

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call extension notice for state aid under the *State aid scheme for supporting the activity of air operators in the context of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic*, authorized by the European Commission by Decision no. SA.59156 of 20.11.2020, amended by the European Commission Decision no. SA.63334 (2021/N) – Romania, COVID-19: Incentive scheme for airlines operating at Sibiu airport (amendments to SA.59156) and by the European Commission Decision no. SA.100996 (2021/N) – Romania COVID-19: Prolongation of the schemes SA.56895; SA.57408; SA.100195; SA.58166; SA.59156; SA.64092; SA.63319 and SA.62608, as already amended.

Sibiu County administrative-territorial unit, 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 pandemic* and Sibiu International Airport R.A., as an administrator of the State aid scheme, hereby announces the opening of the call for applications for granting of State aid in the total amount of 1.660.000 euros.

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME

The objective of the measure is to support the activity of air operators operating flights to/from Sibiu International Airport or air operators that want to start operating flights to/from Sibiu International Airport in the context of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing support to the air operators in a comprehensive manner.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Air operators that undertake to operate scheduled flights at Sibiu International Airport and meet the following eligibility criteria are eligible for the State aid under the scheme:

- 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 Regulation (EC) No 785/2004¹;
- c) They should not be on the European Commission's blacklist of airlines 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 it, the aid received in addition to that received under this scheme must not exceed 2.300.000 EUR;
- f) No decisions of the European Commission to recover State aid have been issued against them or, if such decisions have been issued, they have been enforced in accordance with the legal provisions in force;

¹ Regulation (EC) No 785/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on insurance requirements for air carriers and aircraft operators, as amended and supplemented by Regulation (EC) 1 137/2008 and Regulation (EC) 285/2010.

- g) They were not in difficulty, as this notion is defined in Article 2 point d) of this scheme, on 31 December 2019, but they faced difficulties or got into difficulty later, due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- h) They will allocate to/from Sibiu International Airport at least 50% of the capacity allocated in 2019 for a period of 12 consecutive months between the dates of signing the financial aid grant contract and 30.06.2023, for the airlines that operated regular flights to/from Sibiu International Airport in 2019, or will allocate a capacity of at least 50,000 seats for a period of 12 consecutive months between the date of signing the financial aid grant contract and 30.06.2023, for the airlines that have not operated regular flights in year 2019 to/from Sibiu International Airport and want to start operating scheduled flights to/from Sibiu International Airport.

3. BUDGET

The budget of the State aid scheme is the equivalent in RON of the amount of 1.660.000 EUR.

The aid per company cannot exceed 800.000 EUR.

The State aid will be financed from the local budget of Sibiu County and it will be paid in three parts related to the 12-months period assumed by the airline regarding the allocated capacity, as follows:

- the first part in the amount of 25% of the total value of the financial aid grant contract in the first month;
- the second part in the amount of 35% of the total amount of the financial aid grant contract in the 6th month, following the contract signature;
- the third part in the amount of 40% of the value of the financial aid grant contract in the 10th month, following the contract signature.

4. SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries will be selected according to the principle of first come, first served, until the complete exhaustion of the budget, but not later than 30.06.2022.

Interested airlines must submit the applications for State aid together with the supporting documentation proving the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria, mentioned in point 2 of this announcement, in electronic format, to Sibiu International Airport, at the email address secretariat@sibiuairport.ro.

After the eligibility verification by the administrator of the scheme – Sibiu International Airport R.A., the State aid provider – Sibiu County Council will conclude financial aid grant contracts with the qualified air operators.

5. DATE, PLACE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The date from which applications for State aid may be submitted together with the supporting documents proving the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria, referred to in point 2 of this announcement, will be the date of publication of this announcement.

Interested airlines can submit State aid applications until 1 June 2022. If the total budget will be exhausted before 1 June 2022, the State aid provider – Sibiu County Council and the administrator of the scheme – Sibiu International Airport will publish on their websites www.cjsibiu.ro and www.sibiuairport.ro the date of budget exhaustion.

The State aid applications together with the supporting documents proving the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria mentioned in point 2 of this announcement will be submitted to the email address secretariat@sibiuairport.ro.

In order to prove the fulfillment of the eligibility conditions, the applicants will submit at least the following documents:

1. State aid application;
2. Operational capacity allocation plan to/from Sibiu International Airport;
3. The audited financial statements as at 31.12.2019 or the balance sheets and the profit and loss account as at 31.12.2019 and any other financial information considered relevant and necessary to fulfill the condition set out in point 2 let. g;
4. Relevant documents for proving the fulfillment of the criteria provided in point 2 let. a, b, c, d, e, f.
5. Self-declaration for other State aids received mentioned in art. 7 para. (1) - (3) of the State aid scheme for supporting the activity of air operators in the context of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. Self-declaration that no decisions of the European Commission for the recovery of State aid have been issued against the air operator or if such decisions have been issued, they have been enforced in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

All documents will be submitted in English and Romanian and will be signed by the persons entitled.

In order to record the application, the acknowledgement of the receipt is mandatory.

Contact details of the State aid provider / the administrator of the scheme

The State aid provider:

SIBIU COUNTY Administrative Territorial Unit
General Magheru Street no. 14, Sibiu City, Sibiu County

Email: judet@cjsibiu.ro

The administrator of the scheme:

Sibiu International Airport R.A.
Alba Iulia Road no. 73, Sibiu City, Sibiu County

Email: secretariat@sibiuairport.ro

Any questions regarding the call for applications must be sent during the call for applications to the following email address: secretariat@sibiuairport.ro.