



Ministry of Regional
Development
of the Czech Republic



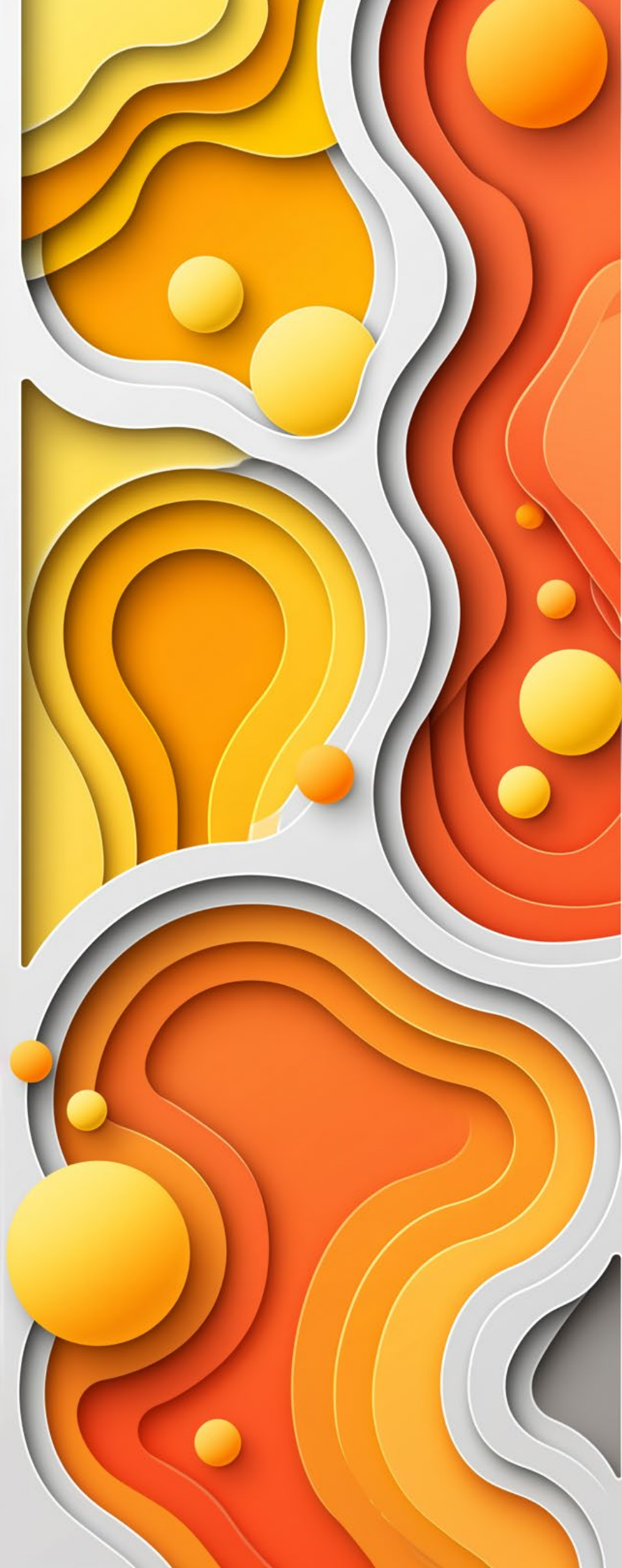
EVALUATION
UNIT NCA

SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

IN THE AREA
OF EU FUNDS

2025

www.DotaceEU.cz



SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

RESULTS OF SELECTED EVALUATIONS FROM
THE EU FUNDS ENVIRONMENT PUBLISHED
IN 2025

Authors of the Publication

Natalie Sovová, Jana Drlíková, Kateřina Gregorová

(Ministry of Regional Development – National Coordination Authority)

Graphic Design

Václav Zemek (Ministry of Regional Development – National Coordination Authority)



NATIONAL COORDINATION AUTHORITY EVALUATION UNIT

Ministry of Regional Development – National Coordination Authority

Staroměstské náměstí 6

110 00 Prague 1

www.dotaceEU.cz/knihovna-evaluaci

evaluate@mmr.cz

1st Edition

Prague, 2026

Not for Sale

ISBN (print) 978-80-7538-616-8

ISBN (online) 978-80-7538-617-5

Introduction

This publication provides a summary of the main findings of selected evaluations related to EU funds in the Czech Republic carried out between December 2024 and December 2025.

It offers an overview of key topics affecting the implementation of EU funds – from system setup and administrative burden, through the effectiveness of individual instruments, to the concrete impacts of support in regions. The publication also includes selected evaluations by the European Commission, placing Czech experience within a broader European context.

The publication provides information about:

- how EU funds contribute to investment, the development of services, and the reduction of regional disparities,
- where administrative burden is being successfully reduced and where barriers still persist,
- what benefits specific support tools offer (e.g. templates in education, community projects, or active labour market policies),
- how funds help disadvantaged groups (e.g. children in need, people from Ukraine, or Roma communities),
- what insights European Commission evaluations provide on the functioning of cohesion policy at EU level,
- and what challenges remain for the next period, including the need for better coordination, digitalisation, and stronger capacities.

The publication can serve as a practical guide for navigating evaluation outputs and as a source of insights for the future setup of cohesion policy and individual programmes.

Full versions of evaluation reports and additional outputs can be found in the Evaluation Library: www.dotaceEU.cz/knihovna-evaluaci.

The publication is divided into three parts:

- The first part focuses on evaluations carried out by the Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Regional Development – National Coordination Authority (MMR–NOK).
- The second part focuses on evaluations carried out by the evaluation units of managing authorities (MAs).
- The third part focuses on evaluations carried out by the European Commission.

Contents

- Key findings from evaluations of the Evaluation Unit of MMR-NOK..... 6
- Integrated Regional Operational Programme..... 16
- Programme Johannes Amos Comenius..... 18
- Operational Programme Fisheries..... 24
- Operational Programme Technical Assistance 28
- Operational Programme Employment+ 30
- European Commission evaluations 40

Key Findings from Evaluations by the NCA Evaluation Unit

The NCA Evaluation Unit serves as the national coordinator for evaluations in the area of EU funds. It carries out evaluations that are cross-programme or focus on key topics related to the national-level implementation of European funds.

Chapter contents:

- Feedback on the 2021–2027 SNF for the Preparation of the Methodological Framework for EU Funds 2028+
- Evaluation of the Application of Simplified Cost Options and Financing Not Linked to Costs
- Public Expenditures and EU Funds 2015–2020
- Analysis of Fund Utilization 2014–2020 With A Focus on Climate-Related Interventions
- Segmentation of the Target Group for NCA Communication Activities – January 2025
- Evaluation of the DotaceEU Brand’s Communications – June 2025
- Evaluation of Direct Brand Communication of “Kde Fondy EU pomáhají” – Open House and Festivals
- Background Analysis for the Redesign of the Územní Dimenze Website
- Overview of Evaluations

The Single national framework contributes to the effective management of EU funds and strengthens system stability.

Feedback on the 2021–2027 SNF for the Preparation of the Methodological Framework for EU Funds 2028+

The aim of the evaluation was to reflect the experience from the implementation of the Single national framework (SNF) in the 2021–2027 period in the preparation of the methodological environment for EU funds for the 2028+ period. The assessment confirmed that the flexibility of the SNF is a key added value of the system, allowing it to respond to the specific features of individual programmes. At the same time, it identified weaker areas in digitalisation, consistency of interpretation of rules, and administrative burden.

Key Findings

The SNF provides necessary flexibility but faces limits in harmonisation.

- Managing authorities unanimously assess the flexibility of the SNF as a significant benefit, enabling them to reflect the specifics of programmes and target groups.
- In the case of new and cross-cutting requirements (e.g. the DNSH principle or SCOs), harmonisation is delayed and interpretations differ, reducing the clarity and predictability of the system.

The SNF methodological environment is stable but requires further simplification.

- SNF methodologies are generally perceived by users as a stable and understandable support for programme management.
- The introduction of SCOs, coordination meetings of managing authorities, seminars for applicants, and regional cooperation strengthening trust and consistency in decision-making are all evaluated positively.

Applicants appreciate communication but consider the system administratively demanding.

- Applicants and beneficiaries appreciate call schedules, the accessibility of information, and the communication channels of managing authorities.
- For some beneficiaries, the system's flexibility does not represent added value but is rather perceived as inconsistency in the approaches of individual authorities.
- The application preparation process is still perceived as rather complex and administratively demanding – more than half of respondents use consulting firms to ensure formal correctness and save time.

The legislative framework limits further simplification of the system.

- A significant share of identified barriers stems from national and EU legislation.
- Without legislative changes at the national level, the scope for further streamlining EU funds management remains limited.

Insufficient digitalisation increases the administrative burden of the system.

- Repeated submission of the same data and the absence of central databases increase administrative burden and error rates. Fragmentation of controls and audits is also an issue.

Recommendations

Strategic direction of the SNF

- Maintain the flexibility of the SNF as a key principle of the system, while strengthening harmonisation in the interpretation of cross-cutting rules.
- Define a clear methodological framework for the introduction of new standards and requirements.

Methodological and procedural improvements

- Strengthen the digitalisation of processes, make greater use of public registers, and automate administrative procedures.
- Clarify the rules through the use of consolidated versions and centralised overviews of legislative changes.

Systemic and legislative changes

- Adjust selected budgetary and procedural rules in order to reduce administrative burden.
- Eliminate inconsistencies between national and EU regulations.



Simplified Cost Options significantly reduce administrative burden and increase the predictability of support from EU funds.

Evaluation of the application of simplified cost options and Financing Not Linked to Costs

The evaluation focused on the functioning of simplified cost options (SCO) and financing not linked to costs (FNLC) in the 2021–2027 programming period and their contribution to reducing administrative burden. The findings confirm that SCOs are actively used in practice and positively evaluated, while FNLC is not yet used in the Czech Republic.

Key findings

SCOs are widely used in the Czech Republic, FNLC not yet.

- In the 2021–2027 period, SCOs are used across all operational programmes except for OP Transport.
- As of February 2025, nearly CZK 60 billion had been drawn through SCOs, i.e. 15.5% of the total eligible expenditure of approved projects.
- Flat rates are used most frequently, followed by unit costs and lump sums.
- FNLC is not yet used in the Czech Republic.

SCOs enable significant time savings and reduce administrative burdens.

- Beneficiaries particularly appreciate time savings, less complex reporting documentation, and the ability to plan projects more effectively.
- The benefits of SCOs vary depending on the type of project; for technical and infrastructure projects, their use is more limited.
- FNLC represents potential for further simplification of the system, especially for non-investment and “soft” interventions (e.g., compensation, nature protection, operational support).

Further development of SCOs and the introduction of FNLC face methodological, institutional, and legislative barriers.

- Control and audit institutions assess SCOs positively but point to the need for greater standardisation, harmonised methodologies, and clearer control procedures.
- The application of SCOs is complicated by fragmented practice across programmes and differing methodological interpretations.
- National and EU legislation is in some respects not fully compatible with the principles of performance-based and simplified financing.

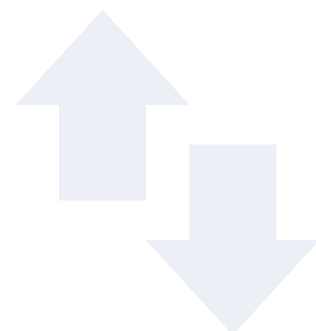
Recommendations

Methodological and process strengthening

- Harmonise methodological frameworks and procedures across operational programmes.
- Strengthen the digitalisation of processes and reduce duplicate data submission.

Systemic and legislative adjustments

- Adjust the legislative environment at both Czech and EU levels to strengthen legal certainty and flexibility in the application of SCOs and FNLC.
- Eliminate inconsistencies between national and European regulations that weaken the simplifying effect of these instruments.



The use of EU funds is key, particularly for investments in infrastructure and services for residents.

Public Expenditures and EU Funds 2015–2020

The aim of the analysis was to assess the extent to which expenditures of the Czech state budget are structurally dependent in the long term on financing from EU funds, and to identify areas where a potential shortfall of European funding would pose the greatest risk. The assessment focused on both capital and current expenditures, broken down by main expenditure groups. The findings show a strong concentration of European funding in a limited number of areas.

Key findings

EU funds significantly strengthen the state's investment capacity, but only in selected areas.

- Their effect is most evident in capital investments, particularly in transport, energy, infrastructure, and services for residents.
- Operating expenditures and the overall functioning of public administration are, by contrast, financed predominantly from national sources.
- In capital expenditures, strong additionality is confirmed – EU funds increase the volume of public investment and are complement to national financing. A model of their systematic replacement appears unlikely here.
- In current expenditures, the use of European resources is more dispersed and less concentrated, with lower strategic weight.

Capital expenditures are highly dependent on EU funding.

- 94% of capital expenditures financed from EU funds are directed to Group 2 (industry, transport, energy, infrastructure) and Group 3 (services for residents).
- Group 2 draws on average 51% of its capital expenditure from EU funds, amounting to over CZK 337 billion.
- Group 3 reaches an even higher average share of 63%, with a total volume of CZK 267 billion.
- The remaining four groups together account for only 6% of capital expenditures financed from EU funds.

European co-financing represents a small share of current expenditure, but in absolute terms these are significant amounts.

- On average, European co-financing accounts for only 2.1% of current expenditure.
- The highest volume of current expenditure financed from the EU is directed to Group 3 (CZK 119 billion).
- A significant share also goes to Group 4 (Social affairs and employment policy, CZK 80 billion), mainly through “soft” instruments.

Group 1 represents an exception in current financing.

- Group 1 (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries) combines both capital and current financing from EU funds.
- In current expenditure, it reaches an exceptionally high share of European co-financing (22%).



The achievement of climate targets in the 2014–2020 period was driven by a few key interventions.

Analysis of Fund Utilization 2014–2020 With a Focus on Climate-Related Interventions

The aim of the evaluation was to analyse the absorption of EU funds in the 2014–2020 period with a focus on climate-tagged interventions, their actual contribution to climate objectives, and risks related to the timing of spending, particularly in relation to the N+1 rule. The assessment focused on the structure of climate expenditures, their concentration in selected areas, and the identification of potential risks for the future programming period.

Key findings

The achievement of climate targets relied on a narrow set of key areas.

- Approximately 80% of actual climate expenditure was concentrated in nine intervention areas.
- Two interventions focused on energy renovation of buildings (013 and 014) alone accounted for roughly one third of all climate expenditure.
- Other backbone areas of climate spending included climate change adaptation, railway projects, and clean urban transport.
- Areas such as renewable energy, smart grids, or Natura 2000 had a relatively low financial impact.

Energy renovation of buildings represented a stable pillar of climate expenditure.

- Interventions 013 and 014 were characterised by high absorption capacity due to a large number of smaller projects.
- At the same time, the high number of projects resulted in an increased administrative burden for the implementation system.
- Interventions 013 and 014 were assessed as moderately risky in terms of the N+1 rule, as around 30–40% of funds were reimbursed only towards the end of the period (2022, 2023).

Financial volume alone does not reflect climate impact.

- The actual contribution of interventions to climate objectives is determined by a combination of financial volume and the applied climate coefficients.

Recommendations

Strategic management of climate expenditure

- In the future programming period, give priority attention to key climate interventions with a dominant share in achieving objectives, regardless of their formal designation.
- Strengthen medium-sized interventions to reduce disproportionate dependence on a small number of areas.

Risk management and timing of spending

- Ensure continuous monitoring of progress and early warning indicators to prevent the accumulation of expenditures at the end of the period.
- Build a robust project pipeline and support a faster start of spending in the first half of the period.

Methodological and administrative simplification

- Strengthen administrative and methodological support for beneficiaries in key climate interventions.
- Consider the use of simplified cost options to reduce administrative burden and support stable absorption.



Segmentation of target groups enables more effective and better targeted communication of EU funds.

Segmentation of the Target Group for NCA Communication Activities – January 2025

The aim of the evaluation was to identify and describe key target group segments for the communication activities of the National Coordination Authority and to propose appropriate communication approaches for each segment. The assessment produced a detailed typology of five public segments based on their attitudes towards the EU and their perception of quality of life. It also confirmed that differences between segments are significant enough to require a differentiated communication approach.

Key findings

The public can be divided into five clearly distinguishable segments in the context of EU funds communication.

- Five segments were identified: Fans (24%), Supporters (9%), Hesitant (45%), Critics (11%), and Unpersuadable (11%).
- The segments differ significantly in their relationship to the EU, their perception of its benefits, and their expectations of public communication.

The Hesitant segment is key for changing attitudes towards EU funds.

- The Hesitant do not hold strongly negative views of the EU, but their relationship with it is weak and unstable.
- For this segment, simple, clear, and educational messages with emotional impact prove most effective.
- Presenting concrete benefits of EU funds for everyday life plays a key role.

The Critics segment requires transparent and fact-based communication.

- Critics tend to perceive the EU negatively and often question the benefits of EU funds.
- Effective communication towards this segment must rely on data, facts, and openly addressing problematic issues.
- Avoiding critical points reduces the credibility of communication.

Other segments have limited communication potential.

- Fans and Supporters already perceive the EU positively and do not require intensive persuasive communication.
- The Unpersuadable segment shows deeply rooted negative attitudes, where a change of opinion is unlikely.

Recommendations

Strategic targeting of communication

- Focus communication activities primarily on the Hesitant and Critics segments, which show the greatest potential for attitude change.

Differentiated communication content

- For the Hesitant, use simple, educational, and emotionally clear messages highlighting concrete benefits of EU funds.
- For Critics, emphasise transparency, facts, figures, and openly addressing critical issues.

Practical use of segmentation

- Use defined personas and knowledge of media habits of each segment when planning communication campaigns and selecting channels.
- Adapt language, format, and depth of messaging to individual segments instead of using a one-size-fits-all approach.



Communication of the DotaceEU brand works well, but its effectiveness depends on proper targeting.

Evaluation of the DotaceEU Brand's Communications - June 2025

The aim of the evaluation was to assess how the communication of the DotaceEU brand is perceived by different target groups and to what extent it meets their needs and expectations. The assessment confirmed that brand communication is generally perceived as trustworthy and professional. However, insufficient differentiation between different layers of communication reduces its effectiveness, especially among potential applicants.

Key findings

Perception of communication varies significantly across target groups.

- The evaluation confirmed the need to clearly distinguish communication for three groups: the general public, applicants and beneficiaries, and the professional public.
- The unified umbrella brand DotaceEU is generally perceived positively, but its content is not always sufficiently targeted.

The professional public perceives communication positively, while potential applicants lack information.

- The professional public evaluates both the DotaceEU brand communication and the role of MMR-NOK very positively; NCA is seen as an expert guarantor and a trustworthy source of information.
- Potential applicants perceive communication as insufficient, particularly in terms of practicality and orientation in funding opportunities.
- The assessment of communication by applicants and beneficiaries is mixed and varies depending on experience and programme.

A unified brand and thematic campaigns increase clarity of communication.

- Unified communication without direct links to individual operational programmes is viewed positively, as it improves clarity and comprehensibility of messages.
- Thematic and local campaigns that present concrete impacts of EU funds in specific areas are welcomed.
- The growth of DotaceEU brand activity on social media is assessed positively.

The support ecosystem for applicants is functional and contributes to motivating new applicants.

- Communication towards applicants and beneficiaries is part of a relatively robust support ecosystem, including a website, training sessions, webinars, and methodological support.
- Training sessions and webinars focused on specific calls are evaluated very positively and also serve as a platform for sharing experiences of successful applicants.
- Sharing practical examples increases the motivation of potential applicants to participate in programmes.

Recommendations

Strategic direction of the brand

- Maintain the name and umbrella role of the DotaceEU brand as the main communication framework for EU funds in the Czech Republic.
- Clearly separate communication content for different target groups across all communication channels.

Format, channels, and user-friendliness

- Adapt language, format, and depth of messaging to the specific needs of each group.
- Improve the user-friendliness of the DotaceEU website, particularly in terms of navigation and content usability.
- Focus on simplicity, visualisation of information, and clear calls to action.



Direct communication at events effectively increases awareness of EU funds and improves their perception.

Evaluation of Direct Brand Communication of “Kde fondy EU pomáhají” – Open House and Festivals

The aim of the evaluation was to verify the relevance and effectiveness of direct communication of the brand Kde fondy EU pomáhají, implemented through Open House and presentations at music festivals. The assessment focused on whether these forms of communication increase awareness of EU funds and improve their perception, especially among the “Hesitant” segment. The results confirmed the high effectiveness of both forms of direct communication and identified key factors behind their success.

Key findings

Direct communication at events achieves the goal of increasing awareness of EU funds.

- Both Open House and presentations at music festivals were rated very positively by visitors (96% for Open House and 93% for festivals gave a rating of 1 or 2).
- Both forms of communication contributed to improving the perception of EU funds, especially among visitors who were actively engaged.

The key message about the benefits of EU funds was well received by visitors.

- The key message about the benefits of EU funds was noticed by 68% of Open House visitors and 88% of festival visitors.
- The suitability of this form of promotion was confirmed by 78% of Open House visitors and 90% of festival visitors.
- Improved perception of EU funds was reported by 45% of Open House visitors and 36% of festival visitors.

The success of these events is due to interactivity, local relevance, and authenticity.

- Interactive elements (quizzes, games, “before and after” formats, virtual reality) worked best in increasing visitor engagement.
- Presenting projects from the local area of the event had a strong positive effect.

Visitors perceive a non-intrusive form of communication very positively.

- Visitors appreciated that the communication did not feel like overt “propaganda.”
- For some festival visitors, the link between the event and EU funds was not always fully clear, yet the presentation was still evaluated positively.

Recommendations

Strengthen clarity, interactivity, and local anchoring of communication

- Systematically use the “before and after” format, complemented by large-format photos and short videos on outdoor-type screens.
- Continue with competitions and quizzes, expand the range of knowledge-based EU games, and introduce additional motivational elements.

Authenticity and local dimension

- Strengthen the involvement of grant beneficiaries and their personal stories.
- Present specific local projects and clearly demonstrate their direct impact on the everyday lives of local residents.

Information service and event organization

- Improve the visualisation of information (photos, banners, videos, QR codes).
- Actively engage with visitors on-site (approaching them, explaining the purpose of the presentation) and encourage sharing of event experiences.



The Územní dimenze website has a strong expert foundation, but its potential is limited by outdated design.

Background Analysis for the Redesign of the Územní dimenze Website

The aim of the evaluation was to provide a basis for modifying the existing Územní dimenze website or for designing a new website intended to communicate topics related to the territorial dimension and integrated instruments. The evaluation focused on assessing the functionality, content, and user-friendliness of the website from the perspective of key target groups. The findings confirmed the website's professional relevance while also highlighting the need for its modernisation.

Key findings

The Územní dimenze website is perceived as an expert information source with a clear purpose.

- The website is used and considered a relevant information tool across all target groups (territorial partners, professional public, staff of the Ministry of Regional Development and other ministries).
- The thematic focus of the website and the scope of information provided are evaluated positively.
- News, the events calendar, and the "Documents" section functioning as an expert library are highly appreciated.

Outdated design reduces clarity and usability of the website.

- The website is perceived as outdated in terms of design, structure, and functionality.
- Users lack clarity of content and clear orientation in the information.
- The potential of modern forms of data presentation (infographics, dashboards, visualisations) is not sufficiently utilised.

The needs of target groups point towards a more modern and user-friendly solution.

- The research confirmed expectations of a more comprehensive redesign rather than only partial adjustments.
- Users expect a clearer structure, better navigation, and more understandable presentation of content.
- The website should better support communication of territorial dimension topics and integrated instruments.

Recommendations

Role of the website and clarity of information

- Strengthen the website's function as a central information hub for territorial dimension topics.
- Clarify the structure of content and ensure systematic management and updating of key information.

Functionality and digital tools

- Introduce modern ways of presenting data (infographics, overviews, dashboards).
- Improve search, content filtering, and user navigation on the website.

Monitoring and feedback

- Establish continuous monitoring of website performance and systematically collect user feedback.

Methodological and process improvements

- Strengthen the digitalisation of processes, make use of public registers, and automate administration.
- Clarify rules through the use of consolidated versions and centralised overviews of legislative changes.

Systemic and legislative changes

- Adjust selected budgetary and procedural rules to reduce administrative burden.
- Eliminate inconsistencies between national and EU regulations.



Overview of evaluations

Feedback on the 2021–2027 SNF for the Preparation of the Methodological Framework for EU Funds 2028+

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Implementation period: January 2025 – December 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews, survey, focus groups, discussion workshop

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/zpetna-vazba-k-jnr-2021-2027-pro-pripravu-metodick>

Evaluation of the Application of Simplified Cost Options and Financing Not Linked to Costs

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development

Supplier: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Implementation period: January 2025 – September 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, in-depth interviews, survey, focus groups, case studies

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/hodnoceni-aplikace-zjednodusenych-metod-vykazovani>

Public Expenditures and EU Funds 2015–2020

Internal analysis by the Ministry of Regional Development

Implementation period: August 2025

Evaluation methods: descriptive and structural analysis with scoring

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/verejne-vydaje-a-fondy-eu-2015-2020>

Analysis of Fund Utilization 2014–2020 With a Focus on Climate-Related Interventions

Internal analysis by the Ministry of Regional Development

Implementation period: September 2025 – October 2025

Evaluation methods: descriptive and comparative analysis

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/analiza-cerpani-fondu-2014-2020-s-durazem-na-klima>

Segmentation of the Target Group for NCA Communication Activities – January 2025

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Supplier: IBRS - International Business and Research Services s.r.o.

Implementation period: September 2024 – January 2025

Evaluation methods: survey (CAWI), focus groups

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/segmentace-cilove-skupiny-pro-komunikacni-aktivitu>

Evaluation of the DotaceEU Brand's Communications – June 2025

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Supplier: IBRS - International Business and Research Services s.r.o.

Implementation period: April 2025 – June 2025

Evaluation methods: in-depth interviews

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/vyhodnoceni-komunikace-brandu-dotace-eu-%e2%80%93-cerven-2>

Evaluation of Direct Brand Communication of “Kde fondy EU pomáhají” – Open House and Festivals

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Supplier: IBRS - International Business and Research Services s.r.o.

Implementation period: October 2024 – December 2025

Evaluation methods: survey (CAPI/PAPI), focus groups

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/vyhodnoceni-prime-komunikace-brandu-kde-fondy-eu-p>

Background Analysis for the Redesign of the Územní dimenze Website

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Supplier: IBRS - International Business and Research Services s.r.o.

Implementation period: August 2025 – November 2025

Evaluation methods: in-depth interviews

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/podkladova-analyza-pro-redesign-webu-uzemni-dimenz>

Integrated Regional Operational Programme

Contents of the chapter:

- Evaluation of Specific Objective 2.3 Healthcare (IROP 2014–2020)
- Overview of evaluations



Support from IROP significantly improved the quality and efficiency of healthcare, but structural inequalities persist.

Evaluation of Specific Objective 2.3 Healthcare (IROP 2014–2020)

The aim of the evaluation was to assess how and to what extent the IROP intervention contributed to the development of healthcare infrastructure in highly specialised care, follow-up care, and psychiatric care. The evaluation focused on the accessibility, quality, and capacity of care, as well as impacts on regional inequalities and social inclusion. The results confirm significant qualitative and operational effects.

Key findings

Modernisation of equipment significantly improved the quality and safety of care.

- Outdated technologies were replaced and new treatment methods introduced.
- The support did not lead to a significant increase in patient bed capacity but improved the efficiency of existing resources.

Operational indicators confirm increased system efficiency.

- The average length of hospitalisation decreased.
- Bed occupancy rates declined.
- There was no significant increase in the number of hospitalisations or capacities.

Interregional disparities decreased, but intraregional inequalities persist.

- Centralisation of services led to greater expertise and reduced disparities between regions.
- Accessibility decreases with distance from centres, with peripheral areas remaining most affected.

The development of community psychiatry brought structural changes, but service accessibility remains uneven.

- Mental health centres, mobile teams, and crisis services were established or strengthened.
- New services were created only in some regions, deepening spatial disparities.
- Support for the development and strengthening of mobile outreach teams proved beneficial in reducing social exclusion.

Sustainability is limited by staffing shortages and unstable financing.

- A lack of qualified personnel limits the full potential of investments.
- Financing of community services between the healthcare and social systems is set up ambiguously.
- The long-term stability of some services depends on continued support.
- Effective sharing of healthcare data and coordination between different types of care are lacking.

Recommendations

Strengthening community psychiatry

- Expand coverage of community services to all regions.
- Maintain a combination of investment and operational support.
- Stabilise financing and support staffing capacity.

Modernisation of technologies, digitalisation, and coordination of care

- Strengthen digital infrastructure for sharing healthcare documentation.
- Improve coordination between highly specialised and follow-up care.
- Continue renewing technologies and modernising equipment.

Overview of evaluations

Evaluation of Specific Objective 2.3 Healthcare (IROP 2014–2020)

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Contractor: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o.

Implementation period: October 2024 – December 2025

Evaluation methods: descriptive statistics and comparative analysis, geographical analysis using GIS tools, multiple regression analysis, surveys, case studies, in-depth interviews, expert panel

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/554659173>

Programme Johannes Amos Comenius

Contents of the chapter:

- Assessment of the Achievement of the P JAC Media Campaign's Objectives in Online and Social Media
- Evaluation of Secondary School, Higher Vocational School, and Boarding School Projects Using Simplified Reporting
- Evaluation of an Individual Systemic Project: Data-Analytical Support for the Evaluation and Management of the Education System of the Czech Republic – 1st Interim Report
- Overview of evaluations



The P JAC online media campaign increased aided awareness of the programme, but spontaneous awareness remains very low.

Assessment of the Achievement of the P JAC Media Campaign's Objectives in Online and Social Media

The aim of the evaluation was to assess whether the P JAC online media campaign, implemented through advertising spots, photo reports, and accompanying communication tools, increased awareness of the programme and its activities. The results show a slight but significant increase in aided awareness of the programme.

Key findings

Spontaneous awareness of P JAC remains very low.

- No significant change in Top-of-Mind awareness was observed between the pre-test and post-test. P JAC was recalled first by approximately 1% of respondents, which is comparable to other coded programmes.
- Overall spontaneous awareness was around 2%, with no significant change between measurements.

Aided awareness of the programme increased.

- Aided awareness of P JAC increased from 16% to 21% (+5 percentage points).
- P JAC was the only programme showing a more significant increase between measurements.

Campaign Reach was limited, with Facebook being the strongest channel.

- At least one advertisement or photo report was noticed by 11% of respondents.
- The campaign was most frequently noticed on Facebook (30%) and on websites outside social media (25%).
- All advertising campaigns had only limited reach. The Brno campaign was noticed the most (10 respondents).

Awareness of specific projects and activities remains limited.

- 26% of respondents familiar with P JAC reported awareness of a specific project or activity in the post-test.
- The "Project Labyrinth" section on the OPJAK.cz website is known by only 5% of respondents.

Evaluations were tied in terms of attractiveness and comprehensibility.

- The Brno campaign received the highest ratings, followed by campaigns from Vodňany and Moravská Třebová.
- The lowest rating was given to the campaign of the Innovation Centre of the Ústí Region (ICUK), although differences were not substantial.



P JAC templates strengthened schools' staffing capacities and contributed to improving the quality of teaching.

Evaluation of Secondary School, Higher Vocational School, and Boarding School Projects Using Simplified Reporting

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the implementation of projects of secondary schools (SŠ), higher vocational schools (VOŠ), and student dormitories (DM) supported under P JAC through templates with simplified reporting. The evaluation focused on the level of school participation, the structure of implemented activities, administrative burden, and project benefits. The results confirm a high level of use of the instrument and its positive impact on school development.

Key findings

Participation of schools developed differently across types of institutions.

- Compared to OP RDE, participation increased among secondary schools (+3 percentage points) and dormitories/boarding facilities (+4 percentage points), while participation among higher vocational schools decreased by almost 2 percentage points.
- The highest participation of secondary schools was in the Liberec Region (93.8%), and the lowest in Prague (68.2%).
- Higher vocational schools participated most in the Moravian-Silesian Region (92%) and least in the Zlín and Plzeň Regions and Prague (around 50%).

The largest share of support was directed towards training of education staff and innovative education.

- The most common activity was training of education staff (SŠ: 92.2%, VOŠ: 93.1%).
- Another frequent activity was innovative education for students (around 79%), which accounted for the highest volume of financial support.
- Within innovative education, project-based learning predominated (more than 1,600 projects), while the fictional company format was used the least.
- Foreign languages were the most common topic of innovative education, while gender-related topics were the least represented.
- More than half of schools are unfamiliar with the RIS3 strategy, while approximately one fifth used it in their projects.

Templates significantly strengthened staffing and support capacities of schools.

- Projects enabled schools to involve school psychologists, assistants, and other specialists.
- The most frequently filled position was career counsellor (610 projects), while bilingual assistant was the least common.
- Schools expanded support for at-risk students, mental health topics, and cooperation with external experts.

Administration was evaluated positively, although some issues persist.

- 89% of projects confirmed that submitting the application was simple, and 79% evaluated administration as straightforward.
- Half of the implementers managed the entire process without external support.
- The new design of the templates was evaluated positively by 75% of respondents.
- Reported issues included technical malfunctions of the IS ESF, difficulties in recruiting specialists (especially psychologists), and restrictions on parallel implementation of templates.

Schools evaluate the project very positively.

- Almost all schools considered the project beneficial.
- The support contributed to improving teaching quality, professional development of teachers, and better conditions for students with special needs.



The IPs DATA project is gradually strengthening data-driven management of education policy.

Evaluation of an Individual Systemic Project: Data-Analytical Support for the Evaluation and Management of the Education System of the Czech Republic – 1st Interim Report

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the progress of the implementation of the IPs DATA project and its contribution to the management of the education system. The assessment focused on building the database, developing analytical capacities, and the use of outputs in decision-making.

Key findings

Project implementation is stable, with staffing remaining the main risk.

- The project is being implemented in line with the approved schedule and without major deviations. Changes so far have been predominantly administrative in nature.
- The most significant risk, given salary limitations, is securing key expert capacities (analysts, programmers).
- Expert panels function as an effective tool for knowledge sharing, and more than half of participants use their outputs in practice.
- Most primary users (65%) perceive the project outputs as relevant and beneficial.

The database has strong potential, but it does not yet fully meet user needs.

- As the final form of the database is still under development, it currently only partially meets quality criteria.
- At present, the database does not fully satisfy the needs of stakeholders for decision-making.
- The main weaknesses lie in data quality, completeness, and user comfort.
- The project can contribute to improvements, but some barriers require broader systemic changes beyond its scope.

The project is gradually strengthening the use of data in education policy.

- The project contributes to a shift towards data-based decision-making in management.
- Availability of data and methodological support for users are improving.
- The analytical unit is gradually being integrated into the ministry as an important element supporting systemic management.
- Two secondary analyses of international surveys (PIRLS 2021, PISA 2022) were completed within the project.

Recommendations

Stabilisation of the project's expert capacities

- Introduce a systematic staff stabilisation plan, including recruitment of junior staff, their training, and the use of flexible forms of cooperation (work agreements).
- Support further education and motivational tools (e.g. participation in international projects or internships).
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the staffing situation at both project and Ministry of Education level.

Strengthening communication and use of project outputs

- Prepare a targeted communication plan (newsletters, webinars, cooperation with LAP/LAG and professional associations).
- Introduce a regular schedule for publishing outputs and continuously test their usability.
- Simplify access to data, optimise the website structure, and strengthen links with partner projects.

Increasing clarity and accessibility of the database

- Clearly structure and communicate the form of the database (Analysis Library, Data Database, data model), including the timetable for making it accessible.
- Ensure user-friendliness and accessibility of the database tools.

Overview of evaluations

Assessment of the Achievement of the P JAC Media Campaign's Objectives in Online and Social Media

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: ResOLUTION Group s.r.o.

Implementation period: April 2025 – August 2025

Evaluation methods: survey (CAWI)

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/zhodnoceni-naplneni-cilu-sluzby-medialni-kampan-op>

Evaluation of Secondary School, Higher Vocational School, and Boarding School Projects Using Simplified Reporting

Prepared by: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Implementation period: March 2025 – October 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, survey, in-depth interviews

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/vyhodnoceni-projektu-ss-vos-a-dm-se-zjednodusenym>

Evaluation of an Individual Systemic Project: Data-Analytical Support for the Evaluation and Management of the Education System of the Czech Republic – 1st Interim Report

Contracting authority: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Contractor: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.

Implementation period: March 2025 – September 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, risk analysis, in-depth interviews, survey, focus groups, observation, synthesis of findings, participatory workshop

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/1-prubez-na-zprava>

Operational Programme Fisheries

Contents of the chapter:

- Internal Evaluation of the 1st-14th Calls OP Fisheries 2021-2027: Evaluation of the Implementation Set-Up
- Evaluation of the Performance Framework for the Operational Programme Fisheries 2021-2027
- Overview of evaluations



The implementation of the Operational Programme Fisheries 2021–2027 is progressing towards achieving its defined objectives.

Internal Evaluation of the 1st-14th Calls OP Fisheries 2021-2027: Evaluation of the Implementation Set-Up

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of the implementation of calls No. 1-14 within the Operational Programme Fisheries 2021–2027 and to compare financial and substantive progress with the 2014–2020 period. The assessment focused on the fulfilment of indicators, absorption capacity, administrative processes, and risks related to the N+3 rule.

Key findings

The programme places greater emphasis on ecology and sustainability.

- Compared to competitiveness and modernisation, greater emphasis is placed on ecology, ecosystem protection, and climate impacts.
- Innovative and sustainable technologies are supported (e.g. recirculation systems, electric vehicles, building insulation, restocking of European eel).

The overall allocation increased, but conditions for absorption are stricter.

- Although the co-financing rate of EMFAF decreased from 75% to 70%, the overall budget increased from EUR 41.2 million to EUR 42.9 million thanks to national co-financing.
- The stricter N+3 rule requires faster absorption and more efficient administration.

Initial delays in implementation do not prevent achievement of the defined milestones.

- The start of implementation was delayed due to the approval process of programme documents.
- By the end of 2024, 23 calls had been launched and decisions issued amounting to CZK 353.5 million.
- Contracted projects provide sufficient preconditions for meeting the N+3 rule, provided that payment applications are submitted on time.

Absorption capacity corresponds to sector needs, although some activities still have room for greater interest.

- There is strong interest in Technical Assistance, investment activities, and restocking of European eel.
- Activities related to Innovation and Promotional Campaigns show nearly fully allocated budgets.
- Low or zero interest was recorded for activities related to Product Traceability and Producer Organisations.

Administrative processes have accelerated, but investment projects remain time-consuming.

- The average period for issuing the Grant Award Decision decreased from 157 to 106 days.
- The longest processing times concern investment projects requiring procurement documentation.



The Operational Programme Fisheries 2021-2027 is progressing towards achieving its objectives but requires reallocations and adjustments to capacity indicators.

Evaluation of the Performance Framework for the Operational Programme Fisheries 2021-2027

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the progress of programme implementation, the fulfilment of milestones and target values of indicators, evaluate financial performance, and identify risks threatening the achievement of objectives. The evaluation is based on the situation as of August 2025. The conclusions confirm overall good programme progress, while capacity indicators show weaker results.

Key findings

Environmental and technological objectives are being fulfilled beyond expectations.

- Most environmental and technological indicators (e.g. CR10, CR16) are already being met or exceed their target values.
- The programme significantly contributes to EU objectives in climate, biodiversity, and efficient resource use.
- For indicator CR17, reporting is underestimated and methodological clarification is needed.

Capacity indicators show slower progress and require revision of target values.

- Indicators related to new production capacities, number of operations, or establishment of enterprises show slower progress.
- Achieving their target values by 2029 is at risk.

Contracting levels are high, but the pace of spending remains slower so far.

- Contracting reaches 80-87% of the allocation.
- Actual spending (reimbursements) is in the range of 15-20%.
- There is a time lag between project approval and implementation, although the overall allocation should still be utilised.

Absorption capacity is uneven across supported activities.

- Higher than expected interest exists in innovation and environmental measures.
- Insufficient interest has been recorded among producer organisations.
- Development of processing capacities requires parallel marketing support for freshwater fish.

Recommendations

Strategic and methodological adjustments

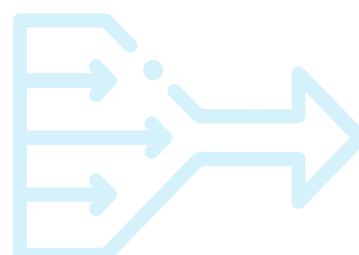
- Revise the target values of selected capacity indicators (especially CR01).

Financial management and pace of spending

- Accelerate the submission of payment applications by beneficiaries.
- Reallocate financial resources between activities according to current absorption capacity.

Strengthening weaker support areas

- Support the absorption capacity of producer organisations (e.g. through workshops).
- In the event of continued lack of interest, consider removing the given activity from the programme.



Overview of evaluations

Internal Evaluation of the 1st-14th Calls OP Fisheries 2021-2027: Evaluation of the Implementation Set-Up

Prepared by: Ministry of Agriculture
Implementation period: December 2024 – February 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, data analysis
Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/interni-evaluace-1-14-vyzvy-op-rybarstvi-2021%e2%80%932027>

Evaluation of the Performance Framework for the Operational Program Fisheries 2021-2027

Prepared by: Ministry of Agriculture
Implementation period: September 2025 – October 2025

Evaluation methods: desk research, analysis of data reports
Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/prubezne-hodnceni>

Operational Programme Technical Assistance

Contents of the chapter:

- Recurrent Evaluation of the Achievement of OPTA Goals for 2024
- Overview of Evaluations



The implementation of OPTA 2021–2027 is progressing steadily, but the programme faces partial capacity and systemic challenges.

Recurrent Evaluation of the Achievement of OPTA Goals for 2024

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the fulfilment of the objectives of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OPTA) and identify factors affecting its implementation. The evaluation provides feedback to the OPTA Managing Authority and the European Commission and monitors programme developments in training, administrative capacity, methodology, and information systems.

Key findings

The training system for staff of the implementation structure is functional and stable.

- The training offer covers relevant topics and has sufficient capacity.
- Approximately one third of staff do not participate in training, mainly due to time constraints or a mismatch between the offer and their needs.
- The development of new training topics is limited by a lack of suitable trainers.

Methodological support and communication with the Managing Authority are evaluated very positively.

- 32% of respondents are definitely satisfied with the setup of cooperation, and 65% are rather satisfied.
- Beneficiaries appreciate the partnership approach, openness of communication, and speed of responses from the Managing Authority.
- Problems include fragmentation of methodological documents and unclear updates of some rules.
- Administrative requirements of OPTA are less burdensome than in other programmes.

Administrative implementation capacity is sufficient, but certain limitations persist.

- Administrative capacity on the side of beneficiaries and the Managing Authority corresponds to implementation demands.
- The introduction of flat rates significantly reduced administrative burden, although some beneficiaries consider their level insufficient.
- Administrative complexity is increased mainly by the short project cycle.

Users of information systems are generally satisfied, although technical issues remain.

- Most internal users are rather satisfied with the MS2021+ monitoring system (83%).
- Users point to the more complicated handling of public procurement modules and technical limitations of the system.
- Awareness of available technical support is still relatively low.

Institutional trust among programme partners is very high.

- Regional partners evaluate cooperation with the Managing Authority as partnership-based and transparent.
- Stable teams and long-term cooperation strengthen trust among stakeholders.
- Local Action Groups (LAGs) point to uncertainty regarding financing and staffing stability after 2027.

Recommendations

Development of the training system

- Respond to new thematic needs and support hybrid and online forms of training.
- Focus on the conditions of public procurement through which the training system is implemented.

Clarification of the methodological environment

- Improve the clarity of updates to methodological documents.
- Facilitate orientation especially for less experienced beneficiaries.
- Consider adjusting the parameters of flat-rate costs and the length of the project cycle.

Development of user support systems

- Increase awareness of technical support and e-learning tools.
- Continue improving the user-friendliness of the system.

Overview of evaluations

Recurrent Evaluation of the Achievement of OPTA Goals for 2024

Contracting authority: Ministry of Regional Development
 Contractor: Naviga Advisory and Evaluation s.r.o. (Grant Thornton Czech Republic s.r.o.)
 Implementation period: January 2025 – November 2025
 Evaluation methods: survey, workshop
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/prubezna-evaluace-naplnovani-ci-lu-optp-za-rok-2024>

Operational Programme Employment+

Contents of the chapter:

- Evaluation of the Pilot of an Active Employment Policy Instrument – Integrated Job Position
- Evaluation of the Call for Proposals “Support for Community-Led Local Development (1)” Under OP Employment+
- Case Studies of Projects in OP Employment+ Calls for The Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine
- Case Studies of OP Employment+ Projects on Roma Inclusion (Calls No. 042 And 044)
- Evaluation Of Schools’ Experiences with the Programme for Providing Free School Meals (Call No. 026)
- Evaluation Of Call 096: ALMA – International Mobility of Disadvantaged Youth (1) – Interim Report
- Support For the Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine – Final Results of The Questionnaire Survey of Beneficiaries in Call No. 54
- Mapping of Needs in the Region and Coverage by Programs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, And the City Of Prague
- Overview of Evaluations



The combination of employment and intensive psychosocial support increases the chances of socially disadvantaged people succeeding in the labour market.

Evaluation of the Pilot of an Active Employment Policy Instrument - Integrated Job Position

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness of a newly designed active employment policy instrument intended for socially disadvantaged persons, both in terms of impacts on the target group and its process setup. The results confirm the benefits of the instrument, while also pointing to limitations in the motivation of some participants and the importance of local cooperation.

Key findings

The instrument strengthens work competencies and stabilisation of living situations.

- Most employees strengthened their basic work competencies, acquired new skills, and improved their independence and sense of responsibility.
- Improvements were recorded in most monitored areas of living situation, with the exception of ethnic discrimination.
- However, some employees remained resistant to changing their situation and did not make use of psychosocial support.

The combination of employment and individual support represents an innovative and functional model.

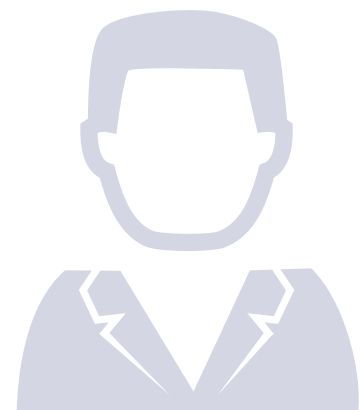
- The integrated job position was largely perceived as a necessary instrument with high integration potential, although its implementation is organisationally demanding for employers.
- Psychosocial support provided according to the individual needs of employees was identified as the key innovative element of the instrument.
- The model of an internal key worker directly employed by the employer proved to be more effective.

Participants entered the programme with significant structural barriers.

- The most common barriers were low education levels (83%), lack of work experience (69%), debt enforcement proceedings (62%), and limited job opportunities within accessible distance (59%).
- Other barriers included material poverty, insecure housing, and problematic family relationships.

The success of the instrument depends on coordinated local cooperation.

- Cooperation between labour offices, employers, social service providers, and local authorities plays a key role.



Projects of Local Action Groups (LAGs) provide comprehensive support to territories and strengthen cross-sector cooperation.

Evaluation of the Call for Proposals “Support for Community-Led Local Development (1)” Under OP Employment+

The aim of the evaluation was to analyse the benefits of supported interventions and integrated projects of Local Action Groups (LAGs) through ten case studies. The results confirm the strong territorial added value of LAG projects, their innovative potential, and the importance of a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach.

Key findings

LAG projects have significant added value for the territory.

- LAG projects benefit the territory thanks to their umbrella nature and ability to connect different stakeholders.
- LAGs identify needs directly in the field and include smaller municipalities and peripheral areas in planning.
- Projects complement missing services and activities, thereby increasing their accessibility for target groups.
- Implementation through LAGs enables the involvement of a broader range of partners who would not individually have the capacity to implement projects.

LAGs strengthen cooperation and build long-term relationships within the territory.

- LAGs act as coordinators between schools, municipalities, non-profit organisations, entrepreneurs, and service providers.
- New partnerships emerge, communication improves, and knowledge sharing increases.
- Long-term cooperation supports trust-building and sustainability of activities even after project completion.

Projects provide comprehensive support to target groups.

- Improvements in life situations, stabilisation of target groups, and strengthening of their competencies and independence are achieved.
- Projects support awareness of services, financial literacy, debt resolution, and social integration.
- Opportunities are created for labour market participation, development of community ties, and meaningful use of free time.
- Multidisciplinary teams and case management enable solutions to complex life situations.

Recommendations

Improving administrative efficiency

- Share good practice in a sensitive approach to completing monitoring sheets for supported persons – for example, not requiring data during the first meeting when it is not yet clear whether the beneficiary will receive more extensive support.

Strengthening coordination in social agendas

- Continue developing effective communication between LAGs, municipalities with extended powers, and regions in defining roles and cooperation of social workers in the field.

Systematic use of community methodologies

- In follow-up projects, work with community work methodologies already during project design.

Development of systemic tools in the social field

- Continue supporting case management and multidisciplinary teams as tools for addressing service unavailability and coordinating support within territories.



Support for the integration of people from Ukraine through OP Employment+ brings concrete and long-term benefits in local communities.

Case Studies of Projects in OP Employment+ Calls for The Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine

The aim of the evaluation was to prepare case studies of projects supported under OP Employment+ calls, capturing different approaches to the integration of people from Ukraine, methods of working with the target group, and the benefits of interventions. The studies are intended to serve as inspiration for future applicants and as a basis for promoting the results of support. The evaluation shows that the projects significantly contributed to the integration of refugees, while also identifying systemic barriers and challenges for their sustainability.

Key findings

Projects significantly contributed to the integration and stabilisation of people from Ukraine.

- Quality of life improved, social isolation decreased, and the ability to live independently was strengthened.
- Projects improved sociocultural orientation in the Czech environment and access to the labour market.
- Interpretation and orientation support eased the burden on public services (healthcare, public authorities).

A community-based and relationship-oriented approach proved to be a key success factor.

- Building trust, creating safe community spaces, and involving intercultural workers significantly increase the effectiveness of support.
- Activities enabling client participation in the design and implementation of activities were particularly successful (especially among teenagers).

Psychosocial support and networking among stakeholders play a crucial role.

- Psychological and therapeutic services proved essential in all projects.
- Coordination among local stakeholders and linking employment support, housing, and prevention of exclusion are important.

Integration continues to be limited by systemic and other barriers.

- Language barriers, housing shortages, and complications in dealing with authorities and the healthcare system persist.
- Cases of labour exploitation and illegal employment occur.
- Implementers point to uncertainty regarding the sustainability of services after project completion.

Recommendations

Strategic setup of support

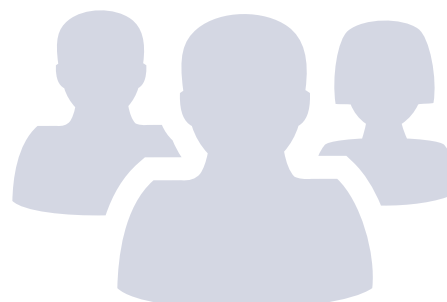
- Support multiannual projects or ensure continuity of OPZ+ calls.
- Systematically identify and reflect changing needs of the target group within projects.

Strengthening key areas of integration

- Continue supporting language education, interpretation, and psychosocial services.
- Support legal counselling and prevention of labour exploitation.

Systemic and institutional anchoring

- Systematically anchor intercultural work, unify its competencies, and support its professionalisation.
- Develop local integration strategies and networking among stakeholders.



OP Employment+ projects contribute to improving the living conditions of Roma people and strengthening Roma organisations.

Case Studies of OP Employment+ Projects on Roma Inclusion (Calls No. 042 And 044)

The aim was to analyse the functioning of projects supported under calls No. 044 (Support for the Integration of the Roma Minority) and No. 042 (Capacity Building and Professionalisation of Roma and Pro-Roma NGOs) through case studies. The evaluation focused on the benefits of projects for target groups as well as organisational development. The findings confirm concrete impacts on the lives of clients and strengthening of the capacities of involved organisations, while also pointing to persistent structural barriers.

Key findings

Projects under Call No. 044 brought concrete improvements to the situation of target groups.

- There was an increase in the safety of victims of domestic violence, improved access of Roma children to education, and strengthened ability of communities to defend their rights.
- Organisations emphasised support for clients' independence and development of their competencies, rather than only service provision.
- Knowledge of the local environment and trust between workers and the community played a key role.

The Roma context significantly influences the form and implementation of projects.

- Projects had to address distrust towards institutions and experiences of discrimination in education, the labour market, and contact with authorities.
- A community-based approach, peer support, and the use of personal experience as a source of competence were applied ("Roma people should help Roma people").
- Projects also reflected the internal diversity of the Roma minority and the specific needs of different groups.

Projects face systemic barriers and insufficient institutional support.

- Organisations often substitute for the role of the state while themselves facing uncertain financing, administrative burden, and staff overload.
- Structural inequalities and limited willingness of some institutions to cooperate persist.

Call No. 042 contributed to the professionalisation of Roma and pro-Roma organisations.

- The support enabled a transition from volunteer-based functioning to more systematic planning and management.
- Organisations invested in the development of human resources, strategic management, and fundraising.
- Nevertheless, small teams remain understaffed and their capacities for long-term development are limited.



Free school meals under OP Employment+ bring significant benefits for children and families but also face differing regional conditions and administrative limitations.

Evaluation Of Schools' Experiences with the Programme for Providing Free School Meals (Call No. 026)

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the experiences of schools involved in Call No. 026 focused on providing free meals for children in social need, while also identifying the reasons why schools that had previously received support from the Operational Programme Food and Material Assistance did not participate. The assessment focused on the benefits of the programme, methods for identifying children in need, eligibility settings, and possible implementation barriers.

Key findings

The programme has significant benefits for children's health.

- Schools see the greatest benefit in supporting the healthy development of children.
- Improved attendance was reported by 62% of schools overall, while among kindergartens it was reported by 80%.
- The support enables children to stay at school for afternoon activities and reduces the risk of their social exclusion.

Methods for identifying children in need depend on schools and are not methodologically unified.

- More than half of schools (60%) identify children in need through teachers.
- Mass outreach methods are often used (parent meetings, leaflets, websites).
- Barriers include parents' shame, strict eligibility criteria, and difficult cooperation with labour offices.

Eligibility settings for support differ across regions.

- In all regions, support is predominantly provided based on material hardship benefits.
- In some regions (e.g. Central Bohemian, Pardubice, Karlovy Vary), individual assessment of a child's situation by a third party is more common.
- Schools point out that some families in need do not meet the conditions for material hardship benefits, even though they would require support.

Feedback from schools indicates only a limited number of problems.

- Most respondents perceive no shortcomings or barriers in the programme or did not mention them in the questionnaire.
- Schools mainly perceive shortcomings in the programme conditions and the administrative burden for educational institutions.
- Schools generally report sufficient financial resources from OP Employment+, although differences exist between regions in the allocation of the administrative component.

Some schools outside OP Employment+ continue providing free meals from other sources.

- 46% of schools that did not continue in follow-up projects still provide free meals.
- The most common reason for not joining OP Employment+ was concern about double financing (41%), followed by administrative burden and restrictive criteria.
- Schools that do not provide free meals even from other sources most often state that they do not have pupils meeting the programme criteria (47%); other reasons include low parental interest (24%) and administrative burden (21%).



International placements under ALMA bring significant personal and professional benefits, but the design of the call faces administrative and procedural limitations.

Evaluation Of Call 096: ALMA - International Mobility of Disadvantaged Youth (1) - Interim Report

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the benefits and impacts of the ALMA intervention on the target group and to evaluate the suitability of the call design. Call 096 focused on increasing the employability of disadvantaged young people, particularly through international placements and support measures. The assessment is based on questionnaire surveys among participants at the beginning and end of the project and on IS ESF data.

Key findings

The call primarily targets disadvantaged youth aged 20-24.

- The largest group of participants were people aged 20-24 (50%), followed by those aged 15-19 (26%) and 25-29 (24%).
- Project participants included 50% men, 49% women, and two people identified in another category.

International placements are evaluated very positively across most monitored aspects.

- Satisfaction with monitored areas ranged between 88% and 96%.
- The highest ratings were given to acquired knowledge (96%), workplace environment (95%), and mentor support (94%).
- Financial support (88%) and accommodation abroad (89%) received relatively low, though still high, ratings.

Participation in the project brings significant personal and professional benefits.

- The key benefit is the development of independence, self-confidence, and the ability to function in a new environment.
- Improvements were recorded in language and communication skills as well as work habits.
- Building social contacts and gaining practical experience also play an important role.

The project contributes to increasing participants' employability.

- More than half of participants (56%) were employed upon leaving the project.
- Others showed progress in competencies and readiness to enter the labour market.

The design of the call and administrative conditions represent significant implementation limitations.

- Half of respondents perceive some conditions of the call or OP Employment+ rules as restrictive.
- Financing through unit costs is viewed rather critically.
- Problems include administrative burden, unclear rules, and limited flexibility when working with the target group.



Support under OP Employment+ Call No. 54 effectively contributes to the social inclusion of people from Ukraine, although limitations persist in the areas of employment and language skills.

Support For the Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine – Final Results of The Questionnaire Survey of Beneficiaries in Call No. 54

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the relevance and appropriateness of support provided to people from Ukraine under OP Employment+ Call No. 54. The assessment is based on a questionnaire survey among supported persons and focuses on their characteristics, the types of support provided, and the identification of potentially missing activities.

Key findings

Supported persons show signs of increased vulnerability.

- Women make up the majority of supported persons (70%).
- Children and young people under 26 years of age are significantly represented (42%).
- Among supported persons, higher education (32%) and complete secondary general or vocational education (33%) predominate.
- Almost one third (31%) of supported persons are unemployed, while 28% are employed.

Support is implemented mainly in large cities.

- The highest numbers of supported persons live in Prague and the South Moravian Region.
- Almost half (47%) reside in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

The most common forms of support are social counselling and adaptation assistance.

- Social counselling (52%) and adaptation support (41%) form the core of assistance.
- Interpretation services (35%) and leisure activities (27%) also play a significant role.

Support is often long-term and responds to complex client needs.

- Repeated or long-term support is expected for 72% of supported persons.
- Continued support is most often expected in the areas of social counselling, adaptation, and interpretation.

The scope of support is generally sufficient, with some gaps in the offer of activities.

- Most beneficiaries considered the range of activities/services supported under the call sufficient.
- Only 2% of respondents identified missing activities.
- The most frequently missing activities are language courses (especially Czech language courses) and instruments supporting employment (e.g. retraining or subsidised employment).



Support for free school meals only partially covers the needs of children in hardship and is not optimally targeted territorially.

Mapping of Needs in the Region and Coverage by Programmes of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, And the City Of Prague

The aim of the analysis was to map the scope and territorial distribution of support for free school meals and assess the extent to which it corresponds to the needs of children in hardship. The assessment is based on administrative data on recipients of social support and on the provision of support through programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MPSV), the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT), and the City of Prague.

Key findings

Support does not reach the majority of children in hardship and shows significant territorial disparities.

- Approximately 330,000 children in hardship were identified, but only 35,000 of them received support.
- Roughly every ninth child in hardship received support.
- The highest concentration of unsupported children is in the Moravian-Silesian, Ústecký, and Karlovy Vary Regions.
- In four municipalities with extended powers, not a single child received support from the monitored programmes.

The most vulnerable children often remain without support.

- Approximately 30,000 children fall into the category of double disadvantage.
- At least half of these children did not receive support.

The main barriers to support are not financial in nature.

- Previously identified non-financial barriers persist, particularly insufficient involvement of schools and a low number of supported children within participating schools.

Support is implemented through several programmes with differing shares.

- The largest share of support is provided by the MŠMT programme for primary schools (51%).
- An important role is also played by MPSV (33%) and the City of Prague programme (12%).



Overview of evaluations

Evaluation of the Pilot of an Active Employment Policy Instrument - Integrated Job Position

Prepared by: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Implementation period: January 2024 - December 2025
 Evaluation methods: participant observation, semi-structured interviews, survey, focus groups, analysis of data from local coordinators' records, analysis of project documentation
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/evaluace-pilotniho-overeni-integracniho-pracovniho>

Evaluation Of Call 096: ALMA - International Mobility of Disadvantaged Youth (1) - Interim Report

Prepared by: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Implementation period: April 2023 - December 2025
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/vyhodnoceni-vyzvy-096-alma-mezinarodni-mobilita-zn>

Evaluation of the Call for Proposals "Support for Community-Led Local Development (1)" Under OP Employment+

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Contractor: Ernst & Young, s.r.o.
 Implementation period: January 2025 - August 2025
 Evaluation methods: desk research (review of available sources), in-depth interviews, case studies
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/pripadove-studie-projektu-pro-evaluaci-vyzvy-podpo>

Case Studies of Projects in OP Employment+ Calls for The Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Contractor: SocioFactor s.r.o.
 Implementation period: August 2024 - September 2025
 Evaluation methods: case studies, cross-case analysis
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/pripadove-studie-projektu-ve-vyzvach-opz-na-social>

Support For the Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine - Final Results of The Questionnaire Survey of Beneficiaries in Call No. 54

Prepared by: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Implementation period: May 2024 - December 2025
 Evaluation methods: case studies
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/evaluace-relevance-podpory-osob-z-ukrajiny-ve-vyzv>

Case Studies of OP Employment+ Projects on Roma Inclusion (Calls No. 042 And 044)

Contracting authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Contractor: Gov Lab s.r.o.
 Implementation period: June 2024 - May 2025
 Evaluation methods: desk research, case studies, semi-structured interviews
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/pripadove-studie-projektu-opz-na-zaclenovani-romu>

Evaluation Of Schools' Experiences with the Programme for Providing Free School Meals (Call No. 026)

Prepared by: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Implementation period: March 2025 - August 2025
 Evaluation methods: survey
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/vyhodnoceni-zkusenosti-skol-s-programem-na-poskyto>

Mapping of Needs in the Region and Coverage by Programmes of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, And the City Of Prague

Prepared by: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 Implementation period: November 2024 - April 2025
 Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://www.dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropske-fondy-v-cr/narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci/evaluace/evaluace-21-27/mapovani-potrebnosti-v-uzemi-a-pokryti-programy-mp>

European Commission Evaluations

Contents of the chapter:

- Ex Post Evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund for the Programming Period 2014–2020
- Mid-Term Evaluation of the Cohesion Policy Programmes 2021–2027 Financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund (JTF)
- Study On the Use Of ERDF/CF Common Indicators by Member States in the 2021–2027 Period and Possibility of Using Common Indicators in a System Of “Payments Not Based on Costs”
- 2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Cohesion and Reforms
- European Social Fund Plus Mid-Term Evaluation (2021–2024)
- Overview Of Evaluations



The funds contributed to reducing regional disparities, but the persistent administrative burden limited the overall impact.

Ex Post Evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund for the Programming Period 2014–2020

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU-added value, and relevance of ERDF and CF interventions in the 2014–2020 programming period. The evaluation is based on econometric models, counterfactual analyses, supporting studies, and consultations with stakeholders.

Key findings

Macroeconomic impacts and reduction of disparities were proved.

- Cohesion policy had a positive impact on GDP and employment, especially in less developed regions.
- The estimated contribution to reducing the gap between the richest and poorest regions exceeds 3.5% of GDP per capita.

Effectiveness differed across investment areas.

- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises and for research, development, and innovation delivered demonstrable results.
- Large infrastructure projects experienced delays or were not completed.
- By the end of 2024, 99% of the planned EUR 289 billion had been paid out, with most objectives expected to be achieved.

Administrative burden and gold-plating reduced efficiency.

- National-level gold-plating accounts for approximately one third of unnecessary burden and distorts perceptions of the real costs of cohesion policy.
- Simplified reporting options and financing not linked to costs demonstrated the greatest savings potential, but their uptake remains insufficient.

Coherence with other EU instruments remained largely formal.

- Coordination mechanisms were established, but synergies with Horizon 2020, the ESF, and other EU funds were largely unused.
- The potential of smart specialisation strategies (S3) was not fully utilised, particularly in support for SMEs and research.

The crisis response was effective but involved trade-offs.

- The CRII/CRII+ and REACT-EU mechanisms effectively mitigated the impacts of the pandemic.
- Approximately 4% of SMEs benefited from extraordinary measures.
- The possibility of 100% EU co-financing reduced the overall volume of mobilised investments and attracted beneficiaries without experience in managing ESI funds.



ERDF, CF, and JTF programmes contribute to addressing key development challenges, but their implementation continues to be burdened by administrative complexity and limited capacity.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Cohesion Policy Programmes 2021–2027 Financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund (JTF)

The evaluation assesses the progress achieved so far in implementing cohesion policy funds in the 2021–2027 period, focusing on relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and EU-added value. It is based on analysis of programme documents, data, surveys, and interviews with stakeholders across Member States.

Key findings

The funds significantly contribute to addressing regional inequalities and public needs.

- Most respondents confirm that programmes address regional disparities, particularly in public services (education, healthcare, transport, digitalisation).
- Programmes are generally aligned with territorial needs and respond to socio-economic challenges identified in programme documents.

EU-added value is perceived as high, especially due to financial resources and the strategic framework.

- Approximately 79% of respondents assess the added value of the funds as high or very high.
- Key benefits include additional financing, support for addressing new challenges, and multiannual strategic planning.
- The funds enable interventions that would not be possible through national resources alone.

Programmes contribute to green and digital transition.

- Most respondents perceive high added value of the funds for the green transition (66%) and digital transition (60%).
- Allocation of resources reflects EU strategic priorities related to the twin transition.

Implementation is burdened by administrative complexity and limited capacity.

- The main obstacle is insufficient administrative capacity, especially at regional and local levels.
- The complexity of rules and audit requirements reduces implementation efficiency and limits the benefits of simplification tools.
- Parallel implementation of multiple instruments (e.g. RRF) creates pressure on institutional capacities.

Improvements compared to the previous period are evident, but structural problems persist.

- Processes have been simplified and coordination strengthened compared to the 2014–2020 period.
- Nevertheless, challenges remain in administrative capacity, complexity of rules, and timely launch of implementation.



Common ERDF/CF indicators have potential for use in performance-based financing, but their application within the FNLC system requires methodological adjustments and further refinement.

Study On the Use Of ERDF/CF Common Indicators by Member States in the 2021–2027 Period and Possibility of Using Common Indicators in a System Of “Payments Not Based on Costs”

The study assesses the extent to which common ERDF/CF indicators in the 2021–2027 period can serve as a basis for a financing not linked to costs (FNLC). The assessment is based on quantitative and qualitative analysis of indicator use across Member States and on consultations with managing authorities and European Commission expert networks.

Key findings

Common indicators are widely used, but their application is heterogeneous.

- Indicators under Policy Objective 1 (Smarter Europe), especially in research, innovation, and SME support, are used most frequently.
- Output indicators prevail over result indicators, and their link to financial allocations is generally stronger.
- Consistency between indicator target values and allocations is higher within individual specific objectives or Member States.

Indicators are methodologically anchored but differ in their level of homogeneity.

- Indicator definitions are aligned with the methodological guidance of the European Commission.
- Indicators under PO1 show lower homogeneity, while those under PO2–PO4 are more uniformly defined.
- Output targets are often set based on experience or ad hoc analyses, whereas result indicators rely more on statistical sources.

Compared to the RRF, ERDF/CF indicators are more easily aggregable, but less focused on the process dimension.

- The ERDF/CF system is based primarily on output and result indicators, while the RRF relies more heavily on process indicators.
- A higher degree of standardisation enables aggregation of data across Member States.
- Most indicators are capable of addressing identified shortcomings in the RRF performance framework.

Most indicators are suitable for FNLC, but their practical application has limitations.

- Output indicators in particular have high potential for use in FNLC, while result indicators are less suitable.
- Several dozen indicators across policy objectives were identified as suitable for use in the FNLC.
- Limitations mainly stem from differences in application between countries, difficulties in measuring results, and complications in using indicators across different financing levels.



Simplification of cohesion policy rules brings measurable reductions in administrative burden, but implementation continues to face capacity and systemic limitations.

2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Cohesion and Reforms

The aim of the report was to assess progress in the areas of simplification, implementation, and enforcement of cohesion policy rules and reforms during the period from January to July 2025. The assessment is based on the experiences of Member States, stakeholder feedback, and ongoing legislative changes.

Key findings

Simplification of cohesion policy is moving towards greater flexibility and stronger results orientation.

- Legislative changes allow for more flexible reallocations of resources and a better response to emerging priorities (e.g. energy, defence, housing).
- There is a shift from strict compliance with allocations towards more adaptive programme management.
- Greater emphasis is being placed on results rather than formal compliance with rules.

Simplified cost options significantly reduce administrative burden.

- Instruments such as simplified cost options (SCOs) and financing not linked to costs (FNLC) are among the most effective simplification measures.
- Simulations indicate the potential to reduce administrative burden by up to 20–25% through wider use of these instruments.

Programme implementation remains affected by external factors and administrative complexity.

- By July 2025, approximately 49% of RRF resources had been disbursed.
- Delays are linked both to crises (inflation, energy) and to the complexity of rules.
- Administrative capacity constraints and parallel implementation of multiple instruments increase pressure on institutions.

The territorial approach is gaining importance but faces fragmentation of instruments.

- Cohesion policy is perceived as crucial for the development of cities of all sizes.
- There remains a need for better coordination of funds and simpler access to financing.
- Integrated instruments play a key role, but their use is administratively demanding.

Digitalisation and reporting are key conditions for further simplification.

- The Commission is moving towards automation of data and simplification of reporting.
- Most Member States still do not fully utilise the potential of automated data transfer.
- Digitalisation is essential for reducing administrative burden in the next period.

Recommendations

Further development of simplified cost options

- Expand the use of SCOs and FNLC and support their systematic implementation.
- Develop standardised models and templates for their wider application.

Strengthening programme flexibility and adaptability

- Enable faster reprogramming of resources according to current priorities.
- Reduce excessive detail in rules and strengthen the focus on results.

Improving administrative capacity and implementation support

- Strengthen Member State capacities through technical assistance and sharing of good practice.
- Develop platforms for cooperation and exchange of experience among stakeholders.

Simplification and digitalisation of reporting

- Support automation of data collection and sharing.
- Reduce the administrative burden of reporting, especially for beneficiaries.

Better coordination of instruments and the territorial approach

- Simplify access to financing for cities and strengthen integration of funds.
- Support integrated strategies and territorial development instruments.

ESF+ remains a highly relevant instrument for supporting employment and social inclusion, but its implementation was affected by delayed launch and limited synergies between its components.

European Social Fund Plus Mid-Term Evaluation (2021–2024)

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the progress of ESF+ implementation in the 2021–2024 period, its relevance, efficiency, coherence, and EU-added value. The assessment is based on a combination of quantitative data, analyses, and consultations with stakeholders. Due to the delayed start of implementation, it focuses primarily on programme setup and initial outputs rather than long-term impacts.

Key findings

ESF+ is highly relevant and well-targeted at key challenges.

- The programme corresponds to EU priorities and Member State needs, including skills, employment, and social inclusion.
- A strong link to the European Semester strengthens its strategic anchoring.
- Some emerging challenges (e.g. housing, migration, gender equality) are not yet fully addressed.

Implementation was delayed, but progress is comparable to the previous period.

- Actual implementation only started in 2023.
- By the end of 2024, spending had reached approximately 7.6% of the allocation.
- Achievement of targets (8–15%) corresponds to the pace of implementation and to the previous programming period.

The merger of funds brought simplification, but synergies remain limited.

- Management was simplified and programming became more flexible.
- Synergies are strongest between ESF and YEI, weaker for FEAD and EaSI.
- Deeper integration requires active coordination; the merger alone is insufficient.

Simplification of implementation significantly reduced administrative burden.

- Expanded use of SCOs and FNLC improved efficiency.
- Simplification reduced error rates and increased clarity of rules.
- There remains potential for further simplification, especially for smaller beneficiaries and in digitalisation.

Social innovation and transfer of results remain weak points.

- Greater emphasis and allocations were directed towards social innovation.
- Transfer and scaling-up of successful solutions remain limited.
- Programmes often do not systematically use EaSI outputs.

ESF+ demonstrates positive results and stable targeting of disadvantaged groups.

- By 2024, approximately 7.8 million people had been supported.
- Around one third of participants achieved short-term positive outcomes.
- The programme consistently targets unemployed people, young people, and persons with low education levels.

ESF+ is coherent with other EU instruments and delivers high added value.

- A high degree of complementarity with the ERDF and other instruments strengthens the overall impact of interventions.
- ESF+ enables implementation of larger-scale interventions than national resources alone.
- ESF+ contributes to capacity building and transfer of know-how across countries.



Overview of evaluations

Ex Post Evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund for the Programming Period 2014-2020

Prepared by: DG REGIO

Implementation period: May 2022 – May 2025

Evaluation outputs are available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/publications/evaluations/2025/ex-post-evaluation-of-the-european-regional-development-fund-erdf-and-the-cohesion-fund-for-the-programming-period-2014-2020_en

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Cohesion Policy Programmes 2021-2027 Financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund (JTF)

Contracting authority: DG REGIO

Contractors: t33 Srl, ÖIR, Spatial Foresight

Implementation period: 2024

Evaluation outputs are available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/evaluations/ec/2021-2027_en

Study On the Use Of ERDF/CF Common Indicators by Member States in the 2021-2027 Period and Possibility of Using Common Indicators in a System Of “Payments Not Based on Costs”

Prepared by: DG REGIO

Implementation period: 2025

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/25f2573f-062d-11f1-825d-01aa75ed71a1>

2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Cohesion and Reforms

Prepared by: European Commission

Implementation period: 2025

Evaluation outputs are available here: https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-implementation-enforcement/2025-annual-progress-reports-simplification-implementation-and-enforcement_en

European Social Fund Plus Mid-Term Evaluation (2021-2024)

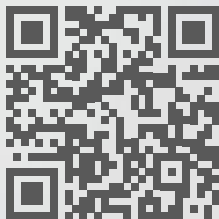
Prepared by: European Commission

Implementation period: June 2021 – December 2024

Evaluation outputs are available here: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/publications/staff-working-document-european-social-fund-plus-mid-term-evaluation>

These and other evaluation outputs
can be found in the Evaluation Library:

www.dotaceEU.cz/knihovna-evaluaci



Co-funded by
the European Union



Ministry of Regional
Development
of the Czech Republic

