

Inter-sectoral mobility grant

The inter-sectoral mobility grant is provided by the [State Shared Service Centre](#) (Riigi Tugiteenuste Keskus, RTK) according to the Minister of Education and Research Regulation No. 34 of 2 October 2020, [Conditions and Procedure of Providing Structural Support for the Implementation of 'Inter-Sectoral Mobility Support'](#).

The total budget of the measure is 1,820,000 euros, 1,538,954 euros (84.6%) of which is covered by the European Regional Development Fund.

Objective of the measure

The objective of the measure is facilitation of cooperation between sectors, in particular:

- expanding the career model, as well as cooperation and training opportunities for academic personnel through temporary work in Estonian private and public sector entities;
- streamlining the operations of business and public sectors and/or increasing their competitiveness through the involvement of qualified research and development staff.

What is supported?

Support is provided for employment of researchers with a doctoral degree at Estonian private and public sector entities to plan and implement applied research and product development projects (experimental developments). The prerequisites include the researcher's prior professional experience in an academic position at [a positively evaluated R&D institution in Estonia](#) or in the position of a researcher, teaching staff member or engineer abroad. Prior professional experience is not required if less than three years have passed from the defence of the doctoral degree to the submission of application. The goal of the measure is to bring at least 40 researchers to private and public sector entities.

What is the grant amount?

Calculation of eligible project costs is based on a monthly unit charge of 3,264 euros per full-time researcher, plus 40% (1,306 euros) for reimbursing other eligible costs. The maximum amount of eligible costs for a full-time researcher is 4,570 euros per month, irrespective of the field of specialisation of the applicant or the researcher, or the nature of the research. The researcher can also work for the entity on a part-time basis, but not less than 0.5 FTE. In case of part-time work, the respective share is reimbursed based on full-time equivalents; for example, proportional share of 50% of the unit charge in case of 0.5 FTE.

Total grant volume = (unit charge + 40% of unit charge) x FTE x project duration (months) x support rate.

The support rate is 25–70% of the eligible costs of the research project, depending on the size of the entity and the type of research (see the Table below).

Size of entity	Small business	Medium-sized business	Large business
	Less than 50 employees and annual turnover and /or annual balance sheet total not exceeding 10 million euros	50–250 employees and annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euros and/or annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euros	More than 250 employees and annual turnover exceeding 50 million euros and/or annual balance sheet total exceeding 43 million euros.
Applied research grant support rate limit	70 %	60 %	50 %
Product development grant support rate limit	45 %	35 %	25 %

How long is the period of the grant?

The duration of a supported project must be at least 3 months and at most 24 months. The projects must be completed by 30 June 2023.

What are the requirements for the applicant?

Applicants can be Estonian entities in the private sector (legal persons in private law, registered in the Estonian commercial register or in the non-profit associations and foundations register) or in the public sector (state and local government agencies entered in the state register of state and local government institutions), except R&D institutions that have been evaluated positively in a regular evaluation and technology development centres. An applicant must have the capacity to carry out the project and then implement the results. The researcher may not have a prior association with the entity. There are no additional requirements for applicants (e.g., age, turnover, number of employees).

When can a grant be applied for?

The current call for applications opened on 20 November 2020. Applications can be submitted via the [eGrants Information System](#). Grant applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis until 30 November 2021. The acceptance of applications may be terminated at an earlier date, either when the budget of the call for applications is used up or based on a justified proposal of the expert committee.

How are applications evaluated?

Eligible applications are evaluated by the State Shared Service Centre, with the involvement of independent experts as necessary. It can take up to 60 working days from the submission of an application to review, evaluate and make a decision on the application.

Applications are evaluated on the following selection criteria:

- conformity of the project with the characteristics of R&D (is it applied research and/or product development?);
- impact of the project on the objectives of the measure;
- scientific level of the project, including scientific quality and methodology of the R&D project, the researcher's qualifications for implementing the project, the level of elaboration of the action plan and schedule;
- justification and feasibility of the project, including adequacy for the needs of the business or institution, preparedness of the business or institution for employing an R&D worker, capacity of the business or institution to implement the outcome of the R&D, the ability of the business or institution to cover the cost of self-financing;
- impact of the project on cross-cutting themes, including relevance for Estonian economy, regional development, environmental protection, development of civic society, gender equality and equal opportunities, integrated public governance, development of information society.

Applications are evaluated on a scale of yes/no for selection criterion 1, and on a scale of 1 (non-satisfactory) to 5 (excellent) for selection criteria 2–5. Evaluation scores are provided with the precision of 0.5 points. The scores of all selection criteria are subject to minimum thresholds, specified in the evaluation guidelines. In order to be eligible for funding, applications must receive scores above the threshold for all the selection criteria. Applications with at least one score below a threshold for a selection criterion will not be funded.

The role of the Estonian Research Council (Eesti Teadusagentuur, ETAg) in the measure includes promotion (incl. presenting the opportunities of applying for the inter-sectoral mobility grant to target groups), advice (incl. on intellectual property issues and mediation of negotiations, if necessary), connecting private and public sector entities with researchers, and any other actions that support the launch of cooperation projects and transfer of knowledge. We will carry out these activities in cooperation with Enterprise Estonia (Ettevõtluse Arendamise Sihtasutus, EAS).

References

- Inter-sectoral mobility support measure of the [State Shared Service Centre](#).
- Minister of Education and Research Regulation No. 34 of 2 October 2020, [Conditions and Procedure of Providing Structural Support for the Implementation of 'Inter-Sectoral Mobility Support'](#).
- Our definition of R&D is based on the [Organisation of Research and Development Act](#) and [Chapter 2 of the OECD's Frascati Manual](#).
- Helpful information for the definition of the types of R&D can be found in the [Technology Readiness Levels](#) (TRL) of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme on Research and Innovation.
- [List of positively evaluated R&D institutions](#).

Submission of applications

Applications can be submitted via the [online structural support platform](#).

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