

## **KAPPA funding programme for applied research, experimental development and innovation**

### 1. NAME OF PROGRAMME

KAPPA funding programme for applied research, experimental development and innovation (hereinafter the “Programme”).

### 2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROGRAMME

The Programme shall be implemented with regard to:

- Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts, as amended (hereinafter the “Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Act”);
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 2012/C 326/01, (in particular, Article 107, possibly Articles 93 and 106);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty – Official Journal of the European Union L 187 of 26 June 2014 (hereinafter the “Regulation”), in particular, Articles 25, 28 and 29, as amended by Commission Regulation No. 2017/1084 of 14 July 2017;
- Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation – Official Journal of the European Union C 198, 27 June 2014 (hereinafter the “Framework”);
- Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the European Economic Area financial mechanism 2014-2021 between Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein (hereinafter “Liechtenstein”), the Kingdom of Norway and the Czech Republic;
- Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian financial mechanism 2014-2021 between the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter “Norway”) and the Czech Republic;
- the relevant legislation and regulations relating to the financial mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway;
- and other related laws and regulations (e.g. “MF–NCP Instructions”).

Beneficiaries in the form of enterprises shall typically be granted aid under the Regulation, while those beneficiaries in the form of 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 aid would be in line with the objectives of the Programme, it may then be granted outside the public 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 aid would not be directed to the beneficiary’s economic activities. The provider may consult individual cases with the Office for the Protection of Competition.

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 aid to an enterprise:

- against which, following the decision of the European Commission under which the aid received from a provider from the Czech Republic was declared as illegal and incompatible

with the internal market, a recovery order has been issued which is unpaid,

- meeting the definition of an “enterprise in difficulties” referred to in Article 2(18) of the Regulation.

For enterprises awarded public 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 will be implemented in accordance with the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic for the period of 2016 to 2020 approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 135 of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (the Programme mainly aims at the fulfilment of specific objectives to Increase Internationalisation of Czech Research Environment and to Strengthen Research and Innovation Activities of Enterprises), the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation adopted by the Resolution of the Czech Government No. 552 dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (hereinafter the “RDI Priorities”), updated National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the “RIS 3”) approved by the Resolution of the Czech Government No. 634 dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (the Programme mainly aims at the fulfilment of objectives to Increase Research Quality and to Increase Economic Benefits of Public Research), Industry 4.0 principles acknowledged by the Government Resolution No. 729 dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and other national and sectoral strategies.

### 3. PROVIDER

The provider of the aid is the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the “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 “TO” code.

### 5. PROGRAMME PERIOD AND ANNOUNCEMENT DATES

The Programme is expected to run from 2019 to 2024, i.e. for 6 years.

The announcement of the call for proposals in research, experimental development and innovation (hereinafter the “Call for proposals”) for selecting projects eligible for the Programme is expected first in Q4 2018/Q1 2019 and the aid will commence being provided from 2019. There are one or two calls for proposals that are expected to be launched throughout the duration of the Programme.

The call for proposals specifications shall be precisely defined in the tender dossier. The call for proposals shall be announced in accordance with the Programme setting as well as the binding documentation of the donating countries.

The minimum duration of projects under this Programme is 24 months. The maximum project implementation period is 5 years.

All projects must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the latest.

### 6. PROGRAMME FOCUS

The Programme focuses on projects falling under the category of applied research according to Article 25(2b and c) of the Regulation and Article 1(3e) 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 implementation of the projects supported under the Programme will definitely contribute to fulfilling the RDI priorities.

The Programme is generally aimed at supporting international cooperation between Czech entities and partners from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in applied research, as well as at supporting the interconnection of research organisations with the consumers of the outputs of applied research, experimental development and innovation, i.e. with the industrial sphere (mainly with enterprises and other entities at the national and international level) operating in various social fields.

The Programme does not have a primary focus topic (with the exception of Norway's requirement that approx. 30% of the total expenditure drawn from the Norwegian funds<sup>1</sup> shall be designated for projects in the area of carbon capture and storage).

The Programme will help in implementing the public funds invested in applied research in order to yield economic or other social benefits. The implementation of the Programme mainly assumes the application of industrial research projects (also involving the necessary activities in oriented basic research) as well as the support of projects with a predominance of experimental development.

The Programme shall be available for synergetic and complementary effects as part of international schemes such as the H2020<sup>2</sup>, and other EU and international programmes complying with the focus of the Programme.

## 7. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The Programme aims at strengthening the development of knowledge based on research by means of international cooperation in the area of applied research.

A further objective is to increase the number of specific results in those areas of applied research where there is conformity with a foreign partner; such results will be implemented in practice, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the enterprises and research organisations involved through the bilateral, or multilateral, cooperation of Czech and foreign participants.

The Programme's secondary objective is support for projects focused on carbon capture and storage (hereinafter the "CCS").

The objective will be achieved through the support of joint projects implemented by applicants from the Czech Republic, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The designated projects will aim at specific outputs in applied research, i.e. they will lead to the acquisition of new findings and skills for the development of new or substantially improved products, processes or services and to the creation of new products, processes or services.

## 8. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

In the area of applied research, experimental development and innovation, the Czech Republic generally lags behind the world's elite represented by the USA, Japan and South Korea as well as behind the European elite. Nevertheless, the Czech Republic offers several facilities within research organisations and enterprises implementing applied research in progressive disciplines (identified in national strategy documentation, e.g. RDI Priorities, RIS 3).

The Programme objective is to offer these enterprises and research organisations as well as other ones the change to work on joint projects with foreign teams, thereby improving their quality.

As a result, the Programme will support the competitiveness of the Czech Republic and significantly contribute to the Czech applied research navigating itself towards progressive disciplines as well as

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<sup>1</sup>For the purposes of the Programme, the term Norwegian funds means the allocation of funds defined in the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian financial mechanism 2014-2021 between the Kingdom of Norway and the Czech Republic, specifically for the Programme Research. For the projects in the area of carbon capture and storage approx. CZK 135,530,000 shall be designated.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, this should be available within the Ninth Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which will replace Horizon 2020 starting from 2021.

to the involvement of the Czech teams in international research projects, consortia and associations. It will, therefore, help to integrate the Czech research organisations and innovative enterprises among the elite of these fields. The Programme will also fulfil the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy concerning the support of the involvement of the Czech research teams in international research.

## 9. CRITERIA FOR COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The achievement of the objectives of the Programme shall be evaluated in accordance with the methodology for evaluating the research organisations and the special-purpose aid 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 Programme objectives shall be evaluated on the basis of a set of input, output, result and impact indicators designed to monitor the progress of the 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.     | Average aid intensity for the Programme  | 80%   |
| 2.     | Minimum number of projects supported   | 40    |
| 3.     | Minimum rate of successfully completed projects  | 85%   |
| 4.     | Minimum number of outputs achieved   | 80    |
| 5.     | Minimum number of results applied under the Information Register of R&D results (RIV)            | 60    |
| 6.     | Number of international connections created between the project participants under the Programme | 120   |
| 7.     | Minimum number of entities involved in total   | 80    |
| 8.     | Level of trust between cooperating entities  | tbc*  |
| 9.     | Number of joint applications for further funding   | 5     |
| 10.    | Number of outputs implemented in CCS projects  | 5     |
| 11.    | Number of jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection                   | 5     |

\*the level of trust will be determined at the beginning and end of each project and will be on a scale of 1-7. The objective is to achieve at least medium-high level of trust at the end of the project implementation and increase the level of trust in comparison to the one at the beginning of the project (i.e. each entity should express at least 4.5 or higher level of trust at the end of the project).

## 10. EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS

Projects that can reasonably be expected to accomplish usable outputs, the application of which will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Programme and benefits for the society (social and economic benefits) shall be supported under this Programme. The Programme will facilitate the achievement of outputs in the form of results under the Methodology for evaluating the research organisations and the special-purpose aid 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. Each successfully completed project must have at least one major

result reported in the Register of Information on Results (RIV). According to the current Methodology, the Programme shall support the following outputs according to RIV:

P – patent;

Z – pilot plant, proven technology;

F – industrial and utility model;

G – technically implemented results – prototype, functional sample;

H – results reflected in legislation and standards and results reflected in directives and non-legislative regulations binding within the competence of the respective body;

R – software;

N – certified methodologies, procedures and specialised maps with professional content;

O – miscellaneous.

However, there is a whole range of other knowledge and skills in accordance with section 2(2i) of the Support of Research, 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 research organisations and the special-purpose aid programmes, but also on the basis of knowledge, skills and impacts acquired, as part of the Programme evaluation.

The outputs in the form of results according to the Methodology and the Information Register of R&D results (RIV) type “O” must fulfil the condition of applicability in practice and such application shall then be tracked as part of monitoring the implementation plans. The evaluation of the planned outputs, or results, is a part of evaluating the project proposals.

Among the expected benefits of the Programme are mainly the improvement of the quality and number of research and development results that shall be implemented in practice in the form of innovative products, procedures, processes or services. The Programme should also help to increase the ability of the enterprises to apply the project outcomes which will result in a secondary improvement of indicators of the supported entities (e.g. growth, turnover, export etc.).

For collaborating research organisations, the benefits of the Programme will manifest, for example, in an increased number of the results applied, in the number of patents commercialised and other results, and in a growing commercial potential. A secondary effect can be seen in strengthening the effective transfer of know-how and technologies into practice.

The Programme will improve the access of the supported teams (both from the Czech Republic or from the cooperating countries) to international knowledge, know-how and foreign research capacities and facilitate penetration into foreign markets. The synergic effect of the Programme shall also be the transfer of “best practice” and time-proven practices between the cooperating countries.

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 maximisation of economic, social, cultural or other benefits.

## 11. APPLICANTS AND PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants, or beneficiaries, of aid for projects pursuant to the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Act, the Framework and the Regulation are:

- **Enterprises** – legal and natural persons who are engaged in economic activity, regardless of their legal form (Annex 1 of the Regulation) and carry out the project alone or in collaboration with other participants and demonstrate the ability to co-finance the project from non-public sources.

- **Research and knowledge-dissemination organisations** –legal entities that meet the definition of a research organisation pursuant to Article 2(83) of the Regulation and the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Act and which manage the project alone or in collaboration with other participants.
- **Other individuals and legal entities of public and private law**, regardless of their legal form or method of financing, which shall carry out activities which are non-economic, i.e. there are no offers of products/services on the market (these are not enterprises).

Only those applicants who meet the eligibility conditions set out in Section 18 of the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovations Act and the Regulation may obtain aid for a project implemented under the Programme. If more than one applicant is 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, Experimental Development and Innovation Act, as determined by the provider in the tender dossier.

The tender dossier for the call for proposals may narrow down the range of applicants compared to the Programme. The project shall always host a minimum of one applicant from the Czech Republic and one from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein while the main participant shall be from the Czech Republic. The preferred cooperation model is the participation of an enterprise in cooperation with a research organisation.

## 12. EXPENDITURE OF PROGRAMME

The total targeted and institutional expenditure<sup>3</sup> for the Programme for the period of the Programme implementation are set based on the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the European Economic Area financial mechanism 2014-2021 between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the Czech Republic and the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian financial mechanism 2014-2021 between Norway and the Czech Republic.

The total expenditure on the programme is set at CZK 1,058,823,510. The expenditure from the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms amount to CZK 720,000,000 (EUR 30 million) and expenditure from the state budget (the TA CR Section) amount to CZK 127,058,808 and the non-public sources amount to CZK 211,764, 702.

The total targeted expenditure of the Programme amounts to CZK 780,564,696. The special-purpose expenditure from the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms amount to CZK 663,480,000 and the special-purpose expenditure from the state budget (the TA CR Budget chapter) amount to 117,084,696 CZK out of the total expenditure.

The total institutional expenditure of the Programme (the management costs) not included in the budget of the KAPPA programme amounts to CZK 66,494,112. The institutional expenditure from the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms are CZK 56,520,000 and the institutional expenditure of the state budget (the TA CR Budget chapter) amount to CZK 9,974,112 for the entire implementation of the Programme, including its preparation and subsequent evaluation.

**Table 12.1: Programme Budget**

| Year                              | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        | 2024       | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Total targeted expenditure</b> | 105,000,000 | 159,000,000 | 159,000,000 | 159,000,000 | 159,000,000 | 39,564,696 | 780,564,696 |

<sup>3</sup>All financial data, including the co-financing obligations, are stated in the Memoranda of Understanding in EUR. When creating the Programme, the calculations took place with a fixed exchange rate for the allocation of the funds (EEA/Norway 2014-2021) defined by the Ministry of Finance at EUR 1 = CZK 24.

|   |            |             |             |             |             |            |             |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms</b> | 89,250,000 | 135,150,000 | 135,150,000 | 135,150,000 | 135,150,000 | 33,630,000 | 663,480,000 |
| <b>State budget expenditure</b>               | 15,750,000 | 23,850,000  | 23,850,000  | 23,850,000  | 23,850,000  | 5,934,696  | 117,084,696 |
| <b>Non-public resources</b>                   | 28,291,765 | 43,284,705  | 43,284,705  | 43,284,705  | 43,284,705  | 10,334,117 | 211,764,702 |

Aid 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.

The total expenditure on individual projects and enterprises is calculated according to Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, the so-called General Block Exemption Regulation.

### 13. AID INTENSITY

The average aid intensity for the Programme is expected at 80%. The aid intensity, determined as a percentage of the project's recognised costs, shall be calculated for each project, for each beneficiary and for each other participant separately; aid provided to enterprises under the Regulation shall not exceed the maximum allowable aid intensity specified therein.

The maximum allowable aid 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 aid intensity for individual categories of activities and individual categories of participants under the Regulation**

| <b>Categories of activities</b>                             | <b>Beneficiaries</b> |                          |                   |                          |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Small enterprise*    | Medium-sized enterprise* | Large enterprise* | Research organisations** |
| Industrial research   | 70%                  | 60%                      | 50%               | 100%                     |
| Industrial research in case of effective collaboration      | 80%                  | 75%                      | 65%               | 100%                     |
| Experimental development                                    | 45%                  | 35%                      | 25%               | 100%                     |
| Experimental development in case of effective collaboration | 60%                  | 50%                      | 40%               | 100%                     |
| Innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises           | 50%                  | 50%                      | -                 | -                        |
| Process and organisational innovation                       | 50%                  | 50%                      | 15%***            | 100%                     |

**Note:** \*Small and medium-sized enterprises are defined in Article 2(2) of the Regulation and its Annex 1; large enterprises are defined in Article 2(24) of the Regulation.

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

\*\*\* Aid to large enterprises for process and organisational innovation is provided only under the conditions stipulated in Article 29(2) of the Regulation.

**Source: Regulation**

#### 14. ELIGIBLE AND RECOGNISED COSTS

The aid shall be granted against the recognised costs of the project, i.e. the eligible costs which the provider approves, which are justified and remain within the amounts necessary for the purposes of the project. The applicant may propose as eligible costs only those costs defined in accordance with the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Act, and, in case of aid under the regime of public aid depending on the aid category, i.e. in accordance with Art. 25, 28 and 29 of the Regulation.

A more detailed specification of the eligible costs shall be part of the tender dossier for the relevant call for proposals.

The management costs are eligible in accordance with the concluded Delegation Agreement between the Czech Ministry of Finance and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic as of 4 September 2017; however, the first actually reported costs for the preparation of the programme fall under 2018.

#### 15. INCENTIVE EFFECT

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 project proposals.

In order to fulfil the incentive effect under Art. 6 of the Regulation, the work on the project/activity must not commence prior to the submission of the project proposal. The commencement of work under Art. 2(23) of the Regulation means either the commencement of construction work within the investment or the first legally enforceable obligation to order equipment or other obligation resulting in the investment becoming irreversible, whichever occurs earlier. The commencement of work does not mean the purchase of land and preparatory work, such as obtaining permits and processing feasibility studies. In the case of takeover upon which “the work has commenced”, such is considered a moment when the purchased property directly relates to the acquired facility.

#### 16. METHOD AND GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING PROJECT PROPOSALS

In accordance with the rules laid down by the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovations Act, the provider shall appoint the Committee for the Project Proposal receiving. 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 committee. The acceptance or non-acceptance of a project proposal in the call for proposals shall be decided by the provider, as stipulated in Section 21(3) of the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovations Act, based on a protocol provided by the Committee for the Project Proposal receiving, or the Expert Council Body.

In order to evaluate the project proposals admitted to the call for proposals, the provider shall establish the Expert Council Body. Criteria for selecting projects are:

- compliance with the conditions of the call for proposals,
- usefulness of the project,
- the feasibility of the project and its implementation procedure;
- expected results and benefits of the project.

More information on the conditions of individual calls for proposals and other formalities is to be found in the tender dossier for each tender.

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. Calls 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 calls for proposals.



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

One of the tools to strengthen the international cooperation in the area of applied research, development and innovation administered by the TA CR is the DELTA Programme which supports collaborative research of Czech enterprises and research organisation with their foreign partners. The supported projects up until now have been implemented in a partnership especially with countries outside of the European Economic Area – China, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam and also Germany. The DELTA Programme is followed by a newly prepared DELTA 2 Programme. In a number of both European and non-European countries, there are tools similar to those in DELTA and DELTA 2 Programmes (e.g. in France, Spain, Poland, as well as in South Korea, Israel, Japan and other countries).

The EEA and Norwegian funds represent a financial contribution from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein to reduce economic and social inequalities within the EEA. Another reason for these contributions is the strengthening of mutual relations with the EU and EEA member states in northern, central and southern Europe and the mentioned countries can thus benefit from the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital within the EU internal market.

In the period of the Programme of 2009-2014, a Czech-Norwegian research programme was implemented to increase the scientific and research cooperation between the Czech and Norwegian entities in selected areas (social sciences and humanities, environment, health). Within one call<sup>4</sup>, 23 projects were supported mainly dealing with the basic research in these areas. A total of 389 project proposals were submitted for this call indicating that the Czech entities are interested in participating in international research projects with entities from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. In terms of sustaining bilateral partnerships, it is possible to use the KAPPA Programme to finance the follow-up projects of already established consortia provided they comply with the Programme parameters and they succeed in the evaluation process.

At the same time, the Pilot study and survey of technologies on carbon capture and storage programme was implemented in which 4 projects in total were supported with a total amount of aid of ca. CZK 113.2 million. The programme objective was to discover whether it is technically and financially possible to implement carbon capture and storage, especially in the conditions of the Czech Republic. The need to reduce climate change and using modern technologies, such as CCS, is becoming increasingly intense. Although the topic of CCS appears in the Czech legislation and directives, there are no substantial funds for the support of this technology from elsewhere than the Norwegian funds. It is, therefore, highly relevant to the current development in the Czech Republic, that the support in the area of CCS will also continue as part of the KAPPA Programme.

The Czech Republic will receive the overall amount of EUR 184.5 million (ca. CZK 5 billion) in the following programme period from the EEA and Norwegian funds. The area of research and innovation is allocated EUR 30 million (ca. CZK 720 million) and as opposed to the last programme period, the aid from these grants is newly targeted only on applied research and innovation projects (incl. CCS technologies).

In negotiation with the programme partner, Research Council of Norway, we concluded that the current programme should be an open topic (the projects must comply with the national documents, valid strategies and legal regulations of the Czech Republic and the donating countries). The main reason is the support of the navigation of the Czech applied research, experimental development and innovation across the advanced fields and the involvement of Czech teams in international bilateral and multilateral research projects or associations.

The EEA and Norwegian funds contribute to the research and development also in other European countries. In particular, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic are one of the largest beneficiaries in terms of the volume of the contributions. In the previous period, the Polish-Norwegian research programme aimed at reducing economic and social differences and

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<sup>4</sup> Information from the Evaluation report of Czech-Norwegian Research Programme, July 2017.

at increasing bilateral cooperation through popularisation and support of research including the research support in the field of CCS. The focus of the programme was primarily basic research and the 109 supported projects resulted in 408 scientific publications. The main benefit of the programme was primarily the connection of highly competent researchers across the cooperating countries and the establishment of other bilateral projects submitted particularly within Horizon 2020 and other initiatives within the European Research Area. The Hungarian-Norwegian research programme was oriented to the support of the same areas as in the Czech Republic (i.e. social sciences, humanities, environment, health). Similarly, the Romanian-Norwegian research programme aimed at the support of international cooperation in the same area and also in the field of renewable energy. In general, the programme's focus was on the support of PhD and post-doctoral researchers who participated in almost all of the projects. In total, 204 researchers were supported in the form of scholarships.

Increasing the international cooperation between the donating and receiving countries is a priority of all research programmes obtaining aid from these funds. The impacts of the previous periods show, among other things, that the success rate of the project teams supported by the EEA/Norway grants when applying for EU funding is significantly higher<sup>5</sup> than before such support. Some of the most significant results of the programmes include a number of joint scientific publications (mainly in basic research), an increase of international research partnerships (with the donating countries) and a fact that most of the partners have expressed an interest in cooperating in other follow-up projects. The KAPPA Programme allows the continuation of the existing cooperation and thus fulfils the development of the results of basic research into a form applicable to the market. The project proposals must comply with the objective and conditions of this Programme and succeed in the evaluation process in the open call.

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<sup>5</sup>Rapid Assessment Research Programmes 2004-2009 and 2009-2014.