Call for Cooperation No. 2
Open Science II Mini-Projects

Overview of Changes

Section	Description of the change compared to the version 1 effective from 1 September 2026
8. Form of funding	Increase in the Allocation of the Call

1. Introduction

Charles University, as the beneficiary of the Open Science II project, announces, in accordance with the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – Specific Part, Open Science II Call, Version 2[1], **Call for Cooperation No. 2 Open Science II Mini-Projects.**

2. Objective of the Call

The objective of the Call is to support industry-specific and interdisciplinary activities within the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud[2] (EOSC) initiative in the Czech Republic in accordance with the conceptual document "Architecture of EOSC Implementation in the Czech Republic[3]".

The objective of the Call is to involve a wider target group in the activities of the Open Science II project – in particular in ensuring FAIRification of research data, metadata and repositories and ensuring standardization/compatibility and the interconnection of systems and other activities necessary for the functioning of the NDI through "mini-projects" that can be utilised both by the beneficiary's and project partners' entities, as well as by other entities outside the partnership (collectively involved institutions).

3. Identification and timing of the call

Type of call	Single-round
Evaluation model	Dual-phase

[1] https://opjak.cz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/PpZP_specificka_cast_vyzva_Open_Science_II_verze-2_web.pdf

[2] The EOSC is a pan-European initiative aimed at building a unified European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) data infrastructure that is accessible to both academia and industry, as well as to public service providers. The aim of building the EOSC is to accelerate and support the current transition to open science and open innovation in the digital single market and to support the economy by utilising the results of research – technology transfer. The EOSC will enable the interconnection of existing (and future) data infrastructures for scientific data, which today are fragmented across disciplines and Member States. The ambition is to create the so-called "Web of FAIR Data and Services" based on the principle of making research data available in accordance with the FAIR principles policy. For further information, see https://open-science-cloud.ec.europa.eu/

[3] This is the basic framework document for the implementation of the EOSC initiative in the Czech Republic. It has been approved by the Coordination Committee for the Implementation of the EOSC Initiative in the Czech Republic, which is an expert advisory body of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports with the aim of coordinating stakeholders in the field of R&D & I in the Czech Republic in the development of the data infrastructure of the Czech Republic, the purpose of which is to create conditions in the Czech Republic for the management of scientific data in accordance with FAIR principles. The document is available here: https://www.eosc.cz/en/about-eosc-cz/initiative-eosc-cz

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Date of publication of announcement of the call on the website of Charles University	17/08/2026
Date of announcement of the call, i.e. access to applications in IS Věda	01/09/2026
Timeframe for submitting a Request for Opinion of EOSC WG	17/08/ - 23/09/2026
Date of start and end of receipt of applications for mini-projects	23/11 since 9:00 am – 30/11/2026 by 13:00 Only applications whose total requested amount of funding, ranked according to the date and time of submission, does not exceed 150% of the Call's allocated budget will proceed to the formal eligibility assessment stage.
Minimum/maximum period of time for which the applicant is entitled to plan the mini-project	Minimum duration: 6 weeks Maximum duration: 18 months
Earliest implementation start date of the mini-project	01/07/2027
Latest date for completion of the realization of the mini-project	31/12/2028
Time eligibility of expenses	01/07/2027 – 31/12/2028

Procedure for Ranking Submitted Applications and Determining Which Applications Proceed to Evaluation[4]

After the application submission deadline has passed, a ranked list of submitted applications will be compiled. Applications will be ranked according to the date and time of their final submission in the IS Věda information system. The date and time recorded by the information system shall be decisive. **Only applications whose cumulative requested funding amount, ranked in order of the date and time of submission, does not exceed 150% of the Call's allocated budget will proceed to the formal and eligibility evaluation stage.**

Any application whose inclusion would cause the 150% allocation threshold to be exceeded will not be admitted to the evaluation process. Admission of an application to the subsequent evaluation stage is not automatic and does not establish any entitlement to funding.[5]

[4] The Call is implemented in accordance with the First Come, First Served (FCFS) principle, the purpose of which is to determine, in a transparent and predefined manner, the set of applications that will proceed to evaluation in cases where the total amount of requested funding exceeds the financial allocation available under the call.

[5] In the event of a demonstrable technical outage of the IS Věda information system or other technical issues on the part of Charles University that prevent an applicant from submitting an application within the prescribed deadline or that may affect the application's ranking based on the date and time of submission, the applicant is required to notify Charles University of this fact without undue delay and provide available evidence, in particular a screenshot showing the date and time it was taken, or other relevant supporting documentation.
Charles University will assess each such case individually and, based on an evaluation of all relevant circumstances, decide on the appropriate course of action. In justified cases, and in order to ensure equal treatment of all applicants, Charles University may adopt appropriate measures, including expanding the pool of applications admitted to the evaluation process. In exceptional and duly justified cases, such

Applicants whose applications fall within the 150% allocation threshold will be notified of this fact via IS Věda no later than three working days after the application submission deadline. Their applications will then proceed to the formal and eligibility evaluation stage.

If applications are excluded during the evaluation process, no additional applications will be moved up from the ranked list to fill the vacancies.

Applicants whose applications do not fall within the 150% allocation threshold will not be evaluated further and will be informed of this fact via IS Věda no later than three working days after the application submission deadline.

4. Eligible activities

Creation of output(s) required to ensure a data-oriented research environment within the applicant's institution.

The output(s) of mini-projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Mini-projects must be created exclusively for a single of the following domain/thematic clusters[6]:
   - ✓ Bio/health/food
   - ✓ Material Sciences and Technology;
   - ✓ Data Management for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning;
   - ✓ Social Sciences;
   - ✓ Physical Sciences;
   - ✓ Humanities and Arts;
   - ✓ Environmental Sciences;
   - ✓ Sensitive Data.
2. Every output must correspond to exactly one output type (output specification column) from the Catalogue of Outputs (see Annex 2 of the Call)
3. Every output must:
   - ✓ meet the requirements of the National Data Infrastructure (NDI);
   - ✓ develop or respond to the requirements of research and domain EOSC communities; and
   - ✓ foster a data-driven research environment and contribute to the adoption of the FAIR principles by the applicant.

measures may result in the 150% allocation threshold of the call being exceeded. However, the provision of evidence of technical difficulties does not in itself confer any entitlement to have an application admitted to the evaluation process or to have its ranking adjusted.

[6] If the output also falls within the scope of one or more additional disciplinary clusters, the applicant shall indicate this in the mini-project application (IS Věda). However, the planned output will be assessed solely by the EOSC CZ Working Group for the disciplinary cluster assigned in the Request for Opinion. The purpose of providing information on cluster overlap is primarily to offer additional context for the evaluators and to facilitate the more effective selection of suitable reviewers for the substantive evaluation.

5. Sustainability

The sustainability of the output(s) of a mini-project is determined over a period of five years in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Further information is provided in the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions.

6. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants must belong to the following category:

Entities that meet the definition of an organization engaged in the dissemination of research and knowledge under the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01) with the legal form of:

- public research institutions;
- public universities;
- other legal entities.

Beneficiaries or partners with financial contribution in the Open Science II project are eligible applicants for this Call.

7. Eligible partners

Partnership is not permitted in this Call.

8. Form of funding

Allocation of the Call	79,154,826.72 CZK
Minimum amount of total eligible expenditure per mini-project	300,000 CZK
Maximum amount of total eligible expenditure per mini-project	4,500,000 CZK
Method of financing	Ex-post

9. Project eligibility

Funding cannot be provided if the output(s) of the mini-projects has/have been completed or fully implemented before the earliest implementation start date of the mini-project, regardless of whether the applicant has made all related payments or not.

The project eligibility of expenditure is determined by the definition of eligible activities and objectives of the Call.

10. Method of reporting total eligible expenditure

Total eligible expenditure will be reported under the simplified reporting scheme, i.e. using lump sums – see Annex 3 of the Call "Lump Sum Calculator – Mini-Projects". See also Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions.

11. Level of funding and conditions for co-financing

Co-financing is required to the minimum amount of 10% of the total eligible expenditure.

12. Conditions for state aid

The funds provided are not defined as state aid within the meaning of Art. 107 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Funding will be provided for the implementation of non-commercial activities defined in para. (20) of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01). Any economic use must be purely incidental in accordance with the provisions of para. (21) of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation.

The applicant undertakes to fulfill the obligations deriving from the provisions of Art. 2.1.1 of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation that prevent the financing of a mini-project from being based on state aid within the meaning of Art. 107 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and that funding provided will be used to perform non-commercial activities as defined in para. (20) of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation.

13. Formal requirements for applications for a mini-project

Applications for mini-projects must be submitted through IS Věda at: https://is.cuni.cz/veda/portal/dashboard. The procedure for registration in IS Věda is described in the "Applicant's Manual for Open Science II Mini-Projects Calls", which is attached as Annex No. 6 to the Call. Applications for mini-projects must be submitted in Czech or English.

The applicant is required to submit the mandatory annexes together with the mini-project application through IS Věda. An overview of these annexes is provided in Section 5.6 of the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions.

Applications for a mini-project must be accompanied by a positive opinion of the relevant domain/thematic working group of the EOSC CZ Initiative (https://www.eosc.cz/en/projects/open-science-ii/the-request-for-a-wg-statement). For the Template of the Opinion see Annex No. 7 of the Call. For further details, see Chapter 4.8.1 of the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions. **Once the Application for Opinion has been submitted to the EOSC CZ Secretariat, it can no longer be modified or supplemented in any way.**

Applications for a mini-project must be accompanied by a valid electronic signature recognized under Act No. 297/2016 Coll., the statutory body of the applicant or a person authorized to sign on the basis of a power of attorney/authorization.

Further requirements for applications for a mini-project are provided in the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions (and its annexes), available here link: https://www.eosc.cz/en/projects/open-science-ii/mini-projects.

14. Consultation on the preparation of an application for a mini-project

Before submitting an application for a mini-project, applicants may consult employees of Charles University if they have any questions about the Call.

Charles University will only provide email consultations via e-mail: os2_minizamery@ruk.cuni.cz.

E-mail inquiries will be handled on an ongoing basis, usually no later than five business days from the receipt of the e-mail.

15. Changes to the Call

The Call and related documentation may be changed, especially when required by changes in legislation or changes in the methodological environment of the grant provider, or due to unforeseen events.

Changes to the Call will be published on the website of the announced Call. Applicants who already have an application for support in IS Věda will also be informed about the publication of changes to the Call via a message in IS Věda.

16. Additional documentation for the Call

Applicants/participating institutions are bound by the additional conditions set out in the following documentation:

The rules described in Chapter 8.2.1. of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries (RAB) – general and specific part and rules concerning publicity according to Chapter 7.7. of the Rules for Applicants and Beneficiaries – general part relevant for the ERDF, all available here: https://opjak.cz/dokumenty/pravidla-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce-obecna-cast/.

When preparing an application for a mini-project, the Applicant/Participating Institution must comply with the versions that are valid and binding for the Open Science II project at the time of submission of the application, and the versions valid and binding for the Open Science II project at the time of realization of the mini-project. Further information is provided in Chapter 4.6 of the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions.

Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions, available here: https://www.eosc.cz/en/projects/open-science-ii/mini-projects.

IS Věda manual for Open Science II Mini-Projects, available here: https://www.eosc.cz/en/projects/open-science-ii/call-no-2.

17. Other provisions

During the approval process for applications for a mini-project, Charles University applies the procedures enshrined in the Methodology for Applicants and Participating Institutions.

- procedures for eliminating defects in applications for a mini-project are set out in Chapter 5.1;
- procedures for expressing disagreement with the evaluation of the application are set out in Chapter 5.5;
- procedures for the submission of other documents necessary for the conclusion of the cooperation agreement are set out in Chapter 5.4.

Funds will be provided on the basis of a Partnership Agreement (amendment to this Agreement), or Agreements on Cooperation in Research, Development and Innovation, which will be concluded pursuant to § 8 (3) of the Act on Support for Research and Development. A template of the Agreement is available here: https://www.eosc.cz/en/projects/open-science-ii/mini-projects.

The final amount of funds provided is decided by Charles University on the basis of the results of the evaluation process.

Charles University reserves the right to suspend and/or terminate the Call prematurely (e.g. due to the exhaustion of allocated funds).

18. Annexes to the Call

Annex No. 1 Evaluation criteria

Annex No. 2 Catalogue of Outputs

Annex No. 3 Lump Sum Calculator for Mini-Projects

Annex No. 4 Request for Opinion of the EOSC CZ WG

Annex No. 5 Schedule of Outputs

Annex No. 6 IS Věda - Manual for Applicants in the Open Science II Mini-Projects Calls

Annex No. 7 Opinion of the Thematic/Domain EOSC CZ WG