

4. Other Financial Support Programmes



2021-27

OPTAC



81.5 billion

Planned Allocation in CZK

Operational Programme Technologies and Application for Competitiveness (OPTAC) 2021-2027

In the course of 2021, the Operational Programme Technologies and Application for Competitiveness (OPTAC) 2021-2027 is being implemented as the successor of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation (OPEIC) 2014-2020.

Basic information on OPTAC:

The source of funding is the European Regional Development Fund and the preliminary planned allocation for this programme is CZK 83 billion. Subsidies comprise the form of support for small projects and projects with higher profitability. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises and large enterprises with more than 250 employees in selected priorities and activities will be able to apply for support within this programme. The supported territory is Czechia, with the exception of the city of Prague. As was the case with OPEIC, the Business and Innovation Agency will administrate the subsidy calls within OPTAC. Subsidy applications will be administrated within the existing MS14+ and ISKP14+ systems.

The priorities of OPTAC are further divided into Specific Objectives, within which specific calls for support for individual activities will be issued (in comparison with OPEIC, the level of support programmes is abolished, which will enable the greater flexibility and targeting of calls).

Selected planned supported activities within the Specific Objectives (SOs):

SO 1.1: Enhancement of research and innovation capacities and introduction of advanced technologies

Anticipated allocation: CZK 24 billion

Supported activities:

- implementation of company-based research and development, introduction of innovations into companies' operations, commercialisation, verification of research and development results, introduction to the market
- development of knowledge transfer and cooperation between enterprises and research institutions
- introduction and expansion of digital and other advanced innovative technologies in enterprises
- construction and development of infrastructure for company-based research and development, testing and verification of technologies
- innovation vouchers
- shared capacities for research, development and innovation – clusters, technology platforms
- support for business infrastructure to fulfil the needs of SMEs (hubs/co-working centres, business incubators, science and technology parks)
- company size: SME and LE
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Innovation Vouchers, Proof of Concept, Innovation, Applications, Potential, Knowledge Transfer Partnership, Cooperation, Infrastructure Services*

SO 1.2: Use of the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, enterprises and governments

Anticipated allocation: CZK 7 billion

Supported activities:

- introduction of digitalisation in enterprises, including process analysis and deployment of digital solutions (e.g., AI, automation and robotics, cybersecurity,), support for training and education of employees in connection with the introduction of new technologies in companies
- acquisition of high-performance computing (HPC) technology
- development and acquisition of specialised software (cybersecurity, simulation, monitoring, computer vision, Big Data Analytics, 3D printing, etc.)
- modern technologies (e.g., blockchain, virtual reality) for economic development
- construction and modernisation of computing and data centres
- company size: SME
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *ICT and Business Support Services, Technology*

SO 2.1: Enhancement of the growth and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises

Anticipated allocation: CZK 10 billion

Support activities:

- support, advisory and consulting services in all phases of establishment and growth of SMEs
- business infrastructure to fulfil the needs of SMEs (regeneration and revitalisation of brownfields)
- internationalisation of SMEs and use of services provided by experts
- external funding
- company size: SME
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Marketing, Expansion, Infrastructure Services, internal projects of CzechInvest and CzechTrade*

SO 3.1: Support for measures in the area of energy efficiency

Anticipated allocation: CZK 13 billion

Supported activities:

- reduction of the energy intensity of buildings (insulation, replacement of windows, HVAC, LED lighting, other), replacement of energy sources, production of energy for own consumption, optimisation of production and technological operations
- company size: SME and LE
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Energy Savings*

SO 3.2: Support for energy from renewable sources

Anticipated: CZK 6.6 billion

Supported activities:

- support for solar, small hydroelectric and wind power plants, solar thermal systems, heat pumps, use of biogas, biomethane, biomass, advanced biofuels in transportation, accumulation and transformation of energy between energy carriers
- company size: SME and LE
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Renewable Energy Sources*

SO 3.3: Development of smart energy systems, grids and storage at the local level

Anticipated allocation: CZK 7.6 billion

Supported activities:

- construction, reinforcement, renovation and modernisation of transmission/transport and distribution systems and related infrastructure; including transmission and processing of the increased volume of data associated with the entry of new entities into electricity markets and arrangement of new services in connection with new EU legislation
- construction, reinforcement, renovation and modernisation of transport and distribution systems and related gas infrastructure
- pilot projects in the areas of hydrogen, CCS, methanisation, etc.
- company size: SME and LE
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Smart Grids I, Smart Grids II*

SO 4.1: Support for adaptation to climate change, prevention of risks and resistant to disasters

Anticipated allocation: CZK 1.3 billion

Supported activities:

- optimisation of water consumption in production, reuse of wastewater, water recycling, water collection, water-vapour recover, dry cooling, etc.
- company size: SME and LE

SO 4.2: Support for the transition to the circular economy

Anticipated allocation: CZK 2.6 billion

Supported activities:

- support for the acquisition, processing and use of secondary raw materials from products and materials that have reached the end of their service life and the production of products containing secondary raw materials
- company size: SME and LE
- continuation of OPEIC programmes: *Low-Carbon Technologies – Secondary Raw Materials*

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