant assistance to be applied for is EUR 500.000 and the maximum amount is EUR 1.500.000. Grants from the Programme may be up to 100% of total eligible project costs. The project grant shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the approved [State Aid Scheme](#).

11. What is the maximum level of funding for Donor State partners under the Programme?

The budgetary allocation to Project Partners should reflect the actual contribution made by each party and should be the subject of negotiation between the Project Promoter and the Project Partners. It is expected that the eligible costs claimed by the DS entities participating in the project shall normally not exceed 40% of the total eligible costs of the project.

12. What is the State Aid intensity?

According to the State Aid Scheme, the rates for support are:

Type of research	Company Type		
	Small	Medium	Large
Fundamental research	100%		
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Experimental development	45%	35%	25%

If the conditions set out in Article 16 alin. (3) of the [State Aid Scheme](#) are fulfilled, the intensity of state aid for industrial research and experimental development becomes:

Type of research	Company Type		
	Small	Medium	Large
Industrial research	80%	75%	65%
Experimental development	60%	50%	40%

13. Is the travel cost an eligible cost for companies?

The travel costs for companies are eligible only from own funds.

14. Is VAT an eligible cost?

All costs budgeted in project (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies, etc) will be charged to the programme, VAT included. However, VAT is not considered an eligible cost in case the entity can reclaim VAT from the national tax authorities in conformity with national indirect tax regulations.

The recoverable VAT is considered excluded cost.

15. Is an external audit for projects required?

A certificate by an independent auditor qualified to carry statutory audits of accounting documents, certifying that the claimed costs are incurred in accordance with the Guideline for Research programmes, the Regulation, the national law and relevant national accounting practices shall be accepted as sufficient proof of expenditure incurred.

A certificate issued by a competent and independent public officer recognised by relevant national authorities as having a budget and financial control capacity over the entity incurring the costs and who has not been involved in the preparation of the financial statements, certifying that the claimed costs are incurred in accordance with the Guideline for Research programmes, the Regulation, the national law and relevant national accounting practices, shall also be accepted as sufficient proof of expenditure incurred.

16. What value of the project requires an Audit?

Proof of expenditure shall not be submitted by a Project Promoter or a Project Partner where the total grant from the programme to the respective Project Promoter or Project Partner is less than EUR 325,000.

17. In which category of expenditures can the Audit be framed?

The Audit cost can be settled under heading "other costs".

18. Is the purchase of equipment an eligible cost?

When new or second hand equipment is purchased, only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project may be considered eligible expenditure, in compliance with applicable rules on the state aid scheme.

For Romanian partners, the rules of depreciation, according to national legislation, apply only to companies. For the research organizations all equipment costs are 100% eligible.

This includes, but is not limited to, laboratory/workshop equipment (including computers and servers), software and installation costs.

19. What is the legal frame for the equipment/services acquisitions?

The equipment/services acquisitions must comply with the Law 98/2016 on public acquisitions with subsequent modifications and completions.

20. From which category of expenditures can be paid the financial responsible of the project?

The person responsible for administrative and financial management of the project can be paid from staff costs, but the financial department representatives, acquisitions responsible, PR officer etc. can be paid only from indirect costs (overheads).