

CZ-GOOD GOVERNANCE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2023: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023 all the Pre-defined projects (PDPs) and Small Grant Scheme (SGS1) Call projects were running according to the plan. Moreover, PDP3 and PDP5 projects completed their activities and currently the process of final financial settlement is undergoing.

The Small Grant Scheme Call (SGS1) projects realized all the planned participation activities – trainings, workshops, roundtables, public meetings and profited from the cooperation with Norwegian and Icelandic project partners through lessons learned exchange. No doubt, even public involving into decision-making on local level have contributed to meeting the objectives of the Programme Good Governance.

The programme is on track to achieve majority of all Outcome and Output indicators. We may report Outcome indicators “Number of national policies and laws influence” (The draft Act on Financial control within PDP3 and Whistle-blowers Protection Act within PDP5) and “Formal Code of Conduct Implemented nationwide by Courts” (within PDP5) fulfilled. So as the indicator “Number of people participating in consultations with a public decision-making body during the programme period” related to SGS1 projects that has been over-achieved (by 23%), due to high interest of citizens.

As for Output indicators we may depict almost the complete achievement of Output indicators related to PDP3 project and PDP5 project (except for the PDP5 project output indicator “Number of judges, public prosecutors and other judicial officials participating in working groups on codes of conduct”, the goal was not met due to lack of cooperation from the side of judges) and partial achievements within the other pre-defined projects.

The rest of Outcome and Output indicators shall be continuously achieved by April 2024.

Concerning the bilateral indicators the Programme Operator identifies, the indicators “Number of participants from Beneficiary States in bilateral activities” and “Number of participants from Donor States in bilateral activities” shall not be fulfilled, because the target values were set overly ambitious, and partly because the participants are being involved but can’t be counted in line with the indicator definitions. But this do not prevent the SGS1 projects from reaching the appropriate goals. The indicator “Number of training courses co-organised by Donor and Beneficiary State entities” was totally met.

Considering a political impact the PO registered the endorsement of Whistle-blower Protection Act (effective date: 1 August 2023). As far as the amendment to Act on Conflicts of Interest is concerned, several attempts were made to amend the Act but these were not successful. However, the Act on Conflict of Interest was partially amended by the adoption of Act No. 253/2023 Coll., which amends Act No. 424/1991 Coll., on association in political parties and political movements, as amended, and other related laws.

The visibility of the programme is ensured via the EEA and Norway Grants website <https://www.eeagrants.cz/en/programmes/good-governance>. The upcoming events or interesting news are also available on social media (Facebook, Instagram). Publicity rules at the project level are adhered to (logos, roll-ups).

A cooperation with the IPO (Council of Europe) was limited to a regular Cooperation Committee meeting as no crucial topics were to be discussed or solved.