

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

FOR 2012

March 2013

**Prepared for 11th meeting of OPTA Monitoring Committee
held on 4 June 2013 in Prague**



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Introduction on Drawing up the Annual report

The legal framework for the annual report on implementation of the operational programme is provided by the Article No 67 of Council Regulation No 1083/2006 (General Regulation). Article No 67 of General Regulation has so far been amended twice, for the first time by Regulation (EU) No 539 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2010 and for the second time by Regulation (EU) No 1310/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011. The responsibility for the elaboration of this annual report is borne by the managing authority of the operational programme. Specific requirements concerning the content of the annual report are laid down in Annex XVIII to Regulation No 1828/2006 (Implementing Regulation). This Annex has been amended twice. For the first time, by Commission Regulation (EC) No 846/2009 of 1 September 2009 and for the second time by Commission Regulation (EU) No 832/2010 of 17 September 2010. Furthermore, the Annual report has been prepared in compliance with the Recommended procedures for drawing up the Annual report on implementation of the Operational Programme in the 2007-2013 period, issued by the National Co-ordination Authority (NCA) in December 2012.

The Annual report comprises a summary of activities associated with the use of EU funds in 2012 under the Operational Programme Technical Assistance. It also serves the European Commission (EC) as the essential source of information on the absorption of the European Union (EU) funds.

Source of data

All tables draw data from MSC2007. **The generated data illustrates the values as of 4 January 2013. The data on the monitoring indicators was generated on 28. February 2013.**

Executive summary

The Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OPTA) is a multi-objective programme under the Convergence objective which is complemented by financial contributions under the Regional competitiveness and employment (RCE) objective and as such can finance activities across the Czech Republic (CR), i.e. in the territory of the City of Prague inclusive.

It is a programme implemented based on the underlying documents of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for 2007 – 2013 programming period. These documents guarantee the compliance with the Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion (ESTC) policy and the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSGs).

The OPTA allocates the EU funds to 8 Cohesion regions, of which 7 fall under the Convergence objective and the Prague region falls under the RCE objective. The contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) accounts for **85 %** of eligible expenditure for operational programmes for both the objectives; with public budgets contributing by **15 %**.

OPTA comprises 4 priority axes:

1. Management and Coordination Support;
2. Monitoring;
3. Administrative and Absorption Capacity;
4. Publicity.

Based on the distribution of funds among all the OPTA priority axes, the breakdown of the allocation after revision of the Operational Programme is as follows: 98.41 % for Convergence objective and 1.59 % for RCE objective, i.e. **EUR 191 767 501** (Community contribution) and **EUR 33 841 325** (national sources) for the Convergence objective, and **EUR 3 106 811** (Community contribution) and **EUR 548 263** (national sources) for the RCE objective.

On 14 May 2008 a continuous call was announced. Ever since its opening four updates have been made thereto (18 August 2008, 2 April 2009, 14 September 2009 and 1 December 2011).

In August 2009, the EC approved the design of management and control systems. In December 2012, the document called **Description of Management and Control Systems of OPTA** (MCS) was updated internally and approved by the Director of the OPTA Managing Authority (OPTA MA) with the effect from 1 January 2013. Its update was done primarily in order to centralise Delegated Audit Bodies under the Ministry of Finance – the Audit Authority, and to harmonise the information included in the MCS document with the updated version of the OPTA Operational Manual (OPTA OM) to reflect the changes made in the Manual on the basis of conclusions of audits.

In 2012, **5 audits and 2 external controls** were conducted/ completed in the OPTA managing Authority (for details see Chapter 2.3.3).

In the **Annual Control Report** for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the Audit Authority (AA) issued **an unqualified opinion**, i.e. that the OPTA management and control systems function well, although certain improvements were necessary.

In the course of 2012, **two regular meetings of the OPTA Monitoring Committee** (OPTA MC) were held, namely in May and November 2012. The OPTA MA presented the progress achieved in programme implementation semi-annually through the Reports on Implementation of the OPTA.

At its 9th regular meeting, the OPTA MC took note of the information about the process of approval of the Annual Report for 2011, that was subsequently approved through a per rollam procedure due to a technical error that occurred during generation of data on physical progress. In connection with the planned centralisation of Delegated Audit Bodies under the Ministry of Finance CR as of 1 January 2013, OPTA MC approved reallocation of funds within Priority axis 1 “Management and Coordination Support” and addition of two new indicators to the system of indicators. In addition, the OPTA MC took note of the Report on implementation of OPTA for the period from November 2011 to March 2012.

At its **10th regular meeting**, the **OPTA MC** approved the OPTA Annual Evaluation Plan for 2013 and took note of the Report on Implementation of the programme in the period from April to September 2012, including the information of the OPTA MA concerning fulfilment of the impact indicator in the OPTA: Rate of shortening of the administrative process in the project administration.

At both OPTA MC meetings in 2012, also the outputs of evaluations carried out by the OPTA MA were presented, including the information on the way of reflecting the recommendations in the OPTA implementation. The summaries were published on the website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz in the OPTA section.

During 2012, the OPTA MA published two **updated versions of OPTA OM** with the effect from 2 April and 1 September 2012. In December 2012, OPTA MA published OPTA OM with the effect from 1 January 2013. **The Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under the OPTA (OPTA HAB)** was updated seven times in 2012. Some of the updates consisted only in adjustment of annexes. During the year OPTA MA organised two training courses for the OPTA beneficiaries, including secondary beneficiaries (MRD units implementing activities through the NCA projects).

In connection with transfer of activities from the CRD to the OPTA MA in December 2010, the control of public procurement procedures and tenders was transferred from 1 January 2011 to the OPTA MA, i.e. Department 252 – OPTA control, methodology and monitoring. As a result, the Department recruited in April 2012 a new officer on the basis of alternative employment contract (agreement to perform work) for the position “Specialist in OPTA public procurement”, in addition to its two controllers of the public procurement procedures and tenders.

1 Identification of the Operational programme

The table below presents a summary of basic identification features of OPTA:

Table No 1 Identification of the Operational programme

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convergence • Regional competitiveness and employment objective
	Eligible area concerned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUTS 2 Prague CZ01 • NUTS 2 Central Bohemia CZ02 • NUTS 2 Southwest CZ03 • NUTS 2 Northwest CZ04 • NUTS 2 Northeast CZ05 • NUTS 2 Southeast CZ06 • NUTS 2 Central Moravia CZ07 • NUTS 2 Moravia-Silesia CZ08
	Programming period: 2007-2013
	CCI number of the Programme: 2007CZ16UPO001
	Programme title: Operational Programme Technical Assistance
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2012
	Date of approval of the Annual Report by the Monitoring Committee:

1.1 Brief Description of the OPTA

The Operational Programme Technical Assistance is a multi-objective programme, intended to support a single approach at the national level in order to ensure effective management, control, monitoring and evaluation of NSRF implementation, and to provide an umbrella for activities of the ESTC policy in the CR in 2007 – 2013 period.

1.1.1 OPTA objectives

The global objective of the OPTA is to strengthen and improve a uniform central management and coordination of programmes co-financed from the EU funds at the level of the CR. The global objective shall also contribute to the achievement of the set objectives of the NSRF in the 2007-2013 period and it shall improve the overall level of management and monitoring while respecting the principle of sound financial management pursuant to Article 14 of the General Regulation. Last but not least, it is necessary to strengthen the administrative and absorption capacity and awareness of EU funds.

The strategic objectives further specify the focus and content of the global objective of OPTA. These objectives are the following:

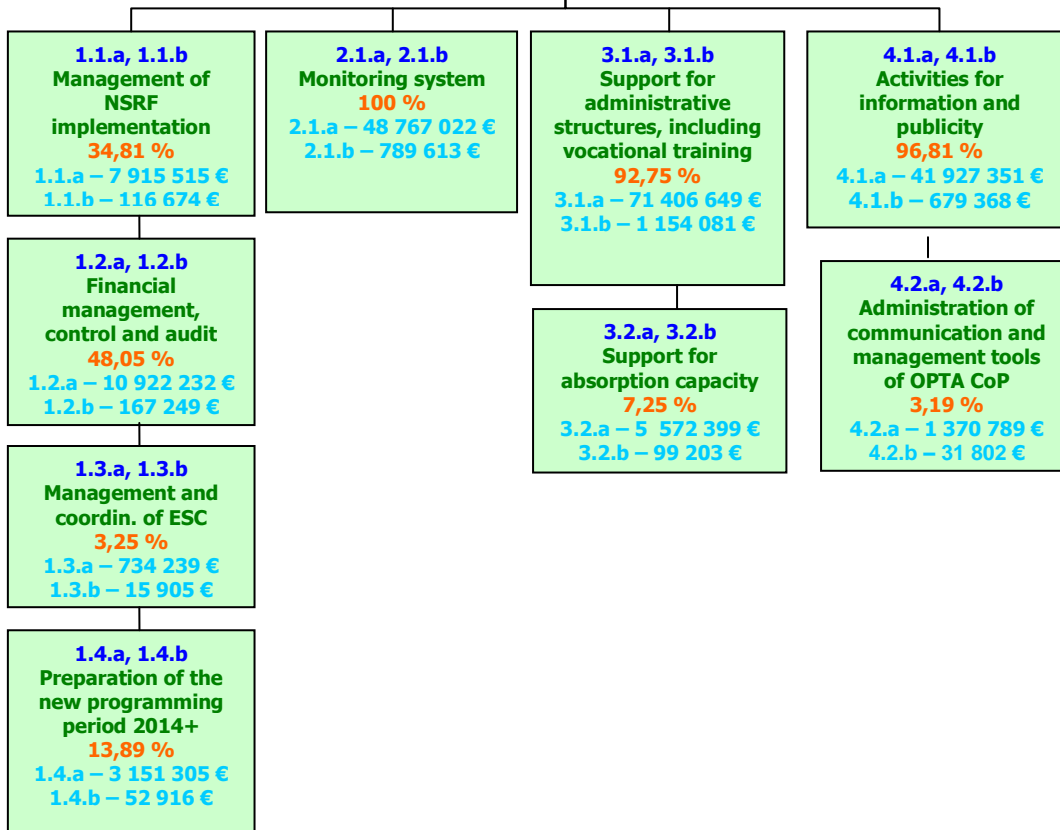
- **Strategic objective 1** – to provide for the managing, methodological and coordination role at the highest horizontal level of management (NCA, Paying and Certifying Authority - PCA and the Audit Authority - AA) in the implementation of the NSRF in compliance with the ESTC and sound financial management principles. To ensure timely preparation of the new programming period 2014+;
- **Strategic objective 2** – to provide for a functioning single central monitoring and information system facilitating the management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects (as well as adoption of corrective measures) to be used by the Managing Authority (MA) of all the OP, PCA, AA, thus ensuring the electronic exchange of data and documents between the individual levels of implementation;
- **Strategic objective 3** – to provide for the administrative capacity necessary for the achievement of NSRF objectives through the support of coordination authorities (NCA, PCA and AA) and to increase the absorption capacity for the use of the Structural Funds (SF);
- **Strategic objective 4** – to increase the general public awareness of the existence and use of the EU SF, of the implementation of the Cohesion policy and the NSRF objectives in the CR and of the achievement of the NSRF objectives. To establish a platform for the cooperation between the implementation structure entities: NCA, MA, Intermediate Bodies (IB) aimed at the awareness of the target group of beneficiaries of the SF assistance.

OPTA

Priority axes – Community contribution



Intervention areas – Community contribution



1.1.2 OPTA financial allocation

Since 13 regions of the total number of 14 regions fall under the Convergence objective and only 1 region (City of Prague) is covered by the RCE objective, the prevailing part of OPTA funds is allocated to the Convergence objective which is illustrated by Table No 2.

Table No 2: Overview of total funds allocated to Convergence objective and RCE objective

OPTA objectives	Sources	Total share in the allocated funds (%)	Total share in the allocated funds (EUR)
Convergence objective	Community contribution	98,41	191 767 501
	National sources		33 841 325
	Total		225 608 826
RCE objective	Community contribution	1,59	3 106 811
	National sources		548 263
	Total		3 655 074

Source: OPTA Programming document

The General Regulation stipulates the method of calculating the ERDF contribution for Cohesion regions. There are eight Cohesion regions. Seven Cohesion regions fall under the Convergence objective, while Prague is covered by the RCE objective. In general, for operational programmes under both the objectives the contribution from the ERDF shall not be higher than 85 % of the eligible expenditure (Article 53, para 3, 4 and Annex III to the General Regulation); the remaining part is covered from the public budgets of the CR.

1.2 OPTA underlying documents

The OPTA is a programme implemented based on the underlying documents of the NDP and the NSRF for 2007 – 2013 programming period. These documents shall guarantee the compliance with the ESTC policy, CSGs and the national programmes of structural development. The referred to documents are reflected in the OPTA MA documentation¹ (Operational Programme Technical Assistance, OPTA OM, MCS and OPTA Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA).

¹ The document Europe 2020 Strategy is irrelevant for OPTA.

1.3 Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies

By Government Resolution No 198 of 22 February 2006 the duty was imposed upon the MRD to carry out the function of the managing authority, including the function of the NCA coordinator for the absorption of funds from the SF and the Cohesion Fund (CF) in 2007 – 2013 period.

By Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 169/2008 of 15 September 2008 the OPTA MA Department was entrusted with the function of the OPTA MA. As a follow up to the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 187/2007 of 7 September 2007 concerning the provision of activities of the NSRF National Co-ordination Authority, the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 215/2010 of 19 October 2010 concerning the definition of NCA units at MRD was issued. This decision enabled the separation of the unit falling under the NCA, which had become an integral part of the OPTA MA Department as of 1 Oct 2010, from the OPTA MA.

The OPTA MA shall be responsible for correct and effective management of the programme and provision of assistance from OPTP in line with EU regulations and national legislation.

Specification of main functions and tasks performed by the Managing Authority

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for:

- ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the OPTA and that they comply with the applicable Community and national rules for the whole of their implementation period,
- verifying that the co-financed products and services are delivered and that the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries for operations has actually been incurred and complies with Community and national rules. Verifications on-the-spot of individual operations may be carried out on a sample basis in accordance with the detailed rules to be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 103 para 3 of the General Regulation,
- ensuring that there is a system for recording and storing in computerised form accounting records for each operation under the OPTA and that the data on implementation necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audits and evaluation are collected,
- ensuring that beneficiaries and other bodies involved in the implementation of operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the operation without prejudice to national accounting rules,
- ensuring that the evaluations of the OPTA referred to in Article 48 para 3 of the General Regulation are carried out in accordance with Article 47 of this Regulation,
- setting up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 90 of the General Regulation,
- ensuring that the PCA receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification,
- guiding the work of the OPTA MC and providing it with the documents required to permit the quality of the implementation of the OP to be monitored in the light of its specific goals,
- drawing up and, after approval of the OPTA MC, submitting to the EC the annual and final reports on OPTA implementation,
- ensuring compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Article 69 of the General Regulation,

- elaborating the financing plan of the programme (in its elaboration the OPTA MA builds on the OPTA financial framework approved by the EC; the financial framework of the programme determines the allocations of funds divided into EU funds and the state budget in a breakdown by year, priority axis and intervention area),
- verifying compliance with stipulations of Act no. 137/2006 Coll., as amended.

Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 349/2006 of 20 November 2006, the OPTA Intermediate Body for all priority axes is the Centre for Regional Development of the CR (CRD) – a state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of the MRD. Based on transfer of the control of the public procurement procedures and tenders from the CRD to the OPTA MA, an amendment was made in January 2011 to Decision no. 171/2009 of the Minister for Regional Development of 1 October 2009 on authorization of CRD to perform tasks related to the function of the Intermediate Body for the OPTA. Currently, the delegated activities are regulated by Decision no. 10/2011 of the Minister for Regional Development of 21 January 2011.

In cases where the CRD is a beneficiary under the OPTA, it shall not act as the IB (in such a case all the administration shall be performed by the OPTA MA).

Specification of main functions and tasks performed by the IB:

- receipt and registration of applications for support,
- establishing contacts with applicants for support and provision of information,
- assessment of eligibility, formal requisites and evaluation of projects,
- ex-ante risk analysis of projects, ex-ante checks,
- interim and ex-post risk analysis of the project,
- interim (with/without an application for payment) and ex-post check of the project,
- evaluation of changes during the project implementation,
- monitoring of project implementation,
- administration of applications for payment,
- entering data on projects in OPTA information system,
- verification of the compliance with legal acts on granting assistance/guidance documents,
- sharing information and adequate cooperation with the OPTA MA in the verification and evaluation of the performance of delegated activities,
- involvement in the OPTA publicity in accordance with the OPTA Communication Plan,
- identification and definition of risks (conduct of partial risk analysis),
- keeping and storing of relevant documents regarding the OPTA,
- certification – elaboration of source materials for the OPTA MA,
- reporting a suspected irregularity to the OPTA MA,
- cooperation in the scheduling and conducting of controls.

1.4 Socioeconomic analysis

The aim of the OPTA is to ensure the NCA activities and activities related to the use of EU funds requiring a uniform approach at the national level. In view of this aim, the Annual report does not include information about the impact of the Operational Programme on the economy or the socioeconomic analysis.

2 Overview of Implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Progress achieved and its analysis

The following table gives a brief overview of highlights in OPTA implementation:

Table No 3: Overview of events

Date	Events	Notes
2 Jan 2012	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version 7.0, effective from 2 Jan 2012	Published by OPTA MA
6 Jan 2012	A new case of suspected irregularity concerning violation of budgetary discipline reported within Deloitte audit	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/09.00048
17 Jan 2012	Audit of implementation system for OPTA no. 29/11/DAB	
30 Jan 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	5 projects approved
3 Feb 2012	Annual CoP for 2012 was distributed to OPTA MC members and EC for information	
07 Feb 2012	A new case of suspected irregularity concerning violation of budgetary discipline reported by OPTA MA based on on-the-spot check	project CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030
13 Feb 2012	Approval of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of Minister for Regional Development no. 25/2012
7 Mar 2012	Penalties were paid on 6 March 2012, based on assessment provided by Tax Office	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00029 UPDATE ²
9 Mar 2012	Referring the above mentioned suspected irregularity to the Tax Office for further investigation	project CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030
13 Mar 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	2 projects approved
26 Mar 2012	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version	Published by OPTA MA

² Update = These suspected irregularities concerning violation of budgetary discipline were referred by OPTA MA to Tax Office earlier – in 2012 further development was recorded in these cases.

Date	Events	Notes
	7.2, effective from 2 Apr 2012	
26 Mar 2012	Controlled documentation: OPTA Operational Manual, version 6.1, effective from 2 Apr 2012	Published by OPTA MA
2 Apr 2012	Referring the above mentioned suspected irregularity to the Tax Office for further investigation	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/09.00048
13 Apr 2012	Outputs of evaluation of OPTA MA/IB administrative capacity including assessment of the system of education and training	For Executive Summary see http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty
25 Apr 2012	Training courses for the OPTA beneficiaries (including the secondary ones)	Organised by OPTA MA, Budget Department
23 Apr 2013	The Supreme Audit Office launched audit "EU funds and state budget funds earmarked for implementation of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance" (no. 12/13).	
3 May 2012	Decision of the Tax Office – budgetary discipline has not been violated, it is not an irregularity.	project CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00075 UPDATE ³
7 May 2012	Two new cases of suspected irregularity concerning violation of budgetary discipline reported within DAB MRD audit	projects CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00076, CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00085
17 May 2012	Referring the suspected irregularities to the Tax Office for further investigation	projects CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00076, CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00085
30 May 2012	9 th regular meeting of OPTA MC	In connection with the planned centralisation of Delegated Audit Bodies under Ministry of Finance CR as of 1 Jan 2013, OPTA MC approved reallocation of funds within Priority axis 1

³ Update = These suspected irregularities concerning violation of budgetary discipline were referred by OPTA MA to Tax Office earlier – in 2012 further development was recorded in these cases.

Date	Events	Notes
May 2012	Outputs of assessment of the evaluations carried out and their impact on OPTA implementation	See Executive Summary http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty
15 Jun 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	2 projects approved
15 Jun 2012	OPTA Annual Report for 2011 approved per rollam.	
29 Jun 2012	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version 7.3, effective from 1 Jul 2012	Published by OPTA MA
1 st half of 2012	Development of a Methodological procedure for payment of bonuses for absorption of allocation.	
1 Jul 2012	Approval Management and Control Systems of OPTA	Internally by OPTA MA
11 Jul 2012	Two new cases of suspected irregularity concerning violation of budgetary discipline reported within DAB MRD audit	projects CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00078, CZ.1.08/2.1.00/11.00121
12 Jul 2012	Receipt of the EC information about acceptance of the Annual Report for 2011	without comments
16 Jul 2012	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version 7.4, effective from 16 Jul 2012	Published by OPTA MA
20 Aug 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	1 project approved
27 Aug 2012	Proceedings concerning withdrawal of assistance commenced	project CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00075 UPDATE ⁴
28 Aug 2012	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version 7.5, effective from 1 Sep 2012	Published by OPTA MA
28 Aug 2012	Controlled documentation: OPTA Operational Manual, version 6.2, effective from 1 Sep 2012	Published by OPTA MA

⁴ Update = These suspected irregularities concerning violation of budgetary discipline were referred by OPTA MA to Tax Office earlier – in 2012 further development was recorded in these cases.

Date	Events	Notes
10 Sep 2012	A new case of suspected irregularity concerning violation of budgetary discipline reported within DAB MRD audit	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00027
13 Sep 2012	Referring the suspected irregularities to the Tax Office for further investigation	projects CZ.1.08/2.1.00/10.00078, CZ.1.08/2.1.00/11.00121
11 Sep 2012	Training courses for evaluators of public contracts	Organised by: Public Investment Department
22 Oct 2012	Audit by the Supreme Audit Office completed	
31 Oct 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	3 projects approved
9 Nov 2012	Referring the suspected irregularity to the Tax Office for further investigation	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00027
28 Nov 2012	10 th regular meeting of OPTA MC	OPTA MC approved OPTA Evaluation Plan for 2013.
November 2012	The N+3 rule fulfilled for 2009 allocation with inclusion of advance payment (assessed according to the state of certified expenditure submitted to the EC)	
3 Dec 2012	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	4 projects approved
17 Dec 2012	Decision of the Tax Office – budgetary discipline has been violated, it is an irregularity.	project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/09.00048
Quarterly	Sending the conclusions of working groups to the EC and OP MA	
Quarterly	Report on irregularities	Published by OPTA MA
Quarterly	Quarterly summary report on the progress of absorption under OPTA	The obligation to present this report was cancelled in 2 nd half of 2012.
Quarterly	Monitoring of needs of target groups	Based on the recommendations arising from the evaluation of absorption capacity (from 2 nd quarter of

Date	Events	Notes
		2010)
Biannually in line with the date of OPTA MC	Report on implementation of OPTA	Published by OPTA MA
Biannually	Summary report on risk management	Published by OPTA MA
Biannually	Plans for the fulfilment of allocations in intervention areas	Based on the data from OPTA IS and scheduled activities of beneficiaries
Biannually	Evaluation of risks of projects	
Biannually	Update of successful projects on the website	see http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Operacni-program-Technicka-pomoc/Uspesne-projekty-1
Continuously	Publishing the latest news about OPTA on the website	see http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Novinky_article
November 2012, regularly updated	Publishing of FAQ	see http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Otazky

2.1.1 Information of physical progress of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance

In the OPTA the quality data and information on the progress of programme implementation is obtained based on the system of monitoring indicators defined in the Programming Document. They are fulfilled at the level of individual projects and measure the achievement of programme objectives and effects achieved.

The OPTA uses the output, result and impact indicators, as illustrated in the Table No 4 below.

Table No 4: Map of OPTA indicators

NCI code / type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total
48.27.00 Impact indicator	Rate of shortening of the administrative process in the project administration	%	MA IS	Achieved	N/A	64,14	57,77	64,88	67,90	70,53	N/A	70,53
				Baseline	100	N/A	64,14	57,77	64,88	67,90	N/A	100
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	80
48.03.00 Output indicator	Number of meetings of the respective bodies (monitoring, advisory and managing)	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	12	14	15	54	90	148	N/A	148
				Baseline	12	12	14	15	54	90	N/A	12
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	92
48.05.00 Output indicator	Conducted studies and elaborated reports (including evaluation studies and reports)	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	3	43	47	72	87	222	N/A	222
				Baseline	3	3	43	47	72	87	N/A	3
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	250	250
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	16	22	32	82	99	147	N/A	147
				Baseline	16	16	22	32	82	99	N/A	16
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	124	124
48.07.20 Output indicator	Purchase of materials, goods and services necessary for ensuring the programme	CZK	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

NCI code / type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total
	implementation			Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150 000 000	150 000 000
48.09.00 Output indicator	Number of performed information and publicity activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	2	2	9	10	10	N/A	10
				Baseline	0	0	2	2	9	10	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15
48.10.00 Result indicator	Number of visits to the website	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	920 000	920 000
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	40	133	217	422	834	1208	N/A	1 208
				Baseline	40	40	133	217	422	834	N/A	40
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 470	1 470
48.13.00 Result indicator	Number of downloads of electronic documents	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	231 000	231 000
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons - total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	320	1 501	2 061	3 230	4 518	6506	N/A	6 506
				Baseline	320	320	1 501	2 061	3 230	4518	N/A	320
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17 892	17 892
48.19.50 Result indicator	Number of trained persons (beneficiaries) - total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3341	N/A	3 341
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500	500
48.19.60 Output	Number of consultations and visits	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

NCI code / type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total
indicator	– beneficiaries			Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500	500
48.21.00 Output indicator	Increase in HW capacity	GB	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	N/A	50 500	92 100	N/A	92 100
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	50 500	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	97 100	97 100
48.23.00 Output indicator	Number of contracted programming hours	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	15 125,6	15 125,6	15 125,6	N/A	15 125,6
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	15 125,6	15 125,6	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15 125,6	15 125,6
48.24.00 Output indicator	Number of newly purchased ICT equipment	Number	MA IS	Achieved	0	0	0	7	85,4	94,4	N/A	94,4
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	7	85,4	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	340	340
48.24.20 Output indicator	Number of purchased technical equipment, except for ICT	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	50
48.24.30 Output indicator	Purchase of software	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	2	17	51	N/A	51
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	2	17	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	173	173
48.25.00 Result indicator	Number of conducted controls	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 100	2 100

NCI code / type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total
48.31.00 Output indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	132,50	293,58	370,99	316,48	316,48	326,11	N/A	326,11 ⁵
				Baseline	132,50	132,50	293,58	370,99	316,48	316,48	N/A	132,50
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	350,00	350,00
48.31.01 Result indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure for more than 3 years	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	13	13	37	37	182	N/A	182
				Baseline	0	0	13	13	37	37	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	170	170

Source: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 28 Feb 2013

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS MONIT7+ with the approved monitoring report.

¹ The target was set for the whole programming period.

Fulfilment of indicator 48.27.00 is continuously monitored by the OPTA MA on the basis of data obtained from the information systems.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

⁵ According to the Methodology of monitoring, the indicator 48.31.00 covers also the baseline value. The actual achieved value of the number of staff, however, equals 193.61 (not 326.11) since the baseline value of 132.5 is already included in the achieved value and by the application of the general rule of adding the baseline value to the value achieved (in line with the Methodology of monitoring) it is included twice in the sum total.

2.1.1.1 OVERVIEW OF ANNOUNCED CALLS

A general continuous call was announced on 14 May 2008. It is the 1st call for applications for granting assistance under the OPTA, originally covering only the 2007-2010 period, from 2009 until the end of the programming period (or 30 June 2015 when implementation of the OPTA projects terminates). It covers all the priority axes and was updated four times, once in 2008, twice in 2009 and once in 2011.

Overview of updates of the call

There was no update of the call in 2012.

Table No 5: “Overview of announced and ongoing calls (EU + national sources)” presents the following information: altogether 154 applications in the total amount of EUR 345 212 117 were submitted under all the priority axes of OPTA, of which in 2012 a total of 15 applications in the amount of EUR 47 542 284 were submitted. In 123 projects amounting to EUR 178 521 900 the Decision was issued/Contract was signed, of which in 2012 it concerned altogether 13 projects totalling EUR 17 096 535.

Table No 5: Overview of announced and ongoing calls (EU + national sources) – cumulatively

Sequence number of the call	Submission of project applications – Opening date for the receipt of project applications	Submission of project applications – Closing date of the call	Type of the call	Number of the priority axis/ intervention area / sub-area	Allocation for the call	Submitted applications for support in 2010*		Projects with issued Decision / signed Contract*	
					In EUR	number	in EUR		
1.	14. 5. 2008	31. 12. 2013	Continuous	1a 1b	27 148 278	21	33 802 490,05	17	16 561 018,29
2.				2a 2b	58 301 925	67	147 077 854,02	47	59 639 771,08
3.				3a 3b	92 038 037	58	121 520 277,41	53	86 967 017,40
4.				4a 4b	51 775 660	8	42 811 495,63	6	15 354 093,08
Total	---	---	---	---	229 263 900	154	345 212 117,11	123	178 521 899,85

Note: The call was announced for the total amount of public funds.

The allocations for the call given in the table are expressed in EUR as specified in the update of the call published on 1 Dec 2011. The amounts were calculated using the exchange rate of 24 CZK/EUR.

Source: MSC209 and MSC210 with data generated as of 4 Jan 2013. The amounts are calculated cumulatively since the launch of the implementation, i.e. 2007-2011 period.

* It is calculated at the exchange rate of 25.140 CZK/EUR.

2.1.2 Information on financial data of the OPTA

Funds of the Operational Programme amount to EUR 229 263 900 EUR (EU + SR). The total certified eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries equals EUR 68 563 944.22 EUR (EU + SR). The contribution from public sources amounted to EUR 68 563 944.22. The share of certified eligible expenditure in the total programme financing is 30 %.

Table No 6: Information on financial data of the OPTA in EUR

	Total funds for the operational programme (EU + SB)	Basis for the calculation of EU contribution (from public funds or total)	Total certified eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries	Contribution from public sources	Fulfilment rate (%)
<i>Priority axis 1a</i> ERDF type expenditure	26 733 285	Public	5 192 750,42	5 192 750,42	19%
<i>Priority axis 1b</i> ERDF type expenditure	414 993	Public	81 511,98	81 511,98	19%
<i>Priority axis 2a</i> ERDF type expenditure	57 372 968	Public	19 681 488,48	19 681 488,48	34%
<i>Priority axis 2b</i> ERDF type expenditure	928 957	Public	318 505,62	318 505,62	34%
<i>Priority axis 3a</i> ERDF type expenditure	90 563 584	Public	33 482 736,99	33 482 736,99	37%
<i>Priority axis 3b</i> ERDF type expenditure	1 474 453	Public	543 782,96	543 782,96	37%
<i>Priority axis 4a</i> ERDF type expenditure	50 938 989	Public	9 114 103,51	9 114 103,51	18%
<i>Priority axis 4b</i> ERDF type expenditure	836 671	Public	149 064,26	149 064,26	18%
Grand total	229 263 900	-----	68 563 944,22	68 563 944,22	30%

Note: Contribution from ERDF at the level of OPTA is calculated in relation to eligible public expenditure.

The cross financing option is not exploited in OPTA.

In certified expenditure, the exchange rate depends on the date of entry of the items in the PCA accounting system. The values are rounded to whole numbers.

Source: MSC2007 – data until 1 Mar 2013

2.1.2.1 INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN OF OPTA

A total of EUR 229 263 900 was allocated to the OPTA according to the financing plan. The following Table No 7 shows allocation by individual OPTA priority axes.

Table No 7: Financing plan of the OPTA by priority axis (EUR) - cumulatively

Priority axis/ Intervention area	Fund	Community contribution (EUR)	Public funds total (EUR)	Share in total allocation for the OP (%)
1.	ERDF	23 076 035	27 148 278	11,84
1.1	ERDF	8 032 189	9 449 635	4,12
1.2	ERDF	11 089 481	13 046 448	5,69
1.3	ERDF	750 144	882 523	0,39
1.4	ERDF	3 204 221	3 769 672	1,64
2.	ERDF	49 556 635	58 301 925	25,43
2.1	ERDF	49 556 635	58 301 925	25,43
3.	ERDF	78 232 332	92 038 037	40,15
3.1	ERDF	72 560 730	85 365 564	37,24
3.2	ERDF	5 671 602	6 672 473	2,91
4.	ERDF	44 009 310	51 775 660	22,58
4.1	ERDF	42 606 719	50 125 552	21,86
4.2	ERDF	1 402 591	1 650 108	0,72
Total	---	194 874 312	229 263 900	100,00

Note: Amounts in EUR are set as fixed amounts.

Source: MSC 2007

2.1.2.2 ADVANCE AND INTERIM PAYMENTS

Table No 8: Advance and interim payments

Year	Advance payments in EUR	Interim payments in EUR
2008	12 389 158,60	
2009	9 911 326,88	2 367 227,14
2010		14 212 081,37
2011		23 807 548,60
2012		17 892 494,81
Total	22 300 485,48	58 279 351,92

The OPTA MA received the advance payments in the amount of EUR 22.3 million. Interim payments will be received after each certification of expenditure, when the interim payment request is forwarded to the EC for the EU share in the certified amount. Currently, the interim payment requests sent to the EC amount to the total of EUR 58.3 million.

2.1.2.3 N+3/ N+2 RULE

The OPTA MA monitors the fulfilment of N+3/N+2 rule by priority axis, further divided into individual intervention areas. The progress achieved in the absorption of SF funds is monitored in individual project applications and the rate of absorption is compared against the amount of allocation for the given year/allocation minus the advance payments received from the EC. The cut off point in terms of the achievement of N+3/N+2 targets is the status achieved at the time when the application for payment is sent to the EC. Included in the fulfilment of N+3/N+2 rule are the advance payments received from the EC. In 2012, interim payment applications totalling EUR 17 892 494.81 (EU contribution) were submitted to the EC, in the amount of EUR 17 607 707.32 for the Convergence objective and in the amount of EUR 284 787.49 for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective. **The N+3 rule for 2012 was fulfilled, using deduction of the advance payments from the EC.**

For 2013, the total volume of interim payment applications addressed to the EC is estimated at EUR 95.8 million (EU contribution). Fulfilment of the N+3/N+2 rule for 2010 allocation and 2011 allocation is endangered in case of 100% use of advance payments. OPTA MA has therefore developed and applied so called Plan of OPTA MA measures to meet the control limits of absorption. The essential measures are the following:

- monitoring of and pressure on compliance with timetables in case of projects where public procurement is involved;
- implementation of activities beyond the framework of the originally planned ones – preparation of new projects;
- preparation for submission of extraordinary applications for payment in October 2013 and acceleration of administration of their processing;
- acceleration of administration of changes in projects, promoting their absorption and a more strict assessment of any transfers of funds between individual stages;
- update of the call in January 2013 (extension of the period for submission and implementation of projects);
- detailed analyses of risks of projects;
- OPTA revision (e.g. transfer of free funds).

The risk of OPTA consists in delay in implementation of project activities. This concerns particularly financially intensive projects where the time and administration consuming process of preparation and implementation of public procurement procedures and tenders have a negative impact on implementation of the programme, mainly in terms of fulfilment of the N+3/N+2 rule. Another significant delay, having the same negative impact, may be caused by assessment of a public procurement by the Office for the Protection of Competition based on appeal filed by an unsuccessful applicant in a tender.

Table No 9: Fulfilment of n+3/n+2 rule – Convergence objective

Financing plan - year	Total allocation of EU funds 2007 - 2013 - annual	N+3 / N+2 ceilings - aggregate *	EC advance payments - annual	Requests for interim/final payment submitted to the EC - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests of the CR - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests - aggregate	Difference between ceilings and payments - aggregate
		a	b	c	d=b+c	e	f=e-a
2007	30 253 392	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2008	31 741 516	-----	12 191 755,50	-----	12 191 755,50	12 191 755,5	-----
2009	33 236 144	-----	9 753 404,40	2 329 588,25	12 082 992,65	24 274 748,15	-----
2010	34 800 663	-----	-----	13 986 085,74	13 986 085,74	38 260 833,89	-----
2011	5 102 921	36 783 748	-----	23 427 036,13	23 427 036,13	61 687 870,02	24 904 122,02
2012	37 925 439	75 062 124	-----	17 607 707,32	17 607 707,32	79 295 577,34	4 233 453,34
2013	18 707 426	125 050 172	-----				
2014	-----	168 017 843	-----				
2015	-----	191 767 501	-----				
Total	191 767 501	191 767 501	21 945 159,9	57 350 417,44	79 295 577,34	79 295 577,34	-112 471 923,66

Note:

Total allocation of EU funds in 2007 – 2013 period was taken over from the OPTA Programming Document.

* N+3 rule applies to 2008-2010, N+2 rule applies to 2011-2013

* In monitoring the N+3/N+2 rule, 1/6 of the allocation for 2007 was added to the amounts allocated to 2008-2013, i.e. the N+3 rule does not apply to 2007 allocation. The actual amount of allocations for individual years does not change.

Table No 10: Fulfilment of n+3/n+2 rule – RCE objective

Financing plan - year	Total allocation of EU funds 2007 - 2013 - annual	N+3 / N+2 ceilings - aggregate *	EC advance payments - annual	Requests for interim/final payment submitted to the EC - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests of the CR - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests - aggregate	Difference between ceilings and payments - aggregate
		a	b	c	d=b+c	e	f=e-a
2007	531 062	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2008	541 683	-----	197 403,10	-----	197 403,10	197 403,10	-----
2009	552 516	-----	157 922,48	37 638,89	195 561,37	392 964,47	-----
2010	563 567	-----	-----	225 995,63	225 995,63	618 960,10	-----
2011	69 725	630 193,33	-----	380 512,47	380 512,47	999 472,57	369 279,24
2012	586 335	1 271 219,67	-----	284 787,49	284 787,49	1 284 260,06	13 040,39
2013	261 923	2 081 532,33	-----				
2014	-----	2 756 377,67	-----				
2015	-----	3 106 811,00	-----				
Total	3 106 811	3 106 811,00	355 325,58	928 934,48	1 284 260,06	1 284 260,06	- 1 822 550,94

Note:

Total allocation of EU funds in 2007 – 2013 period was taken over from the OPTA Programming Document.

* N+3 rule applies to 2008-2010, N+2 rule applies to 2011-2013

* In monitoring the N+3/N+2 rule, 1/6 of the allocation for 2007 was added to the amounts allocated to 2008-2013, i.e. the N+3 rule does not apply to 2007 allocation. The actual amount of allocations for individual years does not change.

Table No 11: Fulfilment of n+3/n+2 rule – Convergence objective + RCE objective

Financing plan - year	Total allocation of EU funds 2007 - 2013 - annual	N+3 / N+2 ceilings - aggregate *	EC advance payments - annual	Requests for interim/final payment submitted to the EC - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests of the CR - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests - aggregate	Difference between ceilings and payments - aggregate
		a	b	c	d=b+c	e	f=e-a
2007	30 784 454	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2008	32 283 199	-----	12 389 158,60	-----	12 389 158,60	12 389 158,60	-----
2009	33 788 660	-----	9 911 326,88	2 367 227,14	12 278 554,02	24 667 712,62	-----
2010	35 364 230	-----	-----	14 212 081,37	14 212 081,37	38 879 793,99	-----
2011	5 172 646	37 413 941,33	-----	23 807 548,60	23 807 548,60	62 687 342,59	25 273 401,26
2012	38 511 774	76 333 343,67	-----	17 892 494,81	17 892 494,81	80 579 837,4	4 246 493,73
2013	18 969 349	127 131 704,33	-----				
2014	-----	170 774 220,67	-----				
2015	-----	194 874 312,00	-----				
Total	194 874 312	194 874 312,00	22 300 485,48	58 279 351,92	80 579 837,4	80 579 837,4	- 114 294 474,6

Note:

Total allocation of EU funds in 2007 – 2013 period was taken over from the OPTA Programming Document.

* N+3 rule applies to 2008-2010, N+2 rule applies to 2011-2013

* In monitoring the N+3/N+2 rule, 1/6 of the allocation for 2007 was added to the amounts allocated to 2008-2013, i.e. the N+3 rule does not apply to 2007 allocation. The actual amount of allocations for individual years does not change.

2.1.2.4 CROSS-FINANCING

The OPTA does not offer the option of cross-financing since it allows for financing of both the investment and non-investment expenditure and therefore it is unnecessary to draw down the funds from another programme. The option of cross-financing for the OPTA is not laid down in any OPTA methodology.

2.1.3 Breakdown of use of the funds

The following table refers to Community contributions only.

Table No 12: Breakdown of use of the funds

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Amount in EUR
<i>Priority theme</i>	<i>Form of financing</i>	<i>Type of territory</i>	<i>Economic activity</i>	<i>Geographical location</i>	
81 – Mechanisms of better creation, monitoring and evaluation of good policies and programmes at the national, regional and local level, building capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	83 202 943
85 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	62 423 029
86 – Evaluation and studies; information and communication	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	17 373 599

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Amount in EUR
<i>Priority theme</i>	<i>Form of financing</i>	<i>Type of territory</i>	<i>Economic activity</i>	<i>Geographical location</i>	
Total					162 999 571

Note: Code Theme 2 – Form of financing: 01 = Non-repayable aid; Code Theme 3 – Type of territory: 01 = Town; Code Theme 5 – Geographical location: CZ01 - CZ08 = NUTS II

The amounts in EUR are calculated using the exchange rate from MSC of 25.226 CZK/EUR as of 4 Jan 2013.

* It refers to project status from P4 further up in the process.

The values are rounded to whole numbers.

Source: MSC232 as of 4 Jan 2013

2.1.4 Assistance by target group

The target groups by priority axis are the following:

Priority axis 1a: Management and Coordination Support – Convergence objective
Priority axis 1b: Management and Coordination Support – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Management of NSRF implementation

MRD and OP implementation structure

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Financial management, control and audit

MoF – Paying and Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and DAB (former AAE)

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Management and coordination of ESC

Institutions involved in management and coordination of ESC through their membership in the Management and Coordination Committee

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Preparation of new programming period 2014+

Institutions involved in management and coordination of ESC through their membership in Working Group on the cohesion policy of MCC

Priority axis 2a: Monitoring – Convergence objective
Priority axis 2b: Monitoring – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Monitoring system

MRD – NCA

Managing Authorities of OPs

MoF – Paying and Certifying Authority, Audit Authority

Priority axis 3a: Administrative and Absorption Capacity – Convergence objective
Priority axis 3b: Administrative and Absorption Capacity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Support for administrative structures, including vocational training

State administration authorities and organizations subordinate to them, involved in NSRF implementation

Managing Authorities of OPs

Regions and municipalities

Intervention area – Support for absorption capacity

MRD

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation

Central state administration authorities and organisations established by them

Regions, municipalities, unions of municipalities, public service companies

Natural and legal persons

Priority axis 4a: Publicity – Convergence objective
Priority axis 4a: Publicity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Activities for information and publicity

MRD

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation

Managing Authorities of OPs

MoF

Regions and municipalities

Intervention area – Administration of communication and management tools of OPTA CoP

MRD

Managing Authorities of OPs

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisations of MRD

Central state administration authorities and organisations established by them

List of aid beneficiaries under the OPTA focused namely on the above mentioned target groups is available on the Structural Funds website: <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty>.

2.1.4.1 INVESTMENTS IN REGIONS

Projects submitted under the OPTA are of systemic nature and have an impact on the whole territory of the Czech Republic.

2.1.5 Assistance repaid or re-used

In the course of 2012 no funds were repaid.

2.1.6 Qualitative analysis

Table No 13 “Financial progress” presents a summary of contracted/paid/certified funds of beneficiaries in individual priority axes. By the end of 2012, the funds amounting to EUR 173.5 million were approved for the implementation of projects, i.e. almost 76% of the total allocation for the programme. The largest share of funds was approved under Priority axes 2 and 3. The beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of EUR 69.8 million, representing almost 30% of the total allocation. The largest share of reimbursed funds is reported by Priority axes 2 and 3. By the end of 2012, funds in the amount of EUR 68.5 million were certified (almost 30% of the allocation for the programme).

Table No 13: Financial progress - cumulatively

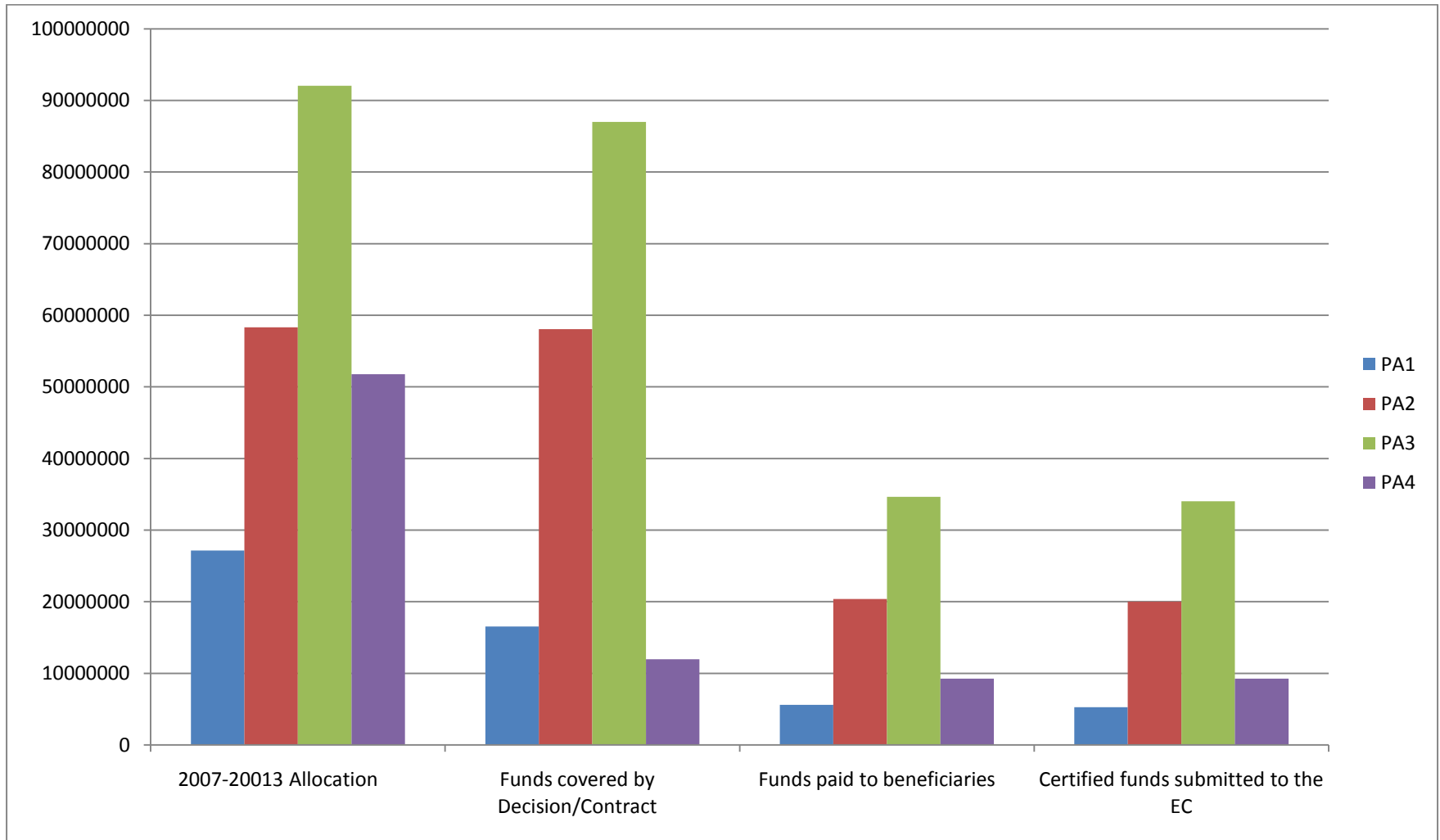
Priority axis	Allocation for 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision / Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
1.1	9 449 635	10 408 293,30	110,14	3 417 567,24	36,17	3 296 229,36	34,88
1.2	13 046 448	3 513 462,09	26,93	1 671 586,20	12,81	1 671 586,20	12,81
1.3	882 523	517 945,37	58,69	235 299,59	26,66	149 222,68	16,90
1.4	3 769 672	2 111 541,35	56,01	275 649,34	7,31	157 224,16	4,17
PO 1	27 148 278	16 551 242,11	60,97	5 600 102,37	20,63	5 274 262,40	19,43
2.1	58 301 925	58 053 017,31	99,57	20 383 057,32	34,96	19 999 994,10	34,30
PO 2	58 301 925	58 053 017,31	99,57	20 383 057,32	34,96	19 999 994,10	34,30
3.1	85 365 564	81 271 740,55	95,20	33 690 349,96	39,47	33 082 372,13	38,75
3.2	6 672 473	5 731 409,56	85,90	944 147,82	14,15	944 147,82	14,15

Priority axis	Allocation for 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision / Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
PO 3	92 038 037	87 003 150,11	94,53	34 634 497,78	37,63	34 026 519,95	36,97
4.1	50 125 552	11 747 981,23	23,44	9 191 012,41	18,34	9 191 012,41	18,34
4.2	1 650 108	205 854,64	12,48	72 155,36	4,37	72 155,36	4,37
PO 4	51 775 660	11 953 835,87	20,69	9 263 167,77	17,89	9 263 167,77	17,89
Total	229 263 900	173 561 245,40	75,70	69 880 825,24	30,48	68 563 944,22	29,91

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 24.14 CZK – monthly exchange rate taken from IS Viola is applied to the status “Submitted applications”, in case of another status of absorption the current monthly exchange rate is used, or the exchange rate valid as of the date of entry of the items in IS Viola, if they have already been entered in the system.

Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values given in the table cover the period until 4 Jan 2013

Graph 1 Financial progress



Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values given in the table cover the period until 4 Jan 2013.

2.1.6.1 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPTA IN 2012

In view of initial problems associated with the launch of this operational programme, a considerable number of projects has been submitted and approved, despite the limited group of beneficiaries. In 2012:

- a total of 15 new project applications requiring **EUR 47 542 284** were received;
- 13 projects in the total amount of **EUR 17 096 535** were approved for financing;
- a total of 6 projects in the amount of **EUR 10 437 462** were financially completed;
- based on the applications for payment, the beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of **EUR 20 049 098** (for 2012), i.e. **.8.74%** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007 – 2013 period;
- funds totalling **EUR 21 049 994** (for 2012), i.e. **9.18%** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007-2013 period were certified.

The progress in OPTA implementation in 2012 as against 2011 is obvious. There is a remarkable difference in the volume of funds paid to beneficiaries at the end of 2011 (EUR 49.8 million) and at the end of 2012 (EUR 69.8 million) and certified funds at the end of 2011 (EUR 47.5 million) and at the end of 2012 (EUR 68.6 million).

In 2007 - 2012 period, of the total number of 154 submitted project applications, 123 projects were approved, i.e. 79.87% of approved projects of the total number of received project applications.

The projects approved in 2007 - 2012 period in the amount of EUR 173 561 245 represent the commitment of 75.70% of the total OPTA allocation for the whole 2007 – 2013 programming period.

In 2007-2012 period, based on the applications for payment, the beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of EUR 69 880 825, i.e. 30.48% of the total OPTA allocation for 2007 – 2013 period. In addition, funds totalling EUR 68 563 944, i.e. 29.91% of the total OPTA allocation for 2007- 2013 period, were certified during this period.

The above mentioned information on the achieved values corresponds also with the progress described in detail in Chapter 2.1.6.3 “Results achieved by means of assistance from OPTA” and also in Chapter 3 “Implementation by priority axis” describing the progress by priority axis.

2.1.6.2 PROBLEMS AND RISKS ENCOUNTERED IN ABSORPTION

1. Delay in implementation of major projects

Description of the risk:

One of the main problems is particularly delay in implementation of project activities when funds are transferred between individual project stages on the basis of applications of beneficiaries in the form of the Notification of the beneficiary on changes in the project. Such a situation has a negative impact on the compliance of predictions included in the financial plans of the projects with reality.

Adopted measures:

The OPTA MA regularly informs the management on risky projects, primarily for the reason of potential impacts on the fulfilment of N+3 rule. The OPTA Managing Authority addresses these matters at regular meetings with beneficiaries and monitors the risky projects in terms of their compliance with the timetable of activities. The most important measure was reallocation from OPTA in favour of OPs with a higher absorption capacity, approved by EC. It addresses the problem of fulfilment of the n+2/n+3 rule under OPTA in 2013. Other adopted measures include primarily limiting of the possibility to transfer funds from one stage to another, of submission of applications for payment within extraordinary deadlines and within a shorter time limit, addressing of particular problems of beneficiaries and informing the management on fulfilment of the measures.

2. Protracted preparation and implementation of the public procurement procedures and tenders

Description of the risk:

The problem mentioned above under 1) is also associated with the fact that public procurement procedures/ tenders carried out within the OPTA projects undergo a long process of preparation and implementation that is protracted mainly due to multi-round comment procedures of public contract approval. A higher number of entities involved in this process is useful from the viewpoint of control of public fund management and is stipulated by the internal regulation applied to the contracting authorities at the MRD who constitute the most important group of eligible beneficiaries under the OPTA. The lengthy process of preparation and implementation of public procurement procedures causes delay in absorption of the allocation, failure to absorb the funds as planned or at all, and repayment of the unused EU funds. Another factor was amendment of Act no. 137/2006 Coll., on Public Contracts, as amended ("APC") with the effect from 1 April 2012, that also protracted preparation and implementation of public procurement procedures (e.g. the obligation to publish preliminary notification or a longer period necessary to get acquainted with the APC provisions related to training or the obligation to cancel public procurement procedure/ tender in case when only one bid has been delivered).

Adopted measures:

The OPTA MA addresses the current problems of public procurement within its regular meetings with beneficiaries, it continuously provides beneficiaries with consultations focused on preparation and implementation of the public procurement procedures and tenders and recommends them procedures that comply with the OPTA rules and the Act on Public Contracts ("APC"). In addition, training courses are organised for beneficiaries at MRD on internal procedures and for all OPTA beneficiaries on APC. In this connection, a methodological team was established at MRD, which provides among other things methodological guidance to providers of assistance in the field of public procurement or consultations to beneficiaries in implementation of tenders. Beneficiaries use educational and training programmes provided within the System of education and training by NCA.

3. Results of audit of administrative capacity in the NSRF implementation structure

Description of the risk:

According to the conclusions of the audit, deficiencies were detected that might affect negatively compliance with the principles of transparency, equal opportunities and non-discrimination within tenders for filling positions in the NSRF implementation structure. It has been stated, that some entities do not fully observe the methodological guide for selection of employees issued and updated by NCA. For instance, it was found out that employees that won a tender did not comply with the requirements of the advertisement, or there was inadequate audit trail, the period set for publication of the advertisement was not observed, there was a discrepancy between the text of the advertisement, employment contract and job description or employees were recruited based on exception, without any tender.

Adopted measures:

A consistent control is carried out of compliance with "Methodology of selection of employees implementing EU funds in the 2007-2013 and 2014+ programming periods" effective from 1 July 2012 and approved by Government Resolution no. 313/2012, namely in the form of on-the-spot checks or administrative controls of simplified applications for payment. At regular meetings of OPTA MA and beneficiaries, beneficiaries are advised to strictly observe the above mentioned methodology and to avoid the risk of ineligibility of expenditure in case of its non-observance. Auditors' findings related to older versions of the methodological guide that was several times updated in the past and was effective from 30 June 2012.

4. Problems in implementation of Priority axis 4

Description of the risk:

Due to austerity measures implemented in the public administration, budgets of individual ministries, including MRD, are cut. It is particularly the field of publicity that is carefully monitored and often criticised for inefficient use of public funds by media. Therefore it is highly difficult, mainly in terms of administration, to implement such activities that

would conduce to a general awareness of EU and at the same time were not assessed as purposeless, inefficient or uneconomical. Under Priority axis 4, there is also a problem of the protracted preparation of public procurement and the related administration and time consuming procedures. This results in delay in implementation of the planned activities. Beneficiaries implement activities in cooperation with the relevant entities in a lower financial volume than planned which leads to savings in projects. In addition, a project with individually assessed data is implemented under Priority axis 4, in case of which the management document has not been approved, yet, by the Ministry of Finance. It will be approved after a supplier is selected on the basis of the tender “NCA Communication Strategy”.

Adopted measures:

- reduction of allocation of the priority axis in 2011 based on EC approval;
- monitoring of and compliance with timetables in case of projects where public procurement is involved;
- implementation of activities beyond the framework of the originally planned ones – submission of new projects;
- submission of extraordinary applications for payment in October 2013 and acceleration of administration of their processing;
- acceleration of administration of changes in projects, promoting their absorption and a more strict assessment of any transfers of funds between individual stages;
- preparation of OPTA revision.

2.1.6.3 RESULTS ACHIEVED BY MEANS OF ASSISTANCE FROM OPTA

1. Enhancing the qualification of employees through specialised training courses and seminars

In the framework of the existing projects of NSRF Education and Training Unit focused on education and training of NSRF staff, 2191 employees were trained in 2012 (within Project %29: 116 persons and within Project %28: 2075 persons).

2. Methodological guidance of managing authorities of individual operational programmes

There are regular meetings of WG, held under the responsibility of the NCA and the Monitoring System Administration Department (MSAD).

Under the auspices of the NCA the following WGs are convened:

- WG for Information and Publicity of EU funds
- WG Education for the NSRF
- WG Evaluation
- WG Control, audit, irregularities (CAI)
- WG NCA
- WG Absorption capacity (AbCap)

Under the auspices of the MSAD the following WG is convened:

- WG Single Monitoring System (SMS)

3. Cross-cutting matters addressed at the central level

Priority axis 1:

- **Organisation of the NSRF II Project**

In 2012, a total of 35 meetings of monitoring, advisory and managing bodies were held under project CZ.1.08/1.1.00/11.00116. These were particularly the meetings of WG NCA and other working groups (CAI, AbCap, Evaluation, Single Monitoring System etc.) and Annual review meeting with the EC representatives.

The NCA in collaboration with other entities organised 14 training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences, such as:

- Seminar on major projects (V4 countries + Slovenia)
- Seminar on “Simplified procedures for applicants/ beneficiaries”

- Conference with the representatives of the European Commission
- Seminar on “Competitiveness and cohesion policies”
- Conference of representatives of V4 countries
- JASPERS workshop
- Seminar on “Cohesion policy and regional development”

- **Management of NSRF II implementation Project**

In 2012, a total of 13 studies and reports were accomplished under the CZ.1.08/1.1.00/11.00119 project:

- Analysis of possibilities and barriers to integrated approaches
- Analytical source materials for preparation of evaluation of ongoing fulfilment of objectives of Regional Development Strategy CR and impact of Cohesion policy on regions in CR
- Analysis of administrative capacities and outsourcing of OP NSRF 2007-2013
- Medium-term evaluation of physical and financial progress of NSRF
- Analysis of timetables of operational programmes in the 2007-2013 programming period
- Analysis of absorption capacity of potential beneficiaries of risk capital
- Analysis of the possibility of reallocation of SF funds
- Preparation of two source materials for the material intended for Government, Risk operational programmes – proposed measures for fulfilment of NSRF objectives
- Analysis of preparedness of cities and possibilities of their involvement in the implementation of the JESSICA financial tool in CR
- Analysis of possibilities to provide micro-loans in CR
- Verification of utilization of the benchmarking method in support of development and efficient management of cities – stage 1.
- Evaluation study of involvement of non-governmental non-profitable sector in the implementation of programmes financed under SF in ČR
- Preparation of two source materials on II. Strategic Report for 2012:

Within this project, NCA organised also the following seminars:

- Seminar on presentation of analysis of tenders in terms of absorption capacity of potential beneficiaries of risk capital
- Seminar on presentation of the evaluation study of involvement of non-governmental non-profitable organisation
- Seminar on outputs of the project Medium-term evaluation of physical and financial progress of NSRF

Priority axis 2:

In 2012, comprehensive services were provided under the projects of the Monitoring System Administration Department (MSAD), associated with operation of the MONIT7+ and BENEFIT7 applications for 16 operational programmes. A total of 13 programme updates were made to the MONIT7+ monitoring system, 12 updates of the BENEFIT7 electronic application and 9 SW updates on the basis of specific requirements of the OPTA MA. The services of the Design and analytical competence associated with the operation and development of the MONIT7+ monitoring system and the BENEFIT7 electronic application were continuously provided for 16 operational programmes of 2007 – 2013 programming period. Further on, 30 training courses for users of the BENEFIT7 and MONIT7+ monitoring systems were held in 2012, for 647 employees of managing authorities of OPs and intermediate bodies.

Priority axis 3:

In 2012, the NCA organised training of the staff of the NSRF implementation structure (IS NSRF) through two projects:

- **System of training of the staff involved in the implementation of the NSRF in the 2007-2013 period**
- **In-service training of the NSRF staff at the MRD**

The system of training of the IS NSRF staff is ensured on the basis of cooperation with a contractor selected within a public contract. Since mid-October 2011, training programmes have been organised for individual IS NSRF type positions throughout the whole CR. Information about individual events in the system of education is available on the specific website www.vzdelavaninsrr.cz, that may be used for registration for individual educational events.

Ad hoc educational events are organised for the staff implementing the NSRF at the MRD both in CR and abroad, the content of which does not duplicate the training provided within the system of education.

Priority axis 4:

In the course of 2012 e.g. the following activities were performed:

- Interactive seminars “Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations and funds of the European Union”;
- Informal meeting of ministers for regional development of the countries of Visegrád group and Slovenia;
- Conference on Future of the EU cohesion policy in the field of employment and social inclusion;
- Conference on Future of the EU cohesion policy in the field of competitiveness and growth;
- Festival Czech Innovation etc. (see Chapter 7.1).

2.1.6.4 CONTRIBUTION OF OPTA TO EU HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVES

Equal opportunities

Equal **opportunities are irrelevant** in case of the OPTA with respect to the design of its priority axes.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is divided into three parts – social, environmental and economic. Pursuant to Article 17 of the General Regulation the sustainable development focuses predominantly on the protection of environment and improvement of its quality. **The OPTA, however, does not have any direct impact on the environment.**

Principle of partnership

The principle of partnership is irrelevant in case of the OPTA.

2.1.6.5 CONTRIBUTION OF OP ASSISTANCE TO THE LISBON STRATEGY OBJECTIVES (= EARMARKING)

The contribution of OP assistance to the **Lisbon strategy objectives is irrelevant** in case of the OPTA.

2.1.6.6 CONTRIBUTION OF OP ASSISTANCE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The contribution of OP assistance to the objective of **Europe 2020 strategy is irrelevant in case of OPTA.**

2.2 Information about the Compliance with Community Legislation

In 2012, non-compliance with the rules of public procurement was identified in the OP implementation on the part of the beneficiaries. However, these problems were identified before approval of the simplified application for payment and thus they had no impact on the amount of certified expenditure.

The OPTA MA issues a system of controlled documentation, covering the whole system of OP implementation, which is in line with the CR and Community legislation. The system of controlled documentation as to its content and formal aspects puts an emphasis on the compliance with the rules of:

- competition,
- public procurement.

2.2.1 Rules of competition

The funds earmarked for the implementation of the OP are regarded to be public funds, the provision of which is subject to the relevant EU rules applicable to the state aid and national legislation. The provision of state aid, however, is irrelevant in case of the OPTA with respect to the structure of beneficiaries.

2.2.2 Public procurement

With respect to the award of public contracts, the OPTA programming documentation imposes upon all the beneficiaries an obligation to proceed in line with Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts, as amended, which reflects the European directives governing the award of public contracts No 2004/17/EC and No 2004/18/EC, and simultaneously with the additional rules stipulated by the OPTA. The OPTA procedures for the award of public contracts included in Annex 8 to the OPTA HAB build on the NCA document called "Binding procedures for the award of contracts co-financed from the EU funds, outside the scope of Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts in 2007 – 2013 programming period". The award of public contracts is subject to controls by the OPTA MA.

In 2012, a total of 3 Acts were adopted (see below), that among other things amended Act no. 137/2006 Coll., on Public Contracts. The most significant changes were brought about by Act no. 55/2012 Coll., that took effect, except for selected provisions, on 1 April 2012.

- Act no. 1/2012 Coll., amending Act no. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended, and other related Acts
- Act no. 55/2012 Sb., amending Act no.137/2006 Coll., on Public Contracts, as amended.
- Act no. 167/2012 Sb., amending Act no. 499/2004 Coll., on Archiving and Documentary Services and on the amendment to some related laws, as amended, Act no. 227/2000 Coll., on electronic signature, and on the amendment to some related laws (Act on electronic signature), as amended, and other related Acts.

2.3 Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

EC Reservations pertained to the effective functioning of the management and control systems on NSRF level

In March 2012, CR received a letter from EC where EC stated its reservations to the setup of functioning of MCS in view of five particular fields:

- Inadequate independence of DAB,
- Inadequate methodological guidance of DAB activity by MoF - AA,
- Deficiencies in the system of addressing irregularities and enforcement of funds,
- Inadequate management control of MA and IB, particularly in the field of public procurement,
- Problems with administrative capacity.

Annexed to the letter was an Action Plan for improvement of the management and control system of structural funds in CR; EC set 1 July 2012 as the deadline for implementation of remedial actions measures. In the course of addressing remedial actions, no applications for payment under ERDF were submitted to EC. On the basis of adopted measures, certification was subsequently renewed.

Table No 14: Overview of suspended and renewed certifications in 2012

Date of suspension of certification	Serial number of certification	Reason	Date of renewal of certification
27 Mar 2012	8 th certification	EC reservations to MCS on functioning on NSRF level	23 Jul 2012

2.3.1 OPTA information systems

As a follow-up to two stages of general reconstruction of the system infrastructure at MRD, public contracts were implemented in the course of 2012, within OPTA projects, to ensure full equipment of the backup office for the monitoring system of Structural Funds. This ensured operation of the backup office – crossover option – for system infrastructure of IS MSC2007, MONIT7+ and BENEFIT7 – limited performance option, which was one of the main problems related to information systems under OPTA.

2.3.2 OPTA staffing

In the first half of 2012, a project manager at OPTA MA started her maternity leave. In mid-December 2012 a methodologist started her maternity leave and was substituted by another employee recruited on the basis of a tender, who, however, terminated the employment relationship within the probationary period. Subsequently, OPTA MA repeated the tender and the winner started to work at the beginning of 2013. A similar situation occurred also at the beginning of 2013 in the position of irregularity controller/coordinator which was not filled at the time of preparation of the present Annual Report.

2.3.3 General audit findings

OPTA MA conducted/ completed **5 audits and 2 external controls** in 2012:

- 1) The Delegated Audit Body of MRD completed as of 17 January 2012 the “Audit of implementation system for Operational Programme Technical Assistance” (No 29/11/DAB) (No **29/11/DAB**);
- 2) The Delegated Audit Body conducted audit of OPTA operations in April-August 2012 (No **32/12/DAB**);
- 3) The Audit Authority of MoF conducted audit of OPTA operations (No **01/2012/AA**);
- 4) PCA carried out “**Control of the system for absorption of funds from the European Regional Development Fund under the Operational Programme Technical Assistance**”;
- 5) The Audit Authority of MoF conducted audit of the system “**Compliance with procedures during filling the administrative capacity in the NSRF implementation structure**” (No 593.10/12/OPTA (720/12/OPTA/M));
- 6) The Delegated Audit Body of MRD conducted audit of the system in the period from 1 October till 10 December 2012 (No **35/12/DAB**);
- 7) The Supreme Audit Office carried out an audit “**Funds of the European Union and of the state budget earmarked for implementation of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance**” (No 12/13).

The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic - Audit Authority pursuant to Article 62 para 1 letter d) point i) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 18 para 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 reviewed the functioning of the management and control systems in the OPTA in the period from 1 Jul 2011 to 30 Jun 2012. Based on the results of system audits, where functioning of the OPTA management and control system was evaluated in general as category 2 – the system functions, but certain improvements are required and remedial measures were taken, and on the basis of the results of audits of operations where the general expected error rate is lower than 2% and does not exceed the admissible limit (2% materiality), the Audit Authority issued an **unqualified opinion**.

Details on findings of audit No 29/11/DAB

In audit No 29/11/DAB, a total of **5 findings of low or small materiality** were identified. Within OPTA MA these included 2 low materiality findings in the field of inadequate separation of incompatible functions in the field of control of public contracts where analysis of project risks did not provide sufficient details about all risks of the project, and 1 small materiality finding in the field of inadequate record of all documents in the files of the project administrator; within the Centre for Regional Development CR they included 2 small materiality findings concerning failure to reflect the information about controls of public contracts conducted by OPTA MA in the risk analysis made by IB; inadequate record of all documents in the files of the project administrator. All findings have been resolved.

Details on findings of audit No 32/12/DAB

In audit No 32/12/DAB, a total of 19 projects were selected in the audited sample, of these 18 projects were audited by DAB MRD and 1 project by an external entity (Deloitte Audit s.r.o.). Within OPTA, the audit identified a total of **15 small/ low or medium materiality findings**. 3 medium materiality findings related to payment of invoices with incorrect calculation of the annual inflation rate and 2 low materiality findings were identified in the field of payment of ineligible expenditure beyond the framework of the contractual relationship and in the field of documentation of eligibility of expenditure related to personnel costs. The total financial impact amounted to CZK 169 494. In addition, auditors identified 10 small materiality findings without a financial impact concerning failure to ensure the necessary audit trail for verification of tender deadlines, failure to observe the deadline for sending the information about public procurement to the public procurement information system (IS VZ US), late sending the information about exclusion of a bid, failure to comply with internal MRD internal guidelines in evaluation of small-scale public contracts, invoices issued without breakdown of the services provided, discrepancy between extract from the accounting record of paid personnel costs and the list of invoices for stage 3 of the project.

Details on findings of audit No 01/2012/AA

Audit of the implementation system for OPTA No 01/2012/AA was focused on financing of personnel costs of AA and DAB, Simplified application for payment No 2. The audited entities were the Ministry of Finance CR, OPTA Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body the Centre for Regional Development CR. The audit identified **1 small materiality finding** concerning inadequate audit trail of the claimed personnel expenditure; however, it was not a case of claiming ineligible expenditure, but a mistake of administrative nature.

Details on findings of the audit of the system “Control of the system for absorption of the funds of the European Regional Development Fund under the Operational Programme Technical Assistance”:

As of 14 September 2012 PCA MoF completed the system audit focused on two control objectives. One of them was verification of the control of delegated activities and the other related to administration of irregularities. The control finding concerning the first objective was of administrative nature and concerned discrepancy between information in the records of controls of delegated powers and the source materials presented by OPTA MA during certification. OPTA MA checked all relevant data in the information system and made the necessary corrections. The second control objective was without any finding.

Details on the audit of the system “Compliance with procedures during filling the administrative capacity in the NSRF implementation structure“ (No 593.10/12/OPTA (720/12/OPTA/M)):

The aim of the audit of the system that was launched on 5 September 2012, was verification of observance of NCA methodological guides issued between 2009 and 30 June 2012 for selection of new employees (Methodological guide). Within OPTA, the verification concerned the Ministry for Regional Development and IB CRD in terms of preservation of transparency, equal opportunities and non-discrimination of applications in tenders for filling of

positions by new employees. The scope of the audit covered documents and procedures relevant to the period of commencement of employment of new employees/ tenders between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2012. During the audit a total of **19 (MRD) and 2 (IB CRD) findings** were identified, of these 4 were of high, 5 of medium and 12 of low materiality. The most significant types of findings included those related to recruitment of a new NSRF employee under an exception, without a tender prior to 1 April 2011 or unsubstantiated recruitment under an exception after this date, failure to comply with qualification requirements by a new employee; editability of SF web archives; inadequate control of compliance with the requirements of the Methodological guide; incomplete data/ documents related to calls for tender for advertised positions (inadequate audit trail). OPTA MA specified ineligible expenditure within MRD in the amount of CZK 1 546 054.03. The final results of the audit has been progressing negotiations with the EC.

Details on the audit of the system (No 35/12/DAB):

The aim of the audit of the system of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance that was launched on 1 October 2012, was to obtain assurance of an effective functioning of the management and control systems of the programme on the level of the audited entities that included the OPTA managing authority and IB CRD. During the audit a total of **5 findings** were identified, of these 4 low materiality findings: 3 within the OPTA Managing Authority concerning inadequate audit trail, failure to update the procedure of addressing and administration of irregularities, missing data on the conducted audits and external controls in MONIT7+; and 1 in IB CRD (IS MONIT7+ does not contain reliable data on project implementation); and 1 small materiality finding in IB CRD concerning discrepancy in evaluation of a prematurely terminated project between Description of OPTA MCS and other documentation of the Managing Authority.

Details on the audit conducted by the Supreme audit Office “Funds of the European Union and of the state budget earmarked for implementation of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance” (audit action No 12/13):

The audit was conducted within the OPTA Managing Authority between 23 April 2012 and 22 October 2012. Its aim was to verify whether the audited persons provide and draw funds of the European Union and of the state budget earmarked for OPTA implementation in compliance with the respective legal regulations and the set terms and conditions and whether the use of the funds was purposeful and economical. In the OPTA Managing Authority the audit covered the period from 1 January 2007 until launching of the audit event (until 23 April 2012), and in case of a relevant context also the preceding and the following period.

OPTA MA received the final audit record on 22 October 2012 and submitted objections against 17 findings included in the record within the respective deadline. At the end of 2012 OPTA MA did not have the audit conclusions at its disposal. Among the main findings of the inspectors belong the risk of non-utilization of OPTA funds effectively, the lack of separation of duties within the Department of OPTA MA, wrong setting of monitoring of indicators or deficiencies in the processing of risk analysis and material evaluation of projects. One of the findings of the Office for the Protection of Competition (OPC) also applies to functional independence of Delegated Audit Body of MRD, but the DAB perished by December 31, 2012 and for all audit activities in the operational programs is responsible the Department of the Ministry of Finance Audit Authority from the January 1, 2013. By the beneficiaries of the OPTA were identified deficiencies consisting of setting evaluation criteria in public procurement, substandard preparation of contracts associated with non-compliance of terms and with the risk of ineligible expenditure.

2.3.4 Statistics of project exclusion

In 2012 no projects were excluded from the OPTA. The beneficiaries largely use the consultations on their project applications offered by the OPTA MA/IB.

2.4 Changes in the Context of the OP Implementation (if relevant)

Based on the solution of audit findings and other suggestions of entities of the implementation structure, an update of the whole OPTA documentation was made in 2012, i.e. OPTA OM, OPTA HAB, Description of management and control systems. Most documents are updated continuously in order to reflect the current needs and comments of auditors. Eligible applicants are regularly informed about updates.

The 9th and 10th meetings of OPTA MC were focused on centralization of Delegated Audit Bodies within the Ministry of Finance CR as of 1 January 2013.

By adoption of Government Resolution No 324 of 2 May 2012, a decision was made to approve centralization of AA at the Ministry of Finance. On 1 January 2013 DAB ceased to exist at MRD and performance of activities delegated to DAB returned to the centralised AA. On this basis, 9th OPTA MC approved reallocation of funds within Priority axis 1.

The general revision of the programme including also the above mentioned changes will be discussed at the meeting of OPTA MC in 2013 and subsequently submitted to EC.

2.5 Substantial Modification under Article 57 of General Regulation (if relevant)

In 2012 no case of substantial modification under Article 57 para 1 letters a), b) of General Regulation was detected.

2.6 Complementarity with Other Instruments

The OPTA does not allow for any synergies.

The OPTA does not use financial engineering tools.

2.7 Monitoring and ongoing evaluation arrangements

The Working Group for Single Monitoring System for 2007 - 2013 programming period was set up on 11 August 2008 based on the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 141/2008. This group is a MRD advisory body for coordination of the single monitoring system of the assistance from the EU funds in the CR. The Working Group discusses and approves proposals and requirements of the NCA as the central coordination body, NSRF Management and Coordination Department as the central coordination authority, OP MA, PCA and AA for the development of the single monitoring system. It also focuses on the setup, functionalities and optimisation of the single monitoring system as well as on the requirements for all the levels of the single monitoring system with regard to the scope of data for central monitoring and the linked external information systems. Within its activities the Working Group ensures the application of central methodology of monitoring at all the levels of the single monitoring system, its maintenance and development for the sake of provision of correct, updated and comparable data.

Principles of monitoring:

Monitoring is a set of interconnected activities. Monitoring focuses on collection, classification, aggregation and storage of data on projects, priority axes, the programme and on evaluation of the progress in their implementation as against the set out plan. Monitoring is conducted in line with the Methodology of monitoring of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period. The data from the single monitoring system represents the fundamental source of data for the OPTA MA that performs the monitoring of both the physical and financial progress achieved in programme implementation through quarterly, interim and annual reports. Moreover, it takes part in the specification of data for monthly monitoring reports, drawn up under the supervision of the NCA. Another source of data for monitoring are the supporting materials supplied by the OPTA MA to the OPTA MC members. In addition to that the OPTA MA communicates with beneficiaries on their project outlines, including changes/unclarities that arise in the course of project implementation. In such cases, too, the data from the single monitoring system may serve as an important basis for decision making.

2.7.1 Monitoring system

Throughout the year 2012, the monitoring system was continuously developed in order to meet the requirements for the administration of project applications and projects in the OPTA (requirements ensuing from changes to the OPTA OM). It also reflected the requirements placed by the NCA (requirements ensuing from changes to the “Methodology of monitoring of programmes of EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period“ and the “Methodology of financial flows and controls of programmes co-financed from the Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period“) for the modifications to the monitoring system for 2007 – 2013 programming period.

In the second half of 2012, an extensive innovation was completed of the BENEFIT7 system that is intended for applicants and beneficiaries. Thanks to this innovation the BENEFIT7 web application is more transparent and more user-friendly in filling up applications for assistance.

Modifications to the existing functionalities were made to IS MONIT7+, which resulted primarily in the simplification, increased transparency and automation of the administration of applications for payment and also in more effective administration of projects. Included in the MONIT7+ was the functionality of recording information about recoveries. This information comes from MSC2007. Changes were also made with the aim to increase the efficiency of monitoring of notifications of changes in projects and sustainability reports.

In the course of 2012, changes were implemented in IS in order to enable MRD to function in the mode of the state treasury (ISSPT – Integrated information system of the state treasury). These changes consisted primarily in introduction of the new and adjustment of the existing ARS ASOA code lists and their interconnection with applications for payment. These extensive modifications were necessary to make the systems compatible with all the changes required for connection with the state treasury mode.

BENEFIT7, MONIT7+, DIS and MSC2007 were in 2012 connected to the system of Basic public administration registers CR. Extensive changes were required to enable the use of a single database of registers in the Czech Republic.

The development of MSC2007 is the responsibility of the MRD Monitoring System Administration Department and the OPTA MA is also involved in its development. The bulk of activities in 2012 consisted in the modifications to output reports, testing of data compliance and elimination of errors in data. The Monitoring System Administration Department of the MRD conducts regular monthly control of data completeness in physical monitoring. Its results are communicated to the Working Group for the Single Monitoring System. The Monitoring System Administration Department concluded that in the course of 2012 no errors had been detected in data transfer and data completeness of OPTA IS.

In the course of 2010, for the sake of better information awareness and effective work with information systems, the Guide to BENEFIT7 OPTA was updated, i.e. instructions to elaborate a project application and administer the project in BENEFIT7 application, and the Guide to work procedures in OPTA IS, i.e. instructions to use IS MONIT7+ OPTA.

2.7.2 OPTA Monitoring Committee

In the course of 2012 the following meetings were held:

- 2 regular meetings of OPTA MC.

9th regular meeting of OPTA MC

The meeting was held on **30 May 2012** in the Barceló hotel, Na Strži, Prague 4.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Recapitulation of main conclusions of the 8th OPTA MC
2. Report on implementation of the programme for the period from November 2011 to March 2012
3. Information about activities under selected OPTA projects
4. Evaluation in OPTA
5. OPTA Annual Report for 2011

6. Miscellaneous
7. Summary of the main conclusions of 9th meeting of OPTA MC

Main conclusions:

- Following the 8th meeting of OPTA MC, all the tasks listed in the main conclusions of the 8th meeting were accomplished or they were accomplished in the course of 9th meeting of OPTA MC.
- OPTA MC took note of OPTA Annual Report for 2011 that was subsequently approved per rollam.
- OPTA MC took note of OPTA Implementation Report for the period from November 2011 till March 2012.
- In connection with the planned centralisation of the Delegated Audit Bodies under the Ministry of Finance CR as of 1 January 2013, OPTA MC approved reallocation of funds within Priority axis 1 “Management and Coordination Support” and addition of two new indicators to the system of indicators. As a prerequisite for practical application of the approved reallocation, quantification of the costs related to the activity of the centralised has to be considered with DG REGIO.
- EC asked for a meeting of EC and the National Coordination Authority on the study related to simplification of procedures for applicants and beneficiaries in the 2014 – 2020 period, in order to discuss conclusions of this study.
- The EC representative asked for distribution of detailed information concerning the database of strategy, its content, access possibilities etc. to all the involved parties.
- The EC representative asked for informing MC members to provide an overview of technical documents that will be implemented within the project of the beneficiary the European Affairs Section under the title “Preparation of the 2014 - 2020 programming period- analyses and consultancy”, by means of its publication on MRD website and at www.strukturalni-fondy.cz.
- EC asked the Audit Authority to conduct an audit focused on effectiveness and efficiency of educational activities, including the competence of instructors within the system of education and training and, where appropriate, to provide proposal for improvement.
- The EC representative repeatedly objected to the project “Prevention” under OPTA to the extent that in this stage of implementation the project does not provide the necessary added value.

After the meeting of OPTA MC, per rollam vote was taken concerning approval of the OPTA Annual report for 2011 due to a technical error in generation of data concerning the physical progress. The OPTA Annual report for 2011 was approved through this procedure.

10th regular meeting of OPTA MC

The meeting was held on **28 November 2012** in Barceló hotel, Na Strži, Prague 4.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Recapitulation of main conclusions of the 9th OPTA MC
2. Report on implementation of the programme for the period from April 2012 to September 2012
3. Current information about the status of absorption under OPTA
4. Information about centralisation of DAB under AA
5. Information about activities under selected OPTA projects
6. Evaluation in OPTA, including consideration of the OPTA Evaluation Plan for 2013
7. Monitoring of the impact indicator within the OPTA
8. Miscellaneous
9. Summary of the main conclusions of 10th meeting of OPTA MC

Main conclusions:

- Following the 9th meeting of OPTA MC, all the tasks listed in the main conclusions of the 8th meeting were accomplished.
- OPTA MC approved the OPTA Annual Evaluation Plan for 2013.
- OPTA MC took note of OPTA Implementation Report for the period from April 2011 till September 2012.

- The representatives of EC and other relevant entities declared efforts at final solution of eligibility of wages under OPTA in linkage to completion of audits concerning observance of the Methodological guide of the National Coordination Authority on the procedure for selection of new employees implementing NSRF, and ensuring of a timely certification of wage costs without a finding in order to fulfil the n+3 rule for 2009 allocation in OPTA. Final version of the OPTA audit report will be provided to EC by 7 December 2012.
- In connection with the planned centralisation of Delegated Audit Bodies under the Ministry of Finance CR as of 1 January 2013, the Audit Authority will send to the representatives of EC and OPTA MA the information about expenditure planned under OPTA after specification of its structure, namely at the beginning of 2013.
- MRD will consider the legal and material aspects concerning continuation of the “Prevention“ project and will consult further procedure of its implementation with EC.
- MRD will discuss with EC the unclear issues in the field of the monitoring system for the 2014 – 2020 programming period after opening of envelopes with actual prices. MRD will ensure due and effective spending of financial means in this respect.

2.7.3 Evaluation of the programme

The Framework evaluation plan of OPTA for the 2007 - 2013 period was approved at the 3rd meeting of OPTA MC on 16 June 2009. The Annual evaluation plan of OPTA for 2012 was approved by the OPTA MC members at its 8th meeting on 16 November 2011. In the first half of 2012, the OPTA MA worked on the Annual report of OPTA for 2011, that was submitted at the 9th meeting of OPTA MC on 30 May 2012 and subsequently approved through the per rollam procedure in mid-2012.

In the framework of the fulfilment of the Annual evaluation plan of OPTA, **three evaluations** were conducted in the 2012.

Evaluation of administrative capacity of OPTA MA/ IB including evaluation of the system of education and training

Evaluation was performed by an external entity as a small-scale public contract. Association of companies EUFC CZ and DHV CR was selected as the supplier of this evaluation. The contract was implemented between February and April 2012. The aim of this evaluation was to verify whether the setup of the current staff capacity of the entities involved in implementation of the OPTA is adequate and efficient and to assess the influence of financial and non-financial motivation of employees on the stability of the staff capacity of the implementation structure in the OPTA. Based on evaluation of functioning of the administrative capacity within the OPTA, another aim is to get a set of recommendations for increasing the efficiency of human resources within the structure of entities involved in the implementation of the OPTA. In order to set the targets, the evaluator used a methodology based on collection of data (both qualitative and quantitative) and their analysis. The main methods and techniques used in the solution of the project included mainly the use of secondary sources of data, questionnaire survey, individual (controlled) interviews, desk research, SWOT analysis, comparative methods and the method of synthesis. In the course of the implementation of the project the evaluator was in contact with the contracting authority in order to consult partial outputs of the evaluation.

The Evaluation report in the form it has been conceived, is a comprehensive set of findings and evaluations, including identification of deficiencies and recommendations of particular proposals for changes and measures to increase the efficiency of the programme management. The set of recommendations prepared by the contracting authority relates both to the issue of administrative capacity itself and the system of education and training. Individual recommendations cover the current programming period as well as the 2014 – 2020 programming period. Based on recommendations, the administrative capacity of OPTA MA was reinforced in the field of controls by recruitment of a worker on the basis of contract for work, and the efficiency of the system of evaluation of the OPTA MA staff was further increased. The beneficiaries were advised to add to the projects focused on administrative capacity the monitoring indicator “Number of full time staff employed in the implementation structure” to enable OPTA MA to monitor the status of administrative capacity in the entities involved. The summary of conclusions of the evaluation is available at <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty>.

Assessment of the performed evaluations and their impact on implementation of the OPTA

Evaluation was performed by an external entity as a small-scale public contract. The company HOPE-E.S., v.o.s. was selected as the supplier of this evaluation. The contract was implemented between March 2012 and May 2012.

The assessment covered the prepared evaluations and verifications in terms of appropriateness of the setup of preparation of evaluations by the OPTA MA evaluation department. Another aim was verification of the quality standard of the evaluation capacity and all externally conducted evaluations of OPTA. One of the aims of assessment of the performed evaluations of OPTA was to obtain also a set of recommendations for increasing the efficiency and quality of the activity of the OPTA MA evaluation department and to use as efficiently as possible the conclusions of evaluations.

Within this evaluation report, the evaluator prepared the respective summary which contains assessment of quality and efficiency of the evaluations performed under OPTA in compliance with the specification of the task. Based on the findings, the evaluator formulated a set of recommendations for increasing the efficiency and quality of the activity of the OPTA MA evaluation department. These recommendations contain among other things also proposals of topics that may be the focus of further evaluations performed under OPTA, that have been reflected in the preparation of the Evaluation plan for 2013. In addition, it was recommended to increase the evaluation capacity at OPTA MA, which is continuously ensured within training courses focused on evaluations as well as on preparation of public contracts, work with the E-ZAK application or presentation of outputs of evaluations performed. The summary of conclusions of the evaluation is available at <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Microsites/op-technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty>.

Analysis of OPTA implementation and proposals for adjustments in the programme, where appropriate

At the end of 2012, from November till December, a small-scale public contract was implemented under the title **Analysis of OPTA implementation and proposals for adjustments in the programme, where appropriate**. The contract was performed externally by the company DHV CR, spol. s r.o. The main objective of this evaluation is assessment of the progress achieved in the OPTA implementation and the progress in fulfilment of the programme objectives, both in terms of financial management and the physical contribution of the supported activities. On the basis of analysis of the physical and financial progress under OPTA, among other things on the basis of fulfilment of the monitoring indicators, financial data and other information details provided by the information system, another aim is to obtain a set of recommendations, e.g. within the use of outputs of the OPTA evaluations so far performed, for increasing the efficiency of OPTA implementation and management of allocations and, where appropriate, for revision of the programme pursuant to Article 33 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. Based on its findings, the evaluator formulated a set of recommendations for increasing the efficiency of absorption of funds until completion of OPTA implementation, with the emphasis on the year 2013, namely because of concurrence of n+2 and n+3 rules in this year. Recommendations resulting from this evaluation will be used by OPTA MA to ensure effective absorption of funds. Similarly as all executive summaries, also the summary of this evaluation will be published on the above mentioned OPTA website after its consideration at 11th meeting of OPTA MC.

All these evaluations were implemented on the basis of the project “Ensuring OPTA MA management activity” reg. no. CZ. 1.08/1.1.00/11.00118.

In 2012 the OPTA MA continued to build the administrative capacity required for ensuring evaluations. The relevant OPTA MA staff participate in educational activities oriented at acquisition of knowledge and skills in the field of evaluation and also in the field of public procurement closely related to evaluation activities. Moreover, in the course of 2012 the OPTA MA arranged for a regular participation of the responsible employee in the Working Groups Evaluation.

2.8 National Performance Reserve (where applicable)

National performance reserve is irrelevant for OPTA.

3 Implementation by priority axis

3.1 Priority axis 1

Priority axis 1a – Management and Coordination Support – Convergence objective

Priority axis 1b – Management and Coordination Support – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.1.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.1.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 1

Fulfilment of indicators under Priority axis 1

Based on the outputs of the evaluation of the OPTA system of indicators in the Priority axis 1 in 2011, two indicators were added, namely the output indicator 48.07.20 Purchase of materials, goods and services necessary for ensuring the programme implementation and the result indicator 48.25.00 Number of conducted controls. Currently, the priority axis has a total of 8 indicators (1 result indicator and 7 output indicators).

The indicator 48.24.00 Number of newly purchased ICT equipment and the indicator 48.24.20 Number of purchased technical equipment, except for ICT are not currently fulfilled as these indicators are selected only in the project “Ensuring of the activity of the centralised AA” that was launched at the end of 2012. All other indicators of Priority axis 1, except for the newly added ones, were fulfilled during 2012 and no problem was encountered in this respect. In case of the newly added indicators, the OPTA MA expects fulfilment in 2013 in connection with implementation of projects.

Table No 15: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 1

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total ⁶
48.03.00 Output indicator	Number of committee meetings (monitoring, advisory and management)	number	A/B IS	Achieved	12	14	15	54	90	148	N/A	148
				Baseline	12	12	14	15	54	90	N/A	12
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	92
48.05.00 Output indicator	Conducted studies and elaborated reports (including evaluation studies and reports)	number	A/B IS	Achieved	3	43	47	72	87	222	N/A	222
				Baseline	3	3	43	47	72	87	N/A	3
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	250	250
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	number	A/B IS	Achieved	14	14	17	42	45	62	N/A	62
				Baseline	14	14	14	17	42	45	N/A	14
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	36
48.07.20 Output indicator	Purchase of materials, goods and services necessary for ensuring the programme implementation	CZK	IS Ž/P	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150 000 000	150 000 000
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	1	7	27	104	274	N/A	274
				Baseline	0	0	1	7	27	104	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	130	130
48.24.00 Output indicator	Number of newly purchased ICT equipment	number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300	300
48.24.20 Output indicator	Number of purchased technical equipment, except for ICT	number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	50

⁶ Data is given cumulatively.

48.25.00 Result indicator	Number of conducted controls	number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 100	2 100	

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with the approved monitoring report.

Source: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 28 Feb 2012.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.1.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 1

Table No 16: Financial progress in Priority axis 1 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
1.1	9 449 635	10 408 293,30	110,14	3 417 567,24	36,17	3 296 229,36	34,88
1.2	13 046 448	3 513 462,09	26,93	1 671 586,20	12,81	1 671 586,20	12,81
1.3	882 523	517 945,37	58,69	235 299,59	26,66	149 222,68	16,90
1.4	3 769 672	2 111 541,35	56,01	275 649,34	7,31	157 224,16	4,17
PO 1	27 148 278	16 551 242,11	60,97	5 600 102,37	20,63	5 274 262,40	19,43

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 24.14 CZK - monthly exchange rate taken from IS Viola is applied to the status "Submitted applications", in case of another status of absorption the current monthly exchange rate is used, or the exchange rate valid as of the date of entry of the items in IS Viola, if they have already been entered in the system.

Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values in the table are given for the period until 4 Jan 2013.

All the Intervention areas in Priority axis 1 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision as compared to 2011, as well as in the volume of funds paid to beneficiaries and the certified funds submitted to the EC.

Example of a project under Priority axis 1

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/1.1.00/11.00116, Organisation of the NSRF II Project.

The beneficiary is the NSRF Management and Coordination Department

Brief description of project content:

The project is focused on the support of technical and organizational aspects of NCA activities. It provides backup for a smooth performance of the role of the national coordinator in the field of cohesion policy. The aim of the project is to ensure the NCA coordination role and fulfilment of the NSRF objectives through efficient management and

coordination at individual levels. The specific objective is the actual implementation of coordination activities and ensuring of technical aspects of NCA negotiations at all levels. The project is a follow-up to part of the activities of the project Organization of coordination of NSRF and OPTA (CZ.1.08/1.1.00/08.00023). The project is divided into 6 stages.

Project timetable

- project commencement date: 1 April 2011
- project completion date: 31 December 2013

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 20 000 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 17 000 000.00

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 3 March 2011. So far three Simplified applications for payment have been submitted, including the Stage monitoring reports.

The project is divided into 6 stages:

Stage 1: 1 April 2011 – 30 June 2011

Stage 2: 1 July 2011 – 31 December 2011

Stage 3: 1 January 2012 – 30 June 2012

Stage 4: 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012

Stage 5: 1 January 2013 – 30 June 2013

Stage 6: 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013

Activities of the project are focused primarily on organizational and technical aspects of the organization of meetings of working groups, NCA meetings with the representatives of EC, the Government, with MA and partners (services, renting of premises, refreshment, translations of documents, interpreting, purchase of HW/SW), as well as on organizational and technical aspects of organization of conferences, seminars and workshops or ensuring translation and interpreting services for NCA and OP MA.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 1

Ranking among the most significant problems encountered in the framework of projects in Priority axis 1 is the reallocation of funds from the stage being completed to the next stage and protraction of the period of implementation of projects caused by delays in scheduled activities.

3.2 Priority axis 2

Priority axis 2a – Monitoring – Convergence objective

Priority axis 2b – Monitoring – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.2.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.2.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 2

Fulfilment of indicators under priority axis 2

The Priority axis 2 has now in total 7 indicators (6 output indicators and 1 result indicator) as compared to 2008, when only 3 indicators were set (48.07.00, 48.11.00, 48.19.00). All the given indicators were fulfilled in 2012 and no problems were encountered in achieving of the set target values of indicators in projects.

Table No 17: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 2

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total ⁷
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	2	8	15	36	46	75	N/A	75
				Baseline	2	2	8	15	36	46	N/A	2
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	63	63
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	40	121	151	186	206	248	N/A	248
				Baseline	40	40	121	151	186	206	N/A	40
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	185	185
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons - total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	320	1 481	1 932	2 302	2 604	3 173	N/A	3 173
				Baseline	320	320	1 481	1 932	2 302	2 604	N/A	320
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 500	2 500
48.21.00 Output indicator	Increase in HW capacity	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	50 500	92 100	N/A	92 1000
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	50 500	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	97 100	97 100
48.23.00 Output indicator	Number of contracted programming hours	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	15 125,6	15 125,6	15 125,6	N/A	15 125,6
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	15 125,6	15 125,6	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15 125,6	15 125,6
48.24.00 Output indicator	Number of newly purchased ICT equipment	Number	MA IS	Achieved	0	0	0	7	85,4	94,4	N/A	94,4
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	7	85,4	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	40
48.24.30 Output indicator	Purchase of software	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	2	17	51	N/A	51
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	2	17	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	173	173

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Source: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 28 Feb 2013.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

⁷ Data is given cumulatively

3.2.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 2

Table No 18: Financial progress in Priority axis 2 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
2.1	58 301 925	58 053 017,31	99,57	20 383 057,32	34,96	19 999 994,10	34,30
PO 2	58 301 925	58 053 017,31	99,57	20 383 057,32	34,96	19 999 994,10	34,30

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 24.14 CZK - monthly exchange rate taken from IS Viola is applied to the status "Submitted applications", in case of another status of absorption the current monthly exchange rate is used, or the exchange rate valid as of the date of entry of the items in IS Viola, if they have already been entered in the system.

Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values in the table are given for the period until 4 Jan 2013.

Compared to 2011, the Intervention area 2.1 in Priority axis 2 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, namely from 75% to almost 99.6%. The volume of funds paid to beneficiaries under Priority axis 2 grew from 23% to more than 35%. The percentage of the certified funds submitted to the EC increased from 24% in 2011 to 34 % in 2012. In 2012, the total absorption under Priority axis 2 went up as against the year 2011.

Example of a project under Priority axis 2

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/2.1.00/12.00146, Incorporation of new elements of eGovernment into IS Monit7+ a Benefit7, including interconnection with Basic public administration registers.

Beneficiary is MSAD, MRD.

Brief description of project content:

The project is focused on making the necessary adjustments in IS Monit7+ and Benefit7 web application for sixteen programmes of the 2007-2013 programming period in order to ensure interconnection with the Information system of the Basic public administration registers. Interconnection with this information system is in case of the Monitoring system for the 2007-2013 programming period stipulated by law. Additional activities include ensuring of electronic communication of applicant/ beneficiary with the managing authorities and intermediate bodies, such as the use of the system of data boxes, authorisation of documents by electronic signature and electronic processing of documents related to individual projects.

Project timetable

- project commencement date: 1 June 2012
- project completion date: 30 June 2015

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 35 100 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 29 835 000.00

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 15 June 2012. Subsequently, the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 87/2012 of 4 July 2012 was issued, by which the project was approved.

The project is divided into seven stages, of which Stage 1 and 2 have already been implemented.

In the course of the implementation the interconnection was completed with the information systems of the Basic public administration registers and is fully functional. Validation through ARES is no longer used and will be performed through Basic public administration registers.

Of the forecast project budget totalling CZK 35 100 000.00, altogether CZK 2 424 534.00 of eligible expenditure, i.e. 6.91%, was absorbed.

The aim of the project is to develop and launch interconnection with the Information system of the Basic public administration registers. Validation through Basic public administration registers will reduce the requirements of the managing authorities of operational programmes put for applicants/ beneficiaries. The information which is contained in the Basic public administration registers will be no longer required. Last but not least, the project will resolve the issue of lack of uniformity, multiplicity and inadequate update of data.

Another objective is a gradual introduction of electronic communication flows between applicant/ beneficiary and the managing authorities and intermediate bodies resulting in a marked reduction of the volume of printed documents to be submitted.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 2

According to the study "Analysis of OPTA implementation and proposals for adjustments in the programme, where appropriate" prepared by the company DHV CR, spol. s r. o., the funds under OPTA are not in view of the progress of their absorption allocated proportionately to individual priority axes. The biggest discrepancy was identified at the level of Priority axis 2, where the allocated funds cannot cover all the needs of beneficiaries under this priority axis. OPTA MA was recommended to transfer allocated amounts between priority axes.

Within the project CZ.1.08/2.1.00/12.00147 "Purchase of a monitoring system application for the 2014 – 2020 programming period", a tender is conducted under the title "Purchase of MS2014+ application and ensuring of its operation and development". Tender specification documentation was approved by OPTA MA, the meeting of commission for opening of envelopes and the evaluation commission was held in December 2012. A proposal was filed with the Office for the Protection of Competition to commence proceedings to review the acts of the contracting authority. According to the latest information the Office for the Protection of Competition in its preliminary decision did not meet the complainant's objection and the process of evaluation of bids is going on.

3.3 Priority axis 3

Priority axis 3a – Administrative and absorption capacity – Convergence objective

Priority axis 3b – Administrative and absorption capacity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.3.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.3.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 3

Fulfilment of indicators under priority axis 3

Priority axis 3 has a total of 6 indicators, of these 3 output indicators and 3 result indicators.

All the original indicators, except for the indicator 48.19.60 Number of consultations and visits – beneficiaries, were gradually fulfilled during 2012 without greater problems. The indicator 48.19.60 is not currently fulfilled as this indicator was selected only in the project "Prevention". Activities of this project were suspended due to administrative proceedings of the Office for the Protection of Competition and objections to this project raised repeatedly by EC. In the indicator 48.19.50 Number of trained persons (beneficiaries) – total that was set up for the needs of the project "Seminars", the achieved value was several times exceeded as compared to the target value. This indicator was added on the basis of new facts related to the implementation and approved within OPTA revision at the meeting of OPTA MC on 11 May 2011. Due to lack of experience the set up target value was very low. The interest of the target group in activities of the project, however, significantly exceeded the beneficiary's expectations. After the deadline for submission of projects under OPTA, OPTA MA prepares evaluation focused on a detailed assessment of values of monitoring indicators. The outputs of this evaluation will be used to update the setup of target values, where necessary.

Table No 19: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 3

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total ⁸
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	11	59	209	524	686	N/A	686
				Baseline	0	0	11	59	209	524	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 155	1 155
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons – total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	20	129	928	1 914	3 333	N/A	3 333
				Baseline	0	0	20	129	928	1 914	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15 392	15 392
48.19.50 Result indicator	Number of trained persons (beneficiaries) – total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 341	N/A	3 341
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500	500
48.19.60 Output indicator	Number of consultations and visits – beneficiaries	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500	500
48.31.00 Output indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	132,5	293,58	370,99	316,48	316,48	326,11	N/A	326,11 ⁹
				Baseline	132,5	132,50	293,58	370,99	316,48	316,48	N/A	132,50
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	350	350
48.31.01 Result indicator	Number of full time staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	13	13	37	37	182	N/A	182
				Baseline	0	0	13	13	37	37	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	170	170

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Sources: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 28 Feb 2013.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

⁸ Data is given cumulatively.

⁹ According to the Methodology of monitoring, the indicator 48.31.00 covers also the baseline value. The actual achieved value of the number of staff, however, equals 193.61 (not 326.11) since the baseline value of 132.5 is already included in the achieved value and by the application of the general rule of adding the baseline value to the value achieved (in line with the Methodology of monitoring) it is included twice in the sum total.

3.3.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 3

Table No 20: Financial progress in Priority axis 3 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
3.1	85 365 564	81 271 740,55	95,20	33 690 349,96	39,47	33 082 372,13	38,75
3.2	6 672 473	5 731 409,56	85,90	944 147,82	14,15	944 147,82	14,15
PO 3	92 038 037	87 003 150,11	94,53	34 634 497,78	37,63	34 026 519,95	36,97

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 24.14 CZK - monthly exchange rate taken from IS Viola is applied to the status "Submitted applications", in case of another status of absorption the current monthly exchange rate is used, or the exchange rate valid as of the date of entry of the items in IS Viola, if they have already been entered in the system.

Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values in the table are given for the period until 4 Jan 2013.

As compared to 2011, Priority axis 3 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision as well as in the volume of funds paid to beneficiaries and the certified funds submitted to the EC.

Example of a project under Priority axis 3

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00029 In-service training of the NSRF staff at the MRD

The beneficiary is the Ministry for Regional Development.

Brief description of project content

The project is focused on organisation of in-service specific training of employees implementing NSRF at the MRD in the 2007-2013 programming period, particularly on the possibilities of participation of the employees in workshops, conferences and seminars both in CR and abroad, as well as on exchange of experience with experts from other countries.

Project timetable:

- project commencement date: 1 January 2008
- project completion date: 30 June 2015

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 22 000 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 18 700 000.00

The project is divided into 13 stages

Stages 1 and 2: 1 January 2008 – 30 June 2009

Stage 3: 1 July 2009 – 31 December 2009

Stage 4: 1 January 2010 - 30 June 2010

Stage 5: 1 July 2010 - 31 December 2010

Stage 6: 1 January 2011 - 30 June 2011

Stage 7: 1 July 2011 - 31 December 2011

Stage 8: 1 January 2012 - 30 June 2012

Stage 9: 1 July 2012 - 31 December 2012

Stage 10: 1 January 2013 - 30 June 2013

Stage 11: 1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013

Stage 12: 1 January 2014 - 30 June 2014

Stage 13: 1 July 2014 - 31 December 2014

Stage 14: 1 January 2015 - 30 June 2015

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 5 November 2008. Subsequently, the project was approved by Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 220/2008 of 2 December 2008.

In 2012, the project for educational events provided an umbrella for a total of 77 educational events, training courses or business trips for a total of 165 MRD employees. Of this, 142 employees participated in 62 training courses, seminars and conferences organised in CR and 23 employees attended 15 educational events abroad.

The implementation of the project in the course of 2012 was smooth. However, due to a high workload of IS NSRF employees at the MRD it was impossible to ensure for all employees to participate in the educational events in the full scope. As a result not all funds earmarked for individual stages were used and the beneficiary asked according to the OPTA rules for transfer of the unused funds to the following stages.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 3

Problems reported in Priority axis 3 are similar to those in the majority of other priority axes. They include especially the reallocations of funds from the stage that is being completed to the next stage, resulting from delays in the implementation of scheduled activities.

3.4 Priority axis 4

Priority axis 4a – Publicity – Convergence objective

Priority axis 4b – Publicity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.4.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.4.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 4

Fulfilment of indicators under priority axis 4

There are 4 indicators set out under Priority axis 4 (2 result indicators and 2 output indicators). In 2012, progress was achieved in the fulfilment of output indicators, while no progress has so far been achieved in result indicators since the costs of activities associated with the management of www.strukturalni-fondy.cz web portal are covered from the state budget and not from OPTA.

EUPD as the main responsible entity for the portal is in charge of its structure, content and design. Since 1 January 2011, a project called “Development and management of the Structural Funds portal“ has been implemented, providing a new web application www.strukturalni-fondy.cz which is eligible for funding from the OPTA. Thanks to this project the indicators 48.10.00 Number of visits to website and 48.13.00 Number of downloads of electronic documents will subsequently be fulfilled.

Table No 21: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 4

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total ¹⁰
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	4	8	10	N/A	10
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	4	8	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	25

¹⁰ Data is given cumulatively.

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target value 2015	Total ¹⁰
48.09.00 Output indicator	Number of conducted information and publicity activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	2	2	9	10	10	N/A	10
				Baseline	0	0	2	2	9	10	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15
48.10.00 Result indicator	Number of visits to website	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	920 000	920 000
48.13.00 Result indicator	Number of downloads of electronic documents	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	231 000	231 000

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Source: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 28 Feb 2013.

N/A value is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period. The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.4.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 4

Table No 22: Financial progress in Priority axis 4 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013		Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries (including advance payments)		Certified funds submitted to the EC (including recoveries)	
	EUR		EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a		b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
4.1	50 125 552		11 747 981,23	23,44	9 191 012,41	18,34	9 191 012,41	18,34
4.2	1 650 108		205 854,64	12,48	72 155,36	4,37	72 155,36	4,37
PO 4	51 775 660		11 953 835,87	20,69	9 263 167,77	17,89	9 263 167,77	17,89

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 24.14 CZK - monthly exchange rate taken from IS Viola is applied to the status "Submitted applications", in case of another status of absorption the current monthly exchange rate is used, or the exchange rate valid as of the date of entry of the items in IS Viola, if they have already been entered in the system.

Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values in the table are given for the period until 4 Jan 2013.

As compared to 2011, all the Intervention areas in Priority axis 4 reported a slight increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, as well as in the volume of funds paid to beneficiaries and the certified funds submitted to the EC.

Example of a project under Priority axis 4

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/4.1.00/11.00132, Publications on EU funds. The beneficiary is the Ministry for Regional Development of the CR – EU Publicity Department (EUPD)¹¹.

Brief description of project content:

The project Publications on EU funds is focused on providing information to target groups and implementation structures by means of both printed and electronic publications as one of the basic communication tools and supports communication with the broad and specialised public, as well as with applicants and beneficiaries.

Project timetable:

- project commencement date: 1 July 2011
- project completion date: 31 December 2013

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 26 August 2011. Two Stage monitoring reports including Simplified applications for payment were approved in the amount of CZK 926 119 i.e. 11% of the total project budget.

During Stage 1 of the project, additional 6 issues of the leaflet “European Funds – Current Status” were published, also in electronic form. A total of 30 original paintings were made for the planned publication “Eurojargon”. During Stage 2, two issues of the “NCA Eye” were published both in the printed and electronic forms. The newsletter informs the implementation structure and the broad and specialised public about activities of the National Coordination Authority.

Project budget:

- total project budget: CZK 8 400 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 7 140 000.00

The project is divided into 5 stages:

Stage 1: 1 July 2011 – 31 December 2011
Stage 2: 1 January 2012 – 30 June 2012
Stage 3: 1 July 2012 - 31 December 2012
Stage 4: 1 January 2013 - 30 June 2013
Stage 5: 1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013

In the course of its implementation, the project was extended by two stages (Stage 4 and 5), i.e. until 31 Dec 2013. The reason was failure to fulfil the indicators, delay in implementation of the planned activities of the project and delay in the call for tender “Publications on EU funds” due to adjustment of the content of this tender to make it more specific and to reflect the current needs of informing the public.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 4

Considered an issue under Priority axis 4 Publicity is particularly the preparation of public procurement and related administration and time intensive procedures. As a consequence, the implementation of scheduled activities is protracted, the unabsorbed funds are subsequently reallocated to next stages of the project or ineligible expenditure is incurred within the OPTA. In addition, there is a delay in projects above CZK 200 million, where the management documents are approved by the Ministry of finance. The activities being implemented lead also to savings as compared to the original plans because NCA as the main beneficiary in this priority axis is able to ensure adequate publicity at a lower allocation. Again it has been proved that allocation of the priority axis has been overestimated since the beginning of OPTA implementation and although it has been reduced, it is still quite high.

¹¹ Former Autonomous EU Publicity Unit or NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department.

4 ESF programmes: Cohesion and Concentration

The European Social Fund (ESF) programmes are irrelevant for the OPTA since the OPTA is financed from the ERDF.

5 ERDF/Cohesion Fund projects (major projects) (if applicable)

It is irrelevant for the OPTA since there are no major projects as defined in Article 39 of the General Regulation implemented under the OPTA.

6 Technical Assistance

Operational Programme Technical Assistance is a specific programme in which the cross-cutting themes of technical assistance are included in all the programme priority axes. A separate priority axis intended for the implementation of its own operational programme has not been established. The implementation by priority axis of OPTA is described in Chapter 3. Activities aimed at ensuring the management and coordination role of the OPTA MA are financed under the Priority axis 1.

7 Information and Publicity

The EC requirements for OPTA¹² publicity are met by the implementation of the OPTA Communication Plan (OPTA CoP) for the NSRF level of management for 2007 – 2013 period which was presented for information at the 2nd meeting of OPTA MC on 28 November 2008.

The OPTA CoP comprises:

- OPTA publicity,
- Framework Communication Strategy of the CR for NSRF Level for 2007 – 2013 Period.

Involved in the elaboration of the framework communication strategy were the EUPD (former NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department) and OPTA MA. The OPTA CoP activities are financed from Priority axis 4. The OPTA MC is entrusted with the monitoring of OPTA CoP. The OPTA MC continuously receives information on the implementation of CoP and the annual communication plans, via the information presented by the OPTA MA/EUPD at every OPTA MC meeting.

Due implementation of OPTA CoP is the responsibility of OPTA MA and EUPD which, according to the NSRF, is also responsible for safeguarding a single and clear information campaign for the absorption of SF and CF funds.

Through information and publicity tools, the OPTA MA and EUPD aim at building suitable information channels – the goal is to improve the communication with the general public, other national, regional and local authorities and NSRF implementation entities.

The OPTA MA sees to the publishing of a list of beneficiaries, names of projects and amounts of public funds allocated to the projects. The list of beneficiaries is available on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz.

In connection with extension of the objective under the Priority axis 4 by the possibility to fund also activities related to promotion of awareness of the preparation of the 2014 period, EUPD prepared in cooperation with the OPTA MA revision of the OPTA CoP for the 2007-2013 period. The revised CoP is available at <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/getdoc/ba2f0608-f505-44aa-b3d9-58b6002f0efc/Komunikacni-plan> similarly as the OPTA CoP for 2013.

¹² See the General Regulation, Article 69 Information and publicity and Commission Regulation No 1828/2006, Section 1 Information and publicity.

7.1 Implemented and Planned Activities and Used Tools

Timetable of publicity activities:

Events organised:

1. Interactive seminar “NGOs and European Union Funds“ – fourth and fifth series

EUPD cooperated in the preparation of the fourth and fifth series of seminars with the Association of Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations. The seminars were mainly focused on the preparation of applications and the course of implementation of the project. The fifth series started at the end of 2011 by three workshops, the remaining ones were held in 2012.

2. Informal meeting of ministers for regional development of the countries of Visegrád group and Slovenia

On 22 March 2012, EUPD organised an informal meeting of ministers for regional development of the countries of the Visegrád group and Slovenia. This meeting held in Prague was attended also by members of the European Commission– László Andor (the member of EC responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion) and Johannes Hahn (the member of EC responsible for regional policy). The half-day meeting was focused on the future of cohesion policy in the 2014-2020 period. In the conclusion, the participants adopted a joint declaration that emphasises the importance of cohesion policy for the development of regions, strengthening of the single market, integrated regional development as well as for mitigation of impact of the crisis. Part of the event was also a press conference where the main concepts of the declarations were communicated to journalists.

3. Conference on Future of the EU cohesion policy in the field of employment and social inclusion

On 22 March 2012, EUPD organised a conference in Prague on the conditions of EU cohesion policy in the field of employment and social inclusion with active participation of László Andor, the member of EC responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion, and Jaromír Drábek, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. The conference was opened by Kamil Jankovský, Minister for Regional Development. Participants in the half-day conference had the opportunity to discuss social aspects of the EU cohesion policy which aims not only at improving economy and the European internal market, but also at increasing the quality of conditions and relations in the society, including support of employment.

4. Conference on Future of the EU cohesion policy in the field of competitiveness and growth

On 23 March 2012, EUPD organised a conference in Prague on the future of EU cohesion policy in the field of competitiveness and growth. Among active participants was also Johannes Hahn, the member of EC responsible for regional development, and Danuta Hübner, Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament. The conference was opened by Bohuslav Svoboda, Lord Mayor of Prague and Kamil Jankovský, Minister for Regional Development. The conference provided space for visions and proposals for the future development in the field of support of competitiveness and growth presented by the representative of the European Commission. The Czech party had also the opportunity to inform about the needs of CR in this respect and to present its concepts of setting up the conditions of an efficient EU cohesion policy that would reflect our priorities and possibilities.

5. Festival Czech Innovation

The festival Czech Innovation was financially supported by EUPD. It was a contest and show of innovative concepts of individuals, students, small, medium and big companies from all over the Czech Republic. At the same time it was a forum where the innovators met with successful managers, coaches and experts from many fields. A member of the jury was also Daniel Braun, 1st Deputy Minister for Regional Development. Tomáš Novotný, the representative of MRD-NCA participated in the discussion panels.

PR activities and advertising:

1. Bulletin “NCA Eye”

In 2012, EUPD published three issues of the bulletin “NCA Eye” that summarises on twenty pages the most important events in the field of EU funds in CR from the viewpoint of MRD-NCA. Part of the publication is also an eight-page regional supplement.

2. Summer photo contest “Take a picture of a project”

The second year of photo contest for the broad public was organised in July and August. Its aim was to show individual cases and contributions of the assistance from the European funds. A change was made in the second year of the contest, namely that there had to be a certain person in the picture taken of the project as a guarantee that pictures from the last year are not registered again this year or collected throughout the year.

The aim of the contest was to take a picture of an activity financed under the EU funds and enter the pictures in the contest by their loading to the contest website (www.vyfotprojekt.cz).

The contest had two categories. The main category was the Most talented photographer and another category was the Most active photographer. The registered photo albums were automatically entered into the prize draw which went on throughout the contest.

Prizes: digital reflex and compact cameras, photography books, sports equipment etc. Prizes were donated by the partners and media partners in the contest.

A highly positive result. In total, 5 863 photo albums – 17 000 photographs were registered.

The winners were awarded prizes in September 2012 at the MRD. The event included a press conference where 1st Deputy of the Minister for Regional Development thanked the participants in the contest and awarded the prizes.

1st prize in the contest Take a picture of a project – Revitalization of the Mělník city centre



2nd prize in the contest Take a picture of a project – Infrastructure of the amphitheatre of the Loket town



3rd prize in the contest Take a picture of a project – Transport playground, Odry



3. Contest Make your own project

In the autumn 2012, EUPD prepared the first year of the contest for secondary school students under the name "Make your own project". Its aim was to increase awareness of the possibilities of support of projects from EU funds among secondary school students who in teams designed projects that would contribute to the development of their region. Within the contest NCA closely cooperated with the Eurocentre regional network of information offices. Registered in the contest were 32 projects from all NUTS II cohesion regions. Each cohesion region organised the finals selecting 8 final projects. These projects were assessed by the national jury which selected the winner – the project of students of the Secondary Comprehensive School of J. Pekař from Mladá Boleslav called "Traffic Solution in the town – the system of bicycle sharing system".

4. Radio campaign

A radio campaign was organised in November and December 2012 under the title "European funds help in regions" that focused on presentation of successful projects implemented under Regional operational programmes. Each cohesion region presented five coverages of major projects. The campaign was broadcasted by regional stations of the Czech Radio in the form of a coverage of individual projects.

5. Gate to the region

In 2012, EUPD implemented the project Gate to the region, within which information panels were installed at selected railway stations in the centres of individual cohesion regions. These panels display examples of successful projects implemented thanks to the EU funds in the given region. The project Gate to the region presents mainly the projects that may be interesting for tourists and visitors to the given region. Such information boards were installed in the cities of Prague, Plzeň, Ústí nad Labem, Olomouc, Pardubice, Ostrava, Brno for two years and during this period they may be updated.

6. An advertising mini-campaign

In 2012, EUPD published several advertisements in the Euro weekly and the Všudybyl monthly. In the weekly Euro was advertised the launching of the project www.mapaprojektu.cz where MRD cooperates with the EC Representation in the Czech Republic. In the magazine Všudybyl were advertised results of communication activities – Take a picture of a project and Suggest the project that contributed to the visibility of the results of EU funds.

7. List of open calls

Since October 2011, EUPD has been preparing an overview of open calls for submission of projects in the operational programmes of the 2007–2013 programming period. The primary goal of the document is to provide a summary information about announced calls to beneficiaries. The overview is published at www.strukturalni-fondy.cz.

Other activities:

1. Working Group for Information and Publicity (WG)

In 2012, the Working Group held four meetings. The main issues on the agenda included preparation of a campaign "Have a look at it...". Another main topic was preparation of the radio campaign "European funds help in regions" or the possibilities of cooperation with the Czech Television. Particularly useful was a direct cooperation with the colleagues from Hungary and France in the framework of networking and partnership within the European working group INFORM.

2. Cooperation with the European Commission

On the occasion of the Day of Europe (8th May), EUPD in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in the CR launched the operation of an on-line tool Map of projects where visitors may find

implemented projects entered in the map. They thus may for instance search for the projects implemented in their neighbourhood. Entered in the map are only completed projects. The map of projects is updated in cooperation with other managing authorities of operational programmes.

In October 2012, EUPD cooperated with the EC Representation also within the Fair of European Information Networks (an event for the general public where EUPD provided information about the EU funds). The fair took place in selected regional cities – Prague, Liberec, Olomouc and Ústí nad Labem.

3. Eurofon and Eurocentres

In 2012, cooperation continued with the Office of the Government of the CR, namely in the field of dissemination of information about the EU funds through selected tools of the Integrated Information System. This cooperation included operation of a free telephone line Eurofon 800 200 200 providing information on EU (answering queries of the general public concerning the EU funds, providing assistance to potential applicants and beneficiaries etc.) and regional information centres, so called Eurocentres (distribution of information materials etc.).

4. Website

Ranking among the priority activities of NSRF communication strategy is the website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz which serves as a basic signpost for everyone who wishes to learn about the ESC policy pursued in the Czech Republic. In November 2012, the EUPD as the main responsible entity put into operation a completely renovated web portal. An integral part of the portal is also the Extranet interface which caters for the communication needs within the working groups. Until November 2012, the activities associated with the management of SF portal were still financed from the state budget – thus the indicators within the OPTA were not fulfilled. The operation of the new portal is financed from the OPTA funds.

5. List of beneficiaries

EUPD is also responsible for regular publication of the updated List of beneficiaries, pursuant to the requirements of the Commission or Council regulation. The list of beneficiaries is updated on a monthly basis and the link for its download is available on the main page of the website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz.

6. OPTA MA activities

- Training courses for beneficiaries: OPTA MA held two training courses for beneficiaries on implementation of public contracts. OPTA publicity rules were observed during these training courses.
- Regular meetings with beneficiaries: At regular meetings the OPTA MA informs the beneficiaries among other things also on anticipated modifications to OPTA documentation and procedures and relevant OPTA MA activities and explains the current design of programme implementation.
- OPTA MC: In 2012, the OPTA MA organised two OPTA MC meetings that serve for the presentation of financial and physical progress achieved in the programme. In the organisation of OPTA MC meetings the OPTA publicity rules were observed. It also applies to promotional merchandise distributed to OPTA MC members (3E principles are observed in their selection).
- Logos: The documents elaborated by OPTA MA bear the logos applied in line with the OPTA Logo Manual (it concerns e.g. minutes of the meetings, routine written communication, supporting materials for OPTA Selection Committee meetings, OPTA MC etc.).
- OPTA documentation: OPTA MA opinions and updated versions of OPTA OM, OPTA HAB etc. comprise the compulsory OPTA publicity and their distribution is done via the computerised forms of communication: data boxes, extranet, links in e-mails.
- Website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz: OPTA MA takes care of the OPTA tab, where all relevant documents are publicised, including the information on the OPTA implementation (summary of evaluations, successful projects, updated versions of documentation, press releases etc.).
- Control of project publicity: Within its function of the managing authority the OPTA MA controls the observance of publicity rules in projects of beneficiaries. The OPTA beneficiaries do not show any shortcomings in the observation of publicity rules. Where necessary, they consult the specific cases with the IB/OPTA MA.

List of Abbreviations

A/B IS	Applicant/ Beneficiary Information System
AA	Audit Authority
DAB	Delegated Audit Body
AbCap	Absorption capacity
ACoP	Annual Communication Plan
AIS	Aid information system of MRD
APC	Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts, as amended
CF	Cohesion Fund
CoP	Communication Plan
CR	Czech Republic
CRD	Centre for Regional Development of the CR
CSGs	Community Strategic Guidelines
EC	European Commission
EC	European Community
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESC	Economic and Social Cohesion
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
EUPD	European Publicity Department
GA	Government agencies
HAB	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries
IB	Intermediate body
IS	Information System
MA	Managing Authority
MC (OPTA)	Monitoring Committee (Operational Programme Technical Assistance)
MCC	Management and Co-ordination Committee
MONIT7+	Monitoring Information System of MRD
MRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MSAD	Monitoring System Administration Department
MSC2007	Monitoring system of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund
N/A	Not available
NCA	National Co-ordination Authority
NCI	National Code List of Indicators
NDP	National Development Plan
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NUTS	La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques
OM	Operational Manual
OP	Operational Programme
OPC	Office for the Protection of Competition
OPTA	Operational Programme Technical Assistance
P4	Project approved for financing
P6	Project financing completed
PA	Priority axis

PCA	Paying and Certifying Authority
RCE	Regional competitiveness and employment objective
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SF	Structural Funds
SFC2007	Information system of the European Commission
WG SMS	Working Group Single Monitoring System

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