



Pre-announcement:

Call for Proposals in Bilateral Collaboration between Czech and Swiss Research Infrastructures

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (hereinafter MEYS) is pleased to announce an upcoming call of the **Czech-Swiss Research Infrastructure Initiative**, which is part of Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme in the framework of the Second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states.

The call aims to boost **excellent scientific research** in the Czech Republic and enhance **bilateral cooperation between Czech and Swiss research infrastructures**. The call aims to support projects from **environmental sciences, biological and medical sciences, and social sciences and humanities** only.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicant is a **Czech Large Research Infrastructure** (represented by its hosting institution), which is a national node to distributed European research infrastructures, in which the Czech Republic and Switzerland participate either as members or observers. Only applicants from these research infrastructures (see **Annex 1 – List of Czech and Swiss Nodes**), active in one of the three above-declared scientific fields and having the respective Swiss project partner, are eligible to apply for the call.

Only one single application per node partnership is allowed – i.e. one **application submitted by the Czech node (the hosting institution)**, which was prepared in close cooperation with their Swiss node-partner. A Partnership Agreement shall be concluded between the applicant and the Swiss partner – specifying the partner's role in the project, outputs, budget allocation/costs and other elements regarding the partnership.

Financial Allocation:

The **total allocation** for the call is **295 219 294 CZK** (equivalent to **11 132 369 CHF**), composed of **85% Swiss Contribution** and **15% co-financing from the state budget of the Czech Republic**, allocated at the level of MEYS.

Applicants will receive 100% of the grant without any obligation for co-financing.

The grant shall be awarded in **Czech crowns (CZK)**.

The indicative **size of the grant per project** is supposed to range between **17 237 350 CZK–66 297 500 CZK** (equivalent to **0,65–2,5 million CHF**).

Costs related to the **Swiss partner(s)** are **eligible** under the same rules as for the Czech applicant. The grant is provided entirely in CZK, and the **Czech applicant** (as the beneficiary

of the grant) **is fully responsible for covering any exchange rate differences** that may occur. The Swiss partner is **not required to provide any co-financing** and **must not bear any exchange rate risk**. The amount intended for the Swiss partner shall be defined in **CHF** and specified clearly in a **Partnership Agreement** (using the “Call Exchange Rate” is recommended), as well as in the relevant sections of the project proposal and internal project budgets. The Swiss partner's share of the project budget may reach **up to 50%** of the total eligible project costs.

The **Partnership Agreement** must be **signed** by both partners before the Decision on Funding is issued by MEYS. Prior to this step, applicants will be informed in writing (a Decision Letter) of the evaluation results.

Eligible Activities:

- Joint Research and Co-Development Activities
- Education, Training, and Human Capital Development
- Mobility and Knowledge Exchange
- Technology Development, Instrumentation, and Integration
- Support for Open and Transnational Access
- Innovation Support and Industry Collaboration

Eligible Costs:

- **Personal costs**
- **Travel/Mobility costs** (transportation, accommodation, insurance, per diems)
- **Costs for the acquisition of tangible and intangible assets** – cap of **10%**
- **Other operating costs** (e.g. intellectual property rights, consumables, publication fees, etc.)
- **Costs of services** – subcontracting costs are limited to **20%** of the total eligible project budget
- **Indirect costs (Overheads)** – **flat rate** of up to **25%** of the total direct eligible costs, excluding subcontracting (as is applied in Horizon Europe projects)

Expected Timeline:

1. Call Opens: early summer 2025
2. Deadline for Proposal Submission: late summer 2025
3. Review and Evaluation: September–October 2025
4. Results Announced: October 2025
5. Expected Start of Project Implementation: November 2025 (the soonest)
6. Expected Project Completion: till 31 December 2028 (the latest)

The **minimum** project duration is **2 years**.

Application and Submission Process:

The call will be conducted as a **single-stage application process**, with full proposals required at the time of submission by the specified deadline.

The MEYS designates **the preferred method of submitting** the grant application as a data message sent to the MEYS via data mailbox: **vidaawt**.

The applications will need to consist of:

- Project Application Form
- Project Description including Budget
- CVs (Czech Team Members)
- TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) Statement (evaluating the project)
- Draft of the Partnership Agreement between Czech and Swiss Partners

Evaluation Criteria:

The projects will be evaluated based on their scientific and technical merit (excellent research, contribution to Czech-Swiss bilateral cooperation), relevance to calls objectives, strategic and societal impact, feasibility and implementation capacity, and financial efficiency of the project.

Please note that information contained in this pre-announcement is preliminary and subject to change. The definitive terms and conditions will be those set out in the official Call for Proposals, which will be published in due course.

Additional Information & Contact:

The Czech and Swiss Research Infrastructures Initiative is managed by the **Research Infrastructures Unit** of the Department of Research and Development at **MEYS**.

For further information about Czech-Swiss Research Infrastructure Initiative, follow <https://www.swiss-contribution.cz/en/programmes/czech-swiss-research-infrasctructure-ini>.

Further information about the call will be posted on [MEYS website](#).

Information Workshop for the applicants will be organized by MEYS shortly after the call launch.

MEYS contact person shall respond only *formal* questions. The Ministry will not provide answers to any questions of a factual nature with the exception of the general focus of the call.

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CZ-Nodes:

- **ACTRIS-CZ** (*ACTRIS – participation of the Czech Republic*)
- **BBMRI.cz** (*Network of Czech Biobanks*)
- **CzeCOS** (*Czech Carbon Observation System*)
- **CSDA/ESS-CZ**¹ (*Czech Social Science Data Archive / ESS – participation of the Czech Republic*)
- **CZECRIN** (*Czech National Node to the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network*)
- **ELIXIR CZ** (*Czech National Infrastructure for Biological Data*)
- **LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ** (*Digital Research Infrastructure for Language Technologies, Arts and Humanities*)
- **SHARE-CZ** (*Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe – participation of the Czech Republic*)

CH-Nodes:

- **ACTRIS ERIC** (*Aerosol, Clouds, and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure*)
Swiss node: **ACTRIS Switzerland**
- **BBMRI ERIC** (*Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure*)
Swiss node: **Swiss Biobanking Platform SBP**
- **CESSDA ERIC** (*Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives*)
Swiss node: **Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences FORS**
- **CLARIN ERIC** (*Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure*)
Swiss node: **LiRI @ University of Zurich / CLARIN-CH**
- **DARIAH ERIC** (*Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities*)
Swiss node: **Swiss National Data and Service Center for the Humanities DaSCH**

¹ The **CSDA/ESS-CZ** and **LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ** large research infrastructure projects facilitate the involvement of the Czech Republic in multiple distributed European research infrastructures participated by both the Czech Republic and Switzerland, i.e., both these large research infrastructure projects also operate multiple Czech national nodes to distributed European research infrastructures. While the Czech national nodes to **CESSDA** and **ESS** are both operated through CSDA/ESS-CZ, LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ serves as the Czech national node to **CLARIN** and **DARIAH** (and EHRI – European Holocaust Research Infrastructure). The **CzeCOS** large research infrastructure project also engages with multiple distributed European research infrastructures (AnaEE, DANUBIUS-RI, eLTER RI, EUFAR, and ICOS), of which only ICOS is participated by both the Czech Republic and Switzerland.

- **ECRIN ERIC** (*European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network*)
Swiss node: **Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation SCTO**
- **ELIXIR** (*European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information*)
Swiss node: **ELIXIR Switzerland / Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics SIB**
- **ESSurvey ERIC** (*European Social Survey*)
Swiss node: **Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences FORS**
- **ICOS ERIC** (*Integrated Carbon Observation System*)
Swiss node: **ETH Zurich / ICOS-CH**
- **SHARE ERIC** (*Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe*)
Swiss node: **University of Lausanne / FORS**