***Aide-Mémoire***

***1st meeting of the Informal dialogue on CZ operational programmes***

***January 28-30 2014, Prague, Dominican Monastery***

Participants

CZ: MRD, MoF (CA+AA), MAs, GO, SGs, Permanent representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) DGs: Mr CECILIO, Mr PRAVDA, Ms VELECKÁ, Ms MICHALSKA, Mr MORASS (all DG EMPL), Mr UNTERWURZACHER, Ms GRECH, Mr GOGOS, Mr KUCHTÍK, Ms TCHAVDAROVÁ, Ms VOCÁSKOVÁ, Ms SOVA, Mr LIPTAK, Mr BAER (all DG REGIO)

Objectives of the meeting:

* To discuss the focus of the programmes and compliance with the PA
* To ensure common understanding of the state of play of programmes and agreement on further processing
* To set up the ID between the COM and MAs

**Main conclusions:**

1. COM positively appraised the current state of play of the preparation of the programming period in the Czech Republic, including the improved quality of the PA in comparison to the previous version of July 2013.
2. COM highlighted that in several OPs' elements important for their maturity were missing, particularly allocations by thematic objectives, indicators, performance framework, and categorisation of interventions. MAs should focus on prioritization of interventions, justification of the needs and addition of missing information. COM requested the detailed information on use of financial instruments.
3. COM demanded more integrated approach between OPs and coordination mechanisms. Clear coordination mechanism and demarcation lines among operational programmes should be defined to avoid overlaps and exploit synergies / complementarities. This is particularly important for interventions supported from OP RDE, OP Prague Growth pole, IROP, OP Employment, OP Environment and Rural Development Programme.
4. COM emphasized that the assessment of the programmes is focused on compliance with PA and in broader perspective on mutual relations among individual programmes in terms of synergies and complementarities.
5. Complete lists of COM comments on each individual OP had been provided to the CZ several days before the meeting[[1]](#footnote-1). Replies to these comments would be appreciated before receiving a new version of OPs
6. COM based, to large extent, its evaluation of the programmes on Position paper provided to the CZ in October 2012. Moreover COM underlined the need of all OPs to comply with the text of the PA. In some cases elements previously refused by COM in the PA have been suggested for financing in OPs which was criticized by COM. The CZ presented its position defending support of such interventions. Main areas of COM comments were these:
7. compliance of OPs with PA and other relevant strategic documents;
8. compliance of the proposed activities with the needs of detailed and comprehensive analysis;
9. “who does what”(what kind of activities) has to made clear;
10. importance of justification of the proposed activities and intervention logic; compliance of suggested priorities with findings of the needs analysis in each OP
11. MAs should reflect and take on board the experience from the 2007-2013 programming period , especially as regards orientation of the policy towards achieving of results, contribution of the interventions to the objectives of EU 2020, thematic concentration and prioritization, additionality and added value of the interventions supported from programmes; management (repeating the mistakes and malfunctioning should be avoided);
12. reinforced central coordination is needed, namely in the area of harmonization and simplification of rules); sound financial management and the smooth and effective functioning of the management and control systems is essential;
13. further specification of territorial dimension of programmes and integrated approach is needed;
14. some of the cases the set-up of the coordination measures necessary to avoid overlaps and to ensure synergies needs to be clarified ;
15. the number of ITI should be kept low due to the increased demands on management and administration;
16. technical meetings with MAs' will be needed; EC is ready to assist.

1. The detailed minutes and conclusions of the meeting relating to the relevant OPs are attached.

Enclosures:

1. CZ presentation
2. The draft minutes of the Informal Dialogue between the MAs and the COM
3. Comments of MAs to observation of the COM to the relevant OPs
1. For OP Enterprise and Innovation additional comments were provided also later by the Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)