



# Annual Implementation Report on the programme Environment 2014-2020 for 2014 and 2015

## SUMMARY FOR THE PUBLIC

*(Article 50 (9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)*

Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 (OPE 2014-2020) was approved by the EC on 30.4.2015. It aims at contributing to the achievement of the basic objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for the environmental sector, i.e. to climate change adaptation, reducing emissions, preserving natural and landscape values, improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of energy from renewable sources, and at achieving the objectives of its Flagship Initiative Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe. Based on analyses of the development and trends, the following thematic priority axes (PAs) were established, which are further divided into specific objectives (SOs):

### **PA 1: Improvement of Water Quality and Reduction of Flood Risks**

- SO 1.1: To reduce the amount of pollution discharged into surface and groundwater from municipal sources and the input of pollutants into surface and groundwater
- SO 1.2: To ensure drinking water supplies in adequate quality and volume
- SO 1.3: To ensure flood protection of urban areas
- SO 1.4: To support preventive anti-flood measures

### **PA 2: Improvement of air quality in human settlements**

- SO 2.1: To reduce emissions from domestic heating contributing to the population's exposure to excessive concentrations of pollutants
- SO 2.2: To reduce emissions from stationary sources contributing to the population's exposure to excessive concentrations of pollutants
- SO 2.3: To improve the system of monitoring, evaluation and forecasting of the air quality trends and related meteorological aspects

### **PA 3: Waste and material flows, environmental burdens and risks**

- SO 3.1: Waste prevention
- SO 3.2: To increase the share of material and energy recovery of waste
- SO 3.3: To reclaim old landfills
- SO 3.4: To finalise inventory of environmental burdens and remove them
- SO 3.5: To reduce environmental risks and to develop systems of their management

### **PA 4: Conservation and care of nature and landscape**

- SO 4.1: To ensure the favourable conservation status of the subjects of protection in the protected areas of national importance
- SO 4.2: To strengthen biodiversity
- SO 4.3: To strengthen natural functions of the landscape
- SO 4.4: To improve the quality of the environment in settlements

### **PA 5: Energy savings**

- SO 5.1: To reduce the energy intensity of public buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources
- SO 5.2: To achieve a high energy standard for new public buildings



The OPE 2014-2020 consists of 6 PAs which are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF).

**The distribution of the EU financial allocation in EUR for OPE 2014-2020:**

Number of PA	Name of PA	Fund	Share in total allocation	The Community contribution
1	Improvement of Water Quality and Reduction of Flood Risks	CF	29,15%	768 767 183
2	Improvement of air quality in human settlements	CF	17,21%	453 819 065
3	Waste and material flows, environmental burdens and risks	CF ERDF	17,41%	458 819 995
4	Conservation and care of nature and landscape	ERDF	13,34%	351 735 069
5	Energy savings	CF ERDF	20,09%	529 626 952
6	Technical assistance	CF	2,80%	73 824 600
<b>Total</b>			<b>100,00%</b>	<b>2 636 592 864</b>
<b>Total CF</b>			<b>85,03%</b>	<b>2 241 768 844</b>
<b>Total ERDF</b>			<b>14,97%</b>	<b>394 824 020</b>

In 2015, in all the above thematic priority axes (PA 1 to PA 5), a total of 24 calls were published with a total allocation of about CZK 27.3 billion/ EUR 1 billion of total eligible costs (TEC) (CZK 21.1 billion/ EUR 0.8 billion of EU funding). There were 14 time-limited and 10 continuous calls in total, and by the end of the year the receipt of grant applications was closed for 12 of them. Another 2 calls were published on technical assistance (PA 6) with total allocation at approx. CZK 2.4 billion/ EUR 88 million of TEC (CZK 2.03 billion/ EUR 75 million of EU funding), which will be open until the end of the programme period (December 2023). In total, the first 26 calls were published in 2015 with allocation of approximately CZK 30 billion CZK/ EUR 1.1 billion of total eligible costs (TEC) (CZK 23 billion/ EUR 0.9 billion of EU funding). The applicants were enabled to submit grant applications for more than 30% of the programme allocation.

By the end of the year, the closed calls registered 1 138 grant applications worth approximately CZK 18.5 billion/ EUR 0.7 billion of TEC (CZK 12.8 billion/ EUR 0.5 billion of EU funding), the allocation of those calls was approx. CZK 10.4 billion/ EUR 0.4 billion of TEC (CZK 9.2 billion/ EUR 0.3 billion of EU funding). Therefore, the allocation of the closed calls was strongly exceeded. Another 81 grant applications in the amount of CZK 3 billion/ EUR 0.1 billion of TEC (CZK 2.5 billion/ EUR 0.09 billion of EU funding) were registered in the calls with their closing date after 1.1.2016. The closed calls included also continuous calls 1 and 2 that were announced for the successful applicants from the 61st phasing call of the OPE 2007-2013.

The calls for which the ratio of the financial volume of registered grant applications against the allocation has exceeded 190%, include the already closed call 4 (PA 1, SO 1.4), 7 (PA 3, SO 3.4) and 8 (PA 2, SO 2.2). On the contrary, in closed calls 1 and 2 (the so-called phasing calls in PA 1) and in call 11 (PA 4, SO 4.2), the expected allocation of the calls was not distributed and more than 45% of the funds remained. (The allocation of calls 1 and 2 was not distributed, but the requirements of all phased projects were supported.) The applicants submitted the most applications under call 5 (PA 3, SO 3.2), i.e. 465 applications in the amount of approximately CZK 2 billion/ EUR 76 mil. of TEC (CZK 1.7 billion/ EUR 64 mil. of EU funding).



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According to the data above, the greatest progress in 2015 was achieved in PA 2, which registered grant applications for 70% of the whole PA allocation. The least progress has been achieved so far in PA 5, where only 5 project applications were registered by the end of 2015, demanding 0.02% of the allocation. As the calls in PA 5 were announced only in the last quarter of 2015 with the end date for the receipt of applications in April and October 2016, a number of grant applications (approx. 136) were being administered as of the end of 2015.

In December 2015, the first management documents - legal acts were issued, namely the merged Action Registrations with the Grant Decision, which were issued to all 14 Regions of the Czech Republic as the applicants under SO 2.1 in PA 2 - Improving air quality in human settlements. It was call 16 for the boiler subsidy applications, where the final recipients within the Regions will be individual households. The volume of TEC in those projects reached about CZK 3 billion (around EUR 110 mil.). Immediately after, still in 2015, some Regions received the first funds from the OPE 2014-2020 in the amount of approx. CZK 3.5 mil. (EUR 0.1 million). The funds were intended for non-investment expenditure of applicants, mainly to ensure sufficient administrative capacity of Regions and to support publicity of the boiler subsidies. The other grant applications registered were being assessed and appraised up to the end of 2015.