

**Justification Report to the Supporting Documentation**

 **3rd Meeting of the Monitoring Committee**

**of Operational Programme Transport 2014-2020**

19 May 2016

Ministry of Transport, room Velké kolegium, 1st floor

**Annual Report of Operational Programme Transport 2014-2020**

***Content:***

The MA submits the draft Annual Report of Operational Programme Transport 2014-2020 for year 2015 (hereinafter as the “Annual Report”) to members of the MC. The obligation of the MA to submit the Annual Report on Implementation to the Commission every year before May stems from the Common Provisions Regulation No 1303/2013, Art. 50. The Annual Report is drafted pursuant to the Methodics of programme management in the programming period 2014 – 2020.

The Annual Report contains key information on implementation of the Programme and its priorities – financial indicators, common indicators and programme-specific indicators. It also presents a summary overview of findings from all programme assessments and evaluations that are available from the previous year, any issues that might affect programme performance and adopted measures.

 At its 3rd Meeting, the MC shall discuss and subsequently approve the Annual Report.

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee approves the Annual Report of OPT 2014-2020.

**Mid-year Assessment of the Strategic Implementation Plan**

 **(incl. the schedule of calls)**

***Content:***

The 2016 Strategic Implementation Plan (hereinafter as the “SRP”) was drafted in autumn 2015 following the obligation from the Methodological guideline for drafting of programming documents for the programming period 2014-2020.

In line with the Methodological guideline for monitoring the implementation of European structural and investment funds in the Czech Republic in the period 2014-2020, the Mid-year Assessment of the SRP was prepared as to 31 March 2016. Its objective is to inform the Monitoring Committee members on the progress in fulfilment of the financial plan and drawing of resources in the past six months, including data on announced or non-announced calls.

The updated schedule of calls planned for launching in 2016 is also submitted to the MC members – it was discussed together with the Mid-year Assessment by members of the Planning Commission of Operation Programme Transport 2014-2020 on 18 April 2016.

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee takes into account the Mid-year Assessment of the Strategic Implementation Plan of the Operational Programme Transport for 2016 (incl. the schedule of calls).

**Selection Criteria for OP Transport 2014-2020 Projects**

***Content:***

The document Selection criteria for OP Transport 2014-2020 Projects for specific objective 1.4 (Improving conditions for increased usage of urban and sub-urban public transport systems on electric traction) contains the assessment criteria for project selection under this specific objective. The document Selection criteria for OP Transport 2014-2020 Projects for specific objective 2.3 (Improved traffic control and improving traffic safety) contains the assessment criteria for project selection under this specific objective.

The selection criteria for OP Transport 2014-2020 projects for specific objectives 1.4 and 2.3 were prepared in line with stipulations of the Regulation No 1303/2013, Article 110 (2) (a) that reads “Monitoring Committee….shall examine and approve the methodology and criteria for selection of operations”. The project selection criteria were prepared considering the Methodological guideline for management of calls, assessment and selection of projects in the programming period 2014-2020 (hereinafter as the “Methodological guideline”) issued by the Ministry for Regional Development with the aim to set harmonised binding rules for managing authorities of operational programmes in relation to management of calls, assessment and selection of projects.

The updated document Model of OPT Projects Assessment that has already been approved at the first meeting of the OPT MC is also submitted. The Model of Assessment sets the procedures and methods for assessment of projects that are being submitted under individual OPT specific objectives. The model of assessment differs for individual specific objectives as there are differences in types of projects and types of beneficiaries. By the present update, the possibility to carry out the assessment in one round for Specific Objectives 1.4 and 2.3 is added for the competitive calls and also in case of calls for phased projects without substantial changes compared to the programming period 2007 - 2013.

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee approves the Selection Criteria for OP Transport 2014-2020 Projects for Specific Objectives 1.4 and 2.3 and also approved the related update of methodology in the form of the Model of OPT Project Assessment.

**Update of the Joint Communication Strategy**

***Content:***

The representatives of Managing Authorities of (operational) programmes for the programming period 2014-2020 under the Partnership Agreement and the National Authority for Coordination and Control of the Partnership Agreement agreed on the 2nd update of the Joint Communication Strategy for European Structural and Investment Funds in the Czech Republic for the programming period 2014-2020.

The update focused in particular on changes in the chapter Communication Objectives (5.2) and Target Groups (5.7).

Based on a larger discussion, the need came up to define how the given objectives will be reached on all levels. Two primary attributes were set *(improving the positive image of EU Funds in the Czech Republic and increased transparency; simplification of the visual style and more clarity for the public)* that have been further developed into practical steps that when respected should lead to meeting of the set objectives.

Based on the real practice in individual OPs, the need arose to define a new target group specifying target groups of individual programmes. This new target group includes Applicants and Beneficiaries and also the newly re-categorised Potential Applicants and Potential and Final Users of Assistance.

Other small changes and updates were carried out (in particular updating of indicative budgets of individual OPs and the list of managing authorities representatives responsible for implementation of the communication strategy); also the link to general common website – [www.dotaceeu.cz](http://www.dotaceeu.cz) was consolidated. The possibility to define own sets of internal indicators by managing authorities was further specified (for example the number of visitors on a website etc.).

Update of the Joint Communication Strategy has been approved on the 17th May 2016 on MC OPTA.

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee takes into account the update of the Joint Communication Strategy for the ESI Funds in the programming period 2014-2020.

**Quarterly Report on Fulfilment of Ex-ante Conditionalities for the period December 2015 – February 2016**

***Content:***

The Managing Authority submitted to the MC members the Quarterly report on fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities that was prepared by the Department of the Partnership Agreement, Evaluations and Strategies of the Ministry for Regional Development.

The report describes in detail the current state in fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities, further steps based on a predefined schedule and in particular the identification of possible risks that might put in danger the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities as per approved schedules, including fiches filled in by gestors and co-gestors separately for each ex-ante conditionality.

 Regarding the general ex-ante conditionalities, the report presents the course of fulfilment of those general ex-ante conditionalities that have been partially fulfilled. In the period December 2015-February 2016, the predefined measures were fulfilled for the ex-ante conditionality Public Contracts and for the ex-ante conditionality Statistical Systems and Result Indicators. Furthermore, measures were met on programme level, this in Public Contracts (3 measures) and Public Support (3 measures) Regarding the meeting of deadline pursuant to action plans on the general ex-ante conditionalities, the fulfilment both on the central level and on the programme level was in line with action plans.

The report also present the development in partially fulfilled or unfulfilled thematic ex-ante conditionalities, including risks in the form of non-respecting the procedures defined by action plan (in most cases in relation to the schedules).

The MoT is in charge of the following ex-ante conditionalities:

7.1 – 7.3 Criterion “Measures for ensuring the capability of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to implement a project” – works were carried out on an external assessment of the administrative capacity of major beneficiaries (RMD and RIA); the interim results were consulted with the MoT representatives to ensure that the final outputs correspond to the largest possible extent to the set objectives of the Action Plan.

7.2 – submitting of the Public Transport Concept – on 15 June 2015, the White Paper – Public Transport Concept 2015-2020 with an outlook to 2030 was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic through its Resolution No 467. During the monitored period, it was translated into English and sent to the EC for an opinion.

7.3 – approval of the Waterway Transport Concept – planned submission to the Government of the Czech Republic in June 2016.

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee takes into account the Quarterly Report on Fulfilment of Ex-ante Conditionalities for the period December 2015 – February 2016.

**Results of the Ex-ante Analysis of Financial Instruments**

***Content:***

Last year, the Ministry of Transport tendered the public contract “Ex-ante assessment of financial instrument application in the OPT 2014-2020”. The objective of the analysis was to provide a complex overview on Block A - Mapping of market characteristics and on Block B – Management and implementation strategy.

After assessing the potential for IFI (investment financial instruments), the specifications of suitable FI (financial instruments) were analysed and proposed for the following specific objectives:

* 1. 1 – Improving infrastructure for better competitiveness and broader usage of railway transport
* 1.3 – Improving conditions for broader usage of multimodal transport
* 2.1 – Improving connection of centres and regions and enhancing of road traffic safety and effectivity through construction, upgrading and modernisation of TEN-T roads and motorways including ITS development
* 3.1 – Improving accessibility of regions, enhancing safety and fluency and reduction of impacts of transport on public health through the construction, upgrading and modernization of motorways, high-speed roads and class I roads outside TEN-T

 With the aim of maximum simplification in interpretation of the proposed financial instruments, the contractor prepared the Management Fiches for individual financial instruments. The Fiches are providing answers to the following basic questions:

* Subject of assistance (defining the specific objective)
* Justification for using of FI
* Description of the method of functioning of FI
* Basic parameters of the instrument
* Benefits for the managing authority
* Benefits for the final beneficiary
* FI financial attributes – allocation, added value, leverage effect, revolving)

***Draft Resolution:***

The OPT 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee takes into accounts the results of ex-ante analysis of financial instruments.