

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What types of entities are eligible for funding?

Research organisations as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), established in Romania, can apply for funding as Project Promoters (PP) and project partners.

Companies (SME Small and large sized enterprises) as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), established in Romania and Norway, can participate in the call only as project partners.

Useful documents:

[Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation \(2014/C 198/01\)](#)
[Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014](#), with subsequent amendments.

2. Are non-governmental organizations eligible under the Programme?

The NGOs and Foundations are eligible to participate in the call. They could be considered as research organizations (can apply as Project Promoters or Project Partners) or companies (only as Project Partners), according to the definitions mentioned above.

3. Can entities from countries other than Romania and Norway be partners in the project?

Other eligible partners are Research organizations from third countries but they cannot receive funding from the project grant.

4. How to find a partner in Norway?

The Research Council of Norway has a website with advice on how to find a partner and a Partner Search Database you are welcome to use: <https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/international-funding/eos-midlene/eea-and-norway-grantspartner-search/>

Support for travel for meeting Norwegian partners is available here: <https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/eea-proiecte-de-mobilitati>.

5. How to find a partner in Romania?

The UEFISCDI has websites dedicated to the online community of researchers, innovators, technicians and entrepreneurs (<https://www.brainmap.ro/>) and to the Romanian Research Infrastructures (<http://www.erris.gov.ro>). Apart of the information from our website related to the Brokerage platform (<https://eea.brokerage.uefiscdi-direct.ro>), these are two options for you to find partners in Romania.

Support for travel for meeting Romanian partners is available here: <https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/eea-mobility-grants>.

6. How many entities can be part of the consortium?

There are no formal, upper limits with respect to the number of partners. Proposals have to be submitted by consortia comprising at least one Romanian entity and one from Norway.

7. It is mandatory to have a company in the Consortium?

No, this is not an eligibility criterion.

PAY ATTENTION: The Project Promoter, public institution from Romania, has the obligation to make public the intention to establish a partnership with private entities (from Romania and Norway) in order to implement a project funded by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, except for accredited private higher education institutions (art.24, Government Emergency Ordinance, No.34/2017). For the projects in this situation supporting documents for this purpose will be uploaded in the dedicated section of the online submission platform (including printscreen with the published selection procedure accepted).

8. How many proposals can apply an entity as Project Promoter (PP)?

There is no condition imposed in terms of number of applications submitted by a PP.

9. Which are the eligibility conditions for Principal Investigator (PI)?

The PI (of any nationality) must have a PhD in the field of the project. For interdisciplinary projects, the PI must have a PhD in one field of the project.

The PI should be employed by the Romanian PP, with a permanent position, or with a fixed term contract covering at least the duration of the project, or has the agreement of the PP for his/her employment at least for the duration of the project.

10. Who will send the application and where?

The Romanian Project Promoter is responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the project

consortium, electronically to the submission platform: www.uefiscdi-direct.ro.

After submission, an acknowledgement of receipt is sent to the Project Promoter (PP) by email containing:

- proposal title, acronym and unique proposal identifier (proposal number);
- name of the Programme and/or thematic area and call identifier;
- date and time of receipt.

PP is free to inform partners about this.

11. When can a project start and finish?

According to the timeline of the Call 2019, the funding decision/contracting phase will be completed in June 2020. Activities may start as soon the contract is signed. Projects can last for max 36 months, with the possibility of 6-9 months extension, with no additional funds, but not later than **30th of April 2024**.

12. Is there any priority order/preference of topics concerning thematic area in the Call?

No, there is no such preference. Projects will be evaluated primarily on the basis of their scientific quality/excellence and innovativeness. Please read the Guide for Evaluators for more information about the selection process.

13. What is the maximum level of funding for Norwegian partner(s)?

The costs claimed by the Norwegian entities participating in the project shall normally not exceed 40% of the total costs of the project.

In distributing the budget, partners should be guided by the overall objectives of the Programme, which focus on the quality of the research and the strengthening of the relations between the Romanian and Norwegian research institutions. The budget should reflect the activity of each partner in bringing about the project results, including the administrative and project coordination work load.

14. What is the minimum and maximum grant amount in the Call?

The minimum amount of grant assistance to be applied for is EUR 500.000 and the maximum amount is EUR 1.200.000. Grants from the Programme may be up to 100% of total eligible project costs. The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the approved State Aid Scheme.

15. What is the State Aid intensity?

According to the State Aid Scheme, the rates for support are:

Type of research	Company Type		
	Small	Medium	Large
Fundamental research	100%		
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Experimental development	45%	35%	25%

If the conditions set out in Article 16 alin. (3) of the State Aid Scheme are fulfilled, the intensity of state aid for industrial and experimental development becomes:

Type of research	Company Type		
	Small	Medium	Large
Industrial research in effective collaboration or results dissemination	80%	75%	65%
Experimental development in effective collaboration or results dissemination	60%	50%	40%

16. Is the purchase of travel an eligible cost for companies?

The travel costs for companies are eligible only from their own budget.

17. How the research team should be remunerated?

For the Romanian Project Promoter and Partners, the research teams will be paid according to the provisions of the Governmental Decision no. 751/2017 or the Governmental Decision no. 583/2015 (upper ceiling), with subsequent changes and additions.

18. Which rates should use for budgeting personnel costs on the Norwegian side?

General rule: most partners (such universities, university colleges, enterprises, health authorities) from Norway shall use the same rates for personnel costs as in H2020 projects. Indirect costs (overheads) are calculated as a

flat rate of 25% of all direct costs excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary, as well as financial support to third parties.

There is one exception from the rule: Norwegian research institutes which report personnel rates to the Research Council of Norway (RCN), and have those personnel rates calculated and approved by the RCN, may use those as Standard scales of unit costs (ref. Regulation art. 8.4.b). This means they should use the same rates as in applications to RCN calls. It is important to note that in such cases, no indirect or overhead costs should be included in the budget, as they are already included in the personnel rates.

When the organisation number of the Norwegian partner entity is entered into the application system, the system will select the right calculation method and overhead percentage.

19. From which category of expenditures can be paid the responsible for administrative and financial management of the project (for Project Promoter only)?

The person responsible for administrative and financial management of the project can be paid from staff costs.

20. The financial responsible must be employed full time?

No, it is not necessary.

21. Can persons from outside Romanian participate in the Romanian team?

Yes, if they are employed in the Romanian institutions involved in the project, during the implementation of the project.

22. The vacancies must be full time?

No, it is not necessary.

23. Is an external audit for projects required?

Yes, the general rule is that an audit certificate issued by an external company is necessary and the cost can be budgeted in the project proposal.

Exceptions to this general rule are:

- Project promoters or partners who have a grant below 325 000 EUR do not need to submit an audit certificate at all, but need to have the documentation ready for an on-site audit.
- Project promoters or partners who have an independent internal auditing department within their institution, may submit an audit certificate issued by the internal audit. (This is for example relevant for several Norwegian universities.)

24. What value of the project requires an Audit?

More than EUR 325,000.

25. In which category of expenditures can the Audit be framed?

The Audit cost can be settled under heading "other costs".

26. When the Audit is required?

An audit certificate on the financial statements for each participant (as applicable) will be required at the Final Reporting (within 60 days after the project end).

27. Is the purchase of equipment an eligible cost?

When new or second hand equipment is purchased, only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project may be considered eligible expenditure, in compliance with applicable rules on the state aid scheme.

For Romanian partners, the rules of depreciation, according to national legislation, apply only to companies. For the research organizations all equipment costs are 100% eligible.

This includes, but is not limited to, laboratory/workshop equipment (including computers and servers), software and installation costs.

28. What is the legal frame for the equipment/services acquisitions?

For the Romanian participants, the equipment acquisitions must comply with the Law 98/2016 on public acquisitions with subsequent modifications and completions.

29. How are the indirect costs (overheads) calculated?

Indirect eligible costs shall be determined for each partner by applying a flat rate of 25% of the total direct eligible costs, excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary, as well as financial support to third parties. There is one exception from the rule: Norwegian research institutes which report personnel rates to the Research Council of Norway (RCN), and have those personnel rates calculated and approved by the RCN, may use those as Standard scales of unit costs (ref. Regulation art. 8.4.b). This means they should use the same rates as in applications to RCH calls. It is important to note that in such cases, no indirect or overhead costs should be included in the budget, as they are already included in the personnel rates. If you are unsure whether your institution is one of the research institutes that can use the RCN personnel rates, check this list:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/contentassets/3aac4d1b26724a1d8b9d1919814e84d7/stim-eu-liste-over-institutter-2019-med-logo.pdf>

(The list shows institutions eligible for the STIM-EU scheme, which is the same group of institutions which may use RCN rates in the EEA and Norway Grants research programmes.)

30. The currency exchange differences are eligible?

No, the excluded costs are detailed in Guide for Applicants, pag. 17.

31. The costs for the protection of a patent are eligible?

The initial submission costs for the protection of a patent are eligible, included under "Other costs".

32. Is VAT an eligible cost?

All costs budgeted in project (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies etc) will be charged to the programme, VAT included. However, VAT is not considered an eligible cost in case the entity can reclaim VAT from the national tax authorities in conformity with national indirect tax regulations.

The recoverable VAT is considered excluded cost.

33. Is there a template for the project description?

The template is in Annex 1.2 – Project Application form (Part B).

The format of the proposal structure (A4; font: Arial, 11 pt, page limit, interline space single and 2 cm margins) must be respected. Do not add any additional attachments. All items (such as figures, tables) have to be included in the text. The max number of pages is 30 (applied to sections 1, 2 and 3); the applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between the sections.

The overall page limit will be strictly applied. The excess pages will not be taken into consideration by experts. The titles and info under each section must be kept.