

Conclusions from the Informal Dialogue with the European Commission on 23 September 2026

1. The key challenge is **prioritisation, ensuring that the NRPP meaningfully addresses the most important needs; individual ministries must therefore clearly define priorities within their portfolios.**
2. The legal framework for NRPP has not yet been finalised; the Commission will update its methodological guidance only after adopting the final legislation (e.g. on the NRPP, costing). Two further chapters are being prepared, covering financial instruments and the protection of the EU's interests. However, **during the NRPP negotiations, account will be taken of legislative changes which are proposed by the co-legislators.**
3. The Commission strongly recommends that **costing preparations and the ex-ante analysis** begin as soon as possible.
4. For the European Commission, a key issue will also be the **volume of financial instruments** in the NRPP. The Commission will publish guidance on financial instruments by the end of the year 2026.
5. The Commission welcomed the **progress made** and CZ's preparations to date.
6. During the informal dialogue, the NRPP may be discussed in parts, but **the formal submission of the NRPP must be made as a single comprehensive package.**
7. The structure of the chapters is not prescribed by law; **the key is to link investments and reforms and to ensure clear prioritisation by individual line ministries.**
8. The number of reforms is not specified. What will matter is their **content, structural impact and links to the European Semester, the Country Report and the CSRs, while maintaining national ownership.**
9. The Commission stresses the **need to support administrative capacity.** It is necessary to strengthen management and absorption capacity for EU funds, and maintain administrative capacity. This is relevant at all levels, national, regional and local. It has proven that a stable administrative capacity has been one of the success factors for the

good implementation history of cohesion policy in CZ. The available technical assistance should be used to strengthen the key implementing bodies.

10. Given CZ's regional challenges with increasing disparities (also at level below NUTS 3), **the territorial dimension needs to be further developed in the NRPP**, drawing on the positive experience from the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and Integrated Regional Programme (IROP) as well the use of ITI and SUD tools.
11. **Partner involvement across all NRPP phases**, from priority setting, negotiation to implementation, is important for a successful ownership. Where partners' proposals cannot be integrated, reasons must be given for rejecting them. The format of the mandatory consultations needs to be further clarified with the Commission.
12. CZ should first **clarify with the relevant ministry whether the SEA will be required** and, if so, for which parts of the Plan. CZ responded that it had already contacted the Ministry of the Environment and had received a preliminary opinion indicating that the SEA would be necessary.
13. **The lead negotiator on the Commission side is SG REFORM; however, DG REGIO has the unique expertise for Interreg programme. Both Commission services will coordinate the preparation of Interreg chapters.**
14. The next meeting will be held at the technical level.