



# **Annual Programme Report No. 3 Norway Grants 2009-2014**

## **Programme CZ09 – Czech-Norwegian Research Programme**

**Reporting period: 1. 1. 2015 – 31. 12. 2015**

**Programme Operator: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports,  
the Czech Republic**

**Programme Partner: N/A**

**Donor Programme Partner: Research Council of Norway, Norway**

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## 1. Executive summary

Support granted under the Programme entitled the Czech-Norwegian Research Programme (CZ09) (hereinafter referred to as "Programme") is designated to enhance research-based knowledge development in the Czech Republic through research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic. The Programme strengthens bilateral relations with the aim of stimulating long-term co-operation, capacity and competence building. It promotes bilateral cooperation projects in basic and applied research and experimental development in selected thematic fields (Environment, Health, Social Sciences and Humanities). The Czech Republic co-operates with many developed and developing states in the world but the Programme is the only one resource of support of the research area between both countries in the Czech Republic.

In 2015 the Programme Operator (PO or Operator) made larger progress in approaching the Programme goals and in achievement of the outcome compared to year of 2014. It met its commitments in the amount of CZK 163,017,000 to transfer the whole regranting 2015 stipulated in the contracts to the project promoters. The provided institutional support was larger compared to regranting of previous year considering higher activities in the projects.

Moreover, a certified sum of CZK 63,978,505 covering Financial Mechanism share of the Programme expenditures incurred in the calendar year 2015 was returned back to the Czech state budget. The share was fully reimbursed.

Additionally, PO succeeded in improvement of the outcome and raising the outputs of the Programme thanks to the reallocation of additional funds from the CZ08 Programme *Carbon Capture and Storage* in the following areas: *Pilot Studies and Surveys on CCS Technology programme* amounting 2,016,377 €, i.e. 53,433,991 CZK. Therefore the Programme Operator could additionally support four reserve projects from the Environment and Health area in 2015. The process of reallocation and acceptance of these projects from the reserve list was completed by issuing project contracts and transferring first payments to new project promoters in September 2015.

The PO also managed to substitute a resigned project from social field with another "social" project from the reserve list in order to approach the condition of 20% allocation for Social Sciences and Humanities area.

On the other hand, processing the reallocation from CZ08 slowed down the progress in providing grants to bilateral actions from the Fund for bilateral relations (hereinafter referred to as "Fund"). To strengthen the support of bilateral activities from the Fund is going to be a challenge for PO at the beginning of 2016.

However, there was a progress in fulfilling the Complementary actions in 2015 as well. The Programme Operator was successful in promoting the Programme and sharing experience at outreach venues organised by the Financial Mechanism Office and Research Council of Norway in Brussels and in Oslo.

Furthermore, the management of the Programme was stable and functioning in 2015. The Programme Operator was also trying to enhance its management system to avoid risks which might occur during the implementation. To do so, it used feedbacks from independent audits. In 2015 three independent entities were auditing the control and management system. The auditors approved functioning of the system with minor findings which did not jeopardize the programme implementation.

Last year personnel and structural changes happened at the Ministry (PO). In June 2015 a new unit for the Programme CZ09 was established in the organisational structure of the Ministry as well as a new minister was appointed. The Programme Operator kept doing information campaign on an awareness of the Norwegian Financial mechanism rules and fostering the project promoters and partners as well.

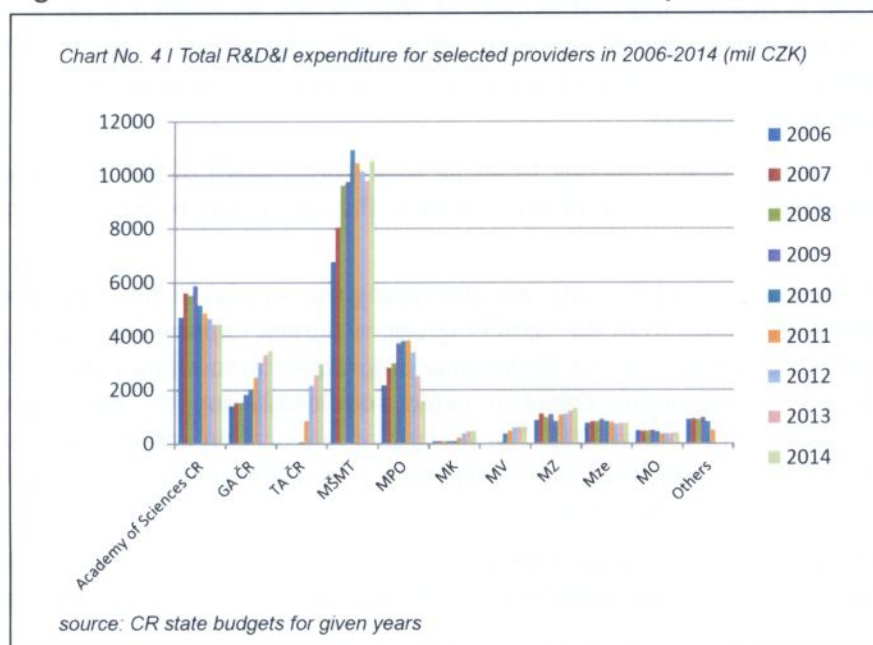
Continuous mutual information exchange proceeded duly with the NFP – four regular or ad hoc PO/NFP meetings took place on actual topics, regular contacts were maintained via e-mail and phone on every-day basis.

For more information please go to particular chapters in this annual programme report.

## 2. Programme area specific developments

The Czech Republic co-operates in research, innovation and development in all research activities in many fields with countries inside the European Union and third countries such as China, U.S.A., Israel, Japan and South Korea. Besides that, the Czech Republic pays fees for memberships in many international research and innovation organizations, for example *European Research Infrastructure Consortium - ERIC*, *European Organization for Nuclear Research - CERN*, *European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere - ESO*, *European Space Agency - ESA* etc.). Nevertheless, the Programme is currently the only source promoting the bilateral relations in research and development cooperation between Czech and Norwegian entities in the country.

**Figure 1 – The Providers of RTD&I in the Czech Republic**



Source: *A guide to the system of public support for research, development and innovations in the Czech Republic – 2014*. Tanger, Ltd., Ostrava, 2014. ISBN 978-80-87294-51-2. 181 pages.

There is an enormous potential of cooperation among Czech and Norwegian entities with a capacity for achieving quality outputs. This fact is evident from the enormous interest indicated in the number of proposals in the major Call. It follows that the bilateral cooperation stands on a strong foundation. Therefore, it would be worth developing bilateral actions between both countries in the future.

The Programme also helps directly or indirectly to reduce economic and social disparities via scientific activities and fits to the national framework strategy on enhancement of excellence and competitiveness of the Czech Republic in the world. Support of such cooperation is fully in line with the conclusions of the current strategic documents, mainly National Research, Development and Innovation Priorities and Implementation of National priorities on Research, Development and Innovation and for the period 2009–2015 with perspective till 2020.

Even there are many providers of support on the research field in the Czech Republic but the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT in figure 1) has a legal status of the main responsible body for RTD&I including international co-operation. The Ministry remains the biggest provider of institutional and specific support for RTD&I (see figure 1).

The Ministry received funds from the state budget for RTD&I actions in amounts of CZK 9.7 billion in 2013, CZK 10.5 billion in 2014, CZK 11.2 billion in 2015. In general, RTD&I budget is slightly growing. The Czech Republic belongs to a lower average in research funding within the European Union though.

However, the country receives contributions through the European operational programmes launched in 2015 which are operated by ministries in the Czech Republic. MEYS runs Operational Programme for Research, Development and Education which was approved in May 2015.

Furthermore, there is also a trend to govern RTD&I under one roof and establish “a ministry for research”. The Section for Science, Research and Innovation at the government is working on a revision of the Act on public support of research, development from public funds.

### 3. Reporting on outputs

Despite the intermediate phase of the Programme/projects implementation, the Programme Operator (PO) may estimate the contribution of selected projects to the planned Programme outputs.

The Programme has a single outcome ***Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic***. This outcome is divided into three main outputs stipulated in the Programme Agreement as follows:

#### ***(1) International research cooperation projects expressed in number***

##### **Output indicator:**

- **Number of cooperation projects**

Compared to the targeted 40 projects, 23 projects (i.e. the originally supported 19 plus 4 projects from the reserve list) are being supported from the Regranting item of the Programme budget. It makes up 57.5% of the estimated target indicator value. Probably the output value shall not rise, as the single open Call.

So it is clear that support to the expected 40 cooperating projects cannot be achieved. The reason is that most project promoters requested in their applications nearly the upper limit of the single grant – i.e. €1,000,000.

After the replacement of one of the projects from Social Sciences and Humanities area, the allocation - in total of 19.7% - has been maintained to the “social” projects. This situation is being currently discussed with the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as “FMO”) and the National Focal Point (hereinafter referred to as “NFP”). In 2016 PO is going to reallocate the rest of the Programme grant to additional social activities in the running projects in accordance with article 6.9 of the Regulation to meet at least 20% dedication to the priority area Social sciences and Humanities.

Since four of the reserve project according the ranking were decided to be funded after approval of reallocation of the funds from the Programme CZ08. All new project promoters accepted the grants recommended by Programme Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Committee, or PC”) and approved by PO. The Committee fully agreed with financing of the reserve projects.

Related to the above, the recording of data of the selected projects to the national Central Register of Research, Development and Innovation (in Czech> CEP) was completed during August 2015. The project contracts were issued and signed by PO in August 2015.

The representatives of NFP and FMO were informed about the progress of the acceptance process of the reserve projects.

Nowadays, there have been supported 23 projects with condition of at least one Norwegian partner. There are 67 research teams participating in the projects of which 31 research teams come from 17 Norwegian entities and 36 teams from 26 Czech entities. There are 16 Czech project promoters involved in the action. The biggest beneficiary of the Programme grant is Charles University in Prague. The University itself is involved in 9 projects, of which five times as a project promoter. The biggest beneficiary from Norway is Oslo University Hospital with 5 projects followed by the University of Oslo with 4 projects.

Geographically, the beneficiaries are mainly concentrated in the capitals – Prague and Oslo. There are ten project promoters having headquarters in Prague and 15 projects are being realized in Prague. Oslo follows Prague with 11 projects. Trondheim is behind with 7 projects. Additionally, other projects are located in the second biggest cities - Brno (4) and Bergen (2).

Besides the above, there is also a third party – a project partner from Lausanne, Switzerland (7F14287) which is not supported from the Programme.

None of the projects have been completed neither closed yet. Since the start day of the project eligibility, only one project (7F14183) has quit and returned the grant.

## ***(2) Suitable conditions and environment for young researchers***

### ***Output indicators:***

- ***Number of female researchers***
- ***PhD and Post docs students involved in cooperating projects***

As for the other stated outputs (20 female researchers and 20 PhD students or post docs) involved in the projects, the planned indicators in the supported projects allow to report that the target values shall be achieved very probably.

However, these numbers vary as the personnel may fluctuate due to projects needs and realization. PO also observes that from time to time female researchers after their maternity leave are hired and join back the team. The percentage of females involved depends on the research field and area, e.g. projects in Health area assign more female researchers than more technical and physical projects in the Environment.

## ***(3) Internationally referred (joint) scientific publications published as a part of the programme***

### ***Output indicator:***

- ***Number of Internationally referred scientific publications***

The output's target is 40. The number of internationally referred scientific publications cannot be estimated in this stage of implementation. Due to a long process of publishing an article, it is still soon to estimate achievement of this indicator. Although the bilateral research potential of supported projects is relevant to achieve the planned results.

There is no small grant scheme applicable.

## **4. Reporting on Programme outcome(s)**

The single outcome of the Programme - ***Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic*** – is composed of three outputs (see section 3.). The indicator of the Programme Outcome is

- **the number of cooperating research institutions by country involved in supported projects.**

Its target value is 50. – With respect to the documentation of supported projects at the moment, the actual number of cooperating institutions is 43 in total<sup>1</sup>.

Number of supported entities:	43 /of which 26 are Czech entities/
Number of supported project promoters:	16 (some entities are running more projects)
Number of supported Czech project partners:	10

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<sup>1</sup> The currently reported figure illustrates the number of co-operating institutions (universities). Some of them (e.g. Charles University, Oslo University etc.) are running more projects but are counted as one occurrence.

Number of supported Norwegian entities:	17
Number of supported research organizations:	40
Number of supported SMEs:	3
Number of third parties:	1 (a research organization from Switzerland)

The Programme regranting funds have been distributed in the cumulative sum of CZK 240,656,000 (incl. 20% co-financing at project level from PO) so far. From this amount the second payments to the project promoters in 2015, including reserve projects, make up the amount of CZK 163,017,000. The payments were transferred by PO to the project promoters' bank accounts throughout the year 2015 according to the national legislation and the project contracts.

**Table 1 – Regranting in CZK in total and in the reporting period**

Year/Source	Regranting 100% (with PO co-financing)	Programme 80%
Regranting 2014	77,639,000	62,111,200
Regranting 2015	163,017,000	130,413,600
Cumulative Total 2014-2015	240,656,000	192,524,800

## Certification

PO fulfilled the certification procedure last year. On 31 March 2015, PO obtained a payment in amount of CZK 63,978,505 from the Certifying Authority covering Financial Mechanism share of the Programme expenditures incurred in the calendar year 2014, pre-financed from the Czech state budget. PO got back 100% of the required amount to the state budget.

### 4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns

The Programme contributes positively towards multicultural and social background understanding, sharing best practice, qualified personnel, experience and knowledge in research and development area between Norway and the Czech Republic through bilateral science and research cooperation projects. It also involves activities aimed at supporting specific target groups such as young researchers (Ph.D. students and postdocs, and the involvement of (female) researchers returning after maternity leave) as well as groups targeted in the projects as a subject of research activities (e.g. patients, therapists, retired people). There is also supported the mobility of qualified staff closely linked to the projects. The Programme has a relatively large impact on both professional communities at local level.

During all information activities, the emphasis is on all these horizontal issues in relation to the public and potential applicants, and later to project promoters and project partners. Given this emphasis, all the proposals already contained a set target group research teams.

PO meets beneficiaries face-to-face regularly. These meetings are very meaningful for understanding individual problems and weighting empathy at both sites.

Overall, the bilateral cooperation leads to mutual understanding, tolerance and decreasing of social and economic disparities between both nations. The Programme certainly brings a higher quality beyond the main goal for all.

## 5. Project selection

There was no other Call for proposal (hereinafter referred to as "Call") in 2015. Since the launch of the Programme in February 2013, only one open Call was organized, announced on 29 November 2013 and closed on 3 February 2014. There were 389 proposals submitted in the Call. Due to unfulfilled eligibility criteria 6 proposals were excluded from the evaluation process. In the next stage, 383 project proposals were evaluated by international independent experts, and then submitted to Programme Committee for the purpose of recommendation for PO to decide on support.

Due to the limited allocation, only a minor part of applicants could be satisfied - the grants were provided to 19 best selected projects, 7 project proposals were put on the reserve list. The results of the open Call were published at PO website on 15 July 2014.

Subsequently, Masaryk University, the project promoter of the 7F14183 project from Social sciences and Humanities area, withdrew from the grant due to personnel reasons at the end of 2014 and returned the first payment back without hesitation. In 2015 the PO substituted it with another project within the same priority area from the reserve list (7F14442). The project contract to 7F1442 was issued in May 2015. As the new "social" project had a lower budget than the original one, there remained means to be allocated with the aim to approach 20% share of Social Sciences and Humanities priority area in the budget, pursuant the PA.

Furthermore, thanks to the reallocation from the CZ08 Programme the Operator could support further projects from the reserve list. Additional funds were sufficient to support 4 of 6 left reserve projects. However, all budgets of the reserve projects had to be slightly cut down. Projects with ID codes 7F14045, 7F14122, 7F14155 and 7F14392, mainly from the Health and Environment priority area, located in Prague (3), were decided to be funded according the ranking, the Programme Committee confirmed the decision at the meeting on 27 May 2015.

The Committee was composed of 5 voting members and 2 vice members; CICERO in Oslo, the University of Tromsø, Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry ASCR in Prague, the Institute of Sociology in Prague, and observers from the Research Council of Norway, the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (the National Focal Point), the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague, and Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels.

The negotiation stage on financial issues (budget cuts and revisions of eligible costs) happened in June/July 2015. All project promoters accepted the amounts of the grant recommended by the Committee and approved by PO.

The recording of data of the selected projects to the national Central Register of Research, Development and Innovation (Czech abbreviation> CEP) was completed in August 2015.

To sum up, there were 4 reserve projects supported after the Minister's approval on 7 July 2015. The project contracts were issued and signed by PO on 13 August 2015 (7F14045, 7F14122, 7F14155) and 27 August 2015 (7F14392). The payments were transferred in the amount of CZK 19,014,000 on 17 September 2015.

## 6. Progress of bilateral relations

The Programme Operator improves bilateral relations between the Beneficiary and the Donor states every year.

Although there was no call for proposals related solely to bilateral activities and financed from the Fund for bilateral relations at the Programme level (hereinafter referred to as "Fund") in 2015, the Programme has made progress towards the goal of strengthening bilateral relations at the projects level. Since the Programme launch, the PO has granted CZK 532,000 in total for Measure I. (search for partners, preparation of joint project) from the Fund. The range of the demanded grant was from CZK 20,000 to maximum CZK 128,000. In 2015 the reserve project with ID 7F14045 received CZK 128,000 for preparatory costs in 2015. Only five projects (of 23 of which 16 represent promoters) requested the



lump sums from the Fund. The remaining balance of the Fund makes up CZK 6.25 million. This amount shall be used for Measure II (bilateral activities).

The delay in making the Fund accessible via a call has been caused by huge administrative load of the PO due to processing of enormous amount of applicants in the open Call, processing the reallocation from the CZ08 programme, the substitution of an cancelled project, by running audits, exacting certification making a strain on the Programme administration and solving promoters` demands.

An opening of the Call funded from the Fund under the Programme is planned for 2016. The Call shall be announced during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016 at the latest.

In this reporting period at the programme level, PO contributed to this area with the following:

- a) PO attended the Outreach event at the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FMO establishment in Brussels which took place in the capital, Belgium on 10 June 2015. PO introduced the programme to the audience from European institutions and Norwegian House. Representatives of PO also summarized the implementation and the background of mutual cooperation in research, presented their lessons learnt and answered questions at the panel.
- b) PO visited Oslo and attended outreach presentations on bilateral programme supported from Norway Grants on 22 October 2015. Representatives introduced the Programme, the Ministry as a provider of institutional support and the RTD system in the Czech Republic at a glance.

So PO representatives participated in two actions (above a, and b,) organised by other organisation to promote the Programme CZ09 and Norway grants, and present the research and development system in the Czech Republic.

Furthermore the above mentioned, the Operator is trying to communicate with the Norwegian partners personally. PO visited Norwegian partners on site (Oslo and Trondheim) twice in the reporting period, in April and September 2015.

The aim of these visits was to inform competent project personnel about the Programme rules and provide information support and consultations on site. PO was interested in cooperation of the consortium and the utilization of funds for the year 2014. Officers also studied project management in Norway. It was not a public financial control on site. PO is confident that active cooperation in administrative matters during the projects` realization is very useful and efficient in order to prevent problems and misunderstandings.

Due to project examinations on site PO had found out that project personnel and principal investigators claim cooperation and administration as confusing and complicated such as reporting on project expenditure in CZK vs. NOK, proof of expenditure in format of general accounting record in reporting, cooperation in financial matters - mainly watching spending of a particular payment when submitting a payment request to PO (measures of PO towards the projects are in 7.2.1).

Apart the above mentioned events, the Operator and the Research Council of Norway discuss issues regarding the Programme implementation on a daily basis.

## **6.1. Complementary action**

In 2015, representatives of PO attended two workshops for the Programme operators and an outreach event supporting research involved in Norwegian Financial Mechanism organised by the Research Council of Norway in cooperation with the Financial Mechanism Office in June and October.

The first workshop of the reporting period took place in Brussels, Belgium on 10 and 11 June 2015. It was focused on publicity in research in general and Financial Mechanisms publicity rules in compliance with Annex 4 the Regulation. The session provided a training in communication skills, knowledge and tips to promote research and projects in the Programme implementation. POs shared together their experience with publicity in projects in their countries. The program also contained an outreach event

where POs presented basic data of the Programme and had a panel to respond queries on progress and lessons learnt from invited representatives of European entities seated in Brussels.

The second workshop /6<sup>th</sup> in total/ was held in Oslo between 20 and 22 October 2015. It was targeted at reporting at all levels. POs learnt about Norwegian international research cooperation with EU and non-European states. POs also presented their systems of research support in their countries to audience from RCN and Embassies. The meeting contained reporting from a project partner, Programme operators and Financial Mechanism Office representatives. The participants compared their own report templates, shared experiences and discussed procedures and measures relating to reporting process.

## **7. Monitoring**

The Operator is being monitored on the programme level on annual basis. In parallel, the Operator monitors supported projects regularly. The Operator was dealing with three audits in the reporting period, one internal and two external ones, and together with a certification of its expenditures incurred in 2014.

In 2015 the risk that the management and control structure of CZ09 is faulty established was eliminated by three audits carried out by Moore Stephens hired by FMO, the internal auditors department of MEYS and Audit Authority of National Focal Point. No serious findings were found. No irregularities occurred.

In the end, the Programme has succeeded in this task and keeps holding its standards.

### **7.1 Monitoring of programme**

The Programme underwent three audits in 2015. The audits were mostly checking the PO's management and control system. The Auditing Authority was focusing on expenditures incurred from the Management costs in 2013, and internal auditors were examining all obligations of PO in relation to the binding Manual of the Programme Operator. Additionally, auditors from Moore Stephens were verifying both Programme and a sample of projects (3).

#### **7.1.1 Moore Stephens**

Moore Stephens audited the period between 25 February 2013 and 9 February 2015. They did fieldwork from 9 to 19 February 2015. The scope of the audit included an assessment of whether the design of the management and control systems sufficiently mitigated those risks, was proportionate, and whether it was operating effectively. The work was designed to concentrate only on the key internal controls of the entity and specifically those which were designed to prevent and detect material errors, irregularities or fraud with regard to the Programme funding.

The final opinion (3 November 2015) was that the management and control systems set up and operated by PO were seen to be designed in compliance with all the requirements, were proportionate and operated effectively in the period from 25 February 2013 to 9 February 2015.

#### **7.1.2 Auditing Authority**

The Czech Auditing Authority /MoF/ audited the period 2013 - 2014. They did fieldwork on 11 September 2015 but required documentation during September/October. The scope of the audit included an assessment of whether the grant was sufficiently spent in the period. The audit was concentrating on the Programme implementation, its compliance with Financial Mechanism rules and sufficiency of grant spending. The audit was verifying a sample of expenditures incurred in 2013 and Programme supporting documentation dedicated to the programme whether it follows legislation.

The final conclusion (23 November 2015) was that the management and control systems set up and operated by PO were seen to be designed in compliance with the requirements of national legislation

and FM rules to achieve programme goals. Incurred expenditures were proved and supported with documentation and recorded in the accounting system but the sum of CZK 7,283 /approx. EUR 275/ was identified as ineligible due to errors in recorded sums to the national accounting system Viola.

### 7.1.3 Internal audit by PO

The Audit department of MoEYS audited the period between November 2014 and November 2015. They did fieldwork from 9 September to 18 November 2015. The aim of the audit was the assessment of functioning and design of the management and control internal systems at PO were functioning and designed properly. The audit included an assessment of sufficiency of administration processes and providing grants according to the issued project contracts.

The audit report stated that the systems operated functionally without problems. Nevertheless, it suggested the approval process to be less complicated at PO (e.g. the approval of APR). The process was influenced by changes at top management but did not threaten the Programme. PO may change the formal process described in the Manual of the Programme Operator.

NFP, FMO and Certifying Authority (hereinafter referred to as "CO") were informed about the audits results.

The programme was also evaluated by members of the Programme Committee (PC) that approved the programme implementation at the regular PC meeting on 27 May 2015.

### 7.1.4 Measures at PO

The number of team members was underestimated in comparison with the volume of responsibilities in the Programme, although the staff on the Programme is relatively stable.

Administrative burden and requirements on quality of the Programme management are high. From these reasons, PO is planning to hire new employees, split their duties and raise their qualifications to ensure all obligations in the programme.

## 7.2 Monitoring of projects

The Programme operator duly followed the obligation of the FM rules to monitor the project level during the reporting period. The Operator checked and monitored supported projects in different ways during the period. PO set up a checklist of submitted reports and is working on improvement of communication towards the participants, such as the organised training relating to periodic reporting in November 2015 and the visits of Norwegian partners to provide information on reporting in April and October 2015.

In frame of regular monitoring, the PO provided the following administration:

- Firstly, the PO did a check of the submitted project periodic reports of 2014 (formal verification from the table). Then the periodic reports and implementation of supported projects themselves were evaluated and approved by the members of the Programme Committee at the meeting which was held in Prague on 27 May 2015.

PO also did on-site visit checks at selected projects according the plan of project promoters' controls for 2015, so at least 5% of the projects and grants provided in 2014 were checked as stipulated in the Programme Agreement.

- Furthermore, the PO did financial controls and sight visits at two chosen projects with ID 7F14156 and 7F14208. Both projects are run by Charles University in Prague. The visits were completed by the Audit department of the MoEYS in cooperation with the Programme unit at the MoEYS in

September and November 2015. No major serious findings were found. PO requested to improve the identification of incurred cost to the project and to raise a quality of project documentation.

The Operator verified the administration processing in compliance with the FM rules of the projects with ID 7F14500 in Usti nad Labem and 7F14442 in Prague. The goal of these verifications was to check project documentation and provide an overview on obligations to the participants which have to be fulfilled in the Programme. The output of the control was a check-list containing answers to questions related to ensuring the project contract.

### 7.2.1 Measures at PO

The PO shall cope with the following conclusions from “Lessons learnt” in the below described matter:

- Frequent communication on administration is important and meaningful,
- Coordination of financial management at projects level is very crucial,
- Timing does problems – the promoters postpone the submission of payment requests, therefore the projects are kept in a negative cash flow,
- Often communication on administration is important and meaningful.

PO is going to continue in monitoring projects and to observe the projects very closely by on-site visits at the entities. The checks will be aimed at administration and personal consultation.

PO shall communicate directly via e-mails with the principle investigators and the competent staff. There will be open hours for the participants to consult project administration.

The PO will continue to organize trainings for the beneficiaries, especially in the area of Guidelines of National Focal Point and project contracts.

PO set up a checklist of submitted reports. PO is working on improvement of communication towards the participants, such as the organised training relating to periodic reporting in November 2015 and the visits of Norwegian partners to provide information on reporting in April and October 2015.

## 8. Need for adjustments

During 2015 all the necessary administrative steps regarding completion of the Programme amendment (2014, reallocation of funds from the CZ09 programme) were completed. The Programme Agreement was modified (15 April 2015) and the Memorandum on Implementation of the CZ09 Programme between the Ministry of Finance (NFP) and MoEYS (PO) has been revised (signed on 23 June 2015).

With respect to problems that occurred in relation to the withdrawn “social” project which was substituted by another one from the reserve list with a lower budget, whereby the obligatory 20% of total allocated funds to “social” projects were compromised, the PO launched negotiations with the NFP and the FMO on possible resolving the situation. As the obligation of 20% was relentlessly confirmed as binding and necessary, PO has prepared scenarios how to cope with it the coming period. The method will be based on re-distribution of savings from regrantsing/disbursement to “social” projects in 2016, and is continuously consulted with the NFP/FMO. – Thus, no adjustment of the PA reflecting the matter is envisaged.

However, PO shall request an adjustment of the Programme Agreement to modify definition of activities supported from the *Fund for bilateral relations at programme level*, referred to 5.1 chapter in PA, in order to strengthen the absorption capacity of these funds and to open the Fund for bilateral relations, which was increased thanks to allocation of remaining funds, not only for the running projects but also to other potential applicants from relevant programme area.

A new draft would correspond to the definition in accordance with Article 3.6 (1b, 2) of the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. So it would enable PO to broader utilization of the disposable means in favour of bilateral relations and potential partnerships with donor state institutions.

PO would also propose to strengthen the allocation to the Fund and reallocate finances from the Programme management and Complementary action items approximately in the amount of CZK 5,000,000 (EUR 188,679).

## 9. Risk management

PO (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports) duly updated the Risk Analysis of the Programme and sent the document to the National Focal Point on 20 August 2015. The identified risks were reconsidered and updated and the document was reported as a part of the Strategic Report CR. Moreover, the Programme operator tries to avoid and eliminate all risks which would threaten the programme implementation and achievement the goals and outcome also by setting its own control and management system which is anchored in the Programme Operator's Manual. The system is examined internally and externally every year.

There were no critical political disturbances during the periodic year in the Czech Republic and Norway – the risks on political level proved to be negligible. The Czech state budget was approved on time, so the necessary financial means were ensured for the next year. There were likewise no changes in the national law which would seriously affect the Programme.

There were no serious threats which influenced negatively the Programme implementation during the reporting period. Nevertheless, the minister resigned and then top management at PO changed in June 2015. But it had no serious impact on the Programme.

What more, there was an organisational structure change at the Ministry in June 2015. The Unit of the Programme was moved to other department within the Ministry. Since 22 June 2015 the Programme has been placed at the Department of Strategic Programs and Projects - 33. The Programme is now managed under the Unit for Czech-Norwegian Research Programme Management, the skilled staff remained mostly in their positions, regarding Programme administration. The PO hired a new part-time employee [0.5 load] in July 2015 as well.

The mentioned data are included in Annex 1 Risk assessment of the Programme. The reported risks were also reviewed by audits (i.e. the internal MEYS, Moore Stephens and NFP audits) in 2015.

In 2015 the Programme underwent three audits carried out by Moore Stephens, AO and PO which confirmed proper and correct settings of management and control systems at CZ09 (for more go to section 7 above).

## 10. Information and publicity

In 2015 the Programme Operator provided information about the Programme and the Financial Mechanism to general public and run information service to the project promoters, and their partners. Information activities were done via Twitter, web page, information sessions, newsletter, e-mail correspondence, or personally.

During the reporting period, PO was contributing five times to the Ministry's newsletter to inform about the Programme progress and news. The articles contained information about for example projects progress, FM events, reallocation from CZ08 Programme.

PO organised in cooperation with NFP 3 information meetings /trainings/ for the Czech project promoters and partners. First session focused on the eligibility of expenditures and small scale procurement and took place at PO's premises in Prague on 10 April 2015. The second one targeted on participants, contained information on the publicity rules in projects and communication requirements according Annex 4 of the Regulation. It was held at the Ministry in Prague on 27 August 2015. The subject of the third meeting was a reporting at project level and was organised by PO in Prague on 26 November 2015.

PO also visited Norwegian project partners in Oslo and Trondheim in April and September 2015. Project officers were trained in the FM and Programme rules on eligibility, small scale procurement and

publicity obligations. PO also visited 7 projects /7F14057, 7F14083, 7F14156, 7F14500, 7F14446, 7F14316, 7F14236/ at their premises and gave individual consultations to Norwegian project partners. As an added value, PO had become acquainted with the project management and administration background in Norway.

PO also informed all stakeholders as well as the general public about the progress of the CZ09 implementation, relevant documents, and information sources via NFP web page and the Programme's website. The webpage dedicated to the Programme CZ09 both in Czech and English has been established and serves duly for providing all relevant information and useful links.

Link is> <http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/czech-norwegian-research-programme>.

PO had 27 pieces of roll-ups dedicating to the CZ09 Programme and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism manufactured to promote the Programme at various venues. There are both in the Czech and English versions. 23 banners were lent to the promoters for free until the project's end date. Four of them are going to be used by PO at own occasions.

In this reporting period the Programme Operator undertook the following informational and promotional activities/actions:

- a) The information meeting on financial issues in Prague on 10/04/2015;
- b) The information seminar on publicity projects in Prague on 27/08/2015;
- c) The information seminar on reporting at project level in Prague on 26/11/2015;
- d) Two information sessions on eligibility, small scale procurement, publicity for Norwegian project partners in Oslo and Trondheim on 13-14/04/2015 and on 22-25/09/2015;
- e) Giving 5 contributions in MEYS's newsletter on European issues;
- f) Managing the webpage dedicated to the Programme in both Czech and English providing all relevant information and useful links – 6 contributions per year;
- g) Contributing to Ministry's Twitter profile – 3 contributions;
- h) Displaying a revised FAQ on the PO webpage on 10/08/2015 as a part of information action;
- i) Permanent information support to the project promoters and project partners (personal, telephones, mails);
- j) Providing information about selecting new projects from the reserve list to NFP  
<http://www.eeagrants.cz/cs/programy/norske-fondy-2009-2014/cz09-cesko-norsky-vyzkumny-program/cz09-schvalene-projekty>;
- k) Uploading revised information about the supported and reserve projects in DoRIS, to be displayed on the official website <http://eeagrants.org/programme/projectoverview/CZ09/PA23>.

## 11. Cross - cutting issues

### A. Good governance

PO (MoEYS) takes all measures necessary to guarantee due and efficient management of funds from the Norway Grants, in accordance with the setting of management and control systems (so called the Manual of Programme Operator). All procedures both on a programme and project level are specified in details in the Programme Operator's Manual.

In 2015 PO (MoEYS) revised for the first time the Manual due to the budget raise and up-dating content to more suitable and actual needs. The Ministry intends it to be understandable and transparent. It wants to avoid any conflict of interest and irregularity. It uses the systems mentioned above which are designed to do so.

PO is trying to improve communication channels towards the beneficiaries in the Czech Republic and Norway. It emphasises on the direct and personal contact which finds the efficient way of communication. Nevertheless, it is slower compared to mail or e-mail correspondence. Principal investigators are also instructed directly in e-mails, especially whenever PO considers giving reminders to them or draws attention to some issues.

Another way how to govern programme effectively is organising training for the project promoters or arranging regular meeting with stakeholders.

The common project and programme management is done via statements published on the programme web site and in "Frequently asked question" section. The programme webpage is structured in themes such as Documents, Projects, Reporting, FAQ, and Contacts etc. All necessary documents are presented on Programme Operator's webpage.

The evaluation of project proposals was organized as an international process done by independent and qualified experts from all over the world (very few from the Beneficiary and Donor states) thus the potential conflict of interest was eliminated to negligible extend.

The Programme Operator had drawn up procedures ensuring monitoring of a good governance rules also on a project level. These procedures are fully described in the Programme Operator's Manual, in Guidelines for Applicants and incorporated in Project contracts.

Further, PO closely cooperates with the Research Council of Norway, National Focal Point and the Programme Committee.

## **B. Environmental considerations**

The thematic fields of the Programme are closely linked to the necessity to be aware of the importance and implications of environmental protection and sustainability. Project partnerships with Norwegian entities that are environmentally friendly in their cross-cutting activities will contribute to raising awareness about the importance of environmental policy at regional as well as at national level and may contribute to enhance living outdoor standards.

The following examples illustrate the environmental benefits provided by supported projects:

The project no. 7F14358 *Advanced Detectors for Better Awareness of Neutrons and Gamma rays in environment* from Czech Technical University in Prague is focused on radiation in the air. The aim of the project is to develop a portable neutron sensitive device for investigation of composition and radiation fields in the environment. The sense of the project is to increase security, living and health of the citizens.

The project no. 7F14341 *Assessing water quality improvement options concerning nutrient and pharmaceutical contaminants in rural watersheds* from Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague is concentrated on contamination of rivers and lakes. The target is watch wetlands helping with copying with water pollution in drinking water reservoirs. The contribution for society is to protect our natural resources and expose pollution.

## **C. Economic sustainability**

The projects, especially industrial research and technical development, may have a multiplication effect and can strengthen local competitiveness and economy as well as bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Norway. The projects are prepared with the current state of Czech science and economy in mind and also with regard to the most pressing needs of the target group.

There is a big chance to encourage small and medium sized enterprises to participate in such bilateral cooperation. Since the essential knowledge and doing basic research do not have to be enough to keep up with global competition.

#### **D. Social sustainability**

Social sustainability of the Programme will be achieved by supporting a diverse target group in terms of age and gender (e.g. young researchers, experienced ones, involvement of female researchers and female researchers after maternity leave) that have experience with participating in the project activities.

The Programme will also have a long-term benefit for individuals, social groups, society, beneficiaries etc. Ethical issues, for instance a treatment of animals and patients, are taken in consideration in the projects realizations as well.

##### An example of a project with social aspect:

The interdisciplinary project no. 7F14500 *Physical Activity as a Part in Treatment of Psychiatric Patients* from Jan Evangelista Purkyne University in Usti nad Labem is targeted on psychiatric patients and physiotherapists. The project is based on both Czech and foreign studies examining the influence of physical activity on the health of the chronically mentally ill in psychiatric hospitals. The social merit is to improve daily life of mentally disqualified citizens.

#### **E. Gender equality**

Science is a part of everyday life and women are naturally involved. As a result of a historical diversification of roles of a man and a woman in society the social experience of women is often different from that of men, even though their roles seem to have converged over the past decades very rapidly.

Due to their often different social experience and skills, women are able to come up with solutions, approaches and ideas that present another perspective and thus increasing women's involvement may positively influence our society. Gender balance issues are taken into consideration both during drafting of the Programme and its implementation. The Programme aims at increasing participation of female researchers including involvement of researchers who have returned from maternity leave. On the other hand, some fields can be more attractive for man than women, such as technical and physical specializations.

When project proposals were assessed, principles of equality of men and women and equal access of women and men to education were followed as a one of the sub criteria. The Operator also monitors number of female researchers in the Programme.

## **12. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report**

**Annex 1: Risk assessment of the Programme**

**Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2016**

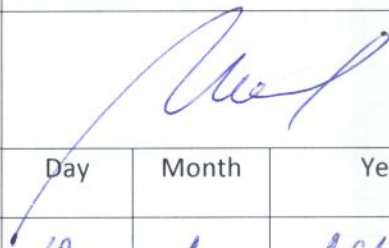
**Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices**

**Annex 4: Overview on supported project (incl. the supported reserve ones)**



**SIGNATURE:****For Programme Operator**

*I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this Annual programme report and that I have thoroughly reviewed the progress of the programme, reporting on outcomes and outputs, risk management provided in this report and the information are correct and accurate.*

				<b>Optional second signature</b>		
<b>Name</b>	Mgr. Kateřina VALACHOVÁ, Ph.D.					
<b>Position</b>	minister					
<b>Organisation</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports					
<b>Signature</b>						
<b>Date</b>	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
		February	2016	10	2	2016

**For the National Focal Point**

*The National Focal Point certifies that the status of reporting of the programme described above is accurate.*

				<b>Optional second signature</b>		
<b>Name</b>	Ing. Zuzana KUDELOVÁ			Ing. Martina BEČVÁŘOVÁ		
<b>Position</b>	Head of the Department of International Relations			Head of the Monitoring Unit		
<b>Organisation</b>	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic			Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic		
<b>Signature</b>						
<b>Date</b>	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	10	02	2016	10	02	2016

## Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Type of objective <sup>2</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>3</sup>	Impact <sup>4</sup>	Importance <sup>5</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Programme absorption capacity	The rate of the successful selection was 6% in the Call 2013. Four projects from reserve list were supported in 2015. There is an allocation left for additional social activities in amount of CZK 17.6 million and 6.25 million in the Fund for bilateral relations.	1	5	5	The absorption capacity and potential of bilateral research cooperation is high. The risk is being fully eliminated with preparing a Call and allocation to Social Sciences projects in 2016.
	Legislation changes	In 2015 there was no legislative change related to public support of research. At present there is a running change of legislation with an impact on principal rules of Programme implementation (namely regarding the Act No. 130/2002).	2	3	6	Potential legislation changes are mentioned in relevant manuals, guides and project contracts. In case of any needs relevant adjustments can be done and with no serious impact on implementation.
	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	The period for eligibility of costs within the Programme is laid down in Regulation. The projects eligibility ends on	3	5	15	Conditions for disbursement of eligible cost at the projects level are specified in individual Projects

<sup>2</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>3</sup> Likelihood is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle:3-4, High:5)

<sup>4</sup> Impact is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle:3-4, High:5)

<sup>5</sup> Importance is counted as Likelihood multiplied by Impact and described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis (Low: 1-8, Middle: 9-15, High: 16-25).

Type of objective <sup>2</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>3</sup>	Impact <sup>4</sup>	Importance <sup>5</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
		30 April 2017. The Programme expires on 31 Dec 2017. Time risk is increased by realization of expected additional "S"-activities which shall be commenced in 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2016 (after processing the additional addressed call to running S-projects) with very tense time schedule.				Contracts. The Promoters are repeatedly informed at seminars and consultations.
	Specific programme risk (risk identified in PP relating to PRG outcomes)	The administrative load of PRG management proved to be a risk in the reported period as the evaluation process of the Call was very demanding due to reallocation from CZ08, solving projects problems, certification check and audits. The varying administrative load as well as personal changes cannot be totally eliminated, but it is possible to minimise the impact.	5	5	25	A documented Programme management system and processes are included in the Programme Operator's Manual. Obligation for reporting of such changes will be incorporated in Project contracts. Programme Operator ensures mutual replacement of individual Programme administrators.
<b>Bilateral outcome(s):</b>	Bilateral relations	Some bilateral relations have been already established and launched, the cooperation mainly follows up the contacts established in the previous programming period. Reimbursement from BiFund has	2	3	6	PO fully supports the cooperation; presentation of news on progress in CZ09 on website, participation in Programme Operator's workshops; consultations

Type of objective <sup>2</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>3</sup>	Impact <sup>4</sup>	Importance <sup>5</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
		been low so far.				with the Programme partner are provided.
Operational issues:	Management and control structures, programme management	Management and control structure has been established, the management is duly running	3	5	15	Detailed procedures are described in relevant chapter of the Programme Operator's Manual
	Programme implementation set up	Programme Operator's Manual approved and applied. It was firstly revised in 2015.	3	4	12	Manual and Guides fully reflect requirements of Regulation and its Annex 12. There are clear links between each other. The guidelines were completed, approved and are being duly applied.
	Reports and irregularities within programme	PO submits reports on irregularities regularly. No irregularities so far.	1	4	4	Procedures on identification, reporting and solving of irregularities is implied in specific chapter of Programme Operator's Manual. Project Promoter is obliged to report on irregularities in the contract.
Programme audits/controls	Programme was approved on 25 February 2013. Since this date the Programme has been checked six times. It is audited		9	3	9	In 2015 audits of systems and costs by AO, FMO and PO were set. All audits confirmed functioning

Type of objective <sup>2</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>3</sup>	Impact <sup>4</sup>	Importance <sup>5</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
		every year at least once. Internal audit is operated by other department at PO once a year. Auditing Authority examines the M&C systems every year.				setting of management and control systems. Audit and control system is described in detail in Programme Operator's
	Information system	On the basis of Act No. 130/2002 relevant information is stored in the R&D&I information system. The on-line submission system (Data storage OpenKM) is used for electronic submission of project proposals and for storage of reports.	4	3	12	Obligation for storing of relevant data into R&D&I IS is incorporated in project contracts. No support is paid if no project data in Central Evidence of Projects. All relevant data are stored in accordance with Regulation and national legislation.
	Corruption risk	The Programme Operator does all steps in transparent manner and in accordance with accepted rules and principals. PO avoids conflicts of interest, uses information and accounting systems to register data. An audit trail exists. Decision making process on funding issues are accepted step by step and separately.	1	4	4	Individual procedures are specified in detail in relevant guides and manuals. All relevant data are published on Programme Operator's website and accessible to participants and stakeholders.

## Annex 2: Monitoring plan

<b>Project no.</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Planned date of on-site monitoring visit /review</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>7F14057</b>	<i>Biomaterials and stem cells in the treatment of stroke and spinal cord injury</i>	<b>3Q 2016</b>	<b>On-site visit - administration check, Health area</b>
<b>7F14330</b>	<i>A new methodological approach for identification of industrial pollution: Isotope fingerprinting and bacterial community changes</i>	<b>2Q 2016</b>	<b>On-site visit - administration check, Environment area</b>
<b>7F14341</b>	<i>Assessing water quality improvement options concerning nutrient and pharmaceutical contaminants in rural watersheds</i>	<b>4Q 2016</b>	<b>On-site visit - financial control, Environment area</b>
<b>7F14358</b>	<i>Advanced Detectors for Better Awareness of Neutrons and Gamma rays in environment</i>	<b>2Q 2016</b>	<b>On-site visit - administration check, Environment area</b>
<b>7F14500</b>	<i>Physical Activity as a Part in Treatment of Psychiatric Patients</i>	<b>1Q 2016</b>	<b>On-site visit - financial control, Health/Social sciences and Humanities area</b>

**Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices**

<b>Project no.</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>7F14316</b>	<i>Structuring effect of submerged macrophytes on trophic relationships and distribution of fish in deep lakes</i>	Communication towards public through their database of photographs at the project web page. <a href="http://www.macfish.net/photogallery/">http://www.macfish.net/photogallery/</a>
<b>7F14208</b>	<i>Human, Agricultural, and Climatic Impact on Ecological Rules: macroecological analysis of palaeobiological datasets</i>	The design of the project web site is well done. <a href="http://ecology.cts.cuni.cz/?lang=cs">http://ecology.cts.cuni.cz/?lang=cs</a>
<b>7F14236</b>	<i>Naturalness in Human Cognitive Enhancement</i>	The design of the project web site is at high level. <a href="http://www.moa.zcu.cz/en/">http://www.moa.zcu.cz/en/</a>

## Annex 4 – Overview on supported projects and projects from the “reserve list”

### Overview on selected /reserve/withdrawn projects:

Project	Title	Project Promoter	Partner	Donor partner	Budget € (total project cocts)
1	Phosphorylation-mediated signalling in DNA damage response and cancer	Institute of Molecular Genetics of the ASCR, v. v. i.	Palacký University in Olomouc	Oslo University Hospital,	968 943
2	3D yeast colony genomics: A model for cancer progression and development of drug resistance in biofilms	Charles University in Prague	Institute of Microbiology of the AS CR	Oslo University Hospital	958 038
3	Source-Term Determination of Radionuclide Releases by Inverse Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling (STRADI)	UTIA - Institute of Information Theory and Automation AS CR	EPFL - École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland	NILU – Norwegian Institute for Air Research	822 491
4	Advanced Detectors for Better Awareness of Neutrons and Gamma Rays in Environment	Czech Technical University in Prague	National Radiation Protection Institute, Prague	Stiftelsen SINTEF, Integrated Detector Electronics AS	1 027 396
5	NuArch: Nuclear Architecture in the regulation of autophagy, DNA repair and gene expression	Institute of Biophysics Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic		University of Oslo	1 088 717
6	Macromolecular toolbox for biomedical applications	Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, AS CR	Charles University in Prague	University of Oslo, Oslo University Hospital	1 322 981
7	Harvesting big text data for under-resourced languages	Masaryk University, Brno		Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet	923 321
8	Biomaterials and stem cells in the treatment of stroke and spinal cord injury	Institute of Experimental Medicine, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic		Norwegian University of Science and Technology	641 509
9	Governance, social investments and social INNOvation in CARE services in the Czech Republic and Norway	Masaryk University, Brno		HiOA NOVA	624 981



10	Tissue engineering of genetically competent corneal/conjunctival cells for subsequent grafting in human medicine	Charles University in Prague	University Hospital Kralovske Vinohrady	Oslo University Hospital, NILU – Norwegian Institute of Air Research	872 491
11	Human, Agricultural, and Climatic Impact on Ecological Rules: macroecological analysis of palaeobiological datasets	Charles University in Prague		Lillehammer University College, University of Bergen	1 125 019
12	Naturalness in Human Cognitive Enhancement	University of West Bohemia	Prague Psychiatric Center, Charles University in Prague	University College of Gjøvik, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences	1 027 585
13	Comparative study of Huntington's disease using biochemical, immunocytochemical and molecular genetic methods on the mouse, minipig and human tissues and cells	Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR	Charles University in Prague	Oslo University Hospital	936 566
14	Structuring effect of submerged macrophytes on trophic relationships and distribution of fish in deep lakes	Biology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic		Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	850 377
15	A new methodological approach for identification of industrial pollution: Isotope fingerprinting and bacterial community changes	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague		Bioforsk, The Geological Survey of Norway (NGU)	648 075
16	Assessing water quality improvement options concerning nutrient and pharmaceutical contaminants in rural watersheds	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute (TGM WRI) ; Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation, (RISWC); VODNÍ ZDROJE, a.s	Bioforsk	969 434
17	Phase behaviour in CCS systems	Institute of Thermomechanics AS CR		SINTEF Energy Research AS	621 358
18	Physical Activity as a Part in Treatment of Psychiatric Patients	Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí		The Norwegian School of	866 415

		nad Labem		Sport Sciences	
19	Phosphine Ligands for Environmentally Friendly C-C Bond Forming Reactions	Charles University in Prague		Universitetet I Bergen	629 434

#### Reserve projects – supported in 2015

20	Conservation and breeding potential of native fruits in the Czech Republic and Norway	Crop Research Institute	Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy Ltd	Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Norwegian Genetic Resource Center	794 717
21	Utilization of long term (passive) sampling methods combined with in situ microcosms for assessment of (bio)degradation potential	Charles University in Prague	Dekonta a.s.	ALS Laboratory Group Norway AS	846 981
22	Regulation of Plant Cell Wall Metabolism by Cytokinins: Novel Developmental Mechanisms for Biomass Improvement	Masaryk University		Norwegian University of Science and Technology	992 113
23	The contribution of higher education Institutions to strengthen socio-economic development of peripheral regions in Norway and the Czech Republic	Centre for Higher Education Studies	Charles University in Prague	Agderforskning AS	753 472

#### Reserve projects – not supported yet

R5	Capitalizing on carbon capture using novel ionic liquids with CO2 conversion to valuable products	Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic		Stiftelsen SINTEF	943 396
R6	Novel Regulator of Fission Yeast Cell Cycle	Charles University in Prague		Oslo University Hospital	528 792

#### Cancelled

Withdrawn in 2014	Developing and evaluating driver rehabilitation programs using neurobehavioural techniques.	Masaryk University, Brno	Transport Research Centre, Brno	Norges Handelshøyskole, Transportøkonomisk Institut	963 811
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