

PROGRAMME "EDUCATION" - CZECH REPUBLIC
FINANCED THROUGH EEA GRANTS - FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014-2021
3rd CALL FOR PROPOSALS for VET PROJECTS

Czech National Agency for International Education – Dům zahraniční spolupráce (DZS) announces Call for proposals for the funding of VET projects (hereinafter the „projects“) under the Programme “Education” in the Programme Area No. 3 - Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeship and Youth Entrepreneurship.

Publication date:	06/11/2020
Application Submission Deadline:	24/02/2021 15:00

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Programme “Education” (hereinafter the „Programme“) is enhanced human capital and knowledge base. The Programme will contribute to the overall objectives of reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and strengthening bilateral relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and the Czech Republic.

The projects shall improve the quality of work-based learning and/or entrepreneurial skills of young people.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Donor states:	<i>Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway</i>
Beneficiary state:	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Area(s) of support:	<i>Institutional cooperation at all levels of education between donor and beneficiary countries Enhancing the quality and relevance of education and training in the beneficiary countries at all levels of education Cooperation and partnerships between education, research and the world of work Traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements Youth entrepreneurship Professional development of teachers</i>
Programme Operator:	<i>Czech National Agency for International Education – Dům zahraniční spolupráce (DZS)</i>
Donor Programme Partner(s):	<i>The Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) The National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA)</i>

3. BUDGET

The total budget earmarked for this Call for proposals is € 1 038 311 (CZK 26 996 086), out of which € 882 564 (CZK 22 946 664) come from the EEA Grants source and € 155 747 (CZK 4 049 422) from the Czech Republic co-financing.

Additional funds may be allocated to the Call in the case of unused funds from the finalised projects from the previous Calls under the Outcome 3. The Programme Operator will announce the additional funding on the webpage of the Programme (www.dzs.cz).

The minimum allocated grant per project is € 10 000 (CZK 260 000) and the maximum allocated grant per project is € 50 000 (CZK 1 300 000).

The Programme Operator reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available within the financial allocation for this call.

4. PROJECT CO-FINANCING

The grant may cover up to 100% of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

5. ACTIVITIES

VET projects between Czech and Donor state institutions will support:

- a) establishment of partnerships between Czech and donor state VET schools and companies with an aim to:
 - i) increase the capacity of VET staff and company tutors through study visits to formulate the labour market needs and integrate work-based learning into school curricula or
 - ii) redesign curricula to match the needs of the local labour market with an option of integrating short-term pilot international mobility for VET students.
- b) development of joint projects between Czech and donor VET schools fostering youth entrepreneurship through education and training,
 - i) in the form of training activities for VET students to support a sense of entrepreneurship among young people,
 - ii) through preparation of special training modules and courses to increase the knowledge and ability of teachers and tutors to understand and address this topic.

The projects will start on August 01, 2021. The project duration¹ is 13 months.

6. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

Applicants (Project Promoters):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Czech secondary and higher vocational schools listed in the register of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
Project Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterprises registered in the Czech Republic, including private and public legal entities;• Legal entities established in the Donor States;• VET-institutions in Switzerland, with a specific cooperation agreement with Liechtenstein

7. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- 1) Travel
- 2) Individual support for learners (subsistence)
- 3) Individual support for staff and professionals (subsistence)
- 4) Transnational project meetings support (contribution to travel and subsistence costs)

¹ In any case, expenditures incurred after 30 April 2024 shall not be eligible.

- 5) Project management and implementation support
- 6) Cost of staff assigned to the project
- 7) Special needs support (additional costs related to participants with special needs)
- 8) Linguistic support (costs linked to participants' support prior or during a teaching or training assignment in order to improve the knowledge of the language they will use to study or receive training)
- 9) Exceptional costs (costs to support participants with fewer opportunities²)

For more information, please see the Guide for Applicants 2020 – Annex I.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The grant application has been submitted by the deadline for the submission set by the Call.
2. The grant application has been submitted using the correct application form.
3. All the relevant fields in the application form have been completed.
4. The grant application has been written in English.
5. The applicant institution is eligible to receive funding.
6. All project partners are eligible to participate in the project.
7. At least one project partner is from a donor state.
8. The applicant institution has submitted only one application for the project per call.
9. The requested grant amount complies with the limits provided in the Call.
10. The application form has been signed, using a qualified certificate for electronic signature, by the legal representative of the applicant institution or a person duly authorised by the legal representative.
11. All relevant documents have been annexed.

If the application does not meet some of the administrative or eligibility criteria, the Programme Operator may ask for clarification or submission of the missing documents. The applicant is then given two working days to comply with such a request. Non-compliance with the above administrative and eligibility criteria could lead to a rejection of the project application.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Relevance of the project (maximum 40 points, threshold 75% of the points)
2. Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 20 points)
3. Quality of the project team (partnership) and of cooperation arrangements (maximum 20 points)
4. Impact and dissemination (maximum 20 points)

To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points.

National priorities/ priority points (maximum 10 points) for:

- projects supporting social inclusion (including Roma)
- VET schools in disadvantaged areas³
- VET schools enrolling students from disadvantaged groups (including Roma)

9. SELECTION PROCESS AND DECISION-MAKING

The assessment of an application consists of eligibility and quality checks. The aim of the formal eligibility check is to verify whether all the grant applications comply with the published eligibility criteria. The result of this evaluation step will be a list of grant applications that will further be subject to quality assessment and a list of grant applications rejected on formal grounds.

² Learners facing some obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to education training – disadvantage due to socioeconomic reasons

³ CZ Regions: Karlovarský, Ústecký and Moravskoslezský

At least two external experts will carry out the quality assessment according to the evaluation criteria specified in the Call. The ranking will be done based on the average of the scores awarded by the experts.

The Selection Committee will establish a list of projects proposed for the grant award, rejection and the reserve list. The grant award decision will be taken by the legal representative of DZS. All the applicants will be informed about the final outcome of the selection process in writing, no later than six months after the final date for the submission of applications.

10. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit their applications online (via <https://eea-app.dzs.cz/eea/>), using the correct electronic form and including all the requested annexes:

- Letter of intent to conclude a partnership;
- In case the application is not signed by the legal representative, an official confirmation that the person is duly authorised by the legal representative to sign the application has to be attached;
- In the case of a VET partner from Switzerland, the copy of the cooperation agreement with Liechtenstein;
- In case any external consultant (natural or legal person outside the project promoter/project partner(s)) was involved in the preparation of the project application, the name of this person/company must be attached to the application form.

Applicants must fill in the form in English. An electronic signature of the legal representative or a person duly authorised by the legal representative is needed to complete the application.

11. PROVISION ON PAYMENT

Payments towards the projects will be in the form of advance instalments, of up to 80% of the total awarded grant amount, and balance payments to be paid after the approval of the final project report. The final payment is intended to reimburse or cover, after the end of the project period, the remaining part of eligible costs incurred by the beneficiaries during the project implementation.

DZS will adapt the timetable for advance instalments to individual cases, if precautionary measures are needed to prevent the loss of the EEA funds (e.g. weak financial capacity of the Project Promoter).

12. PREVENTING DOUBLE FUNDING

Under no circumstances, may the same costs be financed twice by the EEA Grants and other sources. In effect, this means that the costs for the same activity must not be covered by two different funding sources, with the exception of such cases where complementarity can clearly be proven. These special cases shall be described in the grant agreement.

13. CONTACT INFORMATION

Dům zahraniční spolupráce (Czech National Agency for International Education)
EEA Grants
Na Poříčí 1035/4
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic
www.dzs.cz

Jana Pávková, eeagrants@dzs.cz, +420 221 850 511

In case of queries, please contact DZS consultants. A reply shall be sent within 5 working days⁴. Please note that it is strongly recommended to contact the consultants exclusively by e-mail.

⁴ Please bear in mind that questions sent to DZS later than 5 working days before the Application submission deadline might not be answered in time for the applicant to keep the deadline for submitting the application.

14. DOCUMENTS AND GUIDELINES

- [Regulation on the implementation](#) of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021;
- [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on the implementation of the EEA Financial mechanism 2014-2021 between Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Czech Republic;
- [Guideline for Educational Programmes](#) - Rules for the establishment and implementation of programmes falling under the programme area 3 - "Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship";
- [Guide for Applicants 2020](#) – constitutes an integral part of this Call for proposals and the conditions for participation and funding expressed therein apply in full to this Call;
- [Programme Results Framework](#) – the projects submitted under this Call shall contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3 and Output 3.1 or Output 3.2.