

1ST STRATEGIC REPORT

The National Focal Point of the Czech Republic hereby submits to the Financial Mechanism Committee (*hereinafter referred to as FMC*) its **1st Strategic Report** in accordance with Article 2.2 of the *Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 (the “Regulation”)*.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014* was signed on 17 June 2011. In follow-up to the negotiations between NFP and representatives of the different sectors that are factually responsible for the specific priority areas, the preparation of the individual programmes was commenced in August 2011.

For programmes where a programme partner from the donor state/ Council of Europe (DPP) was indicated, bilateral negotiations were launched to clarify the role and cooperation in the preparation and implementation of the programme and to discuss a more detailed focus of the draft programme submitted by the respective sector.

Given that the Ministry of Finance – National Focal Point (*see the Memorandum of Understanding*) acts also as the Operator for most programmes, it was also essential to clarify the responsibilities and competencies between the Ministry of Finance and the respective line ministries – partners of the relevant programme, which are factually responsible for the specific priority areas and cooperate in the preparation and implementation of the programme.

The definition of responsibilities in the programme preparation and implementation management shall be provided for in the upcoming *Partnership Agreement* between the Operator and the respective ministry – Programme Partner. The Agreements shall be concluded at the top management level of the individual ministries.

Within the period of time resulting from the execution date of the Memorandum, final draft programmes were submitted on a continuous basis to the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) for evaluation and subsequent decision.

In relation to the programmes, which have already been submitted to the donors for assessment, the approval process is expected to take at least four months after the draft submission date. This means that the implementation of the particular programmes can be initiated no sooner than in the second half of 2012 as indicatively provided for in the time schedules of the various programmes, which are attached to the draft programmes submitted to the FMO.

The potential implications and the correction of the negative impacts arising from the delayed initiation of implementation will be evaluated in the following strategic reports, as regards both the overall impact on the implementation of the programmes and the individual projects.

2 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

2.1 Cohesion

For the period from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2014, a total amount of **EUR 131.800 million** was granted to the Czech Republic from the Financial Mechanisms, of which **EUR 61.400 million** was allocated under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014.

The overall objective of the financial contribution is to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and generally, to further develop and strengthen the bilateral relations between donor states and the Czech Republic.

In accordance with this objective, those programmes were selected which will contribute to the achievement of the goals set in the different priority areas lying in the focus of the 2009–2014 Financial Mechanisms. Support will be given to projects focussing on the development of the priority areas and on the cooperation of non-profit organizations, public and private entities, research institutions and universities. The funds from the FM must be used before April 2016.

An overview of programmes is provided in Part 3.3 of the Strategic Report.

2.2 Bilateral Relations

The objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 are also accomplished in the mutual cooperation between the donor states and the Czech Republic. The selected programmes are prepared and implemented in cooperation with institutions from donor states; this is specifically the case for the programmes **CZ02, CZ06 and CZ07**.

As part of the preparation of these draft programmes, the first meetings of the *Cooperation Committee* took place during January and February 2012, with the participation of the respective programme partner from the donor states. The partner provided comments and information that were taken into account in the finalization of the draft programmes.

At its first meeting, the Cooperation Committee approved and signed the Statute of the Cooperation Committee, defining the role of the various parties. An overview of the Cooperation Committee meetings that have taken place and any other meetings, whether in the past or schedule in the future, between the Programme Operators and the donor states programme partners is provided in *Annex 2 –Schedule of Planned Programme Events in 2012*.

In order to strengthen the bilateral relations at the national level, it is also possible to make use of the **Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level**, which was established in order to facilitate partnership cooperation between the Programme Operators and the Programme Partners (or the potential partners from the donor states in the submitted projects) during the preparation and implementation of the programme.

The Agreement on Technical Assistance and the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level was signed on 13 February 2012. Within a period of two months (i.e. by 13 April 2012), the **Guideline and Annual Plan** for the *Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level* shall be elaborated and submitted to the Financial Mechanism Committee for approval.

The “*Guideline to Finance Activities from the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level*” was prepared, defining the eligible applicants and the eligible expenses; the Guideline includes also an application for activity financing and a detailed procedure for its submission and for the subsequent reimbursement of expenditures.

Funds amounting to at least 1.5% of the total programme allocation have been allocated under all programmes for the ***Fund for Bilateral Relations***. These funds shall be used to support cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience, establish and develop partnerships at the project level, thus strengthening cooperation between the potential project promoters and project partners from the donor state.

Bearing in mind that one of the main objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 is to strengthen the bilateral relations between the donor states and the Beneficiary States, NFP decided, in cooperation with the Norwegian embassy and the Czech programme partners – ministries, to conduct a questionnaire survey to map down the existing bilateral cooperation and the potential areas and activities for the current programming period where there is room for further development and strengthening of bilateral relations.

The questionnaire was distributed to all cooperative line ministries. The results arising from the evaluation of the questionnaire were compiled in a summary, which is provided in ***Annex 3 – Partnerships with Donor Institutions in the Different Programme Areas (2004-2009 / 2009–2014)*** and in ***Annex 4 – Proposed Activities and Instruments to Strengthen Bilateral Relations in the Upcoming Programmes***. The questionnaire survey did not cover areas, for which no Programme Operator has been selected yet (CZ03).

The responses received made it clear that:

- The most important areas in the strengthening of bilateral relations in the period of 2004-2009 included in particular: cooperation of schools, research and development, environment, fight against organized crime, as well as capacity building and cooperation in justice. These areas continue to be supported also in this programming period.
- In the 2009–2014 programming period, more emphasis is placed on the strengthening of bilateral relations. Other potential areas where mutual cooperation will be promoted include for instance: Mainstreaming of gender equality and promotion of work-life balance / Domestic violence and gender-based violence; Children and youth at risk; Cultural heritage and contemporary arts; Capacity building and cooperation of institutions with the Norwegian public institutions, local and regional authorities; Public health initiatives.
- A very limited number of bilateral partnerships were concluded in Health and Cultural heritage in the period of 2004-2009. For the period of 2009–2014, however, the public health domain provides ample opportunities to strengthen mutual cooperation, which has been up to now developing at the level of individual experts only. In the field of cultural heritage, contemporary art represents a major opportunity for mutual cooperation.
- It is not easy to engage non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly due to the different history, system of cooperation with the public entities, and financing. Bilateral cooperation was launched in the 2004-2009 programming period and can be assumed that will be further developed.
- The Czech programme partners (line ministries) generally welcome the strengthening of bilateral relations; they did not indicate any area where the strengthening of bilateral cooperation would not be beneficial.

- At the programme level, the following were the most frequently selected as suitable instruments to strengthen mutual relations with the partners: workshops, conferences and seminars, consultations, business trips and field trips, as well as assistance in the search for project partners, etc.
- At the project level, the following instruments are expected to be used to strengthen bilateral relations: conferences and seminars, joint workshops and “good practice” exchange, consultations, business trips and field trips, etc.

3 MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Management and Control Systems

The concluded *Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014* defines the basic administrative structure, including the management and control system in the Czech Republic in order to ensure that the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness are respected.

At the national level, the Ministry of Finance was assigned (by the Czech Government Resolution No. 427 of 8 June 2011) to secure the tasks of the National Focal Point, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority as well as the management of the two financial mechanisms in accordance with the Memoranda.

The implementation of the Financial Mechanism at the level of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) shall be ensured by the following entities where the different departments fall under the competence of the particular MoF sections:

- **National Focal Point** – International Relations Department (section 07);
- **Certifying Authority** – National Fund Department (section 06). The Certifying Authority shall also be the entity responsible for the preparation and submission of irregularity reports;
- **Audit Authority** – Audit Department/ Central Harmonization Unit (section 04). The Audit Authority shall be functionally independent of the National Focal Point and the Certifying Authority.

The department directors shall act as the representative of the respective entity.

National Focal Point (NFP)

- Has the overall responsibility for reaching the objectives of and for implementing the 2009–2014 Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Czech Republic, as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding. It serves as a contact point vis-à-vis FMO and FMC;
- Sets up and secures the administration related to the functioning of the Monitoring Committee, which monitors the implementation and the overall progress towards reaching the objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism on a regular basis;
- Is responsible for securing the implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level (within the national Technical Assistance);

- Appoints/selects the Programme Operator (following mutual consultations with FMC);
- Accepts draft programmes from the Programme Operators and, following their evaluation, submits them to FMC;
- Secures the signatures for the Programme Agreements;
- Participates, as an observer, at the main negotiations at the level of the Programme Operator;
- Develops the concept for programme monitoring and evaluation, ensures monitoring of the programme implementation progress and the quality of their implementation, supervises the achievement of outputs and programme result, examines and approves annual reports and final programme reports, and participates in the meetings of the programme-related committees (Programme Committee/ Cooperation Committee);
- Organizes regular meetings with Programme Operator in order to discuss the technical and financial progress in implementation of programmes, risks and problems in implementing the programme or individual projects that have an impact on the entire programme, proposals for changes or results of monitoring and evaluation of programmes and recommendations resulting from them;
- Monitoring of the NFP will be complemented by an independent evaluation of the programme. It is assumed that for each programme will be an interim (mid-term) evaluation and a final evaluation. NFP shall provide independent contracting experts to conduct such evaluations. Findings will be shared with Programme Operator and the findings and recommendations consulted on programme committees and the committees established at national level (Monitoring Committee, Annual Meeting);
- Prepares uniform Programme Implementation Rules and Procedures in order to ensure transparency throughout the implementation process, achievement of the expected results and efficient use of the funds;
- Examines any proposals for programme modifications, approves in cooperation with FMC, where relevant, modifications of programmes and possible reallocations between programmes;
- Ensures publicity of the Financial Mechanisms in the Czech Republic.

Certifying Authority (CA)

Is particularly responsible for:

- Submitting to the FMC certified interim financial reports and final programme reports;
- Maintaining accounting records in electronic form of the expenditure declared to the FMC;
- Ensuring that payments are transferred to the Programme Operators or final beneficiaries, as appropriate;
- Establishing and maintaining a separate interest-bearing bank account dedicated to the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014;

- Declaring to FMC any interest earned on the funds from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 at the bank accounts held by the Czech Republic in accordance with the Regulation, and reimbursing the interest to the FMC account;
- Overarching irregularity reports within the Czech Republic, and preparing and submitting irregularity reports to the FMC;
- Ensuring that any amounts recovered following wrong payments or payments in conflict with the expenditure eligibility rules, and amounts withdrawn due to cancellation of all or part of the financial contribution for a programme or project are reimbursed to the FMC prior to the closure of the programme;
- Submitting to the FMC an estimate of the payment applications.

Audit Authority (AA)

Is particularly responsible for:

- Ensuring that audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the management and control system at the national level, i.e. at the Ministry of Finance;
- Ensuring that at least one audit is carried out for each programme to verify the effective functioning of its management and control system (system audit);
- Ensuring that audits are carried out on projects on the basis of an appropriate sample to verify the expenditure declared;
- Presenting, within nine months after the approval of the programme, an audit strategy including the audit plan;
- Submitting, by 31 December of each respective year (from 2012 to 2017), an annual audit report setting out the findings of the audits carried out during the previous 12-month period ending on 30 June of the year concerned;
- Issuing report and opinions to accompany the detailed description of the management and control systems prepared by NFP.

Before the approval of the first programme or at the latest within twelve months of the date of the last signature of the Memorandum of Understanding, NFP shall submit to the FMC a detailed description of the management and control systems.

The Programme Operators for the individual programmes are designated in the *Memorandum of Understanding*. For most programmes, the Programme Operator is the Ministry of Finance – NFP. A Partnership Agreement will be concluded in order to ensure cooperation with the competent line ministries for the different programme areas, specifying the roles and responsibilities between the partners.

The Ministry of Finance as the NFP shall prepare the *Rules for FM Implementation* in the Czech Republic that are based on the Regulation as approved by FMC and that need to define in more detail the particular implementation stages in order to ensure transparency throughout the process.

3.2 Compliance with EU Legislation, National Legislation and the MoU

All entities that receive grants under the programmes of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014, shall – **in their public procurement procedures** – comply with the applicable Czech legislation – Act No. 137/2006 Coll., on Public Procurement, as amended. Procedure for small-scale procurement will be revised by Guidelines developed by the NFP.

Any projects, which include construction work / supply of equipment, must respect all statutory provisions in particular those related to **environmental protection**.

The aforesaid obligations shall always be specified in the FM Grant Award Decision.

Under the Financial Mechanisms, compliance must be ensured with the applicable legislation governing **state aid rules**, i.e. with Act No. 215/2004 Coll., on the Regulation of Certain Relations in State Aid, Act No. 319/2006 Coll., on Certain Measures to Increase Transparency of Financial Relationships in State Aid, and the Commission Decision 2005/842/EC of 28 November 2005 on the application of Article 86(2) of the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest.

This compliance will be assessed as part of the preparation of the request, taking particularly into account the potential eligible draft project promoters / grant beneficiaries. In order to accelerate the entire process to launch implementation, consultation with the Office for the Protection of Competition will be opened in April 2012 regarding the specific draft programmes where there is a possibility of state aid being granted.

The results of the consultation process will be taken into account in the preparation and announcement of the open call for grant applications for individual projects.

3.3 Status of Programmes

The following table shows the state of preparations for the different programmes as at the submission date of the 1st Strategic Report.

State of preparations of the different programmes FM EEA 2009 – 2014 (Norwegian FM 2009 – 2014)

Programme No.	Programme Title	Programme Operator (PO) Programme Partner (PP) Donor Programme Partner (DPP)	State of play	Note
CZ01	Technical Assistance and Bilateral Fund at National Level	PO – MoF – National Focal Point (NFP)		
CZ02	Biodiversity and Eco-system Services / Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control / Adaptation to the Climate Change	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Environment DPP - The Directorate for Nature Management	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 15 March 2012	
CZ03	NGO Programme	Ongoing evaluation of bids submitted in the tender to select the Programme Operator	Deadline to submit draft programme to FMO – September/October 2012	The tender was published in February 2012; the tender closure and envelope opening date is 21 March 2012. The selected PO shall prepare a draft Programme within 3 months after the signature of the Letter of Intent – expected date April/May 2012
CZ04	Children and Youth at Risk	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 5 March 2012)	
CZ05	National, Regional and Local Initiatives to Reduce Inter-group Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion	PO – MoF NFP PP – Government Office	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 22 February 2012)	
CZ06	Cultural heritage and Contemporary Art	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Culture DPP* - The Arts Council Norway	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 28 February 2012)	DPP* – for PA 17 only
CZ07	Bilateral Scholarship Programme	PO – NAEP PP - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports DPP – Norwegian Centre for	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 16 February	

Programme No.	Programme Title	Programme Operator (PO) Programme Partner (PP) Donor Programme Partner (DPP)	State of play	Note
		International Cooperation in Education - SIU (Norway)	2012	
CZ08	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) - pilot studies and technology survey	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Environment	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 20 February 2012)	
CZ09	Research Support Fund	PO – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports DPP – Research Council of Norway	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 16 February 2012	
CZ10	Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation with Norwegian public institutions, local and regional authorities	PO – MoF NFP PP – MoF-FAU DPP – Council of Europe	With a letter dated 27 January 2012, NFP asked for a new deadline. Draft programme to be submitted to FMO on <u>31 March 2012</u>	The reason behind the new deadline originates from the initial difficulties with determining the programme partner and the scope of the identified areas, which focus on activities related to the strengthening of the anti-corruption climate, as well as the overall range of the programme target groups (<i>i.e. judges, public prosecutors, members of Police of the Czech Police, Ministry of Finance, the Government Office, Ministry of Justice</i>)
CZ11	Public Health Initiatives	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Health DPP – Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 24 February 2012	
CZ12	Mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Promotion of Work-Life Balance / Domestic and Gender-based Violence	PO shall be selected in an open tender, which was published / sent for publication on 5 March 2012)	Expected submission date of draft programme - October/November 2012	The tender to select the Programme Operator for this programme was launched on 5 March 2012; the envelope opening date is 23 April 2012. The implementation of the programme is expected to start also during the 1 st quarter of 2013.

Programme No.	Programme Title	Programme Operator (PO) Programme Partner (PP) Donor Programme Partner (DPP)	State of play	Note
CZ13	Domestic and Gender-based Violence / Mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Promotion of Work-Life Balance	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Draft programme submitted to FMO on 21 February 2012	
CZ14	Schengen Cooperation and Fight Against Cross-border and Organized Crime, including Illicit Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of the Interior	With a letter dated 27 January 2012, NFP asked for a new deadline. Draft programme to be submitted to FMO in <u>April 2012</u> .	The reason behind the request for a new submission deadline for programme CZ14 originates from the overall delay caused by the staffing and organizational changes at the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and the Police of the Czech Republic.
CZ15	Capacity Building and Cooperation in Justice / Correctional Services including Non-custodial Sanctions	PO – MoF NFP PP – Ministry of Justice DPP – Council of Europe	With a letter dated 27 January 2012, NFP asked for a new deadline. Draft programme to be submitted to FMO on <u>31 March 2012</u> .	The reason behind the request for change originates from the DPP requirements for finalization of the draft programme in accordance with their comments.

A description of the focus of the particular programmes, allocations, the expected number of calls/ calls under small grant schemes and pre-defined projects, which were sent in the draft programme, and the programme partners from the donor states are listed in the overview provided in **Annex 1 – Overview of Draft Programmes – FM EHP 2009–2014 (Norwegian FM 2009 – 2014)**.

3.4 Irregularities

Given that majority of programmes proposals were submitted in February 2012, it was not possible to approve any of the programmes and to launch their implementation; consequently, no irregularities have been observed.

In the Czech Republic, the Certifying Authority is responsible for preparing and submitting irregularity reports. The procedure to deal with irregularities shall include registration, investigation and reporting of any suspected and actual cases of irregularities, their further monitoring and, in specified cases, also recovery of funds affected by the actual case of irregularity.

The entities involved in the implementation will be obliged to report any suspected cases of irregularities without delay to the respective Programme Operator, which is then responsible for their solution. A final decision must be taken by the competent authority (such as the regional financial authority, Office for the Protection of Competition, Audit Authority, court, etc.) on every suspected case of irregularity.

Reporting of suspected and actual cases of irregularities (hereinafter referred to as “irregularities”) shall take place at internal and external level.

The internal level of irregularity reporting shall include reporting by the entities involved in the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 at the national level; the Programme Operator shall be responsible for this reporting level.

The external level of irregularity reporting shall include reporting vis-à-vis the FMC; the Certifying Authority shall be responsible for this reporting level and shall submit to the FMC the particular irregularity reports and reports on progress regarding already reported irregularities in accordance with Article 11 of the *Regulation*.

3.5 Audit, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

Given the state of preparation, submission and approval of the draft programmes, there is no information available to be included in this Strategic Report.

3.6 Information and Publicity

General publicity shall be ensured in accordance with the information and publicity requirements referred to in Article 4.7.2 of the Regulation and in Annex 4 as well as in accordance with the *Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic for the EEC and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009–2014*.

The objective of the FM 2009–2014 publicity is to follow the example of the successful information and publicity for the FM 2004-2009, draw attention to the differences in focus and the overall implementation, raise awareness of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009–2014— particularly to ensure information for the potential beneficiaries, expert public and all entities involved in the programme implementation.

A dedicated central website www.eeagrants.cz was established by the Ministry of Finance for the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 in the Czech Republic. At the website, information is provided in both Czech and English language. Approved programme documents (methodologies, manuals, guidelines) shall also be posted here, parallel to the website of the respective line ministry.

Retrieval and distribution of press releases and articles relating to the Financial Mechanism is also ensured by the individual press departments of the entities involved in the implementation of the programmes. In addition, press conferences, advertising in the press (of the calls, for instance) and promotional events in the radio and TV broadcasting, as appropriate, shall also be arranged for on a continuous basis.

The **Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic for the 2009–2014 EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism** is currently being finalized. In connection with its preparation, a questionnaire survey is now taking place to determine the general level and awareness in the Czech Republic of the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms as well as of the mutual bilateral relations. The results of the survey will be integrated in the upcoming *2009–2014 Communication Strategy* and will be used as a starting point for a continuous evaluation of the *Communication Strategy*, communication plans and publicity for the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014.

The upcoming *Communication Strategy* shall define a general framework for the publicity, its focus and the tools to be used for the FM promotion, as well as the target groups of the publicity.

Media will also be used to raise awareness and information about the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014. The media should ensure, in particular, the general level of information about the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014. Direct communication will particularly be of a major importance, specifically with the applicants, beneficiaries as well as the general public and mainly in the form of thematic seminars, workshops or press conferences.

A dedicated e-mail address czp@mfcf.cz was established to facilitate easy communication between the various target groups and NFP, where the interested parties can send their questions concerning the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014.

In addition to the aforesaid communication tools, various printed documents, manuals, brochures, leaflets and other promotional materials prepared by NFP in cooperation with the particular programme partners will also be available to the interest parties.

Annual communication plans will be prepared to specify in a greater detail the elaborated schedule of the various events planned in the relevant year. The schedule will be modified depending on the period, in which the respective communication plan is prepared. Also the target group of the publicity can be changed.

The core for ensuring publicity for the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 will consist in strengthening the cooperation and bilateral relations between the National Focal Point, the Programme Operators and the Programme Partners from both the Czech Republic and the Donor states (DPP). This shall be arranged for in mutual cooperation between the MoF NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague.

The accomplishment of the *Communication Strategy* shall be monitored on a continuous basis, and the impact and benefit of the different communication tools for the promotion of the Financial Mechanisms shall be assessed. The assessment indicators shall include, for instance, the visitor rate at the website www.eeagrants.cz, the number of participants at seminars, the number and focus of e-mail inquiries and, where appropriate, research of articles on the EEA Financial Mechanism published in the media. The monitoring results shall in turn be taken into account when preparing the annual communication plans.

3.7 Work Plan

In view of the fact that the different draft programmes have been submitted to the FMC for evaluation and approval, it is not possible to prepare a general activity plan for 2013. The specific draft programmes, which have been submitted, include also timetables and work schedules of the programmes; these timetables/schedules should be adjusted accordingly in the event of any change to the expected approval of the programmes. The 2013 timetable can only be prepared once the particular programmes have been approved.

All activities expected in 2012 are indicated in **Annex 2 – Schedule of Planned Programme Events in 2012**.

4 REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

Given the state of preparation, submission and approval of the draft programmes, there is no information available to be included in this Strategic Report.

5 SUMMARY LISTING OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Taking into account the need to ensure transparency of procedures at all programme/project levels, NFP shall prepared uniform Implementation Procedures for the FM 2009–2014, which will be based on the *Regulations*, but define in a greater detail the specific steps in the Czech Republic;
- In the event that the completion of the preparations of a certain programme is jeopardized, NFP shall prepare a proposal for solution to be discussed with the FMO and FMC.

6 ATTACHMENT TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT

Given the state of preparation, submission and approval of the draft programmes, only the relevant Annexes to the *1st Strategic Report* are indicated:

Annex 1	Overview of Draft Programmes – EEA FM 2009–2014 (<i>Norwegian FM 2009–2014</i>)
Annex 2	Schedule of Planned Events for the Particular Programmes in 2012
Annex 3	Partnerships with Donor Institutions in the Different Programme Areas (Norwegian FM 2004-2009 / EEC FM 2009–2014 FM)
Annex 4	Activities and Instruments Proposed to Strengthen the Bilateral Relations in the Upcoming Programmes

Annex 1 – Overview of Draft Programmes – EEA FM 2009–2014 (Norwegian FM EEA 2009–2014)

ID	Programme name	Programme area	Programme focus	Allocation (EUR million)	Donor programme partner – DPP	* PDP	** SGS	*** OC
CZ02	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services / Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning Control / Adaptation to Climate Change	PA 2 – 3 - 7	Stop the loss of biodiversity by implementing the programme areas PA 2 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services / PA 3 – Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control / PA7 – Adaptation to Climate Change.	18.420	The Directorate for Nature Management	2	1	1
CZ03	NGO Programme	PA 10	The <i>Fund for “Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations”</i> is focused on supporting non-governmental non-profit organizations that promote public interest. The main objective of the programme is to strengthen the development of the civil society and to enhance the contribution to social equity, democracy and sustainable development.	9.810				
CZ04	Children and Youth at Risk	PA 11	Improving the quality of and deinstitutionalizing the system for child care and vulnerable children. PDP will focus on the codification of the legal provisions governing family support, substitute family care and the system for protection of children's rights. The objective of the project is to prepare a new bill on family support, substitute family care and care for vulnerable children.	4.298		1		1
CZ05	National, Regional, Local Initiatives to Reduce Inter-group Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion	PA 12	Improved social inclusion and prevention of racial-based violence (campaign, seminars, conferences)	1.242		1		
CZ06	Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts	PA 16 – 17	PA16 - preservation, restoration and presentation of movable and immovable cultural heritage. The support concerns collection items and museum-like collections of film cultural heritage of monument funds; PA17 – extension of cultural dialog and the European identity through understanding of cultural diversity	21.490	The Arts Council Norway /	2	1	2
CZ07	EEA Scholarship Programme	PA 19	Support the development of human capital and knowledge, skills and experience through exchange of experience and university students in the Czech Republic and EEA countries	0.307	The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education - SIU (Norway)/ the Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNIS (Iceland) /			2

ID	Programme name	Programme area	Programme focus	Allocation (EUR million)	Donor programme partner – DPP	* PDP	** SGS	*** OC
					the National Agency for International Education Affairs – AIBA (Liechtenstein)			
CZ08	Pilot studies and surveys on CCS technology	PA 20	Supporting activities related to CO2 capture and storage systems. An open call will be published as part of the programme to submit draft individual projects, which will focus on the implementation of pilot studies and surveys on CCS technology, leading to enhanced knowledge and transnational cooperation in CCS. The use and promotion of eco-innovative measures should be supported as a cross-sectional topic for all the submitted projects.	7.040				1
CZ09	Research Support Fund	PA 23	Support the development of scientific knowledge through scientific cooperation between the Czech and Norwegian institutions	12.500				
CZ10	Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities	PA 25	Strengthen the institutional capacity and human resources in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the Czech Republic through cooperation and knowledge transfer between similar institutions and authorities in Norway. As a specific objective, the project aims at contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the 2011–2012 Government’s Anti-Corruption Strategy.	1.760		1		
CZ11	Public Health Initiatives	PA 27	Psychiatric care and child care; the aim is to help the target group of patients to gain access to quality health care, improve prevention and avoid subsequent complications. A comprehensive rehabilitation care programme shall be developed under the psychiatric care.	19.180	Norwegian Institute of Public Health /	3	2	2
CZ12	Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance / Domestic and Gender-based Violence	PA 28-29	The main objective of the programme is to support gender equality and promote work and private life balance, as well as prevention and fight against domestic and gender-based violence. In addition, the programme should focus on the specific needs of minority groups.	6.200				

ID	Programme name	Programme area	Programme focus	Allocation (EUR million)	Donor programme partner – DPP	* PDP	** SGS	*** OC
CZ13	Domestic and Gender-based Violence / Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance	PA 28-29	Prevention and reduction of domestic violence, and improved work and private life balance. (Seminar, campaign, methodology)	0.840		1		
CZ14	Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups	PA 30	Increased safety of citizens by improving the efficiency of cooperation between law-enforcement authorities in the Schengen countries in the fight against organized crime, including trafficking; Focused particularly on the development and improvement of structures, system and technical equipment in the framework of implementation of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> / enhanced cooperation between the police forces of the Schengen member states, and improved capacities for the prevention of and fight against cross-border and organized crime, including illicit trafficking	7.040		4		
CZ15	Judicial Capacity-building Cooperation / Correctional services, including Non-custodial sanctions (Bi - CE	PA 31 - 32	PA 31- Education of probation and mediation service officers; introduction of videoconferences to increase efficiency in justice; PA32- programmes for convicts and improvement of conditions in prisons; information materials for imprisoned foreigners and education of Prison Administration's staff	4.928	The Council of Europe	3		

Number Forms of implementation

* **PDP** **Pre-defined project** – draft project, which is submitted as part of the draft programme and to be approved together with the draft programme.

** **SGS** **Small grant scheme** – focused on the specified area; forms a part of the submitted draft programme. The maximum grant amount for sub-projects is EUR 250,000.

*** **OC** **Open call to submit draft Individual Projects**. Unless stipulated otherwise, the minimum grant amount is EUR 250,000.

Annex 2 Schedule of Planned Events for the Particular Programmes in 2012

ID	Q1 / 2012	Q2 / 2012	Q3 / 2012	Q4 / 2012
CZ02	20 January – 1 st Cooperation Committee (Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management) 15 March – the programme submitted to FMO	June 2012 – 2 nd Cooperation Committee June 2012 – approval of the programme MGS publicity	Launch of activities for PDP 1 “Proper Heating” a PDP 2 “Wetlands” as well as the “Endangered Species” MGS (call not specified in detail)	Open call, distribution of OC leaflets from the Ministry of Environment
CZ03	31 January – tender published for the selection of the Programme Operator 21 March – opening of the envelopes and start of bid evaluations	April/May – signature of the Letter of Intent	July/August – finalization of the programme and its submission to the donors for approval	December – approval of the programme
CZ04	21 February – negotiations with the Norwegian PDP partner 5 March – the programme submitted to FMO	June – workshop on issues related to children at risk and their families, in cooperation with the PDP partner	Opening seminar on the programme Publication of the call Implementation launch of PDP	Selection of projects from the call
CZ05	22 February – the programme submitted to FMO		Opening seminar on the programme Implementation launch of PDP	
CZ06	25 January – 1 st Cooperation Committee 28 February – the programme submitted to FMO	June – approval of the programme 2 nd Cooperation Committee Seminar for potential applicants Opening conference on the programme	Publication of the call – IP Publication of the call IP – MGS Implementation launch of PDP – “Digital Restoration of the Czech film heritage”	Selection of projects Selection of MGS projects Implementation launch of PDP – “Industrial heritage”
CZ07	26 January – 1 st Cooperation Committee 16 February – the programme submitted to FMO Participation in education fairs (Gaudeamus Lingua Show) Participation in the Erasmus Day in Pardubice, Day mobilities in Prostějov	June - the expected approval of the programme April - attendance at the Information Seminar at Charles University Information seminars at universities Information Seminar - Highlands Region Distribution of leaflets about the programme 26-27 April – Contact seminar/ conference in Norway (Bergen) May/June: Opening conference in Prague Contact seminar 2 nd Cooperation Committee	Call published September: training for evaluators	The evaluation process first results challenges information on the results, signing grant agreements
CZ08	20 February – the programme submitted to FMO	June – approval of the programme	The processing of documents for the information of the call	Open Call, distribution of OC leaflets from the Ministry of Environment
CZ09	16 February – the programme submitted to FMO	Approval of the programme Workshops and information days for potential applicants	Workshops and information days for potential applicants	Publication of the 1 st call

ID	Q1 / 2012	Q2 / 2012	Q3 / 2012	Q4 / 2012
		Cooperation Committee		
CZ10	31 March 2012 – the programme submitted to FMO		July 2012 – approval of the programme Opening seminar on the programme	Implementation launch of PDP
CZ11	3 February – 1 st Cooperation Committee (Norwegian Institute of Public Health) 24 February – the programme submitted to FMO	June 2012 – 2 nd Cooperation Committee June 2012 – approval of the programme Seminar for potential applicants	Opening seminar on the programme Publication of the Small Grant Scheme call – (NNO)	Selection of projects under MGS
CZ12	5 March - tender published for the selection of the Programme Operator 23 April –opening of the envelopes	May – signature of the Letter of Intent	August/September – finalization of the programme and its submission to the donors for approval	
CZ13	21 February – the programme submitted to FMO		Opening seminar on the programme Implementation launch of PDP	Conference – domestic violence
CZ14*	April 2012 – the programme submitted to FMO			
CZ15	2 February – 1 st Cooperation Committee (Council of Europe) <u>31 March 2012</u> – the programme submitted to FMO		Approval of the programme Submission of PDP projects 2 nd Cooperation Committee	Evaluation of PDP projects

* The draft programme was not finalized at the time of the approval of the 1st Strategic Report (information was not available)

Annex 3 – Partnerships with Donor Institutions in the Different Programme Areas (2004-2009 / 2009–2014)

ID	Programme area	Project/programme / Partnerships established / Field of interest / Activities
CZ02	PA 2 – 3 - 7	<p>FM1: Project CZ0049: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute – partner: Norwegian Institute for Air Research Project CZ0051: Czech Geological Survey – partner: Norwegian Institute for Water Research Project CZ0136: Czech Geological Survey – partner: The University of Bergen</p> <p>FM1-FTA: Project “Study trip – Exchange of experience in preservation, research, restoration and friendly management of wetlands between Norway and the Czech Republic”: Ministry of Environment – partner: Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management Project “Reducing the diversity loss: Exchange of experience and information in rescue programmes and monitoring of endangered European species”: Nature Conservation Agency – partner: County Governor of North – Trondelag</p> <p>FM2: The Directorate for Nature Management – programme partner from Norway</p>
CZ04	PA 11	<p>FM2: Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (to be concluded in PDP – Codification of the legal provisions governing family support, substitute family care and the system for protection of children's rights, and their implementation)</p>
CZ06	PA 16 – 17	<p>FM2: PA17 - Arts Council Norway (Norsk Kulturråd) – programme partner from Norway The Directorate for Cultural Heritage – Riksantikvaren (PDP – Industrial heritage) Oslo National Library and the National Film Archive of the Czech Republic (PDP – Digital Restoration of the Czech film heritage)</p>
CZ07	PA 19 - 24	<p>FM1: Scholarship Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 278 mobility places for students from 31 Czech educational institutions to 39 institutions in donor states, - 53 mobility places for teachers / administrative assistants, - 17 projects were implemented under Scholarship Cooperation and 24 projects under Institutional Development, with the participation of 51 Czech institutions, 29 Norwegian institutions and one institution from Lichtenstein <p>Comenius - (6 projects with Norway and 1 project with Iceland)</p>

ID	Programme area	Project/programme / Partnerships established / Field of interest / Activities
		<p>According to statistics published by the European Commission and covering the period 1999-2010, in Norway studied only 1.2% of Czech students who took advantage of the Erasmus Programme (Iceland, Liechtenstein, 0.13% and 0.04%).</p> <p>FM2: SIU – programme partner from Norway Education and international cooperation in education)</p>
CZ10	PA 25	<p>FM2: Council of Europe – Greco working group Partner PDP</p>
CZ11	PA 27	<p>FM2: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health – programme partner from Norway</p>
CZ13	PA 28 - 29	<p>FM2: Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, Department of Family and Equality Contact for PDP established</p>
CZ14	PA 30	<p>FM1: Partner: National Police Directorate; KRI Project: “Improvement of Czech police fight against foreign-language criminal structures” Partner: Unit for investigation and Prosecution of Economic Crime – the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police Project: “Legitimation of the proceeds of crime, confiscation of assets and financial investigation – detection and investigation” (Iceland). Partner : Norwegian Financial Services Association Police of the Czech Republic Project: “Detection, crosscheck and investigation of insurance frauds” A study trip of representatives to Norway and exchange study visit of Norwegian representatives in the Czech Republic - Partner : Norwegian Financial Services Assotiation -Policie ČR Project CZ005: Building of NC SIRENE - Partner : SIRENE Office – Norwegian National Police Directorate</p>
CZ15	PA 31 - 32	<p>PA31: FM1:</p>

ID	Programme area	Project/programme / Partnerships established / Field of interest / Activities
		<p>Correctional Service of Norway</p> <p>Project: Exchange of experience in criminal justice + Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy</p> <p><u>FM1-FTA:</u> A follow-up joint project on the System of further education for the Czech Probation and Medication Service, to be submitted under the 2009–2014 EEC FM.</p> <p>PA32:</p> <p><u>FM2:</u> Norwegian Correctional Service, prison administration (Study trips, seminars, conferences, consultations)</p>

FM1: EEA Financial Mechanism 2004-2009

FM2: EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014

FTA – Technical Assistance Fund

Annex 4 – Activities and Instruments Proposed to Strengthen the Bilateral Relations in the Upcoming Programmes

(Annex includes only programmes for which a survey was carried out)

Programme ID	PA	Suitable areas and activities to strengthen bilateral relations	Instruments under the programme	Instruments under projects
CZ02	PA2/3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management and monitoring of national parks, protected landscapes and Natura 2000 zones - Protection of particularly endangered animal and plant species - Ecosystem services - Preventing the spreading of invasive animal and plant species - Protection of wetlands - Cooperation with non-profit organizations, municipalities and general public in the protection of fauna and flora - Sustainable eco/geo tourism - Raising awareness of and education towards protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services - Adaptation measures and strategy related to climate protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - Study trips - Conferences - Seminars - Projects implemented in partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - Study trips - Conferences - Seminars
CZ04	PA11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of children's rights, involvement of children and youth in the decision-making processes, and deinstitutionalization of care for children at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information exchange - Consultation process - Cooperation in communication with other entities (conferences, seminars, working groups) - Search for suitable entities (such as service providers, public administration authorities at regional and local level) 	
CZ05	PA 28/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting awareness of gender equality and research in the field - Balance between work, private and family life - Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence - Supporting organizations and networks promoting gender equality 	PDP only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutual visits by the partners; exchange of good practices in the two areas of the programme - Arranging for the participation of the Norwegian partner at one of the conferences (seminars) to take place under the project
CZ06	PA 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dramatic art - Visual art (e.g. exhibitions, creative workshops) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional assistance in programme development and implementation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PDP: - Study trips

Programme ID	PA	Suitable areas and activities to strengthen bilateral relations	Instruments under the programme	Instruments under projects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music art (e.g. festivals, concerts, creative workshops) - Film art (e.g. festivals, creative workshops) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> projects - Seminars - Workshops - Field trips - Study trips - Consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of experience - Workshops - Joint exhibition - Consultations
CZ07	PA19/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the competences of university students and teachers - Exchange of expert knowledge, experience and know-how - Internationalization of educational institutions operating under the activities of Institutional Cooperation projects and Mobility and Traineeship projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultations - International conferences (particularly EAIE where DZS/NAEP can meet representatives of partner institutions – SIU, RANNIS, AIBA, as well as representatives of participating universities and their international departments) - Trips abroad - Contact seminars - Participation in tenders - Meetings of the Cooperation Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultations - Contact seminars - Workshops - Conferences - Evaluation meetings - Possibility to online search for a suitable partner institution at the website - Educational visits within mobility projects
CZ11	PA 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychiatric care - Child care <p>particularly in the proposed PDP where know-how and good practices will be transferred between the partners from the Czech Republic and the donor state</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - particularly such where the donor states have greater experience: preventive programmes, deinstitutionalization of psychiatric care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study traineeship for experts in the supported areas in the donor state - Workshop for experts from the donor state and the Czech Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer of experience, know how, best practices - Participation of experts from the donor state at expert conferences - Study traineeships for Czech experts in the donor state
CZ15	PA 31	Cooperation in further education of probation services staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Sharing of good practices - Study trips - Workshops - Conferences
	PA 32	Sharing of experience, acquisition of new information.	<p>Programme partner – Council of Europe, the form of cooperation was defined as advisor and observer role.</p> <p>Partnership support to take place in direct relationship with the needs and requirements of the promoter during the project implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-level partner (Norwegian Correctional Service) - Cooperation particularly in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study trips, - Seminars, conferences - Expert consultations