

NOTICE**of prolongation of the call for applications for granting of State aid under the State aid scheme to support the activity of air operators in the context of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,**

Maramureș County Administrative-Territorial Unit, as a provider of the State aid scheme to support the activity of air operators in the context of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Maramureș International Airport Autonomous Administration, as its administrator, hereby announces the prolongation of the call for applications for the granting of State aid in the total maximum amount of **800,000 EUR., from the total budget of the scheme of state aid 1.600.000 EUR.** The aid per enterprise may not exceed 800,000 EUR.

1. The objective of the scheme

The objective of the measure is to support the activity of air operators that have operated external flights to/from Maramureș International Airport or that intend to operate external flights to/from Maramureș International Airport in the context of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing them with support in a comprehensive manner.

2. Eligible applicants

Air operators which undertake to operate scheduled external flights to/from Maramureș International Airport and meet the following eligibility criteria may benefit from State aid under the scheme:

- a) Must have an air operator license issued in accordance with EC Council Regulation No. 1008/2008 on common rules for air operator services in the EU;
- b) Must have compulsory accident insurance covering passengers, cargo, mail, and civil liability in accordance with the conditions of EC Regulation No. 785/2004; (EC Regulation No. 785/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 21, 2004 on insurance requirements for air operators and aircraft operators, as amended and supplemented by EC Regulation No. 137/2008 and EC Regulation No. 285/2010);
- c) Must not be on the European Commission's blacklist of air operators that fail to meet safety standards, published at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban/search_en
- 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 according to section 3.1 of the Communication, or if they have received, the aid received on the territory of Romania added to the one received under this scheme does not exceed 2.300,000 EUR;
- f) Decisions of the European Commission for the recovery of State aid have not been issued against them or if such decisions have been issued they have been executed, according to 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 pandemic;

h) Submit a written business plan committing to operate scheduled external flights from Maramureş International Airport. The business plan must contain the way in which the company estimates that the aid received will compensate for the need for liquidity so that its activity is carried out in good conditions at Maramureş International Airport.

3. Budget

The budget for the present notice of call **for granting of State aid** is the equivalent in lei of the amount of **800,000 EUR** from the total budget of the scheme of state aid **1.600.000 EUR**. The aid per enterprise may not exceed 800,000 EUR.

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The State aid will be paid to the air operators by the State aid provider Maramureş County Council, in three installments, until 30.06.2023 at the latest, according to the Contract for granting State aid and Confirmation of services provided by the administrator of the State aid scheme, as follows:

- the first installment of 30% of the total amount of State aid at the time of signing the contract,
- the second installment of 30% of the total amount of State aid in the 6th month of operation,
- the third installment of 40% of the total amount of State aid in the 10th month of operation.

4. Selection of beneficiaries

The aid applicant must submit an application for State aid and demonstrate, through the documentation submitted, that he undertakes to operate regular external flights from Maramureş International Airport and to take all necessary measures to ensure their viability by promoting them so as to remedy any difficulties as soon as possible.

Air operators will have to submit service proposals and business plans to the scheme administrator, specifying the routes proposed to be operated and the operating frequencies, the aircraft 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.

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 trips/week (flights/week x proposed operating frequencies), estimated number of passengers over 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
Number of destinations proposed to be operated	50
Number of trips/week (trips/week x proposed operating frequencies)	30
Estimated number of passengers within 1 year of receiving State aid	20

Calculation algorithm:

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 operated, the maximum score allocated to the evaluation factor will be awarded, respectively 50 points.

b) for the other offers below the maximum score, 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 to the scores obtained.

The minimum condition to be met for the submission of the offer is that the business plan must include a minimum number of 2 (two) external destinations proposed to be operated..

If the offer of the air operators located under position 1 in the ranking will include the same external destinations proposed to be operated by the operator located in the first position, they will have the possibility to change the destinations.

5. Date, place and method of submission of applications

Date of commencement of acceptance of applications - 13.05.2022

Closing date for accepting applications – 13.06.2022

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

- the commitment to operate regular external flights from Maramureş International Airport, which will also include the necessary measures to be implemented to ensure their viability by promoting them in order to remedy any difficulties as soon as possible;

- service proposals/business plan, specifying the routes proposed to be operated and the operating frequencies, the aircraft to be used and their capacity, expected levels of traffic, the period of operation of the route and how the aid influences the resumption air traffic.

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

In addition, in order to verify the cumulation rules, air operators applying for State aid under this scheme will have to submit a statement regarding any other State aid received.

All documents will be submitted in English or Romanian and will be signed by the legal representatives. In order for the application to be registered, it is mandatory to confirm receipt.

Contact details of the State aid scheme provider/administrator:

Provider of the scheme: Maramureş County Council based in Baia Mare, 46 Gheorghe Sincai st., postal code 430311, Maramureş County, e-mail address: office@maramures.ro.

Scheme administrator: R.A. Maramureş International Airport, Tautii Magheraus, street 66, no. 22, Maramureş County.

Any questions regarding the call for applications should be sent during the call for applications to the following e-mail address: office@aimm.eu.