



Primăria Municipiului Oradea

Direcția Economică

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ANNOUNCEMENT

for the opening of the call for applications for financial aid under the
**State Aid Scheme for support
of the air operators activity in the context of the economic crisis generated by the
COVID-19 outbreak**

The Oradea Municipality, as a provider of the *State Aid Scheme for supporting the activity of air operators in the context of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 outbreak* and R.A. Oradea Airport, as its administrator, hereby announce the opening of the call for applications for financial aid totalling 1 million euros.

1. The objective of the scheme

The objective of the measure is to support the activity of air operators resuming or starting flight operations at Oradea airport in the context of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 outbreak, providing them with support in a non-discriminatory manner. Granting state aid to airlines that will resume or start operating regular domestic and international flights to and from Oradea Airport will help reduce the negative effects felt by the community. The recovery of air traffic is essential for the complete economic recovery and structural viability of the region and the entire economy of Romania.

2. Eligible applicants

Air operators that undertake to operate scheduled flights on Oradea Airport, may benefit from state aid under the scheme, provided they and meet the following eligibility criteria:

a) they must have an air operating license issued in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the EU;

b) they must have compulsory accident insurance covering passengers, cargo, mail, and civil liability in accordance with the conditions of EC Regulation 785/2004¹;

c) they must not be on the European Commission's blacklist of airlines that fail to meet safety standards, published at: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/>;

d) they must have a European Air Operators Certificate (AOC) or other similar document issued by a competent authority in their country of origin;

e) they have not received any other aid under section 3.1 of the Communication, or if they have received it, the aid received in addition to that received under this scheme does not exceed EUR 800,000;

f) decisions to recover state aid have not been issued against them or if such decisions have been issued, they have been enforced, in accordance with the legal provisions in force;

g) they were not in difficulty, as this notion is defined in art. 2 point d) of this scheme, on December 31, 2019, but faced difficulties or entered into difficulty later, due to the COVID-19 outbreak;

h) they submit a written business plan committing to operate regular flights from Oradea Airport. The business plan must contain the way in which the company estimates that the aid received will compensate the need for liquidity so that its activity is carried out in good conditions at Oradea Airport;

3. The budget

The budget of the scheme is the equivalent in lei of the amount of 1 million euros.

The euro / leu exchange rate is the exchange rate of the National Bank of Romania valid on the date of issuing the financing agreement.

The state aid is supported from the local budget, through the budget of the Oradea Municipality and is transferred in two instalments until 31.03.2021.

The aid per company may not exceed 800,000 euros (equivalent in lei).

4. Selection criteria for beneficiaries

The aid applicant must submit an aid application and demonstrate, through the documentation submitted, that he undertakes to operate regular flights from Oradea Airport and to take all necessary measures to ensure their viability by promoting them in order to remedy the difficulties as soon as possible.

Airlines will have to submit to the scheme administrator, service proposals, business plans, specifying the proposed routes to be operated and operating frequencies, the aircrafts to be used and their capacity, expected levels of traffic, period of operation of the route and how the aid influences the resumption of air traffic.

In order to separate the beneficiaries for the allocation of state aid, the following will be used as evaluation factors: number of destinations to be operated, number of flights / week (flights / week x proposed operating frequencies), number of passengers estimated to be generated in a period of 1 year from the receipt of state aid.

The score for each evaluation factor will be as follows:

Evaluation factor	Maximum score
1. Nr. of destinations proposed to be operated	40
2. No. of flights / week (flights / week x proposed operating frequencies)	30
3. The number of passengers estimated to be generated within 1 year of receiving state aid	30

Calculation method:

a. For each of the evaluation factors the best offer will receive the maximum score. For example: For the largest number of routes proposed to be resumed, the maximum score allocated to the evaluation factor will be awarded, respectively 40 points.

b. For other offers below the maximum, the score will be calculated proportionally as follows:

$$P(\text{score}) = (\text{offer} \times \text{maximum score}) / \text{best offer}.$$

The way in which the amounts / beneficiary will be distributed will be proportional, depending on the scores obtained.

After the eligibility check by the administrator, the provider will pay the state aid after signing the financing contracts with the respective beneficiary. The aid will be paid in two instalments: the first upon signing the contract, and the second until 31.03.2021.

Following the analysis of the business plans proposed by the state aid applicants, the scheme administrator has the possibility to propose the refusal to grant aid for tenders that do not meet the expectations set by the objectives and purpose of this scheme, in order to resume traffic in good conditions and at the parameters to contribute to the development of the local economy.

5. Date, place and method of submission of applications

Date of commencement of acceptance of applications is 17th August 2020.

Closing date for acceptance of applications is 17th September 2020, 2PM.

The aid applicant must send, by email, an aid application, signed by an authorized person accompanied by the following documents:

- the commitment to operate regular flights from Oradea Airport, which will also include the necessary measures to be implemented to ensure their viability by promoting them in order to remedy the difficulties as soon as possible; - Annex no.1

- service proposals / business plan, specifying the routes proposed to be operated and the operating frequencies, the aircrafts to be used and their capacity, expected levels of traffic, the period of operation of the route and how the aid influences the resumption of air traffic. - According to the structure presented in Annex no. 2

Also, relevant documents will be submitted to prove the fulfilment of the criteria provided in point 2 letters a, b, c, d, e;

In addition, in order to verify the cumulation rules, companies applying for state aid under this scheme will have to submit a declaration on their own responsibility for other state aid received, mentioned in article 7 paragraphs (1) - (3) of the Scheme - Annex no. 3

All documents will be prepared in English.

The address to which the applications will be sent together with all the supporting documents is: stateaidscheme@aeroportoradea.ro.

In order for the request to be recorded, it is mandatory to confirm its receipt.

6. Contact details of the scheme provider / administrator

Any questions regarding the applications call should be sent during the applications call to the following email address:

- stateaidscheme@aeroportoradea.ro: