

MINISTRY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CR

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Operational Programme

Technical Assistance

for 2010

March 2011

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Introduction on Drawing up the Annual report

Legal framework

The legal framework for the annual report on implementation of the operational programme is provided by the Article No 67 of Council Regulation No 1083/2006 (General Regulation). Article No 67 of General Regulation has so far been amended once, namely by Regulation (EU) No 539 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2010. The responsibility for the elaboration of this annual report is born by the managing authority of the operational programme. Specific requirements concerning the content of the annual report are laid down in Annex XVIII to Regulation No 1828/2006 (Implementing Regulation). This Annex has been amended twice. For the first time, by Commission Regulation (EC) No 846/2009 of 1 September 2009 and for the second time by Commission Regulation (EU) No 832/ 2010 of 17 September 2010.

The annual report comprises a summary of activities associated with the use of EU funds in 2010 under the Operational Programme Technical Assistance. It also serves the European Commission (EC) as the essential source of information on the absorption of the European Union (EU) funds.

Source of data:

All tables draw data from MSC2007. The generated data illustrates the values as of 5 January 2011. The data on the monitoring indicators was generated on 1 March 2011.

Executive Summary

The Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OPTA) is a multi-objective programme under the Convergence objective which is complemented by financial contributions under the Regional competitiveness and employment (RCE) objective and as such can finance activities across the Czech Republic (CR), i.e. in the territory of the City of Prague inclusive.

It is a programme implemented based on the underlying documents of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for 2007 – 2013 programming period. These documents guarantee the compliance with the Economic and Social Cohesion (ESC) policy and the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSGs).

The OPTA allocates the EU funds to 8 Cohesion regions, of which 7 fall under the Convergence objective and the Prague region falls under the RCE objective. The contribution from the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) accounts for 85 % of eligible expenditure for operational programmes for both the objectives; with public budgets contributing by 15 %. Of the total number of 14 regions, 1 region (City of Prague) falls under the RCE objective. The remaining 13 regions are covered by the Convergence objective.

OPTA comprises 4 priority axes:

1. Management and Coordination Support
2. Monitoring
3. Administrative and Absorption Capacity
4. Publicity

Based on the distribution of funds among all the OPTA priority axes, the breakdown of the allocation is as follows: 98.41 % for Convergence objective and 1.59 % for RCE objective, i.e. **EUR 243 835 110** (Community contribution) and **EUR 43 029 727 EUR** (national sources) for Convergence objective, and **EUR 3 948 062** (Community contribution) and **EUR 696 719 EUR** (national sources) for RCE objective.

On 14 May 2008 a continuous call was announced. Ever since its opening three updates have been made thereto (18 August 2008, 2 April 2009 and 14 September 2009). By the last update of the call, the allocation was increased to its full amount for the whole programming period and the deadlines for submission and completion of projects were extended until 2013, or 2015.

In August 2009, the EC approved the design of management and control systems. Only a single requirement was raised by the EC, namely to provide additional information – to specify the procedures in the event when the minister as a statutory representative of the organisation adopts a decision that a project, though positively evaluated by evaluators, or the Selection Committee, shall not be supported from the OPTA. The OPTA MA provided the additional information in a letter sent in January 2010.

In June 2010, the document called Description of Management and Control Systems of OPTA (MCS) was updated internally and approved by the Director of the OPTA Managing Authority (OPTA MA). Its update was done in order to harmonise the information included in the MCS document with the updated version of the OPTA Operational Manual (OPTA OM).

The Authorised Audit Entity of MRD (AAE MRD) conducted two audits in the monitored period:

- 1) Audit on OPTA operations with respect to expenditure submitted for certification as of 15 Sep 2009 (No 15/10/AAE) – the subject of this audit was to verify the eligibility of expenditure incurred in the implementation of an operation and to verify the Conditions of the Decision on granting assistance on a sample of projects implemented within the OPTA.
- 2) Audit on OPTA implementation system (No 18/10/AAE) – the aim was to make sure that the management and control systems of OPTA implementation are in place and functional.

In audit No 15/10 AAE, a total of 6 projects were selected and included in the audited sample and in all the projects findings of low materiality were identified, having no direct impact on eligibility of expenditure.

In audit No 18/10 AAE a total of 5 findings were detected for OPTA MA. The first finding was of medium materiality, the second of low to medium materiality, and the third and fourth of low materiality. The OPTA MA issued an opinion concerning the findings and settled the accepted findings through their inclusion in the updated version of the OPTA OM valid as of 10 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011. A detailed description of findings arrived at during the conducted audits is given in the following parts of this report.

The AAE MRD findings were used in the drawing up of the Annual Opinion of the Audit Authority and the Annual Control Report. In the Annual Control Report for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 the Audit Authority (AA) issued an unqualified opinion, i.e. that the OPTA management and control systems function effectively, and provided reasonable assurance that the statements of expenditure presented to the EC are correct and that the transactions are legal and regular.

In the course of 2010, two regular meetings of the OPTA Monitoring Committee (OPTA MC) were held, namely in May and November 2010. The OPTA MA presented the progress achieved in programme implementation semi-annually through the Report on Implementation of the OPTA.

At the 5th regular meeting of OPTA MC, the Annual Report for 2009 was approved, the central contact point of AFCOS was approved as a new beneficiary under Intervention area 3.1., subject to the opinion of the EC shall issued only after it receives an official request from the OPTA MA. Discussed were also the measures ensuing from materials submitted to the government, regarding the proposals for potential revisions of the operational programmes. The OPTA MC took note of the Report on implementation of OPTA for the period from November 2009 to March 2010.

At the 6th regular meeting of OPTA MC, the changes in the OPTA MC Statute were approved, namely the Statute was amended in line with the changes in the organisation of the MRD. Moreover, the inclusion of a new supported activity (preparation and acquisition of the monitoring system for 2014+ programming period) under Priority axis 2, Intervention area 2.1 was approved as well as the adoption of a more general name for the individual units of beneficiaries forming the National Co-ordination Authority (NCA) - the "NCA". The OPTA MC approved the OPTA Annual Evaluation Plan for 2011 and took note of the Report on Implementation of the programme in the period from April to September 2010.

On the occasion of OPTA MC meetings in 2010 also the outputs of evaluations carried out by the OPTA MA were presented, including the information on the way of reflecting the recommendations in the OPTA implementation. The summary of evaluation (Executive summary) of the OPTA absorption capacity (hereinafter referred to as AbCap) and monitoring system was published on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz in the OPTA section.

During 2010, the OPTA MA published one updated version of OPTA OM and the Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under the OPTA (OPTA HAB). The changes in the 4th edition of OPTA OM effective from 1 May 2010 were made based on the amended Decree No 560/2006 Coll.. Annex No 5-12 Work procedures for the administration of payments in IS MONIT7+ was deleted and the respective procedures were incorporated in Annex No 7-3 Guide to work procedures in OPTA IS. In the 6th edition of the OPTA HAB effective from 1 Oct 2010, the administrative procedures were simplified by deletion of Annex No 9 Outline of a framework project and replaced by the Plans for absorption of allocations, and the procedures related to the preparation and approval of public procurement procedures and tenders were modified. The list of beneficiaries published on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz was supplemented.

In 2010, several changes in the organisation and staffing of OPTA MA were made, particularly the number of project managers decreased and a new director was appointed. In the context of organisational changes at the Ministry for Regional Development (MRD), the NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department was cancelled and starting from 1 Oct 2010 its agenda has become the responsibility of the Autonomous EU Publicity Unit and the NSRF Training and Education Unit, which is an integral part of the OPTA Managing Authority Department, though entrusted by the minister to independently carry out activities related to NCA agenda and to represent the beneficiaries under the OPTA.

The Operational Programme Technical Assistance shall provide for activities of the NCA and activities linked to the use of EU funds requiring a single approach at the national level. Bearing in mind this focus of the programme, the Annual Report does not comprise any information on the impacts of the OP on economy and the socio-economic analysis of the region.

1 Identification of the Operational programme

The table below presents a summary of basic identification features of OPTA:

Table No 1: Identification of the operational programme

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convergence • Regional competitiveness and employment objective
	Eligible area concerned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUTS 2 Prague CZ01 • NUTS 2 Central Bohemia CZ02 • NUTS 2 Southwest CZ03 • NUTS 2 Northwest CZ04 • NUTS 2 Northeast CZ05 • NUTS 2 Southeast CZ06 • NUTS 2 Central Moravia CZ07 • NUTS 2 Moravia-Silesia CZ08
	Programming period: 2007-2013
	CCI number of the Programme: 2007CZ16UPO001
	Programme title: Operational Programme Technical Assistance
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2010
	Date of approval of the Annual Report by the Monitoring Committee:

1.1 Brief Description of the OPTA

The Operational Programme Technical Assistance is a multi-objective programme, intended to support a single approach at the national level to the ensurance of activities of effective management, control, monitoring and evaluation of NSRF implementation, and to provide an umbrella for activities of the ESC policy in the CR in 2007 – 2013 period.

1.1.1 *OPTA objectives*

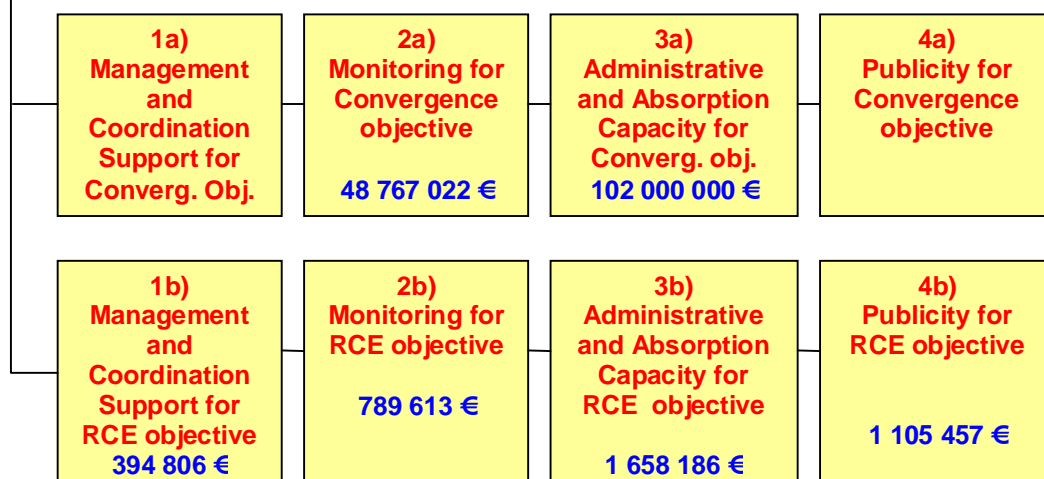
The global objective of the OPTA is to strengthen and improve a uniform central management and coordination of programmes co-financed from the EU funds at the level of the CR. The global objective shall also contribute to the achievement of the set objectives of the NSRF in the 2007-2013 period and it shall improve the overall level of management and monitoring while respecting the principle of sound financial management pursuant to Article 14 of the General Regulation. Last but not least, it is necessary to strengthen the administrative and absorption capacity and awareness of EU funds.

The strategic objectives further specify the focus and content of the global objective of OPTA. These objectives are the following:

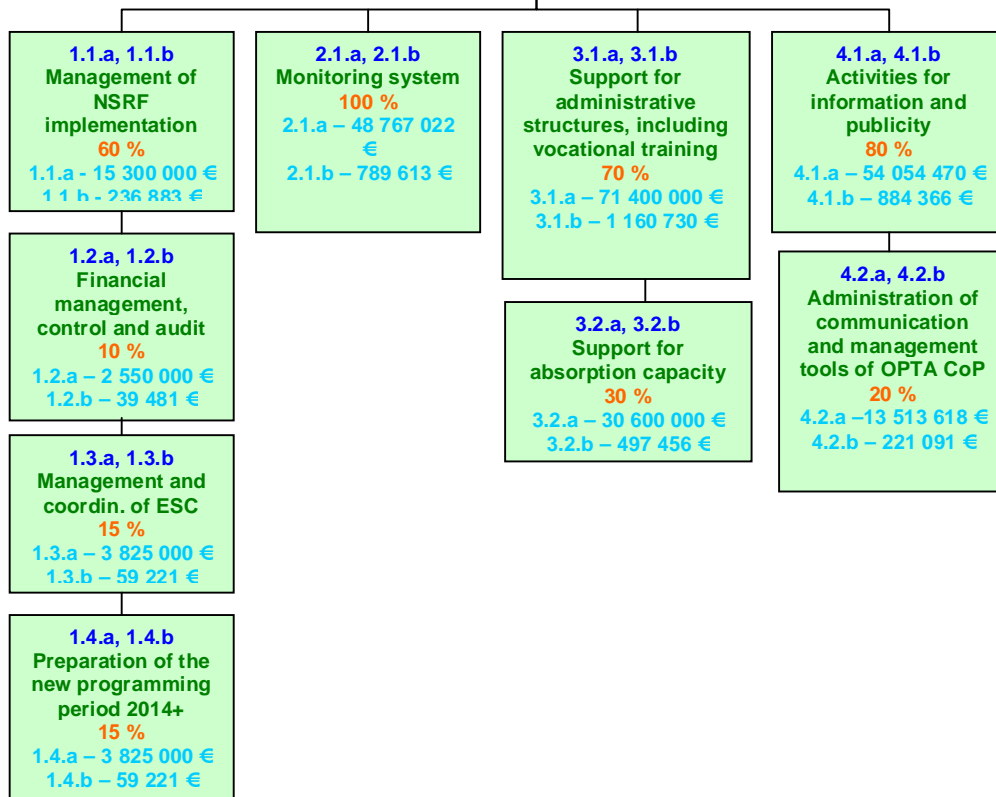
- **Strategic objective 1** – to provide for the managing, methodological and coordination role at the highest horizontal level of management (NCA, Paying and Certifying Authority - PCA and the Audit Authority - AA) in the implementation of the NSRF in compliance with the ESC and sound financial management principles. To ensure timely preparation of the new programming period 2014+;
- **Strategic objective 2** – to provide for a functioning single central monitoring and information system facilitating the management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects (as well as adoption of corrective measures) to be used by the Managing Authority (MA) of all the OP, PCA, AA, thus ensuring the electronic exchange of data and documents between the individual levels of implementation;
- **Strategic objective 3** – to provide for the administrative capacity necessary for the achievement of NSRF objectives through the support of coordination authorities (NCA, PCA and AA) and to increase the absorption capacity for the use of the Structural Funds (SF);
- **Strategic objective 4** – to increase the general public awareness of the existence and use of the EU SF, of the implementation of the Cohesion policy and the NSRF objectives in the CR and of the achievement of the NSRF objectives. To establish a platform for the cooperation between the implementation structure entities: NCA, MA, Intermediate Body (IB) aimed at the awareness of the target group of beneficiaries of the SF assistance.

OPTA

Priority axes – Community contribution



Intervention areas – Community contribution



1.1.2 **OPTA financial allocation**

Since 13 regions of the total number of 14 regions fall under the Convergence objective and only 1 region (City of Prague) is covered by the RCE objective, the prevailing part of OPTA funds is allocated to the Convergence objective which is illustrated by Table No 2.

Table No 2: Overview of total funds allocated to Convergence objective and RCE objective

OPTA objectives	Sources	Total share in the allocated funds (%)	Total share in the allocated funds (EUR)
Convergence objective	Community contribution	98,41	243 835 110
	National sources		43 029 727
	Total		286 864 837
RCE objective	Community contribution	1,59	3 948 062
	National sources		696 719
	Total		4 644 781

Source: OPTA Programming Document

The General Regulation stipulates the method of calculating the ERDF contribution for Cohesion regions. There are eight Cohesion regions. Seven Cohesion regions fall under the Convergence objective, while Prague is covered by the RCE objective. In general, for operational programmes under both the objectives the contribution from the ERDF shall not be higher than 85 % of the eligible expenditure (Article 53, para 3, 4 and Annex III to the General Regulation); the remaining part is covered from the public budgets of the CR.

1.2 **OPTA Underlying Documents**

The OPTA is a programme implemented based on the underlying documents of the NDP and the NSRF for 2007 – 2013 programming period. These documents shall guarantee the compliance with the ESC policy, CSGs and the national programmes of structural development. The referred to documents are reflected in the OPTA MA documentation (Operational Programme Technical Assistance, OPTA OM and OPTA HAB).

1.3 **Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies**

By Government Resolution No 198 of 22 February 2006 the duty was imposed upon the MRD to carry out the function of the managing authority, including the function of the NCA coordinator for the absorption of funds from the SF and the Cohesion Fund (CF) in 2007 – 2013 period.

In line with Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 189/2007 of 3 September 2007, entrusted with the function of the OPTA MA was originally the Managing Authority Department of the Integrated Operational Programme (IOP) and OPTA. Subsequently, by Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 103/2008 of 30 Jun 2008, a separate OPTA MA Department was established and by Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 169/2008 of 15 Sep 2008, replacing the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 189/2007, the OPTA MA Department was entrusted with the function of the OPTA MA.

As a follow up to the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 187/2007 of 7 September 2007 concerning the provision of activities of the NSRF National Co-ordination Authority, the Decision of

the Minister for Regional Development No 215/2010 of 19 October 2010 concerning the definition of NCA units at MRD and delegation of powers to sign documents related to the administration of projects under the OPTA was issued. This decision enabled the separation of the unit falling under the NCA, which had become an integral part of the OPTA MA Department as of 1 Oct 2010, from the OPTA MA.

The OPTA MA shall be responsible for correct and effective management of the programme and provision of assistance from OPTP in line with EU regulations and national legislation.

Specification of main functions and tasks performed by the Managing Authority

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for:

- ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the OPTA and that they comply with the applicable Community and national rules for the whole of their implementation period,
- verifying that the co-financed products and services are delivered and that the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries for operations has actually been incurred and complies with Community and national rules. Verifications on-the-spot of individual operations may be carried out on a sample basis in accordance with the detailed rules to be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 103 para 3 of the General Regulation,
- ensuring that there is a system for recording and storing in computerised form accounting records for each operation under the OPTA and that the data on implementation necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audits and evaluation are collected,
- ensuring that beneficiaries and other bodies involved in the implementation of operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the operation without prejudice to national accounting rules,
- ensuring that the evaluations of the OPTA referred to in Article 48 para 3 of the General Regulation are carried out in accordance with Article 47 of this Regulation,
- setting up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 90 of the General Regulation,
- ensuring that the PCA receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification,
- guiding the work of the OPTA MC and providing it with the documents required to permit the quality of the implementation of the OP to be monitored in the light of its specific goals,
- drawing up and, after approval of the OPTA MC, submitting to the EC the annual and final reports on OPTA implementation,
- ensuring compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Article 69 of the General Regulation,
- elaborating the financing plan of the programme (in its elaboration the OPTA MA builds on the OPTA financial framework approved by the EC; the financial framework of the programme

determines the allocations of funds divided into EU funds and the state budget in a breakdown by year, priority axis and intervention area).

Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 349/2006 of 20 November 2006, the OPTA Intermediate Body for all priority axes shall be the Centre for Regional Development of the CR (CRD) – a state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of the MRD.

In cases where the CRD is a beneficiary under the OPTA, it shall not act as the Intermediate Body (in such a case all the administration shall be performed by the OPTA Managing Authority).

Specification of main functions and tasks performed by the Intermediate Body:

- receipt and registration of applications for support,
- establishing contacts with applicants for support and provision of information,
- assessment of eligibility, formal requisites and evaluation of projects,
- ex-ante risk analysis of projects, ex-ante checks,
- interim and ex-post risk analysis of the project,
- interim (with/without an application for payment) and ex-post check of the project,
- evaluation of changes during the project implementation,
- monitoring of project implementation,
- administration of applications for payment,
- entering data on projects in OPTA information system,
 - verification of the compliance with legal acts on granting assistance/guidance documents,
 - sharing information and adequate cooperation with the OPTA MA in the verification and evaluation of the performance of delegated activities,
 - involvement in the OPTA publicity in accordance with the OPTA Communication Plan,
- identification and definition of risks (conduct of partial risk analysis),
 - keeping and storing of relevant documents regarding the OPTA,
 - certification – elaboration of source materials for the OPTA MA
- reporting a suspected irregularity to the OPTA MA,
- cooperation in the scheduling and conducting of controls.

2 Overview of Implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Progress achieved and its analysis

The following table gives a brief overview of highlights in OPTA implementation:

Table No 3: Overview of events

Date	Event	Notes
20 Jan 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	8 projects approved
31 Jan 2010	Annual CoP for 2010 was distributed to OPTA MC members for information	
16 Feb 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	2 projects approved
09 Mar 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	3 projects approved
26 Mar 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of the OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 52/2010
31 Mar 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	1 project approved
15 Apr 2010 (published)	Controlled documentation: OPTA Operational Manual, version 4.0, effective from 1 May 2010	Published by OPTA MA
April 2010	Outputs of evaluation of OPTA absorption capacity	For Executive Summary see the website, OPTA section
26 May 2010	5 th regular meeting of OPTA MC	
26 May 2010	Approval of Annual Report of OPTA for 2009 by OPTA MC	
26 May 2010	Approval of the central contact point of AFCOS as a new beneficiary under Intervention area 3.1 by OPTA MC	
23 Jun 2010	Receipt of information from the EC on the admissibility of the Annual Report of OPTA for 2009	
25 Jun 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	10 projects approved

Date	Event	Notes
28 Jun 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 120/2010
30 Jun 2010	Approval of Management and control systems of OPTA	Internally by OPTA MA
02 Jul 2010	EC opinion on the inconsistency of data in the Annual Report for 2009	
30 Jul 2010	Changes in structure and staffing of MRD: Changes in the top management of OPTA MA Department	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 142/2010
23 Jul 2010	Receipt of a notification from the EC concerning the inconsistency of data in the Annual Report of OPTA for 2009	
03 Aug 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 149/2010
04 Aug 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	4 projects were approved
25- 26 Aug 2010	Training for beneficiaries under OPTA	
01 Sep 2010	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries under OPTA, version 6.0, effective from 1 Sep 2010	Published by OPTA MA
14 Sep 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 191/2010
29 Sep 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	7 projects were approved
September 2010	Completion of evaluation of OPTA monitoring system	For Executive Summary see the website, OPTA section
15 Oct 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No

Date	Event	Notes
		213/2010
21 Oct 2010	Receipt of the EC information on the admissibility of the Annual Report for 2009	No comment
25 Oct 2010	Training for beneficiaries under OPTA	
24 Nov 2010	6 th regular meeting of OPTA Monitoring Committee (OPTA MC)	
24 Nov 2010	Approval of OPTA Annual Evaluation Plan for 2011 by OPTA MC	
24 Nov 2010	Approval of inclusion of a new supported activity (preparation and acquisition of the monitoring system for 2014+ programming period) in Priority axis 2, Intervention area 2.1 by OPTA MC	
08 Dec 2010	Change in the composition of OPTA Selection Committee and change in and publishing of the Statute of OPTA Selection Committee	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 251/2010
01 Dec 2010	Meeting of OPTA Selection Committee	7 projects were approved
01 Dec 2010	Information on a new case of suspected irregularity entered in MSC2007	
03 Dec 2010	Referring the first identified suspected irregularity to the Tax Office for further investigation	
09 Dec 2010	Approval of OPTA MC Statute	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 254/2010
22 Dec 2010	Changes in the structure and staffing of MRD: Changes in the top management of OPTA MA Department	Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 266/2010 (effective from 31 Dec 2011)
Biannually in line with the date of OPTA MC	Report on implementation of OPTA	

Date	Event	Notes
Quarterly	Report on irregularities	Published by OPTA MA
Quarterly	Quarterly summary report on the progress of absorption under OPTA	
Biannually	Summary report on risk management	Published by OPTA MA
Biannually	Plans for the fulfilment of allocations in intervention areas	Based on the data from OPTA IS and scheduled activities of beneficiaries
Biannually	Evaluation of risks of projects	
Quarterly	Monitoring of needs of target groups	Based on the recommendations arising from the evaluation of absorption capacity (from 2 nd quarter of 2010)
Quarterly	Sending the conclusions of working groups to the EC and OP MA	
Biannually	Update of successful projects on the website	

2.1.1 Information on physical progress of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance

In the OPTA the quality data and information on the progress of programme implementation is obtained based on the system of monitoring indicators defined in the Programming Document. They are fulfilled at the level of individual projects and measure the achievement of programme objectives and effects achieved.

The OPTA uses the output, result and impact indicators, as illustrated in the Table No 4 below.

Table No 4: Map of OPTA indicators

NCI code / Type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total
48.27.00 Impact indicator	Rate of shortening of the administrative process in the project administration	%	MA IS	Achieved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				Baseline	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	80
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	16	22	32	82	N/A	82
				Baseline	16	16	22	32	N/A	16
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	65
48.03.00 Output indicator	Number of meetings of the respective bodies (monitoring, advisory and managing)	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	12	14	15	54	N/A	54
				Baseline	12	12	14	15	N/A	12
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	92
48.05.00 Output indicator	Conducted studies and elaborated reports	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	3	43	47	72	N/A	72
				Baseline	3	3	43	47	N/A	3
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27	27
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	40	133	217	422	N/A	422
				Baseline	40	40	133	217	N/A	40
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	395	395

NCI code / Type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons - total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	320	1 501	2 061	3 230	N/A	3 230
				Baseline	320	320	1 501	2 061	N/A	320
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 480	4 480
48.31.00 Output indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	132,50	293,58	370,99	316,48	N/A	316,48 ¹
				Baseline	132,50	132,50	293,58	370,99	N/A	132,50
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	345,00	345,00
48.31.01 Result indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure for more than 3 years	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	13	13	37	N/A	37
				Baseline	0	0	13	13	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	170	170
48.09.00 Output indicator	Number of performed information and publicity activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	2	2	9	N/A	9
				Baseline	0	0	2	2	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15
48.10.00 Result indicator	Number of visits to the website (website hits)	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	N/A	3 080 000
				Baseline	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	N/A	3 080 000
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 000 000	6 000 000
48.13.00 Result indicator	Number of downloads of electronic documents	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	N/A	1 977 000
				Baseline	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	N/A	1 977 000
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 500 000	3 500 000

¹ According to the Methodology of monitoring, the indicator 48.31.00 covers also the baseline value. The actual achieved value of the number of staff, however, equals 183.98 (not 316.48) since the baseline value of 132.5 is already included in the achieved value and by the application of the general rule of adding the baseline value to the value achieved (in line with the Methodology of monitoring) it is included twice in the sum total.

NCI code / Type of indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total
48.21.00 Output indicator	Increase in HW capacity	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 000	30 000
48.23.00 Output indicator	Number of contracted programming hours	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	15 125,6	N/A	15 125,6
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000
48.24.00 Output indicator	Number of newly purchased ICT equipment	Number	MA IS	Achieved	0	0	0	7	N/A	7
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000
48.24.20 Output indicator	Number of purchased technical equipment, except for ICT	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	600	600
48.24.30 Output indicator	Purchase of software	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	2	N/A	2
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000

Source: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 1 Mar 2011

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS MONIT7+ with the approved monitoring report.

¹The target was set for the whole programming period.

N/A is currently given for indicator 48.27.00. The actual fulfilment of the indicator will be ascertained by the evaluation studies to be first conducted in 2011.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

Comments on the system of indicators in OPTA

Based on the so far gained experience in 2010 the method of calculation with respect to the indicator No 48.31.00 The number of staff employed in the implementation structure was specified.

In the last quarter of 2010, the evaluation of OPTA system of indicators was launched which may result not only in proposals for changes in the values of indicators, but also for their potential extension. The conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation shall be reflected in the OPTA revision, currently elaborated in order to be discussed by the OPTA MC in the first half of 2011.

2.1.1.1 OVERVIEW OF ANNOUNCED CALLS

A general continuous call was announced on 14 May 2008. It is the 1st call for applications for granting assistance in 2007-2010 period under the OPTA. It covers all the priority axes and it was updated three times, once in 2008 and twice in 2009.

Overview of updates of the call

In 2010 the call was not updated.

Table No 5 “Overview of announced and ongoing calls (EU + national sources)” presents the following information: altogether 113 applications in the total amount of EUR 260 921 069 were submitted under all the priority axes of OPTA, of which in 2010 a total of 42 applications in the amount of EUR 54 818 864 were submitted. In 83 projects amounting to EUR 140 940 928 the Decision was issued/Contract was signed, of which in 2010 it concerned altogether 34 projects totalling EUR 71 468 913.

Table No 5: Overview of announced and ongoing calls (EU + national sources) – cumulatively

Sequence number of the call	Submission of project applications – Opening date for the receipt of project applications	Submission of project applications – Closing date of the call	Type of the call	Number of the priority axis/ intervention area / sub-area	Allocation for the call	Submitted applications for support in 2010*		Projects with issued Decision / signed Contract* in 2010	
					In EUR	number	in EUR	number	in EUR
1.	14. 5. 2008	31. 12. 2013	Continuous	1a 1b	30 464 478	8	19 016 363	7	10 469 216
2.				2a 2b	58 301 925	48	107 526 452	28	24 831 854
3.				3a 3b	121 950 808	54	111 729 245	46	83 192 909
4.				4a 4b	80 792 407	3	22 649 010	2	22 446 949
Total	---	---	---	---	291 509 618	113	260 921 069	83	140 940 928

Note: The call was announced for the total amount of public funds.

Source: The allocations for the call given in the table are expressed in EUR as specified in the update of the call published on 14 Sep 2009. The amounts were calculated using the exchange rate of 26 CZK/EUR.

MSC246 and report R17, the figures are expressed cumulatively since the launch of the implementation, i.e. 2007-2010 period, the data is generated as of 5 Jan 2011

* it is calculated at the exchange rate of 25.24 CZK/EUR

2.1.2 Information on financial data of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance

The total public sources equal EUR 291 509 618 (EU + SB). The total certified eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries equals EUR 19 505 069.11 (EU + SB). The contribution from public sources amounted to EUR 19 505 069.11. The share of certified eligible expenditure in the total programme financing is 6.69%.

Table No 6: Information on financial data of the OPTA in EUR

	Total funds for the operational programme (EU + SB)	Basis for the calculation of EU contribution (from public funds or total)	Total certified eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries	Contribution from public sources	Share of certified eligible expenditure in total programme financing (%)
<i>Priority axis 1a</i> ERDF type expenditure	30 000 000	Public	2 433 938	2 433 938	8 %
<i>Priority axis 1b</i> ERDF type expenditure	464 478	Public	38 799	38 799	8 %
<i>Priority axis 2a</i> ERDF type expenditure	57 372 968	Public	6 381 900	6 381 900	11 %
<i>Priority axis 2b</i> ERDF type expenditure	928 957	Public	103 165	103 165	11 %
<i>Priority axis 3a</i> ERDF type expenditure	120 000 000	Public	9 893 832	9 893 832	8 %
<i>Priority axis 3b</i> ERDF type expenditure	1 950 808	Public	160 305	160 305	8 %
<i>Priority axis 4a</i> ERDF type expenditure	79 491 869	Public	485 241	485 241	1 %
<i>Priority axis 4b</i> ERDF type expenditure	1 300 538	Public	7 891	7 891	1 %
Grand total	291 509 618	-----	19 505 070	19 505 070	7 %

Note: Contribution from ERDF at the level of OPTA is calculated in relation to eligible public expenditure.

The cross financing option is not exploited in OPTA.

Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 25.24 CZK (monthly exchange rate taken over from MSC2007); the exchange rate for certified expenditure is different because it depends on the date of entry of the items in the PCA accounting system.

The values are rounded to whole numbers.

Source MSC2007 – data until 31 Dec 2010

2.1.2.1 INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN OF OPTA

The financing plan allocated a total of EUR 30 464 481 for Priority axis 1, a total of EUR 58 301 924 for Priority axis 2, a total of EUR 121 950 804 EUR for Priority axis 3 and a total of EUR 80 792 408 for Priority axis 4. A total of EUR 291 509 617 was allocated to the OPTA according to the financing plan.

Table No 7: Financing plan of the OPTA by priority axis (EUR) - cumulatively

Priority axis/ Intervention area	Fund	Community contribution (EUR)	Public funds total (EUR)	Share in total allocation for the OP (%)
1.	ERDF	25 894 808	30 464 481	10,45
1.1	ERDF	15 536 887	18 278 691	6,27
1.2	ERDF	2 589 481	3 046 450	1,04
1.3	ERDF	3 884 220	4 569 670	1,57
1.4	ERDF	3 884 220	4 569 670	1,57
2.	ERDF	49 556 634	58 301 924	20,00
2.1	ERDF	49 556 634	58 301 924	20,00
3.	ERDF	103 658 184	121 950 804	41,83
3.1	ERDF	72 560 729	85 365 564	29,28
3.2	ERDF	31 097 455	36 585 240	12,55
4.	ERDF	68 673 546	80 792 408	27,71
4.1	ERDF	54 938 836	64 633 925	22,17
4.2	ERDF	13 734 710	16 158 483	5,54
Total	---	247 783 172	291 509 617	100,00

Note: Amounts in EUR are set as fixed amounts.
Source: MSC 2007

2.1.2.2 ADVANCE AND INTERIM PAYMENTS

The OPTA MA received the advance payments in the amount of : EUR 4 955 663.44 (23 Jan 2008), EUR 7 433 495.16 (18 Feb 2008), EUR 4 955 663.44 (5 Feb 2009) and EUR 4 955 663.44 (20 Apr 2009). The OPTA MA shall receive the interim payment after each certification of expenditure, when the payment request is forwarded to the EC for the EU share in the certified amount.

2.1.2.3 N+3/ N+2 RULE

The OPTA MA monitors the fulfilment of n+3/n+2 rule by priority axis, further divided into individual intervention areas. The progress achieved in the absorption of SF funds is monitored in individual project applications and the rate of absorption is compared against the amount of allocation for the given year/allocation minus the advance payments received from the EC. The cut off point in terms of the achievement of n+3/n+2 targets is the status achieved at the time when the application for payment is sent to the EC. Included in the fulfilment of n+2/n+3 rule are the advance payments received from the EC. In 2010, interim applications for payment totalling EUR 14 212 081.37 (EU contribution) were submitted to the EC. The 2008 allocation (the advance payments from EC inclusive) was absorbed in 2011.

Table No 8: Allocated funds (applications/projects)

Financing plan - year	Total allocation of EU funds 2007 - 2013 - annual	N+3 / N+2 ceilings - aggregate *	EC advance payments - annual	Requests for interim/final payment submitted to the EC - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests of the CR - annual	Advance payments from the EC + payment requests - aggregate	Difference between ceilings and payments - aggregate
		A	b	c	d=b+c	e	f=e-a
2007	30 784 454	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2008	32 283 199	-----	12 389 158,60	-----	12 389 158,60	12 389 158,60	-----
2009	33 788 660	-----	9 911 326,88	2 367 227,14	12 278 554,02	24 667 712,62	-----
2010	35 364 230	-----	-----	14 212 081,37	14 212 081,37	38 879 793,99	-----
2011	36 940 733	37 413 941	-----			38 879 793,99	1 465 852,65
2012	38 511 774	76 333 344	-----				
2013	40 110 122	158 899 791	-----				
2014	-----	202 542 308	-----				
2015	-----	247 783 172	-----				
Total	247 783 172	247 783 172,00	22 300 485,48	16 579 308,51	38 879 793,99	38 879 793,99	-208 903 378,01

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 25.24 CZK (monthly exchange rate taken over from MSC2007).

Total allocation of EU funds in 2007 – 2013 period was taken over from the OPTA Programming Document.

* n+3 rule applies to 2008-2010, n+2 rule applies to 2011-2013

* In monitoring the n+2/n+3 rule, 1/6 of the allocation for 2007 was added to the amounts allocated to 2008-2013, i.e. the n+3 rule does not apply to 2007 allocation. The actual amount of allocations for individual years does not change.

2.1.2.4 CROSS-FINANCING

The OPTA does not offer the option of cross-financing since it allows for both the investment and non-investment expenditure and therefore it is unnecessary to draw down the funds from another programme. The option of cross-financing for the OPTA is not laid down in any OPTA methodology or the OPTA Programming Document.

2.1.3 Breakdown of use of the funds

The following table refers to Community contributions only.

Table No 9: Priority themes of OPTA

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Continuous fulfilment ² (EUR)	
Priority theme	Form of financing	Type of territory	Economic activity	Geographical location	Absorbed*	Allocation for the theme in the OP
81 – Mechanisms of better creation, monitoring and evaluation of good policies and programmes at the national, regional and local level, building capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	76 511 315	130 122 601
85 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	35 111 000	43 783 580
86 – Evaluation and studies; information and communication	01	01	Public administration	CZ01 CZ02 CZ03 CZ04 CZ05 CZ06 CZ07 CZ08	23 350 905	73 876 991

² Status of the projects is P4 or further up in the process.

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Continuous fulfilment² (EUR)	
<i>Priority theme</i>	<i>Form of financing</i>	<i>Type of territory</i>	<i>Economic activity</i>	<i>Geographical location</i>	Absorbed*	Allocation for the theme in the OP
Total					134 973 221	247 783 172

Note: Code Theme 2 – Form of financing: 01 = Non-repayable aid; Code Theme 3 – Type of territory: 01 = Town; Code Theme 5 – Geographical location: CZ01 - CZ08 = NUTS II
The amounts "Absorbed" in EUR are calculated using the exchange rate from MSC of 25.24 CZK/EUR as of 5 Jan 2011. The amount of allocation is taken over from the OPTA Programming Document.

*It refers to project status from P4 further up in the process.

The values are rounded to whole numbers.

2.1.4 Assistance by target group

The target groups by priority axis are the following:

Priority axis 1a: Management and Coordination Support – Convergence objective
Priority axis 1b: Management and Coordination Support – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Management of NSRF implementation

MRD and OP implementation structure

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Financial management, control and audit

MoF – Paying and Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and AAE

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Management and coordination of ESC

Institutions involved in management and coordination of ESC through their membership in the Management and Coordination Committee

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation of MRD

Intervention area – Preparation of new programming period 2014+

Institutions involved in management and coordination of ESC through their membership in Working Group on the cohesion policy of MCC.

Priority axis 2a: Monitoring – Convergence objective

Priority axis 2b: Monitoring – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Monitoring system

MRD – NCA

Managing Authorities of OPs

MoF – Paying and Certifying Authority, Audit Authority

Priority axis 3a: Administrative and Absorption Capacity – Convergence objective

Priority axis 3b: Administrative and Absorption Capacity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Support for administrative structures, including vocational training

State administration authorities involved in NSRF implementation

Managing Authorities of OPs

Regions and municipalities

Intervention area – Support for absorption capacity

MRD

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation

Central state administration authorities and organisations established by them

Regions, municipalities, unions of municipalities, public service companies

Natural and legal persons

Priority axis 4a: Publicity – Convergence objective
Priority axis 4b: Publicity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Target groups:

Intervention area – Activities for information and publicity

MRD

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisation

Managing Authorities of OPs

MoF

Regions and municipalities

Intervention area – Administration of communication and management tools of OPTA CoP

MRD

Managing Authorities of OPs

CRD – state semi-budgetary (contributory) organisations of MRD

Central state administration authorities and organisations established by them

List of aid beneficiaries under the OPTA is available on the Structural Funds website:

<http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/getdoc/7dbbbee9-9668-479f-9383-929c35fa04fb/aktualni-seznam-prijemcu>.

2.1.4.1 INVESTMENTS IN REGIONS

Projects submitted under the OPTA are of systemic nature and have an impact on the whole territory of the Czech Republic.

2.1.5 *Assistance repaid or re-used*

In the course of 2010 no funds were repaid.

2.1.6 Qualitative analysis

The “Qualitative analysis” table presents a summary of contracted/paid/certified funds of beneficiaries in individual priority axes. By the end of 2010, the funds amounting to EUR 140.9 million were approved for the implementation of projects, i.e. 48% of the total allocation for the programme. The largest share of funds was approved under Priority axes 2 and 3. The beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of EUR 34.9 million, representing 12% of the total allocation. The largest share of reimbursed funds is reported by Priority axes 2 and 3. By the end of 2010, funds in the amount of EUR 19.5 million were certified (7% of the allocation for the programme).

Table No 10: Financial progress - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation for 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision / Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries		Certified funds submitted to the EC	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	B	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
1.1	18 278 691	8 399 366	46%	1 757 714	10%	1 301 035	7%
1,2	3 046 450	1 356 696	45%	1 187 454	39%	1 151 858	38%
1,3	4 569 670	515 055	11%	20 344	0%	19 844	0%
1.4	4 569 670	198 098	4%	0	0%	0	0%
PA 1	30 464 481	10 469 216	34%	2 965 512	10%	2 472 736	8%
2.1	58 301 924	24 795 854	43%	9 050 485	16%	6 485 065	11%
PA 2	58 301 924	24 795 854	43%	9 050 485	16%	6 485 065	11%
3.1	85 365 564	76 417 948	90%	16 047 914	19%	10 008 242	12%
3.2	36 585 240	6 774 960	19%	46 440	0%	45 895	0%
PA 3	121 950 804	83 192 909	68%	16 094 354	13%	10 054 137	8%
4.1	64 633 925	18 881 181	29%	6 860 565	11%	493 131	1%
4.2	16 158 483	3 565 769	22%	0	0%	0	0%
PA 4	80 792 408	22 446 949	28%	6 860 565	8%	493 131	1%
Total	291 509 617	140 904 928	48%	34 970 917	12%	19 505 069	7%

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 25.4 CZK (monthly exchange rate taken from MSC2007 as of 5 Jan 2011).
Source: MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values given in the table cover the period until 5 Jan 2011

2.1.6.1 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPTA IN 2010

In view of initial problems associated with the launch of this operational programme, a considerable number of projects has been submitted and approved, despite the limited group of beneficiaries. In 2010:

- A total of 42 new project applications requiring EUR 54 818 864 were received.
- 34 projects in the total amount of EUR 71 468 913 were approved for financing.
- A total of 12 projects in the amount of EUR 11 631 053 were financially completed.
- Based on the applications for payment, the beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of **EUR 18 223 586** (for 2010), i.e. **6 %** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007 – 2013 period.
- Based on the applications for payment, the beneficiaries were reimbursed a total of **EUR 34 970 917**, i.e. **12 %** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007-2013 period.
- Funds totalling **EUR 19 505 069**, i.e. **7 %** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007- 2013 period, were certified.
- Funds totalling **EUR 10 910 011** (for 2010), i.e. **4 %** of the total OPTA allocation for 2007-2013 period were certified.

The progress in OPTA implementation in 2010 as against 2009 is obvious. In 2009, altogether 26 projects were approved. In 2010, altogether 34 projects were approved. There is also a remarkable difference in the volume of funds paid to beneficiaries in 2009 (EUR 10.5 million) and in 2010 (EUR 35 million).

In 2007 - 2010 period, of the total number of 113 submitted project applications, 83 projects were approved, i.e. 73 % of approved projects of the total number of received project applications.

The projects approved in 2007 - 2010 period in the amount of EUR 140 940 928 represent the commitment of 48% of the total OPTA allocation for the whole 2007 – 2013 programming period.

The above mentioned information on the achieved values corresponds also with the progress described in detail in Chapter 2.1.6.3 Results achieved by means of assistance from OPTA and also in Chapter 3, describing the progress by priority axis.

2.1.6.2 PROBLEMS AND RISKS ENCOUNTERED IN ABSORPTION

1. *Transfer of unused funds within projects between individual stages*

The implementation of activities within the projects are delayed which requires administrative changes in projects, during which funds are transferred from the already completed stage into the next stage. Frequent administrative changes in projects put at risk the 100% absorption of 2008 allocation according to the n+3 rule. The delays in the implementation of project activities are caused by protracted preparation of tenders (administration and time intensive procedures – multi-round comment procedures), cancellation of already prepared and approved tenders as a result of the change in strategy of the contracting authority or failure to observe the rules governing the tenders, which leads to the creation of ineligible expenditure and failure to absorb the funds as planned for the given stage.

The situation can hardly be solved by the OPTA MA. The OPTA MA regularly informs the management on risky projects, primarily for the reason of potential impacts on the fulfilment of n+3 rule. The OPTA MA addresses these matters on regular meetings with beneficiaries and monitors the risky projects in terms of their compliance with the timetable of activities.

The OPTA MA is currently conducting evaluation of OPTA mid-term progress, the conclusions and recommendations of which shall be conducive to programme revision in order for the allocated funds to be efficiently and effectively absorbed.

2. Non-compliance with public procurement rules

Within the submitted projects, a number of public procurement procedures (tenders) of various types is scheduled or has already been conducted. The Managing Authority as the entity responsible for the management and implementation of the operational programme in line with the principle of sound financial management shall ensure that all the beneficiaries acting as contracting authorities in the award of any contracts adhere to the general principles of the Treaty Establishing the European Community and the principles laid down in Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts. Since large sums are often involved, it is essential to ensure the conduct of tenders free from any errors that would lead to recoveries or failure to absorb the EU funds. In 2010, also the award of contract by direct order appeared to be an issue since the cases of division of contracts were identified.

Examples of the most frequent errors in the award of contracts:

- 1) Wrongly assessed object of the contract, when the subsequent checks detect its unauthorised division, and the absence of a stricter regime governing the award of contracts (especially when the contracts are awarded by direct orders).
- 2) Non-compliance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination, e.g.:
 - a) limited access to the same scope of information,
 - b) unjustified restriction of participation of tenderers by setting by far too strict conditions for participation,
 - c) unclear terms of reference.
- 3) Other errors
 - a) Including the qualification requirements in evaluation criteria,
 - b) Failure to observe the deadlines and procedures,
 - c) Inadequate archiving of documents on public procurement/tender procedure (insufficient audit trail),
 - d) Wrongly set foreseen value of the contract.

The measures directed at the removal of deficiencies in the award of public contract include e.g.:

- Conclusion of contracts of mandate with law offices that specialise in public procurement and can provide necessary professional support and expertise throughout the public procurement procedure,
- In-depth training of the implementation structure staff as well as beneficiaries in the field of award of public contracts within or beyond the scope of law.

3. Setting up the monitoring indicators under the OPTA

In 2010 the applicants in the preparation of their project applications were faced with the impossibility to use such an indicator in their project that would clearly serve the purpose of monitoring of the achievement of project objectives. The existing system of OPTA indicators fails to ensure a quality physical monitoring of projects, or the programme in general.

In the 4th quarter of 2010 the OPTA MA commenced the evaluation of the system of indicators, within which the design of indicators, their material correctness, satisfying the needs of applicants and also the setting up of the target values will be subject to assessment. The evaluation will result in proposals for the modifications to the system of indicators, including the recommendations suggesting the introduction of new indicators and adjustments of target values.

2.1.6.3 RESULTS ACHIEVED BY MEANS OF ASSISTANCE FROM OPTA:

1. Enhancing the qualification of employees through specialised training courses and seminars

In the framework of the existing projects of NSRF Education and Training Unit focused on education and training of NSRF staff 300 employees were trained in project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00028 and 323 employees in project CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00029. Thus a total of 623 persons were trained in 2010.

With respect to the enhancement of qualification of employees involved in the NSRF implementation, the NCA published a Methodological Guideline on the education and training of employees in the framework of the "System of Education and training of employees involved in the implementation of the National Strategic Reference Framework in the period from 2007 to 2013" effective from 1 March 2010. In line with the Government Resolution No 166/2008 on the System of education and training of employees involved in the implementation of NSRF in 2007 - 2013 period, the NCA by this methodological guideline laid down the basic principles and procedures of the participation of the NSRF implementation structure employees in educational events within the system of education and training aimed at enhancing qualification in the field of EU funds.

2. Ensuring the administrative capacity, including horizontal institutions

The Government Resolution No 818/2007 imposes upon all the heads (directors) of the central state administration authorities, under whose responsibility the function of the managing authorities is carried out, to present a report on the status of administrative capacity annually by 30 April to the Minister of Finance and to the Minister for Regional Development. The NCA analyses these reports of individual OP MAs and elaborates a summary output to be handed over to the government as of 30 June. In the period from February to April 2010, an evaluation was conducted based on the acquired data and the verification of data validity at the individual implementation structure bodies (MA, IB, AAE) in their respective place of operation. The evaluation resulted in the assessment of the appropriateness of identified processes and in the determination of the binding number of staff in line with the set up procedures of implementation, or with the administration of submitted projects after the opening of calls under the OP concerned, etc. In June 2010, the NCA drafted a material based on the individual Reports on ensuring administrative capacity which was to be submitted to the government and the final output was handed over to the AA of MoF on 30 Jun 2010.

3. Methodological guidance of managing authorities of individual operational programmes

There are regular meetings of WG, held under the responsibility of the NCA and the Monitoring System Administration Department (MSAD).

Under the auspices of the NCA the following WGs are convened:

- WG Information and Publicity of EU funds
- WG Education for the NSRF
- WG Evaluation
- WG Control, audit, irregularities (CAI)
- WG NCA
- WG Absorption capacity

Under the auspices of the MSAD the following WG is convened:

- WG Single Monitoring System (SMS) – the meetings are held every month

4. Cross-cutting matters addressed at the central level

Priority axis 1:

In 2010, a total of 18 meetings of monitoring, managing and advisory bodies were held under project CZ.1.08/1.1.00/08.00023. These were particularly the meetings of WG NCA and other working groups (Control, audit and irregularities, AbCap, Evaluation, Winding up, Methodological guidance of ROP), Panel of deputy ministers and OPTA MC.

The NCA in collaboration with other entities organised 15 training courses, seminars and conferences, namely the following:

- Seminar on eligible expenditure
- Seminar on irregularities
- Training course on “Ensuring synergies between operational programmes 2007 - 13”
- Training course for beneficiaries on OPTA HAB
- Seminar on JESSICA financial instrument
- Seminar on major projects
- Seminar on the implementation of JESSICA financial instrument
- Conference on the future of Cohesion policy
- Conference IQ NET
- Seminar on state aid

Priority axis 2:

In 2010, several CRD projects were completed. Within these projects the applications for central development of MONIT7+ information system and BENEFIT7 electronic application were modified. The services of the Design and analytical competence for the provision of information support to Single Information System for operational programmes of 2007 – 2013 programming period. Further on, 35 training courses for 370 employees of managing authorities of OPs and intermediate bodies were held with major focus on the monitoring systems of BENEFIT7 and MONIT7+.

Priority axis 3:

The NCA launched the implementation of ad hoc educational activities for MA, IB and AAE that shall continue until a contractor to supply the System of education and training is selected in a tender.

Priority axis 4:

In the course of 2010 e.g. the following activities were performed:

Conference “Structural Funds in the CR: Successful Past, Promising Future”

The conference was held in Prague on 29 Apr 2010 and it was attended by approximately 300 members of professional public who received the copies of the leaflet called EU Funds – Current Status and copies of the newsletter concerning the results of 2004 – 2006 programming period and their effects on 2007 – 2013 programming period.

A mini campaign on the results of the last programming period and their effects on the current programming period

As a part of the mini campaign, the above referred to conference “Structural Funds in the CR: Successful Past, Promising Future” was held, a newsletter was issued and an advertising campaign was conducted (the newsletter concerning the results of 2004 - 2006 programming period and their effects on the current programming period was published in the circulation of 65 000 copies)

The press releases on the implementation of ESC policy in the CR (e.g. press releases based on the Monthly monitoring reports or on topical issues)

European Funds leaflet

Once a month a leaflet on the current progress in the absorption of EU funds was published.

2.1.6.4 CONTRIBUTION OF OPTA TO EU HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVES

Equal opportunities:

Equal opportunities are irrelevant in case of the OPTA with respect to the design of its priority axes.

Sustainable development:

Sustainable development is divided into three parts – social, environmental and economic. Pursuant to Article 17 of the General Regulation the sustainable development focuses predominantly on the protection of environment and improvement of its quality. The OPTA, however, does not have any direct impact on the environment.

Principle of partnership:

The principle of partnership is irrelevant in case of the OPTA.

2.1.6.5 CONTRIBUTION OF OP ASSISTANCE TO THE LISBON STRATEGY OBJECTIVES (= EARMARKING)

The contribution of OP assistance to the Lisbon strategy objectives is irrelevant in case of the OPTA. The number of submitted project applications, including their financial requirements, is illustrated in Table No 5 (Overview of announced and ongoing calls (EU + national sources) – cumulatively).

2.2 Information about the Compliance with Community Legislation

In 2010, during the implementation of the OP deficiencies concerning the observation of public procurement rules by beneficiaries were addressed . The issues, however, were identified prior to the approval of the simplified application for payment and therefore did not impact the amount of certified expenditure.

The OPTA MA issues a system of controlled documentation, covering the whole system of OP implementation, which is in line with the CR and Community legislation. The system of controlled documentation as to its content and formal aspects puts an emphasis on the compliance with the rules of:

- § Competition,
- § Public procurement.

2.2.1 Rules of competition

The funds earmarked for the implementation of the OP are regarded to be public funds, the provision of which is subject to the relevant EU rules applicable to the state aid and national legislation. The provision of state aid, however, is irrelevant in case of the OPTA with respect to the structure of beneficiaries.

2.2.2 Public procurement

With respect to the award of public contracts, the OPTA programming documentation imposes upon all the beneficiaries an obligation to proceed in line with Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts, as amended, which reflects the European directives governing the award of public contracts No 2004/17/EC and No 2004/18/EC, and simultaneously follows the additional rules stipulated by the OPTA. The OPTA

procedures for the award of public contracts included in the OPTA HAB build on the NCA document called "Binding procedures for the award of contracts co-financed from the EU funds, outside the scope of Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts in 2007 – 2013 programming period". The award of public contracts is subject to controls by the OPTA MA.

2.2.3 Environmental protection

Environmental protection is irrelevant with respect to the focus of projects under the OPTA.

2.2.4 Support to equal opportunities

Support to equal opportunities is irrelevant with respect to the focus of projects under the OPTA.

2.3 Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

2.3.1 OPTA information systems

In accordance with the approved Evaluation Plan of OPTA for 2010, the OPTA MA performed the Evaluation of the Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as the MS) of the OPTA. The aim of the study drawn up by an external evaluator was to elaborate source materials for the potential enhancement of effectiveness of programme management, control of the design and functioning of the monitoring systems of MONIT7+ and BENEFIT7 for the sake of improved quality of absorption of EU funds. The evaluator arrived at the conclusion that the monitoring systems of OPTA comply with the methodologies of monitoring of OPTA and there is nothing which would make effective monitoring of OPTA impossible. It was also identified by the evaluation that the monitoring system of OPTA, including the information system of BENEFIT 7 and MONIT 7+, meet the requirements of the user as to its functioning and reliability for the purpose of effective monitoring of OPTA.

Based on the outputs of evaluation, the OPTA MA introduced regular monitoring of the timeliness of entering the input data and the error rate in IS MONIT7+ software. Based on the outcomes of evaluation, measures will be taken in the form of training courses on methodology.

Backup office of the monitoring system of Structural Funds

So far, the backup office for the monitoring system of Structural Funds has not been fully equipped. In accordance with the accomplishment of tasks of the Action Plan for the Monitoring System adopted by Resolution of the Government of the CR No 751 of 8 June 2009, the data backups are arranged for by the IT Department of MRD in cooperation with the system supplier until the backup office is fully operational. The backup office is addressed by OPTA projects.

2.3.2 OPTA staffing

In 2010, four employment contracts were terminated within the OPTA MA, of which one in the trial period, two employees left for other institutions, one employment contract was terminated as a consequence of state administration staff streamlining. Moreover, one employee was transferred to another post within the MRD. On the contrary, only one employee was hired which indicates that the OPTA MA administrative capacity is certainly not optimal. The understaffing was obvious especially in Autumn 2010 when two members of the OPTA MA staff left within a short period of time. Steps were taken to improve this situation which will bear fruit only at the beginning of 2011.

In the context of organisational changes at the Ministry for Regional Development (MRD), the NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department was cancelled and starting from 1 Oct 2010 its agenda has become the responsibility of the Autonomous EU Publicity Unit and the NSRF Training and Education Unit, which is an integral part of the OPTA Managing Authority Department, though entrusted by the minister to independently carry out activities related to NCA agenda and to represent the beneficiaries under the OPTA.

2.3.3 General audit findings

The Authorised Audit Entity of MRD conducted two audits in 2010:

- 1) Audit on operations of OPTA with respect of expenditure submitted for certification as of 15 Sep 2009 (No 15/10/AEE)
- 2) Audit on OPTA system of implementation (No 18/10/AEE).

The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic Audit Authority – Central Harmonisation Unit pursuant to Article 62 para 1 letter d) point ii) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 18 para 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 reviewed the functioning of the management and control system in the OPTA in the period from 1 Jul 2009 to 30 Jun 2010. Subsequently, an unqualified opinion was issued, meaning that in the above referred to period the management and control system established for the purpose of OPTA complied with the valid requirements and functioned effectively and that the statements of expenditure presented to the Commission are correct and the underlying transactions are legal and regular.

Details on findings of audit No 15/10/AEE

Altogether 6 projects were subject to audit and in all of them findings with low degree of materiality were identified, with no direct impact on eligibility of expenditure. Taking into account the zero impact on funds, the qualification of findings of the Internal Audit and Authorised Audit Entity Department concerning these formal errors in the small-scale public contracts was taken over by the OPTA MA. Based on the requirement of the PCA of December 2010, however, two of these findings were referred to the tax office with local jurisdiction for investigation and in 2011 they will be addressed as suspected irregularities.

Details on findings of audit No 18/10/AEE

No 1 – The risk analysis does not deal with the identification of risks in the area of keeping separate accounts. The risk analysis fails to fully cover the area of keeping separate accounts, thus fails to provide adequate information on any potential risks in this field at beneficiaries. The field of keeping separate accounts is risky in terms of the eligibility of labour costs. (medium materiality)

Opinion of OPTA MA:

- The finding was partially accepted and reflected in the updated version of OPTA OM valid as of 10 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011.

No 2 – Inadequately documented ownership of property purchased from the assistance. Annex to the OPTA OM No 4_3 Report on the sustainability of project, namely its part concerning the evidencing of

ownership of property purchased from the assistance (in line with the provisions of the Conditions), requires an affidavit on due property handling and its record keeping in accounts, which is insufficient. According to Chapter 3.1 of the Methodological guidelines on eligible expenditure, it must be possible to support the expenditure (without exception) by accounting documents. (low to medium materiality)

Opinion of OPTA MA:

- It was reflected in the updated version of the OPTA OM valid as of 10 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011.

No 3 – Discrepancies in OPTA documentation regarding indirect costs. Inconsistencies between Chapters 2.4 and 4.3 of the OPTA HAB. Due to these inconsistencies, the beneficiary is not explicitly informed whether he can claim indirect costs in project financing. (low materiality)

Opinion of OPTA MA:

- It was reflected in the Methodological Guidelines No 21 valid as of 25 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011.

No 4 – Absence of an update of the OPTA documentation as concerns the segregation of incompatible functions. The procedures related to the segregation of incompatible functions, in the event of the OPTA MA becoming a beneficiary, are addressed in the Management and Control Systems and the respective chapters of the OPTA OM. Nonetheless, as of the date of the audit the referred to procedures were not updated in the Annex to the OPTA OM “Work procedures of the Budget Department of MRD.” (low materiality)

Opinion of OPTA MA:

- It was reflected in the Methodological Guidelines of OPTA MA No 17 and subsequently in the updated version of the OPTA OM valid as of 10 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011.

No 5 – Absence of an update of documentation regarding complaints – the changes made to the rules of organisation, namely the change in the unit responsible for record keeping of complaints and their investigation at MRD, were not reflected in the documentation. (low materiality)

- It was reflected in the Methodological Guidelines of OPTA MA No 21 published on 25 January 2011 and effective from 1 February 2011.

2.3.4 Absorption capacity under OPTA

The OPTA MA conducted an evaluation of absorption capacity under the OPTA. It aimed at the elaboration of source materials for potential modifications in OPTA, more effective programme management, enhancing quality of absorption of EU funds and the use of source materials for the purpose of compiling strategic and other reports on the programme. The evaluator focused on an indepth analysis of the below mentioned factors.

The total allocation for OPTA observes the limit for technical assistance of 4 % of the total amount allocated under both the objectives (Convergence objective and Regional competitiveness and employment objective). Based on to date progress in OPTA implementation and the ESC policy as a whole it is, however, possible to identify certain disproportions at the level of OPTA priority axes or intervention areas and some allocations can be considered to be rather excessive in view of the objectives, especially in Priority axis 4 Publicity and Intervention area 3.2 Absorption capacity.

The allocations for individual priority axes and intervention areas were set appropriately at the beginning of the programming period. During the OPTA implementation, though, certain facts emerged that can have an impact on the drawdown of funds under individual priority axes and intervention areas of OPTA and at the same time can put at risk the use of allocated funds. Nonetheless, according to the evaluator it seems to be premature to propose and conduct certain reallocations of funds between intervention areas, or priority axes of OPTA, namely especially for the reason that in some intervention areas no project applications have been submitted by applicants for activities foreseen for the whole programming period.

Based on the evaluation outputs, the OPTA MA adopted a number of measures, including e.g. regular monitoring of the needs of target groups, replacement of inflexible framework projects by the so called Plans for the use of allocation by the intervention area, more intensive communication with beneficiaries in

the form of regular meetings with beneficiaries, consultations on project applications and training courses, recommendation of smaller projects for implementation and the endeavour to simplify the public procurement procedures.

2.3.5 Statistics of project exclusion

In 2010 no projects were excluded from the OPTA. The beneficiaries largely use the consultations on their project applications offered by the OPTA MA/IB.

2.4 Changes in the Context of the OP Implementation (if relevant)

At the 5th meeting of OPTA MC held on 26 May 2010, the central contact point of AFCOS (Anti-Fraud Co-ordination Structure) was approved as a new beneficiary under Intervention area 3.1. The EC representatives reserved the right to express their opinion thereto only after the receipt of the official request from the OPTA MA.

At the 6th meeting of OPTA MC held on 24 November 2010, an approval was given to the inclusion of a new supported activity (preparation and acquisition of the monitoring system for programming period 2014+) in Priority axis 2 – Intervention area 2.1 and to the adoption of a more general name for the beneficiaries under the OPTA – namely the “NCA” instead of the NSRF Management and Coordination Department and the NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department.

The overall revision of the programme comprising the above mentioned changes as well as the changes approved by the OPTA MC in previous years shall be discussed at the 7th meeting of OPTA MC in 2011.

2.5 Substantial Modification under Article 57 of General Regulation (if relevant)

In 2010 no case of substantial modification under Article 57 para 1 letters a), b) of General Regulation was detected.

2.6 Complementarity with Other Instruments

The OPTA does not allow for any synergies.

2.7 Monitoring and ongoing evaluation arrangements

The Working Group for Single Monitoring System for 2007 - 2013 programming period was set up on 11 August 2008 based on the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 141/2008. This group is a MRD advisory body for coordination of the single monitoring system of the assistance from the EU funds in the CR. The Working Group shall discuss and approve proposals and requirements of the NSRF Management and Coordination Department as the central coordination authority, the Autonomous EU Publicity Unit (APU), OP MA, PCA and AA for the development of the single monitoring system. It shall also focus on the design, functionalities and optimisation of the single monitoring system as well as the requirements for all the levels of the single monitoring system with regard to the scope of data for central monitoring and linked external information systems. In its activities of the Working Group ensures the application of central methodology of monitoring at all the levels of the single monitoring system, its maintenance and development for the sake of provision of correct, updated and comparable data.

Principles of monitoring:

Monitoring is a set of interconnected activities. Monitoring focuses on collection, classification, aggregation and storage of data on projects, priority axes, the programme and on evaluation of the progress in their implementation as against the set out plan. Monitoring is conducted in line with the Methodology of monitoring of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period. The data from the single monitoring system represents the fundamental source of data for the OPTA MA that performs the monitoring of both the physical and financial progress achieved in programme implementation through quarterly, interim and annual reports. Moreover, it takes part in the specification of data for monthly monitoring reports, drawn up under the supervision of the NCA. Another source of data for monitoring are the supporting materials supplied by the OPTA MA to the OPTA MC members. In addition to that the OPTA MA communicates with beneficiaries on their project outlines, including changes/unclarities that arise in the course of project implementation. In such cases, too, the data from the single monitoring system may serve as an important basis for decision making.

2.7.1 Monitoring system

Throughout the year 2010, the monitoring system was continuously developed in order to meet the requirements for the administration of project applications and projects in the OPTA (requirements ensuing from changes to the OPTA OM). It also reflected the requirements placed by the NCA (requirements ensuing from changes to the “Methodology of monitoring of programmes of EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period” and the “Methodology of financial flows and controls of programmes co-financed from the Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund for 2007 – 2013 programming period”) for the modifications to the monitoring system for 2007 – 2013 programming period.

In the beginning of 2010, the submission of the so called computerised (electronic) monitoring reports was launched in the fully operational BENEFIT7 web application. This functionality was successfully exploited in the course of 2010.

Modifications to the existing functionalities were made to IS MONIT7+, which resulted primarily in the simplification and automation of the administration of applications for payment and also in more effective administration of projects.

In January 2010, modifications were rolled out in BENEFIT7, IS MONIT7+ as well as the linked Aid Information System of MRD reflecting the amendment to Decree No 560/2006 Coll., on the participation of the state budget in financing the programmes of asset reproduction. It consisted in extensive modifications to the referred to systems in order for them to comply with all the changes included in the amendment to the above mentioned Decree. The given changes were implemented and tested in the IS during the second half of 2009. In the course of 2010, all the changes were fully operational and fine tuned in line with the requirements ensuing from everyday use.

The development of MSC2007 is the responsibility of the MRD Monitoring System Administration Department and the OPTA MA is also involved in its development. The bulk of activities in 2010 consisted in the modifications to output reports, testing of data compliance and elimination of errors in data. The Monitoring System Administration Department of the MRD conducts regular monthly control of data completeness in physical monitoring. Its results are communicated to the Working Group for the Single Monitoring System. The Monitoring System Administration Department concluded that in the course of 2010 hardly any errors had been detected in data transfer and data completeness of OPTA IS.

In the course of 2010, for the sake of better information awareness and effective work with information systems, the Guide to BENEFIT7 OPTA was updated, i.e. instructions to elaborate a project application and administer the project in BENEFIT7 application, and the Guide to work procedures in OPTA IS, i.e. instructions to use IS MONIT7+ OPTA. A training course was held for the users of IS MONIT7+ OPTA with the aim to explain the functionalities and to contribute to the simplification of work of system users. A part of the training course on the updated OPTA HAB was devoted to the use of BENEFIT7 application.

2.7.2 **OPTA Monitoring Committee**

In the course of 2010 the following meetings were held:

- 2 regular meetings of OPTA MC.

5th regular meeting of OPTA MC

The meeting was held in Andel's Hotel, Stroupežnického 21, Prague 5 on 26 May 2010.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Recapitulation of main conclusions of the 4th OPTA MC
2. Annual report of OPTA for 2009
3. OPTA implementation
 - Report on evaluation of OPTA implementation system, including the acting upon recommendations
 - Evaluation of the monitoring system and other scheduled evaluations in OPTA
 - Report on implementation of the programme for the period from November 2009 to March 2010
 - Information on the status of absorption
 - Information on the status of implementation of selected projects under priority axes

Main conclusions:

- Following the 4th meeting of OPTA MC all the tasks listed in the main conclusions of the 4th meeting were accomplished.
- OPTA MC approved the Annual report of OPTA for 2009.
- OPTA MC took note of the Report on implementation of OPTA for the period from November 2009 to March 2010.
- OPTA MC approved the central contact point of AFCOS as a new beneficiary under intervention area 3.1
- MC discussed the measures ensuing from materials submitted to the government concerning the proposals for potential revisions of operational programmes.

6th regular meeting of OPTA MC

The meeting was held in Hotel Ambassador – Zlatá Husa, Václavské nám. 5-7, Prague 1 on 24 November 2010.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Recapitulation of main conclusions of the 5th OPTA MC
2. Changes in the Statute of OPTA MC
3. Proposal for OP revision
4. Evaluation plan of OPTA for 2011
5. OPTA implementation
 - a. Evaluation in OPTA:
 - Evaluation of the monitoring system
 - Evaluation of mid-term progress and system of indicators
 - Evaluation of publicity
 - b. Update of documentation
 - c. Report on implementation of the programme for the period from April to September 2010
 - d. Information on the status of absorption
 - e. Information on the status of implementation of selected projects under priority axes

Main conclusions:

- Following the 5th meeting of OPTA MC all the tasks listed in main conclusions of the 5th meeting were accomplished.
- OPTA MC unanimously approved the Statute of OPTA MC.
- OPTA MC approved the Annual evaluation plan of OPTA for 2011.
- OPTA MC approved the inclusion of a new supported activity (preparation and acquisition of the monitoring system for programming period 2014+) in Priority axis 2, Intervention are 2.1 and the use of more general name of OPTA beneficiaries – namely the “NCA” instead of the NSRF Management and Coordination Department and NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department.
- MC took note of the Report on implementation of the programme for the period from April to September 2010.

2.7.3 Evaluation of the programme

The Framework evaluation plan of OPTA for 2007 - 2013 period was approved at the 3rd OPTA MC on 16 June 2009. The Annual evaluation plan of OPTA for 2010 was approved at the end of 2009 by the OPTA MC through per rollam procedure. In the first half of 2010, the OPTA MA worked on the Annual report of OPTA for 2009, approved at the 5th meeting of OPTA MC on 26 May 2010.

In the framework of the fulfilment of the Annual evaluation plan of OPTA for 2010, the evaluation called “**Evaluation of absorption capacity in the framework of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance**“ was conducted in the first half of 2010. The evaluation was outsourced in the form of a small-scale contract. The objective of the evaluation was to evaluate the adequacy of allocation for individual OPTA priority axes and intervention areas, the process and financial management of the operational programme, to compare the use of OPTA and the technical assistance of the other operational programmes implemented in the Czech Republic in 2007 - 2013 programming period in terms of potential overlaps and potential substitution of activities. Moreover, assessed within the evaluation concerned were the needs of entities involved in NSRF implementation, the impacts of implementation on beneficiaries. Identified were critical points and barriers to the drawdown of funds under the OPTA, bearing in mind the fulfilment of n+3/n+2 rule. Apart from the evaluation of the financial progress in the absorption of assistance, also assessed was the contributions of OPTA assistance to the achievement of set out objectives expressed by indicators as well as the progress achieved in OPTA implementation.

The evaluation of absorption capacity comprised also the verification of procedural, financial and administrative set up of OPTA absorption capacity by the evaluator and particular proposals and measures to improve the OPTA implementation and management were drafted. The summary of conclusions of the evaluation is available on <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/Programy-2007-2013/Tematicke-operacni-programy/Operacni-program-Technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty/Dalsi-dokumenty>.

In the second half of 2010, a public contract called **Evaluation of the monitoring system (MONIT7+ and BENEFIT7) in the framework of OPTA** was delivered. The evaluation in the form of a small-scale contract was outsourced. The evaluation of the monitoring system in the framework of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance aimed at the verification of functioning and reliability of the system and other requirements of the monitoring system used by the OPTA, namely IS MONIT7+ and BENEFIT7 that are primarily intended for OPTA MA/IB for programme administration and for OPTA applicants/beneficiaries.

The evaluator concluded that the OPTA monitoring system does not show any non-compliance with the OPTA methodologies of monitoring or any facts that would preclude effective monitoring of the OPTA. It was also ascertained by the evaluation that the OPTA monitoring system, including the BENEFIT 7 and MONIT 7+ information system, satisfies the requirements of the user for functioning and reliability for the purpose of effective OPTA monitoring. The summary of conclusions of the evaluation is available on <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/Programy-2007-2013/Tematicke-operacni-programy/Operacni-program-Technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty/Dalsi-dokumenty>.

The end of 2010 marked the commencement of the implementation of a small-scale contract called **Evaluation of mid-term progress and the system of indicators in the framework of OPTA**, which is to be completed in March 2011. The aim of the evaluation of mid-term progress and the system of indicators in the framework of OPTA is to elaborate two evaluation studies concerning the identification of the progress achieved in the OPTA implementation (Evaluation of mid-term progress in OPTA) and evaluation of the current set up of the OPTA system of indicators (Evaluation of the system of indicators of OPTA) which may lead not only to the adjustment of values of indicators, but also to their potential extension.

At the end of 2010, the OPTA MA in cooperation with the NCA launched the preparation of the evaluation of OPTA publicity, assessing the communication and publicity activities of OPTA Communication Plan which at the same time is the NCA Communication Plan. The outputs of this internal evaluation are presented in Chapter 7.3.

In 2010 the OPTA MA continued to build its evaluation capacity – in July 2010 an employee was hired who devotes 50% of his working time to the evaluation activities within the OPTA. The relevant OPTA MA staff participate in educational activities oriented at acquisition of knowledge and skills in the field of evaluation and also in the field of public procurement, closely related to evaluation activities. Moreover, in the course of 2010 the OPTA MA arranged for the participation of the responsible employee in the Working Groups Evaluation, Evaluation of ROPs and the conference of the European Evaluation Society.

2.8 National Performance Reserve (where applicable)

National performance reserve is irrelevant for OPTA.

3 Implementation by priority axis

3.1 Priority axis 1

Priority axis 1a – Management and Coordination Support – Convergence objective

Priority axis 1b – Management and Coordination Support – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.1.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.1.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 1

Fulfilment of indicators under priority axis 1

There are 4 indicators set out for Priority axis 1. Progress was achieved in the fulfilment of all the indicators in 2010. The indicators 48.07.00, 48.03.00, 48.05.00 and 48.11.00 are output indicators. Based on the output from the evaluation of the system of indicators and in cooperation with the persons responsible for PA, in 2011 the target values shall be modified due to the fact that in many cases the target values of indicators are exceeded since they were underrated at the launch of the programme. In addition, more indicators shall be introduced in order to also cover additional so far unquantifiable activities implemented in the framework of PA1. The OPTA MA intends to extend/specify the existing definition of the indicator, namely in connection with the updated of HAB (Annex No 14 Methodology of indicators).

Table No 11: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 1

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total ³
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	number	A/B IS	Achieved	14	14	17	42	N/A	42
				Baseline	14	14	14	17	N/A	14
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	36
48.03.00 Output indicator	Number of committee meetings (monitoring, advisory and management)	number	A/B IS	Achieved	12	14	15	54	N/A	54
				Baseline	12	12	14	15	N/A	12
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	92
48.05.00 Output indicator	Conducted studies and elaborated reports (including evaluation studies and	number	A/B IS	Achieved	3	43	47	72	N/A	72
				Baseline	3	3	43	47	N/A	3
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27	27

³

Data is given cumulatively.

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total ³
	reports)									
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	1	7	27	N/A	27
				Baseline	0	0	1	7	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	10

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with the approved monitoring report.

Sources: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 1 Mar 2011

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.1.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 1

Table No 12: Financial progress in Priority axis 1 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries		Certified funds submitted to the EC	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	A	b	b/a	C	c/a	d	d/a
1.1	18 278 691	8 399 366	46%	1 757 714	10%	1 301 035	7%
1.2	3 046 450	1 356 696	45%	1 187 454	39%	1 151 858	38%
1.3	4 569 670	515 055	11%	20 344	0%	19 844	0%
1.4	4 569 670	198 098	4%	0	0%	0	0%
PA 1	30 464 481	10 469 216	34%	2 965 512	10%	2 472 736	8%

Note: Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 25,4 CZK (monthly exchange rate from MSC2007 as of 5 Jan 2011).

Source MSC2007 (MSC210 report); all the values in the table are given for the period until 5 Jan 2011

Compared to 2009, all the Intervention areas in Priority axis 1 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, namely from 2% to 42%. The volume of funds paid to beneficiaries under PA 1 grew from 5% to 10%. The percentage of the certified funds submitted to the EC increased from less than 1% in 2009 to 8% in 2010. In 2010 the absorption went up as against the year 2009.

Example of a project under Priority axis 1

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/1.1.00/08.00023, Organisation of the NSRF and OPTA coordination.

The beneficiary is the NSRF Management and Coordination Department

Brief description of project content:

The aim of the project is to ensure the coordination role of the NCA and to accomplish the NSRF objectives through coordination at individual levels. The NSRF management system introduces ongoing planning, monitoring and regulation in relation to funds allocated based on the approved NSRF. This project defines the organisation activities related to the NSRF management and coordination. The project caters for organisation and technical background of the OPTA MA. Another aim of the project is to ensure effective OPTA management and coordination.

Project timetable

- project commencement date: 1 January 2008
- project completion date: 31 December 2010 (extension of the final stage of the project until 31 March 2011)

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 60 000 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 51 000 000.00

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 10 October 2008. So far four Simplified applications for payment have been submitted, including the Stage monitoring reports for stages 2 - 5.

The project is divided into 6 stages:

Stage1: 1 January 2008 – 30 September 2008

Stage 2: 1 October 2008 – 31 December 2008

In the course of project implementation Stage 1 and Stage 2 merged into Stage 2.

Stage 3: 1 January 2009 – 30 June 2009

Stage 4: 1 July 2009 – 31 December 2009

Stage 5: 1 January 2010 – 30 June 2010

Stage 6: 1 July 2010 – 31 December 2010 (extended until 31 March 2011)

Activities of the project concentrate predominantly on the provision of technical background and organisation of working groups, working and technical meetings of the NCA with OP MA representatives, organisation and running of OPTA MC and coordination committees. This project provides an umbrella for the organisation and overall preparation of NCA meetings, namely at all the levels - government, EC, OP MA, other ministries, and also for the participation in seminars, workshops and conferences.

Another important activity of this project is to arrange for outsourced evaluations under the OPTA in the form of studies and analyses, necessary consultation advisory and legal services. This project also covered the costs of e.g. the evaluation study focused on the evaluation of absorption capacity or evaluation of the monitoring system (IS BENEFIT7 and MONIT7+) within the OPTA. Currently, the Evaluation of mid-term progress and the system of indicators of OPTA was completed.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 1

Ranking among the most significant problems encountered in the framework of projects in PA1 are the reallocation of funds from the stage to be completed to the next stage, caused by delays in the implementation of scheduled activities. Due to the above mentioned activities, at the end of 2010 the deadline for the final stage of this project was extended to 31 March 2011.

3.2 Priority axis 2

Priority axis 2a – Monitoring – Convergence objective

Priority axis 2b – Monitoring – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.2.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.2.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 2

Fulfilment of indicators under Priority axis 2

There are 8 newly set out indicators under Priority axis 2 as against 2008 when only 3 indicators were set out (48.07.00, 48.11.00, 48.19.00). In 2010, progress was achieved in the fulfilment of all the original indicators as well as in the fulfilment of new indicators (48.23.00, 48.24.00, a 48.24.30).

Based on the output from evaluation of the system of indicators and in cooperation with the persons responsible for the PA, the target values will be modified in the course of 2011.

The indicator 48.21.00 which was not fulfilled in 2007-2010 period is expected to be fulfilled in the upcoming years. The failure to fulfil the indicator is associated with the demanding implementation of projects, especially in terms of the preparation of quality tenders. This resulted in delays in the implementation of projects and in the fulfilment of some indicators. In case of indicator 48.24.20, which also failed to be fulfilled, a proposal will be made to cancel it since it was not applied under PA2.

Table No 13: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 2

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total ⁴
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodological and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	2	8	15	36	N/A	36
				Baseline	2	2	8	15	N/A	2
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	40	121	151	186	N/A	186
				Baseline	40	40	121	151	N/A	40
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	185	185
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons - total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	320	1 481	1 932	2 302	N/A	2 302
				Baseline	320	320	1 481	1 932	N/A	320
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 480	1 480
48.21.00 Output indicator	Increase in HW capacity	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 000	30 000
48.23.00 Output indicator	Number of contracted programming hours	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	15 125,6	N/A	15 125,6
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0

⁴ Data is given cumulatively

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total ⁴
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000
48.24.00 Output indicator	Number of newly purchased ICT equipment	Number	MA IS	Achieved	0	0	0	7	N/A	7
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000
48.24.20 Output indicator	Number of purchased technical equipment, except for ICT	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	600	600
48.24.30 Output indicator	Purchase of software	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	2	N/A	2
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 000	1 000

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Sources: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 1 Mar 2011

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.2.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 2

Table No14 Financial progress in Priority axis 2 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries		Certified funds submitted to the EC	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
2.1	58 301 924	24 795 854	43%	9 050 485	16%	6 485 065	11%
PA 2	58 301 924	24 795 854	43%	9 050 485	16%	6 485 065	11%

Compared to 2009, the Intervention area 2.1 in Priority axis 2 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, namely from 5% to 43%. The volume of funds paid to beneficiaries under PA 2 grew from 8% to 16%. The percentage of the certified funds submitted to the EC increased from 8 % in 2009 to 11 % in 2010. In 2010 the absorption under PA 2 went up as against the year 2009.

Example of a project under Priority axis 2

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/2.1.00/09.00060, Licenses and license support for running system infrastructure and SSW renewal for EU SF monitoring systems of CRD CR
Beneficiary is the Centre for Regional Development of the CR.

Brief description of project content:

The project focuses on the purchase of licenses and license support, carried out in steps and divided into five stages according to the validity of the licence and license support of the given operating system and the type of software product. The provision of licenses and license support is essential for routine IT operation at the level of operating systems and software products and their legal use.

Project timetable

- project commencement date: 1 August 2008
- project completion date: 31 December 2011

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 43 000 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 36 550 000.00

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 2 December 2009. Subsequently, the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 237/2009 of 23 Dec 2009 was issued, by which the project was approved.

The project is divided into five stages, of which three have already been implemented.

In the course of these already implemented stages, the licences and license supports were gradually delivered in line with the expiry of validity of licenses and their respective support for the given operating system and the type of software product. To be specific it concerns the license of I.N.N., s.r.o., Infinity a.s.Pardubice, S&T CZ, s.r.o.,Oracle Czech, s.r.o companies.

Of the forecast project budget totalling CZK 43 000 000.00, altogether CZK 18 389 222.00 of eligible expenditure, i.e. 42.77 %, was absorbed. Lower drawdown is the consequence of the issuance of the Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 136/2010 of 14 Jul 2010, by which the conclusion of new contracts above CZK 50 000 was suspended and suspended were also all the tenders (also those related to this project) which resulted temporarily in considerably lower absorption of funds.

This project directly effects all the projects concerning the central development of information and monitoring systems, specific modifications in applications and operating programmes. Taking into account the requirements of the monitoring system for quality growth and rate of processing, it can be assumed that a new project of similar nature will follow after the completion of this project.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 2

More significant problems were encountered in entering data on tenders since in case of tenders common for several projects, the aggregate amount was given as a contracted amount of eligible expenditure in individual projects and not a proportional part for the given project. Upon the agreement with the beneficiary, the situation is remedied and data in IS MONIT7+ is corrected.

3.3 Priority axis 3

Priority axis 3a – Administrative and absorption capacity – Convergence objective

Priority axis3b – Administrative and absorption capacity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.3.1 Achieved progress and its analysis

3.3.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 3

Fulfilment of indicators under Priority axis 3

There are 4 indicators set out under Priority axis 3. In 2010, progress was achieved in the fulfilment of all the indicators. Indicators 48.11.00 and 48.31.00 are output indicators and indicators 48.31.01 and 48.19.00 are result indicators.

Based on the output from evaluation of the system of indicators and in cooperation with the persons responsible for the PA, the target values will be modified in the course of 2011.

The indicator 48.31.01, which reported low rate of fulfilment in 2007-2010 period, is expected to be fulfilled in the upcoming years, namely for reasons of the definition of the indicator. The value of the indicator The number of full time staff employed in the implementation structure includes all those who have Works in the implementation structure for more than 3 years. Those working on an Agreement on work activities and Agreement on work performance are not included in the indicator.

At the next OPTA MC meeting, the OPTA MA shall propose the introduction of additional indicators in order to also cover the so far unquantifiable activities implemented under PA 3. Moreover, the OPTA MA intends to extend/specify the existing definition of the indicator, namely in relation to the updated of HAB (Annex No 14 Methodology of indicators).

Table No 15: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 3

NCI code/type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Source	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target value 2015	Total ⁵
48.11.00 Output indicator	Number of held training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and similar activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	11	59	209	N/A	209
				Baseline	0	0	11	59	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	200
48.31.00 Output indicator	Number of staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	132,5	293,58	370,99	316,48	N/A	316,48 ⁶
				Baseline	132,5	132,50	293,58	370,99	N/A	132,50
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	345	345
48.31.01 Result indicator	Number of full time staff employed in the implementation structure	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	13	13	37	N/A	37
				Baseline	0	0	13	13	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	170	170
48.19.00 Result indicator	Number of trained persons – total	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	20	129	928	N/A	928
				Baseline	0	0	20	129	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 000	3 000

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Sources: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 1 Mar 2011

⁵ Data is given cumulatively.

⁶ According to the Methodology of monitoring, the indicator 48.31.00 covers also the baseline value. The actual achieved value of the number of staff, however, equals 183.98 (not 316.48) since the baseline value of 132.5 is already included in the achieved value and by the application of the general rule of adding the baseline value to the value achieved (in line with the Methodology of monitoring) it is included twice in the sum total.

N/A is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period. The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.3.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 3

Table No16 Financial progress in Priority axis 3 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries		Certified funds submitted to the EC	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	B	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
3.1	85 365 564	76 417 948	90%	16 047 914	19%	10 008 242	12%
3.2	36 585 240	6 774 960	19%	46 440	0%	45 895	0%
PA 3	121 950 804	83 192 909	68%	16 094 354	13%	10 054 137	8%

Compared to 2009, the intervention areas in Priority axis 3 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, namely from 21% to 68%. The volume of funds paid to beneficiaries under PA 3 grew from 3% to 13%. The percentage of the certified funds submitted to the EC increased from 0 % in 2009 to 8 % in 2010. In 2010 the absorption under PA 3 went up as against the year 2009.

Example of a project under Priority axis 3

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/3.1.00/08.00019

A framework project for seminars, training courses, business trips and conferences for the period from 2008 to September 2010

The beneficiary is the Ministry of Finance of the CR – National Fund (Paying and Certifying Authority).

Brief description of project content

The project focuses on continuous training and education of the PCA staff in areas closely related with their activities. To a large degree it consists in financing educational events abroad on financial management topics, principles of control activities, accounting, IT, Community legislation, certification of expenditure and related activities essential for effective financial management. The purpose of this activity is to enhance the expertise and qualification of employees, and thus also the quality and comprehensive nature of outputs of the Paying and Certifying Authority.

Project timetable:

- project commencement date: 1 January 2008
- project completion date: 30 September 2010

Project budget

- total project budget: CZK 7 288 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 6 194 800.00

The project is divided into 3 stages

Stage 1: 1 January 2008 – 30 September 2008

Stage 2: 1 October 2008 – 30 September 2009

Stage 3: 1 October 2009 – 30 September 2010

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 10 October 2008. Subsequently, the project was approved by Decision of the Minister for Regional Development No 198/2008 of 7 Nov 2008.

The framework project for educational events provided an umbrella for a total of 73 educational events for PCA employees, represented mostly by educational events held abroad (a total of 70 events). During these individual educational activities a total of 172 employees were trained. The following topics were on the agenda of the educational events: management and control systems in absorption of SF/CF funds, financial management of SF/CF funds, monitoring and evaluation of the absorption of SF/CF funds, simplification of the implementation of SF/CF funds, award of public contracts in compliance with Community legislation, etc.

The implementation of the project was smooth, with only one requirement raised to increase the values of both the indicators related to the project. This change was approved by the OPTA MA, while the project budget remained the same.

The project was completed as of 30 Sep 2010. The project was immediately followed by a new one to be implemented until 30 Jun 2015. The content of the project is equal.

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 3

Problems reported in PA3 are similar to those in the majority of other priority axes. They include especially the reallocations of funds from the stage that is being completed to the next stage, brought about by delays in the implementation of scheduled activities.

In 2010, issues were addressed under Intervention area 3.1 related to the calculation of indicator Number of staff employed in the implementation structure. The methodology of calculation was clarified. Based on the new interpretation, the majority of beneficiaries in this intervention area adjusted the values of indicators in their projects, namely through the Notification of the beneficiary on changes in the project, and these modifications were approved by the OPTA MA.

3.4 Priority axis 4

Priority axis 4a – Publicity – Convergence objective

Priority axis 4b – Publicity – Regional competitiveness and employment objective

3.4.1 *Achieved progress and its analysis*

3.4.1.1 INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PRIORITY AXIS 4

Fulfilment of indicators under Priority axis 4

There are 4 indicators set out under Priority axis 4. In 2010, progress was achieved in the fulfilment of output indicators, while no progress has so far been achieved in result indicators. The indicators 48.07.00 and 48.09.00 are output indicators and indicators 48.10.00 and 48.13.00 are result indicators.

The indicators 48.10.00 and 48.13.00 were not fulfilled in 2007-2010 period since the costs of activities associated with the management of www.strukturalni-fondy.cz we portal are covered from the state budget and not from OPTA.

The APU as the main responsible entity for the portal is in charge of its structure, content and design, which is why it prepares a project called “Development and management of the Structural Funds portal” concerning the implementation of a new web application www.strukturalni-fondy.cz which would be eligible for funding from the OPTA. Thanks to this project the indicators 48.10.00 and 48.13.00 shall subsequently be fulfilled. The values of these indicators, however, shall be decreased due to the advance stage of the programming period.

Table No 17: Achieved progress and its analysis under Priority axis 4

NCI code/ type of the indicator	Name of the indicator	Unit of measure	Sourc e	Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	Tar- get value 2015	Total ⁷
48.07.00 Output indicator	Number of created methodology- cal and technical and information materials	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	0	0	4	N/A	4
				Baseline	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	25
48.09.00 Output indicator	Number of conducted information and publicity activities	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	0	2	2	9	N/A	9
				Baseline	0	0	2	2	N/A	0
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15
48.10.00 Result indicator	Number of visits to website (hits)	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	N/A	3 080 00 0
				Baseline	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	3 080 000	N/A	3 080 000
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 000 000	6 000 000
48.13.00 Result indicator	Number of downloads of electronic documents	Number	A/B IS	Achieved	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	N/A	1 977 000
				Baseline	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	1 977 000	N/A	1 977 000
				Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 500 000	3 500 000

Note: Achieved value = projects from status P45 in IS Monit7+ with approved monitoring report.

Sources: The baseline and target values are taken over from the OP, the achieved values are generated from MSC2007 information system report as of 1 Mar 2011

Values in indicators 480700 and 480900 will be increased following the approval of the monitoring reports and applications for payment for Stage 2 and Stage 3 of project CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030.

The values in indicators 48.10.00 and 48.13.00 are related to project CZ.1.08/4.2.00/08.00031 that was prematurely terminated by the beneficiary. For that reason there is no increase in the given values for individual years.

N/A value is given in the "Target value" line for individual years since the target is set for the whole programming period.

The value given in "Target value 2015" column is relevant only for "Target value" line.

3.4.1.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 4

Table No18 Financial progress in Priority axis 4 (EU and national sources) - cumulatively

7

Data is given cumulatively.

Priority axis	Allocation 2007–2013	Funds covered by Decision/Contract (Addendum)		Funds paid to beneficiaries		Certified funds submitted to the EC	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
	a	b	b/a	c	c/a	d	d/a
4.1	64 633 925	18 881 181	29%	6 860 565	11%	493 131	1%
4.2	16 158 483	3 565 769	22%	0	0%	0	0%
PA 4	80 792 408	22 446 949	28%	6 860 565	8%	493 131	1%

Compared to 2009, the intervention areas in Priority axis 4 reported an increase in the number of projects with issued Decision, namely from 26% to 28%. The volume of funds paid to beneficiaries under PA 4 grew from 0% to 8%. Generally speaking, in 2010 the PA 4 reported only a slightly increased drawdown as against 2009, also for the reason that no project was submitted under Intervention area 4.2 in 2010.

Example of a project under Priority axis 4

Project name and registration number:

CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030, Ensuring general awareness of EU funds. The beneficiary is the Ministry for Regional Development of the CR – Autonomous EU Publicity Unit (former NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department).

Brief description of project content:

The project focuses on the implementation of communication activities in the framework of implementation of EU funds at the level of NSRF and OPTA, on the support for the implementation of communication plans at the level of operational programmes, on the ensurance of coordination and methodological support for the implementation of communication activities, and on the implementation of OPTA Communication Plan. The main activities are information and publicity activities, activities focusing on mass media, activities associated with building a single platform for communication with the general public (publishing periodicals, creation of audiovisual products), partnerships in the field of communication.

Project timetable:

- project commencement date: 1 January 2007
- project completion date: 30 June 2011

Note: Based on the affirmative opinion of the OPTA MA on the Notification of changes in the project (Notification) of 16 Dec 2010 forwarded by the beneficiary, the project was extended by one stage (Stage 6), i.e. until 30 Jun 2011. The reason behind is the delay in the implementation of scheduled project activities.

Project budget:

- total project budget: CZK 470 291 000.00
- of which Community contribution: CZK 399 747 350.00

Note: Taking into account the above referred to Notification, as of 31 Dec 2010 project activity No 2 – Eurocentres, Eurofon, Euroskop and No 7 – Questionnaire survey were excluded from the project and will be implemented through individual projects. This was followed by cut of the total project budget which is already reflected in the stated amount.

The OPTA Selection Committee recommended the project for financing from OPTA funds on 5 November 2008. Four Simplified applications for payment and four Stage monitoring reports (Stage 1 – 4) have so

far been approved. The Simplified application for payment and the Stage monitoring report for Stage 5 are currently under administration.

The project is divided into 6 stages:

Stage 1: 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2008

Stage 2: 1 January 2009 – 31 August 2009

Stage 3: 1 September 2009 – 31 December 2009

Stage 4: 1 January 2010 – 31 August 2010

Stage 5: 1 September 2010 – 31 December 2010

Stage 6: 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2011

Significant problems encountered in Priority axis 4

Considered an issue under Priority axis 4 Publicity is particularly the preparation of public procurement and related administration and time intensive procedures. As a consequence, the implementation of scheduled activities is protracted, the unabsorbed funds are subsequently reallocated to next stages of the project or ineligible expenditure is incurred within the OPTA.

In order to remedy the situation, more intensive communication of project outlines and prepared public procurement shall take place between the beneficiary and the OPTA MA/IB which minimise the likelihood of occurrence of the above described risks.

4 ESF programmes: Cohesion and Concentration

The European Social Fund (ESF) programmes are irrelevant for the OPTA since the OPTA is financed from the ERDF.

5 ERDF/Cohesion Fund projects (major projects) (if applicable)

It is irrelevant for the OPTA since there are no major projects as defined in Article 39 of the General Regulation implemented under the OPTA.

6 Technical Assistance

Operational Programme Technical Assistance is a specific programme in which the cross-cutting themes of technical assistance are included in all the programme priority axes. A separate priority axis intended for the implementation of its own operational programme has not been established. The implementation by priority axis of OPTA is described in Chapter 3.

7 Information and Publicity

The EC requirements for OPTA⁸ publicity are to be met by the implementation of the OPTA Communication Plan (OPTA CoP) for the NSRF level of management for 2007 – 2013 period which was presented for information at the 2nd meeting of OPTA MC on 28 November 2008.

The OPTA CoP comprises:

- OPTA publicity,
- Framework Communication Strategy of the CR for NSRF Level for 2007 – 2013 Period.

Involved in the elaboration of the framework communication strategy were the APU (former NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department) and OPTA MA. The OPTA CoP activities are financed from Priority axis 4. The OPTA MC is entrusted with the monitoring of OPTA CoP. The OPTA MC continuously receives information on the implementation of CoP and the annual communication plans, via the information presented by the OPTA MA/APU at every OPTA MC meeting.

Due implementation of OPTA CoP is the responsibility of OPTA MA and APU which, according to the NSRF, is also responsible for safeguarding a single and clear information campaign for the absorption of SF and CF funds.

Through information and publicity tools, the OPTA MA and APU aim at building suitable information channels – the goal is to improve the communication with the general public, other national, regional and local authorities and NSRF implementation entities.

The OPTA MA sees to the publishing of a list of beneficiaries, names of projects and amounts of public funds allocated to the projects. The list of beneficiaries is available on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz.

7.1 Implemented and Planned Activities and Used Tools

Timetable of publicity activities:

Events organised:

1. Interactive seminar “NGOs and European Union Funds“ – second and third series

The APU cooperated with the Association of Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations in the preparation of the second series of 6 interactive seminars. The reason behind was a request raised by non-governmental non-profit organisations for cooperation in gathering information from implementation bodies. The first seminar was held in Zlín in December 2009 and the remaining five seminars were held in Brno, Hradec Králové, Ústí nad Labem, Prague and Plzeň during the 1st quarter of 2010. The second series of seminars was followed in mid-March 2010 by six workshops, organised by the APU together with NEZISKOVKY.CZ company. The workshops took place in the same towns as the seminars held in the second series. Their participants were introduced to the management of specific projects. The third series of seminars was held from March to June 2010.

2. Conference "Structural Funds in the CR: Successful Past, Promising Future"

The conference was held in TOP hotel Praha on 29 Apr 2010 and was attended by roughly 300 guests from among the professional public who received a copy of the leaflet called EU Funds – Current Status and a copy of the

⁸ See the General Regulation, Article 69 Information and publicity and Commission Regulation No 1828/2006, Section 1 Information and publicity.

newsletter concerning the results of 2004 – 2006 programming period and their effects on 2007 – 2013 programming period. The morning panel discussion was followed by five thematic workshops in the afternoon.

3. Support to conferences: EU Funds – You Still Have a Chance; Towns 2020; Investment and Business Forum; Drivers & Barriers of European Regions during the Crisis

- *"EU Funds 2007 - 13: You Still Have a Chance!" (Ostrava, 20 Apr 2010)*
The conference aimed to present the potential regional applicants with a brief overview of to date drawdown of EU funds, especially in Moravia-Silesia region, including the pivotal information on prepared calls, potential reallocations of funds within individual OPs and priority axes, and highlighting foreseen projects until 2013. The conference was organised by APU in cooperation with the Regional Council of Moravia-Silesia and the Association for the Development of Moravia-Silesia Region which offered organisational support at the venue of the conference.
- *Investment and Business Forum (Ostrava, 11 -12 Oct 2010) - IFO*
The APU provided funds for the organisation of IFO conference that focused on cross-border trilateral Czech-Polish-Slovak cooperation with emphasis on the use of EU assistance and the new initiative of the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). A MRD representative took part in the conference.
- *Towns 2020 conference (Brno, 30 Sep 2010)* held by the ROP Southeast was devoted mainly to urban dimension of the Cohesion policy and the future of Integrated Urban Development Plans. The conference was attended by a NCA - MRD representative.
- *Drivers & Barriers of European Regions during the Crisis (Prague, 24 May 2010)*
The conference held by the Regional Council Central Bohemia paid attention to a hot topic – how to use the financial resources from Structural Funds in tackling the financial crisis. The MRD representatives were among the speakers of the conference.

At all the conferences, the publicity NCA as the central coordinator of EU funds was ensured by banners with logos, links to the website, articles in regional press or conference proceedings, etc.

4. A study trip of the Working Group for information and publicity to the National Development Agency of Hungary in Budapest (the coordinator of EU funds absorption in Hungary)

On 17 to 19 March 2010, the APU organised a study trip of the Working Group for information and publicity to Hungary. On this occasion its members visited their colleagues from the National Development Agency of Hungary who act as the national coordinators in the field of publicity of EU funds. The trip was taken by 13 representatives of the OP MA and 4 representatives of the APU. The meeting served as excellent benchmarking and made it possible to compare the performance of both the national institutions in the field of publicity, efficiency of exploited tools and effectiveness of performed activities. Foundations were laid for cooperation which both the parties wish to further foster.

5. Study trip of employees of the National Development Agency of Hungary to the CR (coordinator of publicity of the absorption of EU funds in Hungary)

Reciprocal visit of Hungarian colleagues involved in publicity took place on 12 and 13 May 2010. On the first day of their visit the Hungarian colleagues were presented with a successful project financed from EU funds, while the second day was devoted to a workshop on good practices. Success stories in the field of publicity were presented by the representatives of all MAs in the CZ, except for the OP CR-Poland. The Hungarian colleagues considered

the visit to Prague fruitful. Particularly beneficial they deemed to be the opportunity to learn about the Czech decentralised system of publicity. The Hungarian system of publicity is, on the contrary, strictly centralised.

6. Press trips

Press trips represented a new activity in 2010. During the year, three press trips to successfully implemented projects financed from EU funds were organised. In March the first press trip took place in the Northeast Cohesion region during which the press had the opportunity to visit projects implemented under the Regional Operational Programme Northeast. Also presented was one project implemented under the Integrated Operational Programme. During the second press trip, entitled "EU Money in Moravia", the participants visited successful projects that had received assistance from the Regional Operational Programme Southeast, Central Moravia and Moravia-Silesia. The third press trip to projects under the Regional Operational Programme Central Bohemia was held in October 2010.

PR activities and advertising:

1. PR activities and advertising

- In the course of the year, the APU published press releases (PR) on the implementation of ESC policy in the CR, e.g. regular PRs based on the Monthly monitoring reports or PRs on topical issues.
- EU Funds – Current Status leaflet: the monthly leaflet on the current progress achieved in the absorption of EU funds continued to be published. The last page is always dedicated to a successfully implemented project under one of the OPs. The leaflet was distributed in the printed form e.g. to Eurocentres. The e-version of the leaflet is also posted on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz portal.
- In spring a mini campaign was held focusing on the results of 2004 – 2006 programming period and their effects on the ongoing programming period. As a part of the campaign, the above referred to conference "Structural Funds in the CR: Successful Past, Promising Future" was held, a newsletter was published and an advertising campaign was conducted.
 - Ø *Newsletter* – The APU arranged for the printing and graphic design of the newsletter on the results of 2004 - 2006 programming period and their effects on the ongoing programming period. The newsletter was published at the end of April. Its purpose was to introduce the professional and general public as well as the state administration entities to almost 100% success of the CR in using the EU funds in 2004 - 2006 period. The newsletter was published in an attractive graphic design and also in an English version. It was distributed by the ministries, Parliament of the CR, OP MA offices, Eurocentres, higher education institutions, economic institutions, think-tanks, etc. Moreover, it was inserted in the Ekonom weekly, Moderní obec fortnightly and Veřejná správa and Obec a finance monthly.
 - Ø *Advertising mini campaign* – the advertisements were published in all main dailies published in the CR and also in Euro, Ekonom and Profit weeklies.

2. TV Spots (core publicity activity)

- *1st wave* – 10 TV spots of two-minute and one-minute running time were made and broadcast on ČT1, ČT2, ČT4 and ČT24 between 9 November 2009 and 31 March 2010. Each spot was devoted to one aspect of the Cohesion policy illustrated on the examples of specific projects. Topics of the spots: EU funds, Operational programmes, Roles of EU funds (comparisons with 2004 – 2006 programming period), Environment, Human resources development, European Territorial Cooperation, ROPs, Project sustainability, Transport, How to receive assistance.
Target groups: general public, non-profit organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, public sphere.

- *2nd wave* – The second wave of TV mini shows focused on successfully implemented projects. For summer season, mini shows “Summer Strolls” were prepared. Seven two-minute versions were made depicting always suitable tourist destinations. Each episode presented two objects of interest, of which at least one had been supported from EU funds. In September this series was followed by mini shows “Everybody Can Benefit” that present success stories for individual target groups (young people, handicapped, families with children, etc.). Again, seven versions were created. The last series of mini shows consisted of eight episodes of short documentaries entitled “You Can Achieve More”. The TV mini shows were broadcast between June and December on all Czech Television channels.

3. Presentation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund on a TV show for entrepreneurs – “POKR“

In February, the APU together with the production company launched shooting of the coverage for the programme called POKR – Observations, Commentaries and Advice for Entrepreneurs. Its target group are small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and its aim is to present successful projects supported from the EU. The programme was broadcast on Thursdays from March to June on ČT, with one re-run.

Other activities:

1. Working Group for Information and Publicity (WG)

In 2010, the Working Group held four regular and two extraordinary meetings (a study trip of the WG to the NDA Hungary and a study trip of the NDA Hungary to the CR). At its 9th meeting held in Olomouc in February the WG Publicity addressed especially the sanctions for non-compliance with compulsory publicity, conditions for sub-projects and preparation of TV spots. The 10th meeting of WG Publicity was held in Prague in April and the main point on the agenda was the preparation of the study trip of colleagues from the Hungarian NDA. The 11th meeting of WG Publicity was convened in Ostrava in the month of June with the agenda devoted especially to the preparation of the Joint Campaign of Regional OPs and OP Prague (Competitiveness, Adaptability), evaluation of publicity. Presented was also a digital map of projects. The 12th meeting of WG Publicity took place in Prague in November and the agenda of the meeting among other things covered also the revision of the system of indicators, evaluation of the TV campaign and current steps in the preparation of a joint campaign of Regional OPs and OP Prague.

2. Evaluation of publicity

The works on evaluation of publicity were launched by the APU already in early 2010. In April 2010, a seminar was held on this topic with technical presentation for all the OP MAs, during which a common procedure was agreed upon. Based on this seminar and a requirement raised by the OP MA, the NCA compiled single methodological guidelines called: “Methodological Guidelines – Evaluation of Communication Plans of OP 2007–2010“ which serves as a underlying material for the evaluation of publicity of all the NSRF operational programmes. More information on the Evaluation of NSRF publicity is given in Chapter 7.2.

3. Sanctions for non-compliance with compulsory publicity

The sanctions for non-compliance with compulsory publicity was one of the topics regularly discussed throughout the year by the WG. At the June meeting of WG, the APU submitted to the OP MA a working version of the legal analysis for the imposition of sanctions in case of non-compliance with publicity rules for comments. Subsequently, the material was forwarded to the MoF for comments. The final version apart from the legal analysis contains also proposals and recommendations for a single procedure in the imposition of sanctions.

4. Cooperation with the European Commission

The APU in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in the CR launched the Digital map of projects. Also, the list of beneficiaries is regularly updated and newly accessible from the main website of www.strukturalni-fondy.cz portal.

Target groups: general public, applicants for and beneficiaries of assistance from operational programmes.

5. Eurofon and Eurocentres

Also in 2010 the NCA together with the Office of the Government of the CR (OG CR) ran a free telephone line Eurofon 800 200 200 providing information on EU. Through this line the NCA provides information on the possibilities of absorption of EU funds and replies to queries of the general public concerning the EU funds. Within a close cooperation with the Office of the Government of the CR, the NCA provided information services also in Eurocentre Prague, i.e. in the information office on EU for Prague and Central Bohemia region, which operates under the Integrated Information System of the OG CR. In the course of the year, discussions were also held with the OG CR regarding the extension of cooperation. The results will be reflected in APU activities in 2011.

6. Website

Ranking among the priority activities of NSRF communication strategy is the website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz which serves as a basic signpost for everyone who wishes to learn about the ESC policy pursued in the Czech Republic. The APU is the main entity responsible for the portal and is in charge of its structure, content as well as design. An integral part of the portal is also the Extranet interface which caters for the communication needs within the working groups. During the year, the NCA fully exploited its Extranet – publicity area, namely to satisfy the communication needs within the Working Group for Information and Publicity of EU Funds. At the end of June/beginning of July 2010, the English version of SF website was launched. In the 3rd quarter of the year the RSS channels were redesigned and other adjustments were made to the SF portal which allow for better use of the website and more effective provision of information to the general public via this communication tool.

At the time being, the activities associated with the management of SF portal are financed from the state budget – thus the indicators within the OPTA are not fulfilled. To that end the APU prepares a project “Development and management of the Structural Funds portal” concerning the implementation of a new web application www.strukturalni-fondy.cz which would be eligible for funding from the OPTA.

7. OPTA MA activities

- *training courses for beneficiaries:* OPTA MA held two training courses for beneficiaries on the updated version of OPTA HAB. OPTA publicity rules were observed during these training courses.
- *regular meetings with beneficiaries:* At regular meetings the OPTA MA informs the beneficiaries among other things also on anticipated modifications to OPTA documentation and procedures and relevant OPTA MA activities and explains the current design of programme implementation.
- *OPTA MC:* In 2010, the OPTA MA organised two OPTA MC meetings that serve for the presentation of financial and physical progress achieved in the programme. In the organisation of OPTA MC meetings the OPTA publicity rules were observed. It also applies to promotional merchandise distributed to OPTA MC members (3E principles are observed in their selection).
- *Logos:* The documents elaborated by OPTA MA bear the logos applied in line with the OPTA Logo Manual (it concerns e.g. minutes of the meetings, routine written communication, supporting materials for OPTA Selection Committee meetings, etc.).
- *OPTA documentation:* Methodological Guidelines, OPTA MA opinions and updated versions of OPTA OM, OPTA HAB etc. comprise the compulsory OPTA publicity and their distribution is done via the computerised forms of communication: data boxes, extranet, links in e-mails.
- *website www.strukturalni-fondy.cz:* OPTA MA takes care of the OPTA tab, where all relevant documents are publicised, including the information on the OPTA implementation (summary of evaluations, successful projects, updated versions of documentation, etc.).
- *control of project publicity:* Within its function of the managing authority the OPTA MA controls the observance of publicity rules in projects of beneficiaries. The OPTA beneficiaries do not show any shortcomings in the observation of publicity rules. Where necessary, they consult the specific cases with the IB/OPTA MA.

7.2 Evaluation of NSRF Publicity

In line with the Implementing Regulation the NCA conducted an overall evaluation of the accomplishment of objectives of OPTA CP for 2007- 2010 period. This chapter presents the summary of the most important pieces of information.

This chapter is composed of three parts:

1. Evaluation of the fulfilment of OPTA CP for 2007 – 2010 period (see Chapter 7.2.1)
2. Questionnaire Survey – a national survey on public awareness of EU funds – (see Chapter 7.2.2)
3. Evaluation of publicity in OPTA – evaluation of awareness within OPTA (see Chapter 7.2.3)

7.2.1 Evaluation of the fulfilment of OPTA CP for 2007- 2010 period

In 2007–2010 period, almost all the planned information and publicity instruments defined in the OPTA CoP, which is also the NCA CoP, were implemented. It consisted primarily in the preparation of media campaigns, TV spots, organisation of seminars for NGOs, organisation of conference, etc.

To accomplish the information priorities of OPTA CoP and to ensure adequate information of and communication with the individual target groups, the following information and publicity tools were defined in the OPTA CoP and implemented in the period concerned:

Table No 19: Communication activities implemented in 2007-2010 period

Information and publicity tools of NCA	
Activities defined in OPTA CoP	Key activities implemented in 2007–2010 period
Media communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial media campaign • Ongoing media campaign • Cooperation with media • Audiovisual and multimedia programmes and applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaigns (9x; e.g. “Do you know that”); • Press releases (224x; e.g. on conferences to be held); • TV spots (6 types, a total of 47 TV spots, coverages and mini documentaries);
On-line communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website (www.strukturalni-fondy.cz) • Information web portals • Intranet/dedicated communication interface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.strukturalni-fondy.cz website, including the Structural Funds extranet; • NCA documents are posted in the following section: http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/Narodni-organ-pro-koordinaci; • E-mail box for communication with general public info@strukturalni-fondy.cz;
Direct communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurofon • Information centres – communication tools for EU funds (incl. Eurocentres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurofon free information line on EU funds; • Network of regional Eurocentres (13x);

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences and trade fairs • Workshops, seminars, meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of and financial contribution to conferences (20x); • Organisation of trade fairs / participation in trade fairs (5x; e.g. ISSS in Hradec Králové); • Organisation of seminars for NGOs (26x); • Organisation of press-trips (3x);
Publishing activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System of periodical and non-periodical publications with controlled distribution • Leaflets and posters • Methodologies, manuals, handbooks • Information publications • Reports and studies • Newsletters, bulletins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet (16x; EU Funds – current status); • Bulletin (1x; “Structural Funds in the CR 2004-2006 and their effect on 2007-2013 programming period”); • Popular publication on EU funds for general public (3x; e.g. “ABCs of EU funds 2007-2013”); • Electronic dictionary “EURO ENGLISH for public administration and EU institutions staff”; • Methodological Guidelines (1x; “Methodological guidelines – evaluation of communication plans of OPs 2007-2010”); • Bilingual version of basic EU regulations and their computerisation; • A set of recommendations “Basic errors constituting non-compliance with publicity rules and recommendations for the imposition of uniform sanctions”;
Other tools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single information system • Application of single visual identity (corporate identity) • Working Group for information and publicity of EU funds • Questionnaire survey • Promotional merchandise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of uniform visual identity; • Working Group for information and publicity of EU funds; • National survey on public awareness “Questionnaire survey: Awareness on EU funds”; • Promotional merchandise; • National list of all beneficiaries on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz portal; • Cooperation with other institutions (Office of the Government, European Commission Representation, etc.).

7.2.1.1 INDICATORS OF OPTA CoP FULFILMENT

For the monitoring of the implementation of the NCA communication and publicity activities, the OPTA CoP for 2007–2013 period defined a total of **2 output indicators** (48.07.00 and 48.09.00) and **2 result indicators** (48.10.00 and 48.13.00). The target values of output and result indicators for 2007 – 2013(2015) programming period are set out in the OPTA Programming Document.

As against the indicative target of the OPTA CoP, in the period from 2007 to 2010 the indicator 48.07.00 was fulfilled to the degree of 24% and the indicator 48.09.00 was fulfilled to the degree of 60%.

The costs incurred by www.strukturalni-fondy.cz web portal were covered from the state budget, not from the OPTA. Even though the web portal met its purpose, for this reason the relevant indicators 48.10.00 and 48.13.00 were not fulfilled. The change of a web portal supplier in 2009 was followed by a change in the method of record keeping. For this reason the reporting value of the data is rather limited, therefore the data is not comparable year-on-year. Consequently, the fulfilment of the indicative objective of the NCA CoP cannot be assessed.

7.2.1.2 FINANCIAL FULFILMENT OF OPTA CoP IN 2007–2010 PERIOD

The information and publicity activities performed in 2007 to 2010 period were covered from the project bearing the Reg. No CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030 “Ensuring general awareness of EU funds“. In the period concerned, **almost CZK 221 million was spent on the implementation of NCA communication activities**. The annual plans also considered the unused funds from the previous stage, which resulted in the cumulation of transferred funds from the previous stage, thus the absorption of allocation in individual stages was fairly low (7– 57 %).

Table No 20: Summary of absorption in project CZ.1.08/4.1.00/08.00030 by stage and year (in thousand CZK)

Stage	2007–2008	2009		2010		2007–2010
		01–08	09–12	01–08	09–12	
Original allocation for the stage (in thousand CZK)	20 000	77 961	129 300	124 000	125 300	476 561
Reallocation from the stage ⁹ (in thousand CZK)	20 000	90 573	129 300	206 930	212 803	-
Expenditure covered from OPTA (in thousand CZK)	6 309	6 130	41 763	118 843	47 933	220 979
Absorption of reallocation from the stage	32 %	7 %	32 %	57 %	23 %	-

The individual annual CoPs also defined the itemised annual financing plans of implementation of the individual information and publicity measures in accordance with the timeframe of information and publicity measures. The indicative budget for the implementation of information and publicity measures for 2007–2010 period totalled EUR 40.9 million, i.e. CZK 1.04 billion.

⁹ Actual planned expenditure on the stage (after the transfer of unabsorbed funds).

7.2.1.3 EXAMPLES OF IMPLEMENTED COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

TV mini shows “Summer Strolls”

The series of TV mini shows was aired as a part of the communication campaign to ensure media information on the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund in the framework of a comprehensive support for EU regional policy.

Basic parameters of the broadcast campaign

Format: short educational programmes of a 2-minute running time; 7 separate episodes

Date: 21 Jun – 31 Aug 2010

Broadcast on TV channels: ČT1 + ČT2 + ČT24 + ČT4

Broadcast in total: 517 shows which represent 1034 minutes, i.e. more than 17 hours of TV programmes on SF

Reaching the target group – media impact

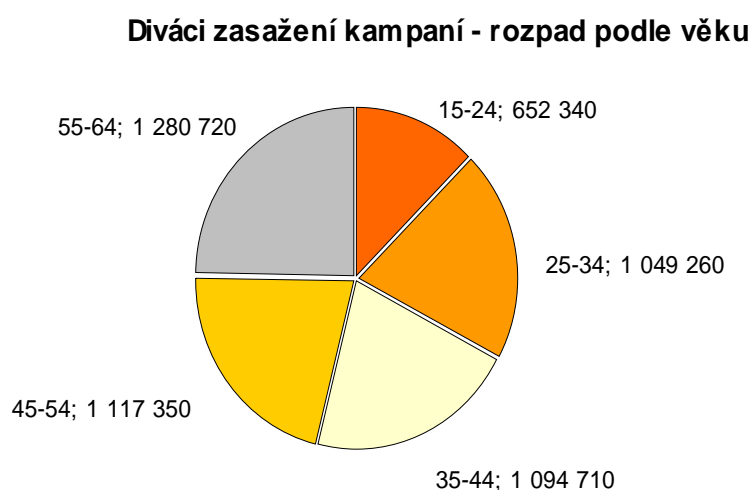
The campaign was seen by 6 535 000 persons older than 15 years, which represents precisely 75% of the population.

An average viewer saw the programme more than 6x (6.5 on average).

The penetration to target groups was evenly distributed, the lower reach was traditionally reported by the target group of persons from 15 to 24 years of age (49%), which generally spends less time watching TV (as against the population aged 65 years or older, where the reach equals 89%). The distribution of the reach by the number of inhabitants in the place of living and by region is even.

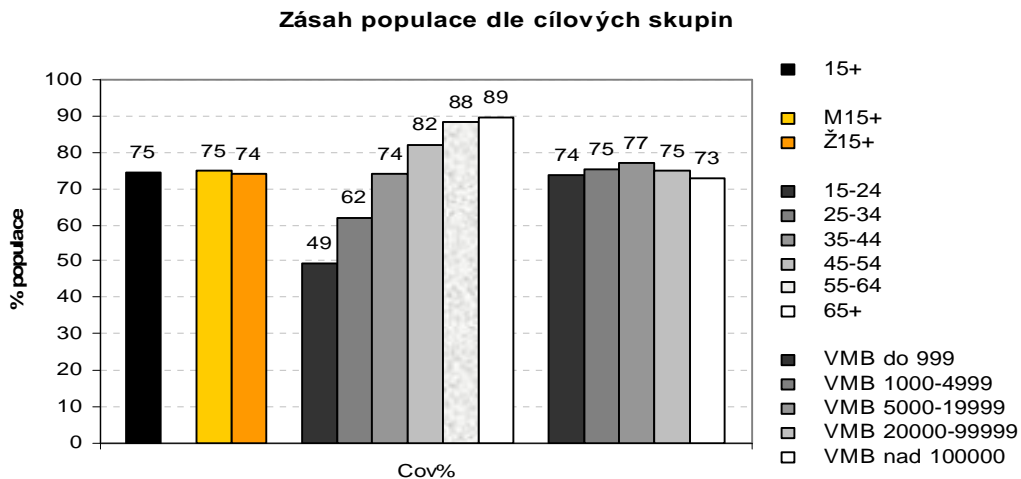
Thanks to the fact that ČT4 and ČT24 channels were used for the campaign, also the reach to the target group of men shows very good results (75% of men as against 74% of women)

Chart No 3: Programme watching by age



Audience reached by the campaign – breakdown by age

Chart No 4: Audience rating



Reach by target group

M = male

Ž = female

VMB = number of inhabitants of the place of living

Population (%)

Coverage (%)

Press release

“TV spots on the support of tourism from EU funds were awarded the Jury Prize”.

Prague, 8 October 2010: A valuable trophy was received the Ministry for Regional Development at the 17th Year of the National Tourism Film Festival, Tour Region Film 2010. On the occasion of October festival it was awarded the Prix Jury in the category of Films for spots promoting interesting tourist sites, which had been granted assistance from the EU funds.

The TV spots “Summer Strolls” were aired on all the channels of the Czech Television from June to September. The spots were produced in seven versions and always took the audience to interesting sight in various regions of the Czech Republic. The TV mini shows aimed at illustrating how the EU funds contribute to the development of regions in the Czech Republic.



Karlovy Vary, 6. – 8. října 2010

17. ročník národního festivalu turistických filmů TOUR REGION FILM

Odborná porota uděluje:

Prix Jury v I. kategorii

Letní putování

Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR, Media One

V Karlových Varech dne 6. 10. 2010

Ing. Jaroslav Fomáček
předseda CCCR - CzechTourism



Ing. Jiří Mlýň
předseda odborní poroty

Example



2. Leaflet “European Funds – Current Status”

A periodically published monthly leaflet summarising the progress in the implementation of EU funds has been published since October 2009. By the end of 2010, a total of 16 issues were released. The leaflet is published in the circulation of 5 200 copies and is distributed e.g. to Eurocentres, the respective ministries, both the chambers of the Parliament of the CR, the Czech Centre, etc. The e-version of the leaflet is regularly posted on www.strukturalni-fondy.cz portal.

Fondy Evropské unie
- investice do vaší budoucnosti

V lednu překročil objem žádosti o dotace fondů EU 1 bilion korun.

Celková alokace fondů EU pro ČR 2007-2013	754,9 mld. Kč
Podané žádosti a podpora	1014,1 mld. Kč
Schválené projekty	423,9 mld. Kč
Proplacené finanční prostředky	207,1 mld. Kč

Geografická studie stav k 3. 2. 2011.
Důležité oznámení: číslo 1 EUF + 24 21 CZK, zobrazení MOC2007

MINISTERSTVO PRO MÍSTNÍ ROZVOJ ČR
NÁRODNÍ ORGÁN PRO KOORDINACI (NOK)
www.strukturalni-fondy.cz

Evropské fondy – aktuální stav

Stav k 3. února 2011

MINISTERSTVO PRÁCE A SOCIÁLNÍ PÉČE
EVROPSKÁ UNIE
EVROPSKÝ FOND PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ
INVESTICE DO VAŠI BUDOUCNOSTI
MÍSTNÍ ÚŘAD
OPERAČNÍ PROGRAM
DOPRAVA



Úspěšný projekt z fondů EU: Díky Operačnímu programu Doprava byly nově rekonstruovány dvě železniční trati v Karlovarském a Plzeňském kraji

Děky Stribro – Plzeň u Mariánských Lázní a Plzeň u Mariánských Lázní – Cheb dostaly nový kabát, který je řadí mezi trati s evropskou úrovní technických parametrů i bezpečnosti. Větší část úseků je již dokončena a předána do provozu, dokončení poslední části trati Stribro – Pavlovice je plánováno na konec dubna 2011. Optimalizace obou tratí přinesla především: zkrácení jízdní doby a snížení negativního vlivu provozu na okolí vylučováním protihlukových stěn. Dále pak sanaci železničního spodu, nová zabezpečovací zařízení, lůžky, mosty, poďhody atd. Pokud byly do rekonstrukce zahrnuty i zastávky, myslelo se i na jejich zpřístupnění pro občany se sníženou pohyblivostí. Evropská unie přispěla na zlepšení dopravy na těchto tratích prostřednictvím Operačního programu Doprava celkem částkou přesahující 5,4 miliardy korun.

Zdroj: OP Doprava

Zdvoje informací o evropských fondech a EU
Bezplatná telefonní linka k EU EUROFON: 800 200 200
e-mail: info@strukturalni-fondy.cz
www.euroskop.cz
www.strukturalni-fondy.cz

Národní orgán pro koordinaci (NOK)
Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR
Staroměstské náměstí 6, 110 15 Praha 1
tel.: +420 224 861 111
e-mail: nok@mcr.cz

7.2.2 Questionnaire survey

Summary of main findings

Awareness of and interest in matters related to EU funds

- § **Awareness of EU funds** among the population is very **high**. 9 in 10 persons (89%) have already heard about the EU funds (as against 2006 it is an **increase in public awareness of EU funds by 46%**).
- § 53 % of citizens take a rather **passive** interest in matters related to the EU funds, sometimes they hear a piece of information, but do not seek information themselves. Only 4 % of people declare that they themselves **actively** seek information.
- § 73 % of people consider the assistance from the EU funds as a **unique opportunity for the development** of living standard in the CR.
- § 50 % of citizens believe that thanks to the EU funds it is possible to close the gap between more and less developed regions of the CR.

EU budget drawdown

- § 45 % of citizens believe that the CR is a **net beneficiary** in terms of the EU budget receipts and contributions. 20 % of people believe that the CR is a net contributor. 12 % consider the ratio between the receipts and contributions **balanced**.
- § Fairly surprising is the information on the **share of persons who have no opinion**, or were not even willing to give any estimates. This group is represented by 23 % of citizens.

Understanding the matters related to EU funds

- § 74 % of citizens admit that they do not know an exact **duration of the current programming period** for the absorption of EU funds. 10 % of people believe that they know the duration of the programming period, but when asked, their statements are wrong. 16 % of citizens know the correct answer (i.e. that the programming period will end in 2013).
- § 50 % of citizens who correctly stated the end of the programming period are not sure about the **specific amount of granted assistance**. The largest share (27 %) of those, who stated an amount of the budget, believe that the CZK 50-500 billion was granted to the CR.
- § Only 7 % of people believe that they **have a good understanding of the EU funds-related matters**. 37 % of citizens would like to get clear explanations to multiple questions concerning the award of EU funds. The share of these people has dropped as against 2006 (by 14 p.p.). Thus, it can be assumed that during this period a number of questions have been clarified.
- § 10 % of respondents are **well informed** about the **possibilities of being granted the assistance** from the EU funds.
- § **The activities of ministries and other institutions** in support of the use of EU funds are considered positive by 41 % of citizens (as against 2006 it is an increase by 6 p.p.).
- § According to 44 % of citizens the money from the EU funds **are used in line with clear rules**, according to 39 % of people the use of EU funds is **consistently controlled**.
- § Only a third (31 %) of citizens considers the absorption of EU funds to be **transparent**.

Sources of information on EU funds

- § **National media** (i.e. **radio, press, Internet**) are definitely the most frequently used sources of information on the EU funds. Television, which is the most frequent source of information (for 80 % of citizens), is simultaneously considered to be the most comprehensible source (34 %). All

the other sources of information (press, Internet, peers, radio, brochures, leaflets, school, training courses) did not reach the value of 10 % in terms of comprehensibility.

- § In case the citizens need to get specific information on the absorption of EU funds, from among the offered possibilities they would most frequently opt for the **websites of state institutions** (ministries, regional authorities, regions) which they consider the most reliable, the most serious, offering the richest and the most complete information.
- § The citizens, who take at least a passive interest in the EU funds-related matters, believe that the information on the EU funds is well accessible (75 % of respondents), adequate (58 %), credible and truthful (58 %) and presented in an interesting manner (50 %). As against 2006 a certain improvement has been made in all the evaluated parameters, the most remarkable advancement in positive evaluation was reported in good accessibility of information (by 14 p.p.).

Significance of EU funds for the CR

- § 81 % of citizens consider the **possibility of the EU funds absorption** positive and 72 % of citizens consider the assistance from the EU funds to be a significant contribution to the Czech economy.
- § According to the respondents there are several **main areas to which the EU funds shall be preferably channelled**. It is primarily the health care sector (to which 50 % of respondents would preferably invest the funds), the environment (43 %), education and training (38 %) and transport (37 %).
- § According to 64 % of citizens the submitted applications for assistance from EU funds in the CR have a good **chance to be granted the assistance**. The highest chance according to the respondents have **regional authorities** (75 %) or large **towns** (67 %). The chance is not so high in case of entrepreneurs (15 %). The respondents believe that the lowest chance to be granted the assistance have the non-profit organisations and smaller municipalities (9 % each).
- § 13 % of respondents know a specific applicant (e.g. municipalities, entrepreneurs) who applied for assistance from the EU funds, but the application was not approved.

Operational Programmes

- § Not many people **know the logos** of individual operational programmes. 80 % of citizens were not able to recognize any of the presented logos. The remaining respondents, who have already noticed some of the logos, most frequently stated the logo of ESF (41 %), ROP North-East (25 %), ROP Central Moravia (25 %), Operational Programme Environment (20 %) and Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment (19 %).
- § **The best-known OP** is definitely the OP Environment which is known to 70 % of respondents. It is followed by: OP Transport (52 %), OP Human Resources and Employment (41 %), OP Education for Competitiveness (35 %), European Territorial Cooperation (29 %), OP Research and Development for Innovations (29 %), OP Enterprise and Innovations (28 %), Integrated Operational Programme (18 %) and OP Technical Assistance (12 %).
- § In regions the **awareness of the involvement of regional institutions in the distribution of funds** is relatively low and does not change over time (12 % of citizens believe that they are informed about the ways in which the funds are distributed in regions). The citizens consider rather negative also the **provision of information on distribution of EU funds** by the regional self-government (66 % citizens have reservations). On the other hand, the citizens have also noticed a **positive impact** of the absorption of EU funds on **the development** of their **region** (62 %).

Confidence and attitudes to the EU

- § In 2011, 44 % of citizens **have confidence** in the European Union (as against 2006 is a decrease by 13 p.p.).
- § In case of a new referendum on the EU accession also 44 % of citizens would vote **in favour of the accession**, 3 % are not decided as yet (as against 2006 it is a decrease by 18 p.p.).

Results

1. General awareness of EU, attitudes of citizens to the EU and to the EU assistance

Based on the answers of respondents to the following questions, a typology of citizens was drafted according to their attitude to EU-related matters. In the framework of research results, the typology is used to monitor the differences in opinions between various groups of citizens with different attitude towards the EU and the level of awareness of the assistance granted by the EU to the CR.

- § **Do you have confidence in the European Union?**
 - .. Yes (covers “definitely yes” and “rather yes” responses)
 - .. No (covers “rather no” and “definitely no” responses)
 - .. “I don't know” responses were excluded

EUROOPTIMISTS represented in population by 45 %

EUROPESIMISTS represented in population by 55 %

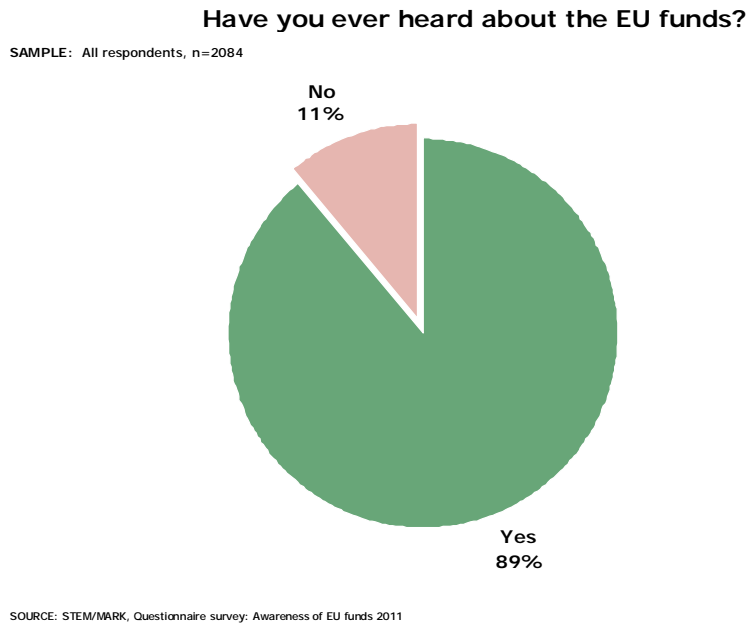
- § **Are you interested in more detailed information on specific assistance granted by the European Union to the Czech Republic?**
 - .. Yes (covers “definitely yes” and “rather yes” responses)
 - .. No (covers “rather no” and “definitely no” responses)
 - .. “I don't know” responses were excluded

CURIOUS represented in population by 48 %

INDIFFERENT represented in population by 52 %

2. Awareness of EU funds

Chart No 5



§ Considered a positive piece of information is the finding that only one in ten citizens of the CR has so far not heard of the EU funds. These are mainly people with low education, economically inactive persons, people without access to Internet, the Indifferent and Europesimists.

- .. This group of people usually has no idea whether the CR is a net beneficiary or a net contributor when receipts and contributions are compared. Majority of persons in this group stated that they do not know (48 %), that the CR is a net contributor (14 %), or that it is balanced (10 %).

§ All the respondents who stated that they have heard about the EU funds were asked to give a specific name or topic of some of the funds. The summary of responses to this question is given in the table on this page.

- .. Most frequently the citizens connect the investments of European money with the environment.
- .. The most frequently stated specific topic is Green Savings – this project, however, does not fall among projects funded from operational programmes. The other specific topics or names of some of the funds were stated exceptionally, by a few individuals only.
- .. 2 in 3 respondents, however, could not recollect any name or topic of EU funds, even though they declared to have heard some information about the EU funds.

Table No 21

Most often spontaneously mentioned areas of EU assistance	%
Environment	10,04
Regional development, tourism	6,26
Social area - (e.g. unemployment related matters)	5,40
Training, youth, education	5,18
Heritage/monuments, culture	4,97
Transport, infrastructure	4,91
Green Savings, thermal insulation of houses	4,10
Rural development, agriculture	3,67
Housing, construction	2,21
Other (e.g. cross-border cooperation, enterprise, Norwegian funds,etc)	7,13
None	62,9

3. General interest in EU funds

§ Among the citizens of the CR there is a fairly strong interest in the EU funds related matters.

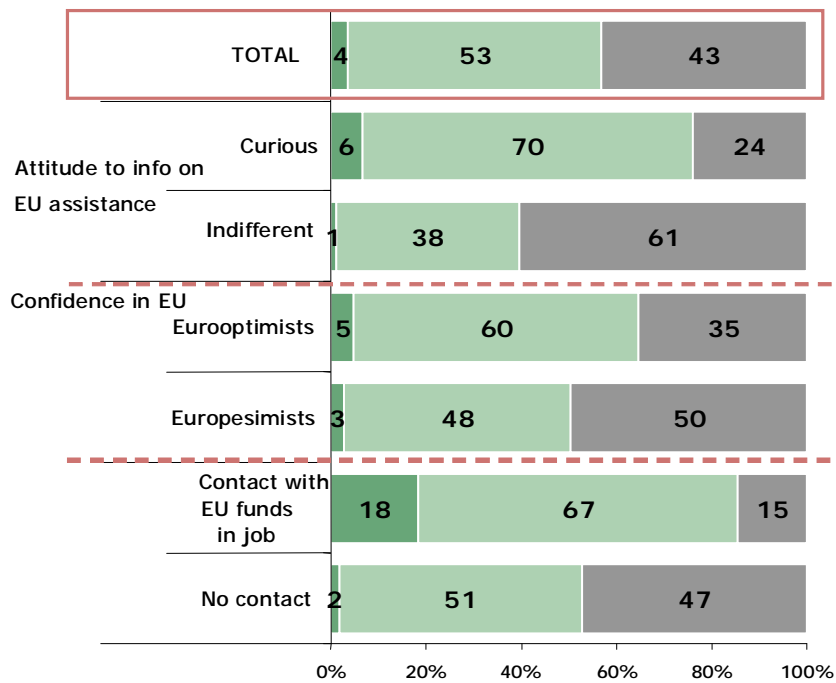
- .. A very low share of respondents, however, take an active interest. It concerns predominantly persons who come across the EU funds related matters in their professional career, i.e. at work. The Curious are fairly strongly represented in this group of respondents.
- .. The others are fairly *passive* in seeking the information, they wait that the information gets to them “by itself”. It has to be mentioned, though, that once the information reaches this group of citizens, they pay attention to it. This confirms the assumption that this group is composed predominantly of the Curious and Eurooptimists.
- .. Two fifth of citizens declare **not to be** interested in the EU funds related matters and turn a “deaf ear” to such information. This attitude may be a sort of stylisation matching their europesimistic attitude, their denial of “anything European”.

Chart No 6

Are you at least in general interested in EU funds related matters?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

- Yes, I take an active interest
- Passively, sometimes I hear some information
- No, I am not interested in these matters at all



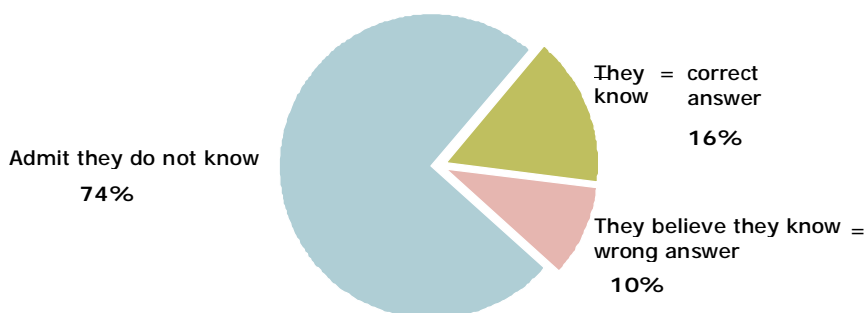
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

4. Programming period and money negotiated for the CR

Chart No 7

The CR received certain allocations from the EU funds. Do you know the year until which they have to be absorbed?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



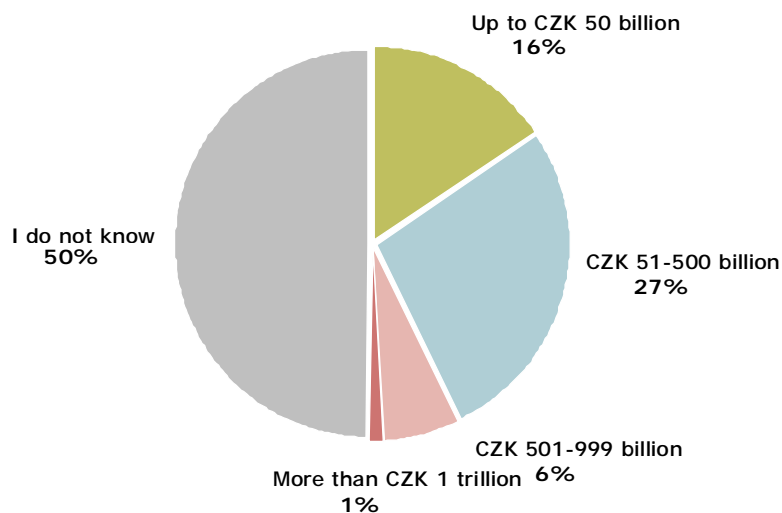
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § $\frac{3}{4}$ of citizens admit that they **do not know** the end of the current programming period for the drawdown of EU allocations. Much more often it concerns women, person without GCE, without access to Internet and also those who do not get in contact with ERU funds in their work.
- § **The year 2013** was correctly stated by 15 % of citizens. As to statistical significance the best informed proved to be entrepreneurs and tradesmen (24 % as against 15 % on average) and university graduates (34 % as against the referred to 15 %). They were followed by Eurooptimists, people with access to Internet, the Curious and those who in their job get in touch with these matters. It is a positive finding that 45 % of those who believe to have a good understanding of the EU funds-related matters, managed to give a correct date of the end of the programming period. Just as big proportion of these people (declaring to have a good understanding of these matters), however, answered they did not know the date.
- § The university graduates also more than the others **believe they know**, but give wrong answers.
- § A half of those who did know the duration of the programming period, however, had no idea about the amount negotiated by the CR. Roughly one fourth assumes that it is an amount somewhere between CZK 51 and 500 billion.
- § 80 % of those who did not know the exact end of the programming period do not dare estimate the volume of negotiated funds. 9 % believes that the amount is somewhere between CZK 51-500 billion, 9 % picked the amount of up to CZK 50 billion.

Chart No 8

Do you know how much money the CR negotiated in the current programming period?

SAMPLE: Respondents who correctly stated the year 2013 (end of the current programming period), n= 164



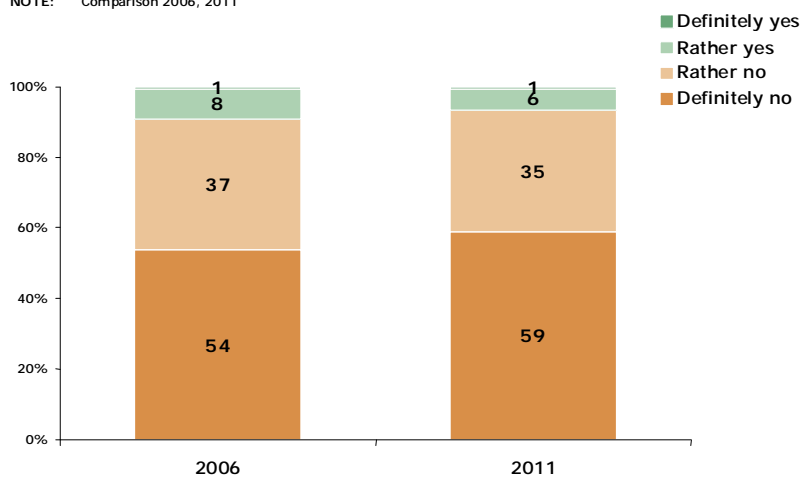
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

5. Understanding the EU funds-related matters

Chart No 9

Do you think you understand well the EU funds related matters?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1593 (year 2006), n=2073 (year 2011)
NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011

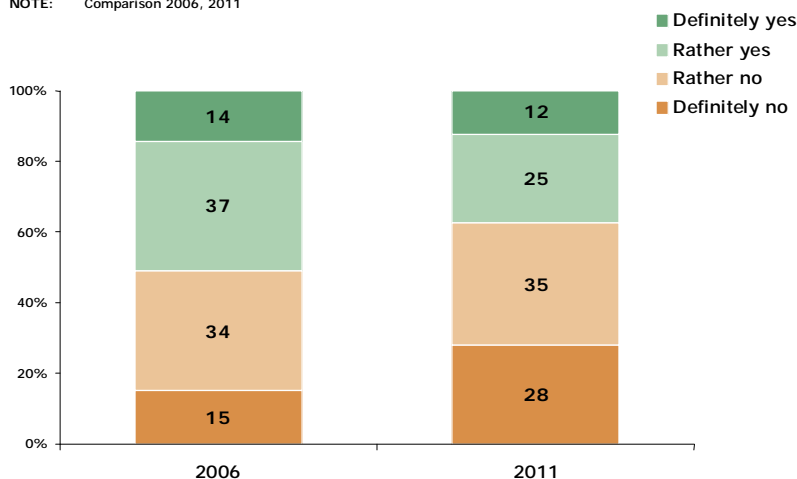


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 10

Are there many questions related to the possibilities of being granted the EU funds that you would like to have clarified?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1593 (year 2006), n=2065 (year 2011)
 NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011



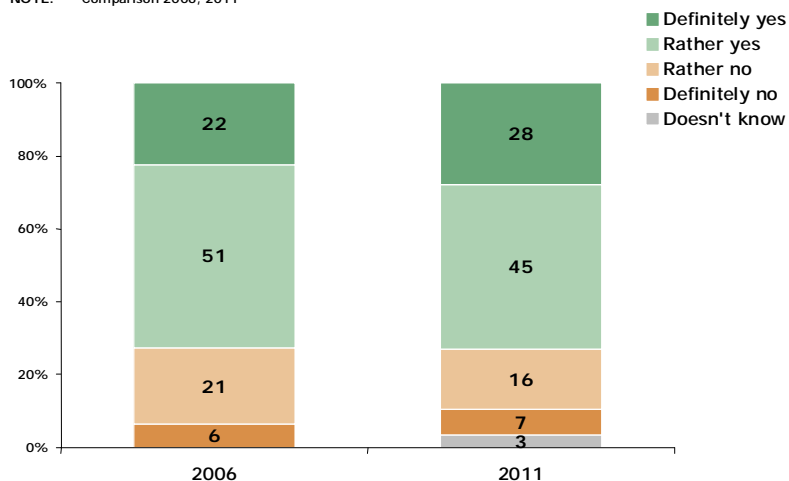
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § Only less than 7 % of citizens believe that they have a **good understanding** of the EU funds-related matters. Compared to 2006 the situation has not changed much. A good understanding is claimed rather by men and university graduates. Nonetheless, the response to this question does not necessarily reflect the reality, it is rather a self-evaluation, influenced to a certain degree by self-confidence and self-assurance of individual respondents.
- § As against 2006 the share of citizens who feel the **need to have certain matters** related to the award of EU funds **clarified** decreased. This is significantly more often declared by the Curious and those who get in contact with the EU funds in their jobs. It brings us to the conclusion that a number of matters in which the citizens were interested were clarified in recent years.
- § Less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of citizens perceive the EU funds assistance as an opportunity for increase in the standard of living in the CR. As against 2006 there was no significant shift. (This attitude is most often the case of persons from higher income households).

Chart No 11

Is the assistance from EU funds a unique opportunity for the development and increase in living standard in the CR?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1574 (year 2006), n=2084 (year 2011)
NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011

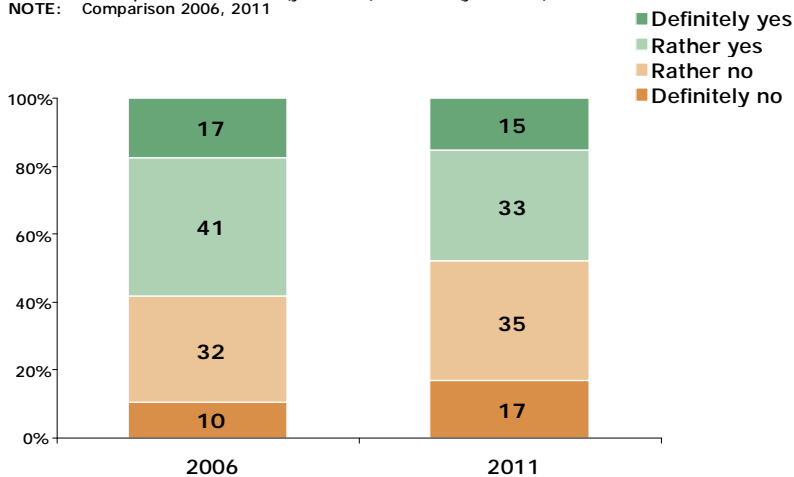


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 12

Are you interested in more details about how specifically the EU helps the Czech Republic?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1594 (year 2006), n=2062 (year 2011)
NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

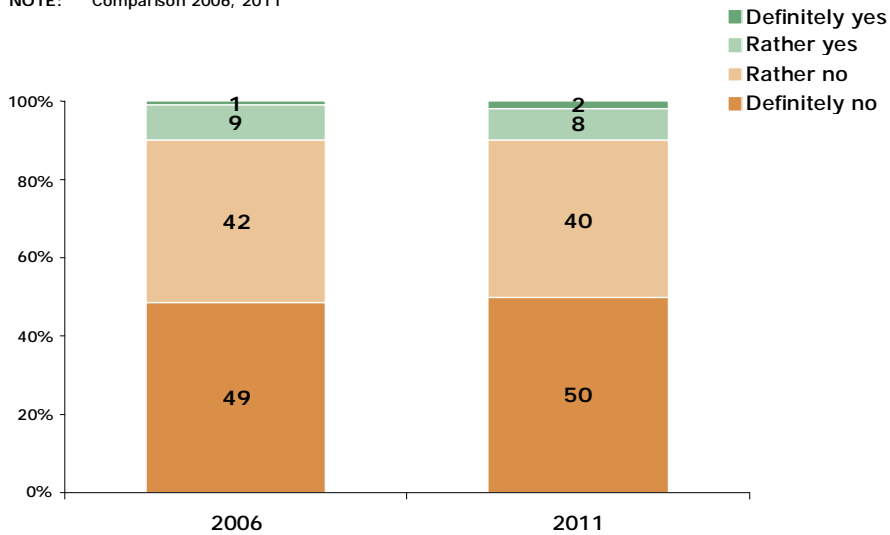
- § Roughly a half of citizens declare an **interest in information** on specific EU assistance to the CR. As against 2006 it represents a certain decrease (by 10 p.p.). More often it concerns university graduates, the Curious and those who get in contact with EU funds in their job.
- § Nonetheless, there still is almost a half of respondents who do not feel they get information, but at the same time they do not ask any questions which they would like to have clarified, it means that they are not interested in these matters at all.
- § Only 10 % of citizens feel to be well informed about the **possibilities of being granted assistance** from EU funds, which is just as big a group as in 2006.

§ The confidence in Czech institutions and their **efforts to assist in the maximum use of funds** from EU has slightly improved, 41 % in 2011 as against 35 % in 2006. Positive answers were more often given by young people up to 30 years of age, persons from higher income households. Negative answers, on the contrary, were more often given by the inhabitants of Central Bohemia.

Chart No 13

Do you think you are well informed on the possibilities of being granted financial assistance from EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1595 (year 2006), n=2062 (year 2011)
NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011

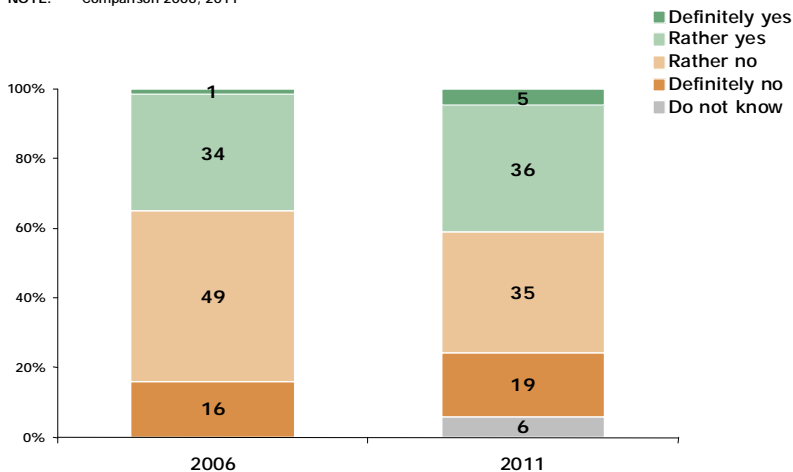


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 14

Do you think that the ministries and other institutions seek to assist in the use of EU funds through their services and information?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1556 (year 2006), n=2084 (year 2011)
NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

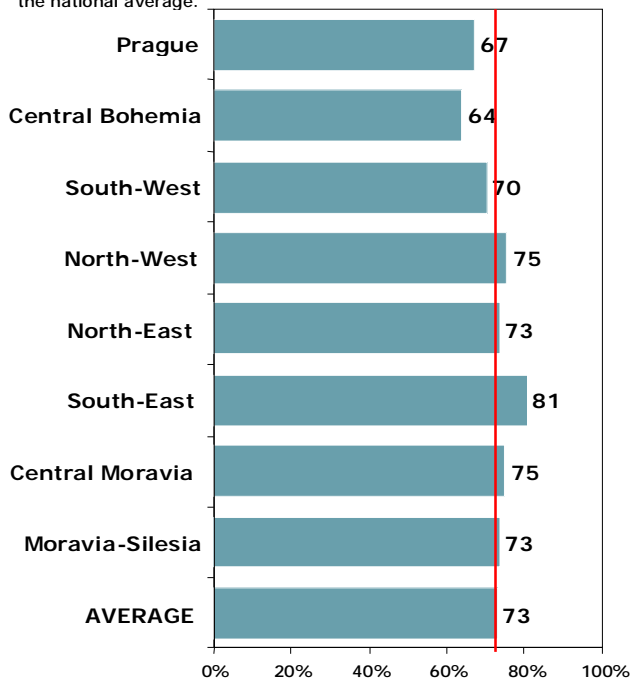
6. Understanding of EU funds related matters – regional perspective

Chart No 15

Is the assistance from EU funds a unique opportunity for the development and increase in the standard of living in the CR?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Positive responses only. Red line marks a dividing line between regions above and below the national average.



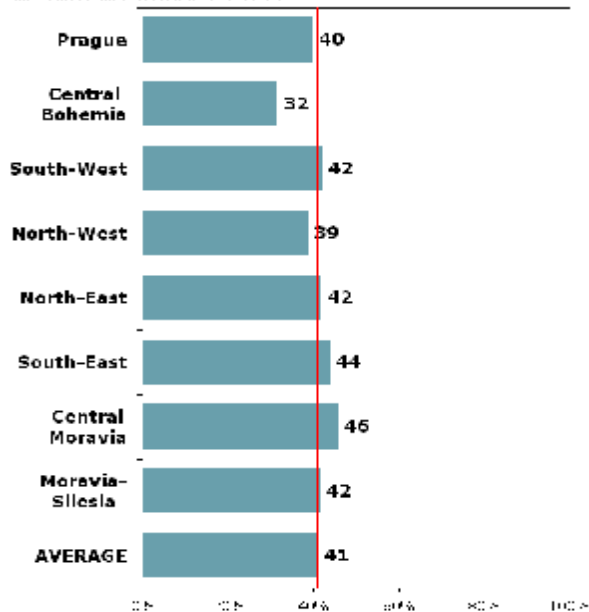
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 16

Do you think that the institutions seek to assist in the use of EU funds through their services and information?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Positive responses only. Red line marks a dividing line between regions above and below the national average.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

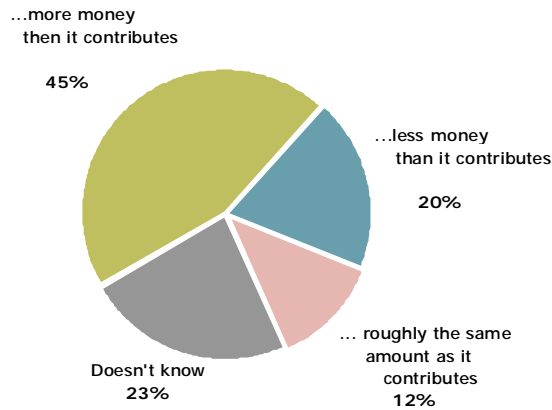
§ The overview of individual regions shows that the opinion on activities of institutions in the CR is more or less the same (fairly balanced).

7. Absorption of European Union budget

Chart No 17

CR will receive from the EU budget...

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



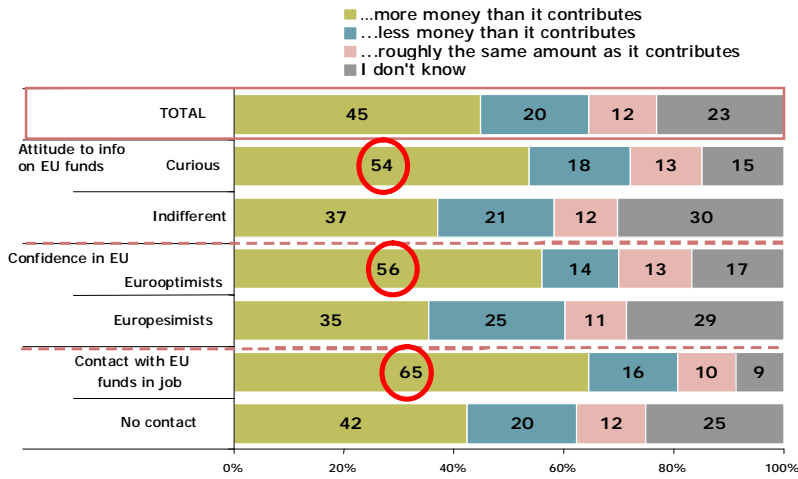
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § Less than a half of respondents believe that when the receipts from the EU budget and the contributions thereto are compared, the CR is a **net beneficiary**.
- .. More often it is the Curious, Eurooptimists and people who get in contact with EU funds in their jobs who believe so. Also the university graduates and people with access to Internet believe so more often than the others.
 - .. 2/3 of these people simultaneously declare taking at least a passive interest in these matters.
- § More than a half of the population therefore assume that the membership of the CR in the EU does not pay off financially or they cannot judge the situation (which illustrates a fairly low awareness of citizens of these matters):
- .. According to 1/5 of the citizens the CR is a net contributor (significantly more often this is the belief of Europesimists).
 - .. A large group (¼ of citizens) cannot answer this question (more often women and people without access to Internet).

Chart No 18

CR will receive from the EU budget...

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

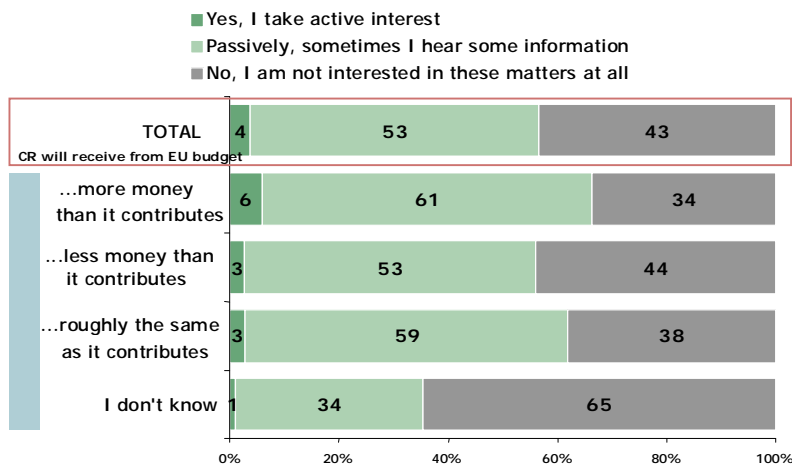


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 19

Interest in EU funds-related matters vs awareness of receipts from EU budget

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



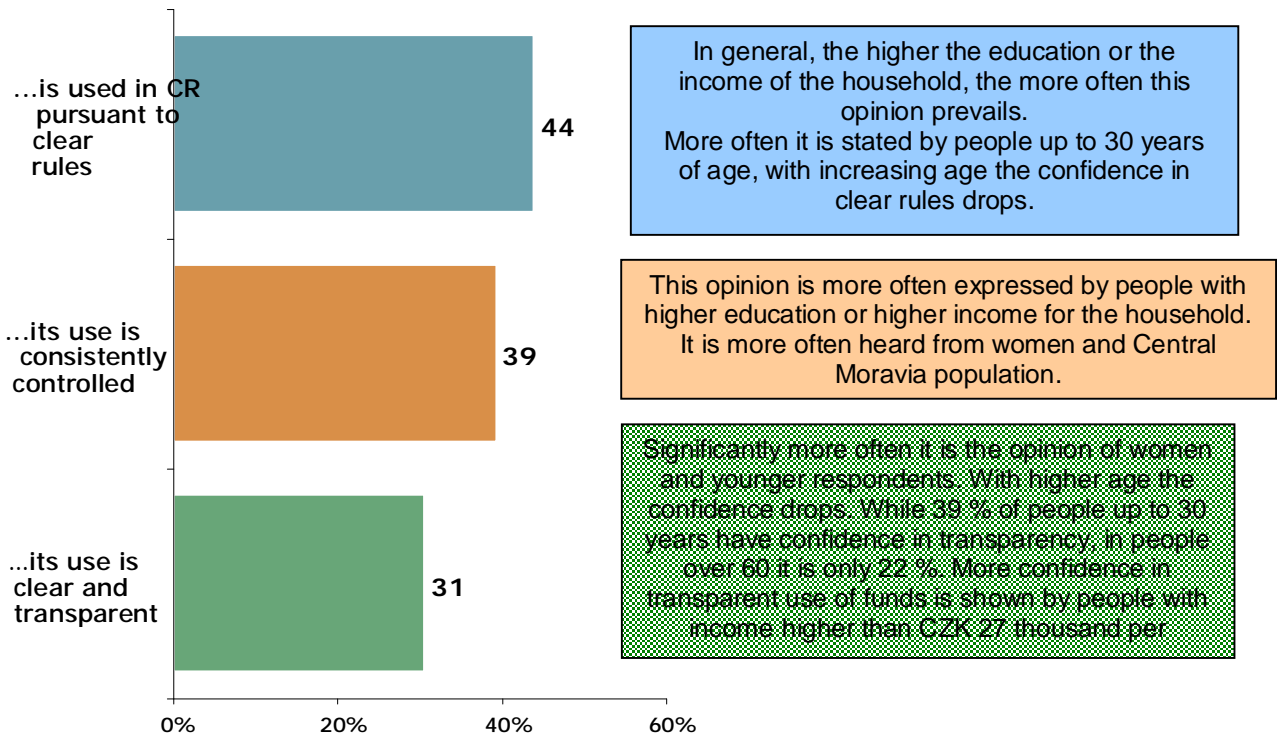
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey, Awareness of EU funds 2011

8. Opinion on the absorption of financial assistance from EU funds

Chart No 20

Would you say that the money from EU funds...

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

9. Sources of information on EU funds: Most frequent sources of information on EU funds

Chart No 21

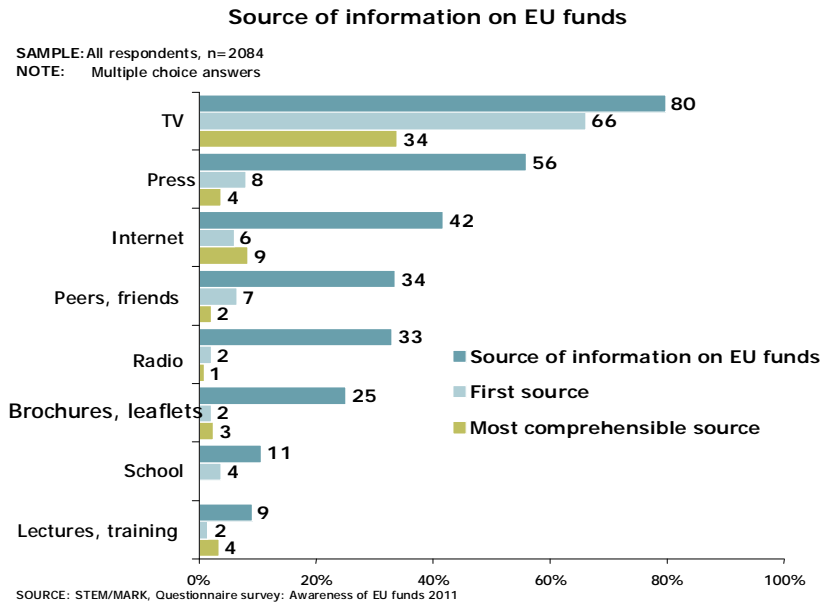
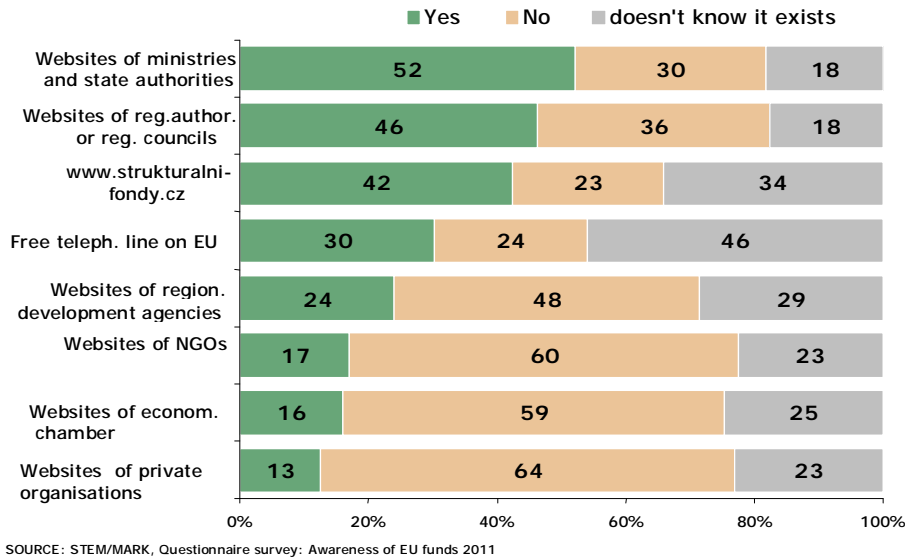


Chart No 22

Where would you seek information on the possibility of being granted assistance from EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

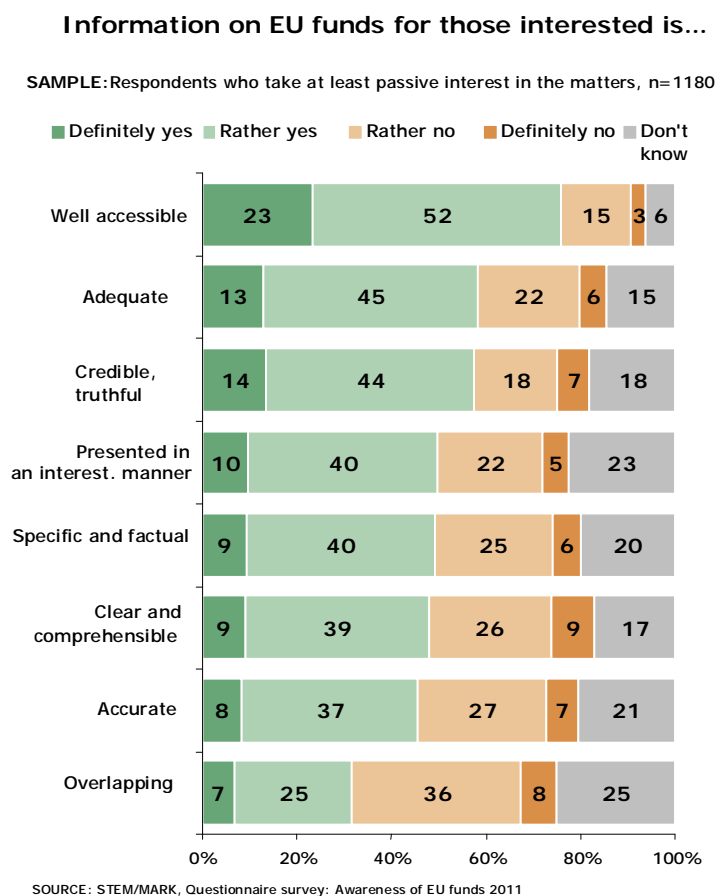


The top position among the most frequently used sources of information is definitely held by **national media** – television, press, Internet.

- § 2/3 of citizens heard about the EU funds for the first time from TV. This source is in general the most frequent and the most comprehensible source of information. A question is how deep such information is. The oldest age group refers to the TV more often than the others.
- § Roughly 1/2 of people receive information on the EU funds-related matters also from press (more often the age group 59+) or Internet (especially in 18 to 44 age group).
- § In 2006 the ranking of used information sources was the following: TV (72 %), newspapers and periodicals (58 %), radio (34 %), peers and friends (31%), Internet (22 %).
- § Citizens who would feel the need to get specific information on the possibilities of assistance from some of the EU funds would most frequently go to **websites of state institutions** which people obviously consider to be the most serious and the richest in information and the providers of the most complete information. The leaders among them were the websites of ministries, followed by regions and regional authorities.
- § The websites of NGOs or private organisations, development agencies, economic chamber are refused by people as a reliable source of information although they are informed of their existence.

10. Evaluation of available information on EU funds

Chart No 23



- § 96 % of citizens do not have the experience of being unsuccessful when seeking information on EU funds.

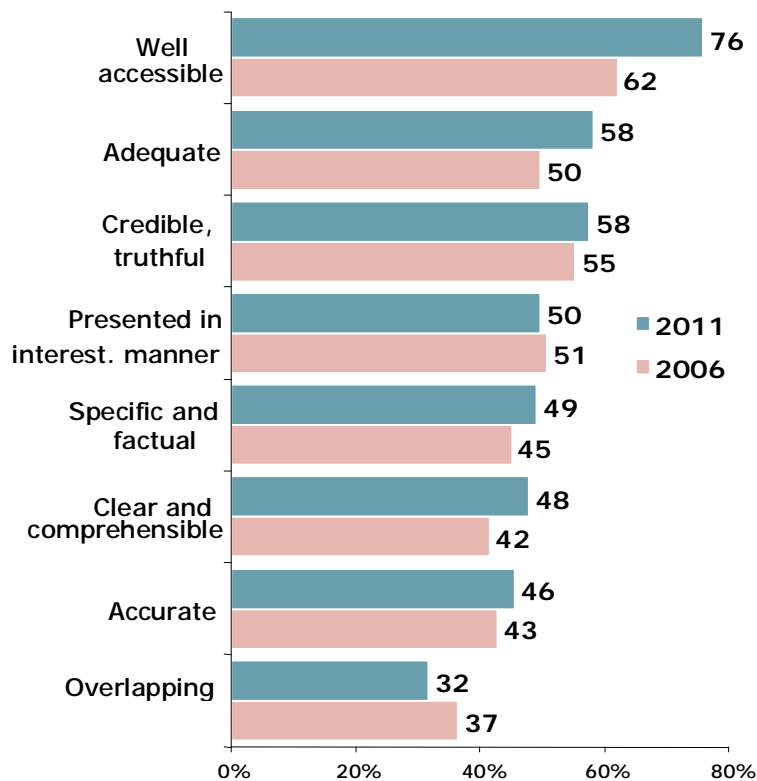
§ Only 4 % of citizens stated they lack some information on EU funds or have difficulties to find it. Below you will find some quotations from answers:

- § “How should I complete the form”
- § “I sought aid for forestry and could not find the necessary information”
- § I cannot find the person responsible for allocation of money (anonymity of officers), simple specific requirements for qualifying for aid”
- § “What is the total allocation for the CR”
- § “Social security and health care of retirees in EU countries”
- § How can the private sector apply for money unless it concerns culture or the Ministry of Economy programmes.”
- § “Where to get the forms, who is responsible for the respective part of project, who will grant free assistance with the project and its implementation, or approval.”

Chart No 24

Information on EU funds for those interested is... - development over time

SAMPLE: All respondents n= 1600 (year 2006); respondents who take at least passive interest in the given matters=1180 (year 2011)
NOTE: Positive responses only. Comparison 2006, 2011



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

§ ¾ of citizens with at least basic idea about the EU funds related matters believe that the information is **well accessible**.

§ People are also quite satisfied with the volume, **credibility, truthfulness and the form of presentation of information**. All these qualities were positively perceived by at least one half of respondents.

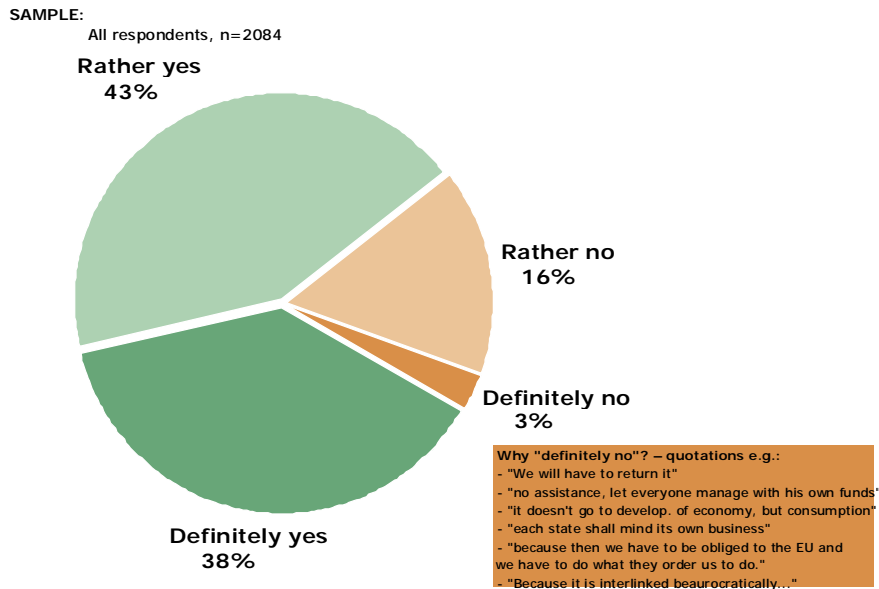
§ People are much less satisfied because of redundant **information overlap**, its low accuracy and comprehensibility for an ordinary citizen.

§ A fairly large part of respondents could not assess some qualities since they lacked adequate experience or an opinion. Most frequently it concerned the overlap of information, its interesting presentation and specific and factual nature.

11. Attitudes to EU funds: Impact of EU funds on socio-economic development in the CR

Chart No 25

Do you consider the possibility of absorption of EU funds positive?



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

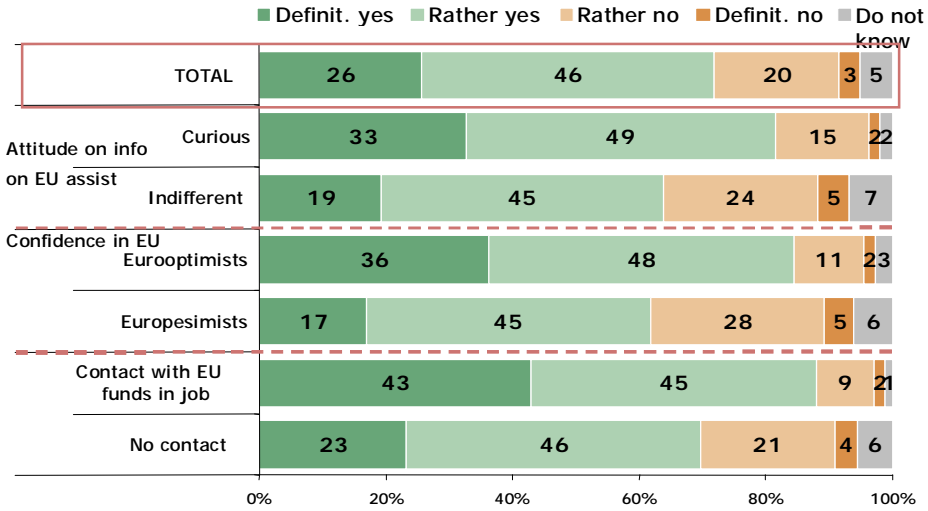
§ 4/5 of citizens consider the absorption of EU funds **positive**. No reservations to the absorption in general ("definitely yes") are expressed more often by people with higher education (e.g. 53 % of university graduates as against 38 % on average) and also by people with higher income per household, entrepreneurs and tradesmen.

§ According to less than 3/4 of citizens the **European assistance** represents a **significant contribution** to the Czech economy. This opinion is more often expressed by entrepreneurs and tradesmen or university graduates.

Chart No 26

Do you think that the EU assistance represents a Major contribution to Czech economy?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

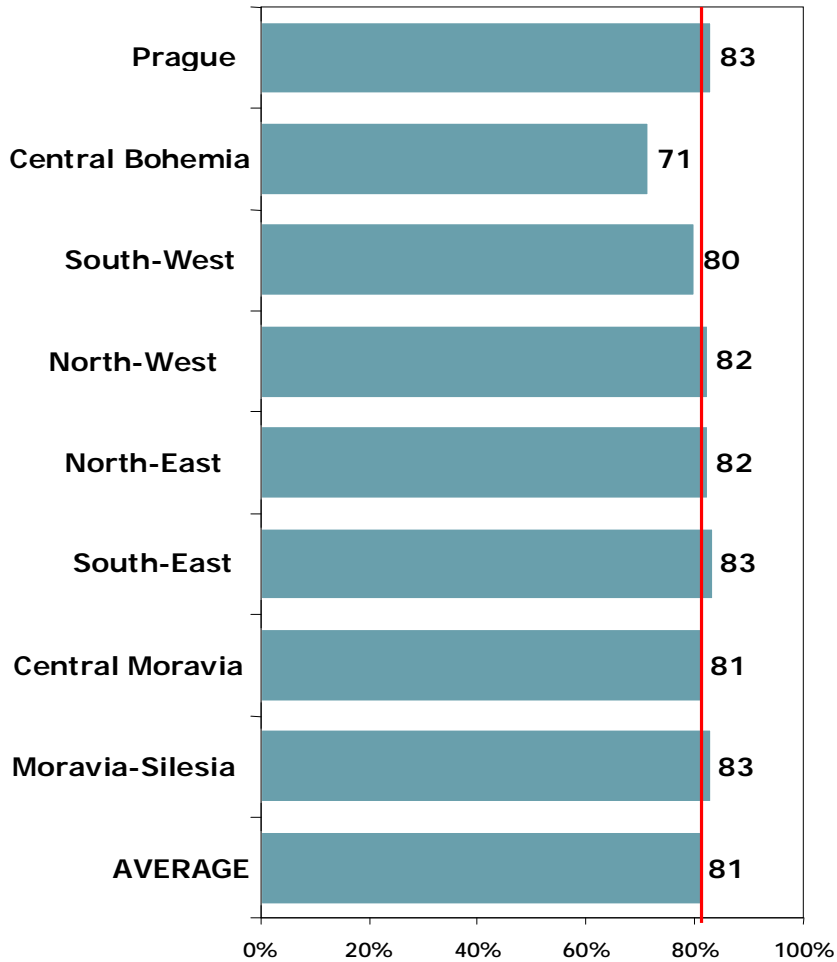
12. Impact of EU funds on development of the CR – regional perspective

Chart No 27

Do you consider the possibility of absorption from EU funds positive?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Positive responses only. Red line marks the dividing line between the regions above and below the national average



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

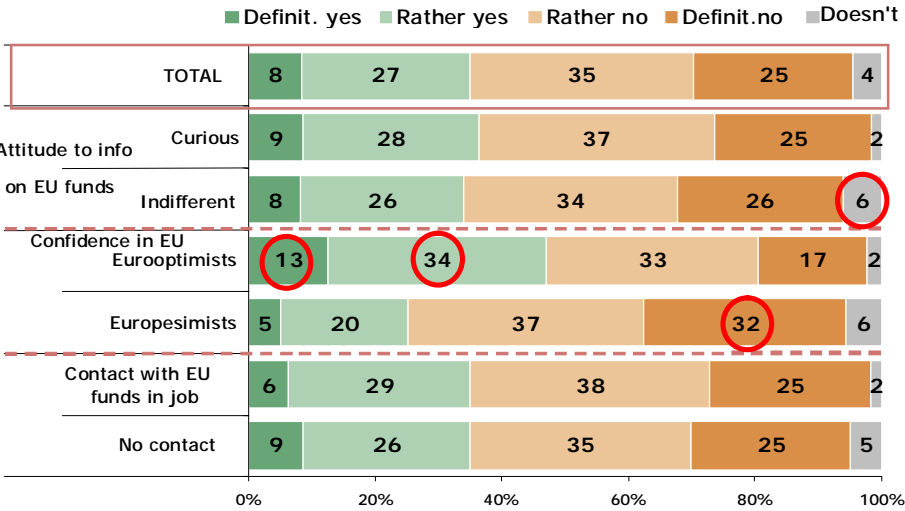
- § Overview of individual regions suggests that potential possible assistance from EU funds is viewed positive throughout the country by a large part of the population.
- § The most critical voices were heard by population of Central Bohemia.

13. Significance of EU funds for the CR

Chart No 28

Do you think that institutions responsible for the drawdown of EU funds do all they can for the CR to correctly and timely absorb as much as possible?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

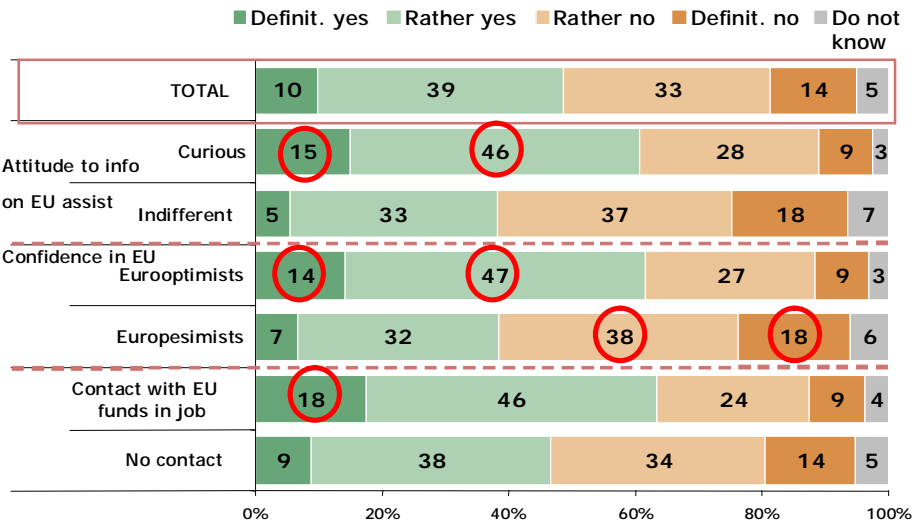


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 29

Is it possible to close the gaps btw more and less developed CR regions with the assistance of EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N= 1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § Roughly 1/2 of citizens are convinced with no reservations (more often among men) that with the assistance of EU funds **the development** across the CR can be brought to the **same level**.
- § Approximately 1/3 of citizens believe that **institutions** responsible for the drawdown of EU funds **act to the maximum benefit of the CR**. This opinion is most frequently seen among

Eurooptimists, women, people up to 30 years and people without GCE. No significant difference between people who get in contact with EU funds in their jobs and those who do not get in contact therewith was reported, which is unique.

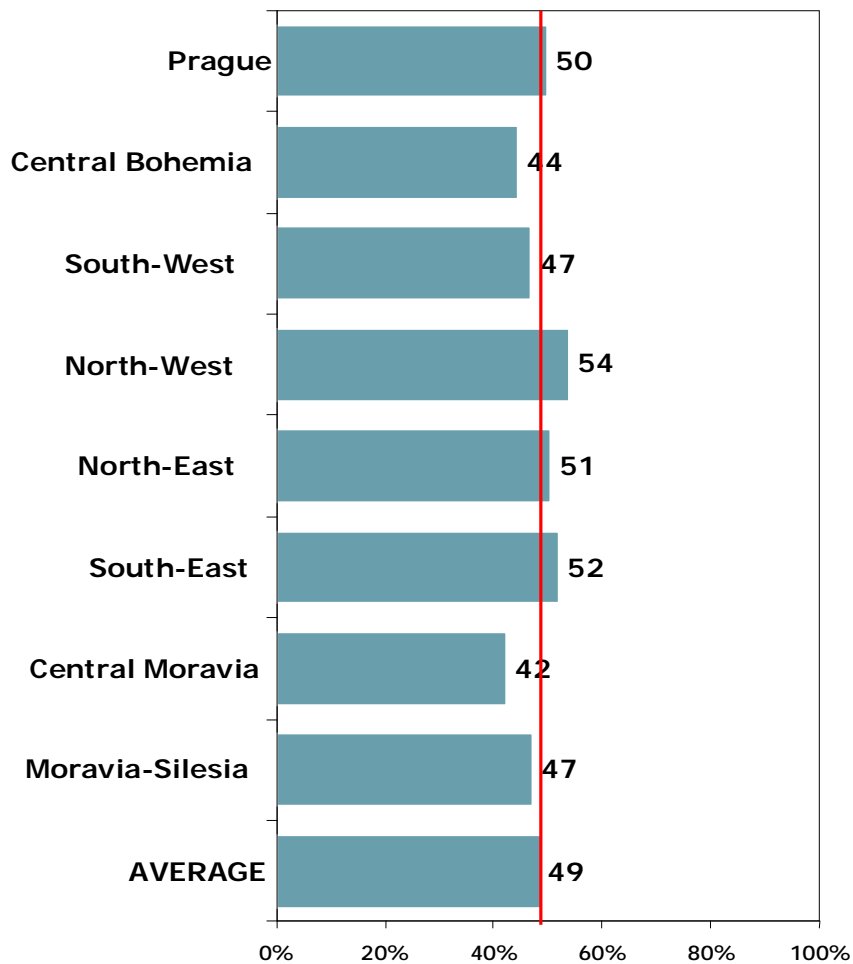
14. Impact of EU funds on the development in CR – regional perspective

Chart No 30

Is it possible to close gaps btw more and less developed CR regions with EU funds assistance?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Positive respondents only. Red line marks the dividing line between regions above and below the national average.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

§ The chance to increase the level of less developed regions through the assistance from EU funds is perceived predominantly by the population of North-West and, whereas the population of Central Moravia believes in this chance the least.

15. Areas to which the investments from EU funds shall be channelled

§ A fifth of citizens would channel the investments especially (ranking first) to the **environment or transport**. In terms of frequency of the referred to individual areas (i.e. sum total of the first three ranks mentioned) the following areas were most frequently stated as in the most urgent need of investments: **health care** (50 %), **environment** (43 %).

§ In 2006 the question was asked by another method which due to the extended number of alternative answers could not be applied. Nonetheless, it facilitates certain comparisons: in total in 2006 considered the most important was the area of unemployment and social affairs (welfare), followed by agriculture and rural development ranking second and environment, ranking third.

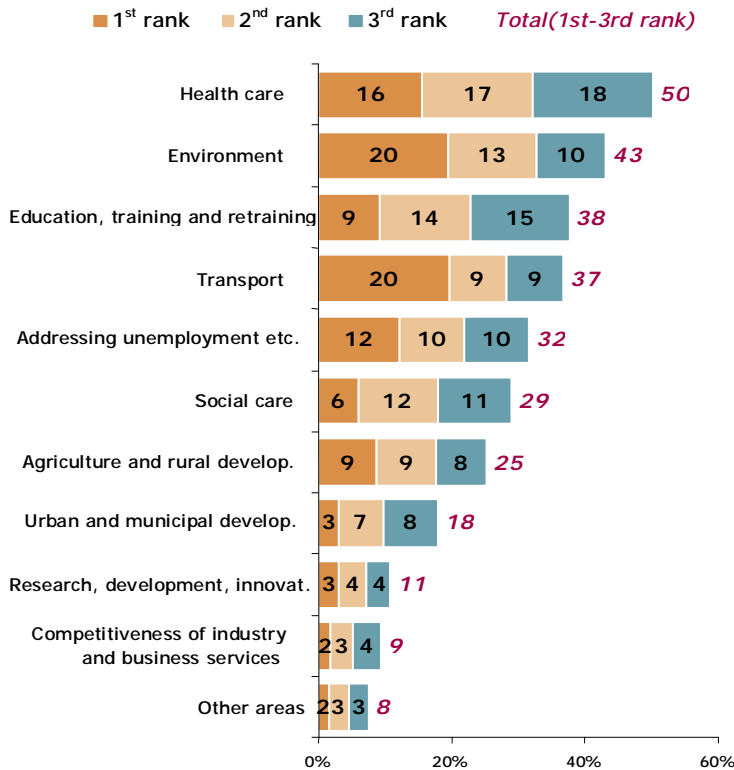
§ Statistically significant differences:

- AGE: persons up to 30 years: education and training, retraining; persons aged 59 plus: agriculture and rural development
- EDUCATION: university graduates: research, development, innovation; enhancing competitiveness of industry and business services, education, training and retraining; people without GCE: social care, health care
- GENDER: Men would more often invest in these areas: transport, agriculture and rural development, research, development and innovations, development of energy sector; whereas women: social care, health care, education, training and retraining

Chart No 31

To which areas should the investment from EU be channelled in particular?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084
NOTE: Respondents selected 3 areas ranked by importance.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

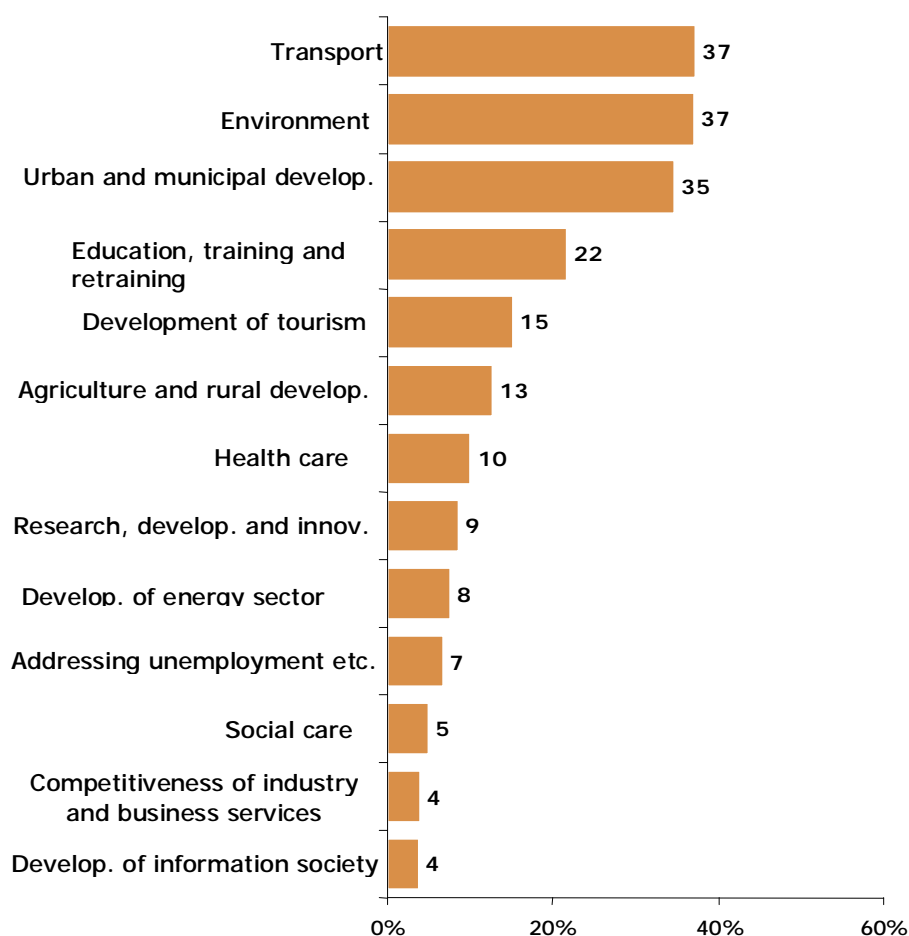
- .. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: Economically inactive: social care; entrepreneurs and tradesmen: research, development, innovation, enhancing competitiveness of industry and business services
- .. Other significant areas: environment (Moravia-Silesia region); agriculture and rural development (Europesimists); research, development and innovation (persons who are in contact with EU funds in their job)

Chart No 32

Areas which exhibit visible results of EU funds investments

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Multiple choice answers



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

16. Accessibility of assistance from EU funds in the CR

Applicants for assistance

Chart No 33

Has a common municipality, entrepreneur or NGO a chance to be granted assistance from EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

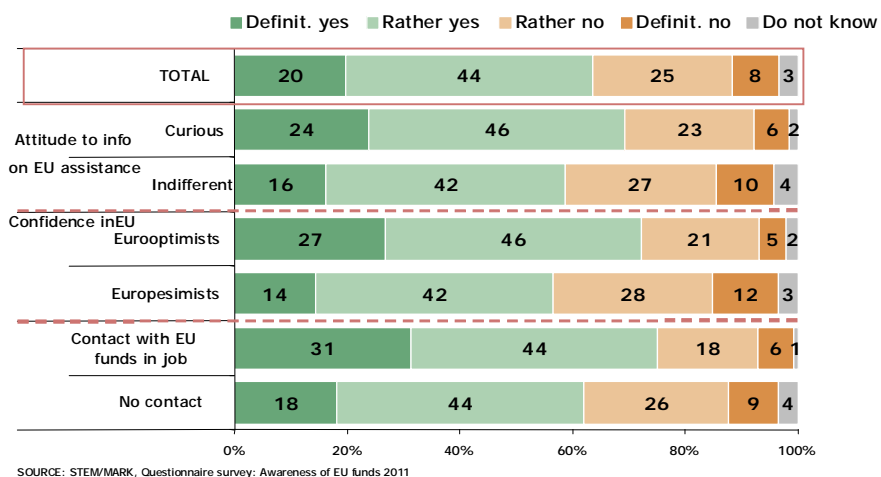


Chart No 34

Are common applicants able to correctly fill in the application for assistance from EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

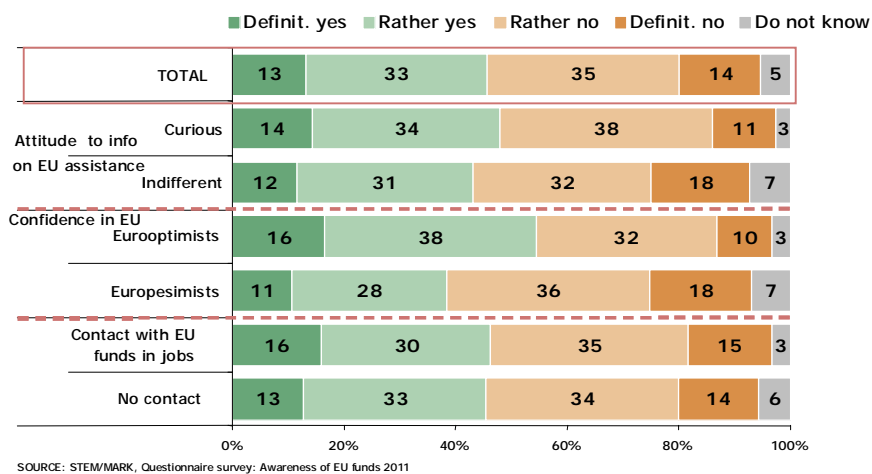
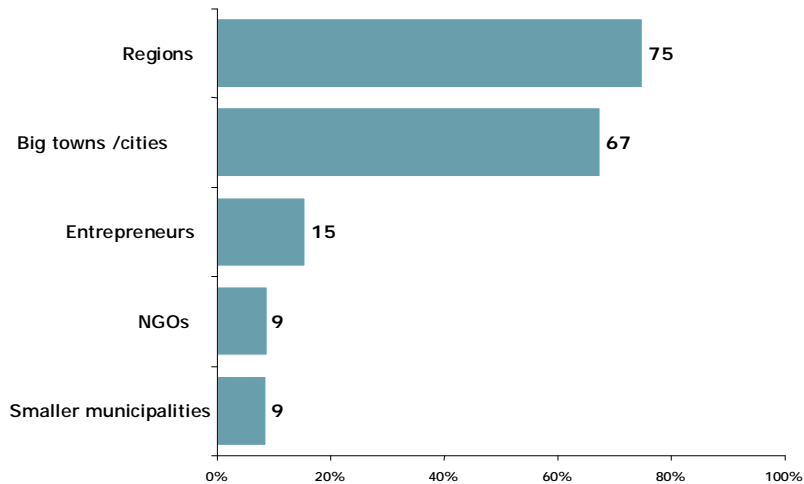


Chart No 35

What types of applicants have the highest chance to be granted assistance from EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Respondents could choose 2 answers



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

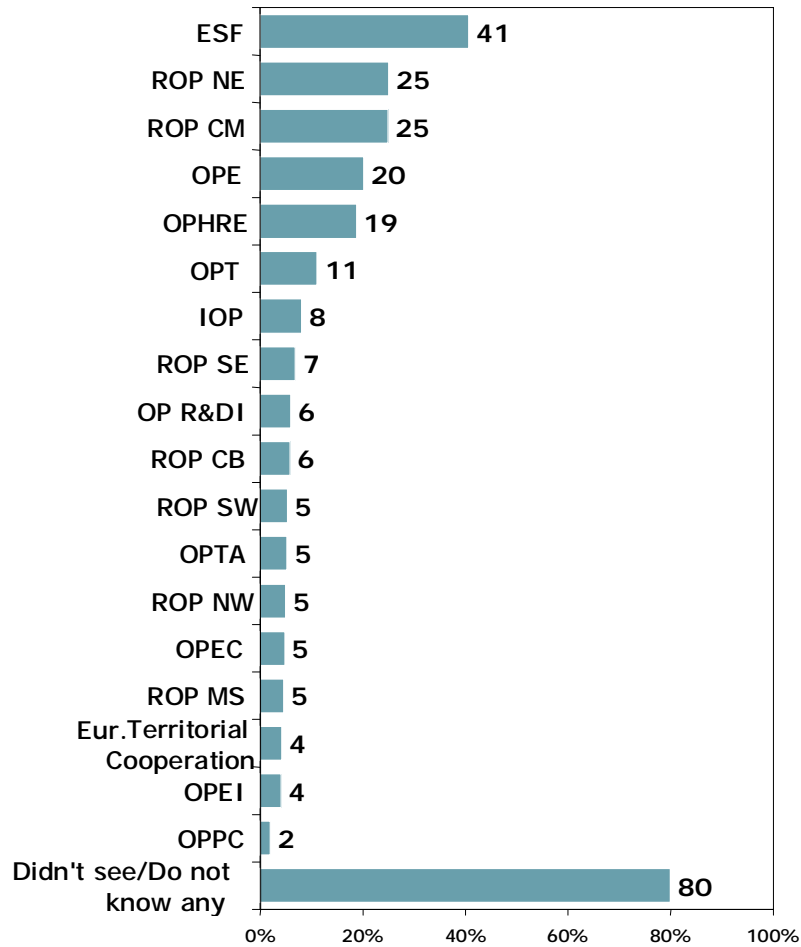
- § 2/3 of citizens believe that applicants for assistance from EU funds have a **good chance to receive the assistance**. More often this opinion is expressed by persons up to 30 years of age and persons with higher income of the household.
- § More often a good chance to receive the assistance is expressed by inhabitants of Moravia-Silesia region and inhabitants of municipalities up to 5 thousand inhabitants.
- § According to ¾ of citizens the **highest chance** to receive assistance from EU funds have **regions**, followed by **big towns (cities)**.
- § According to roughly a half of the respondents it is not a problem for a common applicant to fill in the application for assistance. There is no significant difference in this opinion between the Curious and the Indifferent and persons who are not in contact with EU funds in their job.

17. Awareness of OP logos

Chart No 36 + 37

Awareness of logos

SAMPLE: All respondents n = 2084



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011



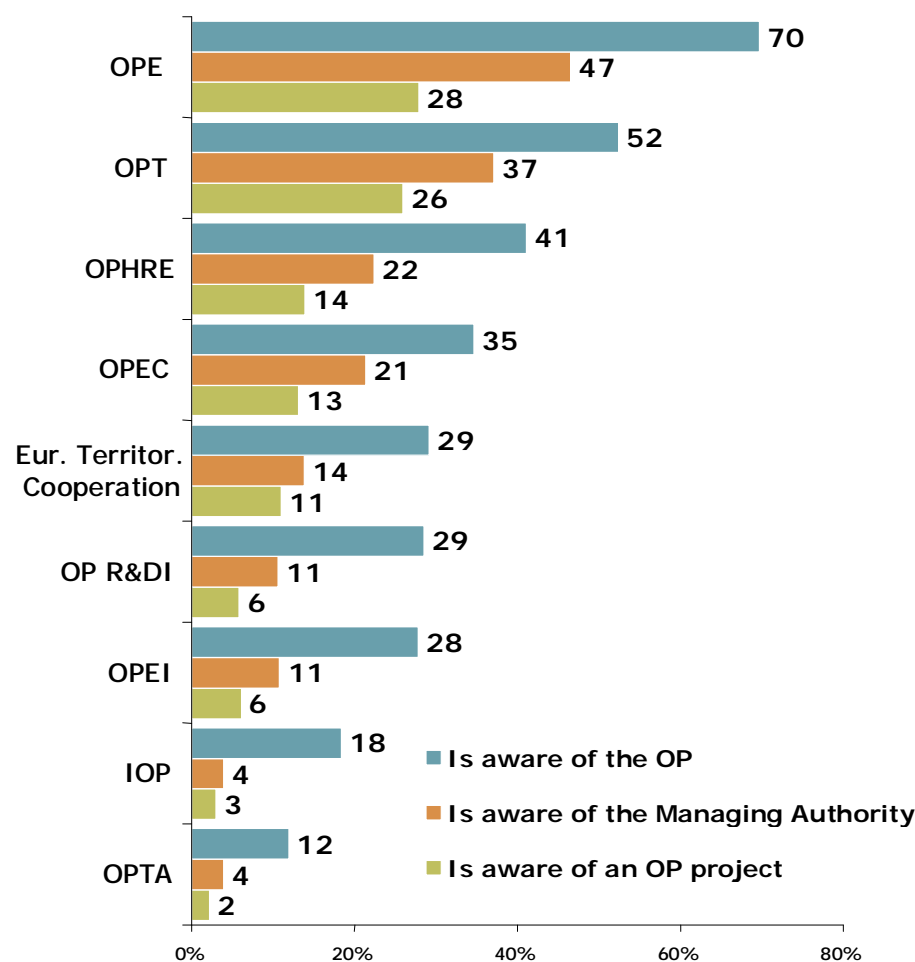
18. Operational programmes

Chart No 38

Declared knowledge of operational programmes

SAMPLE : All respondents, n = 2084

NOTE: Multiple choice answers



SOURCE STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey Awareness of EU funds 2011

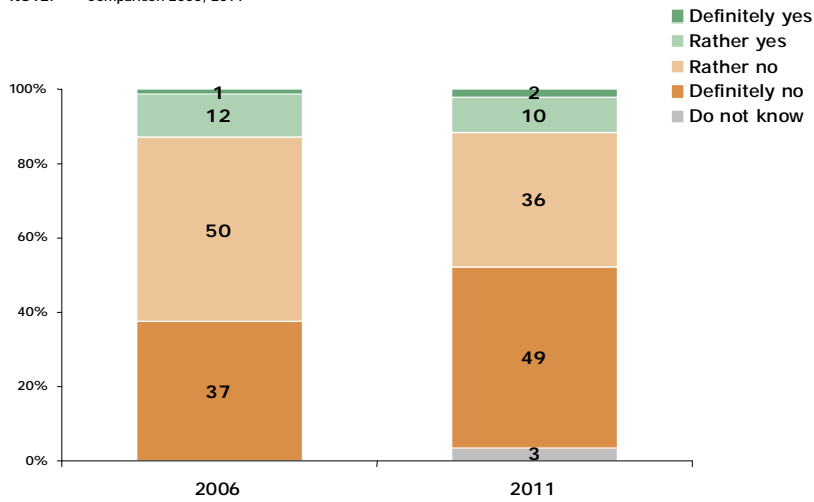
§ The best known OPs are **OPE** (known by 70 %) and **OPT** (52 %). Approximately 1/4 of citizens declare that they are aware of projects implemented under these OPs. It is not obvious from the results, but it can be assumed that the names of these OPs are for a common citizen associated with a specific area to which the assistance is channelled, in a number of other names of projects it is difficult for a common citizen to sort out their objectives.

§ **Awareness of the distribution** of funds in regions is generally **low**. 12 % of citizens claim they have information on the ways of distribution (just as in 2006). The knowledge is more often declared by university graduates, entrepreneurs and tradesmen.

Chart No 39

Do you know how the institutions in your region are involved in the distribution of EU funds?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1594 (year 2006), n=2084 (year 2011)
 NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011



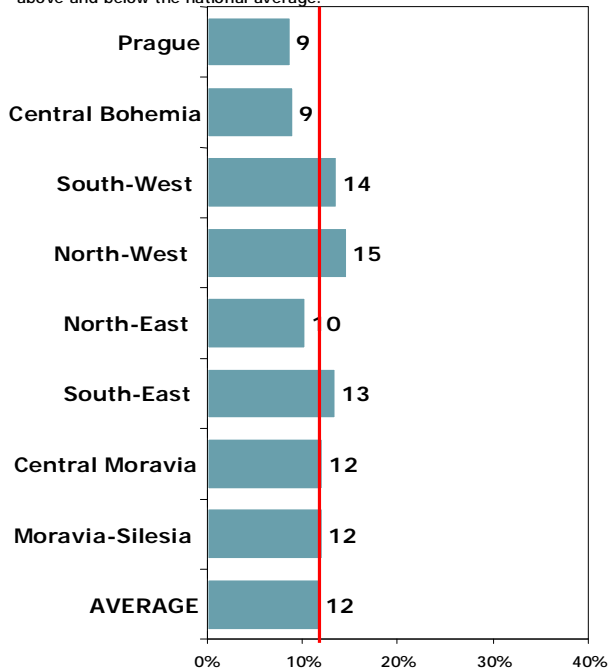
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

19. Operational programme – regional perspective

Chart No 40

Do you know how the institutions in your region are involved in the distribution of EU funds

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084
 NOTE: Positive respondents only. Red line marks a dividing line between regions above and below the national average.

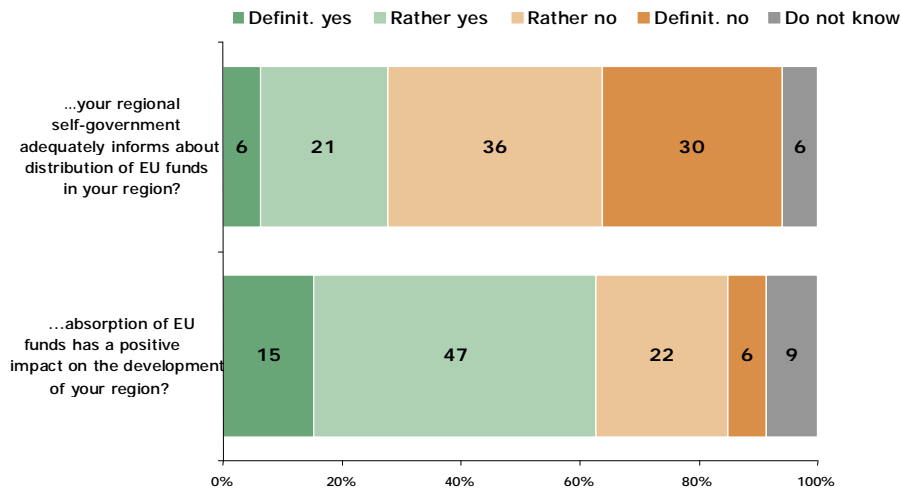


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 41 + 42

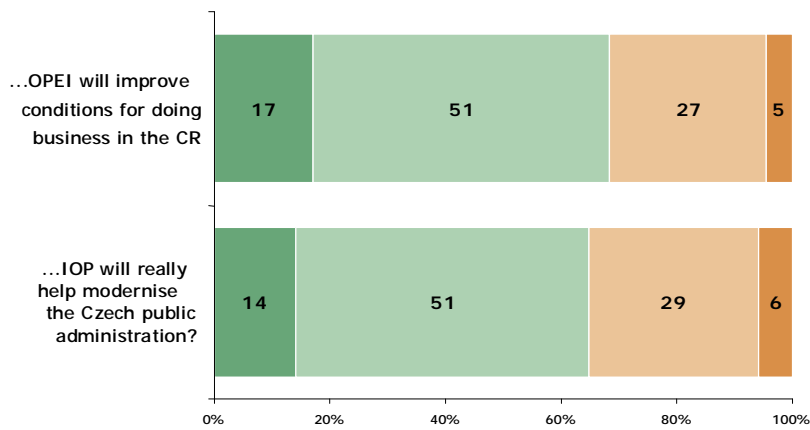
Do you think that...

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



SAMPLE: Respondents who are aware of OP: (OPEI; n=580) or (IOP; n=383)

NOTE: The question was raised in case the respondents are aware of the Operational Programme

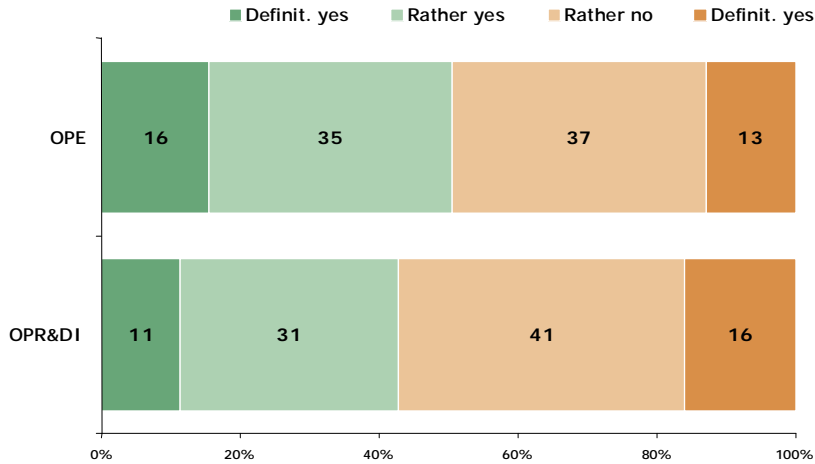


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 43

More money should be redistributed, even if at the expense of the other Operational Programmes, through ...

SAMPLE: Respondents who are aware of the OP: (OPE; n=1453) or (OP R&DI; n=594)
 NOTE: The question was raised in the respondents are aware of the Operational Programmes



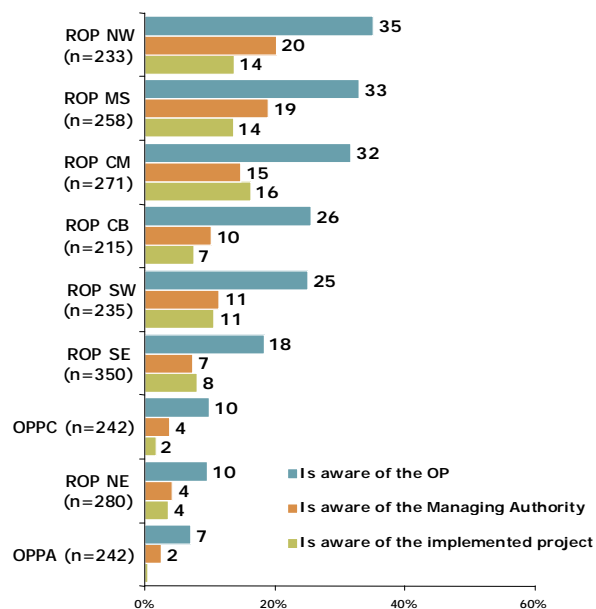
SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § According to 2/3 of citizens the regional self-government **informs** on the distribution of funds **inadequately**. On the other hand, the opinion prevails that the absorption of assistance from EU funds has a **positive impact on the development of the region** (62 %).
- § 3/4 of those who are aware of **OPEI** believe that this OP will improve the conditions for doing business.
- § 2/3 of persons who are aware of **IOP** believe that the programme will help modernise public administration.
- § 1/2 of people who are aware of **OPE** would channel the funds preferably to this programme. In case of **OP R&DI** less than a half of citizens would redistribute money to this programme at the expense of the other programmes.

Chart No 44

Declared awareness of Operational Programmes

SAMPLE: Respondents living in the respective region.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Table 22

Who in your opinion administers the OP?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

OP	Managing Authority	
	Most frequently mentioned	Others mentioned
IOP	MRD	
OPEI	MIT	MoLSA, MoF
OPE	MoE	
OPT	MoT	
OPEC	MoEYS	MoLSA
OPR&DI	MoLSA	MoEYS
OPHRE	MoLSA	Labour Office
OPTA	MIT	
European Territorial Cooperation	MRD	Region.Author., MoFA
OPPC	Prague City Hall	MRD
OPPA	Prague City Hall	
ROP NW	MRD	Regional Auth.
ROP NE	Regional Auth.	
ROP CB	Regional Auth.	
ROP SW	Regional Auth.	MRD
ROP SE	Regional Auth.	MRD
ROP MS	MRD	Regional Auth.
ROP CM	MRD	Regional Auth.

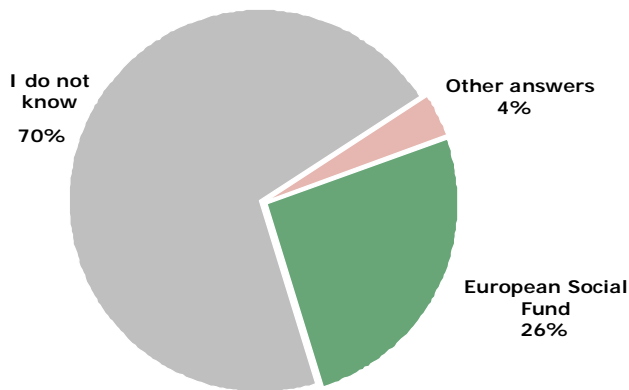
Source: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire surveys: Awareness of EU funds 2011

20. Operational Programmes

Chart No 45 + 46

What does the ESF stand for

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084
NOTE: Respondents answer spontaneously

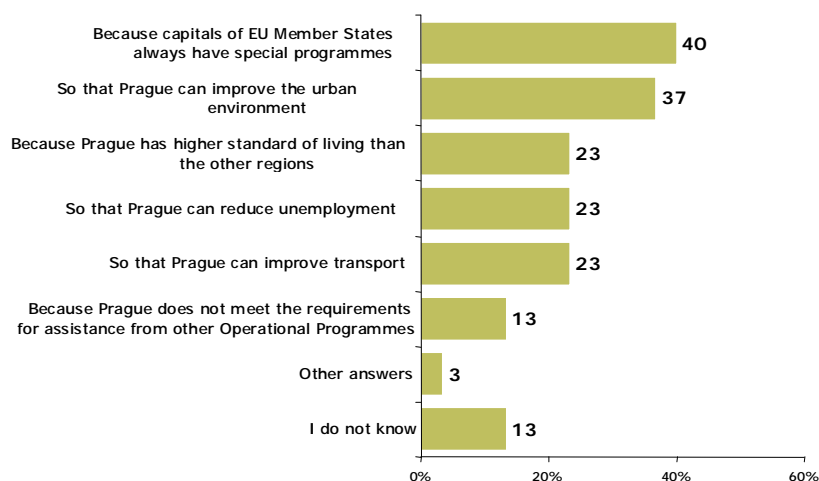


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § Majority of citizens **does not know what the ESF abbreviation** stands for. $\frac{1}{4}$ of respondents correctly stated the European Social Fund. The broadest knowledge is exhibited by the youngest respondents and people with at least the GCE. Broader knowledge also prevails in economically active persons (especially in employees) and population of Central Moravia.
- § Respondents aware of OPPA and OPFC were asked about the reason for the existence of these OPs. The respondents believe that all EU capitals have special OPs or that it is because poor environment in the city.

Why were special OPs created for Prague?

SAMPLE: Respondents who are aware of the OP Prague Competitiveness or OP Prague Adaptability, n=30
NOTE: Multiple choice answers



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

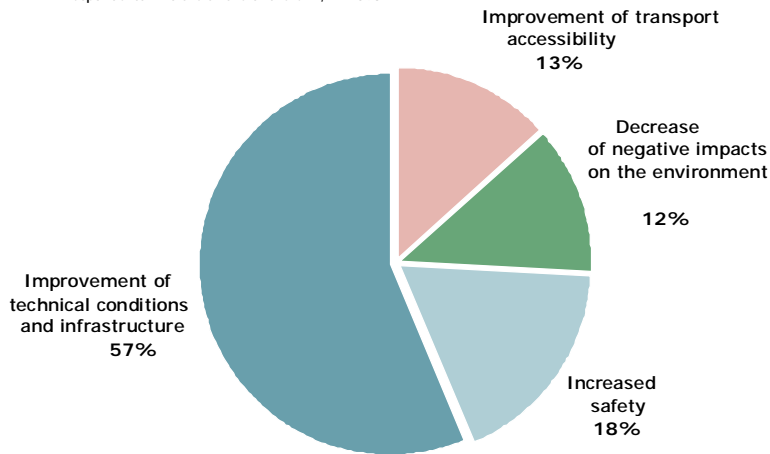
§ More than a half of people aware of **OPT** call for the improvement of technical conditions and infrastructure. This opinion is more often declared by men, economically active citizens, population of the North-West region. Reduction in negative impacts on the environment is more important for inhabitants of big towns (cities).

§ In the field of education a half of people aware of **OPEC** consider the elementary (30 %) and apprenticeship education (23 %) to be of key importance.

Chart No 47 + 48

What area of transport should the OPT preferably focus on?

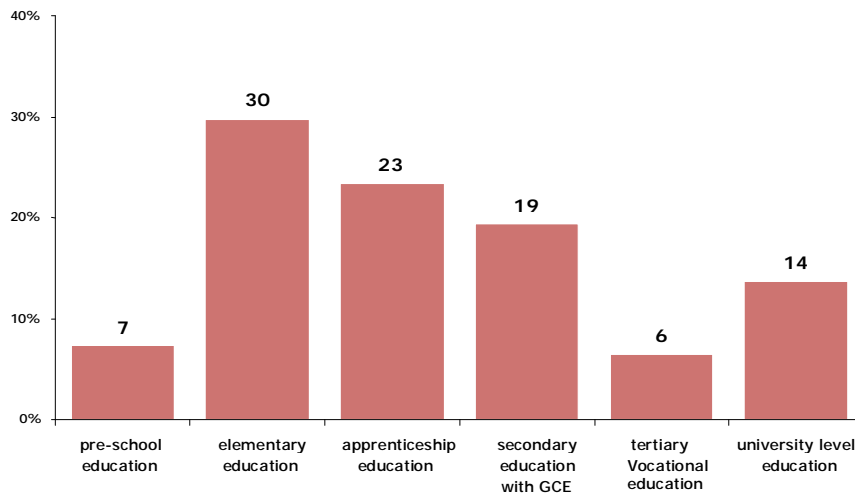
SAMPLE: Respondents who are aware of the OPT, n=1093



NOTE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

What area of education should the OP EC preferably focus on?

SAMPLE: Respondents who are aware of OPEC, n=722



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

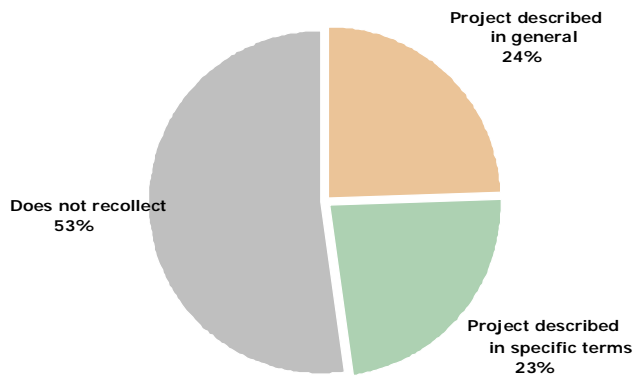
20. Projects financed from EU funds

Chart No 49

Do you know a specific project, action or construction in the CR financed from EU funds?

SAMPLE All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Respondents answer spontaneously and could name up to three projects.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Projects financed from EU funds across the CR

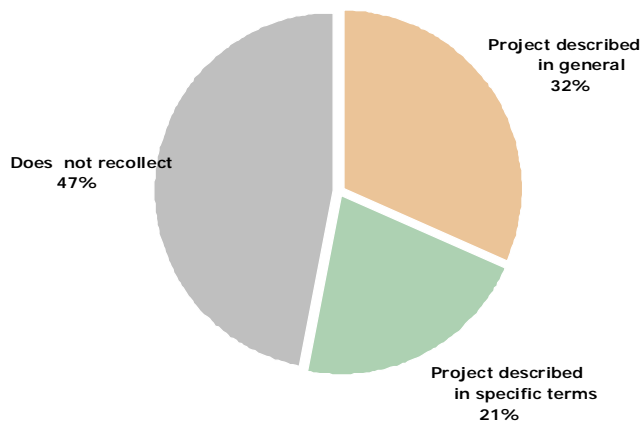
- § Almost 1/2 of respondents were able to recollect some project or construction in the CR implemented thanks to the assistance from EU funds.
- § The most frequently the respondents spontaneously stated projects related to transport (e.g. construction of roads, motorways, bicycle trails, railway corridors, etc.).
- § Ranked second were projects focused on the environment such as waste water treatment plants, solar power plants, revitalisation of landscape, etc.).

Chart No 50

Do you know any specific project financed from EU funds implemented directly in your region?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Respondents answer spontaneously and could name up to three projects.



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 011

Specific projects financed from EU funds directly in regions

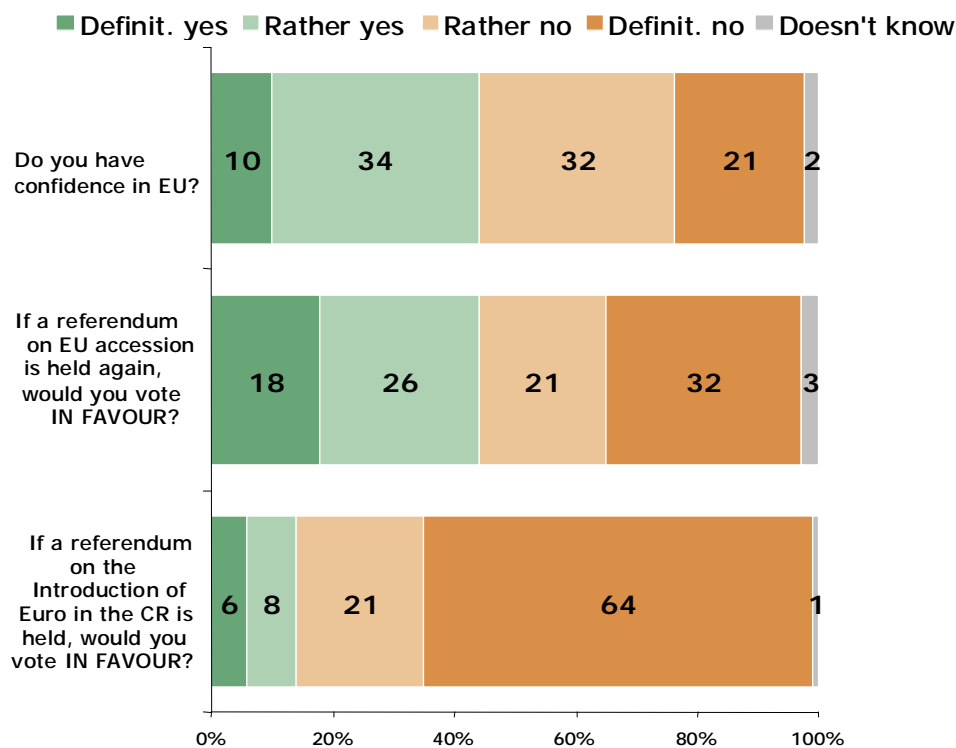
- § 53% of citizens recollected a project in their region.
- § Most frequently mentioned were specific constructions in municipalities (e.g. sports fields, construction of pedestrian zones, sewerage, children playgrounds, renovations of schools, retirement homes, construction of anti-flood barriers, etc.).
- § Ranked second were often times projects in the field of social care – retraining, training courses, etc.

21. Confidence in the European Union

Chart No 51

Confidence in the European Union and result of potential referenda

SAMPLE All respondents, n=2084

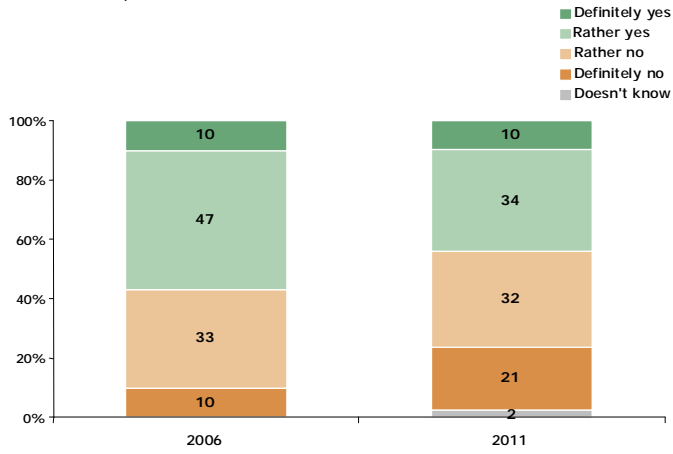


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 52

Confidence in the European Union – development over time

SAMPLE All respondents, n=1592 (year 2006), n=2084 (year 2011)
 NOTE: Comparisons 2006, 2011

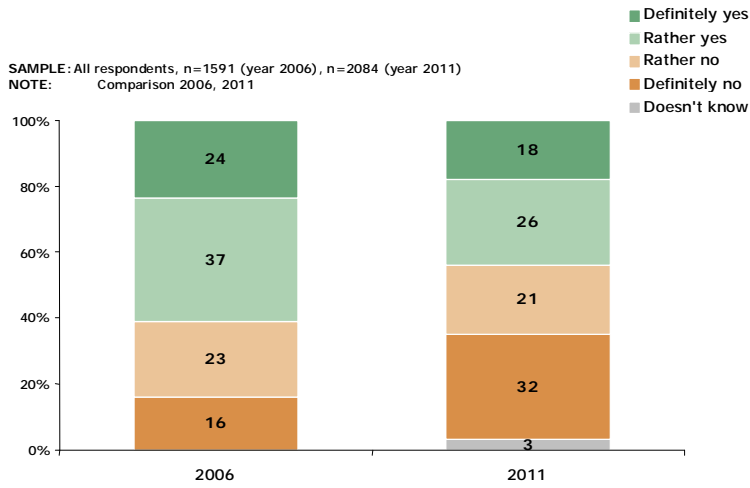


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 53

Vote in case of referendum on the EU accession – development over time

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=1591 (year 2006), n=2084 (year 2011)
 NOTE: Comparison 2006, 2011

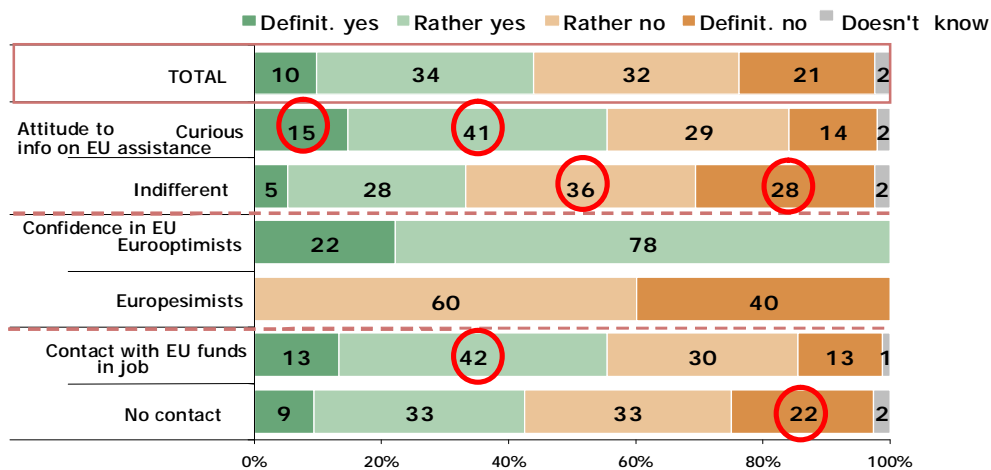


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 54 + 55

Do you have confidence in the EU?

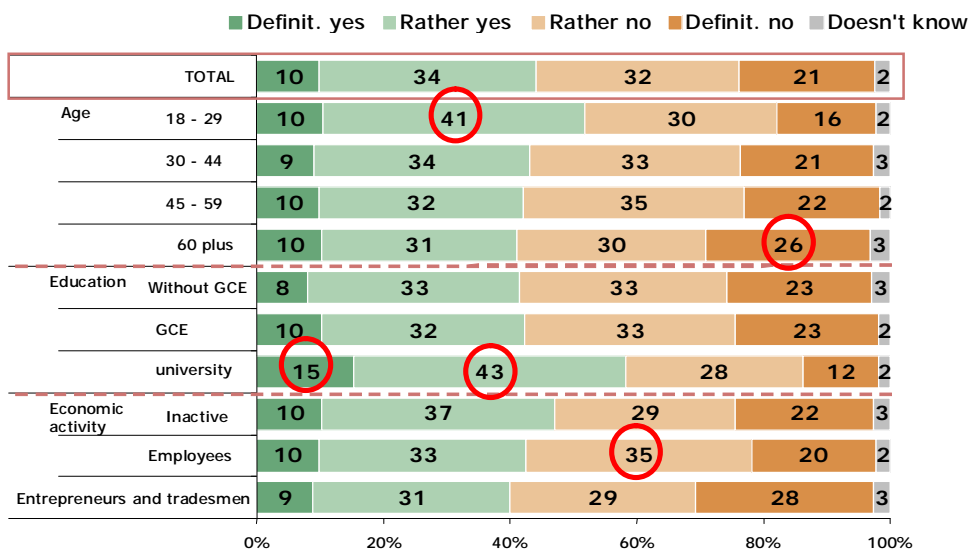
SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Do you have confidence in the EU?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

- § In 2011, 44 % of citizens have confidence in the European Union. As against the previous years, the confidence is on a decline, as against 2006 it declined by 13 p. p. The percentage of people who have confidence in the EU with no reservations and answered “definitely yes” remains the same as against the previous years (10 %).
- § More than a half of people (55 %) who in their job come across the EU funds-related matters have confidence in the EU.

- § Higher statistical significance in terms of confidence in the EU is exhibited by university graduates. Higher confidence, although with certain reservations, was also seen in persons below 30 years of age.
- § Higher confidence in the EU is declared rather by men and also by people with Internet access.
- § The confidence in the EU increases with increasing total household income.
- § Significantly less confidence in the EU is shown by people aged 60 or more and the employed.

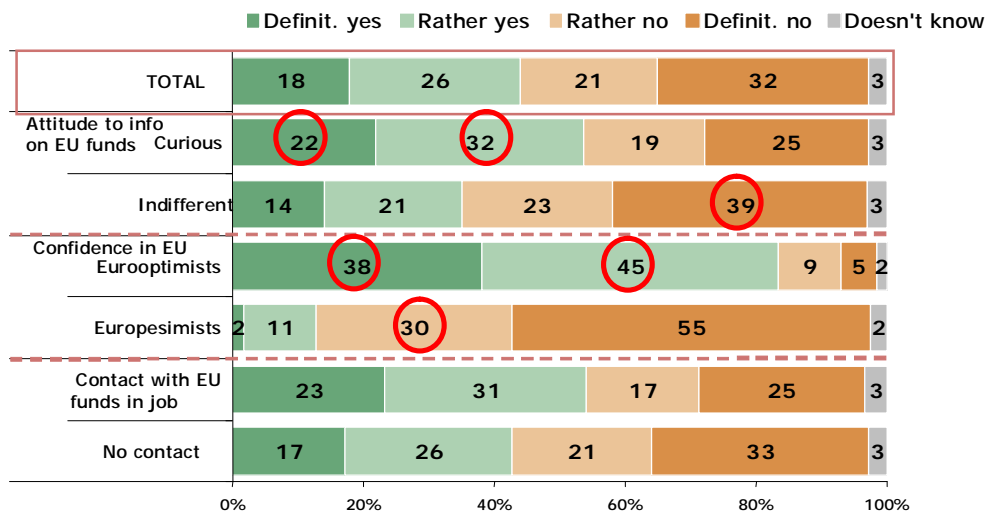
Note: In the charts above, the values in circles indicate that the given response in the given group of respondents is statistically significant more often when compared to the opinion of general population, and therefore constitutes an interesting piece of information.

22. Attitude to the EU and the Euro

Chart No 56

If a referendum on the EU accession is held again, would you vote IN FAVOUR?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)

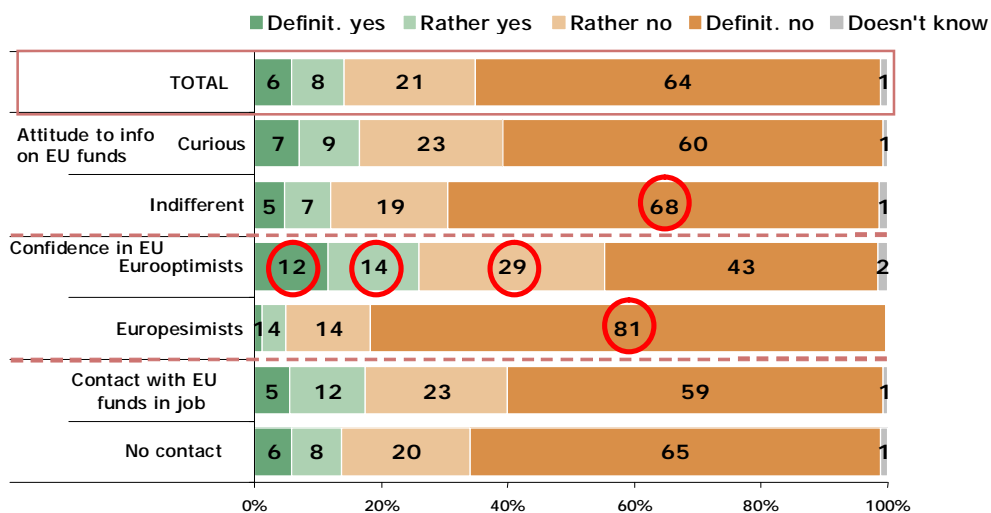


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 57

If a referendum on Euro introduction in the CR is held now, would you vote IN FAVOUR?

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084; Curious (n=988), Indifferent (N=1074); Eurooptimists (n=917), Europesimists (n=1118); people in contact with EU funds (n=240), people with no contact (n=1844)



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

These two questions were included with the view to find out how and whether at all the knowledge of EU funds is related to the general attitude of citizens to the EU.

Referendum on accession to the EU

- § If the referendum on accession to the EU is held again, 44 % of citizens would vote “definitely yes or rather yes” in favour of the accession. As against 2006 it is a drop by 18 p.p.
- § Significantly more often men were in favour of the accession to the EU (21 % of men as against 15 % of women stated “definitely yes”). In terms of age in favour of the accession are more often people below 30 years of age (25 % “definitely yes”). Also the university graduates would more often vote in favour of the accession, the same applies to people with access to Internet and students.

Referendum on the introduction of Euro

- § When it comes to the introduction of Euro, the people in the CR are strongly negative. **Currently**, only 14 % of citizens would vote in favour of its introduction. Only one quarter of the Eurooptimists (people who trust the EU, for explanation see the next page) is in favour of the introduction of Euro in the Czech Republic. It is people with access to Internet, university graduates and people from larger towns who more often are in favour of the introduction of single European currency.

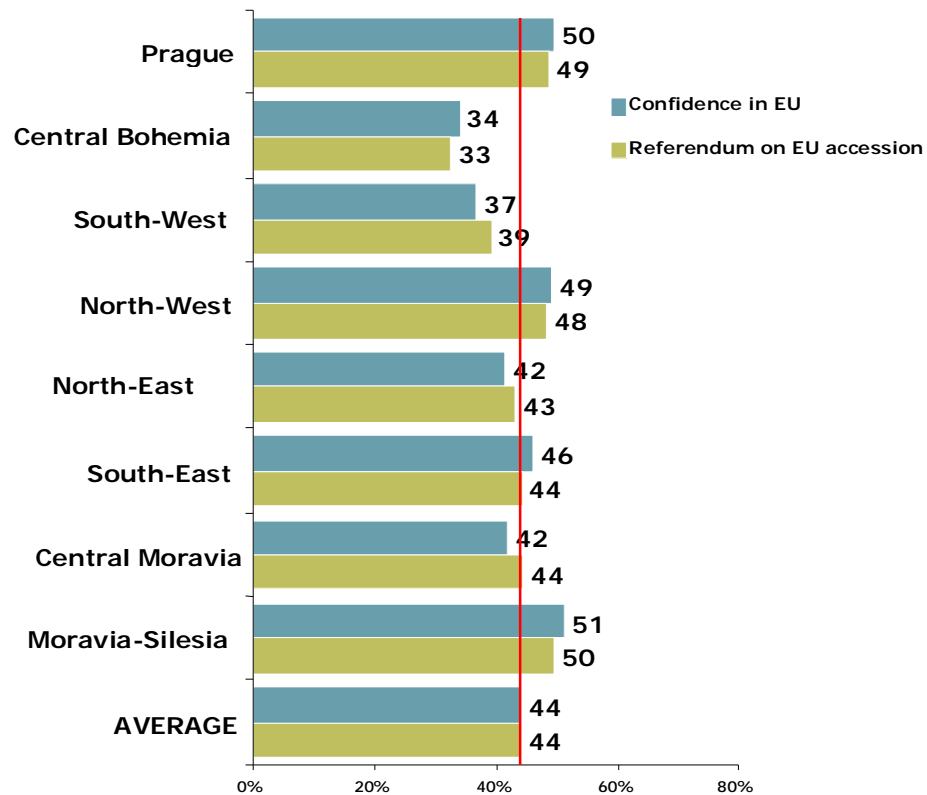
23. Attitude to the EU and to Euro – regional perspective

Chart No 58

Confidence in EU and result of potential referendum by region

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084

NOTE: Positive responses only. Red line marks the dividing line between the regions above and below the national average.

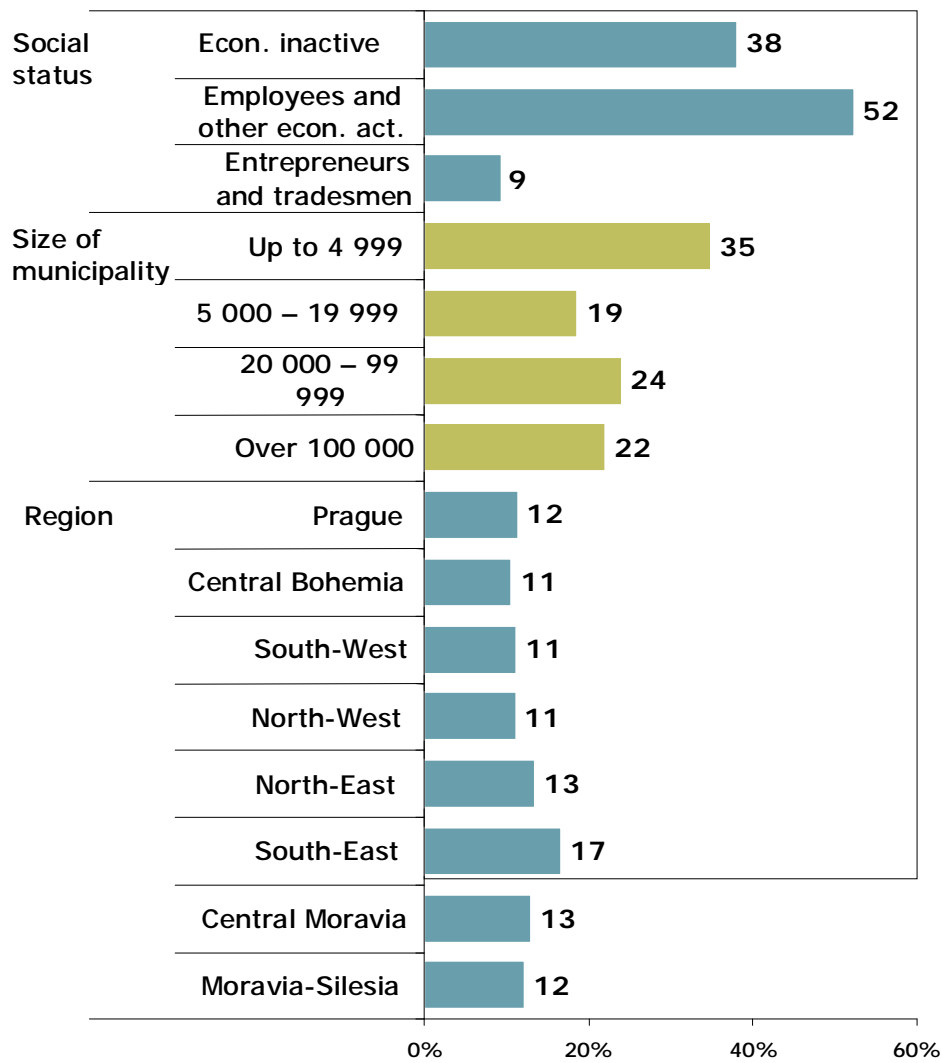


SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Chart No 59 + 60

Structure of the sample

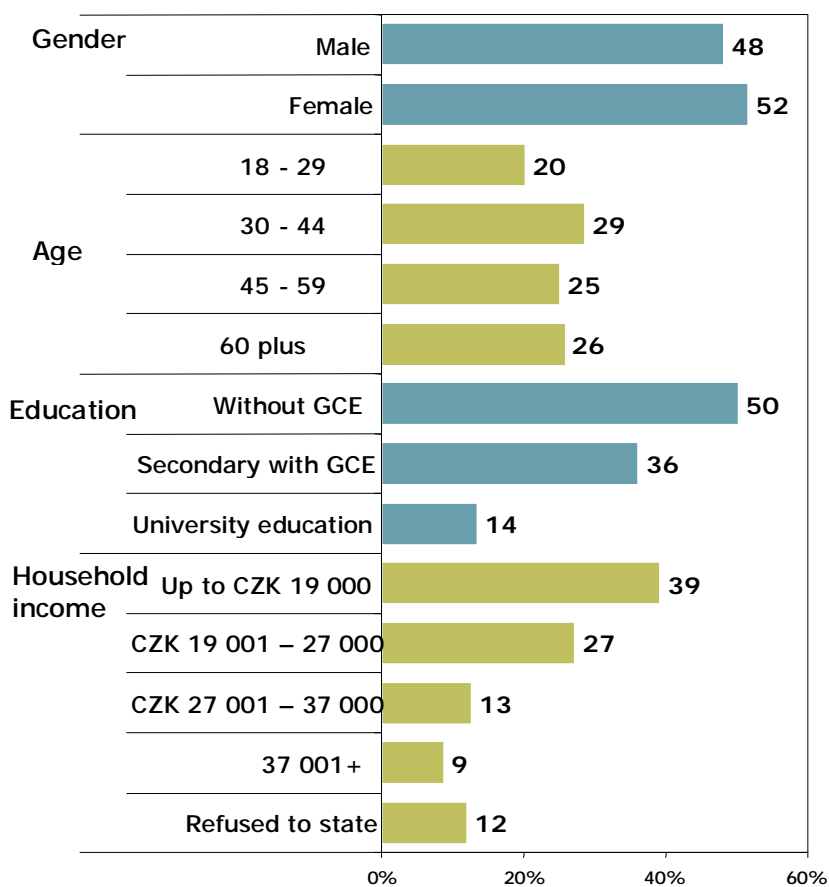
SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

Structure of the sample

SAMPLE: All respondents, n=2084



SOURCE: STEM/MARK, Questionnaire survey: Awareness of EU funds 2011

7.2.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Information or recommendations given in the text below are follow from the results of the questionnaire survey of the Awareness of EU funds and the NCA experience with addressing the matters related to the EU and EU funds.

The questionnaire survey provided information on areas in which the public awareness of EU funds related matters is generally lower. This information can be divided into two areas:

1. Areas with low awareness which, however, **is not essential for understanding the EU funds related matters and does not have a negative impact on it**, such as public awareness of the duration of the programming period.
2. Areas where the **public awareness is lower and leads to unnecessary negative attitudes, opinions and perception** - it is essential to focus on these areas in the development of communication and information campaigns.

The relevant recommendations are elaborated upon in the text below:

1. With regard to EU related matters it is necessary:

- § To keep explaining the citizens the **general benefits of the EU** and EU membership and to minimise the impact of negative information (e.g. on crises in Greece, Portugal or Ireland) associated with the EU membership;
- § To emphasize that the CR is a net beneficiary, **the membership of the CR in the EU certainly pays off**;
- § To demonstrate the **negotiated amount** by examples – e.g. in relation to the state budget, dividends of state enterprises, sales of the airports, etc.

2. EU funds related matters:

- § The general **awareness of EU funds is very high across the population**, it is therefore not necessary or effective to conduct extensive media campaigns on the possibility to draw assistance from the EU funds and thus further increase the awareness;
- § In the future the communication should rather rely on **information** campaigns explaining not only the individual OP related matters and the drawdown of funds, but particularly on information campaigns improving the overall understanding **of matters associated with the drawdown of EU funds**;
- § It is necessary to communicate strongly to the citizens that **all the citizens of the CR** and not only the potential applicants for assistance should take at least a general interest in the EU funds related matters. Moreover, it should be consistently explained what are the benefits derived from the EU funds assistance for the man in the street and to inform on the specific effect on his/her personal life (waste water treatment plants, cycle trails??, playgrounds, educational programmes, etc.);
- § The citizens should be informed about the diverse **focus of EU funds** covering also other areas than the environment since the common citizens show only very low awareness of the other areas and associate the EU funds primarily with the sector of environment. In this context it is possible to exploit the potential of 37 % of the population that continues to be interested in additional information and feels the need to have a number of EU funds related matters clarified.

3. The responsible authorities are assigned the following tasks:

- § **To emphasize** the quantity of services, information, work and **efforts of ministries** and other institutions resulting in the specific assistance to the citizens, authorities, organisations with respect to the use of EU funds. People usually have only a vague idea about the activities and work of the ministries and other state institutions. It is only specific examples and personal experience that helps them better understand it. Majority of TV spots is focused on highlighting the successes achieved by certain institutions which most likely fails to change the opinion of those citizens who generally perceive the work of state institutions as negative. Stressing the delivery of quality work of state institutions should therefore be based on specific examples of their assistance to citizens. This recommendation is also supported by the finding that the ministries and other institutions do their best to assist through their services and information provision in the use of EU funds (in this area the number of people who in their responses state that the ministries and other institutions rather or definitely try to assist in effective use of EU funds is gradually growing);
- § To stress that the assistance drawn from the EU funds is **spent in the CR in keeping with clear rules**, to present to the citizens examples when e.g. the control resulted in the recovery of wrongly spent funds;
- § In case of small municipalities which act as beneficiaries and mostly believe that small municipalities do not have much of a chance to draw the assistance from the EU funds, it is necessary to communicate that the very contrary is true and **to promote their confidence and active efforts** leading to the drawdown of funds and to positive attitude to the possibility of getting assistance.

4. Operational programmes

- § Publicity with respect to the EU is predominantly associated with the use of logos containing the EU flag, i.e. a **unifying element**, in this case properly selected and clearly identifiable. In the past not enough attention was given to the potential benefit of the design of the logo not only for the specific OP, but also for EU funds in the CR in general. People need to see an unifying element which helps them realise that the money comes from one and the single source and can be spent on multiple areas. This unfortunate approach to the use of logos indicates the general problem in the CR – **a very low degree of cooperation of the individual elements** (authorities, institutions) that should help accomplish the common goal;
- § The administrators of the individual regional OPs should concentrate on publicity and communication of “their OP”, the ministries should concentrate on communicating the EU funds as such and their importance for the CR and on improving the EU image in the eyes of Czech citizens. **It is not effective for all the authorities to communicate everything**, moreover in different forms and ways. **The cooperation and the pursuit of the single goal is the priority** and it leads to effective spending of funds. Not only the citizens, but also the state institutions should realise that the CR has a fairly large amount of money at its disposal but that this money is not to be wasted and spent in an ineffective manner (some institutions consider the generation of huge quantities of printed materials to be the only and useful way of informing the citizens and do not think about how to distribute them or how to make citizens read them, etc.);
- § In the information campaigns stemming from the regions should also be based on **particular examples**, on certain possibilities offered to citizens: “you can literally touch, see for yourself” specific projects financed from the EU funds. The campaigns should be conducted through the intermediary of credible communication channels such as articles in the dailies, conferences, TV programmes. These are the channels that could persuade even the Europesimists and those who are indifferent when it comes to the absorption of EU funds.

5. Information channels

- § The survey indicated that the respondents believe that the most useful medium for the publicity of EU funds is the **TV**, but the information on what specifically they mean by the TV broadcasting is lacking: whether they refer to the news coverage, regional broadcasting, business news, etc.;
- § For a TV campaign to be effective large sums of money shall be spent, it has to be broadcast in prime-time, rerun as often as possible over the longest possible time. In case of promotion of consumer goods this is suitable, for EU funds publicity though this is unrealistic and the impact cannot be guaranteed. The campaign has to be placed where people show interest in it, where they cannot escape it or where they even welcome it (e.g. in the free newspaper such as Metro read by people on their way to work);
- § As to the publicity through TV as a fitting medium for communication campaign of EU funds, it makes more sense to invest in publicity in the form of programmes on regions, educational programmes and PR communications than in the conventional commercial included in the commercial break as one of many usually promoted products;
- § **One global campaign is not enough**: as it is becoming obvious it does not persuade anybody in the end. It is essential to create a tailor-made campaign for the general public and another for potential applicants – entrepreneurs, yet another one for small municipalities or large cities, etc.;
- § **It is necessary to promote the websites of state institutions** which are very sophisticated and prepared for potential applicants for assistance or for common citizens who “merely” seek information. The Internet and direct regional communication will in the future become the phenomena conveying the relevant and credible information to all persons interested in the EU funds related matters. The institutions operating the websites have to be able to make sure that the **information** on their website is always **up-to-date and comprehensible** since if this is not the case it discourages people from visiting the website. Nonetheless, the

experience indicate that the investments made in this communication channel is more effective than those in e.g. the printed leaflets and brochures.

7.2.3 Evaluation of Publicity under the OPTA (evaluation of awareness under the OPTA)

The evaluation of awareness under the OPTA was done by the OPTA MA in February 2011 internally – with the support of the NCA. For the purpose of this evaluation two types of questionnaire were drawn up, one for the implementation structure entities and the other beneficiaries. The rate of return of the questionnaires was 70 %.

Outputs of the evaluation of awareness conducted within the OPTA implementation structure

All the respondents from among the representatives of implementation structure entities stated that the awareness of OPTA is adequate, the availability of information in the form of disseminated minutes of the meetings, organised training courses, methodological guidelines etc. is fully satisfactory.

The attended training courses are considered to be very beneficial, the portfolio of topics is broad enough to allow for acquisition of additional information on any relevant topic. The senior officers, though, do not have time enough to attend the educational events as they would like to.

Cooperation within the OPTA implementation structure was perceived by the respondents as average to excellent – a limiting factor sometimes is a bit delayed sharing of information between the top management and the executive staff, scarce cases of unwillingness of officers to cooperate on addressing a specific issue and the interpretation of documentation which proves to be ambiguous in practice.

Matters regarding the everyday administration of projects and the programme are most frequently tackled by addressing the relevant contact person and by regular meetings with beneficiaries. The senior staff exploits also the possibility of regular meetings of the financial unit, IB and OPTA MA.

Majority of staff of OPTA implementation structure does not see any obstacles put in the way of the performance of their activities, but many would prefer an accelerated communication via e-tools of communication (e.g. in the administration of changes in projects). Temporarily the situation was a bit complicated since it was impossible for the OPTA MA to hire a person to replace an employee responsible for the monitoring system.

Perceived as a negative factor is also the unwillingness of beneficiaries to respect the set out rules for project implementation as well as the necessity to have the rules of OPTA in conformity with the MRD internal rules which are stricter and more stringent than the OPTA rules, while having no possibility to influence the internal rules.

Outputs of the evaluation of awareness conducted among the OPTA beneficiaries

The addressed representatives of beneficiaries are in general satisfied with the awareness of the programme, the updated versions of documentation are by most of them received in time, the problems are mostly solved in a flexible fashion. The most frequent way of communication between the beneficiaries and the OPTA MA is addressing specific persons when tackling a topical issue, or holding regular meetings. Cooperation with the OPTA MA is reported to be rather excellent and has remarkably improved in recent months.

The OPTA HAB is fairly comprehensible for beneficiaries, but the beneficiaries consider a burden the frequent publication of methodological guidelines which causes confusion in the currently valid procedures in the administration of projects and result in lack of clarity with respect to the existing OPTA rules. It would be desirable to revise the rules and to simplify the system of documentation updates. In addition, the representatives of beneficiaries pointed at the lack of information on the rules of eligibility of expenditure under the OPTA and project selection criteria.

In a few cases, the respondents indicated that even though they know the main contact persons, they have no idea which officer is responsible for particular agenda, which holds true also for the IB staff.

Lengthy and complicated in the eyes of beneficiaries is also the process of administration of changes in projects.

A small percentage of addressed representatives of beneficiaries reported that they received the methodological guidelines with a certain delay or not at all because they are sent to the main contact person of the beneficiary.

The beneficiaries in the field of publicity stated that they struggled with the lack of understanding of publicity rules on the part of OPTA MA/IB.

Certain problems with BENEFIT7 application were also referred to, but all the complications are solved promptly and in a satisfactory manner in collaboration with the OPTA MA.

The above mentioned outputs will be further addressed by the OPTA MA which will adopt relevant measures to remove the shortcomings identified during the evaluation and deemed justified by the OPTA MA. A brief information on the evaluation shall be published as usual on http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/Programy-2007-2013/Tematicke-operacni-programy/Operacni-program-Technicka-pomoc/Dokumenty/Dalši_dokumenty. The publishing of the outputs shall be brought to attention of relevant entities.

List of Abbreviations

AA	Audit Authority
AAE	Authorised Audit Entity
AbCap	Absorption capacity
ACD	NSRF Administrative Capacity and Publicity Department
ACoP	Annual Communication Plan
AIS	Aid information system of MRD
AP	Application for payment
APC	Act No 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts, as amended
APU	Autonomous EU Publicity Unit
CF	Cohesion Fund
Conv.	Convergence objective
CoP	Communication Plan
CR	Czech Republic
CRD	Centre for Regional Development of the CR
CSGs	Community Strategic Guidelines
DG	Directorate General
EC	European Commission
EC	European Community
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESC	Economic and Social Cohesion
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GA	Government agencies
HAB	Handbook for Applicants and Beneficiaries
IB	Intermediate body
IOP	Integrated Operational Programme
IRAP	Accounting information system of MRD
IS	Information System
MA	Managing Authority
MC (OPTA)	Monitoring Committee (Operational Programme Technical Assistance)
MCC	Management and Co-ordination Committee
MFFC	Methodology of financial flows and control
MONIT7+	Monitoring Information System of MRD
MRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MS	Monitoring system
MSAD	Monitoring System Administration Department
MSC2007	Monitoring system of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund
N/A	Not available
NCA	National Co-ordination Authority
NCI	National Code List of Indicators

NDP	National Development Plan
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NUTS	La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques
OM	Operational Manual
OP	Operational Programme
OPTA	Operational Programme Technical Assistance
P4	Project approved for financing
P6	Project financing completed
PA	Priority axis/priority area
PCA	Paying and Certifying Authority
RCE	Regional competitiveness and employment objective
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SF	Structural Funds
SFC2007	Information system of the European Commission
SSPC	Small-scale public contract
WG SMS	Working Group Single Monitoring System

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