



Ongoing evaluation of implementation of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

Ministry of Education, Youth and
Sports

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Executive Summary



Based on the state of implementation, factual progress partially corresponds with the anticipated state of implementation of OP RDE to a given date

Between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2019, 101 out of 156 result and output indicators across the priority axes to which projects are directly committed showed a non-zero achieved value.



The risk of not-fulfilling target values and the risk of over-fulfilling target values has been identified.

By 38 indicators out of 156 programme indicators, a risk of non-fulfilment is identified. A list of indicators is given in the table below:

Table 1 Executive summary - the risk of not-fulfilment of the target values

PA/IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA1	Output	Number of newly created products of strategic management of RDI (LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure research-oriented study programmes(MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported administrative and technical staff in RDI (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of students of research-oriented study programmes and Ph.D. students who took part in the fellowship (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of newly created accredited study programmes taught in the Czech language (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of newly created study programmes taught in cooperation with another university (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new practice-oriented study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported products of LL (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new project intentions supported by Smart Accelerator (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new practice-oriented Bachelor study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of study programmes with at least one subject newly taught in a foreign language (MDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Number of newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructures for research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure research-oriented study programmes(MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of study programmes taught in a foreign language (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of first-year graduates of practice-oriented study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of first-year graduates of new Bachelor practice-oriented study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of students with SEN using products of advisory and assistance support (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of newly created courses of LL (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of U with established transparent quality assessment systems (MDR)



PA/IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of first-year graduates in new or modernized research programmes accredited for teaching in foreign language (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of organizations influenced by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of Roma children, pupils and students in supported organizations (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of supported products (MDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of Roma children, pupils and students in supported organizations (MDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of organizations in which the quality of education and training and pro-inclusion have increased (MDR and LDR)
PA4	Output	Number of carried-out trainings, seminars, workshops, conferences
PA4	Output	Number of created communication tools

By 80 indicators out of 156 programme indicators, a risk of over-fulfilment is identified. A list of indicators is given in the table below:

Table 2 Executive summary - the risk of over-fulfilment of the target values

PA / IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA1	Output	Number of new researchers in supported entities (MDR and LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of researchers who work in newly built, expanded or modernized research infrastructures (MDR and LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly built, expanded or modernized research infrastructures, and centres of excellence (MDR and LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructures for research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly created products of strategic management of RDI (MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of expanded or upgraded research institutions (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Total number of participants (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported researchers and academics (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported administrative and technical staff in RDI (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported people involved in the management and implementation of RDI policy (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported products (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of newly created accredited study programmes taught in the Czech language (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of study programmes with at least one subject newly taught in a foreign language (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of advisory and support products (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of products created to improve strategic management and the evaluation system of higher education (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new or modernized research programmes accredited for teaching in a foreign language (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new products modernizing strategic management systems in research organizations (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new project intentions supported by Smart Accelerator (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new tools for RDI support at regional level (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Acquired information sources (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Number of acquired information systems (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of first-year graduates of practice-oriented study programmes (LDR)



PA / IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of U with established transparent quality assessment systems (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of organizations whose staff increased their qualification and management in RDI and related areas (MDR and LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of research organizations with newly arrived researchers from abroad or from the private sector (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of research organizations with a modernized strategic management system (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of supported cooperations (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Total number of participants (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Number of supported products (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Number of products in systemic projects (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of supported products (LDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of products in systemic projects (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP3	Output	Total number of participants (LDR)
PA3 IP3	Output	Number of supported products (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP3	Output	Number of products in systemic projects (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of organizations in which the quality of education and training and pro-inclusion have increased (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of employees in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of organizations influenced by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of children and pupils in need of support measures in supported organizations (LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of Roma children, pupils and students in supported organizations (LDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of supported cooperations (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of employees in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of organizations influenced by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP3	Result	Number of organizations influenced by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP3	Result	Number of employees in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (MDR and LDR)
PA3 IP3	Result	Number of Roma children and pupils included in education (MDR and LDR)
PA4	Output	Number of meetings of authorities, working or advisory groups
PA4	Output	Number of organized information and promotion activities




The values of OP RDE milestones for 2018 were fulfilled.

The values of OP RDE milestones were fulfilled in the amount that ensured fulfilment of milestones of OP RDE for individual priority axes. The OP RDE performance indicator has been met.

Substantial progress of the OP RDE implementation can be demonstrated already in the results of individual projects. For this purpose, field research took place for projects 02_16_019 Excellent Research and Projects to promote international mobility of RD workers, namely projects supported under call 02_16_027 International mobility and calls 02_17_050 and 02_18_070 MSCA - IF I and II.

Call 02_16_019 Excellent research (PA1)





In the call No. 02_16_019 Excellent research, due to the great interest in obtaining financial support, the best rated projects, i.e. projects with the potential of excellence and competitiveness in international comparison were supported. Within the field survey, 4 case studies were prepared, presenting the uniqueness and excellence of the selected projects. Among the selected projects of the call for support of oriented research of interdisciplinary nature, for example, the construction of laser infrastructure within the ADONIS project which will provide space for a wide range of applications in various sectors (health, engineering, astrophysics, energy or culture) is of great significance. Another project supports interdisciplinary research by combining elements of sociological research with archaeological research to investigate the impact of sinophonic culture on its surroundings.

Projects in this call also contribute to the internationalization and international competitiveness of the RD environment in the Czech Republic. In this regard, for example the project focused on upgrading the infrastructure (tokamak COMPASS) can be mentioned, which will be able to provide unique experimental conditions for the thermonuclear fusion process which no other device in the world will have. Similarly, within the framework of the ADONIS project, a world-wide unique laser infrastructure should be developed, which should subsequently be accessible to scientific teams from all around the world, which should lead to the development and internationalization of research with application potential in the Czech Republic. The Healthy Aging project, which examines the impact of air pollution on the health of the Czech population, can be considered as an original project with a practical impact. The research is focused on specific conditions in the Czech Republic and on areas which have not been directly researched in the Czech Republic or abroad.

Through this call and projects implemented within it, SO1 is fulfilled in PA1, which is “Improving international quality of research and its results”. Implemented activities of supported projects contribute to the fulfilment of this goal and they are, as mentioned above, focused on strengthening the interdisciplinarity of research, internationalization and international competitiveness, originality of research and practical impact of projects.

Calls 02_16_027 International mobility, 02_17_050 and 02_18_070 MSCA - IF I and II (mobility)

The main objectives of the mobility calls are to support the career development of researchers and the development of research organizations by strengthening human resources. According to the implementers and representatives of the target groups, these goals have been achieved. Mobility participants consider their stays to be beneficial and, from their point of view, have made great progress for their careers. Mobility participants are mostly interested in continuing to cooperate with the organization in which they have implemented their mobility, also in the future provided that their work is interesting and there is sufficient funding for this cooperation.

From the perspective of implementers, the goals of mobility are being achieved and research is being internationalized by making use of the potential of foreign workers, transferring foreign experience to the Czech Republic, establishing new contacts and developing existing contacts at international level, including at the level of institutions as a whole. Arrival mobilities will allow to try out foreign workers and, if they prove to be successful, to establish long-term cooperation with them or keep them at an institution as employees. Outgoing mobilities primarily lead to the establishment and development of cooperation with a foreign institution. The resulting links will then lead to continuing cooperation and subsequently to results at an international level, i.e. will benefit the institution and its employees in the future.

From the information obtained, space for improvement of grant management was identified, especially on the part of recipients of mobility grants. Some institutions in the Czech Republic are not



used to applying for grants related to the mobility of researchers and researchers do not have sufficient support from beneficiaries in some cases.

Projects under the calls supporting mobility also contribute to the fulfilment of PA2 IP1 SO5 “Improving the conditions for education related to research and for the development of human resources in research and development” by helping to increase the qualifications of researchers through participation in foreign organizations, insuring that experts move from abroad to the Czech Republic and supporting the development and establishment of strategic partnerships at an international level.



Financial progress is lower than expectations stated in the OP RDE programme document

As of 31 December 2018, a total of CZK 67,803 m CZK was committed, which represents 77% of the total allocation of the programme. The share of disbursed funds in the total allocation of OP RDE is then 39% of this allocation and does not correspond to the time progress of the programme implementation (currently the end of the fourth year of the programme implementation). At the same time, the proportion of disbursed funds against commitment appropriations is also relatively low. The financial volume of announced calls is approximately 112% of the OP allocation (95% of the ESF allocation and 125% of the ERDF allocation). The funds allocated by the calls in PA1 and PA2 exceed the allocation stipulated in the OP RDE programme document. This reality is given by the fact that in some already terminated calls, not all allocated funds were used up and consequently they were reallocated in other announced calls. Therefore these funds are counted twice. A detailed overview is provided in the following table.

Table 3 Financial performance in funds perspective

Table 3 Financial performance in funds perspective

Priority axis	Fund	Share of allocation of calls to the allocation of OP RDE	Share of financial resources under commitments to allocation of OP RDE	Share of financial resources paid to the allocation of OP RDE
PA1	EFRR	124%	92%	39%
PA2	EFRR	137%	99%	51%
	ESF	101%	61%	29%
PA3	ESF	94%	56%	37%
PA4	EFRR	88%	70%	39%
Total	EFRR	125%	92%	42%
	ESF	96%	57%	35%
	EFRR+ESF	112%	77%	39%

Based on the analysis of financial progress, the evaluator notes that the financial milestone of 2018 has been fulfilled and there is no serious risk of non-fulfilment of the N+3 rule in 2019.



Based on the current status of the financial progress on 31 December 2018, no risk of non-utilization of allocated resources of the OP RDE has been identified.



All specific objectives of the OP RDE are covered by at least one closed call. The absorption capacity of calls was in most cases of the terminated calls in the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 estimated correctly. The analysis showed that in most cases, mainly high quality project applications were supported (according to the point evaluation).



The implementation structure of the OP RDE, represented by Section IV EU and ESIF MEYS, has undergone organisational changes since the beginning of 2019 due to the low functionality of some organisational components.

The real impacts of organizational changes will be evaluated responsibly at least six months after making these changes.



OP RDE interventions have links to relevant strategic documents, including their real contribution in terms of achieved values of the monitoring indicators.

In terms of the number of links of the National RIS3 Strategy (34 links to calls with a total allocation of calls of more than CZK 64 b), the OP RDE interventions are the most fulfilled. The second most fulfilled strategy is the Strategy of the education policy of the Czech Republic until 2020 (29 links to calls with a total allocation of calls of CZK 30.8 b). The third most fulfilled strategy is represented by the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy for 2016-2020 (20 links to calls with a total allocation of calls of CZK 38.6 b). The fourth strategy is the Long-term plan for education and development of the education system of the Czech Republic for 2015-2020 (16 links to calls with a total allocation of CZK 23.9 b). The fifth strategy is the National reform programme of the Czech Republic for 2014, like 2016, 2017 and 2018 (15 links to calls with a total allocation of CZK 17 b).

A relatively high link of OP RDE interventions to strategic documents and concepts was identified in the case of the Digital education strategy up to 2020. Other significant links in terms of both number and allocation of calls still show the Long-term intention of educational, scientific, development, innovation and other creative activities in the field of higher education for the period 2016 - 2020, the Framework for the development of higher education by 2020, further the Action plan for inclusive education 2016 and the Roma integration strategy for 2020, period 2014-2020, the EU Council recommendations on the National reform programme 2107 and the Action plan for inclusive education 2019-2020.

Since the OP RDE implementation started, no strategic developments or modifications requiring changes to the supported OP RDE activities have been identified in the examined strategic documents.



Factors which could affect effective implementation of OP RDE were identified.



The identified factors, which currently affect the progress of the programme implementation, are listed in the following table. Factors are divided into the most serious (red), moderate (orange) and least severe (green).

Table 4 Factors influencing the state of implementation of the programme

Factor	Factor specification	Impact of the factor	Probability of occurrence	Severity of the factor
PA1 – risk of non-fulfilment of the output indicators	<p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of newly created products of strategic management of RDI (LDR) • Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (LDR and MDR) • Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure research-oriented study programmes (MDR) 	2	2	4
PA2 – risk of non-fulfilment of the output indicators	<p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP1: Number of supported administrative and technical staff in RDI (MDR) • IP1: Number of students of research-oriented study programmes and Ph.D. students who took part in the fellowship (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of newly created accredited study programmes taught in the Czech language (MDR) • IP1: Number of newly created study programmes taught in cooperation with another university (MDR) • IP1: Number of new practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) • IP1: Number of study programmes with at least one subject newly taught in a foreign language (MDR) • IP1: Number of supported products of LL (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of new project intentions supported by Smart Accelerator (MDR) • IP1: Number of new practice-oriented Bachelor study programmes (MDR) • IP2: Number of newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructures for research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR) • IP2: Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR) 	3	2	6
PA2 – risk of non-fulfilment of the result indicators	<p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following result indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP1: Number of study programmes taught in a foreign language (LDR) • IP1: Number of first-year graduates of practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) • IP1: Number of first-year graduates of new Bachelor practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) • Number of students with SEN using products of advisory and assistance support (MDR) 	3	2	6



Factor	Factor specification	Impact of the factor	Probability of occurrence	Severity of the factor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP1: Number of newly created courses of LL (MDR and LDR) IP1: Number of U with established transparent quality assessment systems (MDR) IP1: Number of first-year graduates in new or modernized research programmes accredited for teaching in foreign language (MDR and LDR) IP1: Number of organizations influenced by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR) IP1: Number of Roma children, pupils and students in supported organizations (MDR and LDR) 			
PA3 – risk of non-fulfilment of the output indicators	There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the outcome indicator IP2 Number of supported products (MDR)	2	2	4
PA3 – risk of non-fulfilment of the result indicators	There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following result indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP1: Number of Roma children and pupils included in education (MDR) IP2: The number of organizations in which the quality of education and training and pro-exclusivity have increased (MDR and LDR) 	2	3	6
PA4 – risk of non-fulfilment of the output indicators	There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following outcome indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of training sessions, seminars, workshops, conferences Number of created communication tools 	2	2	4

Based on the carried-out analyses, the following list of recommendations was created.

Table 5 Recommendations resulting from the findings

Name of recommendation	Description of recommendation	Prioritization of recommendation	Implementation steps
Revision of the OP settings of the indicator values in PA1 – PA4	For all priority axes, indicators were identified where there is a risk of non-fulfilment of target values of the indicators and their over-fulfilment, even in the order of hundreds of percent. For this reason, it is recommended to revise the OP with the aim of increasing the target values of selected indicators.	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To complete a document containing the arguments behind proposals for changes in indicator values. To start a formal negotiation process with the European Commission.

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