



Ongoing evaluation of implementation of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

Ministry of Education, Youth and
Sports

Progress Report 04 - Executive Summary

May 2018
Final version



EUROPEAN UNION
European Structural and Investing Funds
Operational Programme Research,
Development and Education





Given the status of implementation, the real progress only partially corresponds to the expected status of OP RDE implementation.

The fulfilment of the real values of the result and output indicators given by the programme document was, as of 28 February 2018, zero for more than half. Only 56 out of 144 Result and output indicators across the priority axes to which projects are directly committed have a non-zero value. The calls available in MS2014+ covered a total of 140 announced programme indicators. At the given date, 4 indicators were not covered by calls.



The risk of not-fulfilling target values and the risk of over-fulfilling target values has been identified.

By 31 indicators out of 144 programme indicators, a risk of non-fulfilment is identified. A list of indicators is given in the table below:

Table 1 Executive summary - the risk of not-fulfilment of the target values

PA/IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA1	Output	Number of new products of strategic management systems in RD (LDR)
PA1	Output	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of expanded or upgraded research institutions (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure for research -focused curricula (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Total number of participants (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of students of research-oriented study programs and Ph.D. students who took part in the fellowship (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of newly created study programmes taught in cooperation with another university (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new practice-oriented study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported products of LL (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new project intentions supported by Smart Accelerator (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new practice-oriented Bachelor study programmes (MDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Acquired information sources (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure for research-focused curricula (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of supported products of LL(LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of first-year graduates in new or modernized research programmes accredited for teaching in foreign language (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of research organizations with newly arrived researchers from abroad or from the private sector (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of research organizations with a modernized strategic management system (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of organizations affected by systemic interventions (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of supported products (MDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of organizations where quality and education for inclusiveness has been strengthened (LDR i MDR)
PA4	Output	Number of training sessions, seminars, workshops, conferences



Based on relatively high coverage of target values of indicators by calls the risk of over-fulfilling target values was identified at the following indicators:

Table 2 Executive summary - the risk of over-fulfilment of the target values

PA / IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA1	Output	Number of new researchers in supported entities (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of research employees who work in modernized research infrastructures (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly built, expanded or modernized research infrastructures, and centres of excellence (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly built, expanded or expanded infrastructures for research-oriented study programmes (LDR and MDR)
PA1	Output	Number of newly created products of strategic management RDI (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Total number of participants (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported researchers and academics (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported administrative and technical staff in RDI (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported people involved in the management and implementation of RDI policy (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of supported products (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of newly created accredited study programs taught in the Czech language (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of study programs with at least one subject newly taught in a foreign language (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Acquired information sources (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of products created to improve strategic management and the system of higher education (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new or modernized research programmes accredited for teaching in a foreign language (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new products modernizing strategic management systems in research organizations (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new project intentions supported by Smart Accelerator (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new tools for RDI support at regional level (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Output	Number of new practice-oriented Bachelor study programmes (LDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Acquired information sources (LDR and MDR)
PA2 IP2	Output	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure for research -focused curricula (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of study programmes taught in a foreign language (MDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of students with SEN using consulting and support products (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of U with established transparent quality assessment systems (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of organizations whose staff increased their qualification and management in RDI and related areas (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of research organizations with newly arrived researchers from abroad or from the private sector (LDR)
PA2 IP1	Result	Number of supported co-operations (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Total number of participants (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Number of supported products (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Output	Number of products in system projects (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Total number of participants (LDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of supported products (LDR)
PA3 IP2	Output	Number of products in system projects (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP3	Output	Total number of participants (LDR)



PA / IP	Output Indicator/Result Indicator	Indicator
PA3 IP3	Output	Number of supported products (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP3	Output	Number of products in system projects (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of organizations affected by systemic interventions (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of workers in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of organizations affected by systemic interventions (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP1	Result	Number of supported co-operations (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of workers in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP2	Result	Number of organizations affected by systemic interventions (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP3	Result	Number of organizations affected by systemic interventions (LDR and MDR)
PA3 IP3	Result	Number of workers in the education system who apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in practice (LDR and MDR)
PA4	Output	Number of meetings of bodies, working groups or advisory groups
PA4	Output	Number of organized information and promotional activities



The risk of failure to meet milestone values in 2018 of factual indicators has been identified.

The fulfilment of the real indicators of the milestone 2018 is considered to be at risk in case of these indicators:

Table 3 Executive summary - the risk of failure to meet the milestone values in 2018

PA	Indicator	Risk
PA1	Number of newly built, expanded or modernized research infrastructures and centres of excellence	High
PA2	Total number of participants	High
PA2	Acquired information sources	High
PA2	Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure for research -focused curricula	High
PA3	Total number of participants	Low

PA1: In the area of indicator values of PA1 (Number of newly built, expanded or modernized research infrastructures and Centres of Excellence LDR and MDR)), a high risk of failure to fulfil the indicator value for the 2018 milestone was identified on the basis of the analysis of the PA1 indicators, unless projects show indicator values before the deadline of the commitments. However, based on the information provided by MEYS, it is expected that some of the projects of the indicator values will be reported by the end of 2018 so that the 2018 milestone is met.

PA2: For all the real performance indicators of PA2 (Total number of participants (LDR and MDR), Acquired Information Resources (LDR and MDR) and Number of students using newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure outside the research-related infrastructure (LDR and MDR)), a high risk was identified that the value of at least 85% of the value of the 2018 indicators would not be met. This would not fulfil the conditions of the PA2 performance framework. On the basis of the MEYS information, the indicator Acquired Information Resources should be fulfilled with the completed call



02_17_044 where legal acts are issued at the date of this report. The management of OPRDE is aware of the risks and has adopted an action plan and, at the same time, initiated the revision of OPRDE.

PA3: For PA3, a low risk was identified that the indicator value of at least 85% will not be reached in the indicator The total number of participants (LDR i MDR).



Financial progress of resources under commitments meets the expectations, financial progress of paid resources is under the expectations.

As of 31 December 2017, a total of CZK 41,179 million was committed, which represents 46.9% of the total allocation of the program. According to OPRDE programming document, the total allocation for the years 2015-2017 (main allocation and performance reserve) is CZK 30,790 million. The share of reimbursed funds to the allocation is CZK 12,745 million, representing only 14.5%, and is therefore below the expected level. The financial volume of the announced calls is 84.5% of the OP allocation (70.2% of the ESF allocation and 96.1% of the ERDF allocation). A detailed overview is provided in the following table.

Table 4 Financial performance in funds perspective

Priority Axis	Fund	Share of allocation of calls to the allocation of OP RDE	Share of financial resources under commitments to allocation of OP RDE	Share of financial resources paid to the allocation of OP RDE
PA1	EFRR	98.08%	50.20%	17.84%
PA2	EFRR	93.12%	58.02%	3.67%
	ESF	71.00%	45.55%	9.03%
PA3	ESF	69.91%	38.78%	17.92%
PA4	EFRR	88.56%	41.51%	18.09%
	EFRR	96.08%	51.87%	13.84%
Total	ESF	70.22%	40.74%	15.35%
	EFRR+ESF	84.51%	46.89%	14.51%

In PA1, fulfilment of financial indicator of the milestone with sufficient margin can be predicted only in LDR already when RfP predicted in 3rd quarter 2018 are included. In the case of MDR, the predicted level is more than 85% payable when calculating predicted payments for 3rd Q. 2018.

In PA2, neither one of the funds is predicted to meet the financial indicator of the milestone, even at 85% of the value. An essential prerequisite for meeting at least 85% of the ERDF level is the intensive and efficient drawing of the projects of universities within the framework of the calls of the 02_16_016 ERDF call for universities and 02_17_044 Support for the development of the study environment at universities. The allocation in call 02_17_044 has been increased and legal acts will be concluded in the first half of 2018, in addition, the conditions of drawing in this call have been set in such a way as to create sufficient prerequisites for the expected fulfilment of the limit in 2018. At the same time, it should be taken into account that the management of the OPRDE within this PO and ESF identified that there was an inappropriate setting of the performance framework due to incorrect assumptions already in the creation of the OP itself. Several measures (adoption of an action plan) which led to an improvement of the situation were made, however, the fulfilment of the limits in 2018 is still under threat. Therefore, the management proposes adjusting the value of the milestone indicator in the



framework of the forthcoming programme revision. The specific proposal is to reduce the amount of certified ESF resources in PA2 and to increase it adequately in PA3.

Margin can be predicted already when considering only predicted requests for payments for 3rd quarter 2018. For the performance of the financial indicator for the MDR milestone, the predicted level of fulfilment is less than 100% and fulfilment at a level above 85% is only when including predicted payments for the 4th Q. 2018.



Based on the current status of the financial progress on 31 December 2017, no risk of non-utilization of allocated resources of the OP RDE has been identified.



All the specific objectives of OP RDE have been covered by an announced or closed call, or at least by a call in the schedule of calls



OP RDE interventions are in most cases directly linked to the relevant strategic documents, including their real contribution to the level of the achieved values of the monitoring indicators.

The National RIS3 Strategy (25 links to calls with a total allocation of calls of nearly CZK 55 billion) is the strongest of OPRDE interventions. The strategy of education policy of the Czech Republic up to 2020 (22 links to calls with a total allocation of calls of CZK 22.4 billion) is the second strongest strategy. The third strongest strategy is the National Reform Program of the Czech Republic 2014, or National Reform Program 2016 (20 links to calls with a total call allocation of CZK 37.8 billion). The fourth strategy is the National Policy for Research, Development and Innovation for the years 2016-2020 (16 links to calls with a total allocation of CZK 35.6 billion). The fifth strategy is the Long-term Plan for Education and Development of the Education System of the Czech Republic for the period 2015-2020 (11 links to calls with a total allocation of CZK 15.6 billion).

The weaker link between OPRDE interventions to strategic and other documents has been identified in specific strategies and concepts such as the Concept of support for the development of talented for 2014-2020. Other strategic documents with weaker links are the strategic documents following the above-mentioned strategic documents and specific concepts that are framed over a longer period of time, such as the EU Council Recommendations on the National Reform Program 2017 or the Draft of the Czech Library Development Concept for the years 2017-2020 with a view until 2025.



The current setting of the OPRDE implementation structure in terms of the management of synergies and complementarities can be considered as functional.



The co-ordination of synergic and complementary links with other programmes is the most intensive in the case of programmes with which the MA of OPRDE has signed memorandum of cooperation and cooperation agreement - OPEIC, IROP, OPE and OPPGP. In the case of these programmes, there is also the highest rate of participation of representatives of the MA of these OPs on individual platforms (PKP, MV, individual PS etc.). With regard to the deadlines for announcing the synergies of OPRDE (02_16_025 Pre-application research and 02_17_048 Pre-application research for ITI) and the planned timetable for synergic calls, synergistic effects should be reached as well.

On the basis of a survey carried out by project implementers, it was confirmed that specific projects are materially complementary to implementation. Complementarity was demonstrated both in the case of the target groups and the activities of the projects to a sufficient extent even though incomplete use of the complementary link between the OPRDE and the IROP calls was demonstrated to the respondents to the extent defined in Annex H of the OPRDE programming document and within individual calls. Respondents have only partially used the link in terms of target groups or complementary activities. Recipients generally had sufficient information on complementary links, they actively surveyed the information and were aware of the complementarity of the projects.

The co-ordination of the OPRDE with the community and national programmes within all PAs shall be in accordance with the co-ordination mechanisms set out in the programme with respect to these programmes. The most intensive is the internal co-ordination with the individual sections of MEYS, namely in the area of mobility, programmes for support of higher education institutions as well as research and development. Co-ordination with national programmes is primarily through the representation of participants of national programmes within the PKP. Co-ordination with the Czech Republic's Technology Agency on complementarity and overlapping in pre-applied research is currently under way. Co-ordination with the Ministry of the Environment in the field of environmental education is also in progress. The result of this co-ordination is the identification of possible overlaps of planned OPRDE calls and national programmes.

The Community programmes are co-ordinated mainly by means of a communication procedure for individual programmes and harmonizing the timetables of the relevant calls of the OPRDE. A typical example is the call of Teaming Phase 2 under Horizon 2020. Co-ordination with Erasmus + (preparation of a call for fellowships for foreign students) is in progress.








Factors that can seriously prevent the effective implementation of OP RDE from being carried out have been identified.

The identified factors, which currently affect the progress of the programme implementation, are listed in the following table. Factors are divided into the most serious (red), moderate (orange) and least severe (green).

Table 5 Factors influencing the state of implementation of the programme

Factor	Description	Factor severity
Insufficient functionality of MS2014+ including IS KP14+ portal	The factor remains from the previous reference period (3rd Progress Report), the risk is reported in Risk Management Report in OP RDE, no. 01/88 Monitoring System MS2014+ - programme management at a programme level. <u>Regarding MA:</u>	






Factor	Description	Factor severity
	<p>Methodological materials do not always take into account the current functionality of MS2014 + / methodical setting. Long time to perform changes. The Department of the Monitoring System (423) devotes little attention to development activities (automation, control functions).</p> <p><u>Regarding recipient:</u> Users of MS2014+ as recipients evaluate working with IS KP14+ negatively. From the point of view of recipients, the system is slow and unreliable and there are technical errors in the system that may cause that the projects are not able to submit a Request for Payment on time. The system does not allow effective change management.</p>	
Length of administration of projects at the administrative control stage	<p>The risk is reported in the Risk Management Report in OP RDE, No 04/89 - Insufficient administrative capacity for administrative control of projects</p> <p>Long-term jobs / fixed-term jobs are not filled. Repeated competitions do not list any relevant candidates, and if the candidate is already selected, he or she usually does not start the job. This, in the case of some departments, raises a critical state due to too many projects for administration. This unfavorable development is also involved in increasing the allocation of individual calls and approving considerably more than the expected number of projects than the original administrative capacity planned (due to the acceleration of the OPRDE).</p>	
Lack of absorption capacity in some calls compared to significantly under-absorbed capacity in other calls	<p>The risk is reported in the Risk Management Report in OP RDE, č. 05/01 – Insufficient administrative capacity</p> <p>Low interest in announced calls due to insufficient absorption capacity (from calls closed during the reference period - call 02_16_027 International Researcher Mobility with a ratio of required allocation to 77%, 02_27_050 International Researcher Mobility of MSCA-IF with a 37% Ratio). The reason is the difference between the analysis of absorption capacity carried out and the actual interest of potential eligible respondents. As a result, the programme's allocation may not be adequate or poor quality applications may be supported.</p>	
High administrative complexity of documents for IR and RS including settlement of comments with negative influence on the process of drawing OPRDE	<p>The risk is not mentioned in the Risk Management Report in OP RDE.</p> <p>From the point of view of the respondents, the requirements for documents and attachments to IR and RS are excessive, especially in relation to the volume of funds requested. At the same time, the process of settlement of comments on IR and RS is also difficult, in some cases such requirements may go beyond the rules of OPRDE. As a result, there is a delay in the use of OPRDE funds, which increases the risk of not achieving the value of the Financial Indicator for the year 2018.</p>	
Highly demanding administrative processes in OP RDE for both recipients and MEYS	<p>The risk is not mentioned in the Risk Management Report in OP RDE, vyplývá z terénních šetření.</p> <p>From the point of view of implementers, administrative processes of OP RDE (compared to other grant headings, especially from abroad) focus too much on the control of formal aspects of the project implementation (e.g. indicators without evident context, accounting records with tax documents in full, jobs including their specifications in different annexes etc.). Disproportionately less is demanded during control of real benefits of implemented projects. According to implementers, this drawback remained from the previous programme period of OP EIC and OP RDI, or even increased.</p>	
High complexity of guides and specific rules for applicants and recipients	<p>The risk is not mentioned in the Risk Management Report in OP RDE.</p> <p>OP RDE guides are seen as too complicated – they try to codify every possible situation that may occur during project implementation and individual methodological documents can therefore contradict themselves. Their interpretation and answering implementers' questions place a heavy burden on both applicants and MEYS's employees. According to implementers, making the</p>	




Factor	Description	Factor severity
	interpretation of these methodological documents even more specific can be counterproductive because it keeps increasing the complexity of the documents.. At the same time, divergent opinions of the MA representatives cause uncertainty.	

Based on the carried-out analyses, the following list of recommendations was created. The recommendations are divided into serious (red), moderate (orange) and minor (green).

Table 6 Recommendations resulting from the findings

Recommendations		Prioritization
Examine the possibility of simplifying project management requirements, especially during the process of changes to projects and documentation for IR and RS	<p>Negatively assessed aspects of the process according to the implementers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicate information in multiple attachments of IR and RS. • Slow administration of changes in IS KP14 + environment. • Excessive requirements for addition and modification of IR and RS, as well as the framework of OPRDE rules. <p>Evaluator's recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Check the possibilities of simplifying and speeding up the process of changes to projects and verify compliance with OPRDE rules when setting the requirements for modification or supplementation of IR and RS, including assessment of relevance of these requirements. 2) Identify possible duplicates in the Annexes of IR, RS and in the annexes required for substantial and minor changes to the project. 3) If necessary, modify the process in the Guide for Applicants and Respondents - General Section 4) Implement the relevant elements simplifying the process in IS KP14 +. 	
Focus on the administration of projects from the "Four Calls" 02_17_044	<p>Focus on the smoothest administration of the projects of the call 02_17_044 as well as the projects of the Four Calls, especially in the context of calls for PA2, with a view to meeting the financial indicator of the 2018 milestone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of initiative advisory support to project promoters, especially projects with a large volume of allocated funds. • Accelerated handling of requests for change, especially those that have a positive effect on the drawdown of funds, at the same time, do not increase the risk of non-fulfilment of real indicator milestones. • The fastest administration of payment requests and their certification. 	
Revision of the Operational Programme Setting the Indicator Values in PA2 and PA3	<p>Based on a risk analysis of the non-fulfilment and over-fulfilment of the indicator values, a disproportionate distribution of the indicator values between LDR and MDR was identified in PA2. For 15 pairs of indicators, there is a high risk of non-fulfilment in MDR and a high risk of over-fulfilment in LDR. The total values of the indicators for the LDR and MDR sums would be realistically adjusted if the values in the regions were redistributed.</p> <p>In PA3 29 of the 42 indicators are at risk of a significant over-fulfilment of the target values, therefore the target values given by the Operational Programme should be increased.</p> <p>Evaluator's recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Finalize the document containing the arguments behind suggestions for changes to the indicator values. 2) Start a formal negotiation process with the European Commission. 	





Disclaimer:

This document is English translation of original document in Czech. In case of discrepancy between the Czech original text and the English translation, the Czech text shall prevail. The contractor is responsible for the correctness of the English translation.

