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# Conditions and procedure for innovation and development voucher grant for 2021–2027

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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 provision of the grant for implementation of intervention 21.1.1.14 "Innovation and Development Voucher" of measure 21.1.1.1 "Increasing the RDI Intensity and Knowledge Transfer Capacity of Companies" of the Operational Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Operational Programme) specified in clause 1 (1) 1) of the 2021–2027 European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds Implementation Act (hereinafter referred to as the Act2021_2027).

(2) The grant contributes to the Operational Programme's priority "Smarter Estonia" with special objective (i) "Development and increase of research and innovation capacity and the uptake of advanced technologies" and will be directed towards the objectives set out in the "Research, Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RDI) Strategy 2021–2035".

(3) The activities of the projects 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 decision of 12 May 2021 (hereinafter Estonia 2035) and its sub-target "The economy of Estonia is innovative and knowledge-based" and take into account the horizontal principles 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, 30.06.2021, pp 159–706).

(4) The support granted on the basis of the Regulation constitutes de minimis aid within the meaning of the European 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 referred to as the De Minimis Regulation) and is subject to the provisions of the said Regulation and Section 33 of the Competition Act.
[RT I, 25.07.2024, 1 – entry into force 28.07.2024, applied retroactively from 01.01.2024]

(5) No support is granted under the Regulation in the cases provided for in Article 1(1) of the De Minimis Regulation.

(6) The Regulation does not apply to projects of the following fields of activity published in Annex 16 “Estonian Classification of Economic Activities (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 fishery (section A) and the processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs (section C, group 102);
2) wholesale and retail trade (section G);
3) real estate activities (section M);
4) manufacture of tobacco products (section C, group 120);
5) organisation of gambling and betting activities (section S, group 920);
6) legal and accounting activities (section N, division 69), head office activities and management consultancy (section N, division 70), advertising, market research and public relations (section N, division 73);
7) rental and operating lease (section O, division 77) and temporary employment agency activities and other human resource provisions (section O, group 782);
8) mining of coal and lignite (section B, division 05), production of crude oil and natural gas (section B, division 06), activities supporting the production of oil and natural gas (section B, group 091) and production of coke and purified petroleum products (section C, division 19).
[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4 – entry into force 02.06.2025]

(7) The grant is applied for and information, cost statements and reports related to using the support are submitted and the application and report forms and guidelines are made available in the e-support environment of the register of structural support specified in Government of the Republic Regulation No 121 of 31 July 2014 Statutes for Maintenance of Register of Structural Support (hereinafter the e-support environment).

(8) Support is granted and used in accordance with Government of the Republic Regulation No 55 of 12 May 2022 “General conditions for the allocation and use of resources from the operational programmes of the European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds for the period 2021–2027” (hereinafter the Combined Regulation).

**§ 2 Definitions**

(1) Development voucher means targeted support for the procurement of the activities provided for in subsection 6 (2) from an innovation service provider, the purchase of materials necessary for the implementation of the activities and the hiring of a development employee.

(2) Development employee means a highly qualified employee with a degree that proves at least third level education or a corresponding qualification, and at least five years of experience in the respective field in the last ten years. The duration of doctoral studies in the relevant field is equivalent to professional experience. The development employee must not be engaged in sales activities, be a member of the applicant’s management body, a shareholder or a partner, or have been employed by or have been working for the applicant under an employment contract or a contract for services for at least one year before the submission of the application.

(3) Innovation means the activity provided for in clause 2 5) of the Organisation of Research and Development Act.

(4) Innovation voucher means targeted support for the procurement of the activities provided for in subsection 6 (2) from an innovation service provider.

(5) Smart specialisation focus area means one of the following are the focus areas of the Estonian Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021–2035, which are digital solutions in all areas of life, health technologies and services, valorisation of local resources, smart and sustainable energy solutions.

(6) Consultancy means an individual activity whereby an innovation service provider within the scope of an innovation voucher (hereinafter IOT) or an innovation service provider within the scope of a development voucher (hereinafter AOT) provides methodological, informative or technical information to the customer in order to solve the problem presented. As a result of consultancy, the individual solution developed by the IOT or the AOT for remedying the problem presented by the customer will be completed. At the end of the consultancy, the know-how of the IOT or the AOT will belong to the IOT or the AOT and the IOT or the AOT will hand over the result of the consultancy to the customer. Consultancy is not preparation of the applicant for taking examinations in vocational or specialised training.

(7) Project plan means a single covering all aspects of the project, including the project’s problem statement, objective, team description, action plan, budget, financing plan, risk analysis, expected project outcome and its implementation.

(8) Intermediation means the activities of an intermediary, broker or dealer who brings together the parties to a service or transaction or arranges commercial transactions on behalf of the creators of services or products, and earns income from these activities.

(9) A small or medium-sized enterprise means an enterprise that meets the criteria set forth in clauses 1, 2 or 3 of Article 2 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) 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, 26.06.2014, pp 1-78, hereinafter the General Block Exemption Regulation) (hereinafter SME).

**§ 3 Purpose and outcome of granting support**

(1) The objective of the grant is to increase the competitiveness of SMEs through the development of innovative products, services and technologies with higher added value that contribute to at least one of the focus areas of smart specialisation. The objective will be achieved through increased knowledge and technology transfer, increased capacity for intellectual property protection, and closer cooperation with research and development institutions, companies providing consultancy and engineering services or organisations providing pre-research, production and technology consultancy.

(2) The sub-objectives of granting support are:
1) to support the establishment of contacts between the beneficiary and the innovation service provider;
2) to support follow-up innovation activities and enable SMEs to get information on the feasibility and profitability of their innovative idea.

(3) The granting of support contributes to the achievement of the following output indicators from the list of measures:
1) the enterprises to be supported;
2) the enterprises to be supported with the grant;
3) the enterprises cooperating with research institutions.

(4) The grant contributes to the achievement of the following performance indicators in the list of measures:
1) private sector investments that complement public sector support;
2) SMEs with higher added value per employee.
(5) Upholding the fundamental principles of the Estonia 2035 Strategy and the achievement of its targets, balanced regional development, gender equality, equal opportunities, accessibility, environmental and climate objectives are measured in a supportive manner with the following indicators:
1) gender equality index;
2) measure of caring and cooperativeness;
3) accessibility indicator;
4) gross domestic product per capita generated outside Harju County compared to the average of the EU 27;
5) resource productivity.

**§ 4 Implementing authority and implementing body**
(1) The implementing authority is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, in accordance with the Order of the Government of the Republic of Estonia issued on the basis of subsection 7 (1) of the Act2021_2027.

(2) The implementing body is the Estonian Business and Innovation Agency, in accordance with the Order of the Government of the Republic of Estonia issued on the basis of subsection 8 (1) of the Act2021_2027.

**§ 5 Challenge proceedings**

(1) If the decision or act of the implementing body is challenged, the challenge proceedings will be carried out in accordance with § 31 of the Act2021_2027 before a complaint is filed with the administrative court.

(2) The challenge is resolved by the implementing body.
[RT I, 25.07.2024, 1 – entry into force 28.07.2024]

(3) The information, documents and decision related to the challenge proceedings will be delivered to the person filing the challenge electronically.

# Chapter 2.
# Supported activities, eligibility of expenses and support rate

**§ 6 Supported activities**

(1) Support will be granted to projects the activity of which contributes to the achievement of the objective, performance and output indicators specified in § 3 and that is aimed at the development of a solution that is novel for the applicant and for which the applicant does not have resources, knowledge, skills or experience.

(2) Eligible activities include:
1) accreditation, certification, standardisation and conformity assessment;
2) metrology service;
3) advice on the legal protection of a patent, utility model or industrial design or applying for protection by registration;
4) prototyping;
5) development, testing and demonstration technological components;
6) the organisation of a product trial and an industrial experiment or the carrying out of a feasibility study as provided for in Article 2(87) of the General Block Exemption Regulation;
7) consultancy on the technology of product and service development.

(3) The activity specified in clause (2) 7) will be supported in the course of the activities specified in clauses 1), 2), 4), 5) and 6) of the same subsection.

(4) Support will be granted for an activity that complies with the relevant European Union and national environmental legislation and 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, 22.06.2020, pp 13–43).

(5) Support will not be granted for the following activities:
1) carrying out formal training, further training or a study trip;
2) creation, changing or updating of a business model;
3) consultancy on production organisation, quality standards and management;
4) development and implementation of a design;
5) creation of a website and online shop;
6) routine software development and upgrading;
7) development of internal processes or services;
8) carrying out a feasibility study on the basis of literature or a database;
9) carrying out market research;
10) activities set forth in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**§ 7 Eligibility of costs and requirements for innovation service provider within the scope of innovation voucher and development voucher**

(1) A cost is eligible if it complies with § 15 of the Combined Regulation, the conditions of this Regulation and the decision granting the application.

(2) The costs of the service to be bought from the IOT or the AOT for the implementation of the activities specified in subsection 6 (2) are eligible according to the maximum amount and percentage of the grant set forth in § 9 and the decision granting the application.

(3) The IOT is:
1) an accredited person or a patent attorney;
2) a legal entity with which the minister responsible for the sector has concluded an administrative agreement on the terms and conditions and pursuant to the procedure set forth in the Administrative Cooperation Act for the performance of the functions of the national measurement standard laboratory and the central office of metrology;
3) organisation for standardisation and an accreditation body;
4) a legal entity providing engineering services (EMTAK class 7112 engineering activities and related technical consultancy), which has a team to carry out the work and whose sales revenue in this activity in the financial year preceding the submission of the grant application exceeded €50,000;
[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4 – entry into force 02.06.2025]
5) a centre of excellence that has received a grant on the basis of Minister of Public Administration Regulation No 5 “Conditions for granting support for the development of regional centres of excellence” of 20 January 2016;
6) positively evaluated research and development institution (hereinafter R&D institution) within the meaning of § 3 of the Organisation of Research and Development Act;
7) an undertaking that has received support under Minister of Foreign Trade and Entrepreneurship Regulation No 89 “Conditions for supporting technology development centres” of 22 October 2014;
8) an educational institution that has the right to conduct higher education studies on the basis of Government of the Republic Regulation No 62 “Higher education standard” of 11 July 2019 or an equivalent foreign higher education institution (hereinafter higher education institution).

(4) In addition to those specified in subsection (3), an AOT may also be a legal entity, which has a team to carry out the work and whose sales revenue in this activity in the financial year preceding the submission of the grant application exceeded €50,000 and which provides services in the following EMTAK activity:
1) computer programming (section K, group 6210);
2) research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering (section N, division 7210).
[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4 – entry into force 02.06.2025]

(5) The NACE code of the activity corresponding to the service provider’s EMTAK code may also be taken as the basis in the case of the activities of the IOT and the AOT specified in clause 3 (4) and subsection (4).

(6) The following costs are additionally eligible within the scope of the development voucher:
1) the staff costs of the development employee with whom an employment contract has been entered into, in accordance with clauses 16 (1) 1) and 4) of the Combined Regulation, on the condition that the development employee works for the applicant with a workload of at least 0.2 hours per week, who works for the project for at least eight hours per week, and is based in Estonia;
2) the cost of materials needed to carry out the activities of the project, which are used during the implementation of the project and are not tangible assets.

(7) The maximum rate of the staff costs of the development employee is 50% and the maximum rate of the cost of materials is 25% of the total eligible amount of the project.

(8) In addition to the costs listed in § 17 of the Combined Regulation, the following are ineligible:
1) [repealed – RT I, 06.11.2024, 1 – entry into force 09.11.2024]
2) the staff costs of the development employee if the development employee is employed by the applicant at the time the application is submitted, if an existing position is filled or if an employee employed by the applicant is replaced;

3) value added tax;
4) other costs not related to the project or not justified from the viewpoint of the implementation of the project.

### § 8 Project eligibility period

(1) The project eligibility period is the time frame stipulated in the support decision during which project-related activities start and end and expenses necessary for carrying out the project are incurred.

(2) The project eligibility period starts from the date of submission of the application to the implementing body or from a later date indicated in the application or stated in the decision granting the application and ends on the date specified in the decision granting the application, but no later than on 31 August 2029.

(3) The applicant may not commence project-related activities or assume obligations for carrying out the aforementioned activities before submitting an application to the implementing body.

(4) The maximum duration of the project eligibility period is 12 months for the innovation voucher and 18 months for the development voucher. The minimum duration of the project eligibility period is four months.

(5) The beneficiary may apply for an extension of the project eligibility period set forth in subsection (4) with good reason and provided that the result to be achieved remains related to the objectives of the measure and the project and the project activities will be completed at the latest on 31 August 2029. If the project eligibility period is extended, it may exceed the duration of the eligibility period provided for in subsection (4).

(6) The project is deemed completed after the implementing body has approved the final report and made the final payout to the beneficiary.

### § 9 Maximum amount and proportion of grant

(1) The maximum amount of the grant per project is:
1) €7,500 for the innovation voucher;
2) €35,000 for the development voucher.

(2) The maximum percentage of the grant in eligible costs is:
1) 80% for the innovation voucher;
2) 70% for the development voucher.

(3) The amount of self-financing must cover the part of the eligible expenses that the grant does not cover. Other refundable or non-refundable aid granted by the state, local authorities or other European Union institutions or funds is not regarded as self-financing.

(4) The de minimis aid granted to the beneficiary according to the De Minimis Regulation with the grant applied for under this Regulation cannot exceed the limit laid down in Article 3(2) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

[RT I, 25.07.2024, 1 – entry into force 28.07.2024, applied retroactively from 01.01.2024]

(5) In order to calculate de minimis aid, a related entrepreneur is considered a single entrepreneur according to Article 2(2) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

(6) The rules for cumulation of de minimis aid granted for the various purposes laid down in Article 5 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation are taken into account in the case of de minimis aid.

## Chapter 3
## Requirements for applicant and application, applying for grant

### § 10 Requirements for applicant

(1) An SME registered in the Estonian Commercial Register may be an applicant.

(2) The applicant must comply with subsection 3 (2) of the Combined Regulation and the following requirements:
1) no liquidation proceedings have been launched or bankruptcy decision made in regard to the applicant or a person with significant influence over the applicant;
2) a person employed by the applicant under an employment contract or a contract under the law of obligations, a member of the managing body, a shareholder or a partner, is not acting during the project eligibility period, and has not acted during one year preceding the start of the project eligibility period under an employment contract or a contract under the law of obligations, as a member of a managing body or a shareholder, in the IOT or the AOT providing services for the project;

3) if the IOT or the AOT is an RD institution or a higher education institution, the person holding an employment or contract of employment with the applicant must not be employed during the period of eligibility of the project, nor have been employed during the one year preceding the start of the project, in a department of the respective TA institution or higher education institution providing the service described in the project to the applicant.

**§ 11 Obligations of applicant**

The applicant is obliged to comply with the requirements set forth in subsection 2 (3) of the Combined Regulation.

**§ 12 Requirements for application**

(1) In addition to the provisions of subsection 4 (1) and (2) of the Combined Regulation, a request must comply with the following requirements and contain the following information and confirmations:
1) the project included in the application must contribute to the objectives of at least one of the smart specialisation focus areas specified in subsection 2 (5);
2) the applicant's business name, Commercial Register code, VAT number, postal address, telephone number, email address, bank details, name and contact details of the person with the right of representation and the project manager, details of shareholders, the principal area of activity and its brief description;
3) a brief description of the problem that is the basis of the project;
4) project name, start and end date, action plan and schedule, objectives and expected results, project cost and amount of the grant applied for;
5) activities to contribute to the indicators set out in subsection 3 (5) and to the achievement of the strategic objectives and underlying principles set out in the state's long-term development strategy, if the project has been identified as relevant to these;
6) the applicant's balance sheet and income statement for the quarter preceding the submission of the application;
7) a price quote submitted by the IOT or the AOT for the implementation of the project, together with a brief description of the activities;
8) the terms of reference and, on the basis of these, the comparable tenders prepared by at least two independent tenderers, with a brief description of the activities, if the amount of the transaction without VAT is equal to or greater than the amount provided for in subsection 11 (3) of the Combined Regulation and the grant applicant is not required to comply with the Public Procurement Act;
9) an appropriate justification if it is not possible to submit a tender as described in clause 8) or if the cheapest tender is not selected;
10) the project plan in the development voucher application;
11) in the innovation voucher and development vouchers, the CVs of the members of the project team to be formed by the applicant and the IOT or the AOT;
12) if a development employee is involved, a CV of the development employee and a copy of the document certifying education or qualification or an extract from the Estonian Education Information System;
13) a power of attorney if the person who has the right to represent the applicant acts on the basis of an authorisation;
14) the scheme of the applicant and group members on the form of the implementing body if the applicant belongs to a group and the data are not publicly accessible;
15) a confirmation of the applicant of their compliance with the requirements set forth in § 10;
16) the applicant's confirmation that the submitted data are true;
17) confirmation that the project will not infringe the fundamental rights set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
18) confirmation that the 'do no significant harm' principle will be followed in the implementation of the project to achieve the environmental objectives.

(2) If the applicant has applied for support for the project or a part thereof from several measures at the same time, other state budget, local government unit, European Union or external aid resources, the applicant will submit the relevant information.

**§ 13. Applying for grant**

(1) Support is applied for on an ongoing basis.

(2) The implementing body will announce the start, termination and suspension of the receipt of applications and the funding budget on its website.

(3) If the amount requested by the pending applications in terms of which the implementing body has not yet made a decision to either satisfy or refuse the application is equal to the free balance of the budget for the funding the grant, the implementing body will immediately suspend accepting applications and process the pending applications in the order in which they were submitted.

(4) An applicant who has received the innovation voucher grant twice before cannot apply for the innovation voucher. An applicant who has received the development voucher grant twice before cannot apply for the development voucher. In determining the procedures for granting support, the support paid on the basis of this Regulation and Minister of Entrepreneurship No 131 "Conditions and procedure for the innovation and development voucher grant" of 12 November 2015 will be taken into account.

(5) Applicants may not be implementing more than one project supported under the Regulation at the same time.

# Chapter 4

### § 14 Processing an application

(1) The deadline for processing an application is up to 10 working days from the submission of an innovation voucher application to the implementing body and up to 20 working days from the submission of an development voucher application to the implementing body.

(2) The time of processing an application may be extended by the period determined by the implementing body in the case specified in subsection 6 (2) of the Combined Regulation.

(3) The implementing body will make the decision denying an application without evaluating the application substantively if the applicant has not rectified the deficiencies during the term specified in subsection (2).

### § 15 Declaration of compliance of applicant and application

(1) The implementing body declares an applicant and application compliant if all the requirements for the applicant and the application set in the Regulation have been met.

(2) The implementing body makes a decision denying the application without assessing the application substantively if the applicant and the application does not meet the requirements laid down in the Regulation.

### § 16 Criteria and methodology for selection of development voucher application

(1) Applications declared compliant with the requirements of the development voucher and the projects described in them will be assessed according to the selection methodology that will be prepared by the implementing body according to the selection criteria specified in subsection (5).

The selection methodology will be approved by the implementing authority and made available on the website of the implementing body before application is opened.

(2) The implementing body has the right to form advisory selection committees for the assessment of development voucher applications and include experts for the assessment of applications. The implementing body will coordinate the establishment and composition of the selection committees with the implementing authority.

(3) The deadline 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.

(4) A development voucher application will be assessed on a scale of 0–4 for each of the selection criteria, and the total score is the weighted average of the scores of the selection criteria.

(5) The selection criteria for a development voucher application and their weights in the overall total are as follows:
1) impact on the achievement of the objectives of the measure – 50% of total score;
2) competence and capacity of the project team to implement the project and its follow-up activities – 30% of the total score;

3) project quality (is the project realistic, clear, are the results measurable and the budget substantiated) – 20% of the total score;
4) contribution of the project to the achievement of the target of the strategy specified in subsection 1 (3) and the indicators of Estonia 2035 – 10% of the total score.

### § 17 Criteria for selecting innovation voucher application

An innovation voucher application that complies with requirements is assessed according to the following selection criteria:
1) consistency of the project with the priority of the implementation plan and objectives of the development plan specified in subsection 1 (2) and contribution to achievement of the objective specified in § 3;
2) justification of the project;
3) cost-effectiveness of the project;
4) the beneficiary's ability to carry out the project;
5) appropriateness of the activities described in the application for achievement of the strategic objectives and underlying principles set out in the state's long-term development strategy if the project has been identified as relevant to at least one indicator specified in subsection 3 (5) and thereby contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives and the underlying principles.

### § 18 Terms and conditions and procedure for granting an application

(1) A development voucher application is subject to be granted if it has been declared compliant with the requirements and:
1) has received the total score of at least 2.50 based on the assessment criteria listed in subsection 16 (5);
2) the application has not been assessed with a score of less than 2.00 based on the development voucher selection criteria provided for in clauses 16 (5) 1)–3).

(2) An innovation voucher application that meets all the selection criteria set out in § 17 is subject to be granted.

(3) The decision granting the application will state, in addition to the provisions of subsection 8 (4) of the Combined Regulation:
1) the terms and conditions of implementing the project;
2) deadlines and procedure for submission of reports;

### § 19 Terms and conditions and procedure for denying an application

(1) An application will be denied in the cases specified in subsections 8 (2) and (3) of the Combined Regulation.

(2) A decision denying an application for applications under processing, whose monetary volume exceeds the free balance of the budget for funding the activities of the measure, and which cannot be partially granted pursuant to the provisions of subsection 9 (1) of the Combined Regulation, is made on the basis of clause 8 (2) 5) of the Combined Regulation.

### § 20 Partial grant of application or grant with secondary conditions

(1) The application may be partially granted in accordance with subsection 9 (1) of the Combined Regulation.

(2) Partial grant of an application is permitted only in justified cases and provided that the objective of the project can be achieved also with a partial grant. Upon the partial grant of an application, the amount of the grant may be reduced and the supported activities may be amended with the consent of the applicant.

(3) The decision granting an application may made with a secondary condition in accordance with the provisions of subsection 9 (2) of the Combined Regulation.

(4) On the basis of a decision granting an application conditionally, the beneficiary has no right to payments of the support. The right to payments of the grant arises after the arrival of or compliance with the secondary condition. If the implementing body is unable to identify the above from an information system or data source, the beneficiary will provide the relevant information.

(5) The decision granting an application in part or with a secondary condition will be prepared according to subsection 18 (3).

(6) An application may be partially granted provided that the applicant agrees with the proposal of the implementing body for reducing the amount of the grant applied for or amending the activities planned in the project. If the applicant does not consent to the proposal of the implementing body, the implementing body makes a decision denying the application.

## Chapter 5
## Amendment and annulment of decision granting application

### § 21 Amendment of decision granting application

(1) The decision granting an application will be changed at the initiative of the implementing body or on the basis of the respective request submitted by the beneficiary according to the terms and conditions and the procedure stipulated in § 12 of the Combined Regulation.

(2) If the applicant wants to change the circumstances specified clauses 12 (2) 1)–3) of the Combined Regulation in the decision granting the application, the implementing body will verify the relevance and necessity of the changes before making the decision, if necessary also on the basis of the project selection criteria set out in subsection 16 (5) and § 17, involving experts or the selection committee, if necessary.

(3) The implementing body has the right to refuse to change the decision to grant the application if the change casts doubts over the possibility of achieving the project's expected results or the possibility of the project activities being completed during the project eligibility period.

(4) The implementing body decides on the amendment of the decision granting the application within 10 business days of receiving the respective request in the case of an innovation voucher and within 20 business days in the case of a development voucher.

### § 22 Annulment of decision granting application

The decision to grant an application will be considered fully or partly void with a decision of the implementing body in accordance with § 14 or subsection 37 (7) of the Combined Regulation or if:
1) the beneficiary has not started using the grant within the deadline established in the decision to approve the application;
2) the beneficiary does not comply with the provisions of the decision to approve the application or legislation or does not use the support under the prescribed conditions;
3) the project activities cannot be finalised by the deadline set in the decision granting the application, but not later than by 31 August 2029.

## Chapter 6

# Submission of reports and conditions for payment of support

### § 23 Submission of reports

(1) The beneficiary submits the following reports on the implementation of the project to the implementing body according to the conditions set forth in the decision granting the application:
1) final report of the innovation voucher;
2) interim report of the development voucher if the project implementation period is longer than 12 months, and the final report.

(2) The forms of the reports and the data to be included in the reports will be established by the implementing body.

(3) The beneficiary will submit the interim report of the development voucher by the deadline provided for in the decision granting the application. The minimum duration of the reporting period is six months and the maximum duration is 12 months.

(4) The beneficiary will submit the final report within 30 calendar days of the end of the project eligibility period.

(5) The interim report of the development voucher of the project must include the results achieved so far and an assessment of the project's progress, including the work carried out and the activities to be undertaken.

(6) The final report of the project contains information on the implementation and results of the project, including the work carried out, information on the contribution to the principles and indicators of Estonia 2035 and an assessment of the project's effectiveness and implementation.

(7) The intermediate body approves or rejects the interim report and final report within 20 working days of its submission to the implementing body. The implementing body has the right to request that the report be supplemented.

### § 24 Terms and conditions of payment of grant

(1) The grant will be paid to the beneficiary in accordance with clause 27 (1) 1) of the Combined Regulation. The beneficiary submits a payment request with the interim or final report.
[RT I, 06.11.2024, 1 – entry into force 09.11.2024]

(2) The grant will be paid according to §§ 24–26 of the Combined Regulation and the specifying conditions and procedure for making payments set forth in the Regulation and the decision granting the application.

(3) For the purposes of certifying eligible costs and self-financing, only costs paid on the basis of supporting accounting documents (hereinafter cost statements) and by bank transfer will be taken into account.

(4) The minimum amount of eligible costs in a cost statement is €100.

(5) The implementing body processes a payment request for up to 20 working days.

(6) If a deficiency is found in the cost documents upon processing, which cannot be rectified during the processing deadline, the implementing body will set an additional deadline for rectifying the deficiency.

# Chapter 7
# Rights and obligations of beneficiary and implementing body

### § 25 Rights and obligations of beneficiary

(1) The beneficiary has the right to receive information and clarifications from the implementing body that concern the requirements and the obligations of the beneficiary established in the Act2021_2027 and the legislation established on its basis.

(2) In addition to the obligations provided in §§ 10 and 11 of the Combined Regulation, the beneficiary must perform the following obligations:
1) use the support according to the provisions of the decision to satisfy the application;
2) answer the questions asked by the implementing body about the beneficiary and the implementation of the project;
3) if the applicant wants to modify the IOT or the AOT, coordinate this in advance with the implementing body in a format that can be reproduced in writing.

### § 26 Rights and obligations of the implementing body

(1) The implementing body has the right to:
1) review the documents prepared in the course of the preparation of the project and the performance of the work;

2) request the submission of additional data and documents on the duration, activities, objectives, results and costs of the project in the application that prove the proper implementation of the project and the proper performance of the obligations by the beneficiary;
3) refuse to pay out the support if the beneficiary's economic situation has deteriorated so much that the use of the support or implementation of the project plan is compromised;
4) end the payout of the support and demand the repayment of the support in part or in full if the recipient breaches the Act2021_2027, the terms and conditions of the regulations issued on its bases or this Regulation, or otherwise deviates from the provisions of the application or the decision granting the application;
5) reduce the amount of the grant proportionally to the reduction in the cost of the project as fixed in the decision granting the application;
6) carry out any other activities provided for in the Act2021_2027 and in the legislation established on its basis.

(2) In addition to those set forth in subsection 8 (2) of the Act2021_2027, the implementing body also complies with the following obligation:
1) sends the decisions to the beneficiary electronically within three working days;
2) sends the application, the project monitoring and other data to the register of structural support;
3) inspects the implementation of the project;
4) continuously monitors the financial balances of the measure and, if necessary, submits the respective overview to the implementing authority;
5) keeps the data related to the grant of de minimis aid with the information and necessary additional documents for ten years from the date on which the last individual aid was granted;
6) provides the information necessary for reporting on the award and use of the grant;
7) prepares and publishes overviews on the award and use of the grant;
8) informs the implementing authority about any obstacles to the use of the grant;
9) prepares a monitoring report and a final report on the measure, confirms the accuracy of the data contained in the report and sends the report to the implementing authority.

# Chapter 8
# Financial corrections

### § 27. Financial corrections

The decision on financial correction is made and the support is repaid in accordance with §§ 28–30 of the Act2021_2027 and §§ 34–38 of the Combined Regulation.

# Chapter 8
# Implementation of Regulation

[RT I, 25.07.2024, 1 – entry into force 28.07.2024]

### § 28 Implementation of Regulation

(1) The amendments to subsection 1 (4) and subsection 9 (4) that entered into force in July 2024 are applied apply retroactively from 1 January 2024.
[RT I, 25.07.2024, 1 – entry into force 28.07.2024]

(2) The amendments to subsection 1 (6) and subsection 7 (4) of this Regulation that entered into force in May 2025 do not apply to applications submitted before said amendments entered into force.
[RT I, 30.05.2025, 4 – entry into force 02.06.2025]