



Annual Programme Report FM14-21

Czech Republic
CZ-ENVIRONMENT Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Change

2022

A. Executive Summary

The Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Change Programme (hereinafter referred to as the “Programme”) is in the advanced phase of the implementation period. In 2022, we launched the last three calls, which focus on the acquisition of analytical equipment for the analysis of water pollution by micropollutants (Call-3A), the implementation of green and blue measures to improve air quality and adaptation to climate change (Call-2B and Call-4B) and a small grant scheme for local air quality monitoring (SGS-2). We anticipate closing the project selection no later than in April 2023, when the project selection for the SGS-2 will be closed.

There are currently 101 projects in the implementation phase of the Programme, 27 projects were completed and the final monitoring reports have already been submitted for all finished projects, and in the case of 24 of them, this final report has already been approved. In the final phase, there are mainly projects from the call SGS-3 Oslo and SGS-4 Reine, the activities of which must be completed by the end of June 2023. Due to external influences, three projects were withdrawn in the calls Call-1 Rago (disagreements with the landowner regarding of implemented activities, which is crucial for achieving the goals), SGS-3 Oslo (changes in the council and priorities of the municipality) and Call-3B Trondheim. The funds released by this withdrawal will be allocated to the remaining calls (in case of Trondheim, they have already been reallocated).

In most cases, projects have significantly exceeded the Programme's objectives in terms of the indicators set. This is due to the fact that in many cases the projects cover much wider area than expected when the Programme indicators were set at the time of preparation of the Programme Agreement.

The implementation of activities has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in recent years, which has limited mainly bilateral cooperation in initiatives and projects. In order to allow our beneficiaries to complete the planned activities, implementation deadlines for the bilateral call Trolltunga were extended. The beneficiaries completed their bilateral initiatives in August 2022 and the evaluation of the final monitoring reports is currently underway. Negative impacts have also been noted in the communication activities of some projects. For this reason, beneficiaries have been allowed to flex their communication to the current situation - adjusting their timetables or replacing some of the activities with another communication tool. Our intention for 2023 is to organise a seminar for Programme Operators of other green Programmes, where we would not only share our experience in the administration of the Programme, but it may also serve as a platform for exchanging experiences in supporting environmental projects.

Some beneficiaries have been negatively affected by the energy crisis and the conflict in Ukraine, which complicate the supply of some materials, increase delivery times and lead to price increases for some materials. In some cases, we allowed beneficiaries to make slight adjustments in project activities that did not have a major impact on the achievement of the original objectives. For example, in the SGS-4 Reine, some beneficiaries have opted for online publications instead of printed publications, due to a jump in the cost of printing.

The implementation of the projects is continuously being monitored by interim monitoring reports and on-site visits.

In 2022, several events were implemented that were significant in terms of promoting the Programme and the Norway Grants to the public. In May 2022, our Programme took part in the Europe Day celebrations and two months later we participated in the festival Colours of Ostrava 2022, where the EEA and Norway Grants presented their projects in a thematic stand, and in our case we also took part in the European Commission's discussion forum programme on climate change. In August 2022, the documentary film Planeta Praha was released in the Czech cinemas as a follow-up to the successful documentary Planeta Česko, which was supported by the EEA and Norway Grants in the previous programming period. In November 2022, with the support of the Norway Grants, the Adaptterra Awards competition was held to share examples of good practice in climate change adaptation.

In 2023, our activities will focus mainly on monitoring the implementation of our projects, closing completed projects and presenting examples of good practice supported by the Norway Grants. At the moment we are working on the preparation of promotional videos and project medallions.

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