

Grant Agreement Register	
Call for proposals "Professionalization of Research Centers" - DIGIT.1.2.03	
Status:	Closed
Allocation:	5.000.000,00 €



No	Reference number of Grant Agreement	Title of project	Date of signing Grant Agreement	Beneficiary	OIB	Project description	Project duration (in months)	Total project amount	Total grant amount
1	DIGIT.1.2.03.003	Centre for Translational Research in Biomedicine	12.1.2026.	University of Split, School of Medicine	02879747067	<p>This project aims to transform CTRIBE into a professionally managed, accessible, and strategically integrated RC management unit. These objectives will be implemented through six key activities: Organizational strengthening and process optimization; Optimization of access to infrastructure and services; Capacity building and competence development; Networking and collaboration; Promotion and visibility; and Project management. Together, these activities will address current weaknesses and build a sustainable and service-oriented RC.</p> <p>The project targets USSM's management and research staff, external research organizations, industry stakeholders, students, and patients, patient organizations, healthcare providers and payers, ensuring broad engagement and benefits across academia, industry, and society.</p> <p>The project will result in: development of comprehensive CTRIBE framework, a fully operational digital platform, comprehensive training and mentorship for staff, strengthened collaboration through signed cooperation agreements and Industry Days, and enhanced visibility via the CTRIBE website, branding and promotional tools.</p>	36	349.972,98	328.000,66
2	DIGIT.1.2.03.004	FERIT-ZIC: Building a Sustainable Bridge Between Science and Industry	12.1.2026.	Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek	95494259952	<p>The project will establish FERIT-ZIC as a professionalized Research Center that enables transparent and efficient use of its laboratories, strengthens collaboration with industry, and enhances research performance. The main target groups are FERIT researchers, students, industry partners, external research institutions, and FERIT's administrative and technical staff, all of whom will benefit from improved processes, digital tools, and expanded opportunities for cooperation and knowledge transfer. Key activities include the development of a digital inventory and booking system, adoption of standard operating procedures for research results and technology transfer, staff training and peer-learning mentoring, organization of Research &amp; Innovation Forums and Industry Days, preparation of promotional tools, and implementation of robust project management structures.</p> <p>As a result of these activities, FERIT-ZIC will gain a functioning digital system for infrastructure management, new and standardized procedures for research and commercialization, a trained and skilled staff base, established collaboration mechanisms with industry and academia, and improved visibility through promotional and dissemination actions.</p>	32	320.820,00	279.763,65
3	DIGIT.1.2.03.005	Optimization of operation and use of the RBI Tandem Accelerator Research Infrastructure (OTARI)	12.1.2026.	Ruder Boskovic Institute	69715301002	<p>The Ruđer Bošković Institute Tandem Accelerator Center (RBI-AC) is the largest experimental research infrastructure in Croatia, managed by the Laboratory for Ion Beam Interactions (LIIS) within the Division for Experimental Physics. This project aims to strengthen the management and visibility of RBI-AC, fully aligning with RBI's mission to enhance research quality, improve infrastructure, foster industry collaboration, and optimize resource management. The overall objective is to professionalize operations, ensure transparent access to services, build staff capacity, expand industry partnerships, and increase visibility to broaden the user base.</p> <p>Key activities include employing a business development manager, benchmarking RBI-AC against leading infrastructures, and establishing improved operational procedures. Transparent access will be supported through standardized user access protocols, FAIR-aligned data management, and upgraded service procedures, including a public price list. Capacity building will focus on hiring two technical staff to ensure knowledge transfer during the transition to new premises and organizing training in research infrastructure management, industry collaboration, and commercialization strategies. Collaboration will be strengthened through partnerships with international ion beam facilities, knowledge exchange on technology transfer, and targeted networking with industry based on screening of potential applications.</p>	36	348.100,00	338.486,62

4	DIGIT.1.2.03.006	Professionalization of the Research Center for Biotechnology, Food Technology, and Nutrition	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology	47824453867	<p>The project aims to establish a modern, professionally managed research center (RC) at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb (PBF) by integrating its existing departments and the accredited Food Control Center (CKN) into a single, coherent structure. The RC will serve as a strategic platform for research, innovation, and technology transfer in the fields of food technology, biotechnology, and nutrition, addressing the needs of academia, industry, and society.</p> <p>The project's specific objectives are to: a) professionalize the organizational and operational model of the RC; b) optimize and digitalize access to research infrastructure and services; c) strengthen the competences of staff in business development, intellectual property (IP) management, and collaboration with industry; d) enhance cooperation with enterprises and research organizations; e) increase visibility and expand the user base; and f) ensure the long-term sustainability of the RC.</p> <p>Key activities include the introduction of standardized procedures and technology transfer protocols, implementation of digital tools for infrastructure management and laboratory processes, targeted training and capacity-building programs, organization of networking and promotional events, and strategic outreach to industry and research partners.</p> <p>Expected results include increased utilization of research infrastructure, a higher number of collaborative projects and service contracts with the private sector, enhanced research commercialization, and diversified revenue streams. The project will also strengthen Croatia's research and innovation ecosystem by aligning with national and EU strategic priorities, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and positioning the RC as a key regional hub integrated into European research networks. Ultimately, the RC will accelerate innovation, support the development of sustainable food systems, and contribute to economic growth and societal well-being.</p>	34	350.000,00	349.000,00
5	DIGIT.1.2.03.007	Professionalization of the Research Center of University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine	70221464726	<p>This project aims to professionalize the research infrastructure at the School of Dental Medicine by establishing the Research Center. Despite possessing state-of-the-art equipment and world-class expertise, the Center's commercial potential is untapped due to a lack of business processes and dedicated personnel. By hiring a Business Development Manager and one Technician, the project will develop the Center into a self-sustaining unit. Key activities include developing a professional service portfolio, implementing a transparent pricing model, and executing a targeted marketing strategy to engage the dental, food, and oral hygiene industries. The objective is to increase equipment utilization from 15% to 40%, secure 5 new commercial contracts, and generate sustainable revenue, positioning Research Center as a leading R&amp;D partner in Southeast Europe. The project will directly benefit regional SMEs by providing access to critical infrastructure and expertise, fostering innovation and economic growth.</p>	34	350.000,00	340.571,06
6	DIGIT.1.2.03.010	Professionalization of FESB Research Center	12.1.2026.	University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture	00857144221	<p>FESB RC, as a consolidated management unit, integrates education, research, and collaboration with industry, public authorities, and international partners. The project aims to transform the RC into a professionally managed, accessible, and strategically integrated management unit at FESB. These objectives will be achieved through six key activities: Organizational strengthening and process optimization; Optimization of access to infrastructure and services; Capacity building and competence development; Networking and collaboration; Promotion and visibility; and Project management.</p> <p>Together, these activities will tackle current weaknesses and build a sustainable, service-oriented RC. The project targets FESB's management and research staff, external research organizations, industry stakeholders, students, and public authorities, ensuring broad engagement and benefits across academia, industry, and society. The project will result in: development of a modular RC framework, two custom software solutions for RI and project management, structured training and mentorship for staff, strengthened partnerships through stakeholder agreements and Industry Days, and improved visibility via the RC's website, branding, and promotional tools.</p>	36	349.900,00	343.100,00

7	DIGIT.1.2.03.011	FSB LINK - Professionalization and Linking of FSB Research Centers with Industry	10.3.2026.	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture	22910368449	FSB LINK project aims to professionalize and integrate the management of its research infrastructure, improve collaboration with the private sector, and strengthen staff capacities. The project focuses on three pillars: (i) organizational strengthening and process optimization through standardized procedures and guidelines for services, collaborative projects, and technology transfer; (ii) optimization of infrastructure use by creating a digital equipment inventory, developing access and sharing protocols, and providing targeted maintenance and ISO reaccreditation; and (iii) capacity building for administrative and research staff in project management, intellectual property, and industry collaboration. CRTA and ORCHID research centers, as leading innovation hubs, will be promoted through bilateral meetings, industry days, and a joint academia–business conference, supported by a new online Labs Catalogue and CRM platform as a one-stop shop for industry. By integrating digital tools, visibility actions, and structured collaboration frameworks, FSB LINK will optimize overall research infrastructure use, expand partnerships of FSB’s research centers CRTA and ORCHID, but also other FSB research groups, with industry, and build long-term opportunities for revenue generation, technology transfer, and innovation.	30	349.400,00	333.400,00
8	DIGIT.1.2.03.013	FarmInovaPRO: Advancing Research Infrastructure and Industry Collaboration in Pharmacy	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry	14509285435	This Project professionalizes the management of the Center for Translational Research and Innovation in Pharmacy (the RC) and deepens collaboration with the private sector - unlocking the full value of research infrastructure (RI) and accelerating innovation. It delivers: (O1–O3) efficiency and professional RI management; (O4) stronger research–industry collaboration; (O5) higher RI utilization; and (O6) long-term sustainability with demonstrably improved outcomes, outputs and impacts post-project. Primary beneficiaries are RC staff and management, researchers, students, and academic and industry partners.	34	349.500,00	349.500,00
9	DIGIT.1.2.03.014	Professionalization of KTF Research Center	12.1.2026.	University of Split, Faculty of Chemistry and Technology	99401575594	KTF RC, as a consolidated RI management unit, integrates education, research, and collaboration with industry, public authorities, and international partners. However, it currently faces several challenges, including limited expertise in RI management and sustainability among key staff, fragmented and unsystematic internal processes, ad hoc external collaborations, heavy reliance on competitive grants, and low visibility of its service potential. To address these challenges, the project aims to transform the RC into a professionally managed, accessible, and strategically integrated management unit at KTF. These objectives will be achieved through six key activities: Organizational strengthening and process optimization; Optimization of access to infrastructure and services; Capacity building and competence development; Networking and collaboration; Promotion and visibility; and Project management. Together, these activities will tackle current weaknesses and build a sustainable, service-oriented RC. The project targets KTF’s management and research staff, external research organizations, industry stakeholders, students, and public authorities, ensuring broad engagement and benefits across academia, industry, and society. The project will result in: development of a modular RC framework, an upgraded CERES platform for RI management, structured training and mentorship for staff, strengthened partnerships through stakeholder agreements and Industry Days, and improved visibility via the RC’s website, branding, and promotional tools.	36	349.951,08	349.951,08

10	DIGIT.1.2.03.015	FER Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Hub - FER SPARK	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing	57029260362	<p>The project will strengthen the University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER) as a leading Research Centre for research–industry collaboration, innovation, and technology transfer. Its overall objective is to enhance research infrastructure management and foster collaboration along with the private sector to unlock the full potential of existing resources and drive innovation. To achieve this, the project will implement a coherent set of activities. Organisational processes will be mapped, simplified, and digitalised, resulting in at least 25 new or improved management processes. Capacity building will be delivered through training for at least 75 staff, ensuring the skills needed for professional infrastructure governance. Collaboration with industry will be advanced through five networking events, three partnership agreements, and three technology scouting exercises involving ten research teams, complemented by advisory services in IP and commercialisation. Visibility and outreach will be expanded through 20 promotional events, a dedicated project website, three active social media channels, and digital campaigns.</p> <p>The target groups of the project include FER researchers, administrative and technical staff, doctoral candidates, private sector partners (SMEs and large companies), external research organisations, and public institutions.</p> <p>The expected results are streamlined and digitalised processes, improved staff competences, transparent access to infrastructure, broader outreach, and structured pathways for technology transfer and spin-off development.</p>	36	350.000,00	344.000,00
11	DIGIT.1.2.03.016	Professionalisation of the Centre of Excellence for Road Traffic Safety	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences	25410051374	<p>The project will strengthen the organisational, operational and service capacities of the Centre of Excellence for Road Traffic Safety.</p> <p>The overall objective is to professionalise and optimise the Centre to improve infrastructure management, expand collaboration with industry and research partners, and increase socio-economic impact. Specific objectives are: (1) establish a professional organisational and financial model; (2) introduce transparent and digitalised infrastructure access; (3) build staff competences; (4) strengthen collaboration with industry and international research infrastructures; and (5) increase visibility and broaden the user base.</p> <p>Activities will directly address existing gaps. Infrastructure access will be improved through a digital booking and resource management system, clear usage policies, preventive maintenance and licence upgrades. To overcome staff skill gaps in technology transfer, IPR and industry collaboration, the project will provide targeted training and mentoring for researchers and administrative staff.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries are Centre and Faculty staff, postdocs and PhD students, as well as experts from road operators, authorities, industry and professional safety communities.</p>	36	349.500,00	349.500,00
12	DIGIT.1.2.03.017	Innovation Gateway for New Ideas, Technology, and Entrepreneurship - FER IGNITE	12.1.2026.	University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing	57029260362	<p>The project will strengthen the University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER) as a professionalised Research Centre (RC) for infrastructure management and collaboration with the private sector. Its objective is to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of infrastructure use, unlocking the full potential of existing resources and fostering innovation. To achieve this, the project will implement a coherent set of activities. Organisational strengthening will be ensured through structured “customer-journey” workflows for internal and external users. Access will be optimised through a digital inventory, FAIR-based protocols, and a user-oriented service catalogue, supported by a digital tool for monitoring. Systematic maintenance and upgrade planning will guarantee long-term reliability. Capacity building will train at least 60 staff, strengthening competencies in business development, IP management, technology transfer, commercialisation, project management, and leadership. Collaboration with industry will be advanced through participation in six national and one international networking event, supported by a database for monitoring partnerships and outcomes. Visibility will be expanded through promotional materials, targeted campaigns, and two infrastructure visibility events reaching at least 200 participants.</p> <p>Target groups include academic and research staff, RC staff, private sector partners, external organisations and infrastructures, public institutions, and local authorities.</p>	36	350.000,00	348.000,00

13	DIGIT.1.2.03.018	RC4Future	12.1.2026.	Zagreb University of Applied Sciences (TVZ)	08814003451	<p>This project aims to establish and professionalize the TVZ Research Centre, thereby creating the conditions for the development of an efficient organizational and operational model, optimized and transparent use of research infrastructure, strengthening the competencies of research and administrative staff, fostering stronger connections with industry and the research community, and increasing the visibility of TVZ as a relevant partner in applied research, innovation, and technology transfer.</p> <p>By implementing the project, TVZ will lay the foundations for the sustainable development of its research infrastructure and strengthen its role in the national innovation ecosystem, particularly in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of research results through engagement with academia and industry.</p> <p>The project RC4Future aims to improve the research infrastructure management system of the TVZ and to encourage cooperation with industry in order to, stimulate innovation and strengthen research excellence.</p>	36	285.846,40	280.846,40
14	DIGIT.1.2.03.019	Professionalization of the Research Center for Medical Bionics (RCMB)	13.3.2026.	University of Split, Faculty of Science	20858497843	<p>Research Center for Medical Bionics (RCMB), a unique national hub will strategically integrate ongoing work in speech and hearing research with activities in auditory neuroelectronics. The project addresses the unmet clinical challenge of sensorineural hearing loss by focusing on translational research in cochlear implant (CI) technologies and speech coding strategies, complemented by exploratory neuroelectronic models.</p> <p>The overall objective is to professionalize and strengthen the management, accessibility, and sustainability of RCMB, positioning it as a nationally relevant and internationally competitive center for clinical and translational research in hearing and neuroelectronics. Target groups include researchers and technical staff at PMFST, clinical collaborators at KBC Split and SUVAG, newly employed staff, students and early-career researchers, international academic collaborators, industry partners such as Cochlear Ltd and ATLAS Neuroengineering, and most importantly, CI users and patients in Croatia and the wider region.</p> <p>Expected results include improved professional and operational capacities, transparent infrastructure access, at least 50 CI users tested, stronger collaboration and technology transfer with academia and industry, and greater scientific and clinical visibility. The impact will be a sustainable and internationally competitive RCMB that delivers measurable innovation in medical bionics and achieves improved patient outcomes.</p>	36	350.000,00	346.203,20
<b>Total</b>								<b>4.802.990,46 €</b>	<b>4.680.322,67 €</b>