



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT

FOR WATER, AIR AND NATURE

2007 Annual Report

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THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Identification

Operational Programme	Objective concerned:	Convergence
	Eligible area concerned:	NUTS I: Czech Republic – CZ0
	Programming period:	2007-2013
	Programme number (CCI):	2007CZ161PO006
	Programme title:	Operational Programme Environment
Annual Implementation Report	Reporting year:	2007
	Date of approval of the Annual Report by the Monitoring Committee:	23 June 2008

1.2. Processing of the Annual Report

The 2007 Annual Report of the Operational Programme Environment was processed by the Managing Authority – Department of EU Funds of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. This Annual Report was approved per rollam by the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment on 23.6.2008. When processing the 2007 Annual Report of the OP Environment, the Managing Authority followed the requirements for its physical content, which are defined in Article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and it also followed the structure of the annual and the final reports, which is defined by Annex XVIII of Council Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006, as well as the instructions by the National Coordination Authority.

The aim of this report is to summarise the basic information about the implementation and the progress of the OP Environment in the Czech Republic in 2007. The Annual Report also summarises and describes the status of the OP Environment as of 31 December 2007. As this is the initial phase of the programme's implementation, the content of the report has been simplified. With the programme implementation gradually getting under way, the Annual Report of the OP Environment will focus more on the progress within the framework of the individual priority axes.

1.3. Introduction to the OP Environment

The Operational Programme Environment (hereinafter referred to as the OP Environment) is one of the sector programmes of the Czech Republic approved by the European Commission for the 2007-2013 programming period. The OP Environment is focused on improving the quality of the environment and thus also the health of the population. It contributes to improving the state of the air, water and soil, resolves the issues of waste and industrial pollution, and supports the care of landscape and the utilisation of renewable energy sources



and building the infrastructure for environmental awareness. The OP Environment was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment pursuant to Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No 175 of 22 February 2006 regarding the proposal of the National Development Plan of the Czech Republic for the 2007-2013 period.

Link of the OP Environment to the NSRF

The OP Environment will contribute above all to the fulfilment of the strategic objective of the National Strategic Reference Framework “Attractive Environment“, namely through the “Protection and Improvement of Environmental Quality” priority. Investments have a direct influence on the quality of life of the population within the territory; they influence its health, contribute to an increased attractiveness of the environment for investors by decreasing external costs (negative impacts) and they contribute to the use of progressive, environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient technologies.

In addition, the OP Environment will contribute to the fulfilment of other strategic objectives: the “Competitive Czech Economy” through establishing conditions for entrepreneurship and investments and reducing energy intense production and consumption of primary fossil energy sources; the “Balanced Development of the Territory” by improving the conditions of life and accessibility in disadvantaged regions; and the “Open, Flexible and Cohesive Society” objective through creating high-quality conditions for life and work.

The global objective of the OP Environment is environmental protection and quality improvement as one of the basic principles of sustainable development. A high-quality environment is fundamental to the health of the population of the state and enhances the attractiveness of the territory for life, work and investment. Consequences of the investment attractiveness are not only an increase in employment, but also competitive sustainable regional economic growth.

The strategic objective of the OP Environment is environmental protection and quality improvement as the basic principle of sustainable development while meeting EC legislation requirements in the environmental field as well as requirements ensuing from other international commitments of the Czech Republic. A high-quality environment is fundamental to the health of the population and at the same time it contributes to enhancing the attractiveness of the territory for life, work and investment. The end result of investment attractiveness is an increase in employment and competitive sustainable economic growth in particular regions. Environmental protection and quality are also essential themes within the framework of the implementation of the EU economic and social cohesion policy in the 2007-2013 programming period. Enhancing the attractiveness of member states, regions and towns through improving their accessibility, ensuring an adequate quality and level of services being offered and through maintaining or increasing their potential in the environmental field is one of the most important elements of Community Strategic Guidelines for the 2007-2013 period¹.

The OP Environment provides the framework for preparing projects that may be co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as the ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter referred to as the CF), the global objective of

¹ Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013 – COM (2005) 0299, Brussels 05. 07. 2005

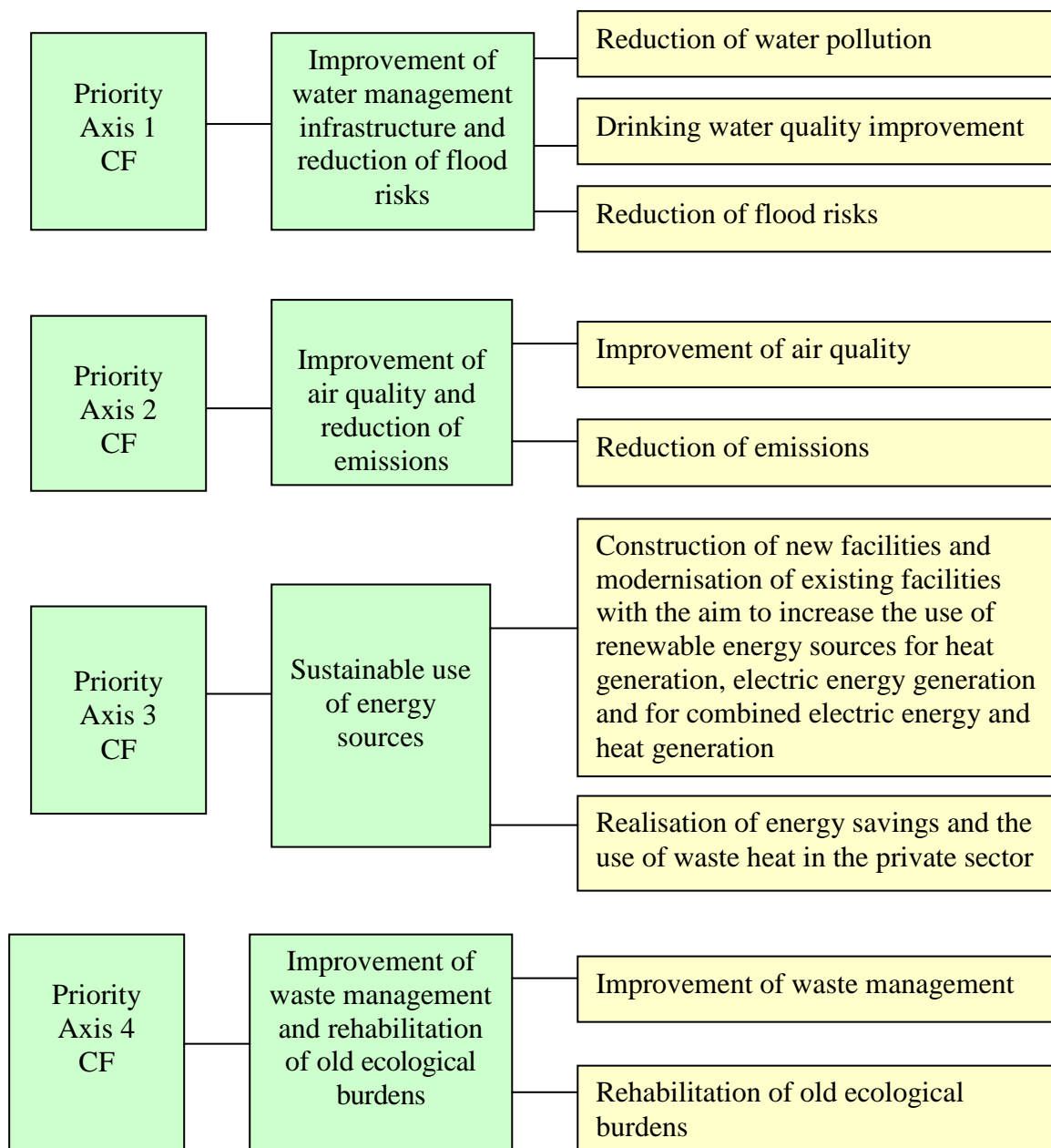


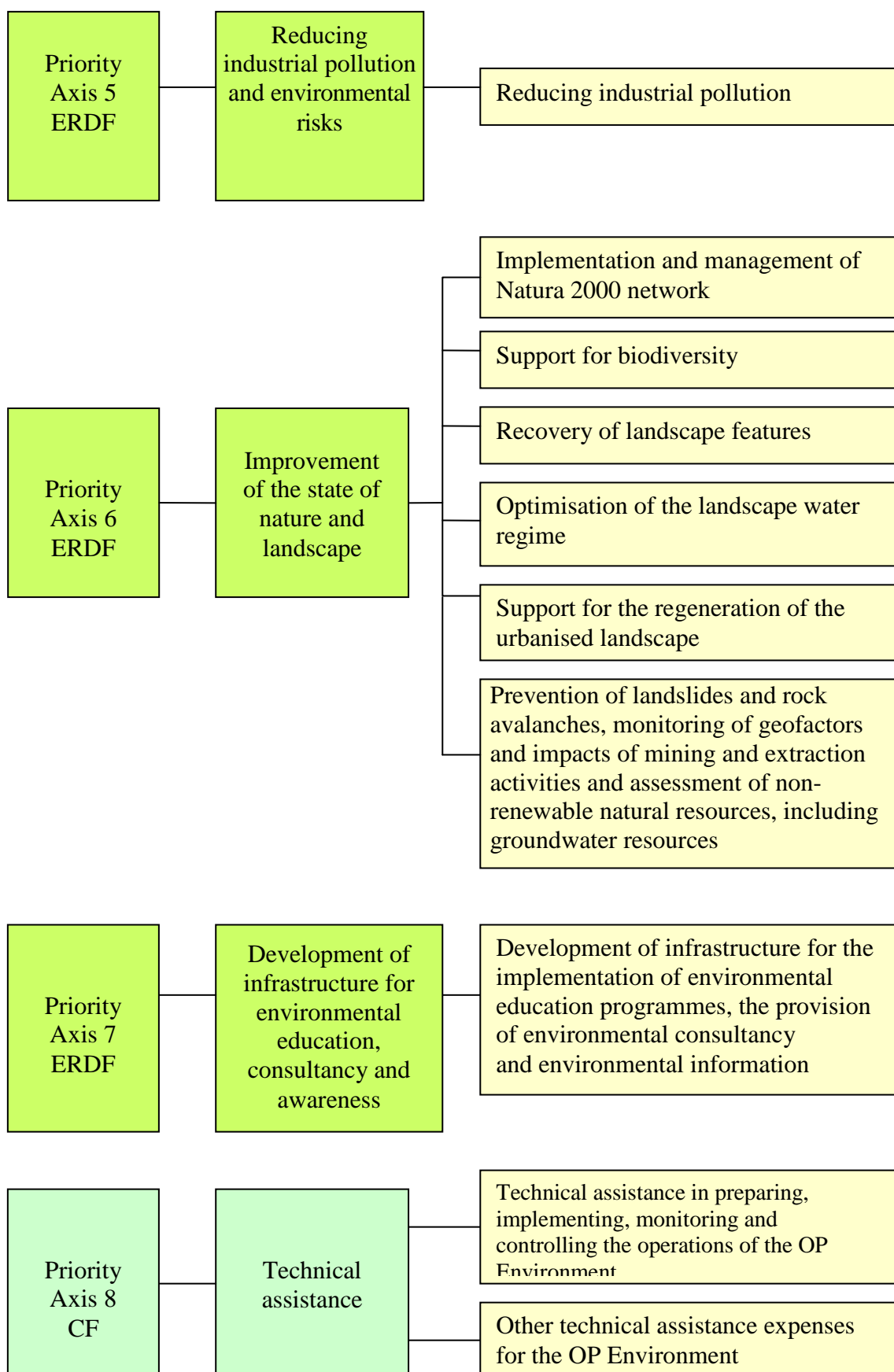
which is to improve the state of specific environmental components and to support sustainable development, long-term competitiveness and employment within the framework of the “Convergence of EU Economic and Social Cohesion Policy” objective.

The OP Environment consists of **8 priority axes**, which are further divided into areas of intervention.

The basic structure of the priority axes within the framework of the OP Environment is outlined in the following scheme.

PRIORITY AXIS AREA OF INTERVENTION







1.4. Description of the Basic Documents of the OP Environment

The Programming Document

The Programming Document OP Environment was adopted by the European Commission on 20 December 2007.

The Implementation Document

The Implementation Document follows the Programming Document of the OP Environment as to the content and develops its programming principles into a set of rules for implementing and monitoring the programme at the priority axis and area of intervention operational level. The groups of possible beneficiaries for the particular areas of intervention, orientation of supported projects, indicators being monitored etc., are specified within the Implementation Document. The Implementation Document was created and updated concurrently with the Programming Document of the OP Environment. As of 31 December 2007, the Implementation Document was only a proposal. Approval of the Implementation Document was expected in 2008.

The Procedures Manual

The Procedures Manual for the OP Environment is a joint Manual for the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body. All activities carried out during the programme's implementation are described in the Manual. The first edition of the Procedures Manual for the OP Environment was approved on 17 September 2007.

Directive of the Ministry of the Environment No 7/2007 on submitting applications and granting aid

The Directive for submitting applications into the OP Environment was issued on 29 June 2007. On 29 October 2007, Supplement No 1 to the Directive was issued which amends some provisions and complements the Annexes to Directive No 7/2007.

Binding Instructions for Applicants and Complementing Information for Assistance Beneficiaries

The instructions for beneficiaries are contained in a manual for processing project applications, as are the rules for beneficiaries of award orders to inform the public about their award.



2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

2.1. Main Activities from the Beginning of the Programme

The Operational Programme Environment was approved by the European Commission on 20 December 2007. With regard to this fact, the programme's implementation was in its initial phases in 2007. Before the approval of the OP, two calls were announced in areas that had been negotiated with the EC and in which no modifications had been expected. The third call was announced in close connection with the approval of the Operational Programme. Through the end of 2007, no projects were approved. During the first half of 2008, decisions are expected to be issued and the first projects should be implemented.

2.1.1. Calls for Applications

2.1.1.1. The First Call for Applications

The first call for applications within the framework of the OP Environment was announced on 28 June 2007. The applicants could submit their applications between 3 September 2007 and 26 October 2007 to the Intermediate Body, the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic.

The orientation of the 1st call

It was possible to submit projects within the framework of the Areas of Intervention: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.3², 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and 7.1.

The first call was focused mainly on non-business carrying entities. Applications from all eligible entities were collected in Priority Axis 2 and in Area of Intervention 4.1

2.1.1.2. The Second Call for Applications

The second call for applications within the framework of the OP Environment was announced on 29 October 2007. The applicants could submit their applications between 19 November 2007 and 31 January 2008 to the Intermediate Body, the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic and to the Regional Offices of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic.

The orientation of the 2nd call

The call was focused on improving the state of nature and landscape. It was possible to submit applications within the framework of all areas of intervention of Priority Axis 6.

² At the time the first call was announced, the division of areas of intervention was based on the draft version of the OP Environment. In the approved OP Environment, area of intervention 2.3 was included into area of intervention 2.2.



The call was intended for the applicants from regions, towns and municipalities, institutions receiving contributions from the state budget, state enterprises and state organisations, universities, civic associations and public benefit corporations, legal and natural persons – entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurs.

2.1.1.3. The Third Call for Applications

The third call for applications within the framework of the OP Environment was announced on 21 December 2007.

Within the framework of the 3rd call, applications for Priority Axis 1 and Priority Axis 3 were accepted. Acceptance of applications within Priority Axis 1 was expected between 3 March and 5 May 2008, the acceptance of applications for the major projects was expected to be continuous until 19 December 2008. Within Priority Axis 3, applications were accepted from 21 December 2007 to 31 January 2008.

The orientation of the 3rd call

The call was announced for the following Areas of Intervention: 1.1, 1.2 and 3.2.

It was possible to submit project applications up to EUR 25 million and also major project applications over EUR 25 million. Within Area of Intervention 3.2, it was possible to submit project applications only for implementation of the relevant measures in schools and school facilities.

2.2. Achievement and Analysis of the Progress

With regard to the initial phase of the operational programme, no project applications were approved in 2007. As a result, the following tables of values of the indicators and of the financial progress contain zero values.

2.2.1. Physical Progress of the Operational Programme

Table No 1: Indicators at the Programme level

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Impact Core 30 21 02 00	Reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases (CO ₂ equiv. and kt)	t CO ₂ equiv. per capita/year	MoE	13.923*	13.505	0	0
Impact 21 17 00	Pollution over- exposure of population to high	% of the population	MoE	66 (2005)	60**	0	0



	concentrations of PM ₁₀						
Result 23 11 00	Weight of discharged pollutants for sources subjected to charges- COD _{Cr}	t/year	CEI (CSO)	20 613 (2005)	18 000	0	0

* Data for 2004 (the data for 2005 are not yet available). For the Core 30 – Reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases indicator, a reduction of 3 % is expected.

** The target level of 60 % of the population of the Pollution over-exposure of population to high concentrations of PM₁₀ indicator is reached only with the contribution of the OP Environment.

2.2.2. Financial Progress at the Programme level

In 2007, no projects were approved, therefore no drawing of funds occurred. Therefore, all the data in the following table are zero. In addition, no advance payments were received in 2007.

Table No 2: Priority Axes based on sources of financing (EUR)

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the Managing Authority	Corresponding public contribution	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
Priority Axis 1 - CF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 2 - CF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 3 - CF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 4 - CF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 5 -ERDF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 6 ERDF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 7 ERDF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 8 - CF type expenditure	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0	0
ESF type expenditure in the grand total where the programme is co-financed by the ERDF	0	0	0	0



2.2.3. Information about the Breakdown of the Use of Funds

In the following table, categorisation of the assistance of the OP Environment for the 2007-2013 period, including the anticipated EU contribution is mentioned. This categorisation stems from the approved OP Environment.

Table No 3: Priority themes

Theme 1 <i>Priority theme</i>	Theme 2 <i>Form of financing</i>	Theme 3 <i>Territory type</i>	EU contribution (EUR)
06 – Assistance to small and medium enterprises for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes	01	01,05	158 614 627
12 – Information and communication technologies	01	01,05	11 030 239
39 – Renewable energy: wind	01	01,05	18 129 385
40 - Renewable energy: solar	01	01,05	54 388 155
41 - Renewable energy: biomass	01	01,05	235 682 275
42 - Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	01	01,05	54 388 155
43 – Energy efficiency, cogeneration, energy management	01	01,05	565 383 317
44 – Management of household and industrial waste	01	01,05	520 258 572
45 - Management and distribution of water (drinking water)	01	01,05	400 661 221
46 – Water treatment (waste water)	01	01,05	1 344 868 832
47 – Air quality	01	01,05	252 317 000
47 - Integrated prevention and pollution control	01	01,05	160 647 006
50 – Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated soil	01	01,05	256 246 759
51 – Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including the Natura 2000 project)	01	01,05	599 423 825
53 – Risk prevention	01	01,05	100 165 305
75 – Educational infrastructure	01	01,05	42 452 678
85 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	01	01,05	94 518 433
86 – Evaluation and studies; information and communication	01	01,05	48 691 314
Total - Town	01	01	1 898 854 137
Total – Rural areas	01	05	3 019 012 961
Total			4 917 867 098

Note: Codes under Annex II, part A, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006

2.2.4. Assistance by Target Groups

Within the framework of the OP Environment, special attention is paid to regions with concentrated state aid as defined by the adopted Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic for the 2007-2013 period in accordance with Government Resolution No 560 of 17



May 2006. When evaluating the project applications, these regions are given an advantage through point bonuses.

2.2.5. Assistance Repaid or Re-used

In 2007, no financial resources were repaid.

2.2.6. Qualitative Analysis

2.2.6.1. Analysis of the Achievements

With regard to the approval of the Operational Programme towards the end of 2007, no project applications were approved in 2007. However, intensive promotion of the OP and various applicant training sessions took place. A great interest in the support from the OP Environment showed itself during the first three calls that were announced in 2007.

The Administration of Project Applications

Within the framework of the 1st call for applications, which was terminated in 2007, 545 applications were accepted (i.e. approved from the formal and acceptance aspects and passed on for subsequent evaluation). Financial resources totalling CZK 11 492 million were requested, i.e. EUR 441.91 million. Approval of the projects was expected in 2008. The other two calls were not terminated until 2008.

2.2.6.2. The Contribution of the OP Environment to the Horizontal Objectives, Fulfilment of the Partnership Agreements and the Lisbon Strategy

Equal Opportunities (Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006)

The Operational Programme has been drawn up in such a way as to guarantee the principles of equal opportunities for men and women and of general non-discrimination for all the proposed areas of intervention within the framework of the programme. Equal opportunities between men and women in their social and professional development, equal opportunities irrespective of race, ethnic origin, religion or worldview, physical disability and the like are an important element of the social dimension of sustainable development.

The OP Environment, by its very nature, is not directly targeted at the issues of equal opportunity. Nevertheless, the concept of equal opportunity is rigorously applied here and throughout the programme's implementation, no discrimination based on gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or worldview, physical disability, age or sexual orientation will occur. When evaluating the projects' applications, it is assessed whether a specific project will have a positive or neutral influence on equal opportunities.



Sustainable Development (Article 17 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006)

The Operational Programme is highly focused on the main theme of sustainable development. It particularly concerns the reduction of energy intensity, introducing new, and at the same time environmentally friendly technologies and support for environmental education, consultancy and awareness.

Both horizontal themes represent crosscutting areas that permeate throughout the entire strategy of the Operational Programme.

The Partnership Agreement (Article 11 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006)

Close cooperation with the other public authorities, non-governmental organisations and the European Commission is achieved through the activities of the Monitoring Committee, the members of which are representatives from the MoE and SEF, representatives from other Ministries (e.g. MRD, MIT, MoF, MoT, MoA), delegated representatives of regions, representative of the Office of the Government, representatives from non-governmental organisations, and others. In addition, representatives from the European Commission and representatives from the EIB and EIF may participate in the Monitoring Committee's proceedings.

In connection with the fulfilment of the partnership principle, an important function in the implementation structure is performed by the Regional Working Groups, which are established at the level of all NUTS III regions in the Czech Republic. The members of the Regional Working Groups are representatives from the regional administration, MoE, SEF and, as the case may be, from other ministries. The Regional Working Groups provide their opinions of the accepted applications according to the regional division, namely with respect to their compliance with the development priorities and needs at the regional level.

Expenditures Associated with the Lisbon Programme

The Czech Republic is aware of the importance of a competitive EU and the importance of a cohesion policy for support of the Lisbon Programme. In connection with the tentative allocation of resources from the funds for each category stated in the OP Environment, only approximately 22.32 % of Community support will be allocated to Lisbon expenditures. The reason for this relatively low allocation of resources for Lisbon expenditures is on the one hand the fact that many environmental activities (in particular energy efficiency) classified as a Lisbon expenditure will be implemented within the framework of other programmes, and on the other hand the fact that the OP Environment must satisfy the requirements for regional development, in particular in the area of water treatment, pollution, protection of biodiversity and air quality, which do not necessarily have to be classified as a Lisbon expenditure.



Table No 4: Expenditures associated with the Lisbon Programme

Code	Title	EU contribution (EUR)
06	Assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes	158 614 627
12	Information and communication technologies	11 030 239
39	Renewable energy: wind	18 129 385
40	Renewable energy: solar	54 388 155
41	Renewable energy: biomass	235 682 275
42	Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	54 388 155
43	Energy efficiency, cogeneration, energy management	565 383 317
Total		1 097 616 153
Share of the total EU contribution		22.32 %

2.3. *Information about Compliance with Community Law*

2.3.1. Competition Rules

The resources that are provided for implementing the programmes financed from the Structural Funds and from the Cohesion Fund are public, and as such are subject to their respective regulations concerning public support. The basic rules for the granting of public support are found in Articles 87 to 89 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, in the wording of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Treaty”).

In implementing the OP Environment, great emphasis is placed on all financial operations complying with the Treaty, and the instruments adopted in accordance with this Treaty in the area of competition.

For each instance of support requested within the framework of the OP Environment, it is assessed whether it is by its character subject to the conditions of public support. The character of support is always assessed both from the viewpoint of the specific project (i.e. from the viewpoint of the estimated investment, e.g. the infrastructure being built and the economic activity related to it) and from the viewpoint of all the applicant’s activities in the relation to the market. It is necessary to answer the question whether the implementation of the specific project might influence competition, i.e. whether it can impact potential intentions, opportunities and bottom line of the applicant’s competitors in the given market.

Consideration of the issue of public support is the first step in the process of fixing the amount of assistance within the framework of the OP Environment. The rules for granting public support within the framework of the OP Environment follow the generally valid regulations. Each project is subject to an individual assessment. The individual assessment will particularly be used in cases where the applicant will be a different body than state administration or self-government authority. If the project is subject to the conditions of public support, the amount of assistance will be determined on the basis of a regulation relevant for the given kind of project. It can be expected that this amount will be significantly



lower than the maximum possible assistance level stipulated in accordance with the general rules of the Operational Programme.

If there is a suspicion of a breach of the competition rules, these operations will be referred to the Office for the Protection of Competition of the Czech Republic, which is the central state administration authority ensuring compliance with competition rules.

2.3.2. Public Procurement Procedure

Public procurement within the framework of all the bodies within the implementation structure of the OP Environment follows Act No 137/2006 Sb., on Public Procurement, which is in compliance with European Community legislation. The act regulates the area of public procurement in the Czech Republic in a comprehensive way, namely in connection with the new EC legal regulations in this area, including transposition of Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC into the Czech legal code. This forms a more modern, flexible and simple legal framework for public procurement.

The main principles of the Act are derived from the Treaty establishing the European Community and from the above mentioned Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC. In particular, the following principles are concerned:

- transparency,
- prohibition of discrimination,
- equal treatment,
- mutual recognition and proportionality.

The instructions for beneficiaries concerning public contracts are a part of “Binding Instructions for Applicants and Complementing Information for Assistance Beneficiaries”. In addition, “The Methodology for Public Procurement under Act No 137/2006 Sb., on Public Procurement” and “The Methodology for Public Procurement Financed from EU Sources” were also issued for the beneficiaries.

One of the conditions for drawing funds from the EU is compliance with the duties stemming from the legislation of public contracts. Assistance beneficiary compliance with the duties stipulated by the relevant legal regulations in the area of public contracts is subject to inspection by the SEF. Compliance with these duties is in the assistance beneficiaries’ interest, for the ascertained breach of duties when disposing of the granted funds may be evaluated as a budgetary discipline breach and may consequently lead to the duty to return the granted funds (the duty of a funds levy). For these reasons, the SEF recommends that assistance beneficiaries closely follow compliance with “The Methodology for Public Procurement under Act No 137/2006 Sb., on Public Procurement” and “The Methodology for Public Procurement Financed from EU Sources”, which are available at www.opzp.cz. In case of funds awarded outside the Act, the beneficiaries are obligated to respect the Binding Instructions for the Applicants issued by the SEF.

For public procurement within the framework of Technical Assistance, the Managing Authority must act in accordance with Directive of the MoE No 15/2007 on the procedure for public procurement under Act No 137/2006 Sb., on Public Procurement, as well as the Procedures Manual for the OP Environment. The Intermediate Body follows its internal



methodological instructions, which are in compliance with Act No 137/2006 Sb., on Public Procurement, and also according to the Procedures Manual for the OP Environment.

2.3.3. Environmental Protection

EC policy in the area of the environmental protection provides the basic model for the OP, which is reflected clearly in the formulation of its global objective. Adoption of the sustainable development principles and of environmental protection and improvement are the basic preconditions for the implementation of development activities with a regional, national and European impact. The environmental aspects represent one of the principal criteria for selecting projects. Emphasis is placed on maintaining and renewing natural resources, environmental risk prevention, environmental stability of the landscape, raising of the population's environmental awareness and increasing their involvement in the decision-making process in such a way that the principles of sustainable development and approximation to EU standards will be respected. Emphasis is placed on the observance of "the polluter-pays principle".

In the international context, the Operational Programme mainly follows:

- The Plan of Implementing the World Summit on Sustainable Development,
- The European Union Sustainable Development Strategy,
- The 6th European Community Action Programme for the Environment,
- The Lisbon Strategy,
- The EU thematic strategies,
- The Community Strategic Guidelines.

In connection with EC legislation in the area of environmental protection, above all, compliance with the directive on the protection of habitats, wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC), the directive on the protection of bird wildlife (79/409/EEC), the directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment – EIA (85/337/EEC) and the directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (2002/49/EC) are concerned. A project will not be supported within the framework of the OP Environment, for which the EIA assessment, if this duty is required by Act No 100/2001 Sb., on Environmental Impact Assessment, as amended by subsequent regulations, will not be carried out. At the same time, projects with a dissenting EIA opinion will not be supported. The entire Operational Programme will also be subjected to the SEA process.

2.3.4. Regional Policy

Regional policy is taken into account in the implementation structure mainly by the activity of the Regional Working Groups, where project applications are considered from the viewpoint of the particular regional needs and also by the involvement of the representatives of regions in the Operational Programme committees (the Managing and Monitoring Committees).

The regional aspect is also taken into account during the evaluation of individual project applications, special attention is paid to the definition of regions with concentrated state aid for the 2007-2013 period, as adopted by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No 560 of 17 May 2006 on the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic. The



structurally affected and economically weak regions and regions with high above-average unemployment are found here.

In 2007, no cases of inconsistency with the European Community legal regulations were noted.

2.4. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

Since the approval of the OP Environment, i.e. from 20 December 2007 to the end of 2007, no significant problems were encountered.

2.5. Changes in the Context of the Operational Programme Implementation (if relevant)

Since the approval of the OP Environment, i.e. from 20 December 2007 to the end of 2007, no legislative changes or unexpected facts occurred that would affect the implementation of the Operational Programme.

2.6. Substantial Modification pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant)

With regard to the approval of the OP in December 2007 and to the fact no projects were approved, no substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 was noted.

2.7. Complementarity with Other Instruments

2.7.1. Links of the OP Environment to the Other Financial Instruments of the Community

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD

Within the framework of the Rural Development Programme and the Managing Authority (the Ministry of Agriculture), projects in rural areas will be financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development with emphasis placed on landscape maintenance in agricultural and forest management, protection of waters and water resources, some projects relating to the protection of natural resources, environmental protection and compensation in connection with the implementation of the Natura 2000 system.

In conformity with the NSRF, the demarcation lines of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development are defined as follows:

- In the area of renewable energy sources, agricultural entrepreneurs are supported within the framework of EAFRD;
- In the area of water management infrastructure, construction and modernisation of water supply and sewerage system networks including waste water treatment plants,



for agglomerations with less than 2 000 population equivalent (PE), support from EAFRD is granted for projects, except for specially protected areas as defined in the OP Environment;

- In the area of other technical infrastructure development, which would concern waste management, no projects will be supported from the Rural Development Programme;
- In the area of water management measures in the landscape, land adaptations are supported within the framework of EAFRD where the assistance beneficiaries are Land Offices;
- In the area of forest management, the bodies conducting business in forests of private persons and municipalities are supported within the framework of EAFRD.

European Fishing Fund – EFF

In accordance with the NSRF, the demarcation lines of the European Fishing Fund are defined as follows:

- In the area of pond management, water reservoirs are supported within the EFF in accordance with Article 29 of the Regulation on EFF;
- In the area of fish migration routes, legal entities are supported within the framework of the EFF whose income is derived from business activities performed under their own name, at their own responsibility and risk;
- In the area of spawning locations for fish, where operations of eligible expenses do not exceed CZK 1 million, they are supported within the EAFRD.

The OP Environment is not linked with any other EU financial instruments, such as the EIB, EAGF etc.

2.7.2. Setting the Technical Interface of the OP Environment and the other Operational Programmes

Regional Operational Programmes

The OP Environment has several links to the Regional Operational Programmes. Within the area of brownfields the OP Environment will support those operations that will contribute to remediation of the contaminated locations. Should the location not be contaminated seriously, revitalisation may be supported from the Regional Operational Programmes or within the framework of the OP Enterprise and Innovation. The relevant department of the MoE will assess, whether the location is contaminated or not. Operations in the area of public greenery carried out in towns and in rural areas, which support biodiversity within the urbanised environment, will be financed from the Regional Operational Programmes. The OP Environment solves the other environmental aspects.

Thematic Operational Programmes

The link to the OP Enterprise and Innovation exists in the area of brownfields, where it depends on the fact whether the location is contaminated seriously or not, which is assessed by the MoE. Further, there is a link to support in the area of energy efficiency. Business entities will be supported from the OP Enterprise and Innovation. In the area of air protection, aiming to reduce emissions and improve air quality, the projects oriented primarily on the environmental protection will be supported from the OP Environment.



From the OP Technical Assistance the activities will be funded, which will be realised for all operational programmes without any difference. The Technical Assistance within the framework of the OP Environment is intended for the specific needs of this Operational Programme.

Within the framework of energy savings there is there is a link to the Integrated Operational Programme, which is, however, set in completely different direction than the OP Environment is. While the Integrated Operational Programme focuses on the revitalisation of panel houses, the OP Environment focuses on reduction of emissions of pollutants and air quality improvement.

The OP Environment reckons with the development of infrastructure for environmental education and awareness. To ensure direct provision of environmental education and interconnection with investments in this infrastructure, use of a cross-financing tool has been introduced. The other activities in education will fall under the OP Education for Competitiveness.

Concrete relations and links to the mentioned operational programmes and defining their interface are mentioned in the Programming Document OP Environment at the relevant areas of intervention.

2.8. *Monitoring Arrangements*

Monitoring is an integral part both of the programming and project cycles. The aim of the monitoring is on-going ascertainment of progress in the implementation of programmes, as the case may be of the projects, and comparing the obtained information with the initial plan envisaged. The monitoring is, unlike the evaluation, a systematic activity, which is carried out during the whole period of the programme duration. The monitoring data are the necessary source for carrying out all types of evaluations. The system for performance measurement is created on the principle of defining measurable indicators, which enable to monitor the programme implementation and to evaluate its efficiency with regard to the objectives set.

2.8.1. Monitoring System

The uniform integrated monitoring system for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund is used for monitoring of the OP and data exchange with the European Commission, which ensures the monitoring at all implementation levels (central, executive, applicant/beneficiary). The system ensures full support for the management, monitoring, evaluation and administration of the programmes and projects. It respects the requirements of the European Commission and ensures the required function of the data collection and transfer of the data to the European Commission and the PCA. The Central Information System for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and projects is ensured from the NCA level. The basic instrument for ensuring the uniformity of the monitoring system is defining the extent of the obligatory data and obligatory procedures for their acquisition and



transfer at all implementation levels, which are specified by the Monitoring Methodology of the SF and CF 2007-2013.

The monitoring system of the programmes and projects co-financed from the Structural Funds is intended for the employees of the NCA, the managing authorities of the operational programmes, the PCA and other implementation structure bodies. The monitoring system ensures physical and financial monitoring of the programmes, global grants and projects at all levels of the project lifecycle (i.e. preparation of the programme, call for applications, drawing up project applications, evaluation of applications, concluding agreements, monitoring and evaluation of the project, claims for payment, payments, closure of the project), application of the of the financial flows in accordance with the Methodology of Financial Flows and the electronic data exchange with other information systems of the public administration.

System architecture of the monitoring system

The monitoring system is conceived as a three-level unit of inter-communicating information systems. At the central level it is the information system MSC2007, at the executive and at the beneficiary's level it is IS SEF. The information system solution comes out from the principles defined in the NSRF.

The solution of the monitoring system in the area of information-technological infrastructure links up evolutionally to the solution of the monitoring system of the 2004-2006 programming period, modifying and complementing it substantially. When building the monitoring system the emphasis was placed on fast accessibility, complexity, user-friendliness and reliability.

The central level of the monitoring system is operated within the technical equipment of the NCA, the executive and the beneficiary's level within the technical equipment of the SEF. The data between all levels of the monitoring system of the SF and CF are transferred in regular intervals given by the Monitoring Methodology of the SF and CF Programmes 2007-13. The electronic data exchange between the CR and the European Commission is ensured by the data transfer from the information monitoring system MSC2007 to the database of the European Commission SFC2007.

Throughout 2007, individual modules of the monitoring system at the executive level were set and the data transfer was tested. After the announcement of the first call for project applications the monitoring system began to be used in full.

2.8.2. Monitoring Committee

In 2007, two meetings of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment were held.

The first constitutive meeting was held on 25 June 2007. At this meeting the selection criteria for the projects financed from the OP Environment, the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee were approved.



In August 2007, the Monitoring Committee approved an amendment to the selection criteria and the acceptability criteria through a 'per rollam' written procedure.

The second meeting of the Monitoring Committee was held on 13 December 2007. At this meeting further amendments to the selection criteria and to the acceptability criteria of the projects financed from the OP Environment were considered and approved, an amendment to the Statutes of the MC OP Environment was approved and information regarding the status of the OP Environment negotiations and on the calls being prepared was presented.



3. IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. *Priority Axis 1 – IMPROVEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND REDUCTION OF FLOOD RISKS*

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The global objective for the 2007-2013 period is to improve the condition of the surface water and groundwater, improve the quality of the drinking water supply for the population and reduce flood risks.

The specific objectives of the Priority Axis are as follows:

1. Surface Waters and Groundwater

The specific objective is to significantly decrease the amount of pollution discharged into the surface water and groundwater.

The objective will be realised by a reduction of discharged pollution through construction, modernisation and intensification of waste water treatment plants, through the related construction and reconstruction of sewerage systems and through a reduction of impacts of area and diffusion pollution sources on water quality level allowing their trouble-free use for human consumption and the life of aquatic ecosystems. To allow a choice of proposals of effective measures and to control their efficiency, systems monitoring the amounts and quality of water, including support for instrumentation for modern methods of chemical and biological analyses, including building of information and evaluation systems, will be established and/or modernised.

2. Drinking Water

The specific objective is to ensure drinking water supply in an adequate quality and quantity.

The objective will be realised through the extension and modernisation of water treatment plants, water conduits and distribution networks.

3. Reduction of Flood Risks

The specific objective is to reduce flood risks.

The objective will be realised through the processing of flood risk maps and creating plans for their management, the extension and improvement of a prediction and alert system and implementation of flood control measures in the landscape in a near-to-natural manner, including the establishment and modernisation of operational information systems.

3.1.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 1

In 2007, two calls for project applications within the framework of Priority Axis 1 were announced, namely the 1st and the 3rd calls, on the basis of which it was possible to submit



applications within Areas of intervention 1.1 and 1.2. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.1.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 1

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 1, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 5: Indicators of Priority Axis 1 – Improvement of Water Management Infrastructure and Reduction of Flood Risks

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target	Achievement	Total
Result 23 11 00	Weight of discharged pollutants for sources of COD _{Cr} subjected to charges (methodology of 2005)	t/year	CEI (CSO)	20 613 (2005)	18 000	0	0
Result 23 12 00	Weight of discharged pollutants for sources subjected to charges – Phosphorus total (methodology of 2005)	kg/year	CEI (CSO)	18 200 (2005)	15 000	0	0
Result Core 26 23 02 00	Additional population served by waste water projects	Number in mil. inhabitants	CSO (MoE)	8 215 (2007)	8 956	0	0
Result Core 25 23 01 00	Additional population served by water projects	Number in mil. inhabitants	CSO (MoE)	9 483 (2007)	9 618	0	0
Result 23 06 00	Number of new, modernised and intensified WWTPs over 2 000 EO	Number of WWTPs	CSO (MoE)	0 (2005)	350	0	0
Result 23 07 00	Length of new and reconstructed sewerage systems	km	CSO (MoE)	0 (2005)	120	0	0
Output 23 08 00	Number of new and modernised drinking water treatment plants	Number	CSO (MoE)	0 (2005)	10	0	0
Output 23 21 00	Number of flood control authorities	Number of commissions	MoE	20 (2006)	100	0	0



	(commissions) connected to flood prediction, reporting and warning system						
Output Core 31 26 01 00	Number of projects (aimed to reduce flood risk)	Number	MoE	0 (2007)	200	0	0

Notes:

The indicators *Weight of discharged pollutants for sources of CODCr subjected to charges* and *Weight of discharged pollutants for sources subjected to charges – Phosphorus total* are identified according to the departmental *Annual Statement on Watercourses Pollution – Waters (MoE) 3-01*. Only levels for sources subjected to charges for a given indicator are presented here, thus the presented weight of the pollutants is only part of the pollutants discharged from these sources.

Limits of charges defined by Water Act No 254/2001 Sb., are set so that in case of meeting the defined concentration and weight limits (reaching good level of the waste water treatment), the indicator concerned ceases to be subjected to charges.

CORE indicator 32 (260200) – The number of the population protected by flood control measures has not been included, as there are no statistical data for this indicator.

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.

3.1.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 1

Table No 6: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 1 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
1.1	Reduction of water pollution	CF	1 487.726
1.2	Improvement of drinking water quality	CF	400.661
1.3	Reduction of flood risks	CF	100.165
1	Improvement of water management infrastructure and reduction of flood risks	CF	1 988.552

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

3.1.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 1

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.1.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.



3.2. **Priority Axis 2 – IMPROVEMENT OF AIR QUALITY AND REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS**

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The **global objective** for the 2007-2013 period is to improve or maintain the air quality and reduce emissions of the basic pollutants to the air with an emphasis on the use of innovative environmentally friendly methods of energy generation, including energy savings.

The **specific objectives of the Priority Axis** are as follows:

- Reduce the population's exposure to the concentrations of PM₁₀ and of concentrations of PM_{2,5} exceeding the ceiling limits;
- Reduce the population's total exposure to the concentrations of pollutants exceeding the ceiling limits;
- Reduce the acidification of ecosystems and vegetation;
- Reduce emissions of primary particles of precursors of tropospheric ozone and of secondary particles.

3.2.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 2

In 2007, one call for project applications was announced within Priority Axis 2, namely the 1st call, on the basis of which it was possible to submit applications within Area of intervention 2.1. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.2.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 2

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 2, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 7: Indicators of Priority Axis 2 – Improvement of Air Quality and Reduction of Emissions

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Impact 21 17 00	Population over-exposure to high concentrations of PM ₁₀	% of the population	MoE	66 (2005)	60	0	0
Result 21 23 00	Emissions of primary particles and precursors of secondary particles	kt/year (in the potential of particle formation)	MoE	468 (2005)	434	0	0
Output Core 28 21 01 00	Number of projects	Project	MoE	0 (2007)	607	0	0

Note: The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.



3.2.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 2

Table No 8: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 2 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of Area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
2.1	Improvement of air quality	CF	348,432
2.2	Reduction of emissions	CF	285,714
2	Improvement of air quality and reduction of emissions	CF	634.146

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

3.2.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 2

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.2.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.

3.3. *Priority Axis 3 – SUSTAINABLE USE OF ENERGY SOURCES*

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The **global objective** for the 2007-2013 period is the sustainable use of energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources and the promotion of energy savings. A long-term objective is to increase the use of renewable energy sources in electric energy generation and heat generation and a larger use of waste heat.

The specific objectives of the Priority Axis are as follows:

- Increase the capacity for RES-based heat and electric energy generation;
- Increase the use of waste heat and increase energy savings;
- Reduce energy consumption for heating;
- Substitute fossil fuel combustion and decrease environmental pollution.

3.3.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 3

In 2007, two calls for project applications were announced within Priority Axis 3, namely the 1st and the 3rd calls. On the basis of the 1st call, applications were possible to be submitted within Areas of intervention 3.1 and 3.2. The second call was announced only for applications



within area of Intervention 3.2. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.3.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 3

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 3, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 9: Indicators of Priority Axis 3 – Sustainable Use of Energy Sources

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Result Core 24 36 03 00	Increase of capacity of RES-based energy generation	MW*	CSO	0 (2007)	600	0	0
Result 36 40 30	Reduction of the energy consumption	TJ/year	MoE	0 (2007)	430	0	0
Output Core 23 36 01 00	Number of projects	Number	MoE	0 (2007)	1 500	0	0

Note:

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.

3.3.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 3

Table No 10: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 3 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
3.1	The construction of new facilities and modernisation of the existing facilities with the aim to increase the use of RES for heat generation, electric energy generation and for combined heat and electric energy generation	CF	362,591
3.2	Realising energy savings and the use of waste heat for non-business carrying sphere	CF	310,380
3	Sustainable use of energy sources	CF	672,971

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.



3.3.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 3

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.3.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.

3.4. Priority Axis 4 – IMPROVEMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF OLD ECOLOGICAL BURDENS

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The **global objective** for the 2007-2013 period is to improve waste management, reduce waste production and to remove old ecological burdens.

The specific objectives of the Priority Axis are as follows:

- Reduce specific waste production independently on the level of economic growth;
- Utilise waste to the maximum possible extent as a replacement for primary natural resources;
- Minimise the negative effects on human health and the environment in waste management;
- Rehabilitate serious old ecological burdens.

3.4.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 4

In 2007, one project application call was announced within Priority Axis 4, namely the 1st call, on the basis of which it was possible to submit applications within Areas of intervention 4.1 and 4.2. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.4.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 4

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 4, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.



Table No 11: Indicators of Priority Axis 4 – Improvement of Waste Management and Rehabilitation of Old Ecological Burdens

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Impact 22.03.00	Proportion of recycled wastes	%	WMIS	61 (2004)	75	0	0
Result 24 02 00	Area of rehabilitated old ecological burdens	ha	MoE	0 (2007)/ 14 (OPI 2006)	100	0	0
Result 22 04 00	Volume of municipal waste (production)	1 000/t/year	WMIS	4 000 (2006)	5 000	0	0
Result 22 08 00	Proportion of municipal waste used	% of the annual total municipal waste production	WMIS	29.5 (2006)	50	0	0
Output Core 27 22 01 00	Number of projects (Priority Axis 4.1)	Project	SEF	28 (2004)	250	0	0
Output 24 02 01	Number of projects (Priority Axis 4.2)	Project	MoE	2 (2004)	50	0	0

Note:

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.

3.4.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 4

Table No 12: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 4 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
4.1	Improvement of waste management	CF	520.258
4.2	Rehabilitation of old ecological burdens	CF	256.247
4	Improvement of waste management and rehabilitation of old ecological burdens	CF	776.505

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

3.4.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 4

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.



3.4.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.

3.5. *Priority Axis 5 – REDUCING INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS*

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The **global objective** for the 2007-2013 period is to reduce industrial pollution and environmental risks.

The **specific objectives of the Priority Axis** are as follows:

- The development and innovation of technology contributing to a reduction in industrial pollution;
- The development of information systems on environmental pollution.

3.5.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 5

In 2007, no calls were announced for project applications within Priority Axis 5.

3.5.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 5

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 5, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 13: Indicators of Priority Axis 5 – Reducing Industrial Pollution and Environmental Risks

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Result 26 05 00	Number of facilities applying the methodologies developed within the supported projects	Facility	MoE CENIA	0 (2007)	300	0	0
Output 26 07 00	Number of projects	Project	MoE	0 (2007)	250	0	0

Note:

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.



3.5.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 5

Table No 14: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 5 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
5.1	Limiting industrial pollution	ERDF	60.606
5	Limiting industrial pollution and environmental risks	ERDF	60.606

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

3.5.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 5

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.5.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.

3.6. *Priority Axis 6 – IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATE OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE*

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The **global objective** for the 2007-2013 period is to stop the decline of biodiversity and to improve the ecological stability of the landscape.

The specific objectives of the Priority Axis are as follows:

- Implementation of the Natura 2000 system;
- Recovery and protection of natural and near-to-natural biotopes and endangered plant and animal species;
- Recovery of the ecological stability of the landscape;
- Optimisation of the landscape water regime;
- Regeneration of the urbanised landscape;
- Prevention of landslides and rock avalanches, monitoring of geo-factors and impacts of mining and extraction activities and assessment of non-renewable natural resources, including groundwater resources.



3.6.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 6

In 2007, one call for project applications was announced within Priority Axis 6, namely the 2nd call, within the framework of which it was possible to submit applications within all areas of intervention of this priority axis. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.6.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 6

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 6, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the Priority Axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 15: Indicators of Priority Axis 6 – Improvement of the State of Nature and Landscape

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Result Core 29 24 01 00	Acreeage of revitalised areas	km ²	MoE ANCLP	0 (2007)/0,7 (OPI 2006)	10	0	0
Result 25 09 00	Percentage of Czech sites of Community importance prepared to be declared as SPAs or for contractual protection, of the total number of Czech sites of Community importance placed on the European list	%	MoE ANCLP	0 (2007)	80	0	0
Output 25 01 00	Recovery of stable landscape water regime and of elements of ecological stability	project	MoE	0 (2007)	15	0	0
Output 26 08 00	Number of projects	project	MoE	0 (2007)	150	0	0

Note:

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.



3.6.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 6

Table No 16: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 6 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
6.1	Implementation and Management of the Natura 2000 Network	ERDF	29.971
6.2	Support for Biodiversity	ERDF	113.891
6.3	Recovery of Landscape Features	ERDF	77.925
6.4	Optimisation of the Landscape Water Regime	ERDF	224.784
6.5	Support for the Regeneration of the Urbanised Landscape	ERDF	86.916
6.6	The prevention of landslides and rock avalanches, monitoring of geo-factors and impacts of mining and extraction activities, and assessment of non-renewable natural resources including groundwater resources	ERDF	65.937
6	Improvement of state of nature and landscape	ERDF	599.424

With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

3.6.4. Characteristic Project from Priority Axis 6

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.6.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.

3.7. *Priority Axis 7 – DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CONSULTANCY AND AWARENESS*

The Global and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axis

The global objective for the 2007-2013 period is to establish a nation-wide and available network of environmental education and awareness raising centres, information centres and environmental consultancy centres and further development of environmental consultancy activities.

The specific objectives of the Priority Axis:

Ensure high-quality infrastructure (material-technical background) for the implementation of environmental education programmes, for environmental consultancy and for the provision of environmental information. In addition, the provision of a selection of high-quality specialised



materials for environmental education, consultancy and awareness and nation-wide implementation of environmental consultancy in the Czech Republic.

3.7.1. Implementation of Priority Axis 7

In 2007, one call for project applications was announced within Priority Axis 7, namely the 1st call, on the basis of which it was possible to submit applications within Area of intervention 7.1. More detailed information regarding the announced calls is mentioned in Chapter 2.1.1.

3.7.2. Physical Progress of Priority Axis 7

The following table mentions the indicators for Priority Axis 7, the monitoring of which was defined in the Programming Document OP Environment. The indicators show fulfilling the objectives of the priority axis and they enable efficient monitoring. With regard to the fact that no project applications were approved in 2007, zero values are present.

Table No 17: Indicators of Priority Axis 7 – Development of Infrastructure for Environmental Education, Consultancy and Awareness

Indicator type EU code NCLI code	Indicator title	Unit of measure	Data source	Quantification			
				Baseline	Target 2015	Achievement 2007	Total
Result 26 11 00	Number of purchased, constructed, renovated and furnished premises for the centres	centre	MoE	0 (2007)	30	0	0
Output Core 36 06 01 00	Number of projects	project	MoE SEF	0 (2007)	70	0	0

Note:

The Operational Programme does not have the values defined annually, but rather for the whole period.

3.7.3. Financial Progress of Priority Axis 7

Table No 18: The distribution of financial allocation within Priority Axis 7 to individual areas of action

Area of intervention	Title of the area of intervention	EU Fund	million EUR
7.1	Development of infrastructure for the implementation of environmental education programmes, the provision of environmental consultancy and environmental information	ERDF	42.453
7	Development of infrastructure for environmental education, consultancy and awareness	ERDF	42.453



With regard to the fact that the OP Environment was approved at the end of 2007 and no projects were approved, no drawing of funds occurred.

Within the framework of this axis, cross-financing instruments may be used.

3.7.4. Characteristic Project of Priority Axis 7

The characteristic project will be mentioned starting with the 2008 Annual Report.

3.7.5. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

No significant problems were noted.



4. MAJOR PROJECTS

Major projects in the environmental sector are defined as expenses of an operation comprising a number of works, activities or services that are intended to achieve an indivisible task of a particular economic or technical character, having clearly defined objectives, provided their total expenses exceed EUR 25/50 million.

In 2007, no major projects were approved within the OP Environment..



5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

5.1. Introduction

Priority Axis 8 – Technical Assistance

The global objective of Priority Axis 8 for the 2007-2013 period is to ensure due implementation of the OP Environment. The Technical Assistance is implemented in accordance with the procedures given by Chapter 16 of the Procedures Manual for the OP Environment.

Two areas of intervention are implemented in the OP Environment within the framework of the Technical Assistance:

Area of Intervention 8.1.: Technical Assistance in Preparing, Implementing, Monitoring and Controlling the Operations of the OP Environment

This area of intervention focuses on financing the activities that support effective management and monitoring of implementation of the OP Environment, provision of sources for reporting to the European Commission, ensuring qualified inputs for ex-ante evaluation, ongoing and ex-post evaluation and assistance in preparations and evaluation of the projects so as they are defined in Article 46 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The specific objective of the area of intervention is to reach responsible and effective programme administration, maximise the programme quality and effectiveness of its implementation, control the progress and ensure regular reporting on the programme implementation.

Within the area of intervention it is possible to support the projects oriented on:

- 1) preparation and implementation;
- 2) monitoring;
- 3) audits and controls.

Area of Intervention 8.2.: Other Expenses for Technical Assistance for the OP Environment

This area of intervention focuses on financing the activities such as evaluation, studies, information and communication within the framework of the programme as they are defined in Article 46 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The specific objective of the area of intervention is to provide efficient technical assistance for all the relevant actors in the process.

Within the area of intervention it is possible to support the projects oriented on:

- 1) information a promotion, organisation of seminars;
- 2) evaluation, reports, studies;
- 3) monitoring system;
- 4) other expenses.



The aid within the Priority Axis 8 is provided in the form of a subsidy from the Cohesion Fund with the maximum limit of 85 % of the total eligible expenses. The final beneficiaries are the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic.

The financial allocation is divided between the MoE CR and the SEF CR in the relation 1:1. Distribution of the financial allocation within the Priority Axis 8 is shown in the following table.

Table No 19: Distribution of financial allocation within the framework of Priority Axis 8

Organisation	Allocated resources 2007-2013 total (mil. EUR)	EU Fund (mil. EUR)	National co- financing (mil. EUR)
MoE	47.259	40.17015	7.08885
SEF	47.259	40.17015	7.08885
Total area of intervention 8.1	94.518	80.3403	14.1777
MoE	24.3455	20.693675	3.651825
SEF	24.3455	20.693675	3.651825
Total area of intervention 8.2	48.691	41.38735	7.30365
Total Priority Axis 8	143.209	121.72765	21.48135

5.2. Use of Technical Assistance in 2007

The total allocation of the Technical Assistance of the OP Environment for the 2007-2013 programming period amounts to EUR 143 209 000.

- Drawing of the resources started in the second half of the year 2007. In accordance with the Procedures Manual work on 17 projects commenced within the competence of the Intermediate Body (SEF).
- 3 projects within the competence of the Managing Authority (MoE) were approved in December 2007. The reason for such a low quantity was malfunction of the information environment Benefill, in which it is necessary to complete the electronic Application for the Granting of Support within the OP Environment to be able to realise the data transfer into the ISPROFIN System and to issue the Assessment of Expenses for Financing of the Action of a Structural Component of the State (this procedure is binding for the MA in accordance with the Procedures Manual of the OP Environment). Therefore only the registration of the projects was proceeded, which were required urgently to ensure due implementation of the OP Environment (in particular ensuring the meetings of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment in December 2007 was concerned).

The number of the approved project applications amounted to 20 in 2007 (3 for MoE and 17 for SEF). The approved sum in these project applications amounted to CZK 183 346 000 (CZK 2 600 000 for MoE and CZK 180 746 000 for SEF), thus EUR 6 950 190³. Of the total allocated resources for the Priority Axis 8 (2007-2013) 4.9 % was requested in 2007.

³ In this chapter the exchange rate CZK 26.38 /EUR is used.



The number of concluded agreements /contracts⁴ amounted to 13 (11 for SEF, 2 for MoE). The sum reimbursed from the resources of MoE/SEF amounted in total to CZK 42 779 590 (CZK 650 209 for MoE and CZK 42 129 381 for SEF), thus EUR 1 621 668. Reimbursement from the Cohesion Fund was not realised in 2007.

5.2.1. Area of Intervention 8.1: Technical Assistance in Preparing, Implementing, Monitoring and Controlling the Operations of the OP Environment

5.2.1.1. Individual Projects within Area of Intervention 8.1 Approved in 2007

Assistance Beneficiary – MoE

- Technical and organisational ensuring of the committees and other meetings paid from the Technical Assistance of the OP Environment under Measure 8.1 in the period 2007 – 2010
- Administrative arrangement of the OP Environment

Assistance Beneficiary – SEF

- Ensuring high-quality and efficient structure and system of administration of the OP Environment – 1st stage
- Revision and completion of the financial analysis
- Updating and completion of the instrument for the emission calculation and evaluation of the applications in the Priority Axes 2 and 3 of the OP Environment
- Analysis and estimation of the absorption capacity of industrial enterprises for Sub-Area 2.3.b
- Employees' development activities with the aim to ensure high level of their professional knowledge and skills in the OP Environment administration
- Professional assistance in administration of the agenda of operational contracts within the framework of the OP Environment

5.2.1.2. Drawing Financial Allocation of Technical Assistance within Area of Intervention 8.1

- The total amount of the allocation for the Area of Intervention 8.1 fixed for the 2007-2013 period amounts to EUR 94 518 000 (MoE + SEF). In 2007 8 projects were commenced in the Area of Intervention 8.1 (2 projects for MoE and 6 projects for SEF) with the budget costs of CZK 124 618 000 (1 700 000 for MoE and CZK 122 918 000 for SEF), thus EUR 4 723 958. 5% of the resources were requested from the total allocation of the Area of Intervention 8.1.

⁴ Or resources drawn in another manner, e.g. a budgetary measure when drawing the resources for salaries.



The total amount of the resources drawn in the Area of Intervention 8.1 in 2007 amounted to CZK 40 159 895 (CZK 39 509 686 for SEF and CZK 650 209 for MoE), thus EUR 1 522 361.

5.2.2. Area of Intervention 8.2: Other Expenses of Technical Assistance for the OP Environment

5.2.2.1. Individual Projects within Area of Intervention 8.2 Approved in 2007

Assistance Beneficiary – MoE

- Technical and organisational ensuring of conferences and seminars paid from the Technical Assistance of the OP Environment under Measure 8.2 in the period 2007 - 2010

Assistance Beneficiary – SEF

- Call Centre of the OP Environment
- Database of accredited advisers of the OP Environment
- Regional consultancy and information centres
- Innovation of the manual for the applicants
- Modification of the Benefill application to accept orders of the OP Environment
- Technical equipment of regional workplaces for the OP Environment administration
- Printing of the documents of the OP Environment – 1st stage
- Project of the TA the OP Environment Communication and Promotion of the OP Environment – 1st stage
- Adjustment and operation of the application Central of the SEF for monitoring of the OP Environment
- Ensuring high-quality and efficient structure and system of administration of the OP Environment – Part II. Operational costs, 1st stage
- Periodical of the OP Environment – Priority

5.2.2.2. Drawing Financial Allocation of Technical Assistance within Area of Intervention 8.2

- The total amount of the allocation for the Area of Intervention 8.2 intended for the period 2007 – 2013 amounts to EUR 48 691 000 (MoE + SEF). In 2007 12 projects were commenced in the Area of Intervention 8.2 (1 for MoE and 11 for SEF) with the budget costs of CZK 58 728 000 (CZK 900 000 for MoE and CZK 57 828 000 for SEF), which represents EUR 2 226 232. 4,6 % was requested of the total allocation of the Area of Intervention 8.2.

The total amount of the resources drawn in the Area of Intervention 8.2 in 2007 amounted to CZK 2 619 695 (CZK 0.00 for MoE and CZK 2 619 695 for SEF), thus EUR 99 306.



5.2.3. Example of a Successful Project

SEF: Project Call Centre OP Environment

The theme of the project Call Centre OP Environment was considered by management meeting of the SEF on 16 July 2007. The main project objectives are to provide the applicants fast and precise information on the OP Environment, the elements of applications, to deal with the questions to the subsidies, as the case may be to refer them expertly to other information sources on the environment.

In August the implementation commenced with selection procedure for new employees, their training and establishing the technical background. Since September 2007 a toll-free telephone line 800 260 500 and the e-mail address dotazy@sfzp.cz have been established. The original forecast reckoned with daily 8-hour operation and with disposing of 1,000 telephone questions per year. However, the interest of the public exceeded the original forecast many times (see table 23).

Table No 20: Extent of the utilisation of the Call Centre in 2007

Month	Telephone calls	E-mails
September 2007	832	318
October	1 322	336
November	343	223
December 2007	692	246
Total	3 189	1 123

Besides this monitoring, further questions are answered on the telephone line of the reception. These phone calls are not monitored. Therefore the number of the Call Centre employees was increased and in the future also the number of the telephone lines will be increased in order to increase the comfort of the services for the public and the speed of answers.

The frequently asked questions are continuously processed into standardised answers that are verified by the SEF responsible employees, arranged into a database for internal use and placed on the sites www.opzp.cz.

The project with a cost of CZK 1.5 million per year will continue for the entire period of the OP Environment.



6. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

In accordance with Commission Regulation No 1828/2006, the member state must ensure for each of the operational programmes sufficient publicity and ensure information of the public about the objectives and significance of the operational programmes. Promotion and publicity of the OP Environment is ensured by the Ministry of Environment and the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic. In the following text the activities realised during the year are summarised 2007.

Resources and Methods of Promotion and Publicity

Publications

In September 2007, the SEF published the Handbook for the Applicants in the total number of 2 500 copies. The printed version was intended for the applicants in the first call, the electronic version of the handbook was continuously updated in such a way for it to be relevant also for the applicants within the framework of the other two calls in 2007. The handbook is available on the web sites www.opzp.cz. Distribution of the printed version was provided by the regional workplaces of the SEF.

The handbook has also the function of an introductory information material. It makes the potential applicants acquainted with the whole process of preparation, handing over and evaluation of the project application, it also contains the information on the key procedures in implementation of the approved project.

Leaflets

In May 2007, two kinds of leaflets were printed – one leaflet brought the general information on the OP Environment and the contacts to the regional workplaces, which offered the persons interested in the support personal consultations. The other leaflet informed about the Priority Axis 1, which is oriented on water pollution, improvement of the drinking water quality and reduction of flood risks. The leaflet brought the information about the issues, who may ask for the aid, for which type of project and in what amount the aid is granted.

The leaflets were printed in the total number of 2 500 copies. They were distributed at the international fair ENVI Brno 2007, through the regional workplaces and at the Ekofilm festival.

Web Sites

Over the course of 2007, the information concerning the OP Environment were published on the web sites www.opzp.cz. On the sites the information was published regarding the possibilities of drawing support from the OP Environment, the current calls for applications and also the time schedule of the planned calls, there are also the documents to be downloaded that are necessary for the applicants and the beneficiaries, minutes from the Monitoring Committee meetings, the users will find there news related to the OP Environment, information on seminars, trainings, fairs etc. On the sites www.opzp.cz also the lists of the approved project applications, including mentioning the beneficiaries and the sum of financing allocated to the operations from the public sources are published.

These sites, which are administered by the SEF and the MoE, came into operation in June 2007, in December 2007 the version was published that was graphically newly processed and



extended as regards the content. The sites in the new design are better arranged, divided into sections according to the target groups (applicants, beneficiaries, journalists, public). The web sites are daily updated and offer among others the possibility of taking-in the news from the web via RSS or sending newsletters to the e-mail. The average number of the unique visits to the sites www.opzp.cz was 6 000 a month.

The information from the sites www.opzp.cz were regularly taken over by the sites www.strukturalni-fondy.cz and further e.g. by the sites euroskop.cz or edotace.cz. Also the sites of the MoE (www.env.cz) and the sites of the SEF (www.sfzp.cz) inform about the OP Environment.

Cooperation with the Media

During the whole year 2007 the State Environmental Fund and the Ministry of the Environment communicated continuously with the representatives of the journalists and with the professionals publishing in the media and participated actively in improvement of the goodwill and reputation of the OP Environment.

Press conferences were held at the occasion of the signature of the Programming Document OP Environment and to the announcements of each of the three calls (their records are available on the web www.opzp.cz) and the Minister of the Environment Martin Bursík and the SEF Director Petr Štěpánek took part in them. In the course of the year 10 press releases were published, the press agent regularly reacted to the journalists' questions by e-mail or by telephone.

The State Environmental Fund published an advertisement in daily press and the specialised periodicals for each of the three calls, in November it further published a two-page insert about the offer of the OP Environment and the results of the first call, which concerned the water management projects, in the *Hospodářské noviny*.

Green Line for Applicants

Since September 2007, green line 800 260 500 has been available to those interested in the subsidies from the OP Environment, which is in operation on business days from 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The persons interested may also send their questions by e-mail to dotazy@sfzp.cz. Qualified employees helped on the line to solve uncertainties regarding processing and submissions of applications. Tenth of questioners a day used the service of the green line. The database of frequently asked questions and the answers to them are published on www.opzp.cz.

Fairs

The representatives of the Managing Authority and of the implementation authorities of the OP Environment took part in the ENVI Fair Brno in May 2007. They informed in particular the representatives of towns and municipalities about the offer of the OP Environment.



7. SUMMARY

The OP Environment was approved by the European Commission on 20 December 2007. As such, the programme's implementation was in its initial phases in 2007. Before the approval of the OP, two calls were announced in areas that had been negotiated with the EC and in which no modifications had been expected. The third call was announced in close connection with the approval of the Operational Programme. There was a great interest in the use of assistance from the OP Environment during this initial phase. Within the 1st call for applications, which was terminated in 2007, 545 applications were accepted (i.e. approved from the formal and acceptance aspects and passed on for subsequent evaluation), having a total value of CZK 11 492.1 million, i.e. EUR 441.91 million. The other two calls will be concluded in 2008. At the end of 2007, no projects were approved under Priority Axes 1-7. In the first half of 2008, the approval of first projects, the selection of contractors and the beginning of implementation are expected.



8. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANCLP	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the CR
CEI	Czech Environmental Inspection
CENIA	Czech Environmental Information Agency
CF	Cohesion Fund
CR	Czech Republic
CSO	Czech Statistic Authority
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EC	European Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of the Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoT	Ministry of Transport
MRD	Ministry for Regional Development
NCA	National Coordination Authority
NCLI	National Code List of Indicators
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
OP	Operational Programme
PCA	Paying and Certification Authority
PE	Population Equivalent
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment (of a document, a plan)
SEF	State Environmental Fund
SF	Structural Funds
SPA	Specially Protected Area
TA	Technical Assistance
WMIS	Waste Management Information System
WWTP	Waste water treatment plant