

MINUTES
4TH ANNUAL MEETING
EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

25 November 2021
Sněmovní 7, Prague 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Institution	Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	JOHANSEN Torill
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	KLEVEN Birgit
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	BEKKEVOLD Geir
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	GANICKÁ Helena
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	ENGLUND Terje
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland	MAGNÚSSON Bergþór
Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU	BRUNHART Alina
Financial Mechanism Office	TJOMSLAND Tom
Financial Mechanism Office	FELLNER Dimitra
Financial Mechanism Office	BHARDWAJ Mahesh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CR	HOMOLOVÁ Naděžda
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	SOVOVÁ Šárka
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	GASSENBAUEROVÁ Martina
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	JEŘÁBKOVÁ Hana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	BAYEROVÁ Radana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	TOUŠOVÁ Monika
Ministry of Finance – CA	KURTIŠ Josef
Ministry of Finance – CA	KRÁLOVÁ Barbora
Ministry of Finance – AA	PAVLÍK Jaroslav

OPENING / ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Annual Meeting was opened by the Acting Head of the National Focal Point, **Ms Šárka Sovová**, who chaired the meeting. She was very glad that the Annual Meeting could be held in person after

one-year break and apologized for the last minute change of a venue due to applicable Covid-19 restrictions. She assured that the Covid-19 pandemic did not hamper the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants in the Czech Republic much. All the programmes are running rather smoothly or with only slight delays, the commitment rate in programmes is more than 70 % and only a few calls remain to be launched. She also introduced all participants of the Annual Meeting and thanked for all work and effort in these difficult times.

From the Donors' side the Annual Meeting was opened by the Deputy Director of the Section for Central Europe and the EEA/Norway Grants of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Ms Torill Johansen**, who co-chaired the meeting. She was also very happy to meet in person despite the current Covid-19 situation and appreciated the considerable progress with the implementation of the Grants in these difficult times. She re-called the last year approval of the reserves from the Memoranda of Understanding, appreciated that the Czech Republic had proposals for the amendment of the Regulations and she highlighted again the need to lower the bureaucracy. She was looking forward for the update of programmes and for project visits that could show a good progress in the implementation of EEA and Norway Grans in the Czech Republic.

Short opening speech was also presented by **Mr Geir Bekkevold**, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague, followed by introductory remarks of the representative of Iceland, **Mr Bergþór MAGNÚSSON** and concluded with the opening remarks of the representative of Liechtenstein, **Ms Alina Brunhart**. Mr Bekkevold stressed that the EEA and Norway Grants play an important role in many sectors in the Czech Republic and stated that he was impressed by the progress made. He also appreciated a close contact and cooperation with the NFP and the FMO and expressed his wish that the progress and dialogue about Roma issues and Lety Memorial will continue. Mr Magnússon introduced himself as a new representative of Iceland, stated that the EEA and Norway Grants are an excellent opportunity for cooperation and appreciated a good progress made in programmes implementation and bilateral cooperation. Ms Brunhart introduced herself as a new representative of Liechtenstein, thanked for the work of Czech stakeholders under EEA Grants and repeated that the Czech Republic is the most important partner for Liechtenstein. She also reminded to work on reducing administrative burden whenever possible.

Finally, the Agenda of the 4th Annual Meeting was agreed without any comments.

DRAFT STRATEGIC REPORT 2020

Ms Sovová introduced that the Fourth Strategic Report with the reporting period 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021 was submitted to the FMO on 22 September 2021 and it contained information about the status of programmes, progress in bilateral cooperation and description of publicity activities as well as monitoring activities of the NFP. It also described the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the implementation of EEA and Norway Grants in the Czech Republic. Based on the donors' requirement at the last Annual Meeting it also included a separate chapter related to horizontal concern of Roma inclusion in the respective programmes. She invited the Donors for their comments or recommendations to the Strategic Report.

Ms Johansen summed up that the Fourth Strategic Report is very good and detailed and appreciated that the special chapter related to Roma is included. She reminded a zero-tolerance to corruption and thanked the Czech authorities for their thorough way of handling irregularities cases and complaints. She also raised the issue of forecasts of likely payments applications and their need to be as accurate and realistic as possible as they are used in Donor States for financial planning. Ms Johansen also asked for the explanation related to the cooperation with IPOs as in the Strategic Report they are evaluated both positively and negatively.

Ms Sovová explained that cooperation with IPOs is quite different and usually more theoretical in comparison to the cooperation with DPPs. She informed that the cooperation with FRA is very good but the cooperation with the Council of Europe has only limited added-value for the programmes, their comments are more theoretical as their expertise does not fit exactly to the needs in programmes CZ-JUSTICE, CZ-HOME AFFAIRS and CZ-GOVERNANCE where they act as IPO. The difficulties related to including IPOs on a project level because of obstacles in Czech legislation were further described (see further discussion under “Status of Programmes” – CZ-GOVERNANCE). **Ms Dimitra Fellner**, the FMO Country officer for the Czech Republic, mentioned that it is important to have also a perspective from the international organizations and include references to international human rights standards in call texts and guidelines and that this is a particular approach of IPOs. **Ms Johansen** closed that how international organisations will be involved in a future mechanism of the grants will be assessed by the Donors.

Finally, the Fourth Strategic Report was approved by the Donors.

STATUS OF PROGRAMMES

Ms Šárka Sovová together with **Ms Martina Gassenbauerová**, Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, presented the progress in the programmes, their main risks and examples of approved projects (attachment No. 1a). The presentation was supported by the table summing up the statistical data about the projects in all programmes (attachment No. 1b). Discussion was held programme by programme.

CZ-RESEARCH

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** was very pleased that all 25 projects have started, she highlighted also 2 projects in CCS field and recalled the strong bilateral dimension of the programme. The NFP added that the new PO in this field (Technological Agency of the Czech Republic) is experienced and cooperates with the NFP very closely.

CZ-EDUCATION

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** expressed concern related to mobility activities suffering from the current restrictions but was pleased to see that the PO could find solutions. She encouraged contacting the FMO in case of challenges for the timely implementation.

Ms Brunhart pointed out that the educational projects are of the most interest for Liechtenstein and added that the DPP really appreciated the cooperation with the PO. She asked when mobility activities could be restarted.

Ms Gassenbauerová replied that we hope that mobility activities could start in school year 2022/2023 as this is the last possibility before the eligibility deadline. She explained that the main problem is that the school year covers the period when Covid-19 situation and related restrictions are the heaviest.

Ms Helena Ganická, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague, recalled the project “Noráci” monitoring Czech people sent to Norway during the Second World War. She explained that the project is very important to map our common history and relations. An exhibition has been prepared as part of the project and a book will be published next year. She also mentioned that this project attracted a lot of media attention both in Norway and in the Czech Republic.

CZ-HEALTH

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** was impressed about such a good progress in this programme despite the fact that Ministry of Health is dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

CZ-CULTURE

Within the presentation Ms Sovová and Ms Gassenbauerová also explained that the delay in the preparation of the pre-defined project Lety Memorial was caused by a miscommunication within the Ministry of Culture and explained how the NFP intervened.

Ms Johansen appreciated a strong hold of the NFP related to Lety Memorial pre-defined project and explanation of the situation, she was also glad that the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague is regularly informed and invited to the meetings. She underlined the importance on following the timeline for this project closely as all projects have to be finalized by 30 April 2024. She expressed that the donors are aware of new risk of increase in prices of construction works within the projects. And she proposed that the increase should be flexibly solved within the project budgets. She asked on interest regarding the rather unique topic of Arts and cultural criticism.

Ms Sovová explained that the requirement for this topic came from the stakeholders consultations and the call was launched as “pilot call” in this area, but the interest was very good and now 10 projects are running.

Ms Brunhart expressed that she is very pleased that projects are already running despite Covid-19 and added that the new Liechtenstein culture coordinator is very pleased with the cooperation with the PO.

CZ-GOVERNANCE

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** was glad to see the programme has overcome in most parts the initial delays and took note of the explanation that it was not possible to sign a project partnership with OECD for PDP3 due to obstacles in the Czech legislation related to the rules of budget expenditure abroad and public procurement rules. She informed that the proposed modification of the Programme Agreement related to change in PDP3 is now with the Donors and the result will be soon. She also mentioned the external monitoring of the programme and thanked the NFP and PO for their support to this. She recalled again the cooperation with the IPO – Council of Europe that was already discussed.

CZ-ENVIRONMENT

Following the presentation where Ms Sovová highlighted the competency and skills of the PO (State Environmental Fund) **Ms Johansen** appreciated the progress made.

Mr Bekkevold appreciated the cooperation between the DPP and PO that can be considered as a model for cooperation also in other sectors. He also commended the communication work of the PO. He suggested that a communication workshop for the beneficiary states could be organized, where the Czech PO would share best practices.

CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** recalled that this programme is very complex and appreciated high activity of the PO. She also mentioned the Roma round table that shall be done in 2022 and again advised to be flexible in project budgets when it comes to the increased prices of construction works.

CZ-JUSTICE

Following the presentation where Ms Gassenbauerová also asked for a possible prolongation of the eligibility period **Ms Johansen** replied that the extension was already included in the eligibility deadline set for April 2024 and encouraged the NFP to work together with the PO and Project Promoter on a plan how to finish the PDP2 within the given time period.

CZ-HOME AFFAIRS

Following the presentation where Ms Sovová mentioned that the NFP needed to assist the PO (Ministry of Interior) a lot and check all their work, **Ms Johansen** appreciated the work of the NFP with the PO. She also mentioned the on-going external monitoring of the programme and thanked the PO and the NFP for their cooperation.

Mr Tom Tjomsland, Director of Compliance and Administration Department of the FMO, presented the development in the programmes that are in the direct responsibility of the FMO (attachment No. 2).

Following the presentation **Ms Sovová** thanked for this overview.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Ms Monika Toušová, Centre for Foreign Assistance – Preparation and Coordination Unit, and **Ms Hana Jeřábková**, Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit had a presentation about the bilateral cooperation under the Grants focused on current status of approved initiatives, JCBF work and progress in bilateral ambitions under the programmes (attachment No. 3).

Following the presentation **Ms Johansen** pointed out that she could understand that the bilateral cooperation was much affected by Covid-19 pandemic but was glad to see the plans for the future. She also recalled that for the Bilateral Fund there is a longer eligibility period than for projects under the programmes and was glad there are still funds remaining for the future initiatives. She was very satisfied with the current state of disbursement rate and incurred rate. She asked the NFP to prepare the overview of outputs and bilateral results of initiatives approved within bilateral Open Calls.

Mr Magnússon mentioned that the Bilateral Fund is a very good tool to strengthen the bilateral relations between the countries. He also confirmed that the Icelandic Association of Towns and Municipalities is still interested in the implementation of the pre-defined initiative *“Exchange of good practices in the implementation of modern technologies Iceland – Czech Republic”* that was postponed to 2022 and offered a help to set-up contact.

Ms Brunhart pointed out that Czech-Liechtenstein school exchanges held in 2018 and 2019 were very successful and hoped that they could continue from 2022. She added that unspent funds from school exchanges not realized in 2020 and 2021 could be used in other way and plans for that are already being developed.

Mr Bekkevold was very pleased with the bilateral cooperation progress and recalled that it is important to disseminate information about the EEA and Norway Grants and its Bilateral Fund and about supported projects. He mentioned that the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague is in contact with the Office of the Government responsible for the CZ Presidency in the EU in second half of 2022 and this is a good opportunity for spread of information.

Ms Šárka Sovová promised that the NFP would prepare an overview of outputs of bilateral initiatives and send it to the FMO.

COMMUNICATON AND PUBLICITY

Ms Radana Bayerová, the NFP communication officer, briefly summarized the NFP’s communication and publicity activities done in 2021 and plans for 2022 and **Ms Helena Ganická** completed the presentation by summing up the publicity activities done by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague (attachment No. 4).

Mr Bekkevold also recalled very successful Celebration of Nordic-Baltic National Days, which took place on November 11 and attracted more than 300 participants, and thanked for the Icelandic cooperation during this event.

Ms Johansen thanked the NFP for their very good work in communication and regularly up-dated webpages and stressed the importance to inform about successful stories from project implementation.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were two issues included in the Strategic Report to be discussed at the Annual Meeting:

- possibility of extension of relevant programmes or exceptionally projects where reaching of the target values of outcomes will be hardly possible till the final deadline (April 2024) – this issue was covered during the discussion related to CZ-JUSTICE programme,
- simplification of the procedures regarding the approval of pre-defined projects' modifications – this issue was not discussed at the Annual Meeting but will be covered at working level between the NFP and the FMO.

As the only point under Miscellaneous **Ms Johansen** strongly encouraged to organize a Roma round table in 2022 in the Czech Republic and continue with the visibility of this area that is one of the main contributors to achieving the goal of reducing social and economic disparities.

Ms Gassenbauerová confirmed that the NFP would prepare the Roma round table in 2022, the preparations already started at the Roma workshop held in October 2021 in cooperation with the FMO. In January 2022 the FMO plans the mission to the Czech Republic to visit "Roma" projects and to plan the timing and organization of the Roma round table that very much depends on the Covid-19 situation.

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Sovová summed up the conclusions of the 4th Annual Meeting:

- the Donors approved the Fourth Strategic Report,
- the progress in the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 in the Czech Republic is good.

At the end, she also thanked for a fruitful and constructive meeting and invited all the participants for project visits.

Ms Johansen thanked for organizing this Annual Meeting and very informative presentations and she highlighted very strong and dedicated team in the NFP. She also appreciated the stage of implementation of programmes. She reminded that in the last programming period the absorption rate in the Czech Republic was very high and we are now on a good track to repeat it, but there is still a lot of work to do. Also **Mr Magnússon** and **Ms Brunhart** thanked for very well organized Annual Meeting and appreciated a good progress that has been done.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1a) Presentation "Progress of the Programmes and Risk Assessment"
- 1b) Table "PRG status"
- 2) Presentation "CZ-FMO run programmes 2021"
- 3) Presentation "Bilateral cooperation"
- 4) Presentation "Publicity 2021"

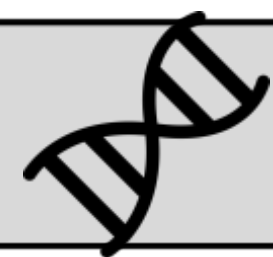
Progress of the Programmes and Risk Assessment

EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021 in the Czech Republic

Šárka Sovová

Martina Gassenbauerová

4th Annual meeting
25th November 2021

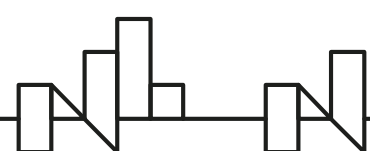


Research

Call – projects under implementation, bilateral research activities ongoing, first round of reports will be at the end of 2021, projects will last until 2023/or maximum April 2024.

RISKS

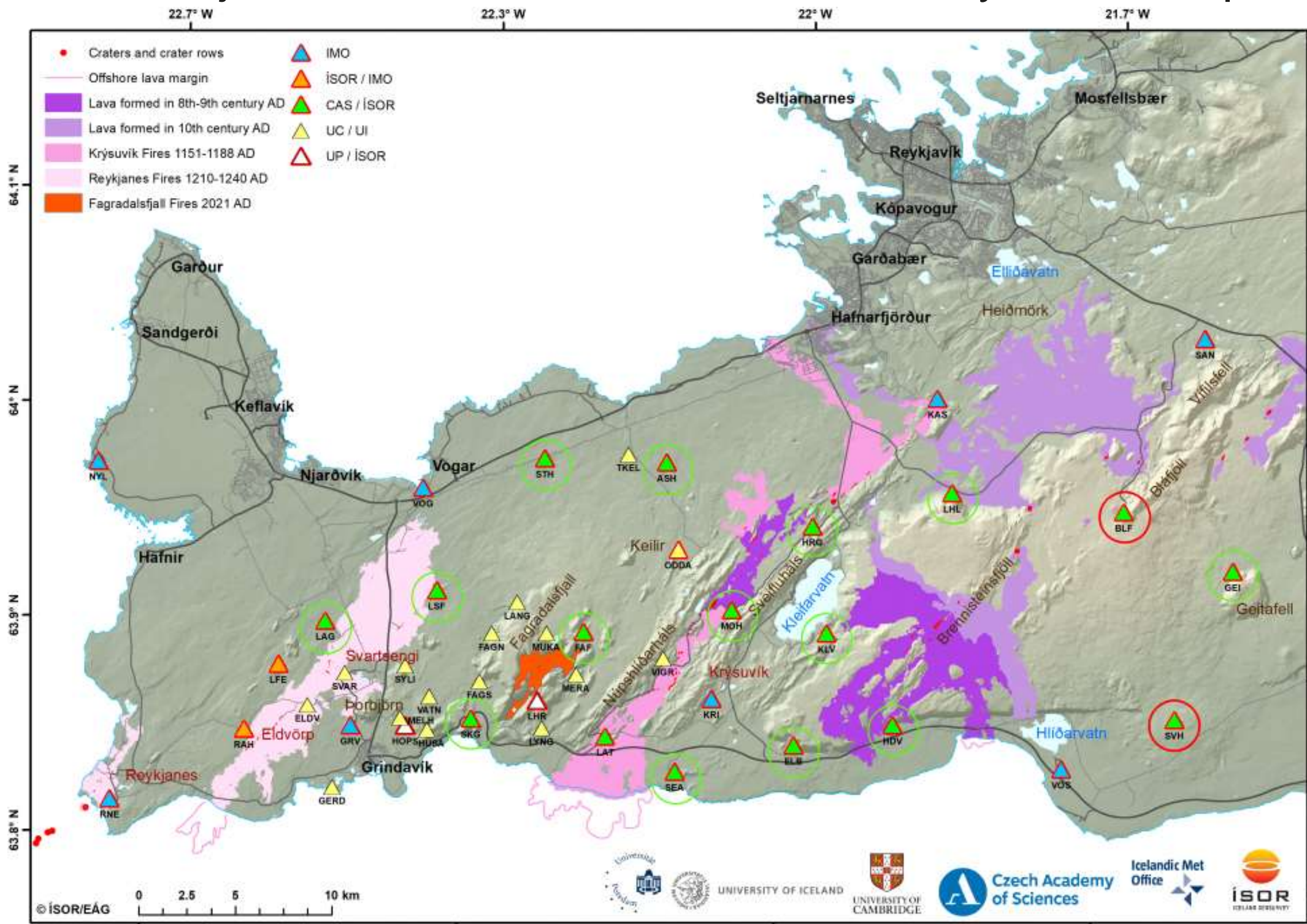
- ***Difficulties with financial flows between Czech promoters and donor state partners, Risk of practical use of results.*** – PO clearly monitors, consultations within partnership agreements preparation, become relevant in the closing phase
- ***Inexperience of the PO with the FM rules and procedures – LOW – NFP close monitoring, PO start monitoring activities, regular contact with promoters***
- ***COVID pandemic risk – not relevant now – initial phase of projects implementation – separate research activities and online consultation between partners***





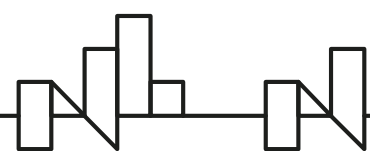
Research – project examples

- Project **NASPMON** - NAtural Seismicity as a Prospecting and MONitoring tool for geothermal energy extraction



Data from the 15 seismic stations, operated on the Reykjanes Peninsula since 2013 by Czech Academy of Science and Iceland GeoSurvey (ÍSOR), are the foundation of the project.

Lucia Fojtíková from Institute of Geophysics CAS, Prague, installing the station in Selvogsheiði



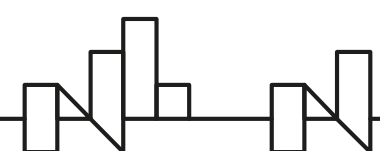


Research – project examples

- Project **i-FACES** - inherently Flexible Aerogels for energy efficient structures

The aim of the project is to develop super-light thermal protective materials with smart sensing functionalities.

Project is realized by Technical University in Liberec in cooperation with Czech company POLPUR, spol. s r.o. and Norwegian partner SINTEF AS





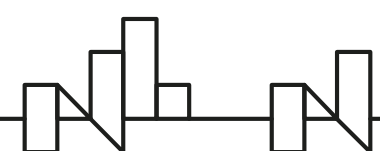
Education

CALLS:

- **1st round** – mobility projects and one VET project (vocational education and training) affected by situation with COVID, main part of the projects finalised in prolonged time period
- **2nd round** – projects under implementation, activities postponed and projects extended
- **3rd round** – projects in initial phase - 31 projects were supported, started in August 2021, 6 reserve projects started in October 2021
- **4th round** – call for Outcome 1 (ICP) launched in October 2021 with the deadline in February 2022. Projects will start in August 2022 with shorter implementation period (12 or 18 months instead of 24 due to the final deadline 30 April 2024).

RISKS

- ***Lack in absorption capacity due to shifts in time schedule, limited bilateral capacity in Donor states, difficulties with new modalities*** – reallocation between Outcomes was made to use unallocated means in Outcomes 2, 3, 4 for the last call in Outcome 1.
- ***Promoters and partners may not undertake physical mobilities / participate in events due to the COVID-19 pandemic*** – PO communicate with promoters – project modifications, postponement of activities





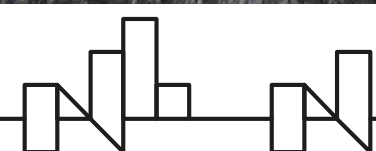
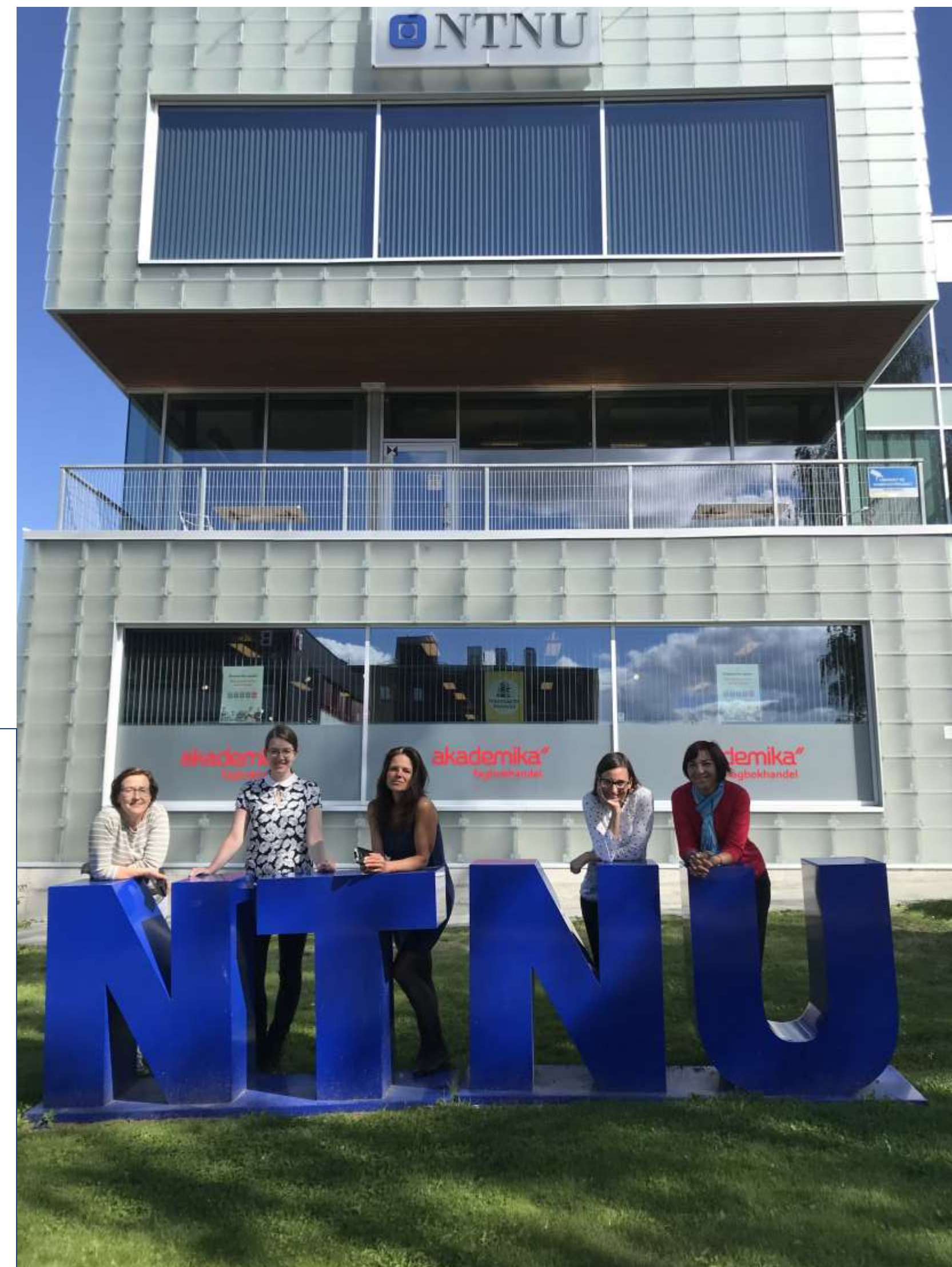
Education – project examples



Project Institutional cooperation project „Cool Science – training course in polar research“

Masaryk University and Agricultural University of Iceland;
project team during the field work in Iceland

Mobility project „MObility for Development of Universities (MODUS II)“, University of Pardubice and Norwegian University of Science and Technology;
Czech participants during the staff training in Norway





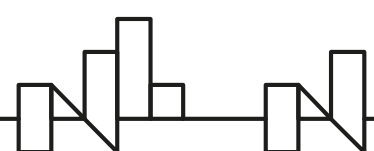
Health (1)

Predefined projects

- **PDP1** (MoH – TripleP - Positive Parenting Programme) – project under implementation, 5 centres for implementation of the Triple P programme were chosen, In September 2021 international conference about positive parenting was organized with participation of Norwegian partners.
- **PDP2** (National Institute of Public Health) - under implementation – works on guidelines for antibiotic prescription continue, the company for comprehensive antibiotics resistance prevention campaign was selected and the information campaign is at preparatory phase.
- **PDP3** – Patient HUB – the start of HUB functioning was delayed due to the COVID restrictions, HUB was fully opened for public since May 2021, postponed welcoming conference was held in October 2021 and educational activities take place in HUB

CALLS

- **Open calls – all 16 selected projects under implementation** – 14 projects focused on mental health of children, 2 projects aim in prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases – projects started in 1Q 2021 and will last till 2023/or maximum April 2024





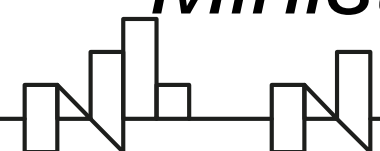
Health (2)

SGS calls:

- SGS1 - mental health of children and adolescents – 64 applications submitted, verification ongoing, start of project implementation in December 2021/January 2022
- SGS2 - prevention measures targeting dementia – 10 applications submitted, verification ongoing, start of project implementation in December 2021/January 2022
- SGS3 – support of patient organizations - 48 applications submitted, verification ongoing, start of project implementation in January/ February 2022

RISKS

- ***The overall complexity of the programme*** - careful monitoring and supervision of progress by the NFP in calls and PDPs
- ***IT monitoring system for SGS delayed*** – IT monitoring system is functioning for selection of applications, monitoring and payments will be administered outside of the system based on the agreement between PO and PP
- ***Insufficient personal capacity of the Ministry of Health to administer PDP1 and to ensure proper monitoring of SGSs projects – new risk*** - NFP and PO closely monitors the personal situation at the Ministry (personal changes, hiring of new employees)





Health – project example

Project: Mental Health Care of Children Born Preterm

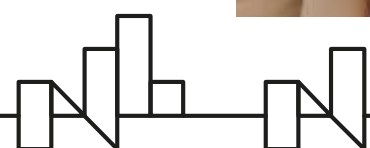
Project realized by General University Hospital in Prague

The project aims to investigate mental disorders and symptoms and neuropsychological abnormalities in the at-risk population of children born preterm with perinatal burden, focusing on very low (below 1500g) and extremely low birth weight (below 1000g).

Dr. Marková – main expert within the project



Two children/youth patients born preterm that participate at the project activities





Health – project example

Project: Pregnancy without psychosocial stress - the earliest prevention of mental disorders and toxic stress in children.

Project is realized by The National Institute of Mental Health in cooperation with NGO Usmev Mamy.

The project aims is to bring new tested methodologies, thanks to which we can find women experiencing perinatal stress and reduce this stress in them. In this way, we will also reduce the stress to which their children are exposed. Another goal is to raise the awareness about mental disorders in parents and reduce the stigma associated with it.

DUŠEVNÍ POHODA MÁMY JE DŮLEŽITÁ

Pro vás,
pro miminko
i pro nás

Nejčastější mateřské psychické obtíže:

- úzkost
- vtíravé myšlenky
- ztráta radosti
- vyčerpanost
- pochyby

Součástí naší péče je proto on-line screening psychosociálního stresu v těhotenství.

NUDZ

úsměv mámy

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

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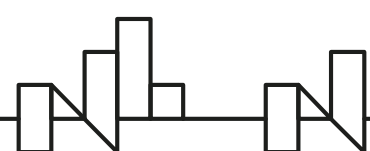
Součástí naší péče je proto on-line screening psychosociálního stresu po porodu.

NUDZ

úsměv mámy

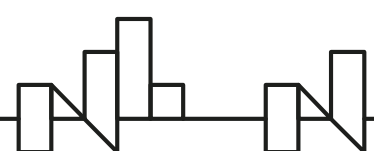
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Examples of leaflets for mothers to participate in online screening program for psychosocial stress in perinatal women and women after childbirth



Culture (1)

- **PDP** (Roma memorial in Lety) – preparation of project delayed – difficult communication among Museum of Romani Culture and Ministry of Culture (different departments for budget and administration of EEA and Norway Funds), NFP organises monthly meetings with PO, Museum of Romani Culture and Ministry of Culture
- ***Timeschedule:*** building permit is expected in November/December 21, application is to be submitted in **December 2021**, project activities will start in 2022 (selection of supplier for building works – February 22, building works will start in May 22 and end in May 23, opening of Memorial and soft activities from **May/June 23** as originally planned)

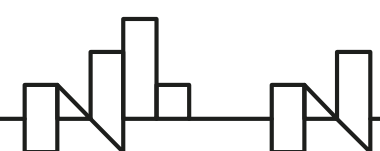




Culture (2)

CALLS - closed:

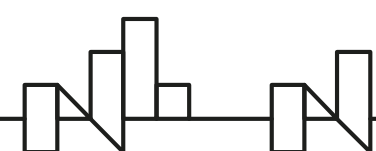
- **ACC1 (Art and Cultural Criticism)** – 9 projects under implementation, 1 project already finished, part of the projects will be finished in 2022
- **CB1 (Capacity Building of Umbrella Associations, Networks and Platforms)** – 12 projects under implementation, activities ongoing, part of the projects will be finished in 2022
- **CA1 (Contemporary Art)** – 26 projects under implementation, activities ongoing, postponed bilateral activities or online activities.
- **CH1 (Culture Heritage)** – 16 projects under implementation, tendering of construction works ongoing, expected end of the projects in 2023/ maximum April 2024



Culture (3)

CALLS – ongoing:

- **CB2 (Capacity Building)** – 18 applications submitted; formal and eligibility check closed in September 2021; quality evaluation ongoing (third evaluations); Selection Committee to be held mid December 2021, verification of selected projects in January 2022, start of project implementation in February 2022
- **CA2 (Contemporary Arts)** – 40 applications submitted; formal and eligibility check closed in October 2021; quality evaluation ongoing; Selection Committee to be held in January 2022, verification of selected projects in January - February 2022, start of project implementation in March 2022
- **CH2 (Innovative Use of Cultural Heritage)** - 37 applications submitted; formal and eligibility check ongoing; quality evaluation in December 2021-January 2022, Selection Committee to be held in February, verification of selected projects in March 2022, start of project implementation in April 2022



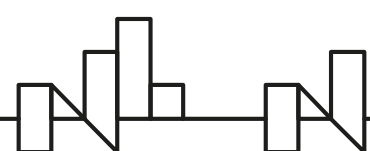
Culture (4)

Risks

Complexity and absorption capacity of the Programme, delays in Calls and PDP, new areas of support (arts criticism and umbrella associations) – calls – second round for Cultural Criticism and Platforms is financed from the reserve based on the MoU modification, close collaboration between the PO and partners during preparation of calls

Insufficient political will and support of the PDP, operational risks related to the PDP - political obstacles seem to be overcome, during preparation of PDP mainly the communication risks among all the parties are eliminated by monthly meeting organised by NFP

Increased price of construction works in the post COVID situation - problems with capacity of construction companies and its workers (PDP, calls CH1, CH2) – NFP closely monitor and discuss with PO and promoters increased prices and related technical amendments of construction works needed in projects, delay in building works within projects – possible extension of project implementation period



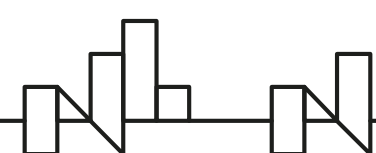
👑 Culture – project examples



Revitalization of the historic Liechtenstein brewery, restoration of original technology and opening of a unique brewery museum and archive in Kostelec nad Černými lesy

Invitation for Kveik training with Norwegian partner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glvkj1jcfQs>

Reconstruction of the fortress Mladějovice



👑 Culture – project examples

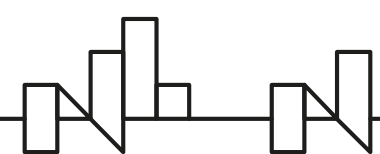


GENDAL'IPEN – Reflection

Realized by NGO Slovo 21 with partners

The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages (IS) and Roma culture and resource center- Romano kher / Church's city mission (NO)

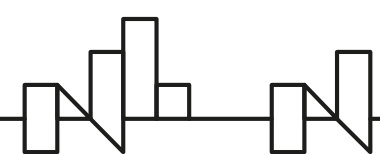
Project aims at supporting Roma artists, organizing cultural events focused on Romani culture.



👑 Culture – project examples



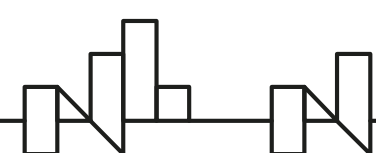
Czech Cultural Network NOVA SIT – realized in partnership with Norwegian organisation Surnadal Billag A/S - the main intention is to support each and individual member of the Czech cultural network in developing new skills and competencies through meeting, workshops, conference, online platform etc.





Good Governance (1)

- **PDP1** (MoI) – under implementation (expert panel established, methodologies completed, public procurement for big data provided by mobile operators shall be finished and contract signed by December 2021), study visit to Norway, due to Covid restriction, postponed to 2022 (trip needed for data analysis).
- **PDP2** (MoI) – the project implementation delayed, but as initial activities were realized in September 2021, we may consider the project has already started. Partnership agreement signed, the Legal Act shall be issued by the end of November 2021, including a project change consisting in the prolongation of the project up to April 2024 and in adding two more project activities.
- **PDP3** (MoF) – project activities started (Assessment of the current Public finance management and control), the Legal Act still not issued, the Programme Operator has been solving the approval of the project change and PA amendment with the FMO since May 2021:
 - *removal of the Project Partner OECD from the project due to legal obstacles in Czech national law regarding the contracting of international organisations – have to be contracted in line with Procurement law and not using the exemption as in the PDP2 (because of fact that the MoF is not research institution as MoI)*
 - *proposal for analysis done by the external expert team from University of Bologna – university experts hired by project partner Masaryk University*





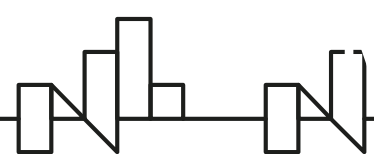
Good Governance (2)

PDP4 (MoI-PP) – key activities for 2020 and 2021 postponed to Autumn 2021 (Asset Recovery Office meeting, OSINT training – data mining, study trips) or completed on-line (respective conferences), due to Covid restrictions. No serious challenges within the planned public tender procedures have been identified.

PDP5 (MoJ) – the project team has concentrated, within the last year, on its personnel stabilisation and on the execution of planned public tenders (in process – comparative studies, brochures for conflict of interest area, training methodologies, publicity). Respective activities affected by Covid restrictions have been postponed to 2022 (such as international conferences).

CALL:

SGS – Call launched on 28 June 2021 and terminated on 14 October 2021, 6 applications submitted, quality evaluation in December 2021-January 2022, Selection committee planned in February 2022, start of project implementation in March 2022



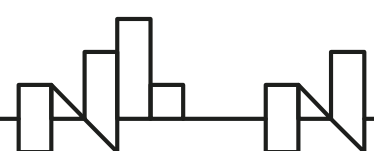


Good Governance (3)

RISKS

The programme is composed mainly of PDPs that are crucial for achievement of programme outcomes and thus programme objective as such – close monitoring of NFP, discussion with PO and PDP promoters

Implementation of PDP2 has been halted due to the lack of support from the leadership at the project promoter – implementation of PDP2 is delayed due to the long preparation of partnership agreement with OECD, project activities exceeded till April 2024, NFP closely monitor the project implementation





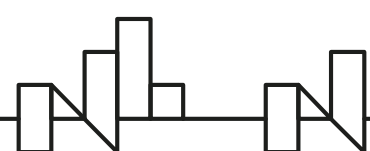
Good Governance – project example

Project: Improvement of preconditions for decentralisation and availability of public administration in the territory



Presentation of programme Good Governance and predefined projects (PDP1, PDP2, PDP3) at the conference of Modern public administration in Olomouc on 9 November 2021

Presenting Jakub Jaňura from Ministry of Interior (PDP1).



Environment (1)

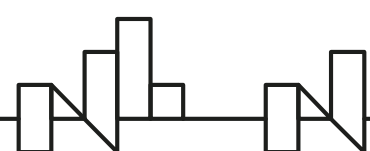
CALLS

Calls under implementation:

- **OC2a – Tromso (air quality monitoring at regional or local level), OC4a – Bergen (selected nature-related measures setting out the approach to climate change-related problems) – 15 OC projects approved, 11 OC projects are under implementation – initial phase**
- **SGS1 – Rondane (Promotion of biodiversity through the protection of endangered HABITATS), SGS3 – Oslo (Development of adaptation strategies), SGS4 – Reine (Information and educational activities in environmental protection) – 91 SGS projects selected/approved, 64 SGS projects are under implementation, bilateral activities postponed or switch to online form**

Calls ongoing:

- **OC1 – Rago (research projects on protection of ecosystems and biodiversity), OC3b –Trondheim (Protection of water quality in the CR and reduction of surface water pollution by micropollutants) – 2nd round - submission of applications ongoing till November/December 21**





Environment (2)

CALLS

Calls planned:

OC3a Ålesund will be announced in winter 2021/2022

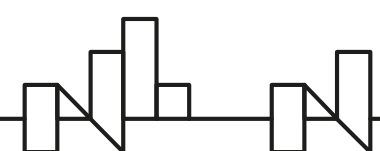
OC2b – will be announced in mid 2022

OC4b - will be announced in mid 2022

SGS2 – Svalbard - will be announced in winter 2021/2022

RISKS

COVID pandemic risk – PO discuss with promoters postponing of activities or alternative realization of project activities (online)



Environment – project examples

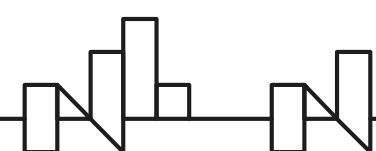
Project: Central bird pond and marginal ponds in Josefov Meadows

Realized by Czech Society for Ornithology

The aim of the project is habitat extension of priority species of birds listed on the Red List of threatened species in the CR by excavation of ponds in the bird reserve in order to secure their populations' stability and growth and support vulnerable habitats of vegetation of still waters.

video promoting realization of project :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ucnGQaGxTA>



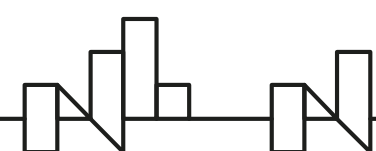
Environment – project examples

Project: Identification of the main causes of air pollution in the North Bohemian brown coal basin

Project realized by Ascend s.r.o. (Czech company for technical consultations of air pollution)

The aim of the project is to identify the origin of air pollution by suspended particles in the North Bohemian Coal Basin and to reduce the impact of air pollutants through the adoption of appropriate measures.

Air pollution measurement



Environment – project examples

Project: Management of habitats with black grouse occurrence in Doupovské Mts. Area

Project realized by Forestry and Game Management Research Institute

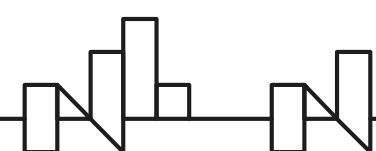
The aim of the project is to support and stabilize the residual black grouse population in the area of interest. This management, which will focus on the removal of successive vegetation, will create open areas suitable for the lekking and nesting of black grouse.

Doupovské Mountains

Black grouse chicks



Black grouse fighting





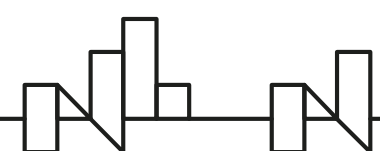
Human rights (1)

PDP1 (Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs) – under implementation according to plan – creation of a system for collecting quantitative data for evaluating the situation of the Roma in Czech society (expert platform, data analysis), not affected by covid

PDP2 (Centre of Roma and Sinti in Prague) - under implementation – educational activities and exhibitions are prepared together with Norwegian partner (European Wergeland Centre), start of building works was delayed, building permit for construction works obtained in May 2021, tender procedure for construction works announced in mid-August 2021 – no bids came, tender will be reannounced in December 2021 (technical amendments due to the increase of price)

PDP3 (Public Defender of Rights) – under implementation – changes due to the COVID – postponing of activities, online seminars realization, purchase of equipment for educational activities online, several educational seminars for professional staff were realized, new materials with recommendations in the area of human rights and the first educational video for children and adolescents were published

PDP4 (Hatefree 2) – under implementation – nationwide media campaign Hatefree Culture runs via social media, webpage, cultural events, hatefree talks, podcasts called Exteriors on Spotify and Apple, activity mediation in schools – due to the COVID change of concept of mediation needed (PA revised), research focused on the attitudes of young people towards individual minorities and social groups was carried out and presented at a press conference in October 2021





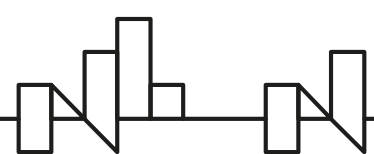
Human rights (2)

PDP5 (Ministry of Justice) – under implementation - the main activities focused on the completion of the preparation of the tender documentation for the suppliers of the web portal, followed by the creation of thematic manuals and the finalization of the outline of the draft compatibility manual, not affected by covid

PDP6 (Judicial Academy) – under implementation – training for tutors of e-learning courses, after the disappearance of COVID-19 restrictions, implementation of educational events started in full range

PDP7 (Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention) – under implementation – current state mapping and legal analysis of domestic and gender based violence, postponed study visits to end 2021 and 2022

PDP8 (Governmental Office - DGBV) – under implementation, due to the COVID change of planned activities (some activities – panels, workshops held online), online international professional conference; several educational activities especially for children and youth in prevention of sexual violence were held, fully operational website for the use of the movie Angry Man with registration of seminars, two side-events within the framework of the UN Commission on the Status of Women were organized in March 2021

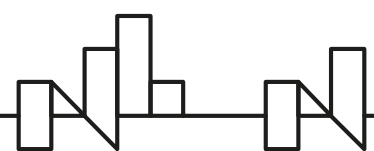




Human rights (3)

CALLS

- **OC1A (Support for Roma platforms at local and regional level)** – 7 projects under implementation – initial stage of projects (first projects started in August 21)
- **OC1B (Capacity building of Roma advisors)** – 3 projects under implementation - initial stage of projects (projects started in July 21)
- **OC2 (Creation of motivational leisure time programmes and extracurricular activities for Roma children)** - 10 projects in verification phase, approval in December 2021
- **OC3 (Establishing new specialized services for victims of gender-based violence)** – 5 projects under implementation, initial stage of projects (first projects started in October 21)
- **SGSA (Support of research, raising awareness and improving national implementation of human rights standards)** - 9 projects approved yesterday, start of projects implement. in Dec. 2021
- **SGSB (The capacity building of intervention centres)** – call will be launched in January 2022
- **SGSC (Awareness raising campaigns on domestic and gender-based violence)** – call will be launched in December 21
- **SGSD Increasing the capacity of organisations providing interventions for violent offenders)** - launched in October 21– deadline for submission till 2 February 2022





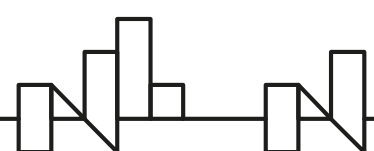
Human rights (4)

RISKS

Delay in the programme implementation due to its complexity and related involvement of the international partner organizations and other cooperating bodies including the CoE as one of the project promoters – NFP closely monitor ongoing processes of the calls, SGS and PDPs implementation and monitor relevant involvement of IPO

Demanding controls (monitoring reports, reimbursement requests) related to high number of supported projects as a result of overall complexity of the programme - NFP monitor whether the capacity of PO is sufficient for preparation of calls and monitoring of projects.

Increased price of construction works in the post COVID situation - problems with capacity of construction companies and its workers (PDP2, call OC3) – NFP closely monitor and discuss with PO and promoters increased prices and related technical amendments of construction works needed in projects, delay in building works within projects – possible extension of project implementation period





Human rights – project examples

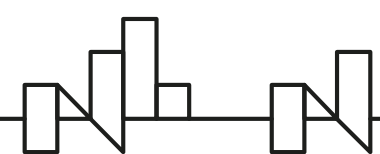
PDP 5 - Raising awareness of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and other international obligations of the Czech Republic in the field of human rights

Summer School



PDP 2 – Centre of Roma and Sinti in Prague

Future Centre of Roma and Sinti in Prague





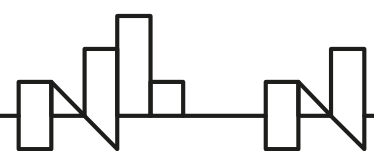
Human rights – project examples

PDP 4 - Place for All - Building a Space for Mutual Coexistence

Hatefree Campaign

based on previous EEA project, aim is to prevent prejudices against minorities, refute hoaxes, tackle hate speech and hate violence.

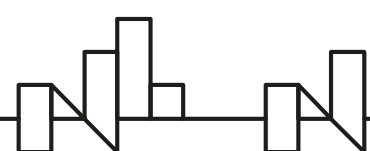
Video - good example of a EU project that ensures standard housing for people at risk of social exclusion in Plzeň region. Newly approved project within OC1A builds on this project and creates a platform for improvement of Roma integration in the Plzeň region.





Justice (1)

- **PDP 1 (MoJ)** - under implementation - organises educational courses and workshop. Main risk is next epidemic outbreak and no possibility of on-site education. They have experience with the online environment; however this project is also focused on networking, which is quite difficult without personal contact. First bilateral trip is supposed to be during 2Q 2022.
- **PDP2 (Prisoner Service)** - under implementation - started its implementation in March 2020 (start of COVID-19 pandemic). Activities are running - public procurements and reconstruction of rooms suitable for new programmes, online communication with Norwegian partners. Strong bilateral aspect of project is postponed (study trip and job shadowing in the Norwegian prisons in Motivation programme and Fathers programme) to the spring of the 2022. These activities are crucial and need to be done before the beginning of the pilot projects of all treatment programmes in Czech prisons. Main risk are epidemic restrictions – not travelling to Norway to realise bilateral activities, possibility to prolong the planned completion date (beyond 30/4/2024).
- **PDP3 (Back to Life)** - under implementation – delayed construction of Probation House, need to shorten period of functioning of the Probation house by 6 months and creation of additional Programme Centre in Prague. Due to the epidemic situation there were moved some bilateral activities to the online environments and were successfully implemented, first visit of Norwegian experts to the CR is planned in 1Q 2022.





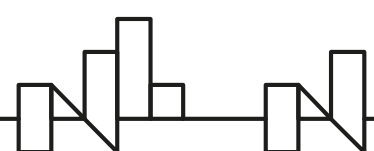
Justice (2)

CALLS:

- **OC (Professional care for imprisoned drug users and its continuity after release)** – only 1 project was selected for implementation – project in verification phase before approval, planned start in December 2021
- **SGS (Support of reintegration of persons conditionally released and released from prison)** – 4 projects under implementation (initial phase of the projects – started from 1 November 21)

RISKS

- ***Delay of bilateral activities and key activities due to the restriction and safety measurements to stop spreading of COVID-19 epidemic (PDP1, PDP2, PDP3, OC, SGS)*** – part of the activities are done in online environment, part of them were postponed to 2022 (in PDP2 caused risk not to fulfil projects activities till the maximum date April 2024)
- ***Increased price of construction works in the post COVID situation - problems with capacity of construction companies and its workers (PDP3)*** – NFP closely monitor and discuss with PO and promoter increased prices (MoJ will cover increased cofinancing of project), further delay in project activities (functioning of Probation house)



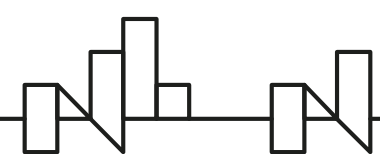


Justice – project examples

- **Pre-defined project no. 3 (PDP3)**
“Back to Life”

online workshop with the Norwegian Partners and DPP

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a grid of 20 participants in a 5x4 layout. The participants are: Zuzana Orságová, Kateřina Vojtkůvková, jtalandova, Pořadatel setkání, Heidi Schiong, Adam Štix, khykova, Marek Tkac, Liene, persi, Kim Ekhaugen, Kamila Spejrova, Volodymyr Tsololo, anneen, Maria A. Dørum, Roar Thronæs, and Jeanette. The right sidebar shows a list of 20 participants with their names and status icons. The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom meeting controls: Unmute, Stop Video, Participants (20), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and Leave. The system tray at the bottom indicates the time is 11:31 on 15.11.2021.





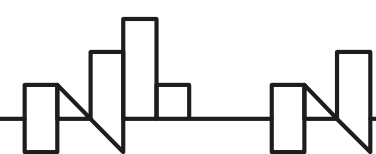
Justice – project examples

Pre-defined project no. 2 (PDP2) “Strengthening the rehabilitation of prisoners through treatment”

Before reconstruction: Plzeň Prison



After reconstruction:





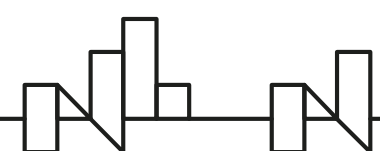
Home Affairs (1)

PPD1 (PP) – under implementation, no significant delays, launch conference took place on the 18 Oct 21, some training activities focused on ability to eliminate potential risks of organized crime were realized in Aug and Oct 21, individual and group supervision for police psychologists and crisis interventionists take place continuously, some training activities for staff in the field of crime prevention took place, some training activities were realized online, some activities were postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions

PDP2 (PP) – under construction – public procurement for building works finished, no significant delays, construction works started in Aug 21, launch ceremony took place on the 22 Sept 21 and the launch conference on the 18 Oct 21.

PDP3 (PP) – under implementation – implementation is seriously delayed due to the pandemic situation and the expected significant changes to the project, training of the secondary target group - the first of the seven planned trainings took place in Oct 21, IT training were realized online, works on development of IT systems were not launched, significant changes of projects expected due to reconsidering the system of electronic registration of psychological records of police officers and development of peer support.

PDP4 (PP) – under implementation – only slightly delayed – cooperation among stakeholders works, workshops are continuously realized (online or physically), courses for psychologists done, number of involved municipalities is continuously increasing.





Home Affairs (2)

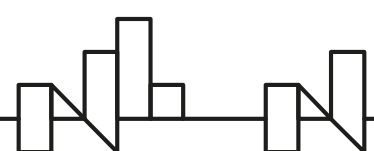
CALL:

SGS – call terminated on 1 July 2021 with 10 submitted applications, Selection Committee held on 19 November 2021, after verification, approval of projects, start of implementation in January 2022

RISK

Delay of programme components (PDPs, SGS), deepened by the pandemic and inexperience of the PO with management of the FM – NFP provides extensive guidance and recommendations during monitoring of PDPs and ongoing call

Increased price of construction works in the post COVID situation - problems with capacity of construction companies and its workers (PDP2) – NFP closely monitor and discuss with PO and promoter increased prices (PP will cover increased cofinancing of project), delay in building works and possible prolongation of project implementation period.





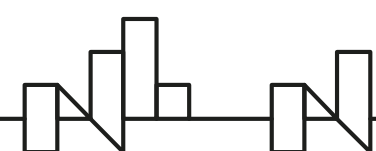
Home Affairs – project examples

PDP 1 "Enhanced Police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with public and awareness of human rights"

PDP 2 "Modernisation of Police Training Centre"

Launch conference of PDP1 and PDP2

Presentation of future Training Centre

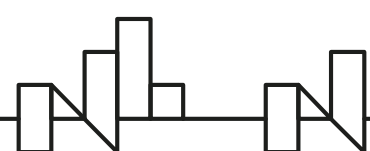




Home Affairs – project examples

PDP 2 "Modernisation of Police Training Centre"

Official launch of construction works on the Training Centre



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

Thank you for your attention.

PRG STATUS – cut-off 31 October 2021

PRG	PRG Allocation in EUR (without national cofi)	Programme Operator	Open calls	Current Status of OC (planned, under preparation, launched, closed)	Number of selected projects/ap proved PDPs	Number of contracts issued	Number of projects under implementation	Number of completed projects	Number of final reports approved
Research	30 000 000 EUR	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic	OC - Kappa	Closed	25	25	25	0	0
Education	6 500 000 EUR	Czech National Agency for International Education and Research	OC1 – Outcome 1	Closed	7	7	4	3	2
			OC1 – Outcome 2	Closed	10	10	0	10	7
			OC1 – Outcome 3	Closed	1	1	0	1	0
			OC1 – Outcome 4	Closed	1	1	1	0	0
			OC2 – Outcome 1	Closed	9	9	9	0	0
			OC2 – Outcome 2	Closed	22	22	22	0	0
			OC2 – Outcome 3	Closed	5	5	5	0	0
			OC2 – Outcome 4	Closed	2	2	2	0	0
			OC3 – Outcome 1	Closed	14 (incl. reserve list)	14	14	0	0
			OC3 – Outcome 2	Closed	16	16	16	0	0
			OC3 – Outcome 3	Closed	4	4	4	0	0
			OC3 – Outcome 4	Closed	3	3	3	0	0
Health	14 495 000 EUR	Ministry of Finance	OC4 – Outcome 1	Launched in October 2021					
			OC1 – Outcome 1	Closed	14	12	13	0	0
			OC2 – Outcome 2	Closed	2	2	2	0	0
			SGS1	Call closed on 31 st May, evaluation ongoing	0	0	0	0	0
			SGS2	Call closed on 7 th June, evaluation ongoing	0	0	0	0	0
SGS3	Call closed on 14 th June, evaluation ongoing	0	0	0	0	0			

PRG STATUS – cut-off 31 October 2021

			PDP (3)	n.a.	3	2	3	0	0	
Environment and Ecosystem/Climate Change	32 320 000 EUR	State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic	OC1 - Rago	2nd round of the call launched						
			OC2a - Tromso	Closed	6	6	6	0	0	
			OC2b	Planned 2Q 2022						
			OC3a - Alesund	Planned 1Q 2022						
			OC3b -Trondheim	2 nd round of the call launched						
			OC4a - Bergen	Closed	9	5	5	0	0	
			OC4b Bergen II	Planned 2Q 2022						
			SGS1 - Rondane	Closed	22	22	22	0	0	
			SGS2 - Svalbard	Planned 1Q 2022						
						SGS3 - Oslo	Closed	41	41	41
			SGS4 - Reine	Closed	28	1	1	0	0	
Culture	29 750 000 EUR	Ministry of Finance	OC1 – CH1	Closed	16	16	16	0	0	
			OC2 – CH2	Launched – till 1.11.2021						
			OC3 – CA1	Closed	26	21	26	0	0	
			OC4 – CA2	Call closed - formal and eligibility check of the received applications						
			OC5 – ACC1	Closed	10	10	10	1	0	
			OC6 – CB1	Closed	12	12	12	0	0	
			OC7 – CB2	Call closed – quality evaluation						
			PDP (1)	PDP under preparation	0	0	0	0	0	
Good governance	5 000 000 EUR	Ministry of Finance	SGS	Launched – till 14 October 2021						
			PDP (5)	PDP 2, 3 under preparation of Legal Act	5	3	3	0	0	
Human Rights, Roma Inclusion	19 000 000 EUR	Ministry of Finance	OC1a	Closed	7	7	7	0	0	
			OC1b	Closed	3	3	3	0	0	

PRG STATUS – cut-off 31 October 2021

and Domestic and Gender-based Violence			OC2	Call closed, evaluation ongoing					
			OC3	Closed	5	4	5	0	0
			SGSa	Call closed, evaluation ongoing					
			SGSb	Planned 1Q 2022					
			SGSc	Planned in November 2021					
			SGSd	Launched till 2 February 2022					
			PDP (8)	n.a.	8	8	8	0	0
Home Affairs	5 000 000 EUR	Ministry of Interior	SGS	Closed on 1 July 2021, evaluation ongoing					
			PDP (4)	n.a.	4	4	4	0	0
Justice	6 000 000 EUR	Ministry of Finance	OC	Closed	1	0	0	0	0
			SGS	Closed	4	3	4	0	0
			PDP (3)	n.a.	3	3	3	0	0
x	x	x	x	x	349 projects 23 PDP 231 OC 95 SGS	297 projects 20 PDP 218 OC 59 SGS	287 projects 21 PDP 206 OC 60 SGS	14 projects 0 PDP 14 OC 0 SGS	9 projects 0 PDP 9 OC 0 SGS

Programmes managed by the FMO

Annual Meeting: Czechia 2014-2021 EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms

Tom Tjomsland

**Director of Compliance and
Administration Department
FMO**

25 November 2021

An overview of the Active Citizens Fund

Annual Meeting: Czechia

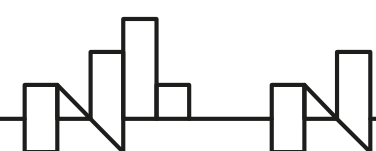
Tom Tjomsland

Director of Compliance and
Administration Department
FMO

25 November 2021

The Active Citizens Fund in Czechia 1/2

- **Fund operator:** A consortium of Open Society Fund Prague with two partners: Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation and Czech Scouting Institute
- **Eligible expenditure:** €15,250,000 (EEA Grants)
- **Programme Agreement:** Signed on 12 June 2019
- **Projects:** 120 projects selected, including two PDPs currently in implementation
- **Reserve allocation:** € 250,000 were allocated to a second call for mid-sized grants focused on civil society capacity building
- **Launched calls:**
 - August 2019 – ongoing call on bilateral cooperation
 - September 2019 – strategic grants – 13 supported projects started on 1 March 2020
 - October 2019 – mid-sized grants (1st round) – 64 supported projects started on 1 April 2020 or 1 October 2020
 - December 2020 – ongoing call for action grants for outcomes *Citizen participation* (outcome 1), *Advocacy and watchdog activities* (outcome 2) and *Vulnerable groups empowerment* (outcome 3)
 - January/February 2021 – ongoing call for action grants for outcome *Civil society strengthened* (outcome 5)
 - January 2021 – matching grants
 - October 2021 – mid-sized grants (2nd round) – deadline in January 2022



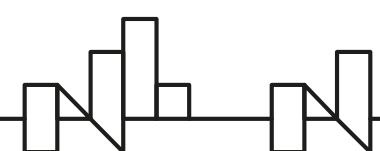
The Active Citizens Fund in Czechia 2/2

- **Pre-defined projects' status**

- The two pre-defined projects “Increased youth participation in civic activities” and “Capacity building for CSOs in advocacy work” are progressing well; the promoters have had to move some activities online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Annual review meeting (4 November 2021)**

- Confirmed the good progress made so far, despite challenges brought about by Covid-19 restrictions
- The Fund Operator is very experienced and is providing significant capacity building support to the sector; the programme has adapted to the needs of civil society organisations, e.g. through dedicated webinars aimed at strengthening digital skill
- Strong focus on improving outreach to under-served geographic areas and target groups, including Roma-led organisations; the Fund Operator has e.g. held project development workshops for less experienced organisations
- Challenging to establish bilateral project partnerships due to travel restrictions



An overview of the Social Dialogue – Decent Work programme

Annual Meeting: Czechia

Tom Tjomsland

Director of Compliance and
Administration Department

FMO

25 November 2021

Social Dialogue – Decent Work and Czechia

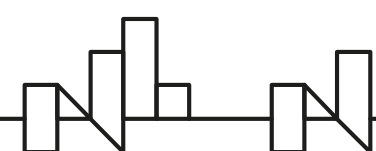
Fund Operator: Innovation Norway

Available funds for Czechia: € 890,000 per MoU (Norway Grants)

The goal: To strengthen tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and promote decent work. Decent work covers social dialogue, strengthened rights of employees, employment and social protection.

Status of calls and implementation:

- Programme Implementation Agreement signed 27 June 2018
- The first call for proposals was launched in October 2018, with no applications received from Czechia
- The second call for proposals for Czechia was launched in November 2019 with deadline 4 March 2020. Four applications were submitted from Czech social partners, none of which were of the quality requested
- The third open call for proposals was published in September 2021 with deadline 16 December 2021.
- We appreciate the NFP's efforts to advertise the call on their web page and to further spread information about the call



An overview of the Fund for Youth Employment

Annual Meeting: Czechia

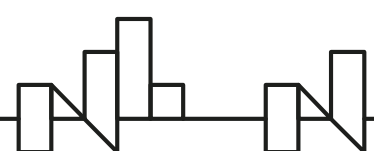
Tom Tjomsland

Director of Compliance and
Administration Department
FMO

25 November 2021

About the Fund for Youth Employment

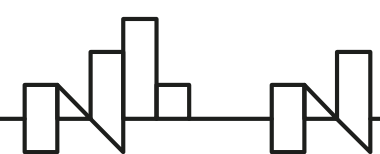
- **Programme Grant:** €60,610,625 in total funding (no country allocation) from EEA and Norway Grants
- **Programme Operator:** The Financial Mechanism Office
- **Status of calls and implementation:**
 - 25 projects in implementation following the first open call for proposals
 - 8 projects selected following the second call that closed in January 2021
 - Two Czech entities are involved in the Fund for Youth Employment



The Fund for Youth Employment in Czechia

Two Czech entities involved in projects funded by the Youth Employment Fund:

- **Channel Crossings** is involved in one project as a lead partner. The project partners build a transnational research network and support NGOs, public and private institutions that carry out initiatives on youth employment and entrepreneurship, to increase their capacity to do impact studies. The results of the project are knowledge of the effects of employment initiatives targeting young people, increased capacity of research institutions to evaluate the effects of such employment initiatives and increased transnational cooperation on labour market issues. Beside Channel Crossings, Pedal Consulting from Slovakia, Foundation in Support of Local Democracy from Poland and FIAP e.V. – Institute for Innovative and Preventive Job Design from Germany take part in the project.
- **IREAS, Institute for structural policy**, takes part as beneficiary partner in the project Lost Millennials - Transnational research network for the evaluation of initiatives targeting 25+ NEETs (Neither in Employment or Education or Training). The project aims to increase knowledge on the effects of employment initiatives on 25+ NEETs, building capacity of stakeholders to perform impact studies and improve the quality of labour market interventions, creating a transnational network for sharing best practices. The lead partner comes from Hungary and other beneficiary partners come from Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Malta, Romania, Spain and Slovakia. The project has expertise partners from Norway, Iceland, Finland and Austria.



An overview of the Fund for Regional Cooperation

Annual Meeting: Czechia

Tom Tjomsland

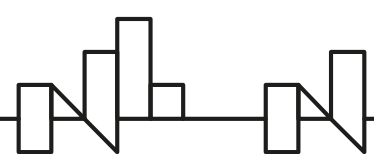
Director of Compliance and
Administration Department

FMO

25 November 2021

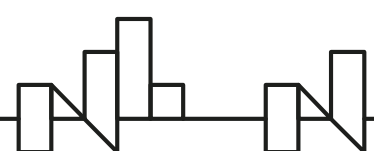
About the Fund for Regional Cooperation

- **Programme Grant:** €31,889,275 in total funding (no country allocation) from EEA and Norway Grants
- **Programme Operator:** The Financial Mechanism Office
- **One open call in 2018:**
 - Over 700 applications received
 - 20 projects were selected by the Donors; 19 have been contracted
 - Seven Czech entities involved (two as lead partners) in six projects
 - Projects currently in implementation
 - The 19 projects have almost exhausted all of the funds – no future open calls planned



The Regional Cooperation Fund and Czechia 2/2

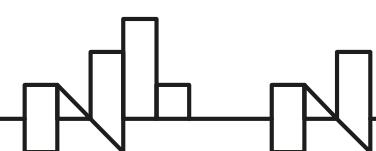
- **The Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation** is a beneficiary partner in the project **Reclaim our Civil Space! - from local to European**. The project will address the trends of democratic backsliding and shrinking civic space. The relatively weak response of civil society organisations to these, particularly in rural areas, has highlighted important and historical shortcomings of the sector. Experience so far has shown that the existing tools of the EU institutions are unable to effectively turn the tide. The project builds on two pillars to counter this: broadening the grassroots basis and constituency of civil society through mapping, training and mobilising activist groups and movements previously not involved in bigger networks, and linking this local level to the European by developing together the outlines of a comprehensive European civil society policy.
- **The Metropolitan University Prague** is a beneficiary partner in the project **"The Portrait of a Judge" - a multi-dimensional model of competencies to be measured during the procedures of selection, evaluation and promotion of judges**. The project will create an innovative, scientifically based, transparent and unbiased multi-dimensional model of judges' competences with corresponding methodology and tools (concrete examples and templates ready for use (e.g. self-evaluation tools for judges)) to be used during judges' selection, evaluation and promotion procedures. The expected changes will strengthen the rule of law and public trust towards the judiciary system. The end beneficiaries of the project are the judiciary and the whole society. Both will ultimately benefit from the project due to the improved transparency and effectiveness of the selection, evaluation or promotion of judges.
- **The Institute for European Integration** is a beneficiary partner in the project **Building momentum for the long-term CCS deployment in the CEE region**. The project aims to renew the discussion on the long-term deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the CEE region, leading to new policies and joint projects. It is expected that building evidence-based consensus among key stakeholders will pave the way to implement concrete policies and ventures. This will be achieved through combining analytical work with outreach, communication and capacity-building activities, in the form of series of national and regional publications and events focused on the importance of timely CCS deployment and associated international cooperation.



The Fund for Regional Cooperation in Czechia 1/2

Six projects involving Czech entities are currently being funded by the Fund for Regional Cooperation:

- **The Veterinary Research Institute** is the lead partner of the project **TBFVnet: surveillance and research on tick-borne flaviviruses (TBFV)**. The project will create a regional network of associated laboratories for the surveillance and diagnostics of tick-borne flaviviruses. Direct target groups are project partners' staff and young researchers that will benefit from collaborative basic research, development of innovative tools and bio-markers, and exchange visits to expertise partners. Planned activities will lead to a stable cross-border network able to tackle TBFV diseases through reliable and comparable data, and will contribute, in the long term, to the definition of a forecast tool for geographical distribution of TBFV. Public health and veterinary institutions, biotech companies and the population at large will benefit from knowledge advancement and unlocked R&I potential.
- **The City Quarter of Prague 6** is a beneficiary partner in the project **COMPETENCE – Capacity building Of eMployees of municIPalitiEs for beTtEr provision of publiC sErVICES**. The project addresses the dissatisfaction with the quality of public services delivery. It is crucial for public institutions to establish a close connection with society and quickly adapt to new needs and requirements. The project will help preventing marginalization and exclusion of vulnerable social groups. The partners will exchange good practice in the field of adult education, build capacity of employees of governmental entities and improve delivery, accessibility and quality of public services in the target regions. The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of services provided by municipalities through building the capacity of civil servants.
- **Word 21** is a beneficiary partner in the project **New solutions to old problems – exchange of new type of approaches in the field of Roma integration**. This project aims to share success stories of Roma inclusion projects in the fields of education, employment, participation and combat antigypsyism in funders and state agencies in order to break the vicious circle of cynicism that 'nothing can be changed'. The project will engage in a two-stream capacity-building process for Roma civil society: Peer-to-peer professional capacity building of the partners by identifying 1-3 good practices per partners and supporting others in adapting them, and project management capacity building through training courses for Roma and pro-Roma NGOs.



BILATERAL COOPERATION

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 Czech Republic

National Focal Point

Prague, 25 November 2021



NFP 3rd Open call results

Allocation **300'000 EUR + additional 100'000 EUR committed** in 6 months (2nd half of 2020).

36 grant applications **submitted** (requested grants in total: ca 651'200 EUR);

- half of them in the first month

26 grant applications **approved** in total:

- 10 grants awarded to NGOs
- 7 to universities;
- 3 to private companies;
- 2 to public research institutions; and
- 4 to other legal forms.

10 rejected (8 refused for different reasons, 2 withdrawn).

NFP 3rd Open call statistics

26 grant applications:

average grant: 415'642 CZK (ca 15'384 EUR)
maximum grant amount was set to 20'000 EUR (540'340 CZK)

average advance payment: 383'353 CZK (ca 14'189 EUR)
advance payment requested for 16 grant applications

Major complications during implementation

- delays in implementation due to covid-19 restrictions

⇒ NFP and POs supports:

- postponement of the final date for completion of the initiatives
- on-line meetings substituting physical ones, budget items changes (with total grant unchanged)
- possibility of purchase of equipment, both HW and SW for distant communication

Bilateral initiative – Arctic festival 2020-21



ARCTIC FESTIVAL is a traditional festival of Czech and Arctic science and culture. Its main aim is deepening the already established contacts between Czech and Arctic scientists and artists and starting cooperation between new partners.

During the festival, both professional and non-professional audience gets acquainted with the achievements of Nordic and Czech scientists in Arctic research



Overview of pre-defined initiatives

Traumatic parts of national history – 12'107 EUR

- completed in 2018

CZ-LI School Exchange – in total 112'308 EUR, for 7 annual school exchanges

- took place in 2018 and in 2019 – 3 grant applications completed, total 32'654 EUR
- cancelled in 2020 and in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions

CZ-LI Commission of Historians – in total 85'118 EUR, 2 initiatives:

- Publication of Summary Report in English – 21'809 EUR, completed in 2020
- LIE History Days in CR – 20'934 EUR, completed in 2020

Gender Pay Gap – 14'741 EUR

- completed in 2020

My Father's Story – 26'121 EUR

- in realization, 1st part implemented, 2nd part postponed to Autumn 2022

Modern technologies Iceland-CR – 19'222 EUR

- Grant Application not submitted yet, postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19

Overview of running initiatives

Open Call	Submitted	Approved	Running	Completed
1st Open Call	32	17	0	17
2nd Open Call	50	22	7	15
3rd Open Call	36	26	26	0
Total in Open Calls	118	65	33	32
PDIs	8 (+1)	8	1	7
TOTAL	126	73	34	39

Update on JCBF

*4th meeting of JCBF took place on **11 November 2021***

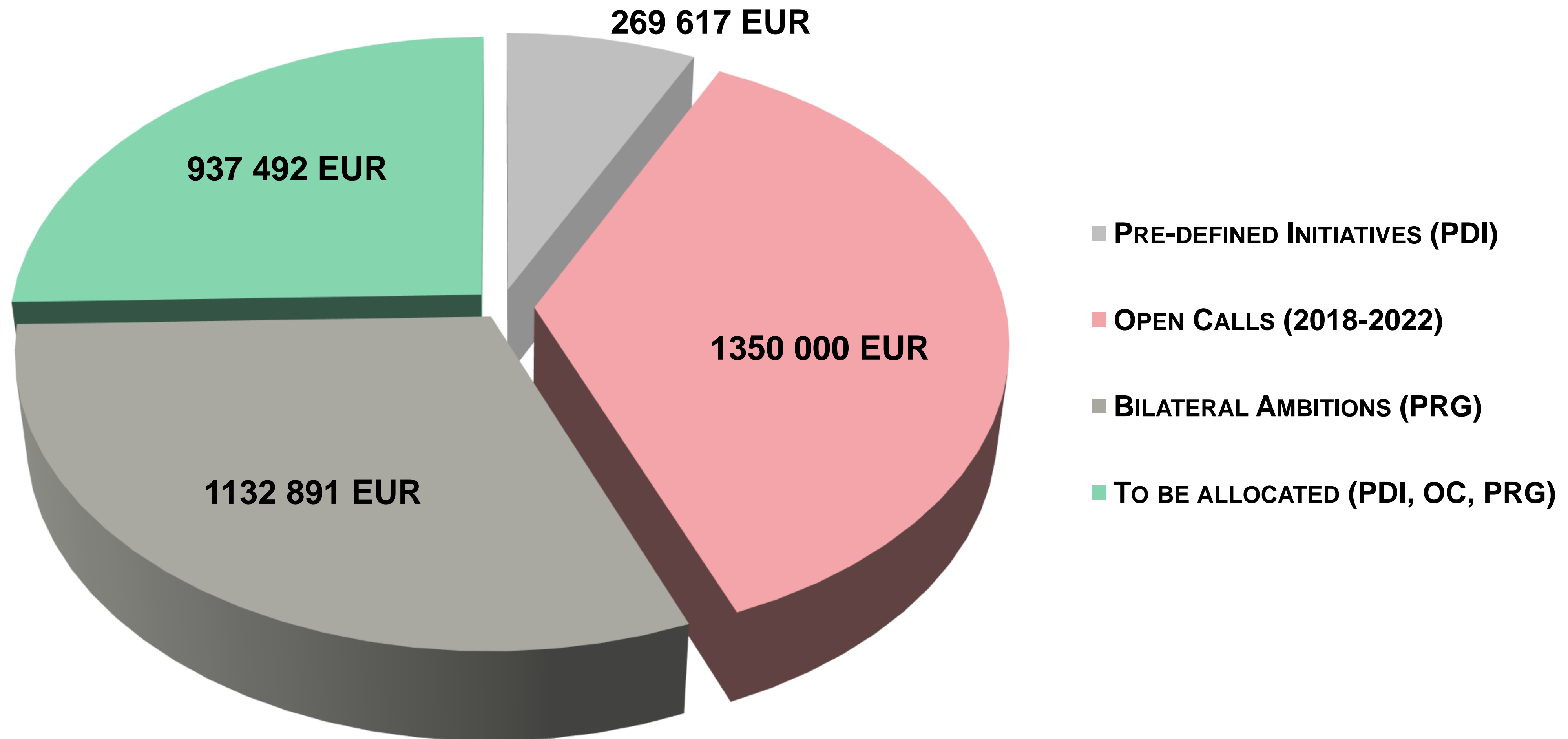
NFP 4th Open Call:

- to be launched in **April 2022** (pre-announcement from February 2022)
- allocation **400'000 EUR** with the possibility to add additional 100'000 EUR
- approval of the 4th Open Call text
- approval of the amended Guidelines for Applicants and Final Beneficiaries

Work Plan adjustments:

- approval of CZ-HOME AFFAIRS Expression of Interest - 20'391 EUR
- approval of changes in procedures based on the findings of the Audit Authority

Overview of BF allocation (3'690'000 EUR in total)



BILATERAL COOPERATION WITHIN PROGRAMMES

= Bilateral ambitions (BA) - managed by the POs

- allocation: 1'132'891 EUR

Bilateral open calls under programmes:

- Environment
- Culture
- Health
- Education

BA Calls – progress

PRG Environment – No disbursement in 2021 due to delays in implementation. PO approves extension of the eligibility of expenditures for initiatives from the first open call until 31.8.2022.

PRG Culture – Because of the persisting obstacles due the Covid-19 pandemic new calls were not launched and there are no new approved initiatives either.

PRG Health – No initiatives in the implementation process. Possible use of remaining amount of the BA allocation (43'853 EUR) will be further discussed in 2022.

PRG Education – Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the bilateral activities were postponed. Besides, the PO in cooperation with the DPP might realize joint PO/DPP meeting in case the covid-19 situation improves.

BA – progress

PRG Research – No bilateral activities were organized.

The PO plans to organize the “*Bilateral meeting for grant beneficiaries and project partners*” of 25 supported research projects in Oslo, Norway in Spring 2022.

The meeting shall address activities directly related to the RCN and TA CR Lessons Learned from the implementation and partnerships in the previous programme period of EEA and Norway Grants (RCN) and TA CR best practice to highlight important parts and issues of project implementation. The PO will also inform about upcoming seminars and events and the promoters can share their best practice.

PRG Good Governance – No bilateral initiatives were realized. The use of remaining BA allocation (including savings resulting from the online match-making seminar amounting to 400 000 CZK) has not been decided yet. The use will be discussed following inter alia the Covid-19 development.

BA – progress

PRG Justice – No disbursement in 2021. The only bilateral cooperation initiative - study visit between Bastoy open prison and open prison Jiřice was postponed to 2022.

PRG Home Affairs

"Sharing Good Practices in State Police Cooperation with Local Authorities,, - initial meeting with the participation of partner - Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities took place online. The conditions for further realization of the initiative were agreed by both sides - online participation of the Norwegian Partner, participation of others depended on the actual anti-COVID restrictions. Time schedule of activities was postponed as physical presence at workshops was preferred (interactive parts in the form of group work). The final conference was planned for November/December 2021.

„Development of knowledge in the field of forensic expertise and new methods of investigation“ - the BA allocation was increased by the JCBF for realization of this new initiative, it shall start in December 2021.

BA – progress

PRG Human Rights – 1 bilateral pre-defined initiative „*Make Roma LGBT+ more visibile*“ was approved. Major focus on detabooing of LGBT+ community via activities such as:

- Launching of web page in Norwegian,
- Round table on the Roma LGBT+ minority and its status in Norway,
- International Roma LGBT+ conference in Prague will be realized.

Main purpose of the initiative is to contribute to boosting the awareness of the multiple discrimination of the Roma LGBT+ community leading to detabooing the topics.

Discrimination against LGBT+ Roma is not just perpetrated by mainstream society members (sexual orientation, ethnicity) but also by the members of the Roma community and by members of the LGBT+ community.

Bilateral partnership under the initiative: ARA ART z.s. (non-governmental org.) and FRI - The Association for Gender and Sexuality Diversity

Thank you for your attention!



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

Publicity of the EEA and Norway Grants

Radana Bayerová

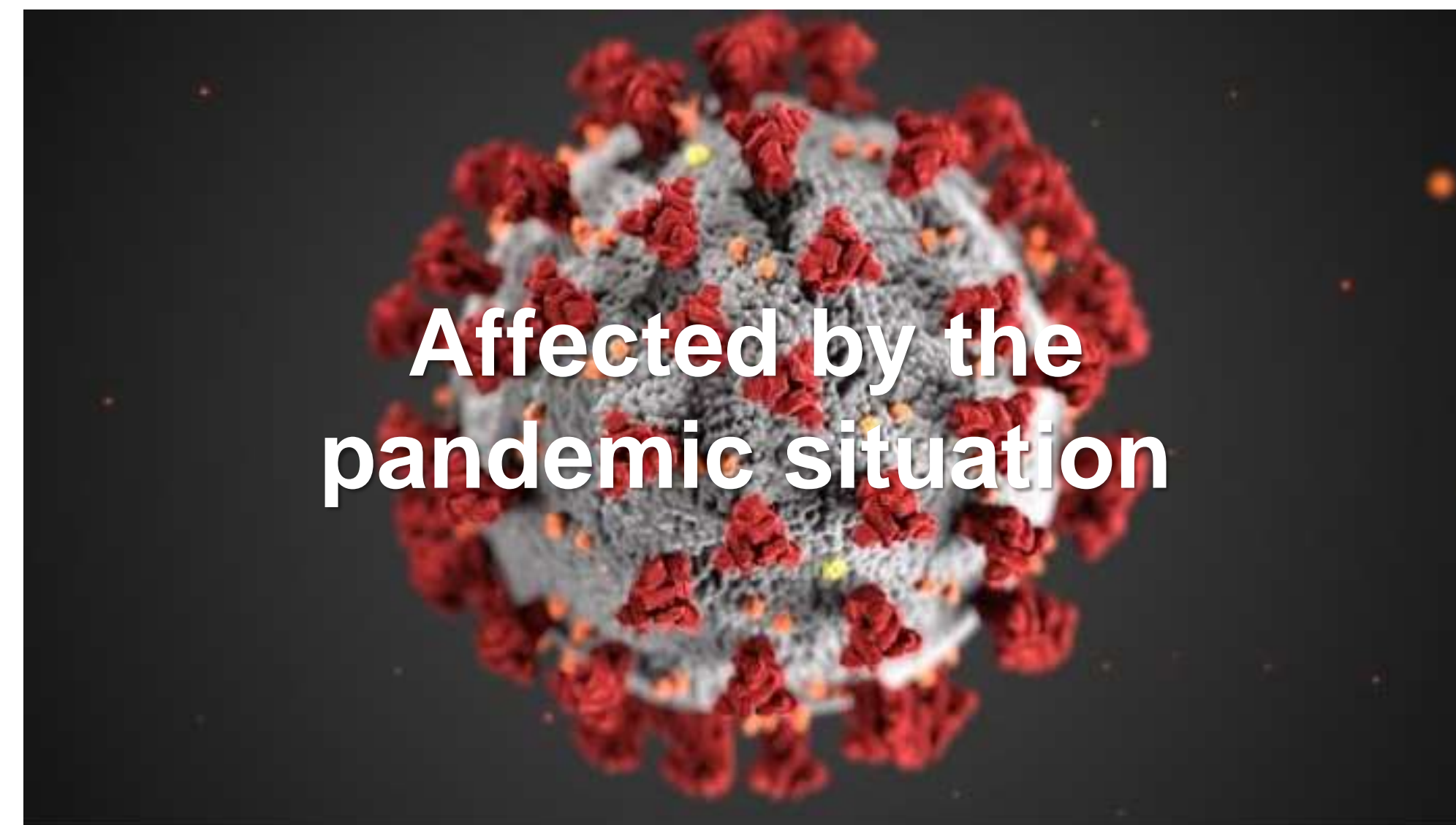
25th November 2021

Publicity activities in past 12 months

Increasing awareness of general public on the EEA and Norway Grants and on the promotion of launched calls.

Almost no possibilities to organize public events due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions,

Most of publicity activities were ensured via website and social networks Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



Publicity activities in past 12 months

Websites:

- Regularly updated
- Information about projects approved

[Home](#) / [Programmes](#) / [Culture](#) / [Approved Projects](#) / Cartography of (Eco)systems I RurArtMap and Perpedian Map: Black Edition

Cartography of (Eco)systems I RurArtMap and Perpedian Map: Black Edition



Department 58 – International Relations

Published 8-2-2021

PHOTO GALLERY



AUTHOR

Department 58 (Section 07)

This department handles the conceptual activities and the entire operative agenda involved in the Ministry's tasks in relation to international institutions of which the Czech Republic is a member, ... [more](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

[Calendar of Events](#)

Project Summary:

This project focuses on the building of capacity of regional, cultural and art initiatives which take an active part in addressing societal issues, most importantly in the sphere of social issues and the

The aim is to identify key actors in all regions of the Czech Republic, excluding Prague, who use innovative approaches and significantly improve the conditions of life for local communities. The information gathered through this research will become part of a map entitled *the Black Edition*, which will be available in both printed and online form, and which will serve as a practical tool for those interested in the issues of civic cultural communities.

Apart from the database of the individual subjects, the map interface will also offer access to interviews with select players, as well as descriptive texts by an interdisciplinary team, consisting of specialists in social anthropology, ecology, cultural environmentalism, the arts, and curatorship. The content and selection of the players will focus on cultural subjects which have had long-term involvement in ecology, have worked on issues of social exclusion, and which promote inter-generational dialogue, the rejuvenation of cultural traditions, and work with historical places, and the like.

Part of the project is to identify the problems that these players struggle with, while simultaneously featuring a visual representation of possible connections between individual organisations and individuals in a cultural, social and ecological context, on the map itself. The map will also include a text about smaller Norwegian cultural and artistic initiatives prepared in collaboration with a Norwegian partner. The map will be distributed to cultural organisations and presented at a meeting which

Facebook:

- Increased number of posts per week (approx 5 posts)
- **Increased number of followers** by 400 people from past year
- **Share information** with POs, PPs and Norwegian Embassy
- Campaign **#civilsocietystartshere**

Celkový počet sledujících stránky: 1 763



Publicity activities in past 12 months

Campaign “EEA and Norway Grants: topics of today”

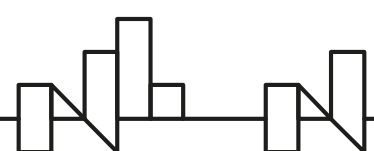
NFP together with several POs and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague prepared **six on-line debates on actual topics within the well-known discussion forum Meltingpot.**

The aim was to **ensure a high visibility of the EEA and Norway Grants**, increase audience interactions and page traffic.

19. 4. – 13. 6. 2021

Concept

- The debates focused on actual issues
- Interesting and well-known speakers (popular Czech couple therapist **Honza Vojtko** or well-known Norwegian journalist and nature books author **Ole Mathismoen**)
- Streamed live on Facebook page and YouTube channel
- Audience could ask questions
- Accompanying competition (during each live stream the NFP posted a question directly related to the topic of the debate. Viewers could respond in the comments and the winner was announced the next day.
- **Overall publicity of these debates was ensured through our channel and Meltingpot forum.**
- Videos with all on-line debates are available on the websites and also on YouTube channel.



Health: Mental health of children and adolescents: how do children cope with isolation during a pandemic? How can parents help?

Fondy EHP a Norska přidal(a) událost.
21. dubna · 🌐



MELTINGPOT Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants
HEALTHY IDEAS WITHOUT BORDERS

**Lucie Myšková
a Marie Salomonová**
Duševní zdraví dětí
a dospívajících:
Jak zvládají děti izolaci
v době pandemie a jak
můžou rodiče pomoci?

ČT, 29. 4.
Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Zdraví
Uživatelé Natalia to zajímalo

Zúčastním se ▾

👍 To se mi líbí 💬 Okomentovat ➦ Sdílet

Culture: The current situation of culture and the possibilities of its support

Fondy EHP a Norska přidal(a) událost.
30. dubna · 🌐



MELTINGPOT Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants
HEALTHY IDEAS WITHOUT BORDERS

Adriana Světlíková
Současná situace kultury
a možnosti její podpory

ST, 5. 5.
Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Kultura
Fondy EHP a Norska se vám líbí

Zúčastním se ▾

👍 To se mi líbí 💬 Okomentovat ➦ Sdílet

Human Rights: Sexual violence in young people relationships



Fondy EHP a Norska přidal(a) událost.

5. května · 🌐



ST, 12. 5.

Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Lidská práva

Uživatelé Veronika to zajímalo

✓ Zúčastním se ▾



Fondy EHP a Norska

18. května v 16:02 · 🌐



ČT, 20. 5.

Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Neziskový sektor

Fondy EHP a Norska se vám líbí

☆ Zajímá mě to

👍 To se mi líbí

💬 Okomentovat

➦ Sdílet

Research: Challenges of modern linguistics. How to teach computer talk and understand people?

Fondy EHP a Norska přidal(a) událost.
21. května v 10:05 · 🌐



The poster features a portrait of Lenka Weingartová on the right. On the left, there is a logo for 'MELTINGPOT' and text listing 'Iceland', 'Liechtenstein', and 'Norway grants'. The main text reads: 'Lenka Weingartová', 'Výzvy moderní lingvistiky: Jak naučit počítač mluvit a rozumět lidem?'. There are also letters 'T A Č R' in the top right corner of the poster.

ST, 26. 5.
Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Výzkum
Markéta se zúčastnil(a)

☆ Zajímá mě to

To se mi líbí Okomentovat Sdílet

Environment: Green stuff (Grønne greier)

Fondy EHP a Norska přidal(a) událost.
28. května v 10:51 · 🌐



The poster features a portrait of Ole Mathismoen on the right. On the left, there is a logo for 'MELTINGPOT' and text listing 'Iceland', 'Liechtenstein', and 'Norway grants'. The main text reads: 'Ole Mathismoen (NO)', 'Zelená (se) Země'. There is also a small 'Norwegian University' logo.

ST, 2. 6.
Fondy EHP a Norska - témata současnosti:
Životní prostředí
Fondy EHP a Norska se vám líbí

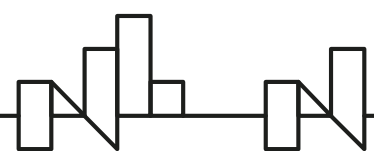
✓ Zúčastním se ▾

To se mi líbí Okomentovat Sdílet

Publicity activities in past 12 months

Campaign results:

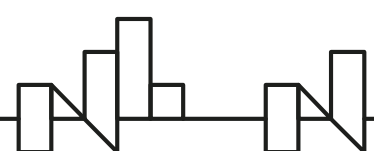
- 👍 total reach of more than 20,000 users;
- 👍 total of 139 viewers participated in the competition;
- 👍 total number of views of all videos on Facebook is 5,300 and on YouTube 1,580 (June 2021);
- 👍 during the campaign, the number of followers of the Facebook page increased by 18 % (from 1448 followers to 1707 followers);



Publicity activities in past 12 months

Open Day of the MF

- the only „physical“ activity for general public
- big interest of visitors
- information about EEA and Norway Grants, quiz, video about supported projects
- promotional items
- visit of the Minister of Finance Alena Schillerová



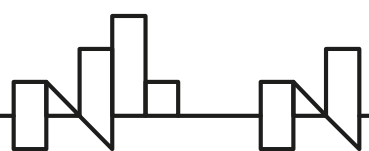
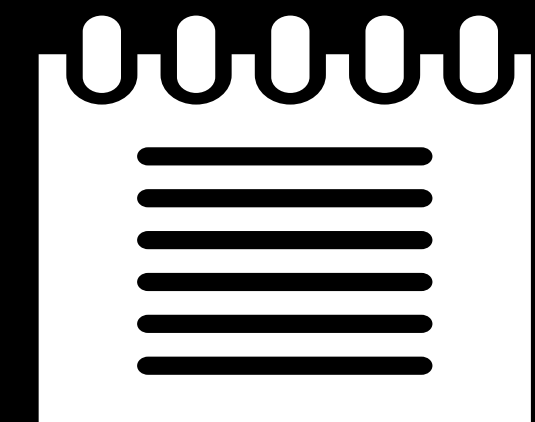
Christmas quiz (2 weeks long competition connected with donor countries and Christmas traditions)

Article in newspapers (10th December 2021)

Promotion of new successful projects (interviews, photo and video documentations)

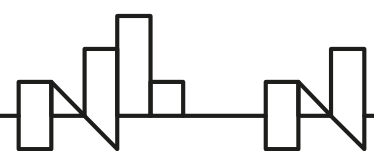
Public Events – according to the pandemic situation (Colours of Ostrava and Meltingpot)

Plans for 2021 and 2022



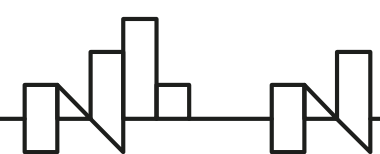
Publicity activities of the Embassy

Project visits



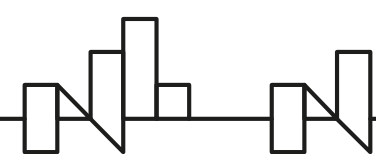
Publicity activities of the Embassy

Bike to Work & Critical Mass



Publicity activities of the Embassy

Charity runs



Publicity activities of the Embassy

100 years of Norwegian-Czech diplomatic relations

1921-2021



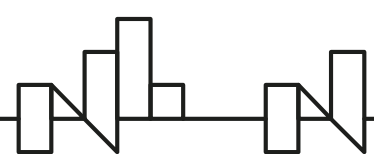
Milí přátelé v České republice,

právě před sto lety předal v královském paláci v Kristiánii první československý vyslanec v Norsku své pověřovací listiny králi Haakonovi VII. Tím začal mezi našimi zeměmi blízký vztah, který pokračuje i po vzniku České republiky a Slovenské republiky. U příležitosti tohoto výročí posílám všem Čechům i Slovákům své nejvřelejší blahopřání. Jsem pevně přesvědčen, že mladé generace budou dál posilovat dobré vztahy mezi našimi zeměmi.

Harald R.

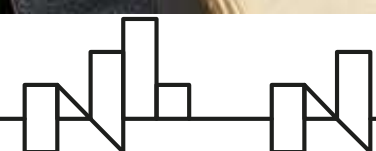


Norské fondy



Publicity activities of the Embassy

100 Years – 100 Books

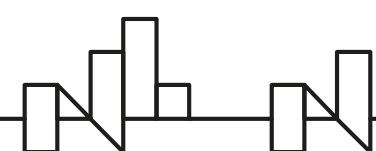


Publicity activities of the Embassy

Gratias Tibi



November 2021:
Study trip to Norway, cooperation
with the Norwegian Institute of Public
Health





Thank you

