

CZ-CULTURE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2023: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Programme Culture is at the advanced phase of the implementation. Out of 115 supported projects 57 projects already successfully finished their realization and are working on final administrative steps. The rest of the projects - 58 projects, will be mostly implemented until the very the end, i.e. April 2024. Expected results based on seven closed calls and one pre-defined project Lety show high variety of exceptional projects and that the planned programme target values of outcomes and outputs will be achieved and some even exceeded. The quality of approved projects within the “Outcome 2: Improved access to contemporary arts” also supports several received nominations and awards, plenty of positive reviews and articles (for example in the field of music, theatre, book, exhibition, etc...).

Regarding the pre-defined project “Building of a memorial to the victims of the Roma holocaust in Lety” the demolition of the former pig farm representing the first part of the project (covered from national sources) was completed in January 2023. The construction works for establishing the memorial and visitor centre were carried out from March until December 2023. Final building approval is foreseen to be obtain in the beginning of 2024 with the follow-up opening event. The planned international conference will take place in the city of Písek in February 2024. Regardless of the delays and several obstacles the deadline of project implementation April 2024 should be met.

Bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway continued to be strengthened within the bilateral partnerships in 89 projects. With approximately 80 % of all projects in bilateral partnership there is stronger effect of bilateral cooperation and higher probability of collisions between the partners. But on the whole the collaboration between partners is well functioning and perceived as beneficial also thanks to the good cooperation with all Donor Programme Partners. That was also confirmed in the performed interim evaluation of the Culture Programme in spring 2023. To address the issues of bilateral partnerships, lessons learned and feedback from the bilateral projects the Programme Operator plans two seminars for each outcome with the project promoters and their bilateral partners in March 2024.

As far as publicity is concerned, all relevant information and the visibility of EEA Grants is secured both at the programme and project level. The website www.eeagrants.cz/en/programmes/culture has been continuously updated also with the use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter covering interesting stories, news and invitations to projects events and activities.

The overall risk of the programme has not changed much compared to the previous periods. Some risks were partially mitigated and no outstanding risks or significant new difficulties were identified. Despite the challenges such as COVID-19 in the beginning of implementation, war in Ukraine that started in 2022 and high inflation, we can say that the Programme Culture is running towards successful implementation.