

ETA: Funding programme for Applied Research, Experimental Development and Innovation in Social Sciences and Humanities

1. NAME OF PROGRAMME

ETA: Funding programme for Applied Research, Experimental Development and Innovation in Social Sciences and Humanities (hereinafter referred to as “programme”).

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRAMME

The programme shall be implemented with regard to:

- Act No. 130/2002, on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on the Amendment of Certain Related Acts (hereinafter referred to as “Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act”), as amended;
- the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 2012/C 326/01, (in particular article 107, and possibly also articles 93 and 106);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17th June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in accordance with Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty - Official Journal of the European Union L 187, 26th June 2014, hereinafter referred to as “Regulation”), in particular Articles 25, 28 and 29;
- Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation - Official Journal of the European Union C 198, 27th June 2014 (hereinafter referred to as “Framework”);
- and other related laws and regulations.

Beneficiaries represented by enterprises shall typically be granted funding under the Regulation, while those beneficiaries that are research organisations shall fall within the scope of the Framework.

Should the beneficiary not comply with one of the definitions of either an enterprise or a research organisation, but the potential funding would be in line with the objectives of the programme, it may then be granted outside the state aid scheme and thus beyond the scope of TFEU’s Article 107 in case none of its defining features would be fulfilled, especially where the funding would not be directed to the beneficiary’s economic activities (e.g. non-governmental non-profit organisations).

The programme is exempt from the notification requirement of Article 108(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union as it fulfils the conditions of the Regulation.

This programme excludes disbursement of individual funding to an undertaking:

- in favour of an undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market,
- meeting the definition of an undertaking in difficulty referred to in Article 2(18) of the Regulation.

For undertakings awarded state aid exceeding EUR 500 000 under the programme, the information on the beneficiary and the aid awarded (to the extent specified in Annex III of the Regulation) shall be published on a central website as provided in Article 9 of the Regulation.

The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the Industry 4.0 Initiative, acknowledged by resolution No. 729 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 24th August 2016, the National Policy on Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as NP VVI), approved by Resolution No 135 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 17th February 2016 , National Priorities of Oriented

Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, adopted by Government Resolution No. 552 of 19th July 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the NPOV) and other national and sectoral strategies.

3. PROVIDER

The Provider is the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "TA CR").

4. PROGRAMME IDENTIFICATION CODE

For the purposes of registration in the information system for research, experimental development and innovation, the programme was assigned a "TL" code.

5. DURATION AND DATES OF ANNOUNCEMENT

The programme is supposed to run from 2018 till 2023, i.e. for a period of 6 years.

The call for proposals in research, experimental development and innovations (hereinafter referred to as "call for proposals") for selecting projects eligible for the programme is first expected to be open in 2017 and the aid distributed as of 2018. Subsequent call for proposals shall be announced every year from 2018 till 2021, with the aid starting in 2019 through 2022. The focus of call for proposals shall be in line with outputs of research platforms relevant for social science and humanities. The duration of the programme can be extended depending on its interim evaluation but also based on outcomes delivered by the research platform for social science and humanities associated with Research, Development and Innovation Council (hereinafter referred to as "RVVI"). The minimum duration of projects under this programme is 12 months. The projects are expected to be accomplished within three years. Research, development and innovation projects may not last beyond the duration of the programme itself.

6. PROGRAMME FOCUS

The programme focuses on projects falling under the category of applied research according to Article 25(2)(b) and (c) of the Regulation and Article 1(3)(e) of the Framework (including industrial research, experimental development or a combination thereof), and innovations under Articles 28 and 29 of the Regulation and Article 1.3(y) and (bb) of the Framework, the results of which have a high potential for rapid application in many areas of social life in the Czech Republic.

The programme shall support the involvement of social science and humanities in applied research, experimental development and innovation projects that are beneficial to maintaining and improving the quality of human life in response to the dynamic social, economic, globalization-related, cultural or technological changes.

The programme shall support projects focusing on one or more of the following aspects:

- Use the benefits of multidisciplinary approaches,
- Combine technical and non-technical research,
- Exploit the potential of outputs from basic research for applications.

These are mainly applied research, experimental development and innovation projects aimed at mitigating threats and exploiting opportunities in the context of the current and the future challenges of the 21st century, also with regard to their evolutionary (historical) dimension. Such challenges mean the areas that affect the dynamic transformations of contemporary society, such as (1) the principles of the Fourth Industrial Revolution; (2) digitization, virtual reality and artificial intelligence; (3) media and social networks; (4) social services, social work, social housing and social inclusion; (5) family policy; (6) demographic change - aging and fragmentation of society; (7) social insurance schemes; (8) migration and integration; (9) equal opportunities for men and women and principles of non-discrimination; (10) health, psychosocial development and spirituality; (11) globalization and regionalisation; (12) architecture, urbanism and living space; (13) sustainability and the environment; (14) physical and virtual linking; (15) educational challenges; (16) employment; (17) health and safety at work; (18) sustainable growth and new competitive advantages; (19) innovative culture, a creative ecosystem; (20) design, design thinking and

innovation; (21) new strategic non-material resources; (22) digital and creative economics; (23) media and technology; (24) business creation, business culture and business ethics; (25) clustering and strategic networking; (26) citizen participation in government and community life; (27) protection of intellectual property rights, open innovation, big data; (28) strategic support for research, development and innovation; (29) responsible research, development and innovation and corporate social responsibility; (30) creation and evaluation of public policies and interventions; (31) citizen-oriented public services.

The programme is aimed at supporting the linking between research organisations and the receivers of outputs from applied research, experimental development and innovation. Those are, in particular: enterprises, central and other government bodies and institutions set up by them, self-governing regions and institutions set up by them, non-governmental non-profit organisations, organisations covering different segments of society and other entities operating in different social spheres.

The implementation of the projects supported by the programme will definitely contribute to meeting the objectives of NPOV, esp. Priority 4: Social and cultural challenges, except sub-areas 3.2. National, regional and local identity and traditions and 3.3. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as the research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as "R&D&I") objectives of these subareas are supported by the Programme for the Promotion of Applied Research and Experimental Development of National and Cultural Identity for the Years 2016-2022 (NAKI II) announced by the Ministry of Culture. The aim of the programme shall be fully complementary to the NAKI II programme and both shall cover the whole range of applied social science research responding to the social and cultural challenges of the Czech society.

Due to changes and developments in global trends influencing social reality and the rapidly changing conditions, the challenges for applied research in social science and humanities may change or develop over the duration of the programme. That is why the focus of call for proposals shall be announced in line with the outputs of relevant research platforms for social science and humanities. The programme shall continue to allow the definition of research topics by the research teams (the so-called bottom-up principle). The focus of research topics must not meet the objectives of NAKI II. The programme shall be available within the ERA NET Cofund scheme for projects in areas complying with the focus of the programme.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of current and future challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, the programme shall fulfil the dimension of social science and humanities as part of Priority 1, sub-area 4.1 Identification of new opportunities for a competitive advantage; Priority 3 Environment for quality life; Priority 5 Healthy population, sub-area 1.4 Neurological and psychiatric disorders; 3.4 Neurological and psychiatric disorders and 3.6. Addictions. In the case of demand from the central state administration bodies and other administrative authorities for applied research in social science under priority area 5 Safe society, such a research can be carried out within the framework of the programme by setting specific conditions of the call for proposals.

7. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme is to strengthen the social and humanitarian dimension in the activities of applied research, experimental development and innovation and to apply the outputs of these activities in the form of new or substantially improved existing products, procedures, processes or services in the areas of:

- a) **Man and society** in the context of dynamic social and technological transformations and challenges of the 21st century;
- b) **Man and the environment for his / her life** in the context of sustainable development of the landscape, regions, towns and municipalities and the building culture;
- c) **Man and the economy** in the context of discovering new competitive advantages and competence development for the 21st century;

- d) **Man and the social system** in the context of interaction between the citizen and the state interaction, public policies, governance and citizen-oriented public services.

Achieving the goal of the programme is limited by its duration and its evaluation shall be conducted according to the principles outlined in section 9 of these Criteria for meeting the programme objective.

8. JUSTIFICATION OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

a. Man and society

Social trends and lifestyle are changing. The psychosocial development of people is gaining importance, as well as the development of the so-called “soft” skills. The ethical foundations of social coexistence based on tolerance, mutual respect, responsibility and non-discrimination with respect to race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, belief, or opinion come to light as values present across all areas identified in this programme. Challenges and opportunities brought by the 21st century have an impact on the physical and mental health of humans.

Dynamic social changes are driven, among other things, by the development of digitization, the Internet of things, the internet of services, virtual reality, robotics, cybernetics, artificial intelligence and other new technologies. In addition to their economic implications, they also have an impact on the people’s working, social and cultural life.

It is necessary to reflect this and adapt the society to the challenges associated with its atomization and the aging of the population in the Czech Republic. Migration and integration processes are linked to new demands associated with both “domestic” social mobility and migration issues associated with related to adaptation and a creative philosophical and historical reflection. A targeted migration policy will also need to be pursued to ensure enough qualified people to use the new economic opportunities based on, for example, the principles of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, all that along with the reform of the education system.

This is related to the development of communication competences and foreign languages, as well as intelligent communication in the human-to-machine interaction and machine-to-machine industrial communication. Changes in human life, the formation of society and the perception of the world are also largely shaped by the media, including social networks and mobile platforms. A space is thus emerging for new forms of personal expression, business and communication among individuals or entities.

b. Man and the environment for his / her life

A quality, meaningfully and responsibly structured and interconnected environment is a prerequisite for the development of quality of life and a basis for the educational and economic activities of the 21st century society. Innovative and technological processes with many implications for culture, civilization, society and economy as well as the environment are going on in the living space. Human activity has a significant impact on the functioning of landscape and ecosystems both on global and local scale. Involving social science and humanities in research, development and innovation projects can help reconcile economic, environmental and social interests and cultural values of the society and contribute to its overall resilience (resistance to negative factors).

Improving production efficiency in using energy and raw materials, boosting productivity in production, optimizing logistic routes, finding technology solutions for systems of decentralized energy production and distribution, or intelligent urban infrastructure, such as the Smart cities concept - those can be the main benefits of the related research for better resource efficiency, especially in the context of supporting the principles of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The development of a safe and environmentally friendly transport is gaining importance. Physical accessibility, barrier-free access, virtual interconnections in regions and municipalities of the Czech Republic - often in a cross-border or inter-regional context - can have a positive impact not only on increasing competitiveness but also on the quality of life in society. This can help to balance

regional disparities between the growing, prosperous areas with a high and varied supply on the labour markets, and the declining, structurally affected peripheral regions. A sustained development of regions, based on a higher added value, primarily requires a partnership between the public, business and academic sectors, including the environmental sphere and the society (in the professional terminology, it is referred to as the quintuple helix).

An important role in the quality of life of man and society is played by landscape protection and planning, adaptation to climate change, spatial planning, urban planning, architecture, public space and the building and housing culture, often using modern information, communication and other technologies. A sustainable environment for life requires finding communal cohesion and natural ties with the surrounding landscape.

c. Man and the economy

The involvement of social science and humanities in research, development and innovation projects is crucial to finding new competitive advantages for the national economy and their sustainable and responsible use. The constant dynamic changes in the global economy are reflected in the demand for a flexible response from both public and private subjects to the changing conditions, to ensure a sustainable competitive advantage of the Czech Republic.

Using their knowledge, skills, experience, creativity, talent and intellectual property, people can create new competitive advantages for local and national economies. At an increase rate, innovative potential combined with art, new technologies and design is now entering the economic environment. A strategic use of user-oriented design thinking can bring innovations in products, business models, organisations and other forms of non-technological innovation.

In the context of digitization, the use of new technologies, virtual reality, the Internet and the media, the creative disciplines inspire new supply and demand, new business models, thus creating added value for the national economy. In order to meet the qualification requirements arising from the new challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, especially from the needs related to the principles of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it will be essential to improve the entire system of education at all levels, including the training of teachers. This requires the development of appropriate competences in the field of technical and creative education, soft skills and the related didactic methods, including ensuring equal access to education.

Those and other challenges go hand in hand with generating big data. Those are mainly image data, but also text data from the Internet, business, telecommunication, medical and security data, various sources of signals and measurements, as well as combined multimodal data, typical of, for example, autonomous cars, the entertainment industry and the media, the financial sector, transport or the sale of products. That puts new demands not only on the quality and capacity of the electronic communication infrastructure, but also on the competence of how to identify big data, store, evaluate and use it safely, including the principles of privacy protection.

Sustainable social and economic development and successful business are also related to using the potential of diversity of work teams or communities, as well as the development of ethical principles and corporate social responsibility. At the forefront are therefore the principles of accountability, equality and empowerment of the role of women and disadvantaged groups in economic, social and political life.

d. Man and the social system

The involvement of social sciences and humanities in research, development and innovation projects contributes to the legitimate development of the interaction between the citizen, the state, the society and the international environment through European integration and globalization and to the responsible development of public policies and services oriented towards the citizen. It is also necessary to respond to the challenges involved in the participation of citizens in state or local government, not only actively or passively on the political level, but also by volunteering or becoming part of a community, which helps to create the coherence of the whole social system.

Public administration requires the conditions and mechanisms for creating new or upgrading the existing effective policies. More and more importance is being attached to user-friendly public services focused on the citizen. The introduction of experimental and behavioural methods into the design and evaluation of policies and public services, the use of anthropological, ethnographic or design-based methods can be helpful in solving complex and structural problems. An important part is the empirical assessment and perception of public policies (e.g. in the field of economy and competitiveness, integration, social and pension system, prediction of economic development, public health, education, etc.) and other supporting instruments, both at national and local level and at all stages of the life cycle.

The new economic opportunities brought about above all by the fourth industrial revolution, the digital and creative economy or the principles of open innovation and data, etc., require the development of a legislation that will be applicable in the digital practice while reflecting the future social, cultural and economic changes. Synergies between various public and private funding mechanisms and between different local and regional portfolios, such as the entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP), are also needed.

Essential for the development of these new opportunities is interconnecting the research in social science and technology. The results of research and development in the society, or rather the innovations, the new technologies, and the changes associated with them, come up faster than the society is able to absorb. The system of support for research, development and innovation should therefore equally contain - in addition to supporting the innovation process as a whole - the principles of responsible research and innovation, including its gender dimension. Interdisciplinarity and diversity are important aspects of properly targeted support for research, development and innovation, including an optimization of the support tools and an evaluation of the related policies.

9. CRITERIA FOR MEETING PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The achievement of the objectives of the programme shall be evaluated in accordance with the Methodology for evaluating the results of the research organisations and the results of the completed programmes valid at the time of evaluation of the programme, and other conditions set by the provider within the framework of the interim and final evaluations of the programme. The achievement of the objectives of the programme shall be evaluated on the basis of a set of input, output, result and impact indicators designed to monitor the progress of programme implementation (interim evaluation) and to evaluate its overall performance and success (ex post evaluation), based on the following indicators:

Table 9.1: Indicators

Number	Programme indicators	Value
1.	Maximum allowable rate of aid for the programme	80 %
2.	Minimum number of projects supported	525
3.	Minimum rate of successfully completed projects	85 %
4.	Minimum number of results	1050
5.	Minimum number of RIV results applied	525
6.	Minimum number of results applied	85 %
7.	Minimum number of publication RIV results	525
8.	Minimum number of supported interdisciplinary projects	150

10. EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS

Only projects that can reasonably be expected to accomplish usable results and whose application will contribute to meeting the objectives of the programme and benefits for the society can be supported under this programme. The programme shall make it possible to achieve outputs in compliance with the results of the Methodology and the RIV (Register of information on Results) valid at the time of their application. According to the current Methodology, the programme shall support the following outputs in the form of RIV results: P - patent, F - industrial and utility model, G - technically realized results - prototype, functional sample, H - results reflected in legislation and standards; and results reflected in non-legislative directives and provisions binding within the competence of the respective body, N - certified methodologies, procedures and specialized maps with professional content, R - software, V_{souhrn} , - comprehensive research report, feasibility study (recognized as a V_{souhrn}). The programme shall make it possible to achieve further RIV results related to the publication and dissemination activities of the project: A - audiovisual works, M - organisation of a conference, W - organisation of a workshop, E - organisation of an exhibition and J - reviewed professional article, B - expert publication, C - chapter in an expert publication, D - article in an anthology.

However, due to the specific focus of the programme, there is a whole range of other knowledge and skills in accordance with section 2(2)(k) of the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, which are expected to be the results of applied research, experimental development and innovation. For this reason, the programme shall be evaluated not only on the basis of outputs according to the current Methodology for evaluating the results of the research organisations and the results of the completed programmes, but also on the knowledge, skills and impacts acquired, as part of the programme evaluation.

In this sense, the following can, among other things, equally be seen as project outputs related to this programme: dictionaries, textbooks, critical editions, teaching methods and tools, psychodiagnostic methods, mapping and planning studies, evaluation and impact studies, data structures and files, hardware prototypes, game simulations and simulators, ICT applications, relevant outputs listed in the Register of artistic outputs, perceptible product features, business creation (start-ups, spin-offs) and more.

The results of the programme (or outputs) are intended for use by both physical and legal persons in all areas of society. These include, in particular, policy-makers, government interventions and legislation, regional, city and municipal government employees, entrepreneurs, employers in medical facilities, educational or cultural institutions, researchers or research dissemination organisations, non-profit organisations focused on a specific segment of the society and so on.

The benefit of the programme is to support outputs with high potential for practical application in the form of new or substantially improved existing products, procedures, processes or services in the following areas:

- Improving the quality of human life;
- Supporting a sustainable environment for life;
- Improving the competitiveness of the Czech republic; and
- Increasing the efficiency and quality of public policies, public administration and public services.

Within the evaluation, control and support mechanisms of the provider and for all types of outputs of supported projects, emphasis shall be placed on the relevance, application and maximization of economic, social, cultural or other benefits of publicly funded research projects¹.

¹ The relevance and usefulness of certain types of research outputs from this programme can be supported by the so-called application sponsor. It is a subject or a sample of the target group from the application sphere of social science and humanities whose primary task is to ensure or support the use of research outputs. The application sponsor can act as a partner for example in formulating research content, choosing research methods, planning and conducting the research, testing, marketing the research outputs and so on. Other participants of the project are not excluded from becoming the application sponsor.

11. CANDIDATES AND PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

Eligible candidates for aid for projects pursuant to the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, the Framework and the Regulation:

- **Research and knowledge dissemination organisations** - any entity that meets the definition pursuant to Article 2(83) of the Regulation and the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act (hereinafter referred to as “research organisations”).
- **Companies** - any entity meeting the conditions of Articles 2 (2) and 24 of the Regulation. Companies carrying out the project alone or in collaboration with other participants must demonstrate the ability to co-finance the project from non-public sources.
- **Other natural and legal persons of public and private law**, irrespective of their legal form or method of financing, which shall carry out activities for which the funding is provided outside the State aid scheme, i.e. they shall not be enterprises.

Only those applicants who meet the eligibility conditions set out in Section 18 of the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act and the Regulation can obtain funding for a project implemented under the programme. If more than one applicant are involved in one project, eligibility must be proven for all of them. Eligibility shall be substantiated by the applicant in accordance with the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, as determined by the Provider in the call for proposals specification.

12. EXPENDITURE ON THE PROGRAMME

The total expenditure on the programme is defined for the duration of the programme based on an analysis of the absorption capacity and an evaluation of the current call for proposals relevant for social science and humanities; it is scheduled in accordance with the planned announcements of individual call for proposals. An average funding intensity of 80 % is expected for the programme.

The total expenditure on the programme is set at CZK 3,000 million.

The national budget shall cover CZK 2,400 million of the above.

Table 12.1: Programme Budget [mil. CZK]

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Total expenditure	337,5	446,9	590,5	593,8	593,8	437,5	3 000,0
Public funds	270,0	357,5	472,5	475,0	475,0	350,0	2 400,0
Non-public resources	67,5	89,4	118,0	118,8	118,8	87,5	600,0

Funding shall be provided in the form of subsidies to legal or natural persons or by increased expenditure of organisational units of the state, organisational units of territorial self-governing units or organisational units of individual ministries.

13. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FUNDING INTENSITY

The funding intensity, determined as a percentage of the project’s eligible costs, shall be calculated for each project, for each beneficiary and for each other participant separately; funding provided to undertakings under the Regulation shall not exceed the maximum allowable funding intensity specified therein.

In compliance with the Regulation, it is possible to provide bonuses on top of the basic funding rate for eligible participants meeting the conditions of effective collaboration. Effective collaboration under the Regulation and the Framework means collaboration between at least two independent

parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to achieve a common objective based on the division of labour where the parties jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share its risks, as well as its results. One or several parties may bear the full costs of the project. Contract research and provision of research services are not considered forms of collaboration.

The maximum allowable funding intensity rates for industrial research, experimental development and innovation and individual categories of participants are listed in the following table:

Table 13.1: Maximum allowable funding intensity rates for individual categories of activities and individual categories of participants under the Regulation

Categories of activities	Beneficiaries			
	Small enterprise*	Medium-sized enterprise*	Large enterprise*	Research organisations**
Industrial research	70 %	60 %	50 %	100 % ¹⁾
Industrial research In case of effective cooperation	80 %	75 %	65 %	100 % ¹⁾
Experimental development	45 %	35 %	25 %	100 % ¹⁾
Experimental development In case of effective cooperation	60 %	50 %	40 %	100 % ¹⁾
Innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises	50 %	50 %	-	-
Process innovation and organisational innovation	50 %	50 %	15 %	100 % ¹⁾

Note: *Small and medium-sized enterprises are defined in Article 2(2) of the Regulation and its Annex I; large enterprises are defined in Article 2(24) of the Regulation.

** Research organisations are defined in Article 2(83) of the Regulation. The indicated funding intensity refers to research organisations' non-economic activities.

¹⁾ While respecting the average funding intensity of 80 % per programme.

Source: Regulation

14. ELIGIBLE AND RECOGNIZED COSTS

The funding shall be granted against the eligible costs of the project, i.e. the eligible costs which the provider approves and which are justified. The applicant may suggest as eligible costs only costs defined in accordance with the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, and, in case of aid under the regime of public aid depending on the aid category, i.e. in accordance with the Regulation.

- Pursuant to Regulation Article 25(3), the eligible costs of research and development projects shall be allocated to a specific category of research and development and are represented by costs under paragraphs a), b), d) and e);

- Under Regulation Article 28, in the case of innovation aid for small and medium-sized enterprises subject to the conditions in Article 28(3) and (4), costs under paragraphs a), b) and c) are eligible;
- Under Regulation Article 29(3), in the case of aid for process and organisational innovation, subject to the conditions in Article 29(2) and (4), costs under paragraphs a), b), c) and d) are eligible;

Eligible costs of projects cannot include costs or expenses for the acquisition of tangible and intangible long-term assets. Eligible costs must be reasonable (they must correspond to regular prices of the date and location) and must be incurred in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. A more detailed specification of the eligible costs shall be part of the call for proposals specification for the relevant call for proposals.

15. INCENTIVE EFFECT

As a provider and in order to meet the objectives of the programme and the conditions of the Regulation, the provider shall assess the presence of the incentive effect of the aid under Article 6 of the Regulation as part of the initial evaluation of projects.

16. METHOD AND GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING PROJECT PROPOSALS

In accordance with the rules laid down by the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, the Provider shall appoint a commission to receive the project proposals. Adherence to the formal conditions for the submission of a project proposal specified in the call for proposals and the eligibility of the main applicant and other participants shall be evaluated by this commission. The acceptance or non-acceptance of a project proposal shall be decided by the provider, as stipulated in Section 21(3) of the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act, based on a protocol provided by the commission appointed to receive the project proposals or an expert advisory body.

In order to evaluate the project proposals admitted to the call for proposals, the provider shall establish a professional advisory body. Criteria for project selection:

- Compliance with the conditions of the call for proposals,
- Usefulness of the project,
- Project implementation
- Expected results and benefits of the programme.

More information on the conditions of individual call for proposals and other formalities is to be found in the call for proposals specification for each call for proposals.

To exclude possible overlaps of projects covering the priority area of “Social and cultural challenges” and “Healthy population” under this programme with the programmes of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Health, specific call for proposals shall be set up in cooperation between TA CR and the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Health and other providers of funding for R&D&I. Project proposals shall be comprehensively evaluated in accordance with the Support of Research and Experimental Development and Innovations Act.

In order to assess possible duplicities, links, complementarities and synergies with various other projects and project proposals already implemented, the provider shall use data management and analytical tools. Call for proposals shall be set up and implemented in such a way as to avoid overlaps with the ESIF; in this respect, cooperation shall be put in place with the relevant governing bodies during the preparation of the call for proposals.

17. COMPARISON OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND ABROAD

In 2012-2017, TA CR runs a program in the Czech Republic to support applied research and experimental development in social science entitled OMEGA; it focuses on strengthening research activities in applied social science. The programme provides support up to 80 % with a total allocation of CZK 309 million from the national budget expenditure. ETA is intended as a follow-up

to that programme. Complementing the OMEGA programme, NAKI (Applied research and development of national and cultural identity programme) has been implemented by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic in 2011-2017. NAKI has focused on supporting national and cultural identity and provides up to 100 % of support exclusively to research organisations with a total allocation of CZK 2,125 billion from the national budget expenditure. Following up is the Programme to support applied research and experimental development of national and cultural identity for the years 2016-2022 (NAKI II), which also provides up to 100 % of funding exclusively to research organisations with a total allocation of CZK 2,856 billion from the national budget expenditure.

TA CR finished the interim evaluation of the OMEGA programme in 2015. This assessment has brought the following findings: the thematic focus of the programme is broad and still up to date, but inadequate for addressing the current issues in the context of so-called opportunities and challenges of the 21st century; outputs from applied research involving social science and humanities may be of a different character that is not defined in the Methodology of evaluation and RIV; the programme contributes to increasing research collaboration most often between research organisations and public administration bodies, primarily ministries; the programme does little to contribute to involving businesses and the non-profit sector (dealing with health, religion, cultural organisations and institutions and non-institutional actors, environmental entities, social care facilities, etc.) in research activities.

These and other findings have been used to create the ETA programme, and so this programme differs primarily in the following areas: the focus of the ETA programme reflects the so-called challenges and opportunities of the 21st century; the ETA programme makes it possible to achieve research outputs typical of social science and humanities; the ETA programme increases the expected maximum project duration to three years; the programme explicitly states that it shall support the implementation of projects that are interdisciplinary or overarching; it shall combine technical and non-technical research; it shall allow the use of outputs from the basic research in applications.

For the purposes of international comparison, the United Kingdom, Finland, Germany and Austria have been selected as reference countries from among the old EU countries; Estonia represents the new EU countries; for non-EU countries, there are Norway, Canada and Australia. The main findings of the survey of international good practices are:

In all the states mentioned in this paper, there is a clear intention to support research in the field of social science and humanities that will have a positive impact on social reality. In general, it can be said that the thematic focus of the funding is interdisciplinary. The creation of programs, including the formulation of their focus, takes place in all countries in a broader consultation of the public administration and the scientific community and other stakeholders. Research suggests that what separates applied research in social science and humanities from the basic one is primarily the assignment, i.e. the co-definition of research goals by the future users of the outputs (application sphere).

Compared to applied research in natural and technical sciences, the results of applied research in social science are somewhat different. The results can be very specific (method, technology, material, product - e.g. archive digitization, data infrastructure, didactic aid, PC game / simulator, public service, etc.) or it may take the form of electronic, creative content, art in its live form (see, for instance, the AHRC in the UK). Even such projects are funded under targeted research support.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has an advisory role in research (for the government), it administers the grant programmes and is responsible for the "Excellence in Research for Australia" initiative (ERA). ARC has three major programs: Discovery, Linkage, and ERA. ERA is an initiative that deals with evaluations of Australian research. In the context of societal challenges, Germany also considers it important to address the challenges and opportunities associated with aging or societal changes related to the arrival of the so-called Industry 4.0. The United Kingdom supports, through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Nesta (National Endowment for

Science, Technology and Arts) or the Arts Council, research, development and innovation in areas such as economic growth, investment, public services and creative industries; the main topics include: the citizens' participation in public services; digital art and the media; the thinking of the future; innovation in governance; health and aging; investments in impacts; innovation policy; new models of inclusive economic growth; opportunities for young people. There are programmes or funds such as the following: Digital R&D Fund for the Arts, Arts Impact Fund, Nesta Impact Investments, Centre for Social Action Innovation Fund, etc.

All countries (especially the UK, Germany and Australia) have extensive infrastructure to use artistic talent, creativity and technological innovation:

- At Fraunhofer institutes, there are several interdisciplinary subgroups (such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Intelligent Analysis and Information Systems or Fraunhofer eGovernment Center, groups and institutes combining social and natural sciences). Fraunhofer also supports projects combining humanities and technical disciplines such as the Research Alliance Cultural Heritage project (using modern materials for a better preservation of the great works of art).
- There is another, similarly broad research spectrum of 89 institutes and museums of the Leibniz Association, focusing on social sciences, humanities, economics and natural sciences. Their priority is basic research focused on practical application, including eight museums with the status of a research organisation.
- The Finnish Infrastructure Research Committee (as part of the Academy of Finland) drafts proposals for financing the research infrastructure as a basis for the Finnish government. This commission also works on the roadmap for research infrastructures (a long-term plan of what new infrastructure to create and which of the existing ones qualify for further promotion in the upcoming 10-15 years).
- The National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) is a public project that creates a research infrastructure by investing in ICT. This project finances stable servers and supports virtual laboratories and tools for virtual analysis and research. The project also includes the Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) virtual laboratory, in which all important data for research in humanities from the Australian territory (28 different databases) are accessible. It is also a system that allows several teams to work together in a virtual environment and also allows research to be shared (when searching for data and records it can be seen for which research that data has already been used).
- The Research Council of Norway supports research through grants to universities, but those grants are specific and always relate to one particular project. The grants are distributed through the "Strategic Projects - University Colleges" programme and do not have a specific thematic definition; however, they must be in the area in which the university publishes excellent work (the intention is to build university specialization and use these specializations in research).
- The Austrian Academy of Sciences (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, ÖAW) supports the creation of digital infrastructures in the humanities and social sciences. The programme entitled go! digital aims to provide support to five projects between 2014 and 2016 to digitize the existing and create new digital databases. The second project called "Digital Humanities: Langzeitprojekte zum kulturellen Erbe" is a project that supports the use of digitization in the humanities and social sciences to make Austria more attractive to both businesses and talented researchers. This project also seeks to combine the humanities and the social sciences with the scientific procedures of technological and scientific databases (promoting exchange of good practice).