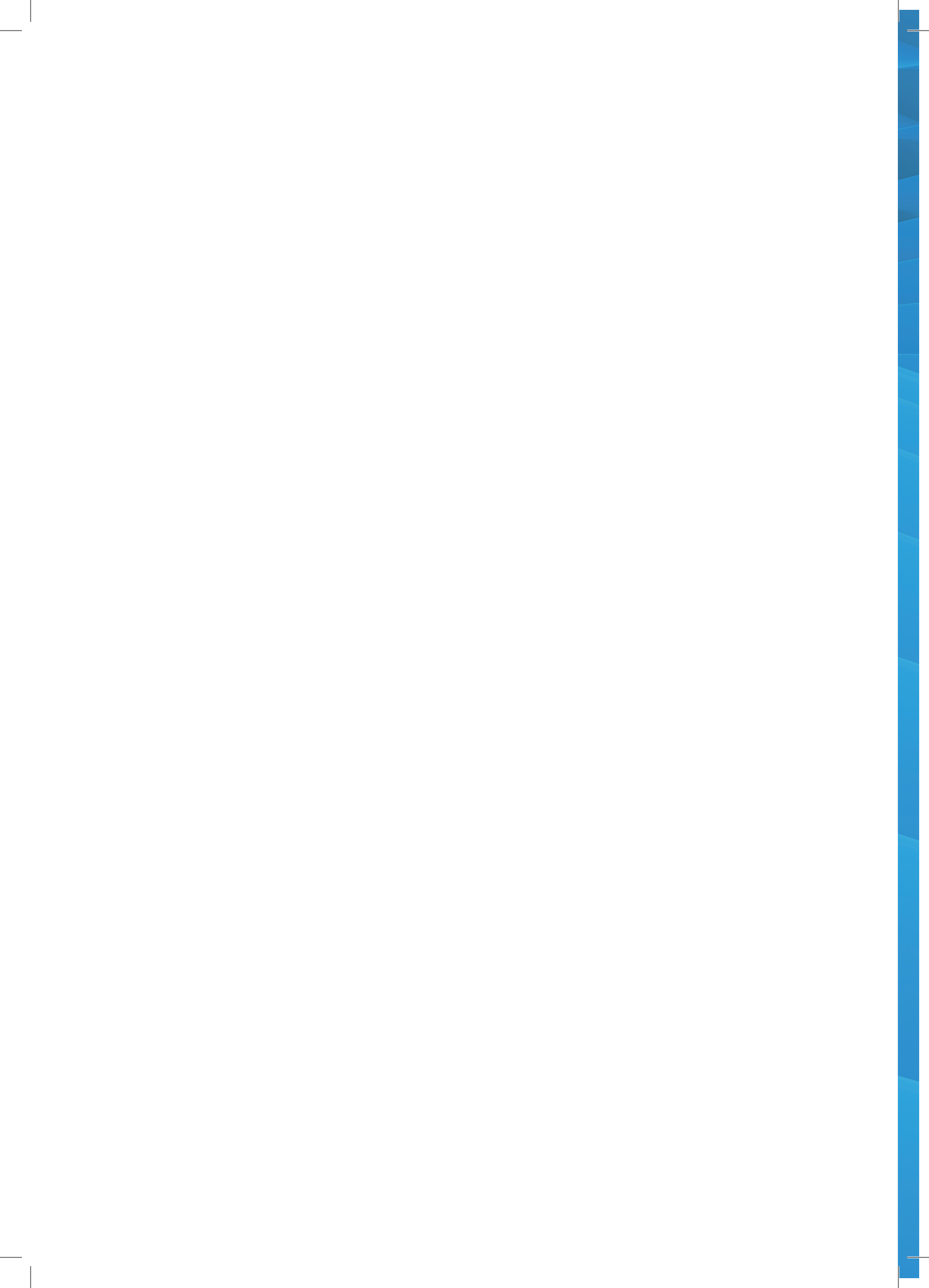




SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

Published in

2022



SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

RESULTS OF SELECTED
EVALUATIONS RELATED TO
EU FUNDS, PUBLISHED IN 2022

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Introduction

This publication seeks to present to you the main outputs of evaluation activities in the area of EU funds in Czechia, carried out from October 2021 to August 2022.

You can use it as a practical signpost for looking up specific evaluation outputs.

Complete versions of evaluation reports and other outputs can be found in the Evaluation Library.

The publication is divided into three parts.

- The first part deals with evaluations carried out by the Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Regional Development - National Coordination Authority (MoRD-NCA).
- The second part of the publication discusses evaluations carried out by the evaluation units of managing authorities (MAs) of operational programmes.
- The third part summarizes the results of interesting analyses by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and evaluations by the European Commission: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

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Main findings from evaluations of the MoRD-NCA Evaluation Unit



The MoRD-NCA Evaluation Unit acts as a national coordinator of evaluations in the area of European funds. It carries out evaluations that cut across programmes or focus on key themes that are related to the national level of the EU fund absorption.

Chapter content:

- Analysis of ESIF measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic - final report
- Assessment of public awareness of the topics of EU funds 2021
- Result evaluation of the benefits of European funds at the regional level
 - Report for the South Moravian Region
 - Report for the Hradec Králové Region
 - Report for the Liberec Region
 - Report for the Olomouc Region
 - Report for the Central Bohemian Region
 - Report for the Vysočina Region
- Thematic result evaluation of the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020
 - Interim report for Thematic Objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communications technologies
 - Interim report for Thematic Objective 5: Supporting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Analysis of ESIF measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic - final report

Overall, the selected types of support were appropriate. However, the risk was a too long rescue phase of general, untargeted support at the expense of investments in the restructuring of the economy.



The positive effect of the analysed anti-crisis programmes cannot be unequivocally confirmed statistically (so far). A statistically significant effect of the support on survival of the supported enterprises and preservation of employment was not identified.



The reasons for this inconclusive result are mainly the short time elapsed from the analysis and the short period during which the effect was measured. The general trend that can be observed is the increasing share of small and micro-enterprises in the total number of supported entities.



The general trend that can be observed is the increasing share of small and micro-enterprises in the total number of supported entities.



It can also be observed that, over time, there is a significant increase in the share of natural persons at the expense of legal entities.



The support was provided across the board, it was not directed to the most affected sectors at a significantly higher extent.



Overall, the types of support selected for the rescue phase of the crisis were appropriate. In general, anti-crisis programmes contributed to softening the shock of the pandemic crisis - there was not a wave of bankruptcies and layoffs in the economy as a whole.

GOAL IS TO EVALUATE THE SUPPORT CO-FINANCED FROM THE ESI FUNDS, PROVIDED TO ELIMINATE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Recommendations:

- In the rescue phase, it is necessary to provide unconditional support across the board with sufficient capacity, as quickly as possible.
- In the recovery phase, i.e. after the decline in the performance of the affected companies has stopped and/or the restrictions have been lifted, it is important to target the instruments at the affected sectors.
- In the recovery phase, the support should be conditional (for example, on maintaining employment) and reflect the pre-crisis financial health of the recipient.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

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

Implementation: December 2020 - February 2022

Evaluation methods: Counterfactual impact analysis, questionnaire survey, desk research, expert panel

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/analyza-opatreni-reagujicich-na-pandemii-covid-19>

Assessment of public awareness of the topics of EU funds 2021

Half of the respondents have a positive attitude towards EU funds, a third are neutral and the rest (17%) have a negative attitude.



The benefits of European funds (for Czech population, for the region or for personal life) are rated better than in the previous period.



There was also a significant decrease in the awareness of a specific project that is financed by EU funds. At least some project comes to mind for 45% of respondents, which is 23 p.p. less than in the previous survey.



Information about EU funds is perceived as available by 29% of the respondents, which is a decrease by 10 pp compared to the previous survey from August 2020.



The confidence in the use of aid from EU funds is not very high. Almost 60% of respondents believe that the money is not used transparently. Only a fifth of respondents are convinced of the opposite.

TO IDENTIFY PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE TOPICS OF EU FUNDS IN 2021 AND TO OBTAIN DATA FOR DETERMINING THE CURRENT VALUES OF RELEVANT PUBLICITY INDICATORS.

Recommendations:

- In general, we recommend focusing on regional and local activities to support specific projects implemented in a given region or place, in the form of, for example, city celebrations, festivals, exhibitions in squares or town halls, open days, etc.
- It is the most sensible to focus on the Working Optimists segment with a targeted online communication campaign, covering topics of education, environment or infrastructure.
- The appropriate timing of the campaign would be summer and the campaign should connect MoRD activities with events associated with the Czech Presidency of the EU Council.
- Although the press did not do very well in the competition of more significant media in the quantitative research, the demonstrations during the discussion groups revealed that advertising in this type of media is not disturbing, the respondents notice it and it is suitable for EU funds.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

Supplier: STEM/MARK, a.s.

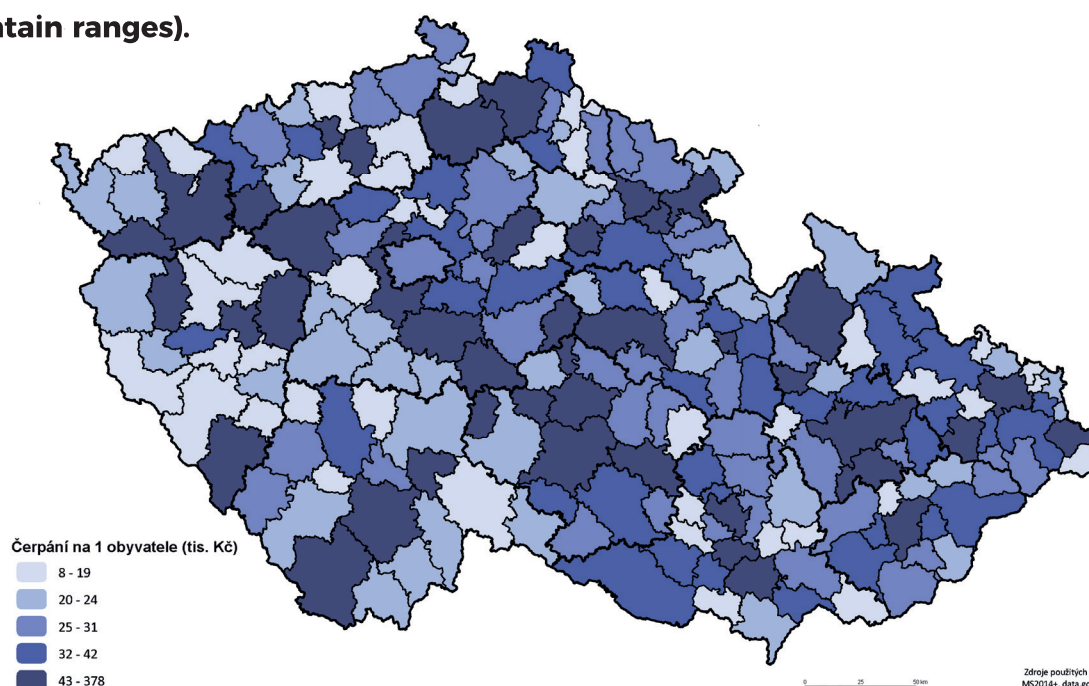
Implementation date: 2021 (data collection: 08.12. – 13.12.2021)

Methods of data collection: CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing), Focus groups

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/hodnoceni-povedomi-verejnosti-o-problematice-fondu>

Result evaluation of the benefits of EU funds at regional level

There are disparities among regions in the absorption of EU funds. The funds are directed primarily to: (i) core areas with significant concentrations of population and economy (Prague agglomeration, regional capitals and their hinterland and other regional centres), (ii) structurally affected areas (Ostrava, Karlovy Vary, Liberec districts), (iii) environmentally attractive regions (Krkonoše, Jeseníky, Beskydy mountain ranges).



TO EVALUATE

SELECTED OBJECTIVES OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHIA AND THE BENEFITS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL.

Key findings:

- The municipality with the most funds per capita (CZK 378,000) receives 40 times more funds than the municipality with the least funds (CZK 8,000).
- 73% of funds go to developed regions, 23% to stabilized areas and 4% to peripheral areas.
- The highest number of projects are implemented in the Central Bohemian, South Moravian and Moravian-Silesian Regions, while the lowest number is in the Pilsen and Karlovy Vary Regions.
- Integrated instruments were used unevenly across territorial units and 5% of the funds were absorbed through them.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

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

Implementation date: 2021 (data collection: 08.12. – 13.12.2021)

Data collection methods: desk research, focus groups, in-depth interviews, questionnaire surveys, advanced statistical methods (CIE, DiD, regression)

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-evaluace-prinosu-evropskych-fondu-na-re>

Results of EU fund support in the South Moravian Region

Thanks to EU funds, Brno is becoming an important technological and research centre in Czechia.



47,844 inhabitants are better protected against floods, the risk of flooding affects 177,000 inhabitants in the South Moravian Region.



9,050 students use a new or modernized university infrastructure, the quality of education has increased for every fifth student.



2,521 persons got a job in a supported enterprise, i.e. more than a quarter of the positions created in Czechia thanks to EU funds.



5,191 tonnes of waste can newly be recycled, the average resident of the South Moravian Region sorts 34.8 kg of waste per year.

Brno and the surrounding areas have managed to build an innovation ecosystem using the European funds. The significant effect of this funding can be seen both in the increasing number of researchers in the region and in the expanding cooperation between companies and research institutions. The projects also contributed to improving the interconnection of public transport between Brno and its suburban areas. New tram lines, new parking spaces were added and the vehicle fleet was modernized.

EU funds helped the citizens of Šlapanice to improve their environment. The financed remediation work rid the former paper mill in Šlapanice of its environmental burden and the premises will be used as a new community centre with elements of public services.

Results

- Thanks to EU funds, it was possible to improve the competitiveness of businesses and thereby increase the employment of the population.
- Half of the funds were directed to Brno, helping it to further develop its important position as a technological and research centre of Czechia.
- The connection of public transport to the suburban areas of Brno was improved and sustainable mobility, especially cycle paths, was developed.
- The repair of the main monuments, such as the Lednice-Valtice area, was also important for the region.
- The development of the region was most significantly boosted by the OP Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP EIC) (CZK 18.6 billion) and the OP Transport (CZK 15.8 billion), i.e. half of the funds (51%). This was due to the preferences of the region. The area of transport was a priority for the region, above all ensuring public transport service for Brno and the suburban areas. Another strong priority was business, where the region focused on the development of competitiveness and innovation.

Results of EU fund support in the Hradec Králové Region

The Hradec Králové Region is better accessible thanks to the new section of the D11 motorway financed by EU funds.



5,162 households reduced their heating emissions.



6,469 tonnes of waste can now be recycled, so each citizen can increase the volume of sorted waste by 11.7 kg per year, i.e. by 20%.



40,886 children, pupils and students have access to higher quality education, out of 104,716 children, pupils and students who entered the 2021/2022 school year in the region.



65 territorial documents drawn up in 16 towns, the documents cover more than a third of the area of the region and will, among other things, accelerate the building permit procedure.

An important project for the territory was the completion of the D11 motorway, which improved the accessibility of Hradec Králové, facilitated the commuting of local residents to work, and made the location more attractive for young families.

Several transport terminals were also built in the region. The one in Jaroměř is particularly significant, as it improved the interconnection of public transport in the region. The terminal has been or is used by 77% of the town's residents.

Thanks to EU funds, the region is managing to reduce the volume of municipal waste, the projects increased the recycling capacity by 20%, thereby reducing the municipal waste by 12,000 tonnes annually.

Key findings:

- Without EU funds, some strategic objectives of the region would not be achieved. The funds played a key role in improving education, roads and public transport and the environment by reducing emissions, connecting households to sewers and treatment plants and increasing waste recycling.
- Thanks to the new terminal in Jaroměř, public transport connections in the region have improved and the terminal's surroundings have been revitalized. A central place was created where passengers can transfer between different types of public transport.
- On the contrary, social inequalities within the region have not been reduced or tourism was not supported sufficiently.
- The support in the excluded locality of the Josefov fortress was only symbolic.
- The most important programme for the region was the Integrated Regional OP, the largest project modernised the emergency admission department of the Hradec Králové University Hospital.

Results of EU fund support in the Liberec Region

Subsidies from European Union funds for the development of research and development and support for researchers prevented their further outflow from the Liberec Region.



Citizens save 8,653 hours a year in road transport in the Liberec Region.



94 thousand GJ/year of energy will be saved by households, an equivalent of the annual consumption of almost 1,500 apartments.



1,780 tonnes of waste can be recycled thanks to the new sorting containers, the average citizen of the Liberec Region produces 308 kg of waste annually.



4,341 Roma children were supported thanks to improving the quality of education in supported organizations.

An important project in the region was the establishment of a business incubator that stimulated cooperation between the university and the business sector and plays a significant role in supporting start-ups.

Textile industry is also returning to the Liberec area thanks to EU funds. The result of the support of the technical textile cluster is the introduction of new technologies. The projects help to complete the results of research work and to convert them into real products.

Key findings:

- In the Liberec Region, the main supported areas were science, research and education, while the development of civil society had to be financed from municipal budgets.
- Although transport was one of the region's priorities, the quality of roads or the connection of the region to other regions were not notably improved.
- The largest part of EU funds was directed to the regional capital and its surroundings. The least support was received by four municipalities with extended powers, characterized as economically and socially vulnerable areas.
- For example, 2% of the EU funding in the region went to the municipality of Tanvald. This can be due to the size of the municipality or its ability to prepare and administer projects.

Results of EU fund support in the Olomouc Region

The Olomouc Region significantly developed its scientific and research potential and improved the condition of cultural monuments.



17 thousand persons were supported by the activities of the active employment policy. The effect of the activities on the general rate of unemployment in the region was not proven.



123 km of roads were newly built, upgraded or modernized, which is 2% of the total length (of 6 thousand km) the road network in the region.



128 jobs in R&D were created thanks to EU fund support, the increase in R&D workers supported from EU funds accounts for almost half of the total increase in the number of R&D workers in the region.

In the Olomouc region, EU funds significantly contributed to the support of research and development (R&D) and had a significant effect on increasing the number of researchers. Workers supported by EU funds make up almost a half of the total increase in the number of workers in the region. R&D was significantly supported in the Palacký University Olomouc where several scientific centres were established.

Changes are also seen in cultural heritage and tourism, namely in the Štemberk Castle, the Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary on the pilgrimage site of Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill) near Olomouc, or the Helfštýn Castle. The last mentioned received two nominations for the Building of the Year in the reconstruction category.

On the contrary, the EU funds did not reach, for example, the Konice area that is the inner periphery of the region. One of the reasons may be the fact that the area is omitted in the region's strategic documents.

Key findings:

- In Olomouc and its surroundings, the field of science and research is significantly developed with EU funds. A major role in this is played by the Palacký University that is based in Olomouc.
- Thanks to this area, but also to the funds used to complete the D1 motorway, the southern part of the region absorbed more funds than the northern part. The northern part includes structurally affected areas that lag behind in absorption, their development is slower than in other parts of the region.
- The highest contributions came from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) and OP EIC and, compared to other regions, OP Environment and OP Research and Development for Education (OP RDE) were also a significant source of funds.

Results of EU fund support in the Central Bohemian Region

Thanks to EU funds, the public transport connection of the Central Bohemian Region to Prague was completed. The safety of the transport was also upgraded.



14 thousand households replaced solid fuel boilers with a more eco-friendly option, which is the equivalent of a larger town that now has more environment-friendly heating.



43.7 km of roads were newly built or upgraded/modernized, but considering the density of the road network in the region, these are negligible benefits.



174 social housing apartments were created thanks to the support of EU funds.



59 thousand children have access to higher quality education, that is almost 60% of the 133 thousand children attending primary school in the region in the 2019-2020 school year.

The biggest benefit for the citizens of this region was the successful completion of the integration of public transport and its connection to Prague. The European funds contributed to building a number of P+R parking lots and transport terminals that helped to make travel faster, safer and smoother. The projects also helped to increase the number of researchers and modernize research facilities in the region, thus promoting research and development.

The town of Mladá Boleslav used the subsidies for measures to increase the feeling of security in connection with the influx of agency workers. Smart traffic lights built in the city and its surroundings improved the traffic flow and the negative impact of road traffic on the environment has been reduced and traffic safety has increased.

Key findings:

- Absorption in the region is influenced by the implementation of infrastructure projects from OP Transport and IROP. The topic of transport was a priority for the region, so the projects focused on the upgrade of roads and bridge repairs, as well as on the integration of public transport (construction of parking lots, development of public transport).
- Another important supported area was the R&D sector. The funds were directed to the surroundings of Prague where research organizations or their detached facilities (e.g. National Institute of Mental Health, or some institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences) are located.
- The less developed areas of the region still lag behind in the use of the funds, the disparities between the developed areas and the periphery of the region, especially its southern edge, are not improving significantly.

Results of EU fund support in the Vysočina Region

The results of EU funds in the Vysočina Region showed that the largest support went to transport.



35 thousand children have access to higher quality education, that is almost 88% of the 40 thousand children attending nursery and primary school in the region.



116 km of roads were newly built, upgraded or modernized, which is 2% of the total length (5 thousand km) of the road network in the region.



2 thousand households achieved a better energy consumption classification.



58 facilities of social services were supported.

Vysočina is currently the best absorbing region in the Czech Republic. The EU funds here were mostly directed to the development of transport in the region, specifically to the reconstruction of the D1 motorway.

Furthermore, EU funds significantly contributed to the transformation of municipalities, their infrastructure was improved, and their civic amenities enhanced.

On the contrary, support for research and innovation is not very successful in the region, and the outflow of young people continues. One of the reasons may be the fact that the region lacks higher education.

Key findings:

- The Vysočina Region is the most supported region, its absorption per capita as of January 2022 ranks first among the regions. In total, CZK 30 billion has been spent in the region so far.
- This result is largely due to infrastructure projects on the reconstruction of the D1 motorway.
- IROP and OP Transport contributed most significantly to the development of the region. OP Emp and OP RDE were used minimally compared to other regions.
- The least funds were directed to the peripheral areas of the region. Specifically, the Pelhřimov area and the municipality with extended powers of Moravské Budějovice.

Results for Thematic Objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT Thematic result evaluation of the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

EU funds contributed to better access of citizens to digital state services and increased resilience of hospitals to cyber threats. The expansion of high-speed internet, on the other hand, will not meet the expected goals.



641 acquired information systems, 52 data centres for the digitisation of processes in enterprises



2,423 upgraded or new cybersecurity features



410 public administration services offered through the Citizen Portal



0 households covered by internet access from ESIF (in 2Q/2022)

GOAL: TO EVALUATE THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR 2014-2020. DIGITISATION IS ADVANCING BUT IT IS DIFFICULT, AND IN SOME CASES IMPOSSIBLE, TO IDENTIFY THE EFFECT OF ESIF ON KEY CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS DUE TO LIMITED MEASURABILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF DATA.

Key findings:

- Thanks to the ESIF funding, the creation of ICT solutions and services was strengthened.
- ESIF have not yet contributed to the development of high-speed internet.
- The progress in eGovernment development is only partial.
- The public administration was only partially equipped to ensure cyber security.
- Despite the progress achieved, the Czech Republic's access to ICT has deteriorated in international comparison. Also with the help of ESIF, a more significant progress can be observed in the equipment of enterprises with company information systems.
- The absence of ESIF funding would significantly burden the state budget and the budgets of regions and municipalities.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

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

Implementation: December 2020 – February 2022

Evaluation methods: Counterfactual impact analysis, questionnaire survey, desk research, expert panel

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-tematicka-evaluace-dohody-o-partnerstvi>

Results for Thematic Objective 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management Thematic result evaluation of the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

EU funds contribute to strengthening climate change resilience, support adaptation to the change and risk prevention.



Establishment and revitalization of residential greenery - 8% of all green areas in a sample of 50 towns supported



612 municipalities with a digital flood plan



10-15% of all contaminated sites remediated since 2010 with ESIF contribution



252,027 people protected against floods as a result of preventive measures



209,458 ha – the total area of supported remediated sites



148 new and upgraded buildings and 357 new vehicles and equipment for the Integrated Rescue System

Goal: ESIF contribute to strengthening some adaptive capacities in urban areas, but this support is not comprehensive enough. The support also contributes to strengthening flood preparedness and significantly accelerates the process of remediation of old environmental burdens. The support was very beneficial for strengthening the readiness of the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) components, but in the future it is necessary to focus it more on new risks and threats and to strengthen a more conceptual approach in this sense.

Key findings:

- In supporting the adaptability of towns, the ESIF still do not reach the potential set out in the Adaptation Strategy of the Czech Republic. The support contributes to speeding up the remediation of old environmental burdens and strengthening flood preparedness.
- The number of people at risk of floods is decreasing overall, but with the intensity of support it decreases more slowly or even increases in some localities.
- The support from ESIF has significantly improved the IRS readiness in terms of equipment with vehicles and the quality of the facilities of the IRS components
- In a sample of 50 towns that received support, ESIF investments contributed to the development or restoration of up to 8.5% of all green areas in the built-up parts of the towns.
- The absence of ESIF funding for this area would significantly burden the state budget and the budgets of regions and municipalities.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Supplier: Ernst & Young, s.r.o., subcontractor Naviga AE, s.r.o.
Implementation date: January to August 2022

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, in-depth interviews, case studies, expert assessment, descriptive statistics, Analysis using Sequential Difference in Difference (SEQDD)

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-tematicka-evaluace-dohody-o-partnerstvi>

Operational Programme **Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness**



Chapter content:

- Evaluation of the operation of OP EIC financial instruments

Evaluation of the operation of OP EIC financial instruments

Financial instruments are an effective tool that generates added value.



The Expansion programme aims to support the access of projects with higher risk and/or companies with a riskier portfolio to investment financing and their development. This goal is being successfully delivered, the programme will achieve the expected results in terms of the number of enterprises that will receive support other than grants.



The support provided usually made it possible to implement development investments earlier or more comprehensively than it would have been possible in the absence of the support.



The main added value of the used financial instruments (FIs) is seen primarily in the effectiveness of the funds spent, and also in the fact that it is possible to directly analyse the effect of the support, i.e. the impact of the funds provided.

GOAL: TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTS OF THE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES UNDER THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS 2014–2020 (OP EIC), WHICH ARE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS. THE EVALUATED SUPPORT PROGRAMMES WERE EXPANSION AND VENTURE CAPITAL IN SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1 OF OP EIC, AND ALSO PARTIALLY THE ENERGY SAVINGS SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.2.

Recommendations:

- On the basis of the above findings, it is proposed to maintain FIs for business development and significantly strengthen them in the programming period 2021-2027.
- In addition to the considered main types of FIs (loans, guarantees, capital inputs), it is appropriate to consider their possible combinations, including combinations with subsidy support.
- When choosing a specific type of suitable instrument, the assessment of the riskiness of the investment and the duration of the company's operation should also be taken into consideration in addition to the justification of using the suitable financial instrument based on an analysed market failure.
- FIs should be strengthened in general, at the expense of subsidy support. Support in the form of FIs provides entrepreneurs with greater flexibility and speed and timeliness of support compared to the standard mechanism of subsidy support.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade
Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: counterfactual impact analysis, individual interviews, case studies, expert panel, desk research, questionnaire surveys
The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-pusobeni-financnich-nastroju-op-pik-zaver>

Operational Programme

Research, Development and Education



Chapter content:

- Evaluation of projects for nursery and primary schools, after-school centres / school clubs, leisure centres and basic art schools with simplified cost options
- Evaluation of individual system projects supported by Priority Axis 3 of OP RDE-II
- Evaluation of the "SYPO" system project - interim report 2
- Evaluation of completed research stays (as of August 2021) in calls
- Evaluation of call Building capacities for the development of schools II (02_16_032)
- Final evaluation report for individual system project (IPs) Modernization of Vocational Education (MVE)
- Final evaluation report for IPs Supporting Teachers' Work (STW)
- Final evaluation report for IPs CzechElib

Evaluation of projects for nursery and primary schools, after-school centres / school clubs, leisure centres and basic art schools with simplified cost options

The significant contribution of the templates was seen especially in the improved conditions for the education of pupils with special educational needs and in the use of ICT in education.



The vast majority of schools and educational establishments consider the project beneficial, the range of activities sufficient and their composition in the project optimal.



Activities in the area of personnel support were evaluated particularly positively. The presence of positions created through the personnel support in schools is very welcome, both for the reasons of professional help and approach to children and pupils, as well as of providing administrative and organizational help to the teachers themselves.



The results of the evaluation show that "Support of social and civic skills" is the best rated area for nursery and primary schools in all three waves of the survey.



For nursery schools, the worst rated area in all three waves of the survey is "Polytechnic education" and for primary schools "Digital competences of teaching staff".

GOAL: TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS IN SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTED THROUGH SIMPLIFIED PROJECTS.

Recommendations:

- Some respondents found the subsidy insufficient for the purchase of laptops of adequate quality.
- Problems were found, in some cases, in the high qualification requirements for some positions (school assistant and social pedagogue) with regard to their lower remuneration.
- A problem for many schools and educational establishments was that the methodological rules of the templates changed during the implementation of the project or that some issues were not covered in the templates at all, which complicated the work for the implementers.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Processed internally by the Evaluations Unit (Unit 449)

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vysledkova-evaluace-op-vvv-vyhodnoceni-projektu-ms>

Evaluation of individual system projects supported from PA 3 of OP RDE-II (STW)

Respondents gained inspiration, identified trends and opportunities for self-development in reading, mathematical and digital literacy and got access to quality methodological materials for introducing literacies into teaching.



The respondents see the most beneficial outputs in the publications with ideas for activities in basic literacies for each level of education, the transformation of the user environment on the Methodological Portal for Framework Educational Programmes (personalization of services, greater possibility of collections), the realization of mini-conferences of expert panels and the final conference of the project.



Beyond the scope of the original project, a collection of activities called "27 ideas for the development of reading, digital and mathematical literacy in lower primary school" was prepared in cooperation with teacher training students at the Faculty of Education, Charles University (Department of Primary Education) who created it as part of their seminars.



The evaluator evaluates the beneficiary's activities in the field of cooperation with other relevant projects as above-standard, even exemplary for other projects.

GOAL: TO CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT "SUPPORTING TEACHERS' WORK", INCLUDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS GOALS, AND EVALUATE THE COMPLIANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS WITH THE SETTING SPECIFIED IN THE AID APPLICATION.

Recommendations: :

- The sustainability of the outputs of the STW project is ensured. However, in order to ensure that these outputs are also actively used by the target groups, the evaluator recommends carrying out activities promoting further use of the outputs (e.g. PR activities).
- During the implementation of the project, a community of schools and teaching staff with a similar mindset and enthusiasm for literacy development was created. These schools are expected to continue their cooperation, which needs to be sustained and developed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) and by the National Pedagogical Institute.
- In the future, better cooperation of projects should be set up so that they better complement each other - for example, preparing the aid applications so that the activities are better interlinked.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Implementation period: the MVE and STW projects were evaluated between 2018 and 2022

Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: in-depth interviews, participant observation

The evaluation outputs are available here: [https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/4-prubezna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2021](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/4-prubezna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2021)

Evaluation of the system project **System of Support for Professional Development of Teachers and Headmasters** - 2nd interim report

The cabinets (professional teacher platforms or communities) are evaluated positively and help to create sufficient space for the professional growth of teachers.



According to members of the cabinets, the main benefits of building a network of such platforms from the national to the local level include support for teachers based on their needs, a wide range of activities, the possibility of cooperation and the sharing of information and experience.



The respondents also appreciate that the newly built network will contribute to the transfer of ideas from the field to MEYS.



The cabinets also contribute to the promotion of new and innovative learning methods, to the development of the ability to use modern teaching methods and trends, to the support of the use of modern teaching aids or to the dissemination and sharing of the latest knowledge in the subject-specific didactics.

GOAL: TO QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY EVALUATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT “SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND HEADMASTERS” (“SYPO”) ACHIEVES THE SET GOALS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPTUAL SOLUTION, AND TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION FROM PRACTICE INTO THE SYSTEM SOLUTION AND BACK.

Recommendations:

- Due to the delay in the implementation of key activity Quality, it is necessary to focus on its implementation in order to deliver the planned outputs and so meet the expected goals of the activity.
- Participants in the SYPO project activities, and especially the cabinets, consider it important to ensure that the activities are continued even after the end of the project, in order to maintain the support for teachers and school management.
- The surveys have revealed that in some regions/areas there is less interest in the involvement of pedagogues in regional and local methodological cabinets. The members of the methodological cabinets should, therefore, be supported in an effort to involve other members in the project.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Supplier: Deloitte Advisory, s.r.o.

Implementation date: 2019/2020 to 2023 (The final evaluation report will be drawn up in the next round. The deadline for it is 31 August 2023.)

Evaluation methods: desk research, meta-evaluation, individual interviews, questionnaire survey

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-ips-po-3-op-vvv-iii-evaluace-systemoveho>

Evaluation of completed research stays (as of August 2021)

The projects of research stays are successful, they primarily help to foster human resources for research and development and to support the internationalization of research organizations.



Among the most frequently mentioned problems are: cutting of units for less experienced researchers, lack of support for the target university, or in the case of the outgoing junior, support of a mentor, as well as quality setting of correction coefficients for the mobility of researchers.



According to the beneficiaries, the interest of researchers depends mainly on the quality of the research organization, the possibility to develop one's own research, financial remuneration, work team and the family situation.



The benefit in the form of professional growth of researchers and better opportunities of future employment is the most appreciated. The improvement of the quality of research and cooperation of Czech research organizations, i.e. grant beneficiaries, with international institutions, is also mentioned.



The new setting of Horizon Europe, limiting the support of postdoctoral researchers, is not considered by most institutions to be a major problem.

GOAL: TO EVALUATE THE COMPLETED PROJECTS OF THREE CALLS INTENDED TO SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS (AS OF AUGUST 2021).

Recommendations:

- There is room for improvement in the communication between the researcher and the beneficiary regarding the possibilities of the aid, and in the grant management of the aid beneficiary in the area of mobility of researchers.
- It is advisable to update the correction coefficients so that they correspond more closely to the current situation, including the cost of living in the various countries, and reflect the setting of minimum standards in foreign research organizations.
- Another recommendation is supporting the international mobility of researchers (ideally including technical staff) through Operational Programme Johannes Amos Comenius (OP JAC).

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Supplier: internal Evaluations Unit (Unit 449)

Implementation date: Data were collected through a questionnaire from 9 to 23 November 2021.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey, desk research

The evaluation outputs are available here: [https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vyhodnoceni-ukoncenyh-vyzkumnych-pobytu-\(k-srpnu](https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/vyhodnoceni-ukoncenyh-vyzkumnych-pobytu-(k-srpnu)

Evaluation of call Building capacities for the development of schools II (02_16_032)

Projects networking specific actors have the potential to influence the transformation of the content, methods and forms of education and reduce inequalities in the education system.



Projects are innovative (by using new attractive methods) and can also be successful in disseminating good practice.



The programmes/teaching sets have positive effects on increasing the competences of children/pupils, deepening the competences of teaching staff or representatives of non-formal education.



More than half of the projects in the call are linking formal and non-formal education, in this activity the evaluation results are the most telling.



The programmes can be beneficial to individuals as well as institutions, cooperation is described as based on "learning communities".

GOAL: TO HELP UTILISE THE EXPERIENCE FROM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, MAIN BENEFITS, LIMITATIONS/BARRIERS AND RESULTS OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS. TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON OP RDE INTERVENTIONS PRIMARILY SO AS TO BETTER TARGET THE FOLLOW-UP OP JAC.

Recommendations (selection):

- Targeted promotion, raising awareness of/ training in the benefits and positive effects the created programmes.
- Promoting a variable use of the created programmes "tailored to the needs of specific users and environments" in the programmes.
- As regards formative assessment and competences for democratic culture, it is advisable to promote and spread awareness of them among the public, especially parents and pupils.
- Paying increased attention to programme output requirements; communicating and consulting the requirements for programme outputs with representatives of the professional public and beneficiaries.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Processed internally by the Evaluations Unit (Unit 449)

Evaluation methods: desk research, analysis of primary and secondary data sources, questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews
The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://opvvv.msmt.cz/balicek-dokumentu/zprava-z-hodnoceni-vyzvy-budovani-kapacit-pro-rozvoj-skol-ii-c-02-16-032-bk-ii-op-vvv.htm>

Final evaluation report for individual system project Modernization of Vocational Education (MVE)

All outputs of key activities in the project, set out in the aid application, were successfully completed and all indicator values were fully achieved.



50% of respondents apply the new knowledge in practice.



More than 81% of pedagogues use the results of the projects in their teaching or when editing learning texts and workbooks.

GOAL: TO GET FEEDBACK ON THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT, PROGRESS AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT TO THE GOALS OF THE PROJECT, ITS RISKS, AND THE QUALITY OF THE OUTPUTS SO THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO INITIATE PREVENTIVE OR CORRECTIVE MEASURES.

Key findings:

- The effectiveness of the transfer of experience between schools and other actors - approximately half of the respondents apply the gained knowledge in practice. Educators involved in the project also reported a high degree of application.
- Risks and barriers - respondents stated that the biggest barrier that can affect the successful application of the project outputs in practice is the low interest or reluctance of the actors (educators, headmasters and other school representatives).
- National Qualifications Framework - the results of the survey among teaching staff showed that more than half use the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and find it useful. Approximately 24% of respondents use NQF and perceive it as rather useful.
- The benefit and usability of the outputs and activities of the project - the involved pedagogues saw the greatest benefit in the proposal for planning, organization and evaluation of practical teaching.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Implementation date: October 2018 - March 2022

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, census, group / individual interviews, case studies, participant observation

The evaluation outputs are available here: [https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zaverecna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2022](https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zaverecna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2022)

Final evaluation report on IPs Supporting Teachers' Work (STW)

All outputs of key activities in the project, set out in the aid application, were successfully completed and all indicator values were fully achieved.



Through the project, MEYS obtained a comprehensive view of the impact of the concept of literacies on the formulation of the expected learning outcomes, and view of the processes of planning and implementation of teaching in schools. It now plans to work with an Overview Study. The outputs related to literacies are planned to be used in the revision of the framework educational programme.



The spontaneous emergence of a community of pedagogues (or schools) who are interested in the development of basic literacies, spread it and communicate informally even after the end of the project is very positive.



The project also had unintended effects. First of all, it strengthened ties between educators and other participants in the project, it connected information systems through the output Strategic Management and Planning in Schools and Territories, and established a community of schools.

GOAL: TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT, CONTINUOUS, RELEVANT AND MANAGERIALLY USEFUL FEEDBACK TO THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY THROUGH OUTPUTS SUCH AS INTERIM REPORTS/ FINAL REPORT (USUALLY AT THE LEVEL OF TARGET GROUPS AND ACTORS OF THE PROJECT) AS REGARDS THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT, PROGRESS AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT TO THE PROJECT GOALS. THANKS TO THE EVALUATOR'S OUTPUTS, THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY RISK SITUATIONS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT, THE QUALITY OF THE OUTPUTS, AND WAS ABLE TO INITIATE PREVENTIVE OR CORRECTIVE MEASURES.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Implementation date: October 2018 - March 2022

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, census, group / individual interviews, case studies, participant observation

The evaluation outputs are available here: [https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zaverecna-zprava-\(mov-a-ppuc\)-2022](https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zaverecna-zprava-(mov-a-ppuc)-2022)

Final evaluation report of IPs CzechELib

In the national context, the project was perceived as an efficient and effective tool for providing services for the R&D&I sector.



Administrative savings were confirmed by 91% of respondents in the survey.



95% of institutions reported that the project reduced the fragmentation of accessing EIR.



54% of respondents said that the costs of electronic information resources (EIR) are lower for them thanks to the CzechELib project.



GOAL: TO CONTINUOUSLY QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND IDENTIFY TO WHAT EXTENT THE EVALUATED PROJECT ACHIEVES ITS GOALS. TO PROVIDE THE OP RDE MA AND THE IPS IMPLEMENTER WITH FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CZECHELIB PROJECT.

The access to EIR has been centralized (EIR are professional licensed resources for science, research and teaching):

- CzechELib replaced several concurrent projects and consortia from the previous period.
- That increased the transparency and economy of accessing the EIR.
- The project enabled greater centralization and simplification of communication with foreign publishers in Czechia.
- The benefit of the project was unification of the previously fragmented system in which each publisher had one partner.
- The newly established single partner representing Czechia now has a greater negotiating power.

Unintended effects of the project:

- Financial savings: EIR prices were negotiated lower than originally planned, and the implementation team managed to keep the prices unchanged or only slightly increased year on year. Savings made it possible to reduce the project budget and use the funds in other projects.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

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

Implementation date: October 2017 - May 2022

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

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-czechelib-zaverecna-zprava>



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



Chapter content:

- Evaluation of the communication strategy and information and communication measures of OP PGP
- Evaluation of activities focusing on pupils with a different mother tongue under SO 4.2 of OP PGP - Call 54
- Evaluation of social entrepreneurship projects
- Evaluation of projects on social housing apartments

Evaluation of the communication strategy and information and communication measures of OP PGP

An appropriate way of presenting the results of the programme appears to be the presentation of specific implemented projects and their benefits.



During all 10 survey waves, a specific project in Prague supported by European funds came to mind for 26% of the respondents on average (the average was 29% in 2019, 20% in 2020 and 30% in 2021).



Communication towards the professional public is perceived significantly better in terms of intensity and comprehensibility compared to communication towards the general public. The assessment of the project improves with increasing experience with project implementation.



The surveys show that communication to the general public is very weak and this group has only a basic awareness of the existence but not of the content.



As regards the tested communication tools (e.g. bulletin, project maps), the professional public perceived negatively that text prevails over images and infographics.

GOAL: TO OPTIMIZE THE COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OP PGP AND TO PROPOSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES.

Recommendations:

- From the point of view of the expectations of the target groups and the possibilities of effective targeting, the next communication should be implemented primarily online, supplemented by the press media. Both of these tools make it possible to present successful projects, communicate enough details and at the same time target either the general or professional public.
- The communication should clearly differentiate the content and form of communication for the professional and the general public. As regards the professional public and the possibilities of targeting the various tools, it is appropriate to use online communication.
- The presentations of projects should reduce the density of information, break down texts more clearly and significantly increase the use of photos and images, especially for the general public.

Contracting authority: The City of Prague

Implementation: The evaluation was carried out from 24 April 2019 to 12 April 2022

Supplier: 2C Analytics, s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: questionnaire survey, individual interviews, focus groups

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-komunikacni-strategie-a-informacnich-a-ko>

Evaluation of activities focusing on pupils with a different mother tongue

The openness and positive attitude of the teacher influences the attitude of other pupils towards pupils with a different mother tongue.



According to the statements of teachers and parents, the interventions helped to create a friendlier and safer climate in the school, which helped the children to better cope with the demands of schools and kindergartens, it led to a faster active involvement of children and pupils with DMT in learning and facilitated the inclusion of children with DMT in the classroom.



Respondents mentioned positive effects of working with DMT children on other people from their surroundings, such as: easing the burden on teachers, passing on knowledge and experience in the wider family of the pupil with DMT, improvement in a foreign language for non-DMT pupils and facilitating and improving communication between the school and the parents of DMT children.



Teachers report that schools that actively work on a friendly and good school and classroom climate, and whose teachers are friendly towards children with DMT, are very successful in integrating DMT children into class groups. The openness and positive attitude of the teacher influences the attitude of other pupils towards DMT pupils.

GOAL: TO EVALUATE THE BENEFITS OF INCLUSIVE PROJECTS FOCUSED ON THE INTEGRATION OF PUPILS WITH A DIFFERENT MOTHER TONGUE (DMT) SUPPORTED IN CALL 54 UNDER SO 4.2 OF OP PGP.

Recommendations:

- Developing systemic support for children with DMT, whether in terms of financing, methodology or coordination mechanisms at the level of MEYS, regions and individual schools.
- A methodology for appropriate ways of working with DMT children would provide educators with a guide as to the appropriate steps and activities that help the children to improve both their language competences and self-confidence and support their integration into the group and mainstream culture.
- Not excluding DMT children from the group, on the contrary, working with the whole class as one team and providing individual support to pupils with DMT within the class.

Contracting authority: The City of Prague

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

The evaluation was carried out from December 2020 to August 2021.

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews, focus groups, questionnaire surveys, case studies

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/ad-hoc-evaluace-evaluace-aktivit-v-ramci-sc-1-2>

Evaluation of social entrepreneurship projects

Employees from the target group believe that their self-confidence has increased thanks to being employed in a social enterprise, as it is often their first permanent job.



Representatives of the target group, who want to work, face a number of obstacles caused by prejudice or discrimination, for example based on age.



The social enterprises that participated in the case studies believe that their sustainability is possible but not easy. The goal is to be as little dependent on external funding as possible, but this is often difficult.



In general, the evaluation shows that the projects hardest to sustain in the long term are projects where it is not clear at the beginning whether the target group will be interested in the services - for example, web applications for sharing, buying or selling products of the users.



Although one of the goals of a social enterprise should be to increase competences leading to a better position on the labour market, most social enterprises seek to create permanent jobs with low employee turnover.

GOAL: TO IDENTIFY THE IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON THE TARGET GROUPS, PRIMARILY THROUGH SIX CASE STUDIES. THE CASE STUDIES ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY A SUMMARY IN THE FORM OF A MULTI-CASE STUDY AND AN ANALYSIS OF FACTORS SUPPORTING OR LIMITING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (AFTER THE END OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT).

Recommendations:

- Focusing already during the project on the long-term sustainability of the enterprise and clearly state whether the goal is to support an innovative business plan that may not catch on, or long-term jobs for people from the target group.
- Targeting the support at the most vulnerable target groups who, due to a combination of risk factors or a serious disability, are expected to always have very limited options of employment in the standard labour market.
- Supporting employers in employing persons over 50 years of age and persons with disabilities.

Contracting authority: The City of Prague

Implementation: 1 May 2021 to 18 March 2022

Supplier: SocioFactor, s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews, focus groups, questionnaire surveys, case studies

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-socialniho-podnikani>

Evaluation of projects on social housing apartments

Most of the interviewed households consider the biggest change in their lives to be the improvement of their psychological well-being.



For some households, thanks to the social housing, their family and social relations have improved. For example, the households could host more frequent visits by family members and friends, but also the family relations within the households improved.



The second most positive aspect of the projects was the possibility of housing households that needed it the most. Their accommodation would not have been possible if the project had not financed the building repairs.



All the city districts that implemented the project appreciated the most the possibility of repairing the housing stock using the European funds. Without them, the city districts would not be able to afford the refurbishment.



Some of the households also perceive the gradual return of self-confidence as a big change. This concerned not only adults but also children. One of the changes that often occurred in children was their increased interest in studying.

GOAL: TO CARRY OUT CASE STUDIES FOR SIX SUPPORTED SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS AND TO EVALUATE THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS OF THE SUPPORTED SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS FOR THE TARGET GROUPS.

Recommendations:

- Loss of housing is one of the aspects that social/affordable housing should prevent. It is therefore important to establish support mechanisms that will prevent the loss of housing for households from the target groups. Social work with the households appears to be the most appropriate support mechanism.
- The positive impact of social housing on the households is multiplied if the housed households cooperate with other non-profit organizations or foundations. Such a form of cooperation proved to be important especially in households with children.
- Better communication between the various project implementers and sharing examples of good practice could help implementers little experienced in social housing to improve the quality of their social housing system.

Contracting authority: The City of Prague

Implementation: 1 May 2021 to 18 March 2022

Supplier: SocioFactor, s.r.o.

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-projektu-bytu-socialniho-bydleni>



Operational Programme **Employment**

**Chapter content:**

- Case studies and evaluation of projects supported in Call 130 of OP Emp, intended to support the implementation of gender audit recommendations
- Evaluation of Calls 61, 62
- Verification of the benefits of Housing First projects for the housed people - a qualitative survey
- Case studies of projects in the call Support of the Housing First Programme

Case studies and evaluation of projects supported in Call 130 of OP Emp, intended to support the implementation of gender audit recommendations

The projects raised awareness of equal opportunity topics among employees, and in some organizations, employers became comprehensively familiar for the first time with the content of gender issues in the workplace.



In organizations, the respondents saw the greatest benefits of the projects in the training of middle management in the area of evaluating and providing feedback to employees, in improving the system of benefits and remuneration, and in a positive approach to the individual needs of employees.



Employees best evaluated the possibility of using flexible forms of working arrangements for parents on parental leave and the possibility of working from home.



A significant impact of the evaluated projects was an increased awareness of equal opportunities among employees, improved working conditions for employees in the area of care and support of their needs.



Some evaluated organizations have integrated a system of prevention and reporting of inappropriate behaviour into their organizational structure.

GOAL: TO CRITICALLY ASSESS THE CONTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS FROM CALL 130, IMPLEMENTED AT DIFFERENT TYPES OF EMPLOYERS (COMPANIES OF DIFFERENT SIZES, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS), IN EIGHT CASE STUDIES.

Recommendations:

- Supporting employers in providing training activities on the subject of equal opportunities, especially those aimed at the group of middle and senior management.
- Promoting continuous cooperation of employers with external gender experts in the implementation of equal opportunities in the workplace.
- Setting up the position of coordinator of equal opportunities in organizations interested in a continuous development of equal opportunities.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Implementation: October 2021 to September 2022 (conclusions and recommendations are based on the interim report)

Supplier: INESAN (Institute of Evaluations and Social Analysis)

Evaluation methods: in-depth interviews, questionnaire surveys, desk research, case studies

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/zpracovani-pripadovych-studii-a-vyhodnoceni-projek>

Evaluation of competitive projects in Calls 61 and 62 of OP Employment

(Promoting equality between women and men)

The analysed projects focused almost exclusively on women (almost 99 percent), most often economically inactive between the ages of 30 and 39.



The average length of support was 25 days (200 hours)



Approximately one in seven people supported by the project gained employment

GOAL: TO EVALUATE DATA FROM THE ESF 2014+ INFORMATION SYSTEM ON PARTICIPANTS IN PROJECTS AIMED AT REDUCING GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE LABOUR MARKET (CALLS 61 AND 62).

Key findings:

- The participants consisted mainly of persons with upper secondary education, with lower secondary education (apprenticeship) or with post-secondary education. University-educated persons were represented in 31%, i.e. 12 percentage points more than their share in the population of women over 15 years of age in the Czech Republic. People with primary education made up 14 percent.
- According to the analysed data, half of the participants received support exceeding two weeks (at least 115 hours). The average total duration of support per person, excluding non-subsidized employment, was 25 days (200 hours).
- Those with higher education more often entered support in the form of training, but their training lasted a shorter time on average than that of others. Approximately one third of the supported persons received professional training (retraining) of at least 80 hours.
- Approximately one in seven supported persons obtained a job as part of the project - most often they were unemployed or students (more than a fifth of persons from these categories). Half of them received employment for more than 5 months when converted to a full-time job.
- Approximately one third of the people from the analysed projects participated in at least one other European project before or after entering a project from Call 61 or 62. The largest number of people participated in projects promoting the active employment policy from the same operational programme, implemented by the Labour Office of the Czech Republic.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Supplier: internal evaluation (Evaluations Unit 802)

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/evaluace-vyzev-61,-62>

Verification of the benefits of Housing First projects for the housed people: a qualitative survey

With the apartment provided through the Housing First project, the settled persons gain mainly psychological stability, peace and privacy, more space and better living conditions.



The results show high satisfaction of occupants with the housing they have acquired.



The benefits of the project are more peace, privacy for children, better quality housing for the assisted persons.

GOAL: TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS OF HOUSING FIRST PROJECTS FOR THE SUPPORTED PERSONS. THIS STUDY INVOLVED QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THE SUPPORTED PERSONS.

Key findings:

- The results show a high level of satisfaction of the settled persons with the acquired housing. Almost all settled persons comment on the situation that the apartment provided through the Housing First project meant a significant change towards better living conditions for them.
- People living in an apartment acquired through the Housing First project particularly highlight benefits such as peace and privacy, more space (especially for children) and significantly more hygienic and generally better living conditions.
- The housed persons themselves may not yet register noticeable changes in their physical health since moving into the apartment provided through the Housing First project, but the change in their psychological stability is absolutely essential for them (and for their children).
- The empathy, proactivity, kindness and human approach of social workers is considered absolutely essential and key by the housed persons. The work and support of social workers is very positively evaluated by all respondents.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Implementation: September 2021 to April 2022

Supplier: MindBridge Consulting a.s.

Evaluation methods: in-depth interviews

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/overeni-prinosu-projektu-housing-first-pro-zabydle>

Case studies of projects in the call Support of the Housing First Programme



Case study Jihlava: The Housing First project in Jihlava was implemented by the statutory city of Jihlava in cooperation with the Jihlava District Charity. The municipal authority of Jihlava had a coordinating role and provided the apartments for the project, the Jihlava District Charity was in charge of the social work.



The cooperation between the municipality and the non-profit organization proved its worth, both partners evaluated the setup positively in terms of the social work provided, the provision of apartments for the project and cooperation with the property department of the municipality, which is in charge of managing the apartments.



According to the interviewees, the provision of apartments was well arranged, the apartments were of different sizes, which made it possible to accommodate individuals, smaller households and larger families with children. During the implementation, the appropriate selection of locations and of specific houses for the housing proved to be key.



In the event of more complicated neighbour disagreements, facilitated meetings were introduced to resolve the problem with all involved persons (the neighbours of the housed households were also invited). This procedure has proven to be a suitable communication tool in practice.

GOAL: TO CAPTURE THE EXPERIENCE OF THE IMPLEMENTERS FROM THE PILOT TESTING OF THE HOUSING FIRST APPROACH TO HOUSING HOMELESS PEOPLE AND PEOPLE IN HOUSING EMERGENCY. THE FINDINGS FROM THE CASE STUDIES ARE INTENDED TO SERVE MAINLY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR MUNICIPALITIES THAT WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT OR ARE CONSIDERING THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES IN THIS DIRECTION.

Případová studie Romodrom:

- The project, implemented by two non-profit organizations in a partnership relationship - Romodrom and Nová možnost (New Opportunity) - is set so as to help people in serious housing emergency and in need of a high level of support.
- The project cooperates with the Social Real Estate Agency to provide apartments. The Agency has experience in the field of supported housing and does not charge mediation fees.
- Avoiding rent arrears is key to maintaining housing. The project includes mechanisms for minimizing rent arrears.
- Effective prevention requires continuous monitoring of payments and a quick response when a delay is detected. Instalment schedules are used to handle short-term debts, and a guarantee fund has also been established.

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Supplier: internal evaluation (Evaluations Unit 802)

Evaluation methods: case studies, in-depth interviews

The evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/knihovna-evaluaci/pripadove-studie-projektu-vyzvy-podpora-programu-h>



Selected findings from evaluations by DG Regio



Chapter content:

- Ex-post evaluation of investments in infrastructures and activities in the field of research and technological development supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2007-2013
- E-cohesion evaluation
- Provision of public transport in cross-border regions - mapping the existing services and legal obstacles
- Unlocking the potential of crowdfunding for European structural and investment funds

Ex-post evaluation of investments in infrastructure and research and technological development supported by the ERDF in the period 2007-2013

The support focused more on strengthening existing capacities in the field of research and technological development than on the transformation of regional systems of research and technological development.



The planned activities in the operational programmes were successfully implemented, the absorption rate was very high.



A positive contribution to research and development capacities was noted especially in infrastructure investments aimed at universities, especially in the EU13 regions.



The main shortcoming was the lack of observable long-term effects in some situations: better scientific knowledge did not translate into technological development and innovation. The economic crisis also played its role, as it reduced the capacities, especially of the private sector, for utilising research results.

GOAL: TO EVALUATE INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WERE SUPPORTED BY ERDF IN THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013.

Doporučení:

- Clear and effective State aid rules are important to ensure that businesses are eligible for public funding and are encouraged to participate in joint research and development projects.
- A clear political strategy defining a long-term commitment to public investment in research and development should be established, communicated and maintained in the long term, thereby limiting fluctuations, especially in times of crisis.
- Programme management bodies of the MAs should be appropriately staffed and trained. The implementation of investment support for research and development is a challenging task that requires managerial and entrepreneurial skills.
- Priority setting and investment targeting should be based on a thorough understanding of systemic deficiencies affecting the regional ecosystem of research and technological development, especially with regard to existing relationships between scientific and industrial partners in the region.

Contracting authority: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Supplier: CSIL, Prognos AG, Technopolis

Evaluation methods: desk research, case studies, econometric analysis, cluster analysis, contribution analysis, in-depth interviews

The evaluation outputs are available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/evaluation/eval2007/rtd-2007/rtd-2007-final.pdf

Analysis of the potential of crowdfunding for European structural and investment funds

Crowdfunding can increase the flexibility and efficiency of ESIF disbursements.



Crowdfunding platforms are more efficient in that they can reduce transaction costs and time needed to identify and distribute funds to projects compared to traditional funding methods.



Crowdfunding can help to increase private investment in ESIF priorities. More and more citizens and companies in the EU are using crowdfunding as a means of investing and supporting projects and initiatives.



Crowdfunding can contribute to deeper regional impact by engaging local stakeholders. By providing a space where regional or local partners can get involved, it allows local groups to share their expertise, which is useful for supporting initiatives that have already gained local support.

GOAL: TO EXPLORE THE SYNERGIES BETWEEN COHESION POLICY AND CROWDFUNDING BY ASSESSING THE STRATEGIC, OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF COMBINING ESIF AND CROWDFUNDING. THE AUTHORS ALSO PRESENTED SEVERAL CASE STUDIES AND PROTOTYPES THAT MAS COULD USE AS A FIRST STEP IN INVESTING IN CROWDFUNDING.

Other interesting conclusions:

- Existing regulatory frameworks and legal concepts do not prevent MAs from supporting, investing in or leading crowdfunding initiatives in the context of cohesion policy.
- Managing authorities can play different roles in the crowdfunding process. These roles depend on the type of support provided (e.g. non-financial or financial), the beneficiary (e.g. platforms, investors or project promoters) and on whether the MA provides support outside the crowdfunding process or becomes one of the crowdfunding participants.
- Entrusting the implementation of the ESIF to the operators of crowdfunding platforms requires a high level of integration, which leads to a trade-off between better efficiency and the administrative burden on the platforms while complying with the CPR rules.

Contracting authority: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
Supplier: PWC

Evaluation methods: desk research, case studies, legal analysis

The evaluation outputs are available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/studies/crowdfunding_potential_esif_en.pdf

A study on the provision of public transport in cross-border regions - mapping the existing services and legal obstacles

About half of the survey respondents said that legal and administrative barriers simultaneously cause difficulties in setting up or operating cross-border public transport (48%).



The analysis shows that the availability and provision of the services varies notably across the EU, with some border areas lacking any public transport despite potential demand.



Particular attention should be paid to borders with no or very limited bus services, which may be due to specific problems despite potential demand. An example is the border between Bulgaria and Romania or in the Baltic states.



The development of sustainable cross-border transport that successfully meets local and regional demand requires tailor-made solutions that address specific problems in border areas. The solutions must be adapted to the local and regional context (e.g. territorial structure features, legal and institutional setting).



Tourist buses are not sufficiently connected to local public transport. Better coordination of public transport timetables could increase the attractiveness of these services and contribute to the viability of tourist buses outside peak seasons.



Ferries are often not well connected to other modes of transport, e.g. because of additional infrastructure. Such a lack of integration with national services and between different modes of transport can be seen, for example, when public transport users have to walk across borders, even when the timetables of national lines are coordinated.

E-cohesion evaluation

The evaluation identified 108 e-cohesion systems that are used for the vast majority of ERDF and Cohesion Fund (CF) funded programmes.

Aspect	Features
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolutionary approach to development: characterized by a high rate of prototyping, continuous improvement and frequent release of new versions. User-oriented approach: systematic collection of feedback from users, involvement of users in testing prototypes of new functions, consideration of user needs.
Legal aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of parallel paper-based processes: by making the use of the system mandatory or the only official solution, the need to maintain parallel processes is eliminated and authorities are motivated to provide solutions with a high degree of usability.
Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It supports the exchange of structured data: simple uploading of unstructured data (e.g. forms in pdf format) prevents further data processing. Data centralization: thanks to supporting all key processes, all information related to a project is centrally available in one place.
User-friendliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Own descriptions and help features: most beneficiaries don't use the system often, so features like tool tips, etc. help users navigate the system. Automatically embedded validation and automatic calculations: help to verify information and reduce error, whereby reducing the administrative burden for both beneficiaries and institutional users. Integrated electronic signature: offers the advantage of fully digitized processes that reduce transport and storage requirements.

GOAL: TO EXPLORE THE E-COHESION SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED IN ALL 27 MEMBER STATES FOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY ERDF AND CF, INCLUDING PROGRAMMES UNDER THE TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE (INTERREG).

Contracting authority: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Supplier: PPMI consortium (PPMI Group, rechenwerk, Ismeri Europa)

Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, workshop, case studies

The evaluation outputs are available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2022/evaluation-of-e-cohesion-2014-2020

Contracting authority:

- Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
- Supplier: PPMI consortium (PPMI Group, rechenwerk, Ismeri Europa)
- Evaluation methods: desk research, questionnaire survey, workshop, case studies
- The evaluation outputs are available here:



Selected findings from analyses of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic



Chapter content:

- Public expenditure and ESI funds in 2015-2020: key findings
- National effects of EU fund implementation in the period 2007-2020: simulation by the QUEST III model
- Regional effects of EU fund implementation in the period 2007-2020: simulation by the HERMIN model

Public expenditure and ESI funds in 2015-2020: key findings

The share of ESI funds in total state budget expenditure between 2016 and 2020 ranges between 5.1% (2016) and 7.3% (2019). In 2020, it fell slightly to 6.7%.



State budget expenditure in 2020 amounted to CZK 1 843 billion, of which CZK 123 billion was expenditure covered by ESI funds. ESI funds make up a larger proportion of capital (42% in 2020) than current (3% in 2020) expenditure.



In three budget sections, ESI funds accounted for more than 50% of the expenditure on average: housing, municipal services and territorial development, water management and environmental protection.



In agriculture and the support of industry and business, ESIF account for 25% or more of expenditure, and account for more than 50% of capital expenditure in these sections.



In current expenditure, the role of ESIF is generally smaller, but it is clearly visible in the sections of housing, municipal services and territorial development (in which alone it exceeds 30%), environmental protection, agriculture, but also social services (over 15% in each).



The inclusion of local authorities and state funds would enable an overall view of public spending, or public investment.

GOAL: TO MAP IN WHICH AREAS OF STATE BUDGET EXPENDITURE THE ESI FUNDS PLAY THE BIGGEST ROLE AND HOW THEIR SHARE IN THE EXPENDITURE DEVELOPED IN THE PERIOD 2015-2020.

Contracting authority: European Affairs Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Authors: Stanislav Volčik, Daniel Kný, Petr Bouchal

The evaluation outputs are available here: https://www.vlada.cz/assets/evropske-zalezitosti/analyzy-EU/211231_Verejne-vydaje-a-ESI-fondy.pdf

National effects of EU fund implementation in the period 2007-2020: simulation by the QUEST III model

All areas of investment financed by EU funds will lead to up to 5.7% faster GDP growth in 2023 compared to the baseline year of 2007.



The impact on GDP from 2009 leads to a positive percentage increase in GDP compared to the baseline year of 2007. The greatest contribution to the additional GDP generation is made by investments in infrastructure that contribute up to 2.4% to the GDP growth.



Other important areas are investments in human resources (with an additional contribution of 2.2% of GDP) and research and development (with a contribution of 1.0% of GDP).



In the first years of the analysed period, especially in the case of research and development and support of the private sector, the impact on GDP may be temporarily slightly negative due to possible transfers between sectors of economic activity.



From a long-term perspective, the relative contribution to GDP formation from investments in infrastructure, the private sector and technical assistance decreases over time, in favour of contribution from investments in research and development and, above all, human capital.



From the beginning, a positive effect has been brought about by support of the private sector as it practically copies the expenditure profile throughout the period. The contribution of technical assistance itself to the GDP generation is negligible.

GOAL: THE ANALYSIS WAS BASED ON THE QUEST III R&D MACROECONOMIC MODEL THAT IS USED TO TRACK AGGREGATE IMPACTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE STUDY MEASURES THE IMPACT OF EU FUNDS ON THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE PROGRAMMING PERIODS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020 (INCLUDING THE ASSUMED USE OF THE N+3 RULE).

THE MODELS WERE APPLIED IN TWO SCENARIOS. THE FIRST WAS A SHORT-TERM SCENARIO, MAPPING THE PERIOD 2014-2020, THE REMAINING FUNDS OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING ABSORBED. THE SECOND, LONG-TERM SCENARIO COVERED THE LAST TWO PROGRAMMING PERIODS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020 (UP TO 2023).

Contracting authority: European Affairs Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Authors: Kateřina Gawthorpe, Ivan Lichner, Tomáš Miklošovič, Marek Radvanský, Zbyněk Štork, Daniel Krný, Stanislav Volčík

The evaluation outputs are available here: https://www.vlada.cz/assets/evropske-zalezitosti/analyzy-EU/211231_Narodni-dopady-EU-fondu-ekonomiku-CR-v-letech-2007-2020-pomoci-modelu-QUEST_1.pdf

Regional effects of EU fund implementation in the period 2007-2020: simulation by the HERMIN model

Specifically, the largest contribution in the form of additional GDP can be seen in the Southeast region, and the smallest in Prague.



From a regional point of view, the cohesion regions of Southeast (with a cumulative multiplier value of 1.31) and Southwest (1.04) were the most effective in implementing EU funds.



On the contrary, the lowest effectiveness of absorbing the available resources was achieved in the Northwest (0.67) and Northeast (0.82) cohesion regions. In this case, the low resulting value of the cumulative multiplier can be caused by several factors: the structure of the implemented projects financed from EU funds, the sectoral structure of the region, the volume of funding from EU funds, the structure of the human capital, etc.



Based on the results of the simulations, a positive effect of the implementation of ESI funds on the growth of the national GDP in 2020 was identified from 2.1% (short-term scenario) to 3.9% (long-term scenario).



In the case of the long-term scenario, the positive impact of direct and indirect effects of using EU funds can be clearly identified. For most regions, the additional GDP generated thanks to EU funds will reach more than 50%. It will be most pronounced in the Southeast region and in Central Bohemia.



As part of the effectiveness of EU funds spent, calculated using the cumulative multiplier at the national level, we assume that CZK 100 spent in the period 2007-2023 increased the value of the Czech Republic's GDP in 2023 by CZK 163. In 2020, GDP increased by CZK 146.

GOAL: METHODOLOGICALLY, THE STUDY WAS BASED ON THE REGIONAL MACROECONOMIC MODEL HERMIN THAT WAS USED TO MONITOR REGIONAL IMPACTS. IT WAS APPLIED IN TWO SCENARIOS, THE FIRST OF WHICH MONITORED THE REGIONAL IMPACTS OF EU FUNDS IN THE ONGOING PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2014-2020. IN THE SECOND SCENARIO, THE HERMIN MODEL SIMULATED THE REGIONAL IMPACTS OF EU FUNDS OVER TWO PROGRAMMING PERIODS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020 TOGETHER.



**These and other evaluation
outputs can be found in the
Evaluation Library:**

www.DotaceEU.cz/evaluace