



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

**Programme CZ06 – Cultural Heritage and Contemporary  
Art**

**Reporting period: 1.1.2014 – 31.12.2014**

**Programme Operator: Ministry of Finance Czech Republic**

**Programme Partner: Ministry of Culture Czech Republic**

**Donor Programme Partner: Arts Council Norway**

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## 1. Executive summary

The launch conference of the Programme CZ06 Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts took place on 5 February 2014 in Žofin Palace in Prague, followed by the contact seminar held on 6 February 2014 for potential project beneficiaries and partners from the Donor States, organized by the Programme Partner, the Ministry of Culture, and the Donor Programme Partner, the Arts Council Norway.

Despite the considerable potential of cultural sector, long-term insufficient financing of all cultural areas represents the main trend in the area of culture, affecting also the Programme Areas 16 and 17 within the Programme CZ06. Deficient funding represents one of the challenges that cultural non-profits face in their efforts to survive and thrive. The above mentioned trend has provoked an enormous interest in financing from EEA Grants, bringing a bigger administrative burden due to a very high number of applications.

The Programme Area 16 received a total of 209 project proposals with the June 2014 application deadline, far exceeding the financial allocation for this Programme Area. The applicants sought a total of approx. 3.5 billion CZK, while the amount available for this PA was 420 million CZK. The given allocation thus covered only 12 % of the requested funding and many projects of high quality and significant importance could not be supported. The interest in the Programme Area 17 was also immense, with only about one third of the applicants to be awarded grants within the PA 17 first Open Call.

The first Open Calls within the PA 16 and the PA 17 were launched in March 2014, having the deadline till June 2014. The Selection Committees were held in September/October 2014. The verification process of the PA 16 started in mid-October 2014 and 26 projects were approved in the period from mid-November till mid-December 2014. The issuing of the legal acts started in late December 2014 and will continue in January 2015, waiting for the project promoters to provide necessary documentation. The verification process of the PA 17 started at the beginning of October 2014 and 16 projects were approved in the period from mid-October till mid-November 2014. 10 legal acts were issued in the reporting period. The second Open Call within the PA 17 was open till 9 January 2015.

Based on the quality of the already approved applications, all the projects and sub-projects both within the PA 16 and the PA 17 are rightfully considered to have high potential to help the defined Programme outputs to be achieved.

PDP 1 “*Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage*” was approved on July 29, 2014. The applicant confirmed the acceptance of the grant terms given in the Letter of the PO and submitted all relevant documents on 18 August 2014. The legal act of awarding a grant to the applicant was issued on 19 September 2014. PDP 2 “*Industrial Heritage*” was approved on 29 May 2014. The applicant confirmed the acceptance of the grant terms given in the Letter of the PO and submitted all relevant documents on 27 August 2014. The legal act on grant award was issued on September 19, 2014.

Major Programme risks of the highest importance are the time risk and the failure to keep the projects quality. Time risk represents the most obvious risk, affecting a possible delay in commitments and disbursement of funds. The latter risk is derived from and closely related to the time risk, as delays within the projects implementation, e.g. due to unforeseen obstacles like unfavourable weather conditions for reconstructions in the PA 16, may occur. The emerging lack of time for the project completion may have negative effects on their quality. Programme Operator therefore closely monitors all tender procedures and project time schedule especially in the monitoring reports. Mitigation of the time risk might be possible with the prolongation of the Programme. Both the PO and the PP have been striving for the Programme prolongation since early 2013.

## 2. Programme area specific developments

Cultural and creative industries are recognized as growth sectors, referring to the Green Paper published by the European Commission, stating that Europe's cultural and creative industries offer a real potential to respond to contemporary challenges thereby contributing to the Europe 2020 strategy. Culture is a sector, which can be considered one of the basic elements of an economic, environmental and social development of the state and potentially playing a fundamental role in the years to come in the development of the European society.

The culture and arts accumulate capital as well as national and multinational cultural heritage, and at the same time help to overcome results of social differences, supports education, creativity, self-confidence and regional pride. The culture and arts are the source of values and hardly measurable assets such as creativity, social coherence, the ability of innovation that will become dominant strategic points of the development in the next decades. The space for cultural production and for making use of the cultural values created in the past must therefore remain open and accessible and more effectively utilised. Furthermore, cultural contents play a crucial role in the deployment of the information society, fuelling investments in broadband infrastructures and services, in digital technologies, as well as in new consumer electronics and telecommunication devices. Beyond their direct contribution to GDP, culture is also important driver of economic and social innovation in many other sectors.

The Programme CZ06 “*Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts*” provides support to give cultural heritage in the Czech Republic a new lease of life, stimulates new developments in arts and culture and by doing so, it contributes to strengthening bilateral cooperation and sharing of know-how, to greater mutual understanding and social cohesion. The programme area outcomes and outputs defined in the Programme Proposal and the Programme Agreement support the achievement of the potential synergies with the complex European strategy and initiatives of the European Commission mentioned above.

In 2014, new legislation was adopted in the sector of culture. The changes though do not have any impact on the Programme changes:

- Government Regulation no. 94/2014 Coll. amending Government Decree no. 337/2002 Coll., on the declaration and nullification of declaration of certain cultural monuments as national cultural monuments, as amended by Government Regulation no. 422/2005 Sb.
- Government Regulation no. 106/2014 Coll. on the declaration of certain cultural monuments as national cultural monuments
- Law no. 64/2014 Coll. amending certain acts in connection with the adoption of control order (among others, Amendment to Act no. 121/2001 Coll. Copyright Act)
- Law. No 228/2014 Coll. amending Act No. 121/2000 Coll., the Copyright Act, and Act No. 151/1997 Coll., on property valuation, as amended.

Despite the considerable potential of cultural sector, estimated to be responsible for over 3% of the EU's gross domestic product and jobs, it remains undervalued and unrecognized, especially in terms of financing. Public budgets do not and cannot cover the volume of resources needed. Long-term insufficient financing of all cultural areas represents the main trend in the area of culture.

Deficient funding does also affect the PA 16 and PA 17 and represents one of the challenges that cultural non-profits face in their efforts to survive and thrive. The above mentioned trend has provoked an enormous interest in financing from EEA Grants, bringing a bigger administrative burden due to the number of applications. The Programme Area 16 received a total of 209 project proposals with the June 2014 application deadline. The interest of applicants in obtaining grant funding through the Programme to support the restoration and preservation of movable and immovable cultural heritage was enormous

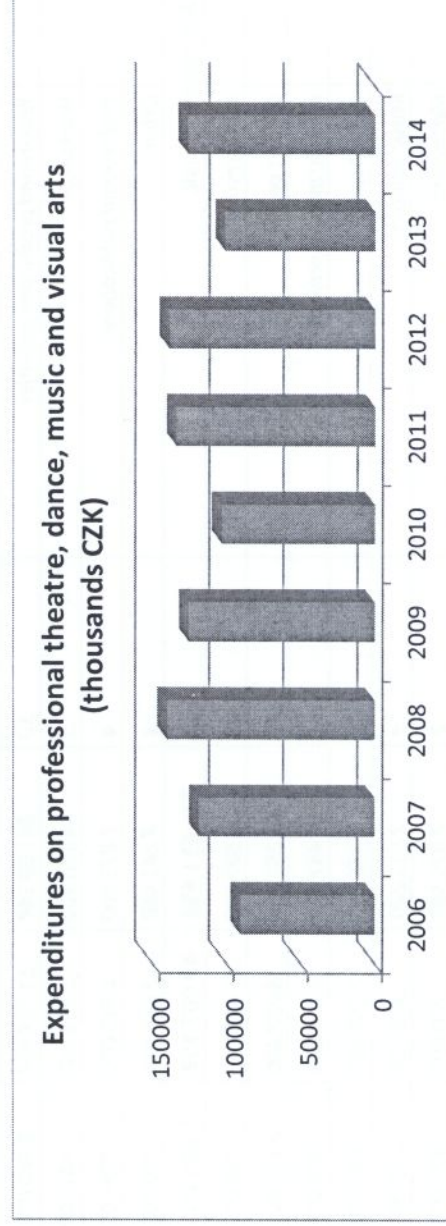
and exceeded. The applicants sought a total of approx. 3.5 billion CZK, which far exceeded the financial allocation 420 million CZK for this area. Also the interest in the Programme Area 17 (1<sup>st</sup> Open Call) was immense causing only about one third of the applicants shall be awarded grants within this Programme Area.

The Ministry of Culture expenditures for the year 2014 were approved in the amount of 10.4 billion CZK, representing 0.86 % of the state budget. One of the tasks of the Ministry of Culture is to actively seek out possibilities of creating outside-budget resources and to create systematically appropriate conditions for the achievement of cultural goals. The long-term effort of the Culture Ministry is to achieve a budget increase of 1% of the state budget (thus securing the increase of financial resources needed for programmes and projects aimed at the conservation and restoration of cultural monuments, cultural activities, digitization of cultural content, etc.), which the Government of the Czech Republic is committed to, according to the Programme Declaration of the Government - Government Resolution no. 96/2014, signed April 2014. The table below shows the Ministry of Culture expenditures in the period 2013 – 2015.

Budget heading	Total costs 2013 (CZK)	Total costs 2014 (CZK)	Total costs 2015 (CZK)
Ministry of Culture	8 889 694 000	10 415 749 414	10 889 523 999
- portion of state budget %	0,75%	0,86%	0,89%
State Budget Total	1 180 767 603 000	1 211 307 508 965	1 218 455 000 000

Lack of financial resources for restoring monuments, sites and items of movable cultural heritage represents a risk that harms the implementation of measures to protect cultural heritage from degradation. The Ministry of Culture registers 77 reserve projects (cultural sites in the state ownership) for the period 2014 - 2018 in the total value of 980 billion CZK, 5 % of which are in a critical state. The National Heritage Institute, the state contributory organization directed by the Ministry of Culture and the biggest owner of cultural heritage sights in the Czech Republic registered the need for reconstructions of 440 cultural heritage sights in total costs value of 108,8 million CZK in 2014. Due to lack of financial resources, reconstruction works are being performed only in very limited scope, causing that some sights are in serious disrepair. At the end of the year 2014, the National Heritage Institute sent the request for additional resources (20 million CZK) to be allocated on reconstructions of sights in critical state. Also the remuneration of the National Heritage Institute employees is not satisfactory, with the average monthly salary of 17 645 CZK (665 EUR) in 2014.

Insufficient financing affects also the PA 17. The diagram below shows the overview of expenditures of the Ministry of Culture on cultural activities such as professional theatre, dance, music and visual arts in the years 2006-2014.



Identifying ways and means of providing additional financial resources for measures directed towards solving major cultural goals is very topical as lack of financial resources devoted to culture and arts represents a barrier to reaching the objectives of the state Cultural Policy. The table below shows the overview of grant applications submitted to the Ministry of Culture in the area of arts in 2014, including the overview of total costs incurred, grant allocation requested and provided.

Total costs (1.394 billion CZK) incurred within arts projects registered and supported by the Ministry of Culture exceeded the limits and budget of the state grant support to a great extent. These projects were granted 126 million CZK from the budget of the Ministry of Culture. The average grant to support project costs incurred was, due to the lack of financial resources, only 10 % of the total costs.

<b>Grant support of the Ministry of Culture in the area of arts in 2014</b>					
	Number of grant applications	Total project costs (CZK)	Grant requested (CZK)	Grant provided (CZK)	
<b>Visual arts</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>362 923 291</b>	<b>108 441 277</b>	<b>37 200 000</b>	
<i>Exhibition projects</i>	65	97 290 240	27 773 590	5 462 000	
<i>Year-round exhibitions</i>	94	170 765 011	48 221 125	19 195 000	
<i>Non-exhibition projects</i>	28	36 213 138	10 462 188	3 343 000	
<i>Professional publications (periodical)</i>	13	26 610 500	7 045 925	3 547 000	
<i>Professional publications (non-periodical)</i>	56	25 360 971	11 551 649	3 683 000	
<i>Documentation and information activities</i>	10	6 683 431	3 386 800	1 970 000	
<b>Theatre</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>363 015 654</b>	<b>74 946 266</b>	<b>26 125 000</b>	
<i>Festival, show</i>	43	149 681 697	30 001 423	11 930 000	
<i>Staging project</i>	33	36 544 642	9 751 082	1 475 000	
<i>Rebroadcasting</i>	5	2 945 900	912 220	0	
<i>Year-round activities - ensembles</i>	24	79 203 231	18 928 556	4 290 000	
<i>Year-round activities - rental</i>	11	75 797 744	7 501 585	3 110 000	
<i>Year-round activities - production</i>	5	7 245 500	2 163 400	900 000	
<i>Workshops and seminars</i>	3	2 599 600	578 000	160 000	
<i>Periodicals</i>	3	7 600 000	4 740 000	4 200 000	
<i>Publications</i>	3	1 397 340	370 000	60 000	
<b>Dance</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>146 446 006</b>	<b>46 477 861</b>	<b>13 900 000</b>	
<i>Festival, show</i>	24	52 745 100	14 325 600	4 920 000	
<i>New staging project</i>	18	7 523 550	3 509 852	890 000	
<i>Staging project running costs</i>	5	2 826 500	943 800	100 000	
<i>Year-round staging activities</i>	13	30 495 862	10 381 500	2 230 000	
<i>Year-round production activities</i>	10	38 069 544	11 703 624	3 940 000	
<i>Workshops</i>	5	4 120 400	1 159 560	340 000	
<i>Professional publications</i>	4	2 823 600	1 815 000	750 000	
<i>Other</i>	4	7 841 450	2 638 925	730 000	
<b>Alternative music</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>236 411 658</b>	<b>40 007 192</b>	<b>15 000 000</b>	
<i>Music festivals</i>	48	166 907 600	21 896 242	9 410 000	
<i>Concert projects</i>	26	36 252 656	8 287 300	2 350 000	
<i>Interdisciplinary projects</i>	12	14 437 452	3 144 800	750 000	
<i>Workshops</i>	7	5 776 300	2 265 300	620 000	
<i>Music editions</i>	3	2 013 200	579 200	210 000	
<i>Magazines</i>	2	2 075 500	760 000	470 000	

CD, DVD		6	1 771 600	772 000	240 000
Music information activities		1	1 995 000	500 000	400 000
Conference		3	5 182 350	1 802 350	550 000
<b>Classic music</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>179 796 474</b>	<b>49 125 268</b>	<b>21 953 000</b>
Music festivals		44	69 196 192	14 543 673	5 835 000
Concert actions - contemporary music		14	8 970 100	3 111 000	1 559 000
Concert actions - old music		7	10 752 580	3 228 000	1 640 000
Concert actions - exceptional dramatics		14	18 032 253	4 178 200	2 365 000
Year-round activities - ensembles		4	17 441 000	5 114 000	1 150 000
Interdisciplinary projects		11	10 680 200	4 065 900	750 000
Workshops		39	20 097 159	4 975 225	2 920 000
Music editions		2	258 000	168 000	160 000
Music editions publications		4	605 000	258 000	258 000
Magazines		8	11 594 800	4 587 000	3 700 000
CD, DVD		13	7 646 050	2 863 200	744 000
Music information activities		4	4 311 140	1 941 070	780 000
Conference		2	212 000	92 000	92 000
<b>Czech music year</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>105 965 675</b>	<b>31 789 116</b>	<b>12 000 000</b>
<b>Arts total</b>		<b>853</b>	<b>1 394 558 758</b>	<b>350 786 980</b>	<b>126 178 000</b>

### 3. Reporting on outputs

#### 3.1. Programme outputs overview

The programme's outputs and their indicators, as defined in the Programme Agreement, signed on 31 October 2013, are summarized in the table below. Estimated target values to be achieved are forecasted. The estimate for the PA 17 includes only data relating to the sub-projects from the PA 17 first Open Call (second Open Call sub-projects to be approved in March 2015).

<b>Output</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target planned (Programme Agreement)</b>	<b>Estimated target to be achieved</b>
<b>Output</b>			
<b>Output Indicator</b>			
<b>Cinematographic works restored and digitalised</b>			
<i>Number of restored and digitalized cinematographic works</i>	1	11	14
<b>Output</b>			
<b>Output Indicator</b>			
<b>National cultural heritage sites, cultural heritage sites, UNESCO heritage sites and buildings used for museum-type collections renovated or repaired</b>			
<i>Number of buildings of cultural heritage value and buildings for museum-type collections restored or rehabilitated</i>	0	12	21
<b>Output</b>			
<b>Output Indicator</b>			
<b>Collections including libraries collections restored; optimal environment for museums, libraries, archives and written cultural heritage created</b>			
<i>Number of actions taken to preserve movable cultural heritage and written cultural heritage</i>	0	2	13
<b>Output</b>			
<b>Output Indicator</b>			
<b>New performance projects supported</b>			
<i>Number of new cultural performances, interdisciplinary and exhibition projects and concert events in the area of theatre, visual, music and film art</i>	0	4	53
<b>Output</b>			
<b>Output Indicator</b>			
<b>Creative workshops in the area of theatre, music, visual and film art held</b>			
<i>Number of creative workshops (specialized courses, conferences, seminars)</i>	0	4	90

As the first open calls within the PA 16 and the PA 17 were launched in March 2014, having the deadline for submitting applications till June 2014, the Selection Committees were held in September/October 2014 and the second Open Call within PA 17 was open till January 9, 2015, no projects were realized during the reporting period. Only estimated target values can thus be reported on. Based on the quality of the already approved applications, all the projects and sub-projects both within the PA 16 and the PA 17 are rightfully considered to have high potential to help the defined Programme outputs to be achieved.

The Output Indicator "Number of restored and digitalized cinematographic works" of the Output "Cinematographic works restored and digitalised" is related to the pre-defined project 1 "Digital restoration of Czech film heritage". Baseline and target values, given in Annex 1, art. 1 of the Programme Agreement, have changed. 4 films instead of 1 had been digitalized (funded from private resources) before the implementation of PDP1 started. The total value of 10 digitalized films has



remained unchanged. In November 2014, the NFP submitted a request for the modification of the Programme Agreement regarding the change of the baseline and target values to the FMO.

26 projects have been approved within the PA 16 Open Call. The Output “National cultural heritage sites, cultural heritage sites, UNESCO heritage sites and buildings used for museum-type collections renovated or repaired” and the Output “Collections including libraries collections restored; optimal environment for museums, libraries, archives and written cultural heritage created” are both expected to reach the planned targets.

The expected output within the PA 17 is the implementation of high-quality projects, aimed at diverse artistic expressions, activities and works, which will contribute to the reaching of the aims set out in the objectives of cultural policies in various areas of professional arts (theatre, music, visual arts and film art), supporting a greater awareness of cultural diversity, strengthening of intercultural dialogue and the cultural identity of individuals.

16 sub-projects have been approved within the PA 17 first Open Call. The Output “*New performance projects supported*” and the Output “*Creative workshops in the area of theatre, music, visual and film art held*” are both estimated to meet the planned target values. On the top of that, with sub-projects from the PA 17 second Open Call implemented, the expected target values shall be exceeded.

### 3.2. Pre-defined projects

Two pre-defined are implemented within the PA 16. Due to the initial delay in the Programme approval, start of PDPs realization was thus also delayed. According to Programme Proposal, the implementation of the PDP should have commenced already in August 2012, financing from March 2013.

PDP 1 “*Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage*” was approved on 29 July 2014. The applicant confirmed the acceptance of the grant terms given in the Letter of the PO and submitted all relevant documents on 18 August 2014. The legal act of awarding a grant to the applicant was issued on 19 September 2014.

In line with the time schedule, technological research and quality checks of the source materials were carried out by the NFA experts. Reference copies started to be selected and bibliography gathered. Consultations with the Norwegian partner – the National Library of Norway – were carried out and the first workshop in Norway, dealing with the digitalization process description options, was organized. The results of the research will serve for the authentic restoration of each film to be digitalized. The process of digitization itself will be carried out according to the method set in the public procurement, resulting in digitized and digitally restored version of the selected films. The contract with the supplier shall be signed in February 2015. When the supplier is known, main publicity actions, including the press conference and publishing of the list of 10 films to be digitalized, will take place.

PDP 2 “*Industrial Heritage*” was approved on 29 May 2014. The applicant confirmed the acceptance of the grant terms given in the Letter of the PO and submitted all relevant documents on 27 August 2014. The legal act on grant award was issued on 19 September 2014. The project will contribute to sharing of knowledge on industrial heritage in Norway and in the Czech Republic by documentation and evaluating this type of heritage from the perspective of the management, renovation and education.

The National Heritage Institute together with its partner Riksantikvaren consulted and specified the roles of project team members. Mapping of the industrial heritage, including learning about industrial heritage in Norway and the Czech Republic, exchange of experience in documentation of industrial heritage and evaluation from the perspective of cultural heritage management, methods of renovation

and presentation as activities, was performed during the second half of the reporting period. At the end of the year 2014, the first study trip in the Czech Republic, aimed at the industrial heritage of Brno, Zlín and Ostrava regions, was organized.

### 3.3. Small Grant Scheme

On 23 March 2014 the first Open Call within the PA 17 was launched, with the deadline for submitting applications set on 26 June 2014. 45 project applications were submitted. 16 sub-projects were approved for funding during the selection process. The selection process was performed in line with the given rules and legislation, running transparently, with all relevant persons involved being impartial and maintaining confidentiality. The project selection is described in more details in Chapter 5.

The outputs of the PA 17 will be specific sub-projects in a variety of artistic disciplines in the area of contemporary professional arts. Due to the insufficient financial resources allocated to the PA 17, many projects of considerable importance and of high quality, submitted within the first PA 17 Open Call, could not be supported. The table below shows the diversity of the approved sub-projects.

Project Activities	Number of approved sub-projects aimed at particular activity
<b>1. Professional theatre, including:</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Festival, show	2
1.2 New interdisciplinary project	2
1.3 New performance project	3
1.4 Running of a performance project	-
1.5 Creative workshop, specialized course, conference, seminar	-
<b>2. Professional visual arts, including :</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Exhibition project	1
2.2 Support to a year-round exhibition project	-
2.3 Creative workshop, specialized course, conference, seminar	2
<b>3. Professional music, including:</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Music festival	3
3.2 Concert event	1
3.3 Creative workshop, specialized course, conference, seminar	2
<b>4. Film Art, including:</b>	<b>-</b>
4.1 Creative workshop for screenwriters, specialized course, conference, seminar	-
4.2 Film festival or show	-

It is expected that the approved sub-projects will deliver high artistic quality, initiate a dialogue among the artists, cultural players, professional and wide public and contribute to increased interest in contemporary arts in the Czech Republic and the Donor States. The outputs of the PA 17 will also include events supporting both the creativity and capacity development of artists and other entities providing cultural services, involving the international participation in order to enhance cultural dialogue and strengthen European identity. Strengthening of bilateral partnership is expected to be the result of most sub-projects within all four supported artistic disciplines in the PA 17. Compulsory coproduction with some activities was thus required in order to maximize exchange of experience and ensure the highest possible quality of the outputs. 14 of 16 already approved sub-projects are to be implemented in partnerships with entities from the Donor States.

On 23 October 2014 the second Open Call within the PA 17 was launched, being opened till 9 January 2015. Close to the call deadline about 40 project applications were submitted.

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

The objective of the PA 16 is to contribute to the protecting and preserving of cultural heritage in the Czech Republic for future generations and making it accessible for the public. The objective of the PA 17 is to enhance cultural dialogue and strengthen European identity by contributing to a greater understanding cultural diversity.

The Programme's outcomes and their indicators, as defined in the Programme Proposal and the Programme Agreement, signed on 23 October 2013, are summarized in the table below. Estimated target values to be achieved are forecasted. Though the sub-projects within the PA 17 second Open Call have not been approved yet, rough estimate of their potential results is included.

Programme	CZ06 - Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts			
PA	16 - Conservation and Revitalization of Cultural and Natural Heritage			
Outcome	Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected			
	Baseline	Target planned (Programme Proposal)	Estimated target to be achieved <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Outcome indicator</b>	Number of buildings of cultural heritage value and buildings used for museum-type collections restored or rehabilitated	0	12	21
<b>Outcome indicator</b>	Number of actions taken to preserve or digitalize cultural heritage value	1	13	19
PA	17 - Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts			
Outcome	Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience			
	<i>Number of projects focused on the main objectives of the programme i.e. projects intended to increase understanding and integration of minorities and disadvantaged groups (social inclusion), cultural activities for children in terms of projects that promote understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity/number of coproduction projects focused on the main objectives of the programme</i>			
<b>Outcome indicator</b>		0	19/11	23/19

As the first Open Calls were launched in March 2014 with deadline for submitting applications in June 2014, the Selection Committees took place in September/October 2014 and the second Open Call within PA 17 was open till January 9, 2015, no projects were realized during the reporting period. Therefore, only estimated target values can be reported on. Based on the quality of the already approved applications, all the projects and sub-projects both within the PA 16 and the PA 17 are rightfully considered to have high potential to help the defined Programme outcomes to be achieved.

The Outcome Indicator “Number of buildings of cultural heritage value and buildings used for museum-type collections restored or rehabilitated” related to the PA 16 Outcome “Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected” is planned for the target value of 12 in the Programme Proposal. The estimated value to be achieved is 21 (20 within the Open Call projects plus 1 within the PDP). The Outcome Indicator “Number of actions taken to preserve or digitalize cultural heritage value” related to the PA 16 Outcome “Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected” is planned for the target

<sup>1</sup> Including the PA 17 second Open Call estimated results

value of 13 in the Programme Proposal. The estimated value to be achieved is 19 (11 within the Open Call projects plus 8 within the PDP).

The Outcome Indicator “Number of projects focused on the main objectives of the programme i.e. projects intended to increase understanding and integration of minorities and disadvantaged groups (social inclusion), cultural activities for children in terms of projects that promote understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity/number of coproduction projects focused on the main objectives of the programme” related to the PA 16 Outcome “Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience” is planned for the target value of 19/11 in the Programme Proposal. The estimated total value to be achieved is 23/19. Within the sub-projects of the first Open Call, the estimated target value is 16/14: 16 sub-projects have been approved, 14 of which are to be implemented in the cooperation with the partners from the Donor states. Within the sub-projects of the second Open Call, the rough estimated target values are 7/5 as sub-projects have not been approved yet.

#### Bilateral results

Bilateral results are being supported among the approved projects both within the PA 16 and the PA 17. 15 projects approved within the PA 16, 2 pre-defined projects and 14 sub-projects approved within the PA 17 first Open Call are implemented in partnership with partners from the Donor States. The table below demonstrates the overview of bilateral results to be reached. As the sub-projects of the second Open Call within the PA17 have not been approved yet, the estimated results are not included in the overview.

Bilateral indicator	Baseline	Target	Estimated target to be achieved <sup>2</sup>
Number of project partnership agreements in civil society	0	8	10
Number of project partnership agreements in the private sector	0	2	5
Number of project partnership agreements in the public sector	0	6	9
Number of projects with expected shared results (both partners are involved professionally in planning and implementation and can claim credit for achieved results)	0	10	17

#### Risk factors

Main risks relating to the Programme’s outcomes not to be achieved are analyzed and described in more details in the Annex I and Chapter 9. Major risks, having the highest importance, are the time risk and the failure to keep the projects quality. The latter risk is derived from the time risk as delays within the implementation, e.g. due to unforeseen obstacles like unfavourable weather conditions, may occur. The emerging lack of time for the projects completion may have negative effects on their quality. Proper monitoring will be secured by the PO and threats to the successful completion of the projects will be reported on. Mitigation might be possible with the prolongation of the Programme, which both the PO and the PP have been striving for in order to prevent risks of not reaching the Programme’s objectives.

### 4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns

Programme CZ06 supports diversity at the level of cultures, nations and minorities, guarantees adherence to the principles of equal opportunities of men and women in terms of their social and

<sup>2</sup> Results of PA 17 second Open Call are not yet known and not included in the estimated target values to be achieved

professional development, non-discrimination and equal opportunities regardless of race, ethnicity and religion for both the Programme Areas.

Supporting cultural diversity, initiatives to foster intercultural dialogue and understanding within our societies to increase tolerance and inclusion, cultural expression of minority groups, including Roma and Jewish culture and heritage, gender equality, represent the main horizontal concerns within the Programme. Following horizontal concerns, defined as the selection criteria, have been evaluated and considered in the selection process of projects:

- the principles of equality for men and women are described and respected;
- how and to which extent projects promote cultural expression of minorities or their cultural history;
- whether a project focuses on multicultural heritage, including Roma cultural heritage.

In line with the Programme Agreement, more than 0.9 mil. EUR (approx. 5.7 % of allocated funds to the PA 16) was allocated to support the Jewish cultural Heritage. 4 projects within the PA 16 are focused on the Jewish culture and heritage.

Improving the situation for the Roma population, which is often perceived by the majority population through negative reporting, is an important element within the PA 17. Two of 16 already approved sub-projects are explicitly aimed at the issues related to Roma: “*International Roma Music Festival Romale*” and “*World Roma Festival KHAMORO*”. Also other sub-projects are dealing with the unfavourable situation concerning Roma and striving for better dialogue between the minority and the majority, e.g sub-project “*3 faces of freedom - support of cultural diversity in Ústí nad Labem*” and “*TANECVALMEZ & Jo Stromgren Kompani & 420PEOPLE*”. In general, the Ministry of Culture, supports the social inclusion of the Roma minority and strive for maximizing the benefits in order to support Roma community. About 30 Roma projects were supported in 2014 within several Ministry of Culture’s funding schemes.

## 5. Project selection

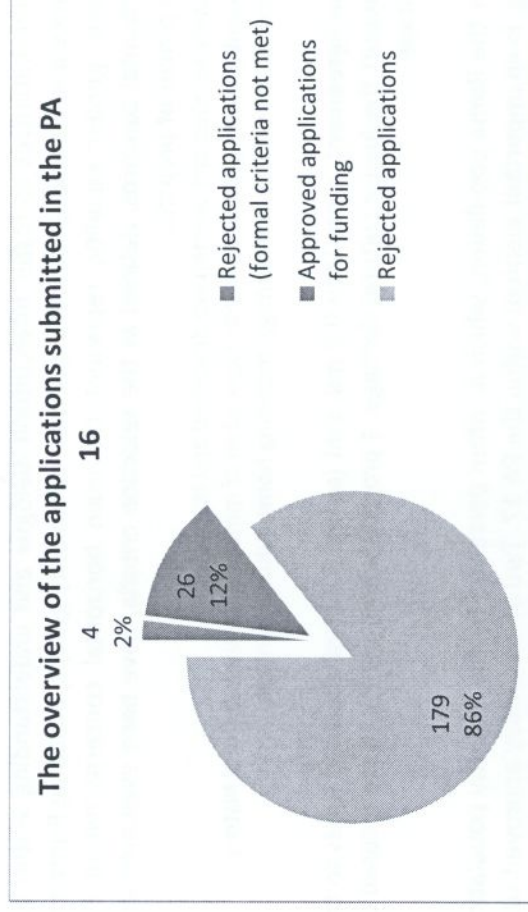
All selection procedures under the Programme were carried out in accordance with Article 6.5 of the Regulation and the Guideline for Submission and Evaluation of Application and Grant Award developed by the NFP. The assessment of applications was performed by the PP in the following phases: the assessment of formal requirements and eligibility and the quality evaluation. During the selection process, the information system CEDR proved to facilitate access to all necessary documents to external evaluators, members of the Selection Committee and also provided a platform for archiving of communication with applicants.

### PA 16

In line with the Programme Agreement, one Open Call for individual projects proposals in the PA 16 was carried out during the reporting period. The Call text was discussed with the DPP and the FMO prior the launch of the Open Call on 21 March 2014. Grant applications were submitted continuously via the IT system CEDR until the set deadline – 20 June 2014. Considerable amount of applicants used the opportunity to consult procedures of proper processing of the application and its annexes both with the PO and the PP. Seminar for potential project beneficiaries, organized by the PO and the PP, was held in April 2014.

Altogether, 209 applications were submitted, 4 of which were rejected as formal criteria were not fulfilled. Subsequently, 205 applications were assessed by the external evaluators (46 evaluators; 453 assessments created) in line with the Regulation. The financial amount of requested grants in total was approx. 130 mil. EUR, while the available allocation of the Call was 15.87 mil. EUR. The interest was 8 times higher than the available allocation. The given allocation thus covered only 12 % of the requested funding and many projects of high quality and significant importance could not be supported. In line

with the Programme Agreement more than 0.9 mil. EUR (approx. 5.7 % of allocated funds) were allocated to support the Jewish cultural Heritage.



External evaluators trainings were held on 30 July 2014 and 7 August 2014. The applications were assigned to evaluators through the information system CEDR. Each application was evaluated by two external evaluators (3 evaluators in total in case of difference between the application scoring of two evaluators was higher than 30 % of the point value of evaluator rated higher) in the IS CEDR. Scoring of each sub-criterion with points, including written justification, description of the strengths and weaknesses of the application were required. Resulting evaluation of the quality of the application, developed for each evaluated application, and the sequence of applications based on the results of the external evaluation were provided to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee was held on 8 October 2014. The Selection was attended by six regular members in line with the given rules. Representatives of the PO and the Norwegian Embassy in Prague took part as observers. 26 proposals were selected and recommended for funding (representing 12 % of the submitted applications) and 9 were put on the reserve list. The verification process started on 16 October 2014 and 26 projects were approved in the period from 14 -26 November 2014, with the last one approved on 19 December 2014.

In November 2014, seminar for project beneficiaries aimed at the topic of public contracts, was organized by the PO. The issuing of the legal acts started in late December 2014 and will continue in January 2015 when project promoters provide necessary documents such as partnership agreements and confirm their bank accounts. Some of the unsuccessful applicants (16) used their opportunity to look into the results and assessment of their applications. 5 appeals were submitted, 2 of which against the exclusion for failure to comply with the formal requirements and eligibility and 3 of which against the results of verification.

The approved projects are in line with the expected outcomes, as stated in the Programme Proposal. The overview of the outcomes and indicators, including the values to be achieved, is mentioned above in the table in Chapter 4.

15 projects approved within the PA 16 Open Call will be implemented in Donor State partnership with at least one Donor State partner. Among the partners from the Donor States, there are entities such as Jodisk Museum Oslo, Norsk Institutt for Kulturminneforskning, ARFO forlag for arkitektur og kunst, Tromsø University Museum, Stiftelsen Arkivet, Association for Employers in the Church of Norway, Dept. for Church Buildings and Heritage.

## PA 17

In line with the Programme Agreement, two Open Calls within the Small Grant Scheme (the PA 17) were launched during the reporting period. Both call texts were discussed with the DPP and the FMO prior their launch on 27 March 2014 and 23 October 2014.

Grant applications were submitted continuously via the IT system CEDR until the deadline set for submitting applications – 26 June 2014 and 9 January 2015. Considerable amount of applicants used the opportunity to consult scope of their proposal and procedures of proper processing of the application and its annexes with the PO and the PP. The contact seminar for potential project beneficiaries and partners from the Donor States, organized by the PP and the DPP, was held in February 2014. Seminars for potential project beneficiaries, organized by the PO and the PP, were held in April 2014 for the first Open Call and October 2014 for the Second Open Call.

Altogether, 45 applications were submitted within the first Open Call. The financial amount of required grants in total was approx. 4.49 mil. EUR, while the available allocation of the Call was 1.52 mil. EUR. The interest was almost 3 times higher than available allocation. The given allocation thus covered only 34 % of the requested funding.

All submitted applications fulfilled both the formal and the eligibility criteria, checked within the formal and eligibility evaluation performed by the PP. Subsequently, the applications were assessed by the external evaluators (27 evaluators, 113 assessments created) in line with the Regulation. External evaluators trainings were held on 30 July 2014 and 7 August 2014. The applications were assigned to evaluators through the information system CEDR.

The Selection Committee was held on 16 September 2014. The Selection Committee was attended by the total of six regular members, 3 of which were the Czech experts and 3 Norwegian experts. Representatives of the PO, the DPP and the Norwegian Embassy in Prague attended the Selection Committee meeting as the observers. 16 proposals were selected and recommended for funding (representing 36 % of the submitted applications) and 5 were put on the reserve list. The considerable amount of submitted application of a high quality could not be recommended for funding due to the insufficient financial allocation.

The verification process started on the 6 October 2014 and 16 projects were approved (1 successful applicant withdrew their application and was replaced by the first project from the reserve list) on 22 October and 19 November 2014. 10 legal acts were issued in the reporting period. Remaining legal acts will be issued as soon as the project promoters provide necessary materials to the PO, such as the partnership agreements and confirm their bank accounts. Some of the unsuccessful applicants (4) used their opportunity to look into the results and assessment of their applications.

The approved project are in line with the expected outcomes, as stated in the Programme Proposal. The overview of the outcomes and indicators, including the values to be achieved, is mentioned above in the table in Chapter 4.

14 approved projects from the first Open Call within the Small Grant Scheme will be implemented in Donor State partnership. Among the partners from the Donor States, there are for example: Baerum Kulturhus, performing arts center & regional center for dance instead of theater, Stiftelsen Punkt, Anne Szefer Karlissen, Stiftelsen Bergen Internasjonale Teater.

Deadline for the second Open Call was set on 9 January 2015. The scope of the activities to be supported is very similar to the first Open Call, however activities like workshops and seminars cannot be implemented as the only activity, but need to accompany other main activities within the supported artistic areas (theatre, visual arts, music and film).

### **Pre-defined projects**

The pre-defined project “*Industrial Heritage*” was submitted at the end of February 2014 and approved in May 2014 after necessary clarifications and adjustments of the application, including also the change of the allocation in CZK as the exchange rate changed in April 2014. The expenditures of the PDP are eligible since 29 May 2014 when the implementation of the project started. The first monitoring report was submitted on 30 November 2014, covering the period from May till October 2014.

The pre-defined project “*Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage*” was submitted at the end of May 2014 and approved in July 2014 after necessary clarifications and adjustments of the application. The expenditures are eligible since 29 July 2014 when the implementation of the project started. Both pre-defined projects are implemented in cooperation with the partner from the Donor State.

### **Selection process modification proposal**

The immense interest of applicants, both in the PA 16 and the PA 17, documented by the high number of submitted applications and the very high request on financial resources, created a significant administrative and technical burden, both on the side of the PO and the PP during the selection process.

In order to prevent applicant appeals against the exclusion of their applications from verification to minimum, as settling their appeals is much time consuming due to the high number of applicants, both the PP and the PO suggest, a certain minimum level of score shall be applied. An application should meet the set scoring minimum in order to be passed to the Selection Committee. At the moment, all submitted applications meeting the formal criteria and eligibility are passed to the Selection Committee in the sequence on the basis of the external evaluation. Minimum needed score may help to shorten the evaluation process, and thus prolong the implementation phase of projects.

It is also suggested, that the difference between the application scoring of two external evaluators leading to third evaluation, is adjusted. Currently, if the difference between the application scoring of two external evaluators is higher than 30 % of the point value of the evaluator rated higher, the evaluation done by a third external evaluator is required. Smaller difference is suggested to be defined, as e.g. 15 points difference between two applications scoring in absolute value represent a significant difference in the quality of submitted applications.

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

Bilateral cooperation has been facilitated and supported both at the Programme and project level. 322 350 EUR, representing 1.5 % of the total Programme fund, is allocated to the Bilateral Fund, consisting of two measures – A and B. 35 % of the Fund for Bilateral Relations will be used for Measure A, 65 % for Measure B.

Bilateral Fund at Programme Level – measure A (BFA) – was set up for the purpose of the search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application. The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the operation of the BFA according to the Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Culture. Total allocation on Measure A implementation was approved on 12 August 2014 (112 822.5 EUR representing 35 % of the Fund for Bilateral Relations).

The PP altogether with the DPP organized a match making seminar for potential project applicants and potential donor project partners, which was held in Prague on 6 February 2014. Donor partnership projects were promoted and cooperation possibilities explained. Apart from a series of presentations,



the seminar included several workshops relating to common problems and know-how in the fields of music, visual arts, theatre and film. 135 participants from the Czech Republic and 42 participants from the Donor States took part.

The announcement of the second contact seminar to be held in Oslo in late November (24 – 25) was published on 24 October 2014. Due to the small number of received applications (8), the intended second contact seminar was cancelled. Based on the agreement between the PP, the DPP and the PO, the Open Call for submission of seed money application within the measure A was launched on 18 November 2014, opened till 12 December 2014, supporting travels and meetings of potential partners, while covering cost related to such travels aimed at the development of partnerships and project applications to be submitted with the PA 17 second Open Call. The submitted applications were evaluated by the PP in cooperation with the DPP and 14 approved. As not all funds allocated to measure A will be used, the unused funds will be reallocated to measure B.

Bilateral Fund at Programme Level – measure B (BFB) was set up for the purpose of networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between project promoters and entities in the Donor States during the implementation phase of the projects. The Operator of the Fund for Bilateral Cooperation, measure B, is the operator of the Programme (the Ministry of Finance). The Guideline for applicants and promoters within BFB was finished in the reporting period by the PO. In line with the Programme Agreement, funds under measure B will be made available through a rolling open call. The text of the call was discussed by the PO both with the PP and the DPP. The final text of the call was approved by both entities in December 2014. All parties agreed on the launch in January 2015 as calculation of the unused funds allocated to measure A was needed, so that the reallocation to measure B could be arranged.

Bilateral relations at the Programme level with the DPP, the Arts Council Norway, have been supported by the meetings of the Cooperation Committee and also e-mail communication on a regular basis. The Arts Council Norway supported the promotion of the Programme in the Donor States, assisted in searching for potential project partners and helped as an advisory body to ascertain that the Programme is adequate and relevant for the cultural fields both in the Czech Republic and in the Donor States.

The acting of the DPP during the implementation phase of the Programme is of a very high importance, supporting the PP and the PO in better understanding of the Donor State's cultural field as well as through organization of the Cooperation Committee, which tasks include advising on selection criteria, advising on possible project partners in the Donor States, reviewing progress made towards achieving of the outcomes and objectives of the Programme, advising the PO of any revision of the Programme likely to facilitate the achievement of the Programme's expected outcomes and objectives.

Two meetings of the Cooperation Committee, which the representatives of the Arts Council Norway took part in, were held in Prague in the reporting period – in April and September 2014. Main points of discussion of the April meeting included the status of the Open Call within the PA 17, the selection procedure, next steps in measure A within the Bilateral Fund and use of complementary action within the Programme. Representatives of the Arts Council Norway took part in the Selection Committee held in September 2014. September meeting of the Cooperation Committee focused mainly on the evaluation of the first Open Call within the PA 17 and lessons learned, discussed the next steps needed to be done within the framework of the second Open Call, including its text, date of its launch and time schedule of the selection process.

All projects have been encouraged to include partner(s) from the Donor States. The eligibility criteria for partners from the Donor States were the same as those applicable to national applicants. 15 projects approved within the PA 16, 2 pre-defined projects and 14 sub-projects approved within the PA 17 first

Open Call shall be implemented in partnership with partners from the Donor States. The table in Chapter 4 includes the overview of four bilateral indicators set within the Programme: number of project partnership agreements in civil society, private and public sector as well as projects with expected shared results, including the estimated target values to be achieved. Although all the PA 17 sub-projects are not yet known, the estimate on bilateral results to be reached can be considered as positive with the expectation that the set values will be met.

The pre-defined project “*Industrial Heritage*” started its implementation phase within the reporting period. The project is from its nature a scientific-research project aimed at the exchange of experience between the Czech National Heritage Institute and Riksantikvaren (The Directorate for Cultural Heritage) from Norway, related to methods of documentation, research and evaluation of results in mapping of the industrial heritage. It also brings the opportunity for development of each the two institutions by learning more about cultural policy, administration and cultural activities in the other country. The cooperation has been successfully established and one of the planned study travels was organized in 2014. The pre-defined project “*Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage*” is implemented in the partnership with the National Library of Norway.

### **6.1. Complementary action**

The Programme disposes of funds designed for the complementary action. On 26 -27 June 2014, the Mid-meeting for Programme Operators of Programme Area 17, was held in Krakow in Poland. Participants from 9 beneficiary states, including the Czech Republic, discussed the substantive aspects concerning the implementation of the cultural exchange Programmes within the EEA Grants 2009-2014 with regards to the topics related to role and tasks of the Programme Operators as well as ideas of projects and partnerships.

The use of complementary action within the Programme was discussed on both meetings of the Cooperation Committee held in 2014. Though no specific activity has been defined yet, the Cooperation Committee acknowledged that strengthening partnerships between POs, the exchange of information and visits aimed at best practices sharing are important and could be beneficial. Further use of the complementary actions shall be discussed during 2015.

## **7. Monitoring**

The regular monitoring has been carried out via collecting information from the project promoters through the project reports. In the reporting period, only 1 interim project report was submitted – the pre-defined project “*Industrial Heritage*” reported on the project progress and financial progress in its first interim project report, covering the period from July till October 2014. The majority of the approved projects will submit their first interim project report in July 2015.

On 12 December 2014 the Programme Operator launched an open tender for technical assistance, which shall assist the PO with on-site controls (previously called on-site monitoring visits, now with the change of the legislation called public-law on-site controls). On-site controls shall verify if the project progress and financial status comply with the information declared in monitoring reports and whether the project management is efficient to meet the planned objectives. The deadline for submitting bids is on 29 January 2015. The tender comprises on-site controls of projects and small grant schemes in all 10 programmes in charge of the PO. There are two basic types of controls which will be carried out – factual/interim control and financial/final control. Moreover, the factual/interim controls will be ordinary, ad hoc and controls of corrective measures’ fulfilment.

The Monitoring Plan for 2015 is enclosed to this report. As the majority of the projects will submit their first reports in July 2015, the controls within the PA 16 will be carried out from the second quarter of

2015, starting with the control of the PDP2. Representatives of the PP will be invited to participate at on-site controls as observers and be provided with the reports.

## 8. Need for adjustments

Due to the initial delay in the approval of the Programme and the delay in the notification of the state aid by the European Commission, adjustments within the Programme were needed. The PO and the PP strived for the evaluation and selection process to be run as quickly and effectively as possible, not to shorten the implementation period of projects. Therefore, the verification process had to be adjusted in order to mitigate risk of not achieving both the Programme and project objectives, outputs and outcomes on time due to the shortage of time for the implementation.

The Ministry of Finance, acting as the Programme Operator within the Programme, has also been acting as the SGS Operator within the Small Grant Scheme implemented in the PA 17. Not the Ministry of Culture, but the Ministry of Finance, is responsible for the SGS administration.

On 7 April 2014 the exchange rate applied within the Programme changed from 24.80 CZK/EUR to 26.50 CZK/EUR. Adjustments of allocations, including the amounts in already launched Open Calls and in the PDPs, were made.

In November 2014, the NFP submitted a request for minor Programme Agreement modifications. They include requirement on the minimum amount of grant assistance applied for in the Open Call within Bilateral Fund, measure "A" to be lowered with the respect of the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Due to the delay, the second Open Call for proposals within the PA 17 was launched in the fourth quarter of 2014, not the third one. The final amount of the budget line item "Preparation of the Programme Proposal" was calculated and also reported in the IFR1. In order to make it equal to the amount reported as incurred in the IFR1, decreasing the budget line item "Programme management" accordingly was requested. The updated budget heading are shown in the table below.

Budget heading	Total	Total budget	PA 16	PA 17
Programme management	€1,734,446 (8.071 %)	€1,734,446	€1,509,594	€224,852
Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected	€16,784,317 (78.103 %)	€16,784,317	€16,784,317	
Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience	€2,500,000 (11.633 %)	€2,500,000		€2,500,000
Fund for bilateral relations	€322,350 (1.50 %)	€322,350	€28,0561	€41,789
Complementary action	€50,000 (0.233 %)	€50,000	€43,518	€6,482
Preparation of Programme Proposal	€98,887 (0.46%)	€98,887	€86,067	€12,820
<b>Total</b>	<b>€21,490,000 (100.00%)</b>	<b>€21,490,000</b>	<b>€18,704,057</b>	<b>€278,5943</b>

As the projects implementation period is very short (December 2014 – April 2016 for projects approved at the end of 2014), there is a risk of unforeseen events arising from the projects subject and content. Time risk thus plays the most obvious risk, affecting a possible delay in commitments and disbursement of funds. Mitigation might be possible with the prolongation of the Programme, which has already been suggested by the PO to the Financial Mechanism Office.

## 9. Risk management

The PO updated the programme risk analysis at the end of August 2014 under the guidance of the NFP. The Programme CZ06 still ranks as the most risky programmes out of 15 programmes implemented in the Czech Republic (the third most risky Programme after CZ08 and CZ04), with the time risk – delay in the commitment and disbursement of funds being the most risky factor. Project quality has been identified as the other factor of the highest risk. Importance of all the other programme risks is at the low or middle level. However, there is a positive trend in the results of the risk analysis made in 2014 in comparison with the analysis made in 2013.

Time risk represents the most significant risk, having a deep impact on all other risk factors, especially the quality of projects. Due to time constraints and capacity challenges at the FMO, causing the delayed start of the Programme implementation, the verification process run by the PO had to be adjusted and its scope limited only to the evaluation of the selection process, so that the implementation period of projects would not be much shortened and a good standard of quality in the projects not threatened. Content of projects was not and will not be verified by the PO (submitted and proposed individual project proposals by the PP not to be assessed by the PO), creating increased risk of lower project quality to be approved. Lower quality projects may be exposed to higher risk of failing, which shall be prevented by proper monitoring of the project implementation.

Mitigating actions, put in place to address time risk, include speeding up all administrative procedures connected with the selection of projects including their verification and adopting more flexible approach within the project implementation, especially in case of problems occurred during the realization and changes within the projects. Moreover, the implementation of new modern IT systems supporting the selection, monitoring and payment to the projects and realization of other components within the Programme has been running, in order to secure more effective process including communication among different stakeholders.

In order to prevent the risk of bad project and results quality, the PO and the PP organized seminars for potential applicants and assisted the applicants with questions relating to their applications. Contact seminars were also organized with the help of the DPP, the Arts Council Norway, helping to minimize difficulties in finding partners from the Donor States. Training of potential applicants at seminars and workshops have helped to reduce the risk of errors made by applicants when preparing their projects and grant applications.

Seminars for project promoters will be held in order to provide proper training to final beneficiaries, including the provision of key information about the most important requirements, how to work with the IT system etc., and thus helping to avoid errors made by the beneficiaries during the implementation phase. In order to prevent potential risks in projects realization, on-site checks of projects will be made during the project implementation phase, both at the beginning of project realization and before their finishing.

As the projects implementation period is very short (December 2014 – April 2016), there is a risk of unforeseen events arising from the projects subject and content. The nature of projects to be implemented in the Programme Area 16 requires specific technologic procedures to be kept. Because of their strong dependence on weather effects, the project implementation is highly sensitive to changes in the weather and projects thus exposed to weather risks and vulnerable to delayed project completion. Time risk thus plays the most obvious risk, affecting a possible delay in commitments and disbursement of funds. Mitigation might be possible with the prolongation of the Programme. Both the PO and the PP have been striving for the Programme prolongation since early 2013.

The approved projects in the PA 17 have mostly experiences in implementing similar projects, still there are some specific risks that endanger the implementation process. Risks that are common in all the projects from PA17 are poor management and control structures (mitigation actions: qualified and experienced staff, experts, close cooperation), low attendance of activities (mitigation actions: sufficient publicity and promotion of the projects) and bad cash-flow (mitigation actions: sufficient financial resources). All the projects with open-air events are exposed to weather risks and depend on weather conditions (mitigation actions: covered and indoors stages). The risks of the projects with performers are illness and absence or the main artists (mitigation actions: back up plan, alternate artist). Projects with partners from donor countries may suffer from language barrier and misunderstanding (mitigation actions: translator and bilingual materials).

The programme-based model, a new system for results-based management used to communicate the outcomes achieved both in the projects and the Programme, together with the complexity of the Programme, including pre-defined projects, individual projects arising from the PA 16 Open Call, Small Grant Scheme and Bilateral Fund, and with the relating Programme management and control structures, represent a risk of medium importance. The PO in cooperation with the PP and the DPP are responsible for managing the Programme and for deciding which projects to support. Communication between the PO, the PP and the DPP shall help to mitigate the risks related to the operational issues of the Programme, and thus by continuous specifying of the requirements, updating the guides and manuals. Information sharing and communication have proved more challenging than under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004–2009, however thanks to the expertise of all the entities involved, it does not represent a big challenge in this context.

## **10. Information and publicity**

The Programme publicity has been ensured by the PO in close cooperation with the PP. The Arts Council Norway has also participated in publicity activities for the PA 17.

The launch conference of the Programme took place on 5 February 2014 in Žofín Palace in Prague with the aim to present the Programme and future calls to the public before the announcement of calls for proposals. On 6 February 2014 a contact seminar, representing an opening event covered from the Bilateral Fund at Programme level, was held at the Ministry of Culture and Meetfactory, where Czech potential applicants met with aprox. 40 potential Donor State partners and discussed possible cooperation in the future. The above mentioned events were attended by more than 300 participants in total.

The web site [www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz) of the PO has been used as the first entry point for stakeholders looking for information on Financial Mechanism EEA 2009-2014 and the Programme Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts. All relevant information, including general information about the EEA Grants 2009-2014, continuous current information about the state of implementation of the Programme, pre-defined projects and the small grant scheme, documents relevant to the Programme (methodology, guidelines, manuals), contact information etc., has been published there, both in the Czech and English language. The PO has also developed the information system CEDR, accessible to the applicants, recipients, partners etc., which has been also used for communication and publicity purposes. All relevant information on the Programme has also been published on the PP website [www.norskefondy.cz](http://www.norskefondy.cz). Both the PO and the Ministry of Culture have continuously updated the websites to ensure the awareness of the Programme in a transparent manner. The Programme donor partner, the Arts Council Norway, has published the information on web site [www.kulturrad.no](http://www.kulturrad.no).

The PO informed the FMO and the Norwegian Embassy of all the Open Calls to be launched in advance. Open Call texts were discussed with the FMO and with the DPP (regarding the PA 17 Open Calls) prior the launch of each Open Call. In line with the Communication Plan, information about Open Calls was widely publicised in order to reach all the relevant target groups and potential applicants – at web sites and in national and professional press. The PP published 7 announcements regarding the PA 16 and 12 announcements regarding the PA 17 in the professional press. Information about the Open Calls was also sent in the form of newsletters through the Art Institute, the contributory organization of the Ministry of Culture.

Three seminars for applicants were organized, providing detailed information on the content of the open call, eligibility of applicants and expenditures and the way of filling and submitting grant applications. These three events were attended by almost 350 participants in total. The PP presented the Programme and provided the information on Open Calls on regular meetings with key personnel in arts and culture at regional level and with the contributory organizations of the Ministry of Culture. The PO plans to realize altogether 3 seminars for project promoters within the 10 Czech programmes in February 2015. All issues relevant to monitoring, publicity and financial matters will be presented and discussed at the seminars.

Pre-defined project “*Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage*” can serve either for communication purposes or as example of best practice. The project is focused on the restoration and digital transcription of cinematographic works to make Czech film heritage accessible to general public through new technologies (Blue-ray media, TV broadcasting in HD, modern cinemas with digital projection).

## **11. Cross - cutting issues**

At all stages of the implementation of the Programme, the highest possible degree of transparency, accountability, cost-effectiveness, economy and efficiency, as well as the principles of sustainable development, gender equality and equal opportunities have been adopted as the main principles in compliance with the requirements of the Donor States, applying also zero tolerance to corruption.

### **Good governance**

The principles of sound administration have been incorporated in the implementation of the Programme, which is managed by qualified staff, both on the PO and the PP sides, and implemented in line with the good governance main principles, the relevant Czech legislation and EU regulations. The implementation of the Programme, including the Open Calls launches, evaluation of the submitted applications, project selections, has been managed in a way that guarantees adherence to the principles of equal opportunities and fair access to a wide public. Information has been published through different media channels, so that fair access of all target groups has been secured. As an example of best practices, the preliminary announcements of the Open Calls to be launched, shall be mentioned. Publishing the basic information in advance, including the expected outcomes and outputs to be achieved, has helped to prolong the preparation period of grant applications, having the positive impact on the quality of submitted applications.

Conflict of interest was excluded within the selection process. Relevant persons involved in the selection process, including assessment, evaluation, verification and final decision, has signed the Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality, stating they will handle all information and documents, gained and/or created during the selection process, as confidential. Evaluation of applications was performed by the PP in two phases: assessment of formal requirements and eligibility and quality evaluation. Compliance with the legislation, the relevance, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the proposals have

been checked. The compliance with the legislation, efficiency and economic sustainability belonged to the selection criteria. Within the evaluation, the noncommercial content of projects has been checked.

### Sustainability

Within sustainable development, the environmental, economic and social sustainability have been reflected. The protection of the environment has been considered particularly in the PA 16, where reconstructions of buildings will occur. The commitment on environmental sustainability has been reflected in the contracts with the final beneficiaries of the grant, e.g. waste management conditions have been defined. No projects with a negative result of EIA has been supported, which was part of the selection criteria.

Overall sustainability of the projects over a period of 5 years has been stipulated. Within the selection process, only projects respecting the sustainability and 3E principles have been selected. The projects to be implemented are individually economically sustainable and upon their termination they will carry on with the initiated activities, then using their own resources for financing. 6 approved projects within the PA16 and 1 sub-projects within the PA 17 are partially funded by the Programme Partner, as the project promoters are the contributory organizations of the Ministry of Culture.

### Equality

Diversity at the level of cultures, nations and minorities has been supported. Within the selection criteria, the requirements on social sustainability and gender equality topics, were applied. Particularly sub-projects within the PA 17 have the great potential to create and deepen social experiences and social capital, helping to foster creative and intercultural skills, which can be considered as a factor of competitiveness, helping us better respond to new economic and social challenges. Arts an culture have a unique capacity to create "green" jobs, raise awareness, challenge social habits and promote behavioural shifts in our societies, including our general attitude to nature. They can also open new avenues to tackle the international dimension of such issues. Such questions have been stressed within the PA 17, many approved projects of which are aimed at social inclusion, fighting against extremism, racism, antisemitism and homophobia.

Two of the approved projects contribute significantly to the inclusion of minority groups, and thus the Roma (*International Roma Music Festival Romale*: four-day-long international Roma music festival presenting the richness of Roma culture in relation to the Roma history; *World Roma Festival KHAMORO* – presentation of the Romani cultural professionals primarily through music). The aim of these projects is to raise awareness of this culture in society and increase tolerance towards this group through the introduction of the Roma culture to the public.

The fight against the extremism, racism, homophobia and anti-semitism is the main theme of the play "Der Kick" in the sub-project „3 faces of freedom – support of cultural diversity in Ústí nad Labem“. The play is based on an actual event, when a 16 year old boy was killed by his peers, who openly professed their sympathy to the right-wing extremism. Document is trying to find the roots of aggression, resignation and the loss of illusion in reaction to historical changes not limited only to Eastern Germany.

Equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women, combating any form of discrimination on the grounds of gender are supported within the Programme and the PA 17. The project Scintilla Tour with jazz musician Beata Hlavenkova is a good example, since jazz music is usually a domain of male musicians.

## 12. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2015


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



**SIGNATURE:** 

**For Programme Operator**

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

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

**For the National Focal Point**

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

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

## Annex 1: Risk assessment of the Programme

Type of objective <sup>3</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>4</sup>	Impact <sup>5</sup>	Importance <sup>6</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Programme absorption capacity	Risk not applicable, the number of submitted applications far exceeded the available allocation both within the PA 16 and the PA 17.	low	high	low	The allocation on the PA 16 and the PA 17 will be covered. Many projects of high quality and significant importance could not be supported, necessity to seek out possibilities of creating outside-budget resources.
	Legislation changes	Risk not applicable, Programme not directly related to any legislation change implementation. No legislative changes with the impact on the Programme changes occurred during this reporting period.	low	low	low	All legislative proposals will be monitored in advance and evaluated with regard to their impact on the projects realization. In case of need, changes will be implemented to reflect the actual legislation.
	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	Short projects implementation period due to the initial delay of the Programme, with the first projects approved at the end of 2014, prevents the efficient mitigation of unforeseen obstacles (e.g. unfavorable weather conditions may cause that projects exposed to weather risks are vulnerable to delayed project completion). The deadline for submitting applications within the PA 17 second Open Call is on 9 January 2015. The BFB Open Call launch is planned for January 2015. Short time for the Programme	high	high	high	The PO have strived for speeding up all administrative procedures connected with the selection of projects including the verification process and adopted more flexible approach within the project implementation. Implementation of new modern IT systems supporting the selection, monitoring and payment to the projects and realization of other components within the Programme has been running, in order to secure more effective process including

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Importance is counted as Likelihood multiplied by Impact and described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis (Low: 1-8, Middle: 9-15, High: 16-25).

Type of objective <sup>3</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>4</sup>	Impact <sup>5</sup>	Importance <sup>6</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
		implementation may increase the risk that the selected projects will not be completed and expose the budget heading Funds for Bilateral Relations to risk of not being fully drawn.				communication among different stakeholders. Both the PO and the PP strive for the Programme prolongation till April 2017.
	Specific programme risk (risk identified in PP relating to PRG outcomes)	Failure to keep the projects quality is related to the time risk as shortened time for project implementation might have a bad influence on results quality.	high	high	high	In order to prevent the risk of bad project and results quality, the PO and the PP organized seminars for potential applicants and assisted the applicants with questions relating to their applications. Contact seminars were organized with the help of the DPP. Seminars for project promoters will be held in order to provide proper training to final beneficiaries in order to avoid errors made by project promoters. Proper monitoring of project implementation will be secured by the PO. Manuals and Guidelines have been prepared and updated.
<b>Bilateral outcome(s):</b>	Bilateral relations	Difficulties to find project partners from the Donor States were prevented by the active help of the DPP, motivating in obtaining a partner from the Donor States. Both the majority of approved projects within the PA 17 and the PA 16 are implemented in the cooperation with the entities from the Donor States. The BFB Open Call text discussed by the PO with both the PP and the DPP, prepared for the launch in January 2015. The DPP has been actively	middle	middle	middle	Contact seminar for potential applicants and partner from the Donor States was organized, support of bilateral relations through the websites of the PO, the PP, the DPP and the Norwegian Embassy provided. Communication between the PO, the PP and the DPP is ongoing on regular basis, Cooperation Committee meetings organized.

Type of objective <sup>3</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>4</sup>	Impact <sup>5</sup>	Importance <sup>6</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
		involved in search for partners, BFA Open Call evaluation and project selection, information provision to entities from the Donors States acting as project partners.				
<b>Operational issues:</b>	Management and control structures, programme management	In order to prevent inconsistencies in the implementation process including failures in keeping deadlines and rules stipulated by the EEA Grants, the Manual of the Programme Operator was issued on 13 March 2014. The PO became responsible for the Small Grant Scheme implementation.	low	high	middle	Ongoing communication between the PO, the PP and the DPP, pprocedures performed according to the PO Manual, regular checks and update of PO Manual.
	Programme implementation set up	All the manuals and guidelines are elaborated and regularly checked and updated. Guidelines for the Project Promoters were issued in March 2014 and will be updated in February 2015.	middle	middle	middle	Check and update of manuals and guidelines.
	Reports and irregularities within programme	No irregularities have been reported.	low	middle	low	Regular programme and project monitoring to be performed.
	Programme audits/controls	The audit authority performed a programme control of the PO's management structures and administrative procedures in August 2014. No findings of irregularities were identified by the AA.	middle	middle	middle	Regular monitoring, on-site controls and audits to be carried out.
	Information system	The information and monitoring system CEDR is in service. Adjustments are ongoing.	middle	middle	middle	IT systems supporting the selection, monitoring and payment to the projects and realization of other components within the Programmes has been running, in order to secure more effective process including communication among different

Type of objective <sup>3</sup>	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood <sup>4</sup>	Impact <sup>5</sup>	Importance <sup>6</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
						stakeholders. Adjustments of the system are solved with the contractor. Breakdowns and failures will be minimized by intensive cooperation with the contractor.
	Corruption risk	The NFP system of control and tender procedures are well set up.	low	high	low	Project selection performed transparently according to the rules and legislation. Regular monitoring of the Programme and projects to be carried out. Seminar on tender procedures was organized by the PO.

## Annex 2: Monitoring plan

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site monitoring visit /review	Note
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-004-2014	International Roma Music Festival Romale	3 rd quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-009-2014	Exhibition and performance event curated by Anne-Szefer Karlssen	3 rd quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-008-2014	World Roma Festival KHAMORO	4 th quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-015-2014	Comparing several Puppet Theatre Dramatizations of a Norwegian Folk-tale	4 th quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-016-2014	The legends of Norwegian and Czech modern jazz music	4 th quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-043-2014	Monastery Broumov - Living European Centre of Culture and Education	4 th quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-044-2014	PUNKT/MUSIC INFINITY	4 th quarter 2015	The PO, the Unit for Contracting and Financing, will perform a final financial control on-the-spot after the project completion.
EHP-CZ06-PDP-2-002-2014	Industrial Heritage	2 nd quarter 2015	The PO plans to monitor the PDP on-the-spot during the second quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-PDP-1-001-2014	Digital Restoration of Czech Film Heritage	3 rd quarter 2015	The PO plans to monitor the PDP on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-031-2014	Restored SVIJANY CASTLE presents unique sites of Bronze Age, and other history and culture	3 rd quarter 2015	The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-046-2014	THE RACK RAILWAY – UNIQUE AND LIVING CULTURAL HERITAGE OF	3 rd quarter 2015	The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of

	THE JIZERA MOUNTAINS AND THE GIANT MOUNTAINS			the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-039-2014	Books discovered once again	3 rd quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-038-2014	Historical Tapestries and Textiles from the Collection of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague - Conservation and Presentation	3 rd quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-032-2014	Restoration of the Selected Paintings and Furniture of the Archbishop's Castle in Kroměříž	3 rd quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-022-2014	Renewal of the roof and the wall sheathing of the Virgin Mary of Snows church	3 rd quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-018-2014	RESTORATION OF THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN MELNIK ON DOBROVSKÉHO STREET	3 rd quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the third quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-041-2014	Renovation and Rehabilitation of St James's Church In Unesco World Heritage Site Kutná Hora	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-037-2014	Pruhonice park - Renovation of Castle Alpin Rock garden	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-042-2014	The Revival of the Convent Complex of St. Agnes of Bohemia. Historic Treasure in the Centre of the Capital	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-035-2014	Revitalization of the Church of the Virgin Mary Assumption in Konojedy by Ústěk	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project

				completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-028-2014	Castle Kolec - Museum of Beekeeping	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-019-2014	Restoration of the interior and mobiliary of the functionalistic synagogue in Brno and its opening to public	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-040-2014	When in Wallachian, do as the Wallachians do	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-020-2014	PRALIT - Preservation and Accessibility of Prague Jewish Literature	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-034-2014	Reconstruction of the Renaissance Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary - Horní Maršov	4 th quarter 2015		The PO plans to monitor the project on-the-spot during the fourth quarter of 2015, focusing on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in 2016.



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

Project no.	Name of the project	Note
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-006-2014	Norway Artway	Example of a project aimed at meeting the PA 17 outcome.
EHP-CZ06-OV-1-039-2014	Books discovered once again	Example of a project aimed at sharing the bilateral results within the PA 16.
EHP-CZ06-MGSPA17-1-012-2014	Snipers's Lake	Example of a project aimed at sharing the bilateral results within the PA 17.

The sub-project “**Norway Artway**”, a Czech-Norwegian collaboration project approved within the first Open Call in the Small Grant Scheme, may serve as an example of a sub-project aimed at meeting the PA 17 Outcome “Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience”. The sub-project involves the organization of theatre festivals in Prague and in Bergen, which will become a platform for the presentations of Czech and Norway artists. The festivals are an important factor of the international mobility of performing arts, helping both the Czech and Norwegian arts reaching and penetrating the international artistic market. The festivals acquaint viewers, art critics as well as the media with the development of art in the particular country and offer to artists as well as theatre critics the confrontation with current developments within a context. Quite often they function as a vital impulse for the future career growth of the artists, ensembles or projects. Therefore, at the same time, the sub-project helps to supports the objective defined with the Green Paper published by the European Commission, regarding a diverse range of entrepreneurs and the free movement of their services as a pre-requisite for a culturally diverse offer to consumers, which will also support more innovative ideas being turned into new products and services that create growth and jobs.

The project “**Books discovered once again**”, implemented by the National Library of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Norwegian partner – the foundation Stiftelsen Arkivet, represents an example of a project, within which shared results shall be achieved. The project can be of a great contribution to building international relations and professional cooperation between institutions and specialists dealing with the war-time topics, because events, that took place in the territory of both countries, are similar (Nazi occupation, illegal resistance, property confiscation, etc.). Moreover, the project will help building of the whole-European historic memory, which is a principal issue with regard to the deepening European integration. The project aim is also in compliance with the objectives of the “*Digital Agenda for Europe*”, one of the major initiatives of Europe 2020, within the framework of which the European Commission provides active support for the digitisation of Europe’s rich cultural heritage.

The sub-project “**Snipers’s Lake**”, a Czech-Norwegian collaboration project approved within the first Open Call in the Small Grant Scheme, may serve as an example of the PA 17 Outcome “*Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience*” to be met. The outcome will be reached through the new international performance, the topic of which is aimed at refugees and hidden threats to the life of a contemporary man. Thanks to the partnership of the Czech project promoter (dance-theatre company Spitfire Company) with partner from the Donor State (the Baerum Kulturhus - performing arts center & regional center for dance instead of theater), the bilateral aspect, including different views on the topic shared and exchanged between partners, is present. The sub-project supports the idea of the “*Innovation Union*” initiative by the European Commission, supporting bringing cultural actors at regional, national and European levels together, enhancing transnational cooperation between them and supporting more innovative ideas being turned into new products and services.