



SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

RESULTS OF SELECTED EVALUATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF THE EU FUNDS
PUBLISHED IN 2020

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Introduction

This publication aims to introduce the readers to the main outcomes of evaluation activities in the field of European Structural and Investment Funds in the Czech Republic implemented in the years 2019-2020.

A total of 61 evaluations from 10 operational programmes were included in this publication. The topics covered by the evaluation are diverse, from process evaluations to outcome evaluations and evaluations of integrated instruments. Some evaluations also focus on the EU Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 period. Our aim is to summarize the main findings and recommendations from each evaluation on one page and pass them to readers in a clear and understandable form.

The publication is divided into three parts.

The first part deals with evaluations carried out by the MoRD-NCA Evaluation Unit.

The second part deals with evaluations carried out by the evaluation units of the managing authorities (MA). Each operational programme has its own separate chapter, which contains a summary of individual evaluations.

The third part summarizes the results of interesting evaluations and analyses of the European institutions.

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Main findings from evaluations of the MoRD-NCA Evaluation Unit



Evaluation unit of the MoRD-NCA is a national evaluation coordinator in the area of the EU funds. It conducts evaluations that go across programmes or are focused on key topics that are related to the national level of drawing European funds.

Chapter contents:

- Macroeconomic and sectoral analysis 2019
- Process evaluation of the implementation of the integrated instrument "Community-led local development"
- Process evaluation of the implementation of urban instruments
- Process evaluation of the implementation of the territorial dimension
- Reflections on the impact of ESIF on equality between men and women in the labour market
- Mapping the risks of corruption in the regions
- Integration of foreigners in the CR: Evaluation of EU-funded projects in the 2014-2020 programming period

Macroeconomic and sectoral analysis 2019

The analysis identified problem areas that hinder the faster convergence of Czechia

Czechia should focus on investments in infrastructure, education, science and research



There is a need for better organization of work and increased added value through productivity growth and investment in infrastructure and technology.



Attention needs to be paid to increasing the efficiency of public administration and regions beyond the national average.

THE CZECH LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPED FAVOURABLY, BUT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT THREATS

In Czechia, the share of employees grew and the unemployment rate fell sharply, and in 2018 it was the lowest in the EU. However, this development was adversely reflected in the growing number of vacancies and labour shortages. A significant proportion of the long-term unemployed and disparities among regions persist. Active employment policy (AEP) seeks to address structural problems, targeting the most vulnerable groups (people of pre-retirement age, women with young children, people with disabilities and people at risk of social exclusion) and its scope has also been strengthened by ESIF funding (OP Emp). However, the share of expenditures on AEP does not reach even half of the total expenditures on the state unemployment policy, and compared to the EU, some of the lowest funds are spent on it in Czechia.

EDUCATION BRINGS INDISPUTABLE BENEFITS, BUT IT NEEDS MORE ATTENTION

The Czech education shows very good values in a number of areas. It is mainly the rate of successful students and the share of university graduates, which has increased significantly since the end of 2010. However, diversification within the education system is an issue as well as an increase in the dependence of pupils' educational success on their socio-economic status. The teaching profession also faces serious challenges, namely labour shortages, low prestige, low salaries and limited development opportunities due to the non-existent career system. Czech education lacks teaching with elements of the dual system of education and cooperation of schools with employers linked to regional infrastructure.

**SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CAN
LEAD TO A BETTER POSITION OF
THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Expenditure on science and research (R&D) in Czechia continues to lag behind the European average. On the contrary, expenditure of the business sector on R&D, the number of private entities performing R&D and revenues of scientific research organizations from applied research increased, which can be considered as positive. In recent years, the quality of published scientific outcomes have been increasing, whereas the natural sciences are better off than the social sciences. Quality R&D is hampered by the lack of capable researchers, as Czechia is facing an outflow of scientists abroad for more competitive wages. It is necessary to strive for building innovation capacities and scientific-research cooperation in the regions as well, so that it is not concentrated only in Prague.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
SHOULD BE MORE FRIENDLY,
EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT**

The quality of public institutions has been one of the most pressing issues for a long time. The worst rated indicators are burden by government regulations, laws and regulations, misuse of public funds, efficiency of justice, support of interest groups by government officials through government measures and policies, and friendliness of public administration and government regulations to entrepreneurs. It is necessary to support the development of e-government, which has the potential to increase the efficiency of the Czech public administration and contribute to the greater transparency of the public sector.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE
A PRIORITY**

The environment is affected by deepening climate change (drought, floods, torrential rains, strong winds), which impacts the stability and function of ecosystems. Some regions suffer from significantly greater burdens in many environmental components, and differences also exist between urban and rural areas. However, there has been a shift in some areas (e.g. improved wastewater treatment, increased share of municipal waste recycling and energy from renewable sources). In addition to the use of more environmentally friendly technologies and changes in citizens' behaviour, the positive developments are largely determined by the amount of funds spent on environmental protection.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Conducted internally by the NCA Evaluation Unit.

The analysis was carried out in May 2019.

The full text of the analysis is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/makroekonomicka-a-sektorova-analyza-cr-2019>

Process evaluation

Implementation of “Community-led local development”

Some processes associated with community-led local development are an administrative burden

Guidance templates and enhanced transparency of the evaluation procedure could help to improve processes



The methodological guideline for the use of integrated instruments should be divided into sections corresponding to individual instruments.



The approach of MoRD-RPD as a manager is perceived positively, but the problem is that it does not directly manage the relevant funds.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE USE OF INTEGRATED INSTRUMENTS (MPIN) SHOULD BE CLEAR, ENFORCEABLE AND TIMELY ISSUED

- MPIN should be issued before the initiation of work by the Local Action Groups (LAGs). If it is not possible to issue MPIN in advance, the sub-methodologies (creation of a CLLD strategy, implementation of CLLD) should be issued separately.
- It is recommended to ensure uniformity of procedures in the MPIN for all MAs.
- In the new period, the MPIN should include sanction provisions, specifically towards both LAG and MA.

THE CLLD PLATFORM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THE COORDINATING ROLE OF THE MoRD REGIONAL POLICY DEPARTMENT (MoRD-RPD) SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED

- The current CLLD Platform should be maintained in the future.
- The coordinating role of the MoRD-RPD should be maintained and its position towards the MA should be strengthened.
- In cases where it is not possible to achieve unification of the requirements of individual MAs towards LAG, it is recommended to leave them out of the coordination and keep requirements for these processes separate for each MA.

GUIDELINE TEMPLATES WILL MAKE THE APPLICATION COMPLETION MORE EFFICIENT AND ELIMINATE INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN LAGS AND EVALUATORS

- CLLD strategies (SCLLDs) should include unified sections prescribed by the MoRD-RPD or the managing authorities, which the LAGs will take over in their SCLLDs to prevent possible discrepancies between the LAGs and the evaluators.

- To avoid additional work associated with setting up new calls and re-entering applications into the monitoring system (MS), larger number of evaluation rounds of SCLLD applications should be ensured.
- To avoid the submission of a large number of applications for last-minute SCLLD support, it is recommended to issue a call for a longer period (e.g. an annual admission period) where milestones for the submission of applications would be set.

ASSESSMENT OF CLLD STRATEGIES SHOULD BE MORE CLEAR, MORE PRO-CLIENT AND MORE TRANSPARENT

- The MoRD-RPD should ensure enough competent evaluators for a sufficient period of time, including securing their funding.
- The MoRD-RPD and especially the MA could apply a more client approach in the evaluation of applications for SCLLD support - e.g. after the 1st round of evaluation allowing consultations where the LAGs would get tips on how to incorporate the evaluators' requirements.
- Guidelines with as detailed instructions as possible should be created for evaluators and the LAGs should be familiar with the evaluation criteria before call opening for CLLD support.
- The assessment process should be divided into mutually independent parallel evaluations of programme frameworks by the relevant MAs a failure to approve any of the programme frameworks would not mean the implementation of SCLLD is completely not allowed.

PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGES SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED USING THE MONITORING SYSTEM

- Changes should only be submitted in the monitoring system.
- Administration of changes and monitoring processes should be interconnected.
- Minor and insignificant changes should be easier to process.
- It should be possible to administer changes separately, so the change management process is not prolonged by the fact that the individual MAs have to wait for each other.

REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED STRATEGIES SHOULD HAVE A UNIFIED STRUCTURE

- Methodological support for the creation of LAG monitoring reports should be strengthened, especially in terms of availability of templates, manuals, instructions.
- The amount of data to be filled in is difficult to aggregate and should be reduced and the data should be generated from the MS.
- Limited access to anonymised data (with place of implementation) for implemented and not yet implemented projects in the LAG's territory should be established for the LAG.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: SPF Group, s. r. o.

The evaluation was carried out from August to November 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, interviews, questionnaire survey, focus groups

The full text of the evaluation is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/hodnoceni-implementace-integrovanych-nastroju>

Process evaluation

Implementation of integrated urban instruments

The evaluation of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) processes has identified pros and cons of their use

The availability of methodological guidelines, transparency and speed of approval and evaluation proved to be important in approving integrated strategies



A large number of communication platforms is confusing for stakeholders and does not contribute to effective communication.



The need to reach the agreement of all MAs with the strategy was identified as an administrative burden.

METHODOLOGY FOR INTEGRATED INSTRUMENTS (MPIN) IS TOO EXTENSIVE

ITI holders should have a professional apparatus („ITI association“), where they would harmonize their positions and who would represent them in negotiations with the MoRD and the OP MAs to create and update the MPIN. The MPIN should be shortened and simplified, and the non-binding parts should be part of the guide on good practices. It is important to strengthen the position of the Ministry of Regional Development as the methodological guarantor of the territorial dimension and to shorten and simplify the process of creating and updating MPINs.

DIRECT FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT MATTERS IN COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

A large number of platforms (conferences, chambers, platforms of various types, working groups, committees) causes confusion, which must be eliminated. The format of national standing conferences should be adapted to be an efficient and effective channel for coordination. Within the MoRD-RPD, it is recommended to focus on personnel reinforcement and stabilization, in order that the department is not undersized and can play the role of a manager and coordinator. Effective communication also needs to be ensured in the monitoring system, e.g. by increasing reliability and user friendliness and adding new functionalities.

**AVAILABILITY OF GUIDELINES,
TRANSPARENCY AND SPEED OF
THE ASSESSMENT IS IMPORTANT
FOR APPROVING STRATEGIES**

It is recommended to have a timely and precisely set methodology (MPIN) to eliminate uncertainty of the preparation of integrated strategies. Furthermore, it is necessary to reduce administrative burden by transferring more responsibility for correctness and usefulness of the strategy to the ITI holders. Authors of strategies should also be able to have a consultation before their approval, which should be accelerated and streamlined. Process improvements should be complemented by functionality in the monitoring system that would be able to detect changes in the inserted versions of integrated strategies.

**MONITORING IS IMPORTANT,
BUT MS2014+ DOES NOT MAKE
IT EASIER**

The starting point for reports on the implementation of integrated strategies is the National Code of Indicators (NCI), however, only a small part of indicators has any informative value for this area. It is recommended to revise and supplement the NCI with missing indicators and to initiate negotiations with the Czech Statistical Office regarding the reporting of data. The structure of reports on implementation of integrated strategies should also be simplified and shortened by repeating texts. For the purpose of better monitoring, it is necessary to supplement the MS2014+ with missing functionalities and increase its user friendliness.

**EVALUATIONS ARE
OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE
PROCESSES**

The involvement of all stakeholders in the creation of the evaluation methodology, which fulfilled the partnership principle, was evaluated positively. It is recommended to emphasize the explanation of the reasons for mid-term evaluation (its importance, purpose, meaningfulness), to examine possible changes in its format (indicators, missing functionality of MS2014+) and to consider the need for theoretical annexes to its methodology.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: University of Pardubice, Faculty of Economics and Administration

The evaluation was carried out in the period of July-November 2019.

Evaluation methods: semi-structured in-depth interviews, Vanguard method

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/procesni-evaluace-implementace-integrovaných-urban>

Process evaluation

Implementation of the territorial dimension

The implementation of the territorial dimension helps the development of the regions, but there is room for improvement in the processes

To better target the territorial dimension, it is necessary to clearly define the roles of involved stakeholders



Stakeholders (MoRD, managing authorities, regions, cities, municipalities etc.) have different views on the objectives of territorial dimension.



Territorial dimension platforms (national and regional standing conferences) allow, in particular, the sharing of information.

THE NATIONAL DOCUMENT ON THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A KEY AND REFERENCE DOCUMENT

The current National Document on the Territorial Dimension (NTD) does not constitute a basic reference document that would contain a clear definition and clear objectives of the territorial dimension. When preparing a follow-up document, emphasis should be placed on making it a truly national reference document. Therefore, it should contain a clear and widely accepted definition of the territorial dimension and clearly define its objectives.

THE NATIONAL STANDING CONFERENCE SHOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION NOT ONLY ABOUT ESIF, BUT ALSO ON OTHER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENTS

The National Standing Conference (NSC) is perceived as an assembly that is rather of a formal than working nature, and where general information is presented. NSC thus does not have enough opportunities to change anything specific (it has only limited powers). In addition, some of the information discussed there is already duplicated (due to the existence of other platforms).

For the next programming period, it is recommended to define the roles of involved stakeholders more clearly in the NSC throughout the implementation of the territorial dimension, which would streamline the functioning of the NSC as such. The NSC should pass on information to members not only in relation to the ESIF, but also other regional development instruments.

**REGIONAL STANDING
CONFERENCES SHOULD BECOME
INITIATORS AND COORDINATORS
OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
PLANNING**

Regional Standing Conferences (RSCs) serve as a platform for discussion of a wide range of relevant stakeholders in the field of ESI Funds and regional policy at the regional level. RSCs also often set up and coordinate working groups according to the needs of a particular region, however, in some cases some of them have not been functional for a long time.

For the future programming period, it would be appropriate to discuss the optimum role and activities provided by the RSC in the territory and to strengthen the role of the RSC as an initiator and a coordinator of planning development activities in the region. The RSC should define strategic development projects of the region and also increase the absorption capacity of the territory, not only in relation to the ESIF, but also to national and regional subsidy schemes.

**REGIONAL ACTION PLANS
SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON THE
SPECIFIC TERRITORIES**

Regional Action Plans (RAPs) have helped to identify the white spaces in the area as part of the mapping of absorption capacity (with varying degrees of detail). However, the role of the RAP is not fully clarified; without securing sources of funding, the RAPs are only of a declaratory nature.

For the next period, it is recommended to adjust the form and content of the RAP so that they are focused only on the so-called strategic projects implemented in the area, regardless of the source of their funding. Subsequently, their monitoring could be one of the activities of the RSC.

**REPORTS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROCESS DIMENSION SHOULD
HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED
TARGET GROUP AND CONTENTS**

Most respondents work with these reports very rarely, especially the representatives of the RSC do not know them and do not work with them.

For the next programming period, it would be appropriate to clearly define to whom these reports are primarily intended and what information is expected in these reports. If these messages should be addressed for example especially to RSC, then they should contain mainly information on supported projects in the territory of individual regions, not only from ESIF, but also national subsidy titles.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: University of Pardubice, Faculty of Economics and Administration

The evaluation was carried out from May to November 2019.

Evaluation methods: semi-structured in-depth interviews, Vanguard method

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/procesni-hodnoceni-implementace-uzemni-dimenze>

Reflections on the impact of ESIF on gender equality in the labour market

Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be approached comprehensively

Equality between women and men should be better promoted, e. g. through voluntary commitments



The application of the horizontal principle of gender equality in the ESIF environment is rather formalistic.



There is a lack of sufficient methodological support for applicants and beneficiaries for the correct application of the principle.



The combination of this principle with the principle of promoting equal opportunities limits it to non-discrimination of women only.



The vision and objectives of the PA should continue to have the desired impact on equality between women and men.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT WAS TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN. THANKS TO THE PROJECT, A SET OF EXAMPLES OF GOOD AND BAD PRACTICE WAS CREATED. THE PROJECT OUTCOMES PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SETTING CALLS IN FUTURE PERIODS..

Main recommendations

- It is recommended to increase the involvement of non-governmental organizations with a high degree of expertise in gender issues when setting grant calls.
- Education, training and mentoring programmes for employees and employers should be set up on the issues of work-life balance and discrimination in the workplace.
- The number of employers promoting equal opportunities, equal pay and flexible working arrangements should be increased.
- There is a need to promote access to quality and affordable pre-school education and care, including improvement in the care of state institutions and the creation of children's groups and micro-crèches.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Czech women's lobby

The evaluation was carried out from March 2018 to November 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, group discussions, questionnaire survey

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/reflexe-dopadu-esif-na-postaveni-zen-na-trhu-prace>

Mapping the risks of corruption in the regions

Municipalities should work better with new technologies and make their activities more transparent

The redistribution of public funds should be transparent, efficient and appropriate to the needs of the territory



Only 2 of the 7 analysed regions are actively working with an anti-corruption strategy that reflects changes in the legislation.



Representatives and officials perceive the level of general anti-corruption education and specific trainings to be insufficient.



The information published by local governments is not user-friendly (not updated, difficult to find, etc.).



Regional grant programmes meet the basic rules of good governance and transparency, but often miss local needs.

THE PROJECT AIMED ON INCREASING THE TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BY REDUCING CORRUPTION OPPORTUNITIES. IT ALSO INCLUDED EDUCATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

Main recommendations

- It is necessary to work on a culture of mutual communication between officials and representatives so the risk situations of corruption borderline phenomena in the code of ethics are formulated and defined together.
- The total volume of subsidies should be reduced and local government budgets strengthened.
- It is recommended to create an appropriate platform providing information on civic activities.
- Training in deepening anti-corruption and specific knowledge and public procurement should be encouraged by both representatives and officials.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: ASTRA - Asociace pro transparentnost, z. s.

The evaluation was carried out from June 2017 to December 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, content monitoring, focus groups, questionnaire surveys

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/mapovani-rizika-korupce-v-regionech>

Integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic

Evaluation of EU-funded projects in the 2014-2020 programming period

European funds could be used more to support the policy of integration of foreigners

Integration projects help to improve the orientation of foreigners in society



From 2014 to March 2020, approximately 2,500 integration projects was carried out, on which appx. CZK 2 billion was spent.



It is appropriate to continue to support language learning, counselling and employment in the legal labour market.



In the evaluation, 472 projects which were financed from the AMIF and from the ESF for CZK 1.1 billion were included.



Municipalities and regions are considered to be key integration units.

THE EVALUATION INVESTIGATES HOW PROJECTS FINANCED BY EUROPEAN FUNDS FULFILL THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND THE STATE CONCEPT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS. THE EVALUATION OUTCOMES ARE FOCUSED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD AND ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE USE OF THE FUNDS IN THE INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS.

Main recommendations

- Foreigners should be listed as a target group in the Partnership Agreement and the individual operational programmes, so that there is no real neglect in projects.
- It is recommended to involve non-profit sector and experts in the integration of regional and local self-government, as their knowledge from the field could be used to set calls.
- Successful integration projects need to be provided with stable funding.
- It is appropriate to consider the introduction of specific indicators for foreigners in ESF projects in order to monitor and evaluate the effects on the target group and subsequently improve the planning of further measures.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Konsorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty v ČR, z.s.

The evaluation is carried out from March 2019 to May 2021.

Evaluation methods: desk research, semi-structured interviews, focus groups

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-zamerenych-na-integraci-a-social>

Operational Programme

Employment



Chapter contents:

- Evaluation of the results of pilot support for capacity building and professionalisation of NGOs (Call No. 31)
- Evaluation of the call "International mobility for disadvantaged youth" (Call No. 32)
- Evaluation of further company training: Analysis of data on supported persons (Call No. 43)
- Case studies of projects financed from the Operational programme Employment under the calls of local action groups
- Assessment of the project Evaluation of the functioning and contribution of the ITI/ITDP thematic working groups linked to the OP Emp calls
- Evaluation of the questionnaire for residential social services on the process of transformation and deinstitutionalisation
- Evaluation of the survey among OP Emp beneficiaries on co-financing in the 2021–2027 period
- Analysis of the availability of pre-school childcare facilities with a focus on nursery schools and children's groups
- Evaluation of pilot verification of micro-crèches II

Evaluation of Call No. 31

Pilot support for capacity building and professionalisation of NGOs

Thanks to the involvement of experts, NGOs are more confident and work more efficiently

All involved NGOs have developed their strategic plan with goals for at least three years



72 non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs) took the opportunity to increase capacity, professionalism and transparency.



57 organizations have a mechanism for obtaining feedback from their clients.



67 NGOs have a standardised process for recruiting and mentoring new employees.



44 organisations involve stakeholders in the consultations on their budget.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE CALL IN TERMS OF SUITABILITY OF ITS SETTINGS. IT ALSO FOCUSED ON THE BENEFITS OF THE CALL IN TERMS OF CREATING CONDITIONS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE ORGANISATIONAL FUNCTIONING AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANISATIONS AS A WHOLE.

Recommendations for future implementation:

- Activities aimed at professionalising NGOs were appropriately selected. The overall structure should be maintained for similarly focused calls.
- Experts were beneficial for NGOs in certain areas (capacity building, professionalisation, transparency). It should again be possible to cover expert activities that transfer experience and know-how.
- The preparation of final reports was difficult for NGOs. The evaluation survey should therefore be carried out on a sample or in a form of a questionnaire.
- The introduction of evaluation mechanisms has been beneficial for NGOs. Evaluation activities should be further methodically supported in a comprehensible form.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluation Unit.

The evaluation was carried out by October 2019.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey, focus groups

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-vysledku-pilotni-podpory-budovani-kapacit>

Evaluation of Call No. 32

International mobility for disadvantaged youth

Foreign experience has contributed to better employment of young people

In total, 293 people aged 15–30 participated in an internship abroad together with language training and career guidance.



89% of respondents increased their knowledge and skills.



73% of respondents improved their prospects for the future.



76% of respondents learned to work better in a team.



65% of respondents acquired better work habits and discipline.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO MAP THE PROCESS PART OF THE CALL, ASSESS ITS RESULTS AND VERIFY THE PRE-FORMULATED THEORY OF CHANGE. THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVALUATION IS THAT THE CALL FULFILLED ITS OBJECTIVE, WHICH WAS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CZECHIA.

Recommendations for future implementation:

- Successful cooperation with a foreign partner is essential. Utilising examples of good practice could reduce administrative burden.
- Internship abroad is financially demanding for the participants (young people). It would be appropriate to increase advance payments so that they do not run into financial problems.
- Support needs to be targetted better. People with a university degree should only be supported if they have been unemployed for more than 6 months and face further disadvantages.
- Sufficient language knowledge is necessary for successful completion of the internship abroad. Therefore, it is important to devote sufficient space to language preparation.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluation Unit.

The evaluation was carried out by August 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey of beneficiaries and supported persons, focus groups

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-vysledku-pilotni-podpory-mezinarodni-mobi>

Analysis of data on supported persons

Evaluation of further company training

Company training has increased the expertise and competencies of employees

Company training, one of the main pillars of the competitiveness of companies in the market, supported under Call No. 43 a total of 1,007 projects.



34,044 people developed their expertise and competencies.



58% of the supported persons deepened their soft and managerial skills.



761 projects also supported people aged 55 and over.



30% of the supported persons had permanent residence in the RESTART regions.

THE EVALUATION OF COMPANY TRAINING FOCUSED ON WHAT TARGET GROUPS ARE MOST REPRESENTED AMONG PARTICIPANTS (E.G. IN TERMS OF AGE AND GENDER), VERIFICATION OF THE AVERAGE SUPPORT OF THE AID FOR ONE SUPPORTED PERSON OR THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ENTIRE AID TO INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL AREAS.

Main findings:

- Participants aged 35 to 44 were most often supported, average age of all participants across projects was 41.
- In terms of the highest level of education attained, the participants were people with a high school diploma or with an apprenticeship certificate and post-secondary education.
- Training in soft and managerial skills and technical and general IT training were most often implemented.
- Women were by 20 percentage points more involved than men in soft and managerial skills training.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluation Unit.

The evaluation was carried out in 2020.

Evaluation methods: analysis of data from the ESF information system

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-podpory-dalsiho-podnikove-vzdelavani-zame>

Case studies of projects

Calls of Local Action Groups

The synergies in projects of Local Action Groups are beneficial for all

Case studies of 10 selected projects from calls of Local Action groups (LAGs) provide examples of good practice



Projects are based on regional needs and address them in the best possible way thanks to the beneficiary's knowledge of the region.



Some implementers thoughtfully "snowballed" mutually supportive and complementary projects.



The importance of working with other partners in the region was demonstrated in all case studies.



The LAG helped several projects to establish the necessary contacts to achieve even better results.

THE EVALUATION INCLUDES 10 CASE STUDIES OF LOCAL ACTION GROUP PROJECTS. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE CALLS OF LAGS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT. KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AND TARGET GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF PROJECTS, HELPS ENSURING BETTER SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECTS.

Main findings

- Projects are directly linked to the Community-led Local Development Strategy (SCLLD) and respond in the best possible way to the needs of the region through a bottom-up approach.
- The efforts of the beneficiaries to ensure the best possible stability and sustainability of the projects were seen in the examined projects.
- LAG representatives viewed the long-term activity of the beneficiaries in the region positively, as well as their efforts to solve the problems defined in the Community-led Local Development Strategy.
- In all cases, the LAG was perceived by the beneficiary as a reliable and valuable partner.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Contractor: IREAS Centrum, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by December 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, interviews with project implementers and representatives of local action groups

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zpracovani-pripadovych-studii-projektu-financovany>

Project evaluation

Assessment of functioning and contribution of ITI/ITDP working groups

Working groups in agglomerations supported integrated projects of the OP Employment

Cooperation within working groups in agglomerations has helped to improve services in the region



The working groups motivated synergies and integrated solutions and reduced duplication of services in the region.



The complaints were mainly on unclear competencies of members of working groups and coordinators.



The main result was the connection of the public sector with non-profit and private sector.



OP Emp priorities were not included in some agglomerations due to the focus on and burden caused by other calls.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITI AND ITDP AGGLOMERATIONS RELATED TO OP EMPLOYMENT CALLS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE BENEFITS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

Recommendations for future implementation of ITI/ITDP

- It is appropriate to further support integrated solutions and synergy effects in locally focused project frameworks.
- The needs of different regions vary, so it would be appropriate to consider the flexibility of thematic focus of project calls.
- There is a need to raise awareness of project calls and overcome barriers that discourage potential applicants from submitting projects.
- ITI/ITDP holders should support, on a long-term basis, cooperation of different stakeholders in agglomerations across areas of support.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Contractor: Inboox CZ, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out in the period from October 2019 to April 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, semi-structured interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Hodnoceni-nastaveni-a-vysledku-integrovanych-n-\(2\)](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Hodnoceni-nastaveni-a-vysledku-integrovanych-n-(2))

Outcomes from a questionnaire

Attitudes of social services to transformation and deinstitutionalisation

Residential social services are reluctant to process transformation and deinstitutionalisation

The questionnaire survey mapped the state of transformation and deinstitutionalization of social services



40% of respondents do not plan to transform and deinstitutionalise its services in the near future.



15% of respondents are considering or preparing a process of partial or complete transformation and deinstitutionalisation.



24% of respondents stated their services met the parameters of deinstitutionalisation from the beginning.



9% of respondents completed the process of partial or complete transformation and deinstitutionalisation.

SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON THE FULFILLMENT OF SELECTED CRITERIA FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL NATURE OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS. THE SURVEY ALSO ASKED ABOUT POSITIONS OF THE PROVIDERS ON TRANSFORMATION AND DEINSTITUTIONALISATION.

Main findings:

- Examined criteria of unconstitutional nature of residential service (absence of three- and multiple-bed rooms; failure to provide patient service in the same building where residential service is provided and not exceeding the maximum total capacity of the building) were most often fulfilled in sheltered housing (83%) and least often in homes with special equipment (7%).
- In connection with the transformation, providers of residential social services have concerns mostly about funding, reduced capacity and they doubt the suitability of changes.
- Respondents with experience of transformation see the main obstacles in negative attitude of the public towards people with disabilities, administrative burden and availability of real estate, land and finances.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluations Department.
 The evaluation was carried out from May to December 2019.
 Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report will be available in the Evaluation Library after completion of the evaluation.

Outcomes of survey among OP Emp beneficiaries

Setting up co-financing in the 2021-2027 programming period

Changes in OP Employment would have negative impact on the structure of beneficiaries and absorption capacity

Opinions and attitudes of the beneficiaries of support from the OP Employment differ based on the type of organisation



77% of respondents would not submit projects at all, or only to a limited extent, if co-financing was higher.



70% of respondents from NGOs stated that they would not submit a project if there were changes in advance funding.



73% of respondents implemented projects using ex-ante financing.



40% of respondents consider changes in co-financing and cancellation of advance payments to be a significant problem.

BENEFICIARIES OF OP EMPLOYMENT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE DRAWING CONDITIONS IN THE NEXT PROGRAMME PERIOD. THE ANSWERS HAVE INDICATED THAT HIGHER CO-FINANCING AND ABSENCE OF ADVANCE PAYMENTS WOULD POSE A PROBLEM TO THEM.

Main findings:

- For the NGO sector, OP Emp is a key source of financing, while for municipalities or companies it is rather an additional source.
- Beneficiaries would prefer the lowest possible co-financing rate in the next programming period.
- The absence of ex-ante funding would be easier to overcome for commercial entities and government organizations rather than most NGOs, but higher co-financing would impact everyone and it would be reflected in the structure of applicants.
- After possible changes, funding from the OP Emp would not be available for many applicants from NGOs and for other entities it would be less advantageous, or even disadvantageous, to apply for and use them. This would have a significant impact on the absorption capacity.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluations Department.
The evaluation was carried out from June to July 2019.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report will be available in the Evaluation Library after completion of the evaluation.

Analysis of the availability of facilities for the care for pre-school children

focusing on nursery schools and children's groups

In regions with a growing population, there may be insufficient capacity of nursery schools and children's groups

The analysis mapped individual types of pre-school care and the extent of their use



Pre-school care in Czechia is provided mainly by nursery schools and children's groups.



In nursery schools, the founder of the facility is most often the municipality (90%).



A total of 364 000 children were enrolled in nursery schools in the 2018/2019 school year.



For children's groups, the founders are most often associations, institutes and endowment funds (80%).

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ANALYSIS WAS TO MAP THE CURRENT STATE OF THIS TYPE OF SERVICES IN TERMS OF TOTAL CAPACITY, FILLING AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES. THE STUDY INCLUDES ALL TYPES OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILD CARE FACILITIES, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S GROUPS, TRADE-BASED FACILITIES AND MICRO-CRÈCHES.

Main findings:

- Higher proportion of children attending nursery schools is in regions where the population is declining. Therefore, it can be assumed that in such regions there is less of a problem with the capacities of the facilities.
- In addition to preferences of parents, sufficient capacity of suitable facilities is considered to be a decisive factor for the rate of placement of children under the age of three in childcare facilities.
- Prague, Pilsen, Kladno, Liberec, Prague-East, Ostrava and Beroun dominate among the districts that need additional capacity of pre-school facilities.
- The analysis was limited by the unavailability of data on children's residence, the availability of explanatory variables in the regression analysis and the unavailability of data on children's groups.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluations Department.

The evaluation was carried out by January 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research

The full evaluation report will be available in the Evaluation Library after completion of the evaluation.

Evaluation of pilot verification of micro-crèches II

Micro-crèches have positive impacts and there is a demand among parents

Micro-crèches are a unique and sought-after service and should be more accessible



After entry of children into micro-crèches, number of full-time/part-time parents and the number of hours they work increased.



Contribution from parents to the operation of micro-crèches should not be too high, but rather have a motivating function.



The most important motivation of parents is the high quality of care thanks to a small team and individual approach to children.



According to the founders, without ESF funding, it would not be possible to cover the costs of operating the facility.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE OUTPUT DATA FROM THE FOUNDERS FROM THE ENDING PROJECTS OF CALL NO. 126 AND 127. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT UPDATED AND SUPPLEMENTED KNOWLEDGE ON THE BENEFITS OF MICRO-CRÈCHES FOR THE TARGET GROUP BASED ON DATA FROM NEWLY WORKING PARENTS.

Main recommendations:

- Main recommendations:
- Even after the end of support from the ESF, it is recommended to maintain the existing capacities for children from 6 months to 3 years and, if necessary, to further expand these capacities.
- Micro-crèches should continue to be seen as a specific form of highly flexible care for the youngest children in a small group.
- The specifics of this service should be taken into account when setting specific conditions for financing.
- If no co-funding of micro-crèches was found, it would still be appropriate to maintain their functioning, even at the cost of them not being accessible to everyone who would need it.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Conducted internally by the MoLSA Evaluation Department.
The evaluation was carried out by February 2020.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey, interviews with founders, analysis of attendance systems

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-pilotniho-overeni-mikrojesli-II>

Operational Programme **Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness**



Chapter contents:

- Outcome evaluation of specific objectives 3.5, 3.6 and 4.2 of the OP EIC
- Design of the indicator system of the MIT operational programme for the 2021+ programming period
- Evaluation of management and administration of technical assistance of the OP EIC
- Evaluation of administrative procedures of the OP EIC implementation structure

Outcome evaluation of specific objectives 3.5, 3.6 and 4.2

Support for energy and development of information technologies

Energy support is difficult to assess, but has the potential to improve the capacity of energy systems

All projects imply positive effects on improving the reliability of electricity supply to end customers



Positive developments in energy savings are slowed by increased consumption due to economic growth.



The improvement in the reliability of electricity supply should first be manifested in northwestern Bohemia and in Moravian-Silesian Region.



The reduction in carbon dioxide emissions will only be reflected with a time delay.



The use of more powerful transformers reduces the risks of severe outages and regional blackouts.

THE EVALUATION WAS FOCUSED ON ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF OP EIC SUPPORT ON INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF HEAT SUPPLY SYSTEMS, STRENGTHENING THE ENERGY SECURITY OF THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND USING THE ICT POTENTIAL FOR COMPETITIVENESS OF THE ECONOMY.

Main recommendations

- In the next programming period, administrative requirements for applicants should be simplified, especially in the grant application phase.
- Analysis of the expected development of the heat supply system should be prepared regarding the validity of emission limits after 2020.
- Support for increasing the efficiency of heat supply system and combined heat and power production should be maintained.
- Within the analysed specific objectives, innovative financial instruments could be used to create a sufficient and sustainable system of funding investments in this area.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade

Contractor: Asociace pro evropské fondy, z.s.

The evaluation was carried out until July 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, individual interviews

The entire evaluation report is available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-evaluace-specifickych-cilu-3-5,-3-6-\(1\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-evaluace-specifickych-cilu-3-5,-3-6-(1))

Design of the indicator system

MIT operational programme for the 2021+ programming period

The indicator system should be functional and efficient

The operational programme focused on competitiveness will build on the results and successes to date



The new operational programme will place more emphasis on supporting higher-order innovation.



The aim of the new programme will be to support the transition of companies to the circular economy.



The support will be aimed at optimising the management of water companies.



The transition of companies to alternative-fuelled vehicles will be moved to a separate specific goal.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO PROPOSE A DESIGN OF A INDICATOR SYSTEM OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOCUSED ON COMPETITIVENESS FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027.

Main recommendations

- The Contractor proposes a number of new outcome indicators, e.g. private investments in a comparable amount as support from public sources or filed patent applications.
- The indicator system should include new output indicators, e.g. number of SMEs investing in skills for smart specialization, industrial transformation and business.
- The indicator report should only monitor indicators with a relevant informative value.
- Monitoring of indicators should create the least possible administrative burden.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade

Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until December 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Navrh-indikatorove-soustavy-operacniho-programu-MP>

Evaluation of management and administration of technical assistance

Technical assistance meets the needs of the managing authority, as the processes are well set up at the operational level

The implementation of technical assistance in the OP EIC is based more on informal practice



The methodological environment of technical assistance is sufficiently user-friendly.



Guidelines are not available for implementation of part of the OP EIC technical assistance processes.



The lower degree of formalisation is not perceived by the staff of the managing authority as a problem.



The total absorption of funds designated for technical assistance will reach a maximum of 63-74% of the allocation.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO VERIFY THAT OP EIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS PAID TO ASSESSMENT OF SUFFICIENCY AND ADEQUACY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES OF THE OP EIC IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE.

Main recommendations

- It is necessary to prepare a forecast for drawing technical assistance until 2023 based on planned expenditures and to start the process of reallocation of unspent funds.
- For the future period, an analysis of the financial use of technical assistance at the level of expenditure items should be prepared to plan the allocation more accurately.
- For planned evaluations, it would be appropriate to increase the emphasis on evaluating the effectiveness of technical assistance, incl. analysis of the reasons for deviations from the implementation plan and their impact on efficiency.
- Strategic planning and ongoing evaluation processes need to be strengthened when planning technical assistance for the future.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out from November 2019 to September 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, written questioning, interviews, questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-rizeni-administrace-technicke-pomoci-op>

Evaluation of administrative procedures of the implementation structure

The evaluation identified insufficiently set communication processes within the implementation structure

The length of project evaluation and approval leads to frequent changes and consequent administrative burden



Insufficient functionality of the monitoring system requires manual data processing.



The calls and their annexes are too extensive, complex and confusing for applicants.



The methodological environment is complex and lacks binding statements of the IB/MA and unified rules.



The language in which the OP EIC support is communicated is not always user-friendly, it is difficult for applicants.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO IDENTIFY DEFICIENCIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES AND PROPOSE APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS TO ACCELERATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUPPORT AND CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS.

Main recommendations

- It is necessary to analyse the missing functionalities of the monitoring system and provide its conclusions as a basis for creation of a new system.
- Formal evaluation should be outsourced or robotised to reduce administrative burden of the project application. It would be appropriate to ensure the binding nature of the decision and the opinions of the intermediate body/managing authority, which cannot be changed retroactively.
- It is recommended to introduce a system of reimbursement of projects on the basis of all presented documents without the need to submit applications and their approval before the start of the project.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade

Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out from October 2019 to October 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual and group interviews, expert panel

The entire evaluation report is available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-administrativnich-postupu-implementac-\(1\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-administrativnich-postupu-implementac-(1))



Operational Programme

Research, Development and Education



Chapter contents:

Evaluation of equal access to quality pre-school, primary and secondary education

- Outcome evaluation of PA 3 of the OP RDE: Improving the quality of pre-school education
- Evaluation of the questionnaire for the outcome evaluation of the OP RDE at primary schools
- Evaluation of secondary and higher vocational schools projects with simplified reporting

Evaluation of individual system projects

- Evaluation of Inclusive Education Action Plans
- Evaluation of the project Modernization of Vocational Education
- Evaluation of the project Support for Teacher Work
- Action planning and strategic management in the territory and in schools
- Inclusive and quality education in areas with socially excluded localities
- Evaluation of system and conceptual projects - heading B: Quality-Inclusion-Counselling-Development
- Evaluation of the system project "National Centre for Electronic Information Resources - CzechELib"
- Project evaluation Comprehensive evaluation system
- Evaluation of system and conceptual projects: System of support for professional development of teachers and headmasters

Continuous evaluation of the implementation of the OP RDE

- 6th, 7th and 8th interim report of the OP RDE

Outcome evaluation of priority axis 3 of the OP RDE

Improving the quality of pre-school education

Pre-school education is better and more inclusive thanks to European funds

Projects focused on the personal and professional development of teachers in pre-school education are beneficial and necessary for schools



As of 30 June 2019, support was provided for 7,412 projects at nursery schools with a total value of CZK 3.048 billion.



The vast majority of participating schools consider their implemented project to be beneficial.



Nursery schools received the most funds in Central Bohemian (CZK 390 million) and the least in Karlovy Vary Region (CZK 68 million).



In both calls, nursery schools most often chose to co-fund personnel support in the form of a school assistant or a nanny.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO ASSESS INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION. THIS OBJECTIVE FOCUSES ON THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT OF TEACHERS, INCREASING OR EXTENDING THE QUALIFICATION OF TEACHERS AND IMPROVING THE COMPETENCES OF OTHER EDUCATORS.

Main findings and expected results

- Currently, 3,778 pre-school education organizations are supported. Potentially, the share of nursery schools with increased quality and pro-inclusiveness of pre-school education as a result of OP RDE interventions may reach up to 70% of all nursery schools in the CR.
- In the vast majority of cases, supported schools reported that it there was an improvement in the personal and professional development of teachers and they intend to continue this development.
- There was great interest in cooperating with parents, especially to facilitate the transition from nursery schools to primary schools. About 60% of nursery schools plan to continue this activity.
- Cooperation with other teachers (mutual observation, meetings, consultations) is evaluated positively by the supported schools.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Author: OP RDE Evaluation Unit

The evaluation was carried out until October 2019.

Evaluation methods: analysis of data from MS2014+, surveys at the beginning and end of project implementation, evaluation visits and interviews

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-evaluace-op-vvv-hodnoceni-ip1-sc1-zvys>

Evaluation of the questionnaire for the Outcome evaluation of the OP RDE at primary schools

The questionnaire survey in randomly selected schools was one of the bases for the evaluation of OP RDE interventions

Templates contribute to the improvement of pupils' benefit in primary schools, greater systematic preparation and improved communication with parents



From ICT instruments, schools use the Internet (94%) and a projector (79%) in classes, but only 26% of schools actively use tablets.



Of the counselling services, schools use the most pedagogical-psychological counselling centres (97%).



Computers for pupils are available in 91% of schools, but only 71% use them in classes.



The most used forms of teaching are frontal teaching (59%) and discussion method (30%).

IN THE EVALUATION, HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE ASKED TO FILL IN A SURVEY. RESPONDENTS EVALUATED TEACHER SUPPORT AND THE BENEFITS OF TEMPLATES (E.G. TUTORING, LEISURE CLUBS, COURSES FOR TEACHERS).

Main findings

- In terms of climate in schools, cooperation with the local community lags the most (77% disagreed) together with sharing of inclusive values (57% disagreed).
- The weakness of polytechnic education is that only 36% of respondents stated they cooperate with local companies or entrepreneurs.
- The most effective measures to reduce early school leaving of socially disadvantaged pupils are to create a positive climate (88%), lead them to mutual tolerance (87%) and lower numbers of pupils in class (86%).
- There is high risk that after the end of the interventions from the templates, the situation will be worse than before them.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Author: OP RDE Evaluation Unit

The evaluation was carried out until April 2020.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vyhodnoceni-dotazniku-k-vysledkove-evaluaci-op-vvv>

Evaluation of secondary and higher vocational schools projects with simplified reporting

Templates are evaluated positively by secondary and higher vocational schools

Projects focused on tutoring pupils, educating teaching staff and internships of teachers are beneficial for secondary and higher vocational schools.



As of 7 January 2020, 955 secondary schools and 115 higher vocational schools were involved.



The most important areas of support are considered to be support for vocational training and cooperation with employers.



Largest share of participating schools was in the Liberec Region, largest share of funding was in Prague and Moravian-Silesian Region.



The lowest priority is given to schools in the area of inclusive education.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF SCHOOL PREFERENCES IN AREAS SUPPORTED BY TEMPLATES. THE FIELD SURVEY FOCUSED IN PARTICULAR ON THE EVALUATION OF SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES.

Main recommendations

- Schools would welcome the creation of a quality assessment of further training of teachers (FTT) courses, which would provide them with information on quality of the course or lecturer.
- The change of selected FTTs during the project implementation should be simplified to respond more flexibly to unexpected situations (change of teachers, cancellation or unavailability of the course).
- Higher vocational schools have an issue with implementing activities in five consecutive months, as this is contrary to the semester regime.
- Respondents would welcome the creation of thematic platforms where they could exchange their experience.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Author: OP RDE Evaluation Unit

The evaluation was carried out until May 2020.

Evaluation methods: analysis of data from MS2014+, surveys at the beginning and end of project implementation, evaluation visits, interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Vysledkova-evaluace-OP-VVV-Vyhodnoceni-projektu-S>

Evaluation of Inclusive Education Action Plans

1st and 2nd interim report

Projects support joint learning by providing methodological support

Umbrella projects supporting further education of teaching staff are positively evaluated



The network of schools was successfully created and the educational programme for public administration was supplemented.



Despite the administrative complexity of the work of lecturers, the qualification of teaching staff is deepening.



Fulfilling the project goals makes it difficult to train a sufficient number of lecturers, resulting in not meeting the demand.



Barriers to cooperation have not been identified and gradual steps are being taken to intensify it.

THE EVALUATIONS WERE FOCUSED ON TWO SEPARATE BUT FOLLOW-UP INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM PROJECTS, WHICH ARE PREPARING PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS.

Main recommendations

- The teams of lecturers should be strengthened by optimisation of the selection criteria to enable involvement of all experts in the field of education.
- The specifics of individual types of schools must be more emphasized to lecturers, thus adapting courses to their needs.
- A comprehensive material should be created specifying the research objectives, individual survey methods, etc., which are still missing in the reports.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until March (1st interim report) and October 2019 (2nd interim report) respectively.

Evaluation methods: individual and group interviews, questionnaire survey, case studies, participatory observation

The full evaluation reports are available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-akcnich-planu-inkluzivniho-vzdelavani>

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-akcnich-planu-inkluzivniho-vzdelavani-1>

Evaluation of the project Modernisation of Vocational Education

1st interim report

Thanks to the project, cooperation between schools and companies is being established

The project supports the quality of vocational education and eliminates large differences between individual schools



More than 84% of teaching staff respondents involved in the project apply the acquired knowledge in practice.



Within the project, teachers of secondary vocational schools are offered methodological support for design and modification of SEP.



Thanks to the project, schools were able to improve the quality of education and adapt it to the requirements of the labour market.



The project promotes quality across the system and helps to eliminate disparities between schools.

PROJECT OF MODERNISATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS FOCUSED ON SUPPORT FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL COMPONENTS OF EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADUATES.

Main findings and recommendations

- Inclusion of acquired knowledge in teaching and verification of complex tasks in practice is the most common form of application. Some respondents stated they incorporate the knowledge into the school education plan (SEP).
- Networking between schools is considered to be the greatest benefit of the project, together with the transfer of good practice.
- Although the project does not have mandatory sustainability of outputs, it would be appropriate to ensure minimum sustainability for the created information system. Further functioning of the publicly accessible platform seems to be crucial, because it would make methodological materials available and provide a room for discussion.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until April 2019.

Evaluation methods: individual and group interviews, questionnaire survey, case studies, participatory observation

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/1-prubezna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2019](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/1-prubezna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2019)

Evaluation of the project Modernization of Vocational Education

2nd interim report

Representatives of participating organisations view the project outcomes mostly positively

In the evaluation, risks related to the implementation of the project and the achievement of objectives were not identified



Implementation of key project activities takes place according to the schedule and processed management documentation.



Out of other project outputs, the workshops for exchange of experience received the best overall evaluation.



One of the barriers to project implementation is its administrative complexity.



Respondents have the highest expectations from expert panels and exchanges of examples of good practice.

IN THIS EVALUATION IT WAS INVESTIGATED, TO WHICH EXTENT THE PROCEEDINGS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROJECT APPLICATION. IN ADDITION, THE EVALUATION REFLECTED ON EXPECTED CHANGES OF THE STATE CHANGES.

Main conclusions and recommendations

- Approximately 81% of respondents apply acquired knowledge in practice (i.e. information and materials obtained through participation in the project, e.g. educational modules, examples of good practice, information from workshops).
- Respondents stated that the biggest obstacle is low interest of teachers.
- Insufficient level of information about the project and its outputs or varying equipment of schools are also considered as obstacles.
- More than two-thirds of respondents said their school modified the school educational plan with acquired knowledge from the project.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until October 2019.

Evaluation methods: individual and group interviews, questionnaire survey, case studies, participatory observation

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/2-prubezna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2019](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/2-prubezna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2019)

Evaluation of the project Support for Teacher Work

1st and 2nd interim report

The system project supporting the development of teaching literacy is an example for others

The introduction of literacies into teaching should be continued in a greater extent



The scope, quality and level of project outputs are assessed by key stakeholders as beneficial and usable in practice.



Cooperation with other projects is assessed as high quality and above standard.



Information and good practices are transferred regularly from the schools involved to other stakeholders and schools.



The administrative complexity is considered a risk, but it does not endanger the implementation of the project.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATIONS WAS CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOCUSED ON THE COMPREHENSIVE METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT OF 36 TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS. THANKS TO THE PROJECT, THESE SCHOOLS ARE GRADUALLY BECOMING REGIONAL LITERACY SUPPORT CENTERS.

Main recommendations

- There is a need to improve comprehensibility of conceptual outcomes for teachers and to not use expert language too much.
- Emphasis must be placed on the implementation of mandatory project activities, as activities beyond the project may overload the implementation team.
- Communication and presentation of the project to future teachers (university students) should be strengthened.
- Basic literacy (mathematical, reading and digital) can be used in many fields. It is advisable to continue in activities breaking prejudices about their single-subject focus (e.g. using publications, events or working with pilot schools).

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until April (1st interim report) and October 2019 (2nd interim report).

Evaluation methods: individual and group interviews, questionnaire survey, participatory observation on an expert panel

The entire evaluation reports are available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/1-prubezna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2019](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/1-prubezna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2019)

[https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/2-prubezna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2019](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/2-prubezna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2019)

Action planning and strategic management in territory and at schools

2nd and 3rd interim report

Strategic management of education takes place at both examined levels (local and regional)

Evaluations identified room for improvement in strategic management of schools



Methodological support was negatively affected by delays in regional action plans for the development of education (RAP).



The elaboration of Action Plans and School Action Plans was taken mainly as an obligation to obtain subsidies.



RAP managers are inconsistent as to whether RAP is a suitable instrument for improving education in the region.



Members of the implementation teams view the requirements for involvement of school representatives as exaggerated.

THE SUBJECT OF THE EVALUATION WERE PROJECTS FOCUSED ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING IN SCHOOLS AT THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL. ONE OF THE MAIN OBSTACLES IS A HIGH NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CLASSES, WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW INDIVIDUAL APPROACH.

Main recommendations

- It is necessary to ensure adequate support from expert guarantors in the regions for RAP.
- Activities must make sense and bring real effects. For each activity required, it should be clear what its purpose is and what the outcomes will serve and contribute to.
- Information on project outcomes should be taken substantively, i. e. on the basis of substantive topics (e.g. reading literacy).
- It is necessary to focus on raising awareness of strategic approaches and projects in education among school founders (municipalities).

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o. and Naviga 4, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until February 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research

The full evaluation reports are available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-systemovych-a-koncepcnich-projektu-ok-\(4\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-systemovych-a-koncepcnich-projektu-ok-(4))

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-ips-a-ipk-v-ramci-po3-op-vvv-luzemni-akcn>

Inclusive and quality education in areas with socially excluded localities

1st and 2nd interim report

The involvement of municipalities in existing Local Action Plans for the Development of Education is very intensive

The implementation of Local Inclusion Plans is proceeding as expected, but often with a varying view on success of the individual steps



Local inclusion plans are created without major problems, in some places an update is planned for the next period.



The activities of the Agency for Social Inclusion are evaluated by the respondents as beneficial.



The benefit of the complementarity of system projects is seen primarily in the transfer of good practice.



For respondents, self-assessment represents the possibility of reflection and possible readjustment of processes.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO IDENTIFY PERCEIVED CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN SUPPORTED MUNICIPALITIES, TO ASSESS THE INTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATION SETTINGS AND TO MAP OUT THE AWARENESS ABOUT COMPLEMENTARITIES. IT WAS FOUND OUT THAT THE SYSTEM OF EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o. and Naviga 4, s.r.o.
The evaluation was carried out by January 2020.
Evaluation methods: desk research, interviews, questionnaire survey
The full evaluation report is available here:
https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace_evaluacni-okruh_c_2019

Main conclusions from the evaluation

- Involvement of municipalities in existing Local Action Plans is intensive, but respondents often say that strategic documents (e.g. a local action plan, a social inclusion plan or an inclusion plan) are merging for them.
- Preparation of project applications and implementation are assessed as very administratively demanding and a major disadvantage of projects is their temporary nature (especially for job positions).
- Distrust to inclusive measures persists among some stakeholders and scepticism arises that the attitudes of stakeholders could be changed in such a short time.
- It is necessary to complete the system of evaluation instruments in the project.

Evaluation of the project Quality-Inclusion-Counselling-Development

The pillar of the project focused on counselling services was a network providing methodological support not only to schools

The most beneficial activities of the project were educational courses, workshops and case-study conferences



Cooperation of stakeholders and experts has been going on for a long time and is beneficial and of a high quality.



A methodological network was created and regional methodologies were introduced, which is considered as positive.



The main output are the Uniform rules for the provision of counselling services and related methodological documents.



The increase in professional competencies and the expansion of the diagnostic ability of employees was appreciated.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK FROM THE LEVEL OF TARGET GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS OF THE PROJECT. THE INTERVIEWED PERSONS EXPRESSED THEIR OPINIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION, PROCEDURE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT TO MEETING ITS SET OBJECTIVES.

Recommendations for future implementation

- For the future similar projects, it is recommended to create a shared document containing a regularly updated list of project activities.
- It would be appropriate to extend the project documents with examples of bad practice, more detailed legislative interpretation and statistical data to compare the workload of social pedagogues.
- A network of intensively supported schools in different regions should remain in the future, together with motivating schools to spread this knowledge to other schools in the region.
- Methodological network which regularly communicates with counselling facilities should be maintained.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o. and Naviga 4, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until March 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, interviews, questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace_evaluacni-okruh_b_zaverecna-zprava-\(kipr\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace_evaluacni-okruh_b_zaverecna-zprava-(kipr))

Evaluation of the system project “National Centre for Electronic Information Resources - CzechELib”

The implementation of the CzechELib project is proceeding without major complications and risks

Partial shortcomings of the project were identified in interface terminology and the method of settling comments



In the evaluated period, key steps were implemented and the interim and borderline financial milestone were met.



Instruments for managing electronic information resources and statistics on their use were tested and launched.



Funding for the period after 2020 was granted from the state budget.



According to the questionnaire survey, both instruments are evaluated as user-friendly, beneficial and usable.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS A CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF THE CZECHELIB PROJECT THAT PROVIDES ADEQUATE FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS. EVALUATION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE THIRD INTERIM REPORT FOCUSED ON THE EVALUATION OF TWO LAUNCHED ELECTRONIC INTERFACES.

Main recommendations

- In case of further comments on electronic interfaces (or other key output of the project), the approach to settlement of comments should be communicated more.
- It would be appropriate to consider an alternative form of settlement of comments (e.g. online form, which may be more suitable for representatives of institutions outside Prague).
- Internal evaluations should focus more on processes than on impacts and should also use qualitative data collection methods.
- Targetting internal evaluations on selected topics will help increase the detail and depth of process recommendations.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until September 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-czechelib-3-prubezna-zprava>

Evaluation of the project

Comprehensive evaluation system

1st and 2nd interim report

The project supports new methods, procedures and instruments for the assessment of key competencies

The activities of the project aimed at creating a comprehensive evaluation are proceeding according to the schedule



Within the project, methodological comments and Examples of inspiring practice for schools were created.



Schools showed an unexpectedly high interest in publications on released tasks from international surveys.



Findings from international surveys are useful for formulating strategies and setting grant programmes.



Regions showed interest in analysing the state of the education system in their territory.

THE EVALUATIONS ASSESSED THE IMPLEMENTATION AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT FOCUSED ON THE PROCESS OF CONNECTING EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL EVALUATIONS OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES ON ALL SUB-LEVELS AND ON INSTRUMENTS FOR THE EVALUATION OF KEY COMPETENCES.

Recommendations for future implementation

- The Ministry should, as the “vision holder”, connect and disseminate project outputs in a coordinated manner. The aim should be to ensure systematic application of outputs and their maximum interconnection and dissemination.
- For comprehensive tackling of a specific substantive issue (e.g. reading literacy or data collection), experts from the professional community (academic spheres, NGOs) should be invited.
- Examples of inspiring practice should be published in a timely manner.
- Secondary analyses of data from international surveys should be conducted even after the end of the project.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until May (1st evaluation report), resp. October 2019 (2nd interim report).

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual interviews, questionnaire survey

The entire evaluation reports are available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-komplexni-system-hodnoceni-\(ksh\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-komplexni-system-hodnoceni-(ksh))

[https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-komplexni-system-hodnoceni-\(-1\)](https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-komplexni-system-hodnoceni-(-1))

Evaluation of the SYPO project

1st interim report

The SYPO project creates a comprehensive system of professional support for teachers and headmasters

A network of methodological cabinets and models of support for beginning teachers and headmasters contribute to improving the quality of education



The SYPO project is procedurally set and most of the key activities are implemented according to the schedule.



The professional development support systems for school managements and beginning teachers are being piloted.



Network of three pilot methodological cabinets (national, regional and area level) and of regional ICT methodologists were created.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the project created more than 50 webinars focusing on online teaching.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO ASSESS THE PREVIOUS COURSE OF THE PROJECT FOCUSED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TARGETED SUPPORT SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS. SUPPORTED WORKERS CONSIDER THE FORMS OF AID GRANTED MOST BENEFICIAL.

Main findings

- Webinars focused on subject didactics are published to support schools and teaching staff.
- Permanent Conference of Directors has been set up and the school management's own support is being piloted (regional conferences, workshops, group and individual consultations).
- The schools involved in the piloting of the Model of the system of support for beginning teachers work with the so-called triad (introducing teacher, beginning teacher and representative of the school management).
- Webinars focused on online teaching are an important support for schools and teachers at this time and have helped them to cope with the unexpected transition to this method of teaching.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until November 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, meta-evaluation, questionnaire survey, focus groups, individual and telephone interviews

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/overeni-relevance-programu.-posouzeni-uzemni-dimen>

6th OP RDE interim report

The absorption capacity of the OP RDE is correctly estimated and mainly supports high-quality projects

OP RDE already has concrete outcomes and mainly high-quality projects were supported



Material progress with regard to the state of implementation corresponds to the expected state.



The milestones of the OP RDE set for 2018 were met and the performance measure goal was reached.



There is a risk of non-fulfilment of 38 of the 156 programme indicators and there is a risk of over-fulfilment in 80 indicators.



Progress in implementation can already be demonstrated by the results of individual projects.

THE EVALUATION FOCUSED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OP RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION; IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF PROGRAMME INDICATORS, IT INCLUDES ALSO CONCLUSIONS FROM FIELD STUDIES OF SELECTED PROJECTS.

Main findings from field studies

- Projects in the call focused on excellent research contribute to the internationalisation and international competitiveness of Czech science and research.
- Participants in research mobilities consider their stays to be beneficial and, from their point of view, as a great progress for their careers.
- The National RIS3 strategy is the most strongly fulfilled by the OP RDE interventions in terms of the number of links, the second most strongly fulfilled strategy is the Strategy of the Educational Policy of Czechia until 2020.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until June 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, focus groups, individual and group interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Prubeznazprava-k-15-03-2019>

7th OP RDE interim report

Projects funded by European funds contribute e. g. to the development of digital literacy and HEIs

Support for research, development and education develops digital literacy and enables the incorporation of new technologies in teaching



Projects help build capacity related to the development of digital literacy and provide equipment and technology support.



Universities are supported as educational as well as research organizations.



System projects are used for coordination and methodological support of conceptual projects.



Projects enable investments in teaching, improvements of the study environment and resources for teaching.

THE EVALUATION FOCUSED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OP RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION; IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF PROGRAMME INDICATORS, IT INCLUDES ALSO CONCLUSIONS FROM FIELD STUDIES OF SELECTED PROJECTS.

Main findings from field studies

- Projects fulfilling the digital education strategy contribute
- to experience sharing among teachers and their networking and create educational materials or develop competencies of teachers for the use of technology in teaching.
- Universities usually do not have a centrally set plan of education activities to cover staff development, so it is often up to staff to attend courses/training.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until November 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, focus groups, individual and group interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/prubezna-zprava-k-15-09-2019>

8th OP RDE interim report

European funds help reduce study failure in socially excluded localities

Comprehensive support and development contributes to increasing the participation of students from disadvantaged groups in higher education



Thanks to the project, a counselling centre for students and applicants with specific disorders (SD) was established at UJEP.



In a coordinated approach, centers of peer support for teachers were established for socially excluded localities.



Compensation courses and summer schools help students with the transition from high school to university.



The projects also support hobby and non-formal education (tutoring, leisure clubs and after-school activities, etc.).

THE EVALUATION FOCUSED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OP RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION; IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF PROGRAMME INDICATORS, IT INCLUDES ALSO CONCLUSIONS FROM FIELD STUDIES OF SELECTED PROJECTS.

Main findings from field studies

- A specialised classroom was established at UJEP, which will contribute to increasing students' competencies in the field of mathematics together with teaching support (videos with explanations and sample examples) and thus increase success in subjects related to mathematics.
- Children from socio-economically disadvantaged and culturally diverse backgrounds are involved in projects in informal pre-school education centres, where they acquire basic habits of working in an environment other than family and come into contact with their peers.

Contracting authority: The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Contractor: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until August 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, focus groups, individual and group interviews

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/prubeznazprava-k-15-03-2020>



Integrated Regional Operational Programme



Chapter contents:

- Ex-ante evaluation of the Integrated Regional Operational programme for the period 2021-2027
- Evaluation of Priority Axis 2 with a focus on social inclusion
- Analysis of absorption capacity 2019
- Evaluation of integrated instruments under the IROP

Ex-ante evaluation of the IROP for the 2021-2027 period

interim report

One of the main challenges is to eliminate the impacts of increased co-financing on absorption capacity

The preparation of the IROP should aim at reducing administrative burden and better measurability of outputs and benefits



The main challenge is to successfully manage a higher rate of co-financing from the state budget.



Implementation should not only focus on the successful implementation of activities, but on their specific and desired effect.



Mastering communication with potential beneficiaries, including relevant ministries and other stakeholders will be key.



Proposed indicators do not cover some expected outcomes and benefits and are little related to the intervention results.

THE PURPOSE OF EX-ANTE EVALUATION IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING THE IROP IN THE NEW PROGRAMMING PERIOD AND TO ASSESS ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND INTENDED OUTCOMES. FURTHERMORE, ADJUSTMENTS ARE PROPOSED TO MAKE THE IROP A STRONG INSTRUMENT CONTRIBUTING TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EU COHESION POLICY.

Main recommendations

- There is a need to create a mechanism to help potential beneficiaries (e.g. by supporting the preparation and implementation of projects or by providing examples of good and bad practice).
- It is necessary to ensure qualified staff capacity to avoid delays in the phase of project selection and implementation.
- The intervention logic needs to be linked to effects (e.g. by defining expected benefits) and its complexity (emphasis on biodiversity, education and excluded sites) should be increased.
- The indicator system needs to be revised to make sure the indicators cover benefits/outputs and allow specific measures in projects to be monitored.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until April 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, interviews and meetings

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ex-ante-evaluace-irop-programove-obdobi-2021-2>

Evaluation of Priority Axis 2 with focus on social inclusion

The Integrated Regional Operational Programme promotes social inclusion

Social inclusion projects are difficult to compare among each other



Support for social infrastructure has helped to increase its capacity.



No significant impact on future employability was found in the increase and modernization of educational capacities.



Social enterprises helped to stabilise target groups, but had a negligible effect on employment.



Projects did not contribute to closing the gap between regions.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE IMPACT OF INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS FROM THE TARGET GROUPS. IT WAS FOUND THAT THE IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS FROM THE TARGET GROUPS IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE FOR PROJECTS IN THIS PRIORITY AXIS AND RATHER INDIRECT.

Main recommendations

- The evaluation process should be speeded up and the rules for drawing funds should be simplified (e.g. by changing reporting methods).
- The parameters of the calls should be adjusted so that the support reflects the specifics of the area and covers all target groups.
- The long-term benefits of the IROP support should be enhanced by other follow-up activities (e.g. cooperation of beneficiaries with other stakeholders in the supported area).
- A strategic decision to limit the supported activities, types of services and target groups, together with the definition of the share of the total allocation should be made.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until June 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual interviews, questionnaire survey

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-plneni-sc-2-5-snizeni-energeticke-narocn>

Absorption capacity analysis 2019

The focus of the IROP activities will shift to physical implementation and completion of projects

The IROP will achieve the set goals well in advance in the coming years



The positive development of drawing was accelerated year-on-year.



In 2018, the n+3 rule was met.



In 2019, the dynamics of the programme reached its peak.



The performance in kind does not show any major problems.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE TYPE AND STATUS OF UPCOMING PROJECTS TO TARGET INDIVIDUAL CALLS. THE ABSORPTION CAPACITY IS ASSESSED POSITIVELY AND THE IROP WILL THUS ACHIEVE THE SET GOALS WELL IN ADVANCE.

Main findings

- At the end of 2018, the objectives of the performance framework were met, and their fulfilment conditioned the allocation of a performance reserve in the amount of 6% of the total programme allocation.
- The least interest on the part of applicants was in activities aimed at acquiring spatial plans, regulatory plans and spatial studies for cities and municipalities (SC 3.3).
- The largest contribution to changes in allocations were caused by transfers in PO2, where funds were shifted from activities aimed at energy saving of apartment buildings to activities aimed at supporting education (SC 2.4) and the purchase of low-emission vehicles for public transport.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Author: Managing Authority of the Integrated Regional Operational Programme

The evaluation was carried out until June 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/analyza-absorpnci-kapacity-2019>

Evaluation of integrated instruments under the IROP

interim report

Integrated instruments institutionalised ties in the territory

Support from the integrated instruments contributes to the interconnection of individual stakeholders in the territory



IROP projects supported by integrated instruments (IN) are more often interconnected than projects supported individually.



The benefits of IN include the opportunity to agree on common priorities and approach and exchange of experiences.



The interconnected projects are best implemented in the social field and in transport.



In future, IN should support investments in public spaces or maintaining water in the landscape.

THE EVALUATION AIMED TO FIND OUT IN WHICH AREAS THE BENEFITS OF INTEGRATED INSTRUMENTS ARE THE GREATEST AND WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE THE MOST SUITABLE. THE MAIN CONTRIBUTION IS INDIRECT AND LIES IN ESTABLISHING COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONALISING LINKS BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TERRITORY.

Main preliminary recommendations

- Managing Authority should not introduce new measures to increase the integration of projects in the territory. With the growing interconnectedness of stakeholders in the territory, a greater number of integrated solutions will be found automatically.
- It is necessary to ensure a uniform methodological environment across operational programmes, at least by unification of methodological guidelines.
- Calls for follow-up projects (e.g. social projects of OP Emp and the IROP infrastructure projects) should be time-linked.
- Building permits for relevant projects should already exist at the time of strategy preparation. However, this obligation should only apply to a part of the allocated funds.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Evaluation Advisory CE s.r.o

The evaluation was carried out until September 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, case studies, focus groups

The entire evaluation report will be available in the Evaluation Library after the evaluation is completed.

Operational Programme

Environment



Chapter contents:

- Evaluation of Integrated Instruments of the Territorial Dimension (ITI/CLLD)

Evaluation of Integrated Instruments of the Territorial Dimension (ITI/CLLD)

Local action groups and ITI agglomerations successfully implement OP Envi projects, but they are hampered by complicated processes

Integrated instruments of a territorial dimension could better meet the needs of the territory



LAG representatives would prefer a wider range of measures suitable for CLLD (e.g. drought control and waste management).



ITI holders would appreciate consultations on ITI activities and the determination of the allocation according to the needs.



The administrative burden on the LAG and the MA/IB is significant and cause errors in processes.



Preparation and approval of integrated strategy slows down implementation of ITI and CLLD due to its extensive nature.

THE EVALUATION WAS FOCUSED ON ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUS FUNCTIONING OF INTEGRATED INSTRUMENTS AND ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF METHODOLOGICAL AND PROCESS SETTINGS. A GREATER FOCUS ON LOCAL NEEDS AND LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS WOULD HELP TO A GREATER CONTRIBUTION OF THESE INSTRUMENTS.

Main recommendations

- CLLD rules should be unified in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development and other MAs, where appropriate.
- The approval of integrated strategies and project evaluation should be adapted and simplified in order to eliminate duplicities and reduce administrative burden.
- Appropriate measures for the implementation of the ITI should be discussed with the ITI holders so that the factual targeting of the calls corresponds to the real needs of the territory (e.g. greenery in cities).
- Within the individual OPs, it should be possible to implement the ITI after the approval of the integrated strategy in order to reduce the time demands for the entire process.

Contracting authority: Ministry of the Environment

Author: Department of Monitoring and Evaluation of EU Funds, Ministry of the Environment

The evaluation was carried out until August 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Vyhodnoceni-integrovanych-nastroju-uzemni-dimenze>

Operational Programme **Prague - the Growth Pole of the Czech Republic**



Chapter contents:

- Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in priority axis 4
- Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in priority axis 2
- Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in priority axes 3 and 5

Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in PA 4

Education, training and employment support

The support of education, training and employment is in line with the objectives set

In Priority Axis 4, there is over-fulfilment and non-fulfilment of individual indicators



For many indicators, a significant over-fulfilment of the total value can be expected, which has been occurring already.



The managing authority does not hold analytical knowledge about the original setting of indicator values.



Possible non-fulfilment was identified for only two indicators.



Results of the evaluation are affected by absence of input from key stakeholders who did not participate in focus groups.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE SETTING OF THE OP PGP PRIORITY AXIS 4 INDICATOR SYSTEM BASED ON ANALYSIS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF SETTING THE TARGET VALUES OF INDICATORS. THE LEVEL OF ASSURANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDICATOR VALUES VARIES, FROM SIGNIFICANT OVER-FULFILMENT TO THE THREAT OF NON-FULFILMENT.

Contracting authority: Capital of Prague

Contractor: BDO Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out until January 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, focus groups

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ad-hoc-evaluace-nastaveni-cilovych-hodnot-indi-\(1\)](https://dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ad-hoc-evaluace-nastaveni-cilovych-hodnot-indi-(1))

Main recommendations

- To set the target values of the indicators, it is necessary to clearly determine the time period for evaluation (e.g. status for the target year, cumulative sum for the individual years). For indicators on children placed in preschool facilities and childcare facilities, the MA should consider the benefits of taking over statistics from the Czech Statistical Office for reasons of transparency. The target value of the indicator for the number of organizations with increased inclusiveness should be increased, at least to the value already reached.
- The target value of the indicator for the number of new childcare facilities for children under 3 years of age should be increased, at least to the value already reached.

Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in PA 2

Sustainable mobility and energy savings

The promotion of sustainable mobility and energy savings is in line with the goals set

The fulfilment of the target values of the indicators is uneven in PA 2, there is over-fulfilment and non-fulfilment



The non-fulfilment of indicators results from insufficient absorption capacity.



The non-fulfilment of indicators is influenced, among other things, by delays in construction proceedings.



The activities were prepared without relevant background studies and the setting of target values was underestimated.



In the preparation, the indicator of reduction of energy consumption in facilities for transport infrastructure was omitted.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE SETTING OF THE OP PGP PRIORITY AXIS 2 INDICATOR SYSTEM BASED ON ANALYSIS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF SETTING THE TARGET VALUES OF INDICATORS. THE LEVEL OF ASSURANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDICATOR VALUES VARIES, FROM SIGNIFICANT OVER-FULFILMENT TO THE THREAT OF NON-FULFILMENT.

Contracting authority: Capital of Prague

Contractor: PROCES – Centrum pro rozvoj obcí a regionů, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by December 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, semi-structured interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ad-hoc-evaluace-nastaveni-cilovych-hodnot-indi-\(2\)](https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ad-hoc-evaluace-nastaveni-cilovych-hodnot-indi-(2))

Main recommendations

- The fulfilment of the indicator “Reduction of annual energy consumption in public buildings” can be compensated by the increased fulfilment of the indicator “Reduction of annual energy consumption in transport infrastructure facilities”, as replacement of energy saving sources is involved.
- The target value for the indicator “Number of new buildings using renewable energy sources” should be reduced, as it is unlikely to be increased too much.
- Smart building indicators should be reduced as they are less than one third full.
- Indicators in the field of public transport should be increased, as they can be expected to be over-fulfilled.

Evaluation of the setting of target values of selected indicators in PA 3 and 5

Support of social inclusion and technical assistance

The promotion of social inclusion and technical assistance are carried out in accordance with the objectives set

The degree of certainty of the development in the fulfilment of indicators varies and in some cases, it cannot be predicted



There were no analyses quantifying the need for community centres in order to set target values.



A number of target values of indicators were evaluated as unrealistic and ineffective.



Achieving the target value is limited by external impacts for some indicators.



Meeting some indicators would require absolute majority of allocation in the given specific objective, which is unrealistic.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE SETTING OF THE OP PGP PRIORITY AXIS 3 AND 5 INDICATOR SYSTEM BASED ON ANALYSIS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF SETTING TARGET VALUES OF INDICATORS. THE LEVEL OF ASSURANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN ACHIEVEMENT OF INDICATOR VALUES VARIES, FROM SIGNIFICANT OVERFULFILMENT TO THE THREAT OF NON-FULFILMENT.

Contracting authority: Capital of Prague

Contractor: BDO Advisory, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by December 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, focus groups

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Ad-hoc-evaluace-Nastaveni-cilovych-hodnot-indika>

Main recommendations

- Indicators on social housing should have a lower target value for reasons of efficiency linked to the method of determining their value and definition.
- The target value of the indicator "Capacity of services and social work" exceeds the identified need and should therefore be reduced. It is recommended to move a part of the target value of the indicator "Number of supported facilities for services and social work" to the indicator "Number of supported facilities within community and integration activities".
- For reasons of effectiveness, the need to reduce the target value of the indicator "Total number of participants" was identified.

Rural Development Programme



Chapter contents:

- Mid-term evaluation - March 2019
- Sixth interim evaluation report - September 2019
- Seventh interim evaluation report - March 2020

Mid-term evaluation

March 2019

Rural Development Programme improves the economic performance of all agricultural holdings

Rural Development Programme contributes to the modernization of agricultural holdings and the entry of young farmers into the sector and strengthens biodiversity



The highest progress in investment measures is achieved by operation 4.3.2 Forestry infrastructure (39.4%).



The highest progress in area measures (63.3%) is achieved by drawing on measures to support organic farming.



The RDP contributes to the diversification of agricultural activities.



Local Development Support Projects (LEADER) have a low implementation rate due to delays in approval by LAG.

THE EVALUATION SUMMARISES FINANCIAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS OF THE RDP IMPLEMENTATION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018. PROGRESS IN MEASURES FOR ORGANIC FARMING AND MODERNISATION OF ENTERPRISES IS POSITIVELY VIEWED. ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN SOME PROCESSES AND TARGETING INDIVIDUAL MEASURES.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Agriculture

Contractors: Naviga 4, s.r.o. and EVALUATION ADVISORY CE, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by March 2019.

Evaluation methods: data mining, sector analysis, counterfactual analysis, questionnaire surveys, case studies, individual interviews

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zpracovani-odpovedi-na-hodnotici-otazky-vztazene-k>

Main recommendations

- The implementation of some managements of agro-environment-climate measures and organic farming should be improved.
- Operations focusing on environmental and anti-erosion measures should be given more support.
- Projects creating new jobs should be given a extra points and at the same time the target values of this indicator should be reduced.
- Additional analyses could further qualitatively examine the effect of RDP environmental measures, especially in the area of nitrate emissions and biodiversity.

Sixth interim evaluation report

September 2019

Rural Development Programme continues to play its role in support of biodiversity and organic farming

Agro-environmental-climate measures are implemented from the RDP budget



As part of environmental measures, the highest progress has been made in drawing in the field of organic farming (77.6%).



A significant year-on-year increase was recorded in forest protection measures.



1,058 young farmers started their activities through a business plan.



There has been little implementation progress in investments to promote renewable energy sources and cooperation.

THE EVALUATION SUMMARISES THE FINANCIAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS OF THE RDP IMPLEMENTATION AS OF 30 JUNE 2019. PROGRESS IN MEASURES ON ORGANIC FARMING AND MODERNISATION OF ENTERPRISES IS ASSESSED POSITIVELY. ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN SOME PROCESSES AND TARGETTING INDIVIDUAL MEASURES.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Agriculture

Contractors: Naviga 4, s.r.o. and EVALUATION ADVISORY CE, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by September 2019.

Evaluation methods: data mining, sector analysis, counterfactual analysis, questionnaire surveys, case studies, individual interviews.

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Sesta-prubezna-zprava-ohodnoceni-zari-2019>

Main recommendations

- It is necessary to assess the sustainability of fulfilment of some measures (e.g. M01 Knowledge transfer and information actions and M16 Cooperation) and to support their absorption capacity.
- For indicators for environmental and anti-erosion measures, a revision of the target values in the land improvement operation should be considered.
- Projects contributing to the creation of new jobs should receive extra points.

Seventh interim evaluation report

March 2020

Rural Development Programme improves the structure of forest roads and promotes biodiversity

Rural Development Programme contributes to the modernisation of agricultural holdings, which could be enhanced by increased involvement in educational activities



At the end of 2019, 8 rounds of calls were announced under the Rural Development Programme.



The highest growth rate is recorded in the Forest-Environmental and Climate Services and Forest Protection measures.



The drawing of the RDP as at 31 December 2019 represents 60.7% of the total allocation.



Numbers of participants in education events (except for the priority area Young Farmers) show low implementation progress.

THE EVALUATION SUMMARISES THE FINANCIAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS OF THE RDP IMPLEMENTATION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019. PROGRESS IN MEASURES FOR ORGANIC FARMING AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT FOR THE YOUNG FARMERS START-UPS ARE VIEWED POSITIVELY.

Main recommendations

- The promotion of funding opportunities for training activities among farm workers and farm managers should be strengthened.
- Criteria should be clearly set and subsequently assessed to find out whether the relevant management is contributing to the maintenance/improvement of biodiversity.
- For measures to improve the structure of forest roads, it should be possible to implement comprehensive projects of greater length
- (Currently, mostly implemented projects are those with a path length of hundreds of meters or a few kilometres).

Contracting authority: Ministry of Agriculture

Contractors: Naviga 4, s.r.o. and EVALUATION ADVISORY CE, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by March 2020.

Evaluation methods: data mining, sector analysis, counterfactual analysis, questionnaire surveys, case studies, individual interviews.

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/sedma-prubezna-zprava-o-hodnoceni-brezen-2020>

Operational Programme Fisheries



Chapter contents:

- Ongoing evaluation of the OP Fisheries

Ongoing evaluation of the OP Fisheries in 2019

OP Fisheries contributes to maintaining competitive and economically viable traditional aquaculture

Process analysis and analysis of substantive progress provided recommendations for improvement of the OP Fisheries



In terms of processes, the OP Fisheries is evaluated positively.



The degree of contribution of projects to the reduction of energy intensity of technological processes in aquaculture varies.



OP Fisheries contributes to increased nature and landscape protection by strengthening biodiversity in aquaculture.



The supported companies show weak developments in improving management and strategic processes.

THE EVALUATION FOCUSED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF PROCESSES TOGETHER WITH SUBSTANTIVE AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT INCLUDES THE EVALUATION OF HORIZONTAL THEMES AND THE CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING THE OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE RELEVANT STRATEGIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE EU.

Main recommendations

- All information for applicants and beneficiaries should be concentrated in one place and should be clearly arranged.
- The administrative complexity of project management should be revised and forms should be simplified.
- Communication should focus in particular on information sources that are mostly used by applicants.
- Projects aimed at modernizing aquaculture enterprises through innovation should be given more support.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Agriculture

Contractor: IREAS centrum, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out in 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, data mining, questionnaire survey, individual and group interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Prubezne-hodnoceni-OP-Rybarstvi-v-roce-2019>

INTERREG V-A Czech Republic-Poland



Chapter contents:

- Process evaluation of the Interreg V-A Czech Republic-Poland
- Verification of changes in the development priorities of the Interreg V-A Czech Republic-Poland programme
- Evaluation of communication activities
- Evaluation of the benefits of the Microprojects Fund

Process evaluation of the Interreg V-A Czech Republic-Poland programme

The complexity of the processes hinders more efficient administration and greater attractiveness for applicants and beneficiaries

Setup of some parameters for cross-border projects contributes to a higher administrative burden



The documentation is extensive, it is difficult for applicants and beneficiaries to find their way around it.



The administrative control process should be simplified overall.



The monitoring system is not user-friendly enough.



Simplified reporting methods should be used in projects.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSES OF THE CZECH-POLISH COOPERATION PROGRAMME. THE FOCUS SHOULD BE PLACED IN PARTICULAR ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN AND AWARENESS OF APPLICANTS AND BENEFICIARIES ON PROJECTS AND MICROPROJECTS.

Main recommendations for future implementation

- Simplification of the project description or more detailed instructions with specific examples for applicants could increase the quality of projects.
- The checklists should be revised in order to eliminate duplicities, irrelevant issues and optimise the filling in the monitoring system.
- Setting up partial budget flexibility (e.g. 10%) could reduce the number of change requests and the associated level of administrative burden.
- Applicants and beneficiaries should be better informed about supporting instructional videos.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out in 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, semi-structured interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-hodnoceni-nastaveni-implementacni-struktu>

Assessment of changes in development priorities

Czech-Polish cooperation contributes to the development of regions on both sides of the border

The programme and its objectives are a relevant instrument for addressing the needs and developing the potential of the territory



The main common problems are migration, unemployment, infrastructure and limited capacity for action.



The main common opportunities are the development of tourism and the increase of regional mobility.



The intervention logic of the programme contributes to solving all the main problems.



The operational programme has links to IROP and OP Emp and there are complementarities in joint risk management.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED MACROECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAMME PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES WITH REGARD TO IDENTIFIED NEEDS. THE PROGRAMME IS GENERALLY VIEWED POSITIVELY, HOWEVER THERE IS A SPACE TO DEEPEN COOPERATION TO UTILISE COMMON OPPORTUNITIES.

Recommendations for more effective programme targeting

- The tourism potential of the programme area should be maximised by destination management and marketing.
- The programme should support intensive cooperation between schools and companies with an emphasis on the importance of Industry 4.0 and the attractiveness of technical fields.
- Cross-border cooperation could also be developed to support innovation, the introduction of new technologies and applied research.
- Under Priority Axis 3 (Education and Qualifications), the process of preparing a call and submitting applications should be streamlined.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractors: KPMG CR and NAVIGA 4

The evaluation was carried out in 2019.

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/overeni-zmen-rozvojovych-potreb-programu-ii>

Evaluation of communication activities

The communication activities of the Czech-Polish cooperation programme should be more unified and interconnected

The presentation of cross-border cooperation should be more attractive and targeted



The Czech-Polish cooperation is, with a few exceptions, perceived positively.



An interactive project map should be a key activity for raising awareness on the impact of the programme.



Awareness of the existence of the Czech-Polish cooperation has increased, especially among potential beneficiaries of subsidies.



The programme does not use the full potential of communication tools within its publicity activities.

THE MAIN AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO ASSESS EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES, INSTRUMENTS AND CHANNELS OF THE PROGRAMME. IN THE NEXT PERIOD, COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE BETTER TARGETTED FOR BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME COOPERATION AND EVALUATED IN TERMS OF IMPACTS.

Recommendations for the upcoming years

- The communication strategy should include an assessment of the real impacts of the communication activities with the use of appropriate indicators.
- There should be a methodology for targetted communication, including visual identity manual and examples of good practice.
- Specific projects should be included in the interactive project map and divided according to thematic focus.
- Projects with quality publicity activities should be given more support, as should networking of potential partners.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractor: PROCES – Centrum pro rozvoj obcí a regionů, s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: desk research, analysis of statistical data, semi-structured and group interviews

The evaluation was carried out in the period from February to April 2019.

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/hodnoceni-efektivita-komunikacnich-aktivit-pro-1>

Evaluation of the benefits of the Microprojects Fund

The Microprojects Fund is viewed as beneficial for the Czech-Polish cooperation

Microprojects are perceived positively, but high level of administrative burden is a problem



Narrower stipulated rules are more suitable for the Czech and Polish environment.



Complications are different administrative divisions and the impossibility of cooperation across Euroregions.



Targeting support should take into account the needs of the individual Euroregions.



Long-term sustainability is influenced by type of entities (interest organisations vs. authorities) that implement microprojects.

THE EVALUATION ASSESSED THE CONTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT MICROPROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE CURRENT PROGRAMMING PERIOD AND THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF INVESTMENT AND COMMUNITY MICROPROJECTS IN THE 2007-2013 PERIOD.

Recommendations for increasing benefits and sustainability

- Existing typology of supported activities (investment and community microprojects) should be maintained, and at the same time innovative projects could also be included.
- Support for the removal of the language barrier could lead to developing more effectively working and personal relationships among children and adults on both sides of the border.
- Administrative simplification could attract innovative microprojects and increase overall interest in the Fund among potential beneficiaries.
- Microprojects should be accurate, realistic and with verifiable objectives, which should be mandatorily monitored, e.g. in the form of counterfactual evaluation of selected calls.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Author: Martin Nekola (evaluuj.cz)

The evaluation was carried out in the period from July to December 2018.

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews, questionnaire survey

The entire evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/posouzeni-udrzitelnosti-a-kontextu-prinosu-mikropr>



Operational Programme Technical Assistance

**Chapter contents:**

- Evaluation of the monitoring system
- Evaluation of technical assistance settings under the Partnership Agreement

Evaluation of the monitoring system

The MS2014+ monitoring system is robust and shows only partial shortcomings in user-unfriendliness

The evaluation examining the monitoring system from a technical and user point of view brought important findings for the next period



The evaluated functionalities and the system are robust and comprehensive and as a whole meet the needs of end users.



Collection system for the development requests and defect/incident reporting is functional and meets the defined needs.



The data and document archiving system can be improved to make it more efficient.



From the user's point of view, the system appears to be stable and internally consistent.

THE EVALUATION WAS FOCUSED ON OBTAINING A COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE MS2014+ SYSTEM. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO IDENTIFY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING MS2014+ USER-FRIENDLINESS AND DECREASING ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS.

Main findings and recommendations

- It is necessary to check the identified technical and functional deficiencies listed for modules in controls, public procurement, indicator systems and, if necessary, correct them.
- The bottleneck in one of the parts of the system that causes problems with downloading and uploading files has to be identified.
- Within the enhancement of development and operation management processes, it is necessary to focus on setting communication rules, methodological discipline of users, utilization of human resources, access to requirements specification, and use of knowledge base.
- Problems related to navigation (intuitiveness), system response, upload, asynchronous operations and controls can be identified as the main elements of user-unfriendliness.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractors: Evaluation Advisory CE, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by September 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-prioritni-osy-2-\(evaluace-monitorovaciho](https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-prioritni-osy-2-(evaluace-monitorovaciho)

Evaluation of technical assistance settings under the Partnership Agreement

The setup of technical assistance in this programming period is appropriate

Technical assistance projects could use simplified reporting methods to reduce administrative burden



The general definition of technical assistance activities does not tie the hands in financing the necessary expenditures.



Technical assistance is by its nature suitable for the use of some of the methods of simplified cost reporting.



The current setup can lead to excessive administrative burden and inefficient capacity management.



The most suitable option seems to be to use a flat rate over personal expenses, which would cover all other expenses.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SETTING UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE NEXT PROGRAMMING PERIOD. THE SUBJECT OF EVALUATION WAS BOTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGH OP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER OTHER OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

Main findings and recommendations

- Problem areas are mainly related to settings of roles and responsibilities, expenditure control settings and project structure.
- Application of the simplified reporting method in OPTA and in other operational programmes should help with streamlining the number and focus of technical assistance projects.
- In terms of reducing administrative costs, the option of using one-off payments for technical assistance linked to the result has the greatest potential impact. However, this is an untested method in the Czech environment and in technical assistance, so the application would have to be well justified and verified in advance with the audit authority and possibly also the EC.

Contracting authority: Ministry for Regional Development

Contractors: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.

The evaluation was carried out by October 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual interviews, focus groups with key stakeholders

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://dotaceeu.cz/Evropske-fondy-v-CR/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/Evaluace/Knihovna-evaluaci/Evaluace-prioritni-osy-1>

Main findings from evaluations of European institutions



Chapter contents:

- European Parliament: Analysis of cohesion policy measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- European Commission (TC 8): Evaluation of the Support for employment and job mobility
- European Commission (TC 9): Evaluation of the Support for social inclusion, the fight against poverty and discrimination
- European Commission (TC 10): Evaluation of the Support for education and vocational training

Analysis of cohesion policy measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Cohesion policy measures in response to a pandemic help alleviate the most pressing problems

Cohesion policy programmes are being adjusted accordingly



So far, the measures are a missed opportunity to accelerate structural changes.



New instruments could overshadow cohesion policy, leading to unnecessary competition.



Short-term investments are prioritized over strategic long-term investments.



Currently, the measures strengthen the role of central authorities, which poses a risk of increasing regional disparities.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ANALYSIS WAS TO CREATE AN OVERVIEW OF COHESION POLICY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE ANALYSIS ALSO PROVIDES RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ADJUST THESE MEASURES IN ORDER THAT IT WORKS NOT ONLY AS SHORT-TERM AID BUT ALSO AS ACCELERATORS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES.

Main recommendations

- Strategic orientation, multi-level governance and intensive cooperation can help make the support more effective.
- Cooperation across policy sectors, levels of government and local clusters is needed to create and shape action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cohesion policy should pay special attention to the integration of cross-border regions and approaches to increase resilience to situations where borders could be closed.
- There is a need for a strategic division of labour between cohesion policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Contracting authority: Committee on Regional Policy, European Parliament

Contractor: Spatial Forecast

The evaluation was carried out by October 2020.

Evaluation methods: desk research, individual interviews

The full evaluation report is available here:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU\(2020\)652216](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2020)652216)

Evaluation of the support for employment and job mobility

It is essential to support specific target groups and adapt operations to the labour market

Support from the European Social Fund should be adapted to the labour markets of the Member States and prepared in close cooperation with partners



In the period 2014–2018, the EU and Czechia spent EUR 633.3 million from the ESF to support employment and job mobility.



Across the EU, support has been more effective for women and less effective for people over the age of 54.



As a result, 223,376 participations in employment and job mobility activities was carried out in our country.



The combination of support from the ESF and the state budget can increase the sustainability of programmes.

ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY IS TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF PERSONS AGED 20-64 TO AT LEAST 75% BY 2020. THIS EVALUATION ASSESSED SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) THROUGH THEMATIC OBJECTIVE 8 IN ALL MEMBER STATES IN THE 2014-2018 PERIOD.

Main recommendations

- Effectiveness of the support is greatest where it is tailored to labour market demands. This requires close cooperation with partners, especially during the preparation phase of calls and projects.
- Support is most effective for people who are either well qualified or, on the other hand, have a greater disadvantage.
- Where possible, it is recommended to involve the target groups, for example in the context of social enterprises, and to use the "learning by doing" method instead of formal training.
- The provision of childcare services is essential for the involvement of women in job search, especially in economically disadvantaged areas.

Contracting authority: General Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Contractors: Metis, FGB, Applica and Ockham

The evaluation was carried out by April 2020.

Evaluation methods: public consultation, case studies, interviews, focus groups, counterfactual analysis, RHOMOLO simulation, synthesis of Member States' evaluation reports

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8330&furtherPubs=yes>

Evaluation of the support for social inclusion, the fight against poverty and discrimination

Providing personalised support to participants is essential to meet their needs

Personalised support for participants is costly and requires more intensive training of support providers



In the 2014-2018 period, the EU and Czechia jointly spent a total of EUR 217 million on investments for social inclusion from the ESF.



In this period, 4,270 migrants and members of ethnic minorities, including the Roma, were supported in Czechia.



A total of 41,000 people in Czechia took part in social inclusion activities.



Simplified cost reporting has the potential to increase absorption and reduce administrative burden.

THE AIM OF THE EVALUATION WAS TO ASSESS THE OUTCOMES ACHIEVED ACROSS THE EU UNDER THEMATIC OBJECTIVE 9 UNTIL THE END OF 2018 AND TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEGOTIATION OF ESF PROGRAMMES. THE EVALUATION ALSO AIMED TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR EX-POST EVALUATION, WHICH IS TO BE PREPARED BY DECEMBER 2024.

Main recommendations

- More inclusive partnerships and information strategies support the recruitment of participants, leading to greater relevance of the intervention. Cross-sectoral partnerships facilitate effective cooperation with the target group.
- A participatory approach to the design and implementation of social inclusion interventions can also improve the delivery of support.
- Direct communication through interaction platforms can promote awareness of ESF support and the use of ESF support among potential beneficiaries.
- The evaluation of soft results should be built into the framework of monitoring and evaluation of social inclusion operations.

Contracting authority: General Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Contractors: ICF, Cambridge Econometrics and Eurocentre

The evaluation was carried out by October 2020.

Evaluation methods: interviews and focus groups with the managing authorities of the EU Member States, public consultation, case studies, cost-benefit analysis, and the Delphi method at EU level

The full evaluation report is available here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8350&furtherPubs=yes>

Evaluation of the support for education and vocational training

Czechia has good results within the EU in the area of early school leaving

In Czechia, there are large differences between individual regions and there is a high proportion of early school leavers, especially among Roma pupils



By the end of 2018, more than EUR 1 bn had been allocated to operations in Czechia and 32,327 participations were recorded.



The participation rate of adults in education and training in Czechia is lower than the EU average (8.5% vs. 11.1% in 2018).



The lack of teachers due to low attractiveness and low salaries has an impact on the quality and inclusiveness of education.



The rate of tertiary education attained in Czechia increased to 33.7% in 2018, but is still lower than the EU average (40.7%).

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT ESF PROGRAMMING PERIOD, THE COMMISSION IS IMPLEMENTING EVALUATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND FOR EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROVIDED THROUGH THE THEMATIC OBJECTIVE 10. THIS EVALUATION ASSESSED THE STATE OF AID IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL THE END OF 2018.

Main findings and recommendations

- Local, regional and national authorities should play a central role in the implementation of projects (especially in the case of early school leaving).
- Strong coordination and involvement of local and regional stakeholders can help with tailoring programmes to the specific needs of participants.
- Providing intensive and targeted support to people is particularly desirable in the case of early school leaving and lifelong learning.
- The participation of local stakeholders (municipalities, regions, school management, teachers, parents) is one of the most important success of stakeholders.

Contracting authority: General Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Authors: Ecorys, Ismeri

The evaluation was carried out by July 2020.

Evaluation methods: public consultation, twenty case studies, interviews, focus groups, cost-benefit analysis and synthesis of Member States' evaluation reports

The full evaluation report is available here:

Celá evaluační zpráva je k dispozici zde:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8346&furtherPubs=yes>



www.DotaceEU.cz/evaluace