



Grants & Incentives news

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| Employee Training Subsidies – Educa

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has published the fourth call for proposals under the Educa programme focused on specific employee training (such as specific IT system training, unique production technologies, etc.). The amount of aid for employee training may achieve up to 100% of the eligible costs of the project. The condition of the project is its implementation outside the capital city of Prague.

The supported activities include the professional training of employees focused on the increase, renewal and maintenance of qualifications, obtaining of key skills increasing the sustainability of a job in a company, the application of all forms of employee training under specific employer needs, the creation of training programmes and the preparation of corporate instructors. Applications are collected from 13 May 2013 to 27 May 2013.

| Subsidies for Applied Research or Experimental Development

The Technological Agency of the Czech Republic published the second tender in research, experimental development and innovations. The programme is focused on long-term cooperation between the public and private sector – the Competence Centres. Aid may be requested by a private enterprise or a research institution. The deadline to submit projects is 20 May 2013 at 4.30 pm.

The maximum aid per project in this public tender is 70% of the total eligible costs. The supported costs are personnel costs, investment costs or expenses, service costs or expenses, other costs and indirect costs or expenses (overheads). The maximum amount of the financial support used for one project over the entire project period is EUR 10 million or EUR 7.5 million if the prevailing activity is applied research or experimental development, respectively.

| Plan of Calls for Proposals under the Environment Operational Programme for 2013

On 19 March, the State Environmental Fund published an approved plan of calls for proposals under the Environment Operational Programme for 2013. The plan is published on the website of the Environment Operational Programme. The calls for proposals relate to seven priority axes focusing on the following areas:

1. Improvement of the water management infrastructure and the reduction of flood risk.
2. Improvement of air quality and reduction of emissions.
3. Sustainable use of energy sources.
4. Improvement of waste management and removal of old environmental burdens.
5. Reduction of industrial pollution and decreasing environmental risk.
6. Improvement of the state of nature and landscape.
7. Development of the infrastructure for environmental training, advisory and public education.

According to the plan, applicants can expect in May challenges in the priority axes Improving air quality and reducing emissions and in Development of infrastructure for environmental education, counseling and education.

| Subsidies for innovation projects for small and medium size companies - CzechEkoSystem

In early April, a call for proposals under the CzechEkoSystem programme was published. This programme should improve the quality and availability of specific advisory services focused on the preparation of projects of innovative small and mid-sized enterprises as potential recipients of venture capital. The subsidy may be requested by a small or mid-sized enterprise with business activities not exceeding five years. The project is conditioned by implementation outside the capital city of Prague. The minimum amount of aid for the implementation of SME projects is CZK 0.2 million, the maximum amount is CZK 3 million.

The eligible costs in the project are the costs of advisory services provided by external advisors and the costs of coach services. A coach leads the aid recipients towards the meeting of the business plan, coordinates the implementation of the aid recipient's development plan and participates in the timing of advisory services. The advisory services provided by external advisors must relate to an area that is clearly linked to the preparation of the strategy for entering the market with a new, innovative solution (product or service) including the anticipated use of venture capital. Applications will be collected from 2 April 2013 to 31 October 2013.

| Investment Incentives

National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the amendment to the Act on investment incentives, which came into force on 1 April 2013. Only the investment aid that the applicant applies for after 31 March 2013 will be subject to the new version of the act. In case, the applicant applies for investment aid until 31 March 2013, and the investment aid is granted to them after 31 March 2013, this investment aid will be subject to the old version of the act.

Major changes that the amended version of the act brings about:

- **Limit of the minimum investment amount was lowered to 10/5/3 mil. EUR** (depending on the average unemployment rate in the region where the investment is situated)
- **Output in terms of quantity or value after the completion of the investment plan has to rise by 15% at least**
- **Creation of new jobs has to be part of the investment project**
 - The increase in job may not be lower than 15% of the average number of new jobs created in the past 12 months; however, it may not be lower than 40 employees.
- **Lower maximum intensity of the investment aid in the region with lower average unemployment rate**
- **A major ownership restructuring cannot be executed** (during the realisation of the investment project, during utilization of the investment aid, and in the five consecutive years following the year in which the investment project ended)
- **Further investment incentives can be provided only in the form of tax credit**

If these issues relate to your company, we would be happy to provide you with more detailed information. Feel free to contact us at any time.

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