

4. Other Financial Support Programmes

The Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation (OPEIC)

is the successor of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation, which was implemented in the 2007–2013 programming period. Approximately EUR 4.3 billion has been allocated from the European Regional Development Fund for projects within OPEIC. The programme's managing authority (Ministry of Industry and Trade) delegates the majority of the implementation tasks to the Business and Innovation Agency (Agentura pro podnikání a inovace – API). The API is a mediating entity basically for grant-based aid and is responsible for communication with aid applicants and recipients. This communication is conducted through ISKP 2014+, an information system for financial aid beneficiaries, which serves for all operational programmes at the national level in the 2014–2020 programming period.

Aid recipient

Small or medium-sized enterprises are eligible to receive aid within OPEIC, though in some programmes large enterprises with more than 250 employees can also apply for aid. Projects must be implemented within the Czech Republic, out-side the city of Prague (the seat of the company can be located anywhere in the Czech Republic). Aid will be provided in compliance with the individual state-aid rules. Applicants must be registered as income-tax payers within EU countries uninterruptedly for a period of no less than two closed tax periods preceding the date of the submission of the aid application (in the case of related enterprises, the parent company's account history can be provided). The given company must be registered in the Czech Republic as at the date of the Decision to Provide a Subsidy. Another important criterion is that any project implemented within OPEIC must be implemented in the manufacturing industry, generally in sectors CZ-NACE 10-33.

Process of applying for aid and project evaluation

Applications for the OPEIC grant programmes are submitted via the MS2014+ internet application, which is only in Czech language. Application can be accessed via mseu.mssf.cz.

1. Successful Registration requires a qualified certificate (electronic signature). The first step is to establish a User Account.
2. The application includes information about the applicant and the project and the required appendices, particularly the business plan and the specific requirements of the programme. With the application, the date on which eligible costs arise is given. From this date, costs expended in the project can be considered as deductible. The applicant can also begin construction works, sign contracts, order goods and services, pay for orders, etc.
3. The applicant and the project will undergo an evaluation of acceptability including an economic evaluation. Projects are evaluated on the basis of clearly defined and publicly known criteria.
4. In the event that the project is approved, a Decision to Provide a Subsidy including the terms and conditions thereof shall be signed by the aid recipient and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
5. The subsidy will be paid out to you ex post on the basis of a submitted application for payment. You will submit the Application for Payment of a Grant in electronic form following completion of a phase of the project or of the entire project in accordance with the Decision to Provide a Subsidy.

Selected Programmes

OP EIC support programme	Rate of public aid	Focus of call				
	EU legislative basis	Supported activities / Programme description	Beneficiaries	Eligible expenditure	Amount of project aid	Programme specifics
Innovations – Innovation project	25/35/45% (Article 14 GBER, de minimis)	*Increasing the technical and use values of products, technologies and services (product innovation) *Increasing efficiency of manufacturing processes and service provision (process innovation) *Implementing new methods of corporate process organisation via deployment of new information systems to integrate and automate intra-company processes targeted especially at	*Enterprises (particularly SME)	*Tangible fixed assets – machinery equipment, HW *Intangible fixed assets – patents, licences, know-how, SW *Operating costs – certification of goods, technologies and services (products)	*Subsidy of CZK 1–50 million	The following activities are not supported: *Projects dealing with a simple alteration of the product, alteration of technologies, machines and equipment, or production rationalisation *Projects related solely to increased energy efficiency or reduced energy consumption of the applicant applying for the subsidy *Projects in research and development in accordance with

		connecting R&D activities, innovation and production (organisational innovation) *Increasing sales of products and services by a substantial change in a product or packaging design, or launching new sales channels (marketing innovation)				Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the Support of Research and Development, as amended *Organisational and marketing innovations can only be implemented together with a product or process innovation, never separately
Potential	50% (Article 26 GBER – Investment aid for research infrastructure)	*Establishment or expansion of industrial research, development and innovation centres based on the acquisition of land, buildings, machinery and other equipment necessary to carry out the activities of the centre	*Enterprises (particularly SME)	*Tangible fixed assets –land, buildings, machinery and equipment *Intangible fixed assets – patents, licences, know-how, SW *Mandatory project publicity	*Subsidy of CZK 2–50 million	The following activities are not supported: *Simple asset reproduction *Activities related to support of exports to the European Union member states and third countries, either through aid linked directly to export volume or aid related to establishment and operation of a distribution network or other common expenditure associated with export activities *Activities related to support of preferred use of domestic goods over imported goods *Production activities
Applications	Industrial research 50/60/70% Experimental research 25/35/45% In case of efficient cooperation, the aid rate shall be increased as follows: IR 80/75/65% and ER 60/50/40%; aid rate of 75% for IV/ER in case of research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, regardless of their size (Article 25 GBER – Support for research and development projects, industrial research, Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation)	*Conducting industrial research and experimental research (including participation in international industrial research and development projects, e.g. through ERA-NET networks) in accordance with Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014	*Enterprises and research and knowledge-dissemination organisations (i.e. entities meeting the definition of a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation pursuant to Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014) *Consortia composed of multiple partners – enterprises and research and knowledge-dissemination organisations	*Personnel costs – researchers, technicians and other support personnel *Costs of tools and equipment in the form of depreciation *Costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents purchased or acquired as part of licence from external sources, and costs of consulting services *Additional overhead and other operating costs incurred as an immediate consequence of the project;	*Subsidy of CZK 1–50 million	The following activities are not supported: *Establishment and development of research and development centres, introduction of innovations, etc. *In case of consortia, one entity from within the consortium shall always act as the beneficiary/applicant; that entity assumes the role of the contracting authority, asset owner and subsidy beneficiary in all project-related cases; the subsidy beneficiary shall conclude a partnership agreement with other consortium members covering the mutual relations arising from joint use of assets, joint project financing and financial settlement of the subsidy once paid.
Energy savings	30/40/50% (Articles 38, 40 and 41 GBER); de minimis + FI	*Support in form of subsidy: *Upgrade and reconstruction of electricity, gas and heat distribution systems, existing power generation plants for own use, instrumentation systems and lighting systems in buildings and power farms of industrial premises in order to increase efficiency *Implementation of measures to reduce the energy efficiency of buildings in the business sector – insulation of the building envelope, exchange and refurbishment of doors and windows, other construction measures having proven effects on the energy performance of the building, installation of air-conditioning with waste heat recovery units *Use of waste energy in industrial processes *Reducing energy intensity / increasing energy efficiency in manufacturing and technological processes *Installation of renewable energy sources for own use by the enterprise – e.g. solar heating, heat pumps, etc. *Installation of a co-generation unit using electricity and thermal energy for internal consumption of the enterprise *Installation of electricity accumulation units	*Support in form of subsidy: *Small, medium or large enterprise	*Support in form of subsidy: *Tangible fixed assets *Intangible fixed assets *Energy assessment	*Subsidy of CZK–0,3 -400 million (of which no more than CZK 350 thousand for the energy assessment)	*Support in form of subsidy: *Aid shall not be granted for: commercial tourism facilities such as hotels, leisure time facilities, spas and restaurants; reconstruction of residential and family houses and public buildings
Energy Savings – Photovoltaic systems with/without accumulation for own use	60/70/80% (Article 41 GBER)	*Installation of photovoltaic systems and installation of photovoltaic systems including accumulation of energy for own use of the enterprise	*Small, medium or large enterprise, agricultural entrepreneurs (as defined in Act No. 252/1997 Coll., on Agriculture), entrepreneurs in aquaculture,	*Tangible fixed assets *Intangible fixed assets	*Subsidy of CZK 0.3–100 million	*Aid shall not be granted for: commercial tourism facilities such as hotels, leisure time facilities, spas and restaurants; installation of photovoltaic systems on residential and family houses and public buildings

			entrepreneurs in food industry and retail			
Energy Savings – Energy-efficiency of buildings	60/70/80% (de minimis)	*Support for extra costs required to achieve the standard of nearly zero-energy consumption buildings and a passive energy standard in reconstructions or constructions of new business buildings	*Small, medium or large enterprise	*Tangible fixed assets *Intangible fixed assets *Energy efficiency certificate for buildings	*Subsidy of CZK 0.2 million – EUR 0.2 million (of which no more than CZK 350 thousand for the building permit documentation, which includes the energy efficiency certificate for buildings)	*Aid shall not be granted for: commercial tourism facilities such as hotels, leisure time facilities, spas and restaurants; reconstruction of residential and family houses and public buildings; buildings used for agricultural production; buildings with predominant design interior temperature below 18°C
Low-carbon technologies	25–80% (Articles 36, 38, 41, 47 and 49 GBER), de minimis	*Introduction of innovative technologies in the field of low-carbon transport *Pilot projects introducing energy accumulation technologies *Introduction of low-carbon technologies in buildings *Introduction of innovative technologies in the field of energy production from renewable sources *Introduction of off grid systems *Introduction of power consumption management systems *Introduction of innovative low-carbon technologies in the processing and use of secondary raw materials *Introduction of technologies to recover secondary raw materials in quality appropriate for further use in industrial production *Introduction of technologies to efficiently recover valuable critical secondary raw materials from used products *Introduction of technologies to produce innovative products from secondary raw materials, including replacement of primary sources with secondary raw materials, where economically viable *Conversion of biogas to biomethane and its injection into the distribution network	*Small, medium or large enterprise, agricultural entrepreneurs (as defined in Act No. 252/1997 Coll., on Agriculture) and entrepreneurs in food industry	*Tangible fixed assets *Intangible fixed assets (if required for due operation of the tangible fixed assets) *Business plan (except for electromobility)	*Subsidy of CZK 50 thousand – CZK 30 million, depending on the activity (of which CZK 30–50 thousand for the business plan, depending on the activity)	*Aid shall not be granted for projects in research and development in accordance with Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the Support of Research and Development, as amended *Aid shall not be granted for commercial tourism facilities such as hotels, leisure time facilities, spas and restaurants
ICT and shared services	25/35/45% (Article 14 GBER, de minimis)	*Creation of new sophisticated ICT solutions, i.e. development of cutting-edge digital services, applications and firmware, e.g. in the field of communication, entertainment, trading, education, health, access to employment or in the field of culture and creative industries, including the related implementation	*An enterprise, which is a legal entity doing business pursuant to Act No. 513/1991 Coll., the Commercial Code as in force until 31 December 2013, or Act No. 90/2013, as amended; agricultural entrepreneurs (as defined in Act No. 252/1997 Coll., on Agriculture) with project outcomes not listed in Annex I to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in the field of ICT *self-employed individuals	*tangible fixed assets – buildings, land, reconstruction, project documentation, new constructions, hardware and networks and equipment *Intangible fixed assets – software, licences and know-how *Selected operating costs – wage expenditure, services provided by consultants and experts, leasing of premises	*Subsidy of up to CZK 200 million	The following activities are not supported: *Services provided by call centres, employment agencies, intermediary agencies, training centres *Services of enterprises providing outsourcing where the outsourcing is carried out in the customer's business premises *Services provided by customer support centres *Services provided by repair centres *Activities aiming at commercial tourism facilities (hotels, leisure time facilities, spas, restaurants, etc.)

For more information, please visit www.agentura-api.org.