

## **CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

The Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) is linked partly to seven regional operational programmes and to the Integrated Operational Programme from the programming period 2007-2013. The IROP priority is to enable a balanced territorial development, to enhance the quality of infrastructure, to improve public services and public administration, and to ensure sustainable development in municipalities (villages), towns and regions. The IROP's objective is to increase regional competitiveness and to improve the quality of life of inhabitants through the interlinkage of national and regional interventions with a significant impact on the territory. The IROP financial allocation amounts to EUR 5.4 billion. The IROP is divided into 5 priority axes (PA):

- \* PA 1 Competitive, accessible and safe regions
- \* PA 2 Enhancing public services and living conditions for the inhabitants of regions
- \* PA 3 Good territorial administration and improvement in the effectiveness of public institutions
- \* PA 4 Community-led local development
- \* PA 5 Technical assistance

By the end of 2016 the IROP Managing Authority (Ministry of Regional Development) announced 67 calls for submission of applications for support in the volume of EUR 4.2 billion (CZK 113.5 billion), i.e. 77 % of the programme financial allocation. 67 calls were announced on the IROP website, in MS2014+ two calls were announced only in 2017, when the form was made available to the applicants. In MS2014+ the calls were announced on 12 January and 6 February 2017. The applicants submitted 3 143 applications for support in the volume of EUR 2.3 billion (CZK 62.1 billion) (42 % of the allocation), of which 779 applications amounting to EUR 427.2 million (CZK 11.5 billion) were rejected by the Managing Authority for not meeting the conditions of the call or for the lack of funds in the call. The MA approved 722 projects in the volume of EUR 535 million (CZK 14.5 billion) and issued the legal acts for 611 applications for support in the volume of EUR 470.9 million (CZK 12.7 billion, i.e. 9 % of the allocation). The beneficiaries received EUR 5.3 million (CZK 143.2 million). The IROP MA prepared the first application .for interim payment from the EU in the amount of EUR 776 thousand (CZK 20 million), i.e. 0,01 % of the allocation. 4 projects in the volume of EUR 424 thousand (CZK 11.4 million) were completed.

The year 2016 marked the launch of programme implementation, with the strongest emphasis put on the announcement of calls for submission of applications for support and receipt and evaluation of applications. In the upcoming years, implementation of supported projects will follow, as well as their checks, reimbursement, and subsequent absorption of EU funds.

EUR 1.4 billion (CZK 36.7 billion), i.e. 25 % of the total IROP allocation, has been allocated to projects of integrated instruments in IROP as total eligible expenditure. The IROP MA announced calls for submission of applications for support for all three types of integrated instruments: Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), Integrated Urban Development Plans (ITDP) and Community-led Local Development (CLLD). The integrated instruments are implemented through the strategy of the territory. The IROP MA in cooperation with the Centre for Regional Development CR Intermediate Body based on its experience with the programme implementation adopted in 2016 a number of measures with a view to improving the programme implementation and absorption.

They consist e.g. in updates and simplification of rules for applicants and beneficiaries, modification of the system of project evaluation and classification of eligibility criteria into correctable and uncorrectable, increase of the rate of support and simplification of conditions for the next call for improving energy performance in residential buildings, making more effective the process of selection of evaluators and utilisation of their capacity, etc. In this context, the IROP MA started to prepare a revision of the IROP Programming Document, where barriers to faster programme implementation will be lifted. In 2017, the revision will be submitted to the Monitoring Committee for approval and subsequently to the European Commission.

In order to support the IROP publicity, the MA held 26 central seminars on calls attended by a total of 2 200 participants. These were introductory seminars on the announced calls, where information on parameters of the call and conditions for the submission of applications for support was presented. The seminars were attended mainly by potential applicants and beneficiaries.