



## **Annual Programme Report No.2 EEA Grants 2009-2014**

**Programme CZ05 – National, Regional and Local  
Initiatives to reduce Inter-Group Inequalities and to  
Promote Social Inclusion**

**Reporting period: 1.1.2014 – 31.12.2014**

**Programme Operator: Ministry of Finance**

**Programme Partner: N/A**

**Donor Programme Partner: N/A**

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## 1. Executive summary

A launch conference of the Programme took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Ministry of Finance. The conference was followed by a Roma Issue Round Table where issues related to better involvement of Roma NGOs and Roma people in EEA/Norway Grants were discussed. The only pre-defined project (PDP) "Campaign against Racism and Hate Violence" was approved by the Programme Operator on 13 March 2014 after verification process. Due to a positive change of fixed exchange rate (from original 24,80 CZK/EUR to 26,50 CZK/EUR) which was approved by the Programme Operator on 7 April 2014 for all ten Czech programmes within EEA/Norway Grants, the PDP application was resubmitted and verified once more. The Programme Operator then approved increased budget for the PDP on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

PDP was approved in line with the expected programme outcome and programme outputs. However, just a little progress can be recorded within the programme results in the year 2014. At the initial months of project implementation it came to finalization of all project activities in detail and tenders for media campaign and educational activities were prepared. Nationwide media campaign "Against racism and Hate Violence" was successfully launched at the end of the year with the aim to systematically disprove hateful hoaxes that are being shared via social media channels. Different channels are used to distribute relevant content, share stories of victims of hate violence and to promote a dialogue such as e.g. [www.hatefree.cz](http://www.hatefree.cz), facebook page HateFree Culture and TV spots. As regards progress towards horizontal concerns, the campaign receives positive feedback from the Roma community. The programme and the project adhere to the principles of cross-cutting issues such as e.g. good governance. However, no specific measures contributing to economic sustainability or gender equality were realized during the monitoring period.

An extensive survey among youth in the Czech Republic conducted in November 2014 affirmed negative perception of Roma community among young people. Young people tend to trust hateful hoaxes about Roma and findings show that the experience of young people is often skewed by the media or social media. Research also confirms that those who know some Roma person evaluate cohabitation significantly more positively. Another spike of hate speech was in the name of islamophobia in this year. From the perspective of hate speech and hate violence it is obvious that there is a significant portion of Czech society that seeks any external enemy to channel its hate aggression towards to.

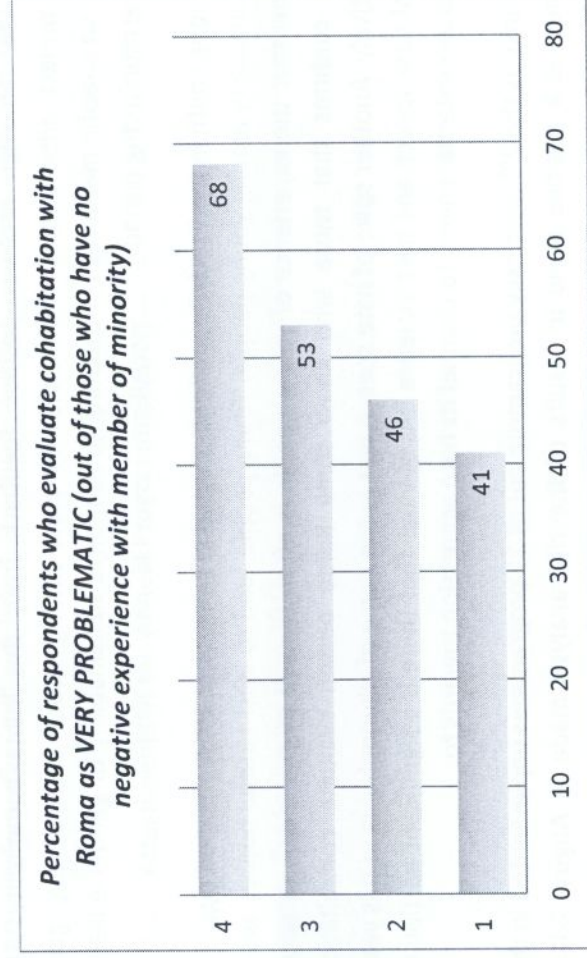
The CZ05 programme ranks as the 2<sup>nd</sup> least risky programme out of 15 programmes implemented in the Czech Republic and there is a positive trend in results of the risk analysis made in August 2014. Nevertheless, time delay still remains the most significant risk identified within the programme. Programme Operator therefore closely monitors all tender procedures and PDP time schedule especially in the monitoring reports.

Programme Operator finalized Guidelines for applicants and promoters within Bilateral Fund at Programme Level – measure B and expects to launch a permanent call for proposals in January 2015. At the end of year Programme Operator also launched an open tender for technical assistance which will assist Programme Operator with on-the-spot controls. Pre-defined project within the programme is planned to be monitored on-the-spot in the second quarter 2015.

## 2. Programme area specific developments

The extensive survey among youth (age 15-25) in the Czech Republic - which was conducted as one of the project activities (Campaign against Hate and Violence) in November 2014 - affirmed negative perception especially of Roma community among young people. This result remains constant for couple of years already. However, detailed questioning also revealed, that people with greater personal experience with Roma tend to see the cohabitation with them as less problematic. The survey demonstrated that young people tend to trust hateful hoaxes about Roma that are being constantly shared via email or social media. Interestingly, those who trust hoaxes the most also believe, that they have enough information about the Roma community and on the contrary, those who do not trust them or simply don't know, would like to have more information. These findings prove that the experience of young people is often skewed by the media or social media; they lack information from relevant and trustworthy sources. These and many more other findings of the survey are the headstones of campaign activities.

One of the results of the survey among youth is depicted in the graph below. It shows the percentage of respondents who evaluate cohabitation with Roma as very problematic. 41% of respondents trust 0 hoaxes out of 5; 46% of respondents trust 1 hoax out of 5; 53% of respondents trust 2 hoaxes out of 5; 68% of respondents trust 3 and more hoaxes out of 5.



Young people tend to trust hateful hoaxes that are being spread via email and social media. 44 percent of respondent believe that Roma families have a special advantage to claim social benefits than non-Roma families. Similarly, the same amount claims that majority of Czech unemployed people are Roma. They also trust hoaxes about free medicines and public transportation for Roma.

30 percent of respondents claim that they have some negative experience with a minority member. Those, who don't have such experience and also trust hoaxes tend to evaluate the cohabitation with minorities way worse than their peers. It is also interesting, that those who trust hoaxes more also much more think that they have enough information about Roma in the Czech Republic. Research also confirms that those who know some Roma person evaluate cohabitation significantly more positively.

The summer of 2013 saw a rapid increase of resentment towards Roma community (marches, hate speech). The leaders of violent protests against Roma compromised themselves and didn't succeed in 2014 in mobilising wider public to join their demonstrations. Nevertheless the summer of 2014 saw another spike of hate speech; this year was in the name of islamophobia. This topic was picked especially around local elections campaigning. To some extent this can be attributed to an upsurge of ISIS activities which consequently fuelled the fear of Islam and fear of refugees from Syria and other conflict affected countries. To some extent, such fear is understandable, however, from the perspective of hate speech and hate violence it is obvious, that there is a significant portion of Czech society that seeks any external enemy to channel its hate aggression towards to. The threat obviously is for the Muslim minority, but also to wider community as these individuals and initiatives (with tens of thousands of active fans and followers on social media) violently threaten anyone who dares to question any of their claims, statements and the narrative of wild bloodthirsty Muslims in general. From broader societal perspective such initiatives pose a long-term threat, regardless the minority that will be targeted.

Regarding the hate crime situation in the Czech Republic, data for 2014 are not yet available. Most likely, we can expect similar situation as in previous year. According to police statistics, there were around 211 of documented hate crimes; however, experts claim the number is in reality up to ten times higher as many of these cases are unreported.

### **3. Reporting on outputs**

During the first and the second half of 2014 the pre-defined project was evaluated and verified. The project was approved by the Programme Operator on 13 March 2014. Due to the change of the fixed exchange rate (26,50 CZK/EUR) within EEA/Norway Grants in April 2014, the project application was resubmitted and verified twice. On the 4th August 2014 the Programme Operator approved increased funding in amount of 39 749 999 CZK to implement the pre-defined project. The verification process has been realized in several steps and with no significant problems (please see chapter 5). The Programme Operator strived for speeding up the verification process as much as possible.

Implementation of the project started in March 2014. Project activities were finalized in detail and tenders for media campaign and educational activities were prepared. The tender for media campaign (divided into parts) was published and the nationwide media campaign "Against Racism and Hate Violence" was successfully launched. FB page and web page ([hatefree.cz](http://hatefree.cz)) were also established. Cooperation with all relevant stakeholders was initiated and Memorandum of Cooperation with Police Presidium and the Ministry of Interior was signed.

At the end of 2014 project started to contribute to the Programme output "Young people aged 15-25 will be informed via the nationwide media campaign about manifestations of racism and hate violence as well as about means of how to face them with personal attitudes and by supporting the inclusive policies". Altogether 536 video spots aimed at young people under 25 were aired nationwide and almost half a population of the Czech Republic saw the spot once at minimum. 1 special webpage – [www.hatefree.cz](http://www.hatefree.cz) - promoting the campaign against racism and hate violence was developed.

## 4. Reporting on Programme outcome

Owing to the status of the predefined project which constitutes the programme there have been almost no results in Programme outcome “Local and regional authorities, as well as private subjects and civil society actors, are developing initiatives to strengthen antidiscriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion” except for the partially fulfilled output indicator of 536 video spots and 1 webpage (hatefree). Predefined project was approved in line with the expected programme outcome and programme outputs and thus the project should achieve the targets set in the Programme Proposal throughout its implementation.

One of the Programme/project specific risks is the risk concerning failing cooperation with other ministries, lack of trust of regions, NGOs, etc., in the planned activities. At its preparation the project was consulted intensively with all relevant stakeholders. Relevant representatives of ministries, regions and non-government organizations are nowadays members of the project steering committee. Intensive communication with the stakeholders will be maintained during the project implementation in order to get necessary feedback and some incentives. Memorandum of cooperation between the Government Agency (Project Promoter) and the Police Presidium/Ministry of Interior was signed.

There might be a risk that relevant target group will not be fully addressed by the nationwide media campaign. In order to avoid the above mentioned risk the campaign was tested by the representatives of the target group via so called focus groups. A prior research was undertaken among the target group and its results were utilised for the good set up of the campaign.

### 4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns

#### Progress towards horizontal concerns

##### Respect of human rights, multicultural dialogue incl. integration of national minorities

Given the fact that the first project/programme activities were launched only by the end of the year 2014 (media campaign) it is too early to demonstrate proven progress. Based on initial assessment the campaign raised primarily positive feedback. The launch of the campaign was according to plan, the Project Promoter expected stronger negative push back. Except for comments and anonymous messages in mailbox, it was so far not that strong. However, the Project Promoter still does expect that coming later on once the campaign proves not to be just one time media hype, but a long term effective and attractive initiative.

Most importantly, the campaign receives positive feedback from the Roma community - campaign was extensively presented at the regular meeting with Roma personalities and was warmly welcomed.

One of the core aims of the campaign is to systematically disprove hateful hoaxes that are being shared via social media channels. For that purpose the Promoter created a special web section called “Hejtomat” (Hate Machine) and works closely with number of public institutions and experts in order to be able to efficiently react on any new hoaxes and hateful stereotypes. Following channels are used to distribute relevant content, share stories of victims of hate violence and to promote a dialogue:

Hatefree.cz – with blog, gallery, meme machine and “Hejt Machine, and manual for victims of hateviolence

Facebook [HateFree Culture](#) – main channel for community building, distribution, crowdsourcing, community engagement and discussion

“Hate Doesn’t Fit you” is a “campaign within a campaign” that was used to launch the whole project and attract attention of media and wider public. Project Promoter works closely with major TV and radio stations in the Czech Republic to mainstream the topic of hate violence into broader public discourse.

TV spot and celebrity gallery for the launch of campaign:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=568261489942016>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.568687176566114.1073741843.287724754662359&type=1>

As for other components of the project (educational and research activities), they will be realized during the year 2015.

## 5. Project selection

During the first and the second half of 2014 the pre-defined project was evaluated and verified; the project implementation started in March 2014. The final project application was submitted in information system CEDR in January 2014. The project was then evaluated by the external evaluator – an expert in the field. Within this stage, it was evaluated whether the project is in compliance with the project proposal submitted to the FMO and whether it is in compliance with both national and EU legislation. Within the first step of verification, the project was evaluated positively with a recommendation to clarify particular information in the application.

The second step of the verification was appraisal of internal evaluation of the Programme Operator and external technical assistance. In this phase project formal application, budget and technical documentation were appraised especially in the terms of the preparedness and consistency. The Project promoter was recommended to clarify budget calculations, to modify or complete particular information in the application. After modification of the application, the pre-defined project was approved by the Programme Operator in March 2014.

Due to the change of the fixed exchange rate (26,50 CZK/EUR), the project application was modified and submitted again with the increased allocation. The second final project application was submitted on 7th July 2014 in IS CEDR. With regard to modifications in budget, the project was evaluated again by the Programme Operator (internal evaluation) and by external technical assistance. Formal application, budget and preparedness of the project were evaluated. The Programme Operator sent comments to the Project Promoter and necessary changes in the application were made. The pre-defined project was reapproved by the Programme Operator on the 4th of August 2014. The FMO was informed about the successful verification.

In general, the Programme Operator tried to do the verification process of PDP in detail and properly so as to prepare the project very well for the implementation and its monitoring. At the same time PO tried to speed up the verification process in order to have more time for the project implementation itself. Due to the positive change of the fixed exchange rate, the project activities could have been extended in favour of the project goal.

## **6. Progress of bilateral relations**

### **Bilateral Fund at Programme Level – Measure B (BFB)**

Programme Operator finalized Guidelines for applicants and promoters within BFB at the end of 2014. A permanent call for proposals within BFB in the programme will be launched in January 2015.

In accordance with the Programme Agreement PO together with the Project Promoter aim to organise an international conference under the bilateral fund at programme level – part B. The conference will focus on pro-inclusive education - initial brainstorming over the programme agenda and presenters has already started. The conference will most probably take place in the fall of 2015.

## **7. Monitoring**

On 12 December 2014 the Programme Operator launched an open tender for technical assistance which shall assist the PO with on-the-spot controls. The deadline for submitting bids is on 29 January 2015. The tender comprises on-the-spot controls of projects and small grant schemes in all 10 programmes in charge of the Programme Operator. There are two basic types of controls which will be carried out – factual/interim control and financial/final control. Moreover, the factual/interim controls will be ordinary, ad hoc and controls of corrective measures' fulfilment.

The Monitoring Plan for 2015 for the pre-defined project is enclosed to this report.

## **8. Need for adjustments**

The change of fixed exchange rate from 24,80 CZK/EUR to 26,50 CZK/EUR was approved by the Programme Operator and confirmed by the FMO on 7 April 2014. Due to this positive change it came to increase in the allocation of the whole programme in CZK. The budget of PDP was also increased. There were no other changes in the programme.

## **9. Risk management**

Programme Operator updated the programme risk analysis at the end of August 2014 under the guidance of the NFP. In accordance with the statement in previous Annual Programme Report, the CZ05 still ranks as the 2<sup>nd</sup> least risky programme out of 15 programmes implemented in the Czech Republic right after the CZ01 Technical Assistance + Bilateral Fund programme.



There is a positive trend in results of the risk analysis made in 2014 in comparison with that made in 2013. Importance of all the programme risks is at the low or middle level which means that there is no risk with a high importance. Probability of the risk factor Setup of the programme implementation system was lowered thanks to the fact that the Internal Manual of Programme Operator was finished and issued in March 2014.

Time delay in the programme implementation still remains the most significant risk identified within the programme. Programme Operator strived for speeding up the verification process of the PDP and the issue of the legal act on the award of the grant. However, due to positive change of the exchange rate CZK/EUR the PDP application was submitted twice and it was verified two times. Main risk factors related to the time delay are complex open tender procedures within the PDP. Programme Operator therefore closely monitors all tender procedures and the time schedule in the monitoring reports of the PDP which will be submitted three times per year.

## 10. Information and publicity

The launch conference of the Programme took place on 26th March 2014 at the Ministry of Finance. The aim of the conference was to launch the Programme and to present it to interested entities. The conference was followed by the Roma issue round table where all relevant stakeholders such as Civil Society Development Foundation, NGOs, Ministry of Culture, Police Presidium, etc. were discussing issues related to active participation of Roma and Roma NGOs at projects financed from EEA/Norway Grants, prejudices about Roma minorities, priorities of Roma issue and better involvement of Roma NGOs in EEA/Norway Grants.

With respect to the stage of implementation of the Programme the publicity was ensured by informing on websites of the Programme Operator (Ministry of Finance) and the Project Promoter (Office of the Government) about Programme's/project's development as it was previously planned in the Communication Plan. All relevant publicity information about the project is also issued on the website of the Programme Operator.

Programme Operator plans to realize altogether 3 seminars for project promoters within the 10 Czech programmes in February 2015. All issues relevant to monitoring, publicity and financial matters will be presented and discussed at the seminars.

Pre-defined project within the programme can serve either for communication purposes or as example of best practice.

## 11. Cross - cutting issues

The Programme is still in its initial phase, thus the contribution to Cross-cutting issues has not been significant.

**Good governance:** The Programme adheres to the principles of good governance.

**Social sustainability:** The cooperation and information transfer between the NFP, PO and the Office of the Government – Agency for Social Inclusion and other stakeholders is above the standard and provides for highly coordinated strategy for social inclusion, especially for Roma inclusion in the Czech Republic. The sustainability is thus enhanced through coordinated efforts of the whole sector. The aim of the pre-defined project is a better awareness and change in the attitudes to the manifestations of racism and hate violence, especially of the young generation. By increasing the competencies of local actors (teachers, police and local authorities) the continuation of the set processes will be ensured even after the project ends. Project Promoter will continue with awareness activities and the media campaign also after the project completion.

**Economic sustainability** - no specific measures were realized during the monitored period. The project “Campaign Against Racism and Hate Violence” is currently being implemented and aims to establish activities, which are expected to continue even after the project ends (e.g. the use of the web site by municipalities, new educational programmes for schools and the police). After the project ends, the Promoter expects a return to the normal mode, where the campaign against racism will be supported by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic as in 2009.

**Gender equality** – no specific measures were realized during the monitored period. The equal representation of women and men is and will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the media campaign (selection of campaign faces, spot screenplays, documentary movie, etc.) and in the other educational activities, especially in supporting the civic education.

## 12. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report

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


**Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2015**



**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>Name</b>	Zuzana Kudelová	<b>Optional second signature</b>				
<b>Position</b>	Head of the Department of International Relations	Martina Bečvářová				
<b>Organisation</b>	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic	Head of the Monitoring Unit				
<b>Signature</b>		Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic				
<b>Date</b>	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	11	02	15	11	02	2015

**For the National Focal Point**

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

<b>Name</b>	Martin Pros	<b>Optional second signature</b>				
<b>Position</b>	Deputy Minister of Finance					
<b>Organisation</b>	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic					
<b>Signature</b>	<i>see above</i>					
<b>Date</b>	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	13	02	2015			

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Type of objective <sup>1</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>2</sup>	Impact <sup>3</sup>	Importance <sup>4</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion (Programme)	Programme absorption	Irrelevant, the Programme is composed of one PDP.	low	high	low	n/a
outcomes:	Legislation changes	The PDP is not directly linked to legislation. The area of Roma issues is, however, a part of political parties' election programs, so it can, to a limited degree, influence the governmental strategy.	low	low	low	All legislative proposals will be monitored in advance and evaluated with regard to their impact on the PDP realization. In case of need, changes will be implemented to reflect the actual legislation.
	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	The Legal act on the award of the grant for the PDP was issued. Nevertheless, the potential delay in tender procedures might significantly endanger the fulfillment of planned PDP indicators.	middle	high	middle	Programme Operator strived for speeding up the verification process of the PDP and the issue of the legal act on the award of the grant. Tender procedures are and will be monitored by the Programme Operator and the time schedule is closely monitored in the monitoring reports of the PDP.
	Specific programme risk (risk identified in PP)	Failing cooperation with other ministries, lack of trust of regions,	middle	middle	middle	All relevant stakeholders were deeply involved in the

<sup>1</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>2</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>3</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>4</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>1</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>2</sup>	Impact <sup>3</sup>	Importance <sup>4</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
	relating to PRG outcomes)	NGOs, etc., in the planned activities.				preparation of the PDP. Representatives of ministries, NGOs and regions are members of the Steering committee. Memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Police Presidium and the Ministry of Interior. Communication with all the relevant stakeholders will continue during the whole project implementation.
<b>Bilateral outcome(s):</b>	Bilateral relations	The international cooperation is related only to participation at the final conference. The Programme Operator together with the Project Promoter of the PDP will organize an international conference on pro-inclusive education at the fall 2015.	Low	Low	low	N/A
<b>Operational issues:</b>	Management and control structures, programme management	The Manual of the Programme Operator was issued on 13 March 2014.	low	high	middle	Procedure according to the PO Manual, regular check and update of PO Manual. Meetings with the Project Promoter.
	Programme implementation set up	All the manuals and guidelines are elaborated and regularly checked and updated. Guidelines for the Project Promoters were issued in March 2014.	high	middle	middle	Check and update of manuals and guidelines.
	Reports and irregularities within programme	No irregularities have been reported.	low	high	low	Consistent verification of monitoring reports and on-

Type of objective <sup>1</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>2</sup>	Impact <sup>3</sup>	Importance <sup>4</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
Programme audits/controls		One control was carried out by the Audit Authority in August 2014 with no findings.	high	middle	middle	Regular monitoring, on-the-spot visits and audits.
	Information system	The information and monitoring system CEDR is in service. Adjustments are ongoing.	middle	middle	middle	Adjustments of the system are solved with the contractor. Breakdowns and failures will be minimized by intensive cooperation with the contractor.
	Corruption risk	The NFP system of control and tender procedures are well set up.	Middle	Middle	middle	Thorough verification of procedures, evaluation, etc.
						the-spot controls.

Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2015

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site monitoring visit	Note
EHP-CZ05-PDP-1-001-2014	Campaign against Racism and Hate Violence	2.Q.2015	Programme Operator plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the second quarter of 2015. The control will be mainly focused on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.