MINUTES 7TH ANNUAL MEETING EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

Prague, 20 September 2024

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Institution	Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	STRØMØ Jon Erik
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	BØRRESEN Lars
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	HAUGEN Ingjerd
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	VATNE Per Øystein
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	ENGLUND Terje
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	GANICKÁ Helena
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague	MYRVOLD Johannes
Icelandic Embassy in Berlin	ÁGÚSTSSON Ágúst Már
Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU	BRUNHART Alina
Office for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein	SPRENGER Dominic
Financial Mechanism Office	STEINFELD Katrine
Financial Mechanism Office	MEHSEN Nora
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CR	HOMOLOVÁ Naděžda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CR	ALLO Vilém
Ministry of Finance – NFP	MATYÁŠOVÁ Zuzana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	SOVOVÁ Šárka
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	GASSENBAUEROVÁ Martina
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	BAYEROVÁ Radana
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA1	TOUŠOVÁ Monika
Ministry of Finance – NFP-CFA2	JEŘÁBKOVÁ Hana
Ministry of Finance – CA	KURTIŠ Josef
Ministry of Finance – CA	BAUEROVÁ Petra
Ministry of Finance – AA	PROKOP Michal

OPENING / ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Annual Meeting was opened by the Head of the National Focal Point (NFP), **Ms Zuzana Matyášová**, who chaired the meeting. She welcomed all participants and summarized the activities done in recent months. She recalled the reallocations to the Bilateral Fund that enabled to even more strengthen bilateral cooperation and helped to maximize the utilization of the Grants. She reported that 97 % of all projects were successfully completed by 30 April 2024. She also introduced all participants of the Annual Meeting and thanked for all work, dedication and cooperation.

From the Donors' side the Annual Meeting was opened by the Director General of the Section for Central and South Eastern Europe of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Mr Jon Erik Strømø**, who co-chaired the meeting. First of all, he expressed the sympathy with all affected by flooding. He explained his impression by the excellent work done in previous months and recalled very good outcomes across all programmes despite the challenges during the whole implementation period. He added that the Donors took lessons learned from the current period, especially for the length of the preparatory phase. Finally, he informed that the Donors' agreements with the EU on new EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028 were signed on 12 September 2024 and that the Blue Book and the draft Regulations were sent for the consultations with the Beneficiary States.

Short opening speech was also presented by Mr Per Øystein Vatne, Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague, followed by introductory remarks of Mr Ágúst Már Ágústsson, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Icelandic Embassy in Berlin, and concluded with the opening remarks of the representative of Liechtenstein, Ms Alina Brunhart, First Secretary at the Representation of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the EU. Mr Vatne excused the Ambassador and expressed that he was very satisfied with the bilateral cooperation, dedication, professionalism and flexibility of the NFP, especially when handling the challenges and communication within the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds (JCBF). He recalled that the year 2024 is again very challenging, due to completion of programmes and related final events. Mr Ágústsson commended on the good management of the funds and expressed the understanding that there are always unexpected issues to deal with. He thanked the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) for the assistance and also the Programme Operators and other stakeholders for their work. He added that Iceland would welcome the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Czech Republic (CR) and the EEA Grants could be used to support this. He valued the success in the implementation of the Grants and high utilization of the funds. Ms Brunhart expressed the solidarity with flooded regions and her hope that the situation will be overcome soon. She was very satisfied with the cooperation within the EEA and Norway Grants and was looking forward for continuation in the next programming period.

The Agenda of the 7th Annual Meeting was approved without any comments.

DRAFT STRATEGIC REPORT 2023

Ms Matyášová introduced that the Seventh Strategic Report with the reporting period 1 September 2023 – 15 June 2024 was submitted to the FMO on 15 July 2024 and it contained standard information, chapters and annexes. Based on the Donors' requirement it also included a separate chapter related to the horizontal concern of Roma inclusion in the respective programmes.

Mr Strømø summed up that the submitted Strategic Report was very comprehensive and was submitted on time. As concerned the management and control system, he highlighted that it is well functioning and there is a very good cooperation with the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority which is particularly important in light of the Grant's zero tolerance to corruption. Mr Strømø also took note of a good cooperation with the DPPs across the programmes, high share of bilateral projects and many additional activities implemented until the very end before possible deadlines. He also





appreciated concise reporting on horizontal issues and encouraged also the Programme Operators to report the results on Roma inclusion and empowerment indicators in the Final Programme Reports. Mr Strømø especially recalled a very high political support to the "Roma Holocaust Memorial in Lety" project, but understood the reasons for the decisions related to the project of "Centre for Roma and Sinti in Prague". He commended the work done by the NFP and Programme Operators related to Roma inclusion special concern.

Finally, the Seventh Strategic Report was approved by the Donors.

STATUS OF PROGRAMMES

Ms Martina Gassenbauerová, Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, presented the actual status of the programmes, focusing on results achieved, actual risks identified within the programmes and lessons learned (attachment No. 1). Discussion was held programme by programme.

CZ-RESEARCH

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** commended the outstanding programme with excellent results, although one project (Metamorph) was not successful. He mentioned that he understood it was challenging to combine basic research with applied research and technical solutions, even though basic research and social sciences were among the original objectives of the programme.

Ms Gassenbauerová explained that although the programme was focused on applied research, basic research was also covered to some extent in relation with applied research. The social sciences was one of the topics within the call but based on the competition of many applications in the call no projects with specific focus on social sciences were selected.

CZ-ENVIRONMENT

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** appreciated the final results of the programme despite the implementation was a bit slowed down at the beginning. He recalled for the synergies of this programme with the other programmes, especially CZ-RESEARCH, and confirmed that the green transition would remain a priority of the Grants in the following programming period.

CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** acknowledged lot of excellent outcomes, although he was aware that this was a complicated programme. He asked for the assessment of cooperation with the International Partners Organizations (IPOs) within this programme.

Ms Gassenbauerová explained that the Fundamental Rights Agency was except of IPO also a partner within a pre-defined project and was very active in both roles. On the other hand, the Council of Europe as IPO has only a formal role as a member of the Cooperation Committee and their involvement has only limited added value.

Mr Strømø appreciated the openness as the information is valuable for the establishment of the cooperation with IPOs in future.

CZ-JUSTICE

Following the presentation, **Mr Strømø** commended a good progress in the programme and appreciated the cooperation with the DPP (Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service). He asked about the experience with implementation of such a small programme.

Ms Šárka Sovová, Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Preparation and Coordination Unit, explained that for the preparation of the programme and administration of the calls the amount of the programme grant is not so important and the workload is quite comparable to big programmes, so quite inefficient at the end.

Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants



Ms Gassenbauerová replied that for the implementation and monitoring the workload depends on the number of implemented projects, so the management was much easier. She also appreciated the cooperation with such experienced and active DPP.

Mr Strømø asked how the administrative burden for smaller programmes like this could be alleviated. **Ms Sovová** confirmed that having only pre-defined projects would be more efficient though the open call(s) for NGOs might be also important in this sector.

CZ-HOME AFFAIRS

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** appreciated the progress in the programme as well as risk mitigation actions taken. He asked about the experience with implementation of the small-grant scheme on media literacy.

Ms Gassenbauerová explained that the small-grant scheme projects were implemented by the NGOs and were very successful.

CZ-EDUCATION

Following the presentation **Ms Brunhart** congratulated on the excellent results and high achievement of indicators. She was impressed that most of the partnerships plan to continue their collaboration beyond the support of the Grants. She also recalled a successful closing conference in April 2024 and commended for a very good report "The path to quality education".

<u>CZ-HEALTH</u>

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** was again very pleased to see the excellent progress in the programme and impressive level of achievement of indicators. He especially appreciated the support to children's mental health and continuation of Triple-P project from other resources. He also recalled that the Charles University and the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies were collaborating on the new pre-defined bilateral initiative addressing the tragic events in the Faculty of Arts on 21 December 2023. Mr Strømø was also pleased with the results of support to patients' organizations as this area is not so supported by other sources of financing. He asked about the experience with the Ministry of Health as programme partner.

Ms Sovová explained that the Ministry of Health is struggling with capacities, they need to be guided a lot, but are good in listening to the instructions of the NFP and the Programme Operator.

Ms Gassenbauerová added that also in implementation phase they have limited capacities and need quite lot of help and explained that the Ministry of Health was also project promoter of two predefined projects but different units at the Ministry of Health.

CZ-CULTURE

5 projects in the programme were still in implementation until end of September 2024 with other funding sources. The National Focal Point informed that a serious irregularity was under investigation by the Czech authorities in the project "Reconstruction and revitalization of the castle in Lipová". The investigation began with renovation works funded by EU funds, and has been extended to cover the works funded by the EEA and Norway Grants on the same site. The NFP would inform FMO through the irregularity report by end of September. Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** appreciated the active approach of the Programme Operator on risk mitigation and commended for the workshops done to share experiences with bilateral cooperation among project promoters. He expressed that it could happen – in even very good implemented programme – that single project is not successful, could face difficulties or even irregularities. On the other hand, he was very pleased about the results and visibility of the "Roma Holocaust Memorial in Lety" project.

Mr Ágústsson also congratulated to the excellent results in this programme and expressed that the Icelandic DPP (Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNIS) was very happy to be engaged in the partnership.

Ms Gassenbauerová mentioned that this programme was specific with quite wide range of projects and mentioned that experience with management of projects with artists are very specific.

CZ-GOVERNANCE

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** appreciated also recommendations of the Public Governance Review project and commended for well managed utilization of funds for bilateral cooperation. **Ms Gassenbauerová** added information about the cooperation with IPOs: OECD was a very valuable partner within the implementation of pre-defined project, but the cooperation with the Council of Europe as DPP was rather formal.

Ms Katrine Steinfeld the Head of Country and Bilateral Unit at the FMO, together with **Ms Nora Mehsen**, Funds and Horizontal Concerns Unit at the FMO, presented the status of programmes that are in the direct responsibility of the FMO (attachment No. 2): CZ-Active Citizens Fund, CZ-Social Dialogue and Decent Work, Fund for Youth Employment and Fund for Regional Cooperation. **Ms Matyášová** appreciated the presented information and thanked for it.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Ms Šárka Sovová, Head of the Centre for Foreign Assistance – Preparation and Coordination Unit, and **Ms Hana Jeřábková**, Centre for Foreign Assistance – Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit had presentations about the bilateral cooperation under the Grants focused on operation of the JCBF, progress in bilateral funds managed by the NFP as well as bilateral ambitions under the programmes (attachment No. 3 – part I and part II).

Following the presentation **Mr Strømø** thanked for the statistical information provided and commended the excellent work done with the reallocations to the Bilateral Fund. He also appreciated that the funds were used meaningfully, although he understood the workload. He also informed that for the next programming period the Funds for bilateral relations will be again split between the national level and programme level.

Mr Vatne added that the Royal Norwegian Embassy considered the cooperation within the JCBF as very smooth, although sometimes it could be challenging to wait for responses from all JCBF members and he proposed to urge to keep deadlines for replies in future.

Mr Vilém Allo, the member of the JCBF from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, thanked the other JCBF members and the NFP for all the work done and proposed to leave the assessment of the financial aspects of the bilateral initiatives on the NFP solely as this is – in his opinion – not the primary role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and could make the assessment process shorter and more efficient.

Mr Dominic Sprenger, Office for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein, thanked the Czech authorities for the flexibility in the Bilateral Fund and expressed that the bilateral cooperation with Liechtenstein partners is very much appreciated and of great importance for Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein is very supportive of the continuation of the bilateral projects.

Also **Mr Ágústsson** commended on the usage of the Bilateral Fund as this is a very important part of the EEA and Norway Grants. He asked about the experience with initiatives with quite low grant amounts and how the visibility of the bilateral initiatives is ensured.

Ms Jeřábková explained that there are only basic visibility requirements for bilateral initiatives, but the final beneficiaries are well informed about them. The actual communication tools depended on the final beneficiaries as well as on the type of the bilateral initiative. As concerned the lower amount of the grant, the workload related to the monitoring and financial reporting is quite similar as for bigger initiatives, it seems to be relevant to set the minimum grant amount.

Ms Gassenbauerová added that results from the initiatives (events, methodologies, scientific articles) are shared with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague. The NFP also publishes results from the initiatives on the website and through social media.

COMMUNICATON AND PUBLICITY

Ms Radana Bayerová, the NFP communication officer, briefly summarized the NFP's communication and publicity activities done in recent months and plans for upcoming period (attachment No. 4).

The presentation was completed by the information from **Ms Helena Ganická**, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague. She appreciated a very good cooperation with the NFP and the FMO where the CR was inspired by the #OurStories campaign. She appreciated that the activities of the NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy are coordinated also in ideas, capacities and finances. She concluded that the communication will focus on on-line campaigns using social media.

Mr Strømø thanked the NFP for the focus and dedication on communication of the results of the Grants in the CR and appreciated the good cooperation between the NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague. He also commended how the official opening event of the "Roma Holocaust Memorial in Lety" project was communicated and presented in media. He expressed that he was looking forward to the Festival of EEA and Norway Grants the other day.

Ms Matyášová promised that the work on communication and visibility will continue and appreciated the dedication and the amount of work related to the organization of the Festival.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no issues raised under this section.

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Matyášová summed up the conclusions of the 7th Annual Meeting:

- the Donors approved the Seventh Strategic Report,
- the NFP presented the status of implementation of programmes, where only one project will not be completed and is under further investigation for suspicion of irregularity,
- the NFP also presented the overview of the bilateral cooperation and publicity activities.

At the end, **Ms Matyášová** thanked all stakeholders for their work on such successful implementation of EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 in the CR. She concluded that the Czech authorities are sincerely looking forward to the new EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028.

Mr Strømø thanked for a well-prepared Annual Meeting and informative presentations. He appreciated high level of successfully completed projects, excellent results of all programmes and commended for a very enthusiastic and quality team of the Czech authorities. Finally, he mentioned that the Donors are very glad of the partnerships established under the EEA and Norway Grants.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Presentation "Status of the Programmes"
- 2) Presentation "Programmes managed by the FMO"
- 3) Presentation "Bilateral cooperation" (part I + part II)
- 4) Presentation "Publicity"

Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

Status of the Programmes

EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021 in the Czech Republic

Martina Gassenbauerová

Norway grants

6th Annual meeting 20th September 2024



Call

- during September and October 2024
- costs in final report
- Closing conference planned on 10 December 2024

LESSONS LEARNED:

Strong bilateral cooperation – cooperation of research institutions continue after projects end – preparation of applications to other programmes (for example Horizon)

• 24 projects finished implementation till April 2024, final expert evaluation will be held

• 1 cancelled project – Metamorph - forced to end by 31 May 2023 due to a serious irregularity (suspicion of financial fraud of project promoter – investigation by financial office ongoing), final expert evaluation of results in October and assessment of eligible



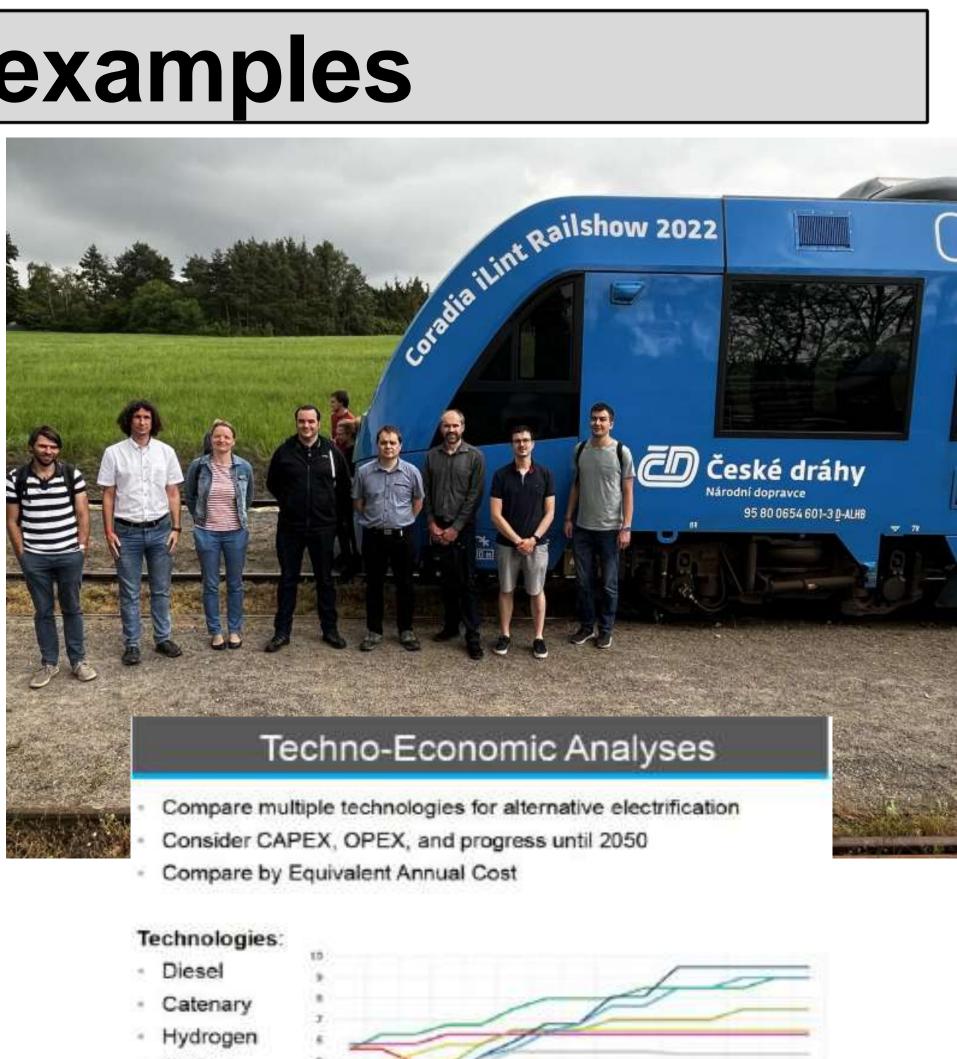
Research – project examples

Project: Regional hydrogen trains on Czech railways

Project promoter: Nuclear Research Institute (ÚJV Řež, a. s.) **Partners:** Railway Research institute in Prague, Czech Hydrogen technology platform, University of chemistry and technology Prague, Sintef AS Grant: 0,6 MEUR

The objective of this project was to analyze the Czech railways and locate areas where hydrogen train technology would have been a preferred technical, economic, and environmental solution compared with other train technologies.

The results identified the preferred areas to replace future decommissioned diesel trains on non-electrified railways.



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Hybrids:

Environment

CALLS

- all 165 projects successfully completed (1 project completed after April 2024) low level of disbursed amounts to projects - less than 60% (time consuming) \bullet administration of final reports, only 70 projects with approved final report)
- closing conference planned on 23 September 2024

LESSONS LEARNED:

extend support from all EEA countries (Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein)

Administration of programme – complicated organisational structure of the PO (not separate project managers for Nor. Funds), large number of calls, many guidelines - separate unit of project managers dedicated only to Nor. Funds, less number of calls, simplified rules for projects **Bilateral cooperation – small number of projects (**26 projects) in cooperation with donor project partners, caused by specific focus of calls, limited capacity on donor side and COVID-19



Project: Brownfield park U Vody **Promoter:** City District Prague 7 Grant amount: 931 880 EUR

The project was focused on the revitalization of the U Vody Park brownfield in Prague's Holešovice. The subject of the project was the transformation of the former transhipment yard formed by concrete objects, areas and ramps, which was a part of the Holešovice port into a nature park close to nature, which it will connect. Its location predestines it to be not only a local park, but also a connection to the central part of the city further north for pedestrians, runners and cyclists. The goal of the project is to increase the resistance of the region and its surroundings against to the negative effects of climate change and to reduce the negative impact of this change on the population.

PEnvironment – project examples









- all 61 projects finished their implementation till April 2024, administering of final project reports,
- **final event** Festival on 21 September \bullet

PDP2 (Centre of Roma and Sinti in Prague)

- significant difficulties during its final phase of implementation (repetition of tenders, changes in construction works, weak project management)
- project is finished without the reconstruction of the building (funds reallocated to the Bilateral fund), only exhibitions and educational activities realized in premises outside of the Centre
- **Actual situation:**
 - building is owned by state and Museum of Roma and Sinti can use it for another 5 years
 - o discussion with Ministry of Culture about financing of new construction documentation and then financing of construction works

Human rights (1)



Villa before reconstruction



PA – Roma inclusion

- informal meeting of all Roma Inclusion project promoters (under calls 1A, 1B, 2) on 22 April 2024 with participation of Lucie Fuková (Government Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs) and representatives for Governmental Office, National Agency for Social Inclusion and FRA, the aim was to share experience and networking
- continuation of projects possible financing from other sources (Governmental Office, Employment +)

LESSONS LEARNED (EVALUATION):

Data collection: outputs of PDP1 appreciated \rightarrow continue in research and data collection on the state of the Roma minority and its characteristics while ensuring transparency and community engagement in data collection **Roma inclusion spread into many programmes** – Roma inclusion mainly in HR, but also in Education, Health, Culture – difficult to measure the impact of grants dedicated to Roma community \rightarrow discuss separate programme or part of programme (call) only for Roma inclusion (apart of Culture – Roma culture is part of Czech culture)

Human rights (2)



Human rights (3)

PA Human Rights

establishing NHRI in the Czech Republic)

on cooperation with Norwegian NHRI)

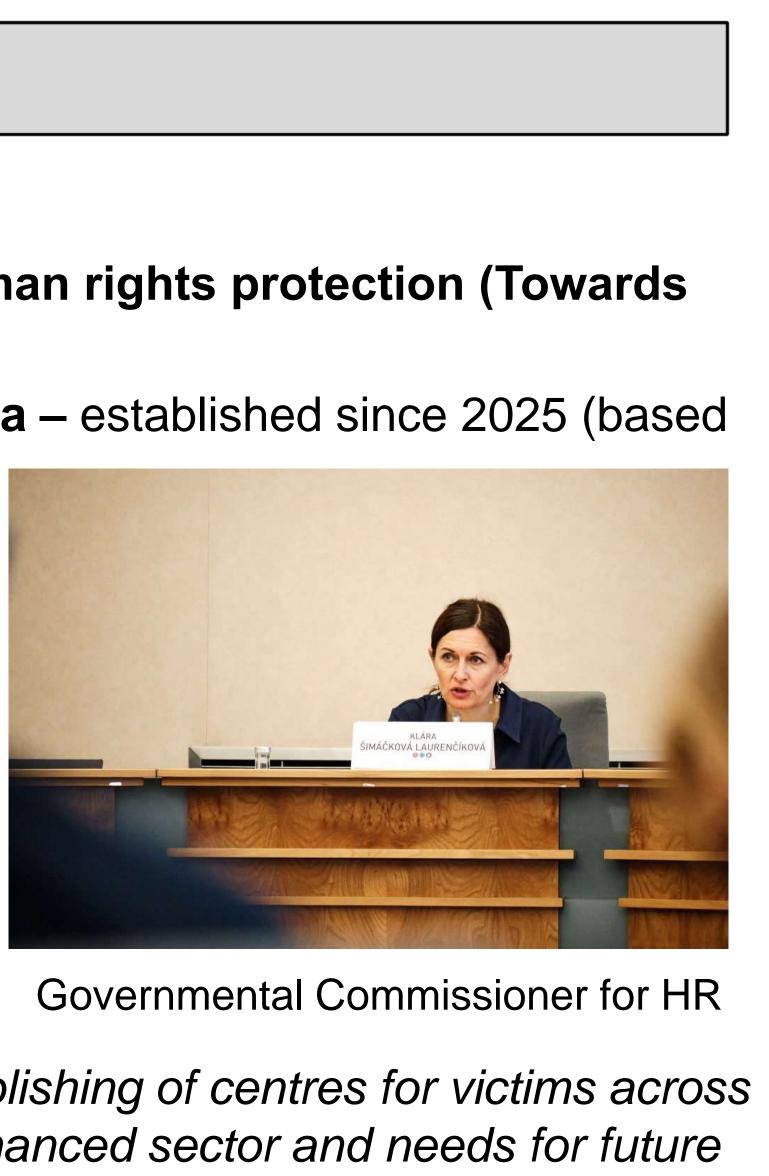
PA Domestic and gender based violence

Government Commissioner for Human Rights (Klára Laurenčíková Šimáčková) – very active in discussion about ratifying of Istanbul convention in the Czech Republic, actively participate in area of domestic and gender based violence (involved in activities in PDP8 - Enhanced capacities and methodological support in prevention of domestic and gender-based violence)

LESSONS LEARNED:

Great impact for prevention of DGBV – significant project outputs in establishing of centres for victims across the CR, education in the field of working with victims and offenders, underfinanced sector and needs for future financial support.

- PDP 3 Strengthening the Public Defender of Rights' activities in human rights protection (Towards)
- Children's ombudsman and National Human Rights institution agenda established since 2025 (based



Human rights – project example

Project: #StopHate: Raising Awareness about Various Forms of **Violence against Women in Political and Public Life**

Project promoter: Forum 50% Grant: 53 883 EUR

The project opens a brand new topic in the Czech context gender-based violence against female politicians and women active in public life.

Violence or harassing behaviour can be one of the main barriers to higher political and public participation of women. Since this issue has not yet been specifically grasped and described in the Czech context, the ambition of the project was primarily to map the situation in the country, to inform the public about the existence and extent of the problem and to outline possible solutions. The project can be understood as a pilot, which would be appropriate to follow up with further steps and activities in the future.











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- 3 PDPs, calls all 8 projects successfully finished in April 2024
- Yellow Ribbon run (prison run to promote offender rehabilitation and reintegration) -

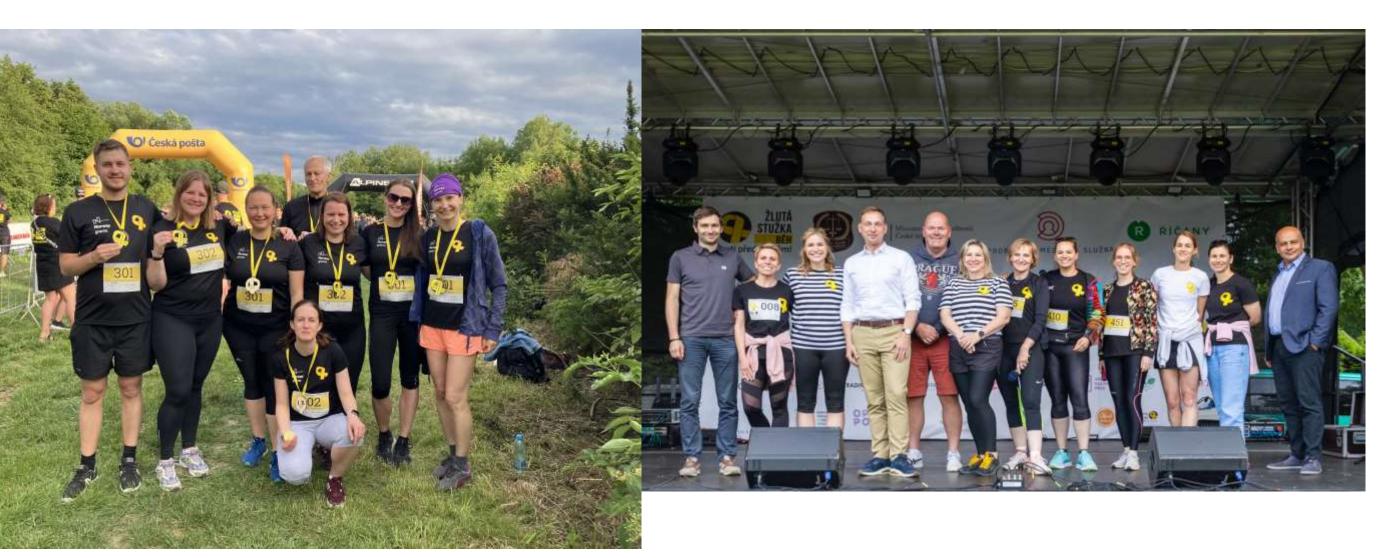
active participation of the PO and delegation from Norway (incl. DPP) at YRR on 11 June 2024.

• final event – Festival on 21 September

Lessons learned:

Involvement of DPP – active approach of DPP, consultation with projects during implementation, extended bilateral activities during the final phase of the projects, many visit of projects on site and in Norway, long-term partnerships beneficial for both sides, inspiration for Czech participants (functioning of prisons, interconnection with probation) and Norwegian participants (programme centres and probation services)

Justice







& Justice – project examples

Project: Strengthening the rehabilitation of prisoners through treatment

Promoter: The Prison Service of the CR

Project partners: Bastøy Prison, KRUS – University College of Norwegian Correctional Service IIa Prison, Norwegian Correctional Service – Region South

Grant: 1,59 MEUR

The project aimed to improve services for prisoners through the development of missing intervention programs, which are an important precondition for the reintegration of clients back into society after their release. The programmes are Motivation program for convicts, Professional care for drug-abusing inmates and Program for fathers. The programmes were also accompanied with renovation of the premises in the prisons.

After renovation: garden and visitor's room for families

Bělušice





Znojmo











- All 8 projects successfully completed, administration of final reports, ullet
- final conference planned on 11 November 2024
- **Project:** Modernisation of Police Training Centre
- Project Promoter Police Presidium
- Grant amount: 3,309 MEUR

The project created a functional training centre by rebuilding existing unused military facilities in the town of Kutná Hora. Three reconstructed buildings (a multipurpose conference hall, a training and accommodation building) and an outdoor training polygon will provide the necessary conditions for training police officers, police instructors and trainers, as well as for hosting conferences, including international ones. In addition to police officers, civilian employees of the Police of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic will also be trained here, and the facilities will also be used by the professional public from state administration bodies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions.

Home Affairs

Official opening on 12 March 2024 with participation of Minister of the Interior, the Police President, and Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Norway in Prague







Education

CALLS:

- 106 projects successfully completed (1 project returned grant), all final reports approved final conference was in April 2024 (24th – 25th April 2024)

LESSONS LEARNED (EVALUATION):

Timing of the deadlines of the calls in January and March is optimal as the approved projects can then start in September - at the beginning of the school year. This practice will definitely be followed.

Roma inclusion in education – funds allocated to inclusion of disadvantaged pupils cannot be implemented via projects focused only on the Roma inclusion. Disadvantaged pupils may not belong only to the Roma population and it is not possible to help the Roma pupil and reject another one in need. Logframes and indicators must always take this into account.



Final conference in Prague



Education – project examples

Project: Czech-Nordic Memorabilia II - Democracy and Active Citizenship in Higher Education

Project promoter: Charles University in Prague Project partners: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway Approved grant: 124 391 EUR

The project focusing on the overlooked topic of Czech-Nordic forced mobility during World War II. It successfully innovated curricula in Scandinavian history and culture, while creating new study materials and courses. The project organized a travelling exhibition commemorating Danish Jews in Terezín and developed an educational web portal to promote Czech-Nordic relations. It not only strengthened research collaboration but also emphasized active citizenship and democracy in higher education, contributing to students' employability and the broader educational program goals.













 \bullet (mainly in SGSs)

LESSONS LEARNED (EVALUATION):

Mental health care projects – The amount allocated to mental health was too small, even compared to the other areas supported in Health programme, The big increase of the demand for projects dedicated to mental health resulted from the pandemics (and the closeness of the war) which came into being only after the launch of the programme is give special attention and a greater proportion of resources to the mental health area, which currently shows a higher level of interest

Patient ethnicity - The evaluation suggests that it is advisable not to address ethnicity at the patient level at all, and if it is somewhere, to make an educated guess (rather than questionnaires, which are uncomfortable, especially for patients with a specific diagnosis).

Health

All projects were successfully completed till April 2024, administration of final reports ongoing

Health – project examples

Project: Identification of traumatized children and stopping domestic violence **Project promoter:** Thomayer University Hospital in Prague Project Partner: Nursery and Elementary school in Thomayer hospital, Alternative til Vold Grant: 518 222 EUR

The project provided education and helped to children with special needs, who can also be victims of violence or abuse. Methodology for early detection of violence committed in children was created with Norwegian partner and describes individualized treatment and therapy program for children and parents that supports parental competences and good relationships. In total 300 children were screened for identification of violence or trauma and one hundred of these children and 60 of their parents were provided with targeted individualized therapies. Specialized apartment was reconstructed for families of victims of domestic violence, premises in school and nursery were renovated.



Training of teachers



Revovated premises





ಲ್ Culture (1)

- 110 projects finished (incl. 6 projects fini prolonged till 30 September 2024
- approx. 80% projects (89 projects) in bilateral partnership PO realized two seminars to share experiences in bilateral partnerships on 12 March and 13 March 24)



110 projects finished (incl. 6 projects finished till August 2024), last 5 projects are





<mark>ඌ Culture (2</mark>)

PDP Lety Holocaust Memorial

- Project finished in April 2024
- Opening of the Memorial and Visitor's centre for public on 12 May 2024



Ceremonial opening for guests on 23 April 2024 (broadcasted by Czech TV and other media) with participation of president of the CR, prime minister of the CR, ministers, Deputy minister od foreign affairs in Norway



ଧ୍ୟ Culture (3)

KU-CH1-066 (Reconstruction and revitalization of the castle in Lipová) – grant amount 1,5 MEUR

refund amounting to 1,15 MEUR that was already financed by PO (advance payment+interim payments)

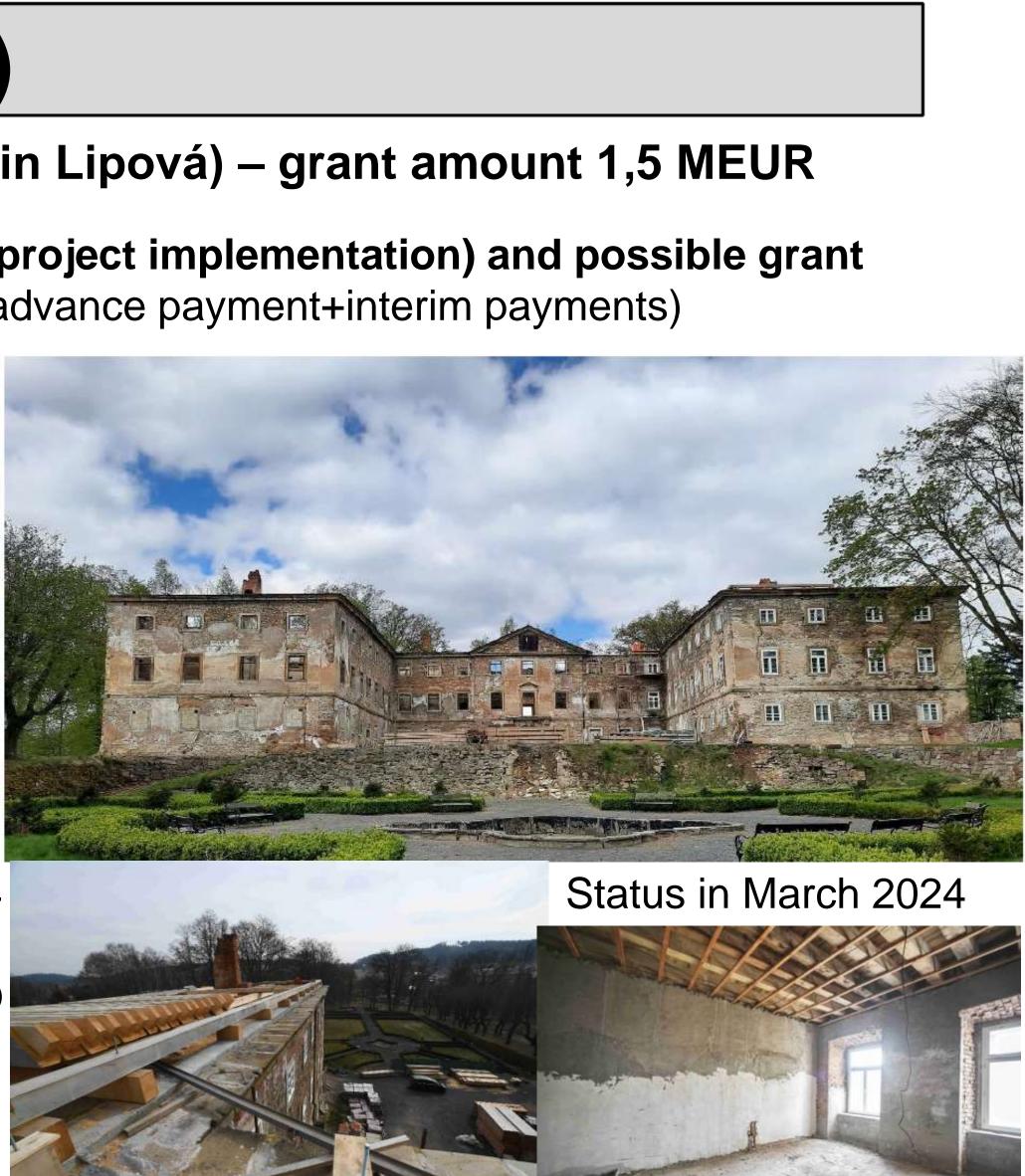
Actual status:

- construction works are stopped (legal dispute with construction company),
- promoters 'problems with funding not enough financial means for Ο finishing of building works (due to increase of prices, additional works) paid from own sources)
- Two on site visits took place (October 23, March 24) suspicion of Ο major irregularity(ca 570 000 EUR) – paid invoices for not finished works – report to donors till 30 September 2024
- police investigation regarding the financial flows of the project Ο promoter and suspicion of subsidy fraud (PO cooperates with police – supporting documents during investigation)
- Promoters complaints regarding the administrative proceedings of PO

Next steps

- PO ask for return of the amount affected by irregularity,
- PO plan final on site visit in cooperation with police in October 24

Project at risk - not finished until 30 September 2024 (prolonged project implementation) and possible grant





<u>ප</u> Culture (4)

LESSONS LEARNED:

Project affected by political will and co-financing from state budget – PDP Lety – need to have mutual support by donors, politics in the Czech Republic, precondition of project realized outside of project with different political support, financing of project part from Ministry of Culture – regular monthly meetings of NFP, PO, project team, Ministry of Culture

Supporting of regional culture heritage – strong ownership of the projects by project promoters (number) of volunteers in projects) and local communities, more difficult project management and financial flows (not so experienced CSOs) – need for support in future, more consultations/visit in projects during project implementation

Bilateral cooperation in culture exchange – strong bilateral aspect in contemporary art projects, long term partnerships between Czech organisations and donor states, more difficulties to handle the administrative burden for artists – continue with support, simplify rules for administration



Culture – project examples

Project: Zikmund's villa - gateway to the world **Project Promoter:** Endowment fund Zikmund's Villa in Zlín **Partner institutions**: The Kon-Tiki Museum Project grant: 133 773 EUR **Project Summary**:

Zikmundova vila is a house built in 1935 for the first governor of the Zlín district, later on, the property of movie director (and an Oscar winner) Elmar Klos and then, for almost 70 years, home of the famous traveller Miroslav Zikmund. The Fund The mission of the Fund (PP) is to make this space accessible to the public and to raise awareness of the above-mentioned personalities. The project shared inspiration and know-how with the project's partner, the **Norwegian Kon-Tiki Museum**. Together they organised two exhibitions:

- Exhibition Across five continents with the Czech explorers Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund " (Oslo 15.4.and 31.5.2023)
- Exhibition highlighting the remarkable life and expeditions of Thor Heyerdahl (Zlín 22.4. and 7.6.2023).

Visit of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in villa

Zikmundova vila – brána do světa



www.fondyehp



Good Governance

- All 9 projects completed, project savings reallocated to the BF
- final event Festival on 21 September

LESSONS LEARNED (EVALUATION):

Dissemination of results of predefined projects – For projects focused on systemic/legislative change, define output requirements that will increase the likelihood that the project results will be worked with even after their completion. In the case of data, it should be about ensuring their openness and the possibility for further work and training how to work with them, and in the case of systemic changes, it can be the creation of new (e.g. analytical) departments at ministries to be financed after project completion. On the contrary, minimize situations where the main output is a document (e.g. methodology).

Good Governance – project example

Project: Public involvement in city development (the City of Otrokovice)

Promoter: City of Otrokovice, Czech Republic **DPP:** City of Fredrikstadt

Grant: 183 767 EUR

The aim of the project is to introduce public involvement processes in the preparation and implementation of development plans and the creation of strategic documents at the local level in the participating partner cities, including the implementation of public involvement activities. This project was implemented in a large scope – 11 municipalities were involved + 1 micro-region (i.e. +14 municipalities more).

This is a good example of best practice in the area of Czech-Norwegian cooperation of cities. The City of Fredrikstadt provided information about communicating with citizens through the Committees, involvement of the key entities involved (city, developers, citizens, professionals...) within big projects, etc.





Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

Thank you for your attention.



Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

Programmes managed by the FMO

AMAL BURN

Norway

- Annual Meeting Czech Republic 2024

The Active Citizens Fund

Fund operator: OSF Prague, in consortium with Committee of Good Will - Olga Havel Foundation and Czech Scouting Institute.

Eligible expenditure: € 15,250,000 (EEA Grants)

Status of the programme:

- Excellent progress and an experienced Fund Operator
- A high level of financial absorption is expected by the end of the period

- 305 projects supported 26 projects include a donor project partner

The Active Citizens Fund

Focus of the programme

• Citizen Engagement & Advocacy:

-Increased civic participation and democratic values awareness.
-Advocacy campaigns influenced local and national policies
-Strengthened media engagement and public outreach capacities

- Empowerment & Inclusion:
- -Focus on Roma children, LGBT+ community, drug users, and marginalized groups
- -Unique methodologies like ASD integration guides and advocacy training
- Skill Development & Digital Transformation:
- -Media literacy projects surpassed targets, empowering youth -Digital skills and cybersecurity improvements for nonprofits.
- Predefined Projects:
- -Youth civic engagement events involved 250+ participants. -CSOs capacity building led to successful advocacy and policy influence.

The Active Citizens Fund

Bilateral Fund:

- Budget: €195,000 supporting 25 bilateral projects
- Exchange of experience on key issues related to the programme

Regional Civil Society Initiatives :

- The FO has actively organized and participated in regional civil society initiatives, collaborating with other FOs, supported by a budget of €201,500
- Coorganised several events on advocacy, rule of law, inequalities, summer school, Summer Civic Academy, diversity and inclusion

Social Dialogue – Decent Work

- Fund Operator: Innovation Norway
- Available funds for the Czech Republic: €890,000 (Norway Grants)
 - 94.5% total in absorption
- **Goal:** Strengthen tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and promote decent work.
- Status of calls and implementation:
 - Four open calls and one restricted call
 - Eight projects with Czech partners



ROSE: Rozkveť vlastním podnikánír

100

The Fund for Youth Employment

- **Programme Grant:** €60,610,625 in total funding (no country allocation) from EEA and Norway Grants
- **Programme Operator**: The Financial Mechanism Office
- **Goal:** Contribute to sustainable and quality youth employment in Europe through transnational cooperation.
- Calls and implementation:
 - Two open calls and one restricted call
 - 34 projects contracted in total
 - Two projects with Czech entities
 - One project with a Czech lead partner



The Fund for Regional Cooperation

- **Programme Grant:** €31,889,275 in total funding (no country allocation) from EEA and Norway Grants
- **Programme Operator:** The Financial Mechanism Office
- **Goal:** Strengthen transnational cooperation to solve common European challenges.
- One open call:
 - Over 700 applications received
 - 19 projects were contracted + two pre-defined projects
 - Six projects with Czech entities
 - One project with a Czech lead partner



BILATERAL COOPERATION

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 **Czech Republic**

National Focal Point







Update on JCBF, NFP Open calls and PDIs







Update on JCBF

The cooperation is quite smooth.

Work Plan adjustments:

1) Re-allocation unspent funds from several programmes 2) 4th Open Call – increase of allocation 3) PDI Czech-Liechtenstein School Exchange – increase of allocation 4) New PDI adopted - Improving access to primary healthcare services for most marginalized communities in the Czech Republic 5) New PDI adopted - INCIEN: Circular Food Futures

Members agreed (via email) on not organizing the JCBF meeting in 2024

The JCBF members communicate all necessary matters via email. All decisions are taken by consensus – mostly assessments within the 4th Open Call and Work Plan.





4th Open call (total allocation 1 165 187 EUR)

Launched 28 April 2022, closed 31 December 2024.

95 grant applications **submitted** (requested grants in total 1 757 767 EUR) 72 grant applications approved (approved grant in total 1 150 528 EUR) **20** grant applications **rejected** 3 grant applications withdrawn

average grant: 15 979 EUR maximum grant amount was set to 20 000 EUR Norway grants





Overview of pre-defined initiatives

1) Traumatic parts of national history – 12 107 EUR - completed 2) CZ-LI School Exchange – in total 112 308 EUR - the last exchange 2024 (the PDI's allocation has been increased) 3) CZ-LI Commission of Historians – in total 85 118 EUR - completed 4) Gender Pay Gap – 14 741 EUR - completed 5) My Father's Story – 26 121 EUR - completed 6) Modern technologies Iceland-CR – cancelled with Ukrainian citizenship – 457 268 EUR - completed 8) Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Symposium – 25 270 EUR – completed 9) My Father's story in Krkonoše museum – 30 980 EUR **Republic - 494 187 EUR** 11) INCIEN: Circular Food Futures – 24 709 EUR

Norway grants

- 7) Support of increasing the knowledge of Czech as a foreign language for students and teachers
- 10) Improving access to primary healthcare services for most marginalized communities in the Czech

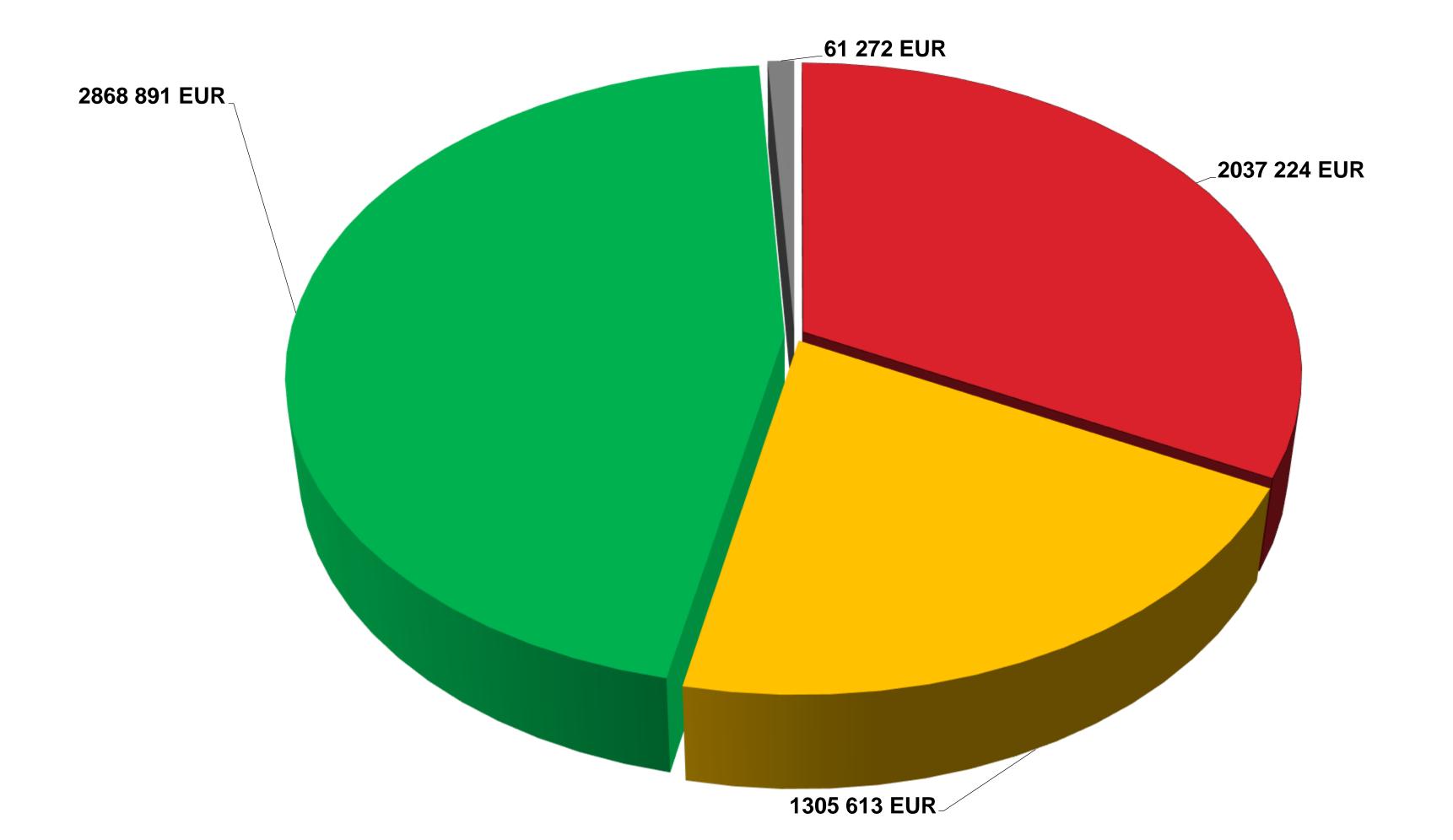








Overview of BF allocation (6 273 000 EUR in total)





- PRE-DEFINED INITIATIVES (PDI)
- OPEN CALLS (2018-2023)
- BILATERAL AMBITIONS (PRG)
- NOT ALLOCATED (PDI, OC, PRG)



Thank you for your attention!

BILATERAL COOPERATION

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 Czech Republic

National Focal Point – Hana Jeřábková



Prague, 20 September 2024



Overview of running open-call initiatives

Open Call	Approved	Running	Completed
1st Open Call		all 17 completed	
2nd Open Call		all 22 completed	
3rd Open Call	26	2	24
4th Open Call	72	58	14*
TOTAL	137	60	38

* 2 initiatives withdrew from implementation

- final administrative processes are ongoing

Norway grants





National level open call statistics

average grant: 394 634 CZK (ca 16 140 EUR)

grant range: 0 EUR – 50 000 EUR

LAND-ART WORKSHOP AND FESTIVAL IN RALSKO GEOPARK", 1st open call

- Lowest grant amount awarded: 69 210 CZK (2 700 EUR) – "Intensification of Cooperation in the Field of Sport Sciences ", 1st open call

Norway grants

- Highest grant amount awarded: 819 500 CZK (31 982 EUR) – "INTERNATIONAL SITE-SPECIFIC-ART AND





Reallocations under the BF programme

total: 2 583 000 EUR

FROM: programmes Research, Environment, Good Governance, Human Rights, Justice, Health

TO:

Bilateral ambitions of programmes Environment, Education, Good Governance, Culture, Justice, Health, Human Rights

Bilateral fund at national level:

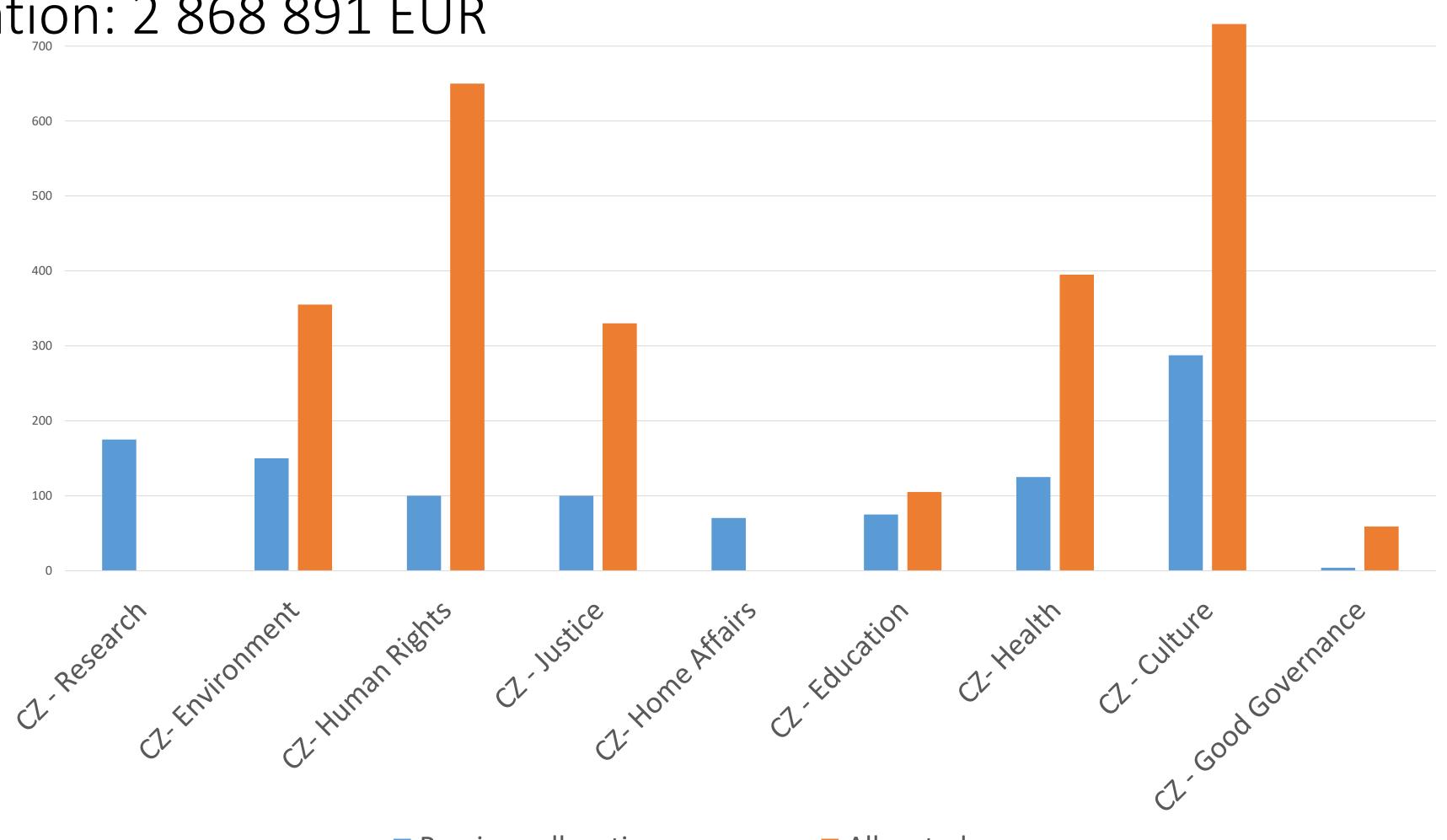
- PDIs
- 4th open call







800 total allocation: 2 868 891 EUR



Previous allocation

Bilateral ambitions

Allocated

Norway grants



Iceland Liechtenstein **Norway** grants



launched – May 2024 deadline – 30 September 2024

Culture

- closed, 16 initiatives approved
- allocated 400 000 EUR

Justice

- closed, 5 initiatives approved
- allocated 200 000 EUR

Health

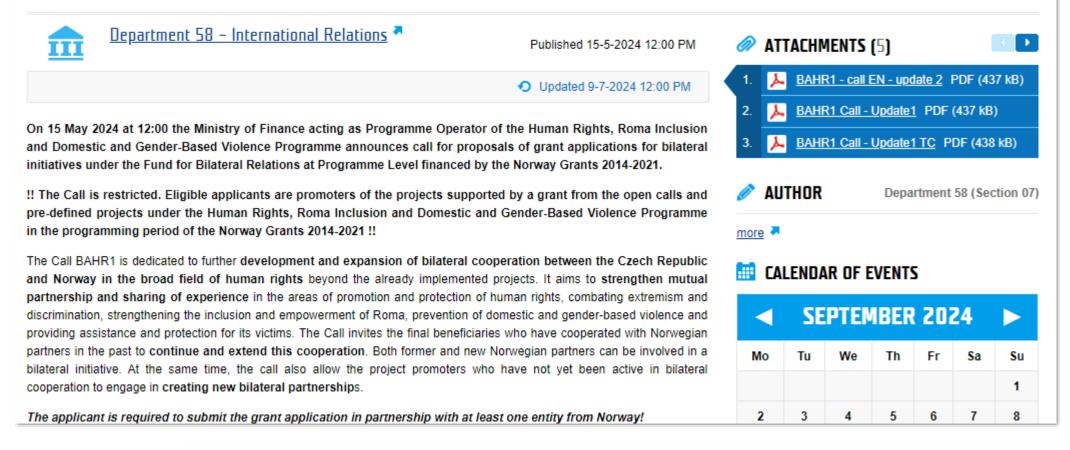
- closed, 6 initiatives approved
- allocated 230 000 EUR

Human Rights

- ongoing, 7 initiatives approved - allocated 300 000 EUR

Reallocations

Expansion of cooperation between the Czech Republic and Norway in the field of human rights - call for applications for bilateral initiatives



CALL CLOSED: Expansion of cooperation between the Czech Republic and Norway in the field of justice - call for applications for bilateral initiatives

Department 58 - International Relations Published 15-5-2024 12:00 PM	Ø	ATTACHMENTS (5)				
Updated 16-9-2024 12:00 PM		<mark>Љ</mark> В	AJU1 - call	EN - upd	<u>ate 2</u> F	PDF (
Due to the spending of allocation, the call was closed as of September 10, 2024.			AJU1 Call · AJU1 Call I			
On 15 May 2024 at 12:00 the Ministry of Finance acting as Programme Operator of the Justice Programme announces call for proposals of grant applications for bilateral initiatives under the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level financed by the Norway Grants 2014-2021.		AUTH	DR	Depa	rtment	58 (S
!! The Call is restricted. Eligible applicants are promoters of the projects supported by a grant from the open calls and pre-defined projects under the Justice Programme in the programming period of the Norway Grants 2014 - 2021 !!	more					
Due to the spending of allocation, the call was closed as of September 10, 2024.			IDAR OF			
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		-				- Cu







Yellow Ribbon Run

implemented by: Yellow Ribbon Czech (NGO) allocation: 668 508 CZK (26 486 EUR)

November 2023 and June 2024

two initiatives: roundtable and following participation of Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (DNCS) at the event

aim of the initiative: to develop a strategy for spreading the Yellow Ribbon idea among Norway grants beneficiary states and other European states; to provide information to Norwegian partner about the YRR purpose









Lessons learned

BA under the BF fund

- difficulties when increasing allocations
- more initiatives focused directly to the programme areas

approval process of national level fund

- too many procedural steps (administrative difficulties) Chorus)

applicants from donor states

- difficulties in administration
- difficulties in communication between partners during implementation

different approaches towards donor state institutions vs. Czech institutions (financial documentations)

Norway grants

- ineffective cuts in grant applications (shortening budgets/number of participants – e.g.



Thank you for your attention!

PUBLICITY

OVERVIEW OF PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES 2024 AND PLANS 2025

September 2024

Liechtenstein Norway **Norway** grants grants





KEY WORDS





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VISIBILITY AWERENESS RAISING **INFORMATION** CAMPAIGNS **EVENTS IDEAS** COOPERATION GENERAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INFORMATION \overline{A}



WEBSITE - regularely updated, continue with section **Best practices**

AWERENESS RAISING



FACEBOOK

Number of Followers: 2 560

The main topics of the information published were mainly presentation of interesting projects and good practice examples.



INSTAGRAM

Number of Followers: 434

The visual style is crucial, especially on Instagram, where we maintain a consistent design for project stories and campaigns. To reach a broader audience, we use paid advertising.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

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Přippav si advent



Přijďte si zazpívat vánoční písně a u toho společně vyrobit adventní věnec. betlém nebo krmítko pro ptáčky.

> 1.12.2023 od 17:30 hod., Brno Projekt: Káznice žije

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Christmas Campaign

During weeks before 3 regularly Christmas, we posted information about projects supported that organized various Christmasactivities. These related included events such as the creation of Advent wreaths in Mladějovice and Christmas concerts, etc.

ZÁCHRANA ZCHÁTRALÉ PAMÁTKY A JEJÍ ROMĚNA V ŽIVÉ KULTURNÍ CENTRUM

3



#OurStories

cooperation with the In Norwegian Embassy, the successful campaign started in May 2023 to October 2023, featuring selected projects across various support areas. and promoted in the Prague metro. NEW 2 videos, In June 2024. The NFP received an award for this campaign from the FMO.





20 Years of the EEA and Norway Grants in the **Czech Republic**

May 2024, a 20-day In campaign was launched to celebrate the 20th anniversary. A total of 10 posts highlighted successful projects across three programming periods.

រដ្ឋ មដ្ឋម ការមហ Vanoční výstava ovoce

กมามมา กมามมาร ใน_มน^มัน



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NUN

Krájení jablka je krásnou vánoční tradicí. Nalaďte se na Vánoce výstavou věnovanou zimním odrůdám jabloní a hrušní.

1. 1. 30. 11. – 2. 12. 2023, Dům ochránců přírody Projekt: Podpora ohrožených druhů epifytických lišejníků v ovocných výsadbách

## 3 dobeni adventnich věnců



Užijte si předvánoční atmosféru a vyrobte si vlastní adventní věnec.

2.12.2023 od 14:00 hod., Tvrz Mladějovice Projekt: Rekonstrukce tvrze Mladějovice

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## Rozaveceni vanooniho stromky



Zospiwejse si koledy e rozsviceného vônočního stromku a ochutnejre trodiční Islandský vánoční childs.

3. 12. WWW of TAXA And, Pressor Destina Propake Underlands and provider a subject based on provide and a subsymbol tracks a function www.www.www.www. Mikulas bez nozdily



Do Kóznice zovítá Mikulóš se svými pomocníky. Déti, které mu poví básničku nebo zazpívají pisničku, čekó odména

> \$10,9003 ed 11.30 hole, time Projekt Adamira Bod



Vanoční akrovi a permidez

mladějovický svateční jannank

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Už máte napečeno? Přijáte nasát vánoční atmostery při zdobení perničků a "peten!" cukrovi.

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Užijte si předvánoční atmosfery Cekaji vás ručné vyréběně obdoby a devorace, vánační pochowsky i temotický lotokoutek,

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### ERONSTRUKCE E MLADEJOVI

V DUBNU ZDE PROBĚHL FESTIVAL ŘEMESEL A UMĚNÍ V UMĚNÍ - MLADFEST 2024", KDE SVÉ UMĚNÍ PŘIJE PREZENTOVAT MLADÍ UMĚLCI Z RŮZNÝCH ČECH.

Od doby, co jsem tu byla poprvé, je to nesrovnatelné. poprve, je to nestovnateme. Udělalo se tady strašně moc práce a ten prostor je

Martina Spišská - ředitelka TUŠ ve Strakonicích

Le ourstories

## FONDY EHP A NORSKA

Díky fondům jsme rozdělili téměř 11 miliard a podpořili přes 1800 projektů na území celé České republiky.







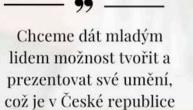


www.fondyehp.cz

www.norskefondy.cz







často opomíjeno

99 Bernard Durych - realizator projektu Záchrana tvrze Mladějovice



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## COOPERATION



#### NORWEGIAN **EMBASSY**

We work closely with the Norwegian Embassy on publicity activities, collaborating on promotion, organizing public events, and sharing information on social media. We also regularly consult with each other on ideas to enhance our joint efforts



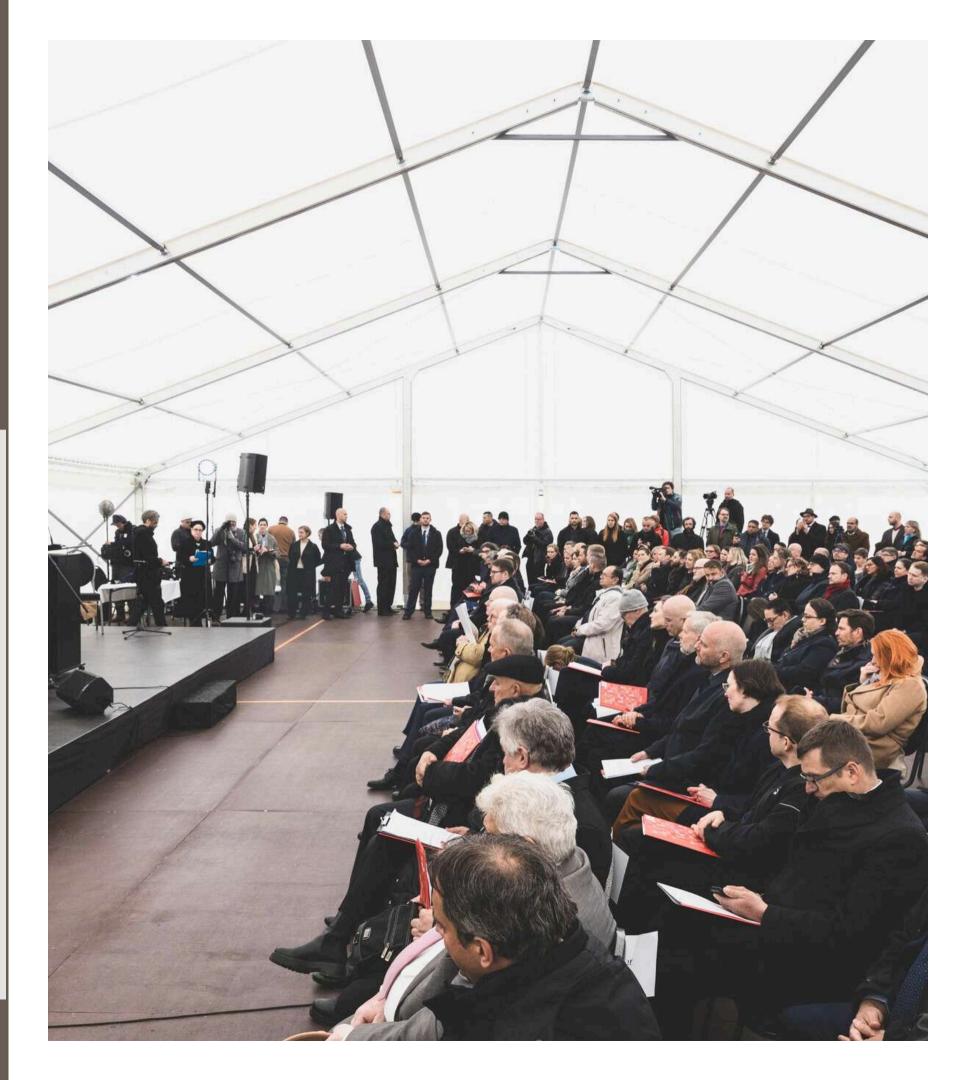
PROGRAMME AND FUND **OPERATORS** 

Collaboration with Programme Operators is also key. In addition to sharing information about interesting projects, we have jointly participated in activities and trainigs.

# PARTICIPATION

At the NFP level, we actively participate in significant events across various projects and programmes. Following these events, we create and share information through our website, reels, and social media posts to keep everyone informed and engaged.

(Lety Memorial with participation of the FMO Communicaton Office)





# UPCOMING PLAN

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**Open Day at** the Ministry of Finance

**Festival** 

**Final Event of** the EEA and **Norway Grants** 

As every year, we will have an informational stand at the Open Day in premises of the Ministry. This event is open to the general public and provides us with a great opportunity to inform visitors about the grants and distribute promotional item

tell you more

For our final event, we plan to hold a special gala evening with all stakeholders iinvolved in Grants. At the event, we will announce and award the most impactful project from each programme.

## WWW.FONDYEHP.CZ FESTIVAL FONDŮ EHPA NORSKA DEN PLNÝ HUDBY, SOUTĚŽÍ, ZAJÍMAVÝCH PROJEKTŮ, WORKSHOPŮ PRO DĚTI I DOSPĚLÉ

PAVEL CALLTA S KAPELOU CZECH IT PÍSKOMIL SE VRACÍ MODERUJE: VLADIMÍR KOŘEN Iceland Liechtenstein Norway



### 21.9.2024 Výstaviště praha Holešovice



**Closing Event for the Programmes Culture**, Human Rights, Health, Good Governance, 🧪 and Justice.

### What You Can Look Forward To:

- Presentation of many projects
- Creative workshops and activities for ightarrowchildren
- Workshop and discussions on serious topics
- Meeting inspiring people
- Music, concerts, performers











### **CIRKUS PRO KAŽDÉHO** WORKSHOP ŽONGLOVÁNÍ V DĚTSKÉ ZÓNĚ

## DEN PLNÝ HUDBY, SOUTĚŽÍ, ZAJÍMAVÝCH PROJEKTŮ, WORKSHOPŮ PRO DĚTI I DOSPĚLÉ

#### PAVEL CALLTA S KAPELOU CZECH IT PÍSKOMIL SE VRACÍ MODERUJE: VLADIMÍR KOŘEN

21.9.2024 VÝSTAVIŠTĚ PRAHA



- process.

## Role of the NFP

Support throughout the entire event organization

• Promotion on Social Media - posts and texts for social media promotion, local event platform, outdoor advertising including billboards, leaflets, posters, metro ads and a tram with event graphics.

NFP Information Stand to provide general information about the EEA and Norway Grants, quiz and a "wheel of fortune.", prizes

Coordination ot the participation of external programs to ensure a diverse range of activities at the event.

# CHALLENG ES FACED

- Coordination of over than 300 people
- Engaging Project Promoters to participate and present their work, especially after the completion of their projects (good work of PO)
- Effective promotion on social media and dealing with negative and unpolite commenters

FLOODS - till yesterday we were uncertain if the festival would even take place. If the water level had risen to the second flood level, we would have had to cancel the whole event.

Waterlogged ground required a complete reorganization of the festival layout and reprinting informative and navigation materials.

## **Conclusion & Next Steps**

#### Key Takeaways:

- Successful implementation of multiple campaigns (e.g., 20 Years of EEA and Norway Grants, #OurStories) with high public engagement.
- Active cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy and PO leading to increased awareness of the projects.
- Effective use of social media and the website to raise awareness about projects and reach a broader audience.



- campaigns.
- gratitude to all partners.
- Innovation: Explore new ways to communicate successes and engage even more people in supporting our activities.



#### **Next Steps:**

- Strengthening Publicity: Continue to expand
  - awareness of the projects through targeted
- Final Event: Organize a gala evening to highlight
  - the most impactful projects and express

