

# Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

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## Introduction and preparation process

The European Commission officially entered into **the Partnership Agreement with the Czech Republic** on 26 August 2014, an important document regarding the use of structural and investment funds from EU resources to promote growth and boost employment during 2014-2020. The Partnership Agreement will enable investment of **a total of 22 billion euros** from cohesion policy resources during 2014-2020 (in regular prices, including financing from European territorial cooperation and allocation for the initiative to support employment among young people). The Czech Republic will also receive another two billion euros for rural development and 31 million euros for fisheries, which represents a total amount of just under 24 billion euros.

**The signing of the Partnership Agreement** was the culmination of several years of negotiations and preparations related to the current programme period. The preparations themselves for the next seven-year financial framework began in 2010. Many partners took part in the preparations, including the Ministry for Regional Development, representatives of regions and municipalities, social partners, etc. The government addressed the first draft of the Partnership Agreement last June. A year later, the draft was sent to the Commission for evaluation. In autumn 2013, the European Commission sent its feedback regarding the draft to **the Ministry for Regional Development**, to which the Czech Republic responded in November of the same year. In spring 2014, conclusions regarding the likely impacts of the plan on the environment and public health were discussed. In April, the government approved the submitted version of the Partnership Agreement, which it then sent to the European Commission for evaluation.

**The Commission responded to the sent Partnership Agreement on 24 June** with a set of feedback, which the government discussed with its partners. The subsequent form of the Partnership Agreement was approved on 21 July at a cabinet meeting, and in August the final version was sent to the European Commission for approval, which occurred before the end of the summer. The course of the approval process can be attributed to the fact that the European Commission did not like certain points in the submitted original versions of the Partnership Agreement. These included the non-implemented service act, insufficient capacity of schools, preliminary conditions for drawing of funds, etc.

## Approved Partnership Agreements in the EU

The Czech Republic has already become the fifteenth EU member state to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. These agreements are negotiated between the Commission and domestic bodies following consultations at various levels of administration with representatives of interest groups, civic associations and local and regional bodies.

Documents prepared by Commission bodies in 2012 for each EU member state are the basis for the agreements. Those documents describe how **EU investments should support intelligent and sustainable growth** supporting integration and focus on key advantages and important areas of growth in regions and member states.

The Partnership Agreements and draft operational programmes have been and continue to be verified by the Commission among the 28 member states, which all states had submitted in previous months. In them they highlighted their investment plans related to European structural and investment funds for 2014-2020. The first member state whose submitted Partnership Agreement was accepted by the Commission was **Denmark**. That happened on 5 May 2014. Although it has been only short number of **days since the Commission entered into the Partnership Agreement with the Czech Republic** on 26 August 2014, the Czech Republic is not the last state whose agreement the Commission has approved. When this issue of the monthly was being finalised, the last state with an approved Agreement was **Hungary** (on 29 August 2014).

### Partnership Agreements approved by the Commission for 2014-2020 (as of 1 October 2014)

Country	Partnership agreed
Hungary	29. 8. 2014
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>26. 8. 2014</b>
Netherlands	22. 8. 2014
France	8. 8. 2014
Bulgaria	7. 8. 2014
Romania	6. 8. 2014
Portugal	30. 7. 2014
Lithuania	20. 6. 2014
Latvia	20. 6. 2014
Estonia	20. 6. 2014
Slovakia	20. 6. 2014
Cyprus	20. 6. 2014
Greece	23. 5. 2014
Poland	23. 5. 2014
Germany	22. 5. 2014
Denmark	5. 5. 2014

Source: The European Commission

## Strategic document

The **Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020** programme period is a document, which sets the objectives and priorities for effective use of European structural and investment funds (ESIF) for the purpose of fulfilling the Europe 2020 strategy based on defined national priorities.

### European structural and investment funds include:

- the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD);
- the European Social Fund (ESF);
- the Cohesion Fund (CF);
- the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The main purpose of the European structural and investment funds is to boost competitiveness and support for innovation. The investments will boost **measures related to support for growth and job creation**, improvement of education quality and stimulation of private investments. The investments from the European Social fund are focused on disadvantaged persons and ensuring their better access to the job market, better availability of social housing and better quality of initial education, followed by increased opportunities for graduates to apply their skills in practice.

The **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** will contribute mainly to support for sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and measures against climate change. The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** will focus on increasing competitiveness in the Czech aqua-culture sector and sustainable handling of natural resources.

The Partnership Agreement itself is a strategic document, which is based on a thorough **analysis of the current social and economic situation**, economic trends and the Czech Republic's needs, based on which priorities are set for financing during 2014-2020 while at the same time monitoring fulfilment of common EU objectives.

Based on the identified needs for development and defined priorities for financing and in connection with **the Position Document and the National Programme of Reforms**, specific areas have been selected for support in the Czech Republic. **Each specifically defined objective represents a key component** for achieving competitiveness for the Czech Republic and the aims of the Europe 2020 strategy, and therefore they must not be neglected. However, for a better focus on results and achievement of critical mass, it is essential to devote attention to key problems within individual specific areas at the level of investment priorities.

The selection of specifically defined objectives itself stems from **identified problems and needs within the analytical part**, resulting priorities for financing in the Czech Republic, **relevant aims of the Europe 2020 strategy, specific recommendations from the Council and related measures of the National Programme of Reforms**.

For each specifically defined objective, **the main results** are specified, which should be achieved with assistance from European structural and investment funds. These results represent the main changes that will be realised in the 2014-2020 programme period. For individual ESI funds related to particular defined areas, the main results, which will be co-financed from these funds, are specified.



# Thematic objectives from the Partnership Agreement

## Thematic objective 1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

### European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)

- Increased quality of research and its greater focus on benefits for experience and for society, including increased international openness of public research;
- Increased benefits of research and development for competitiveness;
- An increased number of companies capable of international technological competition in their areas of business.

### European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- Boosting of ties between agriculture, food production, forestry and research during implementation and transfer of innovations, with both the use of advisory services and through various forms of cooperation;
- A greater number of various forms of cooperation (including EIP operational groups).

## Thematic objective 2 - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technology (ICT)

### European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)

- Improved access, use and quality of ICT;
- Boosted digitisation of public administration;
- Increased security of public administration information systems.

## Thematic objective 3 – Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fishery and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)

### European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)

- An increase in the number of new companies, particularly in knowledge intensive areas.

### European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- Cooperation during introduction of innovations among entities involved in research and development, professional non-governmental organisations and other entities with businesses in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors and among businesses mutually through support for development of new products, processes and technology and their use in practice;
- Increasing the competitiveness of agricultural, food and forestry companies through support for improvement of factors affecting competitiveness;
- Halting of the unfavourable development of the age structure of workers in agriculture through support for young farmers' start of activities.

### European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- Improved management and greater effectiveness of strategic processes (management, marketing, innovation management) of supported companies;
- Greater competitiveness of aqua culture.

## Thematic objective 4 – Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

### European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)

- Transition to a low-carbon economy.

### Cohesion Fund (CF)

- Reduction of energy demands of buildings (including residential, public and commercial buildings).

### European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- An increased share of production and consumption of energy from renewable resources;
- Reduction of the energy demands and boosting of energy efficiency of production and technological processes in agriculture (as a secondary effect of support within TC 2 focused on increasing businesses' competitiveness);

- Improved absorption of carbon in agriculture and forestry through a suitable type of economic management, a change of regional coverage and concentration of carbon in soil and biomass.

#### **Thematic objective 5 – Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management**

##### **European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Improved prevention and reduced environmental risks;
- Increased preparedness and endurance of territory in relation to adaptation to climate change and risk avoidance and tackling.

##### **Cohesion Fund (CF)**

- Improved prevention and reduced environmental risks;
- Ensured anti-flood protection based mainly on increased retention capability in countryside and slowing of the natural outflow of water, both in the agricultural and aqua culture sectors as a main factor related to the occurrence of floods, and other anti-flood measures, including technical ones.

##### **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

- Adaptation of agriculture and forestry to anticipated climate phenomena;
- Increasing the potential of agriculture and forest ecosystems, minimisation of the negative impacts of climate change, effective use of water, retention of water in countryside, prevention of erosion caused by water and wind and beneficial management of grass vegetation;
- Anti-flood protection based mainly on increasing the retention capability of countryside and slowing the natural outflow of water ensured mainly through beneficial agro-environmental and climatic operations, along with mitigation and adaptation measures in forests (prevention, restoration, boosting of health).

#### **Thematic objective 6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency**

##### **European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Increased effectiveness of environmental protection and effective use of resources;
- Quality improvement and modernisation of public infrastructure for access and use of natural and cultural assets, more effective presentation of cultural assets and natural heritage and boosting of their protection and development through investments into their beneficial use.

##### **Cohesion Fund (CF)**

- Increasing protection of water sources, modernised water distribution systems and ensuring sufficient sources of drinking water and water for industry, energy and agriculture;
- Increased effectiveness of waste water handling with an emphasis on small facilities and reduced agricultural water pollution;
- Reduced pollution of the air with harmful substances, especially in the most affected regions;
- Greater effectiveness of waste management in connection with the waste management hierarchy based on the framework directive and an emphasis on reducing the amount of stored waste.

##### **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

- Reduction of agricultural water pollution by reducing run-off of nutrients, pesticides and topsoil. Application of beneficial land management methods in areas threatened by erosion, protected zones with water sources and areas put at risk of harm by nitrates;
- Increased protection of nature and countryside, increased permeability of countryside, boosting of ecological stability, preservation of biodiversity through beneficial agro-environmental and climatic operations and environmental measures in forests;
- Increased land protection, particularly agricultural protection, against erosion and degradation, through efficient management. Boosting of the retention capability of countryside/land;
- Boosting of the health condition and endurance of forest vegetation, through restoration of vegetation in pollution areas and ensuring of quality seeds;
- Boosting of prevention of land abandonment in areas with natural limitations, including prevention of degradation of valuable stations and increased aesthetic value of countryside;

- Support for environmentally friendly management systems.

**European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

- Increased protection of nature and countryside through strengthening of ecological stability by strengthening biodiversity and implementing beneficial measures in aqua culture;
- Reduction of energy demands of technological processes in aqua culture.

**Thematic objective 7 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures****European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Expanded and improved infrastructure outside of TEN-T and development of sustainable transport.

**Cohesion Fund (CF)**

- Expanded and improved infrastructure within TEN-T and supported development of sustainable transport.

**Thematic objective 8 – Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility****European Social Fund (ESF)**

- Increased employment of groups who are difficult to employ, through greater effectiveness of public services focused on employment;
- Greater adaptability of employees and better opportunities for job applicants to apply their skills in practice, through an increased correlation between employees' knowledge and skills and the requirements of the job market;
- Better conditions for a correlation between private and work life and equal treatment of women in the job market;
- Increased cooperation among key players in the job market and realisation of synergy measures to increase employment.

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

- An increased share of agricultural businesses, which have diversified their activities through the launch and development of non-agricultural activities;
- Creation of jobs in rural areas with support from diversification of agricultural businesses' activities.

**Thematic objective 9 – Supporting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination****European Social Fund (ESF)**

- Increased employment opportunities for members of socially excluded communities (at risk of social exclusion), enabling them to apply their skills on the market;
- Increased application of inclusive education for the development of the personal potential of schoolchildren with special education needs;
- Reduction of the number of excluded localities and the share of excluded inhabitants living in them;
- Improved availability of social housing;
- Better availability and setting up of social services for target groups;
- Better conditions and a developed system of social enterprise;
- Adopted measures for improving the health of the population.

**European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Reduction of the number of excluded localities and the share of excluded inhabitants living in them;
- Improved availability of social housing;
- Better availability and setting up of social services for target groups;
- Better conditions and a developed system of social enterprise;
- Adopted measures for improving the health of the population.

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

- Boosted local development in rural areas, with involvement of local communities;
- Verification and potential implementation of pilot social enterprises in agriculture.



**Thematic objective 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning****European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Ensuring sufficient capacity of affordable childcare facilities, especially within 3 years, including sufficient capacity of quality pre-schools;
- Ensuring modern spaces and equipping of schools (at all levels) and educational organisations, enabling equal access to quality education.

**European Social Fund (ESF)**

- Increased quality of initial education with an impact on more opportunities for graduates to apply their skills in practice;
- Development of inclusive education and an individual approach;
- Increased opportunities for graduates to apply their skills on the job market;
- Improvement of the quality of universities, which will lead to their better evaluation in international ladders.

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

- Increased qualification of workers in agriculture, forestry and the food industry;
- Ensuring the availability of expert information, particularly in relation to effective use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and easing of its effects;
- Ensuring food safety and increased productivity and increasing the education of agricultural workers regarding these areas.

**Thematic objective 11 – Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration****European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)**

- Increased effectiveness and efficiency of public administration.

**European Social Fund (ESF)**

- Increased effectiveness, professionalism and transparency of public administration.

**Allocation: breakdown by thematic objective and by fund (except territorial cooperation) in EUR**

Thematic objective	ERDF	ESF	CF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
TO 1	2 421 050 980	0	0	85 568 023	0	2 506 619 003
TO 2	1 025 806 133	0	0	0	0	1 025 806 133
TO 3	892 130 143	0	0	428 544 298	21 198 975	1 341 873 416
TO 4	1 720 569 475	0	509 626 952	17 037 110	0	2 247 233 537
TO 5	173 640 003	0	453 242 155	724 001 865	0	1 350 884 023
TO 6	777 013 397	0	1 205 075 137	724 001 865	8 201 740	2 714 292 139*
TO 7	2 519 745 264	0	3 723 015 754	0	0	6 242 761 018
TO 8	6 652 474	1 283 683 716	0	58 166 870	0	1 348 503 060
TO 9	1 037 378 062	1 512 161 471	0	108 516 702	0	3 658 056 235
TO 10	899 317 340	428 757 043	0	1 997 263	0	1 330 071 646
TO 11	94 506 295	112 595 903	0	0	0	207 102 198
Technical Assistance	372 880 065	92 805 105	367 965 724	22 500 000	1 707 300	857 858 194
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 940 689 631</b>	<b>3 430 003 238</b>	<b>6 258 925 722</b>	<b>2 170 333 996*</b>	<b>31 108 015 23</b>	<b>831 060 602**</b>

Source: Partnership Agreement for programme period 2014 – 2020, \* For EAFRD are listed allocation including transfer between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar of CAP and without commitments listed in Regional Development Programme, \*\*Allocation to Youth Employment Initiative accounts for 13 million euro.

## Operational programmes for the 2014-2020 programme period

The European Commission processes suggestions, and following their application it also approves partnership agreements with individual member states and cooperates during the preparation of operational programmes, in which investment priorities and the objectives of the partnership agreements are reflected in specific measures.

### Programmes of the European Structural and Investment Funds (in mln EUR)

Operational programme	Total	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Business and Innovation for Competitiveness	4 331.1	582.6	594.2	606.1	618.2	630.6	643.2	656.1
Research, Development and Education	2 779.6	373.9	381.4	389.0	396.8	404.7	412.8	421.1
Environment	2 636.6	352.4	360.8	369.2	377.1	384.5	392.8	399.9
Transport	4 695.8	627.9	642.6	657.5	671.5	684.8	699.4	712.1
Integrated Regional OP	4 629.2	622.6	635.1	647.8	660.8	674.0	687.5	701.3
Technical Assistance	223.7	29.9	30.6	31.3	32.0	32.6	33.3	33.9
Employment	2 145.7	294.4	298.5	298.4	304.4	310.4	316.7	323.0
Prague – Field of Growth	201.6	27.1	27.7	28.2	28.8	29.4	29.9	30.5
Rural Development Programme	2 170.3	314.3	313.0	311.6	310.1	308.7	307.1	305.5
Fisheries	31.1	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 844.7</b>	<b>3 229.4</b>	<b>3 288.1</b>	<b>3 343.4</b>	<b>3 404.1</b>	<b>3 464.3</b>	<b>3 527.3</b>	<b>3 588.1</b>

Source: Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period



The operational programmes have an effect on the entire particular member state or relate to a certain region, and these programmes can also be intended for cooperation among several states. The European Commission agrees on the final contents of these investment plans with domestic and regional bodies. All levels of administration, including civil society, should be consulted and included in the phases of programming and management of the operational programmes.

New programmes will be co-financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds – the European Fund Regional Development, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

**The following programmes are involved for the 2014-2020 programme period:**

- The Business and Innovation OP, overseen by the Ministry of Industry and Trade;
- The Research, Development and Education OP, overseen by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport;
- The Environment OP, overseen by the Ministry of Environment;
- The Transport OP, overseen by the Ministry of Transport;
- The Integrated Regional OP (IROP), overseen by the Ministry for Regional Development;
- The Technical Assistance OP, Overseen by the Ministry for Regional Development;
- The Employment OP, overseen by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
- The Prague - Field of Growth OP, overseen by Prague City Hall;
- The Rural Development Programme, overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- The Fisheries OP, overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture;

***Priority areas of European territorial cooperation and their links to the objectives of programmes for Investment for Growth and Employment***

During the 2014-2020 programme period, the Czech Republic will participate as part of fulfilment of the objectives of European territorial cooperation in cross-border cooperation with Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Bavaria, Saxony and the international cooperation programmes:

- the Central Europe 2020
- the Danube Programme
- the inter-regional cooperation programmes: Interreg Europe, Espon 2020, Interact III and Urbact III.

As part of fulfilment of the European territorial cooperation objectives, the Czech Republic plans to focus on cooperation with foreign partners in the following **priority areas**:

- Research, development and innovation
- Risk prevention, monitoring and management
- Environment and effective use of resources
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Transport
- Employment
- Education, skills and life-long learning
- Legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation among citizens and institutions
- Support for business

**Allocation to OP in EUR**

Operational programme	Thematic objectives (TO)	Funds	Allocation
Business and Innovation for Competitiveness	TO 1, 2, 3, 4, 7	EFRD	4 331 062 617
Research, Development and Education	TO 1, 9, 10	EFRD, ESF	2 779 600 572
Environment	TO 4, 5, 6	EFRD, CF	2 636 592 864
Transport	TO 7	EFRD, CF	4 695 769 435
Integrated Regional Operational Programme	TO 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	EFRD	4 629 160 909
Technical Assistance	N/A	CF	223 704 582
Employment	TO 8, 9, 11	ESF, YEI	2 145 737 492
Prague – Field of Growth	TO 1,4,8,9,10	EFRD, ESF	201 590 104
Rural Development Programme	TO 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10	EAFRD	2 170 333 996
Fisheries	TO 3, 6	EMFF	31 108 015
<b>Total</b>			<b>23 844 660 586</b>

Source: Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period; Note EFRD - European Fund for Regional Development; CF - Cohesion Fund; ESF - European Social Fund; EAFRD - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; EMFF - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; YEI - Youth Employment Initiative

**Business and Innovation for Competitiveness OP**

The aim of the Business and Innovation for Competitiveness OP is achievement of a competitive and sustainable economy based on skills and innovation.

The operational programme is focused on:

- Increasing the number of companies capable of advancing or at least achieving the technological limit in their fields, with emphasis placed on development of business research, development and innovation capacities and their connection with the surrounding environment.
- Development of business and innovation in sectors with lower knowledge intensity, which is focused especially on supporting the implementation of new business objectives, including development of services leading to increased competitive advantages for individual companies in the global environment.
- A shift to an energy efficient low-carbon economy mainly involving energy efficiency in the business sector, use of renewable energy resources, modernisation of energy infrastructure and implementation of new technology for handling energy and raw materials.
- Facilitating the development of business, services and access to state services through high-speed internet access and a wide range of information and communication technology services, since the competitiveness of the information society is based on effective use of modern ICT services.

**Research, Development and Education OP**

The key principle of the Research, Development and Education OP (OP VVV) is development of human resources for the knowledge economy and sustainable development in a socially cohesive society, and it is supported by interventions within multiple priority axes. It is connected with support for quality research, for which a quality work force is a crucial factor. Intervention in the field of education will also be supported by systematic changes, which will improve the quality of the education system in the Czech Republic. Intervention in the field of education will also be supported by systematic changes, which will improve the quality of the education system in the Czech Republic.

**Intervention areas of OP VVV include:**

- support for equal treatment and quality in education;
- development of better competencies for the labour market;
- boosting of capacities for quality research and its benefits for society.

## Employment OP

The aim of the Employment OP (OP Z) is improvement of the human capital of the Czech Republic's inhabitants and public administration in the Czech Republic, which are key for competitiveness. The Czech Republic must devote a large amount of attention to this area if it wants to endure in today's complex world.

The Employment OP is focused on supporting employment, equal opportunities for both genders, adaptability of employees and employers, further education, social inclusion, the fight against poverty, medical services, modernisation of public administration and public services and support for international cooperation and social innovations in employment, social inclusion and public administration.

## Transport OP

The main objective of the Transport OP (OP D) is to ensure quality transport infrastructure throughout the Czech Republic, including by gradually bringing the quality of the Czech Republic's transport network up to the level of states that have been EU members longer.

The transport sector is one of the key areas of the national economy, which affects practically every area of public and private life and the business sphere. Quality transport infrastructure is necessary for increasing the competitiveness of the country as a whole and its regions. Its disproportionate quality is one of the causes of differences among different areas of the country.

The support within this OP will be focused mainly on development and modernisation of rail routes, roadways, including highways, domestic water routes, multiple means of transportation, urban and suburban rail system infrastructure, ITS implementation, environmentally clean vehicles and development of powering stations for alternative energy.

## Environment OP

The main purpose of the Environment OP (OP ŽP) is to ensure and protect a quality environment for the lives of the Czech Republic's inhabitants, to support effective use of resources, to eliminate the negative impacts of human activity on the environment and to ease the impacts of climate change.

The Environment OP follows up from the OP of the same name from the 2007-2013 programme period. It is based on strategic documents of the EU and the Czech Republic along with analysis of needs for the 2014-2020 programme period.

## Integrated Regional Operational Programme

The Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) corresponds to seven regional OPs and partially also to the Integrated Operational Programme from the 2007-2013 programme period. The priority of IROP is that it enables balanced development of territory, improvement of public services and public administration and ensuring of sustainable development in cities, municipalities and regions.

IROP will be focused on reducing territorial differences, improving infrastructure, boosting competitiveness in regions, strengthening public services, supporting education as one of the pillars of improving the quality of inhabitants' lives and strengthening the institutional capacity of public administration.

## Prague – Field of Growth OP

The main purpose of the Prague – Field of Growth OP (OP PPR) for the programme period is to ensure fulfilment of specific objectives. It is also necessary to ensure effective realisation of investments in Prague, which will lead to increased competitiveness of Prague as a development centre of the country and help ensure quality of life for inhabitants.

Creation of a favourable business environment and supporting education and science must lead to fulfilment of Prague's role as the country's main innovation centre. It is also essential to ensure effective management of all resources, including land, real estate, infrastructure, energy and finances, in the interest of promoting sustainable development and balancing links among resources.

Interventions and areas, which will be decisive for Prague in the future period and which will be supported via the OP PPR, include use of quality human and innovative potential in the areas of research, development and innovations;

support for small and mid-sized enterprises; energy savings and support for a transition to a low-carbon economy and support for education and equal opportunities.

## Fisheries OP

The principal aim of the Fisheries OP is to achieve sustainable and competitive aquaculture based on innovations, competitiveness, knowledge and more effective use of resources.

The goal is development of effective fish cultivation in the Czech Republic and ensuring balanced supplying of freshwater fish during the year to the domestic market in the required varieties, including diversification of aquaculture (fisheries) for ensuring production of carp and their supplying to the market, and it is also necessary to support the implementation of modern intensive cultivation systems in order to increase fish production and contribute to elimination of negative impacts on the environment related to cultivation of salmon and other types of fish in order to ensure year-round supplying of fish to the market.

## Rural Development Programme

The main aim of the Rural Development Programme (PRV) is restoration, preservation and improvement of ecosystems dependent on agriculture, particularly through agro-environmental measures, investments into competitiveness of agricultural products, support for entry of young people into the agricultural sector and regional infrastructure. The programme will also support diversification of economic activities in rural areas, with the aim of creating new jobs and increasing economic development. Support will be provided for regional development overseen at a community level and the LEADER method, which contributes to improving direction of aid to the local needs of a particular rural area and development of cooperation at the local level. A horizontal priority is the transfer of knowledge and innovation through educational activities, advice and cooperation in the areas of agriculture and forestry.

## OP Technical Assistance

The purpose of the Technical Assistance OP (OP TP) is to support financing of administration, to support absorption and administrative capacities and supplementing activities necessary for smooth running of the entire system of drawing from ESI funds in the 2014-2020 programme period. The Technical Assistance OP will be crucial for ensuring successful work of the National Body for Coordination and other bodies. The goal of the Technical Assistance OP is for resources from ESI to be used as much and as effectively as possible.

### Overview of priority axes for operational programmes for 2014-2020

OP	Priority axes
OP PIK	Research and development and development for innovation; development of business and competitiveness of small and mid-sized enterprises; effective handling of energy, development of energy infrastructure and renewable energy resources, support for implementation of new technologies related to handling of energy and raw materials; development of high-speed internet access and information and communication technology.
OP VVV	Boosting of capacities for quality research; development of universities and human resources for research and development; equal access to quality pre-school, primary and secondary education.
Environment OP	Support for employment and adaptability of the labour force; social inclusion and the fight against poverty; social innovation and international cooperation; effective public administration.
Transport OP	Infrastructure for railways and other sustainable transport; network infrastructure for TEN-T networks and public infrastructure for clean mobility; roadway infrastructure outside of TEN-T networks.
Environment OP	Improving water quality and reducing flood risks; improving air quality in population centres; waste and material flows; environmental burden and risks, protection of nature and rural areas and care for them; energy savings.
IROP	Competitive, available and secure regions; improving the quality of public services and living conditions for regions' populations; good management of territory and more effective public institutions.

<b>OP PPR</b>	Strengthening research, technological development and innovations; sustainable mobility and energy savings; support for social inclusion and the fight against poverty; education and skill acquisition.
<b>OP Fisheries</b>	Support for environmentally sustainable, innovative and competitive aquaculture based on knowledge and effectively used resources; support for implementing joint fisheries policy; support for introduction onto the market and processing of financing in the Fisheries OP will be drawn from the EAFRD.
<b>Rural Development Programme</b>	Support for transfer of knowledge and innovations in agriculture, forestry and rural areas; increasing the lifespans of agricultural businesses and competitiveness of all types of agricultural activities in all regions and support for innovative agricultural technology and sustainable forest management; Support for organisation of food chains, including processing of agricultural products and their introduction onto the market, good living conditions for animals and risk management in agriculture; restoration, preservation and improvement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry; support for effective use of resources and support for a transition to a low-carbon economy in the sectors of agriculture, food and forestry which is resistant to climate changes; support for social integration, reduction of poverty and economic development in rural areas.
<b>Technical Assistance OP</b>	Support for management and coordination of the Partnership Agreement and creating of conditions for fulfilling the objectives of the Partnership Agreement and coordination of management; ensuring timely preparation of the new programme period 2021+, ensuring informativeness about ESIF among target groups; supporting the capacity for ESIF implementation at a lower than national level; ensuring a single monitoring system based on a high level of data digitisation. All financial resources will be drawn from FS.

*Source: Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period; note: another part of the individual operational programmes is the Technical Assistance priority axis.*

## Conclusion

Several years of efforts for establishment of conditions for distribution of EU funds were accomplished by the approval from the Commission on the Partnership Agreement for programme period of 2014-2020. All Member States have already submitted their Agreements to the Commission. **Sixteen agreements** were approved so far.

The allocations to operational programmes for the 2014-2020 programme period have exceeded **22 billion euros**. This is not at all a small amount, and investments are still planned into development of agriculture in rural areas from the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** in the amount of approximately **2.2 billion euros** and another **31.1 million euros** for fisheries in the Fisheries OP.

The amounts of selected parts for the programme period of 2014-2020 are already known, however the previous seven-year financial framework is not finished and the distribution of the European Funds will continue until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. To conclude, we can laconically say that the amount itself is not as important, rather how effective the allocation of funds will be. Because let's face it, the Czech Republic, in this regard is lacking behind the rest of the European Union.