

CZ-JUSTICE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2019: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Justice Programme development formally started after the signature of Memorandum of Understanding between the Czech Republic and the donor states of Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland in September 2017. Its main objective is to improve correctional system in the Czech Republic and it covers two programme areas: PA 19 Correctional Services and Pre-trial Detention and PA 21 Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Judicial System, Strengthening Rule of Law.

The preparation phase started with the stakeholder consultations, where all participants discussed main problems and challenges of a criminal policy, correctional service, penitentiary and post-penitentiary care. Outcomes of the discussions served as a basis for the establishment of a new Justice programme financed by Norwegian financial mechanism 2014 – 2021. The final version of the Concept Note was approved on 24 May 2018. After the preparation and finalization of the Supplementary information documents, the Programme Agreement was approved on 18 December 2018. On 7 February 2019 the representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic signed the final Programme Agreement. Financial Mechanism Office approved the minor amendment of Programme Agreement Annex 1 and 2 in December 2019.

The Justice programme has been in its initial implementation phase in 2019. It consists of three pre-defined projects and one open call divided in two parts. All pre-defined projects are under preparation. All of three prepared pre-defined projects within the Justice programme will be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian partners and will start the implementation phase during the first half of the year 2020. Project Promoter of the pre-defined project no. 2 “Strengthening the rehabilitation of prisoners through treatment“ already officially submitted the application to appraisal process carried out by the external company. Programme Partner and Programme Operator are finalizing the draft of the Call for Proposals.

In order to encourage and promote bilateral relations, the Programme Operator in cooperation with the National Focal Point created a shared partner database that gathers partner requests from the Czech Republic and donor states from all programme areas supported in the Czech Republic and promotes synergies in projects. Activities regarding the communication and publicity rely on the social media and continuous update of the programme.

PO in cooperation with the National Focal Point has updated and revised risk analysis of the Justice Programme. The most significant risk, which appeared in the Strategic report concerning the implementation of pre-defined project no. 3 “Back to life” “Failure to obtain suitable buildings for (PDP3) leading to non-establishment of probation houses” is not relevant anymore. Project Promoter of project “Back to life” has already obtained the suitable building. The average overall programme risk has not changed.