

How the applicants and beneficiaries see the conditions of ESIF drawing

– BRIEF SUMMARY –

From June to August 2018, a **public consultation on simplifying the administrative complexity of drawing from ESIF** has been running in the Czech Republic. During this time a wide range of applicants as well as beneficiaries already receiving support from the ESI funding (with the exception of the Rural Development Programme) have been interviewed – such as the representatives from business, central and local government, the sector of education and research, the NGOs and many other institutions representing both the private and public sector.

3,218

responded to the distributed questionnaire

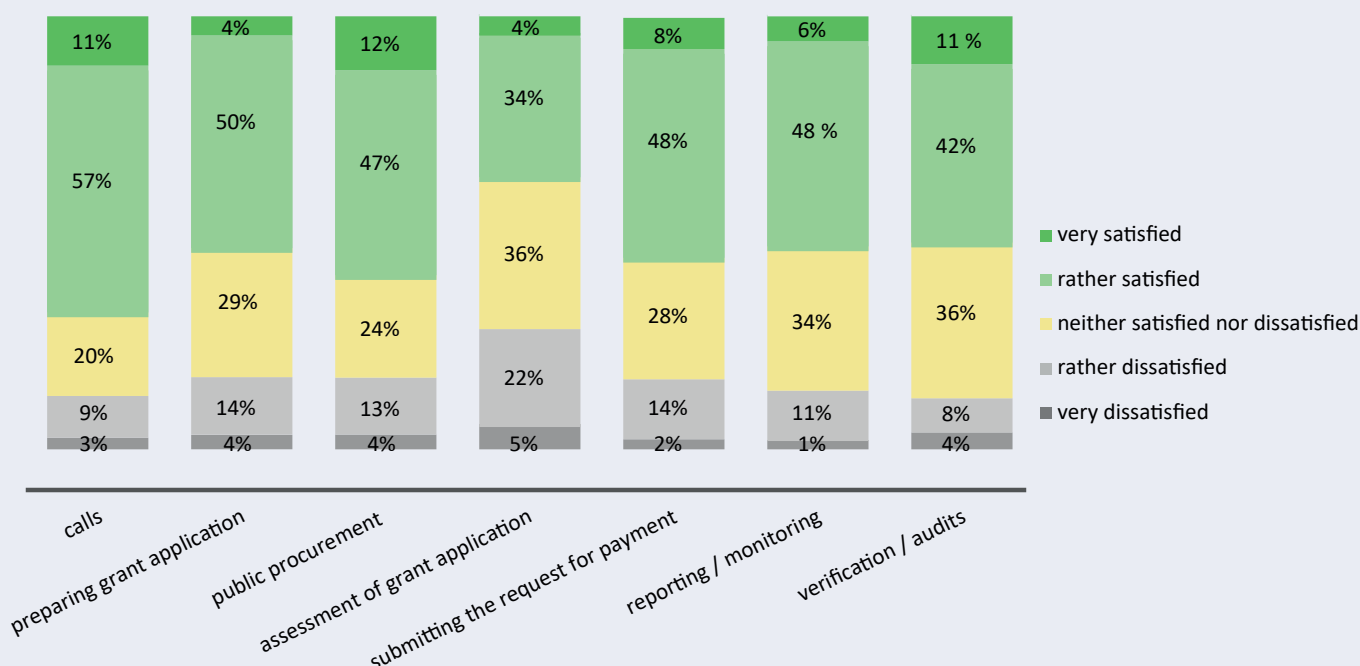


Satisfaction with the administrative process

The public consultation has been focused on the evaluation of the individual stages in the process of administration. **Overall satisfaction** with the course of all the phases **prevails** – the respondents expressed positive or neutral attitude.

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were satisfied with the administration process



Positively evaluated aspects

Schedule of calls

73%

consider positively the schedule of calls as a useful source of information

Communication

76%

satisfied with the communication of the Managing Authority (MA) or the Intermediate Body (IB) regarding the process of preparation of the application

Process of submitting grant applications

90%

consider the existing help of pre-filled forms in the monitoring system MS2014+ (ISKP14+) as helpful

Appraisal of grant applications

76%

consider the assessment of grant application to be carried out in correct manner

Audit expertise

79%

agreed that the verifications were carried out in a professional and appropriate manner

Potential for improvements

The public consultation identified several areas that should be in focus of further attention.



Setting and meeting deadlines

The MAs/IBs set the deadlines for the process of project administration – both for the beneficiaries and for the MAs/IBs as well.

- 71%** consider the time of application assessment to be quite long
- 49%** consider the time of checking the requests for payment and reimbursement to be quite long
- 39%** said that the deadlines within the call were difficult to be met compared to other deadlines (e.g. PP)



Handbooks for applicants and beneficiaries

Handbooks published by MAs/IBs explain the rules and responsibilities how to prepare and process their projects correctly in appropriate manner.

- 55%** consider the handbooks to be too extensive
- 49%** consider the handbooks to be too complicated

Potential improvements in horizontal issues

Some areas may be considered as cross-cutting because their uniform setting on the national level applies to the recipients of ESIF support horizontally.



Cost benefit analysis (CBA)

Cost-benefit analysis helps to target the project appropriately and shows the purpose of the expenditure.

- 74%** consider the CBA preparation to be demanding
- 77%** consider the information in the CBA to be duplicate to other parts of the application
- 54%** said they did not have enough information from the MA/IB to prepare the CBA



Public procurement (PP)

Competitive public procurement is an integral part of the State Aid conditions. Although the responsibilities within the PP area towards the beneficiaries are laid by MAs/IBs, NCA provides cross-cutting training for the beneficiaries.

- 64%** consider the PP rules to be complex and ambiguous
- 41%** reflect as problematic that they cannot consult PP with MA/IB in advance

Data source: Public consultation on simplifying the administrative complexity of ESIF, processed by the Institute for Evaluations and Social Analyses (INESAN), September 2018