

## COMPLETION OF THE OPTIMISATION OF THE NATIONAL CODE-LIST OF INDICATORS

The DHV CR company together with the HOPE–E.S and RegioPartner companies have elaborated the project called the **Completion of the Optimisation of the National Code-List of Indicators** in the period from January to May 2009, elaborated for the Czech Ministry of Local Development, NSRF Control & Coordination Department. The project is the output of the framework project No. CZ.1.08/1.1.00/08.00024 “NSRF Control Tools” co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund’s sources through the Operational Programme called Technical Assistance to the Support Area 1.a.

The National Code-List of Indicators is the basic "summary providers" of indicators whose objective is to facilitate selection of relevant indicators and provide consistency of indicator sets for particular operational programmes considering their terminology, content and data sources. As itself, the National Code-List of Indicators is a tool of factual monitoring of structural intervention and has to be set to provide transparency and efficiency of sources of drawing from structural funds.

The objective of the project was:

- To create a generally effective methodical handbook for classification of indicators in the National Code-List of Indicators that will provide a general framework to be able to define whether an indicator can be classified in the National Code-List of Indicators (so-called differentiation of central and complementary indicators), and which will fix a rate of detail specification of data needed for different types of evaluations;
- Completion and modifications of indicator aggregate maps of thematic and regional operational programmes for complementary and standby indicators;
- Creation of a final version of the National Code-List of Indicators that is methodically binding for evaluation of factual progress.

The project was divided to three stages with the following content:

1. Study of relating documents; Study of aggregation maps; Creation of a binding methodology for evaluations of indicators, including a checklist for evaluations of proposed indicators;
2. Assessment of all aggregation maps of particular thematic and regional operational programmes; Meetings with representatives of Managing Authorities; Elaboration of a list of complementary and standby indicators for each operational programme; Modification of monitored columns in aggregation maps (modification and extension of the letterhead); Continuous completion and checking of aggregation maps; Attribution of codes and classification of new indicators in the National Code-List of Indicators.
3. Formulation of recommendations for future handling with the National Code-List of Indicators for the best transparency; Compilation of a basic set of indicators completed from the project level – for the indicators that will reflect objectives fixed by the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF); Translation of a final version of the National Code-List of Indicators in English.

During work on the project within the second stage, the author met the fact that aggregation maps contained mistakes in central indicators. The indicators provided with codes, stated in OPs &

ROPs aggregation maps, did not have names and/or definitions consistent with names and definitions stated in the National Code-List of Indicators. In addition, the author found out that it would not be possible – having a selected set of indicators in aggregation maps – to monitor outputs, results and impacts / effects of programmes in a required quality and to a required extent. Even if such activity was not part of the project, the author, after consultations with a control body of a relevant OP, modified such mistakes if such modification was allowed by time, or if not, the author at least advised relevant Managing Authorities thereof.

The elaboration of the project was obstructed mainly by complicated and time-consuming consultations over ambiguities and necessary modifications, and in several cases even by failure to meet deadlines for incorporation of agreed modifications in aggregations maps. The employees of managing authorities, charged with indicators, were overburdened with another agenda and did not have time enough for the ongoing project. Another problematic issue appeared also in communication among particular Managing Authorities as for the use of similar indicators and their fear of effects of making changes and modifications mainly to the indicators stated in operational documents.

### Outputs of the project:

#### Stage 1: Methodical activity:

- Methodology of evaluation of indicators for their classification in the National Code-List of Indicators
- Check List for classification of indicators in the National Code-List of Indicators
- Handbook for the National Code-List of Indicators' administrator for evaluation of the Check List
- Format specimen of an aggregation map

#### Stage 2: Analytic activity:

- List of indicators designed to be incorporated in the National Code-List of Indicators for each operational programme
- List of complementary indicators for each operational programme
- Modified letterhead of an aggregation map
- Modified and completed data in aggregation maps (generally their name, definition, measuring unit, inclusion/decomposition, type of indicator, data source)
- Final version of aggregation maps for each operational programme
- New version of the National Code-List of Indicators (A and B)
- List of modifications made in the National Code-List of Indicators
- Glossary of the most frequently used terms in definitions of indicators

#### Stage 3: Conclusions and recommendations:

- Final version of the National Code-List of Indicators (A and B) in Czech and English.
- Recommendations for any further extension of the National Code-List of Indicators
- Draft of a basic set of indicators for NSRF, completed from the project level

We may generally state that the project fully completed its objectives. The proposed methodology comprehensibly and clearly meets Managing Authorities with the system of incorporation of new indicators in the National Code-List of Indicators. Formulated conclusions and recommendations give impulses to the National Coordination Body what further steps shall be made to make the work with the National Code-List of Indicators and the monitoring system more efficient. If, based on an agreement with Managing Authorities, there is a modification to be made in aggregation maps, with subsequent modification in indicator sets, the high-quality monitoring of outputs,



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results and impacts of the projects will be assured for that purpose at the level of particular programmes. It will be allowed to monitor results and impacts of the structural intervention at the level of the whole Czech Republic thanks to classification of new indicators in the National Code-List of Indicators.

Highly efficient communication between the author's experts and the contracting authority's employees and the contracting authority's helpful approach were also very useful at fulfilment of the project objectives.

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