

Conditions of and Procedure for Granting and Using 2021–2027 Start-up Support

Passed 31.01.2024 No. 6

[RT I, 06.02.2024, 15](#)

entry into force 09.02.2024

[Amended by the following legal instruments \(show\)](#)

The Regulation is established on the basis of subsection 10 (2) of the [2021–2027 European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds Implementation Act](#).

Chapter 1

General Provisions

§ 1. Scope of regulation

(1) The Regulation regulates the conditions of and procedure for granting and using support for implementing intervention 21.1.3.17 “Start-up support” of measure 21.1.3.1 “Development of entrepreneurship environment, supporting internationalisation and facilitating investments” of specific objective (a)(iii) “Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMESs, including by productive investments” of policy objective 1 “Smarter Estonia” of the Programme (hereinafter *Programme*) specified in clause 1 (1) 1) of the 2021–2027 European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds Implementation Act (hereinafter *Act2021_2027*).

(2) The support contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the activity “Facilitating development of entrepreneurship” of the measure “Development of entrepreneurship environment, supporting internationalisation and facilitating investments” of the entrepreneurship environment programme of the performance area “Research and development and entrepreneurship” of the State Budget Strategy 2024–2027.

(3) The activities of the projects to be supported on the basis of the Regulation contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the target “The economy of Estonia is strong, innovative and responsible” of the Estonian long-term development strategy “Estonia 2035” approved by the Riigikogu (hereinafter *Estonia 2035*) and its sub-target “The economy of Estonia is innovative and knowledge-based” and take into account the horizontal principles specified in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 159–706).

(4) Information, payment applications and reports related to applying for and using the support are submitted, and application and report forms and guidelines are made available in the e-

support environment provided for in subsection 21 (3) of the Act2021_2027 (hereinafter *e-support environment*).

(5) Government of the Republic Regulation No. 55 of 12 May 2022 “General Conditions of Granting and Using Resources from Programmes of European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds 2021–2027” (hereinafter *Combined Regulation*) applies to applying for the support on the basis of the Regulation, the requirements set for the applicant and application, processing, granting and denying an application, amendment and revocation of a decision to grant an application, eligibility of costs, payment and recovery of the support, notification of and reporting on the support, obligations of the beneficiary and any other matters set out in the Regulation, subject to the special rules provided for in this Regulation.

(6) The Regulation does not apply to an undertaking that has received support on the basis of Regulation No. 20 of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Entrepreneurship of 9 March 2015 “Start-up Support”.

(7) The Regulation does not apply in the events provided for in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 60–93) and to projects in the following areas of activity set out in Annex 16 “Estonian Classification of Economic Activities (EMTAK)” (hereinafter *EMTAK*) to Regulation No. 59 of the Minister of Justice of 28 December 2005 “Procedure for Submission of Documents to Court”:

- 1) agriculture, forestry and fishing (section A);
- 2) wholesale and retail trade (section G);
- 3) real estate activities (section M);
- 4) manufacture of tobacco products (section C, division 12);
- 5) gambling and betting activities (section S, division 92);
- 6) financial and insurance activities (Section L);
- 7) legal and accounting activities (section N, division 69), activities of head office and management consultancy (section N, division 70), activities of advertising, market research and public relations (section N, division 73);
- 8) rental and leasing activities (section O, division 77) and temporary employment agency activities and other human resource provisions (section O, group 782);
- 9) office administrative, office support and other business support activities (section O, division 82), other education (section Q, group 855);
- 10) mining of coal and lignite (section B, division 05), extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas (section B, division 06), support activities for petroleum and natural gas extraction (section B, group 091) and manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (section C, division 19).

[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4 – entry into force 02.06.2025]

(8) Intermediation is the activity of an intermediary, a broker and another trader who brings together a seller and a purchaser, arranges business transactions on behalf of the other party, and selling through auctions.

§ 2. State aid

(1) The support to be granted on the basis of the Regulation is de minimis aid within the meaning of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2023/2831 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (OJ L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023, hereinafter *de minimis Regulation*), and it is governed by the provisions of the de minimis Regulation and of § 33 of the Competition Act.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

(2) No support is granted under the Regulation in the cases provided for in Article 1(1) of the de minimis Regulation.

(3) The aid granted to the applicant pursuant to the de minimis Regulation together with the aid granted under this Regulation may not exceed the limit provided for in Article 3(2) of the de minimis Regulation.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024, applies as of 9 February 2024]

(4) [Repealed – [RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

(5) Upon granting aid to undertakings who belong to a group or are otherwise related, undertakings that are related pursuant to Article 2(2) of the de minimis Regulation are deemed to be a single undertaking.

§ 3. Definitions

(1) Start-up – a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise within the meaning of Article 2 of Annex I to 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 (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, pp. 1–78), which has been entered in the commercial register of Estonia no earlier than 36 months before the submission of the application.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

(2) Growth potential – the capacity to achieve sales revenue of at least 80,000 euros in the last year of the project eligibility period in the case of an undertaking with its place of business in the urban areas of Tallinn and Tartu and at least 40,000 euros elsewhere in Estonia.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024, applies as of 9 February 2024]

(3) Same field of activity – overlap of the four-digit code of the EMTAK classification or substantive overlap of the area of activity.

(4) Urban area of Tallinn – City of Tallinn, City of Maardu, Viimsi Rural Municipality, Laagri Small Town of Saue Rural Municipality, Alliku Village, Koidu Village, City of Saue, Vanamõisa Village, Hüüru Village, Vatsla Village, Aaviku Village of Rae Rural Municipality, Assaku Small Town, Järveküla Village, Jüri Small Town, Karla Village, Lagedi Small Town, Peetri Small Town, Rae Village, Uesalu Village, Lehmja Village, Kopli Village, Kurna Village, Harkujärve Village of Harku Rural Municipality, Rannamõisa Village, Tiskre Village, Tabasalu Small Town and Harku Small Town, Iru Village of Jõelähtme Rural Municipality, Uusküla Village, Loo Small Town, Liivamäe Village, Saustinõmme Village of Saku Rural Municipality, Juuliku Village, Kasemetsa Village, Metsanurme Village, Saku Small Town, Üksnurme Village, Kiisa Small Town, Kurtna Village, Roobuka Village, Tännassilma Village, Jälgimäe Village, Kangru

Small Town of Kiili Rural Municipality, Luige Small Town, Kiili Town, Vaela Village, City of Keila and Kulna Village of Lääne-Harju Rural Municipality.

(5) Urban area of Tartu – City of Tartu as a settlement unit, Märja Small Town of City of Tartu, Lohkva Village of Luunja Rural Municipality, Veibri Village, Soinaste Village of Kambja Rural Municipality, Tõrvandi Small Town, Õssu Village, Ülenurme Small Town and Raadi Town of Tartu Rural Municipality.

(6) Field of activity – the field in which an undertaking operates and which is determined by the characteristics of the undertaking's sales revenue generation. The field of activity designated by an undertaking must overlap numerically and substantively with the field of activity in the EMTAK classification.

(7) Business plan – the action plan of an undertaking for the implementation of the project proposed in the application, which describes the objectives of the undertaking, the activities necessary to achieve them and the time schedule for their implementation, and which will result in the development of the growth potential of the undertaking.

§ 4. Objective and result of granting support

(1) The objective of granting the support is to encourage start-ups with growth potential to increase their sustainable sales revenue and create jobs.

(2) Granting the support contributes to the achievement of the following output indicators of the Programme:

- 1) the undertakings to be supported;
- 2) the undertakings to be supported with the support;
- 3) the new undertakings to be supported.

(3) Granting the support contributes to the achievement of the result indicator “New enterprises surviving in the market” of the Programme.

(4) The following indicators are used to assess upholding the fundamental principles of Estonia 2035 and the achievement of its targets, balanced regional development, gender equality, equal opportunities, accessibility in support of the environmental and climate objectives when deciding on granting the support, and the applicant ensures compliance therewith proceeding from the explanatory guideline published on the website of the implementing body:

- 1) gender equality index;
- 2) measure of caring and cooperativeness;
- 3) accessibility indicator;
- 4) gross domestic product per capita generated outside Harju County in the EU comparison;
- 5) resource productivity.

§ 5. Implementing authority and implementing body

(1) The implementing authority is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

(2) The implementing body is the Estonian Business and Innovation Agency.

Chapter 2

Activities to Be Supported, Eligibility of Costs and Rate of Support

§ 6. Activities to be supported

(1) The support is granted to a project the implementation of which contributes to the achievement of the objective as well as the result and output indicators specified in § 4.

(2) The activity to be supported is the performance of operations and activities necessary to start a business.

(3) The activity supported is an activity that does no significant harm within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, pp. 13–43) to any of the environmental objectives provided for in Article 9.

§ 7. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are the unit-price-based costs necessary for the implementation of the activity specified in subsection 6 (2).

§ 8. Project eligibility period

(1) The project eligibility period is the period of time provided for in the decision to grant an application when the project activities start and end and costs necessary for carrying out the project are incurred.

(2) The project eligibility period lasts for 24 months and begins as of the date of submission of an application to the implementing body or as of a later date determined in the decision to grant the application and ends on the date provided for in the decision to grant the application, but no later than on 31 August 2029.

(3) The project is deemed ended when the implementing body has approved the final report and made the final payment to the beneficiary.

§ 9. Amount and intensity of support

(1) The amount of the support per project is 20,000 euros.

(2) The intensity of the support is 80 per cent of the eligible costs.

(3) Self-financing must cover the part of the eligible costs not covered by the support. Other non-refundable support granted from the resources of the state, a municipality, or a European Union institution or fund, or other external aid resources is not regarded as self-financing.

Chapter 3

Requirements for Applicant and Application, Applying for Support

§ 10. Preliminary consultation

(1) Before the submission of an application, an undertaking is required to undergo a preliminary consultation arranged by the implementing body, during which an assessment is made of the undertaking, its compliance with the requirements established for an applicant, the proposed project and the feasibility of the activities planned therein, the capacity of the persons having a holding in the undertaking and of the members of its management board to implement the project, and an opinion in terms of the selection criteria provided for in the Regulation. The implementing body notifies the undertaking about carrying out a preliminary consultation on its website.

(2) The undertaking submits for a preliminary consultation a digitally signed business plan and the curricula vitae of the persons having a holding in the undertaking and of the members of its management board. If there is a need to meet the undertaking, a member of the management board of the undertaking will attend the meeting.

(3) The person conducting the preliminary consultation draws up a digitally signed assessment within 30 days of the submission of the documents specified in subsection (2). This assessment proves that the undertaking has undergone the preliminary consultation. The assessment is without prejudice to the discretion of the implementing body in assessing the application.

§ 11. Requirements for applicant

An applicant must comply with the following requirements and perform the following obligations:

- 1) the total holding of legal persons in the applicant may be up to 25 per cent;
- 2) there are fewer than ten full-time equivalent persons employed on the basis of an employment contract;
- 3) the sales revenue of the applicant in the financial year immediately preceding the financial year when the application is submitted was 40,000 euros or less;
- 4) the sales revenue of the applicant in the financial year when the application is submitted is, as at the end of the quarter immediately preceding the quarter when the application is submitted, 40,000 euros or less;
- 5) a person having a holding in the applicant may not have had, within the 12 months immediately preceding the submission of the application, or may not have a holding in an undertaking operating in the same field of activity as the applicant or operate as an undertaking in the same field of activity as the applicant;
- 6) a person having a holding in the applicant may not be a member of the management board of another undertaking operating in the same field of activity as the applicant;
- 7) a member of the management board of the applicant may not have or may not have had, within the 12 months immediately preceding the submission of the application, a holding in another undertaking operating in the same field of activity as the applicant or be a member of the management board of another undertaking operating in the same field of activity as the applicant;
- 8) refundable support received from other state budget or municipal resources, resources of a European Union institution or fund, or other external aid resources must have been repaid by the due date;

9) immediately notify the implementing body of any changes in the data provided in the application or of circumstances that have or may have an impact on making a decision on the application or on the performance of obligations of the applicant;

10) be a start-up.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

§ 12. Requirements for application

An application must comply with the following requirements and include the following data and declarations:

1) the business plan included in the application must contribute to the achievement of the objective and to the output and result indicators specified in § 4;

2) the assessment provided for in subsection 10 (3) must be drawn up no earlier than 60 days before the submission of the application;

3) a business plan on the form provided by the implementing body;

4) financial forecasts for three years, starting from the year of commencement of the project;

5) the balance sheet and income statement of the applicant as at the quarter immediately preceding the submission of the application, if the applicant has commenced economic activities;

6) a power of attorney if the person who has the right to represent the applicant acts on the basis of an authorisation;

7) curricula vitae of the persons having a holding in the applicant and of the members of the management board of the applicant;

8) information on whether the applicant has applied for support for the project or for some activities of the project from other state budget or municipal resources, resources of a European Union institution or fund, or other external aid resources;

9) a declaration by the applicant that the implementation of the project will not breach the fundamental rights set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the right of persons with disabilities set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

10) a declaration by the applicant that the project will be implemented in accordance with the 'do no significant harm' principle, pursuant to which no significant harm specified in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council is caused to any of the environmental objectives specified in Article 9.

§ 13. Applying for support

(1) The support is applied for on an ongoing basis until the financing budget has been used up or until the end of the application period.

(2) The implementing body notifies of the commencement, termination and suspension of the receipt of applications and of the financing budget on its website.

(3) The implementing unit suspends the receipt of applications as of the moment when the amount of the support applied for under the pending applications in respect of which no decision to either grant or deny the application has been made becomes equal to the available balance of

the budget for financing applications, and the pending applications are processed in the order in which they were submitted. Receipt of applications will continue when financial resources become available.

Chapter 4

Processing of Application

§ 14. Processing of application

(1) The time limit for processing an application is 20 working days as of the submission of the application. The time for submission of an application is deemed to be the date when the applicant signs and submits the application in the e-support environment.

(2) The time for processing an application may be extended by up to ten working days in the case specified in subsection 6 (2) of the Combined Regulation.

(3) The implementing body makes a decision to deny an application without assessing the application substantively if the applicant has not eliminated shortcomings during the time limit set by the implementing body.

§ 15. Compliance of applicant and application with requirements

The implementing body makes a decision to deny an application without assessing the application substantively if the applicant or the application was not declared to be in compliance with the requirements provided for in the Regulation.

§ 16. Application selection criteria and methods, and assessment procedure

(1) If an applicant and an application comply with the requirements provided for in the Regulation, the applications will be assessed in accordance with the selection methods drawn up by the implementing body in agreement with the managing authority, the Ministry of Finance and the implementing authority, as well as with the implementing authority advising on the contribution to the strategic targets and fundamental principles approved in the long-term development strategy of the state on the basis of its area of responsibility. The selection methods are made public on the website of the implementing body before the receipt of applications starts.

(2) The implementing body has the right to form an advisory selection committee for the assessment of applications and to involve assessors and experts. The implementing body obtains prior approval from the implementing authority for the formation and membership of the selection committee and publishes the names of the members of the committee on its website.

[[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024, applies as of 9 February 2024]

(3) If shortcomings are detected in the course of assessment of an application or additional information is needed for the assessment of an application, the applicant will immediately be notified thereof and granted up to ten working days for the submission of the additional information, by which the time limit for processing the application will extend. Upon using

experts, the time limit for processing the application extends by the time to be spent on performing the expert analysis, but no more than ten working days. The implementing body immediately notifies the applicant of any extension of the time limit for processing.

(4) An application is assessed on a scale of 0–4 for each of the selection criteria, and the total score given in the assessment is the weighted average of the scores of the selection criteria.

(5) The selection criteria and their weightings in the total score are as follows:

1) compliance of the project with field-specific development plans, impact on the achievement of the specific objective of the Programme and the objectives of the measure – 35 per cent of the total score;

2) justification of the project – 20 per cent of the total score;

3) cost-effectiveness of the project – 15 per cent of the total score;

4) the capacity of the applicant to implement the project – 20 per cent of the total score;

5) compliance of the project with the fundamental principles and targets of Estonia 2035 – ten per cent of the total score.

(6) The members of the selection committee, assessors and experts must:

[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11 – entry into force 12.07.2024, applies as of 9 February 2024]

1) comply with the requirements provided for in subsection 11 (2) of the Act2021_2027;

2) declare their impartiality and independence from the projects and applicants being assessed and, in the case of personal involvement, recuse themselves from the assessment;

3) ensure, during their membership of the selection committee or their service as an expert and indefinitely after the expiry of their membership or service as an expert, the confidentiality of the information that became known to them in the course of work of the selection committee.

§ 17. Conditions of and procedure for granting application

(1) An application is granted if the applicant and the application have been declared to be in compliance with the requirements provided for in the Regulation and the following conditions are met:

1) the application has received the total score of at least 2.50 based on the selection criteria provided for in subsection 16 (5);

2) the application has not received a score lower than 2.00 in any of the selection criteria provided for in subsection 16 (5).

(2) A decision to grant an application sets out:

1) the conditions of implementing the project;

2) the time limits of and procedure for submission of reports.

Chapter 5

Revocation of Decision to Grant Application

§ 18. Revocation of decision to grant application

A decision to grant an application is revoked in part or in full if:

1) the beneficiary does not comply with the provisions of the decision to grant the application

or does not use the support under the prescribed conditions;

2) the project activities cannot be completed by the time limit set in the decision to grant the application or no later than on 31 August 2029.

Chapter 6

Submission of Reports and Conditions for Payment of Support

§ 19. Submission of reports

(1) The beneficiary submits an interim report and a final report on the implementation of the project to the implementing body.

(2) The report forms and the data to be submitted are published by the implementing body on its website.

(3) An interim report is submitted within four months of making the decision to grant the application. A final report is submitted within 30 calendar days of the end of the project eligibility period.

(4) An interim report sets out at least the following information:

1) the name of the project, the number of the project and the name of the beneficiary specified in the decision to grant the application;

2) the activities performed for achieving the planned result of the project, the output and result indicators achieved and, if necessary, an explanation about the difference between the planned and actual activity and result;

3) the data proving the creation of one full-time equivalent job within three months of making the decision to grant the application.

(5) A final report sets out at least the following information, including on the achievement of the principles and indicators of Estonia 2035, and the following documents are submitted:

1) the name of the project, the number of the project and the name of the beneficiary specified in the decision to grant the application;

2) the activities performed for achieving the planned result of the project, the output and result indicators achieved and, if necessary, an explanation about the difference between the planned and actual activity and result;

3) the wages paid to the person holding the job provided for in clause 3) of subsection (4) up to the date of submission of the report, to the extent of at least the minimum wage for full-time work;

4) documents proving the achievement of growth potential.

(6) The implementing body approves or rejects the interim and final report within 20 working days of its submission. The implementing body has the right to set a time limit for supplementing the report.

§ 20. Conditions of payment of support

(1) The support is paid on the basis of subsection 28 (1) of the Combined Regulation if the following conditions are met:

- 1) the achievement of the results specified in the decision to grant the application is proved;
- 2) the implementing body has approved the report;
- 3) a payment application has been submitted.

2) The support is paid on the basis of the unit price provided for in clause 15 (1) 4) of the Combined Regulation.

(3) The stages of payment of the support are as follows:

1) in the first stage, if the implementing body has made a decision to grant the application and the beneficiary has submitted an interim report and proved the performance of the obligations provided for in clauses 22 (1) 1) and 2), 75 per cent of the amount of the support;

2) in the second stage, if the beneficiary has submitted a final report and proved the performance of the obligations provided for in clauses 22 (1) 2) and 3), 25 per cent of the amount of the support.

(4) Payment of the support is decided within 20 working days of the submission of the interim or final report. The time limit for payment of the support is extended by the time limit granted for the elimination of shortcomings or by the time to be spent on making an expert assessment.

§ 21. Time limit for elimination of shortcomings in report and payment application

If inaccuracies are detected during processing a report or a payment application, the beneficiary will immediately be notified thereof and granted up to ten working days to eliminate the shortcomings. In such an event, the time limit for processing the report and payment application is extended by the time granted for the elimination of the shortcomings.

Chapter 7

Obligations of Beneficiary and Rights and Obligations of Implementing Body

§ 22. Obligations of beneficiary

In addition to the obligations provided for in §§ 10 and 11 of the Combined Regulation, the beneficiary performs the following obligations:

1) creates one full-time equivalent job within three months of making the decision to grant the application;

2) pays wages to the person or persons holding the job specified in clause 1) to the extent of at least the minimum wage for full-time work;

3) achieves the growth potential required by the Regulation;

4) immediately notifies the implementing body of the adoption of a decision to transfer the beneficiary or part thereof and related items or rights;

5) notifies the implementing body in advance, in writing or in a form reproducible in writing, of changes planned among the persons having a holding in the beneficiary, except in the case of a publicly listed company;

6) ensures the durability requirement under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council within three years of making the final payment.

[[RT I, 27.01.2026, 21](#) – entry into force 30.01.2026, applies as of 9 February 2024]

§ 23. Rights and obligations of implementing body

(1) The implementing body has the right to:

1) examine the documents drawn up in the course of preparing the project and performing the work;

2) demand proper performance the durability, activities, objectives and results of the project included in the application;

3) refuse to pay the support if the economic situation of the beneficiary has deteriorated to such an extent that using the support or implementing the project is compromised;

4) terminate the payment of the support and demand the repayment of the support in part or in full if the beneficiary breaches the Act2021_2027, the conditions provided for in the regulations issued on the basis thereof or in this Regulation or otherwise deviates from the provisions of the application or of the decision to grant the application.

(2) The implementing body performs the following obligations:

1) sends decisions to the beneficiary electronically within three working days;

2) checks the implementation of the project;

3) continuously monitors the financial balances of the measure and, if necessary, submits a respective overview to the implementing authority;

4) retains the data related to granting de minimis aid together with the information and necessary documents for ten years from the most recent grant of individual aid;

5) submits the data necessary for preparing reports on granting and using the support;

6) prepares and publishes overviews of granting and using the support;

7) notifies the implementing authority of any obstacles to using the support;

8) prepares a monitoring report and a final report on the intervention, confirms the accuracy of the data included in the report and sends the report to the implementing authority.

Chapter 8

Financial Corrections and Challenge Proceedings

§ 24. Financial corrections and repayment of support

(1) A financial correction decision is made and support is repaid in accordance with the provisions of §§ 28–30 of the Act2021_2027 and §§ 34–38 of the Combined Regulation.

(2) In the event of granting de minimis aid that is unlawful, misused or incompatible with the common market, a decision to recover the support may be made within ten years of the allocation of the support to the beneficiary and, upon recovery, the provisions of § 42 of the Competition Act will apply.

§ 25. Challenge proceedings

If a decision or operation of the implementing body is contested, challenge proceedings will be carried out in accordance with § 31 of the Act2021_2027 before an appeal is filed with an administrative court. The challenge is adjudicated by the implementing body.

Chapter 9

Implementation of Regulation

[\[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11\]](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

§ 26. Implementation of Regulation

(1) The amendment to clause 1 (7) 9), subsection 2 (3), subsection 3 (2) and subsections 16 (2) and (6), which entered into force in July 2024, applies as of 9 February 2024.

[\[RT I, 09.07.2024, 11\]](#) – entry into force 12.07.2024]

(2) The amendments to clauses 1 (7) 7) and 8) of this Regulation that entered into force in May 2025 do not apply to applications submitted before these amendments entered into force.

[\[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4\]](#) – entry into force 02.06.2025]

(3) The amendment to § 22, which entered into force in January 2026, applies as of 9 February 2024.

[\[RT I, 27.01.2026, 21\]](#) – entry into force 30.01.2026]