

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
National Agency for Agricultural Research

Call for Application for Funding in 2025 (CfA)

Applied Research Support Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture
for period 2024-2032, ZEMĚ II.



CONTENTS

1. BASIC INFORMATION	1
2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK	1
3. BINDING CONDITIONS OF CALL.....	2
3.1 <i>Public call schedule</i>	2
3.2 <i>Submission of project proposals</i>	2
3.3 <i>Announcement of the results of the public competition</i>	2
3.4 <i>Length of project solutions</i>	3
3.5 <i>Conditions for granting aid</i>	3
4. CANDIDATES AND PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY	4
4.1 <i>Applicants</i>	4
4.2 <i>Proof of the applicant's eligibility</i>	4
4.3 <i>Motivational effect</i>	6
5. DRAFT PROJECT	6
5.1 <i>How to submit a project proposal</i>	6
5.2 <i>Changes to the data for demonstrating eligibility</i>	7
5.3 <i>Duplication and delineation against projects with similar substance</i>	7
5.4 <i>Financial support</i>	8
5.5 <i>Types of results required</i>	9
5.6 <i>Documents to prove eligibility</i>	11
6. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATING PROJECT PROPOSALS.....	12
6.1 <i>Acceptance of project proposals for the public call for proposals</i>	12
6.2 <i>Expert evaluation of project proposals</i>	12
6.3 <i>Procedure for the peer review of project proposals</i>	13
7.1 <i>Decision on the selection of project proposals</i>	14
8. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION	14
9. INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR APPLICANTS.....	15

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Provider"), within the programme "[Applied Research Programme of The Ministry of Agriculture for the period 2024 - 2032, EARTH II](#)" (hereinafter referred to as the "ZEMĚ II Programme"), announces in Trade Journal, in the Information System for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, and at the Provider's website pursuant to Act No. 130/2002 Coll, on the support of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and on amendments to certain related acts (Act on the support of research, experimental development and innovation), as amended, a one-stage public competition in research, development and innovation with the start of the projects in 2026.
2. Address of the provider:
The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
Department of Precision Agriculture, Research and Education 13130
Department of the National Agency for Agricultural Research 13132
Těšnov 65/17
110 00 Prague 1
Data box ID: yphaax8
3. All documents for public call are available at the website of The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic.
4. All applicants¹ must have a data box available.
5. No information relating to specific project proposals or interim evaluation results will be provided during competition and evaluation period.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. The public call is announced in accordance with Act No. 130/2002 Coll., 130/2002 Coll., as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 130/2002 Coll.") and is in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on the support of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and on amendments to certain related laws, by which certain categories of aid with the internal market, in accordance with Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, as amended ("GBER"), are compatible with the text of the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation - Official Journal of the EU of 28 October 2022, No 2022/C 414/01 ("the Framework").
2. Beneficiaries must comply with the conditions set out in Act No 159/2006 Coll., on Conflict of Interest.
3. The evaluation of project proposals in the public competition is governed by the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the expert advisory body and the College of Experts of The Ministry of Agriculture for the evaluation of research and development project proposals in public competitions of the Programme for the Support of Applied Research of The Ministry of Agriculture for the period 2024-2032, ZEMĚ II (hereinafter referred to as the "Statutes and Rules Procedure") updated for this public competition.
4. The publication of data shall be carried out in accordance with Act No. 110/2019 Coll., on the processing of personal data and in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation; GDPR).

¹ For the definition of a tenderer, see point 4.1 of this document

3. BINDING CONDITIONS OF CALL

3.1 Public call schedule

Stages of the competition	Deadline
Announcement of the public call	16. 4. 2025
Start of the competition period	17. 4. 2025
End of the competition period - deadline for submitting a project proposal through the SISTA information system	4. 6. 2025, 16:29:59
Deadline for <u>sending the Confirmation of Electronic Submission of the Project Proposal</u> via the Lead Applicant's data box	4. 6. 2025, 23:59:59
Closure of the deadline for <u>sending documents to demonstrate eligibility</u> via each applicant's data box	4. 6. 2025, 23:59:59
Evaluation period	5. 6. 2025 - 19. 12. 2025
Announcement of the results of the public competition	By December 19, 2025

3.2 Submission of project proposals

1. During the competition period (until June 4, 2025; 16:29:59), project proposals can only be submitted via the SISTA Information System at <https://sista.tacr.cz/>.
2. After the electronic submission of the project proposal, a "Confirmation of Electronic Project Proposal Submission" will be generated for the Lead Applicant². This confirmation shall be sent by the lead applicant via its data mailbox to the provider's data mailbox by 23:59:59 on 4 June 2025. The date of dispatch from the main applicant's data box is decisive. The subject field of the message shall be entitled: „3rd call for public competition“ - ZEMĚ II. Programme - PROJECT PROPOSAL“. Multiple "Confirmation of Electronic Project Proposal Submission" messages may be included within one message.
3. In case of non-compliance with the conditions set out in points 1 and 2 of this Article, the project proposal will not be accepted for the public competition in research, development and innovation.

3.3 Announcement of the results of the public competition

1. The results of the public competition in research, experimental development and innovation will be published no later than by 19. 12. 2025 at [Program aplikovaného výzkumu Ministerstva zemědělství na období 2024–2032, ZEMĚ II | MZe](#).
2. The decision of The Ministry of Agriculture on the result of the public call in research, experimental development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as "R&D&I") is not subject to the Administrative Code pursuant to Section 21(11) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. There is no legal entitlement to the granting of aid.

² **The main applicant** is a legal entity or natural , an organisational unit of the State or an organisational unit of the Ministry, engaged in research and development, which submits a project proposal. The lead applicant shall be responsible for the accuracy of the project proposal. In the event of the conclusion of a Grant Agreement, the lead applicant shall become the beneficiary.

3.4 Length of project's running period

1. The earliest starting date for projects is January 1, 2026. The latest starting date for projects is March 31, 2026.

	Sub-Programme I	Sub-Programme II
Minimum Length of project's running period	24 months	
Maximum duration of the project	60 months	48 months
	until 31 December 2030 at the latest	until 31 December 2029 at the latest

3.5 Conditions for granting aid

	Sub-Programme I	Sub-Programme II	Total
Estimated financial allocation for the 3rd Call for Proposals of the ZEMĚ II. Programme	CZK 1 000 000 000	250 000 000 CZK	CZK 1 250 000 000

1. The Provider reserves the right to decide on the amount of earmarked support based on the evaluation of project proposals under the announced ZEMĚ II Programme. The determination of the share of the earmarked support in the eligible costs (see chapter 5.4) and the method of granting the earmarked funds by the Provider will be part of the contract or the decision to grant support for the project.
2. The amount of co-financing will be covered by other resources of the beneficiary³ and/or other project participant⁴, which means non-public sources and other public sources.
3. The aid cannot be cumulated with other public aid for the same eligible costs and activities.

³ **The Beneficiary** is a legal entity or natural person engaged in research and development with whom the aid provider has concluded a contract for the provision of aid and who is responsible for fulfilling the purpose of the aid, i.e. achieving the objectives and results of the project, and who is responsible for the use of the aid provided in accordance with the Contract for the provision of aid and the General Conditions.

⁴ **Another project participant** is an organisational unit of the State or an organisational unit of the Ministry dealing with research and development and contributory organisations established by them, as well as a legal entity or a natural person whose participation in the project is defined in the project proposal and with whom the beneficiary intends to conclude a contract on participation in the project solution in the case of support for the project proposal.

APPLICANTS AND PROOF OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Applicants

1. An applicant for project support may be:
 - **research organisation** - a legal entity that fulfils the conditions of the definition of a research organisation under Article 2(83) of the GBER and the Framework;
 - **a legal and natural person** carrying out an economic activity demonstrates the ability to co-finance the project from non-public sources and meets the conditions of Article 1 of Annex 1 of the GBER and the Framework;
 - **an organisational unit of the State**, or an organisational unit of the Ministry and contributory organisations established by them, engaged in research and development;
2. Applicants referred to in Section 18(11) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. may also participate in the public competition. Applicants referred to in this provision who are legal entities may participate in the public competition if they have an establishment or branch in the Czech Republic no later than the date of submission of the project proposal.
3. In both sub-programmes, only the research can be a beneficiary.
 - In Sub-Programme I, at least one enterprise must be an additional participant in the project.
 - In Sub-programme II, other research organisations and/or enterprises may be other participants in the project.
4. The assessment of whether the applicant fulfils the defined characteristics of a research organisation and, in the case of a company, its type, will be carried out by the provider for each applicant. The verification of compliance with the definition of research organisation and type of enterprise (small/medium/large, according to Annex 1 of the GBER and the User's Guide to the definition of SMEs issued by the European Commission⁵) and the possibility of obtaining any additional payment under Article 25(6) of the GBER will be carried out on the basis of the affidavit submitted by the tenderers or on the basis of the requested evidence of the declared facts.

4.2 Proof of the applicant's eligibility

1. **Each candidate proves his/her eligibility according to Section 18 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. separately by** means of a sworn declaration on the form.
2. Professional prerequisites for the project according to Section 18(2)(a) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. are demonstrated by the members of the project team in the project proposal.
3. If the activity in connection with the project requires a special permit in with Section 18(2)(b) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., a copy of the permit (e.g. Authorisation for the use of experimental animals or Decision on the authorisation for GMO handling) must also be included in the documents to prove eligibility. These authorisations **shall be submitted by all applicants who will carry out animal experiments** or handle GMOs **within project** as an annex to the project proposal to SISTA.
4. The affidavit and related documents to demonstrate eligibility shall be sent from each applicant's data box to the provider's data box by 4 June 2025 23:59:59. The date of dispatch from the data box of the applicant demonstrating eligibility shall be decisive for maintaining the deadline. If one entity acts as lead applicant or other project participant in more than one project proposal, a single proper delivery of documents to demonstrate eligibility will be sufficient. In the terms of reference of the report in

⁵ The guide is available e.g. at: [User's Guide to the Definition of SMEs - Publications Office of the EU](#)

the 'Subject' data field must read „**3rd call for applicants - EARTH Programme II. DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCE**“.

5. Project proposals received after the deadline will not be admitted to the call for proposals in research, development and Innovation.
6. **An eligible applicant is not an** entity that is prohibited from providing support within the meaning of Section 4c of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on **Conflict of Interest**.
7. **An eligible applicant is not an** undertaking against which a **recovery order** has been issued and is following a decision of the European Commission declaring aid received from a provider unlawful and incompatible with the internal market, and **an undertaking in difficulty**⁶ within the meaning of Article 1(4)(a)(1)(b) of the EC Treaty.
(a) and (c) and Article 2(18) GBER.
8. **An eligible applicant is not** such an entity that does not comply with the obligation under Act No. 563/1991 Coll., the Accounting Act, **to publish its financial statements** in the relevant register within the meaning of Act No. 304/2013 Coll., the Public Registers of Legal and Natural Persons. This paragraph applies only to those entities that have such obligations. **The Provider shall check compliance with this obligation for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.**
9. An eligible foreign applicant is an that provides selected financial statement data for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the purpose of assessing financial health in the form of an additional annex to the project proposal. These data must be verifiable. The Provider reserves the right to request confirmation from the foreign applicant according to the rules of the relevant country (e.g. extract from the relevant register, certificate from the tax or other competent authority).
10. An entity that has submitted a false Czech is not an eligible applicant. The conditions of the affidavit must be met throughout the duration of the project.
11. An eligible applicant is not an entity that is subject to financial sanctions that prohibit, directly or indirectly, making financial or economic resources available to persons, entities or bodies listed on the EU sanctions lists or in other sanctions legislation pursuant to Act No. 69/2006 Coll., on the Implementation of International Sanctions, as amended.
12. The applicant is obliged to state in the proposal:
 - **ownership structure**, i.e. natural and legal persons with a stake in the applicant's legal entity;
 - **details of the applicant's shareholdings in other legal entities** and their amount.

If the applicant does not indicate the ownership structure, or if the information provided is false or incomplete, the project proposal will not be accepted into the or will be eliminated from the applicant. This also applies if circumstances arise that demonstrate incomplete or incorrect ownership structures during the evaluation period of the project proposal. If the nature of the legal form of a particular tenderer means that the tenderer cannot provide this information because it does not have an ownership structure, this obligation does not apply.

13. In the event that deficiencies are detected in the demonstration of eligibility pursuant to Section 18 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., the provider shall invite the applicant in writing to eliminate them within 5 calendar days.

⁶ Interpretive Opinion of the Office for Enterprises in Difficulty is at <https://uohs.gov.cz/cs/verejna-support/podniky-v-obtizich.html>.

4.3 Motivational effect

1. State aid must have an incentive effect, i.e. it must lead beneficiaries to change their behaviour so as to increase R&D&I activity in terms of scale, scope, amount or speed. State aid to beneficiaries must lead to projects or activities being carried out which would otherwise not have been carried out at all or would have been carried out on a limited scale.
2. For a definition of the Incentive Effect, see GBER Article 6. It also applies to all beneficiaries that they must not start work on the project or activities before the submission of the application for support and the costs of the project must not be incurred before January 1, 2026, the project start date.

DRAFT PROJECT

5.1 How to submit a project proposal

1. A project proposal will be accepted for applicant if it is submitted electronically through the SISTA information system, all applicants demonstrate eligibility and meet all the conditions specified in this CfA.
2. All information provided in the project proposal and documents submitted to the provider with the project proposal must be true and in accordance with the actual situation at the date of submission of the project proposal. This shall be confirmed by the lead applicant by sending the 'Confirmation of submission of the electronic project proposal' (see point 3.2.2) to the provider's data box.
3. The project proposal must be submitted in the Czech or Slovak language. .
4. It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that the project proposal is delivered on time and in full in accordance with terms of the call for applicants.
5. Applicants are not entitled to reimbursement of costs associated with their participation in the competition.
6. During competition period, the lead applicant may request a correction to a project proposal already submitted through the owner⁷ of the project proposal. He may withdraw the submitted project proposal himself in SISTA. After the submission of the project proposal, the project proposal owner will see a button in the Project Proposal Overview tab "Withdrawal of the project proposal". This step cancels the submission of the project proposal. The project proposal can be subsequently modified, completed and resubmitted. For a proper submission, a confirmation of the submission of the project proposal must be generated again and sent to the provider's data box.
7. The provider may cancel the call under the conditions defined in § 24 (1) to (4) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll.

⁷ **The owner of the project proposal** is the person who has created the project proposal in SISTA and who alone has the right to submit the project proposal to the public competition via SISTA and subsequently generate the "Confirmation of electronic submission of the project proposal to SISTA". The owner of the project proposal may assign the authorisation to modify the project proposal to other people.

5.2 Changes to the data for demonstrating eligibility

1. The project proposal submitted may not be changed after the end of the competition period. Each applicant must inform the provider in writing of any changes that occur between the submission of the project proposal and the eventual conclusion of the Contract or the issue of the Decision which affect its legal status or the information required to demonstrate eligibility or which could affect the provider's decision-making. It must do so within **7 calendar days** of awareness of such facts. If he fails to do so within the time limit, his project proposal will be excluded from the call for proposals. Failure to comply with any of the conditions for demonstrating eligibility under Act No 130/2002 Coll., or the obligation to inform of the above changes, failure to provide missing documents by the deadline, failure to comply with the obligations set out by the provider in these call documents, or the provision of false information, shall be grounds for excluding the project proposal from the public competition.

5.3 Duplication and delineation against projects with similar substance

1. Only project proposals whose content or part of it has not been and is not currently being addressed by another project can be supported in the framework of the ZEMĚ II competition.
2. The applicant is obliged to identify itself in relation to other projects submitted to this call for applicants in which it is the main applicant or in which it is to be another project participant, if they are of a similar nature.
3. If the project proposal or part of it is the subject of another project proposal submitted by the applicant in another public competition/public contract in the Czech Republic or abroad, the applicant must indicate this fact in the project proposal.
4. If the applicant fails to meet the above conditions, the project proposals will be rejected from the competition.
5. The applicant must immediately withdraw from the competition :
 - concludes a contract for the provision of support for a duplicate project (content or part thereof) in another public competition/public contract in the Czech Republic or abroad,
 - initiate the implementation of a duplicate project (content or part thereof) in another public competition/public contract in the Czech Republic or abroad under a different legal title.

5.4 Financial support

1. Maximum aid intensity

Sub-Programme I		Small enterprise	Medium enterprise	Big business	RO ⁸	Total for the project
Industrial Research ⁹	taking into account SME surcharges	70 %	60 %	50 %	100 %	85 %
	upon evidence of effective cooperation with Research Organisations (RO)	80 %	75 %	65 %		
Experimental Development ¹⁰	taking into account SME surcharges	45 %	35 %	25 %	100 %	85 %
	upon evidence of effective cooperation with the RO	60 %	50 %	40 %		

Sub-Programme II		Small enterprise	Medium enterprise	Big business	RO ¹⁰	Total for the project
1. Beneficiary of the RO only		-	-	-	100 %	100 %
2. Recipient of the RO and the enterprise						
Industrial research	taking into account SME surcharges	70 %	60 %	50 %	100 %	-
	upon evidence of effective cooperation with the RO	80 %	75 %	65 %		
Experimental development	taking into account SME surcharges	45 %	35 %	25 %	100 %	-
	upon evidence of effective cooperation with the RO	60 %	50 %	40 %		

⁸ „RO“ = Research Organisation, they may receive 100 % support only for non-economic activities as defined in points 19 and 20 of the Framework.

⁹ Article 2, point 85 GBER

¹⁰ Article 2, point 86 GBER

- 1.1 Effective cooperation between enterprises and research organisations is defined in Article 2(90) GBER and point 1.3(16)(h) of the Framework.
- 1.2 To demonstrate effective cooperation, the following conditions must be met:
 - The costs of at least one research organisation must represent at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the project. Irrespective of the method of funding - grant or own resources.
 - At the same time, when multiple enterprises participate, at least one of them must be an SME. The costs of any one enterprise cannot account for more than 70 % of the eligible costs of the project.
- 1.3 Effective collaboration between enterprises and a research organisation is not considered to be a collaboration between linked or partner enterprises. For definitions of partner or linked enterprises, see e.g. the SME Definition User Guide at [Úřad pro ochranu hospodářské soutěže | Podniky v obtížích](#)
2. General conditions for financial support
 - 2.1 Recognized costs of the R&D&I project are according to Act No. 130/2002 Coll. "such eligible costs or expenditures in research, development and innovation that are approved by the provider and that are justified", i.e. necessary for the solution of a specific project, incurred only for the solution of the project in the course of its solution, justified, demonstrable and attributable to the approved activities.
 - 2.2 For all eligible costs, only the proportion of the costs or expenditure that relates to the solution of the relevant project (i.e. the determination of the proportion) may be included in the eligible costs.
 - 2.3 If the beneficiary/other project participant is a payer of value added and is entitled to a tax deduction under Act No. 235/2004 Coll., on value added tax, as amended, this value added tax cannot be considered as an eligible cost.
3. Eligible costs must be allocated to specific categories of , i.e. industrial research or experimental development.
 - 3.1 Eligible project costs include:
 - Personal costs or expenses, including scholarships for research, development and innovation under the Higher Education Act,
 - Costs or expenses of subcontracting,
 - Cost of assets used for the project
 - Other costs.

All categories of costs are listed and detailed in Article 7 of the General Conditions (version 2.1).

5.5 Types of results required

1. Minimum requirements for project results:
 - **One publication result of the Jimp type** - an original/review article in a peer-reviewed journal that is included in the Web of Science database with the "Article" flag, "Review" or "Letter".
 - **Two unpublished results of the following species¹¹:**
 - P - patent,
 - Z - semi-operation, proven technology, variety, breed,

¹¹Two results of the same kind or two results of different kinds of results. Both are possible.

- F - utility model, industrial design,
- G - prototype, working sample,
- H - results translated into legislation and standards, results translated into directives and regulations of a non-legislative nature binding within the competence of the relevant provider,
- N - methodology, treatment procedure, specialized map with specialized content,
- S - specialized public database,
- R - software.

Results supported in the ZEMĚ II. Programme

Jimp, Jsc, Jost	peer-reviewed article
B	professional book
C	chapter in a professional book
D	article in the proceedings
P	patent
Z	semi-operation, proven technology, variety, breed
F	utility model, industrial design
Gprot, Gfunk	prototype, working sample
R	software
S	dedicated public database
Nmet, Nmap	certified methodology, specialized map with expert content, treatment procedure
Hneleg	results reflected in directives and regulations of a non-legislative nature binding within the competence of the MoH
Hleg	results reflected in legislation and standards
Hkonc	results reflected in approved strategic and conceptual documents of state or public authorities
M	organisation of the conference
W	organisation of the workshop
O	other results

2. Minimum requirements for project results

- The results of the project must meet the objectives of the research need to which the project proposal subscribes. If the research need will have specific requirements for project results, these results must be included in the binding deliverables of the project proposal.

Results supported in the ZEMĚ II Programme:

Hneleg	results reflected in directives and regulations of a non-legislative nature binding within the competence of the MoH
Hleg	results reflected in legislation and standards
Hkonc	results reflected in approved strategic and conceptual documents of state or public authorities
Jimp, Jsc, Jost	peer-reviewed article
Gprot, Gfunk	prototype, working sample
P	patent
Z	semi-operation, proven technology, variety, breed
F	utility model, industrial design

R	software
S	dedicated public database
Nmet, Nmap	certified methodology, specialized map with expert content, treatment procedure
M	organisation of the conference
W	organisation of the workshop
O	other results

3. In the case of "R" results for software, the Support Agreement or its amendment will specify:
 - a. How intellectual rights will be settled.
 - b. How the software will be operated:
 - i. on what infrastructure,
 - ii. by which entity,
 - iii. what quality (in terms of compatibility, availability, accessibility, performance, security),
 - iv. whether and how it will be accessible to the public or to an otherwise specified group of users. The Provider reserves the right to apply for a licence or sub-licence including the possibility to deal with the research results in terms of modification, extension, alteration, inclusion of the results in a collective work, including through third parties.
4. For results that are dependent on a demanding approval process (patent, variety, breed) that may exceed the duration of the project, we recommend entering these results as additional project results in the project proposal in SISTA.
5. As a result of type O, it is also possible to show the acceptance of a patent application, an application for registration of a variety, or an application to the relevant breed association in the case breed approval.
6. In the case of type H results, a mandatory attachment to the project proposal is the documentation of the interest of the relevant government authority in the specific result. The form of the provider must be used to prove the interest.
7. The results specified in the project proposal are binding and must be achieved by the end of the project at the latest.
8. Individual types of results will be reported and evaluated in accordance with the current Methodology for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and Evaluation of Programmes of Special Purpose Support for Research, Development and Innovation approved by Government Resolution No. 107 of 8 February 2017.
9. According to the provisions of §12a of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., in the case full funding of research from public funds, the recipient is obliged to publish free of charge or provide research data on the results achieved upon request.

5.6 Documents to prove eligibility

1. The professional prerequisites for the project according to Section 18(2)(a) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. are demonstrated by the members of the research team in the project proposal.
2. Each applicant is required to prove their eligibility by attaching scans of documents to the project proposal as follows:

If a special legal regulation pursuant to Section 18(2)(b) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. requires the applicant to provide evidence of a permit for the activities it plans to carry out under the project proposal, the applicant shall provide evidence of the relevant permit:

- Decision on the authorisation for GMO management
If the applicant will work with genetically modified organisms (hereinafter referred to as "GMOs") during the project, he is obliged to provide the Decision on the authorisation for disposal

78/2004 Coll., on the handling of genetically modified organisms and genetic products, as amended.

- Authorisation to use experimental animals¹² pursuant to Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended

In case that experiments on animals will be carried out within the project, the applicant shall submit an authorisation for the use of experimental animals in accordance with §15a, §15b of Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty, as amended. The authorisation must be valid at the time of submission of the application to the competition procedure.

3. Each applicant shall provide evidence by means of a data box: Eligibility pursuant to Section 18(4)(b) of Act No 130/2002 Coll. by affidavit¹³. Applicants are required to use the affidavit form posted together with the other documents at the time of the call for proposals on the NAZV website: [Program aplikovaného výzkumu Ministerstva zemědělství na období 2024–2032, ZEMĚ II | MZe](#)

CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATING PROJECT PROPOSALS

6.1 Acceptance of project proposals for the public call for proposals

1. Acceptance and evaluation of project proposals will be carried out in accordance with Section 21 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. and related legislation as amended.
2. The fulfilment of the conditions for the acceptance of project proposals into the public competition in R&D&I will be evaluated by the committee for acceptance of project proposals appointed by the provider. In the event that the provider, on the proposal of the committee for the acceptance of project proposals, decides in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll, that the project proposal has not met the conditions of the call for proposals set out in the competition documentation and has been submitted in breach of the conditions of Section 21(2) of Act No 130/2002 Coll., the project proposal will be excluded from the call for proposals and no expert opinion will be drawn up on the project proposal.
3. The results of the evaluation of the compliance with the conditions for the acceptance of project proposals will be published after its completion and approval by the provider. The main applicant may appeal against the exclusion of project proposals from the competition in writing within ten calendar days of receipt of the notification of the exclusion of the project proposal from the competition. The appeal must include a statement of the facts which were omitted from the evaluation or which were evaluated contrary to the reality and which were known at the time of the evaluation. The submitted appeal will be examined by the NAZV and a decision will be taken on the further action to be taken, which will be communicated to the applicant.

6.2 Expert evaluation of project proposals

1. Project proposals meeting the conditions of the public competition pursuant to Section 21(2) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. will be professionally evaluated in accordance with Sections 4-7 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll.
2. The Provider shall provide four expert opinions of the opponents for each project proposal in accordance with the internal methodological procedures. Each referee report shall include the individual criteria and the overall evaluation result for the referee. The evaluator shall independently rank the project proposal assigned to him/her according to its quality in categories A, B, C. In the conclusion, the evaluator shall indicate the strengths of the project on a scale of 0-10. Projects are ranked according to their rating in clusters 1 to 9.

¹² the decision to approve the experimental project is issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the beneficiary does not have to provide evidence of this to the provider.

¹³ The sending of the affidavit by means of a data box is an act made in writing and signed within the meaning of Section 18 of Act No. 300/2008 Coll., on electronic acts and authorised document conversion. The affidavit does not need to be signed.

3. The Provider shall also ensure the preparation of a summary evaluation report of the Rapporteur (hereinafter referred to as "SHZ"). In SHZ, the discrepancies between the opinions of the different opponents, including the strengths and weaknesses of the project, will be assessed and the inclusion of the project proposal in a particular cluster will be confirmed. In case of a discrepancy between the different reviewers' opinions, the rapporteur may propose a reclassification of the project to another cluster. The proposed changes will be decided at the meeting of the College of Experts.
4. On the basis of the peer review and the rapporteur's summary evaluation report, the College of Experts will recommend selected projects for funding to the expert advisory body.
5. The proceedings of the College of Experts and the Expert Advisory Body shall be governed by the approved Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
6. The list of members of the expert advisory body will be published by the provider on the provider's website when the results of the competition are announced.

6.3 Procedure for the peer review of project proposals

In particular, the following criteria will be assessed during the peer review process:

1. Quality of the research project
 - Objectives of the design;
the meaningfulness and realism of the project objectives.
 - Fulfilment of the sub-programme objectives and key area objectives based on the [research-development-and-innovation-strategy-of-the-ministry-of-agriculture-for-2023-2032](#)
the relevance of the project proposal's objective to the objectives of the ZEMĚ II. Programme, the sub-programme and the focal area; the contribution of the project design to the fulfilment of the ZEMĚ II. Programme objectives.
 - Nature and timing of the project
the clarity, explicitness and appropriateness of the proposed procedures and solution methodology leading to the achievement of the planned objectives and results;
the realism and thoughtfulness of the schedule.
 - Project Management
identification of the roles of individual researchers and responsibilities for individual project results/outputs.
 - Current state of knowledge, novelty and research uncertainty
Relevance and topicality of the research topic;
novelty of the research;
creativity;
existence of research uncertainty; systematicity;
transferability/reproducibility.
 - Delineation to similar projects and solutions
Delineation to projects with similar themes;
lack of or inadequate identification with similar projects is a reason to exclude a project from the competition.
 - Compliance with the declared research needs of the Ministry of Agriculture
the consistency of the project's objective with the research need of the MoE to which the project applies; *the inconsistency of the project's objective with the declared research need is a reason for eliminating the project from the competition.*
2. Project results/outputs, their benefits, applicability and dissemination

- quality, timeliness and realism of ;
 - the applicability and need for the results, including the contribution to the sector;
 - the adequacy of the number and quality of results in relation to the amount of support requested;
 - determining the ownership rights of the parties to the results;
 - the timetable at which stage of the project the topics will be communicated to the professional and lay public;
 - the form of the communicated content: e.g. promotional video, publication, webinar, press release, article for a professional journal, content on social networks;
3. Quality of the project and research team
 - the professional qualifications of the researcher, the expertise and structure of the entire research team;
 - a clear description of the role of each project participant in the ;
 4. Economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial costs
 - the appropriateness of the planned project costs to the planned solution, the project results and the size of the project team;
 - the justification and specific description of the costs.

7.1 Decision on the selection of project proposals

1. The Expert Advisory Body shall submit to the Provider the Protocols for the evaluation of project proposals and the resulting draft ranking of all project proposals. The Provider shall decide on the selection of the project proposals and publish the results of the call for proposals.
2. On the basis the results of the evaluation, the provider is entitled, in accordance Section 21(8) of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., not to recognise part of the total project costs proposed by the applicant and not to include them among the recognised project costs or to reduce the total amount of support on the basis of this Act.

8. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION RESULTS

1. After the announcement of the results of the public tender, the beneficiaries in whose favour the contract/decision to grant aid is to be concluded shall demonstrate their continued eligibility under Section 18, paragraphs 5 and 6 of Act No 130/2002 Coll. as follows:
 - if the applicant is not on any publicly accessible register, the provider shall request a certified copy of the incorporation, memorandum of association or other document of incorporation or establishment, not older than 90 calendar days,
 - an original written mandate from another person authorised to sign contracts and act on behalf of the beneficiary (certified power of) signed by the members of the statutory in accordance with the instrument of incorporation or foundation, an extract from the commercial register, or, in the case of institutions established by law, the relevant legal standard or other evidence of establishment or incorporation,
 - the original or a certified copy of the Decision on the permission to handle GMOs issued pursuant to Act No. 78/2004 Coll., on the handling of genetically modified organisms and genetic products, as amended.
 - the project proposal involves animal experimentation, the applicant is obliged to provide the provider with the original or a certified copy of an approved experimental project pursuant to §16d of Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty, as amended (the experimental project is approved by the State authority competent for approving experimental projects)

including the decision¹⁴ on the approval of the experimental project pursuant to Section 23 and paragraph 1(a) of Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended, not older than 90 calendar days.

The Candidate is obliged to submit the documents before the start of experiments, but no later than six months after the Contract comes into force. In the event of failure to do so, the Provider shall withdraw from the Contract.

2. The Provider shall also request the necessary cooperation from the applicant by providing the data necessary for the submission of the request for an extract from the criminal record.
3. In the event of discrepancies between the information provided in the project proposal and the documents submitted to prove the eligibility of the applicants - both the beneficiary and other project participants - or their failure to submit them within the deadline before the conclusion of the contract/issuance of the decision to grant aid, the provider reserves the right not to conclude a contract with the main applicant/not to issue a decision to grant aid.

9. INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR APPLICANTS

1. All questions regarding the call for proposals and the submission of project proposals should be sent via the Helpdesk application to [Helpdesk](#).

¹⁴ Where the decision to approve the experimental project is issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the beneficiary does not have to provide evidence of this to the provider.