

CZ-GOOD GOVERNANCE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2022: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022 the Programme Good Governance was running more or less according to the plan with some amendments of the projects caused by the Ukrainian war (for example a change of rental spaces etc. as the original ones were allocated to refugees) or prolongation of projects, that the Programme Operator (PO) accepted so as to release respective Project Promoters from the pressure caused by COVID restrictions and subsequent delays in activities execution.

The Small Grant Scheme Call (SGS1) was closed, 5 projects approved, 4 projects contracted. The projects from SGS1 Call so have already started to contribute to the objectives of the Programme Good Governance by involving the public into decision-making on local level. Despite the limited number of Project Promoters and thus limited scope, we may expect fruitful results of selected projects.

The programme is on track to achieve all Outcome and Output indicators. The original Programme setting assumes the majority of the Outcome indicators are to be fulfilled by the end of the projects, so by mid of 2023 or April 2024 except for the Outcome 2 indicator “Share of programme-relevant (4th round) GRECO recommendations fully or partially met by Czech authorities”, that has already been achieved, or better said the target value 70% was over-achieved by 9%. The partial achievement of the Outcome indicator “Number of people participating in consultations with a public decision-making body during the programme period”, within SGS1 projects is noteworthy as well.

As for Output indicators we may depict the complete achievement of 3 out of 4 indicators within the Output 2.4 linked to activities realized within PDP3 project (“Assessment of the current Public finance management and control”) and a partial achievement of indicators within the Output 3.1 and 3.2 linked to activities performed by PDP4 project (“Deepening of the professional qualification of the law enforcement authorities in the field of the fight against corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing”). The rest of Output indicators shall be achieved continuously by April 2024.

Concerning the bilateral indicators two of them were partially achieved – Output indicators “Number of participants from Beneficiary States in bilateral activities”, by 24 out of 50 planned participants and “Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner” by 5 of 22 (this indicator we may consider as achieved as the original target value of the indicator had been set overly ambitious).

Considering a political impact the PO registered the only two initiatives within the PDP5 project. Concerning the draft of the Whistle-blower Protection Act - the Government has approved the proposal with modifications according to the comments contained in the opinion of the Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Government in version I, and the Minister of Justice was tasked with drafting the final version. This will be followed by a discussion in the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic within 2023; the law could be endorsed by the end of 2023. As far as the amendment to Act on Conflicts of Interest is concerned, the internal approval took place at the Ministry of Justice, followed by an inter-ministerial comment procedure, which resulted in a large number of comments, including the fundamental ones. They will now be settled and the proposal shall be presented to the government in March 2023. We expect the endorsement in 2024.

The visibility of the programme is ensured via the EEA and Norway Grants website <https://www.eeagrants.cz/en/programmes/good-governance>. The upcoming events or interesting news are also available on social media (Facebook).

We may as well highlight the presentation of the Good Governance programme during the Interim conference of EEA and Norway Grants - <https://eeagrants.cz/en/general-information/promotion/conferences-seminars-other-events/2022/setkani-k-prubehu-implementace-fondu-ehp-3991>.

A cooperation with the IPO (Council of Europe) was limited to a regular Cooperation Committee meeting as no crucial topics were to be discussed or solved except the relocation of the remaining funds within the Bilateral Ambitions and PDP4 project.