

Structure of Financial Resources and their Institutional Organisation within the Czech Republic

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Introduction

Even after its entry into the European Union, the Czech Republic belongs among the less-developed member states. However, economic and social cohesion policies offer it a number of opportunities for supporting overall and balanced development of its own territory. For these purposes, there are a large number of instruments available to regions, municipalities, entrepreneurs, non-profit organisations and an entire range of additional entities.

The core of the European Union's regional and structural policy is composed of structural funds. These are aimed directly at decreasing the differences in the level of development in various regions and decreasing the obsolescence of the most disadvantaged regions or islands, including rural areas. For this reason, the most important financial resources include the **“subsidised opportunities” that are financed by the structural funds.**

The contents of this document are focused on the issues related to various operational support programmes within the framework of what has been defined as **Target 1.**

There are always several basic goals (priorities) identified within each operational programme, which are then assisted through various measures and supplemental measures.

A basic overview of the financial structure of individual programmes:

Operational Programmes:	EU (mil. euro)	ČR (mil. euro)	TOTAL (mil. euro)
Operational Programme Infrastructure	246,4	88,3	334,7
Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise	260,9	87,0	347,8
Operational Programme Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture	173,9	76,7	250,6
Operational Programme Human Resources Development	318,8	103,6	422,4
Joint Regional Operational Programme	454,3	144,6	598,9
TOTAL (mil. euro)	1 454,3	500,2	1 954,5

Operational Programme Infrastructure

Managing Authority: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Integrated Financing Department

Implementing Agency: - State Environmental Fund (for the environmental sector)
- Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, Section for International Affairs and the European Union

Priority 1: Modernisation and Development of Transport Infrastructure of Nation-wide Importance

Measure 1.1. – Modernisation of Lines of Nation-wide Importance and of Important Railway Junctions

This measure includes direct support of activities within the railway infrastructure. Co-financing is expected from the state budget and the State Transport Infrastructure Fund. The measure is focused primarily on non-corridor railway lines, with primary attention being paid to lines covered by the AGC and AGTC agreements and the lines classified into the TINA network.

Measure 1.2. – Construction and Modernisation of Class I Roads

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by the Road and Motorways Directorate of the Czech Republic. Co-financing is expected from the state budget and the National Transport Infrastructure Fund. Primary focus will be placed on improving the quality of nation-wide class I roads and partially for the completion of construction on high-speed motorways.

Measure 1.3. – Modernisation of Civil Airports of Inter-regional Importance

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by the Czech Airport Administration or other entities that provide public services in the field of air transport. Co-financing is expected from the state budget and other, including private, sources.

Measure 1.4. – Construction of Port Infrastructure and Modernisation of Waterways

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by the Directorate of Waterways of the Czech Republic and by other entities that provide public services in this area. Co-financing is expected from the state budget, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, and other sources.

Priority 2: Reducing the Negative Environmental Impacts of Transport

Measure 2.1. – Implementation of Protective Measures on the Transport Network in Order to Ensure Environmental Protection

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by the Directorate of Roads and Motorways of the Czech Republic and other similar entities. Co-financing is expected from the state budget, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, and other sources.

Measure 2.2. – Support for Combined Transport

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by owners and operators of rail transport and other similar entities. Co-financing is expected from the state budget, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, and other sources. Combined transport is defined as the use of various transport modes for the transfer of goods by means of transport units (i.e., containers). The largest portion of the transport must be accomplished by rail or water transport – the most ecological modes.

Measure 2.3. – Support for the Introduction of Alternative Fuels

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by the manufacturers and owners of vehicles who are expected to be the users of new technologies. Co-financing is expected from the state budget, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, and other sources. The measure is focused on decreasing the production of damaging emissions that are the result of road transport and the use of road transport vehicles.

Measure 2.4. – Study and Research Projects Addressing the Problems Connected with the Improvement of the Environment in Terms of Transport

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects submitted by subjects wishing to perform research projects in the public interest. Co-financing is expected from the state budget, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, and other sources.

Priority 3: Environmental Infrastructure Improvement

Measure 3.1. – Recovery of Environmental Functions of the Landscape

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on the recovery of the impaired water system of the landscape and supporting biodiversity.

Measure 3.2. – Water Management Infrastructure Improvement

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects to reduce the level of contamination of watercourses by meeting the requirements provided by Directive 91/271/EEC on municipal waste water treatment, and to ensure appropriate treatment of sludge produced by waste water treatment plants. The main resolution methods are considered to be the modernisation of waste water treatment plants, the extension of sewerage systems, and the construction of facilities for recovering and removing sludge produced by waste water treatment plants.

Measure 3.3. – Air Protection Infrastructure Improvement

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects aimed at the reduction of the level of emissions from mobile sources, the elimination of the negative impacts resulting from the incineration of communal and dangerous waste and from manufacturing processes that use solvents. These projects should lead to meeting the requirements provided by Framework Directive 96/62/EC on air quality and Directive 2001/81/ECS on emission ceilings.

Measure 3.4. – Waste Management and Removal of Old Ecological Burdens

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for improving the standard of waste management in accordance with the established hierarchy of waste management and the rehabilitation and redevelopment of old ecological burdens.

Priority 4: Technical assistance

Measure 4.1. – Technical Assistance in Managing, Implementing, Monitoring and Controlling the Operations of the OP Infrastructure

Technical assistance will be implemented in accordance with the decision of the Managing Authority and co-financed from the state budget. It will be managed and co-ordinated by the appropriate internal department of the Managing Authority. In this manner, funding for the management, implementation, monitoring and control of operations will be provided.

Measure 4.2. – Other Expenditures for Technical Assistance for the OP Infrastructure

Financial resources provided from the Structural Funds can be used for:

- acquiring and installing a monitoring system for the Operational Programme (computer system for managing and monitoring the implementation of the Operational Programme and for performing information analysis);

- meeting the requirements ensuing from the communications strategy of the Operational Programme, including the organisation of informational and promotional events, publishing promotional materials and performing analyses of the consequences of these events;
- preparing studies and analyses focused on monitoring the consequences of the implementation of the Operational Programme, analysing the course of their implementation, as well as the appropriateness and effectiveness of the implementation structures;
- supporting activities focused on improving methods for the evaluation and exchange of information on practical procedures in the area of implementing assistance from the Structural Funds;
- organising seminars and workshops focused on the exchange of experiences between the individual parties involved in the implementation of the Operational Programme and on co-operation and exchange of experiences with other European Union regions, including discussions on the further direction of support during the new programme period; and
- preparing analyses and support studies as well as preparing the Operational Programme itself for the 2007-2013 timeframe, including the preparation of ex-ante evaluations and environmental impact assessments.

Overview of the allocation of financial resources within the framework of the Operational Programme Infrastructure:

Priority/Measure:	EU (ERDF)	CR	TOTAL
1. Modernisation and Development of Transport Infrastructure of Nation-wide Importance	84,1	30,2	114,3
1.1 Modernisation of Lines of Nation-wide Importance and of Important Railway Junctions	37,8	12,6	50,4
1.2 Construction and Modernisation of Class I Roads	33,6	11,2	44,8
1.3 Modernisation of Civil Airports of Inter-regional Importance	4,2	2,8	7,0
1.4 Construction of Port Infrastructure and Modernisation of Waterways	8,4	3,6	12,0
2. Reducing the Negative Environmental Impacts of Transport	14,8	4,9	19,8
2.1 Implementation of Protective Measures on the Transport Network in Order to Ensure Environmental Protection	3,0	1,0	4,0
2.2 Support for Combined Transport	7,4	2,5	9,9
2.3 Support for the Introduction of Alternative Fuels	3,0	1,0	4,0
2.4 Study and Research Projects Addressing the Problems Connected with the Improvement of the Environment In Terms of Transport	1,5	0,5	2,0
3. Environmental Infrastructure Improvement	142,1	51,4	193,5
3.1 Recovery of Environmental Functions of the Landscape	13,5	3,4	16,9
3.2 Water Management Infrastructure Improvement	60,6	22,4	83,0
3.3 Air Protection Infrastructure Improvement	30,9	13,2	44,1
3.4 Waste Management and Removal of Old Ecological Burdens	37,1	12,4	49,5
4. Technical Assistance	5,4	1,8	7,1
TOTAL (mil. euro)	246,4	88,3	334,7

Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise

Managing Authority: Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Department of Structural Funds

Implementing Agency:

- CzechInvest
- CzechTrade
- Czech Energy Agency
- Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank

Priority 1: Business Environment Development

Measure 1.1. – Infrastructure for Industrial Research, Development and Innovation

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on strengthening the links of research and development to industry. It is also designed to provide a support infrastructure for industrial research, technological development and innovation. It will assist in improving the environment for technologically oriented forms – a “knowledge society”. The measure is also intended to stimulate co-operation between the industrial sector and research institutions and to support investments in the area of communication and information technologies.

Special attention will be paid to creating conditions for establishing and operating business incubation centres and technological parks and centres for the transfer of technology.

Measure 1.2. – Development of Business Infrastructure

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects aimed at improving the business infrastructure through providing support for construction projects and renovation of business properties, including the development of the infrastructure of existing industrial and business zones and increasing the intensity of their use, primarily in areas that are suffering from depression, and the restructuring of industrial production.

Measure 1.3. – Infrastructure for the Development of Human Resources in the Industry and Business Sectors

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects aimed at improving the conditions for the efficient performance of employees at all levels of company management in individual regions through:

- increasing the number of institutions with their own high-quality, technically equipped educational facilities – building reconstruction and modernisation of the facilities of existing company training centres, including the infrastructure for electronic forms of company education, the construction of new company training centres if needed, including the provision of all appropriate educational materials and tools;
- supporting the creation of new regional training facilities for the business community and companies in regions where there is a lack of these facilities and in regions where there is an insufficiently developed infrastructure for education; and
- supporting the acquisition or development of educational tools and programmes for professional training at companies.

Measure 1.4. – Development of Information and Consulting Services

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects aimed at increasing the skills of professional consultants and consulting organisations while providing top-quality consulting services for business development and increasing competitiveness and innovativeness.

The measure includes provisions for the creation of a register of accredited consultants that should ensure the required quality, capacity and accessibility of consulting services on the territory of the Czech Republic. In order to increase the competitive ability of small and medium-sized enterprises, the framework of this measure supports basic associations of entrepreneurs.

An additional goal of this measure is to support the development of the infrastructure for increasing the volume and quality of information and consulting services that support the competitiveness of Czech companies on international markets and to introduce a self-regulating system as a new method for cultivating the market environment.

1.4.1. Programme for establishing Clusters – CLUSTERS

This programme will support the economic growth and competitiveness within individual areas of the economy with the assistance of creating frameworks for development, i.e., clusters (grouping within the framework of a specific field) at the regional, nation-wide or cross-border level.

1.4.2. Project for increasing the quality of the consultant network – REGISTER OF CONSULTANTS

This project will provide support in the area of increasing the skills of consultants and consulting organisations (in relation to providing top-quality consulting services within a wide range of fields in order to increase the competitiveness and survival ability of enterprises).

Support will be provided in the area of training consultants and their accreditation for the required qualifications and quality.

1.4.3. Project for the development of information and consulting services for international trade

This project will provide support in the area of developing the infrastructure for increasing the volume and quality of information and consulting services that support the competitiveness of Czech companies on international markets as provided by the trade support agency (CzechTrade), which is a budgetary organisation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Priority 2: Development of Enterprise Competitiveness

Measure 2.1. – Establishment and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects aimed at start-up small and medium-sized entrepreneurs during the early phases of their activities. The measure is focused on obtaining information and financial resources for completing their business projects, which would be much more difficult to obtain under standard market conditions.

This measure should bring:

- easier entry to the business sector for new entrepreneurs;
- successful completion of investment-oriented business development projects by small and medium-sized enterprises that have a shorter history, lower capital resources and limited possibilities for obtaining credit;
- increased accessibility to quality consulting services for small and medium-sized enterprises, more easily obtained external business services with advantageous financing, support for including the enterprise in co-operative international or manufacturing efforts; and
- increased competitiveness of the enterprise on the global market through the introduction of new processes in the area of technology, new forms of management and human resources.

The measure includes the following programmes:

START – a support program for start-up entrepreneurs

Purpose of the support:

- to allow individuals that are starting a business for the first time or with a longer time interval to successfully realise their business goals with the assistance of more advantageous and investment-oriented loans.

CREDIT – a support program for enterprises in the early stages of development

Purpose of the support:

- to allow the successful completion of business projects undertaken by smaller enterprises with a shorter history with the assistance of more advantageous and investment-oriented loans.

DEVELOPMENT – a development programme for small and medium-sized enterprises

Purpose of the support:

- to provide integrated support to stable existing small and medium-sized enterprises for projects that lead to increased competitiveness (primarily through improving methods, procedures and technology in a wide range of business processes).

MARKETING Programme

Purpose of the support:

- to increase the competitiveness of Czech enterprises on international markets,
- to support the use of business opportunities that exist on the global market, and
- to contribute to the inclusion of Czech enterprises within the unified European Union market.

(Support in the MARKETING area will be focused on simplifying access for Czech enterprises to international markets by making marketing information, including market research, easier to obtain and more accessible, guaranteed marketing education, higher quality marketing through promotional materials and the Internet, advantageous participation at foreign presentations, exhibits and trade fairs.)

Measure 2.2. – Support of Innovation of Products, Technologies and Services

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects that are focused on meeting the objectives defined by the Lisbon Strategy, primarily the conclusions reached by the European Union Council for competitiveness in “Strengthening European Innovation Policies” and the message imparted by the European Commission through the document titled “Innovation Policy: Updating the European Union’s Approach in the Context of the Lisbon Strategy”.

The measure is primarily focused on the direct support of innovation projects that are aimed at improving the technical and utilitarian parameters for products and the characteristics of production processes and higher level technologies.

Measure 2.3. – Reducing Energy Consumption and Higher Use of Renewable Energy Sources

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on the efficient and economic use of energy within the industry and business sectors of the Czech Republic. Emphasis is placed on increasing the efficiency of the procedures used for energy transformation (electric power plants, heating plants, boiler rooms, distribution networks). Additionally, technologies and processes that decrease energy demands by industry and businesses are supported, i.e., the installation of machinery that requires less energy, more efficient heating and energy distributions. An important component of this measure is the support of technologies that take advantage of renewable and secondary energy sources. The framework of the measure also includes consulting and information services in the area of energy.

The goals of the measure are secured **through the following programmes:**

Energy Savings – a programme for decreasing energy demands

Purpose of the support:

- to contribute to a decrease in the energy demands of Czech industry through the provision of financial support for energy saving investment projects.

Renewable Sources – a programme for taking advantage of renewable energy source

Purpose of the support:

- to support projects for the introduction of the production of electric energy or heat from renewable energy sources (these projects will contribute to an increase in the share of renewable energy sources in overall energy production and to a decrease in the use of primary, non-renewable energy sources and thus to a decrease in the level of emissions associated with the production of energy and heat.)

Priority 3. Technical Assistance**Measure 3.1. – Technical Assistance for the Management and Implementation of the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise**

The technical assistance provided to the Managing Authority and Implementation Agencies for the purposes of managing and implementing the Operational Programme, which includes activities related to the processes for selecting, evaluating, and monitoring projects by committees, including expert consulting. In addition, co-operation is provided during the implementation of the Operational Programme, audits and controls.

Measure 3.2. – Other Technical Assistance

Within the framework of this measure, technical assistance is provided in the areas of publicity, the provision of information and exchange of experiences, the acquisition and installation of monitoring systems, as well as for the preparation of evaluations, studies, analyses, strategies and methods used within the framework of this Operational Programme.

Overview of the allocation of financial resources within the framework of the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise:

Priority/Measure:	EU (ERDF)	CR *)	TOTAL
1. Business Environment Development	130,4	43,5	173,9
1.1 Infrastructure for Industrial Research, Development and Innovation	41,7	13,9	55,6
1.2 Development of Business Infrastructure	60,0	20,0	80,0
1.3 Infrastructure for the Development of Human Resources in the Industry and Business Sectors	15,7	5,2	20,9
1.4 Development of Information and Consulting Services	13,0	4,3	17,4
Development of Enterprise Competitiveness	120,0	40,0	160,0
2.1 Establishment and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	62,6	20,9	83,5
2.2 Support of Innovation of Products, Technologies and Services	31,3	10,4	41,7
2.3 Reducing Energy Consumption and Higher Use of Renewable Energy Sources	26,1	8,7	34,8
3. Technical Assistance	10,4	3,5	13,9
TOTAL (mil. euro)	260,9	87,0	347,8

*) Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Operational Programme Human Resources Development

Managing Authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, Department for European Social Fund Management

Implementing Agency:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, Department for the Implementation of the Programmes of the European Social Fund
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Department for European Integration and International Relations
- Foundation for the Development of a Civil Society
- National Training Fund

Priority 1: Active Employment Policy

Measure 1.1. – Strengthening Active Employment Policy when Employing Job-seekers and Individuals Interested in Employment

This measure is aimed primarily at increasing the scope and effectiveness of active intervention on the labour market. It will be implemented as a supplement to current state employment policy as a way of increasing the range of activities as well as including groups of individuals that are not included within the state's existing employment policies.

The measure will focus on job-seekers and persons interested in employment, especially young unemployed people and people who are over fifty years of age, employees facing the threat of unemployment, persons who have been unemployed for a long period of time and people facing the threat of long-term unemployment.

Purpose of the support:

- to limit the increase in the number of registered long-term applicants (primarily the unemployed that face the threat of long-term unemployment);
- to introduce new tools for use in active employment policy (i.e., plans focused on the needs of individuals, increasing the focus and effectiveness of existing tools and expanding them to include individuals interested in employment, employees facing the threat of unemployment, and persons returning to the labour market);
- to expand preventive consulting and information services and increasing motivational measures used by entities on the labour market as a means of preventing unemployment;
- to support new forms of employment; and
- to encourage closer ties between institutions on the labour market, social partners and their associations, employers, educational institutions, schools, municipalities, regional authorities and non-governmental non-profit organisations.

Measure 1.2. – Modernisation of Public Employment Services

This measure places higher demands on proficiency and qualifications but also on the general insight of the employment authority workers, primarily the divisions for consulting, requalification and the labour market. In order to ensure the successful completion of more demanding tasks, it is necessary to equip workers that provide employment services with further theoretical knowledge and practical experience that can be obtained through intensive training courses.

The implementation of these activities will contribute to the modernisation and increased efficiency of employment services.

The measure will focus on the official providers of employment services and their employees as well as on co-operative organisations and their workers.

Purpose of the support:

- to increase the quality of services provided by workers of employment services and co-operative organisations;

- to increase the number and qualification levels of workers of employment services and co-operative organisations that provide services for the implementation of active employment policy and to increase the technical and information infrastructure;
- to create standard for access and services for individual groups of job-seekers and individuals interested in employment;
- to develop preventive tools of use in active employment policy and ensure that they are accessible to the target groups;
- to change the approach towards the client towards the client's own activation through an individual approach; and
- to interconnect and improve the quality of the information system, to expand unemployment statistics and processes for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of programs as support for the analysis of the development and success of consulting, educational and co-ordination measures.

Priority 2: Social Integration and Equal Opportunities

Measure 2.1. – Integration of Specific Population Groups in Danger of Social Exclusion

The framework of the measure will include the implementation of activities in the area of employment and social services.

Within the area of employment, the measure will focus on long-term unemployment that is caused primarily by changed work abilities, a lower level of qualifications and a higher age category. Groups that find themselves on the edge of society and have not been able to achieve social inclusion in their natural environment deserve special attention.

Within the area of social services, two spheres of activities will be implemented:

- system activities whose goal is to support education of providers and sponsors of social services for the purposes of strengthening their abilities and skills in providing these services; and
- activities that are performed at a nation-wide level and that will focus on selected target groups whose risk of social exclusion is not only of a regional character (i.e., members of the Roma community, immigrants, victims of criminal activities, commercially abused persons, the homeless, etc.).

The measure will focus on people suffering from or threatened by social exclusion as a result of long-term unemployment, youth living in a disadvantaged social environment or in a different socio-cultural environment, social service workers, municipalities, regions, social service providers for target groups threatened by social exclusion and specific target groups for whom nation-wide projects will be implemented.

Purpose of the support:

- to equalise the opportunities in the approach to education, employment and other social and labour opportunities for members of groups that are threatened by social exclusion;
- to ensure an integrated approach to resolving the problems of persons with the special needs of the physically disabled;
- to develop specific integrated programs and support for the creation of new employment positions for the long-term unemployed and persons threatened by social exclusion;
- to develop and implement educational programs in the area of quality and access to social services that are provided and leading to social integration and access to the labour market for individuals or groups threatened by social exclusion;
- to develop and implement programs for training educators in the areas of quality and access to social services that are provided and lead to social inclusion and access to the market;
- to develop and implement lifelong professional education programs for workers who provide social services aimed at inclusion on the labour market; and
- to strengthen the capacities of entities and organisations that are devoted to social inclusion programs for persons that are socially excluded or threatened by social exclusion.

Measure 2.2. – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the Labour Market

This measure will contribute towards the elimination of the still existing inequalities of the sexes, primarily towards women. The primary priority in the area of equal opportunities is to support the implementation of the principle of equality between men and women in practice.

The measure will focus on women, primarily towards mothers with small children, single-wage-earning mothers (and men who are in a similar situation as women with small children and single-wage-earning mothers), long-term unemployed women, women facing the threat of unemployment, women with an elementary level of education or no education, women approaching retirement age, women starting their own business, employers and organisations that are creating educational programs and women's organisations.

Purpose of the support:

- to promote equal opportunities for women and men on the labour market;
- to promote education for women, allowing them to be employed in non-traditional fields by removing obstacles that prevent women from participating on the labour market;
- to develop and create activities that remove discrimination against women from the labour market;
- to support women who are starting their own businesses,
- to support the creation of new forms of employment and the establishment of new conditions that will ensure the maximum level of participation of women on the labour market;
- to develop long-distance education and expand the access that women have to it;
- to increase the access that women have to information technology; and
- to increase the participation of women in educational programs organised by employers.

Measure 2.3. – Strengthening the Capacity of Social Service Providers

Within the framework of Priority 2, a portion of the financial resources from the Operational Programme Human Resources Development will be allocated to small grants through the Global Grant. The purpose of the Global Grant is to provide access to the resources from the Operational Programme Human Resource Development to non-governmental non-profit organisations, which are capable of meeting the goals and indicators of the measure, but have not yet developed the capacity to apply for these resources within the framework of the more complex mechanisms that apply to the main flow of the Operational Programme Human Resources Development.

The measure will focus on entities within the non-profit sector, which function in the social services area and which can prove their non-governmental and non-profit nature (it is assumed that during the implementation of projects, co-operative partnerships will be established between non-governmental non-profit organisations and local public administration authorities).

Purpose of the support:

- to balance the opportunities in the approach to education, employment and other social and labour opportunities for members of groups that face the threat of social exclusion;
- to increase the capacity and quality of entities that are involved in programs for the social inclusion of individuals that are already excluded or face social exclusion;
- to expand the offer and accessibility of social services according to the needs of individuals facing the threat of social exclusion according to the requirements of individual regions by education in the area of the transformation of residential services and expanding the capacity of ground services with a focus on decreasing social exclusion in relation to the labour market.

Priority 3: Development of Lifelong Learning

Measure 3.1. – Increasing the Quality of Education in Schools and at Educational Facilities and the Development of Support Programmes in Education

This measure was prepared as a response to the need to motivate individuals towards lifelong learning and thus significantly influence their employment potential. Schools will be motivated to actively co-operate while promoting good experiences. An important condition for this function is support for teachers and education professionals in continued systematic education. The fact that there is no existing integrated system for the collection, evaluation and co-ordination of information on the

development of labour market requirements plays a role in the selection of an inappropriate type of education without any relation to the needs of the labour market. The creation of a functional integrated system for monitoring and evaluating will enable effective management and decision-making at all levels and, at the same time, will make it easier for individuals to make a decision when selecting an education path as well as finding places for graduates on the labour market.

The measure will be focused on pupils and students of elementary schools, secondary schools, higher professional schools, individuals with health disadvantages, socially disadvantaged individuals, migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, children and youth that have been placed in institutional or protective care, individuals interested in furthering their education at secondary schools or at higher professional schools, individuals that left the education system prematurely, teachers, school directors, professional employees in the education field, educational consultants, primary schools, secondary schools, higher professional schools, educational facilities (facilities that provide institutional and protective care, school centres, clubs), organisations that are directly managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and non-governmental non-profit organisations.

Purpose of the support:

- to improve the level of education provided at primary schools, secondary schools, higher professional schools and educational facilities and to improve the system provisions that support the development of education and its ties to the labour market;
- to improve the conditions for providing education to pupils with special educational needs;
- to modernise school educational programs that are geared towards developing key skills;
- to develop the further education of teachers and other workers in the field of education;
- to develop further education at secondary schools and higher professional schools;
- to develop and perfect an integrated diagnostic, information and consulting system in the area of education and the selection of a profession and to promote the interconnection between early and continued education; and
- to establish and support a Centre for the Investigation of Results in Education.

Measure 3.2. – Support for Tertiary Education, Research and Development

Due to the fact that a university education cannot be considered as having been completed once and for all, it is necessary to create the appropriate conditions for the additional development of human resources within the sphere of tertiary education for the purposes of expanding the offers for additional education, specifically lifelong education at universities. The measure is also focused on the development of teachers' study programs, which provide professional vocational preparation to teachers in the early stages of education and allow those who have not yet attained pedagogical qualifications to do so. Special emphasis is placed primarily on strengthening the professional preparation of teachers for working with children with special educational needs. Taking into consideration that the sphere of tertiary education is closely tied to the field of research and development, the measure will also support activities focused on the development of human resources in this field as well.

The measure will focus on universities, research and development institutions and institutions that in practice are involved with education at the university level or co-operate with universities.

Purpose of the support:

- to increase the level of opportunities on the labour market for graduates of all forms of study programs and lifelong education programs;
- to increase the professional level of workers at research and development institutions;
- to improve the quality of education at the university level;
- to develop teachers' study programs;
- to expand further education at universities; and
- to develop human resources in the field of research and development.

Measure 3.3. – Development of Vocational further education

This measure will contribute to the establishment of a system of accepted qualifications, which will link the education and employment spheres and motivate employers and other social partners to participate in the creation of educational contents and methodology and the requirements for certification. The measure will support the expansion of vocational further education that is offered by supporting development within the framework of establishing a network of educational and training centres for adults in all regions, including material supplies and personnel staffing. The quality and increased

accessibility to vocational further education will be strengthened within the framework of the measure by the development of support services for further education, primarily information and consulting services. At the same time, the offer of vocational further education services will be strengthened.

The measure will focus on the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and other state administrative authorities, regions, municipalities, education and consulting institutions, professional associations, representatives of employers and other social partners, and non-governmental non-profit organisations that provide vocational further education.

Purpose of the support:

- to support a functional system for vocational further education that corresponds to the knowledge requirements of society;
- to create an integrated system of vocational further education and the corresponding regional infrastructure that provides additional and specialised qualifications to individuals with work experience;
- to create conditions for the establishment of a system for verifying the qualification obtained through the system of vocational further education;
- to improve accessibility to information and orientation in the offering and quality of vocational further education services;
- to develop the research and development of adult education methodologies;
- to develop the educational offers for vocational further education (new programs, remote education forms, e-learning, improving the expectations of employers' requirements); and
- to increase the vocational and pedagogical competence of lecturers, consultants, teachers, methodological and administrative employees functioning within the sphere of vocational further education.

Priority 4: Adaptability and Entrepreneurship

Measure 4.1. – Increasing the Adaptability of Employers and Employees to Changes in Economic and Technological Conditions, Support of Competitiveness

Implementation of this measure will contribute towards increasing the scope and effectiveness of active employment policies used by the employment authorities. The measure is focused on supporting the competitiveness of enterprises and organisations within the field of economics with growth potential and for the development of the professional skills, qualifications and competence of employers as well as of employees. Emphasis is placed on education within the field of information technology, maintained development and support of health at the workplace.

In addition to focusing on the development of educational activities, the measure will also be targeted at maintaining employment positions and creating new employment positions. The measure will also be applicable to individuals who are considering starting a business as potential employers in a manner whereby conditions for the development of employees in relation to changing economic conditions can be created in newly created organisations.

The measure will focus on employees, employers and individuals who are considering starting a business.

Purpose of the support:

- to increase the adaptability of employers and employees to changes in economic and technological conditions and to increase their competitiveness;
- to provide the professional skills, qualifications and competence required for adjusting to professional, structural, and technological changes;
- to increase accessibility to further education within organisations;
- to support the preservation of existing maintainable employment positions through adaptation and the stimulation to create new employment positions;
- to expand the use of flexible forms of work organisation; and
- to develop employer activities focused on supporting the protection of health and work safety at the workplace.

Measure 4.2. – Specific Education

This measure supports specific activities for supporting the development of new knowledge economics and for strengthening the professional qualifications and education level within selected sectors of industry, business, services and the travel industry. The measure will even support cross-sectional educational activities in the area of the environment with regard to their significance for the evaluative orientation during lifelong education. The activities will support the acquisition of sufficient skills for the management structures of enterprises and services.

The measure will be focused on small and medium-sized enterprises, public administration authorities, public institutions and non-governmental non-profit organisations.

Purpose of the support:

- to develop the adaptability and qualifications of the work force in the business and services sectors;
- to increase awareness of the horizontal theme of maintainable development;
- to increase the level of qualification and skills of company employees in relation to the introduction of progressive systems for managing the manufacturing process, with the implementation of high-tech and sophisticated products and services as well as information and communication technologies, and with the implementation of techniques that are environment-friendly;
- to improve the professional preparation and education of graduates from schools that are focused on the travel industry, employees and entrepreneurs and the education of travel industry professionals within the public administration sector;
- to increase the quality of regional marketing and management of the travel industry;
- to build the capacity of regional systems established on the basis of the existence of regional networks of environmentally-targeted information and education centres; and
- to increase the awareness of individuals, enterprises and institutions regarding environmental legislation and to inform them of their rights, opportunities and obligations in the environmental sphere.

Priority 5: Technical Assistance

Measure 5.1. – Support for the Management, Implementation, Monitoring and Control of the Operational Programme Human Resources Development

Measure 5.2. – Other Acceptable Activities

Overview of the financial resources allocated within the framework of the Operational Programme Human Resources Development:

Priority/Measure:	EU (ESF)	CR *)	TOTAL
1. Active Employment Policy	102,6	34,2	136,8
1.1 Strengthening Active Employment Policy when Employing Job-seekers and Individuals Interested in Employment	85,8	28,6	114,4
1.2 Modernisation of Public Employment Services	16,8	5,6	22,4
2. Social Integration and Equal Opportunities	42,8	11,6	54,3
2.1 Integration of Specific Population Groups in Danger of Social Exclusion	32,0	8,0	39,9
2.2 Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the Labour Market	7,6	2,5	10,1
2.3 Strengthening the Capacity of Social Service Providers	3,2	1,1	4,3
3. Development of Lifelong Learning	107,7	35,9	143,6
3.1 Increasing the Quality of Education in Schools and at Educational Facilities and the Development of Support Programmes in Education	54,8	18,3	73,0
3.2 Support for Tertiary Education, Research and Development	18,3	6,1	24,3
3.3 Development of Vocational Further Education	34,7	11,6	46,3
4. Adaptability and Entrepreneurship	50,5	16,8	67,4
4.1 Increasing the Adaptability of Employers and Employees to Changes in Economic and Technological Conditions, Support of Competitiveness	29,2	9,7	39,0
4.2 Specific Education	21,3	7,1	28,4
5. Technical assistance	15,2	5,1	20,3
TOTAL (mil. euro)	318,8	103,6	422,4

*) Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Operational Programme Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture

Managing Authority: Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Operational Programme Management Department

Implementing Agency: - Payment Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Priority 1: Support for Agriculture, the Processing of Agricultural Products, and Forestry

Measure 1.1. Investments in Agricultural Assets and Agricultural Enterprises

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects to increase labour productivity, competitiveness and quality of products. This form will also be used as the means for financing measures designed to reduce and eliminate adverse effects of agricultural production on the environment, to protect water against pollution from agricultural sources, and to reconstruct, modernise and built new agricultural buildings so that they meet EU standards for breeding agricultural animals. This measure will also support young start-up farmers and the increased diversification of agricultural activities.

Sub-measure 1.1.1 – Investments in agricultural assets and support for young start-up farmers

Purpose of the support:

- to construct, or reconstruct as applicable, lacking storage capacities and facilities for farm fertilisers;
- to modernise technical and technological equipment on agricultural farms, to decrease production expenses and to improve the working conditions of agricultural production employees;
- to support the development of small and medium-sized agriculture enterprises with the expected effects including the acquisition, expansion and modernisation of the agricultural farms owned by young farmers;
- to provide compliance of agricultural production with EC legislation requirements for animal welfare during breeding and transport and for the improvement of hygiene standards;
- to improve the level of storage and pre-dispatch preparation of domestically produced crops (i.e., through investments storage capacities for fruit and vegetables), to improved the quality of stored products, i.e., improving the level of quality of storage technologies primarily taking protection of the environment into consideration;
- to support the competitiveness of agricultural production;
- to introduce more environment-friendly technologies;
- to reduce adverse effects on the environment; and
- to provide equal opportunities for men and women.

Sub-measure 1.1.2 – Further diversification of agricultural activities

Purpose of the support:

- to develop alternative income sources, improve incomes of agricultural enterprises and rural households;
- to develop alternative income sources, improve incomes of agricultural enterprises and rural households;
- to improve the image of agriculture;
- to improved the quality of the offerings within the framework of rural areas with a specific focus on target groups;
- to improved marketing for regional agricultural products; and
- to improve the level of quality of services provided and the overall image of the region.

Measure 1.2. – Improving Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on the transfer of new technologies and innovations for processing agricultural products, on increasing the standard of agricultural products, to develop production sectors using domestic agricultural production and to improve the marketing for agricultural products.

The measure includes improvements to the processing of meat, milk, fruit, vegetables, mill products and starch during the first phases of processing.

Measure 1.3. – Forestry

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on investments that will introduce new technological procedures for processing forestry products and appropriate marketing concepts, help restore the potential of forests damaged as a result of natural disasters and fire and introduce appropriate preventive measures, improve and maintain the ecological stability of protected woodlands, assist in the establishment of associations of small forest holders, and the planting of non-agricultural land, and assist in the forestation of non-agricultural land.

Sub-measure 1.3.1. – Restoring the potential of forests damaged as the result of natural disasters and fire and introduction of appropriate preventive measures

Purpose of the support:

- to decrease the scope of damages caused by natural disasters and fire; and
- to restore the production potential of the forest and its functionality after natural disasters.

Sub-measure 1.3.2. – Investments in forests

Purpose of the support:

- to substantially increase the economic, ecological and social value of forest property;
- to improving the quality of the forest infrastructure as a prerequisite for increasing the social value of the forest landscape; and
- to maintain the forest infrastructure that is created and to use ecological forestry technologies in a manner whereby the destruction of this infrastructure is avoided.

Sub-measure 1.3.3. – Establishment of associations of forest owners

Purpose of the support:

- to support for the establishment of associations of small forest owners for the purposes of joint management of associated forest holdings (with the objective of ensuring professional management of associated holdings and the attainment of more effective and balanced management).

Sub-measure 1.3.4. – Forestation of non-agricultural land

Purpose of the support:

- to convert land that is not used for agriculture and that is a source of weeds in the cultural landscape to forests with a rich diversity of tree species; and
- to strengthen biodiversity by the expansion of forested areas, primarily in agricultural landscapes.

Priority 2: Rural Development, Fisheries and Vocational Training

Measure 2.1. – Promoting the Adaptation and Development of Rural Areas

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on the arrangement of ownership titles to land parcels, on spatial and functional adaptation of parcels, on making them accessible and having them actually demarcated. The measure further supports the protection of land resources, water management measures to ensure the safe drainage of surface water and protect the soil against flooding, and actions to protect the environment and increase ecological stability of the landscape. The measure also includes protective measures to alleviate the damage caused by natural disasters on agricultural land and for the restoration of damaged vegetation. It is also possible to finance preventive and anti-flood measures within the framework of this measure.

The measure also concerns the modernisation and reconstruction of existing facilities serving to accumulate water in the landscape and the removal of silt deposits from small water reservoirs and ponds.

Within the area of rural development, the support will be aimed at co-financing the implementation of pilot strategies for integrated rural development and for investing in the diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture in order to create new employment positions and sources of income.

Sub-measure 2.1.1. – Reparcelling

Purpose of the support:

- to settle ownership rights to land as well as the associated easements;
- to provide spatial and functional adaptation of land;
- to ensure access to land;
- to develop conditions for rational land management;
- to protect and improve land resources;
- to improve the landscape; and
- to increase the ecological stability of the landscape.

Sub-measure 2.1.2. – Restoring potential and maintaining the agricultural landscape

Purpose of the support:

- to construct and reconstruct polders, small water reservoirs and anti-flood embankments (sized for Q₅) on land used for agricultural purposes;
- to change the function and methods of using land located in active flood zones;
- to improve protection for land and assets used for agricultural purposes;
- to create a spatial balance between the economic and cultural development associated with the use of an area threatened by floods and the need to use this area in order to slow down water runoff, for water accumulation and to reduce the flow rate; and
- to ensure greater anti-flood protection of adjacent areas.

Sub-measure 2.1.3. – Management of agricultural water resources and providing for their functioning

Purpose of the support:

- to restore the functionality of ponds and pond systems;
- to renew and reconstruct dam structures and functional installations of water reservoirs;
- to integrate ponds, pond systems and small agricultural water reservoirs into bio-centres and bio-corridors in order to increase the ecological stability of landscape;
- to provide for an adequate accumulation of water in the landscape and for the quality of surface water;
- to increase the mobile volume of water for irrigation and energy generation;
- to improve conditions for recreation and the related tourism;
- to acquire and restore primary irrigation facilities, detailed irrigation facilities, main drainage facilities and detailed drainage facilities; and
- to improve the water system to acceptable production conditions.

Sub-measure 2.1.4. – Rural development

Purpose of the support:

- to include wide groups of residents in co-operative efforts resolving problems related to individual areas (micro-regions) through taking over the decision-making process related to the applicable rural area;
- to use know-how and new technologies for the purposes of increasing the competitiveness of products and services in rural areas;
- to improve and maintain the quality of life in rural areas;
- to increase the added value of local products by facilitating the access of small producers to markets through joint activities;
- to effectively use existing natural and cultural resources;
- to increasing the qualification of rural inhabitants (in particular women, young persons below 25 years of age and socially disadvantaged persons) and thus strengthening the competitiveness of local businesses;
- to prepare rural communities for the conception and implementation of local development measures;
- to encourage and support rural residents to think about the long-term conception for development of the specific area;
- to promote active partnership operating at the local level; and

- to reinforce the local economic environment in order to contribute to the creation of new employment opportunities and the maintenance of existing employment positions.

Sub-measure 2.1.5. – Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture

Purpose of the support:

- to develop the area of secondary income within the framework of agri-tourism as another alternative for improving the incomes of agricultural enterprises and rural households;
- to co-develop a segment of the travel industry – farm/rural holidays;
- to improve the image of agriculture in connection with a traditional rural environment;
- to improve the quality of the overall tourism offer for tourists within the framework of rural areas with special focus on target groups;
- improved quality of provided services and of a coherent image of a region in the sector of tourism;
- to improve the level of services provided and the integrated image of the region within the specific sector of the tourism industry;
- to minimise construction in the open countryside; and
- to use alternative sources of energy.

Measure 2.2. – Vocational Training

This measure has been prepared in order to support education for persons working in the agriculture and forestry sectors in order to:

- acquire information, knowledge and skills necessary for the implementation of new products, production methods and technology, which are compatible with the interests of maintaining and enhancing the landscape, protecting the environment, and improving hygiene standards and animal welfare;
- acquire information, knowledge and skills necessary for increasing the operational effectiveness of persons working in the agriculture sector;
- acquire information, knowledge and skills related to new activities within the framework of the diversification of activities connected to the needs of rural development, and improving knowledge on the sustainable development in all agricultural areas;
- acquire information, knowledge and skills necessary related to new activities within the diversification of activities arising from the needs of the rural development;
- improving managerial skills and other specialised knowledge in order to achieve sustainable development in all areas of this sector sphere of action;

Measure 2.3. – Fisheries

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects that are focused on increasing the productivity of labour, competitiveness and quality of products, renewing the original species of the fish population in the water basin, and maintaining specific genetic characteristics of the freshwater fish population. The measure also focuses on improving the water quality in the Elbe, Oder and Danube river basins.

Sub-measure 2.3.1. – Fish processing and marketing for fish products

Purpose of the support:

- to increase the quality and assortment of fish products, with the inclusion of increasing freshwater fish consumption;
- to enhance hygiene and food safety standards;
- to expand, construct and reconstruct fish processing facilities;
- to implement technologies aimed at producing boneless fish products;
- to process a wider range of fish species with a higher proportion of added value in the final product; and
- to improve sales conditions, expand outlet opportunities for processed fish and fish products, and generate increased demand within the market network.

Sub-measure 2.3.2. – Breeding water life forms – aquaculture

Purpose of the support:

- to introduce new, not yet exploited species of water organisms to the aquaculture production process;
- to implement energy efficient and environment-friendly technologies (renewable energy sources, recirculation systems, etc.); and

- to test and implement breeding processes that have not yet been employed.

Sub-measure 2.3.3. – Professional activities within the fishing industry and promotional measures

Purpose of the support:

- to improve work conditions and hygiene standards;
- to decrease the burden on the environment with the assistance of higher-quality fishery operations;
- to improve competitiveness through new hatcheries and feeding facilities;
- to attain a higher breeding capacities, greater quantity, more species, and higher quality, including related operations;
- to expand the possibilities for fish processing;
- to expand the sales offering to include new forms and new fish products;
- to improve hygiene and food safety standards; and
- to promote increased consumption of fish by the public, primarily of freshwater fish from domestic sources.

Priority 3: Technical Assistance

Measure 3.1. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is focused on financing the tasks related to implementing the Operational Programme.

Overview of the financial resources allocated within the framework of the Operational Programme Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture:

Priority/Measure:	EU (EAGGF/ FIFG)	CR *)	TOTAL
1. Support for Agriculture, the Processing of Agricultural Products, and Forestry	97,5	53,7	151,1
1.1 Investments in Agricultural Assets and Agricultural Enterprises	78,4	46,0	124,5
1.2 Improving Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products	10,0	4,3	14,3
1.3. Forestry	9,1	3,3	12,4
2. Rural Development, Fisheries and Vocational Training	73,4	22,0	95,4
2.1 Promoting the Adaptation and Development of Rural Areas	65,3	18,7	84,0
2.2 Vocational Training	1,1	0,4	1,5
2.3 Fisheries	7,0	3,0	9,9
3. Technical Assistance	3,0	1,0	4,0
TOTAL (mil. euro)	173,9	76,7	250,6

*) Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Joint Regional Operational Programme – JROP

Managing Authority: Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Department for the Management of the Joint Regional Operational Programme and the Unified Programme Document – Prague

Implementing Agency:

- CzechInvest
- Centre for Regional Development
- the Secretariats of the Regional Councils

- Ministry for Regional Development, Department for Development Programmes for the Travel Industry

Priority 1: Regional Support for Enterprise

Measure 1.1. – Support of Business Activities in Selected Regions

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on providing direct support for small and medium-sized enterprises in selected problem regions of the Czech Republic. Support will apply only to existing entrepreneurs (not start-ups) who have closed their accounting for at least the last three accounting years. Development projects submitted by entrepreneurs that create new, long-term stable job opportunities, provide equal employment opportunities for men and women, focus on manufacturing with high added value, increase the level of co-operation between companies and stimulate export of local products will be supported. Support within the framework of this measure will not be provided to enterprises that are involved in agricultural production or other agricultural activities or to entrepreneurs within the travel industry.

This measure will support investment development plans of businesses that are related to the creation of new jobs or safeguarding existing jobs, including financing the purchase of consulting services (i.e., for the preparation of business plans).

The measure is divided into two parts:

- 1) Grant scheme supporting micro-enterprises, which employ less than ten employees, in all branches with the exception of:
 - the transport industry and activities related to the production, processing and introduction onto the market of the products specified in Annex 1 to the Treaty on State Aid;
 - support of export-related activities; and
 - support that is conditional on the use of domestic goods to the detriment of imports.
- 2) Grant scheme supporting small and medium-sized enterprises employing from 10 to 249 employees. Support will be available for enterprises in all branches, with the exception of sensitive and specific branches.

Participation in either grant scheme will be conditional upon the commitment to increase the number of persons employed by the receiver of the subsidy:

- within the grant scheme for micro-enterprises, the commitment must be at least one newly created and filled employment position;
- within the grant scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises, the commitment must be at least three newly created and filled employment positions for enterprises with 10 to 49 employees and 10 newly created and filled employment positions for enterprises with 50 to 249 employees (for each individual activity).

Priority 2: Regional Development of Infrastructure

Measure 2.1. – Development of Transport in Regions

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on two basic spheres of activities:

- support of regional road networks (second and third class roads and local roads in rural municipalities);and

- development of regional public transport service.

The financial weight of both sub-measures has initially been established in the ration of 70:30%.

Sub-measure 2.1.1. – Development of regional transport infrastructure

Purpose of the support:

- to improve the connections between individual towns, municipalities and regions services by the transport network in a manner that is adequate for meeting current and future needs;
- to improve the living environment in towns;
- to decrease travel time and to save fuel;
- to increase the mobility of the workforce;
- to improve the level of traffic safety and decrease the accident rate;
- to improve the capacity of access roads to border crossings.

Sub-measure 2.1.2. – Development of transport services in the regions

Development investment projects focused on improving public transport services, including the interconnection of local and regional public transport to the railway network will be supported under this sub-measure.

Purpose of the support:

- to increase transport services, , including the interconnection of local and regional public transport to the railway network;
- to increase people's interest in public transport by improving its quality;
- to increase the level of people's mobility;
- to improve the living environment in residential areas;
- to improve the level of the regions' attractiveness of regions for tourists, visitors, and investors; and
- to ensure public transport service in areas that are appealing to tourism as well as remote parts of the regions.

Measure 2.2. – Development of information and communication technologies in the regions

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on supporting investments in the area of information and communications technologies (ICT) for regional and local public administration and for the general public. Support of activities related public access to information technologies (i.e., the Internet) in libraries, community centres and schools are included within this measure.

The measure includes:

- support for the introduction, preferably, of a broadband connection (minimum 256 kbps), primarily in the structurally affected and economically less developed parts of the Cohesion Regions (i.e., regions that have been defined by Government Resolution No. 722 and regions defined by the Counties);
- ensuring public access in municipalities to preferably broadband Internet; and
- ensuring that public administration services (at local and regional levels) are interactive and accessible for all, preferable through a broadband Internet connection.

The measure does not include support for business and entrepreneurial activities (this will be provided within the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise).

Financial resources from this measure can be used for Internet installation, the construction of local and regional communication networks, the purchase of computers, special software, and basic PC equipment for PCs, if these items are necessary for using the Internet or for creating new ICT services and applications for individuals.

The projects must also satisfactorily address issues related to data transfer and software authenticity. Preference will be given to projects that will contribute to the development of public services, social integration and the development of infrastructure for using ICT.

The measure will target the wide general public.

Measure 2.3.– Regeneration and revitalisation of selected towns

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on supporting a limited number of integrated municipal investment projects, which are aimed at the improvement of the overall living environment and the

living conditions of the residents and place focus on the regeneration and revitalisation of declining town centres or affected town areas (i.e., related to the discontinuation of business or social activities). The measure is considered as underlying activities and preparation for the future resolution of municipal problems within the scope of the URBAN Community Initiative in the Programme Period starting in 2007.

Investments into private property will not be eligible to receive support.

Priority 3: Development of Human Resources in the Regions

Measure 3.1. Infrastructure for human resources development in the regions

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on investment projects (co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund – ERDF) in the following areas:

- active employment policy;
- lifelong learning; and
- social integration.

Investment supported through this measure will contribute to development and structural changes in the applicable region and will create or safeguard sustainable employment positions.

Support within individual projects will be aimed at:

- New construction or renewal of appropriate buildings;
- Acquisition of technology, computers, SW, and computer networks,
- Necessary technical infrastructure related to construction and renewal of property, including any necessary landscaping).

It is possible to connect this measure together with JROP Measure 3.2 and to the Operational Programme Human Resources Development.

Measure 3.2. – Support for social integration in regions

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on a wide spectrum of activities concerning social integration at a local or regional level.

Support of a non-investment nature will primarily concentrate on:

- service providers who implement supportive projects for various socially threatened groups, subsequent solutions and preventive measures to prevent the origination of these groups (ethnic and national minorities, persons suffering from health disabilities, youth, mothers with children, unqualified individuals, individuals approaching retirement age, individual returning to society after serving a criminal sentence, drug addicts, etc.);
- developing a civil society, creating community plans, co-operating with non-profit organisations as well as with organisations established by the state, regions or municipalities; and
- creating equal opportunities for disadvantaged social groups.

The subject of support within the framework of this measure will be focused on the implementation of various non-investment programmes, training courses, consulting and services for individuals, including the provision of rehabilitation tools, learning tools, study materials, preparation of socially focused events, information and promotion activities, etc.

Measure 3.3. – Strengthening the capacity of local and regional bodies in the planning and implementation of programmes

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on the training and education of all participants at local and regional level, who are involved in the preparation and subsequent implementation of the JROP as well as in the preparation and subsequent realisation of projects for employees of municipalities, associations of municipalities, regions, various regional groups, economic and agricultural chambers, regional development agencies, education, non-governmental non-profit organisations, etc.

The measure will contribute to improving the implementation of the JROP at the regional level during the current programme period (until 2006) as well as during the programme period starting in 2007.

The education includes familiarisation with the applicable European Union legislation as well as that of the Czech Republic for individual segments related to the preparation and implementation of programs and projects (i.e.,

submission of tenders, environmental protection, equal opportunities, financing and financial controls, conditions for public support, monitoring of programs and projects, etc.). The training programs also include required sections related to strengthening audit and control functions with regard to decreasing institutionalised corruption and other misuse of official authority.

The support is related to non-investment expenses consisting primarily of:

- organising various forms of courses, seminars, training and workshops;
- publishing brochures and publications;
- consulting activities; and
- setting up websites, etc.

The financial beneficiary (applicable region) will receive the support, thanks to which they will be able to provide these services to individual target groups involved in training for low and acceptable prices (the projects will not bring the regions any profit). From the perspective of effectiveness and concentration of resources, one project will be prepared within the framework of each region, which will then provide integrated solutions for the region's needs on the basis of analyses prepared by the region.

For this reason, the projects will be prepared within the framework of sponsorship by the applicable regions (final beneficiaries) and as early as during the preparation phase, the focus of the projects will be consulted with the JROP managing authority and co-ordinated with other relevant entities (state administration authorities, regional councils for the development of human resources, etc.) as well as with the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for educating local and regional administration employees.

Priority 4: Development of Tourism

Measure 4.1. – Development of services for tourism

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects focused on supporting entities that purchase services related to tourism. These services include activities related to:

- creating public and private sector partnerships (social, consulting and information-providing activities);
- ensuring the exchange and distribution of uniform information through modern technology;
- supporting marketing studies for tourism;
- supporting participation at trade fairs;
- organising symposiums and conferences on tourism;
- supporting the creation of promotional materials and standards for tourism;
- introducing a uniform system for labelling tourism activities.

The framework of the measure also includes non-investment support for paying the expenses related to the provision of the above-specified services.

Sub-measure 4.1.1. – Support of supra-regional services in tourism

The framework of this sub-measure includes tourism services that will be developed by public and non-profit entities (not by business entities).

The supported promotion includes only tourism activities and facilities that have been certified as being valid nation-wide through certification granted by the Ministry for Regional Development, if it exists. The support will be related to a limited number of integrated projects, the selection of which will be performed at a national level. Individual projects will be submitted by state-established organisations, non-governmental non-profit organisations, possibly the regions and associations of municipalities from natural tourist regions.

Sub-measure 4.1.2. – Support of regional and local services in tourism

The framework of this sub-measure includes support for the development of services of a regional or local nature.

Support will be provided in the form of:

- Grant schemes including the purchase of services provided by public entities (primarily municipalities and regions) and non-profit organisations operating at local or regional levels; and
- Grant schemes including the purchase of services provided by small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism industry. Support will be exclusively for existing enterprises (not start-ups), which have closed their accounting for at least the last three accounting years.

Measure 4.2. – Development of Tourism Infrastructure

This measure has been prepared in order to provide support for projects of an investment nature focused on developing the infrastructure necessary for tourism. These projects should specifically include the following support:

- products of convention, spa, cultural and religious tourism and eco-tourism;
- creating a national tourism information system;
- revitalisation of cultural, technical and industrial monuments and cultural heritage
- development of local and regional tourism information systems;
- increases to the capacities of small and medium-sized tourism enterprises (primarily increasing accommodation capacities and service infrastructure);
- construction or renovation of facilities in sports, recreation and spas; and
- renewal and development of hiking paths, recreational navigation infrastructure, bicycle paths and supplementary facilities.

Sub-measure 4.2.1. – Support for supra-regional tourism infrastructure

The framework of this sub-measure includes support for a limited number of larger tourism projects of supra-regional importance that are focused on integrated tourism products. Tourism facilities eligible for support within the framework of these projects must be holders of nationally valid certification approved by the Ministry for Regional Development, if it exists, or be committed to receiving certification subsequently.

The minimum amount of total eligible costs must exceed EUR 3 million

Support will focus on:

- individual projects submitted by public or non-profit entities;
- grant schemes supporting private entities working in tourism (no limit as to the size of the entity, number of its employees or scope of activities will apply). In these cases, the Ministry for Regional Development (Department of Development Programmes in Tourism) will be the grant scheme holder. Support will be related only to existing enterprises (not start-ups) who have closed their accounting for at least the last two accounting years.

Sub-measure 4.2.2. – Support of regional and local tourism infrastructure

The framework of this sub-measure includes support for more integrated projects of regional or local importance that are focused on developing the infrastructure necessary for tourism in municipalities and regions. Total eligible costs of individual projects will not exceed EUR 3 million.

This sub-measure will ensure support for:

- individual projects prepared by public entities at local or regional level (projects of municipalities, associations of municipalities, and regions) and non-governmental non-profit organisations; and
- projects submitted by small and medium-sized tourism enterprises in the form of grant schemes sponsored by the regions. Support will be provided only to existing enterprises (not start-ups), which have closed their accounting for at least the last two accounting years minimally.

Priority 5. Technical Assistance

Measure 5.1. Technical Assistance for the JROP

Measure 5.2. Technical Assistance for CSF (Community Support Framework)

Overview of the allocation of financial resources within the framework of the Joint Regional Operational Programme:

Priority/Measure:	EU (ERDF,ESF)	CR	TOTAL
1. Regional Support for Enterprise	45,1	15,0	60,2
1.1 Support of Business Activities in Selected Regions	45,1	15,0	60,2
2. Regional Development of Infrastructure	197,0	65,7	262,7
2.1 Development of Transport in Regions	152,0	15,2	167,2
2.2 Development of information and communication technologies in the regions	22,5	7,5	30,0
2.3 Regeneration and revitalisation of selected towns	22,5	7,5	30,0
3. Development of Human Resources in the Regions	92,3	23,9	116,2
3.1 Infrastructure for human resources development in the regions	45,0	11,3	56,3
3.2 Support for social integration in regions	37,1	11,3	48,4
3.3 Strengthening the capacity of local and regional bodies in the planning and implementation of programmes	10,1	3,4	13,5
4. Development of Tourism	108,1	36,0	144,1
4.1 Development of services for tourism	36,0	12,0	48,0
4.2 Development of Tourism Infrastructure	72,1	24,0	96,1
5. Technical Assistance	11,8	3,9	15,7
TOTAL (mil. euro)	454,3	144,6	598,9

Final Recipients and Final Beneficiaries of the Operational Programmes

The **Final Beneficiary** is a public or private entity that, on the basis of a project application for assistance through the Operational Programme will receive financial resources from the structural funds. The Final Beneficiary submits the project and at the same time provides evidence of co-financing for its implementation and is liable for its own performance of the project and management of financial resources.

The **Final Recipient** is the entity that implements the project and accepts the resources from the structural fund from the Final Beneficiary (i.e., during the implementation of assistance through the grant plan). The Final Recipient is an entity for whom it would be difficult to request assistance from the European Union fund directly as the Final Beneficiary. If the grant plan is not involved, the Final Recipient is generally the same entity as the Final Beneficiary.

Operational Programme Infrastructure:

Priority/Measure	Final Recipient/Beneficiary
1. Modernisation and Development of Transport Infrastructure of Nation-wide Importance	
1.1 Modernisation of Lines of Nation-wide Importance and of Important Railway Junctions	Owners/operators of railway infrastructure
1.2 Construction and Modernisation of Class I Roads	Road and Motorways Directorate of the Czech Republic
1.3 Modernisation of Civil Airports of Inter-regional Importance	Airport owners and owners of related transport infrastructure
1.4 Construction of Port Infrastructure and Modernisation of Waterways	Waterways Directorate of the Czech Republic, Elbe and Oder River Basins, owners of port infrastructure
2. Reducing the Negative Environmental Impacts of Transport	
2.1 Implementation of Protective Measures on the Transport Network in Order to Ensure Environmental Protection	Road and Motorways Directorate of the Czech Republic
2.2 Support for Combined Transport	Owners/operators of transport infrastructure, owners/operators of public transport and logistics centres and transfer points for combined transport
2.3 Support for the Introduction of Alternative Fuels	Submitters of research projects to be performed in the public interest, legal entities that provide transport services
2.4 Study and Research Projects Addressing the Problems Connected with the Improvement of the Environment In Terms of Transport	Submitters of research projects to be performed in the public interest
3. Environmental Infrastructure Improvement	
3.1 Recovery of Environmental Functions of the Landscape	Municipalities, regions, water basin administrators, non-profit organisations, private entities, state organisations
3.2 Water Management Infrastructure Improvement	Municipalities, regions, private entities, state organisations
3.3 Air Protection Infrastructure Improvement	Municipalities, regions, private entities, state organisations
3.4 Waste Management and Removal of Old Ecological Burdens	Municipalities, regions, non-profit organisations, private entities, state organisations
4. Technical Assistance	

Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise:

Priority/Measure	Final Recipient/Beneficiary
1. Business Environment Development	
1.5 Infrastructure for Industrial Research, Development and Innovation	Ministry of Industry and Trade / legal entities, self-administrative authorities, universities, research institutions, scientific enterprises, entrepreneurs
1.6 Development of Business Infrastructure	Ministry of Industry and Trade / municipalities, regions, entrepreneurs involved in real estate rentals, small and medium-sized enterprises that are processors of industry or technology
1.7 Infrastructure for the Development of Human Resources in the Industry and Business Sectors	Ministry of Industry and Trade / legal entities
1.8 Development of Information and Consulting Services	Ministry of Industry and Trade, CzechInvest, CzechTrade
2. Development of Enterprise Competitiveness	
2.1 Establishment and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank / entrepreneurs – natural persons, entrepreneurs – legal entities, small and medium-sized enterprise
2.2 Support of Innovation of Products, Technologies and Services	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank / entrepreneurs – legal entities
2.3 Reducing Energy Consumption and Higher Use of Renewable Energy Sources	Ministry of Industry and Trade / entrepreneurs – small and medium-sized enterprise
3. Technical Assistance	

Operational Programme Human Resources Development:

Priority/Measure	Final Recipient/Beneficiary
1. Active Employment Policy	
1.1 Strengthening Active Employment Policy when Employing Job-seekers and Individuals Interested in Employment	Employment authorities
1.2 Modernisation of Public Employment Services	Professional units of the Employment Services Administration
2. Social Integration and Equal Opportunities	
2.1 Integration of Specific Population Groups in Danger of Social Exclusion	Employment authorities, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
2.2 Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the Labour Market	Employment authorities
2.3 Strengthening the Capacity of Social Service Providers	Non-governmental organisations
3. Development of Lifelong Learning	
3.1 Increasing the Quality of Education in Schools and at Educational Facilities and the Development of Support Programmes in Education	Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Prague Pedagogical Centre
3.2 Support for Tertiary Education, Research and Development	Ministry of Education Youth and Sports
3.3 Development of Vocational Further Education	Education departments of the regional authorities, professional units of the Employment Services Administration
4. Adaptability and Entrepreneurship	
4.1 Increasing the Adaptability of Employers and Employees to Changes in Economic and Technological Conditions, Support of Competitiveness	Employment authorities, CzechInvest
4.2 Specific Education	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Health
5. Technical assistance	

Operational Programme Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture:

Priority/Measure	Final Recipient/Beneficiary
1. Support for Agriculture, the Processing of Agricultural Products, and Forestry	
1.1 Investments in Agricultural Assets and Agricultural Enterprises	Agriculturists – natural persons and legal entities
1.2 Improving Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products	Entrepreneurs
1.3. Forestry	Owners or renters of forest property
2. Rural Development, Fisheries and Vocational Training	
2.1 Promoting the Adaptation and Development of Rural Areas	Land offices, agriculturists – natural persons and legal entities, "Local Action Groups"
2.2 Vocational Training	Institute of Agriculture and Food Information / agriculturists, forestry workers
2.3 Fisheries	Entrepreneurs (natural persons and legal entities), professional associations of entrepreneurs
3. Technical Assistance	

Joint Regional Operational Programme:

Priority/Measure	Final Recipient/Beneficiary
1. Regional Support for Enterprise	
1.1 Support of Business Activities in Selected Regions	Regions / small and medium-sized enterprises
2. Regional Development of Infrastructure	
2.1 Development of Transport in Regions	Municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions
2.2 Development of information and communication technologies in the regions	Municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions, non-governmental organisations
2.3 Regeneration and revitalisation of selected towns	Municipalities
3. Development of Human Resources in the Regions	
3.1 Infrastructure for human resources development in the regions	Municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions, non-governmental organisations, organisations established by the state
3.2 Support for social integration in regions	Municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions, non-governmental organisations
3.3 Strengthening the capacity of local and regional bodies in the planning and implementation of programmes	Regions
4. Development of Tourism	
4.1 Development of services for tourism	Municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions, organisations established by the state (CzechTourism), non-governmental organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises
4.2 Development of Tourism Infrastructure	Ministry for Regional Development organisations established by the state (CzechTourism), non-governmental organisations, municipalities, regions, organisations established by municipalities or regions, entrepreneurs – legal entities, small and medium-sized enterprises
5. Technical Assistance	