



ROMÂNIA

CONSILIUL CONCURENȚEI



Piața Presei Libere nr.1 Sector 1, București, Cod poștal: 013701 • Tel.: (021) 318 1198, (021) 318 1199 • Fax: (021) 318 4908
E-mail: office@consiliulconcurentei.ro • Web: www.competition.ro; www.consiliulconcurentei.ro

FORMAL OPINION

on the draft of state aid scheme “Financing RDI projects according to the Program *Increasing the Competitiveness of the Romanian Economy through Research, Development and Innovation*”

By analysing

The draft of state aid scheme "Financing RDI projects according to the Program *Increasing the Competitiveness of the Romanian Economy through Research, Development and Innovation*"

and

The draft of summary information sheet regarding State aid granted under *Commission Regulation (EU) no 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*¹,

Submitted by the Ministry of National Education – National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCS), by letter no. 1619/5.6.2015, registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 6301/5.6.2015, in order to receive a formal opinion

and

The draft decision of the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation for approval of state aid schemes related to the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020, registered at the Competition Council by letter no. RG 8198/9.7.2015

And ascertaining that:

1. The scheme was developed under *Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty* and comply with the elements set out in this Regulation:
 - The scope of the Regulation;
 - Notification thresholds;
 - Maximum intensities;
 - Eligible costs;
 - The requirements on transparency, cumulative incentive effect, publishing and information.

¹ OJ L 187, 6.26.2014

2. The scheme complies with *GEO no 77 of 3 December 2014 on national procedures for state aid and amending and supplementing Law no. 21/1996²*, approved by Law no. 20/2015;
3. The scheme supports the overall objectives stipulated in the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation for 2014-2020 (SNCDI 20):
 - increasing the competitiveness of Romanian economy through innovation;
 - increasing the Romanian contribution to the knowledge advancement;
 - increasing the role of science in society.
4. The scheme contributes to the achievement of **specific objectives of Programme 2** – The development of national research and development system within PN CDI III:
 - stimulating the enterprises' progress on value chains and the partnerships with universities, by maximizing the added value of innovative goods production (technologies, products, services) based on scientific research (own or outsourced);
 - increasing enterprises' capacity to absorb the latest technology and to adapt these technologies to the needs of target markets;
 - creating a stimulating environment for private sector initiative through tools for entrepreneurship training, for supporting the commercialization of research and development results, for establishing partnerships between economic operators, research and knowledge dissemination organizations and possibly local authorities;
 - supporting smart specialization processes by concentrating resources on sectors with economic relevance and proved research potential, through public-public and private-public partnerships conducive to concentration, efficiency, effectiveness and to unlock the potential identified;
 - development of RDI activities in areas of general social interest, to increase the capacity of public sector to research in order to respond to global challenges which affect the Romanian economy.
5. **State aid grantor** is the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation.
6. The authority which manages the scheme is the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation, through own departments, through subordinated public institution or other organizations which implement the components programs of PNCDI III, as leaders of the program.
7. The aid is granted in the form of **subsidies (grants)**, based on a financing contract.
8. State aid beneficiaries are legal entities which have research and/or technological development as business activity and which provide economic activities, namely activities consisting in offering goods and/or services on the market.
9. The scheme is valid until **31 December 2020**. The payment of aid to beneficiaries can be made until 31 December 2023.

² Published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, no. 893 / 9.12.2014

10. The **total estimated budget** of the scheme for the period **2015-2020** is RON **1,500,000,000**.
11. The estimated number of beneficiaries is 1000.
12. The summary information sheet comply with the standard sheet included in Annex II of *Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*,

COMPETITION COUNCIL

Based on Article 7 point (6) of the *Government Emergency Ordinance no. 77 of 3 December 2014 regarding national procedures in the state aid field and the amendment and completion of the Competition Law no. 21/1996*, approved and modified by Law no. 20/2015

ISSUES FORMAL OPINION

On the draft of the state aid scheme "Financing RDI projects according to the Program *Increasing the Competitiveness of the Romanian Economy through Research, Development and Innovation*" and the draft of summary information sheet regarding State aid granted under *Commission Regulation (EU) no 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*.