

The following translation to English is just for information purposes, with no legal effects of any kind. Only legal provisions published in Catalan and in Spanish in the *Official Gazette of Government of Catalonia* [*Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya*, or DOGC] shall have binding effects. Thus, in case of discrepancy, the versions published in the DOGC shall prevail, taking into account that pursuant to Catalan Law 2/2007, only the DOGC in digital format is to be considered official and authentic.

## **RESOLUTION EMC/1447/2020, of 18 June, approving the regulations governing the credit line to provide additional funding for the research staff contracted for projects approved under TECNIOspring PLUS calls in 2017 and 2018 and affected by the consequences of the declaration of the state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.**

Resolution EMC/1473/2017, of 19 June (*Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia* (DOGC) no. 7401, 29/6/2017) and Resolution EMC/959/2018, of 10 May (DOGC no. 7620, 16/5/2018) approved the regulations governing funding for the mobility of research staff carrying out applied research projects related to technology transfer (TECNIOspring PLUS Programme) in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

This funding is one of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in the European Union Horizon 2020 programme. TECNIOspring PLUS was approved under the H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2015 call (European Commission Decision C(2014) 4995 of 22 July 2014), and formalised via grant agreement number 712949 between ACCIÓ and the European Commission's Research Executive Agency, whereby the European Commission provides 50% of the funding for TECNIOspring PLUS, a European project for the mobility of research staff linked to the contracting of a researcher.

In view of the special situation brought about by the COVID-19 healthcare emergency, and the third additional provision of Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, declaring a state of emergency to deal with the healthcare crisis caused by COVID-19, according to which the periods related to processing awards were suspended, a number of beneficiary institutions under the 2017 and 2018 TECNIOspring PLUS calls have had to suspend their activity, with repercussions for the completion of current projects.

Despite the lockdown and the suspension of projects and their time limits, research staff's contracts have remained in force but they have not been able to carry out their work as originally scheduled, which will mean that their contract with the beneficiary institution will end before the project is completed. An extension to the contract would, however, allow them to complete the interrupted work.

ACCIÓ would like all subsidised projects to be completed, so that the goals originally set can be attained and the careers of the researchers furthered. These regulations are, therefore, intended to provide additional funding for paying research staff during the months needed to complete their projects.

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;

in accordance with Law 4/2020, of 29 April, on the Government of Catalonia budget for 2020;

and in accordance with the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, and the basic precepts of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, and the regulations implementing it, approved by Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, which are applicable to these regulations,

I hereby declare:

## Article 1. Purpose

To approve the conditions governing funding for projects approved under Resolutions EMC/1473/2017, of 19 June, and EMC/959/2018, of 10 May, to provide additional funding to extend the contracts of research staff who have been affected by the declaration of a state of emergency in accordance with Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, to deal with the healthcare emergency brought about by COVID-19, its extensions and/or consequences, up to a maximum of 3 months.

This funding is one of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in the European Union Horizon 2020 programme. TECNIOspring PLUS was approved under the H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2015 call (European Commission Decision C(2014) 4995 of 22 July 2014), and formalised via grant agreement number 712949 between ACCIÓ and the European Commission Research Executive Agency.

These regulations are therefore subject in all respects to the Council Decision of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decisions 2006/971/EC, 2006/972/EC, 2006/973/EC, 2006/974/EC and 2006/975/EC, as well as all other European Community legislation, in particular the following provisions:

- Regulation (EU) No. 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1906/2006.

- Regulation (EU) No. 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1982/2006.

- Commission Declaration (Framework Programme) (2013/C 373/02) of 20/12/2013.

- Commission Declaration (Framework Programme) (2013/C 373/03) of 20/12/2013.

- Commission Declaration on Article 5, Section 7, of the Framework Programme (2013/C 373/04) of 20/12/2013.

- Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

## Additional Provision

ACCIÓ will conduct an impact study on the results of the awards governed by this Resolution according to the objectives envisaged.

## Final Provision

### Effective date

This Decree will come into force on the day after its publication in the *Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia* (DOGC).

Barcelona, 18 June 2020.

Joan Romero i Circuns

Chief Executive Officer

## Annex 1 Regulations

### 1. Purpose

To provide additional funding to cover the cost of the salaries to be met by the beneficiary institutions of awards granted under Resolutions EMC/1473/2017, of 19 June, and EMC/959/2018, of 10 May, in view of the need to extend the duration of the contracts of research staff responsible for current subsidised projects as a result of the declaration of a state of emergency in accordance with Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, to deal with the healthcare emergency brought about by COVID-19, its extensions and/or consequences, up to a maximum of 3 months.

Under no circumstances will the additional funding per project exceed the cost of paying research staff salaries for three months or the period that has elapsed between 14 March 2020 and the end of the state of emergency, whichever is the shorter.

Exceptionally, when employment contracts have been subject to a Temporary Redundancy Plan (ERTO, in Catalan) which extends beyond three months after the declaration of the state of emergency, additional funding will be equivalent to the salary cost borne by the beneficiary institution for the duration of the Temporary Redundancy Plan up to a maximum of six months and no later than 28 February 2022, the date on which the TECNIOspring PLUS European project terminates.

## 2. Application procedure and documentation

2.1. Applications must be submitted using the standardised template, which will be available to all interested organisations:

a) If the applicant is a government body or an organisation fully or mainly owned by such a body, based in Catalonia, via the EACAT platform (eacat.cat), the Catalan Government extranet.

b) In all other cases, via Canal Empresa (canalempresa.gencat.cat), following the instructions on this page.

2.2. Interested parties must present applications electronically, attaching the documentation specified in point 2.6 of this Annex via Canal Empresa (canalempresa.gencat.cat) or via the EACAT platform (eacat.cat), the Catalan Government extranet, depending on the type of applicant.

The signature of the applicant must be identified by means of the electronic signature identification systems accepted by the Government of Catalonia's e-services portal in accordance with the criteria specified in Order GRI/233/2015, of 20 July, approving the protocol for identification and electronic signatures in areas involving the Government of Catalonia, and a digital certificate authorising the person to act on behalf of the legal entity will be required.

If the e-services portal should be inoperative due to unforeseen circumstances, provided that it is technically possible, users accessing it will be shown a message informing them of this fact and its effects on the calculation of time limits. Notwithstanding the above, if it is not technically possible for the user to view the aforementioned message and an unplanned interruption in the electronic services should occur during the last day specified for the relevant procedure, it may be completed during the following three consecutive business days.

2.3. The application will include a sworn declaration regarding compliance with the following requirements:

a) Requirements referred to in point 4 of Annex 1, if relevant.

b) A declaration that no other allowance has been requested or received for the same subsidisable expenses from any national or international public or private body.

c) The institution's deeds of constitution and a record of the entry of its statutes (or equivalent documents) in the relevant register must be available.

d) Accounting records, official registers and other duly audited documents, as required by applicable commercial and sector legislation.

e) The applicant must not be an undertaking in difficulty, as specified in Article 2.18 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

f) Legal entities applying for awards in excess of 10,000 euros must present a formal declaration which includes information regarding remuneration paid to their governing bodies or management, for the purposes envisaged in section h) of point 22.3.

g) A declaration confirming that the organisation applying for the subsidy adheres to the ethical code appearing in the Annex to Agreement GOV/85/2016, of 28 June, approving changes to the regulations governing procedures for the award of subsidies (DOGC no. 7152, 30/6/2016).

h) A declaration confirming that, if the subsidy is granted, the applicant will employ research staff according to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter>), or has received the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hrs4r>).

2.4. The presentation of the formal declaration authorises government agencies to verify the information submitted at any time. If formal declarations contain false or inaccurate information, the application will not be accepted or, if this becomes known after the award is granted, it may be revoked, notwithstanding any other liabilities the applicant may incur.

2.5. If applicants do not object, in the application form, to their data being obtained from other government bodies or organisations, it will be considered that ACCIÓ is authorised to take advantage of system interoperability to obtain the data available in the Catalogue of Electronic Data and Documents. If the applicant should object to such access, documentation confirming this must be presented.

2.6. The following documentation must be presented with applications:

- Technical report available from the TECNIOspring ([tecniospring.com](http://tecniospring.com)) website, describing the effects of the state of emergency declared because of the COVID-19 healthcare crisis on the schedule for the project, as detailed in point 3. The report must include a new work plan adapted to the length of the researcher's contract. The report should preferably be written in English using a maximum font size of 11 points.

- A complete, detailed budget for the project, using the model available on the TECNIOspring INDUSTRY website ([tecniospring.com](http://tecniospring.com)).

2.7. When the applications and documentation submitted have been examined, if they fail to meet any of the requirements stipulated in these regulations, the applicants must rectify the application or submit the required documentation within 10 business days. They will be informed that, if they fail to do so, it will be considered that they have withdrawn their application, with a prior ruling, according to the provisions of Article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, concerning the common administrative procedure of public administrations.

The interested party will be informed of the requirement for additional documentation by an announcement on the Government of Catalonia's electronic noticeboard ([tauler.gencat.cat](http://tauler.gencat.cat)), although this does not exclude the use of other additional electronic means of communication. This publication replaces individual notifications and has the same effects. Documents must be submitted electronically, as specified in point 2.2.

2.8. Applicants who have negotiated an extension, postponement, moratorium or any other special treatment for amounts owed to the Spanish Tax Authority, the Catalan Tax Agency or Spanish Social Security must provide documentation accrediting this special circumstance.

2.9. If applicants fail to meet requirements which cannot be rectified or comply with the closing date for applications established in these regulations, their applications will not be accepted.

### 3. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are institutions receiving TECNIOspring PLUS awards corresponding to the 2017 (Resolution EMC/1625/2017, of 29 June (DOGC no. 7410, 12/7/2017)) and 2018 calls (Resolution EMC/1034/2018, of 22 May (DOGC no. 7632, 1/6/2018)) which, on 14 March 2020, the date on which Royal Decree 463/2020 came into force, declaring a state of emergency to deal with the healthcare crisis brought about by COVID-19, had projects in progress and could justify delays in the implementation of work plans caused by the measures introduced under the state of emergency and its extensions, up to a maximum of 3 months.

Under no circumstances will periods in which a researcher is registered with the Social Security authorities as unfit to work be considered eligible for subsidies.

### 4. Requirements to qualify as a beneficiary

4.1. Entities applying for subsidies must meet the following requirements, at least:

a) Disabled workers must account for at least 2% of their workforce, or they must apply the alternative measures specified in Article 42 of Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013, of 29 November, approving the recast text of the General Law on persons with disability and their social inclusion; Royal Decree 364/2005, of 8 April, regulating exceptional alternative compliance with the compulsory quota of disabled workers; and Decree 86/2015, of 2 June, on the application of the 2% reserve quota for disabled workers in businesses with 50 or more employees and the exceptional alternative measures for compliance with the requirement, which is only applicable to businesses which employ fifty people or more.

b) They must have met all tax obligations to the Spanish and Catalan authorities and all Social Security obligations. They must have no outstanding debts to ACCIÓ or its subsidiaries. This situation must be maintained throughout the procedure: when the application is submitted, while the decision is pending and before receiving any payment.

c) They must not be in any of the categories that disqualify them from being beneficiaries, as specified in Article 13 of General Law 38/2003, on subsidies, (*Official State Gazette* (BOE) no. 276, of 18/11/2003).

d) They must indicate, in conjunction with social agents, the means they use to prevent and detect cases of sexual and gender-related harassment and deal with it in the workplace, in accordance with Law 5/2008, of 24 April, on the right of women to eradicate gender violence. This requirement is only applicable to businesses which employ twenty-five people or more.

- e) They must comply with the requirements of Articles 32.1, 32.3 and 36.4 of Law 1/1998, of 7 January, on language policy (DOGC no. 2553, 9/1/1998).
- f) They must not have been sanctioned, as a result of a final ruling, for committing a serious breach of legislation on the incorporation of disabled workers, or a very serious breach of legislation regarding labour relations or occupational health and safety, in the year preceding the call, as stipulated in the recast text of the Law on violations and sanctions in connection with social matters, approved by Legislative Royal Decree 5/2000, of 4 August, or, if they have been sanctioned, they must have applied appropriate corrective measures and paid any amounts due in respect of the breach.
- g) They must comply with the obligations and not be subject to any of the prohibitions specified in Articles 90.bis and 92.bis of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, which approves the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances (DOGC no. 3791A, of 31/12/2002).
- h) They must have a system for organising and managing the prevention of occupational hazards, in accordance with Law 31/1995, on the prevention of occupational risks; Royal Decree 39/1997, of 1 January, approving regulations on risk prevention services; and the subsequent modifications introduced by Law 54/2003, of 12 December, reforming the legal framework of occupational risk prevention.
- i) They must comply with the obligation to respect equality of treatment and opportunity in the workplace and, to this end, adopt measures designed to prevent any type of discrimination in employment between men and women. In companies with more than 250 employees, a compulsory Equality Plan must be drawn up and applied, as required by Article 45 of Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on the effective equality of men and women (DOGC no. 6919, 23/7/2015).
- j) If the applicant is a foundation, it must have adapted its statutes according to the first transitional provision of Law 4/2008, of 24 April, on Book 3 of the Catalan Civil Code, concerning legal entities, and Law 5/2011, of 19 July, which modifies the previous Act.
- k) If the applicant is a foundation, it must have complied with its obligation to present its annual accounts to the Supervisory Board, as required by Article 336-3 of the third book of the Catalan Civil Code, approved by Law 4/2008, of 24 April.
- l) If the applicant is a non-profit organisation, it must be listed in the relevant register.
- m) If the applicant's activity involves any element that may generate copyright, it must comply with legislation on intellectual property.
- n) Neither the entity applying nor the individuals assigned to carry out the subsidised activity shall have been sentenced in a final court ruling for any offence against sexual freedom and indemnity, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, including pornography, as specified in Organic Law 1/1996, of 15 January, on legal protection for minors, in the version set out in Law 26/2015, of 28 July, modifying the system of protection for children and adolescents.
- o) The applicant must never have received binding administrative sanctions or been sentenced in a final court ruling for having engaged in or tolerated employment practices considered discriminatory on the grounds of sex or gender, as determined by Article 11.1 of Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on the effective equality of men and women.

p) The applicant must not be subject to a pending recovery order following a previous decision by the Commission, declaring a subsidy received to be incompatible with the internal market.

q) The applicant must not be an undertaking in difficulty, as specified in Article 2.18 Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

r) The applicant must comply with any other applicable legal or regulatory obligation.

4.2. Compliance with these requirements must be accredited as specified in point 2.3 of this Annex.

## 5. Activities and expenditure eligible for subsidies

5.1. The cost of salary payments by the beneficiary institution arising from the extension of an existing contract, or the employment of research staff beyond the initial 24-month period, specifically for a period equal to the duration of the state of emergency declared on 14 March 2020, up to a maximum of three months, in order to complete the subsidised project, is considered eligible for a subsidy.

Exceptionally, when employment contracts have been subject to a Temporary Redundancy Plan which extends beyond three months after the declaration of the state of emergency, an extension to the contract for a period equivalent to the duration of the Plan will be eligible for a subsidy, up to a maximum of six months.

Beneficiary institutions whose 24-month projects were due to be completed within the period covered by the state of emergency may only opt to extend contracts by a period equivalent to the time which elapsed between 14 March 2020 and the date on which the 24-month period would have concluded.

For beneficiary institutions who were working on the secondment phase of a project that had been approved and was interrupted by the effects of the COVID-19 healthcare crisis, the extension will cover the months required to complete the year envisaged for this phase in accordance with section 5.1 a) of the regulations for the 2017 and 2018 calls.

5.2. Extensions by beneficiary institutions to the employment contracts of research staff may under no circumstances imply the completion of projects receiving subsidies after 28 February 2022, the closing date for the TECNIOspring PLUS European project.

5.3. The cost of the salaries of research staff employed, including the gross salary and compulsory Social Security contributions payable by the beneficiary, is eligible for a subsidy.

5.4. For the purposes of this Resolution, the following expenses are not considered eligible for subsidies:

Expenditure on mobility, research and dissemination related to the subsidised project.

The cost of salary and Social Security contributions when employees are unable to work because of common sickness or accidents, occupational sickness or accidents, maternity or paternity.

Overtime, profit-related bonuses, payments in kind, payment for holidays not taken, subsistence allowances, transport allowances, compensation for death and related transport expenses, compensation for suspension, dismissal or termination of contracts, allowances for marriage.

Additional or complementary salary components (seniority, special qualifications, location allowances, bonuses related to company profits, quantity and quality bonuses) will not qualify for subsidies, unless they are specified in collective bargaining agreements or in the employee's contract.

The indirect costs of the project.

Subsistence allowances.

## 6. Amount

6.1. The subsidy payable will be 100% of the eligible cost accepted, subject to the maximum amounts and conditions set out below.

6.2. The subsidy corresponding to the cost of salaries paid to research staff by the beneficiary will be determined by the type of mobility after 14 March 2020:

a) Mobility A (Secondment and return): 3,850 euros/month

If the project was in the secondment phase during the state of emergency, the salaries of research staff will be subject to a correction coefficient according to the destination country, allowing for salary differences between this country and Catalonia, according to the coefficients specified in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme. The resulting table, according to destination, is shown in Annex 2 to these Regulations. If the project was in the return phase during the state of emergency, the salary payable will be 3,850 euros/month, with no correction factor.

b) Mobility B (Inward): 4,875 euros/month

6.2.1. If the period for which a subsidy is requested does not comprise complete months, a daily amount will be calculated by dividing the above amounts by 30, as indicated for Mobility A (secondment and return) in Annex 2 to these Regulations. For Mobility A (secondment and return), if the project was in the return phase during the state of emergency, the amount payable daily will be 128.33 euros. If some days of the state of emergency period corresponded to the secondment phase of the project and others to the return phase, the amount payable will be the result of applying the correction factor for the destination country to the days in the secondment phase plus 128.33 euros/day for the days in the return phase.

In the case of Mobility B (Inward) the amount payable per day will be 162.50 euros.

6.2.2. These amounts include the researcher's gross annual salary and the employer's Social Security contribution.

6.2.3. Beneficiary institutions may increase the salaries of the research staff they employ, using their own funds, if they wish.

6.3. The award of these subsidies is subject to the possibility of a partial or total reduction in the amount payable, until the resolution confirming the subsidies has been passed, as a result of restrictions imposed to ensure compliance with the objectives of budgetary stability and financial sustainability.

## 7. Award procedure

7.1. The subsidies governed by these regulations are awarded on a non-competitive basis. This procedure is exceptional but is justified as the specific nature of the activities subsidised makes it impossible to establish criteria for assessing the applications objectively for the purposes of comparison and selection.

7.2. Applications will be processed in chronological order of their admission to the electronic register until no more funds are available.

7.3. The bodies authorised to carry out the procedure are the ACCIÓ Business Innovation Unit and the ACCIÓ Internal Management and Resources Unit.

7.4. When it has been verified that the applicant is eligible as a beneficiary, the ACCIÓ Internal Management and Resources Unit will evaluate compliance with administrative requirements and the ACCIÓ Innovation Unit will assess compliance with technical requirements, drawing up a report with their findings.

## 8. Body with powers to decide on subsidies and appeals

8.1. The Chief Executive Officer of ACCIÓ or the person delegated by him/her is authorised to rule on the subsidies.

8.2. After due consideration of the application and the report issued by the review board, the CEO of ACCIÓ, or the person delegated by the latter, will issue the relevant resolution. This will be preceded by a hearing, which may be forgone if no facts or allegations other than those presented by the applicants need to be taken into account in the procedure.

8.3. The resolution will identify the institution to which the subsidy is awarded, the amount, the conditions governing the activities for which the award is granted and the time limits for completing them.

8.4. The interested party will be informed of the resolution by an announcement on the Government of Catalonia's electronic noticeboard ([tauler.gencat.cat](http://tauler.gencat.cat)), although this does not exclude the use of other additional electronic means of communication. This publication replaces individual notifications and has the same effects.

8.5. If the resolution is not issued and the applicant notified within six months, it will be understood that the application has been rejected, in accordance with Article 54.2.e) of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedures of public administration in Catalonia.

8.6. An optional administrative reconsideration appeal against the resolution granting or withholding the subsidy, which exhausts the administrative process, may be lodged with the CEO of ACCIÓ within one month from the date of notification, as stipulated in Articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015 on the common administrative procedure of public administrations, and Article 77 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, concerning the legal system and procedures of public administrations in Catalonia. A request for review may also be submitted directly to the Catalan High Court of Justice within two months from the day following publication/notification of the decision, as stipulated in Article 46 and Article 10 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, governing administrative jurisdiction

## 9. Employment of researchers

9.1. The beneficiary institution will be required to provide ACCIÓ with an authenticated copy of the contract under which staff are employed or proof of the extension of their contracts within 10 calendar days from the date on which these come into effect.

9.2. The new or extended contract, which will be for full-time work during the period of the subsidy up to a maximum of 3 months, must specify clearly that the beneficiary institution is employing the researcher to carry out the project referred to in the application as a result of the measures introduced during the state of emergency and all its extensions caused by COVID-19 and that both the beneficiary institution and the researcher accept the obligations arising from these regulations and accept all employment and tax legislation currently in force. To comply with the rule regarding publicity in point 21 of this Annex, the contract must include the following text: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 712949 (TECNIOspring PLUS) and the Agency for Business Competitiveness of the Government of Catalonia (ACCIÓ)."

9.3. The beneficiary institution is responsible for all arrangements necessary for the researcher's stay abroad (visas, work permits, etc.) and incorporation in said institution.

9.4. The beneficiary institution will be understood to have tacitly renounced the subsidy if it does not present the contract or extension to the contract as stipulated in the preceding sections and within the time limits specified.

## 10. Publication of the resolution

In accordance with Article 15 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, information regarding the award of public subsidies and grants must be published on the e-services portal and on the ACCIÓ website ([accio.gencat.cat](http://accio.gencat.cat)), indicating the amount, purpose and beneficiaries.

## 11. Payment of the subsidy

The subsidy will be paid when the justification for the project has been verified and an ACCIÓ specialist has drawn up a report confirming that the expenditure detailed in the application is correct.

## 12. Review of and changes in the use made of the subsidy

12.1. Subsidies already awarded may be reviewed and the resolution to grant them may be modified if the conditions under which they are granted change or if the beneficiary institution obtains other concurrent subsidies.

12.2. According to Article 19.4 of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, any change in the conditions taken into account for the award of a subsidy, or the concurrent award of other subsidies, may lead to a modification in the resolution confirming the subsidy, as stipulated in the regulations governing these awards.

12.3. For duly justified reasons, when the interested party has previously so requested, the resolution confirming the award may be modified, provided that it is essentially unchanged, if there is a change in the conditions determining the activity subsidised, and this is adequately justified by the beneficiary institution before the period in which the activity is to take place.

12.4. The beneficiary institution is required to inform the body awarding the subsidy of any proposed change in the allocation of the subsidy within the overall purpose of the activity. Any such change must be authorised by the awarding body in accordance with Article 95.e) of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, which approves the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances. The beneficiary institution must request the modification before the end of the period specified for the activity in the resolution confirming the award.

12.5. In all cases a report from an ACCIÓ specialist will be required, certifying that there has been no essential change to the project and the nature of the subsidised activity is the same, and that the modified project would not have obtained a lower rating in the selection phase or qualified for a smaller subsidy than the original project.

## 13. Justification of subsidies

13.1. Beneficiary institutions must justify the use of funds in accordance with Articles 30 and 31 of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, Article 98.1 of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, which approves the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances, and Order ECO/172/2015, of 3 June, on the justification of subsidies.

13.2. The beneficiary institution is required to justify 100% of expenditure subsidised for the completion of the project. The dates of documents justifying expenditure must fall within the period during which the subsidised activity is carried out, as established in the resolution confirming the award.

Dates on proof of payment documents may be no later than two months after the period applicable to documents justifying expenditure.

13.3. The closing date for presenting justification of expenditure will be two months after the completion of the project.

13.4. The justification must be submitted using the standardised model, which will be available to all beneficiary institutions:

a) If the beneficiary institution is a government body or an organisation fully or mainly owned by such a body, based in Catalonia, via the EACAT platform ([eacat.cat](http://eacat.cat)), the Catalan Government extranet.

b) In all other cases via Canal Empresa ([canalempresa.gencat.cat](http://canalempresa.gencat.cat)).

13.5. The documentation required is detailed below, although ACCIÓ may ask the beneficiary institution for additional information or supporting documents related to the activity for which the subsidy is granted.

a) Report (using the model provided by ACCIÓ) on the activities carried out. This report, drawn up by the beneficiary institution, must be approved and signed by the researcher and the supervisor. For Mobility A (secondment and return), it must also be approved and signed by the supervisor at the host centre in the foreign country.

b) A financial report justifying the cost of the activities carried out, which must include the following information required for the subsidy to be granted:

- A classified list of expenditure, as included in the standardised form for justifying expenditure, available from the ACCIÓ website.

- Scanned copies (PDF) of:

- Salary payment slips for the whole period in which the project has taken place.

- Receipt for Social Security contributions (formerly TC1) and Model TC2, validated by the Social Security authorities, for the same period as in the previous point. To accredit Social Security payments for each of the months involved, the contributions receipt must be stamped by the bank or accompanied by documentary proof of payment via the bank.

- If additional salary components or bonuses are payable (seniority, special qualifications, location allowances, bonuses related to company profits, quantity and quality bonuses) a copy of the collective bargaining agreement or employee's contract in which they are specified.

- To accredit salary payments, the following must be included:

payment by bank transfer: a copy of the record of the transfer, showing the payer, the payee, the item paid, the amount and the date of the operation. Payment orders will not be considered valid unless they are accompanied by a bank statement showing that the operation was carried out.

If a single payment is made corresponding to the salaries of all or some employees, the proof of payment must be accompanied by a breakdown of individual salary payments. In this case the institution can opt to present:

A certificate signed and stamped by the bank confirming that the payment corresponds to salary payments to the employees in question. The certificate must include the reference number of the payment, the date, the names of the employees, the month paid, and the amount.

A bank receipt listing the individual transfers made to employees.

A list of the transfers included in the single payment, indicating the names of the employees, the amount of each salary payment and the total of all the salary payments, together with an account entry showing that the full amount of the payment has been debited.

Payment by personal cheques or promissory notes: a copy of the personal cheque must be attached and a copy of the bank statement showing that it has been debited. The date of payment will be taken as the date on which the account is charged, not the date on which the cheque or promissory note is received. Cheques made out to the bearer are not acceptable.

- A declaration that no other allowance has been received for the same expenses from any national or international public or private body. This declaration forms part of the standardised form for justifying expenditure, available from the TECNIOspring PLUS intranet.

If relevant, a report justifying any differences between the activities justified and those for which the subsidy was initially granted.

13.6. The beneficiary institution will also have to provide any other information or assist with any verification related to the activity subsidised, if so required by ACCIÓ.

13.7. If the justification fails to meet the requirements stipulated in these regulations, the applicants will be required to rectify the error or submit the required documentation within ten business days. They will be informed that, if they fail to do so, it will be considered that they have withdrawn their request, with a prior ruling, according to the provisions of Article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, concerning the common administrative procedure of public administrations.

13.8. When the project has been completed, ACCIÓ will issue a verification report.

## 14. Verification of subsidised activities

14.1. Verification of subsidised activities maybe of two types:

a) Administrative verification.

This type of verification is intended to guarantee that the declarations of expenditure presented by beneficiary institutions are accompanied by supporting documentation (invoices, salary slips, bank statements, etc.).

b) In situ verification.

This type of verification is intended to ensure that the activity subsidised really takes place and/or that beneficiary institutions comply with their obligations.

In situ verification may be carried out, if necessary, while the subsidised activity is being carried out.

14.2. Beneficiary institutions are required to submit to any administrative or in situ verification by the awarding body.

## 15. Monitoring of subsidised activities

15.1. ACCIÓ will monitor all subsidised projects. It will carry out any tracking and monitoring activity considered necessary to ensure that beneficiary institutions allocate funds appropriately, respect the conditions and requirements for the award of the subsidy and comply with their obligations. Beneficiary institutions are obliged to supply all information requested by the Government of Catalonia's Comptroller and Auditor General, the Accounts Ombudsman or other authorised bodies.

15.2. Beneficiary institutions are subject to relevant financial supervision, as established in Articles 45 and 46 of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, regarding the processing, justification and supervision of subsidies.

15.3. The awarding body will carry out special inspections if fraud or irregularities in the activities funded by these subsidies are reported or there are indications of their existence.

15.4. Beneficiary institutions must submit to any supervisory activity considered necessary by the awarding body and any supervision by official Catalan, Spanish and EU bodies.

## 16. Rejection of subsidies when awarded

If a subsidy is partly or fully rejected, the CEO of ACCIÓ must be informed accordingly in an explanatory document signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary institution, within one month from the day following the decision. Documentation will need to be presented to justify expenditure during the period in which the TECNIOspring PLUS subsidy was used.

## 17. Revocation

17.1. The circumstances referred to in Articles 92 bis, 99 and 100 of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, which approves the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances, and Article 37 of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, are grounds for revoking awards.

17.2. If the awarding body, as a result of its verification activity, or the Comptroller and Auditor General, as part of their supervision, detect the existence of a reason for revoking the subsidy awarded, they will initiate the relevant procedure, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 100 ff of the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances, and General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies.

## 18. Compatibility of subsidies

18.1. The salary of the researcher employed may not be subsidised via any other award.

18.2. A researcher who receives a TECNIOspring PLUS award cannot simultaneously benefit from any other public funding for the same expenditure related to the same project.

## 19. Suspension

19.1. Researchers are subject to current labour legislation.

19.2. If research staff suspend the work funded by these subsidies for justified reasons, they will be entitled to an extension of their contracts for a period corresponding to the time when they were not working.

The extension cannot be longer than the period for which the subsidy was granted and may not under any circumstances result in the project terminating after 28 February 2022, the concluding date of the TECNIOspring PLUS European project. Subsidy payments will be suspended during this period.

## 20. Sanctions

In the event of a failure to comply with the obligations contained in these regulations, the sanctions stipulated in General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, and the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, will apply if said failure constitutes an infraction in accordance with said legislation, independently of whether the subsidy is repaid in full or in part.

## 21. Publication of the subsidies by the beneficiary institution

21.1. The beneficiary institution must take appropriate measures to publicise the public nature of the funding for the programme, activity, investment or action as stipulated in the regulation governing the obligations of beneficiary institutions per Article 18.4 of General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies.

21.2. Beneficiary institutions must undertake the following commitments regarding publicity:

All external communications, dissemination and publicity, including conferences and seminars or any other type of information or promotional material (leaflets, dossiers, posters, presentations, etc.) must indicate that the beneficiary institution had received funding from the EU and ACCIÓ via TECNIOspring PLUS, and must display the EU symbol with the ACCIÓ logo, the TECNIOspring PLUS logo, as specified in its website ([www.tecniospring.com](http://www.tecniospring.com)) with a text stating: "This project has received funding from

the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 712949 (TECNIOspring PLUS) and the Government of Catalonia's Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ)."

All publicity issued by the beneficiary institution in relation to the applied research project for the purposes of technology transfer, in any form or medium, must indicate that it only expresses the opinion of the author and that neither the EU or ACCIÓ are liable for the use made of the information provided.

As the TECNIOspring PLUS project is co-funded by Horizon 2020, the Research Executive Agency and/or the European Commission are authorised to publish in any form and in any medium details of the programme's beneficiary institutions as stipulated in Article 38.2 of grant agreement number 712949 between the European Commission and ACCIÓ.

## 22. Obligations of beneficiary institutions

22.1. Notwithstanding any other obligations, the beneficiary institutions must meet the following specific obligations:

- a) Comply with the requirements for contracting researchers established in point 9.
- b) Provide the researcher contracted the support needed to complete the project (access to information, teams and work materials) and ensure the researcher enjoys the same rights and benefits as the institution's own staff in similar categories.
- c) Oversee the researcher's career progress, providing training in technology transfer and other complementary activities.
- d) Adhere to the fundamental ethical principles established by the European Union Horizon 2020 programme.
- e) Adhere to the rules on intellectual property rights (IPR) established by the European Commission for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions within the European Union Horizon 2020 programme.
- f) Submit all information requested and agree to any inspections, checks and controls required by ACCIÓ or other competent bodies, in accordance with current legislation.
- g) Facilitate open access to the results of the subsidised projects and, specifically, to all peer-reviewed scientific articles published as part of the project in order to enable ACCIÓ to comply with Article 29.2 of grant agreement number 712949 between the European Commission and ACCIÓ.
- h) Retain the originals of all documents related to the execution and justification of the subsidies received for five years from the payment of the final balance by the European Commission in order to enable ACCIÓ to comply with Article 18 of grant agreement number 712949 between the European Commission and ACCIÓ.
- i) Adhere to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.
- j) Ensure the researcher is able to participate in planned activities: training, dissemination and other activities organised by ACCIÓ.

k) Submit a report covering the period of the contract extension or new contract (using the model provided by ACCIÓ) to enable ACCIÓ to monitor the status of the project.

l) Submit a separate accounting statement for the financial contribution from TECNIOspring PLUS so ACCIÓ can report to the European Commission in accordance with the rules on EU funding contained in Regulation (EU) 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013.

m) Provide the means to enable the results of the subsidised project to be exploited and marketed (project outcome reports, contacts with potential customers, dissemination of the results obtained).

n) Comply with regulations for publishing details of grants per point 21 of this Annex.

22.2. The contracted researchers must meet the following obligations:

a) Perform the activities detailed in the work plans.

b) Comply with the internal rules of the institutions where they work and the requirements for confidentiality concerning the activity carried out, in accordance with the instructions and guidelines issued by the host institution, notwithstanding any inspections, checks and controls required by ACCIÓ.

c) Submit all information requested and agree to any inspections, checks and controls required by ACCIÓ or other competent bodies, in accordance with current legislation.

d) Work full time on the project named in the application. In exceptional circumstances the researcher may work temporarily on other research or technology innovation projects that are of interest for their career development or training, subject to prior authorisation from ACCIÓ.

e) Participate in planned activities: training, dissemination and other activities organised by ACCIÓ.

f) Adhere to the fundamental ethical principles established by the European Union Horizon 2020 programme.

g) Adhere to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the European Commission's Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

h) Comply with regulations for publishing details of grants per point 21 of this Annex.

22.3. The beneficiary institutions must comply with the following general obligations:

a) Meet the target, execute the project, carry out the activity or adopt the behaviour forming the basis for the concession of the subsidy, and provide documentation in accreditation thereof to ACCIÓ in the form and period stipulated in the regulation on the justification of subsidies.

b) Provide justification to the granting body of compliance with the requirements and terms of the concession or receipt of the subsidy, with documentation justifying the expenses incurred and confirming that said expenses were used for the purpose for which the subsidy was granted. If the subsidy covers a percentage of the cost of the activity or investment, the entire cost must be accredited, notwithstanding the use of other means of proof established in these regulations. In any case, the full amount spent in connection with the overall or partial objective must be justified. In the case of

a partial objective, it must be possible to complete the project in stages or distinguish the relevant part.

c) Submit proposals to the competent body for any change in the use of the subsidy, without affecting the purpose thereof, in accordance with current legislation. The review board must be notified of any change in advance and in writing, prior to the end of the execution period, so it can assess the proposed change. It may accept the change if it is not substantial and does not breach the requirements and conditions established in these regulations. Changes made without notification or permission may result in full or partial repayment of the subsidy.

d) Submit to the verification measures carried out by the Ministry of Business and Knowledge and the economic and financial controls carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the Government of Catalonia, the Accounts Ombudsman or other competent Spanish or EU bodies, and provide all the information requested as part of said measures.

e) Make available accounting records, official registers and other duly audited documents, as required by the commercial and sector legislation applicable to each beneficiary institution, together with the financial statements and specific records required under the subsidy regulations, in order to ensure that checks and controls can be properly carried out.

f) Repay any funds received in the event of the subsidy being revoked as indicated in the corresponding resolution.

g) Appropriately advertise the public nature of the funding in all investments or written material arising from the subsidised activity as stipulated in the sections on publicity in these regulations.

h) If the amount applied for is greater than 10,000 euros, notify the granting body, by means of a formal declaration, of the remuneration paid to their governing bodies or management, as stipulated in Article 15.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance.

i) The private institutions stipulated in paragraphs a) and b) of Article 3.4 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance must meet the transparency obligations established in Chapter II of said Law which are applicable to them.

j) Comply with the obligations specified in Articles 90.bis and 92.bis of the recast text of the Catalan Law on public finances approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December.

k) Adhere to the ethical principles and codes of conduct for beneficiary institutions as stipulated in the Annex to Agreement GOV/85/2016, of 28 June, approving changes to the regulations governing procedures for the award of subsidies (DOGC no. 7152, 30/6/2016).

l) The institution may not subrogate the management of any aspect of the subsidised activity.

## 23. Personal data protection

The Agency for Business Competitiveness (henceforth ACCIÓ), as the data controller, advises you that your personal details will be used for the purposes of processing your grant/subsidy application, sending you satisfaction surveys and offering information via electronic channels on services and activities of a similar nature provided by this entity, as well as for the purpose of complying with our legal obligations. ACCIÓ also advises you that you may exercise your rights to access, rectify, erase, limit, transfer or object to the processing of your data by writing to [dades.accio@gencat.cat](mailto:dades.accio@gencat.cat) or to our address at Passeig de Gràcia 129, 08008 Barcelona.

For further information on the handling of your data, click here: <https://www.accio.gencat.cat/en/avis-legal/index.html>.

## 24. Notification of European Union grants

The awarding of these grants is governed by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

## Annex 2

PROJECT SALARY EXPENSE FOR ONE MONTH AND ONE DAY FOR RESEARCHERS ON OUTGOING MODALITY TO MEMBER STATES OF THE EU AND THIRD COUNTRIES (Total cost to the company. The amount includes employee's and employer's Social Security contributions and personal income tax.)

Country	Amount (in euros) per month	Amount (in euros) per day
European Union		
Germany	3,914.57	130.49
Austria	4,306.03	143.53
Belgium	4,035.64	134.52
Bulgaria	2,502.10	83.40
Croatia	3,385.90	112.86
Denmark	5,448.11	181.60
Slovenia	3,474.69	115.82
Estonia	3,204.30	106.81
Finland	4,875.05	162.50
France	4,669.23	155.64

Country	Amount (in euros) per month	Amount (in euros) per day
Greece	3,579.61	119.32
Hungary	3,123.58	104.12
Ireland	4,665.20	155.51
Italy	4,213.21	140.44
Latvia	3,135.69	104.52
Lithuania	2,925.84	97.53
Luxembourg	4,035.64	134.52
Malta	3,406.08	113.54
Netherlands	4,354.45	145.15
Poland	3,046.91	101.56
Portugal	3,398.01	113.27
Slovak Republic	3,244.65	108.16
Czech Republic	3,300.35	110.01
Romania	2,776.52	92.55
Sweden	4,915.41	163.85
Cyprus	3,333.44	111.11
Third countries		
Australia	4,213.21	140.44
United States of America	3,999.32	133.31
United Kingdom	5,641.82	188.06
Switzerland	4,891.19	163.04