



Ongoing Evaluation of Implementation of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

Ministry of Education, Youth and
Sport

Progress Report 13

November 2022
Final



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



Executive Summary

This report represents the thirteenth Progress Report which monitors the factual progress and financial performance of the OP RDE as of 30st June 2022.



Based on the state of implementation, factual progress partially corresponds with the anticipated state of implementation of OP RDE to a given date.

In the period to 30st June 2022, 148 of the 156 result and output indicators across the priority axes to which the projects are directly committed showed a non-zero achieved value.



Target values of the indicators with risk of non-fulfilment or over-fulfilment has been identified.

Non-fulfilment risk has been identified for 12 pairs of indicators (LDR and MDR together) and for 53 pairs of indicators (LDR and MDR together) the risk of over-fulfilment was identified, so it is recommended to continue monitoring indicators and focusing primarily on fulfilling the status of the intervention logic. For 6 pairs of indicators (LDR and MDR together) the need for redistribution of target values between regions was identified. For 3 pairs of indicators (LDR and MDR together) no risk of non-fulfilment, over-fulfilment, or the need to redistribute target values between regions was identified. The material progress of the implementation of the OP RDE can already be demonstrated by the results of individual projects. To this end, a field survey was carried out as part of this report.

Evaluation of the contribution of the PA1 and PA2 SO5 OP RDE to improving the quality of research and development

The evaluation verified that interventions in RD support financed from OP RDE brought mainly a positive shift in the field of research infrastructures and equipment, professional capacities and staff, internationalization and cooperation with foreign countries, cooperation with practice/companies, conditions for research-oriented educational programs, strategic management of RD institutions or research management at the national level. Based on the evaluation prepared using desk research, data analysis (financial and factual indicators), and field surveys of beneficiaries (questionnaire survey, focus groups and individual/group interviews), it can be stated that OP RDE contributed through interventions in RD to the fulfilment of all specific objectives of PA1 (and PA2 SO5) of OP RDE and their expected results. The following diagram shows the main triangulated conclusions from this evaluation:



Through interventions in research and development, OP RDE contributed mainly to:

Acquisition and improvement of research infrastructures and equipment – the projects have made it possible to acquire state-of-the-art and unique equipment that contributes to the overall development of RD institutions.	Ensuring staffing capacities – the projects contributed to the retention of existing staff and to the recruitment of new staff.	Overall development of internationalization and cooperation with foreign countries – successfully managing to bring / involve workers from abroad, establish new cooperation / partnerships with foreign workplaces, engage in international projects.
Development of cooperation with practice/companies – cooperation often worked before OP RDE but thanks to the projects it has been possible to expand/deepen the cooperation, set it up better, form contracts etc.	Support for research – interdisciplinarity has been strengthened, interdisciplinary teams have been created, bigger focus in research on pre-application research and on societal challenges.	Improvement of conditions for research-oriented educational purposes – research-oriented study programmes have been created/modernised and related infrastructure has been built, expanded or modernised.
Promoting research management at national level: 1) Setting up the management of the National and Regional RIS3 implementation. 2) Unification of the system of acquisition and provision of electronic information resources for RD institutions.	Increasing the qualifications of research, administrative and technical staff by supporting their participation in domestic/foreign internships and professional trainings.	Setting up and developing the system of evaluation and quality assurance and strategic management of RD institutions. OP RDE projects provided mainly financial resources and related personnel/human resources, which created capacity to be dedicated to this issue or to further develop existing activities.

The author of this report recommends one of the following recommendations to continue to support RD, especially in the areas listed below. Based on the findings of field surveys and overall evaluation, there is room in the RD environment for further investments/interventions that could contribute to further development and increase the quality of RD, regardless of the source of their funding. According to the findings, focus should be mainly on the following areas:



Support for the operation and development of built infrastructures

According to project representatives, it is necessary to ensure follow-up support for operation and development, including support for newly built infrastructures. Without this support, it might not be possible to continue using them due to a lack of financial resources of the institutions.

Support for excellent research and similar projects as in OP RDE

The survey participants stated that it would be appropriate to follow up on OP RDE projects with similar investments so that it would be possible to implement long-term projects focused on excellent/pre-application/cross-sectoral research. At the same time, however, a relaxation of conditions would be welcome by the beneficiaries so that they can determine themselves whether and which part of the funds they will use for which investments – i.e. infrastructure, human resources, etc.

Investment support for research-oriented education

According to representatives of institutions, it is necessary to secure funds for the regular renewal of the already acquired educational infrastructure. Further support investments in educational and research-oriented infrastructure is needed in order to maintain the infrastructure and follow-up study programmes in line with current trends.

Support for the strategic management of RD institutions

It is necessary to build on the activities of setting / developing strategic management in order to implement them into the standard processes of institutions, so that the processes are perceived as a normal part of the institution and that the institutions have sufficient financial resources for them.

Support for cooperation with practice/companies

Continue to support and develop cooperation between public research institutions and the private/application sphere within research and development (e.g. support for technology transfer, retention of RD experts in institutions, etc.).

Promoting labour mobility

Continue to support the mobility (arrivals and departures) of research and technical staff of RD institutions.



The financial progress at the decisive date exceeds the expectations stated in the OP RDE programming document.

The financial progress at the decisive date exceeds the expectations stated in the OP RDE Programming Document. As of 30st June 2022 a total of CZK 99 040 million was committed, which represents 116,42% of the total programme allocation. The share of reimbursed funds in the total allocation of the OP RDE is then 105,83% of this allocation.

The funds allocated by the calls exceed the allocation set out in the OP RDE Programming Document. This is because in some already closed calls not all allocated funds were used up and subsequently, they were reallocated in other announced calls, so these funds are counted more than once.

Table 1 Financial performance according to the funds

Priority axis	Funds	Share of allocation calls to the allocation of OP RDE	Share of committed financial resources to the allocation of OP RDE	Share of financial resources paid to the allocation of OP RDE
PA1	ERDF	130.13 %	114.09 %	104.76 %
PA2	ERDF	158.61 %	130.54 %	123.80 %
	ESF	143.90 %	107.57 %	97.12 %
PA3	ESF	133.53 %	115.82 %	104.17 %
PA4	ERDF	130.38 %	120.89 %	77.14 %
Total	ERDF	137.31 %	118.65 %	108.66 %
	ESF	136.23 %	111.04 %	102.33 %
	ERDF+ESF	136.83 %	116.42 %	105.83 %





Based on the current status of the financial progress on 30 June 2022, no risk of non-utilization of allocated resources of the OP RDE has been identified.

All specific objectives of the OP RDE are covered by at least one completed call. The absorption capacity of one call was correctly estimated in the period from 31st December 2021 to 30st June 2022.



Factors were identified that may hinder the effective implementation of the OP RDE.

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

Table 2 Factors influencing the state of programme implementation

Factor	Specification of the factor	Impact of the factor	Probability of occurrence	Severity of the factor
Risk of non-fulfilment of the output and the result indicators PA1-PA4	<p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following PA1 outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP1: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (MDR and LDR) <p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following PA2 outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP1: Number of students of research-oriented study programmes and Ph.D. students who took part in the fellowship (MDR and LDR) IP1: Number of newly created accredited study programmes in Czech (MDR) IP1: Number of newly created study programmes taught in co-operation with another university (MDR) IP1: Number of new practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) IP1: Number of study programmes with at least one subject taught in a foreign language (MDR) IP1: Number of supported products of LL (MDR and LDR) IP1: Number of new practice-oriented Bachelor study programmes (MDR and LDR) IP2: Number of newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructures for research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR) IP2: Number of students who use the newly built, expanded or modernized infrastructure for research-oriented study programmes (MDR and LDR) 	3	3	9



Factor	Specification of the factor	Impact of the factor	Probability of occurrence	Severity of the factor
	<p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following PA2 result indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP1: Number of study programmes taught in a foreign language (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of first-year graduates in new practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) • IP1: Number of first-year graduates in new Bachelor practice-oriented study programmes (MDR) • IP1: Number of students with SEN using products of counselling and assistance support (MDR) • IP1: Number of newly created courses of LL (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of universities with established transparent systems of quality assessment (MDR) • IP1: Number of first-year graduates in new or modernized research-oriented study programmes accredited also for teaching in a foreign language (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of research organizations with a modernized strategic management system (MDR) • IP1: Number of organizations affected by a systemic intervention (MDR and LDR) • IP1: Number of Roma children, pupils and students in supported organizations (MDR and LDR) <p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following PA3 result indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP2: Number of organizations in which the quality of upbringing, education and pro-inclusiveness have increased (MDR) <p>There is a risk of non-fulfilment of the following PA4 outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of training sessions, seminars, workshops, conferences • Number of created communication tools 			

Based on the performed analyses, the following recommendation was created.

Table 1 Recommendations resulting from findings

Name of recommendation	Description of recommendation	Prioritization of recommendation	Implementation steps
It is recommended to monitor the implementation of the state of intervention logic of the Operational Program and the implementation of	In all priority axes, indicators have been identified where there is a risk of non-fulfilment or over-fulfilment of the target values, even in the order of hundreds of percent. For this reason it is recommended to continue monitoring indicators and focusing primarily on fulfilling the status of the intervention logic	9	1) According to the statement of the EC to the question raised by the MA of the OP RDE: prepare a justification for over-fulfilment/non-fulfilment of target values within the OP's annual report.



Name of recommendation	Description of recommendation	Prioritization of recommendation	Implementation steps
indicator values in PA1 – PA4			
It is recommended to continue supporting research and development, in particular in the six areas.	<p>Based on the findings of the field surveys and the overall evaluation, there is scope for further investments/interventions in the research and development environment, regardless of the source of their funding, which could contribute to the further development of RD institutions and to improving the quality of RD. According to the findings, these should be mainly the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support for the operation and development of built infrastructures. 2) Support for excellent research and similar projects as under OP RDE 3) Investment support for research-oriented education 4) Support for strategic management 5) Support of cooperation with practice / companies 6) Promoting worker mobility 	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identification of areas that can be supported under the follow-up P JAC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. and. start preparations for support for these areas. 2) For areas that cannot be financed from the P JAC, ensure possible financing from other sources.
Focus on reducing the bureaucratic burden of RD projects	<p>This recommendation follows from the investigations carried out for the purposes of this report, where the topic of administrative burdensome complexity often appeared in the surveys, and at the same time it also follows the recommendations of the "03_SZTP" of the report "<i>Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented activities in achieving specific objectives and defined results of the OP RDE Technical Assistance</i>".</p>	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) N/A – the recommendation does not include follow-up steps, as the aim of the evaluation is not to change the procedural settings of P JAC, but only to point out problems that have been identified within the survey for OP RDE and could also affect P JAC.

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