NEWSLETTER

OFFICE TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS FOCUSED ON LIFE SCIENCES IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

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2024 (1)

Current Calls

MEYS − Support for bilateral research, development and innovation projects between the Czech Republic and the United States of America in the Mobility activity, with a duration of 2025-2026 (Call LUAUS25)

The aim of LUAUS25 is to select collaborative research projects in the categories of basic research, industrial research and experimental development, with a focus on all scientific fields. The duration of the supported projects is set at 3-4 years.

The documentation of the intention of cooperation between the Czech applicant and its American partner on the research project will be documented by the applicant with a "Letter of Intent" attached to the project proposal.

Maximum grant contribution: 300 mil. CZK for the entire duration of the solution
Deadline 10. 7. 2024
Link (Czech only): Czech Republic - United States of America in Mobility activity

MEYS - EIG Concert Japan - 11th Challenge 8I25 (Digital Transformation and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture)

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports informs about the announcement of the 11th joint call within the framework of the European Interest Group for Cooperation with Japan (EIG CONCERT Japan) on the topic "Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture" on the basis of the "Memorandum of Cooperation - EIG CONCERT Japan", which was signed by the Ministry of Education on 8. The aim of the Memorandum is to strengthen cooperation between European countries and Japan in science, technology and innovation research, to address current societal challenges and needs and to promote international multilateral research cooperation through the planning, launching and implementation of joint calls. The 11th Joint Call focuses on research on how digital technologies and robotics can transform

and improve agriculture and promote its sustainability.

Maximum grant contribution: 200 000 €
Deadline: 23. 7. 2024
Link: EIG Concert Japan - 11th Call 8I25

EK - COST - OPEN CALL 2024

Participants are invited to submit proposals for COST actions that contribute to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or social progress and development of Europe. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. The procedure for the submission, evaluation, selection and approval of proposals for actions under the open call (SESA) is fully based on scientific and technological knowledge and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive evaluation and selection process that reflects the COST principles of bottom-up, open and inclusive. COST funds interdisciplinary research networks called COST Actions. These actions bring together researchers, innovators and other experts, including specialists from industry, based in Europe and beyond, to collaborate on research topics over a period of 4 years. The funding received by COST Actions covers the costs of networking activities rather than research. As such, it is used to organise and fund events, short-term research missions, training, communication activities and virtual networking tools. It is estimated that €125 000 is available for the COST Action in the first year and an average of €150 000 per year for the following three years.

Maximum grant contribution: 125 000 € (for the whole action in the first year of the solution), 150 000 € (on average per year for the next three years)
Deadline: 23. 10. 2024
Link: COST - OPEN CALL 2024

Interreg Czech Republic - Saxony 2021-2027

It is one of a total of 73 cross-border funding programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) objective supported by the European Union. The European Commission has approved a total of €152.3 million for the programme. Subsidies are paid only after the costs incurred have been checked.
The total cost of the project must exceed €30,000. The subsidy rate is 80%. Projects with a total cost ofless than €30,000 can apply for funding under the Small Projects Fund.

4 priority axes and their funding:
1. Innovation and Competitiveness - 13.780.372,00 €
2. Climate Change and Sustainability - 39.809.961,00 €
3. Education, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Tourism - 64.308.399,00 €
4. Cooperation and strengthening mutual trust - 24.498.437,00 €

Maximum grant contribution: NA

Deadline: 31. 12. 2027

Link: [Interreg Česko-Sasko 2021-2027](#)

DRG4Food Open Call #2

The main objective of the DRG4Food Open Call #2 is to support the development of digital solutions that enable citizens to exercise their data rights and contribute to the creation of trusted and equitable solutions for food systems. The aim is to involve different actors, including SMEs, research and technology organisations, universities, non-profit research organisations, with a particular focus on civil society institutions and consumer associations. These actors are expected to implement pilot projects involving various digital innovations in responsible technologies for the food sector, guided by the Digital Responsibility Goals (DRGs). Proposals must be in line with one of the call areas:

- Food Tracking,
- targeted nutrition, or
- consumers' food choices.

Maximum grant contribution: NA

Deadline: 21. 6. 2024

Link: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)](#)

MSCA International Cooperation 2024 - HORIZON-MSCA-2024-INCO-01-01

The call "MSCA International Cooperation 2024" - HORIZON-MSCA-2024-INCO-01-01 has been opened for proposals under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions 2023-2025 programme. The aim of this call is to promote international cooperation in the field of MSCA in Horizon Europe through a dedicated support action that will complement and ensure coordination between existing promotion channels at local level and ensure coherence with formal policy dialogues on research and innovation at bilateral and regional level. Attention should be paid to:

- at bilateral level, countries that have bilateral science and technology agreements with the EU (Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine and the United States).
- at regional level, on the bi-regional dialogues on research and innovation policy that have been established in particular with the African Union, ASEAN, LAC, the Mediterranean partner countries, the Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans.

Maximum grant contribution: 2 mil. €

Deadline: 4. 9. 2024

Link: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)](#)

Horizon Europe – Cluster 6 - Spotlight on plant priority pest: fall armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda)

"Spodoptera frugiperda" is a transboundary highly polyphagous plant pest with exceptional migratory ability that can seriously affect the yield of several crops such as maize, rice, vegetables and cotton. Its occurrence was officially confirmed in Cyprus in January 2023 and later in the year in Greece, Portugal and Romania. The proposals should contribute to understanding the risk and impact of the introduction of this new plant pest into the EU, its spread and establishment, including the biology of the pest and its interaction with host plants, the impact of climate change, ecosystem degradation and globalisation.

Maximum grant contribution: 5 mil. €
Deadline: 24. 9. 2024
Link: EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)

Events

Master Class: financial rules of Horizon Europe

On 6 June 2024, the Prague Technology Centre organised an online seminar focused on the financial rules of Horizon Europe and their implementation in the national environment. What is the Master Class? This is a follow-up to the financial seminar held in May 2023. The recording of the seminar can be found on the TC Prague YouTube channel.

Overview of partner exchanges for the 2024 calls

Partner Exchanges will take place from 22 May - 19 June 2024 to help networking for projects preparing for the Horizon Europe calls. The Exchanges are usually two days long and involve several international institutions with a common interest in collaborating on international projects in a variety of fields. The exchanges usually also offer the opportunity to present a project or idea for a selected call. These are called Pitch Sessions. An overview of each partner exchange can be found here.

Unit personnel costs in Horizon Europe

On 19 June, the European Commission is organising an online seminar on the new methodology for unit personnel costs. The link to watch the seminar can be found here.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day

An information day on MSCA doctoral networks was held on 7 June 2024. This was an information event on the call for proposals MSCA-DN-2024, which was opened on 29 May 2024. The main objective was to inform all potential applicants and stakeholders about important new developments in the call for proposals MSCA-DN-2024. The recording of the seminar can be found here.

6th Summit on Gender Equality in Computing

 The Summit, which will take place on 13-14 June 2024, aims to promote equal access to scientific frontiers in computing, encouraging and educating women and men alike to achieve their goals and reach their potential in digital professions. The Summit also aims to celebrate and disseminate the achievements of computer professionals in a fair and gender-equitable manner. The summit will bring together students, researchers and professionals in the field of computer science. More information here.

News

Update of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement.

The European Commission has published the complete version of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement on the FTO Portal.

The Annotated Model Grant Agreement is a complement to the Model Grant Agreement, which is a model agreement between the European Commission or its executive agencies and grant beneficiaries in EU programmes. It contains explanations and examples of the different articles of the Model Agreement.

Publication: contractual relations in Horizon Europe projects

The Prague Technology Centre has published another brochure. The brochure Contractual relations in Horizon Europe projects deals in detail with the contractual relations that grant recipients will encounter before and during HE projects.

Summary of topics for 2024 in European missions

The Prague Technology Centre has prepared an overview of the European mission topics for 2024 with links to their specific full text on the FTO portal. In the table, one can also find the type of instrument, the budget and the expected number of projects that will be funded in the theme.

Expanding EU international cooperation with South Korea and Canada

The European Union and South Korea have concluded negotiations on an association with the HE programme. The agreement will allow South Korea to benefit from funding under the second pillar of the programme from 2025. The signing of the association agreement itself is expected to take place in the second half of 2024. Read the full article here.

V4 conference on research infrastructures needs a makeover

On 18 April 2024, the Czech Education Liaison Office co-hosted a conference in Brussels together with offices from Hungary (NRDIO), Poland (PolSCA) and Slovakia (SLORD). The conference programme also focused on problematic aspects in the area of unanchored funding. The full article can be found here.

Horizon Europe Q&A: General, General, Personnel costs, MSCA and ERC

The Czech Legal and Finance NCP has updated three Q&A documents from the European Commission on the financial and legal aspects of Horizon Europe. The updates include:

- A new chapter has been added to the General Q&A, which addresses the specifics of lump sum grants and programmes aimed at broadening participation and disseminating excellence.

- The Q&A on personnel costs includes, among other things, information on the entitlement to paid leave for FTEs/PPPs in the context of the change in the Labour Code.
- In the MSCA and ERC section, the update reflects the new REA interpretation on the possibility to employ researchers and seconded staff on FTEs exceeding 1.0.

UK announces new institute to support semiconductor research and innovation

The UK government has launched the UK Semiconductor Institute, a new independent institute designed to build on the government's £1 billion strategy to grow the semiconductor sector. "Building on the initial success of this strategy, the UK Semiconductor Institute will unify the semiconductor sector and focus our talented researchers on ensuring we are at the cutting edge of semiconductor science. This is a hugely significant milestone in our journey to become a science and technology power by 2030," said Minister for Technology Saqib Bhatti. More information can be found here.

Commission earmarks more than €1 billion for defence

The European Commission has announced that it will invest more than €1 billion in 54 ambitious defence industrial projects through the European Defence Fund (EDF). They aim to achieve technological excellence in various critical defence areas, including cyber defence, land, air and sea warfare, space asset protection and CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) defence. In addition, the European Defence Innovation Programme (EUDIS) has provided a number of opportunities for SMEs, start-ups and new entrants in the defence sector. More information can be found here.

Commission announces the winners of the Gender Equality Champions Award in Research and Innovation for 2023

The European Commission has announced the winners of the 2023 Gender Equality Champions Award, an annual award launched in 2022 to celebrate the achievements of European academic and research organisations through the implementation of gender equality agendas. For 2023, the winners are the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) from France, Universitat Rovira i Virgili from Spain and the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest from Ireland. Each institution will receive a prize of €100 000. More information can be found here.