## Knowledge transfer partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding programme</th>
<th>• EU grants - Operational Programme Competitiveness - Priority axes 1 - Research, technological development and innovation (RDI) for the support of economic competitiveness and business development – Intervention type – 1.2.3 – Partnerships for knowledge transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme operator</td>
<td>• Ministry of National Education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Programme Objective | • The intervention has the specific objective of „Increasing the Romanian research participation at EU level”;
• This action targets the creation of high level scientific and/or technological competencies’ core, at an European standard, within a R&D institution, be that in an university or a host enterprise, by attracting foreign specialists, of any nationality, with recognized competencies. |
| Eligible beneficiaries | • Higher education institutions
• Public R&D institutions which fulfil the requirements of the “research organisation” definition in accordance with the European framework concerning state aid for RDI (2014/C 198/01) |
| Target areas | • Projects must focused on the following intelligent specialization fields (click for details):
  o Bio-economy
  o Information technology and communications, space and security
  o Energy, environment and climate changes
  o Eco – nano - technologies and advanced materials
  o Health, priority area of national interest
• Even though the project applications are filed by the host institutions in which the project will further be deployed, it is expected that the projects would be designed and drafted mainly by high level international specialists, eventually together with the research teams from the host institutions that they will work with. |
| Project eligibility | • The aim, objectives and subject of the project proposition are in agreement with the competition objectives, as outlined in the request (call) for projects;
• The project is run in Romania;
• The project must address a field of intelligent specialization or the health field; The research organisation must prove it has the expertise required for these fields by means of excellence in research activities (scientific publications, research projects), intellectual property rights earned, contracts with industry;
• The research institution has labs, installations, equipment and instruments acquired through research infrastructure investment projects in the last 5 years, in the field which the project addresses;
• The research organisation shall file together with the application a number of letters of interest from enterprises together with which it shall start the project by performing type A activities.
• The project contains at least three types of eligible activities, as defined below; |
| Non-eligible activities | • Within the current intervention type the following activities are not eligible:
  o export activities to third countries or member states, related directly to exported quantities, creation and functioning of a distribution network or for other expenses related to export activities;
  o preference in utilising national products to the detriment of imported products.
  o processing and commercializing agricultural products, if:
    • i) the value of the funding is set on the basis of the price or quantities of such products purchased from primary producers or commercialized by the respective enterprises;
    • ii) when the aid is conditioned by their partial or integral transfer towards primary producers. |
Eligible activities

- Type A. Activities that stimulate knowledge transfer
  - A1. Identifying and formulating the expertise offer of the research organisation;
  - A2. Direct assistance to enterprises towards identifying from the expertise offer of the research organisation those points which match the needs and requirements of the enterprise and the concrete support opportunities the research organisation can offer to the enterprise;
  - A3. Organising individual meetings with the enterprises, or thematic events,
  - A4. Instruction of the personnel of the research organisation which will be involved in type A activities in the matter of knowledge transfer;
  - A5. Identification of new possible beneficiaries of knowledge transfer.

- Type B. Activities concerning enterprises’ access to facilities, installations, equipment of the organisation
  - B1. Access to infrastructure/labs/R&D equipment (including training, if necessary)
  - B2. Access to databanks and technical-scientific libraries;
  - B3. Letting of workspaces for enterprise activities.

- Type C. Activities concerning abilities transfer/research-development competences and support of innovation
  - C1. Industrial research and/or experimental development for and on behalf of the enterprise;
  - C2. Relocation of highly qualified personnel,
  - C3. Market research performed by the research organisation for the enterprise;
  - C4. Quality labelling services, quality testing and certification provided by the research organisation.

- Type D. Industrial research and/or experimental development activities performed in direct collaboration with a enterprise (by direct collaboration it is understood that the two independent parties pursue a common goal by division of work).

- Type E. Project management activities (including information and publicity activities regarding the project)

Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses for the beneficiary (research organisation)

- A. For type A activities:
  - a. Personnel expenses for personnel employed in the project;
  - b. Information and institutional promotion expenses
  - c. Expenses related to individual meetings with enterprises and to thematic events;
  - d. Expenses related to the acquisition of services from technological transfer centres.

- B. For type B activities:
  - a. Expenses related to enterprises’ access to infrastructure/labs/R&D equipment (including training, if necessary);
  - b. Expenses related to enterprises’ access to databanks and technical-scientific libraries;
  - c. Expenses related do letting of workspaces for enterprise activities.

- C. For type C activities:
  - a. Personnel expenses
  - b. Expenses related to instruments and equipment
  - c. Expenses related to research, consulting and equivalent
  - d. Expenses related to the acquisition of non-current intangible assets: technical knowledge, patents, used exclusively for the contract activities;
  - e. Other operating expenses resulting from the contract.

- D. For type D activities:
  - a. Personnel expenses
  - b. Expenses related to instruments and equipment
  - c. Expenses related to research, consulting and equivalent
  - d. Expenses related to the acquisition of non-current intangible assets: technical knowledge, patents, used exclusively for the collaboration contract activities;
  - e. Other operating expenses resulting from the collaboration contract.

- E. For type E activities:
  - a. Personnel expenses (for personnel involved in project management);
  - b. Transport of goods;
  - c. Office supplies;
  - d. Information and publicity expenses for the project.

- F. General administration expenses which arise as a result of the project.
Non-eligibility criteria

The enterprise with which research organisations shall sign a direct subsidiary contract (type B and/or C activities) or a collaboration contract (type D activities) is eligible if it fulfils the following conditions:

- It is not activating in the fishing and aquaculture sector; in the field of primary production of agricultural products; in the field of processing and selling agricultural products, in the following cases:
- It does not request support for sustaining export activities
- It does not use, in the activities which receive aid, national products preferentially instead of imported products;
- It does not request support for the facilitation of uncompetitive coal mines closure;
- It is not under bankruptcy or dissolution procedure;
- It is not subjected to an unexecuted reclaim order following a previous decision of the Commission;
- The legal representative of the beneficiary was not convicted irrevocably in the last 3 years by a legal court for an act conflicting with the professional ethics or for the commitment of a professional error;
- The small enterprise and medium enterprise applicant must fill in a deposition comprising information about fitting the enterprise within the SMEs category
- It is not in financial difficulty;

Eligibility criteria

- **Eligibility criteria for the research organizations**
  - The applicant is eligible if it fulfils the following conditions, justified through specific documents that are filed at the date mentioned in the request/project’s proposal address:
    - The applicant is deploying its’ activity in Romania;
    - The applicant deploys R&D activities.
    - The applicant is a research organisation and has an administrative form as stated at the Eligible beneficiaries section above;
    - The applicant is registered in the PCR (Potential Contractors Register) and has all its registering documents up-to-date, more precise:
      - Act of establishment / Certificate from the Trade Register Office with information about shareholders, social capital / Registration certificate from the Trade Register Office;
      - Balance sheet from the last two years, including the Income Statement.

Length of projects

- **Maximum 60 months**

Non-reimbursable funding

- The value of the funding is between RON 4,500,000 and RON 13,500,000.

Intensity and volume of the non-reimbursable funding

For performing Type B and C activities, the research organisation may enter into one or more contracts of the following types with enterprises:

1. “de minimis”, max. RON 800,000 eligible expenses
2. “state support”, max. RON 1,800,000, for which the enterprise must provide co-financing from own sources according to the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Eligible activity</th>
<th>Large</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Small</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Access to infrastructure/labs/equipment</td>
<td>Non-eligible</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Access to databanks and libraries</td>
<td>Non-eligible</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Letting of workspaces</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Industrial research</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Relocating of highly qualified personnel</td>
<td>Non-eligible</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Market research</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Quality labelling services, quality testing and certification</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For type D activities, the research organisation and the partner enterprise enter into a subsidiary contract with the Intermediary Organism for RDI type “state support” of max. RON 1,800,000, eligible value.

| The maximum amounts of public non-refundable financing as percentage of eligible costs |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Partner in the collaboration | Industrial research | Experimental development |
| Large enterprise | 65% | 40% |
| Medium enterprise | 75% | 50% |
| Small enterprise | 80% | 60% |
Application submission

- Call submission type: on term.
- Submission start: 27.06.2015
- Submission end: 11.08.2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application file</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research organizations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Funding request/ application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Applicants declaration regarding the avoidance of funding from different public funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Statutory declaration regarding the certification the challenging effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Application certification declaration</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Statutory declaration regarding the inclusion of the enterprise in the SME category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Statutory declaration regarding information about fitting the enterprise in the research organisation’s definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Statutory declaration of the applicant regarding contracts with enterprises in the project field for the last 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Impact study/ Market study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Applicants declaration regarding the VAT eligibility/non-deductibility associated with eligible expenses that are included in the request/project’s proposal budget (if the case occurs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Memorandum of reasons regarding the values comprised in the preliminary budgets from the request/project’s proposal (hard copy and registered on a R&amp;D)</td>
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</tbody>
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Disclaimer: The information presented above is based on the programme Guidelines presented on the website of the IO Research, our liability being limited to that.

To get a preliminary check of the eligibility of your project, please provide us with some relevant information in our online questionnaire and we will contact you shortly.

For any further details, do not hesitate to contact us.

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