

CZ-HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2021: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Human Rights programme has been running in the Czech Republic since 2018. In 2021, the Ministry of Finance, as Programme Operator, closed five open calls for proposals and approved a total of 24 projects in the areas of Roma Inclusion and Empowerment, Human Rights, and Domestic and Gender-based Violence. In November and December 2021, the Programme Operator announced two open calls for proposals in the form of awareness raising campaigns under the Small Grant Scheme C and programs for violent offenders under the Small Grant Scheme D. The Programme Operator expects to launch the last open call focused on interdisciplinary cooperation and capacity building of intervention centres, the Small Grant Scheme B, in early 2022.

The implementation of all eight pre-defined projects continued in 2021. The Ministry of Regional Development as the project promoter of the pre-defined project *Place for All - Building a Space for Mutual Coexistence* hired an agency to do a research on the attitude of young people towards human rights. The survey showed that 71% of young people in the Czech Republic aged between 15 and 30 have a positive attitude towards human rights and equality. The nationwide media campaign HateFree Culture, which builds on the previous campaign financed from the EEA Grants 2009 – 2014, has been running via different channels such as social media platforms, websites, moderated discussions, breakfast gatherings, cultural events, hate-free talks, and podcasts. Altogether 1,710,827 people have been engaged via the campaign since the start of the project.

Bilateral cooperation between project promoters and their Norwegian partners in four pre-defined projects has been extensive. Cooperation between the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Norwegian partner *Alternative to Violence* in the pre-defined project *Enhanced Capacities and Methodological Support in The Prevention Of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* might serve as a good example. Norwegian partner *Alternative to Violence* actively participated in the preparation and implementation of seminars related to the movie '*Angry Man*', in which the audience consisted of social workers and NGOs. In consultation with Norwegian experts, they prepared the second edition of the publication '*Violence Can Be Stopped*'. *Alternative to Violence* and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic also created an international network during two side-events within the framework of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2021, with the topics of gender equality from the perspective of young people and gender based violence in the digital world.

The Programme Operator uses the website <https://www.eegrants.cz/en/programmes/human-rights> and social media (Facebook and Instagram) as a platform where all information about the programme (e.g. information regarding the launch of all open calls as well as general information about the Norwegian Grants) in Czech and English is presented. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic also uses its communication channels to address all potential applicants. The organization *Romea* assists with regards to Roma Inclusion as it is a very active Czech NGO in the area and has valuable contacts within the Roma minority.

The programme implementation in 2021 brought several valuable lessons for the Programme Operator as well as for project promoters. Again, all stakeholders were faced with the challenge related to the Covid-19 situation and various restrictions. Fortunately however, all the stakeholders already had a sufficient amount of experience from the previous year of the pandemic, and thus demonstrated that the situation was feasible, and that everything could operate without any serious impact on the open calls preparation, announcement, approval process and projects implementation. In general, online activities

for potential applicants and project promoters such as online seminars, provoked a higher interest and attendance. Therefore, the Programme Operator is considering increasing its future online activities to further capitalise on their reach to a wider audience.

The total risk score of the programme remained unchanged. Moreover, the likelihood of the risk of insufficient programme absorption capacity within the programme area of Roma Inclusion was lowered thanks to the fact that all funds will be distributed into approved projects under the relevant three open calls. The Covid-19 pandemic has also had an effect on several risk factors of the programme and has also affected the realization of both current and future projects. The Programme Operator therefore intends to approach the implementation of all projects in a measured and flexible manner.