

Non official translation

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS NO. 4 UNDER MEASURE 01.2.2.-LMT-K-718
TARGETED RESEARCH IN SMART SPECIALISATION AREAS OF PRIORITY AXIS 1
PROMOTION OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATIONS' OF THE
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS' INVESTMENT
IN 2014–2020**

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Guidelines for Applicants No. 1 under Measure 01.2.2-LMT-K-718 'Targeted Research in Smart Specialisation Areas' of priority axis 1 'Promotion of research, development and innovations' of the Operational Programme for the European Union Funds' Investment in 2014–2020 (hereinafter – the Guidelines for Applicants) establish the requirements for the Applicants preparing and submitting applications for financing projects co-funded from European Union (hereinafter – the EU) structural funds (hereinafter – the application) according to the supported activity 'Research Projects Implemented by World-Class Researcher Groups Aimed at Developing Results in Line with R&D Topics Relevant to the Economic Sectors which could then be Commercialised' under Measure 01.2.2-LMT-K-718 'Targeted Research in Smart Specialisation Areas' (hereinafter – the Measure) of priority axis 1 'Promotion of research, development and innovations' of the Operational Programme for the European Union Funds' Investment in 2014–2020 approved by Commission Decision of 8 September 2014, approving certain elements of the Operational Programme for the European Union Funds' investment in 2014-2020 for support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund and a special appropriation for the Youth Employment Initiative under the investment for growth and job goals in Lithuania (the European Commission notified of the said Decision by Document No C(2014)6397) as subsequently amended by the Commission's implementing decision of 24 September 2018 (the European Commission notified of the said Decision by Document No C(2018)6019) when implementing according to these Guidelines for Applicants projects co-funded from EU structural funds (hereinafter – the Projects), as well as institutions engaged in the evaluation and selection of applications, and the supervision of project implementation.

2. The Guidelines for Applicants have been drawn up in regard to:

2.1. the plan for the implementation of the implementing measures of the priority under the Operational Programme for the EU Structural Funds' Investment in 2014–2020 approved by Order No V-380 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 April 2015 "On the Approval of the Plan for the Implementation of Implementing Measures of the Priority under the Operational Programme for the EU Structural Funds' Investment in 2014–2020, and of the Description of the National Computation of Monitoring Indicators (hereinafter – Measure Implementation Plan);

2.2. the Project Administration and Financing Rules approved by Order No 1K-316 of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 October 2014 'On the Approval of the Project Administration and Financing Rules' (hereinafter – the Project Rules);

2.3. the Description of the Computation of Monitoring Indicators of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds' Investment in 2014–2020 approved by Order No. 1K-499 of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2014 "On the Approval of the Description of the Computation of Monitoring Indicators of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds' Investment in 2014–2020 (hereinafter – Description of the Computation of Monitoring Indicators of the Operational Programme);

2.4. the Programme for the Implementation of Priority Areas of Research and (socio-cultural) and Innovation Development (Smart Specialization) and Their Priorities approved by Resolution No. 411 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 April 2014 by Resolution ‘On the Approval of the Programme for the Implementation of the Priority Areas of Research and (Socio-Cultural) Development and Innovation (Smart Specialisation)’ (hereinafter - Smart Specialization Program);

2.5. Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 on 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (hereinafter—Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014);

2.6. Communication from the Commission No. 2014/C198/01 of 27 June 2014 “Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation” (hereinafter—Communication No. 2014/C198/01);

2.7. the priority project selection criteria of the activity ‘Research Projects Implemented by World-Class Researcher Groups Aimed at Developing Results in Line with R&D Topics Relevant to the Economic Sectors which could then be Commercialized’ approved by Resolution No. 44P-16.1(18) of 16 June 2016 of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investments for 2014–2020 and revised by Resolution No. 44P-18.1 of the meeting of 13 October 2016 and changed according to Protocol Decision No. 44P-9 (45) of 12 September 2019 and Protocol Decision No. 44P-11 (60) of 3 December 2020;

2.8. General rules of Competitive Financing of Research and Dissemination Projects of the Research Council of Lithuania approved by the Chairman of the Research Council of Lithuania on 4 April 2019 by Ordinance ‘On the Approval of General Rules of Competitive Financing of Research and Dissemination Projects of the Research Council of Lithuania’ (hereinafter – General Rules of Competitive Financing);

2.9. The Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania;

2.10. The Recommendations regarding the compliance of project expenses with the requirements of structural funds of the European Union, approved by the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development, the Economic Development Operational Programme, the Cohesion Promotion Operational Programme and by the Protocol Decision No. 42 of May 16 2019 of Operational Programme for the EU funds’ investments for 2014–2020 and published at the EU structural funds’ website www.esinvesticijos.lt (hereinafter—the Recommendations regarding the compliance of project expenses with the requirements of the European Union structural funds);

2.11. The standard lists of eligible research and/or technological production of research and dissemination projects approved by Order No V-217 of the Chairman of the Research Council of Lithuania of 31 October 2014 ‘Regarding the Approval of Standard Lists of Eligible Research and/or Technological Production of Research and Dissemination Projects’ (hereinafter – the Standard Lists of Eligible Research and/or Technological Production of Research and Dissemination Projects);

2.12. The General Rules of the Research Council of Lithuania for the Experts and their Activities approved by Order No V-42 of the Chairman of the Research Council of Lithuania of 29 January 2018 ‘Regarding the Approval of the General Rules of the Research Council of Lithuania for the Experts and their Activities’ (hereinafter – General Rules for the Experts and their Activities);

2.13. The Regulation for the Annual Evaluation of Research and Development and Arts Activities by Universities and Research Institutes, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 04 October 2017 No. V-747 ‘On the Approval of the Annual Evaluation of Research and Developments and Arts Activities by Universities and Research Institutes’.

3. The terms used in the Guidelines for Applicants shall be interpreted as defined in the legal acts referred to in Article 2 of the Guidelines for Applicants, the Rules of Distribution of Responsibilities and Functions among Institutions in the Implementation of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investment in 2014–2020 and in preparation to implement the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investment in 2021-2027 approved by Resolution No 528

of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 June 2014 ‘Regarding the Distribution of Responsibilities and Functions Among Institutions in the Implementation of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investment in 2014–2020 and in Preparation to Implement the Investment Program of the European Union Funds for 2021–2027’, and the Rules of Administration of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investment in 2014–2020 approved by Resolution No. 1090 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 3 October 2014 ‘On the Approval of the Rules of Administration of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds’ Investment in 2014–2020’.

4. In the Guidelines:

4.1. World-class researcher group shall be understood as a researcher group conducting research funded according to the Measure;

4.2. Early stage researcher shall be understood as a researcher who has by the last day of the call for proposals acquired the doctoral degree no more than 10 years ago (the period does not include maternity leave, paternity or child raising leave until the child is three years of age);

4.3. Research group shall be understood as research leader for the project research, principal and non-principal members of the research group;

4.4. Head of Research shall be understood as a researcher who initiates the submission of an application for funding of a research project to the Implementing Authority, and, together with the research group members, implements the project and leads its implementation;

4.5. Non-principal member of research group shall be understood as a person performing the work intended for the attainment of a research undertaking, and thus contributing to the implementation of the project;

4.6. Principal member of the research group shall be understood as a person carrying out the key tasks within a research ordinarily throughout the project implementation period, and whose scientific competence is important when assessing the application;

4.7. Experienced researcher shall be understood as a researcher who has by the last day of the call for proposals acquired the doctoral degree not less than 10 years ago (the period does not include maternity leave, paternity or child raising leave until the child is three years of age);

4.8. Research and/or experimental development (R&D) projects for the research and/or consequences of COVID-19 shall be understood as R&D projects for the study of the COVID-19 virus and its economic, social and cultural consequences.

5. The implementation of the measure is being managed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter—the Ministry), and the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter—the Implementing Authority or the RCL).

6. The form of financing under the Measure is a non-repayable subsidy.

7. The project selection under the Guidelines for Applicants shall be carried out by way of a single stage tender.

8. According to the Guidelines for Applicants the anticipated allocations for the implementation of the projects amount up to EUR 10 000 000,00 (ten million euro 00 cents), of which EUR 10 000 000,00 (ten million euro 00 cents) are allocated from the European Regional Development Funds;

9. According to the Guidelines for Applicants, one call for proposal is foreseen (hereinafter—the Call) for which up to EUR 10 000 000,00 (ten million euro 00 cents) are allocated from the European Regional Development Fund. When passing a decision regarding the funding of the projects, subject to an agreement from the Ministry, the Implementing Authority shall have a right to increase the amounts referred to in Articles 8 and 9 of the Guidelines for Applicants, without exceeding the amount allocated to the Measure and specified in the Measure implementation plan, or infringing the legitimate expectations of the applicants.

10. The purpose of the Measure is to boost the rate of knowledge commercialization and technology transfer.

11. The activity supported according to the Guidelines for Applicants – research conducted by world-class researcher groups aimed at developing results in line with R&D topics relevant to the economic sectors which could then be commercialised (projects, funded according to this activity, are intended to investigate the COVID-19 and/or the economic, social and cultural consequences of this virus).

12. The purpose of the activities referred to in Article 11 of the Guidelines for Applicants is to develop applied knowledge contributing to reducing/resolving the problems caused by the COVID-19 virus and increasing public resilience to similar potential crises.

13. The call for proposals according to the supported activity indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants is estimated to be published in 1st quarter of 2021.

CHAPTER II REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

14. According to the requirements of the Guidelines for Applicants eligible applicants are research and studies institutions, universities and university hospitals included in the Open Information, Counselling and Guidance System www.aikos.smm.lt (hereinafter – AIKOS). Eligible partners are legal entities operating in research and studies area, that have in the course of the past calendar year before the last day for the submission of the applications been engaged in R&D activities (attached to the application the partners (private legal entities) shall submit a tax return (form MT-02) for the past calendar year before the last day for the submission of applications as indicated in the call for proposals, and approved by the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania).

15. In case the application is submitted together with a partner(s), a copy of the valid cooperation agreement (partnership) signed by the Applicant and all partners shall be attached to the application.

16. The cooperation (partnership) agreement shall clearly specify the obligations and the rights of the parties in relation to the implementation of the project (specifying the financial and professional contribution of each party to the project, the activities intended to be carried out by each party, the rights to the jointly developed or acquired assets, and the project results, etc.), and the responsibility of the parties, as well as the obligations to comply with the principal rules of good partnership practice:

16.1. All partners shall have read the application, and are familiar with their rights and obligations with respect to the implementation of the project;

16.2. During the process of project execution, the beneficiary shall on a regular basis consult the partners, and shall periodically inform them about the progress in the execution of the project;

16.3. All amendments to the project affecting the partner obligations and rights shall be prior to applying to the Implementing Authority, agreed with the partners.

17. The Applicant and the partner are required to have the following capacities necessary to implement the project:

17.1. Operate an infrastructure required for carrying out research;

17.2. Have human resources required for administration of the project.

18. At a time, a beneficiary is permitted to implement more than one project, provided the beneficiary ensures infrastructure and administrative resources for a quality implementation of the project.

19. When submitting the application, the Applicant must take into account that from the beginning of the project implementation indicated in the application to the end of the project implementation the Head of Research may be the main member of the research team (principal member of the research team) of no more than two RCL funded projects, while acting, or not, as the

Head of Research for one of them. This requirement covers these activities supported and administered by RCL:

- 19.1. Applied research to develop solutions to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - 19.2. Short-term (on-demand) research (in health, social and other fields), analysis and implementation of diagnostics (in agreement with the Ministry of Health) related to COVID-19;
 - 19.3. Research Projects Implemented by World-Class Researcher Groups Aimed at Developing Results in Line with R&D Topics Relevant to the Economic Sectors which could then be Commercialised;
 - 19.4. Attracting scientists from abroad to carry out research;
 - 19.5. Activities of Parallel Laboratories Aimed at Developing Results in Line with R&D Topics Relevant to the Economic Sectors which could then be Commercialised;
 - 19.6. Development of Scientific Competences of Scientists through Brain Gain and Reintegration;
 - 19.7. Development of Scientific Competences of Scientists through Implementation of World-Class R&D Projects;
 - 19.8. Development of Scientific Competences of Scientists through Implementation of Individual 'Horizon 2020' R&D Projects;
 - 19.9. Promotion of Post-Doctoral Fellowships (the requirement applies to trainees).
20. If a valid decision of the Controller of Academic Ethics and Procedures or a court decision adopted and entered into force regarding the said decision establishes that the person has violated academic ethics and, if the violation complies with the most severe forms of conduct violating the principles of academic ethics specified in Paragraph 17 of the Recommendations for Research and Study Institutions on the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Codes of Academic Ethics approved by the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures on 25th August, 2020 by order No. V-38 'On Recommendations for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Codes of Academic Ethics for Research and Study Institutions', applications in which that person is indicated as the head of the research or another key member of the research team, shall not be considered for 5 years from the date of the decision. Applications in which a researcher who has previously led a discontinued or unimplemented RCL-funded project (funded by RCL's national and international competitive research funding programs) is identified as a future research leader will not be considered for 3 years from the date of entry into force of the LMT decision.
21. The applicant who is the Head of Research shall comply with the requirements set forth in Chapters I and II of the Guidelines for Applicants as of the last day for the submission of applications as indicated in the call.

CHAPTER III REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECTS

22. A project must comply with the general requirements set forth in Section 10 of the Project Regulations.

23. A project shall comply with the following special project selection criteria approved by Resolution No 44P-16.1(18) of the meeting of Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme on 16 June 2016, and specified by Resolution No 44P-18.1(20) of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme on 13 October 2016, also by Resolution No 44P-5(35) of November 29 2018 and Protocol Decision No 44P-9(45) of 12 September 2019 and Protocol Decision No. 44P-12(60) of 3 December 2020:

23.1. The project complies with the provisions of the Smart Specialization Program and the implementation topic of at least one priority. A project is considered to meet this criterion if the project contributes to the Smart Specialization Program and is relevant to the implementation topic of at least one priority;

23.2. The project contributes to reducing / solving the problems caused by the COVID-19 virus and increasing public resilience to similar potential crises;

23.3. The significance of the results sought by the project. The project must aim for at least one of the specified indicators:

23.3.1. Developed and tested innovative, research and/or technology based and/or user-friendly product and/or process (applicable to the Social Sciences and Humanities (HS) and the Natural Sciences, Technology, Medicine and Health and Agricultural Sciences (NTMA) projects);

23.3.2. The product and/or process of the R&D activity, the actual operation of which has been verified by simulating the real environment (conditions). Stakeholders of the product and/or process must confirm that the developed product and/or process is suitable for obtaining the intended results (applicable to NTMA and HS projects);

23.3.3. Open source digital resources (applicable to NTMA and HS projects);

23.3.4. Scientific article in a journal with a citation index JIF CA JCR (Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports) (applicable to NTMA projects);

23.3.5. Scientific article in a journal with a citation index JIF CA JCR or SNIP SCOPUS (SNIP – Source-Normalized Impact per Paper) (applicable to HS projects);

23.4. The Applicant shall have an operational procedure for managing the rights arising from the intellectual activity results (it is assessed whether the applicant has implemented the requirements set in the Articles 10, 12, 16 and 17 of the Recommendations to Lithuanian research and study institutions regarding the rights arising from the results of intellectual activity, approved on 1st December 2009 by the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania No. ISAK-2462 ‘On Recommendations to Lithuanian Research and Study Institutions on Approval of Rights Arising from the Results of Intellectual Activity’, and has provided the Implementing Authority with supporting documents or references to publicly available documents).

24. The selection of projects shall be carried out following the priority selection criteria referred to in Annexes 2 and 3 of the Guidelines for Applicants. Annex 2 of the Guidelines applies to the evaluation of projects in the social sciences or humanities; Annex 3 of the Guidelines applies to the evaluation of projects in the fields of nature, technology, medicine and health, and agricultural sciences. Projects are awarded points for meeting these priority project selection criteria, the maximum possible number of points for each criterion is specified in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines. According to the Guidelines, the minimum amount of points required to collect is 50, of which at least 20 points according to the project selection criteria specified in Article 1 of Annexes 2 and 3 to the Description, at least 10 points according to the project selection criteria specified in Article 2 of Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines, at least 20 points in accordance with the project selection criteria specified in Article 3 of Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines. The minimum required number of points for each criterion is specified in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines.

25. If, during the evaluation of the benefit and quality of the project, the project is awarded less than 50 points or the project does not obtain the minimum amount of points specified in Article 24 of the Guidelines for each priority project selection criterion, the application shall be rejected.

26. Large-scale projects are not funded under the Guidelines.

27. The activities of the projects submitted in accordance with the Guidelines must be completed by 1st September, 2023 at the latest. If, according to Article 97 of the Guidelines, the beginning of the Head of Research’s work on the project is later than the date of entry into force of the grant agreement, the duration of the project is shortened accordingly. In certain cases, if the project activities are planned to be completed before 1 September 2023, in view of some objective reasons that the beneficiary was not in a position to foresee at the time of the submission and the assessment of the application, the duration of the projects may be extended in the procedure specified in the Project Regulations, but in any case, for longer than for 6 months, and without infringing the time limits referred to in Articles 213.1 and 213.5 of the Project Regulations.

28. The activities under the project must be all carried out in the Republic of Lithuania. Project activities may be carried out in other Member States of the EU, provided the products, results and the benefit (or part thereof corresponding to the financial contribution of the Republic of Lithuania) are allocated to the Republic of Lithuania. Project activities venue is the location at which project activities are being implemented by the project team as defined in the Recommendation regarding the compliance of project expenses with the requirements of structural funds of the European Union. In case the project activities are implemented in the Republic of Lithuania, the expenses related to such activities shall not exceed 15 percent of the total eligible costs of the project.

29. In the Annex 9 to the Application (Annex No. 2 to the Application form shall be filled in) the Applicant shall specify the smart specialisation area, specified in Smart Specialisation Programme, which the project is attributed to and shall indicate the thematic specificity that the project is consistent with. The final allocation or a refusal to allocate to a specific smart specialisation area and its priority shall be determined by the Implementing Authority in relation to the assessment of the Application. In the event that the Implementing Authority determines that a project should be assigned to a different smart specialisation area, and/or the priority of the area than was indicated by the Applicant, the Applicant is suggested to specify the information provided in the application regarding the allocation to the project to a smart specialisation area and/or its priority.

30. A project must pursue Measure implementation monitoring indicator 'Implemented R&D projects' (indicator code P.S.396), minimum target value –1 project.

31. The guidelines for the computation of monitoring indicator of the Measure, that are referred to in the Article 30, are set out in the Description of the monitoring indicators of the Operating Programme. The Descriptions of computation of all monitoring indicators of the Operating Programme are published at the EU structural funds' website www.esinvesticijos.lt.

32. The following requirement shall apply regarding the maturity of the project –before the submission of the application the Applicant shall have an operational procedure for managing the rights arising from the intellectual activity results, compliant with the requirements of Articles 10, 12, 16 and 17 of the Recommendations regarding the rights arising from results of intellectual activity, and the relevant supporting documents.

33. There shall be no restrictions of the project that could have an adverse effect upon the implementation of the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social standing, beliefs and views, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or religion.

34. There shall be no project actions that could adversely affect the implementation of the sustainable development principle.

35. In case the Applicant is implementing the project with a partner that is a private legal entity, State aid may be provided according to the present Guidelines for Applicants within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OL 2010 C 83, p. 47). Any funding allocated as State aid for projects is investment aid granted according to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014, subject to the restrictions provided in Section I and Article 2-5. The Guidelines for Applicants determines the conditions for the provision of State aid to research and development and infrastructure and which are compliant with the provisions of Article (EU) No. 651/2014, and are compatible with the internal market. The compliance of the State aid of the project with the provisions of Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 shall be assessed by the Implementing Authority according to the assessment criteria specified in Annex 4 to the Guidelines for Applicants.

36. According to these Guidelines for Applicants, the Applicant (beneficiary) is not considered a beneficiary of State aid if the Applicant participates in the project by carrying out non-economic activities as defined in Article 19 of the Communication No 2014/C198/01.

37. The data on the granted State aid shall be provided to the Register of granted State aid and de minimis aid in the procedure set forth in the Regulations of the Register of granted State aid and

1.	Research	50%	+10 percentage points	+20 percentage points	+15 percentage points	65%	75%	80%
2.	Experimental development	25%	+10 percentage points	+20 percentage points	+15 percentage points	40%	50%	60%

45. The application (project) shall clearly distinguish between individual research and development stages (the share of development stage shall be more than 5 percent of the maximum possible share of the project funding). A largest possible financed part of the project shall be specified for each stage. In case the project is implemented in cooperation with a partner that is a private legal entity, and/or the project outcomes are intended for carrying out economic activity (as defined in the Communication No 2014/C198/01), the largest possible eligible part of the project is indicated in Article 47 of the Guidelines for Applicants.

46. In case for the purpose of the application (project) it is not possible to distinguish the individual research and development stages, the financed part of the project applicable for experimental development as specified in Article 44 of the Guidelines for Applicants shall apply to the project.

47. In case the project is implemented with a partner, the financed part of the project shall be determined with respect to each State aid beneficiary. One or several parties cooperating with respect to the project may undertake all the expenses of the project, and thus protect the other parties from any financial risk.

48. With a view to receiving an additional financial intensity of 15 percent according to Article 44 of the Guidelines for Applicants, i.e. by an efficient cooperation between the private legal entity and at least one research and studies institution, or a university hospital, the research and studies institution, or the university hospital shall cover at least 10 percent of the eligible expenses, and shall have a right to publish its own research results, or the project results must be widely published at conferences, publications, open access repositories, or through a free or open software.

49. The share of the eligible expenses of the project that is not covered by the funds allocated to the project shall be funded from the funds of the beneficiary and/or the partner.

50. The applicant's contribution to the project shall only consist of a monetary contribution.

51. The Applicant and/or the partner at its own initiative, and/or by using the funds of other sources may contribute to the implementation of the project by an amount in excess of the required amount.

52. Eligible project expenses are the expenses that were incurred and paid between in the period since the beginning of the implementation of the project activities until the deadline for the submission of the final payment claim, but no later than within the terms specified in Sub-Articles 213.1 and 213.5 of the Project Regulations. In case the project activities are launched before the effective date of the Grant Agreements, the project expenses shall be considered non-eligible for financing.

53. Eligible expenses of the project shall be reimbursed according to unit costs and flat rates. The amount of eligible amount of the project is determined for each project individually considering the validity of project expenses at the eligibility assessment time, however, not exceeding the maximum amount allocated to the project as set forth in Article 42.

54. A beneficiary may be disbursed an advance payment. A maximum advance payment allocated to the project is 30% of the funding amount allocated to the project, unless the Grant Agreement provides for a smaller maximum advance amount. The maximum advance amount and the advance payment procedure are specified in the Grant Agreement and Section 21 of the Project Regulations.

55. According to the Guidelines for Applicants the eligible expenses of the project are:

Table 2. Financed part of the project.

Expenses category No.	Expenses category name	Requirements and explanations
1.	Land	Ineligible.
2.	Real estate	Ineligible.
3.	Construction, reconstruction, repair and other works	Ineligible.
4.	Equipment, devices and other assets	Ineligible.
5.	Execution of the project activities	Expenses for the compensation of the personnel executing the project and the related obligations of the employer are reimbursed according to unit costs (Sub-article 56.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants); The expenses for the business trips, travel and internship of the personnel executing the project shall be reimbursed according to flat rates (Sub-article 56.1.2 of the Guidelines for Applicants). Only secondments, travels or research fellowships related to the content of the research funded under the Guidelines are eligible.
6.	Information about the project	Expenses under this category are included in expense category: 'Indirect costs and other costs according to the flat rate'
7.	Indirect costs and other costs according to the cost rate.	Indirect costs and other direct costs are reimbursed applying a flat rate (Sub-article 56.2.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants); Expenditure on research and experimental development projects shall be reimbursed applying a fixed rate (Sub-article 56.2.2 of the Guidelines for Applicants).

Note: The project budget table in the Application form shall be completed in accordance with the Instruction on completing the project budget form provided in the Recommendations regarding the compliance of project expenses with the requirements of structural funds of the European Union.

56. Project costs are:

56.1. Projects implementation costs:

56.1.1. The expenses related to the compensation of the staff engaged in the project, and the associated obligations of the employer shall be reimbursed in accordance with the Report on the determination of unit costs of compensation in research projects. The report is published at <http://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/dokumentai/supaprastinto-islaidu-apmokejimo-tyrimai>, and the internet website of the Implementing Authority, www.lmt.lt;

56.1.2. The expenses related to the compensation of the secondments, travels and research fellowships of the staff engaged in the project shall be reimbursed according to the Report on the calculation of unit costs of research trips. The report is published at <http://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/dokumentai/supaprastinto-islaidu-apmokejimo-tyrimai>, and the internet website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt;

56.2. Indirect costs and other costs according to the flat rate:

56.2.1. Indirect costs shall be reimbursed applying flat rate of indirect costs according to Sub-Article 433.2 of the Project Regulations;

56.2.2. direct project costs according to flat rate and which account for up to 18.73% (for social sciences and humanities area projects), and up to 34.73% (physical, biomedicine, technologies and agriculture science projects) of the total compensation, and the related employer obligations (flat rate is established on the basis of the Report on the survey for the determining flat rate of the expenses in implementing research and development projects which is published at <http://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/dokumentai/supaprastinto-islaidu-apmokejimo-tyrimai> and the internet of the Implementing Authority at www.lmt.lt).

57. The costs reimbursed at unit costs and flat rate specified in Article 56 of the Guidelines for Applicants shall comply with the following provisions:

57.1. The costs reimbursed at unit costs and flat rate must comply with the provisions of Section 35 of the Project Regulations;

57.2. An applicant shall have a right to provide in the Application the unit costs and flat rates lower than the maximum values indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants.

58. The flat rate applied for the project shall be set forth in the Grant Agreement, and shall not be changed in the course of the project implementation, except for amendments in the legal acts governing the application of flat rate or if the Implementing Authority or audit authority determines that flat rate/unit costs have not been properly set. In such case, the adjusted rate or the conditions for its application shall apply to the costs of the project activities carried out from the date of entry into force of the revised rate.

59. The ineligible costs are specified in Section 34 of the Project Regulations.

60. Application preparation costs and cross-financing costs are not eligible.

61. Project implementation costs are reimbursed by way of compensating the expenses, having regard to the unit costs set forth in the Grant Agreement and the other submitted document evidencing the achieved results (i.e. a time sheets of the Head of Research and members of the research team, airplane boarding passes, tickets (stubs of tickets) or car journey forms, a summary certificate issued by the Implementing Authority regarding the computation of the compensation at unit costs, a summary certificate in the form approved by the Implementing Authority on the calculation of the expenses related to short/long-term research trips at unit costs, and the documents certifying the attainment of a physical operating indicator). The documents to be submitted are specified in the Grant Agreement.

62. In case any income was generated as a result of the project implementation, such income shall be estimated and recovered no later than with the last payment request in the manner set forth in Articles 447 and 448 of the Project Regulations.

CHAPTER V
DRAWING UP OF APPLICATIONS, INFORMATION OF APPLICANTS,
CONSULTATION, SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

63. In order to receive funding an Applicant must fill in an application. A partly completed form in PDF format is available at the ‘Related documents’ part of Section ‘Financing’ of the EU structural funds’ website www.esinvesticijos.lt.

64. The Applicant shall complete the application and shall submit together with the Annexes referred to in Article 68 of the Guidelines for Applicants by the last day of the term for the submission of applications to the website on the exchange of data of projects co-funded from the European Union structural funds (hereinafter –DMS), and in case the functionalities of the DMS are not implemented –the applications shall be submitted to the Implementing Authority in writing in the procedure set forth in Section 12 of the Project Regulations.

65. Where according to 64 of the Guidelines for Applicants the application is submitted in writing, the application may be submitted in one of the following methods:

65.1. A paper copy of the application and its Annexes are submitted to the Implementing Authority (attached to the paper copy shall be the application and its Annexes recorded in the electronic media). The original and the electronic version content of the application shall be identical. Having established that the content of the electronic version of the application does not match the content of the original version, the information provided in the original version of the application shall prevail. An application may be submitted by a registered letter, via a mail courier, or served in person at the address indicated in the call for proposals;

65.2. The electronic document signed by a secure electronic signature is sent to the Implementing Authority at the electronic mail address indicated in the call for proposals. When the application is submitted in the latter method the documents attached and/or digital copies of the documents attached do not need to be certified by an electronic signature.

66. Where the applications are submitted through the DMS, the Applicant shall log-in to the DMS through the State Information Resources Interoperability Platform, and register as a DMS user.

67. Where the functionalities of the DMS are temporarily not available, and for that reason the applicants are not able to upload the application or an Annex(-s) thereto on the last day for the submission of applications, the Implementing Authority shall extend the term for the submission of applications for 7 days, and/or provides for a possibility to submit the application and the Annexes in another way, and announces about that in the procedure specified in Article 82 of the Project Regulations.

68. The following Annexes are required to be attached when submitting the application:

68.1. Partner's declaration, where the project is intended to be implemented together with the partners (the partner form is integrated in the application form to be filled in);

68.2. Questionnaire regarding the eligibility of the input and/or import value added tax for funding from the structural funds of the European Union and/or the State budget of the Republic of Lithuania (the Form is published in the document type section of ‘Documents’ heading of the internet website of the EU structural funds www.esinvesticijos.lt, document type “Forms of Application Annexes” and on the website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt);

68.3. Project budget break-down by applicants and partners (Annex 3 of the Application form shall be filled in);

68.4. Completed form of the information required for the assessment of compliance of the project with the project selection criteria (Annex 2 of the Application form shall be filled in);

68.5. A document signed by the head of the Applicant’s institution or a person authorised thereby regarding the capacities of the Applicant (beneficiary) to implement the project, and the security for the project implementation (a model form of the letter is available at the website of the EU structural assistance www.esinvesticijos.lt and the website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt);

68.6. A document signed by the head of the partner's institution or a person authorised thereby regarding the capacities of the partner to implement the project, and the security for the project implementation (if the project is intended to be implemented together with a partner) (a model form of the letter is available at the website of the EU structural assistance www.esinvesticijos.lt and the website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt);

68.7. Copies of all letters of authorization to sign the relevant documents (in case such documents are signed not by the head of the institution);

68.8. Copies of the Statute (Articles of Association) or the Registration Certificate approved in the manner set forth by the head of the partner(s) and/or the university hospital(s), or links to public documents (the requirement shall not apply to the partners that are universities and research institutions included in the AIKOS);

68.9. Copy of the cooperation (partnership) agreement, if the project is implemented with a partner(s);

68.10. Documents supporting the sources of funding the Applicant and/or the partner(s) (contribution of the Applicant /partner);

68.11. Documents or references to public documents evidencing that the Applicant has an effective procedure for the rights arising from the intellectual activity results, i.e. compliant with the requirements of Articles 10, 12, 16 and 17 of the Recommendations regarding the rights arising from the intellectual activity results;

68.12. Declaration of the partner, a small and medium-sized business status, whose form is approved by Order No 4-119 of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania on 26 March 2008 Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for the declaration of small and medium-sized entity status, and the approval of the form of the declaration of the status of small and medium-sized entity, and drawn up on the basis of the data of the most recent financial period (applicable if the application is submitted together with the partner –private legal entity);

68.13. The documents distinguishing the Applicant's economic and non-economic activities (e.g. the most recent approved and the most recent interim financial statements, by specifying the Articles of the statement of financial position, and the performance statement by income financing sources, and the amounts, supporting the income/expenses of economic activity);

68.14. The tax return approved by the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania for the last calendar year until the last day for the submission of applications indicated in the call for proposals (applies if the project is implemented in cooperation with a partner, a private legal entity);

68.15. Statistical Report on Research and Development (Form MT-02), approved by the Director of Statistics Department of the Republic of Lithuania, for the last calendar year prior to the date of submission of the application (applies if the project is implemented in cooperation with partners).

69. The last day for the submission of applications shall be indicated in the call for proposals which is published at the internet website of the EU structural assistance www.esinvesticijos.lt and the internet website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt.

70. Within 3 days of submitting the application via DMS, the Applicant must complete the following information in English in the Application and Reporting Information System of the Research Council of Lithuania: general information of the Application and the project description (the need for the project, a description of the chosen solution and the expected result, a summary of the project, beneficiary's capacity to implement the project and description of project management, reasonableness of partner selection, project implementation risks and their management, planned use of project results after project completion, project rationale). The applicant connects to the system through the website www.junkis.lmt.lt and becomes a user upon registration, or connects using the previously created user data if he/she has already used the system. The applicant must also upload the following documents into the system:

70.1. Curriculum vitae of the Head of Research (in English);

70.2. The list of research publications and other scientific production of the Head of Research (with the relevant bibliography information, references to Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, or another database or publicly accessible source facilitating verifying the information (in the original language));

70.3. Copies of documents certifying the doctoral degree of the Head of Research;

70.4. Curriculum vitae of the key members of the research group (in English);

70.5. The list of research publications and other scientific production of the research group (with the relevant bibliography information, references to Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, or another database or publicly accessible source facilitating verifying the information (in the original language));

70.6. Copies of the documents certifying the pregnancy, paternity or child bearing of the Head of Research (applies if the applicant seeks to take advantage of the exception for maternity leave, paternity leave or parental leave not included in the period specified in Sub-articles 4.2 and 4.7 of the Guidelines).

71. The applicants shall be informed and consulted in the manner set forth in Section 5 of the Project Regulations. The information about the persons providing consultations of the Implementing Authority and their contact details shall be indicated in the notice on the call for proposals published according to the Guidelines for Applicants in the website of the EU structural assistance www.esinvesticijos.lt and the website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt.

72. The Implementing Authority shall carry out the project eligibility assessment in the procedure set forth in Sections 14 and 15 of the Project Regulations according to the requirements prescribed in Annex 1 to the Guidelines for Applicants as well as the analysis of the project's benefit and quality in the manner set forth in Sections 14 and 16 of the Project Regulations in accordance with the requirements set forth in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines for Applicants. (Annex 2 of the Guidelines applies to the evaluation of projects in the social sciences or humanities; Annex 3 of the Guidelines applies to the evaluation of projects in the fields of nature, technology, medicine and health, and agricultural sciences). The results of the eligibility assessment of all projects submitted under the call for proposals are reported in the project eligibility assessment report.

73. The assessment of the applications shall be carried out in the following manner:

73.1. An assessment of eligibility for funding, during which the compliance of the project with the requirements set out in the Guidelines is assessed, shall be carried out first – i.e. it is assessed whether the Application is accompanied by all the application documents and information and is in compliance with the general requirements specified in Annex 1 to the Guidelines;

73.2. Applications that meet the requirements for project eligibility for funding assessment are submitted for project benefit and quality assessment.

74. Prior to the benefit and quality assessment, the applications are broken down into four groups:

74.1. Applications in humanities and social sciences, where the Heads of Research are experienced researchers;

74.2. Applications in humanities and social sciences, where the Heads of Research are early-stage researchers;

74.3. Applications in nature, technologies, health and agriculture sciences, where the Heads of Research are experienced researchers;

74.4. Applications in nature, technologies, health and agriculture sciences, where the Heads of Research are early-stage researchers.

75. Each section of the applications referred to in Article 74 is further broken down into application groups, taking into account the number of the applications, the number of applications according to research fields approved by Order No V-93 of the Minister for Education and Science on 6 February 2019 'Regarding the Approval of Research Fields'. The number of applications within

the groups should be no less than 15 (except in the cases when the number of applications within the sections as per Article 74 is less than fifteen), and no more than 30. The groups of applications compiled by the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and/or the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences of the Implementing Authority (hereinafter –the Committee) shall be approved by an Order of the Chairman of the Implementing Authority, and shall be, within five working days, published at the website of the Implementing Authority indicating a conditional name of the group of applications, and the codes of the applications assigned to the group.

76. The project benefit and quality assessment according to the criteria set forth in Articles 1-3 of Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines for Applicants shall be performed by the experts appointed in accordance with the Expert appointment regulations, and having regard to Article 141¹ of the Project Regulations, and in terms of the criteria referred to in Article 4 of Annexes 2 and 3 to the Guidelines for Applicants the assessment shall be carried out by employees of the Implementing Authority.

77. In the course of an examination of an application the Implementing Authority, in accordance with the procedure and deadlines established in Article 118 of the Project Regulations, may request the applicant to provide missing information and/or documents. The applicant shall provide the information and/or documents within the term set by the Implementing Authority.

78. The applications shall be examined for a period not longer than 90 days of the last day for the submission of applications indicated in the call for proposals. The durations of the stages for the assessment of applications are the following:

78.1. An assessment of the eligibility for funding shall not exceed 40 days from the closing date for the submission of Applications as specified in the call for proposals;

78.2. An assessment of the benefit and quality of the projects, the selection and the passing of the decision regarding the funding of projects shall not exceed 50 days from the date of approval of the project eligibility for funding evaluation report.

79. In case of a failure to evaluate the applications within the established term (when in relation to the assessment of the applications it is necessary to apply to other institutions, carry out an inspections at project implementation and/or administration location, also in the cases when the amount of all applications received exceeds the amount allocated under the call for proposals) the implementation term may be extended upon a decision of the Implementing Authority. The Implementing Authority shall notify the applicants of the new term for the examination of the applications through the DMS and the Ministry in writing.

80. The application is rejected for reasons referred to in Article 20 of the Guidelines for Applicants, or Sections 14–16 of the Project Regulations in the manner specified therein. An applicant shall be notified of a rejection of its application through the DMS, and in case the functionalities of the DMS have not yet been installed, the Applicant shall be notified in writing within 3 working days from the date of the decision to reject the application.

81. The project benefit and quality assessment according to Article 76 of the Guidelines for Applicants shall be performed by foreign experts whose work shall consist of an individual assessment and an assessment by an expert panel. Three experts shall be appointed for the purpose of an individual assessment of each application; by a duly reasoned decision of the respective Committee an additional expert(s) may be appointed, in case the application provides for research of interdisciplinary nature. In the manner set forth in Article 75 of the Guidelines for Applicants expert panels for individual application groups shall be set up from the experts appointed to evaluate the applications in an individual procedure. An individual assessment is performed by experts individually without consulting the other members of the group regarding the assessment of a specific application. In the course of a group assessment the experts shall discuss the results of the individual assessment, and seek consensus concerning the assessment of each application. The assessment of a project by the expert panel and recorded in the minutes of the panel's meeting shall be considered the ultimate assessment of the project's benefit and quality.

82. In case the research (activities) provided according to several applications for the same call essentially coincide, the eligible project shall be the one that has collected the highest score.

83. Upon the completion of the project benefit and quality assessment, a project benefit and quality assessment report shall be drawn up for each application group which are set out in Article 75 of the Guidelines for Applicants. The report shall contain a list of evaluated applications ranked according to the score assigned to the applications within the framework of the benefit and quality assessment (from the highest down), while indicating the score assigned to the application according to each selection criterion. In case the projects tie, the project shall be ranked in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 151 of the Project Regulations.

84. The funds, intended to finance the projects according to the Measure, shall be divided into as many parts as the number of application groups was formed in accordance with the procedure established in Article 75 of the Guidelines. These funds are distributed in proportion to the funds requested for the projects of the application groups that have obtained the minimum number of points in accordance with the requirements specified in Article 24 of the Guidelines (adjusted during the assessment of the eligibility for funding of projects).

85. If, according to Article 84 of the Guidelines, the funds allocated to the application group are not sufficient to finance all positively evaluated projects of this group, the first positively evaluated project of this application group, which lacked part of the funds, will be financed using the call funds not allocated in other application groups (projects with a lowest shortage of funds are funded first). With the approval of the Ministry, the remaining first positively evaluated projects in the queue may also be financed, for the financing of which there was a shortage of funds, not exceeding the total amount of funds allocated under the Guidelines (projects with a lowest shortage of funds are funded first).

86. Upon the completion of the assessment of the application a list of reserve projects may be compiled in the manner specified in Article 155 of the Project Regulations.

87. The final discussion of the assessment of the applications shall be organised, and the composition of the group engaged in the discussion of the final assessment shall be approved by the Implementing Authority in the manner set forth in Article 146 of the Project Regulations. The principles of activities of the group engaged in the discussion of the final assessment shall be set forth in an Order approving the composition of the group, or in its Rules of Procedure.

88. Having agreed with the Ministry the Implementing Authority may decide not to hold a discussion of the final assessment of applications referred to in Article 87 of the Guidelines for Applicants provided the amount allocated to the specific call for proposals is sufficient to fund all the applications submitted under one call and recognized as eligible within the framework of the benefit and quality assessment.

89. Having completed the assessment of the applications the Implementing Authority shall draw up a report on the selected reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Project Regulations. The information about the decision on funding the projects, the amount allocated to each project and the total funding amount allocated under the call for proposals shall be within no later than 7 days of the passing the decision published in the website www.esinvesticijos.lt and the applicants shall be accordingly notified through the DMS, and in case such functionalities of the DMS have not yet been installed the applicants shall be notified in writing (does not apply in case the applications were rejected in the course of the assessment).

90. Within 3 working days of the receipt of the information about the decision passed regarding the assessment of the application, the Applicant shall have a right to submit an appeal regarding the assessment of benefit and quality of the application to the Implementing Authority in the cases and the procedure set forth in the General rules of Competitive Financing (General rules of Competitive Financing are published at the internet website of the Implementing Authority www.lmt.lt).

91. The applicant shall have a right to appeal the decision to reject the application in the procedure set forth in Section 43 of the Project Regulations no later than within 14 days from the day on which the applicant learned or should have become aware of the actions or omissions that the Implementing Authority complained of.

92. Having completed the assessment of the applications the Implementing Authority shall, in the manner set forth in Section 18 of the Project Regulations, and using the form provided in Annex 5 to the Guidelines for Applicants draw up and submit to the applicant a draft Grant Agreement and indicate the term of the validity of the offer to sign the Grant Agreement. Where within the term of validity of the offer set by the Implementing Authority the applicant fails to sign the Grant Agreement, the offer to sign the Grant Agreement shall be considered expired. The applicant shall have a right to apply to the Implementing Authority with a request to change the term for signing the Grant Agreement in view of objective reasons beyond the control of the Applicant.

93. The original copy of the Grant Agreement may be drawn up and submitted:

93.1. As a signed paper document;

93.2. As an electronic document signed by an electronic signature.

CHAPTER VI REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PROJECT EXECUTION

94. The project is executed following the requirements of the Grant Agreement, the Guidelines for Applicants and the Project Regulations.

95. The project activities must be started as of the effective date of the Grant Agreement, but in any case, no later than within one month, and must be completed no later than the terms referred to in Articles 213.1 and 213.5 of the Project Regulations. The beginning of project activities is considered to be the date at which the Head of Research begins working at the project.

96. Where the activities have not been launched within one month from the effective date of the Grant Agreement, the Implementing Authority shall have a right to unilaterally terminate the Grant Agreement in the manner specified in Article 192 of the Project Regulations.

97. The Head of Research shall start working for the project within one month from the effective date of the Grant Agreement and shall work within the project throughout the entire project execution period. The employment contract must contain a condition regarding his / her employment in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania for total no less than 840 hours in the course of 12 months.

98. In the course of the project assessment, execution and three years after the end of the project funding period the Applicant shall submit the documents demonstrating the appropriate distinguishing of the economic and non-economic types of activities of the Applicant and the partner, their expenses, financing and income (annual financial statements).

99. For the purpose of supervising the project implementation course the Implementing Authority shall have a right to carry out an on-site inspection of the project. Representatives of the Ministry shall have a right to attend the project implementation and/or administration location individually or together with the Implementing Authority.

100. In the course of the project execution the beneficiary shall submit to the Implementing Authority a report on research activities within the deadlines specified in the grant agreement. Research reports are evaluated by experts in accordance with the procedure established by the Implementing Authority. At the request of the Implementing Authority, the beneficiary shall also provide information on the progress of the project implementation, scientific and / or technological products created during the implementation of the project.

101. In case an assessment of the report on research activities determine that the beneficiary has executed the project activities to the extent prescribed in the Grant Agreement, the results of the research activities and the course of the project execution are sufficient and scientifically valuable, and it is realistic to achieve the project monitoring indicator referred to in Article 30 of the Guidelines

for Applicants, or at least one of the results referred to in Article 23 of the Guidelines for Applicants, the Implementing Authority shall pass a decision to continue the funding of the project.

102. In the course of the execution of the project the beneficiary shall agree with the Implementing Authority on all the deviations from the scheduled implementation of the project, that amend the scope of the project, the costs, or extend the duration of the project or cause other modifications to the project or the obligations of the beneficiary defined in the Grant Agreement. Any changes in the Project execution or the Grant Agreement shall be agreed with the Implementing Authority in the manner set forth in the Grant Agreement.

103. The beneficiary shall provide information about a project being executed or delivered in the manner set forth in Section 37 of the Project Regulations by selecting the actions for the information about the project proportional to the scope of project activities and referred to in Articles 450.1, 450.2 and 450.6 of the Project Regulations, and engaging in other activities intended for information about project activities.

104. The beneficiary shall allow responsible officials of the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, an audit institution and other institutions to access all the documents in the course of the implementation of the projects and for another 2 years from 31 December of the year in which the decision was taken to approve the invoices submitted to the European Commission, or when the end of the project financing coincides with the reporting year for which the invoices are submitted to the European Commission, and retain the documents in the procedure stipulated in Article 42 of Section 488 of the Project Regulations, except the documents that are drawn up, submitted and received through the DMS.

105. In case where implementing the project the beneficiary fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement, and/or violates legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and/or the European Union, or in case the research report (submitted by the beneficiary after the project execution period) is given negative evaluation, the Implementing Authority, in coordination with the Ministry, shall have the right to initiate an investigation into the alleged infringement and to demand the return of the paid project financing funds or a part thereof in accordance with the requirements specified in the decision of the Implementing Authority. Any violations of the Grant Agreement shall be considered, and the decisions regarding such established violations shall be passed in the procedure set forth in the Project Regulations.

CHAPTER VII

THE PROCEDURE FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

106. The procedure for the amendments to the Guidelines for Applicants is defined in Section 11 of the Project Regulations.

107. If the Guidelines for Applicants is changed after the selection of the projects, these changes shall apply to the ongoing projects in the cases specified in Article 91 of the Project Rules, without prejudice to the principle of equality.
