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European Funds 2014–2020: Simply for People

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European Funds 2014–2020: Simply for People

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Reform of the cohesion policy for the 2014–2020 programming period

Cohesion policy is the main EU investment policy that aims at all European Union regions. It supports job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development and the improvement in the quality of life of the EU citizens.

By 2020, the EU aims to achieve five specific objectives in the area of growth. These are based on the Europe 2020 strategy and their achievement will be supported by funds designated for the implementation of the cohesion policy. These include objectives in the area of employment, innovations, education, social inclusion and efficient energy management.

In order to fulfil these objectives and address diverse needs of regions,

€ 351.8 billion

has been designated for the cohesion policy in 2014–2020, i.e. almost one third of the total EU budget.

Solidarity principle

Funds spent on the cohesion policy are directed to

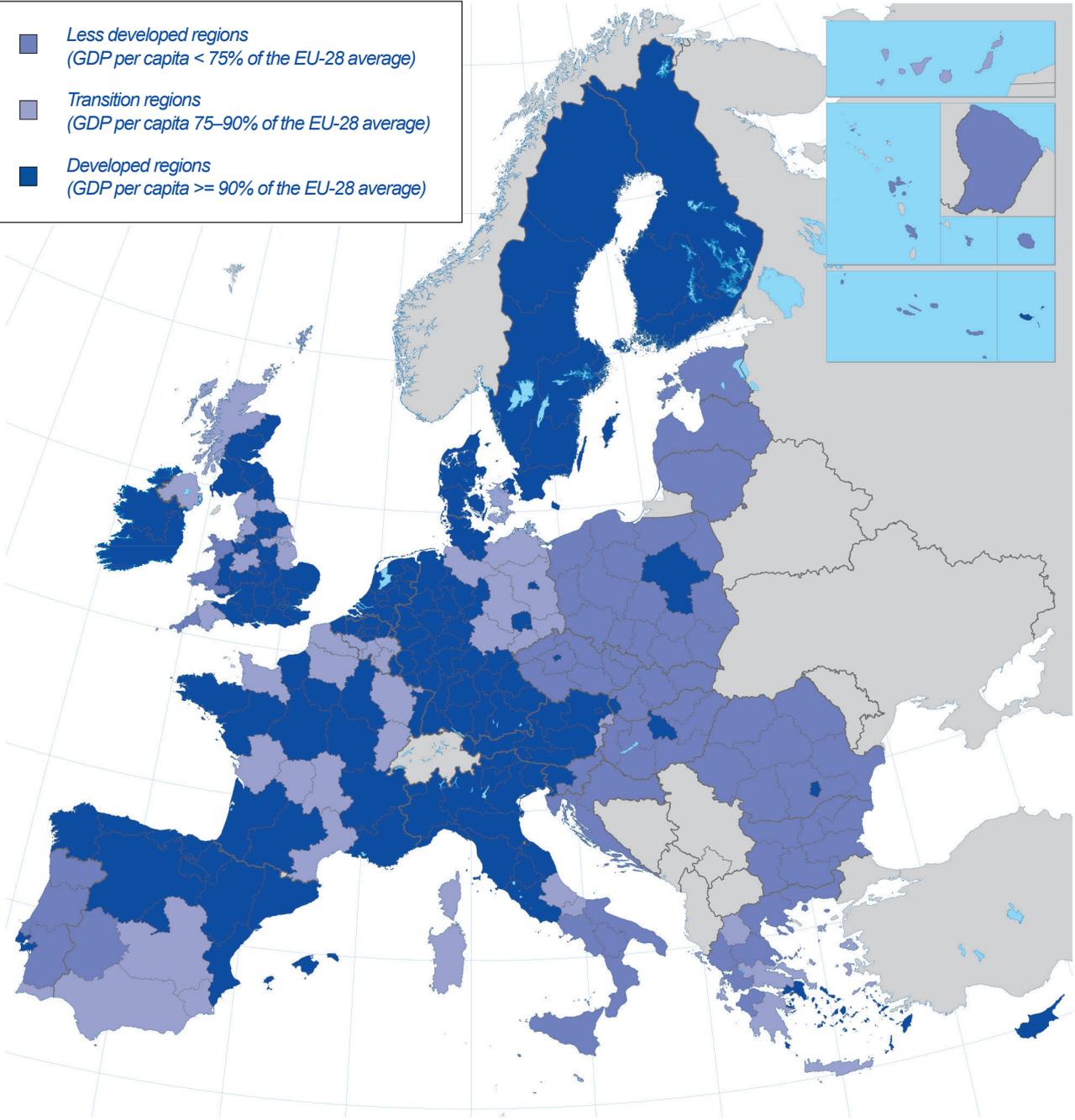
272 EU regions

with the largest share of the funds is intended for less developed countries and regions. The aim of these investments is to mitigate economic, social and territorial inequities that still prevail in the EU.

What is new in the 2014–2020 period?

- >>> **Greater emphasis on results**
clearer and measurable objectives allow a higher degree of responsibility
- >>> **Simplification**
one set of rules for five funds- European Structural and Investment Funds
- >>> **Conditions**
meeting conditions for better and more efficient fund investments before granting money
- >>> **Strengthening the urban dimension and efforts for social inclusion**
part of the resources is designated for integrated projects in cities and to support excluded communities
- >>> **Linking with an economic reform**
The Commission may suspend funding for a Member State that does not comply with EU's economic rules

- *Less developed regions*
(GDP per capita < 75% of the EU-28 average)
- *Transition regions*
(GDP per capita 75–90% of the EU-28 average)
- *Developed regions*
(GDP per capita \geq 90% of the EU-28 average)





European Structural and Investment Funds 2014–2020

In the 2014–2020 programming period, funds for the cohesion policy are distributed through the European Structural and Investment Funds. The European Commission cooperates with Member States on the preparation of Partnership Agreements and programmes designed to identify investment priorities and development needs.

In the 2014–2020 programming period, common rules are set for five funds which together make up the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

>>> **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

Its aim is to promote regional economic and social cohesion by means of investment into sectors fostering growth, improvement of competitiveness and job creation. Projects of cross-border cooperation are also funded from the ERDF.

>>> **European Social Fund (ESF)**

The ESF invests in people and focuses on improving opportunities for employment and education. It also aims to assist persons with disabilities and those at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

>>> **Cohesion Fund**

It invests in green growth, sustainable development and trans-European transport networks in the Member States with a GDP of less than 90% of the EU-28 average.

>>> **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

helps improve competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors, the environment and the landscape, quality of life in rural areas, and it supports diversification of rural economy.

>>> **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

will help meet ambitious targets of reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy and will support fishermen in the transition towards sustainable fisheries and coastal communities in the diversification of their economies.

The cohesion policy has **11 thematic objectives** promoting growth in the 2014–2020 period.

>>> Investments from the ERDF will support all 11 objectives, but objectives 1 to 4 represent the principal investment priorities.

>>> The principal priorities for the ESF are objectives 8 to 11, although this fund also supports objectives 1 to 4.

>>> The Cohesion Fund supports objectives 4 to 7 and 11.

>>> EAFRD and EMFF support transversally all the thematic objectives.

Czech Republic's allocation = € 23.96 billion

European Regional Development Fund ERDF	European Social Fund ESF	Cohesion Fund CF	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development EAFRD	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund EMFF
€ 11.94 billion	€ 3.43 billion	€ 6.26 billion	€ 2.30 billion	€ 0.03 billion

Breakdown of support from ESI Funds by thematic objectives		in billions €	% allocation
	1. Investment in research, development and innovations for practice	2.51	11%
	2. Increased use of information and communication technologies	1.07	4%
	3. Support for SMEs	1.34	6%
	4. Reducing energy intensity of economy	2.25	9%
	5. Reducing natural hazards, floods and environmental burden	1.32	6%
	6. Protection of the environment and use of natural resources	2.74	9%
	7. Modernization of transport infrastructure and ecological transport	6.24	27%
	8. Increasing employment and high-quality workforce	1.38	6%
	9. Functioning social system and combating poverty	1.98	9%
	10. Improving the educational system	1.96	8%
	11. High-quality, efficient and transparent public administration and institutions	0.18	1%
	Technical assistance	0.85	4%



Partnership Agreement for the 2014–2020 programming period

Partnership Agreement for the 2014–2020 programming period is a document prepared by a European Union Member State. It sets goals and priorities for an efficient use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in order to fulfil the Europe 2020 strategy based on defined national priorities.

The Partnership Agreement (PA) is a strategic document based on a thorough analysis of the current social and economic situation, economic trends and needs of the Czech Republic. The Agreement is used to determine priorities for financing in 2014–2020 whilst monitoring compliance with common EU objectives. National development priorities are based on identified problem areas and development needs. Each of the thematic objectives represents a key element required for achieving the Czech Republic's competitiveness and the objectives defined in the Europe 2020 strategy. It is therefore an essential “umbrella document” for the 2014–2020 programming period and it will fulfil the same role as the National Strategic Reference Framework in the years 2007–2013.

The Agreement covers not just the programmes under the goal “Investment for Growth” as part of the EU cohesion policy, but also programmes falling under the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. The Partnership Agreement was drawn up with the participation of partners in accordance with approach based on multi-level governance, i.e. with the involvement of regional and other actors.

The ESI Funds Regulation obliged a Member State to submit the Partnership Agreement to the European Commission by 22 April 2014. Following the approval of the draft Agreement by the Government of the Czech Republic on 09 April 2014, the Czech Republic fulfilled this requirement and sent the Agreement to Brussels through the European Commission's information system on 17 April 2014. In June, the European Commission sent its comments, which were dealt with in official meetings in July 2014.

The Agreement was approved by the European Commission on 26 August 2014 in the wording suggested by the Czech party. The setting of the Partnership Agreement is a result of negotiations in which Managing Authorities, other departments and a number of partners were involved.

An opportunity to draw € 23.96 billion (more than CZK 650 billion) opened up for the Czech Republic. This is one of the highest amounts in the entire European Union.

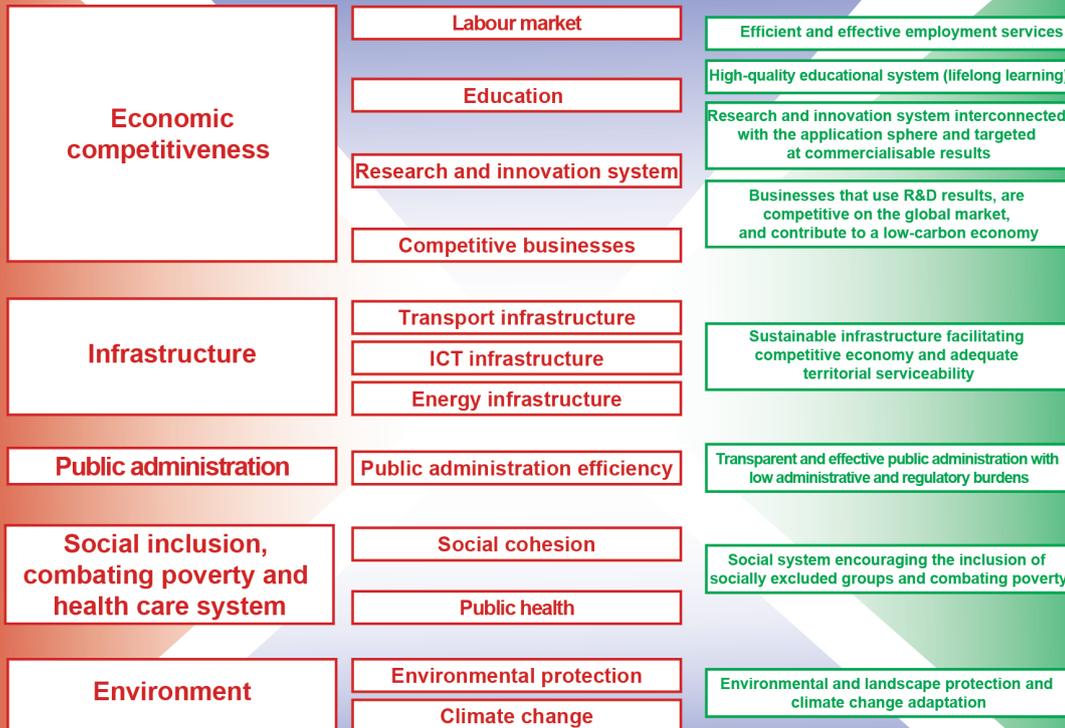
The Partnership Agreement is followed by approval of the individual programmes, the preparation of which is a responsibility of Managing Authorities.

European Structural and Investment Funds

Partnership Agreement

Experience 2004–2006 + 2007–2013

Problematic areas and untapped potential of the CR



Funding priorities in the Czech Republic

Single methodological environment

Programmes



Methodological guidelines for the 2014–2020 programming period

In order to fulfil the objectives of the Partnership Agreement, it is necessary to prepare an effective and efficient system of management and coordination. Experience from the previous periods shows that it is necessary to introduce uniform, clear rules for the 2014–2020 programming period; they will take the form of binding methodologies for the key areas of implementation of the ESI Funds, i.e. a single methodological environment.

Concept of the single methodological environment represents standards for correct implementation and clear definition of roles and responsibilities at all management levels of drawing of ESI Funds. The main objective is to build an efficient, effective, transparent and enforceable system of support from EU funds. The process of uniform standardization includes a wide range of practices, from the unification of terms used and technical terminology, through tie-in processes and selected deadlines up to the area of verification procedures. The

objective is to remove barriers mainly on the side of applicants and beneficiaries, who are considered to be the key component of the system as the bearers of projects through which the objectives of the programmes are implemented. Moreover, the total success of conduct of the cohesion policy in the CR is based on the quality of their preparation and capability of flawless implementation. Methodologies will be reflected in rules for applicants/beneficiaries and their application will ensure uniformity of rules across all the programmes.

Overview of methodological guidelines and recommendations of the MRD and MF*

1.	<p>Methodological guidelines for the preparation of programme-related documents provide Managing Authorities – processors of operational programmes with clear and binding procedures for processing the programmes and forwards requests from the side of the European Commission, including additional guidelines of the MRD-NCA. They describe the basic processes and mechanisms related to the preparation of programmes and the structure and contents of programmes.</p>	approved by Government Resolution No. 401 of 29 May 2013
2.	<p>Methodological guidelines for evaluations anchor the basic coordination mechanisms in the area of evaluations in the form of determination of competences of individual entities, agenda setting of the working group dealing with evaluations and defining time periods of the preparation and updates of the evaluation plan including its assessment.</p>	
3.	<p>Methodological guidelines for the principle of creation and use of indicators define mandatory procedures for correct set-up of the indicator system and its use in programmes so as to ensure uniform rules for monitoring, possibility of aggregation and subsequent assessment at all levels of implementation of ESI Funds.</p>	approved by Government Resolution No. 597 of 9 August 2013
4.	<p>Methodological guidelines for eligibility of expenditure and their reporting harmonize and unify access to eligibility of expenditure. The bindingness of this basic framework of rules for beneficiaries is based on their taking into account in the rules for eligibility of a particular programme and in conditions of a legal act of granting the aid.</p>	

5.	Methodological guidelines for risk management of ESI Funds introduce a systematic approach to identification, assessment, handling, monitoring and reporting of all important risks in a systematic, uniform and integrated manner so as to minimize and eliminate risks in a timely manner.	approved by Government Resolution No. 597 of 9 August 2013
6.	Methodological guidelines for the management of calls, assessment and selection of projects regulate the management of calls in relation to the fulfilment of factual and financial objectives of programmes and use of integrated instruments, set-up of the process of assessment and selection of high-quality projects, the results of which will lead to the solution of problems identified, enhancement of credibility of the approval process and reduction of administrative burden on the side of applicants/beneficiaries	approved by Government Resolution No. 873 of 20 November 2013
7.	Methodological guidelines for the area of public procurement address the issue of public procurement in the area of ESI Funds and offer an unambiguous and understandable interpretation of contracting entities' obligations. They focus mainly on elimination of unnecessary obligations non-fulfilment of which does not affect the selection of the best bid.	
8.	Methodological guidelines for publicity and communication setting up a functional environment for an efficient communication of programmes and project funded from ESI Funds in the 2014–2020 programming period. Moreover, they should determine basic obligations and procedures following from the respective EU legislation for staff in the implementation structure who will deal with publicity and communication.	approved by Government Resolution No. 44 of 15 January 2014
9.	Methodological guidelines for the preparation of handling documentation of programmes define basic principles and requirements for the processing of handling documentation of programmes and rules for setting up processes in management and control structures.	
10.	Methodological guidelines for monitoring of implementation of ESI Funds (1st and 2nd part) harmonize procedures in the area of monitoring and provision of reports and information by the central coordinator, Managing Authorities and other entities of the implementation structure for the needs of effective management and coordination of implementation of ESI Funds in the CR and consistent reporting of ESI Funds drawing in relation to the EC, Czech institutions and the general public.	approved by Government Resolution No. 44 of 15 January 2014 (1st part) and No. 536 of 9 July 2014 (2nd part)
11.	Methodological guidelines for processes of management and monitoring of ESI Funds in MS2014+ (1st and 2nd part) determine the basic principles, rules and procedures for processes carried out in the information system MS2014+. The aim is simplification of users' work, complete computerization of handover of documents, easy and fast communication, and increasing transparency.	approved by Government Resolution No. 44 of 15 January 2014 (1st part) and No. 536 of 9 July 2014 (2nd part)
12.	Methodological guidelines for the revision of programmes lay down uniform rules for revisions of programme-related documents, define roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in conduct and approval of revisions, and form basis for coordination of revisions at the national level.	approved by Government Resolution No. 166 of 12 March 2014
13.	Methodological guidelines for human resources development lay down uniform rules for management and development of human resources in the area of ESI Funds—from personnel planning through recruitment, selection and adaptation of employees, management and evaluation of employees, to the system of education and release of employees.	approved by Government Resolution No. 444 of 16 June 2014
14.	Methodological guidelines for the use of integrated instruments provide all relevant involved partners with uniform binding procedures in the preparation, assessment, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of integrated strategies and integrated instruments.	approved by Government Resolution No. 682 of 27 August 2014
15.	Methodological guidelines for audit work of the Audit Authority create a basic framework of access to audit activities of the Audit Authority in the 2014–2020 programming period	issued by the Ministry of Finance in June 2014
16.	Methodological guidelines for the financial flows of programmes include binding procedures and rules for individual entities of the implementation structure (mainly ministries in the positions of Managing Authorities and intermediary bodies) in the area of financial management of funds and implementation of the respective operational programmes.	approved by Government Resolution No. 837 of 15 October 2014
17.	Methodological guidelines for inspections under responsibility of managing authorities relate to inspections carried out by Managing Authorities and intermediary bodies, in the case of RDP to inspections carried out by the paying agency.	approved by Government Resolution No. 867 of 27 October 2014
18.	Methodological recommendation for revenue-generating projects a summary of basic rules, interpretation of methodology and description of the possibilities of calculation of aid for revenue-generating projects.	
19.	Methodological recommendation for the implementation of financial instruments describes recommended best practices for the implementation of financial instruments at all stages from preliminary assessment to implementation, realization, dissolution and exit policy. Aimed especially at Managing Authorities of programmes.	submitted to the Government for information
20.	Methodological guidelines for public aid set best practices in the area of public aid based on interpretation of relevant legislative acts of the EU and the CR so as to avoid granting of prohibited public aid in drawing funds from ESI Funds.	

* Approved methodological guidelines are available at: <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Fondy-EU/Kohezni-politika-EU/Metodicke-pokyny>

The Ministry of Regional Development prepared a new information system for the monitoring of the European Structural and Investment Funds (“ESI Funds”) in the 2014–2020 programming period. MS2014+ is an essential instrument to monitor the use of financial aid from the ESI Funds and evaluation of implementation of the cohesion policy at the national level.

Video tutorial ISKP



www.dotaceEU.cz/ISKP

Preparation of a new system

A requirement to prepare a single system for the administration of EU subsidies (MS2014+) was proposed both by the Ministry of Regional Development (MRD) and the European Commission based on conclusions and recommendations of the “Audit of the monitoring system of the Structural and Cohesion Funds for the 2007–2013 programming period”. In the conclusions of the audit it was recommended that the MRD ensures a single system, plays the role of the central responsible party and ensures uniform application for programmes and applicants, thus assuming the duties of the actual implementer.

Since September 2011, when the Government charged the MRD with the preparation of a new system, all MRD’s activities aimed to fulfil the above-specified task. A public contract was carried out in the form of an open competition for “Procurement of MS2014+ Application and ensuring its operation and development” and all steps required by the law were taken that led to signing a contract with a supplier whose bid was economically most advantageous.

Introducing MS2014+

The MS2014+ information system provides a single data base for sharing in-

formation related to the preparation and fulfilment of the Partnership Agreement concluded between the Czech Republic and the European Union on the drawing from the ESI Funds. The MS2014+ information system for the 2014–2020 period is uniform for all ESI Funds programmes related to activities at the national level for PA assessment. MS2014+ provides conditions for efficient work of Managing Authorities and work of applicants/beneficiaries in the administration of projects and programmes. The new information system ensures collection, transfer, processing, storage, provision and assessment of data as well as interactive communication between the entities of the implementation structures involved in the preparation, administration, assessment and inspection of provision of funds, and communication with applicants and beneficiaries of aid from the ESI Funds. The entire process of administration of EU subsidies is fully electronic thanks to MS2014+.

Current state of the MS2014+ system

At the end of August 2014, the Ministry of Regional Development completed preparation of the MS2014+ Application in a scope that enables commencement of administration of ESI Funds programmes and projects. Subsequently, the application was made available to the implementation structure staff for the

purposes of verification of processes at the level of individual programmes. The system and the MS2014+ Application went live on 4 November 2014, when data centre services were launched. The application will be further developed based on requirements of the implementation entities.

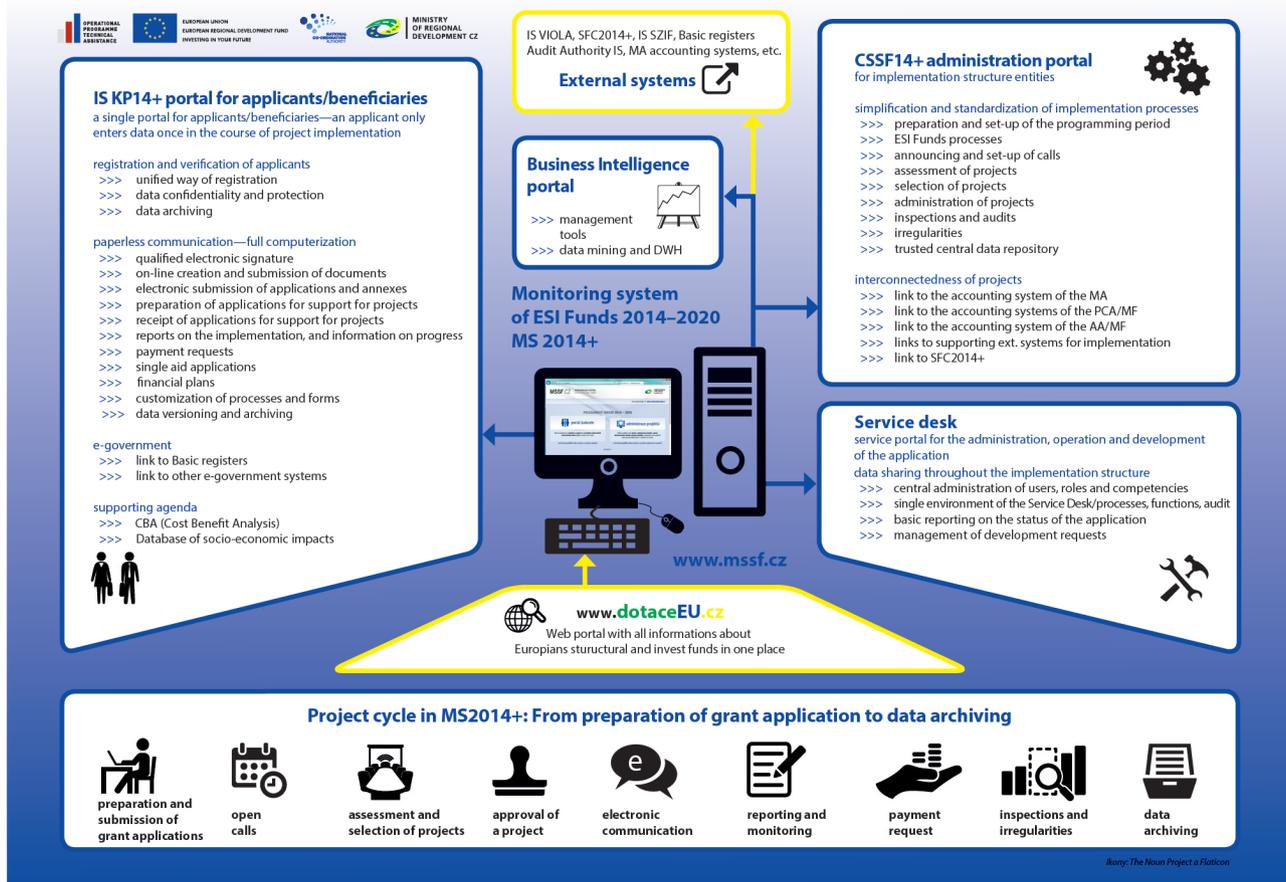
Description of the MS2014+ system

Basic access to MS2014+ is ensured via a web interface. The essential elements are portals IS KP14+ for external users and CSSF14+ for internal ones. All communication is done solely electronically using qualified electronic signature. Please see the infogra-

phics for more information on the system functionalities.

MS2014+ contributes to the fulfilment of basic theses and principles of the 2014–2020 programming period.

- >>> simplification
- >>> computerization of data and documents
- >>> easy communication
- >>> transparency
- >>> improved management and efficiency of aid drawdown





Project cycle: news and simplifications

1 From an idea to a project plan

Those interested in EU money clarify for themselves what they would like to do in their municipality, company or organization. A method in which a future applicant is looking for anything that would fall under the scope of a particular operational programme (OP) is wrong. On the contrary, they should first set a target and only subsequently look for the respective OP. For example, a company may want to purchase new machinery to increase its competitiveness, a municipality may want to improve its citizens' leisure time by building a sports ground, a non-profit organization may want to improve its services by creating new educational programmes. The selected solution should be optimal economically, technically and operationally and should work for a long period of time.

News

- >>> Strategic focus on development => addressing problematic areas of CR's development
- >>> More specific definition of support options => more limited range of options than at present
- >>> Greater use of financial instruments => shift to repayable subsidies

2 Looking for a suitable programme

Applicants find the respective programme intended for financing of their plans. They can find an overview of all operational programmes at www.dotaceEU.cz, where an on-line chat is available for any questions they may have. They can also obtain information at the Eurofon line 800 200 200. In studying the conditions of the respective OP, they must answer the some questions: Does the OP support the activity I want to finance? Am I an eligible applicant? Can I implement the project in the place designated by me? Will my idea of project budget fit into the set limit? After selecting the correct OP, it may happen that applicants have to return to the initial idea and modify it so as to better meet the programme criteria. At that time, it is advisable to start preparing the particular project. Should applicants not decide to prepare it themselves, they can contact some of the project managers who will be working in managing authorities of the respective OP and in case of need will reply to specific questions related to particular projects. Projects must have a logical structure and exactly specified goals.

News

- >>> Fewer programmes => clearer system
- >>> All fundamental information available in one place => www.dotaceEU.cz
- >>> Clearer formulation of Rules for applicants/beneficiaries => uniform rules

3 Submission of an application for support for a project

Before applicants for EU grants start processing their application, they should familiarize themselves with all the requirements they will have to fulfil. They can use a variety of tools to this end. They can participate in several trainings organized for applicants by the Ministry of Regional Development, or other respective ministries where applicable. Information on what documents and mandatory and optional annexes must be submitted by applicants together with their application and what they should look like is included in the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries. The Rules are part of every programme. Applications with all prescribed documents and annexes must be submitted by the set date electronically through the funds information system. Applicants must monitor when the respective Managing Authority announces a particular call for applications. The schedule of their publication is available on the structural funds website and will be continuously updated. Each call for applications will be published no less than six months before the deadline for submitting applications.

News

- >>> Single information system => all the project-related documents and information will be available on-line
- >>> Reducing the administrative burden of applicants => communication on-line
- >>> Simpler planning => overview of calls available in advance

4 Assessment of grant applications

An important tool used by the selection committee to assess the applications is assessment and scoring criteria. These are part of the respective call and applicants should take them into account already in the preparation of their application. In the first round, application are assessed whether they meet all formal requirements and whether the project is suitable for the respective OP at all. At this state, Managing Authority staff may request applicants to, for example, correct wrong information or supply missing annexes. Subsequently, all received applications compete for financial funds available in the respective call. The best projects with the highest scores are then recommended for approval. If there are a lot of good projects, it may happen that even a well-prepared project finds itself in a position for which financial funds are not available. However, not everything is lost; there is a possibility that the respective authority will announce a new call in the OP, where the applicant can apply again. All applicants will be informed of the results of the assessment process and they will be publicly available. Each successful applicant will then be requested by the ministry in charge of the respective OP to sign a grant contract.

News

- >>> Shortening deadlines => single time limit for termination of the project approval process
- >>> Clear definition of roles and competencies of the entities within project implementation => applicants may appeal against the results
- >>> More transparent assessment of projects => results available to applicants

5 Project implementation

Upon signing the contract, which lays detailed conditions for the implementation of the project, the beneficiary may start working. Should any request for changes to the original, approved project plan arise, the Managing Authority must be notified and the making of changes must be requested; without this, even justifiable and necessary changes pose a risk. In the course of implementation, beneficiaries follow the instructions listed in the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries of the respective programme. These are usually rules for the selection of suppliers, obligatory publicity, principles of maintaining and storing project-related documents, and project monitoring. The project being implemented must lead to fulfilment of pre-set goals, which is evaluated by so-called monitoring indicators of the project. These are indicators such as numbers of new jobs, volume of newly acquired technology, surfaces of newly built sports grounds or numbers of newly trained persons. The selection of indicators and the amounts stated are binding for each project. At the very beginning, each applicant must carefully consider whether they will be able not only to achieve them but also maintain them for a subsequent monitored period, so-called sustainability period.

News

- >>> Clear rules for implementation => consistent interpretation of procedures, including rules for small-scale public contracts
- >>> Clearly measurable results => uniform rules for reporting project indicators
- >>> Simpler obligatory publicity of the project => fewer logos

6 Project evaluation and accounting

During the time of project implementation, the beneficiary provides the Managing Authority regularly, at times specified in the grant decision, with interim monitoring reports, which must include information on how the project is progressing, in what state it is and what the results achieved are. After the completion of a stage or the entire project, the beneficiary submits a payment request including complete accounting. This is followed by inspection whether the raised claims for payment of the required amount are justified. If everything is all right, the beneficiary receives all the reimbursements; otherwise an ineligible expenditure correction is applied. Where the beneficiary makes a mistake, the Managing Authority applies a sanction and reduces the claimed amount by such sanction. In addition to administrative inspection, the beneficiary must also expect an on-site inspection of the project. Even after the termination of implementation, the beneficiary is to, based on the conditions of the programme, maintain the results of the project for three to five years. This is called project sustainability because a project should serve its purpose for at least the defined period. In the event of breach of this condition, the beneficiary has to return the grant or its part.

News

- >>> Clearer inspections => exact rules for inspections and audits
- >>> Clearer sanctions => exactly defined amounts of possible sanctions in the event of breach of rules
- >>> Easier archiving => electronic archiving of project documentation in the information system



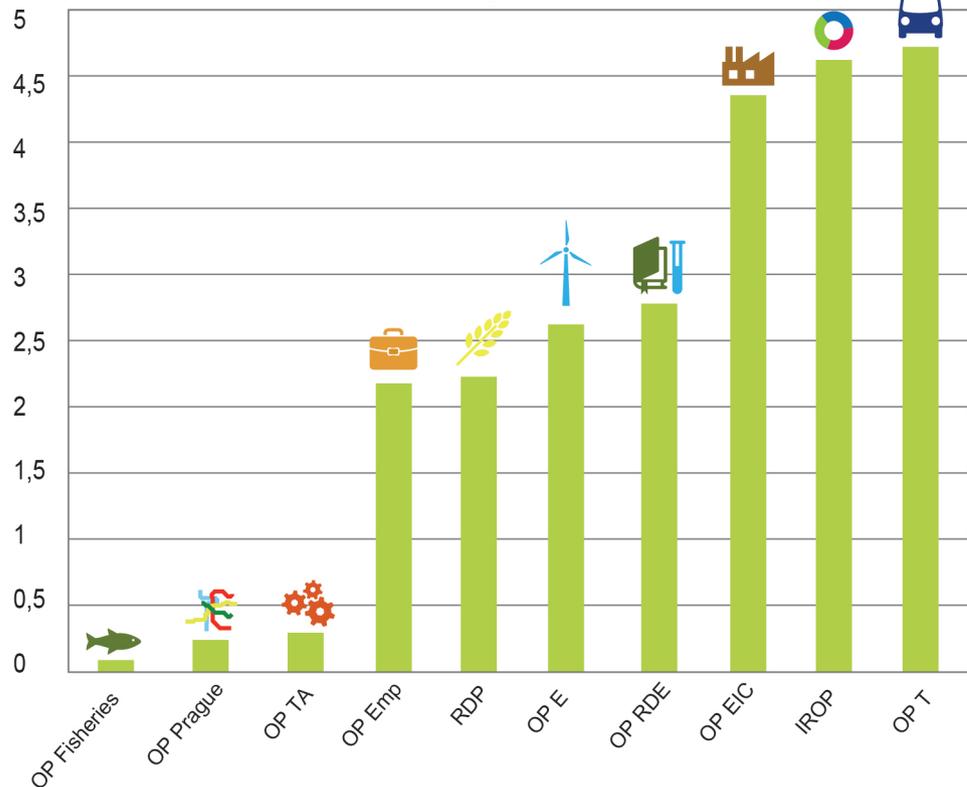
2014–2020 Programmes

Alongside the negotiations of the Partnership Agreement, preparation of individual programmes is also taking place, coordinated by the Ministry of Regional Development. Preparation of operational programmes is the responsibility of Managing Authorities, i.e. individual ministries in charge of the respective areas.

The Czech party's obligation was to submit the programmes for approval to the European Commission by 17 July 2014. Before their submission, the programmes were discussed and approved by the Government in its meetings on 9 and 14 July 2014.

Managing Authorities plan to announce the first calls during spring 2015. The following calls will be announced according to the schedule published on www.dota-ceEU.cz. Eight Operational Programmes are ready for approval by the European Commission and other two programmes will be approved subsequently: OP Prague Growth Pole of the Czech Republic and OP Technical Assistance.

Comparison of allocations of 2014–2020 programmes

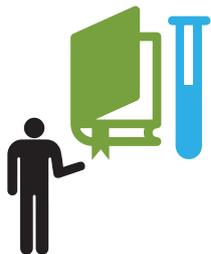




Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness

The objective of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP EIC) is to achieve a competitive and sustainable economy based on knowledge and innovation. The term “competitive” includes the ability of local companies to gain ground in world markets and create sufficient jobs. The term “sustainable” accentuates the long-term horizon of competitiveness, which also includes the environmental dimension of economic growth.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Focus:	Promotion of research and development for innovation, development of SMEs' entrepreneurship and competitiveness, energy savings and development of high-speed internet access networks and information and communication technologies
Allocation:	EUR 4.33 billion
Fond:	ERDF
Thematic objectives:	TO 1 (PO 1), TO 2 (PO 4), 3 (PO 2), TO 4 (PO 3) and TO 7 (PO 3)
Priorities:	3, 4, 5
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Promotion of research and development for innovation</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Development of SMEs' entrepreneurship and competitiveness</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Efficient energy management, development of energy infrastructure and renewable energy sources, support for the introduction of new technologies in the management of energy and secondary raw materials</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Development of high-speed internet access networks and information and communications technologies</p> <p>Priority axis 5: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Focus on transfer of technologies and cooperation of research and development sectors and innovative companies, shift from building information structure to its development and efficient use, strengthening the role of financial instruments, and greater emphasis on the use of applied industrial research and development



OP Research, Development and Education

The key principle of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education (OP RDE) is development of human resources for knowledge-based economy and sustainable development in a socially cohesive society, and is supported by interventions under more priority axes. That is followed up by the support of quality research for which qualified workforce represents a key input factor. Interventions in education will also be supported by system changes aimed at improving the Czech Republic's education system.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports
Focus:	Strengthening capacities for research, development of universities and human resources for research and development, and equal access to high-quality primary and secondary education
Allocation:	EUR 2.77 billion
Fund:	ESF / ERDF
Thematic objectives:	TO 1 (PO1), 9 (PO 3) and 10 (PO 2, PO 3).
Priorities:	2, 3
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Strengthening capacities for high-quality research</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Development of universities and human resources for research and development</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Equal access to high-quality pre-school, primary and secondary education</p> <p>Prioritní osa 4: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Greater focus on universities, linking of modernization of research infrastructure and equipment (“hard activities”) and development of research teams and their capacities (“soft activities”), support for strategic partnership in the area of research and development, and utilization of regional R&D centres built in the 2007–2013 period



OP Environment

The main objective of the Operational Programme Environment (OP E) is to protect and ensure quality environment for the life of the Czech Republic inhabitants, to support efficient use of resources, to eliminate negative impacts of human activity on the environment and to mitigate climate change impacts.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Environment
Focus:	Improvement of quality of water and reduction of flood risks, improvement of the quality of air in towns and cities, waste management, protection and care of natural environment and landscape, and energy savings
Allocation:	2,64 mld. EUR
Fund:	FS / EFRR
Thematic objectives:	TO 4 (PO 5), TP 5 (PO 1, PO 3) and TO 6 (PO 1, PO 2, PO 3, PO 4)
Priorities:	8
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Improvement of Water Management Infrastructure and Reduction of Flood Risks</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Improving the quality of air in towns and cities</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Wastes and material flows, environmental burdens and risks</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Protection and care of natural environment and landscape</p> <p>Priority axis 5: Energy savings</p> <p>Priority axis 6: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Greater emphasis on strategic anchoring and concentration of support on key projects in terms of key needs of the CR, greater emphasis on support for sustainable forms of transport and reducing adverse impacts of transport on the environment, and greater emphasis on the use of integrated approaches to addressing traffic problems in cities



OP Transport

The main objective of the Operational Programme Transport (OP T) is to ensure high-quality transport infrastructure throughout the Czech Republic, including gradual alignment of the quality of the Czech Republic's transport system with the "old" EU countries. The transport sector is one of the most important areas of the national economy, affecting virtually all areas of public and private life and business. High-quality transport infrastructure is a prerequisite for improving the competitiveness of the entire country and its regions. Its varying quality is also one of the causes of territorial differences.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Transport
Focus:	Road and rail transport, road infrastructure
Allocation:	EUR 4.70 billion
Fund:	FS / EFRR
Thematic objectives:	TO 7 (PO 1, PO 2, PO 3)
Priority:	5
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Infrastructure for railway and other sustainable transport</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Road infrastructure in the TEN-T network and public infrastructure for clean mobility</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Road infrastructure outside the TEN-T network</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Greater emphasis on strategic anchoring and concentration of support on key projects in terms of key needs of the CR, greater emphasis on support for sustainable forms of transport and reducing adverse impacts of transport on the environment, and greater emphasis on the use of integrated approaches to addressing traffic problems in cities



Integrated Regional Operational Programme

The Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) is a follow-up to the seven regional operational programmes and partially to the Integrated Operational Programme of the programming period of 2007–2013. The IROP's priority is to enable balanced territorial development, improve the infrastructure, improve public services and public administration and ensure sustainable development in villages, towns and regions.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Regional Development
Focus:	Transport in regions, improvement of public services, public administration
Allocation:	EUR 4.64 billion
Fund:	ERDF
Thematic objectives:	TO 2 (PO 3), TO 4 (PO 2), TO 5 (PO 1), TO 6 (PO 3), TO 7 (PO 1), TO 9 (PO 2, PO 4), TO 10 (PO 2), TO 11 (PO 3)
Priorities:	2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Competitive, accessible and safe regions</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Enhancing public services and living conditions for the inhabitants of regions</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Good territorial administration and improvement in the effectiveness of public institutions</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Community-led local development</p> <p>Priority axis 5: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Sharp reduction in the number of programmes and one central programme, support for in-field and community-based approaches in social integration over am-bulatory ones, extension of support for tools to support social integration—social housing, social entrepreneurship and shift in targeting at connection of the TEN-T network in road infrastructure



OP Technical Assistance

The purpose of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OP TA) is to finance administration and to support the absorption and administrative capacity and complementary activities needed for a successful operation of the entire system of ESI Funds in the programming period of 2014–2020. The OP TA will be crucial for ensuring successful activities of the Ministry of Regional Development in the role of the National Coordination Authority and other bodies. The goal of the OP TA is to make sure that ESI Funds resources are used as efficiently as possible.

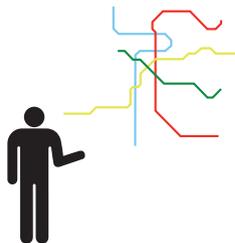
Managing authority:	Ministry of Regional Development
Focus:	Service programmes to ensure high-quality implementation, ensuring administrative capacity and monitoring system
Allocation:	EUR 223.7 million
Fund:	CF
Thematic objectives	N/A
Priorities:	
Supported areas:	Priority axis 1: Support for Partnership Agreement management and coordination Priority axis 2: Single monitoring system
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	A major simplification of the programme structure and extending the range of possible beneficiaries



OP Employment

The objective of the Operational Programme Employment (OP Emp) is to improve the human capital of citizens and the public administration in the CR, i.e. the basic elements of competitiveness. The Czech Republic must pay considerable attention to these areas if it wants to succeed in today's complex world. The OP Emp also focuses on promoting equal opportunities between men and women, employee and employer adaptability, further education, social inclusion and combating poverty, health services, on modernizing public administration and services and on promoting international cooperation and social innovations in employment, social inclusion and public administration.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Focus:	Supporting employment and workforce adaptability, social inclusion and combating poverty, social innovation and international cooperation, and efficient public administration
Allocation:	EUR 2.15 billion
Fund:	ESF / YEI (Youth Employment Initiative)
Thematic objectives:	TO 8 (PO 1, PO 3), TO 9 (PO 2, PO 3), TO 11 (PO 3, PO 4)
Priorities:	1, 6, 7
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Supporting employment and workforce adaptability</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Social inclusion and combating poverty</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Social innovation and international cooperation</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Efficient public administration</p> <p>Priority axis 5: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	Focus on interconnection of further education with the needs of the labour market, transformation and deinstitutionalization of social and health care, greater emphasis on integrated solutions



OP Prague – Growth Pole of the Czech Republic

The main objective of the Operational Programme Prague – Growth Pole of the Czech Republic for the programming period is to contribute to thematic objectives. In doing that, it is necessary to ensure effective implementation of investments in Prague, which will help improve competitiveness of Prague as the growth pole of the Czech Republic and to ensure quality life of the inhabitants. The creation of favourable business environment and support for education and science must work towards fulfilling the role of Prague as the main innovation centre of the country. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure effective management of all forms of resources - land, real property and infrastructure, energy and funding within the meaning of sustainable development principles and balancing out their mutual links.

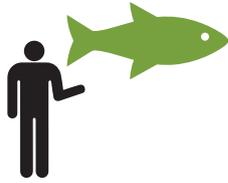
Managing authority:	The Capital City of Prague
Focus:	Enhancement of research, technological development and innovation, sustainable mobility and energy savings, promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, education and intelligence and promoting employment
Allocation:	EUR 201.6 million
Fund:	ESF / ERDF
Thematic objectives:	TO 1 (PO 1), TO 4 (PO 2), TO 9 (PO 3), TO 10 (PO 4)
Priorities:	2, 3, 4, 7, 8
Supported areas:	<p>Priority axis 1: Enhancement of research, technological development and innovation</p> <p>Priority axis 2: Sustainable mobility and energy savings</p> <p>Priority axis 3: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Education and intelligence</p> <p>Priority axis 5: Technical assistance</p>
Differences compared with 2007–2013:	One multi-fund programme-replacing OP Prague–Adaptability and OP Prague–Competitiveness, more narrowly focused on addressing key problems, concentration of support on selected thematic objectives and investment priorities (pro-growth and innovative measures)



Rural Development Programme

The principal objective of the programme is to rehabilitate, preserve and improve the ecosystems dependent on agriculture by means of agro-environmental measures, to invest into competitiveness and innovation of agricultural enterprises, to support entry of young people into farming, or landscape infrastructure. The programme will also support diversification of rural economic activities with the aim of creating new jobs and improving economic development. It will support Community-Led Local Development and, more specifically, the LEADER method, which contributes to better targeting of support at the local needs of given rural areas and the development of cooperation between involved parties at the local level.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Agriculture
Focus:	Rural development, improvement of environment by rehabilitation, conservation and improvement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
Allocation:	EUR 2.31 billion
Fund:	EAFRD
Thematic objectives:	TO 1 (Priority 1), TO 3 (Priority 2), TO 4 (Priority 5), TO 5 (Priority 4), TO 6 (Priority 5), TO 8 (Priority 6), TO 9 (Priority 6), TO 10 (Priority 2, 3, 4, 5)
Priorities:	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8
Supported areas:	<p>Priority 1: Fostering knowledge and innovation transfer in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas</p> <p>Priority 2: Increasing the viability of agricultural enterprises and the competitiveness of all kinds of agricultural activity in all regions, and support for innovative farming technologies and sustainable forest management</p> <p>Priority 3: Supporting food-chain organisations, including the processing of farming products and their marketing, good living conditions of animals and risk management in agriculture</p> <p>Priority 4: Rehabilitation, conservation and improvement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry</p> <p>Priority 5: Support to effective use of resources and transition to a climate resilient low-carbon economy in farming, food processing and forestry</p> <p>Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</p>



OP Fisheries

The global objective of the Operational Programme Fisheries (OP F) is sustainable and competitive aquaculture based on innovation, competitiveness, knowledge and more efficient use of resources. The programme aims to develop sustainable fish farming in the Czech Republic and to ensure even distribution of fresh-water fish throughout the year to the domestic market in the demanded range, including the diversification of aquaculture (fish ponds) to ensure the production of carp and its supplies to the market, while it is necessary to support introduction of modern intensive fish-breeding systems to increase the fish production and to help eliminate negative environmental impacts; the systems will be acquired to produce salmonid and other kinds of fish to ensure all-year-round supplies to the market network.

Managing authority:	Ministry of Agriculture
Focus:	Sustainable and competitive aquaculture based on innovations, competitiveness, knowledge and more efficient use of resources, development of sustainable fish breeding in the Czech Republic and to ensure stable freshwater fish deliveries to the domestic market throughout the year, including development of the non-production functions of fish ponds
Allocation:	EUR 31.1 million
Fund:	EMFF
Thematic objectives:	TO 3 (UP 2, UP 5), TO 6 (UP 2, UP 3)
Priorities:	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8
Supported areas:	<p>Union Priority 2: Supporting environmentally sustainable, innovative and competitive knowledge-based resource-efficient aquaculture</p> <p>Union Priority 3: Supporting the implementation of common fisheries policy</p> <p>Union Priority 5: Supporting marketing and processing</p>

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