



Ministry of Environment
EU Funds Department

Ref. no.: 1418/300/14
43788/ENV/14

MINUTES

from the 15th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme Environment, held on 17 June 2014 in the NH Hotel Prague, Mozartova 461/1, Prague 5

Attendees: as per the attendance sheet

Meeting agenda:

1. Opening and approval of the agenda of the 15th Meeting of OPE MC
2. Discussion and approval of the draft 2013 Annual Report of OPE
3. Discussion about the draft OPE Implementation Progress Report for the period from 01/10/2013 to 31/03/2014
4. Information on the current state of the programme
5. Information on the preparation of the OPE Programming Period 2014-2020
6. Miscellaneous.
7. Conclusion

1) Opening and approval of the agenda of the 15th Meeting of OPE MC

The meeting was opened by the OPE MC Chairman, *Ing. Jan Kříž*, the Deputy to the Minister for the Section of EU Funds, Economic and Voluntary Instruments, hereinafter only *the Chairman*, who welcomed the present members and the representatives of the European Commission, and introduced the new members of OPE MC, who are:

- Ing. Anna Limrová, AOPK, alternate Mgr. Lucie Landová
- Ing. Petr Valdman, NEF CR Director, alternate Mgr. Mgr. Martin Kubica, NEF, Deputy Director of the OPE Management Section
- Ing. Šárka Hartychová, MoE
- Ing. Lucie Pudivítrová, Ph.D., MŽP, alternate Mgr. Kateřina Holendová
- Ing. Tomáš Kažmierski, Director of the Department of Economic and Voluntary Instruments, MoE
- Ing. Jaromír Manhart, Director of Wastes Department, MoE, alternate Ing. Andrea Jonášová
- Ing. Pavel Tichý, NUTS II North-East
- Ing. Václav Chytil, NUTS II Central Bohemia, alternate Ing. Tomáš Oliva

The Chairman further informed that the OPE shall take decisions based on the consensus and if it cannot be reached, a vote shall be taken. The council constituted a quorum since 28 members/representatives of the total of 47 were present. In the course of the meeting, the state further changed with the arrival and departure of members of the OPE MC.



The Chairman acquainted the attendees with the main items of the meeting agenda, nobody raised objections.

The agenda was approved by all the present members.

The Chairman summarised the meeting goals, besides others informed on the loss of the financial resources for 2013 and stated that minimisation of the predicted loss shall be the goal for the further period, however without limiting a consistent performance of inspection activities, which are critical for successful drawing of financial resources. Then he briefly introduced some of the measures to limit the loss, e.g. support of projects with a potential of a quick implementation, opting out of the so-called “sleeping projects”. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the OPE MC shall have a constructive course.

In the introductory word, *Erich Unterwurzacher (EC)* emphasised that the EC appreciates the progress that has been made in the last 6 to 12 months, he also mentioned the considerable growth in the number of beneficiaries and the acceleration of the approval process.

Ing. Petr Kolečka (MoE) informed about the progress of the accomplishment of the assignments from the last meeting of the OPE MC.

2) Discussion and approval of the draft 2013 Annual Report of OPE

Ing. In his presentation, *Petr Kolečka (MoE)* informed the MC members on the contents and the conclusions of the 2013 Annual Report, he stated information about measures whose goal is the acceleration of the drawing of financial resources. At the conclusion, he informed on the completed audits and inspections and their progress.

The presentation was followed by a discussion. *Ing. Tomáš Oliva (NUTS II Central Bohemia)* raised the question regarding the decommitment and also regarding the low achieved value of the indicator “the number of new and reconstructed WTPs over 2,000 EO”. In the reply to the first question, *the Chairman* stated that the amount of the decommitment is connected with the clarification of Articles 95 and 96 of the General Regulation; at present, the final opinion of the EC is being awaited in this respect. The second question was answered by *Ing. Petr Valdman (NEF ČR)* providing that the low value of this indicator is connected to the trial operation of new and reconstructed WTPs, which amounts to 12 months. Parameters are being finalised during that time and subsequently after the final inspection the indicators are determined.

Ing. Šárka Fojtíková (MoRD – NOK) raised a question regarding the number of successful projects in the area of “alternative transport” and the estimate of their successful completion until the end of the programming period 2007-2013. Another question concerned material findings from the presented audits. In the reply to the first question, *the Chairman* stated that within the call for the support of “alternative transport” a total of 8 projects had been submitted in the total amount of CZK 1.4bn with the schedule of implementation primarily in 2014. *Ing.* In the reply to the second question, *Petr Kolečka (MoE)* recapitulated the results of the individual audits. *The Chairman* promised to send a list of the most important findings along with the minutes and also appealed that the issue of handing over audit outputs would be coordinated at the national level due to the transfer of experience among Managing Authorities.



Christos Gogos (EC) thanked for the preparation and comprehensiveness of 2013 Annual Report and emphasised the necessity to learn a lesson from the past period. He also pointed out the too long time between the approval of a project and the issue of the DoPG (1 per year on average) and a large number of small projects, which create an administrative burden. He recommended focusing on the assistance to these applicants in the submission of complete tender documentation.

Ing. Miloš Juha, Ph.D. (the Council of Economic and Social Agreement) proposed that the preparation of the tender documentation would be completed before the submission of the project application, rather than after its registration, as it at the present time. He also required that the invoice administration shall be accelerated and specified in detail so that after the approval of the invoice at the NEF CR the applicant and also the MoE budget department would be automatically informed and the letter would automatically remit financial sources to the applicant's account according to the eligible costs. *The Chairman* mentioned unwillingness of applicants regarding the preparation of the tender documentation before the approval of their project application. *Ing. Petr Valdman (NEF CR)* explained the system of invoice administration and stated that beneficiaries are satisfied with the system in place, when each invoice is checked and the eligible and ineligible expenditures are calculated. He also informed about the activities of the call centre related to the invoice administration.

The Chairman put the resolution to the vote, i.e.:

“The OPE MC approves the draft 2013 Annual Report of OPE.”

The OPE MC consensually approved the draft 2013 Annual Report of OPE.

3) Information on the Progress of the Programme and 4) Discussion about the Draft OPE Implementation Progress Report for the Period from 01/10/2013 to 31/03/2014

Ing. Jaroslav Michna (MoE) presented the progress, evaluation of the up-to-date state of the programme, the strategy of final drawing and the related aspects. He state that the goal of the presentation was to describe the present state and future grounds of the OPE. He also pointed out the actual savings, disposable allocations, the influence of beneficiaries on the implementation of the programme, success rate of completed acceleration measures, problematic factors and also the fact that the largest volume of drawn resources is estimated again at the end of the calendar year, which to a large extent limits the exactness of the prediction of the decommitment amount in 2014 and 2015. At the end, he outlined the basic grounds for the lowering by the OPE decommitment and presented reallocations, whose discussion and approval is planned jointly with the decommitment for 2013 for this September.

Christos Gogos (EC) thanked *Ing. Jaroslav Michna* for the pragmatic and detailed presentation. He noted that to increase the number of issued DoPGs will be the biggest task until the end of 2014. He mentioned the necessity to deal with medium-size and “sleeping” projects. He also informed on the possibility to phase large projects as it is described in the Decision of the Commission – the Instructions for the Creation of Programmes for the period 2007-2013 of 20 March 2013. *Ing. Šárka Fojtíková (MoRD – NOK)* also thanked *Ing. Jaroslav*



Michna for the detailed presentation and asked when would the analysis of the “sleeping projects” be presented to the Government. She also raised a question regarding the decommitment for 2013 among the individual priority axes and outlined the necessity to approve the decommitment by the members of the OPE MC and send the reference documents to the EC for approval by the end of September 2014 at the latest. She recommended to hold also *per rollam* at the beginning of September 2014.

In the reply the Chairman stated that the analysis of the “sleeping projects” should be submitted to the Government the following week. He also stated that the distribution of the decommitment for 2013, which is supposed to be distributed among priority axes 2, 4 and 8 in FS and priority axe 5 and 6 in ERFD shall be performed in the *per rollam* method this September.

Ing. Miloš Juha, Ph.D. (the Council of Economic and Social Agreement) raised a question whether the MoE or the NEF CR has any mechanisms for the evaluation of the practicability of the schedules of approved projects.

Mgr. Martin Kubica (NEF CR) informed on the so-called “six”, which was approved at the meeting of the management of the ministry and published on the website of the programme.

The OPE MC acknowledged the Progress Report for the period from 01/10/2013 to 31/03/2013.

*The MC acknowledged the submitted information regarding the OPE development and assigned to the MA to prepare for approval in the form of *per rollam* a change of the Programme Document and Implementation Document, incl. the distribution of the decommitment for 2013 and reallocations among PP1 and 3 and PP8 a 3.*

Mgr. Martin Kubica (NEF CR) presented investment intensive projects, which account for 80% of the OPE drawing. These projects with the grant over CZK 100 million are supported from the Cohesion Fund, or, the European Regional Development Fund. He also informed about the implemented measures, e.g. the implementation of prepayment invoices, elimination of administrative procedures in the evaluation of public procurement, announcement of phased calls for PP1, strengthening of staff capacity of project managers, the aforesaid support of “alternative transport” in the amount of CZK 1.4bn and also the establishment of an independent department for investment intensive projects at the NEF CR, or establishing project cards for investment intensive projects.

The presentation was followed by a discussion. *Ondřej Pašek (the Government Council for Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations)* raised a question regarding the progress of the ZEVO Chotíkov project. In the answer, *the Chairman* stated that the ZEVO Chotíkov project had been withdrawn from the EC at the initiative of the Czech Republic and it shall be resubmitted after the completion of strategic documents of waste management which are not available at present.

5) Information on the preparation of the OPE Programming Period 2014-2020



Ing. Veronika Müllerová (MoE) presented the update of the preparation of the programming period 2014-2020 OPE and informed on the new distribution of priority axes OPE 2014-2020, which proposes 6 priority axes of the programme, namely:

- PP1: Improvement of water quality and limiting flood risks
- PP2: Improvement of air quality in human settlements
- PP3: Wastes and material flows, ecological burdens and risks
- PP4: Nature and landscape protection and care
- PP5: Energy savings
- PP6: Technical aid

She also stated in her presentation that a Partnership Agreement was formally submitted on 17/04/2014. The 6th version of the OPE Programme Document is being prepared at present, which shall be sent to the EC by 17/07/2014 at the latest. At the end, *Ing. Veronika Müllerová* briefly summarised further progress of work for the the preparation of the next programming period.

Ondřej Pašek (the Government Council for Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations) pointed out that it would be convenient to have strategic documents, particularly for the area of waste management before decisions are taken about the projects. He also drew attention to the Partnership Agreement and the related seeking synergies within the OPE and among other operational programmes. He also raised a question regarding the structure of the management of the next OPE and a possibility of participation of for instance economic partners and non-governmental organisations in the programme management. In his reply, *the Chairman* stated that when compared to the present state also the Agency for the Nature and Landscape Protection shall be included as an Intermediary in the OPE implementation structure 2014-2020. He also stated that at present no discussions are held about the inclusion of any business partners or non-governmental organisations in the management of the programme except for the membership in the OPE MC.

6) Miscellaneous

No suggestions were raised.

7) Conclusion

The Chairman thanked the members for their participation in the 15th meeting and closed the OPE MC.

The expected date of the next ordinary MC meeting:	25 November 2014
---	------------------

ASSIGNMENT			
No.	Assignment	Owner	Due date



1	Submit an overview of audits and the most important findings	MA	along with the minutes
2	Prepare reference documents for the revision of the PD and ID, including a change in the financial charts and send them for the approval to the OPE MC members in <i>the per rollam</i> form	MA	1st half of September 2014

Recorded by: Bc. Petra Procházková Peřinová, DEUF

Verified by: Ing. Jaroslav Michna, Director of the EU Funds Department

Approved by: Ing. Jan Kříž, the Deputy to the Minister for the Section of EU Funds,
Economic and Voluntary Instruments