

CZ-HEALTH ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2023: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme Health has been running in the Czech Republic since 2019. All three pre-defined projects ("PDPs") 1, 2 and 3 were approved in 2020.

Despite the reported difficulties last year, the PDP 1 "TripleP programme" is now being successfully implemented and the personnel situation in the project team is stable. No new risks appeared and project will successfully finish its' implementation in April 2024, even with more centres involved than planned (described in Outcome 1).

PDP2 "Prevention of antimicrobial resistance" progressed really well in 2023 and in compliance with planned time schedule. Related campaign concerning the misuse of antibiotic continued to be successful with reaching more than 3200 followers on Facebook and was active until the end of project implementation in December 2023.

Implementation of the PDP3 "The Patient Hub" finished in December 2023, with significantly overachieved indicators, as seen in the status of indicators of Outcome 3. However, PDP3 had to make significant changes within sustainability of the project, as negotiations between PDP3 and new umbrella organization, which was supposed to takeover activities of the Patient Hub, were unsuccessful. Sustainability of the established Hub will be ensured by the Ministry of Health, which will continue with the training and e-learning activities of the Patient Hub. The lease of the administrative premises of the Patient Hub in Prague will no longer continue (since January 2024). All purchased equipment will be moved to the premises of the Ministry of Health.

In 2023, there were 10 projects from the Open Call 1 (OC1) and 2 projects from the Open Call 2 (OC2) under implementation. Another three projects from OC1: CZ-HEALTH-0018, CZ-HEALTH-0011 and CZ-HEALTH-00061 finished their implementation by the end of June 2023. All approved projects were running towards predefined goals according to their schedules.

As it was already stated in previous reports, the condition from the PA stipulating that at least 10% of the Program's financial allocation is allocated to the topic of "improving access to health care for vulnerable minorities and within socially weak localities" will probably not be met. It will be possible to determine the definitive ratio of financial resources only in the final report on the Program, but the budgets of the two implemented projects on this topic (OC2) will very probably not fulfil this condition.

The year 2023 was still influenced, like previous year, by both the war conflict in Ukraine and the lingering consequences of the pandemic. Not to mention the impact of the war/pandemic on the relevant staff, clearly, the state of play put the importance and necessity of projects focusing on mental health even more to the light. The reform of psychiatric care in the Czech Republic (strategic document) was approved in 2023. The general aim of the reform is to improve the quality of life of people with mental illness. In 2023, there was a significant expansion of community care in the Czech Republic. New types of services are being created – a mental health centres and an outpatient clinics with extended care.

Despite initial delay, six projects within the Small Grant Scheme 1 (SGS1), three projects from the Small Grant Scheme 2 (SGS 2) and fifteen projects from the Small Grant Scheme 3 (SGS 3) are under implementation and heading towards successful end of the implementation.

As far as risks are concerned, despite the slight delays in previous year 2022, actual state of implementation of all projects in 2023 was satisfactory and all projects shall finish their implementation in April 2024. No outstanding risks or significant/new difficulties were identified.