



# Closing Conference to the Programme CZ 02: Cooperation within the Programme from the perspective of the Donor Programme Partner

**Praha, March 28th, 2017**

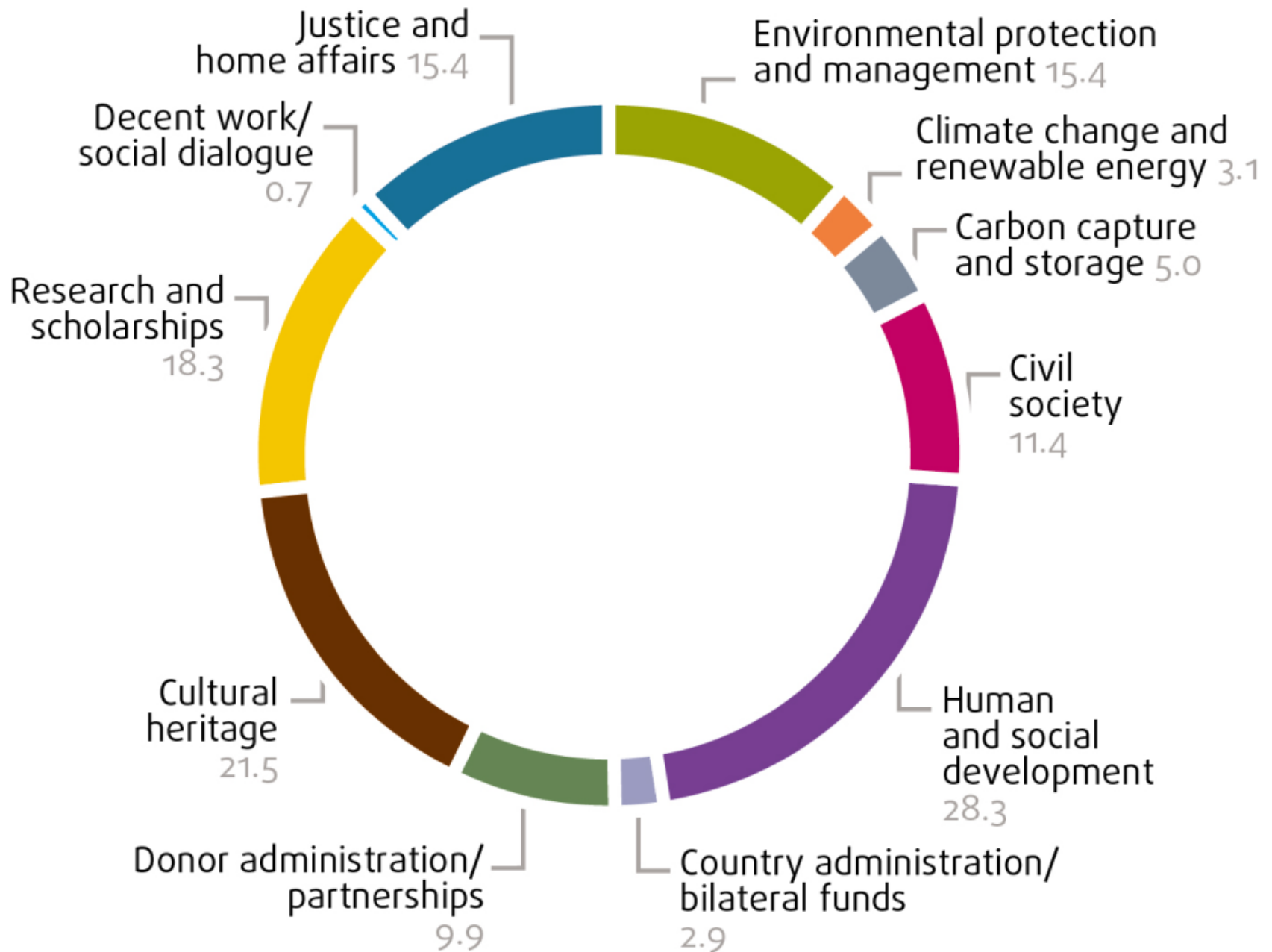
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# The CZ 02 Programme 2009-14:

Biodiversity and ecosystem services & Environmental monitoring and integrated planning control & Adaptation to climate change.

- Objectives:
  - - Halt loss of biodiversity
  - - Improved compliance with environmental legislation
  - - Reduced human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change
- Programme Operator: Ministry of Finance
- Donor Programme Partner: Norwegian Environmental Agency
- CZ 02 Programme approved April 22nd, 2013
- Programme Agreement between FMC and Min. of Finance finally signed February 5th, 2014
- Total grant amount: € 18.42 mill.

# DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (gross allocations)



# The CZ 02 Programme 2009-14:

- **The Programme covers three programme areas:**

- - PA 02: Biodiversity and ecosystem services: 11.0 mill. €  
22 open call projects + one pre-defined project
- - PA 03: Environmental monitoring and integrated planning control: 2.7 mill €. Five open call projects
- - PA 07: Adaptation to climate change: 2.7 mill €. Eight open call projects

- **Pre-defined project:**

- Protection and sustainable use of wetlands in the Czech Republic (under PA 02). Partner: NEA

- **Small Grants Scheme:**

- Improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation; Action plans for 13 selected, endangered species: 47 small projects (only one has been cancelled); 2.0 mill. €

# What are the roles of a DPP?

- 1. To promote a professional cooperation between public authorities
- 2. Aims to be of mutual benefit to the cooperating partners
  - - In the development phase of a programme: To act as a partner and an adviser to the PO on objectives, strategies, outcomes, target groups, indicators, risks and communication issues
  - - In the implementation phase: To act as an adviser for finding relevant donor partners, facilitate networking, review the progress of the programme, advise on the use and management of bilateral funds
  - - Take part in meetings of the Selection Committee in an advisory capacity, particularly to assess potential donor project partners
  - - Facilitate study tours for the PO or other collaborating entities, and to organise relevant seminars
  - - To provide a platform for increased cooperation between the donor and the beneficiary states, and to increase awareness and understanding to relevant policy makers



# Challenges encountered during the 2009-14 EEA grant period in the Czech Republic, I

- - Slow start and initial planning of the MoU and the Programme Agreements
- - Not always comparable or consistent bureaucracies between FMO/FMC and the beneficiary country
- - The final signing of the Programme Agreement was made on February 2nd, 2014, just before the EEA grants' period was originally designed to end (2009-14)
- - Many of the open call project applications were designed to last for more than the two years available at the time of signing of the PA
- - Late decision by the FMO to allow for an extension of the eligible period from April 30th, 2016 to April 30th, 2017

# Challenges encountered during the 2009-14 EEA grant period in the Czech Republic, II

- - The contacts between the Ministry of Finance (PO) and the Ministry of Environment (project partner in the PDP and PO for the SGS, as well as giving professional inputs to the open call applications) have been adequate seen from the DPP's perspective. Room for improvements?
- - Delays in the approval of progress reports, delays in disbursements to some projects/project partners
- - Some projects may be too much concentrating on basic research instead of meeting objectives of giving inputs to management practice



# Positive experiences encountered during the 2009-14 EEA grant period in the Czech Republic, I

- - To have the Ministry of Finance as Programme Operator has worked well seen from our perspective
- - A rather well-functioning bureaucracy in the Czech Republic, again seen from the DPP's side:
- - Timely checking on the progress in project implementation, including good plans for project visits, control of proper use of resources, verification of expenses, risk analyses, and updated reimbursement overviews per project
- - As a result of good administration with a dedicated staff in the Ministry of Finance, very few formal irregularities in the CZ 02 have been encountered

# Positive experiences encountered during the 2009-14 EEA grant period in the Czech Republic, II

- - Good planning for CC meetings, including interesting visits to selected projects
- - Good plans for publicity; - publications, films, contacts with media, good EEA website
- - Good experiences with the predefined project: Saving planning time and avoiding lengthy open call procedures
- - Tangible results partly resulting from the programme activities: E.g. the Czech Republic is preparing an Action Plan based on their report on Climate change
- - Realistic and well-planned use of bilateral funds, including the complementary action fund

# Glimpses from the bilateral CC activities:



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# General recommendations for the coming EEA grants' period, 2014-21

- - Overall MoU should preferably be rather general
- - Fewer single projects in a programme than today, or small, single projects in Small Grants Scheme
- - Many good arguments to propose more predefined projects. Good experience from NEA's side being a partner in the predefined wetlands project
- - Ongoing, successful projects in the current EEA period might be considered continued/ broadened/extended in the coming period
- - As long as professional staff from relevant ministries/directorates are adequately involved in the working out of programmes and project evaluation, the model of having Min. of Finance as PO has worked well
- - All project proponents should be challenged to seek relevant partners in the three EEA donor countries
- - All project proponents should be challenged to think about publicity and relevant public information

**Děkuji za pozornost!**