



podatelna

MINISTERSTVO FINANCÍ ČR
Čj.:
PID: MFCR7XBWQU
Doručeno: 10.02.2017
Listu dokumentu: 0
: SVAZEK2X

67



Annual Programme Report No. 4 Norway Grants 2009-2014

Programme CZ09 – Czech-Norwegian Research Programme

Reporting period: 1. 1. 2016 – 31. 12. 2016

Programme Operator: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Programme Partner: NA

Donor Programme Partner: Research Council of Norway

Content:

1. Executive summary	2
2. Programme area specific developments	3
3. Reporting on outputs.....	4
4. Reporting on Programme outcome(s)	5
4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns	6
5. Project selection	7
6. Progress of bilateral relations.....	8
6.1. Complementary action	9
7. Monitoring	10
8. Need for adjustments	12
9. Risk management	13
10. Information and publicity	13
11. Cross - cutting issues.....	14
12. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report.....	16
Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme	16
Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2017	16
Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices	16

1. Executive summary

The Czech-Norwegian Research Programme (CZ09) (hereinafter referred to as "Programme") is designated to enhance research-based knowledge development in the Czech Republic through research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic. The **Programme enhances and strengthens bilateral relations** with the aim to stimulate long-term co-operation, capacity and competence building. It promotes bilateral cooperation projects in basic and applied research and experimental development in selected thematic areas (Environment, Health, Social Sciences and Humanities). The Programme is a **unique** tool for support of cooperation in research and development between the donor state – Norway – and the Czech Republic.

In the period 2014-2016, the Programme had provided institutional support in the share of 86%. In 2016, the Programme Operator **met 100% obligations** to the project promoters arising from the project contracts providing them the total amount of CZK 192,563,000 (approx. EUR 7,266,528).

The Programme Operator also **succeeded in a certification** of Programme expenditures actually incurred in year of 2015, when a proportion of the pre-financed contribution of the Norwegian financial mechanism in the total sum of CZK 112,892,075 (approx. EUR 4,260,078) returned to the state budget of the Czech Republic in March 2016.

The supported research projects (23) are duly under implementation. In addition, in July 2016, the Programme operator **launched a call for proposals of initiatives** under the Fund for bilateral relations (hereinafter the Fund/BF), thus he took another important step towards fulfilling the objectives of maintaining and strengthening the bilateral cooperation in the relevant Programme area between the Czech Republic and Norway. In the call, which remains opened till 20 January 2017, 34 applications have been submitted so far. The success rate was 75% (i.e. 12 from 16 completely evaluated proposals) and strong reimbursement of BF funds is mainly expected in 2017. Furthermore, the allocation of the BF was significantly increased in 2016 by unallocated rests from other budget items as the scientific community proved to have sufficient absorption capacity in networking, development of bilateral relations and mutual international cooperation beyond the scope of regular research projects. The BF is now still accessible to other eligible applicants outside the CZ09 running research projects, too.

In the reporting period, **complementary activities** were implemented by the Programme Operator that **shared experience** gathered during the implementation of the bilateral Programme at the international annual conference of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) in Luleå, Sweden in June. Later on 8th November, the Programme Operator organized a second Czech-Norwegian Research Conference - Prague 2016, where interim Programme results were summarized, supported research projects from all thematic areas presented and experience regarding bilateral cooperation shared and discussed.

In 2016 the Programme was **verified by four independent audit bodies**. The auditors confirmed the functionality of the system and no serious findings that could endanger the Programme operation were formulated nor ineligible expenditures identified. The Programme Operator management team was seen as functional and stable. Nevertheless, the Programme Operator had to deal with several challenges such as personnel fluctuation, amendments in national legislation in the field of research, malfunctioning of the national Information system of research, development and innovation, etc.

The Programme Operator **monitored risks** via regular updates of the risk analysis, the emerging threats were obviously consulted with the NFP and relevant measures to mitigate them were proposed and adopted where necessary. Compared to the previous year, the values in the risk table were lower as the successful implementation of projects/the Programme went continuously closer to the end and reaching goals is felt as more probable. The risks which consisted in lack of interest for grants and low absorption capacity were eliminated, on the other hand, risks related to proper administration and reimbursement of funds, fails in reporting and accounting and/or irregularities have slightly increased.

Despite these difficulties the **Programme Operator** duly streams the Programme towards fulfilling all set **indicators** stipulated in the Programme Agreement, including the objectives and Programme purpose.

More information can be found in the relevant chapters of the annual programme report.

2. Programme area specific developments

As it was written in the previous annual programme report there are many providers of support on research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as “RTD&I”) in the Czech Republic but the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS, hereinafter referred to as “the Programme Operator/PO”) is the most important player in the RTD&I including international co-operation based its position anchored in the national law. MoEYS is the biggest provider of institutional and specific support from the state budget for RTD&I as well.

The MoEYS received funds from the state budget for RTD&I actions in amounts of CZK 9.7 billion in 2013, CZK 10.5 billion in 2014, CZK 11.2 billion in 2015. In general, RTD&I budget is slightly growing although the Czech Republic belongs to a lower average in research funding within the European Union.

However, research and development activities (hereinafter referred to as “R&D”) are financed not only from public but also from private sources. At the same time, these activities are carried out across the entire economy, i.e. both by private enterprises and public research institutions and universities, regardless of employment or economic activities of the entity. The Czech Republic is trying to invite enterprises to research projects through various tools, such as direct or indirect ones.

(See Table 1)

The Czech Statistical Office measures direct public funding of R&D through two statistics: Annual Survey on Research and Development (VTR 5-01) in terms of R&D performers and GBARD – Government Budget Appropriations on Research and Development from the perspective of providers of public support (administrative data). Direct public R&D support provided through the government budget appropriations (GBARD) reached in 2014 the amount of CZK 27.3 billion, while the private enterprise R&D performers from the business sector received CZK 3.4 billion.

The Czech Statistical Office claims that the second tool how to support R&D is an indirect public support for R&D. This is a relatively new form of public support, which private subjects can contribute since 2005. The indirect method of public support for R&D is commonly used in a number of European Union member countries and is monitored using statistics of government tax incentives for R&D expenditure (hereinafter referred as to “GTARD”). Entities may draw support in the form of deduction of eligible expenditure on R&D activities from the tax base (R&D tax allowance). The Czech Statistical Office measures government tax incentives (GTARD) in the business sector since 2007.

Table 1 - Government budget allocations for research and development by main socio-economic objectives NABS 1992 and type of support in 2015 by the Czech Statistical Office

SEO	Main socio-economic objectives	Total	
		CZK mil.	%
01-13	Total	27 829.8	100%
01	Exploration and exploitation of the Earth	429.1	1.5%
02	Infrastructure and general planning of land-use	1 046.3	3.8%

03	<i>Control and care of the environment</i>	606.0	2.2%
04	<i>Protection and improvement of human health</i>	1 854.8	6.7%
05	<i>Production, distribution and rational utilization of energy</i>	709.7	2.6%
06	<i>Agricultural production and technology</i>	1 139.1	4.1%
07	<i>Industrial production and technology</i>	2 974.8	10.7%
08	<i>Social structures and relationships</i>	2 094.6	7.5%
09	<i>Exploration and exploitation of space</i>	152.6	0.5%
10	<i>Research financed from General University Funds (GUF)</i>	6 296.1	22.6%
11	<i>Non-oriented research</i>	9 016.3	32.4%
12	<i>Other civil research</i>	1 150.3	4.1%
13	<i>Defence</i>	360.2	1.3%

In 2014, R&D conducting firms drew indirect support through the government tax incentives (GTARD) worth CZK 2.3 billion. In total direct and indirect support, the Czech state provided from its budget R&D support reaching CZK 29.6 billion in 2014, from which private enterprises from the business sector received the total volume of 5.7 CZK billion as provided by the Czech Statistical Office.

In conclusion, the attendance of private sector in research and development activities is still weak in the Czech Republic. The Programme confirms this fact because only few small and medium-sized enterprises (4) were successful and receive financial support from it.

3. Reporting on outputs

The Programme has a single outcome ***Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic***. This outcome is divided into 3 main outputs stipulated in the Programme Agreement, and despite the year of 2016 was not still the final phase of the Programme/projects implementation, the Programme Operator (PO) may give a prediction of the contribution of running projects to the planned Programme outputs:

(1) International research cooperation projects expressed in number

Output indicator:

- **Number of cooperation projects**

Compared to the targeted 40 projects in the Programme Agreement, 23 research projects (the originally supported 19 plus 4 projects from the reserve list) are being implemented within the Regranting item¹ of the Programme budget. Additionally, 12 more projects (called bilateral initiatives) were approved for funding from the Fund for bilateral relations on Programme level in October 2016. So the previously reported total 57.5% has increased to 87% (35 of 40) of the target indicator value. The target value (number of cooperation projects – 40) is going to be reached thanks to addition of bilateral cooperation projects all together.

¹ Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States item (hereinafter “Regranting item”).

So it is clear that support to the expected 40 cooperating research projects cannot be achieved. The reason is that most project promoters requested and gained nearly the upper limit of the single grant – i.e. €1,000,000 so the Call allocation could cover less than 40 projects. Moreover, due to limited time period for implementation there was less interest in grants. On the other hand, counted all the cooperation projects together, the number of them, as defined in the Programme Agreement, is going to be even crossed (supported by the bilateral initiatives) as there are currently more initiatives within the Fund for bilateral relations waiting for the approval.

(2) Suitable conditions and environment for young researchers

Output indicators:

- ***Number of female researchers***
- ***PhD and Post docs students involved in cooperating projects***

As for the other stated outputs (20 female researchers and 20 PhD students or post docs) involved in the projects, the planned indicators in the supported projects allow to report that the target values shall be achieved very probably. There is no change in estimation.

However, these numbers usually vary as the personnel may fluctuate due to projects needs and realization. PO will be sure on exact numbers reached from the final project reports after completion of all projects.

(3) Internationally referred (joint) scientific publications published as a part of the programme

Output indicator:

- ***Number of Internationally referred scientific publications***

The output's target is 40. The final total number of internationally referred scientific publications produced in the research projects cannot be reported yet at this stage of the implementation. But PO may assume that this output indicator will be reached as it is obvious from the fact that the Project Promoters reported 31 articles during the year of 2016.

There is no small grant scheme applicable in the programme.

4. Reporting on Programme outcome(s)

The single outcome of the Programme - ***Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic*** – is composed of three outputs (see section 3). The indicator of the Programme Outcome is

- ***the number of cooperating research institutions by country involved in supported projects.***

Its target value is 50. – With respect to the documentation of supported projects at the moment, the actual number of cooperating institutions is 43 in total².

Number of involved cooperating entities: 48 (29 of which are Czech entities)

² The currently reported figure illustrates the number of co-operating institutions (universities). Some of them (e.g. Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, Oslo University, Oslo University Hospital etc.) are running more projects and bilateral initiatives but are counted as one occurrence.

Number of project promoters:	19 (16 in research projects + 3 new ones in initiatives - some entities are running more projects and initiatives)
Number of Czech project partners:	11 (with Charles University, Prague which is also PP)
Number of Norwegian entities:	18 (15 in research projects + 3 new ones in initiatives - some entities are running more research projects and initiatives)
Number of third parties:	1 (a research organization from Switzerland)

Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States - Regranting

Since the first payments in 2014 the funds from the Regranting item in the cumulative amount of CZK 433,219,000 (incl. 20% co-financing at project level from PO) have been reimbursed to the research projects in the reported periods (2014-2016), including the third payments to the project promoters of the 23 running research projects in 2016 which made up the amount of CZK 192,563,000. The payments were being transferred by PO to the project promoters' bank accounts throughout the whole year 2016 according to the issued project contracts and in compliance with the national legislation. So since 2014 PO has met 86% from its total commitments stipulated in the 23 project contracts.

Table 2 – Regranting spent in the reporting period and cumulatively (in CZK)

Source in Year	Regranting 100% (with PO co-financing)	Programme (80%)
Regranting 2014	77,639,000	62,111,200
Regranting 2015	163,017,000	130,413,600
Regranting 2016	192,563,000	154,050,400
Cummulative 2014-2016	433,219,000	346,575,200

Certification

The Certifying Authority did a check of the programme documentation in the 1st quarter of 2016 to verify programme expenditures incurred during the year of 2015. In the end, PO succeeded in the certification procedure because it got back 100% of the required amount to the state budget. On 31 March 2016 PO obtained a refund in the amount of CZK 112,892,075 from the Certifying Authority covering the Financial Mechanism share of the Programme expenditures incurred in the calendar year 2015, pre-financed from the Czech state budget.

4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns

The Programme contributes positively towards multicultural, social-economical, educational and gender background understanding, sharing best practice, experience and knowledge in the field of research and development between Norway and the Czech Republic, the beneficiary state, through excellent bilateral research cooperation projects.

It also involves activities aimed at supporting specific target groups such as young researchers (Ph.D. students and postdocs, and the involvement of (female) researchers returning after maternity leave as

well as groups targeted in the running projects as a subject of research activities (e.g. therapists, disabled persons, patients, retired people, children, population living in a periphery regions or in a third country - Ethiopia). There is also supported mobility of qualified and competent staff, research and administrative one, closely linked to the implementation of research projects which has a positive influence on a common project administration. The Programme has a large impact on both professional communities at local level.

During all information activities (for instance via Twitter), the emphasis is on all these horizontal issues in relation to the public and potential applicants, and later to the Project Promoters and Project Partners. Given this emphasis, all the proposals already contained a set target group research teams.

PO meets beneficiaries face-to-face regularly regarding tutoring and discussing administrative issues. These meetings are very important and meaningful for understanding individual or standard problems and weighting empathy at both sites.

Overall, the bilateral cooperation leads to mutual understanding, tolerance and decreasing of social and economic disparities between both nations. The Programme certainly brings a higher quality beyond the main goal for all.

5. Project selection

There was no other Call for proposal (hereinafter referred to as "Call") concerning support of more research project in 2016. As written before, since the launch of the Programme in February 2013, only one major open Call was organized, announced on 29 November 2013 and closed on 3 February 2014. Therefore, there are still the original 23 research projects running in the Programme.

Certainly, there was a selection procedure to allocate leftovers for activities in the Social and Humanities area in the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2016. The grants reserved for the Social and Humanities area were offered to the running research projects to realize additional social activities in accordance with article 6.9 of the Regulation to meet at least 20% dedication to the priority area Social sciences and Humanities. Nevertheless, not all remaining funds were contracted. After the Programme Operator tried twice to allocate grants to the Social Sciences and Humanities area and did not succeed, he asks the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as "FMO") and the National Focal Point (hereinafter referred to as "NFP") to shift the rest of funds from the Regranting item to the Fund for bilateral relations to support more bilateral activities in the prior programme area. The FMO and NFP approved the revision of the budget.

The allocation of the remaining funds from the open Call 2013 was administered via an addressed call to the running projects announced on 29 November 2013. Till the deadline 5 proposals were submitted. One did not meet formal criteria. Then 4 of 5 submitted proposals of the running research projects (7F14047, 7F14122, 7F14236 and 7F14341) were evaluated, approved for funding within the Social and humanities activities and received additional grants in the total of CZK 8,953,000 (approx. EUR 337,849) for period of 2016-2017 (30 April 2017).

The addressed Call and selection procedure were also discussed with the Programme Committee meeting on 27-28 April 2016, which has constant members, with presence of observers.

Later on, related to the above, the recording of data of the selected projects and initiatives to the national Central Register of Research, Development and Innovation (in Czech> CEP) was completed during November 2016. The project contracts were issued and signed by PO in August 2016/November 2016.

The representatives of the Research Council of Norway, National Focal Point and Financial Mechanism Office were informed about the results of commitment of the funds.

6. Progress of bilateral relations

6.1 Bilateral relations at project level

The Programme Operator improved bilateral relations between the Beneficiary and the Donor states every year so did in 2016. Until that time, it had been spent only CZK 532,000 in total for Measure I (preparation costs) which made up 4% share. But PO did big steps towards fulfilling conditions stipulated in the Programme Agreement. During 2016 the share of reimbursed expenditures got raised to 8,6% in total but including allocated commitments that are going to be paid next year the share increase is estimated to 73% in 2017.

In 2016 the Programme Operator launched the Call for proposals under the Fund for bilateral relations (18/7/2016). The preparation of the Call and documentation (templates, a guide) was consulted with the Programme Committee as well as with the FMO and NFP. The Call addressed all public entities beyond the Programme so not only stakeholders from running projects may apply but also every eligible applicant requesting grant for bilateral initiative in the relevant area. The Call remains open till 20/1/2017.

The allocation of the Bilateral fund was increased via PA amendment (reallocation of rests from other Programme budget items) and the Call for BF proposals (no. SMSM20167F1/in central evidence of projects SMSM20167F001) was increased from CZK 11,026,000 to CZK 17,993,000.

The Programme Operator requested FMO twice³ during the year to increase the item for bilateral relations (see more below in sec. 9) in order to utilize funds in more efficient way and enhance reaching the bilateral goals and encouraged scientific community to establish or extend the already-established partnerships, networking, sharing knowledge and experience, organising or attending bilateral events, preparing joint research proposals in Horizon 2020 to build up capacities and sustain research cooperation between entities from the Czech Republic and Norway according to Measure II (B.).

In the reporting period 34 proposals were submitted in three waves (16+14+4). 12 of 16 proposals obtained in the first cut-off were selected for providing grants in total amount of CZK 6,650,000 (approx. EUR 250,943). The promoters requested payments of CZK 1,070,000 (approx. EUR 40,377) for bilateral activities performed in 2016 because a majority of initiatives are going to begin implementations next year (more in the **Table 3** below). The payments were transferred to their bank accounts as advance payments according to the project contracts.

The rest of proposals (18) is being currently evaluated and is going to be approved by PO in January/February 2017.

Among the most active applicants the Masaryk University in Brno on the Czech site and the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø on the Norwegian one are worthy to be mentioned.

Table 3 – Grants spent from Fund bilateral relations in the reporting period and cumulative (in CZK)

Fund for bilateral relations	2016	2013-2016 Cumulative
Measure I – preparatory costs	0	532,000
Measure II – bilateral relations	1,070,000	1,070,000
Total expenditure (in CZK)	1,070,000	1,602,000
Total allocation	EUR	CZK
	699,084	18,525,726
Incurred in percentage	-	8,6%

³ First modification got completed in February before the Call was launched.

6.2 Bilateral relations at programme level

In this reporting period at the programme level, PO also contributed to this area with the following:

- a) PO organised a seminar for applicants concerning the Call for proposals under the Fund for bilateral relations in August 2016.
- b) PO visited Lulea, Sweden and attended an annual EARMA conference in June 2016 where a PO workshop was held by RCN and FMO. PO representatives also presented lessons learnt and experience with bilateral cooperation together with operators from other beneficiary states (more in 6.1).

The Operator has communicated with the Norwegian partners, nevertheless, did not carry out any study trip to Norway in 2016. It should be done next year before closing the projects.

Apart from the above mentioned events and the PC meetings, the Operator and the DPP (the Research Council of Norway) discussed issues regarding the Programme implementation on regular basis.

The pending problem of providing evidence which is to be applied by Norwegian partners along with disbursement claims / expenditures in order to satisfy FMO rules as well as the Czech national legislation and NFP rules has been successfully resolved. The consent between all parties has been reached after consultations with the DPP, the FMO, NFP and the PO. The PO has developed a simple clear forms /tables to be filled in with all necessary data and the Norwegian partner confirmed acceptance of this method.

7.1. Complementary action

On 20-22 June 2016, representatives of PO attended a workshop for the Programme Operators organized by the Research Council of Norway, the Donor Programme Partner, and the annual conference organized of European Association of Research Managers and Administrators in Lulea, Sweden.

On 20 June 2016, the PO workshop was targeted at the representatives of Programme Operators and Implementing Agencies for the research cooperation programmes under the EEA and Norway Grants in Estonia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, and Romania including representatives of Donor Programme Partners (RCN, RANNIS) and FMO.

The subject of the event was an exchange of experiences and good practice in implementation of bilateral research programmes, ensuring that the experiences and lessons learned from the current programming period are formulated and communicated to relevant actors working with the preparation of the next funding period. The workshop was organized back-to-back with the annual conference for research administrators (EARMA). This co-ordination intended to allow POs to participate in the conference, both in order to profit from the relevant expertise and capacity of the presenters and participants, and to present the programmes and their experience during this international conference held on 21 and 22 June 2016 (www.earmaconference.com).

On 22 June the Norwegian Research Council and POs from the beneficiary countries, including the Czech Republic, had hourly output regarding bilateral cooperation programmes and gained the experience and lessons collected in each beneficiary state. PO also promoted the Programme through print materials such as posters, leaflets and banners.

Conclusions:

The attendance at the workshop and conference served its purpose and was beneficial for the following reasons: to contribute to the preparation of framework documents a new financial mechanism, to share

experience in administration between providers and entities based in different countries, an acquisition of new information and knowledge in the field of European administration in the field of research.

8. Monitoring

As usually, the PO is being monitored on the programme level on annual basis. In parallel, the PO monitors supported projects regularly.

8.1 Monitoring of Programme

The Programme Operator underwent 4 audits in 3rd and 4th quarters of 2016. The audits were mostly verifying the PO's management, financial and control systems as well as the procedure of projects/initiatives selection. The audits were performed by the Auditing Authority, the Programme Operator and the NFP (performed by the external auditor Deloitte Audits) – see below in more detail.

No official audit reports were not delivered yet to PO in the reporting period.

8.1.1 National Focal Point (Deloitte Company)

The Deloitte company contracted externally by the National Focal Point launched the audit on 9 November 2016. In three days the auditor checked settings and the progress of the programme implementation, incl. accounting and financial matters, and provided on-the-spot control at two selected research projects (namely 7F14287 and 7F14466). The report has not been submitted yet.

8.1.2 Auditing Authority

On 16 September 2016 the Auditing Authority (AA) from the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic carried out a planned audit operations no. FM2/2016/O/020.

The subject of the audit was whether operations done in the programme met criteria of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and conditions stipulated in the project contracts and a sample of expenses in the amount of CZK 12,753,736 from the year of 2014 was checked.

The official audit stated no findings were identified by the AA and the administration and management fulfilled the rules of the Norwegian Mechanism 2009-2014 and national legislation, that incurred expenditures from the verified sample are in compliance with accounting records and with supported documentation, and that grants had been provided according to the Regulation on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

8.1.3 Internal audit

In the period between 1 October 2016 and 5 December 2016 an internal audit was conducted at the PO. The audit was carried out at the section for the management of higher education, science and research, for the period from December 2015 till the date of audit inquiry in 2016.

The audit objective was to make sure that the administration and financial processes were implemented in accordance with the "Manual of the Programme Operator" (management and control systems).

Additionally, the subject targeted at cash-flows (payments), changes in projects, following measures established after previous internal audit and their compliance with the Manual of the Programme Operator.

8.1.4 Other means of PRG monitoring

The supporting means of Programme monitoring include the Programme Committee meetings as well as regular / ad hoc meetings with the NFP. The Programme Committee (PC) approved the programme implementation at the regular PC meeting on 27-28 April 2016.

In order to support the common monitoring tools at the national level, also the NFP keeps mutual communication with the PO. Regular NFP/PO meetings took place also during 2016 (on 4 April and 9 December 2016) and consultations were held whenever necessary, especially in order to negotiate and prepare changes or adjustments in the programme - to transfer financial means between the budget items (to the Fund for bilateral relations/spending of this item), to consult (non)reaching the 20% share for "Social" research projects in the re-granting allocation and progress in indicators, to pre-negotiate procedure of awarding additional grants on social activities to running projects, to confirm the additional support and the selection procedure before submitting to the PC for approval, to formulate and launch the open Call within the Fund for bilateral relations including comments to guidelines and deadlines, and/or to provide relevant publicity. The NFP has been invited and present to all the seminars, workshops and conferences held by the PO towards beneficiaries /potential applicants.

PO will be monitoring expenditure incurred in 2017 even closer because of closing the Programme implementation in the next year.

8.2 Monitoring of projects

The Programme Operator duly followed the obligation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 rules to monitor the supported projects during the reporting period. PO checked and monitored these projects through several measures and tools such as project periodic reporting, the Programme Committee reviews, on-a-spot consultations, regular visits of web pages of the projects, financial controls or external audits. So the monitoring was carried out from "the desk" and at the site (on-a-spot). The review was performed by the PO and by other relevant entities (e.g. members of the Programme Committee, representatives of the National Focal Point, the Auditing Authority, peer-review boards etc.).

In the 1st quarter, PO checked submitted project periodic reports of 2015 and kept a check list of the formally correct reports.

In frame of a regular monitoring, PO performed the following administration:

- PO did a check of the submitted project periodic reports of 2015 (formal verification at the table). Then the reports and implementation of supported projects themselves were evaluated and approved by the (vice) members of the Programme Committee at the meeting which was held in Prague on 27-28 April 2016.
- PO also realized 2 financial controls at selected projects according the Programme Operator annual plan for 2016. So at least 5% of utilization of the grants provided in 2015 by PO were verified as stipulated in the Programme Agreement. These controls were performed by Department of Controls of the MoEYS in cooperation with programme administrators (namely the research projects of ID 7F14500 and 7F14341 were verified).

Consultations on the project implementation, its progress and running partnership were managed by PO on spots and sight visits (namely in projects with ID 7F14009, 7F14057, 7F14083, 7F14330 and 7F14358).

Conclusions:

No serious findings that would jeopardize achievements of project outcomes were found. However, PO requested the project promoters to improve the dedication to the project in agreements and contracts, the identification of expenditure incurred in the project, to record completed work in timesheets more

in detail and to raise a quality of project documentation. The PO encouraged initiative in publication and managing their project web sites.

Table 4 – List of research projects visited and verified by Programme Operator in 2016

Date of on-site monitoring visit /review	Project no.	Name of the project	Note
15 March 2016	7F14057	<i>Biomaterials and stem cells in the treatment of stroke and spinal cord injury</i>	On-site visit – consultation Health area
13 April 2016	7F14358	<i>Advanced Detectors for Better Awareness of Neutrons and Gamma rays in environment</i>	On-site visit - consultation, Environment area
12 May 2016	7F14500	<i>Physical Activity as a Part in Treatment of Psychiatric Patients</i>	On-site visit - financial control, Health/Social sciences and Humanities area
8 June 2016	7F14083	<i>3D yeast colony genomics: a model for cancer progression and development of drug resistance in biofilms</i>	On-site visit – consultation, Health area
10 October 2016	7F14009	<i>Macromolecular toolbox for biomedical applications</i>	On-site visit – consultation Health area
10 October 2016	7F14330	<i>A new methodological approach for identification of industrial pollution: Isotope fingerprinting and bacterial</i>	On-site visit - consultation, Environment area
1 December 2016	7F14341	<i>Assessing water quality improvement options concerning nutrient and pharmaceutical contaminants in rural</i>	On-site visit - financial control, Environment area

9. Need for adjustments

During 2016 the Programme Agreement was modified twice (February and August) together with the Memorandum on Implementation of the Czech-Norwegian Research Programme CZ09 signed between the Ministry of Finance (NFP) and MoEYS (PO) which was consequently revised (revisions signed on 17 May and on 21 September 2016). The revisions concerned changes of the programme budget when the Fund for bilateral relations item was increased. The modifications were duly approved by the NFP and the FMO in DoRIS system.

In particular, the Fund for bilateral relations item got strengthened by EUR 449,913 (from EUR 256,171 to EUR 699,084). The amount of EUR 449,913 was taken from other budget items – Management costs (EUR 100,000), Complementary actions (EUR 80,000) and Regranting item (EUR 269,913). The modification was requested and approved after several unsuccessful attempts to allocate remaining regranting funds to Social Sciences and Humanities (pursuant the 20% condition). The Programme proved capacity to absorb the unutilized funds via bilateral initiatives between CR and Norway which shall strengthen achievement of the programme outcome, enhancing bilateral relations and support scientific communities in cooperating countries.

The benefit from the increase of the Fund for bilateral relations was launch of the open call for proposal which can be addressed to a wider scope of potential applicants referred to the definition in accordance with Article 3.6 (1b, 2) of the Regulation. So it enabled utilization of the disposable funds in favour of bilateral relations and potential partnerships with research institutions from the Donor state not only to promoters of CZ09 running projects but also to relevant applicants currently outside the programme.

10. Risk management

PO has duly updated the Risk Analysis of the Programme and consulted it with the National Focal Point, too. The identified risks were reconsidered and adjusted and the document was reported as a part of the Strategic Report CR as usual in August 2016.

There are still external and internal potential risks that could influence the implementation in a negative way. Regarding external threats, the political situation was calm and stable without any critical disturbances during in the Czech Republic and Norway as well.

The Czech state budget was approved on time again including necessary budget requests related to pre- and co-financing of financial flows in the Programme CZ09, so the necessary financial means were ensured for the year 2017.

On the other hand, the administration had to deal with personnel fluctuation in the team during the year – two employees left PO (July, November) but two new ones came (May, October), and with a change of national legislation in the field of research which caused an absence of a list of research organizations in the Czech Republic, and a change of administrator of the national Information system of research, development and innovation that was malfunctioning almost 6 months between 1 June and 20 November 2016 which affected the work schedule in 2016 unpleasantly and postponed an announcement of the call for proposal under the Fund for bilateral relations by 45 days and additional payments.

Nevertheless, despite the identified risks and difficulties, the progress in the programme is significant towards the stipulated objectives and the overall purpose, without any serious problems or deviations.

11. Information and publicity

In 2016 the Programme Operator provided information about the Programme and the Financial Mechanism to general public and ran information service to the project promoters, and their project partners as usual. Information activities were handed out via Twitter, programme web page, information meetings, ministry's newsletter, e-mail correspondence, or personally.

During the reporting period, PO was contributing 7 times to the ministry's newsletter to inform about the running research projects, Programme progress, events and other news.

In June 2016 PO attended EARMA annual conference held in Lulea, Sweden, and shared, experience and lessons learnt and collected in the programme management and implementation with other POs from beneficiary states.

PO also organised 4 information meetings /trainings/ for the Czech project promoters, their partners and applicants. In March the first meeting was aimed at submission of applications within additional research activities within the Social Sciences and Humanities area which took place at PO's premises in Prague. The second one targeted on the Call for proposals under the Fund for bilateral relations and the submission procedure that was organised at the Programme Operator again on 25 August 2016. The subject of the third meeting was auditing at project level for entities having grants of equivalent of 375.000 euros and more which took place on 20 September 2016. The last one was about issues related to periodic project reporting such as deadlines, format, content etc. that was done on 22 November 2016.

PO realized 2nd Czech-Norwegian Research Conference – Prague 2016 where a progress and interim results with experience sharing were presented to stakeholders and public. Seven research projects introduced their objects and interim outcomes. The audience got a glance at the future programme period 2014-2021. The event was held in Prague on 8 November 2016 (85 guests).

PO also informed all stakeholders as well as the public about the progress of the CZ09 implementation, relevant documents, Programme's Twitter and information sources via NFP web page and the

Programme's website. The webpages dedicated to the Programme CZ09 both in Czech and English were operated duly for providing all relevant information and useful links.

Link is> <http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/czech-norwegian-research-programme>.

Link is>

<https://twitter.com/MSMTCZ09?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=07eccc097b0e4c0697e300aed5b41ba2&uid=719799287694102528&nid=244+272699405>

In this reporting period the Programme Operator undertook the following informational and promotional activities/actions:

- a) The information meeting on the Social Sciences and Humanities Call for the currently supported project promoters only, Prague on 3 March 2016;
- b) The information event on the Call for proposal under the Fund for bilateral relations in Prague on 25 August 2016;
- c) The information seminar on auditing at project level regarding EUR 375,000 threshold in Prague on 20 September 2016;
- d) The information meeting on project periodic reporting 2016/2017 on 22 November 2016;
- e) Giving 7 articles in MoEYS's newsletter on European issues;
- f) Managing the webpage dedicated to the Programme in both Czech and English providing all relevant information and useful links;
- g) Contributing to Programme's Twitter profile – approx. 45 contributions;
- h) Permanent information support to the project promoters and project partners (personal, telephones, mails);
- i) Uploading revised information about the supported and reserve projects in DoRIS, to be displayed on the official website <http://eeagrants.org/programme/projectoverview/CZ09/PA23>.

12. Cross - cutting issues

A. Good governance

The Programme Operator takes available and necessary measures to secure due and efficient management of funds provided from the state budget and the Norway Grants, in accordance with the setting of management and control systems (so called the Manual of Programme Operator). All procedures both at programme and project level are specified in details in that Manual.

PO intends it to be understandable and transparent. It wants to avoid any conflict of interest, frauds and irregularities. It uses the designed management and control systems that are compiled of the European, Financial Mechanism, national and internal rules to do so.

PO is intensively trying to improve communication channels towards the beneficiaries in the Czech Republic and Norway. It emphasises the direct and personal contact which finds the efficient way of communication. The principal investigators are also instructed directly via e-mails, especially whenever PO considers giving reminders or drawing attention to some administrative issues or deadlines.

Furthermore, another way how to manage the Programme in more efficient way is organising trainings for the applicants and the project promoters or arranging regular meeting with stakeholders (RCN, NFP).

The management at the programme and project levels is based on PO's statements published on the programme web site and interpretations in "Frequently asked question" section (FAQ). All necessary documents and information sources are accessible on the Programme Operator's webpage as well.

As to the issue of conflict of interest, which is a very serious threat in the evaluation process, the evaluation of project proposals related to the additional activities in the Social Sciences and Humanities was organized at international level and the PO addressed independent and qualified experts from abroad (no one from the Beneficiary and Donor states) thus the potential conflict of interest would be eliminated to negligible extend.

Finally, PO closely cooperates with the Research Council of Norway, National Focal Point and the Programme Committee via personal meetings or correspondence.

B. Environmental considerations

The Environment area supported from the Programme contents various thematic fields that are closely linked to the necessity to be aware of the importance and implications of environmental preservation, health protection, industrial production and sustainability. The project partnerships established between the Czech and Norwegian entities that are environmentally friendly in their cross-cutting activities will contribute to raising awareness about the importance of environmental policy at local, regional as well as at national level and may contribute to enhance living outdoor standards.

The following examples illustrate the environmental benefits provided by the supported projects:

The project no. 7F14045 *Utilization of long term (passive) sampling methods combined with in situ microcosms for assessment of (bio)degradation potential* from Charles University in Prague deals with pollution of the underground environment (consisting of soil, groundwater and soil air). Places with this type of pollution are called polluted/contaminated sites. The technologies that should be developed within the project provide a tool for decision making and the designed remediation should be more effective and sustainable. It will bring a utilisation of innovative methods for assessing and monitoring of contaminated sites to obtain accurate information on them.

The project no. 7F14466 *Phase behaviour in CCS systems* from the Institute of Thermomechanics AS CR in Prague focuses on mixtures of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen, and water. Partners are collaborating in the development of mathematical models for the thermophysical properties and the behaviour phase of studied systems, including equilibria of gaseous, liquid, and solid phases, the transient metastable states, and a new phase nucleation. Achieved outcomes could bring useful answers to industry and transportation sectors.

C. Economic sustainability

The research projects, especially those with activities in applied research and technical development, may have a multiplication effect on local competitiveness and can strengthen economy as well as bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Norway. Nevertheless, the majority of activities carried out are being performed in basic research that can be used in applied research and development.

The involvement of enterprises is weak in the running research projects. It might be caused by the success rate and by limited capacities of small and medium-sized companies to apply for funds. Overall, there is a big challenge to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in such a bilateral cooperation although it would be in a long-term perspective.

From different point of view, all running research projects (environmental, health, social) are working on finding facts, data, knowledge and solutions solving issues problems touching a local area, a small community that may directly or indirectly effect national economy positively and increase social welfare.

D. Social sustainability

Outcomes of the research projects from the Social Sciences and Humanities priority area will contribute to social sustainability by doing research with, on and for diverse target groups in terms of age and gender (e.g. young researchers, experienced ones, involvement of female researchers and female researchers after maternity leave) that have experience with participating in the project activities.

All supported projects will also have long-term positive benefits for particular individuals, social groups, society, beneficiaries etc. Ethical issues, for instance a treatment of animals and patients, are taken in consideration in the research projects realizations in the Health thematic area, too.

An example of a project with social aspect:

The social project no. 7F14058 *Governance, social investments and social innovation in care services in the Czech Republic and Norway* is working on an exploration and explanation of differences and similarities of the key stakeholders' discourses and strategies in caring policies within the existing constraints and limitations in a broader framework of changes in the labour market, welfare state and in the economic and business cycle. The object of research consists in discovering strategies that are adopted by relevant actors at these circumstances are mutually 'compatible' and how effective they are in responding the increasing demand for care services.

E. Gender equality

Science is a part of everyday life and women are naturally involved. As a result of a historical diversification of roles of a man and a woman in society the social experience of women is often different from that of men, even though their roles seem to have converged over the past decades very rapidly.

Due to their often different social experience and skills, women are able to come up with solutions, approaches and ideas that present another perspective and thus increasing women's involvement may positively influence our society. Gender balance issues are taken into consideration both during drafting of the Programme and its implementation. The Programme aims at increasing participation of female researchers including involvement of researchers who have returned from maternity leave. On the other hand, some fields can be more attractive for man than women, such as technical and physical specializations.

When project proposals were assessed, principles of equality of men and women and equal access of women and men to education were followed as a one of the sub criteria. The Operator also monitors number of female researchers in the Programme.

13. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2017

Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices

Annex 4: Overview on supported research projects

Annex 5: Overview on bilateral initiatives supported from the Fund for bilateral relations

SIGNATURE:**For Programme Operator**

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this Annual programme report and that I have thoroughly reviewed the progress of the programme, reporting on outcomes and outputs, risk management provided in this report and the information are correct and accurate.

				Optional second signature		
Name	Mgr. Kateřina VALACHOVÁ, Ph.D.					
Position	minister					
Organisation	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports					
Signature						
Date	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	9	February	2017			

For the National Focal Point

The National Focal Point certifies that the status of reporting of the programme described above is accurate.

				Optional second signature		
Name	Ing. Zuzana MATYÁŠOVÁ			Ing. Martina BEČVÁŘOVÁ		
Position	Head of the Department of International Relations			Head of the Monitoring Unit		
Organisation	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic			Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic		
Signature						
Date	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	13	02	2014	13	02	2014

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Programme absorption capacity	Due to the limited regranting allocation, the rate of successful selection was 6% (supported projects) in the Call 2013 only. Further, 4 projects from reserve list were supported in 2015. – The risk consists in unutilized leftovers in Regranting item and in the Fund for bilateral relations (BF or Fund) due to limited time for implementation.	1	5	5	The absorption capacity and potential of bilateral research cooperation is high. The risk was eliminated with preparing a Call for bilateral initiatives (BF) and via additional allocation of the remaining funds to Social Sciences projects in 2016 and the budget modification in favour of the Fund.
	Legislation changes	In 2016 there was a legislative change regarding management of the list of research organizations related to calls within public support of research (namely the Act No. 130/2002 Coll.) in the Czech Republic. The responsible authority and administrator is newly MoEYS.	2	3	6	Potential legislation changes are mentioned in relevant manuals, guides and project contracts. In case of any needs relevant adjustments can be done and with no serious impact on implementation.

⁴ The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

⁵ Likelihood is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle:3-4, High:5)

⁶ Impact is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle:3-4, High:5)

⁷ Importance is counted as Likelihood multiplied by Impact and described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis (Low: 1-8, Middle: 9-15, High: 16-25).

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	<p>The period for eligibility of costs within the Programme is laid down in the Regulation.</p> <p>The projects eligibility ends on 30 April 2017. However, the Programme expires on 31 Dec 2017.</p>	2	4	8	<p>The risk has decreased.</p> <p>Terms for disbursement of eligible costs at projects level are specified in the individual Projects Contracts. The Promoters are repeatedly informed in advance at seminars, on web page and in messages.</p>
	Specific programme risk (risk identified in PP relating to PRG outcomes)	<p>The work load of PRG management proved to be a risk in the implementation such as bilingual administrative, procedure of the international evaluation of the Call was very demanding due to reallocation from CZ08, solving specific projects issues, certification check and regular audits. The varying administrative load as well as personal changes cannot be totally eliminated, but it is possible to minimise the impact.</p>	3	3	9	<p>The PO has reconsidered the risk as lower than previously. A documented Programme management system and processes are included in the Programme Operator's Manual.</p> <p>Obligations for reporting of such changes are incorporated in Project contracts. The Programme Operator ensures mutual replacement of individual Programme administrators, whenever necessary. The most demanding and time limited administrative procedures (Calls,</p>

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
Bilateral outcome(s):	Bilateral relations	Some bilateral relations have been already established and launched, the cooperation mainly follows up the contacts established in the previous programming period. Reimbursement from the Fund has been low so far. Newly – despite the launched Call for bilateral initiatives not reaching the objectives of the BF for bilateral relations	3	3	9	PO supports the cooperation (news on progress in CZ09 on website), participation in Programme Operator's seminars; consultations are provided. A few bilateral relations have been already established and launched, the cooperation follows up the contacts. Within the Call for applications in the BF, the PO organized info seminar on the procedure.
Operational issues:	Management and control structures, programme management	Management and control systems – established, running	2	5	10	Management and control systems structure has been established and is duly running. The risk is perceived as lower than previously. Detailed procedures are described in the Programme Operator's Manual. The system has been audited and no negative findings identified.

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
	Programme implementation set up	Programme Operator's Manual approved and applied. It was firstly revised in 2015.	2	4	8	Manual and Guides fully reflect requirements of Regulation and its Annex 12. There are clear links between each other. The guidelines were completed, approved and are being duly applied or updated, when necessary. PO tries to reflect changes of internal and national/European rules. – With relation to the Call for bilateral initiatives, the PO stipulated rules and procedures of the bilateral grants. – The risk is lower.
	Reports and irregularities within programme	PO submits reports on irregularities regularly as required. No irregularities so far but they may occur due to financial settlements of the projects.	2	4	8	Procedures on identification, reporting and solving of irregularities are implied in the Programme Operator's Manual. Project Promoters must report on irregularities according to the contract. The risk is perceived as slightly increased because of the closing phase of the Programme.

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
	Programme audits/controls	Programme was approved on 25 February 2013. Since this date the Programme has been checked 9 times. It is audited every year. Internal audit is operated by other department at PO once a year. Auditing Authority examines the M&C systems every year.	2	3	6	In 2016 audits of systems and costs by AA, NFP and PO were set. All audits confirmed functioning setting of management and control systems. Audit and control system is described in detail in Programme Operator's Manual. – The risk is low.
	Information system	Inaccessibility of the national information system on research and development (R&D&I IS) on the basis of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. And the on-line submission system (Data storage OpenKM) at the Programme Operator caused by contract expiration, changes in administrators	4	3	12	The obligation for storing of relevant data into R&D&I IS is incorporated in the project contracts. No support is paid if no project data in the Central Evidence of Projects. All relevant data are stored in accordance with Regulation and national legislation.
	Corruption risk	Frauds - The Programme Operator does all steps in transparent manner and in accordance with accepted rules and principals.	1	4	4	Individual procedures are specified in detail in relevant guides and manuals. All relevant data are published on Programme Operators's website and accessible to the participants and

Type of objective ⁴	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ⁵	Impact ⁶	Importance ⁷	Mitigation planned/done
						stakeholders. PO tries to avoid conflicts of interest, uses information and accounting systems to register data. The audit trail is maintained.

Annex 2: Monitoring plan

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site monitoring visit /review	Note
7F14047	<i>Harvesting big text data for under-resourced languages</i>	2Q 2017	Financial control – Social Sciences
7F14058	<i>Governance, social investments and social INNOvation in CARE services in the Czech Republic and Norway</i>	4Q 2017	Financial control – Social Sciences

Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices

Project no.	Name of the project	Note
7F14045	<i>Utilization of long term (passive) sampling methods combined with in situ microcosms for assessment of (bio)degradation potential</i>	Both projects from the Environment thematic area joint publicity activities and organized a workshop together to multiply an effect of interim results dissemination. http://passes.cz/en/v-ramci-ipsw-2016-probehl-3-passes-workshop/
7F14330	<i>A new methodological approach for identification of industrial pollution: Isotope fingerprinting and bacterial community changes</i>	https://www.fzp.czu.cz/cs/r-9411-projects-and-partnerships/r-9880-projects/r-9882-isofin

Annex 4: Overview on supported research projects

Overview on selected / reserve/ withdrawn projects

No.	Title	Project Promoter	Partner	Donor partner	Budget € (total project costs)
1	Phosphorylation-mediated signalling in DNA damage response and cancer	Institute of Molecular Genetics of the ASCR, v.v.i., Prague	Palacky University in Olomouc	Oslo University Hospital	968 943
2	3D yeast colony genomics: A model for cancer progression and development of drug resistance in biofilms	Charles University, Prague	Institute of Microbiology of the AS CR	Oslo University Hospital	958 038
3	Source-Term Determination of Radionuclide Releases by Inverse Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling (STRADI)	UTIA - Institute of Information Theory and Automation AS CR, Prague	EPFL - École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland	NILU – Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Kjeller	822 491
4	Advanced Detectors for Better Awareness of Neutrons and Gamma Rays in Environment	Czech Technical University in Prague	National Radiation Protection Institute, Prague	Stiftelsen SINTEF, Trondheim Integrated Detector Electronics AS, Oslo	1 027 396
5	NuArch: Nuclear Architecture in the regulation of autophagy, DNA repair and gene expression	Institute of Biophysics Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Brno		University of Oslo	1 088 717
6	Macromolecular toolbox for biomedical applications	Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, AS CR, Prague	Charles University, Prague	University of Oslo Oslo University Hospital	1 322 981
7	Harvesting big text data for under-resourced languages	Masaryk University, Brno		NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim	923 321
8	Biomaterials and stem cells in the treatment of stroke and spinal cord injury	Institute of Experimental Medicine, Academy of Sciences of the		NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and	641 509

		Czech Republic, Prague		Technology, Trondheim	
9	Governance, social investments and social INNOvation in CARE services in the Czech Republic and Norway	Masaryk University, Brno		Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Oslo	624 981
10	Tissue engineering of genetically competent corneal/conjunctival cells for subsequent grafting in human medicine	Charles University, Prague	University Hospital Kralovske Vinohrady	Oslo University Hospital NILU – Norwegian Institute of Air Research	872 491
11	Human, Agricultural, and Climatic Impact on Ecological Rules: macroecological analysis of palaeobiological datasets	Charles University, Prague		Lillehammer University College University of Bergen	1 125 019
12	Naturalness in Human Cognitive Enhancement	University of West Bohemia, Plzen	Prague Psychiatric Center, Klecany Charles University in Prague	University College of Gjøvik Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Oslo	1 027 585
13	Comparative study of Huntington's disease using biochemical, immunocytochemical and molecular genetic methods on the mouse, minipig and human tissues and cells	Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Libechov	Charles University, Prague	Oslo University Hospital	936 566
14	Structuring effect of submerged macrophytes on trophic relationships and distribution of fish in deep lakes	Biology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ceske Budejovice		NINA - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim	850 377
15	A new methodological approach for identification of industrial pollution: Isotope fingerprinting and bacterial community changes	Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague		NIBIO, As The Geological Survey of Norway (NGU), Trondheim	648 075

16	Assessing water quality improvement options concerning nutrient and pharmaceutical contaminants in rural watersheds	Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague	T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute (TGM WRI), Prague Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation, (RISWC), Prague VODNÍ ZDROJE, a.s., Prague	NIBIO, As	969 434
17	Phase behaviour in CCS systems	Institute of Thermomechanics AS CR, Prague		SINTEF Energy Research AS, Trondheim	621 358
18	Physical Activity as a Part in Treatment of Psychiatric Patients	Jan Evangelista Purkyně University, Ústí nad Labem		NSSS - The Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Oslo	866 415
19	Phosphine Ligands for Environmentally Friendly C-C Bond Forming Reactions	Charles University, Prague		University of Bergen	629 434
Reserve projects – supported in 2015					
20	Conservation and breeding potential of native fruits in the Czech Republic and Norway	Crop Research Institute, Prague	Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy, Ltd.	NIBIO, As	794 717
21	Utilization of long term (passive) sampling methods combined with in situ microcosms for assessment of (bio)degradation potential	Charles University, Prague	Dekonta, a.s., Praha	ALS Laboratory Group Norway AS, Oslo	846 981
22	Regulation of Plant Cell Wall Metabolism by Cytokinins: Novel Developmental Mechanisms for Biomass Improvement	Masaryk University, Brno		NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim	992 113
23	The contribution of higher education Institutions to strengthen socio-economic development of peripheral regions in Norway and the Czech Republic	Centre for Higher Education Studies, Prague	Charles University, Prague	Agder Research, Kristiansand	753 472

Reserve projects – not supported

R5	Capitalizing on carbon capture using novel ionic liquids with CO2 conversion to valuable products	Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague	Stiftelsen SINTEF, Trondheim	943 396
-----------	---	---	------------------------------	---------

R6	Novel Regulator of Fission Yeast Cell Cycle	Charles University, Prague	Oslo University Hospital	528 792
-----------	---	----------------------------	--------------------------	---------

Cancelled

Withdrawn in 2014	Developing and evaluating driver rehabilitation programs using neurobehavioural techniques.	Masaryk University, Brno	Transport Research Centre, Brno	Norges Handelshøyskole Transportøkonomisk Institut	963 811
--------------------------	---	--------------------------	---------------------------------	---	---------

Annex 5: Overview on bilateral initiatives approved within the Fund for bilateral relations

No.	Title	Promoter	Partner	Grants* €/CZK
1	7F16001 - <i>Establishment of bilateral cooperation and exchange of experience in the field of medical infrared thermography</i>	Masaryk University, Brno	Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø	12,452 330 000
2	7F16002 - <i>Structural analysis of supramolecular systems: The synergy between theoretical and experimental methods</i>	Masaryk University, Brno	Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø	27,924 740 000
3	7F16003 - <i>Spectrum - ceramic between art and design</i> Completed (but not settled yet)	Academy of Arts in Prague	Oslo National Academy of Arts	11,396 302 000
4	7F16004 - <i>Development of Czech Norwegian partnership in ophthalmology, genotoxicity, and transplant medicine research</i>	Charles University in Prague	Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Kjeller	30,188 800 000
5	7F16005 - <i>Preparation of H2020 project on Characterization of intrinsically disordered proteins from extracellular matrix and their role in inflammation processes, reactive calcification and adverse reactions to biomaterials</i>	Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, v.v.i., Prague	University of Oslo	16,223 430 000
6	7F16007 - <i>Methodology development for mass spectrometry-based proteomics</i>	Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, v.v.i., Prague	University of Oslo	11,396 302 000
7	7F16008 - <i>Human Cognitive Enhancement: New Issues</i>	University of West Bohemia, Plzeň	Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Science, Oslo	20,188 535 000
8	7F16009 - <i>Legislating from Strasbourg: How International Human Rights Law Influences Domestic Legislation</i>	Masaryk University, Brno	University of Oslo	14,528 385 000
9	7F16010 - <i>Introducing Post-Normal Science in the Czech Republic</i>	Masaryk University	University of Bergen	29,962 794 000
10	7F16012 - <i>Czech-Norwegian networking on nuclear structure and function</i>	Institute of Biophysics of Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, Brno	University of Oslo	29,245 775 000
11	7F16013 - <i>Joint preparation of the H2020 proposal – FishBiometrics</i>	University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice	Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, Tromsø	17,396 461 000
12	7F16014 - <i>Promoting Environmental Mobilities</i>	Masaryk University, Brno	Lillehammer University College	30,037 796 000

Note 1: *Used the fixed exchange rate of the Programme that is 26.5 CZK/EUR.

Note 2: The listed initiatives were approved by PO in the 2nd half of 2016 and some of them already started implementation in 2016.