

The GAMA 2 programme for applied research, experimental development and innovation

1. NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

GAMA 2 (hereinafter "the Programme").

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRAMME

The Programme shall be implemented pursuant 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 (Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation), as amended (hereinafter "the Act");
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 2012/C 326/01, (in particular Article 107, and, as the case may be, also 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, as amended by Commission Regulation No. 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017, (hereinafter "the Regulation"), in particular Article 25;
- Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation – Official Journal of the European Union C 198, 27 June 2014 (hereinafter "the Framework");
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid;
- other related laws and regulations.

Beneficiaries which are enterprises will be granted funding pursuant to the Regulation while beneficiaries which are research organisations will be granted funding pursuant to the Framework.

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

This Programme excludes disbursement of individual aid to an enterprise:

- against which, following a 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 "undertaking in difficulty" as laid down 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 is divided into two sub-programmes - sub-programme 1 (hereinafter referred to as "SP1") and sub-programme 2 (hereinafter referred to as "SP2"), which differ in the method of implementation and their potential beneficiaries.

Under SP1, public funds shall be provided only to research organisations for their non-economic activities. Under SP2, public funds shall be provided pursuant to the Regulation and the Framework.

The Programme will be implemented in accordance with the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic for the period of 2016 - 2020, approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 135 of 17 February 2016, updated by the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic, approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 634 of 11 July 2016, with the principles of the Industry 4.0 initiative acknowledged by the Government Resolution No. 729 of 24 August 2016 and other national and departmental strategies, including the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation adopted by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 552 of 19 July 2012. In combination with other programmes of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, it will fulfil the systemic measure "Support the innovation process as a whole", as well as the systemic measures "Strengthening the cooperation between academic research, universities, applied research and the application sphere" and "In supported projects, emphasize the dissemination of their results, also among general public".

Projects focused on security research, as defined in Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 509/2017 on the Interdepartmental Concept of Support for Security Research of the Czech Republic for 2017-2023 with outlook to 2030, will not be implemented under the Programme.

3. PROVIDER

The provider of the funding is the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic with registered office in Prague 6, Evropská 1692/37.

4. PROGRAMME IDENTIFICATION CODE

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

5. PROGRAMME DURATION AND CALL ANNOUNCEMENT DATES

The programme is expected to run from 2020 until 2022, i.e. for 3 years.

The call for proposals in applied research, experimental development and innovation (hereinafter "the call for proposals") to select projects for sub-programme 1 will be first announced in 2019 with funding starting in 2020. It is foreseen that subsequently calls for proposals will be announced annually from 2020 until 2022, but only for sub-programme 2.

The duration of projects may not exceed the duration of the programme.

6. PROGRAMME FOCUS

The programme is aimed at supporting the verification of the results of applied research and experimental development (hereinafter referred to as "R&D") in terms of their practical application and at preparing their subsequent commercial use or exploitation for the needs of the society. Supported activities fall under the categories "applied research", "experimental development", "innovation" according to the Act, the Framework and the Regulation.

Under SP1, the beneficiaries or other project partners may be only research organisations (hereinafter "ROs") which will receive funding for particular R&D "sub-projects". The term "sub-project" is introduced here to differentiate the sub-project of commercial verification of a particular R&D result, which will be financed by the RO, from the overall project, the proposal of which will be submitted by the RO under SP1. The term "sub-project" is used intentionally because also the process of commercial verification of an R&D result must have the form of a project: drafting of a proposal; its submission to the Commercialisation Board; its monitoring if it is approved, keeping of relevant documentation, termination of the "sub-project" and presentation of the result to the Commercialisation Board. These "sub-projects" deal with verification of the practical application potential of results of applied research and development which have been achieved in the RO.

SP2 will be used for synergies with the EU Horizon 2020 programme and its successor Horizon Europe. The funding will be intended, among others, for projects which succeed in international evaluation but due to shortage of available finance could not be supported under the given EU instrument. These are, for example, projects that have been positively evaluated and received the so-called Seal of Excellence. Only those beneficiaries who are eligible to apply for support from the given EU instrument can be beneficiaries under this sub-programme.

7. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND THEIR JUSTIFICATION

The main objective of the programme is to support new systems for the transfer of knowledge and to enable the streamlining of the existing ones in order to convert the R&D results achieved in an RO or in cooperation between ROs and enterprises into practical applications thus enabling their commercial exploitation. In the medium term, the programme's objectives also include supporting the creation of new R&D results (including results of research in social sciences and humanities) leading to innovations with a high probability of their practical application and thus stimulating innovation in the application sphere (especially in small and medium-sized enterprises) using R&D results created with

the support of public funding in ROs. In the long term, the accomplishment of the objectives will lead to a more efficient use of public funds invested into R&D and indirectly to a strengthened economic performance of ROs, to a growth in the competitiveness of the economy and society in the Czech Republic and to increased quality of life of its inhabitants.

The support should concern mainly R&D for innovation of existing products, services or technologies so as to enable their application in other areas (market expansion strategy) or support for R&D for the creation of completely new products, services or technologies (strategy for creating new markets).

Specific supported activities under "sub-projects" in SP1 and under projects in SP2 will lead in particular to the following types of results: creating a test series; completion of tests demonstrating the applicability/non-applicability of the results in practice (e.g. in the form of a verification protocol); specific design of new substantially improved products, processes or services in the form of a model, functional sample, etc.; technologies for which their commercial potential has been verified; performed technology transfer; sale of a business license within the supported project; preparation of products or services for practical use or market introduction.

8. CRITERIA TO EVALUATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The achievement of the programme objectives will be evaluated in accordance with the Methodology for evaluating the results of research organizations and evaluation of targeted support programmes valid at the time of the programme evaluation and according to other conditions set by the provider within the final evaluation of the programme. In the course of implementation of individual projects, the provider will monitor the achievement of specific results of commercialisation (e.g. sale of licences to achieved know-how) within the implementation plans for achieved outputs/results. The fulfilment of programme objectives will be also evaluated using a set of indicators, outputs, results and impacts designed to monitor the fulfilment of the programme and to evaluate its overall performance and success.

Table 1: Indicators to assess the achievement of programme objectives

No	Indicator	Number
1	Minimum total number of supported projects in SP1, of which:	35
	Number of projects of newly participating research organisations ¹	5
2.	Minimum total number of supported projects in SP2	30
3	Minimum number of participating entities	65
4	Minimum number of supported "sub-projects"	350

¹ Compared with the list of supported ROs in the GAMA programme

5	Minimum share of successfully completed "sub-projects"	60%
6	Minimum total share of successfully completed projects	80%
Indicators of programme outputs		
7	Minimum number of R&D results being verified (proof-of-concept stage)	350
8	Number of drawn up feasibility studies	30
9	Number of submitted patent applications	10
10.	Minimum total number of applied results (RIV), of which:	240
	G - Prototype, functional sample	80
	Z - trial operation, verified technology	30
	R - software	25
	F - industrial and utility model	35
	O - other	50
	Minimum number of additional other results expected in the programme (H _{neleg} , H _{konc} , N, V _{souhm} , A, S, M, W, E)	20
11.	Minimum share of achieved programme objectives	90%*

*share of achieved binary indicators 1. to 10.

9. EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme will support in particular projects for which it can be reasonably expected that they will achieve usable outputs, the application of which will contribute to the fulfilment of the set programme objectives and to positive socio-economic impacts.

The Programme will allow the achievement of the following outputs in the form of results as defined by the Methodology for evaluating the results of research organizations and evaluation of targeted support programmes and the Information Register of Research and Development Results (RIV):

- P – patent;
- G – prototype, functional sample;
- Z – trial operation, verified technology;
- R – software;
- F – industrial and utility model;
- O – other results.

The following types of results are expected in "sub-projects" focusing on research objectives in social sciences and humanities:

H_{neleg} - results reflected in non-legislative guidelines and regulations which are binding within the remit of the provider concerned;

H_{konc} - results reflected in approved strategic and conceptual documents of state or public administration bodies;

N - methodologies, methods and maps with a specialised content;

V_{souhrn} - summary research report.

Other results that will be supported by the Programme, but may not be the only type of project result (must be always combined with some of the above results):

S – specialised public database;

A – audiovisual work;

M - organisation of a conference;

W - organisation of a workshop;

E - organisation of an exhibition.

However, in accordance with § 2 (2) (i) of the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, there is a number of other findings and skills which are expected as results of applied research, experimental development and innovation. For this reason, the programme will be evaluated not only on the basis of outputs in the form of results according to the currently valid Methodology for evaluation of research organizations and evaluation of targeted support programmes, but also on the basis of achieved findings, skills and impacts.

The outputs in the form of results which are according to the Methodology and RIV classified as "O" type must meet the condition that they can be applied in practice and this will be subsequently monitored within the monitoring of implementation plans. An assessment of planned outputs or results is a part of proposal evaluation.

It is expected that SP1 will contribute to a systematic verification of the application potential of achieved R&D results in cases where their final use is not completely clear or where a particular partner in the application sphere is not known. This concerns the use of results where the RO must perform additional activities in order to verify the application potential. The SP1 will support only such projects where the ability of the RO to create R&D results and to subsequently apply them has been demonstrated and where the RO has already created a basis of an organisational structure which enables and supports this activity.

In the implementation of SP2 projects, it is expected that innovative companies will have an increased interest to obtain support within European programmes. Increasing the share of Czech research teams in international projects is very much necessary for the future of the research environment in the Czech Republic.

Expected benefits of the programme (SP1 as well as SP2) include mainly an increased quality and number of R&D results that will be applied in practice in the form of innovations of products, processes or services. The programme should, among other things, contribute to the application of project results, which will be reflected secondarily in the improvement of economic indicators of supported entities.

In participating research organisations, the benefits of the programme will be reflected for example in an increased number of their results being applied in practice, in the number of patent applications and other results and in an increase of their commercial potential. More

efficient transfer of know-how and technologies to practice can be expected as a secondary benefit.

In the case of interventions synergistic with the EU Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe Programme and the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises, the results will be those recognised by the synergistic instrument in Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe, or results required by the European Commission. In SP2, the achieved results must have a specific user (however, support for the commercialisation of results is not the subject of SP2). Due to the cross-cutting nature of the programme, the users of the results will be entities operating in various sectors of the national economy.

10. EXPENDITURE ON THE PROGRAMME

The total expenditure on the Programme for the period of its duration is planned according to the foreseen gradual announcement of individual calls for proposals and amounts to CZK 567.1 million, of which CZK 550.0 million should be covered from state budget and CZK 17.1 million from non-public sources.

The maximum allowable funding rate is 100% for SP1 and 70% for SP2 in case of application of the block exemption according to the Regulation.

Table 2: Programme budget [CZK million]

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	Total
Total expenditure	184.3	191.4	191.4	567.1
State budget expenditure	180.0	185.0	185.0	550.0
Non-public sources	4.3	6.4	6.4	17.1

The funding will be provided in the form of grants to research organisations or legal persons and in the form of increased expenditure of organisational units of the state or organisational units of ministries dealing with R&D.

11. FUNDING RATE

The maximum allowable funding rate is 100% for SP1 and 70% for SP2 in case of application of the block exemption according to the Regulation. The funding rate set as a percentage of eligible project costs will be calculated for each project and for each beneficiary and other partners separately according to the Regulation and the Framework while respecting all the limits shown below.

The maximum allowable funding rates for applied research and experimental development and for individual categories of beneficiaries are based on the Regulation and presented in the table below:

Table 3: The maximum allowable funding rates by type of beneficiary and category of activity

Beneficiaries

Activity	small enterprise*	medium-sized enterprise*	large enterprise	research organisation**
Applied research	70%	60%	N/A	100%
Applied research with effective cooperation	80%	75%	65%	100%
Experimental development	45%	35%	N/A	100%
Experimental development with effective cooperation	60%	50%	40%	100%

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

** Research organisation is defined pursuant to Article 2 (83) of the Regulation. The stated funding rate is intended for non-economic activities of research organisations.

12. SUB-PROGRAMMES

12.1. Sub-programme 1

12.1.1. Focus of SP1

SP1 is focused on supporting the exploitation of R&D results which are newly created in ROs and have a high potential for application in new or improved products, production processes or services with high added value and high probability to strengthen competitiveness.

SP1 is also oriented on a systemic support of the R&D phase from identification of an R&D result with potential for practical application up to its commercial verification in the form of a model (including a computer model), functional sample or prototype, including its qualities, creating of a test series, and assessment of all technological, economic, social, health and other impacts of the innovated product. SP1 will also contribute to the setting up and streamlining of the supporting organisational structure of the RO which is necessary for the commercialisation of the R&D results.

12.1.2. SP1 objectives

The objective of SP1 is to support new systems for the transfer of new R&D knowledge arising from public funding in ROs and to enable the streamlining of the already established ones and to support their introduction into practice. The actual application of findings is not the objective of SP1.

Support will be provided for the phase of verification of the application potential of new R&D results prior to their possible utilisation in practise (the so-called „proof-of-concept stage“). The TA CR funding will be used in ROs to finance activities serving in particular to verify practical usability of new R&D results created in ROs (necessary costs for complementary research, experimental testing, etc.), and ending with specific proposals of new, substantially improved products, processes or services especially in the form of a functional sample, etc.

Compared with project selection at the level of the provider, the selection of "sub-projects" at the level of the RO will considerably accelerate and streamline the process of commercialisation of R&D results.

12.1.3. Method of SP1 implementation

TA CR will announce a call for proposals for ROs which will be submitting their own projects for organising "proof-of-concept" activities in their respective organisations. The aim is to create or support within ROs a system within which individual projects of researchers or students to verify concept (the so-called "sub-projects") will be supported. At the beginning of a calendar year, the participating ROs will receive funding to implement "sub-projects" starting in the given year or continuing from previous years.

The structure supporting the "proof-of-concept" activities will be divided into a decision-making part and an executive part. The decision-making activities will be carried out by the so-called Commercialisation Board (hereinafter "the Board") which will be appointed by the RO and composed of representatives of the RO, and of the application and financial sphere (enterprises, banks, venture capital funds, etc.) where the RO's representatives will constitute at most 50% of the Board's members. The Board decides on the approval, continuation and termination of "sub-projects". It approves the use of funding. A specialised department (e.g. a technology transfer centre) will be in charge of the executive activities: receipt of applications for "sub-projects", their registration, their evaluation, and submission of proposals for decision to the Board. After the project is approved by the Board, it ensures the administration of the "sub-project", is responsible for compliance with the rules for financing of "sub-projects" and prepares materials for subsequent financial settlement with the provider for which the recipient of the grant is responsible. At least once in three months, it provides information to the Board about the implementation of the "sub-projects" and may propose termination of a "sub-project".

12.1.4. Expected benefits and impacts of SP1

The following can be expected in supported ROs:

- increased share of results of research, development and innovation applied in practice;
- streamlined existing system for the commercialisation of results of research, development and innovation in the RO (more effective use of invested public funds);
- acquisition of additional funding for the RO in the future;
- sustainability of projects of European centres of excellence and regional research and development centres financed under priority axes 1 and 2 of the Operational Programme „Research and Development for Innovation“ (hereinafter “OP VaVpl“),

- enhanced cooperation with the application sphere.

Subsequently, the following can be expected:

- improved performance of economic entities;
- enhanced quality and usefulness of products and services;
- increased competitiveness.

The method of SP1 implementation should lead in the RO to the development of an efficient and in a longer perspective self-financed system supporting the use of R&D results in practice. At the same time, the increasing share of results with practical application potential will expand the cooperation with the application sphere, including the involvement of private finance, thus reducing the need for supporting this area from public sources.

12.1.5. Beneficiaries of SP1 support

The beneficiaries must meet the conditions for an RO pursuant to the Act and the Framework (see Chapter 13).

Other partner in the project may be another RO whose activities are defined in the project proposal and with which the beneficiary has concluded an agreement on its participation in the project implementation.

12.1.6. Conditions for the grant of funding in SP1

Under SP1, funding is provided solely for independent research and technology transfer activities of an internal nature pursuant to the Framework.

Beneficiaries must submit long-term strategy for the support of proof-of-concept activities which will clearly lay down the rules for the functioning of this type of support, including the method to finance eligible costs, the method to select „sub-projects“ suitable for funding of eligible costs (proof-of-concept projects), and the methods to check the implementation and financing of these projects, and the objectives which must be achieved.

The beneficiary must demonstrate the appointment of a responsible person or the existence of a department or branch which performs knowledge management for the beneficiary or collectively for other partners in accordance with the Framework, for instance by an appointment letter. An appointment letter is not the only method to demonstrate the above.

The beneficiary must also demonstrate the existence of internal regulations governing a comprehensive system for the use of R&D results and for their handling, including protection of intellectual property and a credible plan for the sustainability of the activities of the proof-of-concept type for the period of five years after the termination of the project.

12.1.7. Total SP1 expenditure and the maximum allowable funding rate

The total SP1 expenditure for the period of its duration is planned according to the foreseen gradual announcement of individual calls for proposals and taking into account the expected average length of projects. The share of state budget expenditure in total expenditure reflects

the maximum allowable funding rate in SP1 amounting to 100%. This funding rate results from conditions of the programme and from the fact that SP1 is aimed at the support of ROs pursuant to the Framework.

Table 4: SP1 budget [CZK million]

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	Total
Total expenditure	170.0	170.0	170.0	510.0
State budget expenditure	170.0	170.0	170.0	510.0

12.2. Sub-programme 2

12.2.1. Focus of SP2

SP2 is aimed at supporting synergistic projects with the EU programme Horizon 2020 or its successor Horizon Europe. It concerns projects which will obtain the Seal of Excellence label in Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe and which lead to commercialisation of obtained results. The supported projects will allow to bridge the phase between research and introduction to the market, the so-called death valley. This will be projects with an innovative solution and a high market potential.

Seal of Excellence is a label awarded by the European Commission to projects in selected instruments of the EU Horizon 2020 programme and will be awarded also in selected instruments of Horizon Europe. The label is awarded to those projects that have been assessed as of high quality, but cannot be funded by the European Commission due to the limited budget.

The expected length of project implementation in this sub-programme depends on the duration of implementation under the instruments of Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe. It is foreseen that the shortest duration of a project will be 6 months.

12.2.2. SP2 Objectives

The objective of SP2 is to increase the number of R&D results or innovative solutions which can be applied in practice. The specific objectives of SP2 are:

- implementation of instruments synergistic with the EU Horizon 2020 programme or with Horizon Europe;
- increasing the total number of new or substantially improved products, services and technologies introduced to the market;
- increased number of new or improved products, services and technologies developed on the basis of research;
- expansion of the offer and business activities of companies through innovation of existing products and services or through development of new products and services;
- streamlined production in companies by means of the introduction of new or substantially improved production processes.

12.2.3. Expected benefits and impacts of SP2

Benefits will include an increased range and number of innovative solutions and R&D results which will be applied in practice as innovations of products, services and production processes. These innovations should be reflected in improved economic indicators of supported entities (for instance, in the growth of turnover, exports, growth of financing from non-public sources, etc.) and in an increase or maintenance of market share.

12.2.4. SP2 beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are those entities which are eligible to apply for aid under the given instruments of the EU Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe.

12.2.5. Total SP2 expenditure and maximum allowable funding rate

The total SP2 expenditure for the period of its duration is planned according to the foreseen gradual announcement of individual calls for proposals. The share of state budget expenditure in total expenditure reflects the maximum allowable funding rate in SP2 which is 70% in the case when the block exception pursuant to the Regulation is applied.

Table 5: SP2 budget [CZK million]

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	Total
Total expenditure	14.3	21.4	21.4	57.1
State budget expenditure	10.0	15.0	15.0	40.0
Non-public expenditure	4.3	6.4	6.4	17.1

13. APPLICANTS AND DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY

The following may be applicants for or beneficiaries of the project funding pursuant to the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, the Framework and the Regulation:

- **Research and knowledge-dissemination organisations (ROs)** – legal persons meeting the definition of a research organisation pursuant to Article 2(83) of the Regulation and pursuant to the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation which implement the project individually or in cooperation with other partners. Emphasis will be placed on an accounting separation of economic and non-economic activities.
- **Enterprises** – legal as well as natural persons engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (Annex I of the Regulation) which implement the project individually or in cooperation with other partners and which demonstrate the ability to co-finance the project from non-public sources.

The funding for a project implemented under the programme may be obtained only by the applicants meeting the eligibility conditions laid down by § 18 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. Where several applicants apply jointly for a project, the obligation to demonstrate eligibility

applies to all those applicants. Applicants demonstrate their eligibility by documents pursuant to the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation and in a manner specified by the provider in the call documentation.

Compared with the programme, the call documentation may narrow down the range of possible applicants.

14. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Funding will be provided for eligible project costs, i.e. for those eligible costs which are approved by the provider, which are justified and their scale is necessary for the purposes of the project. An applicant may propose as eligible costs only the costs defined always in accordance with the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, and further in the case of funding under the state aid regime according to the category of aid, i.e. in accordance with Article 25 of the Regulation. More detailed specification of eligible costs will be provided in the call documentation for the respective calls.

For the instruments synergistic with Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, the project eligible costs will reflect the eligible costs of the given instrument under the EU programme.

15. INCENTIVE EFFECT

In order to meet the objectives of the programme and the conditions of the Regulation, the provider will assess the presence of the incentive effect of the aid pursuant to Article 6 of the Regulation within the process of evaluation of project proposals.

To meet the incentive effect pursuant to Article 6 of the Regulation, works on the project or activity may not start before submission of the application for the aid. Pursuant to Article 2(23) of the Regulation, start of works means the earlier of either the start of construction works relating to the investment, or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible. Buying land and preparatory works such as obtaining permits and conducting feasibility studies are not considered start of works. For take-overs, 'start of works' means the moment of acquiring the assets directly linked to the acquired establishment.

16. METHOD AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

16.1. Evaluation of compliance with the conditions of the call

In accordance with the rules laid down by the Act, the provider shall appoint a committee for receipt of project proposals. This committee will evaluate the fulfilment of all conditions for

the inclusion of project proposals in the call for proposals in research, development and innovation, namely:

- Compliance with formal conditions for submission of project proposals given by the call announcement,
- demonstration of eligibility of the applicant and other partners.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions will result in the project proposal not being included in the call.

16.2. Factual evaluation of project proposals (ex ante evaluation)

Project proposals will be evaluated comprehensively in accordance with the Act. The provider will establish an expert advisory body for the evaluation of project proposals included in the call.

Project selection criteria:

16.2.1. SP1

Project selection criteria:

A. binary

- The project proposal is in accordance with the objectives and conditions of the programme.
- Appointment of a responsible person or the existence of a department or branch which performs knowledge management for the beneficiary,
- Existence of internal regulations governing a comprehensive system for the use of R&D results, including protection of intellectual property

B. non-binary

- Quality of project proposal.
- Proposed method of project management.
- Previous experience with knowledge management and achieved results.
- Proposed method for the selection and management of „sub-projects“.
- Expected number of „sub-projects“.
- Quality and credibility of the plan for sustainability of support for activities of the proof-of-concept type.

Criteria for the selection of “sub-projects“ (evaluated by the RO):

- The proposed project is a project of applied research and experimental development.
- The project proposal is in accordance with the objectives and conditions of the programme.

- The project proposal must meet at least one (a specific one) of the approved objectives of the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation.
- The substance of the project proposal or its part has not been addressed within another project, grant project or research plan.
- Novelty of result.
- Suitability of the project for the verification of the application potential of the result.
- Capacity and composition of the research team as a prerequisite for achieving the objectives.
- Probability of commercial exploitation.
- Commercial potential.

16.2.2. SP2

The criteria for project selection in SP2 will be set out in call documentation for the given call. For instruments synergistic with Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe, the evaluation process will use the qualitative evaluation of projects carried out by international evaluators at the level of the EU programme.

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

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic implements the GAMA programme with duration until 2019. The position of the programme within the system of research, development and innovation (R&D&I) in the Czech Republic is unique. The GAMA programme is complementary (synergistic) with respect to the provider's other funding instruments as well as with respect to the R&D&I system in the Czech Republic. Its unique position stems primarily from its focus on supporting the setting up and development of systems of commercialisation and technology transfer in supported organisations and from the possibility to verify the practical application potential of achieved R&D results (through proof-of-concept activities). The complementarity of the support is given primarily by the focus of the programme, different temporal and territorial definition, different size of implemented projects, and also differences in supported activities of different beneficiaries, including the method of programme implementation.

The GAMA programme has funded 30 main projects within which 429 sub-projects (proof-of-concept activities) have been implemented in sub-programme 1. The sub-programme 2 has funded in total 7 Seal of Excellence projects. Successful outputs/results of the GAMA programme include the following: setting up of a subsidiary in the sole ownership of the Charles University in Prague which will administer the university's intellectual property; the computer game "Attentat 1942" which was developed within a project implemented by the same institution and received a prestigious international award; testing software used by military hospitals in Prague and Brno, which was created in

cooperation of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University with the Tilioteo Ltd. company; a prototype of biosensor serving for simple diagnosis of Lyme disease which was created in a project of Masaryk University, or a completely new method and device for searching for people in crisis situations - in the event of landslides, avalanches, earthquakes or in tracing of a kidnapping victim, which was created in a project of VSB – Technical University of Ostrava.

In the Czech Republic, the system of public support for R&D&I is “divided” to support of research projects ending with intellectual property protection (by a patent, utility model), functional sample or prototype on the one hand and support for the introduction of serial production of product innovations and their application on the market on the other hand. The transition phase between research and innovation is usually associated with considerable costs and at the same time with a high risk of failure. For this reason, projects at this stage of the innovation process are not yet sufficiently attractive to external sources of private funding, and the risk and costs are usually borne by the research organisation.

The above problem is accentuated by the fact that currently achieved R&D results, whether protected (by patents, industrial models, etc.) or unprotected, still show largely insufficient preconditions for commercial use. This is mainly due to a low orientation of the performed R&D on the market exploitation of results and the lack of real cooperation between ROs and enterprises. Patented and otherwise protected R&D results, which lack their economic value, would then require further investment in development and very often in further applied research in order to be converted into a commercial application. However, the ROs are not willing to invest additional finance in this way and the same is true for enterprises without the support of ROs.

With support from the Structural Funds, a programme focused on support in this area was created at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It is a programme within the operational programme Research and Development for Innovation, priority axis 3 "Commercialisation and popularization of R&D", support area 3.1 "Commercialisation of the results of research organizations and protection of their intellectual property". This programme was intended mainly to build the capacity of technology transfer centres and to create the knowledge and experience of the staff of the centres, among others also through the support of projects of individual researchers.

Foreign experience shows the need to set up a support to overcome the stage between the creation of an R&D result and its use in practice. This is a stage of transition from R&D, which is supported from public sources, to the use of results in the application, especially private sphere. Experience suggests that there is little interest in the R&D results of research organisations which must undergo a stage of further tests and verification before their actual practical use. This reduces the effectiveness of invested public funds.

Abroad, this phase receives much greater attention in terms of public support. In most developed countries, government programmes and other forms of public support have been in place for many years, aimed at creating a functional "bridge" between research and practice. Various forms are used to support this area of technology transfer, including the

purchase of essential services and the protection of intellectual property. This support covers a relatively wide and comprehensive range of activities aimed at the commercialisation of R&D results, as evidenced by some of the selected examples below.

The international initiative EUREKA together with the European Commission prepared the Eurostars programme which became a part of the specific programme Capacities within the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research. The programme is aimed at supporting close-to-market activities and the projects last for a maximum of three years. Small and medium-sized enterprises dealing to a significant extent also with research are a priority target group. An international project consortium can include also research organisations, enterprises and other entities. Supported activities include mainly applied research connected with development leading clearly to marketable results.

In Finland, the TULI programme has been in place since 1993 to support the commercialisation of R&D results at universities, technical colleges and research institutes. With its support, this programme is focused on bridging the period between the emergence of new R&D knowledge and its practical implementation. Support is provided for the purchase of expert and consulting services for the commercialisation of R&D results, including the creation of spin-off companies, protection of intellectual property, initial evaluation of commercialisation potential of a research finding, market and competition analysis, etc., and to overcome critical points of commercialisation (prototype development and verification of its functionality, optimization of the development of a final product).

In the Netherlands, a STW (Technology Agency) valorisation grant scheme was set up in 2004 to support the commercialisation of knowledge gained in public research institutions. The support is intended for the establishment of spin-off companies, market analysis for a specific product, elaboration of a feasibility study, development of a prototype, protection of intellectual property rights, etc.

Also in Denmark, the Proof of concept programme has been in place since 2007. By covering wage costs, it is intended to enable public sector researchers (especially at universities and colleges) to concentrate for some time on the development phase of their new research findings (discoveries) and reduce their workload connected with teaching and possibly further research.

The first stage of a very successful US scheme "Small Business Innovation Research" (SBIR) also provides funding to "finalise" R&D results to the form of a model (including a computer one), functional sample, prototype, etc. This scheme is in various forms used also in a number of other states.

Support for the whole process of commercialisation in universities and research institutions is also offered by the Proof of Concept programme managed by Scottish Enterprise or the Commercialisation Fund Programme of a similar organization in Ireland. The support is provided without the need of co-funding.