The Norway Grants Call 2019 – Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) Pre-announcement

UEFISCDI, as Programme Operator for Research Programme, together with Donor Programme Partners, the Research Council of Norway (RCN, Norway) and RANNIS (Iceland), will to launch the second call under EEA&Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021.

The call, to be publised in September 2019, will target basic and applied research in the following thematic areas¹:

- Energy
- Environment
- Health
- Social Sciences and humanities, including gender studies and social inclusion studies
- \circ ICT
- Biotechnology

Researchers are encouraged to start discussing the possible projects with prospective partners, building their consortia and prepare their proposals. For identifying the possible partners from Norway a partner search database is available here:

https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/international-funding/eosmidlene/eea-and-norway-grantspartner-search/

The call will require that projects be submitted by a consortium consists of at least a legal entity from Romania and one from Norway. The Project Promoter shall be a Romanian eligible research organisation². The eligible partners could be research organisation and companies established in Romania or Norway.

The total call budget is EUR 24.687.500. The minimum amount of the grant assistance to be apply for is EUR 500.000 and maximum amount is EUR 1.200.000 (tbc).

Duration of a project could be up to 36 months with the possibility of 6-9 months extention, but not exceeding 30th of April 2024.

Conditionalities:

No less than 10% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme shall be dedicated to projects falling primarily under the key topic *"Roma inclusion and empowerment"*.

In the final list of projects receiving funding under the thematic area "Social Sciences and humanities, including gender studies and social inclusion studies", gender studies and social inclusion studies are reflected.

Research projects shall include dedicated action exploring the potential for further joint applications between partners from Romania and the Donor State(s) to EU framework programme calls and other international funding sources.

Within the "Energy" thematic area, the project proposal addressing the key topic *Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)* shall be prioritized amoung equally scored proposals.

Tentative Timeline:

The call has one step submission procedure. The proposals, in English language, must be submitted electronically to the on-line platform <u>www.uefiscdi-</u><u>direct.ro</u> (available after launching the call).

The tentative deadline for proposals submission is mid of December 2019.

Notification of selected projects will be made in June 2020.

Information meetings for potential applicants will take place in the first two weeks after launching the call.

The second call for Mobility Grants under Fund for Bilateral Relations will be launch by the end of July 2019, enabling bilateral partnerships between researchers from Romania and Norway.

Note that this pre-announcement is for information purposes only. It does not create any obligation for UEFISCDI and DPPs, and the official call announcement shall prevail.

¹ "The key topics under each thematic area available <u>here</u>

² As defined in the EU Framework for State Aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C198/01)