

MINUTES
2ND ANNUAL MEETING
EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

Mikulov, 20 November 2019
Hotel Volarik, conference room Johanniter

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Institution	Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	LARSEN Sjur
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	KLEVEN Birgit
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	H.E. KVILE Robert
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	BEKKEVOLD Geir
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	GANICKÁ Helena
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland	H.E. IBSEN Thórir
Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU	LOREZ Helen
Financial Mechanism Office	TJOMSLAND Tom
Financial Mechanism Office	TROŠT Jana
Financial Mechanism Office	BHARDWAJ Mahesh
Financial Mechanism Office	STEFANSSON Viktor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CR	HOMOLOVÁ Naděžda
Ministry of Finance – NFP	MATYÁŠOVÁ Zuzana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	SOVOVÁ Šárka
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	HRAZDIROVÁ Hana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	DVOŘÁKOVÁ Radana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	TESAŘ Tomáš
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	TOUŠOVÁ Monika
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	ZLESÁK Petr
Ministry of Finance – CA	KURTIŠ Josef
Ministry of Finance – CA	KRÁLOVÁ Barbora
Ministry of Finance – AA	PAVLÍK Jaroslav
Ministry of Finance – AA	PROKOP Michal

OPENING / ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Annual Meeting was opened by the Head of the National Focal Point in the CR, **Ms Zuzana Matyášová**, who chaired the meeting. She explained that this time the Annual Meeting took place in Mikulov, because the NFP would like to show the Donors another part of the Czech Republic and would like to take this opportunity to visit two successful projects from the last programming period realized in the South Moravian region. She also introduced all participants of the Annual Meeting.

From the Donors' side the Annual Meeting was opened by the Head of the Section for Central Europe, Deputy Director General from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Mr Sjur Larsen**, who co-chaired the meeting. He appreciated that the Annual Meeting is held outside the capital and expressed that the Donors are very glad that all the Programme Agreements are signed and prepared for the implementation phase.

Short opening speech was also presented by the Ambassador of Norway in Prague, **H.E. Mr Robert Kvile**, followed by introductory remarks of the Ambassador of Iceland for the Czech Republic, **H.E. Mr Thórir Ibsen** and concluded with the opening remarks of the representative of Liechtenstein, **Ms Helen Lorez**. H.E. Kvile pointed out that year 2019 was very busy in terms of information and publicity, especially because the politicians were targeted. H.E. Ibsen stressed an excellent cooperation with the NFP and thanked the NFP for ensuring participation in the conference on Gender Equity. He urged the NFP to inform the FMO about the calls well in advance to ensure as broad participation as possible. He especially asked to hold the match-making events as early as possible and to announce them well in advance (3-4 months), and to have sufficiently long application period to enable preparation of good applications as short deadlines can discourage potential applicants. He also reminded to allocate sufficient funds for travel costs, especially in projects with Icelandic partnerships. Ms Lorez repeated that the Czech Republic is the most important partner for Liechtenstein and appreciated the cooperation until now.

Finally, the Agenda of the 2nd Annual Meeting was agreed without any comments.

DRAFT STRATEGIC REPORT

Ms Matyášová introduced that the Second Strategic Report was submitted to the FMO on 17 September 2019 and it contains information about the status of programmes, preparation of programmes' MCSs, progress in bilateral cooperation and information about publicity as well as monitoring activities of the NFP. She noted that the printed versions of Strategic Report are available at the Annual Meeting.

She invited the Donors for their comments or recommendations to the Second Strategic Report.

Mr Larsen summed up that the Second Strategic Report is very good, sufficiently detailed and it reflects the current situation in the Czech Republic. He noted that the key risks that are mentioned in the report are related to the time delay, so he asked how these risks are addressed.

Ms Hana Hrazdírová, Acting Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, replied that since the cut-off date of the Strategic Report (31 August 2019) the situation moved much to mitigate the risks. She explained that time risk was mentioned in CZ-RESEARCH (where the risk is mitigated as the call was launched on 20 November 2019 and it is expected that there will be sufficient time for projects implementation) and in CZ-CULTURE for PDP Lety (where the risk is connected with the activities that need to be done before the project – this risk is lower now because the architectural competition was already launched).

Mr Larsen thanked for this explanation and expressed his opinion that the effort related to the preparatory phase of programmes will pay off during the implementation.

Finally, the Second Strategic Report for 2019 was approved by the Donors.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Mr Tomáš Tesař, Centre for Foreign Assistance – Preparation and Coordination Unit, had a presentation about the bilateral cooperation under the Grants (attachment No. 1). He assessed the cooperation within the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds (JCBF), summed up the results of 1st and 2nd open calls and PDIs as well as bilateral relations under programmes.

Ms Matyášová added that based on the suggestion of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague (NoA) the NFP will prepare a workshop with the applicants / final beneficiaries of initiatives in order to assess the procedures before next JCBF meeting and the launch of the 3rd open call – the workshop should be held in January / February 2020. She also appreciated a very good cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms Lorez thanked for all the work and cooperation done by the NFP and mentioned that the Czech-Liechtenstein cooperation was very intensive this year due to Liechtenstein anniversary.

H.E. Ibsen expressed his impression by all the work done under Bilateral Fund. He added that there are two pre-defined initiatives with Iceland – one project (Reducing Gender Pay Gap in the Czech Republic) is well on the way, but the other project (Exchange of good practices in the implementation of modern technologies Iceland-Czech Republic) might require rethinking. For the next open call he proposed for the JCBF discussion to simplify the procedures and to reduce the administrative burden on the JCBF member from Donor states in situation when only partners from one Donor state are eligible.

Mr Larsen concluded that it is good to note that there was so high interest for the recent open calls and that many bilateral initiatives have been successfully implemented. He also thanked all the Donor states Embassies for their good cooperation with the NFP. But he reminded to keep the administrative system for bilateral cooperation as flexible as possible. Finally, he asked the NFP how they would fulfil the strategic approach of the Bilateral Fund.

Ms Šárka Sovová, Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Preparation and Coordination Unit, explained that based on the JCBF decision the open calls were general with no special focus and this approach enables to support initiatives that could not be supported under programmes' calls or bilateral ambitions and can go beyond the programme areas.

H.E. Kvile mentioned that the right forum for the discussion about the strategic approach of the Bilateral Fund and orientation of the call is the JCBF meeting and the preliminary discussion can be also held during the planned workshop.

Ms Naděžda Homolová, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JCBF member, expressed thanks to all Donors for their financial contributions. She also underlined that the supported projects would have a positive impact for improving bilateral cooperation in general.

Ms Matyášová added that the strategic approach will be again discussed within the JCBF and Mr Larsen invited the NFP to focus on it.

PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMMES AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Ms Šárka Sovová presented a progress in the programmes (attachment No. 2) supported by the table of overview of programmes approval dates (attachment No. 3). Discussion was held programme by programme.

CZ-RESEARCH

Ms Sovová informed that the open call was launched on 20 November 2019, but the project contract was not published with the call. **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the risks related to this programme were mitigated by the launch of the call – the project contracts could be signed in 2020, so there is enough time for project implementation. She also added that the NFP is in close contact with the PO that is very experienced but uses their own procedures that need to be adjusted to the FM rules.

Mr Larsen thanked the NFP and the PO for their dedicated work on the call documents. He added that as the programme needs to be harmonized with the EU policies as well as with Research programmes managed by other countries, the DPP is working on the template of project contract that is recommended to be used by all POs. He reminded the bilateral aspect of the programme and some challenges in the last period that is important to have in mind.

Ms Hrazdírová admitted that the project contract must be in line with the Czech legislation (research has its own act) and therefore it needs to be flexible and allow for relevant adjustments.

Ms Trost stressed the importance of project contract being agreed between the PO and DPP, and hope for the flexibility of the national entities to incorporate the changes needed also based on the DPP suggestions. A template of project contract based on Horizon 2020 is being almost finalised by the DPP and the PO will be recommended to consider to use it or inspire by it.

CZ-EDUCATION

Following the presentation of Ms Sovová, **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the only risk in this programme relates to less absorption capacity of Vocational Education and Training (VET), but this risk is well managed by the PO that increased promotion of VET and their seminars are of very good quality.

Ms Lorez confirmed a very good cooperation with Liechtenstein in this programme and reminded the high-level visit in Prague in mid-November 2019.

Mr Larsen reminded that this is a programme with high bilateral ambitions, so the Donors' expectations are big. He also appreciated the increased promotion of VET by the PO, in cooperation with the DPP.

CZ-HEALTH

Following the presentation of Ms Sovová, **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the risk of this programme relates to its complexity that needs to be closely monitored, including its complementarity. Decision on the rental of premises for Patient Hub is expected in the beginning of December 2019, so the application could be submitted in January 2020.

Mr Larsen recalled very successful launching event with the participation of State Secretary of Norwegian Ministry of Health and appreciated a good work done with replacement of Incredible Years PDP with Triple P programme. He hoped that the final confirmation of the location for Patient Hub will be confirmed soon.

CZ-CULTURE

Ms Sovová informed about the planned launch of four open calls and deadlines for submission of applications. The only risk is related to a slight delay in PDP Lety due to the delay in architectural competition – but now it is on a good track (deadline in architectural competition is in mid-January 2020, selection is expected in May 2020) so the PDP could start in 2021 (submission of application in October 2020). **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the programme is very complex and the NFP and PO are

looking forward to the interest in new areas (art criticism, capacity building), but she assured that the Arts and Theatre Institute (IDU) is very active in promotion of these areas.

Mr Larsen mentioned that the PDP Lety is very important for the Donors, so he was pleased that the procurement of the architectural design was launched. Generally the Donors are very pleased with the level of bilateral cooperation in this programme involving all three Donor States and acknowledged a significant interest in the match-making event.

H.E. Ibsen appreciated an excellent cooperation with the DPP RANNÍS, however the DPP complained about the administrative burden risk to potential applicants.

Ms Lorez appreciated especially that the natural persons can be project partners in contemporary art call.

CZ-GOVERNANCE

Ms Sovová in her presentation especially appreciated the cooperation with Norwegian KS as well as Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Environment in SGS call preparation. **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the risk of this programme was related to the cooperation with the OECD as project partner that works under different procedures, but finally all the open issues were solved and relevant special conditions will be included in the project contract in relation to the partnership agreement with OECD.

Mr Larsen was happy to hear that the open issues with OECD were successfully solved. He added that in PDP Big data it is important to ensure that all the data are fully in line with GDPR rules. Ms Sovová confirmed that data are anonymous, so fully in compliance with GDPR.

CZ-ENVIRONMENT

Following the presentation of Ms Sovová, **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the risk in this programme was related to the setting-up of the MCS where it was necessary to harmonize the existing procedures of the PO that is very experienced in grant management, with the FM rules. This finally happened, so the risk was eliminated.

Mr Larsen pointed out that there is a good progress in the programme and reminded that in spring 2020 the joint Cooperation Committee meeting is planned together with Slovak and Polish counterparts.

CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS

Following the presentation of programme status **Ms Sovová** expressed the critical statement to the cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE), especially with their delayed reactions and non-active approach. She added that in this programme both the NFP and the PO are not happy with the cooperation with them and she concluded that it seems that the expectations of both sides were not met. She also added that based on the MoU the CoE shall act as the IPO for PA 17 (Human Rights) only and that the PO informed the CoE that the PO does not intend to involve the CoE as IPO for the PA 22 (Domestic and Gender Based Violence). The CoE is welcomed to cooperate on PDP 8 (either as an advisory partner or official project partner) where the Office of Government is the project promoter and where some of the activities from the former PDP 9 (PDP which should have been implemented by the CoE) shall be implemented. **Ms Hrazdírová** added that the risk in this programme is connected to complexity of its outcomes and modalities that needs to be closely monitored. The risk connected with the cancellation of PDP 9 was eliminated by the proposed reallocation of funds.

Mr Larsen regretted that CoE took a decision to withdraw from being a project promoter and said that this was not only within the CZ but in all beneficiary states where CoE had project promoter role. He noted the problems with CoE but he admitted that the CoE is a valuable partner for the Donors in this programme and asked the PO to make the best of the CoE expertise which is available to the Czech Republic within this programme. He asked the Czech authorities and FMO to follow up on the

way forward on cooperation with CoE. He confirmed that the CoE shall follow the EEA and Norway Grants rules and proposed that the FMO will comment on the reluctant cooperation directly to CoE and will assist in the cooperation with CoE.

CZ-JUSTICE

Following the presentation of Ms Sovová, **Ms Hrazdiová** added that the only risk in this programme was related to the premises for Probation House, but they have been already chosen.

Mr Larsen summed up that there is a good progress in this programme and a very good cooperation with the DPP as well as the CoE.

CZ-HOME AFFAIRS

In her presentation **Ms Sovová** mentioned that the PO needs the assistance of the NFP, but their experience gradually increases. The Ministry of Finance as PO also shared with the Ministry of Interior their templates and procedures. **Ms Hrazdiová** added that this is the main risk in this programme, but finally the MCS was elaborated in good quality. The other risk relates to a slight delay in the programme preparation, but there is a good cooperation between the NFP and the PO who is willing to learn a lot from more experienced ones.

Mr Larsen confirmed that the Donors consider this programme as the weakest in terms of administrative capacity and asked the NFP to provide an intensive assistance to the PO and closely monitor the programme implementation.

Ms Matyášová informed about the general reduction of 10 % of the staff in state administration that could influence the capacity of some programme partners (especially Governmental Office, Ministry of Culture), but this is not the case of the Ministry of Interior where the capacity of PO was strengthened.

Mr Larsen stressed that it is very important to keep the staff of the NFP and POs at the present level and not to reduce it and if any support is necessary to the NFP or POs with the view to not have the staff reduced that the donors are willing to provide it.

Presentation of the status of all programmes was concluded by **Mr Larsen** who stressed the importance of the monitoring how Roma special concerns are addressed within and across relevant programmes. He also invited the NFP to prepare in cooperation with the FMO a Roma round table in 2nd half of 2020 in line with the "Action Plan for Roma inclusion and empowerment for the Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021".

Ms Matyášová admitted that the Roma round table could take place possibly in beginning of 2021 due to priorities of the NFP in 2020 related to the expected calls in all programmes but she confirmed that the NFP is prepared to organize it in cooperation with the FMO.

Ms Jana Trošt, the FMO country officer, explained that the Roma round tables will start in Bulgaria and Romania, and based on their experience the concept will be further discussed with the NFP and other actors later.

Finally, **Mr Larsen** summed up the development in the programmes that are in the direct responsibility of the FMO:

- Active Citizens Fund (ACF): the programme is running, 3 calls already launched and 2 PDPs will start their implementation soon;
- Decent Work Programme: there have been no applications from the Czech social partners in the 1st call, the second call was published a few days ago, Mr Larsen invited the NFP to promote the call (the call has been already published on NFP and NoA websites);

- Fund for Youth Employment: the call was launched already in 2017, out of 300 applications 26 projects were contracted and are implemented now – one Czech entity is involved in one project as a lead partner;
- Fund for Regional Cooperation: the implementation of Fund is slightly delayed due to high number of applications, in total 10 Czech applications were submitted, 3 of them as lead partners, the project selection is expected by the end of the year.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC POINTS

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS OF PROGRAMMES

Ms Hrazdírová presented the actual status of programmes' MCS (attachment No. 4). The presentation was completed by **Mr Jaroslav Pavlík**, the Audit Authority, assessing that in general the MCSs are of good quality and POs cooperate well during audit work.

As concerns the MCS of the Ministry of Finance (for 5 programmes) that was submitted to the FMO on 15 November 2019, **Mr Tom Tjomslund**, Head of Administration and Compliance Department of the FMO, informed that the FMO answer confirming the fulfilment of the pre-payment conditions mentioned in the respective Programme Agreement was sent to the NFP on 20 November 2019.

EXTERNAL MONITORING

Mr Petr Zlesák, Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, presented the information about the content of the tender for external monitoring and its actual status (attachment No. 5). The contract with the winner Deloitte Advisory shall be signed by 21 November 2019 and the methodology that needs to be submitted to the FMO for review is expected to be ready in February 2020.

Mr Geir Bekkevold, the Deputy Head of Mission at NoA, was impressed by the concept of the external monitoring showing that the NFP can also benefit from the contract.

MID-TERM REVIEW AND ALLOCATION OF RESERVE

Mr Larsen informed about the planned mid-term review that will be a collaborative process between the Donors and the Beneficiary States with the aim to jointly review the status of the implementation of the Grants and any results achieved. He added that the FMO will circulate a template to support the review still in 2019 or early 2020 and the NFP will be invited to fill it and return it to the FMO during 2020 together with the proposal for the allocation of the Reserve. He concluded that the discussion about the reserve can be held during the next Annual Meeting and the allocation of it should be mutually agreed between the Donors and the Czech Republic (if necessary an extraordinary Annual Meeting could be organized).

FORECASTS OF LIKELY PAYMENT APPLICATIONS

Mr Larsen raised the issue of forecasts of likely payment applications that are regularly submitted to the FMO by the CA – they are needed to have a good cash flow management and financial planning, so they are very important for the Donors. He informed that the forecasts were far too optimistic (beyond 90% according to FMO) (there is no need to add a “safety layer” to them) and they asked for too much money comparing to the reality. For that reason he strongly urged the CA to establish better method of forecasting and cooperate with the POs as well as with the NFP more closely to provide accurate and realistic forecasts to the FMO.

Mr Josef Kurtiš, Acting Head of the Certification Unit of EEA and Norway Grants, confirmed that forecasts were overestimated and promised that they will really focus on proper forecasting. On the other hand he admitted that the CA – in the stage of the preparation of programmes – have no other sources for verification of the figures and must rely on POs.

Mr Larsen encouraged the CA to work on this matter more closely with the POs and the NFP in order to understand better what is behind the figures and expressed his sincerely hope that since now the forecast will be much more accurate.

SIMPLIFICATION AND BUREAUCRACY

Ms Matyášová informed about continuous discussions between the NFP, CA and POs about the level of proportionality, sampling and a level of details needed for the common goal – to prevent ineligible expenditures. However, the approaches still differ mainly in terms of trust and bias and understanding of proportionality and effectiveness. For that reason she proposed that the FMO could organize a common workshop for the NFPs, CAs and AAs so that the themes and issues that are interconnected between all these institutions can be discussed and solved together.

Mr Larsen as well as the FMO supported the idea of common workshop as a useful tool to exchange lessons learned and to show examples of practice, and agreed that this idea will be further looked into by FMO. Mr Larsen continued that there is no need to any rules in addition to the Regulations and if any such rule proposed, he advised to reconsider it before applying. He also strongly encouraged using the sampling method, taking into consideration risk factors – the 100 % verification may not be always considered proportionate.

Ms Trošt added that especially in case of the Czech Republic this issue is discussed repeatedly and asked the authorities not to compare the Grants with the Structural Funds. **Mr Kurtiš** admitted that the CA applies similar procedures as in the Structural Funds and does not see these requirements as too much demanding. But **Mr Larsen** commented that donors see EEA and Norway Grants more flexible than Structural funds in terms of the processes and urged the Czech authorities to be more flexible and less bureaucratic than Structural Funds.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY

Ms Radana Dvořáková, NFP publicity officer, briefly summarized the NFP's communication and publicity activities done in 2019 and planned for 2020¹. She also showed a short video promoting bilateral partner search.

Ms Matyášová added that especially the conference in the Czech Parliament was very important because it helped to spread the information about the Grants among politicians. **H.E. Kvile** informed that this activity will continue as the dinner for 6 young politicians together with the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs is under preparation by the NoA. **Ms Helena Ganická**, the information officer of the NoA, added that the exhibition that took place in the Czech Parliament will move to regions where it should be presented in local libraries.

Mr Larsen commented that all the work done by the NFP and the NoA is impressive and invited to continue with the same efforts. He mentioned that also in Norway the exhibition about the Grants is under preparation and will circulate around the whole country.

H.E. Kvile stressed a very good cooperation with the NFP and mentioned culture and food festival in Prague 6 where the NoA had a stand that attracted lots of people.

Ms Lorez pointed out that also in Liechtenstein they plan to attract general public – for that reason a leaflet is under preparation to be distributed among politicians, municipalities etc.

Finally, **Mr Larsen** asked how the influence of social media is evaluated. Ms Dvořáková replied that there are quite detailed statistics and more than 1 500 new followers were caught during this year.

¹ Due to the amount of data the respective presentation is not attached to the Minutes

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Under Miscellaneous, **Ms Matyášová** asked the FMO if it could be possible to send a notice e-mail to the NFPs (or other involved stakeholders) when some changes in guidelines and other related documents are published. This was done in the past, but now the NFP noticed that there are some quite important changes in the documents that the NFP was not notified and realized them only when checking the FMO webpages.

At the end **Ms Matyášová** summed up the conclusions of the 2nd Annual Meeting:

- the Donors approved the Second Strategic Report;
- the NFP together with the POs will continue in assessment and mitigation of possible risks for programmes' implementation;
- the NFP will monitor the special concerns on Roma in relevant programmes;
- the NFP together with the JCBF will focus on enhancing the bilateral cooperation, including the strategic approach to it;
- the CA will focus on more accurate forecasts of likely payment applications in close cooperation with the POs and NFP;
- the FMO will consider organizing the common seminar for NFPs, CAs and AAs.

Mr Larsen thanked for the organization of this 2nd Annual Meeting and appreciated a good progress that has been done since the last Annual Meeting. He thanked to the NFP as well as to the NoA for all their competent and hard work. He noted that the FMO remains available for any help and advice needed and appreciated work of the FMO country officer for the Czech Republic. Finally, he expressed a hope that at the time of Annual Meeting next year, all programmes will have open calls and PDPs will be under implementation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation "Bilateral cooperation"
2. Presentation "Progress of the Programmes"
3. Table "Overview of Programmes and their approval"
4. Table "Overview of PO MCS approval"
5. Presentation "NFP external monitoring"

BILATERAL COOPERATION

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 Czech Republic

Tomas Tesar
National Focal Point

Mikulov, 20 November 2019



Update on JCBF, NFP Open calls and PDIs

Bilateral cooperation within programmes

Update on JCBF

The Joint Committee for the Bilateral Funds (JCBF)

- established in 2017
- fully operational and actively involved in BF implementation - mainly in assessment of grant applications (continuously, both OC and PDIs via written procedure).

2nd JCBF meeting held in April 2019:

- assessment of the 1st Open call
- discussion on the 2nd Open call, PDIs, Expression of interest – PRG Culture

NFP 1st Open call

250 000 EUR fully committed within 5 months (VIII / 2018 to I / 2019).

32 bilateral initiatives submitted (17 approved)

- 12 approved initiatives in partnership with Norway;
- 2 with Iceland;
- 3 with more donor states.

NFP 1st Open call

Supported areas of mutual interest:

- culture (7)
- children / sport (6),
- research (3)
- smart cities (1).

Most grants (10) awarded to the NGOs, 3 to universities, 3 to private companies and 1 to a state contributory organization.

NFP 2nd Open call

Allocation of **300 000 EUR fully committed** in 5 months (26 Jun 2019 – 19 Nov 2019).

50 grant applications submitted (requested grants in total: ca 852 000 EUR);

- half of them in the first month.

22 applications approved in total;

- 7 grants awarded to the universities;
- 6 to private companies;
- 5 to NGOs;
- 3 to research institutes; and
- 1 to a region.

25 rejected (**6** partner/applicant not eligible, the rest due to fully used call allocation);

3 withdrawn.



„PLAY BECKETT!“



„DOC.STREAM Academy“

PDIs

2nd round of Czech-Liechtenstein **School Exchanges** (16 300 EUR)

Two PDIs of Czech-Liechtenstein **Commission of Historians** (22 000 EUR + 21 000 EUR) – focused on publication of an English translation of the **Summary Report** and on **Liechtenstein History Days** in the Czech Republic – approved.

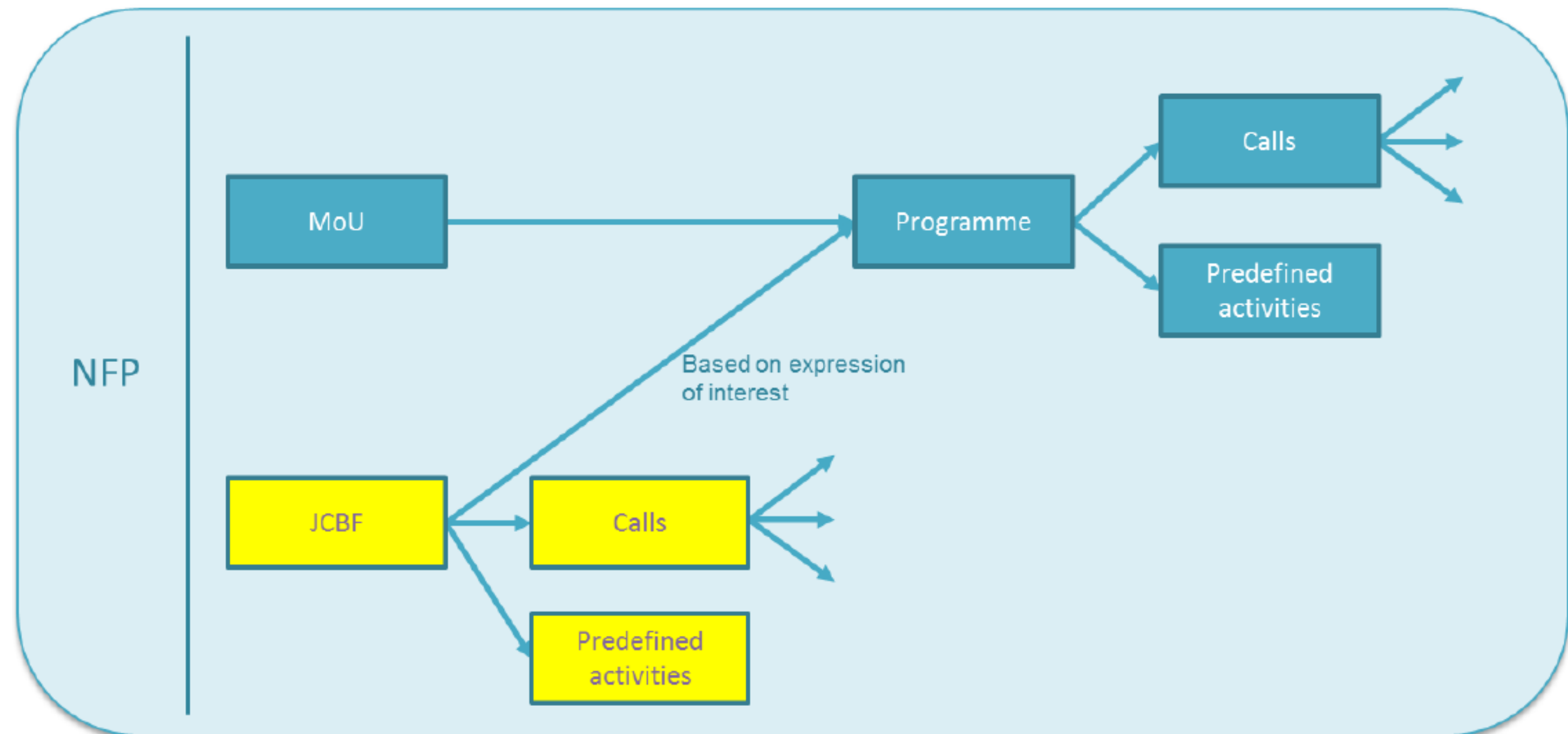
Other two PDIs with Iceland

- Reducing **Gender Pay Gap** in the Czech Republic (14 500 EUR, impl. Q1 2020); and
- **Exchange of good practices** in the implementation of **modern technologies** (19 000 EUR, impl. Spring 2020)
- both approved, have not been submitted yet.

Bilateral cooperation under programmes

Bilateral Ambitions

- allocated through the MoU
- managed by the POs
- described in the CN
- agreed in the CC.



MoUs allocation: 1,025,000 EUR + **87,500 EUR** / 3,690,000 EUR

Implemented: PDP preparations, seminars, round tables, BF calls

Planned: match-making seminars, BF calls, institutional coop.

Bilateral cooperation under programmes (1/3)

CZ-ENVIRONMENT: BF **Call** launched in July 2019, 8 applications submitted (80 % of the allocation)

CZ-EDUCATION: M-M **seminar** in October 2019; 1st (rolling) BF **Call** for preparatory visits launched in November 2019.

CZ-CULTURE: 4 BF **calls** launched 6-7/2019, call for cultural heritage already spent (24 initiatives approved), call for contemporary art spent (24 initiatives approved) , other two calls (art and cultural criticism, capacity building) extended until November 2019; a few **predefined initiatives** incl. M-M **seminar** were realized.

In the period Q4/2019 – Q1/2020 no other activities are planned since the open calls will be announced in Nov/Dec 2019.

Bilateral cooperation under programmes (2/3)

CZ-HEALTH: BF call launched 4/2019, extended till the end of 2019, 10 applications approved 66 % of the allocation for the call committed; a few **predefined initiatives** incl. M-M seminar were realized

CZ-RESEARCH: no BF call planned, **PO initiatives** (study trips) implemented and planned, M-M **seminar** planned in November 2019

CZ-HOME AFFAIRS: no BF call planned, only **predefined bilateral initiatives** will be realized, as well as PDP bilateral initiatives

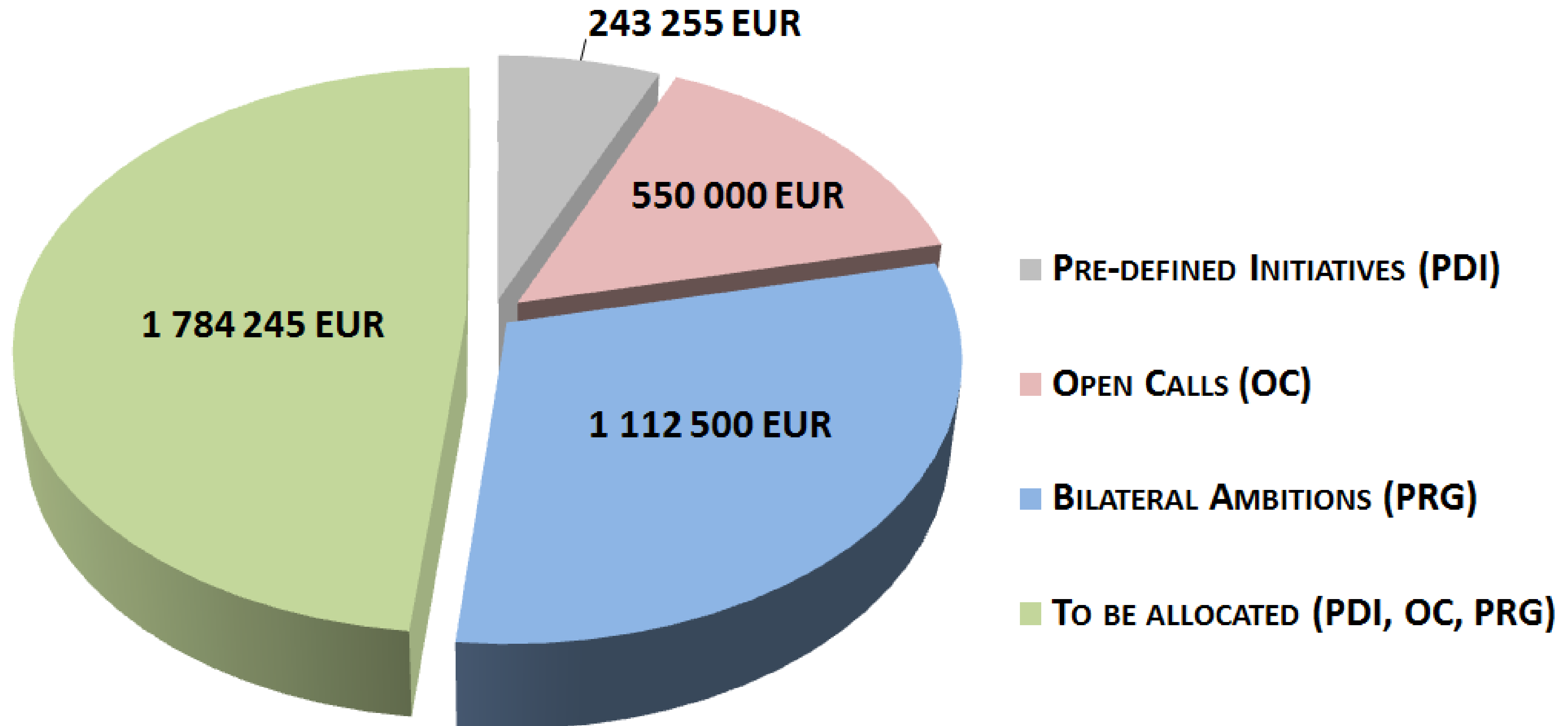
Bilateral cooperation under programmes (3/3)

CZ-JUSTICE: no BF call planned, **only predefined initiatives**, 7 predefined initiatives already realized, other predefined bilateral initiatives are planned

CZ-GOVERNANCE: **only pre-defined initiatives** (1 realized) , M-M **seminar** planned for Q1/Q2 2020

CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS: no BF call planned, **only PDIs** - 7 already realized incl. (4th) SYNERGY networking meeting in Prague held by the PO in October 2019

Current BF allocation overview (20 Nov 2019)



Thank you for you attention!

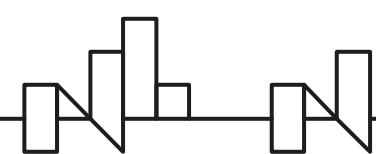
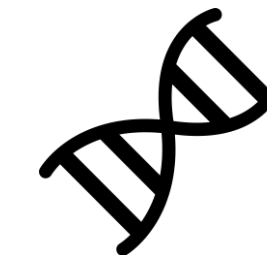


Progress of the programmes

EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021 in the Czech Republic

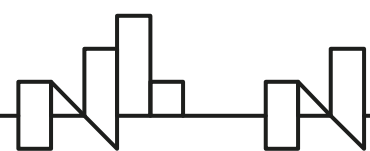
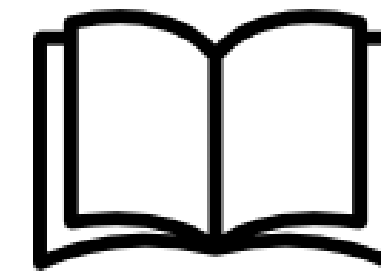
Research

- **Open call on applied research** to be launched on 20 November 2019 (deadline 27 February 2020)
- **Launch conference and Matchmaking seminar** (25th and 26th November 2019)



Education

- **1st round of calls** completed, projects selected, implementation started
- **2nd round of calls** launched on 1st November 2019 (deadlines Feb/March 2020)
- increased promotion of the VET call by the PO
- **Roma focus**
 - call on the Outcome 4 - increased inclusion of disadvantaged groups including the Roma population



Health (1)



- **PDP1 (Triple P, ex. IY)**
 - submission of the application in January 2020
 - start of the implementation in April 2020

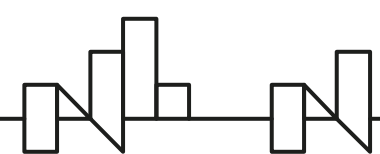
- **PDP2 (AMR)**
 - application appraised by external entity
 - start of the implementation December 2019

- **PDP3 (Patient HUB)**
 - decision on rental of the premises on 3rd December 2019 (voting of municipal Council)
 - submission of the application in January 2020
 - start of the implementation in April 2020



Health (2)

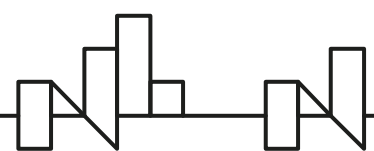
- **Open calls** to be launched in 1Q 2020
- **SGS call** to be launched in 2Q 2020
- **Roma focus**
 - in both open calls (incl. selection criteria)
 - socially excluded localities in call on outcome 2



Culture (1)



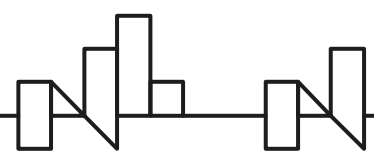
- **PDP (Lety)**
 - architectural competition (deadline mid-January 2020; selection May 2020)
 - application to be submitted by October 2020
 - project implementation from 2021
- **1 open call (cultural heritage)**
 - to be launched on 10th December 2019 (deadline 31st March 2020)



Culture (2)



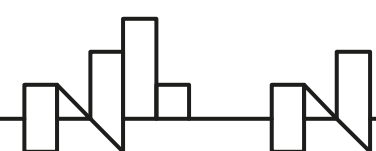
- **3 open calls**
 - contemporary art, art criticism, capacity building
 - to be launched on 26th November 2019
 - deadline 15th March 2020
- **Roma focus**
 - PDP Lety, open calls (incl. selection criteria)



Good Governance (1)



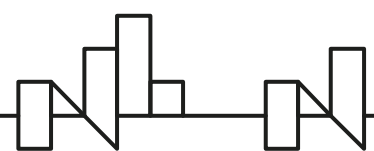
- **PDP1 (Big data)**
 - application to be submitted in November 2019
 - start of the implementation in January 2020
- **PDP2 (PGR)**
 - partnership agreement with OECD to be finalized
 - submission of the application expected 1Q 2020
 - start of the implementation expected 1-2Q 2020
- **PDP3 (financial control)**
 - to be submitted in December 2019
 - start of the implementation in 1Q 2020



Good Governance (2)



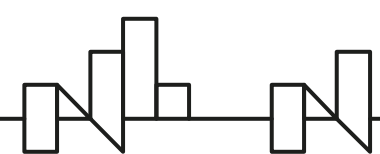
- **PDP4 (Police) and PDP5 (Ministry of Justice, anticorruption)**
 - applications to be submitted in November/December 2019
 - start of the implementation in 1Q 2020
- **SGS call**
 - expected to be launched in 2Q 2020
 - matchmaking seminar in 1Q 2020



Environment

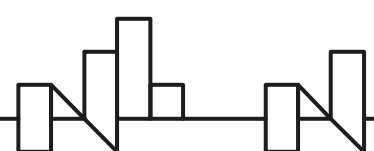


- First call (**SGS**- adaptation strategies) to be launched in December 2019/ January 2020
- Most **open calls** to be launched during 2020
- **CC meeting** – 28th November 2019



Human rights

- **8 PDPs** – 6 PDPs to be started in January 2020
- **PDP2** (Roma centre) to be started in 1Q 2020
- **PDP8** (DGBV) to be started in 1Q 2020
- **PDP9** (CoE) cancelled, reallocations to PDP6 (Ministry of Justice), PDP8 (Office of Government) and proposal for reallocation to PDP2
- **Open calls** and SGS calls to be launched during 2020



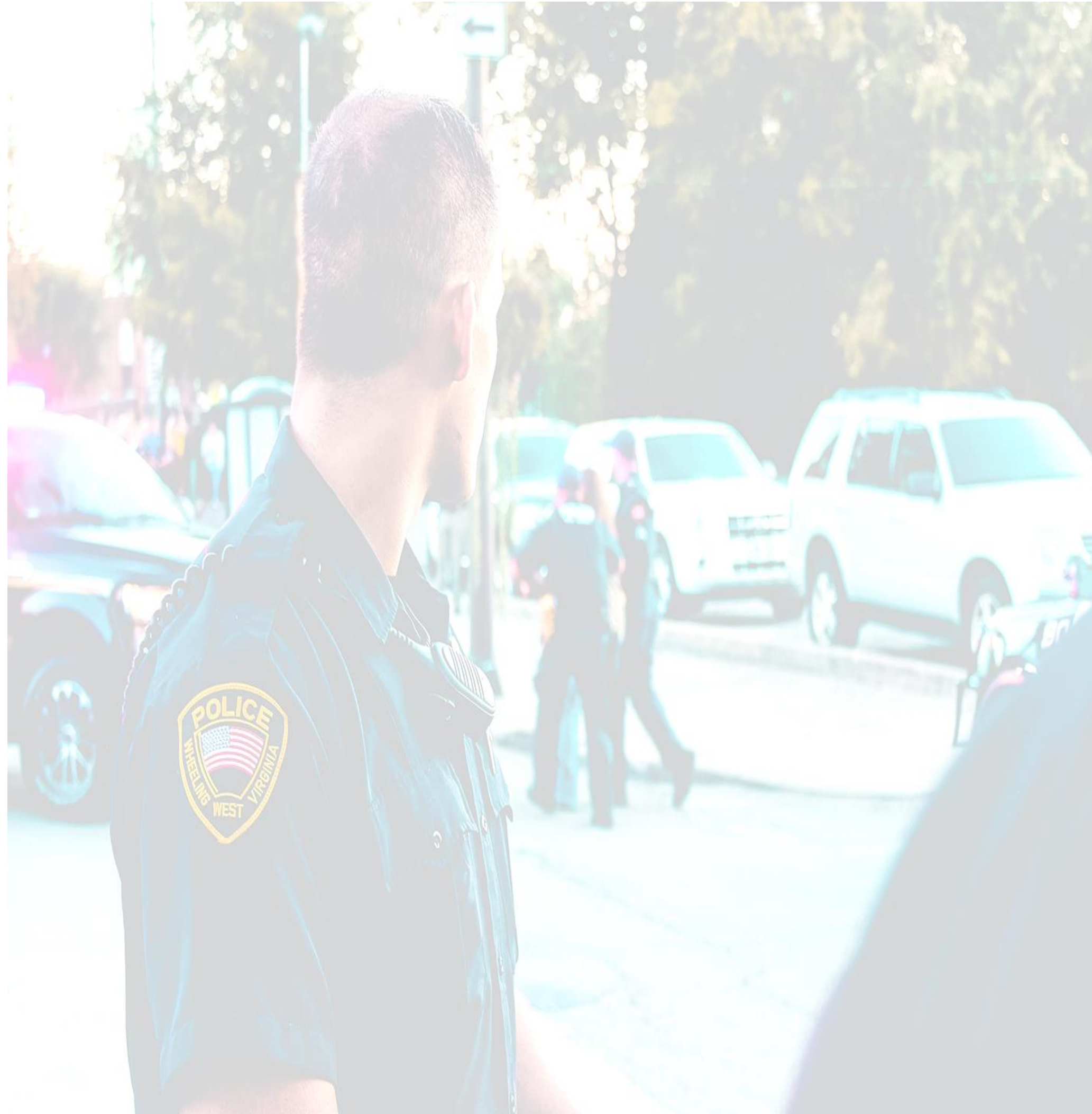
Justice



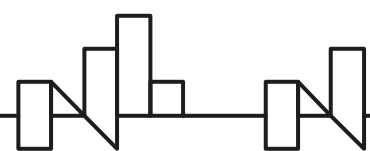
- **PDP1 (Ministry of Justice)**
 - start of the implementation of the project 1Q 2020
- **PDP2 (Prison Service)**
 - submission of the application in November 2019
 - start of the implementation of the project in January 2020
- **PDP3 (PMS)**
 - start of the implementation of the project 2Q 2020
- **Open calls** to be launched in 1Q 2020



Home Affairs



- **Preparation of the application form and IT system**
- **PDPs – expected start of the implementations 2Q/3Q 2020**
- **SGS call – to be launched 1-2Q 2020**



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

Thank you for your attention.

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2014-2021

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES AND THEIR APPROVAL

PROGRAMME	CN submission to the FMO	PRG approval	PA signature	PIA signature
CZ-RESEARCH	19. 6. 2018	20. 6. 2019	22. 7. 2019	30. 9. 2019
CZ-EDUCATION	3. 5. 2018	19. 11. 2018	21. 11. 2018	22. 3. 2019 (valid as of 28.3. 2019)
CZ-HEALTH	28. 5. 2018	18. 3. 2019	24. 4. 2019	8. 5. 2019
CZ-CULTURE	8. 6. 2018	30. 1. 2019	20. 2. 2019	7. 5. 2019
CZ-GOVERNANCE	15. 5. 2018	15. 8. 2019	18. 9. 2019	2. 10. 2019
CZ-ENVIRONMENT	11. 6. 2018	18. 1. 2019	20. 2. 2019	15. 4. 2019 (valid as of 18.4. 2019)
CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS	5. 6. 2018	22. 5. 2019	19. 6. 2019	23. 7. 2019
CZ-JUSTICE	23. 4. 2018	18. 12. 2018	7. 2. 2019	10. 4. 2019
CZ-HOME AFFAIRS	25. 5. 2018	5. 3. 2019	8. 4. 2019	29. 7. 2019 (valid as of 29.7. 2019)
CZ-TA	---	---	21. 11. 2018	---
CZ-BF	---	---	4. 7. 2018	---

OVERVIEW OF PO MCS APPROVAL

PO	PRG	PRG approval	Deadline for MCS submission ¹ to NFP	MCS submitted to the NFP	Deadline for information to FMO on approval ²	Note
Ministry of Finance	CZ-CULTURE	30. 1. 2019	30. 7. 2019	23. 4. 2019 (Ministry of Finance has drafted one common document for all 5 programmes)	30. 10. 2019	The PO has duly submitted the management and control system to the NFP within the relevant deadline. After mutual consultations and several adjustments and improvements, the NFP approved the description of the management and control system and encouraged the PO to submit it to the Audit Authority which took place on 23 July 2019. The audit report was issued on 26 September 2019, confirming full compliance of the system with all relevant rules. The English version of the MCS and audit report was submitted to FMO on 15 November 2019. The FMO was also asked for confirmation that by submitting requested documents to the FMO, the pre-payment condition was fulfilled.
	CZ-GOVERNANCE	15. 8. 2019	15. 2. 2020		15. 5. 2020	
	CZ-HEALTH	18. 3. 2019	18. 9. 2019		18. 12. 2019	
	CZ-HUMANRIGHTS	22. 5. 2019	22. 11. 2019		22. 2. 2020	
	CZ-JUSTICE	18. 12. 2019	18. 6. 2019		18. 9. 2019	
Centre for International Cooperation in Education	CZ-EDUCATION	19. 11. 2018	19. 5. 2019	15. 5. 2019	19. 8. 2019	The Audit Authority has closed settlement of comments with the PO on 28 August 2019 and has just released the final audit report on the management and control system of the CZ-EDUCATION programme. The Audit Authority confirmed that the system was fully in line with the Regulation as well as with all general accounting standards in a letter from 30 August 2019. The FMO was informed on 2 September 2019. There were 6 findings in the audit report. The mentioned findings/recommendations had no effect upon the positive AA resolution. The PO accepted all recommendations and shall incorporate them by the deadline of 31 December 2019.

¹ 6 months of the PRG approval

² 3 months of MCS submission to NFP

State Environmental Fund	CZ-ENVIRONMENT	18. 1. 2019	18. 7. 2019	3. 6. 2019	18. 10. 2019	<p>The PO has duly submitted the management and control system to the NFP within the relevant deadline. After mutual consultations and several adjustments and improvements, the NFP approved the description of the management and control system and encouraged the PO to submit it to the Audit Authority which took place on 22 October 2019. The PO submitted the MCS to the AA on 1 November 2019. The intention is to finish the audit by the end of the year should there be no complications.</p> <p>The reason for delays in finalisation of the MCS:</p> <p>SEF as an operator of EU and CR funds has a complex methodology and procedures for their management. However, taking into consideration specifics of FM Regulations and other guidelines, discrepancies appeared between PO MCS set up according to FM rules and existing internal rules of the PO used for management of other funds. Therefore it was more complicated to prepare a concise document which would reflect both FM rules and the current SEF management set-up.</p>
Ministry of Interior	CZ-HOMEAFFAIRS	5. 3. 2019	5. 9. 2019	2. 9. 2019	5. 12. 2019	<p>The NFP has continuously provided assistance to the PO in drafting of the PO MCS. The PO MCS was officially submitted to the NFP on 2 September 2019 after several rounds of preliminary consultations and adjustments. The 6th version of the document was submitted to the NFP on 25 October 2019. The text of the MCS has been preliminarily approved; however, the document still needs to be supplemented by relevant checklists. They shall be submitted to NFP on 21 November 2019.</p>
Technology Agency	CZ-RESEARCH	20. 6. 2019	20. 12. 2019	---	20. 3. 2019	<p>The deadline for submission of PO MCS to NFP is in December 2019. Due to the fact that the PO has been working on the call for proposals and related documents in order to launch the call in 2nd half of November 2019, the document has not been submitted to the NFP yet.</p>

External monitoring – current status

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 Czech Republic

Petr Zlesák
National Focal Point

Mikulov, 20 November 2019



External monitoring



- **Why**
- **Core**
- **Public tender procedure**
– current status, budget
- **Time-schedule**



Why?

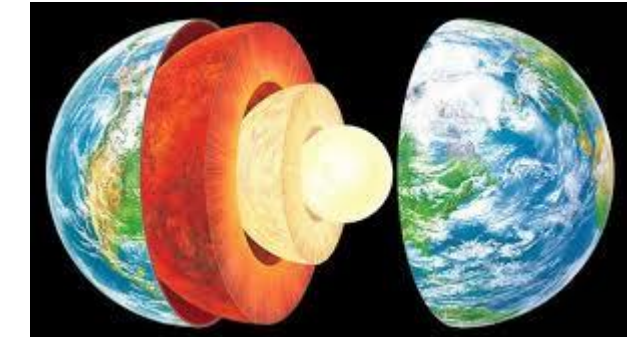
The NFP duty regarding continuous structured risk assessment and regular monitoring of FM EEA/Norway Programmes 2014-2021:

- arises from Memoranda of Understanding,
- is set in Article 5.3.3 of the Regulation, and the regular monitoring of the Programmes described in Article 5.3.4 of the Regulation,
- is stated as a condition in PAs of the CZ-CULTURE, CZ-HEALTH, CZ- GOVERNANCE, CZ-HUMANRIGHTS and CZ-JUSTICE programmes.



According to approved MCS for FM EEA/Norway 2014-2021 on the national level and in compliance with the FMO recommendation the above mentioned activities shall be externalised and be carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the NFP

Core (1/2) – 3 main areas



1) Development of methodology for monitoring and programme risk management:

NFP and provider ➔ will cooperate on the development of methodology focused on FM3 programme monitoring and risk management

Goal ➔ to guarantee the internal and external independence of the NFP as well as its objectivity, impartiality and equal treatment of individual POs in accordance with MoUs, Regulations and PAs.

Output ➔ a written document (will be submitted to the FMO for review in 1Q/2020).

2) Supervision of NFP's activities:

Provider ➔ will continuously monitor and verify compliance of NFP activities including monitoring of described risk management, adherence to methodologies and adherence to request for the separation of functions among NFP and PO placed at the Ministry of Finance.

Output ➔ a report on NFP activities drafted by the external company, created on an annual basis and including a summary to be added to the Strategic report. The report will provide information on compliance of the NFP with conditions related to separation of functions. The supervision shall be provided in the period 2020 – 2025.

Core (2/2)



3) Verification of programmes' implementation (on-the-spot):

Provider ➔ will carry out on-the-spot verification of programme implementation, which shall cover all PO activities related to fulfilment of the programme objectives, obligations set in the PIA, other contracts and guidelines and methodologies issued by NFP, CA or FMO. The on-the-spot checks will also include identification of risks in the programme and their solution and the possible changes in the programme.

Output ➔ a report including a check-list (forms already prepared, just to be finalized with the provider) from each on-the-spot verification. Altogether 11 verifications (9 – one for each programme, 2 – optional as needed) are planned during the period 2020 -2023.

Public tender procedure – current status, budget

- 4-9/2019 – call preparation
- 10/2019 – call launch, selection procedure
- participants:
 - × Ernst & Young, s.r.o.
 - × Evaluation Advisory CE, s.r.o.
 - ✓ Deloitte Advisory s.r.o. – winner/provider
- saved 0.6 mio CZK (planned allocation 1.9 mio CZK x reality 1.3 mio CZK)
- contract to be signed – 22.11.2019, duration until 15.7.2025



Time schedule



- **first meeting of the project meet will be held 10 working days after the contract is announced in the Registry of Contracts**

Year	Methodology preparation - output	NFP monitoring - outputs	Programmes monitoring - outputs
2019			
2020	First draft up to 2 month from the 1st project team meeting Final draft according to the schedule set by the order party	NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	Programme OSM reports due to schedule set on Project Meetings (2 programmes a year)
2021		NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	Programme OSM reports due to schedule set on Project Meetings (3 programmes a year)
2022		NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	Programme OSM reports due to schedule set on Project Meetings (3 programmes a year)
2023		NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	Programme OSM reports due to schedule set on Project Meetings (3 programmes a year)
2024		NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	
2025		NFP activities report until 30.6. Draft of report until 31.5.	

- **presentation of outputs both of NFP and programmes monitoring on the Annual Meeting**

Thank you for you attention!

