

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Czech Republic

CZ-RESEARCH Research

2021

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the CZ-RESEARCH programme (KAPPA Programme) entered the middle phase of its implementation. In the only open call, completed in 1Q 2020, 25 projects were supported, all project contracts were concluded by 16 March 2021 and the projects are now in implementation.

The management activities focused mainly on the support of Project Promoters and project partners via preventive measures such as information seminars, advice and consultations at project start and general guidance on financial flows, reporting and publicity – three seminars were held, described below. Simultaneously, the KAPPA internal management system details were adjusted in order to better reflect the first lessons learned towards the effectiveness and smooth running of the KAPPA Programme. The PO put stress on consulting bilateral cooperation within projects, facilitated setting of mutual communication between partners, financial flows including the issue of exchange rate losses and showed flexibility regarding possible modifications due to the Covid-19 situation. The DPP Research Council Norway was in close contact and helpful in terms of concerns of Donor state partners.

A new role of the KAPPA consultant was established for the projects in June 2021, in order to maintain closer cooperation with beneficiaries (Czech and also the Donor) beyond the regular administrative matters. The consultants are the PO staff - members of the EEA and Norway Grants Department, specifically two programme officers and the head of the department.

On 23rd March 2021, the PO held an online webinar on the Open Access and Data Management Plan for the beneficiaries of the KAPPA Programme. The Project Promoters were instructed how to submit their Data Management Plans during 2021, no later than 6 months from the project start date.

The PO also organised a seminar on communication and publicity rules on 15 October 2021 in a present form and an online webinar on how to complete and submit the interim report in the KAPPA Programme on 1 December 2021.

In 2021, the beneficiaries issued 9 requests for project changes in total, all of which were approved. Four of the changes were administrative in nature (e.g. change of a legal form of a project partner, separation of several incorrectly grouped up results into individual ones), two were changes of project partners and three were requests to change the Principal investigator.

The Management and Control System called KAPPA Programme Manual was updated to the second version due to a change in the organisational structure of TA CR and related internal rules, the National Focal Point was consulted. The document has been approved by the National Focal Point and notified to the Financial Mechanisms Office came into effect on 1 November 2021.

Two audits were carried out in the Research Programme in 2021. The first audit executed by the Audit Authority was a part of verification focused on the functionality of the management and control system of the National Fund for bilateral relations and was carried out at the PO in January 2021. The audit recommendation to discuss the utilization of

bilateral funds with the Programme Committee has been added to the second version of the KAPPA Programme Manual and starting with the 4th PC meeting in September 2021 the recommendation has been applied. The second audit was focused on the expenditure on the management of the Programme and carried out by the Audit Authority of the Ministry of Finance from April to July 2021. The outcome was without findings; the system is fully in line with all EEA and Norway Grants legislative frameworks.

The most important lesson learned is generally to be helpful to the beneficiary at any time during the year beyond the mandatory requirements, to allow beneficiaries to discuss anything in advance of the official submission, to impart knowledge on new topics, and to ask for feedback so that the PO can improve.

The PO published 5 articles on the website in 2021 in both English and Czech, 2 videos on the YouTube channel and created a successful campaign to promote an online interview with one from the Principal Investigators within the Meltingpot Forum. The most successful part of the campaign was a quiz about the interview's topic on Instagram stories.

The risk of the Programme remains low. The COVID-19 pandemic did not have a significant impact on the Programme in 2021. There were no significant delays. Research methods may be adapted in the future if necessary and only bilateral activities or joint cooperation projects may face some difficulties or delays due to constraints. A new risk is the current lack of available funds for TA CR and for regranting due to the provisional state budget rules till March 2022 which occurred for the first time in the history of the PO institution. This risk can only be accepted, immediately after the decision of the Government, the PO shall send the payments to the beneficiaries.

## **B. PERFORMANCE**

### **1. Programme context**

The Programme is approved by the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government can make decisions with impact on the Programme implementation, in particular about the budget for the PO institution.

In October 2021, parliamentary elections took place in the Czech Republic and the new government was formed. In December 2021, the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Petr Fiala, appointed Helena Langšádlová as a Minister of Science, Research and Innovation. The new government is pro-innovation oriented and will support the increase of the Czech Republic's competitiveness as well as encourage Czech research teams to participate in international projects, consortia and associations. In the long-run perspective, this will lead to the reduction of the social and economic disparities and will help to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries which is a strong synergic effect in line with the general aim of the current round of EEA and Norway Grants.

Nevertheless, the new government has not approved the draft state budget for 2022 yet, including the budget for research activities supported by the PO institution. The Czech Republic has started the year 2022 on a provisional budget, which is expected to last until the

end of March 2022. Within this period, the PO cannot provide the funding to the beneficiaries until the state budget, including the institution's PO budget, is approved, the PO cannot dispose of the funds and beneficiaries as well as partners cannot receive advance payments for 2022. The PO will send the funding immediately after the approval of the state budget, as soon as there are sufficient funds available. In fact, despite some prolongations in administrative financial operations, serious threats are not expected, owing to regular disbursement schedules to projects.

## 2. Programme results

### Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Czech research and development internationally

#### *Description and analysis of results*

Projects are in implementation and most of the targets of the results will be achieved at the end of the projects implementation, in particular, the “number of new products/technologies developed” and the “number of jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection”.

As an example of reported achievements, project No. TO01000074 titled Efficient Low-energy Electron Cancer Therapy with Terbium-161 can illustrate that there are already achieved results. The Project Promoter the Czech Technical University (CZ) collaborates on the research with project partners: the Institute for energy technology (NO), Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry (CZ), Centrum výzkumu Řež (CZ) and Oslo University Hospital (NO). The project is aimed at the research and development of novel radiopharmaceuticals based on terbium-161 and novel vectors for targeted therapy of tumours. The researchers have already developed three functional samples within the work packages 2 and 3 called Terbium-161 production system, Pure Terbium-161 sample - 1 GBq and Pure Terbium-161 sample - 5 GBq.

The target for the “number of joint, peer-reviewed, scientific publications submitted” has been almost achieved and each year, the number will even rise. We can reasonably assume that the value will exceed the target before the end of the projects. The PO did not expect such an interest in open access from beneficiaries who do not have so much experience with it. Therefore, the PO has focused on knowledge transfer in open access and beneficiaries are reporting open access results even beyond what was originally planned.

Also, the target for the “number of researchers supported” has been achieved yet, there are more researchers and research organisations involved in the project's consortia than expected.

Results “number of research organisations supported”, “number of CCS projects with support for a pre-commercial phase”, “number of SMEs supported”, “number of large companies supported” and “number of partnership projects between SMEs and research organizations established” are static data that probably won't change anymore. Some of these result targets were not achieved because in the project consortia, there are mainly research organisations instead of SMEs and because only 25 projects fit into the call allocation.

*Pre-defined project(s)*

Not applicable

**Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme**

*Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements*

In total 12 projects are funded from the EEA Grants, 13 from the Norway Grants. A donor project partner is involved in each project. Icelandic project partners are involved in 2 projects and Norwegian project partners in 23.

As an example of a project with bilateral relations is project No. TO01000198 titled “NATURAL Seismicity as a Prospecting and MONITORING tool for geothermal energy extraction (NASPMON)” in which the Project Promoter the Institute of Geophysics CAS cooperates besides the Czech project partners the Charles University and the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics CAS with an Icelandic project partner Iceland GeoSurvey (ÍSOR). The project will enhance understanding of subsurface structures and processes related to geothermal reservoirs. Such results are of high importance for geothermal development and are applicable to also other seismic regions than Iceland where the fluid balance is affected by human activities or natural processes. The cooperation within the KAPPA Programme is a result of long-term previous cooperation with the Icelandic Meteorological Office and further networking. The consortium currently operates 15 measuring stations together in Iceland. The project implementation is divided into 8 work packages. Apart from the WP1: Project management, the Icelandic partner ÍSOR is involved in all work packages. ÍSOR is leading two of the initial work packages focused mostly on data acquisition and data processing (WP2: Data acquisition and data archiving; WP3: Automatic data processing: detection and location of earthquakes). The Project Promoter then follows these work packages with two analyses (WP4: Seismic activity: Time and space analysis; WP5: Earthquake source mechanisms and stress analysis). Following modelling is led by Czech partners (WP6: Upper crustal seismic models; WP7: Ground motion model: Input for hazard assessment) and final interpretation is led again by ÍSOR (WP8: Multidisciplinary interpretation). The communication within the consortium is well established, the consortium also met personally at the 1st Annual Meeting in Reykjavík.

An example of bilateral cooperation with Norway is project No. TO01000311 titled “inherently Flexible Aerogels for energy efficient structures (i-FACES)” in which the Project Promoter the Technical University of Liberec, Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technologies and Innovation cooperates besides Czech project partner POLPUR, spol. s r.o. with a Norwegian project partner SINTEF AS. The project will produce a component “inherently flexible aerogels” based on classes of polyolefins and polyvinyls with inherent mechanical flexibility at the ambient thermal conditions. The project implementation is divided into 5 work packages, where, apart from the project management and long-term sustainability led by the Project Promoter, the work packages are divided between the Project Promoter and the Norwegian partner SINTEF AS. Specifically, SINTEF AS leads the

WP1 of synthesis, simultaneously the Project Promoter leads the WP2 of functionalization. Based on the results of these two work packages SINTEF AS continues with leading the WP3 of characterisation and the Project Promoter finishes with the WP4 of modelling. Communication within the consortium is intense, mostly via regular and ad-hoc coordination meetings within the work packages. Collaboration between partners is developing well, expected synergies should lead to successful dissemination and application of project outputs.

The Donor Programme Partner – Research Council Norway (RCN) – is actively involved in the works on Programme implementation, in particular regarding financial flows, exchange rate differences and the anticipated reporting/accounting and documentation burden on Norwegian partners. The RCN provided valuable advice regarding other research programmes in beneficiary states and harmonization with standards of EU Horizon 2020. RCN also participates in documentation updates, providing advice to beneficiaries and in Programme Committee meetings.

The KAPPA team has regular meetings with RCN representatives (weekly) and FMO (monthly) to discuss all necessary information, news etc.

TA CR participated in the meeting of research programme operators organised by the Research Council of Norway in Oslo on 7-9 December 2021. The meeting was focused on sharing good practices and lessons learned and on brainstorming new ideas for bilateral cooperation.

On 21 September 2021, the 4th Programme Committee meeting took place. During the meeting, the programme status and strategy was discussed, as well as topics like a lesson learned, a new role of the KAPPA Consultant, project changes, planned seminars for beneficiaries, update of the Implementation Guide, Open Access and Data Management Plan etc.

### 3. Implementation

#### Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

Not applicable

## C. LEARNING

### 1. Monitorings carried out

Regular monitoring of projects via monitoring reports is duly provided through checks of submitted interim reports in the ISTA system on annual basis (deadline by 30 January). Besides, necessary project amendments are negotiated, assessed and approved ad hoc, whenever necessary (9 modifications in projects proceeded during 2021).

The PO shall make at least one monitoring visit or public administration control for each project during the project implementation and in 2021, the PO started with the monitoring

visits on spot. The financial controls on spot (public administration control) will be held from 2022.

In the year 2021, 14 on-site monitoring visits took place. The monitoring visits in 2021 were scheduled for those projects that started in 2020; have planned results already in 2021 and 2022; and/or received the grant that extended 35 mils CZK. For one of the projects, the monitoring visit took place due to a notified significant change of the Project Promoter (due to a fire accident at the project implementation site).

The monitoring team consisted of the TA CR Project Officer, KAPPA Consultant, Rapporteur, PR specialist and the Head of the EEA and Norway Grants Department. In all cases at least two of the above-mentioned persons attended the monitoring visit.

During the monitoring visit, the following topics were discussed:

- project schedule with the distribution of the activities between the project partners
- risk analysis related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other threats that might have delayed the achievement of the results
- communication within the consortium
- intellectual property rights
- open access
- project publicity (such as websites, promotional materials etc.)

The monitoring visit also served as a consultation for the Project Promoter to discuss other issues and questions related to the project implementation. Some of the beneficiaries also showed the worksites, laboratories, equipment etc. during the monitoring visit. Where possible, the PR specialist made photo documentation or recorded a short interview with the Principal Investigator.

From the conclusions of the monitoring visits, there was no need to apply any remedial measures. Project activities are slightly delayed but beneficiaries expect to complete all activities in time.

## 2. Evaluations carried out

Not applicable with respect to the early stage of project implementation, no evaluations have been provided yet.

## 3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation

### Partnership Agreements

TA CR checked the Partnership Agreements prior to its official submission to identify and prevent future failures to comply with the mandatory content of the Partnership Agreement

and eliminated risks associated with the check of the Partnership Agreement (PA) as much as possible. This made the checking of the officially submitted PAs very fast and did not block the conclusion of the Project Contract.

#### Project Partner's Acceptance of the Project Contract

This document was mandatory to be submitted in 45 days after the Project Contract conclusion. Problems occurred with the requirement of an original/electronic signature by a statutory representative or an authorized person of foreign beneficiaries, and in combination with complications caused by COVID-19, the submission of requested documents was extended. In the future TA CR would like to reduce the administrative (and financial) burden on beneficiaries.

#### Open Access and Data Management Plans

TA CR checked the Data Management Plans prior to its official submission, prepared a webinar for the beneficiaries and created a dedicated webpage. Beneficiaries appreciated the information in one place with relevant links and submitted the Data Management Plans at a sufficient level.

#### Consultations

A new role of the KAPPA consultant was established for the projects within the KAPPA Programme, in order to maintain closer cooperation with beneficiaries beyond the regular administrative matters. The consultants are members of the EEA and Norway Grants Dept.

This new role has been established to provide additional support in the specific aspects of the KAPPA Programme and set conditions for clear communication with TA CR and among the consortium and ensure smooth implementation of the project. The consultant organises a meeting with beneficiaries semiannually and writes a status report on the project implementation. The consultant works closely with the project officer and the rapporteur and participates as an observer during the monitoring visit, the interim or final evaluation. The consultant also provides all the possible support in the meantime. Beneficiaries can invite the consultant to observe Steering Committee meetings when possible.

The first round of meetings took place in June 2021 and status reports were finalised in July. The second round was initiated per rollam in December 2021 and will be finalised by end of January 2022.

During consultations the following topics are discussed:

- Status of the project implementation as well as whether COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation process
- Results achievement and possible additional results or postponement of results
- Data Management Plan



- Open Access principles
- Intellectual Property Rights and licences
- Publicity Rules
- Risk analysis
- Communication within consortium
- Project changes

#### Feedbacks

The PO asks beneficiaries about the satisfaction and usefulness of each seminar/webinar and although the events are rated as useful, the response rate received is only 50% of participants. The PO has found that beneficiaries do not complete the questionnaires unless they have to and it is advisable to plan the distribution of the questionnaires at the beginning of the year so that the questionnaires are distributed appropriately throughout the year.

#### Monitoring visits

Personal meetings are preferable instead of the online form. Even in the current situation with Covid-19, a face-to-face meeting was possible in compliance with all required anti-pandemic measures. The on-site visits are very useful for establishing closer contact and understanding of the subject matter so that the KAPPA team can better understand the project and respond more appropriately to their concerns.

#### Role of Programme Committee

The Guideline for the Research programmes does not describe the role of the Programme Committee sufficiently during the project implementation, especially in the interim or final evaluation where it is not clear to what extent members should be involved in such evaluations. The PO could specify these requirements in the Rules of Procedures, but if the Programme Committee is to play a primarily strategic role, then the PO cannot make this activity mandatory for PC members, particularly given the time involved (preparation for each project meeting, a lot of documents to be studied, the individual meetings for each project).

#### Covid-19 impacts

The majority of meetings and seminars for beneficiaries was handled in an online form. The contracting phase was prolonged due to the COVID-19 situation. Other effects on the Programme have not occurred, the PO employees used the home-office practice with no technical, communication or connection errors.

## D. ANNEXES

### 1. Updated achievements in the results framework

- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

## Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Czech research and development internationally								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of new products/technologies developed</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	4	40	Projects are in implementation; the target of the result is expected to be raised each year and finally achieved at the end of the project's implementation.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>CCS</i>								
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
<b>Number of jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	20	Projects are in implementation; the target of the result is expected to be raised each year and finally achieved at the end of the projects implementation.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>CCS</i>								
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Applicant type</i>								
<i>Research organisation</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Company (incl. SME)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of joint, peer-reviewed, scientific publications submitted</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	18	20	The target is almost achieved and each year, the number will rise and the Programme will exceed the target before the end of the projects. The PO did not expect such an interest in open access from beneficiaries who do not have so much experience with it. Therefore, the PO has focused on knowledge transfer in open access and beneficiaries are reporting open access results even beyond what was originally planned.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
<i>CCS</i>								
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Research discipline</i>								
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								

<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
<b>Output 1.1: Production of new research facilitated</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of research organisations supported</b>	Cumulative number	0	44 (IFR 2021)	-	-	44	40	The reported number is given by a unique ID number, there are a total of 80 participations. The higher number than the target is since the funded projects consist of large consortia.
<i>CCS</i>								
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of CCS projects with support for a pre-commercial phase</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	2	5	The target was not achieved due to a total of 2 projects are funded according to the total Programme allocation for CCS projects.
<b>Number of researchers supported</b>	Cumulative number	0	280 (IFR 2021)	-	-	251	240	The target has been achieved yet, there are more researchers and organisations involved in the projects than

									expected. It is lower than in IFR 2021 due to the: previously the PO reported data from project proposals - from the expected plan for all years of implementation, now the PO reports the actual data from the interim reports for 2021. It is assumed that some more researchers will become involved during the project implementation and the value will increase towards the reported plan.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>									
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	132	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-
<i>CCS</i>									
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	234	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>									
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	183	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>									
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	194	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
<i>Type of graduate degree</i>									
<i>PhD</i>	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-
<i>Postdoc</i>	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	208	-	-	-
<b>Output 1.2: Enterprises supported to develop innovative use of research results</b>									

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of SMEs supported</b>	Cumulative number	0	16 (IFR 2021)	-	-	16	40	The reported number is given by a unique ID number. However, no SME has appeared twice in the projects. The target was not achieved because in the consortia, there are mainly research organisations and because only 25 projects were funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
<b>Number of large companies supported</b>	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2021)	-	-	4	2	The reported number is given by a unique ID number, there are a total of 5 participations. One large company is in two projects. The higher number than the target is since the funded projects are larger companies than expected.
<b>Number of partnership projects between SMEs and research organizations established</b>	Cumulative number	0	16 (IFR 2021)	-	-	16	30	The target was not achieved because in the project consortia, there are mainly research organisations and because only 25 projects were funded. Cooperation in projects is as follows: small enterprise + research organisation: 11 times; medium enterprise + research

								organisation: 3 times; small enterprise + large company + research organisation: 2 times; research organisation + large company: 2 times; research organisation only: 7 times
<b>Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.50, ≥4.5 and an increase on the baseline	Monitoring of the fulfilment of this indicator is not to be ensured by the PO.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Level of satisfaction with the partnership</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.50, ≥4.5 and an increase on the baseline	Monitoring of the fulfilment of this indicator is not to be ensured by the PO.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %	Monitoring of the fulfilment of this indicator is not to be ensured by the PO.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of joint applications for further funding</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	5	Projects are in implementation, the target of the result is expected to be raised each year and finally achieved at the end of the projects implementation.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Funding source (applied for)</i>								
<i>International source (non-EU)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>EU source</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>National source</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Knowledge transferred between Donor States entities and CZ entities</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of capacity building events between DS and CZ entities</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	3	80	Projects are in implementation; the target of the result is expected to be raised each year and finally achieved at the end of the projects implementation.
<i>CCS</i>								
<i>CCS</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Cumulative number	0	25 (IFR 2021)	-	-	25	40	The target was not achieved due to a total of 25 projects are funded according to the total Programme allocation for grants. In each funded project, the CZ & Donor cooperation is mandatory.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

### 1. Best practice examples

The project “CO2 Spicer - CO2 Storage Pilot in a Carbonate Reservoir” is focused on CCS (CO2 Capture and Storage). The Czech project partners made an excellent [website dedicated to the project](#) and they update it regularly. They created a project information leaflet with all required information about the financial support. You can find the leaflet [here](#).

The project “MIT-AD The Czech-Norwegian joint project focused on discovering specific mitophagy biomarkers across Alzheimer’s Disease continuum” uses all required rules in their [website dedicated to the project](#). They update the website regularly, they publish photos from meetings and they use acknowledgement of the project.

An [online interview with Lenka Weingartová](#) who is the principal investigator in the supported project “NORDTRANS - Technology for automatic speech transcription in selected Nordic languages”. The interview was a part of a series of online interviews in cooperation with the Meltingpot Forum and other Czech programmes supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.

### 2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

Due to the lasting pandemic, the project partners did not have many chances to meet in person so most events took place online. The supported project “NASPMON - Natural Seismicity as a Prospecting and Monitoring tool for geothermal energy extraction” created a [profile on Twitter](#) dedicated to the project and cooperation with the project partner from Iceland. They share information about the project and photos from the first annual meeting in Iceland.

### 3. The programme in a nutshell

<p><b>What is the added value of this programme?</b></p>	<p>The objective of the Programme is to enhance research international collaboration in abased knowledge development through applied research and innovation. Applied research includes industrial research, experimental development, or a combination thereof. The Programme shall support capacity building in applied research, including supporting the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social sciences, humanities and arts research, and careers of female researchers and early-stage researchers.</p>
<p><b>Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.</b></p>	<p><b>Quote 1</b></p> <p>International cooperation is very important for us. International cooperation in the field of research is very small in the Czech Republic. EEA and Norway Grants and other programmes that support international cooperation, which we administrate, are very important for getting new partners abroad. As Norway is a very innovative and</p>

	executive Scandinavian country, I think it is a small jackpot for all beneficiaries who gain financial support within the KAPPA Programme. We see the programme as a large and ambitious entrance in the international programmes financed by the European Commission and Horizon Europe.	
	<b>Author</b>	<b>Name</b>
		Martin Bunček
		<b>Title</b>
		Managing director of TA CR
	<b>Quote 2</b>	
	-	
	<b>Author</b>	<b>Name</b>
		-
		<b>Title</b>
		-

#### 4. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

The PO published 16 social media posts about the programme, 5 website articles, placed the information about the programme in 5 newsletters, organized 3 events and published 2 articles in the PO printed magazine.

The PO joined with National Focal Point and other entities and organized an online event in cooperation with Meltingpot Forum. The aim of this online event was to increase awareness of the KAPPA Programme and EEA and Norway Grants and to promote the supported projects. The online interview with the Principal investigator of the supported project was broadcast live on 26th May.

The PO organized the seminar on publicity rules and communication on 15th October 2021. The event was intended for the Czech beneficiaries of the KAPPA Programme and approximately 35 people (the beneficiaries and representatives of National Focal Point) attended. The seminar described how to use publicity rules in practice, how to understand all graphic design requirements, and it was the first chance to meet with the beneficiaries in person. The PO sent presentations from the seminar both in English language and Czech to all beneficiaries, made a video recording of the seminar and added English subtitles for foreign project partners.

#### 5. Media coverage

##### Example 1

Coverage	Type	Local
<b>Description</b>	The PO published 2 issues of the printed magazine TA.Di and promoted the programme and Grants in both.	
	In issue No. 12, TA CR published an infographic about the KAPPA Programme and its supported projects (page 5).	

	In issue No. 13, here is an article about open access and open data in this issue. The KAPPA Programme is a part of this text because it determines the direction of development policy in Open Access at TA CR.
<b>Relevant links</b>	<a href="https://www.tacr.cz/wp-content/uploads/documents/2021/06/07/1623048618_TADI_12.pdf">https://www.tacr.cz/wp-content/uploads/documents/2021/06/07/1623048618_TADI_12.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.tacr.cz/wp-content/uploads/documents/2021/11/22/1637594727_TADI_13.pdf">https://www.tacr.cz/wp-content/uploads/documents/2021/11/22/1637594727_TADI_13.pdf</a>

### Example 2

<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Type</b>	National
<b>Description</b>	The press release about the supported projects in the KAPPA Programme.	
<b>Relevant links</b>	<a href="https://vedavyzkum.cz/z-domova/technologicka-agentura-cr/cesko-norsky-pilotni-projekt-ukladani-co2-pod-zem-pomuze-s-bojem-proti-klimaticke-zmene">https://vedavyzkum.cz/z-domova/technologicka-agentura-cr/cesko-norsky-pilotni-projekt-ukladani-co2-pod-zem-pomuze-s-bojem-proti-klimaticke-zmene</a> <a href="https://www.businessinfo.cz/clanky/cesko-norsky-pilotni-projekt-ukladani-co2-pod-zem-pomuze-s-bojem-proti-klimaticke-zmene/">https://www.businessinfo.cz/clanky/cesko-norsky-pilotni-projekt-ukladani-co2-pod-zem-pomuze-s-bojem-proti-klimaticke-zmene/</a> <a href="https://budejcka.drbna.cz/zpravy/spolecnost/32624-vedci-z-ceska-a-norska-zkoumaji-viry-ktere-skodi-jahodam-a-malinam.html">https://budejcka.drbna.cz/zpravy/spolecnost/32624-vedci-z-ceska-a-norska-zkoumaji-viry-ktere-skodi-jahodam-a-malinam.html</a>	

## 6. Website and social media

### 6.a. Links to the programme website and social media accounts

Link to programme website					
<a href="https://www.tacr.cz/en/kappa-programme/">https://www.tacr.cz/en/kappa-programme/</a>					
Total number of page views in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)	Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)		
2581	13707	2067	10194		
Specific link or handle for the account	Posts published in the reporting year	Total likes in the reporting year	Total comments in the reporting year	Total shares/Retweets etc. in the reporting year	Followers gained since programme launch
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tacr.cz/">https://www.facebook.com/tacr.cz/</a>				
	5	219	23	31	500
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/TACR_cz">https://twitter.com/TACR_cz</a>				
	4	19	0	6	800
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/tacr_official/">https://www.instagram.com/tacr_official/</a>				

	2	16	0	0	400
LinkedIn	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/tacr/mycompany/?viewAsMember=true">https://www.linkedin.com/company/tacr/mycompany/?viewAsMember=true</a>				
	3	30	0	0	500
Other	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/Technologick%C3%A1agentura%C4%8CRPraha">https://www.youtube.com/c/Technologick%C3%A1agentura%C4%8CRPraha</a>				
	2	1	0	0	50

### 6.b. Results of website and social media activities

The PO published 5 articles on the website in 2021 in both English and Czech. The number of website viewers is not as high as last year because the Programme is in the implementation phase. The PO publishes all news and important information that can be public.

The PO uploaded 2 videos on the TA CR YouTube channel and it has approximately 185 viewers. The video interview with Lenka Weingartová within the Meltingpot Forum is placed on the Meltingpot YouTube channel and it has approximately 360 views.

The KAPPA Programme does not have its own social media, TA CR social media are used for communication about the Programme. We created a campaign to promote an online interview with Lenka Weingartova within the Meltingpot Forum which contained social media posts about the upcoming event. A very successful part of the campaign was a quiz about the interview's topic on Instagram stories.

## 7. Visuals

- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/16665/KAPPA%20Programme%20-%20Seminar%20on%20Publicity%20rules%20and%20communication%202021?returnTo=%2F&breadcrumbType=menu>

The photo from the seminar on publicity rules and communication took place on 15th October 2021.

- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/14552/KAPPA%20Programme:%20Opening%20conference%20and%20Matchmaking%20?returnTo=%2F%3Ffreetext%3DKAPPA&breadcrumbType=menu>

The PO arranged the Opening Conference and Matchmaking on 25 and 26 November 2019 to connect project partners within the Call for Proposals of the KAPPA Programme. KAPPA Programme financed by the EEA and Norway Grants is focused on supporting applied research and strengthening international cooperation. A total of 90 representatives of enterprises and research organizations from Czechia, Norway and Iceland attended the event.

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Czech research and development internationally</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	25	19	€ 32,468,447	99.83 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>€ 32,468,447</b>	<b>99.83 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>€ 32,468,447</b>	<b>99.83 %</b>

## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
The insufficient potential of practical use of the research project results	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Administrative support for the beneficiaries during the projects and monitoring.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO carefully monitors the matter also through consultations in order to provide researchers with advice /assistance, using also support from standard databases (e.g. partnerships from the TAFTIE network).				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Focusing on the information from the project interim reports and keep organising consultations about actual topics and using standard databases.				
Time risk – insufficient time-space for completion of demanding research tasks and indicators	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Keeping the scheduled timing of implementation of the Programme and of projects (implementation period, practical use of results); attention paid to these factors in the assessment of interim results and deliverables, close monitoring, and operative solution of any signs of problems during implementation.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries focus also on the possible delays (also due to the pandemic situation), close monitoring also via monitoring visits, operative solution of any signs of problems during implementation.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries that focus also on the possible delays (also due to the pandemic situation), close monitoring also via monitoring visits, operative solution of any signs of problems during implementation.				



Fulfilment of indicator "Number of SMEs supported" and "Number of partnership projects between SMEs and research organizations established"	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	No further responses to the risk shall be applied as projects are already selected but will be contracted in the upcoming year.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	All selected projects were contracted till 16 March 2021. The status of reaching the respective indicators is final – i.e. the target values were not achieved from objective reasons: support of only 25 projects has fit into the allocation instead of the presumed 40, and involvement of research institutions in the role of promoters/partners was more intensive than the SMEs. – Further monitoring of the risk is no longer relevant.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	N/A				
<b>Operational risks</b>						
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Risk related to</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	<b>Response type</b>	<b>Validity</b>
Insufficient communication between Czech promoters and donor state partners	Both objectives	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Close cooperation with the DPP and NFP to prevent misunderstandings and resolve difficulties, if relevant. TA CR will pay special attention to communication between beneficiaries and increase administrative support for projects, contact project promoters and partners in order to coordinate and solve early any problems during the Programme and projects implementation.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on the communication between beneficiaries and project partners, close cooperation with the DPP and NFP. The newly established KAPPA consultants are ready for resolving problems.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on the communication between beneficiaries and project partners, close cooperation with the DPP and NFP. The KAPPA consultants are ready for resolving problems.				

Difficulties at donor state partners with administrative procedures applied within the Programme	Both objectives	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Lessons learned from FM2, the implementation is observed and recuperated regarding simplification of the administrative burden of beneficiaries, especially as it concerns donor partners. All documents are in English. Czech promoters are enforced to include all necessary obligations of partners in the partnership agreements and via close collaboration and continuous involvement of the partners into project management/reporting. Frequent communication with DPP, NFP and FMO, is foreseen, if relevant.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on the communication between beneficiaries and project partners, close cooperation with the DPP and NFP and FMO if relevant. The newly established KAPPA consultants are ready for resolving problems.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on the communication between beneficiaries and project partners, close cooperation with the DPP and NFP and FMO if relevant. The KAPPA consultants are ready for resolving problems.				
Lack of personal capacity to administer and manage the Programme / projects	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The PO management team is sufficiently staffed, composed of skilled and experienced staff members. Administrative tasks are designed with respect to proper assignment and clear division of roles. During the implementation, proper motivation to reduce staff fluctuation shall be applied. Management capacity in projects shall be kept under PO attention starting with project applications where profound management structures, staffing and processes shall be described/assessed and then kept during implementation.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO management team is sufficiently staffed, composed of skilled and experienced staff members. Proper motivation to reduce staff fluctuation.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The PO management team is sufficiently staffed, composed of skilled and experienced staff members. Proper motivation to reduce staff fluctuation.				

Financial problems at promoters/partners due to obligatory co-financing, especially in case of lower grant rates (granted to private subjects, e.g.)	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	2	1.41	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The procedure of financial flows according to programme rules and in accordance with project contracts/partnership agreements shall be kept in the focus of monitoring and reporting. Programme arrangements were set favourably in order to support beneficiaries with advance payments which will be applied immediately after contracting. The issue of potential financial problems will be mitigated/resolved, if relevant. In the implementation, it will be sorted out with precise monitoring time schedules.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The financial flows were set and negotiated in relation to contracting the projects. Clear procedures were approved between PO and beneficiaries as well as between Project Promoters and their project partners before contract signatures. The budget breakdowns and payment schedules are part of each Project Contract. Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on any risks and potential financial issues, close monitoring (monitoring visits and the financial controls on spot).				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Keeping the set procedures and financial plans. Consultations with beneficiaries focused also on any risks and potential financial issues, close monitoring (monitoring visits and the financial controls on spot).				
Lack of the available budget of the PO institution for the grant for beneficiaries	Both objectives	3	3	3.00	Accept	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Until there is a provisional state budget (currently presumed till March 2022), the PO cannot provide payments to beneficiaries. Communicating with the new Minister for Science and Research, with the Research and Development Council and monitoring the meetings of the Czech government, which decides and approves the state budget for each year. As soon as the state budget is approved, the PO will immediately pay the funding to the beneficiaries.				
<b>Overall risk of the programme</b>						
		<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>		
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		2	3	2.45		

## **Annex 5: Monitoring plan**

*Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.*

## **Annex 6: Evaluation report**

*Not Available*

## Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that pursuant to Article 1.5.2 of the Regulation that the Programme Operator shall ensure that any additional provisions to the implementation of the Programme shall be kept to a minimum, and to this end the Donor Programme Partner shall be closely involved in and effectively contribute to the development of the project contract and any other document(s) relevant to the implementation of the programme, especially those affecting the relation of the project promoter and partner(s).</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The Donor Programme Partner, the agency Research Council of Norway, is closely involved in all aspects of the implementation of the programme, especially the Project Contract matters (e.g. Project Contract at itself, webinar for beneficiaries, communication with donor project partners, eligibility check during the selection process and during the negotiating phase In the phase of projects implementation, the Donor Programme Partner contributes to smooth implementation in partnerships and to adequate administrative management relevant to Donor project partners practice.</p>
<p>2. Approximately 30% of the total eligible expenditure of the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms shall be allocated to support carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>Two contracted projects are focused on carbon capture and storage, in total 27% from the Norway Grants.</p>