

CZ-HEALTH

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2021: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

In case of PDP 1 “Triple P programme”, the Legal Act has not been issued by the end of 2021 due to delays in communication with the Norwegian partner and impossibility to sign the Partnership agreement. Thanks to the involvement of the DPP, mutual communication was renewed and the Legal Act will be signed at the beginning of 2022. PDP2 “AMR prevention” is progressing well, and, as planned, ATB Resistance Prevention PR campaign was launched during autumn 2021. PDP3 “The Patient Hub” is in advanced implementation phase. Premises of the HUB are functioning and accessible for public since May 2021, respective web pages were launched.

In 2021, two Open Calls were launched and successfully concluded. Thirteen projects were selected and launched within Open Call 1 and two projects were selected and launched within Open Call 2. All projects are under implementation. There is visibly good ownership by promoters of these projects and remarkable will of the beneficiaries to successfully achieve stipulated goals. No doubt, all the stakeholders are well aware of the importance of projects focusing on children's mental health and seems to be even personally devoted to the issue.

Three Calls under the Small Grant Schemes were launched by the SGS Operator (Ministry of Health) in March 2021 (SGS1, SGS2) and in April 2021 (SGS3) and successfully concluded in May (SGS1) and June (SGS2, SGS3). 64 applications were submitted within SGS1, out of which 13 were submitted with the donor state partner, 10 application were submitted within SGS2 (2 were submitted in partnership) and 48 applications were submitted within SGS3 (11 in partnership). The difference between submitted and supported number of proposals is enormous, mainly under SGS1 and SGS3 where the interest in the Call far exceeded available allocation (5 projects can be financed under SGS1, 3 under SGS2 and 15 under SGS3). Prevailing majority of contracts were signed in December 2021, remaining contracts are to be signed at the beginning of 2022.

Slightly after cut-off date (approx. in January 2022), the sixth Programme Agreement modification will be submitted to the FMO for consideration and approval. It concerns reallocation of savings from SGS2 and 3 to SGS1 to be in position to support one reserve project from SGS1. At the same time, respective Outcome 1 indicator (SGS1) needs to be updated (its target value increased) while indicators in Outcome 2 and 3 (SGS2, 3) can remain unchanged.

Covid 19 significantly affected implementation of all projects (PDPs and projects from Calls 1-2). Some activities had to be postponed or extended, some activities had to be realized online, but despite the difficult situation, project promoters cope with the situation well and are trying to find new solutions where necessary. Mainly Project Promoter of the PDP2 – the National Institute of Public Health is still in the first Covid line, but the project is progressing well and all delays from 2020 were minimized.

In view of ensuring the visibility of the programme, the Programme Operator shares all information about the programme in Czech and English (including general information about the EEA and Norway Grants) on the website <https://www.eeagrants.cz/en/programmes/health>. The upcoming events or interesting news are also available on social media (Facebook). The Project Promoters are committed to sharing appropriate information about the programme or projects on their webpages.

As far as lessons learned are concerned, the PO considers flexibility and good communication among the Programme Operator, the National Focal Point, the Partners and the Financial Mechanism Office as crucial. It is still necessary to learn how to work with the frequent changes of schedules and activities.

As far as risks are concerned, despite the slight delays, actual state of implementation of projects is satisfactory. No outstanding risks are known.