19.02.2024

**Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the second payment request submitted by Czechia on 6 December 2023, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission**

**Executive summary**

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 6 December 2023, Czechia submitted a request for payment for the second and third instalments of the non-repayable support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support this payment request, Czechia provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of 14 milestones and 14 targets of the second and third instalments of the non-repayable support as set out in Section 2.1.2. and Section 2.1.3 of the Council Implementing Decision of 16 October 2023 amending the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Czechia\(^1\).

For two targets covering a large number of beneficiaries, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Czechia, Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60 which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Czechia has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Czechia’s Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, reforms aimed at speeding up the digitalisation of public administration by enhancing public services available to citizens and businesses, setting up digitalisation competence centres, supporting the development of electronic communication networks, and making transport greener through the adoption of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans in large cities. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to strengthening sustainability in different policy areas, for instance, through new and enhanced railway projects, by planting climate-resilient trees, through support for circular economy and increased flood protection. Other investments promote cooperation between private companies and public research organisations, digitalisation, the strengthening of cybersecurity, and the increase of accessibility of open data.

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\(^1\) ST 11047/21; ST 11047/21 ADD 1; ST 11047/21 COR 1 as amended by ST 13383/23; ST 13383/23 ADD 1, not yet published.
By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.
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Non-repayable support

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<th>Number: 12</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.1]-I[2]-T[12]: Development of open data and public data fund</th>
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</table>

Name of the Target: Increase in the number of open data producers in the public administration publishing open data in the National Open Data Catalogue

**Quantitative Indicator:** Number of new public entities  
**Baseline:** 23  
**Target:** 100  
**Time:** Q4 2022

**Context:**

The measure aims to improve the quality of the National Open Data Catalogue (NDOC). It focuses on publishing code lists used in public administration in public databases, the development of a national open data catalogue and the improvement of tools for increasing the number of open data producers in the public administration publishing open data in the NDOC.

Target 12 requires the increase of 77 new entities publishing open data in the public administration.

Target 12 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by target 245, related to increasing the number of new or improved open data sets published in the NDOC. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);

ii. Annex 1 – link to the official data dashboard on a website of the NDOC which shows the number of providers monitored, as contained in the summary document  
   https://oha01.dia.gov.cz/kibana/app/dashboards#/view/43389e30-3335-11ec-aeb4-71177d02ba9a?_g=(filters:());

iii. Annex 2 – a table containing the list of 77 municipalities and their websites that are new providers of open data in the NDOC (the list is not dated).

The authorities also provided:

iv. Annex 3 – A copy of the Annual report of the State of Open Data in the Czech Republic 2021 published by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic;

v. Annex 4 – A copy of the Annual report of the State of Open Data in the Czech Republic 2022 published by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic;

vi. Annex 5 – A copy of the Act No. 261/2021 Coll. of 1 June 2021, amending certain acts in relation to electrification of processes in the public administration. In line with the national law, this Act was published in the Official Journal and entered into force on 9 July 2021. It entered into application on 25 July 2021 (see Section CLXXXIII, letter b)).

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.
The target shall lead to an increase of 77 new entities publishing open data in the public administration. Increase in the number of open data producers in the public administration publishing open data in the National Open Data Catalogue.

As evidenced under Annex 5 (see pages 24 and 25), the Act No. 261/2021 Coll. amending certain acts in relation to the electrisation of processes in the public administration also amended, among many other acts, the Act No 106/1999 Coll. on the free access to information.

It inserted a section 5a requiring entities with a statutory obligation to keep and administer publicly available information in registers to publish that information in a comprehensive manner, including through remote access and as open data (page 24 of Annex 5). In addition, under this new section 5a, subparagraph 3, State, Regional and Municipal authorities are required to publish metadata of public information in a manner that allows citizens to remotely access their official bulletin boards and the metadata of these 48 bulletin boards as open data (pages 24-25 of Annex 5).

The baseline included in the Council Implementing Decision was of 23 entities and the target was 100, requiring therefore an increase by 77 entities. As evidenced in the official annual reports of the State of Open Data in the Czech Republic (see page 13 of Annex 3, pages 20-22 of Annex 4), in December 2022, since the above requirements also apply to local governments and municipalities, the total number of new entities publishing open data increased to 277. In addition, as of 1 December 2023, the evidenced number of entities publishing open data in public administration stands at 298 (see Annex 1). Therefore, the required increase by 77 has been achieved.

As required in the Council Implementing Decision, Czechia has provided a list of names of 77 new entities and their websites which are mostly municipalities to demonstrate that 77 new entities publish open data on the NODC (Annex 2). The fact that these entities comply with the requirement is verifiable via the official data dashboard (Annex 1), from which the list of entities providing open data can be downloaded.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 15</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[1.2]-[1]-[I1]-M[15]: Development of information systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Milestone: Implementation and operation of the CzechPOINT 2.0 and the CAAIS systems</td>
<td>Qualitative Indicator: The CzechPOINT 2.0 system (in relation to citizens and officials) and the Central Authentication space of the public administration, the so called CAAIS (for officials) are operational</td>
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<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td>Milestone 15 is part of investment 1 under component 1.2, which aims at updating, improving, and connecting back-end information systems to enable the provision of new and enhanced services to citizens in areas that contribute to the improvement of their living standards such as social security, medical assessment, and passport and visa services. These projects should lead to the development or improvement of at least a total of 10 information systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Milestone 15 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by milestones 16 and 17, and targets 18 and 19, respectively related to updating information systems for passport and visa services and contracting the execution (and subsequent operation) of information system projects forming the back-end basis of their development for public administration services.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 25 January 2024);

ii. Annex 1B – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 4 June 2020 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the functionality allowing users to authenticate and authorize themselves to the CzechPOINT system via the JIP/KAAS system has been delivered, is functional, and available to end users;

iii. Annex 2B – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 26 February 2020 and 10 December 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the fourth Czech Certification Authority for users of JIP was added, is functional, and available to end users;

iv. Annex 3B – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 27 January 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new search logic created within the agenda of the Register of the Inheritance Proceedings was upgraded, is functional, and available to end users;

v. Annex 4B – A copy of the acceptance protocol (4B) of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 23 July 2021 and 10 December 2020 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality of an automatic conversion of official electronic document into a paper document was provided, is functional, and available to end users;

vi. Annex 5B – A copy of the acceptance protocol (5B) of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 15 November 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality “Statement on the use of data from the population register” was implemented, is functional, and available to end users;

vii. Annex 6B – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 10 December 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the Administration of Basic Registers was expanded to include the issuance of commercial certificates, and that the new functionality is functional and available to end users;

viii. Annex 7B – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 21 April 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the Administration of Basic Registers was expanded to include the issuance of commercial certificates, and that the new functionality is functional and available to end users;

ix. Annex 8B – Copies of the acceptance protocol (8B) of the completion of work signed by the
contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 8 December 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality for the Extract from patient vaccination records form was created, is functional and available to end users;

| x. | Annex 9C – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 4 December 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality for the ZR01 form – Extract of data from the Population Register – was created, is functional and available to end users; |
| xi. | Annex 11C – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 28 June 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality of the Digital Certificate EU COVID form was created, is functional and available to end users; |
| xii. | Annex 12C – A copy of the acceptance protocol (12C) of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 12 August 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new form for applying for the One-off child benefit was created, is functional and available to end users; |
| xiii. | Annex 13C – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 29 November 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the change and extension of the functionality of the C227 application was carried out; |
| xiv. | Il Annex 1 – Copies of the acceptance protocols (1a & 1b) of the completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 10 March 2023 and 7 August 2023 in accordance with national legislation, confirming the delivery of the CAAIS system; |
| xv. | Il Annex 2 – A copy of the roll-out contract of CAAIS (2a) signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 30 March 2023 in accordance with national legislation, and a copy of the realisation report (2b) dated 28 August 2023, confirming the implementation and availability of the CAAIS system to end-users. |

The authorities also provided:

| xvi. | Annex 1A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 15 April in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the functionality allowing users to authenticate and authorize themselves to the CzechPOINT system via the JIP/KAAS system was ordered; |
| xvii. | Annex 2A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 26 February 2020 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the that the fourth Czech Certification Authority for users of JIP was ordered; |
| xviii. | Annex 3A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 5 January 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new search logic created within the agenda of the Register of the Inheritance Proceedings was ordered; |
| xix. | Annex 4A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 23 July 2021 and 10 December 2020 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality of an automatic conversion of official electronic document into a paper document was ordered; |
| xx. | Annex 5A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 27 September 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the that the new functionality “Statement on the use of data from the population register” was ordered; |
| xxi. | Annex 5C – A copy of the statistical statement of on the use of the Statement on the use
data from the population register;

xxii. Annex 6A – A copy of the order work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 6 October 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the expansion of the Administration of Basic Registers was ordered;

xxiii. Annex 7A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 14 February 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the expansion of the Administration of Basic Registers was ordered;

xxiv. Annex 8A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic 4 October 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality for the Extract from patient vaccination records form was ordered;

xxv. Annex 9A – A copy of the order signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 18 June 2019 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality for the ZR01 form – Extract of data from the Population Register was ordered;

xxvi. Annex 9B – A copy of the handover protocol signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 2 December 2020 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality for the ZR01 form – Extract of data from the Population Register was handed over;

xxvii. Annex 10 – Detailed descriptions of the new CzechPOINT services (11 functionalities);

xxviii. Annex 11A– A copy of the amended contract signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 21 March 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality of the Digital Certificate EU COVID form was ordered;

xxix. Annex 11B – A copy of the handover protocol signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 24 June 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new functionality of the Digital Certificate EU COVID form was handed over;


xxxi. Annex 12A – A copy of the contract signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 30 June 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new form for applying for the One-off child benefit was ordered;

xxxii. Annex 12B – A copy of the handover protocol signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 11 August 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the new form for applying for the One-off child benefit was handed over;

xxxiii. Annex 12D – A copy of the functionality handbook for using the functionality for applying for the One-off child benefit;

xxxiv. Annex 12E – A copy of the statistical statement on the use of the One-off child benefit form;

xxxv. Annex 13A – A copy of the contract signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 23 November 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the change and extension of the functionality of the C227 application was ordered;

xxxvi. Annex 13B – A copy of the project specifications by the contractor and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 28 October 2022 in accordance with national legislation for the change and extension of the functionality of the C227 application;

xxvii. Annex 14 – Web pages (14a & 14b) demonstrating the functionality of the One-off child allowance form as well as the functionality’s usage statistics from the year of implementation (14c);

xxviii. Annex 15 – Copy of the source of the publicity of funding of CzechPOINT 2.0.;

xxix. Annex 16 – Announcement of CzechPOINT 2.0 as RRF project;

xl. Annex 17 – Project completion checklist certifying an on-site inspection of the CzechPOINT 2.0. system signed by a representative of the European Commission;
The milestone shall implement the CzechPOINT 2.0 system.

The Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic has rolled out CzechPOINT 2.0 introducing new functionalities for end-users, including citizens and businesses, via the CzechPOINT contact points. These functionalities include a transfer of registration forms for registries, courts and reporting offices from CzechPOINT to the new CzechPOINT 2.0 (Annex 1A, page 2; Annex 13C, page 1), affecting several thousand public administration entities. These entities shall be provided with the necessary support in order to prevent disrupting the provision of state administration services.

The CzechPOINT 2.0 shall provide the public with the range of assisted services, extracts from public administration information systems.

As specified in the verification mechanism, the submitted orders and acceptance protocols prove that, as part of CzechPOINT 2.0, additional functionalities that constitute assisted services and access to extracts from public administration information systems were delivered during the period between April 2020 and March 2022:

- Authentication of users via the Unified identification space / Catalogue of authentication and authorization services systems (Annex 1A).
- The addition of a fourth Czech Certification Authority for users of the Unified identification space (so called JIP) system (Annex 2A).
- A new search logic within the agenda of the Register of Inheritance Proceedings used by notaries (Annex 3A).
- Automated conversion of paper documents into electronic documents, and vice versa, enabling verification of the validity of an “electronic seal certificate” (Annexes 4A and 8A).
- A functionality which allows authorised users to issue a Statement about the use of data from the population register (Annex 5A).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.
- Expanding the services of the Administration of Basic Registries to include the issuance of commercial certificates. The certificates were implemented in the Czech POINT system so that they can be used to authenticate within the United Identification Space (Annex 6A).

These services are provided on approximately 7300 locations in Czechia and on almost 70 embassies.

**The CzechPOINT 2.0 provides the public with the possibility to submit filled forms to or communicate with the state administration.**

As specified in the verification mechanism, Czechia has included orders and acceptance protocols which prove the delivery of functionalities to CzechPOINT 2.0 that expand the possibilities for citizens to communicate with the state administration through new, digitalised official forms:

- The implementation of a new system for citizens. The back-end communication of the CzechPOINT headquarters with the Criminal Records Information System was changed so that services for external users of all services concerned are maintained (Annex 7A).
- A new digitalised form, allowing citizens to request the Digital EU COVID Certificate was created and is available to end-users in CzechPOINT contact points (Annex 11C).

A new digitalised form, enabling citizens to request a One-off child benefit is made available to end-users in the CzechPOINT contact points (Annex 12C, Annexes 14a, 14b, and 14c). The CzechPOINT 2.0 contact points thus offer new or upgraded forms, facilitating more efficient communication between the public and the authorities and offering additional services. For example, citizens can submit requests for documents and make an assisted contact to authorities such as, for example, a request for a child allowance.

**The milestone shall also include the Information system for Central Authentication (called CAAIS).**

The CAAIS provides the log services for all state employees and public end users in their capacity of entities authorised to access the particular systems. It is a system based on the previously functional Unified identification space/Catalogue of authentication and authorization services (JIP/KAAS) which had become obsolete and inadequate in view of the current security and the eGov IT strategy's requirements. Both the CAAIS and JIP/KAAS are “background” applications for end-users of eGovernment services.

As evidenced by the acceptance protocols provided by Czech authorities, CAAIS was successfully delivered to the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic in August 2022 (see II Annex 1a and 1b).

The system’s subsequent roll-out and implementation were carried out in accordance with a contract which stipulated that one of the aims of the action (“Roll out of CAAIS”) was to make the system accessible to end stations / contact points (page 4 of II Annex 2a). The successful implementation of the system is documented in the realisation report. In addition, the connection between CAAIS and agenda information systems is demonstrated by the AIS “ePetice” (electronic petition) functionality, which was implemented and is available to end users (II Annex 2b, page 7). Other functionalities will be implemented according to necessary AIS owners’ cooperation agreements.

**The milestone is considered fulfilled when both parts are implemented and available to end users.**

All new functionalities for the CzechPOINT and CAAIS systems were delivered between the end of January 2021 and the end of March 2023.
The European Commission services and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic agreed to perform an on-the-spot control of CzechPOINT 2.0. and CAAIS on 26 January 2024 in order to assess whether both systems are operational and available to end users. The Czech authorities provided the Commission services with checklists containing the list of functionalities implemented by the contractor and guided a representative from the European Commission through each of them. It was concluded that citizens can use the CzechPOINT 2.0. functionalities and the CAAIS system. Therefore, this qualitative indicator of the milestone has been fulfilled (Annex 17 & II Annex 3).

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number: 16</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.2]-I[11]-M[16]: Development of information systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong> Successful upgrade and operation of ePassport (ePasy) and EVC2 visa system</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Modification of ePasy system according to the amended Travel Documents Act and upgrade of the EVC2 visa system</td>
<td>Time: Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Context:</strong> Milestone 16 is part of investment 1 in component 1.2, which aims at updating, improving and connecting back-end information systems to enable the provision of new and enhanced services to citizens in areas that contribute to the improvement of their living standards such as social security, medical assessment, and passport and visa services. These projects shall lead to the development or improvement of at least ten information systems in total. Milestone 16 concerns the modification of the ePasy and EVC2 systems according to the amendment to the Travel Documents Act No. 329/1999 Coll. and the Entry/Exit System (EES) respectively. This is meant to help public administration services drive the digital transformation, integrate data management, improve service delivery, enhance security, promote interoperability, and facilitate data analytics. The milestone is considered fulfilled when both upgraded systems are available for testing according to the euINIS programme. Milestone 16 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 15, related to providing the public with a range of new assisted services via the systems of CzechPOINT 2.0 and CAAIS. It will be followed by milestone 17, related to a newly established integrated system for foreigners (ICAS) enabling them to manage the affairs related to their residency in Czechia. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence provided:</strong> In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. A summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. Annex 1 – A copy of the acceptance protocol ref. no DP017 of the completion of work signed by the contractor and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 14 and 16 December 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming that the ePasy system was updated, is functional and available to end users;</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii. Annex 2 (part 1) – A copy of the acceptance protocol ref. no. 016 signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 23 August 2021 in accordance with national legislation, confirming the implementation of changes in the EVC 2 system</td>
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related to its connectivity to the Entry Exit System (EES) and verification of its functionality;

iv. Annex 3 – A copy of the acceptance protocol ref. no. DP008 of completion of work signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 13 and 15 December 2022 in accordance with national legislation, confirming the implementation of the QR code for visa stickers in the EVC2 visa system in accordance with the Entry/Exit System (EES) and verification of its functionality;

v. Annex 4 – Project completion checklist certifying an on-site inspection of the ePassport and EVC2 systems signed by a representative of the European Commission.

The authorities also provided:

i. Annex 1b – A copy of the contract on the development of the ePasy and EVC2 systems signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 24 May 2016 in accordance with national legislation;

ii. Annex 1c – A copy of the Act No. 270/2021 Coll. of 1 July 2021 amending certain acts in relation to the adoption of the act on identity cards; Part 9, Article IX amends the Act No. 329/1999 Coll. on the travel documents, as amended;

iii. Annex 2 (part 1+2) – A copy of order ref. no. 016 signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 8 March 2021, requesting modifications to the EVC2 system related to its connectivity to the EES;

Annex 2 (part 3) – A copy of order ref. no. 018 signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 11 March 2022, requesting modifications to the EVC2 system related to the release of EES’s last version of the Interface Control Document.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The agenda information system ePasy shall be modified according to the amendment to the Travel documents Act No. 329/1999 Coll. and be available to the end users.

The Act No. 270/2021 Coll. of 1 July 2021 amended, among other acts, also the Travel Documents Act No. 329/1999 to enable the changes to the ePasy information system with the view to ensure proper functionality of the use of digital signatures during the process of issuing passports (see Sections 7, 16, 17, 19, and 31 of Part 9 of Annex 1c).

In accordance with the introduced changes, a key modification to the ePasy system was the integration of additional security features to combat counterfeiting and fraudulent use of travel documents. The legislative amendment also required modifications to the format and structure of data entry fields in the ePasy system, as well as to the validation rules and algorithms used to verify and validate entered information. Additional new processes and procedures related to travel document management required upgrading the user interface, implementing new data algorithms, and integrating additional functionalities.

The Czech authorities provided the European Commission services with a checklist containing a list of functionalities implemented by the contractor and guided a representative from the European Commission through each of them during an on-the-spot control. After reviewing that citizens can use the new ePasy functionalities, the representative from the European Commission was able to verify the completion of this qualitative indicator of the milestone (Annex 4). Thus, it is demonstrated that the contractor delivered all parts of the new technical requirements. Advanced biometric verification methods, improved document authentication techniques and enhanced data
encryption measures are among the major additions to the system (pages 2-4 of Annex 1). The overall result of the technical modifications is a new version of several ePasy-based electronic applications: form for the acquisition of new items in the passport application process and acquisition of items in the document handover process and handover completion.

Thus, the system effectively supports the administration and management of travel documents, ensuring increased security, accuracy, and efficiency in the issuance, control, and verification of these documents.

The EVC2 visa system shall be upgraded with short- and long-term visa functionalities, in accordance with the entry/exit system (EES) and shall be available for testing in accordance with the entry/exit system (EES) and shall be available for testing according to the euINIS program.

The authorities clarified that the EVC2 is a system serving both short-term and long-term visas. The modification request for EVC2 arose for both visa types and was based on the need to ensure that the EVC2 system is upgraded in accordance with the EES and available for testing in accordance with the EES and euINIS program. Two key modifications were made to ensure that the EVC2 system is upgraded in this manner:

Firstly, a new functionality for connecting to the European EES (External Exit System), which contains information on transits was introduced. The EES system contains records of so-called TravellerFile passages and the new CS-VIS operations within the Interoperability project will allow searching in EES records (in TravellerFile) by travel document, visa sticker, or fingerprint and will subsequently enable the display of the traveller record (Annex). The second modification consists of an extension to the existing operations for establishing visa decision and research results in applications with PersonStatus and so called VLTV Indication. These operations contain information about the origin of a visa applicant and visa validity period respectively. This is documented in Annex 2, parts 1 and 2, pages 1, 2.

At the moment of the assessment, the EVC2 system is operational and available for testing by the European Commission according to the euINIS programme (Annex 4).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.2]-[[I2]-M[20]: Development of core registers and facilities for eGovernment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Milestone</td>
<td>Completion of a fully operational software-defined data centre including data containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Indicator</td>
<td>Successful testing and adoption of the delivery of a new data centre by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Context:

The measure aims to create and upgrade several core eGovernment registers in Czechia, to develop a Shared Service Information System that connects data from the different systems as well as to create a new data centre, to develop an eGovernment cloud for computing services and technological infrastructure for the public administration.

Milestone 20 requires the completion of a software-defined data centre including data containers and its successful testing and adoption of its delivery by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The milestone requires that the data centre is fully operational and made available to end-users.
Milestone 20 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by milestones 21 and 22, related to the completion of a Central Point of Services, of several core eGovernment registries and the provision of cloud computing services to public authorities. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 – A copy of the Acceptance protocol for the delivery of the software-defined Data centre dated 15 August 2023 digitally signed by the contractor and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (“competent authority”);

iii. Annex 2 – A copy of the acceptance protocol for the testing of the software-defined Data centre dated 15 August 2023 digitally signed by the contractor and the competent authority;

iv. Annex 3 – A copy of the acceptance protocol for implementation of a new user portal in the private cloud environment dated 21 August 2023 digitally signed by the contractor and the competent authority;

The authorities also provided:

v. Annex 4 – A copy of the contract for the delivery and implementation of the data centre signed by the contractor and the competent authority on 26 April 2023;

vi. Annex 5 – A copy of the document entitled ‘Implementation Project Private Cloud’ which describes the project’s extent and technical specifications dated 8 June 2023 prepared by the contractor for the competent authority;

vii. Annex 6 – A copy of the contract for the delivery of support for operating and developing the CA Service Desk Manager signed by the contractor and competent authority on 28 August 2022;

viii. Annex 7 – A copy of the request for amending the contract for the delivery of support for operating and developing the CA Service Manager signed by the contractor and the competent authority on 6 April 2023.

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

**The milestone shall be considered achieved once the new data centre is fully operational [...].**

The competent authority, which is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, commissioned and accepted delivery from an external contractor of the IT system called ‘Software-Defined Data Centre’. The acceptance protocol for the delivery of the Software-Defined Data Centre confirms that the system was delivered (see Annex 1, page 1). The technical specifications of the contract for the delivery and implementation of the data centre state that types of data containers were created in order to deliver the system. These are namely “Resource Pools” (See Annex 5, page 16) and logical containers (Annex 5, page 36).

Furthermore, the data centre is fully operational. The acceptance protocol for the testing of the Software-Defined Data centre in Annex 2 proves that successful acceptance tests were conducted in...
the private cloud environment and verified the implementation and integration of the overall solution on 10 August 2023.

[...] and has been made available to end-users.

In line with the description of the milestone, the data centre was made available to end users. For this purpose, a user platform was developed in order to enable the users to benefit from the functionalities of the data centre. The acceptance protocol for implementation of a new user portal in the private cloud environment demonstrated over 15,000 registered users with access to this platform at the time of the verification. Successful acceptance tests were conducted in the private cloud environment to verify the implementation and integration of the solution on 21 August 2023 (see Annex 3, page 1).

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 23</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.2]-I[I3]-M[M23]: Cyber security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong> Modernisation of the Security Information and Event Management System of the police of Czechia and extension of its use for cybersecurity protection of five additional information systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Entry into operation of the fully functional and upgraded Security Information and Event Management system and of additional five information systems selected on the basis of a risk and feasibility study</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The aim of this investment is to increase the cybersecurity of the public administration ICT infrastructure and information systems in line with the National Cybersecurity Strategy, including projects that lead to the modernisation and expansion of Czech police forces’ capacity to detect, identify and respond to security and ICT incidents.

Milestone 23 requires the entry into operation of the fully functional and upgraded Security Information and Event Management system and of additional five information systems selected on the basis of a risk and feasibility study.

Milestone 23 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by target 24 related to the strengthening of the cyber security of at least 87 additional information systems. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);

ii. Annex 1 – A copy of the feasibility study of the project “Ensuring increased cybersecurity of the Czech Police” prepared by the Czech Police for the Ministry of the Interior of Czech Republic (hereinafter “competent authority”) between March and May 2022.

iii. Annex 2 – A copy of the acceptance protocol of the project “Ensuring increased cybersecurity of the Police of the Czech Republic” dated 18 August 2023 signed by the contractor and by the competent authority;

iv. Annex 3 – Project description demonstrating the operationalisation and full functionality of
the security information and event management system dated 18 August 2023 and signed by the contractor and by the competent authority;

v. Annex 4 – A copy of the certificate confirming the completion and modernization of five IT systems (which are EVIN IS, SOVA IS, Jitka IS, IS CDI 2, IS CDI 3) dated 29 August 2023 and signed by the competent authority;

vi. Annex 5 – A project completion checklist certifying an on-site inspection of the five IT systems signed by a representative of the European Commission on 22 December 2023.

The authorities also provided:

vii. Annex 6 – A copy of the framework agreement for the provision of support for the operation of the data centre signed by the contractor and the competent authority on 11 August 2022;

viii. Annex 7 – A copy of the special order of the framework agreement for the provision of support for the operation of the data centre signed by the contractor and the competent authority (The Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic) on 5 May 2023;

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into operation of the fully functional and upgraded Security Information and Event Management system and of additional five information systems selected on the basis of a risk and feasibility study

The acceptance protocol demonstrates the delivery of the implementation, configuration and consultation services for the modernisation of the security information and event management system of the Police of the Czech Republic (so called SIEM) (see Annex 2, page 1). This includes the development of the security software solution for threat detection and monitoring and confirms that part of the deliverables was the implementation of a new system environment for recording incidents.

The Czech police conducted a feasibility study to select five information systems that would be connected to the upgraded SIEM system in the first half of 2022. The feasibility study identified five systems (JITKA, SOVA, CDI2, CDI3, and EVIN) which were created in compatibility with the Law on Cyber-security (page 7 of Annex 1).

The European Commission and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic performed an on-the-spot control of the SIEM system on 22 December 2023 in order to prove that it is operational. Czech authorities provided the Commission services with a checklist containing a list of functionalities implemented by the contractor and guided a representative from the European Commission through each of them. After reviewing that the SIEM system was upgraded and the five additional information systems were connected to it, the representative from the European Commission was able to verify the completion of this qualitative indicator of the milestone (Annex 5).

The investment shall increase the availability of Security Information and Event Management security monitoring infrastructure capable of logging and evaluating security incidents [...] The availability of security monitoring information is increased thanks to modernising SIEM and expanding its cyber-security capabilities with five modernised IT systems. The project has resulted in the connection of all log-in sources from the outdated environment into the new system as well as the five modernised IT systems. This allows for the automation of processing security and other necessary incidents by correlating them with others already filed in SIEM (page 4 of Annex 7, page 8
[...] and extend the capacities and abilities of the police and the Ministry of Interior in Czechia to identify and respond to security incidents and incidents in ICT [...] 

As evidenced by Annex 3 (pages 2 to 4), the five new information systems were linked to the security information and event management system of the Police of the Czech Republic, extending the capacity of incident detection to these connected systems with the view to reinforce their cybersecurity capabilities. In addition, together with the special order under the framework agreement for the project “Ensuring increased cybersecurity of the Police in the Czech Republic”, it is demonstrated that the configurations were developed for the upgraded security information and event management tool (page 1 of Annex 3 & page 4 of Annex 7).

Furthermore, as indicated in the qualitative indicator part of the milestone, the newly linked information systems were selected based on a feasibility study which confirms added value of these systems for the police’s capacities in the field of security and ICT incident response (pages 8 and 9 of Annex 1).

[...] even remotely when access to office infrastructure is limited. Following the upgrade of the SIEM system conducted by the contractor, it is demonstrated that users have remote access to be able to detect security and ICT incidents even when the access to office infrastructure is limited, including to the five information systems internal to the Czech Police, as evidenced by Annexes 3 and 5.

Annex 3 describes the elements, the operationalisation and the functionalities of upgrade done by the contractor. This includes remote access as part of the monitoring indicator for project completion, which subsequently was confirmed by the contractor signing the document demonstrating the elements delivered as part of the project.

A representative of the European Commission verified the functionality of the remote access for users during the above-mentioned on-the-spot control of the upgraded SIEM system (Annex 5).

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 25</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.2]-R[R1]-M[25] : Centres of competence for supporting eGovernment, Cybersecurity and eHealth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong> Full operation of three competence centres providing consulting services to authorities implementing the changes in information systems and eGovernment ecosystem foreseen under component 1.1 and 1.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Competence centres shall be considered fully operational as soon as public authorities have submitted and competence centres have approved official requests for consulting services</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The measure aims to establish eGovernment competence centres, which shall provide guidance, expertise, consulting services and common standards across the public administration in order to ensure coherent implementation of measures for the digitalisation and modernisation of IT systems envisaged under components 1.1 and 1.2 of the recovery and resilience plan. This objective will be delivered through the establishment of 3 competence centres in total – Cybersecurity; eHealth; and eGovernment Competence Centre. They will work on delivering support to public authorities in, among other areas, analysis, system architecture, user experience, and user interface.
Milestone 25 concerns the full operation of the three competence centres.

Milestone 25 is the first step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by target 26, related to the number of consultations and assistance provided on topics related to measures under components 1.1 and 1.2 in the recovery and resilience plan.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

**I – Digital Czechia Competence centre**

ii. I Annex 2 – A copy of the request from the Public Administration Portal 2.0 (Citizen’s Portal) project for consultation about the user interface, signed and in force on 12 December 2022;

iii. I Annex 3 – A copy of the response to the request and approval of providing consulting services to the Public Administration Portal 2.0 (Citizen’s Portal), signed and in force 17 December 2022;


**II – Information concepts Competence centre**

v. II Annex 1a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the Railway Inspection Authority, signed and in force on 28 December 2022;

vi. II Annex 2a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the Energy Regulatory Office, signed and in force on 28 December 2022;

vii. II Annex 3a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the Directorate General, signed and in force on 27 December 2022;

viii. II Annex 4a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the Directorate General of the Fire Brigade, signed and in force on 27 December 2022;

ix. II Annex 5a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the National Archive, signed and in force on 30 December 2023;

x. II Annex 6a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, signed and in force on 27 December 2022;

xi. II Annex 7a-c – A copy of the Application for the provision of support, consent to the provision of support, and the signed agreement on the provision of consulting services with the Institute for representing the state in property matters, signed and in force on 29 December 2022;

xii. II Annex 8 – A Copy of the signed agreement on the provision of consultation with Czech Social Security Administration, signed and in force on 9 February 2023
### III – National Centre for eHealth

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xiii.</td>
<td>III Annex 1a – A copy of the document proving the submission of a formal request for consultancy services from the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiv.</td>
<td>III Annex 1b – A copy of the document proving approval of the official request for counselling services by the competence centre to the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xv.</td>
<td>III Annex 1c – A copy of the bilateral agreement for the provision of advisory services to the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xvi.</td>
<td>III Annex 2a – A copy of the document proving the submission of a formal request for consultancy services from the Olomouc University Hospital;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xvii.</td>
<td>III Annex 2b – A copy of the document proving approval of the official request for counselling services by the competence centre to the Olomouc University Hospital;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xviii.</td>
<td>III Annex 2c – A copy of the bilateral agreement for the provision of advisory services to the Olomouc University Hospital;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xix.</td>
<td>III Annex 3a – A copy of the document proving the submission of a formal request for consultancy services from the General University Hospital in Prague;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xx.</td>
<td>III Annex 3b – A copy of the document proving approval of the official request for counselling services by the competence centre to the General University Hospital in Prague;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxi.</td>
<td>III Annex 3c – A copy of the bilateral agreement for the provision of advisory services to the General University.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The authorities also provided:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xxii.</td>
<td>I Annex 1a-c – Copies of the proof of recruitment of employees for the “Digitalni Cesko Competence centre”, demonstrating the establishment of the competence centre through the hiring of first employees;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxiii.</td>
<td>II Annex 9 – A copy of the template of the Information Concept Outline;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxiv.</td>
<td>II Annex 10 – A copy of the declaration, issued by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic on 1 November 2022, proving the establishment of the competence centre;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxv.</td>
<td>III Annex 4 – A copy of the document proving the creation of the National Competence Centre for eHealth and its responsibilities as part of the Ministry of Health organisation chart;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxvi.</td>
<td>III Annex 5 – A link and print screen to the National Competence centre for eHealth’s web page;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xxvii.</td>
<td>III Annex 6a-b – Records of announcements for vacancies of the National Competence Centre for eHealth (on the competence centre’s Facebook page).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

**Three competence centres in eGovernment, cybersecurity, and eHealth shall provide consulting and advisory services to authorities in implementing projects under component 1.1 and 1.2. Competence centres shall be considered fully operational as soon as public authorities have submitted and competence centres have approved official requests for consulting services.**

As Czechia did not have previously competence centres focusing on the provision of consulting and advisory services in the area of eGovernance, cybersecurity, and eHealth, it is demonstrated based on the provided evidence that the respective competence centre was established and provides consulting or advisory services.
I – Digital Czechia Competence centre (DigiCesko KC)

It is demonstrated that the competence centre focusing on the area of eGovernment started its operation in October 2022 (see Annexes I Annex 1a, 1b, 1c proving the recruitment of the first employees, page 1).

On 16 and 17 December 2022, the competence centre received and accepted the first request for consulting services from the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic. It concerned the user interface of the new Public Administration Portal 2.0 (Citizen’s Portal) (see I Annex 2 and Annex 3). Based on these documents and a verbal agreement with the contact person of the supported project, a Cooperation Card was created. It states that the competence centre shall provide services as identified in the milestone description (page 1 of I Annex 4).

II – Information concepts – IT architect professional assistance (IK KC)

The Information Concepts (IK) competence centre was established 1 November 2022 (see II Annex 10). This competence centre provides professional and methodical assistance to institutions that are required to have an Information Concept and an attestation of the long-term ICT management system based on this concept under the applicable legislation such as the Information Systems Act, Cyber Security Act, NIS, eIDAS (pages 39-41 of II Annex 9).

In 2022, the competence centre received and accepted requests for consulting services from eight institutions such as the Railway Inspection Authority, the Energy Regulatory Office, the Directorate General of the Fire Brigade, the National Archive, the State Transport Infrastructure Fund, the Institute for representing the state in property matters and the Czech Social Security Administration. Each of these requests show that the reason for their submission is to ask for support in updating their respective information concepts (see pages 1 of II Annexes 1a-8a, II Annexes 1b-8b). Each entity also signed an agreement about the provision of consulting services, stipulating the time period of delivery of the consultation services in late 2022 and early 2023 (see pages 4 of II Annexes 1c-8c).

III – National Centre for eHealth (NCEZ)

The competence centre for eHealth was established as one of the departments of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic through the change of its organisation rules on 1 July 2022 (pages 128-131 of III Annex 4, III Annex 6a and b). It is demonstrated that the centre became operational on 1 July 2022 (page 1 of III Annex 4). It received and accepted requests from several health providers and institutions such as the Czech Institute of Health and Statistics, the Olomouc University Hospital and the General University Hospital in Prague (see III Annexes 1b-3b). Each entity also signed a bilateral agreement about the provision of consulting services, stipulating notably the time period delivery of the consultation services in 2022 (see pages 2-4 of III Annexes 1c-8c).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 30</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.2]-I[I4]-T[30]: Creating the conditions for digital justice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Target: Increase in the number of conferencing rooms in the Justice system newly equipped and connected to enable video conferencing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Indicator: Number of conference rooms</td>
<td>Baseline: 170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Context:

The measure aims to increase the flexibility and resilience of the judiciary by enabling the continuation of work at times of limited physical presence, in particular, by strengthening the IT
infrastructure of the judiciary. This includes the analysis of digitalisation needs and the strengthening of the central capacities and endpoint infrastructure.

Target 30 concerns increasing the access to remote continuation of work including participation in court proceedings via videoconferencing in cases when physical presence may be limited. The target requires achieving this by providing the IT infrastructure needed in the justice system under this part of the measure.

Target 30 is the second milestone or target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 29 related to the analysis of data management in the justice sector and to the deployment of a data warehouse. It will be followed by target 31 related to increasing the data storage capacity and remote working capabilities of the Ministry of Justice. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in December 2024.

Evidence Provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);
ii. Annex 2 – A copy of acceptance protocol on the delivery of the videoconferencing set signed by the supplier and the Ministry of Justice (signed on 16 December 2022);
iii. Annex 3 – List of videoconferencing sets purchased (as per Annex 2) and distributed, listed by the competent authority (31 December 2022);
iv. Annex 4 – Description of the elements of the three types of videoconferencing units purchased, suitable for 300 rooms, prepared by the competent authority (1 December 2023);
v. Annex S1 – Inventory cards for a sample of 60 videoconferencing sets (8 January 2024).

The authorities also provided:

vi. Annex 1 – Copies of handover protocols for individual transfers of videoconference sets (signed on 21 December 2022);
ii. Annex 5 – A copy of the contract 2015 for the purchase of 143 videoconference sets (baseline, signed on 16 March 2016);
iiii. Annex 6 – List of locations for the 143 sets;
ix. Annex 7 – A copy of the amendment to the contract 2015 for the purchase of 21 additional sets (baseline, signed on 15 March 2017);
x. Annex 8 – A copy of the contract 2020 for the purchase of 6 videoconference sets (baseline, signed on 2 November 2020);
xi. Annex 9 – Loan records of videoconferencing sets for the baseline;
xii. Annex S2 – Complex overview of the videoconferencing equipment sampled.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

The measure shall increase the number of conference rooms equipped with videoconferencing tools.

The evidence provided confirms the purchase of 300 new videoconferencing sets as demonstrated.
by the acceptance protocol including the specific individual identification codes of all the 300 sets, signed by the supplier (see Annex 2, page 3).

Moreover, Annex 1 confirms the individual handover of all 300 videoconferencing sets to organisations of the justice system, most notably to courthouses, but also to the Judicial Academy, Prison Service of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Justice. This is demonstrated by handover protocols signed by the IT departments at each court or institution concerned. These include the obligation of the recipients to use the received equipment in line with the objectives of the measure as described in the Council Implementing Decision (see individual handover protocols in Annex 1, page 1).

In addition, the evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the videoconferencing sets were loaned to the above-mentioned organisations of the justice system, for most part to courthouses and are part of their inventory as demonstrated by the inventory cards in Annex S1. The specific type of acquired equipment, as illustrated on pages 1-3 in Annex 1, are room kits, equivalent to 300 units for conferencing rooms, accompanied with necessary wiring and a collaboration plan to provide technical support in the initial months for their operation. This confirms that at least additional 300 rooms in the justice system are capable of videoconferencing. Moreover, as confirmed by Czechia, part of these videoconferencing sets were set up as mobile units in order to supply with videoconferencing capacity more rooms than what is prescribed by the target.

Lastly, the evidence also demonstrates that the existing 170 videoconferencing sets indicated in the baseline of the Council Implementing Decision are distinct from the ones provided under this investment as demonstrated in Annex 1, since the sets in the baseline were supplied by different suppliers using different technological solution (see Annex 5, pages S1-74, read in combination with Annex 7, and Annex 8 on page 2). In addition, the borrowing records for all the 170 videoconferencing sets in the baseline, as set out in Annex 9, demonstrate that the individual identifiers of the videoconferencing sets included in the baseline are different from the ones included in the sample of 60 units evidenced by the inventory cards in Annex S1.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 32</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[1.3]-R[R1]-M[32]: Improving the environment for the deployment of electronic communications networks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Milestone:</td>
<td>Entry into force of measures prepared by the Ministry of Industry and Trade aimed at establishing a database of investment project plans and increasing the number of network quality measurements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Indicator:</td>
<td>Provision in the acts indicating the entry into force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Q2 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The measure aims to improve the efficiency and to reduce costs of deploying electronic communication networks by creating an enabling environment. This includes adopting legislative changes for the future establishment of a database for project intentions for the development of electric communication network. Moreover, the measure also aims to improve data available on passive and active infrastructure for electronic communication thereby reducing the costs of deploying communication networks.

Milestone 32 consists of three points: i) adoption of the necessary legislative changes aimed at establishing database for planned projects; ii) completion of technical specifications; iii) conducting
tendering procedures.

Milestone 32 is the first step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by targets 33, 34 and 35, related to the completion of i) technical maps for objects for basic spatial situation; ii) technical maps for objects for transportation and technical infrastructure networks; and of iii) network quality measurements. The technical maps under points i) and ii) will provide data relevant for the operation of the database to be created as a result of the legislative changes under milestone 32. This is to enable developers and network operators to register and coordinate their project intents on the basis of using the referenced database with information collected and updated under subsequent targets 33 and 34. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

1. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);
2. Annex 1 – A copy of the Act No. 202/2023 Coll. of 31 May 2023 amending the Act 127/2005 Coll. on electronic communications and amending certain related acts (Electronic Communications Act), as amended, the Act No. 231/2001 Coll. on radio and television broadcasting and amending other acts; as amended, and other related acts. In line with the national law, this Act was published in the Official Journal and entered into force on 30 June 2023;
3. Annex 5 – Copies of contracts on procuring equipment for network quality measurement, concluded by the Czech Telecommunication Office and suppliers following the tendering procedures (Contract No CTU/2023_0036; Contract No CTU/2023_0037; Contract No CTU/2023_0041; Contract No CTU/2023_0042; Contract No CTU/2023_0043; Contract No CTU/2023_0044; Contract No CTU/2023_0048; Contract No CTU/2023_0049; Contract No CTU/2023_0051; Contract No CTU/2023_0053; Contract No CTU/2023_0054; Contract No CTU/2023_0055; Contract No CTU/2021_148; Contract No CTU/2023_0045);
4. Annex 6 – Copies of technical specifications on the design and operationalisation of the database for project intents, on the compliance with the amendments to Act 194/2017 and on the impact on digital technical maps, dated 27 September 2023 submitted by the Czech Telecommunication Office.

The authorities also provided:

6. Annex 3 – A copy of the call for proposals issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry – Evidence of investment project intentions (published on 15 June 2023);
7. Annex 4 – A copy of the call for proposals issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry – Measurement of the quality of electronic communications networks (published on 15 August 2022);
8. Annex 7 – A copy of the tender documentation of procuring equipment for network quality measurement, including technical specifications (signed by Czech Telecommunication Office, multiple dates)

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive
elements of the milestone.

Necessary legislative adaptations shall enter into force [...] aimed at establishing databases of investment project intentions in the meaning of Act No 194/2017 Coll., paragraph 11, 2 [...].

Annex 1 demonstrates that Act No. 202/2023 of 31 May 2023 makes the necessary legislative amendments to establish a database of investment project intentions. It was published in the Official Journal and entered into force on 30 June 2023. The adopted law amends three legislative acts:
- Act No 127/2005 on electronic communications;
- Act No 194/2017 on measures to reduce the costs of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks;

The Act No 202/2023 aims at establishing a database of project intentions in line with the milestone description by introducing Article VI amending the Act No. 194/2017, which prescribes the obligation to the Czech Office of Surveying and Cadastre and to the Ministry of Regional Development to set up and operate the database suitable for managing the information in relation to registering and coordinating project intentions of infrastructure developers and network operators. Under this article, the database is to become operational no later than 1 January 2026.

The operation of the database is a technical prerequisite to the application of certain provisions also introduced by the Act No. 202/2023. This concerns provisions on the registration, notification and coordination of planned infrastructure works as well as related cross references and technical amendments to linked acts, as they are described in Articles V-VIII of the Act No. 202/2023 and in line with Article IX on effectiveness of the same Act. Thus, these provisions are to become applicable upon the operationalisation of the database.

The scope of the database focuses on investment project intentions in line with the milestone description, as per the amendment (Act No 202/2023) to Act No 194/2017, which introduces under Article V a new paragraph 2a. This provision expands and prescribes the scope of information necessary to be declared for new infrastructure project intentions. It thus enlarges the scope of information provided in the meaning of paragraph 11, which defines the transparency of civil works and information covered by the obligation to be registered according to the Act No 194/2017. Additional paragraphs 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e were introduced to elaborate on the coordination and the relation between infrastructure works stemming from the entries in the database. In particular, paragraphs 2b and 2e enable the coordination of civil construction works for all network operators (including water, gas and electricity networks). Lastly, the amendment to Act 200/1994 on surveying sets out the right to access information in the database for developers, property owners and concerned parties in paragraph 4b and 4d.

The Council Implementing Decision states in the milestone description that “Necessary legislative adaptations shall enter into force and technical specifications shall be completed, both aimed at establishing databases of investment project intentions in the meaning of Act No 194/2017 Coll., paragraph 11, 2 and increasing the number of quality measurements of electronic communications networks.” The Council Implementing Decision also states in the description of the measure that the reform shall include “implementation of measures, including the entry into force of necessary legislative amendments and the completion of technical specifications, aimed at establishing databases of planned projects.” In comparison to the milestone description, the description of the measure requires legislative amendments only for establishing a database for planned projects, but not for quality measurements of communication networks. Furthermore, the Recovery and
Resilience Plan (RRP) of Czechia provides that the objective of the milestone is to adopt measures, including the necessary concepts, legislative adaptations, technical specifications and other necessary documents and equipment aiming at i) establishing a database of project intentions and ii) increasing quality measurements of communication networks. The RRP does not specify which type of measure is needed to be adopted for each aim.

Czechia adopted measures for both i) establishing a database of project intentions and ii) increasing quality measurements of communication networks. As explained above, necessary legislative adaptations entered into force (Annex 1) and technical specifications were adopted (Annex 6) in relation to the establishment of the database for project intentions. Furthermore, as described below, the Czech authorities adopted technical specifications (Annex 7) and concluded tendering of quality measurement tools (Annexes 5 and 7) for increasing the quality measurement of communication networks. Given that Czechia has adopted technical specifications and tendered equipment to achieve the aim of increasing the quality measurements of communication networks, and no legislative adaptations were needed to fulfil this objective, in line with purposive interpretation, it is deemed adequate that the increase of the quality measurements was accomplished through necessary measures without necessitating legislative adaptations in the process. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

[...] technical specifications shall be completed [...] aimed at establishing databases of investment project intentions in the meaning of Act No 194/2017 Coll., paragraph 11, 2 and increasing the number of quality measurements of electronic communications networks.

Annex 3 presents the call procuring the analysis to define the technical specifications necessary for the establishment of the database for infrastructure works and for the compliance with requirements introduced under the Act No. 202/2023 amending the Act 194/2017, as demonstrated by point 2 of the call for proposals. In response to this call, three analyses (Annex 6) were completed and commissioned by the Czech Office of Surveying and Cadastre defining the technical specifications of the implementation (dated 27 September 2023). In particular, the analysis on “Technical specifications for changes to the data content of Digital Technical Maps and all related services for recording works under preparation” defines the parts of the Digital Map of Public Administration and of the Digital Technical Map of Regions which are affected by the legislative amendments (section 4) and describes the required changes to the information systems including data management (section 5 and 6). In addition, the commissioned impact assessment accompanying the technical specifications provides a breakdown of requirements stemming from the adopted legislative changes affecting the Digital Map of Public Administration and of the Digital Technical Map of Regions and of the necessary changes (section 7) for creating the databases as envisaged under the Act No. 202/2023 amending the Act No. 194/2017. These technical specifications link the database to the digital technical maps, that are updated under target 33 and 34.

Lastly, the technical specifications accompanying the tendering of quality measurement equipment define the technical requirements of such tools as demonstrated by the separate specifications per tender in Annex 7 (part on technical specifications). These are intended for a project aiming at measuring the quality of communication networks in Czechia under subsequent target 35, as demonstrated by Annex 4, page 2.

The national regulator shall conduct tendering procedures and acquire the necessary equipment. The Ministry of Industry and Trade conducted the tendering (see Annex 4) which was awarded to the Czech Telecommunication Office. Subsequently, the national regulator, the Czech Telecommunications Office, conducted the tendering (Annex 7) and concluded contracts with suppliers to commission equipment and services necessary for the completion of the reform of
quality measurements, as demonstrated by Annex 5. In line with the milestone, the national authority concluded contracts for the acquisition of the following items or services:

- 13 units of quality analysers for mobile network parameters
- 7 portable spectral analysers and 7 antenna sets
- 4 units of all-directional broadband antennas and 14 units of directional antennas
- a Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) measurement tool
- 1 computer server and 2 pieces of servers for measuring tools
- a unit of Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) router
- a compact fixed measurement platform
- 13 units of mobile network analysers
- 23 pieces of passive omnidirectional broadband antennas
- 9 units of surveillance monitoring receivers
- software tools, related services and planning support for measurement of telecommunications services
- aeronautical monitoring and measurement of telecommunication objects
- software tools, development and maintenance of telecommunication visualisation portal
- 13 units of monitor receivers with a sighting device, 13 sighting antennas and 13 hand-directional antennas.

Quality and usability of the provided information shall be in line with binding technical parameters. Annex 4 determines the conditions for the measuring services provided (under the subsequent targets) by specifying the necessary requirements in the call for proposals including the technical parameters necessary to comply with. Under section 1.1 of the annex, the Ministry requires the successful applicants to provide measurement services, which shall comply with the methods set out in in Annex X to Directive (EU) 2018/1972 and shall follow the BEREC guidelines, also in line with the measure description in the Council Implementing Decision. Furthermore, Annex 5 includes signed contracts, which further demonstrate that such technical parameters are expected to comply with: section 1 of “Annex 1 - Technical specifications” to the “Contract No CTU/2023_0042 on the implementation of a measurement tool for the VHCN network according to ITU-T standard Y.1540” requires the software supplier to commission services that can test parameters specified in the BEREC Board of Regulators Guidance.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 48</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.4]-R[R2]-M[M48]: Joint Strategic Technologies Support and Certification Group with the Strategic Technologies Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Milestone: Establishment and appointment of certification network</td>
<td>Qualitative Indicator: Creation of a network of certification authorities, technical experts and involved companies for strategic sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td>The measure aims to create a quality management and product certification network by connecting through a one stop shop platform actors involved in certification process (e.g. authorities, certified laboratories, notified bodies and companies) for strategic sectors, such as aerospace and medical devices. The network aims at providing best practices and quality information on certification via the one stop shop platform in order to facilitate the certification process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Milestone 48 requires the creation of a one stop shop platform. The one stop shop should provide
information on best practices for certification, information on certification such as process, availability of laboratories, notification bodies, technical support.

Milestone 48 is the first step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by target 49, related to supporting 50 companies in obtaining certification including the support of activities related to facilitating certification process, purchasing equipment and consultancy and advisory services in line with the description of the measure. Target 49 also includes the creation of educational courses that are made available to stakeholders and companies. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in December 2024.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 - Link to the online network platform: [https://jaknacertifikaci.cz/](https://jaknacertifikaci.cz/) (website accessed on 15 December 2023);

iii. Annex 3 - Copies of agreements from main partners (Institute for Testing and Certification; AVDZP (Association of Manufacturers and Suppliers of Medical Devices); CZECHIMPLANT (medical device cluster); Moravský Aeronautics Cluster (Czech aerospace cluster) confirming their participation in the certification network (signed on 2 and 3 May and on 14 June of 2023).

The authorities also provided:


**Analysis:**

The Commission considers that there is a clerical error in the name of the milestone 48 in the Council Implementing Decision and has undertaken the assessment on a revised basis. In the name of the milestone, it is stated that a certification network is to be established and appointed.

However, as evidenced by the description of the milestone in the Council Implementing Decision, the milestone concerns the establishment of a one stop shop disseminating information to and connecting the actors of the certification process. Thus, the one stop shop constitutes the main pillar of the network, serving as a central point channelling information to certification authorities, experts and interested companies as presented in the description of the milestone and demonstrated by the component revision fiche submitted by Czechia during the revision of the plan. In this request, for amendment of the measure, Czechia asked for refocusing the measure and the milestone by moving away from appointing new authorities towards disseminating information through a newly established one stop shop connecting actors of the certification process. Therefore, as such a certification network can be established but not appointed, which was relevant only for the milestone before the revision of the measure and the reference to the appointment of the certification network in the name of the milestone, following the amendment of the Council implementing decision, constitutes a clerical error.

Against this background, the justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

**Creation of a one stop shop for sharing best practices [...]**

Annex 1 demonstrates that a comprehensive online one-stop shop was created focusing on
certification in the medical devices and aerospace industries. This one stop-shop serves as a platform connecting the relevant actors such as experts from the CzechInvest agency, business associations and certification authorities, accompanied by events and trainings that together constitute the network. The one stop shop provides information on different aspects of the certification process for these industries. In particular, the website provides the following best practices and relevant information for the certification process in the domain of medical devices: i) the list of relevant applicable legislation, ii) information on working with consulting services, iii) contact information of the relevant associations and clusters of manufacturers engaged with the network, iv) availabilities of laboratories and testing facilities, including guidelines for ethics and laboratory practices, v) list of harmonisation standards and availability of accredited certification bodies vi) definition and availability of notified bodies carrying out conformity assessment and vii) trainings provided by third parties. Regarding the certification for aerospace technologies, the website includes best practices and relevant information on: i) the list of relevant applicable legislation, ii) working with consulting services, iii) the availability of relevant associations and clusters of manufacturers iv) the availability of licensed aircraft testing laboratories, v) the list of relevant certification bodies and their responsibilities, and vi) trainings provided by third parties. Thus, the one stop shop consolidates a comprehensive set of information that serves as a central point of information and contact for sharing best practices toward interested parties.

Establishment [...] of certification network. Creation of a network of certification authorities, technical experts and involved companies for strategic sectors. Furthermore, in line with the name of the milestone and with the qualitative indicator the one stop shop contains information targeted to strategic sectors, i.e. on the medical devices and aerospace industries. Moreover, Annex 3 demonstrates that relevant actors of the medical and aerospace industries signed an agreement to provide their information on the one stop shop platform.

Signed agreements were provided for partners, which include:

- Institute for Testing and Certification - serving as a certification authority for medical devices
- AVDZP (Association of Manufacturers and Suppliers of Medical Devices) - connecting companies involved in the medical devices sector
- CZECHIMPLANT (medical device cluster) - connecting companies involved in the medical devices sector
- Moravský Aeronautics Cluster (Czech aerospace cluster) - connecting companies involved in the aerospace sector

In addition, the one stop shop offers a way to interact with the experts of CzechInvest.

[...] finding actual information on certification such as quality and availability of accredited laboratories or notified bodies, offers for technical support.

Annex 1 as the actual website serving as one stop shop (and its extracts provided in Annex 2) demonstrates the inclusion of the specific information provided in the exemplary list as per the description of the milestone. This information includes:

- the quality and availability of laboratories, such as: testing facilities for aviation including the Czech Accreditation Institute, Centre for Assessment of Proficiency of Laboratories, State Institute for Drug Control and a list of entities licensed to carry out aircraft testing procedures;
- availability of notified bodies, such as: Institute for Testing and Certification and list of all EU notified bodies;
- offers for technical support, such as: guidelines on consultancy services, trainings provided
on certification by third parties, educational event calendar for upcoming opportunities, information on financing opportunities under the RRP managed by CzechInvest and contact to advisors at CzechInvest.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 57</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C1.4]-I[I6]-T[S7]: 5G Demonstrative application projects for cities and industrial areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Target:</strong> Development and operation of reference applications for Smart Cities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative Indicator:</strong> Number</td>
<td><strong>Baseline:</strong> 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**
The measure aims to the completion of projects demonstrating the use of 5G based solutions. Following the completion of five initial application demonstrating the use of these solutions in smart cities, the measure is expected to further support the implementation of such solutions in other cities as well as their industrial use. The measure is expected to support 52 applications of 5G solutions in total.

Target 57 requires the completion of five applications of 5G technology for demonstrating its use in smart cities. These serve as a reference for further 5G applications to be completed under the subsequent target.

Target 48 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by target 58, related to the expansion of the measure by completing further 47 5G applications for cities and for industrial use. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

**Evidence Provided:**
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. A summary document duly justifying how the target (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 2 – copies of the following acceptance and handover protocols signed by the contractors and by the Ministry of Regional Development (Project 1 - Test polygon for autonomous mobility, the city of Plzeň; Project 2 - Municipal camera security and control system, the city of Ústí nad Labem; Project 3 - Development of urban security and situational management, the city of Bílina; Project 4 - Data and security corridor of Bílina; Project 5 - advanced public transport management and traffic monitoring system in the city of Karlovy Vary).

The authorities also provided:

iii. Annex 1 - Completion reports signed by the Ministry of Regional Development and by the representatives of the municipalities;  


**Analysis:**
The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czechia authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

**Five reference applications [...] to be completed.**
Handover protocols for five projects, signed between May and June 2023, were submitted to demonstrate the completion.

Annex 2 – Project 1 demonstrates the completion of a test polygon and established a smart traffic management system for autonomous mobility. The completion was confirmed by the contractors and by the competent authority as demonstrated in the acceptance protocol on page 5 of the protocol (signed on 6 June 2023) and page 8 of its annex.

Annex 2 – Project 2 demonstrates the completion of a municipal camera security and control system for real time incident detection. The completion was confirmed by the contractors and by the competent authority as demonstrated in the acceptance protocol for testing on pages 5 and 6 (signed on 26 June 2023).

Annex 2 – Project 3 demonstrates the completion of an urban security and situational management system for the real time security management by municipal authorities. The completion was confirmed by the contractors and by the competent authority as demonstrated in the acceptance protocols for the Development of Bílina City Camera and Surveillance System: CCTV and audio sensors, page 2 (signed on 20 December 2021), in the acceptance protocols for the Development of Bílina City Camera and Surveillance System: Analysis, page 1 and 3 (signed on 22 December 2022 and 31 May 2023) and in the acceptance protocol for the Supply of the city of Bílina’s camera system, page 1 (signed on 20 May 2023).

Annex 2 – Project 4 demonstrates the completion of the deployment of surveillance cameras connected to a smart management system for incident detection, road safety and traffic data collection. The completion was confirmed by the contractors and by the competent authority as demonstrated in the acceptance protocol on page 3 (signed on 30 May 2023).

Annex 2 – Project 5 demonstrates the completion of an advanced public transport management and traffic monitoring system for real time traffic information and traffic flow optimisation. The completion was confirmed by the contractors and by the competent authority as demonstrated in the acceptance protocol No 8, on page 2 (signed on 29 June 2023).

[...] as part of the Smart Cities programme [...]
The provided evidence confirms that the beneficiaries of the projects, where the 5G applications were completed, were municipalities in the Czech Republic and were part of the “Smart Cities” programme of the Ministry of Regional Development.

One application was completed in Plzeň, as described in the acceptance protocol (signed on 6 June 2023) Annex 2 – Project 1, page one; one application was completed in Ústí nad Labem, as described in the acceptance protocol for testing (signed on 26 June 2023) Annex 2 – Project 2, page 1; one application was completed in Karlovy Vary, as described in the acceptance protocol No 8 (signed on 29 June 2023) Annex 2 – Project 5, page 1; and two applications were completed in Bílina, as described in the acceptance protocols for the Development of Bílina City Camera and Surveillance System: CCTV and audio sensors (signed on 20 December 2021), for the Development of Bílina City Camera and Surveillance System: Analysis (signed on 22 December 2022 and 31 May 2023) for the Supply of the city of Bílina’s camera system (signed on 20 May 2023) of Annex 2 – Project 3, page 1 of each protocol and acceptance protocol (signed on 30 May 2023) of Annex 2 – Project 4, page 1.

Moreover, the project completion reports in Annex 1 signed by the representatives of the municipalities concerned and by the Ministry of Regional Development also confirm that these projects were completed as part of the Smart Cities programme of the Ministry. The participation in

This measure shall finance the development of [...] projects demonstrating the application of digital infrastructure and 5G.

For Project 1, the application uses 5G technology for transmitting high volume video images and digital maps, as confirmed by the installation acceptance protocol on pages 2 and 3 (signed on 8 June 2023).

For Project 2, the application uses 5G technology, as confirmed by the installation acceptance protocol on page 1 (signed on 16 June 2023).

For Project 3, the application uses 5G technology, as confirmed by the installation acceptance protocol on page 1 (signed on 13 June 2023).

For Project 4, the application uses 5G technology, as confirmed by acceptance protocol for installation on page 1 (signed on 13 June 2023).

For Project 5, the application uses 5G technology, as confirmed by the specifications in the work contract on page 3 of the contract and on page 1 of its annex as demonstrated by the Additional evidence – contract for works – Karlovy Vary (signed on 22 February 2023).

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 78</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.1]-R[R1]-M[M78]: Creating alternatives to energy- and spatial-intensive road transport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong> Approval of the mobility plans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Approval of the plan by the city representative bodies</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> Q2 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Context:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The aim of this reform is to promote greater use of more energy-efficient modes of road transport, including various actions in connection with urban mobility planning, freight transport and public transport.

Milestone 78 requires all statutory cities (cities with a population above 40,000 people) to have prepared and approved Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) by the city representative bodies of these statutory cities by 30 June 2023. All SUMPs shall be based on Czechia’s Urban and Active Mobility Concept (UAMC).

Milestone 78 is the first step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by milestones 79, 80, 81 and 82 related to promoting the use of public transport, active transport (cycling), multimodal transport in Czechia. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements)
was satisfactory fulfilled;
ii. Annex 1 prepared by the Ministry of Transport, listing all statutory cities which adopted Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, the dates of their adoption by city councils, and the dates of verification of compliance with Czechia’s Urban and Active Mobility Concept;
iv. Annex 3 – A copy of Czechia’s Urban and Active Mobility Concept approved by the government on 11 January 2021.

The authorities also provided:

v. Annex 4 – A copy of the Czech Government Resolution adopting the Urban and Active Mobility Concept, of 11 January 2021;
vi. Annex 5 - Copies of the minutes of the meetings of Ministry of Transport’s Committee for the assessment of municipal mobility documents (KPDMM Committee), during the period between 2017 and 2023;
vi. Annex 6 - Copies of resolutions of Czech statutory cities adopting respective Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans during the period between 2015 and 2023;
ix. Annex 7 – Statute, rules of procedure, and the ethical code of the Ministry of Transport’s Committee for the assessment of municipal mobility documents (KPDMM Committee), e-signed by the Ministry of Transport;
ix. Annex 8 - Nomination of members of the Committee for the assessment of municipal mobility documents (KPDMM Committee).

Analysis:
The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

All statutory cities of the Czech Republic (cities with a population of over 40 000) shall have adopted Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) approved by the city representative bodies.

As evidenced by Annex 2 (copies of all SUMP) and Annex 6 (copies of resolutions of city representative bodies adopting respective SUMP), all 26 statutory cities have adopted their respective Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), with 25 SUMP provided. Based on the information provided by the summary document and Annex 2 documents, it is demonstrated that the statutory cities of Liberec and Jablonec nad Nisou have a shared urban area (meaning the two cities are within several kilometres of one another) and chose to adopt a shared SUMP. This means that the fact that Czechia submitted 25 SUMP for 26 statutory cities is justified, as all cities have adopted their respective SUMP.

All SUMP shall be based on the Urban and Active Mobility Concept approved by the government.

As evidenced by Annex 3 and Annex 4, Czechia adopted its Urban and Active Mobility Concept (UAMC) on 11 January 2021.

According to Annex 7, Czechia has a process for verifying that the SUMPs of statutory cities are based on the Concept of Urban and Active Mobility (UAMC). This is done through the verification by the Ministry of Transport’s Committee for the Assessment of Urban Mobility Documents (so-called KPDMM Committee). According to Annex 7, the statute of the KPDMM Committee, the Committee is set up under the Ministry of Transport, which manages the EU Cohesion Operational Programme Transport. As per the requirements of the Operational Programme, only statutory cities with fully fledged SUMP can benefit from EU Cohesion funding in the 2021-2027 programming period. When approving statutory cities’ respective SUMPs, the Committee evaluates whether the most important
characteristics given by the methodological and analytical frameworks of the UAMC and its methodological guidance are fulfilled (in particular the requirements for the creation process, public involvement and completeness).

The Council Implementing Decision required that all SUMP shall be based on the Urban and Active Mobility Concept. As evidenced by Annex 1 and Annex 5 documents, all statutory cities have received positive verification of their SUMP by the KPDMM Committee, with one exception for the city of Chomutov, as the city’s SUMP was only adopted in December 2023 and has not yet been submitted for verification. Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, it does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. Czechia has verified that all but one SUMP are based on and are compliant with the UAMC, and the KPDMM Committee will proceed to assess the compliance of the outstanding SUMP from KPDMM shortly, upon receipt of the official documents from the city of Chomutov. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, where a simplified SUMP already exists, a new version shall be prepared based on the Urban and Active Mobility Concept (UAMC) approved by the government. It shall contain all the required parts by the UAMC and shall be based on the required analyses by the UAMC such as traffic modelling and surveys.

As explained by Annex 1 and Annex 5 documents, six cities (Liberec, Hradec Kralove, Pardubice, Ustí nad Labem, Zlin, and Jablonec nad Nisou) previously had only simplified SUMP. Since 2021, these cities replaced their simplified SUMP by the fully fledged SUMP and the representative bodies of each city have adopted them by 13 December 2022. As is evidenced by Annex 5 documents of KPDMM meetings minutes, the KPDMM Committee verified the compliance of these SUMP.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, all SUMP shall be approved by the city representative bodies by 30 June 2023.

With the exception of one statutory city, 25 statutory cities adopted their SUMP by 30 June 2023. The city of Chomutov adopted its SUMP after the date of 30 June 2023. This is evidenced by Annex 1, Annex 2 containing the adopted SUMP and Annex 4 containing resolutions by the representative bodies of the cities which adopted their respective SUMP. The Council Implementing Decision required that all SUMP shall be approved by the city representative bodies by 30 June 2023. One SUMP was not adopted by the date indicated in the Council Implementing Decision. Whilst this constitutes a minimal temporal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, all SUMP, including the SUMP of the city of Chomutov, were approved by the city representative bodies until the conclusion of this preliminary assessment. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 87</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[2.1]-I[2]-T[87]: Electrification of railways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Target:</td>
<td>Completion of two projects from a predefined set of projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Indicator:</td>
<td>Number of Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline: 0</td>
<td>Target: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target 87 is part of investment 2 on Electrification of railways, which aims at increasing the share of non-fossil fuel transport through the electrification of lines and the provision of traction power at substations.

Target 87 requires the completion of two projects from a predefined set of projects of electrified lines and traction feeder stations with increased power of newly built ones.

Target 87 is the first target of the investment 2, and it follows the completion of milestone 86, related to the definition of the set of projects comprising 39.7 km of electrified lines and 4 traction feeder stations with increased power or newly built. It will be followed by target 88, related to the completion of six additional projects from a predefined list of projects.

Evidence Provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 - List of two projects from a predefined set of projects: (a) Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty; b) Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín;

iii. Annex 2 – Minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport No MD-12871/2023-430/1 of 20 April 2023 confirming compliance of the technical specifications of the projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment in the Council Implementing Decision;

iv. Annex 3 - Protocol on the handover and acceptance of the construction for both projects signed by the constructor and the competent authority (Správa železnic, the Railway Administration). For the project on the “Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty”, the protocol No 5213510012 was signed on 27 October 2022. For the project on the “Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín”, the protocol No 19823/2021-SZ-SSV-Ú2 was signed on 12 December 2021.

v. Annex 4 – Copies of permits for trial operations issued by the State Rail Office relating to the projects listed under annex 1. For the project on the “increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty”, the Railway authority issued building permit DUCR-40877/19/RJ of 30 July 2019 and 5 permits for trial run operations: DUCR-8943/21/Rj of 16 February 2021, DUCR-67140/21/Rj on 12 November 2021, DUCR-67147/21/Rj on 12 November 2021, DUCR-23498/22/Rj on 22 April 2022, DUCR-37243/22/Rj on 16 June 2022. For the project on the “Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín”, the following permit was provided: DUCR-73359/21/Bn on 12 December 2021.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of two projects from the predefined set of projects comprising 39.7 km of electrified lines and 4 traction feeder stations with increased power or newly built.

In line with the description of the target, Czechia submitted evidence concerning the completion of two projects from the predefined list of projects. The list of planned projects was defined under Milestone 86 and submitted as part of the first payment request by Czechia. The list of the two projects was provided under Annex 1. The two projects are a) Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty and b) Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín. According to the revised
summary document and the annexes (1 to 4) provided, the two projects submitted as part of this target match projects included in the predefined set of projects assessed under milestone 86.

The undersigned minutes of the project evaluation committee meeting of the Ministry of Transport No. MD-12871/2023-430/1 of 20 April 2023 confirm the compliance of the technical specifications of the projects (Annex 2). Moreover, Czechia provided for both projects the protocol of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Administration confirming the handover and the acceptance of the construction (Annex 3). For the “Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty” project, the evidence was complemented with a certificate confirming the conclusion of the works (Annex 3). For the “Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín”, Czechia submitted the minutes of the handover of the construction site signed at the beginning of the works on 12 April 2021 which also states the contractual obligations of the constructor at the construction site. Annex 4 demonstrates that the permits were issued by the Czech Railway Authority for trail operations of both projects: Six permits for the “Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty” and one permit for the “Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín”.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, two projects from the predefined set of projects were completed by 30 June 2023. The project of “Increase of traction power of TNS Rostoklaty” was concluded on 27 October 2022 and the project “Reconstruction of 22/3kV transformers at TNS Kolín” was concluded on 12 December 2021, meeting the deadline stipulated in the Council Implementing Decision.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 90</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.1]-I[I3]-T[90]: Improving the environment (railway infrastructure support)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Target:</td>
<td>Completion of 26 projects from a predefined set of projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects</td>
<td>Baseline: 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

Target 90 is part of investment 3 supporting (railway infrastructure support) component 2.1 which aims at supporting environmental and climate protection by increasing the share of rail transport, improving the energy efficiency of railways stations, and developing adequate access for services to disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

Target 90 consists of completion of 26 projects, from the predefined list set out in milestone 89 of projects delivering modernised lines, modernised railway stations with reconstructed track and safely and barrier-free accessible platforms, stations buildings with reduced energy intensity and increased comfort and better services for passengers.

Target 90 is the middle step of the implementation of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 89, which concerned the definition of a set of projects comprising about 121.88 km of modernised lines, 9 modernised railway stations with reconstructed track and safely and barrier-free accessible platforms and 35 station buildings with reduced energy intensity, increased comfort and better services for passengers. Target 90 will be followed by targets 91 and 261, related to the completion of additional 30 projects from the predefined list. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 – List of 26 completed projects;

iii. Annex 2 – Copies of minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and State Fund for the Development of Transport Infrastructure, including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the two projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment set out in the Council Implementing Decision;

iv. Annex 3 – Copies of protocols of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Management Agency (Správa Železnic);

v. Annex 4 – Copies of permits for trial operation issued by the State Rail Office (Dražní úřad).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of 26 projects from the predefined set of projects comprising 121.88 km of modernised lines, 9 modernised railway stations with reconstructed track and safely and barrier-free accessible platforms and 35 station buildings with reduced energy intensity, increased comfort and better services for passengers.

In line with the description of the target, Czechia submitted evidence concerning the completion of 26 projects from the predefined list of modernised railway structures assessed under milestone 89.

The list of 26 completed projects was provided under Annex 1. These projects included:

- nine projects of modernised lines, constituting in total 78.7 kilometres of modernised railway lines;
- four projects of modernised railway stations with reconstructed track and safely and barrier-free accessible platforms;
- thirteen projects of stations buildings with reduced energy intensity, increased comfort and better services for passengers.

Czechia presented proof of completion of the projects through three Annexes. First, Annex 2 contains the minutes of the project evaluation committee meetings of the Ministry of Transport, which accepted the projects and confirmed their compliance with the description of the target and of the description of the investment.

Second, Annex 3 contains protocols of handover prepared by the Czech Railway Administration, confirming the handovers of the works for the projects, and the contractors who conducted the works. Third, Annex 4 contains the relevant permits for trial operation of the projects issued by the Czech State Rail Office, where required under law. In some cases, trial operations were not required because of the nature of the projects. Namely for thirteen projects of stations buildings with reduced energy intensity, increased comfort and better services for passengers, the approval process of the State Rail Office does not have to take place. Furthermore, Czechia also declares in Annex 4 that three projects for modernisation of railway lines with project identifiers 002, 003 and 010 did not require the State Rail Office to issue permits for trial operation. For projects 002 and 003, the works related to increasing the stability of rock massifs along the track, however they did
not involve any changes of technical parameters of the track thus not requiring new permits for trial operation. Meanwhile, for project 010 the reconstruction of the track in the section Kryry – Vroutek did not require a permit for trial operation by the Railway Office because the works were in line with the original specifications of that section of track.

In line with the description of the target in the Council Implementing Decision, the measure requires the completion of 26 projects selected from the predefined set of projects. The latter was defined as part of milestone 89 and assessed in the first payment request. Following a cross-checking of the predefined list provided for milestone 89 with documentary evidence submitted under target 90, it is confirmed that 26 projects included in Annex 1 match those projects.

In line with the measure description, all 26 projects under target 90 shall be completed by 31 December 2022. Taking the evidence provided by Annexes 3 and 4, all projects were completed by the required date.

Completion of [...] station buildings with reduced energy intensity.

Annex 1 provides references to energy efficiency certificates for each of the thirteen station buildings with reduced energy intensity and the actual reduction of energy intensity achieved. Full assessment of all energy renovations will take place at the end of the investment due to the need to determine the average reduction of energy intensity for all 35 station buildings being renovated under Investment 3.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

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**Number:** 95  
**Related Measure:** CZ-C[C2.1]-I[4]-T[95]: Road and rail safety (railway crossings, bridges and tunnels, cycle paths and barrier-free routes)

**Name of the Target:** Completion of modernised railway bridges or tunnels

**Quantitative Indicator:** Number of modernised railway artificial structures (bridges and tunnels)  
**Baseline:** 3  
**Target:** 6  
**Time:** Q4 2022

**Context:**

The aim of this investment is to improve traffic safety by taking concrete safety measures at railway crossings and improving the condition of bridges and tunnel structures. Building cycle paths and pedestrian barrier-free routes is also part of the investment, with the objective of improving the safety of vulnerable traffic participants as part of the promotion of active mobility, especially in cities.

Target 95 concerns the completion of three modernised railway artificial structures (bridges and tunnels).  
Target 95 is the second step in the implementation of the part of the investment related to the modernisation of railway artificial structures. It follows the completion of target 94, related to the completion of three modernised railway artificial structures, and it is accompanied by target 99, related to the completion of one modernised railway artificial structure, also part of this payment request. It will be followed by target 101, related to the completion of one railway artificial structure. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following
evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, dated 1 July 2023;

ii. Annex 1 – List of two completed projects, referring to one reconstructed tunnel and two reconstructed bridges;

iii. Annex 2 – Copies of minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and State Fund for the Development of Transport Infrastructure (dated 20 October 2022), including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the two projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment set out in the Council Implementing Decision;

iv. Annex 3 – Copies of protocols of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Management Agency (Správa Železnic), dated 1 November 2021 and 21 July 2022;

v. Annex 4 – Copies of permits for trial operation issued by the State Rail Office (Dražní úřad).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of three modernised railway artificial structures (bridges and tunnels) for the operational phase.

According to the evidence provided (Annexes 1 to 4), the two projects supported by the investment are (i) the reconstruction of tunnel ID no. 124 Podhradský on the TÚ line 1733 Kácov – Světlá nad Sázavou, and (ii) the reconstruction of two bridges at km 11.314 and 11.599 on the Louny – Libochovice line. The two projects completed three modernised railway artificial structures (bridges and tunnels).

In Annex 3, Czechia provided two protocols of handover and acceptance of the constructions signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Management Office (Správa Železnic), including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the project with the description of the target and the investment in the Council Implementing Decision. The undersigned minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and the State Fund for Transport under Annex 2 also confirm that the technical specifications of the two projects complied with the description of the target in the Council Implementing Decision. Furthermore, for both projects, Annex 3 provides a certificate of receipt of the work, undersigned by both the Czech Railway Management Agency (Správa Železnic) as the competent authority, and the relevant contractor. Finally, permits for trial operation issued by the State Rail Office (Dražní úřad) for the two projects are provided in Annex 4.

The two projects improve the unsatisfactory technical conditions of two bridges and one tunnel with an adjacent track, as shown in the protocols of handover (Annex 3) and the trial permits (Annex 4). The reconstruction of the Podhradský Tunnel included repair of railway top and bottom, the retaining wall and rehabilitation of the slope at the entry portal. The reconstruction of the two bridges has improved traffic safety and has reduced travel times by eliminating speed dips.

Completion of projects involving three additional modernised railway bridges or tunnels by 31 December 2022.

As evidenced by the protocols of handover, the first project was completed on 1 November 2021 and the second on 21 July 2022, meeting the deadline stipulated in the Council Implementing Decision.
**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 96</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-[C2.1]-[I4]-T [96]: Road and rail safety (railway crossings, bridges and tunnels, cycle paths and barrier-free routes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Target: Completion of level crossings with an increased safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Indicator: Number of level crossings with an increased safety</td>
<td>Baseline: 45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The aim of this investment is to improve traffic safety by taking concrete safety measures at railway crossings and improving the condition of bridges and tunnel structures. Building cycle paths and pedestrian barrier-free routes is also part of the investment, with the objective of improving the safety of vulnerable traffic participants as part of the promotion of active mobility, especially in cities.

Target 96 concerns the completion of 115 level crossings with an increased protection level, with newly installed or modernised flashlight warning systems or mechanical safety installation.

Target 96 is the second step in the implementation of the part of the investment related to the improvement of traffic safety of railway level crossings. It follows the completion of target 92, related to the completion of 45 level crossings, and it will be followed by target 98, related to the completion of 291 level crossings. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, dated 1 September 2023;

ii. Annex 1 – List of 75 completed projects, referring to 115 completed level crossings;

iii. Annex 2 – Copies of minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and State Fund for the Development of Transport Infrastructure (dated 20 October 2022), including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the 75 projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment set out in the Council Implementing Decision;

iv. Annex 3 – Copies of protocols of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Management Agency (Správa Železnic), dated between September 2020 and September 2022;

v. Annex 4 – Copies of permits for trial operation issued by the State Rail Office (Dražní úřad), dated between September 2020 and September 2022.

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of 115 level crossings with an increased protection level, with newly installed or modernised flashlight warning system or mechanical safety installation.
According to the evidence provided (Annexes 1 to 4), Czechia completed 115 railway level crossings with an increased protection level, with newly installed or modernised flashlight warning system or mechanical safety installation. The list of completed projects (Annex 1) details that there were 75 construction actions in total, where 20 projects contained two crossings each, eight projects contained three crossings each, one project contained five crossings, and the remaining 47 projects contained one crossing each.

In Annex 3, Czechia provided 75 protocols of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the Czech Railway Management Office (Správa Železnic), including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the project with the description of the target and the description of the investment in the Council Implementing Decision. The evidence of the latter is provided in Annex 2 by undersigned minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and the State Fund for Transport. The document declares that technical specifications of all projects complied with the description of the target in the Council Implementing Decision. Furthermore, for every project, Annex 3 provides a certificate of receipt of the work, undersigned by the Czech Railway Management Agency as (Správa Železnic) as the competent authority, and the relevant contractor. Finally, permits for trial operation issued by the State Rail Office (Dražní úřad) for each of the 75 projects are provided in Annex 4.

Evidence towards the requirement to provide an increased level of protection through newly installed or modernised flashlight warning system or mechanical safety installations is jointly provided by Annex 1 and Annex 3. Annex 1 (list of projects), in column N “Increased security features”, provides information about the nature of the protection measures undertaken for each crossing (e.g., installation of barriers, warning light signals). Furthermore, Annex 3 (handover protocols) provides further information about the nature of the protection measures undertaken for each project.

To conclude, based on the provided evidence in Annexes 1 and 3, all 115 level crossings benefit from increased protection levels either on the basis of newly installed or modernised flashlight warning system, or based on new or modernised mechanical safety installations.

Completion of projects involving 115 additional level crossings by 31 December 2022.

As evidenced by the protocols of handover, all 75 projects were completed by 30 September 2022, meeting the deadline stipulated in the measure description.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled
Target 97 concerns the completion of 24 kilometres of built cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier-free routes.
Target 97 is the second step in the implementation of the part of the investment related to cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier free routes, and it follows the completion of target 93 related to the completion of a total of 29.5 kilometres of built cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier free routes. Target 97 of this investment will be followed by the last target 100, which relates to the completion of additional 36 kilometres of built cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier free routes. The investment has a final expected date for implementation 31 December 2024.

Evidence Provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 2 February 2024);
ii. Annex 1 – List of 12 completed projects;
iii. Annex 2 – Copies of minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and State Fund for the Development of Transport Infrastructure (dated 24 November 2022), including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the 12 projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment in the Council Implementing Decision;
iv. Annex 3 – Copies of protocols on handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the contractor and the competent authority (relevant municipality or region);
v. Annex 4a – Verification of the protocols by the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure and Ministry of Transport allowing each project to be used by the public;
vi. Annex 4b – Verification documents for kilometres built such as final evaluation and inspection reports dated between 29 June 2021 and 17 December 2023.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of 24 kilometres of built cycle paths, sidewalks, barrier-free routes
According to the evidence provided (Annexes 1 to 4b), Czechia completed 25.48 kilometres of constructed and reconstructed cycle paths, barrier free routes and sidewalks.

The detailed list of projects is found in Annex 1, and it includes information on the start and end dates of physical implementation for each project, project length in kilometres, the names of contractors and subcontractors together with their identification numbers. This information is also contained in the protocols of handover (Annex 3) and the project final evaluation reports or inspection reports (Annex 4b). Six projects involve the reconstruction of sidewalks, and one project concerns the construction of an underpass on road I/50 in Nevojice (Project #009). Five projects concern the construction of built cycle paths: four cycle paths in the municipalities of Jevičko, Vranovice-Kelčice, Janov, and Štítná nad Vláři; and one cycle path by road I/52 on the side of the central reservoir of the New Waterworks in the South Moravian Region.

In Annex 3, Czechia provided 12 protocols of handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the contractor and the relevant municipality or region, including confirmation of compliance of the technical specifications of the project with the description of the target and of the description of the investment in the Council Implementing Decision. The evidence of the latter is provided in
Annex 2 by undersigned minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport and the State Fund for Transport. The document declares that technical specifications of all 12 projects complied with the description of the target in the Council Implementing Decision. Furthermore, for every project, Annex 3 provides a certificate of receipt of the work, undersigned by the relevant municipality or region as the competent authority, and the relevant contractor. For project 011 the certificate of receipt of the work is signed by the South Moravian Region as the region is the competent authority. The protocols of handover submitted in Annex 3 were verified and signed by the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure and the Ministry of Transport for each of the 12 projects and submitted in Annex 4a. Finally, the exact kilometres built in each project are evidenced in the final evaluation and inspection reports provided in Annex 4b.

**Completion of projects involving the construction of 24 additional km of built cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier-free routes by 31 December 2022.**

As evidenced, by the protocols of handover, all 12 projects were completed by 9 November 2022, meeting the deadline stipulated in measure description.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 99</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.1]-I[I4]-T [99]: Road and rail safety (railway crossings, bridges and tunnels, cycle paths and barrier-free routes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Target:</strong> Completion of modernised railway bridges or tunnels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative Indicator:</strong> Number of modernised railway artificial structures (bridges / tunnels)</td>
<td>Baseline: 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The aim of this investment is to improve traffic safety by taking concrete safety measures at railway crossings and improving the condition of bridges and tunnel structures. Building cycle paths and pedestrian barrier-free routes is also part of the investment, with the objective of improving the safety of vulnerable traffic participants as part of the promotion of active mobility, especially in cities.

Target 99 concerns the completion of one modernised railway artificial structure for the operational phase, namely a bridge or a tunnel structure.

Target 99 is the third step in the implementation of the part of the investment related to bridges, tunnels structures, cycle paths, sidewalks and barrier free routes, and it follows the completion of targets 94 and 95 related to the completion of six bridges and tunnels. Target 99 will be followed by the last target namely target 101 which relates to the completion of one bridge or tunnel. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 – A list with one completed project, prepared by the Ministry of Transport, dated 20 April 2023;

iii. Annex 2 – Copies of minutes of the project evaluation committee of the competent
authority confirming compliance of the technical specifications of the projects with the description of the target and of the description of the investment in the Council Implementing Decision, dated 20 April 2023;

iv. Annex 3 – Copies of protocols on handover and acceptance of the construction signed by the constructor and the competent authority;

v. Annex 4 – Copies of permits for operation, decisions by the relevant building authority allowing each project to be used by the public, issued by the Czech State Rail Office on 31 October 2022.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of one modernised railway artificial structure for the operational phase

In line with Council Implementing Decision requirements, Czechia presented evidence it completed one additional modernised railway artificial structure. As indicated the quantitative indicator of the target, these structures are to be either bridges or tunnels.

As evidenced by Annexes 1-4, the project concerns the reconstruction of the bridge at 200,916 km of the line between the cities of Plzeň and Žatec, namely a bridge structure over the Ohře river in the town of Žatec. The reconstruction started in June 2021 and all the works were completed in October 2022 as evidenced by Annex 3.

Czechia demonstrated completion of the project by providing Minutes of the project evaluation committee, protocols on handover and acceptance of the construction, and permits for operation.

First, Annex 2 sets out minutes of the project evaluation committee of the Ministry of Transport, which accepted the project to be completed. Second, the Annex 3 documents contain protocols of handover prepared by the Czech Railway Administration, confirms the handovers of the works for modernisation of the bridge and associated works on the bridge, and the contractors who conducted the works. Third, the Annex 4 document provides a permit for trail operation of the modernised bridge issued by the CZ State Rail Office.

Completion of projects involving [...] 1 additional modernised railway bridge or tunnel by 31 December 2023.

As evidenced by the protocols of handover, the project was completed by 31 December 2023, meeting the deadline stipulated in measure description.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 132</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.6]-I[I1]-T[132]: Flood Protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Target:</td>
<td>T1: Completion of 15 projects aiming at establishing resilient flood protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Indicator:</td>
<td>Completion of 15 projects aiming at establishing resilient flood protection. Baseline: 0 Target: 15 Time: Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td>Target 132 is part of Investment I, which aims at protecting populated areas against the negative effects of flood, at improving water retention in the landscape, and at facilitating the natural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
treatment of existing water structures in built-up areas. Target 132 consists of the completion of 15 projects aiming at establishing resilient flood protection. Target 132 is the second step of the implementation of this investment. It follows the completion of milestone 131 related to the notification of award of flood protection contracts. It will be followed by target 133 which relates to the completion of 23 projects aiming at flood protection by Q4 2024. The investment has final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);

ii. Annex 2 – Copies of building permits for 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture;

iii. Annex 3 – A copy of the completion report issued by the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering, on 26 June 2023 for the 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture;

iv. Annex 4 – Assessment sheets (annex to completion report under Annex 3);

v. Annex 5 – Copies of decisions on final work acceptance for the 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture;

vi. Annex 6 – Description by the Ministry of Environment of the project implemented by the Ministry of Environment;

vii. Annex 7 – A copy of the building permit for the project implemented by the Ministry of Environment;

viii. Annex 8 – A copy of expert opinion issued by the Czech Chamber of Authorised Engineers and Technicians active in construction on 11 January 2022 for the project implemented by the Ministry of Environment;

ix. Annex 9 – Call 10/2021 on the submission of applications for aid under the National Environment Programme issued on 23 June 2022 by the Ministry of Environment;

x. Annex 10 – A copy of the statement issued by the Czech Chamber of Authorised Engineers and Technicians active in construction on the implementation of the action in accordance with the expert opinion issued by the State Environment Fund on 25 October 2023.

The authorities also provided:

xi. Annex 1 – List of the 15 projects implemented by both the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment;

xii. Annex 11 – Additional information on projects 129D365005582 „02.106 Opatření v úseku pod Krnovem – Polsko, OHO” and 129D366005302 „Klimatologická stanice, OHO”; and additional information on the Report of the independent expert;

xiii. Annex 12 – Copies of contracts for the 15 projects;

xiv. Annex 13 – A copy of the declaration of the Chief Executive Officer of the Water Section of the Ministry of Agriculture on the effects of the projects on the ecological and chemical status of the affected water bodies issued on 4 January 2024;

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target. In particular:

15 projects aiming at establishing resilient flood protection are completed.
In line with the operational arrangements, Czechia provided completion reports by independent engineers (see annexes 3 and 8) and work acceptance documentation issued in line with national legislation (see annexes 5 and 10). All projects consist of flood protection measures. 14 projects are based on the Programme 129360 “Support for flood protection IV” and one project is based on Call No 10/2021 whose objective is to ensure efficient management of rainwater in the built-up area of municipalities and to ensure the implementation of flood protection measures with a wide use of nature-based features in an urbanised area.

First completion report by independent engineer for 15 listed projects.
The list of 15 projects is presented in Annex 1. Czechia submitted two completion reports (Annexes 3 and 8), one covering projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (projects 1 to 14) and one for the one project implemented by the Ministry of Environment (project 15).

The Czech Technical University was contracted as an independent expert by the Ministry of Agriculture. As evidenced in Annex 3, its report assessed 14 projects focusing on flood protection implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and concluded notably on p.6 that all assessed projects are in line with the description of the investment.

The expert opinion by the Czech Chamber of Authorized Engineer active in construction in Annex 8 also confirms the suitability of the one project implemented by the Ministry of Environment (Project No 15), in consistency notably with the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks and the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (see pages 2 and 3).

Both reports, the one by the Czech Technical University and the one by the Czech Chamber of Authorized Engineers active in construction, meet the condition of being authored by an independent engineer, as required by the Council Implementing Decision.

In line with the National Action plan for Climate Change Adaptation and State Policy of the Environment in the Czech Republic 2030 with a view to 2050, nature-based solutions shall be given a preference, while constructing and/or refurbishing of artificial concrete-based flood protection infrastructure shall be avoided as much as possible.
As evidenced in Annex 3 (page 5), nature-based solutions were preferred in the vast majority of 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, with concrete or mortar only used when necessary for structural reasons or in densely populated areas. Project no 15, implemented by the Ministry of Environment, is in line with the Ministry of Environment’s call for grant applications No 10/2021 (see Annex 8 and Annex 10), which aimed to ensure effective management of rainwater in the urban area and the implementation of anti-flood measures with the use of elements “close to nature” in urbanised areas (see Annex 9 - point 1 ‘Objective of the call’). The project replaced traditional pavement with a permeable one, a form of green infrastructure allowing for water absorption and retention (see Annex 6).

The listed projects shall be implemented only once permits are granted by the relevant water...
authority based on an environmental impact assessment, where this is required in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU, and relevant assessments in the context of Directive 2000/60/EC.

Building permits were delivered for all 15 projects and these justify the compliance with the Directive 2011/92/EU and the Directive 2000/60/EC, which is an integral part of the verifications in the context of the Czech permitting procedure (see Annex 2 and Annex 7).

With regards the 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, the independent body (see Annex 3, on page 6) also states that all the implemented projects met the requirements resulting from the relevant environmental legislation including Directive 2011/92/EU and Council Directive 92/43/EEC, respecting relevant provisions of Directive 2000/60/EC. The independent body also specifically confirmed on p. 3 that if a permit or approval is issued, the compliance with Directive 2011/92/EU is considered to be satisfactory.

For the project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, call 10/2021 (Annex 9) also specifies that the supported projects must be consistent with Directives 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Annex 9 – 10. Conditions of the call).

The permits assess all potential impacts on the status of water bodies within the same river basin and on protected habitats and species directly dependent on water, considering in particular migration corridors, free-flowing rivers or ecosystems close to undisturbed conditions, as well as current pressures related to water abstraction. Projects shall contribute to the achievement of good ecological status or potential of the water bodies concerned in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

Ensuring compliance with requirements under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the assessment of the project’s impacts on the status of water bodies and on biodiversity are part of the permitting procedure in Czechia. As mentioned above, all projects were granted a permit (see Annex 2 and Annex 7).

In addition, with regards the 14 projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, the independent body (Annex 3 and Annex 4) has assessed whether each project respects the relevant provisions of Directive 2000/60/EC, complies with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) and causes no deterioration of the status/potential nor prevents good status/potential achievement of the affected water body. On page 5, the independent report confirms that the Czech Law No 254/2001 is harmonised with the Directive 2000/60/EC. Relevant water authorities evaluate every project with respect to the compliance of the provisions of the Water act prior issuing the approval or building permit. The independent body also states (see pages 3 and 6) that, “in line with the description of the target, all potential impacts on the status of water bodies within the same river basin and on protected habitats and species directly dependent on water, considering in particular migration corridors, free-flowing rivers or ecosystems close to undisturbed conditions, as well as current pressures related to water abstraction were assessed by the relevant water authorities during the process of issuing permits or approvals”. The report also states on page 6 that “none of the projects causes any deterioration of the ecological status/potential or prevents good ecological status/potential achievement”. It states also on page 6 that all the implemented projects “met the requirements resulting from the relevant environmental legislation including Directive 2011/92/EU and Council Directive 92/43/EEC, respecting relevant provisions of Directive 2000/60/EC and compliance with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01) or did not require substantive DNSH assessment”. The project implemented by the Ministry of Environment also underwent the permitting procedure which ensures compliance with the Directive 2000/60/EC. Given the size, nature and location of the project (in urban area), an assessment of impacts on water bodies and biodiversity, as mentioned in the Council Implementing Decision, was not relevant in this case (see Annex 13: Small-scale
constructions in *intravilan*, that is built-up areas, are not part of basin management plans).

Regarding the projects aiming at reconstruction or modernization of dams: the project’s design shall incorporate the necessary results and conditions from the Environmental Impact Assessment, which shall be completed in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU as well as relevant assessments in the context of Directive 2000/60/EC, including the implementation of required mitigation measures, ensuring compliance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

None of the implemented projects include reconstruction or modernization of dams, as evidenced in Annexes 3 (page 5) and 8 (page 2).

Finally, in line with the description of the investment, the investment shall support flood protection projects (e.g. identification of water retention potential; establishment, treatment and reconstruction of polders and absorbing grass strips; construction and reconstruction of natural water reservoirs; or other measures to achieve a retardation of surface run-off and a reduction in flood wave speed).

Based on the description of the projects from the submitted evidence (for example Annexes 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9), it is possible to confirm that projects completed so far under this investment contribute to flood protection. The majority of the projects (10) increased the non-damaging discharge capacity of the watercourse in the scope of the project while five of these projects have also contributed to flood protection to the downstream sections of the watercourses due to retention capacity increase. A minority of the projects improved the local flood situation by channel stabilisation and erosion protection and one project focused on flood damage mitigation in a non-structural way, that is by improved forecasting and warning. The independent report also confirms on page five (Annex 3) that all 14 projects from the Ministry of Agriculture contributed to flood protection of populated areas. The project implemented by the Ministry of Environment consists of rainwater management in urban areas.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

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<table>
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<th><strong>Number:</strong> 139</th>
<th><strong>Related Measure:</strong> CZ-C[C2.6]-I[I4]-M[139]: Building forests resilient to climate change</th>
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<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong></td>
<td>Amendment to the ministerial decree on forest management planning (amendment to Decree No. 84/1996 Coll. on forest management planning)</td>
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<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong></td>
<td>Entry into force of the Amendment to ministerial Decree on forest management planning (Amendment to Decree No.84/1996 Coll. on forest management planning)</td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
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**Context:**

Milestone 139 is part of an investment that aims at building forests resilient to climate change. Milestone 139 relates to the entry into force of the amendment to the ministerial Decree on forest management planning (Amendment to Decree No 84/1996 Coll on forest management planning).

Milestone 139 is the first milestone of the investment. It will be followed by target 140 and target 141 related to the reforestation of a total of 36000ha of areas by ameliorative and stabilising tree species. Target 140 relates to the reforestation of 12000 ha and target 141 to reforestation of 24000ha.
The investment has a final expected date for implementation of 31 March 2024.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);

ii. Annex 1 – copy of the Decree No. 186/2022 Coll. amending the Decree No. 84/1996 Coll. about forest management planning and the Decree No. 456/2021 Coll. about the details of transmission of reproductive material of forest wood, a register and an origin of the reproductive material and details about restoration of forests and reforestation of land intended for fulfilment of functions of the forest. In line with the national law, the Decree was published in the Official Journal and in force on 30 June 2022. The Decree entered into application on two different dates: Part 1 regarding the Decree No 84/1996 Coll. on 1 January 2023 and Part 2 regarding the Decree No. 456/2021 Coll. on 1 July 2022.

The authorities also provided:

iii. Annex 2 - copy of the consolidated version of the Decree No. 84/1996 Coll. of 18 March 1996 on forest management planning, as amended by the decree 186/2022 Coll;

iv. Annex 3 – copy of the draft Decree No. 84/1996 Coll., as amended by the decree No. 186/2022, in track changes;

v. Annex 4 – Decree No. 298/2018 Coll. of 11 December 2018 on processing regional plans of forest development and determination of economic units (hereinafter “Decree 298/2018 on forest management planning”). In line with the national law, the Decree was published in the Official Journal and entered into force on 20 December 2018. It entered into application on 1 January 2019;

vi. Annex 5 – Table entitled ‘CID Requirements for M139, T140 – table’ providing additional supporting information on the Decree No. 186/2022 Coll.

Analysis:

Amendment to the ministerial decree on forest management planning, which shall specifically pave the way for multigenerational, multispecies and resilient forests, shall be adopted.
The Decree No. 186/2022 Coll., amending Decree No. 84/1996 Coll., on forest management planning, entered into force on 30 June 2022 (see Annex 1 p. 3) and into application by the time of this assessment.

As described in more detail below, the introduction of new planning method coupled with the binding requirements for newly planted forest in the amended Decree paves the way for multigenerational, multispecies and resilient forest.

The amendment to Forest Management Decree shall aim at the creation of genuine multigenerational forest, introduce innovative methods of forest managements planning for the forests with rich age structure.
The main purpose of the Decree No. 186/2022 Coll. is to allow the use of innovative methods of forest management planning that are adapted to forests with rich age structure (i.e. forest inventory method, relevant provisions are referenced below). As described in the explanatory memorandum accompanying the Decree, the new rules extend the control methods for forest management to include the possibility of surveying forest status on inventory areas. The use of such new, alternative method of surveying forest status improves analysis and planning, constituting the
basis for more resilient, multigenerational forests. All forest owners managing more than 50 hectares of forests must elaborate forest management plans and these must be approved by the forest state administration. On the basis of the Decree, these plans can from now onwards implement a change in the way forest management planning (and subsequent management) is carried out, from the age-class method to the operational inventory method as a measure facilitating a climate change adaptation, which is suitable for forest estates with age- and species-diverse forests (see the Decree and annexes, point 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23 and 28). In particular, the Decree introduces new requirements concerning the following elements: i) the content of the forest management plans, including the data from the inventory of the condition of the forest, if the latter is applicable (Sections 4 to 7, Annex 1/0,1,3d, 3e, 4b 5, 6); ii) the procedure for assessing the condition of the forest through inventory (Sections 7a – 7d and Annex 6 of the Decree); iii) the restrictions to logging, including in forests in which their condition is determined through inventory (Sections 8 – 10, annex 6 of the Decree). In the explanatory memorandum accompanying the Decree, Czechia also explains that the use of the inventory methodology is incentivised through dedicated subsidies under the Government Regulation No. 30/2014 Coll. regulating financial support for the forestry sector, as updated in 2022. Over time, thanks to the availability of the new planning method and binding requirements for newly planted forest (see below), the Decree paves the way for more forest having a rich age structure, in line with the aim set out in the Council Implementing Decision Annex to create a genuine multigenerational forest in the future.

The Decree shall assure that the tree species composition of newly planted forests aims for close-to-nature composition with significant increase of broadleaved species (so-called "recommended composition" by the research).

The Decree assures that tree species composition of newly planted forests will be close-to-nature, with significant increase of broadleaved species, thanks to forest management plans that include minimum binding shares of ameliorative and stabilizing species for concerned forest stands. In fact, tree species composition is implemented through a forest management plan elaborated in line with Decree No. 186/2022 Coll (see section 4, referenced below). The milestone in the Council Implementing Decision is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that the amendment to the ministerial decree on forest management planning (amendment to Decree No. 84/1966 Coll) shall be read together with Decree No. 298/2018 Coll. on the formulation of local plans on forest development and on definition of management units. The link between Decree No. 186/2022 Coll. and Decree No 298/2018 Coll is established in Article 1, point 22, footnote 9 of Decree 186/2022 Coll, which cross-refers back to Annex 2 of Decree No 298/2018. Decree No 298/2018 defines tree species, including ameliorative and stabilizing tree species, for each forest typological unit (see Annex 2 of the Decree Framework definition of target management groups). The annex provides for minimum shares of ameliorative and stabilizing species (i.e. broad-leaved species and Silver Fir) to be used for forest regeneration (that is when planting new forest) in order to obtain financial aid (see Annex 2 of Decree No 298/2018 Coll). Such recommended minimum shares become binding for forest owners through forest management plans in compliance with Decree No 186/2022 Coll (see Section 4 of the consolidated decree, setting requirements for forest restoration). Based on the information provided by Czechia in Annex 5, following the changes introduced, current plantings are now closer to the natural species composition of the forests thanks to almost 40% and 100% increases in the proportion of broadleaved species and in the number of broadleaved species, respectively.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: 140 Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.6]-I[I4]-T [140]: Building forests resilient to
Name of the Target: T1: Reforestation of 12000 ha of areas by ameliorative and stabilising tree species

Quantitative Indicator: Hectares of reforestation  
Baseline: 0  
Target: 12000  
Time: Q3 2022

Context:

Target 140 is part of an investment (“Building forests resilient to climate change”) which aims at restoring a stable forest by planting native and heterogeneous species, while aiming for multigenerational and spatial composition of the forest resilient to climate change.

Target 140 consists of the reforestation of 12000 ha of areas by ameliorative and stabilising tree species. Target 140 is the first target of the implementation of Investment 4 and it will be followed by target 141 related to the reforestation of additional 24000 ha. It was preceded by milestone 139 concerning the adoption of Decree on forest management planning. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 September 2024.

Evidence Provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in its description and of the corresponding measure in the Council Implementing Decision annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);

ii. Annex 1a – Report provided by the Ministry of Agriculture with the view to confirming the completion of more than 12000 ha of reforestation. This report includes a (i) description of the individual species planted and the respective number of hectares covered and (ii) an embedded hyperlink to a territorial plan indicating the conducted reforestation (at district level) together with an approximate number of trees planted, broken down to individual species (the documents is not dated);

iii. Annex 1b – Excel file entitled ‘Annex Target confirmation for T140’ and listing 4643 projects, including their location, the area they cover in ha and respective tree species (the list is not dated);


v. Annex 3.1 – attachment 1 to the above report, comprising the list of assessed subsidy applications (the document is not dated);

vi. Annex 3.2. – attachment 2 to the above report with the explanatory notes to the list of applications (the document is not dated).

The authorities also provided:

vii. For each of the 60 projects subject to sampling, confirmation of the completion of the projects issued by a forester and the record on the administrative check containing the ID of application, the applicant/beneficiary, year of execution of the works and year of application;

viii. Annex 4 – Decree No 298/2018 Coll on the drawing up of area forest development plans and on the definition of stocks;
Annex 5 – Additional information on the constitutive elements of the target;

x. Annex 6 – Regulation No. 30/2014 Coll establishing binding rules on financial contributions forest management and selected hunting activities.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion report by an independent body for 12000 ha reforestation projects.

As evidenced in Annex 3, the completion report issued by the Technical University in Zvolen in Slovakia, contracted by the Ministry of Agriculture, confirms the fulfilment of the milestone (see page 15 of the report). In addition, this report confirms that 8352 applications (linked to 4643 projects) for financial contributions submitted between 2020 and 2022 correspond to the reforestation of 12 293.14 ha (see page 13). The applications assessed concern completed projects of forest regeneration (soil preparation, planting, subsequent care and tending of young stands) and underplanting to allow for natural regeneration.

The selection of the Slovak University as a contractor meets the condition of independent body as the latter receives no financial contribution linked to the reforestation projects assessed (see page 4 of the report).

The reforestation shall aim to ensure multigenerational, multispecies forests with regard to spatial composition which are managed according to a continuous cover forestry approach. Even-aged monospecific forests shall be replaced by more biodiverse ecosystems, restricting the use of clear-cutting to cases where it is needed to ensure forest health and effective regeneration, and limiting the size of the clear-cut area as much as possible.

As evidenced in Annexes 1a and 1b, various ameliorative species were used for regeneration in the supported projects. The rules of the support programme are set out in Part One and Part Two, Title II of the Government Regulation No. 30/2014) establishing rules on financial contributions forest management and selected hunting activities. The latter specifies the conditions for granting the financial contribution for reforestation: In particular, underplanting is supported under the provision in para 7, point 4 letter b). Aid for pioneer tree species is included in Annex 1, table II, lines 1-5 (from planting to subsequent care). Natural regeneration is supported under the para 5 with higher flat rate (see annex 1 table II). Applicants under the support programme also need to comply with requirements set out in the Decree 298/2018 Coll. on formulation of local plans on forest development and on definition of management set of stands, effective as of 1 January 2019. The Decree sets minimum shares of ameliorative and stabilising species that have to be used for the regeneration in order to obtain the aid (Annex 2 of the Decree). The shares of ameliorative and stabilising species for regeneration were increased significantly with the adoption of the decree which replaced as from 2019 the Decree No. 83/1996 Coll. (Annex 3) as a reaction to the bark-beetle outbreak.

All these requirements ensure that the projects supported lead to the creation of more diverse and multigenerational forests and to the replacement of even-aged monospecific forests by more biodiverse ecosystems.

Management of forest according to a continuous approach is based on the Act No. 289/1995 on forests (hereinafter the “Forest Act”). The Forest Act requires forest owners to replant forest stands with habitat-appropriate woody plants and nurture them in a timely and systematic manner so as to improve their condition, increase their resilience and improve the full function of
the forest (Section 31). It is also based on the Government Resolution 30/2014 which further incentivises a) natural regeneration and b) follow-up care of already planted forests.

The size of the clear-cut is legally limited by the Forest Act. The aid under this investment was only provided for regeneration of forests and not to clear-cutting. Beneficiaries of the support had to follow Annex II of Decree 298/2018 Coll. setting minimum shares of ameliorative species.

Native tree species shall be used, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer adapted to projected climatic and pedohydrological conditions. Also, admixtures of not more than 25% of Douglas fir in mixed stands shall be accepted where allowed by national legislation, excluding Natura 2000 and other protected areas, and if the suitability of Douglas fir for the projected climatic conditions of the site of reforestation can be demonstrated.

According to the Government Regulation No. 30/2014 Coll. only native species are eligible for the support, except for Douglas Fir (See Annex I, table II, footnote 1). In addition, in order to fulfil using only native species for forest regeneration, a new condition was included in 2021 to the Government Regulation No. 30/2014 Coll. establishing binding rules on financial contributions forest management and selected hunting activities that Douglas Fir cannot be subsidised for regeneration of forests in Natura 2000 as well as in special protected areas (Annex 1 to the Regulation No. 30/2014 Coll., table II – Footnote 1)). The amendment entered into force in January 2022. Since the projects supported under target 140 materialised before 2022, control system was put in place to ensure Douglas Fir were excluded from Natura 2000 and other protected area. The independent body concludes that admixtures of not more than 25% of Douglas Fir in mixed stands were accepted and that Natura 2000 and other protected areas were excluded (See Annex 3).

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the target is satisfactorily fulfilled. For each of the 60 units, Czechia provided the checklist of the regional office containing, among others, the ID of application, the name of the applicant/beneficiary, the year of execution of the planting and compliance with the requirements of the Government Regulation 30/2014. In addition, for each of the 60 units, Czechia provided the completion report issued by a forester containing in particular the area covered (in ha) and the tree species involved. The sample of 60 units accounts for a total of 162 ha of regenerated projects. Based on the confirmation issued by foresters, it was verified for each unit in the sample, that the project is compliant with the evidence provided by the authorities in Annex 1b containing underlying data on individual reforestation actions and total sums (projects marked as B.a.1 (natural renewal) and B.b.1 (artificial renewal). In particular, it was verified that tree species and stands (including area in ha) correspond to the information provided in Annex 1b. The evidence provided allows to confirm the information contained in both the independent report (Annex 3) and in Annex 1b. On this basis, the Commission considers that the target of 12000 ha of reforestation is reached and that the reforestation aims to ensure multigenerational, multispecies forest. In addition, based on the completion report issued by a forester for each unit, it is also confirmed that no more that 25% of Douglas fir was supported, also at unit level.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

| Number: 142 | Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.6]-I-[I5]-M [142]: Water retention in forest |
| Name of the Target: T1: Completion of 40 projects of torrent control (small scale wooden and natural stone dams) to slow down surface runoff and water retention projects in forests | Baseline: 0 | Target: 40 | Time: Q1 2023 |
**Context:**

Target 142 is part of an investment that aims at strengthening water retention capacity in forests through the implementation of 60 projects of torrent control (small scale wooden and natural stone dams) to slow down surface runoff and water retention projects in forests (retention and small reservoirs).

Target 142 relates to the completion of 40 projects. It is the first step of the implementation of the investment and will be followed by target 143 related to the implementation of 20 additional projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation of 31 March 2024.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

1. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled (revised on 8 January 2024);
2. Annex 1 – Copies of building permits for 38 listed projects, two simplified versions of building permit issued by the concerned municipalities;
3. Annex 2 – Copies of occupancy approval decisions (completion report) for 40 listed projects delivered by the concerned cities or municipalities;
4. Annex 3b – A copy of the completion report by an independent body – Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering delivered on 6 August 2023.

The authorities also provided:

5. List of the 40 projects with their names, concerned municipality, expenditures, name of the beneficiary and implementation date;
6. Copies of the acceptance records or contracts for projects with early issued building permits;
7. National Action plan for Climate Change Adaptation issued by the Ministry of Environment in 2015 and approved by Government Resolution No 861 on 26 October 2015;
8. State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030 with outlook to 2050, issued by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and approved by Government Resolution No.21 on 11 January 2021.

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

In particular:

**Completion of 40 projects of torrent control (small scale wooden and natural stone dams) to slow down surface runoff and water retention projects in forests (retention and small reservoirs).**

Completion reports were provided for all 40 projects (see Annex 2). Based on the information contained in the same Annex 2, it can be confirmed that projects completed constitute torrent control and water retention projects in forests.

The completion report by the independent body corroborates this (Annex 3b, see assessment criteria 1 and 2). The independent body concludes (p. 6) that implementation of all the assessed
projects is in line with the description of the milestone and every project focus on one or more of the targeted types of intervention, which are treatment of forest watercourses, small water reservoirs in forests, and natural water retention measures aimed at slowing down the runoff, monitoring of accelerated erosion and the protection of the shedding basins.

Completion report by an independent body for 40 projects.
The Czech authorities have provided a completion report delivered by the Czech University of Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering from 6 August 2023, which is an independent body. As described on p.1 of this completion report, the assessment of each project was carried out based on the following nine assessment criteria, covering inter alia all the requirements listed in the target description. The nine criteria are as follows:

1. The project contributes to strengthening water retention capacity in forests;
2. The project relates to torrent control to slow down surface runoff (small scale wooden and natural stone check dams) or to water retention in forests (retention and small reservoirs);
3. The project uses nature-based solutions (in line with the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation as well as the National Policy of the Czech Republic to combat droughts);
4. Project does not have a negative impact on status/potential of the affected water bodies.
7. Project complies with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01);
8. Design documentation of the project acquired legal building permit according to the Czech legislation;
9. Project was implemented in accordance with the design documentation.

Project shall be as far as possible nature-based (in line with the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation as well as the National Policy of the Czech Republic to combat droughts).
This requirement is the 3rd assessment point evaluated by the independent body for all 40 projects (Annex 3b). As stated in the independent report (Annex 3a) on p. 5 “All projects are in line with the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and preferred nature-based solutions where possible. All projects also comply with the tools to support the measures on forest land of the National Policy of the Czech Republic to combat droughts.

The project’s designs shall incorporate the necessary results and conditions from the Environmental Impact Assessment, which shall be completed in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU as well as relevant assessments in the context of Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC.
These requirements are transposed into the assessment points 5, 6, 8 and 9 evaluated by the independent body for all 40 projects (Annex 3b). The independent body states (p. 5) that the implemented projects met the requirements resulting from the relevant environmental legislation including Directive 2011/92/EU and Council Directive 92/43/EEC, respected relevant provisions of Directive 2000/60/EC and complied with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01). The Czech authorities also submitted, as additional evidence, building permits or simplified building permits for 40 projects and justified that the compliance with Directives 2011/92/EU and 2000/60/EC is an integral part of the Czech permitting procedure. Annex I and II to Directive 2011/92/EU list the projects that fall under its scope. Projects listed in Annex II do not necessarily have significant effects on the environment; they should be assessed where the Member States consider that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment (Article 492) of the EIA Directive. In its report, the independent body (p.2) clarifies that the effect of small water reservoirs is considered
under the limit for EIA if located in protected areas or outside protected areas.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
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<th>Number: 150</th>
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<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Notification of the award of all public contracts for projects investing in circular solutions in businesses by the Ministry of Industry and Trade</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> Q4 2022</td>
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**Context:**

The objective of this investment is to support projects to promote the development of circular economy solutions, involving at least 60 businesses.

Milestone 150 requires a notification of the award of all public contracts for projects investing in circular solutions in businesses by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Milestone 150 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by target 151 related to the completion of the selected projects that support the development of circular solutions in industrial enterprises. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q4 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1 - Copies of the decisions to award grants issued by the Ministry of Industry and Trade during the period between February and March 2023 and signed by each selected recipient of the subsidy; in line with the Operational Arrangements, the decisions contain the required information such as the identification of the recipient of the subsidy, the project description, period for implementation, the contribution of each project to the circular economy in Articles 1, 2, 3, 6 of each decision;

iii. Annex 2 - Copies of technical specifications submitted by each recipient of the subsidy, including the information concerning the relevant permits by national authorities, where applicable (as set out in section 2.6 of each project technical specification).

The authorities also provided:

iv. Annex 3 - List of projects containing details regarding each selected project such as the registration number, the recipient of the subsidy, the description and the impact;


**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive
elements of the milestone.

**Notification of the award of all public contracts for projects investing in circular solutions in businesses by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.** Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **support is expected for at least 60 businesses.**

In line with the Council Implementing Decision, the Ministry of Industry and Trade notified between February and March 2023 the decisions to award grants for projects investing in circular solutions in businesses through the information platform MS+2014 (https://mseu.mssf.cz/) used for administering EU funds. As evidenced by each decision under Annex 1 (see pages 1 and 14), 101 businesses in total were designated as eligible for the grants following the call for proposals launched by the Ministry of Industry and Trade on 20 July 2022 and the subsequent evaluation ensuring that each selected project corresponds to the terms of the call for proposals (see evidence under (i) and (v)).

Projects shall be selected that enhance the industrial transformation towards a low-carbon, circular and digital society, reducing the material intensity of production and the consumption of primary resources.

The assessment of fulfilment of this requirement relies on the following pieces of evidence:

First, the selection of projects responds to the terms of the call for proposal (as mentioned under item (vi)). The latter targeted activities such as set up of technologies for processing construction and demolition waste for further re-use, producing secondary raw materials or critical materials from other types of waste, tire retreading or for recovery of input materials (see Article 2 of the call). Overall, the call for proposal is consistent with the general objectives mentioned in the milestone description.

Further, the decisions provided in Annex 1, read in combination with the list of projects in Annex 3 (as mentioned under item (ii) and (iv)), prove that businesses in their capacity of recipients of the subsidy engage to implement projects that either process secondary raw materials as a substitute for primary resources or set up technologies to save primary resources or to reduce waste notably in construction and building sector. On aggregate, the impact of the implemented projects is estimated to be **1,729,630 tons per year** of construction and demolition waste processed for further re-use as a fully-fledged construction material as well as **15,894 tons per year** of reduced primary resources, as evidenced in Annex 3 (column entitled as ‘project description’).

For each project, the technical specifications, provided under Annex 2 (as mentioned under item (iii), demonstrate the detailed description of the project, quantifying its contribution to circular economy (see Article 2.4) as well as, if applicable, the required permit from a national authority (see Article 2.6).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the measure shall support projects that promote the development of circular economy solutions among businesses. The measure shall also focus on the optimisation of material eco-design of products to facilitate recycling and re-use, alongside industrial symbiosis projects and other investment business projects contributing to the transition to a circular economy. Lastly, the investment shall support projects addressing the targeted application of recycled materials in products. Article 2 of the call, which is referenced above listing all the areas of interventions to be supported, and the description of the selected projects (annexes 1 and 3) confirm that the measure was implemented in line with the objectives listed in the measure’s description. All projects are about promoting the development of circular
economy solutions among companies. Projects focus on the development of eco-designed material using waste as input material or on the targeted application and use of recycled material for products and entail industrial symbiosis, where the waste from one company or process becomes input material for another one.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 152</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[2.7]-I[3]-M[152]: Water saving in industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Milestone:</strong> Award of all public contracts for projects to save and optimise water in the industry by the Ministry of Industry and Trade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative Indicator:</strong> Notification of the award of all public contracts for projects to save and optimise water in the industry by the Ministry of Industry and Trade</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> Q4 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The objective of this investment is to support projects involving at least 40 businesses to contribute to a circular economy by improving water management in the industry.

Milestone 152 requires a notification of the award of all public contracts for projects to save and optimise water in the industry by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Selected projects will optimise water consumption in the production process by installing new technologies and equipment to save water, direct water recycling in water-intensive industries, reuse polluted/used operating water in other processes, optimise water use in utility plants, reduce water losses in closed circuits, or optimise the use of steam or its distribution potential.

Milestone 152 is the first step of the implementation of the investment 3 entitled Water saving in industry and it will be followed by target 153 related to the completion of the selected projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in its description and of the corresponding measure in the Council Implementing Decision annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

ii. Annex 1 - Copies of the decisions to award grants issued by the Ministry of Industry and Trade during the period between March and May 2023 and signed by each selected recipient of the subsidy; in line with the Operational Arrangements, the award decisions contain the required information such as the identification of the recipient of the subsidy, the project description, period for implementation, the water saving capacity of the project and a link to the notifications of the award in Articles 1, 3, 4 and 6 of each decision.

iii. Annex 2 - Copies of technical specifications submitted by each recipient of the subsidy, including the information concerning the relevant permits by national authorities, where applicable (as set out in section 2.4 of each project technical specification and Article 6.13.3 of the decisions).

The authorities also provided:
iv. Annex 3 – Copies of water audits, prepared by distinct independent assessors for each individual project between August and September 2022, to estimate the impact in terms of water savings;

v. Annex 4 – List of projects containing details regarding each selected project such as the registration number, the recipient of the subsidy, the description and the impact. Link to the website of the Ministry of Industry and Trade where the call for proposals is published, (linked at https://www.mpo.cz/cz/podnikani/narodni-plan-obnovy/vyzvy/i--vyzva-uspory-vody-v-prumyslu-z-komponenty-2-7-cirkularni-ekonomika-narodniho-planu-obnovy--267342/).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of all public contracts for projects to save and optimise water in the industry by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, support is expected for at least 40 businesses.

In line with the Council Implementing Decision, the Ministry of Industry and Trade notified between March and May 2023 the decisions to award grants for projects investing in circular solutions in businesses through the information platform MS+2014 (https://mseu.mssf.cz/), used for administering EU funds. As evidenced by each decision under Annex 1 (see pages 1 and 10), 47 businesses in total were designated as eligible for the grants following the call for proposals launched by the Ministry of Industry and Trade on 5 May 2022 and the subsequent evaluation ensuring that each selected project corresponds to the terms of the call for proposals (see evidence under (i) and (v)). The requirement to support at least 40 businesses is fulfilled.

Projects shall be selected that optimise water consumption in the production process by installing new technologies and equipment to save water, direct water recycling in water-intensive industries, reuse polluted/used operating water in other processes, optimise water use in utility plants, reduce water losses in closed circuits, or optimise the use of steam or its distribution potential.

The assessment of fulfilment of this requirement relies on the following pieces of evidence.

The selection of projects responds to the terms of the call for proposal (as mentioned under item (vii)). In line with the description of the measure, the latter targeted the following four activities saving water consumption in businesses: (a) increased effectiveness of circuits, corresponding to the reduction of water losses, (b) reduced water consumption in technologies while maintaining their productivity, (c) use of rainwater and (d) water recycling or reuse (see Article 2.1 and 2.2 of the call).

Further, the decisions provided in Annex 1, read in combination with the list of projects in Annex 4 (as mentioned under item (ii) and (iv)), prove that businesses in their capacity of recipients of the subsidy engage to implement projects that achieve water savings or optimise the use of steam. On aggregate, the impact of the implemented projects is estimated to be 2,802,139 m³ per year, as evidenced in Annex 4 (columns entitled “Project impact – annual savings” and “Project description”). In addition, the water audits under Annex 3 submitted by the recipients of the grants, as a pre-condition required by the call for proposals, demonstrate that the water savings achieved amount to at least 5% or 100 m³ per year.

For each project, the technical specifications, provided under Annex 2 (as mentioned under item
(iii), demonstrate the detailed description of the project, including the impact in water savings (see Article 2) as well as, if applicable, the required permit from a national authority, (see Article 2.4).

The Council Implementing Decision required that the measure shall focus on projects addressing issues such as optimising water consumption, water recycling, reusing polluted and other projects aimed at improving water management in industry. The selected projects achieve the objective of improving water management in industry, production sectors and other business activities.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 161</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C2.9]-[[I1]-M[161]: Protection against droughts and floods of the city of Brno</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Name of the Milestone:** Notification of award of contracts for projects aiming at the protection against droughts and floods of the city of Brno.

**Qualitative Indicator:** Notification of awards of all contracts | **Time:** Q4 2022

**Context:**

This investment aims at improving the protection against drought and floods by strengthening Brno city’s flood defences and revitalising the Svatka river. This investment includes the creation of a set of nature-based solutions aimed at increasing water retention.

Milestone 161 concerns the notification of the contracts awarded for the implementation of this investment project. This milestone is the first step of the implementation of this investment and will be followed by M162 which is related to the completion of the project’s nature-based flood protection measures.

This investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

I. A summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled (including all the constitutive elements), with appropriate references to the underlying evidence (revised on 8 January 2024);

II. A copy of the contract award notification published in the Public Procurement Bulletin on 17 January 2022 (F2022-001958) following the call for tender ‘Svatka river Embankment – Implementation of anti-flood measures of the city of Brno – stages VII and VIII’ launched by the City of Brno on 04 March 2021 (Registration number Z2021-008062) including a list of contractual counterparts.

The authorities also provided:

III. A copy of the contract award notification published in the Public Procurement Bulletin on 17 January 2022 (F2022-001958) following the call for tender ‘Svatka river Embankment – Implementation of anti-flood measures of the city of Brno – stages VII and VIII’ launched by the City of Brno on 4 March 2021 (Registration number Z2021-008062) including a list of contractual counterparts;

IV. A copy and link to the documentation of the call for tender ‘Svatka river Embankment –
Implementation of anti-flood measures of the city of Brno – stages VII and VIII’ launched by the City of Brno according to Act No. 134/2016 Coll. on 4 March 2021 (Registration number Z2021-008062): [https://ezak.brno.cz/contract_display_308.html](https://ezak.brno.cz/contract_display_308.html);

V. A copy and link to the documentation of the call for support under the State Environment Fund (No 10/2021) published by the Czech Ministry of the Environment on 22 November 2021: [https://www.narodniprogramzp.cz/nabidka-dotaci/detail-vyzvy/?id=100](https://www.narodniprogramzp.cz/nabidka-dotaci/detail-vyzvy/?id=100);

VI. A copy of the Decision No 5211000110 issued under call No 10/2021 by the Czech Ministry of the Environment on 31 May 2022 granting funds from the Czech State Environmental Fund under the National Recovery Plan to the Statutory City of Brno;

VII. A copy of the Expert Opinion issued by Eng. Vesely in January 2022 regarding the ‘Implementation of anti-flood measures of the city of Brno – stages VII and VIII’. This opinion was submitted as part of the application of the city of Brno to the aforementioned call for support under the State Environment Fund (No 10/2021).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of all contracts awarded for projects aiming at the protection against droughts and floods of the city of Brno. As underlined in the summary document and evidenced by the documents submitted by the Czech authorities, the city of Brno launched on 04 March 2021 a call for tender entitled ‘Svratka river Embankment – Implementation of anti-flood measures of the city of Brno – stages VII and VII’ (Registration number Z2021-008062) covering the scope of investment measure 2.9.1 as defined by the Council Implementing Decision and financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility. As indicated in the corresponding award notification published in the Czech Public Procurement Bulletin on 17 January 2022 (F2022-001958), the city of Brno awarded this project to three contractors on 03 January 2022. Following a call for support launched by the Ministry of the Environment (call No 10/2021 published on 22 November 2021), the City of Brno later secured support from the State Environment Fund under the Czech National Resilience and Recovery Plan to finance this investment project (grant decision No 5211000110 of 31 May 2022). As specified in the award notification published on 17 January 2022 (F2022-001958, sections II.1.4 and II.2.3) and further confirmed by the aid decision subsequently granted on 31 May 2022 to the City of Brno by the Ministry of the Environment (Decision No 5211000110 and summary opinion attached), this investment provides for the construction of flood protection measures on both banks of the Svratka river in the districts of Styria, Old Brno and Pisarky, which are all located in the municipality of Brno. By adjusting the capacity of the bed river and introducing storage reservoirs (see section 2 of Call 10/2021), this project also aims at maintaining the river’s flow capacity and, consequently, protect against droughts, as underlined by the expert opinion attached to the application for support submitted by the City of Brno (expert opinion issued by an engineer in January 2022, section 3.1).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the realisation of the project shall include the implementation of nature-based solutions such as natural spill of the increased water-level of the basins in meadows, establishment of natural pools, meadows, floodplains, and creation of wetlands on the Svratka river. As specified in the project documentation (annex 8 – summary technical report) attached to the aforementioned call for tender (Registration number Z2021-008062) as well as in the terms of the call for support launched by the Ministry of the Environment (call No 10/2021, sections 1 and 10) and the positive expert opinion submitted by the City of Brno, the project explicitly provides for the inclusion of nature-based flood control measures to improve retention capacity through, for instance, the creation of wetlands and ponds.
**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Number:</strong> 228</th>
<th><strong>Related Measure:</strong> CZ-C-[C5.2]-I-[I2]-T-[228]: Support for R&amp;D cooperation (in line with the National RIS3 Strategy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Target:</strong> Cooperation of SMEs with a public research organisation under National Centres of Competence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative Indicator:</strong> Number of supported SMEs involved in cooperation projects</td>
<td><strong>Baseline:</strong> 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Context:**

The measure aims to support applied-research cooperation between public research organisations and at least 60 SMEs under the structure of National Centres of Competence.

Target 228 requires the conclusion of grant agreements for the cooperation of at least 60 SMEs with public research organisations.

Target 228 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by Target 290, related to the disbursement of the total amount of at least EUR 58 000 000 for the support of the cooperation projects under Target 228. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q1 2026.

**Evidence Provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;

ii. Annex 1: Summary document with the list of supported projects under National Centres of Competence with the entities involved and an indication whether these are SMEs;

iii. Annex 2 with relevant contracts, namely: Annex 2_Contracts on the support of the National Competence Centres selected under the 2nd call under the National Competence Centre programme concluded between Czechia (the Czech Technology Agency, the support provider) and the main beneficiary, Annex 2_Amendments to the contracts on the support of the National Competence Centres, concluded between Czechia (the Czech Technology Agency, the support provider) and the main beneficiary, Annex 2_Consortia Agreements on the establishment of the National Competence Centres, concluded between the participants in the National Competence Centres;

iv. A list with the project descriptions and participants involved.

The authorities also provided:

v. Annex 3: Proposal for sub-projects to be supported under the RRF and approval decisions by the Centres’ Councils;

vi. Annex 4: Results of the checks performed by the support provider, the Technology Agency, concerning the SME status for 119 project partners, with an indication of the nature and size of the entity involved;

vii. Evaluation of SME status - Reports from CRIBIS SW;

viii. Call documentation of the 2nd call for proposals under the National Centres of Competence.
Programme. Ref. No.: TACR/11-57/2021;

ix. Programme National Centres of Competence - RRF call addendum, concerning the possibility of increasing the budget of project proposals submitted for the 2nd call for tender;

x. Overview of RIS3 domains covered by the projects;

xi. General Terms for support provided by the Czech Technology Agency;

xii. List with the data used for the checks of applicants;

xiii. List with links to the public registry.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements as follows:

**Grant agreements shall be signed for the support of [...] projects [...] under newly created National Centres of Competence.**

The target in the Council Implementation is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that for the purposes of these operational arrangements, [...] grant agreements shall be read as "specific amendments for partial projects under the NCC newly established from national call".

The fulfilment of the requirement that grant agreements – read in light of the above further specifications - shall be signed for the support of projects under newly created National Centres of Competence is evidenced by the grant agreements provided under Annex 2, which consist of:

1) a grant agreement concluded between Czechia (the Czech Technology Agency, the support provider) and the main beneficiary of the project (Annexes 2_Contracts on the support of National Competence Centres, hereinafter Annexes 2_Contracts), and

2) an addendum to the grant agreement concluded between Czechia (Czech Technology Agency, the support provider) and the main beneficiary (Annexes 2_Amendments to the contracts on the support of the National Competence Centres, hereinafter Annexes 2_Amendments).

In addition, 3) agreements on establishing a National Centre of Competence and participation in the project concluded between the main beneficiary and the members of the National Centres of Competence (Annexes 2_Consortia Agreements on the establishment of the National Competence Centre, hereinafter Annexes 2_Consortia Agreements) further evidence the establishment of the Centres.

The addendum to the grant agreement is further complemented by: 4) one or more sub-project proposals, since each National Centre of Competence project is carried out by implementing individual sub-projects (the number of sub-projects varies between one and four per National Centre of Competence); and

5) for each sub-project, an approval of the Centre’s Council on a new sub-project (including the voting of the members of the Centre’s Council on the sub-project) signed by the project manager.

In line with the ‘further specifications of the Operational Arrangements’, the projects under Target 228 consist of sub-projects (or ‘partial projects’) performed in the framework of National Centres of Competence. These National Centres of Competence were selected for support following the “2nd call under the National Centres of Competence Programme” launched on 15 December 2021 (see pp. 7 et seq. of the tender, Call documentation of the 2nd call for proposals under the National Centres of Competence Programme, according to which National Centres of Competence are...
expected to be established). This is the ‘national call’ establishing the National Competence Centres mentioned in the further specifications of the operational arrangements.

Following the above call, the Technology Agency signed grant agreements for the support of these National Centres of Competence (Annexes 2_Contracts, see the preamble to the contracts). The provider has signed the grant agreements with the main beneficiary of the National Competence Centres (i.e. the managing entity of the national centres, whose objective is to ensure cooperation between public and private research). The main beneficiary is a research organisation, in line with the tender requirements (see Section 1 of the Call documentation of the 2nd call for proposals under the National Centres of Competence Programme, hereinafter Call documentation). In turn, each main beneficiary is required by the contract and the general terms and conditions of the provider, the Technology Agency, to stipulate contracts with all the participants of each Centre (see Article 4(2)f) of the Annexes 2_Contracts, and Articles 2(u) and 4(2)(k) of the General terms for support of the Technology Agency). These contracts are the Consortia Agreements establishing the National Centres of Competence, which are signed between all participants in the Centre (see Annexes 2_Consortia Agreement).

As evidenced by the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence, the implementation of the National Centres of Competence will be carried out through the implementation of individual sub-projects (see Section 3.2 of the tender).

The projects under the National Competence Centres funded under Target 228 are sub-projects in the above sense of the tender, for which additional budget was provided. To this end, a dedicated call for an increased budget for the support of these sub-projects from the RRF (hereinafter: RRF call) was launched on 29 September 2022 (see Programme National Centres of Competence - RRF call addendum). According to this call, the National Centres of Competence supported under the 2nd call under the National Competence programme could receive a budget increase for dedicated sub-projects upon successful application. These are the ‘partial projects’ mentioned in the ‘further specifications’ of the operational arrangements.

The original grant agreements on the National Competence Centres were therefore amended to reflect the budget increase following the results of this call, and the additional conditions for these sub-projects (see Annexes 2_Amendments). Article I (4) of each contract determines the code identifying the sub-projects selected under the RRF call. The proposals for sub-projects submitted under the RRF call are enclosed in Annex 3, and are part of addendum to the grant agreement pursuant to Article II.(1) of the same addenda. These are the ‘specific amendments for partial projects under newly established NCC from national call’, with ‘specific amendment’ meaning the targeted amendment to increase the budget for the sub-projects supported from the RRF.

In light of the above, the combination of the original grant agreement on the support of the National Competence Centre from the ‘national call’ (i.e., the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence Programme) and its amendment following the results of the RRF call, provide the necessary evidence by identifying the National Centre of Competence under which the sub-project will be performed, as well as the concrete sub-projects supported.

In line with the target requirement that the grant agreements shall be signed, Annexes 2_Contracts and Annexes 2_Amendments evidence that the grant agreements and their amendments were signed by the main beneficiary and the support provider, the Technology Agency, by an electronic signature. The electronic signature of the chair of the Czech Technology Agency, is not visible on every contract. However, when examining the signature properties in the electronic version of the grant agreements and amendments, it is evident that the documents were electronically signed, including the indication of the date and time.
The Council Implementing Decision required that the grant agreements shall be signed for the support of projects under newly created National Centres of Competence. As evidenced by the overview in Annex 1, as well as the project contracts and their amendments in Annex 2, all sub-projects will be performed in the framework of the National Centres of Competence which were selected for support under the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence programme launched in 2021. However, the Consortia Agreements show that not all Centres were newly created in view of the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence Programme in the literal sense of the target. Some of these Centres had already been established in 2018, in view of the 1st call under the National Competence Centre programme and applied during the second call with a new project proposal (such as, for instance, TN02000069). This is in line with the requirements of the tender, which indicates that it is expected that National Centres of Competence are established, and that these can be built on the basis of existing cooperation with other centres, including from previous calls under the National Competence Programme (p. 7). Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, this does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards the achievement of the investment that the target represents. As evidenced by the tender, all Centres selected for support had to submit a new project proposal for the 2nd call under the National Competence Centre Programme, so that the framework projects (i.e. the Centres) supported under the 2021 and the 2018 call differ in scope. In this regard, the tender indicates in Section 3.7 that no identical projects or projects which have previously received support are eligible under the call. The applicants were therefore required to provide information on the previously completed projects under the National Centres of Competence Programme and explain the link to the new project proposal in case the application concerns a follow-up project. Moreover, the Consortia Agreements in Annex 2 show that some of the Centres established in 2018 have also expanded the number of participants in view of the 2021 call (see, for instance, projects TN02000018 and TN02000069). Finally, this is without impact on the main objective of the investment, namely, to support public/private cooperation, as the Centres supported under the 2nd call under the National Centre of Competence programme provide the framework for such cooperation. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the target represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Grant agreements shall be signed for the support of cooperation projects involving at least 60 SMEs with a public research organisation.

The fulfilment of the requirement that grant agreements shall be signed for the support of cooperation projects involving at least 60 SMEs with a public research organisation is evidenced by Annex 2, which includes all relevant project contracts and the amendments to project contracts (see Annex 2_Contracts and Annex 2_Amendments), the Consortia Agreements provided as Annex 2 (see Annexes 2_Consortia Agreement), the requirements of the second tender under the National Centre of Competence Programme (Call documentation) and the RRF call concerning the sub-projects relevant under T228 (see Program National Centre of Competence - RRF call addendum), as well as the approved project proposals for the projects relevant under T228 (see Annexes 3).

- As regards the requirement that projects shall be ‘cooperation projects’, this requirement is fulfilled by the provisions of the tender and the concrete composition of the participants in the sub-projects. The 2nd call under the National Competence Centre programme indicates as its aim ‘to promote and strengthen long-term cooperation between research and application’. It therefore requires that the main applicant must be a research organisation, and that at least 5 SMEs shall be involved per project proposal (see the section ‘Focus and
overview of conditions, Call documentation, and Section 1 ‘Applicants in the call’, p. 5). The follow-up call increasing the budget for the sub-projects confirms that one or more sub-projects under the National Competence Centres need to involve at least 5 SMEs (section ‘Conditions for sub-projects financed by the RRP beyond the tender documentation’, Programme National Centres of Competence - RRF call addendum).

- As regards the participants (SMEs with a public research organisation), the grant agreements on the National Competence Centres and the addendum on the increased budget and conditions for the RRF sub-projects (the grant agreements pursuant to T228 as explained above) do not list the concrete participants in the Consortium, as they are signed only with the main beneficiary. However, as explained above, the main beneficiary is required to conclude a contract with the participants in the framework National Competence Centre. The Consortia Agreements concluded for each National Competence Centre in Annex 2 therefore evidence the overall participants involved in the established Centres, which are research organisations and enterprises. The proposals for the sub-projects submitted for the increased budget and approved by the National Centre of Competences’ Councils provides the evidence as regards which research organisations and enterprises among the broader pool of overall members of the Centre will participate in the sub-projects relevant under T228 (see the project proposals under Annex 3). A list with an overview of the entities involved in the sub-projects under the National Competence Centre can be found in Annex 1.

- As regards the requirement that at least 60 SMEs shall be involved in the projects, both tenders required a minimum participation of 5 small or medium-sized enterprises per National Competence Centre (see the Call documentation, pages 2 and 5, and Programme National Centres of Competence - RRF call addendum). Annex 1 provides an overview of the participating entities in the projects relevant for the target, with an indication whether they are SMEs. The list indicates that 76 small and medium sized enterprises were involved in the selected projects. The entities listed in Annex 1 are all members of the National Centres of Competence as evidenced by the Consortia Agreements in Annex 2, and correspond to the participants in the sub-projects, as evidenced by the sub-project proposals in Annex 3.

- As regards the qualification of the supported entities as SMEs, the tender contained specific documentation requirements. Applications had to include an indication of the type of applicant (i.e., the size of the enterprise, see pp. 14-16 of the call documentation). Moreover, under Section 5.1, the tender required all applicants (the main applicant as well as other partners in the project proposal) to demonstrate their eligibility by signing a templated declaration on honour. Under point 1 of this declaration, the applicants were required to confirm the fulfilment of the conditions for relevant categories of enterprises (including small and medium-sized enterprises) in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, which contains the SME definition in Annex I (see the template for the declaration on honour that the applicants had to submit, available at https://www.tacr.cz/dokumenty/cestne-prohlaseni-za-uchazece-sworn-statement-of-the-applicant-7). This definition includes, among others, the relevant turnover/balance sheet and employees’ headcount thresholds, as well as the method of calculation for financial data of partner and linked enterprises. Furthermore, the tender required the applicants to comply with the obligations stipulated by the Czech Accounting Act and thus to have published the financial statements for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, or alternatively enclose them to the application in case not published before the submission. This data was requested to enable the check of the type of applicant (see Call documentation p. 16). As further evidence, Czechia has provided the result of the checks performed by the provider, the Technology Agency, concerning the size of the enterprises involved in the National Competence Centres in Annex 4. The list includes an overview of the enterprises’ number of
employees, turnover, and balance sheet total, with an indication of the type of the entity (small, medium, large). According to the explanations provided by the Czech authorities, the check on the correct size of the entities is performed via a data mining tool and the data provided by the beneficiary is compared with the data publicly available. Furthermore, a further check was performed by the Coordinating Body by using a different software (see evaluation of SME status, Report from CRIBIS).

- Concerning the requirement that the cooperation projects shall involve a public research organisation, as explained above, the grant agreements do not indicate the concrete participants in the Centre and in the sub-projects, as these are signed with the main beneficiaries. The evidence that this requirement is fulfilled is instead provided by the Consortia Agreements (Annex 2_Consortia Agreements) and by the sub-project proposals in Annex 3, which show that for each sub-project there is at least one public university or public research institute participating in the sub-project.

- The above-mentioned SMEs and public research organisations will implement the supported sub-projects, as evidenced by the project proposals in Annex 3, together with other participants, so that the requirement that the cooperation projects shall involve at least 60 SMEs with a public research organisation is fulfilled.

Support for R&D cooperation (in line with the National RIS3 Strategy)

Furthermore, in line with the measure name that the support for research and development cooperation is in line with the Smart Specialisation Strategy, the second tender under the National Competence Centre programme explains that one of the sub-objectives of the programme is to focus on promising sectors of the Czech economy according to the RIS3 Strategy (see the introductory page of the Call documentation, p. 2). Furthermore, the tender required the project proposals to indicate the research and innovation specialisation domain of the National RIS3 strategy (see section 3.8 of the Call documentation). The selection criteria of the call under Section 6 further require an evaluation of the fulfilment of the objectives of the programme and the call (see Section 6.2 of the Call documentation of the 2nd call for proposals under the National Centres of Competence Programme, p. 18 et seq.), as well as an evaluation of the relevance, timeliness, and necessity of the project proposal in relation to the chosen topic and the objectives of the programme (Section 6.3). The call for the increased budget required that the sub-projects should focus on the same research domain of the RIS3 strategy selected for the overall National Competence Centre (see Programme National Centres of Competence - RRF call addendum). The selected research domains of the projects are evidenced by the section ‘Project Definition’ of each application submitted, in line with the tender requirements (see the overview of RIS3 domains covered by the projects). An overview of the selected domains is also provided in column D in Annex 1 – Summary.

The target in the Council Implementation is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that for the purposes of these operational arrangements, the list of supported projects, including all their participants, depicting a number of SMEs involved in cooperation projects shall be prepared on the basis of concluded grant agreements.

As specified above, the national authorities submitted with Annex 1 a list of projects supporting the cooperation between 76 SMEs and public research organisations, including all the entities participating in the cooperation, based on the concluded grant agreements, namely the grant agreements on the support of the National Competence Centres (Annex 2_Contracts) together with the amendments on the RRF sub-projects (Annex 2_Amendments).

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 229</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[C5.2]-I[I3]-T[229]: Aid for research and development in the environmental field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Target:</strong> Research and development in the environmental field</td>
<td><strong>Baseline:</strong> 43 <strong>Target:</strong> 58 <strong>Time:</strong> Q3 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative Indicator:</strong> Number of supported projects in the environmental field</td>
<td><strong>Context:</strong> The measure aims to support projects of research organisations and enterprises in industrial research, development and innovation in the environmental field. These projects aim at addressing challenges identified in the “State environmental policy of the Czech Republic 2030 with an outlook until 2050” and the sectoral strategy of research, namely the “Concept of research, development, and innovation of the Ministry of Environment for 2016.” Target 229 requires the signature of grant agreements for the support of at least fifteen RDI projects in the environmental field, and the projects should focus on priority thematic areas such as protection and sustainable use of natural resources, climate protection and improvement of air quality, waste management and reuse, protection of nature and landscape or a safe and resilient environment, including prevention and reduction of the consequences of natural and anthropogenic hazards. Target 229 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by Target 291, related to the disbursement of the total amount of at least EUR 7 000 000 for the support of the projects under Target 229. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Provided:</strong> In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</td>
<td><strong>Evidence Provided:</strong> In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Summary document justifying the fulfilment of the target;</td>
<td>v. Programme of applied research, experimental development and innovation in the field of environment – Environment for Life, adopted by the Czech Government by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 25 March 2019 No 214;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Annex 0: Project Proposals submitted by the applicants and supported in the context of the 6th public tender under the Environment for Life Programme;</td>
<td>vi. Tender documentation to the 6th public tender to support applied research, experimental development and innovation in the field of the environment – Environment for Life, announced by the Czech Technology Agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, on 29 June 2022;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Annex 1: An overview list of the selected projects with the research areas covered.</td>
<td>vii. Overview of the priority research objectives to be selected by applicants, Annex 1 to the tender documentation to the 6th public tender to support applied research, experimental development and innovation in the field of the environment – Environment for Life,</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
announced by the Czech Technology Agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, on 29 June 2022.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities covers all constitutive elements of T229 as follows:

Grant agreements shall be signed for the support of at least fifteen RDI projects in the environmental field.

The national authorities submitted the grant agreements (Annexes 2) signed by Czechia – the Czech Technology Agency and the main beneficiary for at least 15 new projects (23 in total), together with the project proposals (Annexes 0).

The evidence shows that the grant agreements were signed by the main beneficiary and the support provider via an electronic signature. The electronic signature of the chair of the Czech Technology Agency is not visible on every contract. However, when examining the signature properties in the electronic version of the grant agreements and amendments, it is evident that the documents were electronically signed, including an indication of the date and time.

The grant agreements (Annexes 2) together with the project proposals (Annexes 0) show that 23 RDI projects in the environmental field were supported. An overview of the project descriptions can be found in Annex 1.

The requirement that the scope of the projects shall lie in the environmental field is further evidenced by the scope of the Programme and the requirements of the tender. In particular, the programme states under point 6. ‘Programme Focus’ (p.2 of the Programme, Programme Environment for Life) that the focus of the programme is determined by the updated State Environmental Policy 2012-2020. As described under point 7. ‘Programme objective’ (p. 6 of the Programme), the objective of the programme is to bring new solutions in the field of environment. The projects for which a grant agreement was concluded and which are relevant for the purposes of the assessment were selected in the framework of ‘sub-programme 2’, which focuses on ‘eco-innovation, technologies and practices for environmental protection’ (see point 18.2 of the programme, section 3.1 of the tender, as well as the first section ‘Focus and overview of Terms and Conditions of the 6th tender for the environment for life programme).

The projects shall focus on priority thematic areas such as protection and sustainable use of natural resources, climate protection and improvement of air quality, waste management and reuse, protection of nature and landscape or a safe and resilient environment, including prevention and reduction of the consequences of natural and anthropogenic hazards.

The fulfilment of the requirement that the selected projects shall focus on priority thematic areas such as the ones listed in the target description is ensured by the focus of the programme and its objectives as described in the Programme ‘Environment for Life’, and the concrete requirements of the call (Programme Environment for Life, the tender documentation of the 6th Tender for the environment for life programme, as well as Annex 1 to the tender with the priority research objectives).

The focus of the Programme ‘Environment for Life’ is determined by the State Environmental Policy 2012-2020 (SEP). Accordingly, the programme states that ‘applied research, experimental development and innovation will focus on priority thematic areas of the SEP, namely protection and
sustainable use of natural resources, climate protection and improvement of air quality, improvement of waste management and use, protection of nature and landscapes and a safe and resilient environment, including the prevention and reduction of the consequences of natural and anthropogenic hazards’ (see Section 6 ‘Programme focus’, p. 2 of the Programme, Programme Environment for Life). These priority thematic areas correspond to the priority thematic areas mentioned in the target description.

The main priorities which form the focus of the programme are explained in more detail at pp. 3-6, and then operationalised in ‘specific objectives of the programme’ under Section 7 ‘Programme objective’, namely: 1. Contribute to adaptation to climate change and to the introduction of economically efficient mitigation measures; 2. Contributing to improvement of the components of the environment and support the introduction of the principles of circular economy; and 3. Promote a resilient and safe society and nature (see p. 7 of the Programme).

These specific objectives are then reflected and further concretised in more specific ‘priority research objectives’ of the tender, which are listed in Annex 1 to the tender. For each specific objective, a list of more detailed priority research objectives is provided. For instance, the priority research objective 2.1 ‘Prevention of waste generation, possibilities for re-use of products and minimisation of negative environmental impacts’ concretises the priority thematic area ‘waste management and re-use’.

Compliance with these objectives by the project proposals selected for support is ensured by the tender’s requirement that project proposals must fulfil one priority research objective as the main one (see section 3.1 of the tender at p. 4, Section 6 for the criteria for evaluation, as well as p. 9 of Annex 1 to the tender). Additionally, the project proposals could select up to three additional secondary priority research objectives.

The grant agreements (Annexes 2), and the project proposals under Annexes 0 show that each of the 23 projects focuses on at least one of the priority thematic areas such as protection and sustainable use of natural resources, climate protection and improvement of air quality, waste management and reuse, protection of nature and landscape or a safe and resilient environment, including prevention and reduction of the consequences of natural and anthropogenic hazards. In particular, the project proposals in Annexes 0 show under Section 3 the priority research objective selected (‘Main priority research objective’) and provide a short description of the objectives of the project. An overview of the project description and the priority research objectives selected is also provided in Annex 1.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

| Number: 232 | Related Measure: CZ-C[6.1]-I[I1]-M[232]: Creation of the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre and optimisation of the education system |
| Name of the Milestone: Call for tender for the construction of the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre | Qualitative Indicator: Call for tender for the construction of the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre | Time: Q4 2022 |
| Context: |

The measure aims to address the challenge of strengthening the resilience of the health system by investing in healthcare infrastructure and improving the education of health workers in acute care. The objective of this investment is to build an Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre. The Centre
expands the infrastructure for post-graduate training and life-long learning of healthcare professionals. In addition, it enables training professionals in different medical disciplines using the latest state of art technology including using virtual reality.

Milestone 232 concerns the notification of the award of the public contract to build the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre which will provide training to healthcare professionals in a wide range of medical fields such as Anesthesiology and resuscitation, Intensive Care Units, Urgent admission, and healthcare professionals soft skills.

Milestone 232 is the initial target of this investment. It is preceded by Milestone 231 of reform 1, which relates to developing an electronic platform for management, administration and evaluation of training of healthcare professionals. Target 232 will be followed by the last target of this investment, target 233, which relates to the construction of the Intensive Simulation Centre and its operability. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
ii. Annex 1 - Needs Assessment dated 14 June 2022 and signed by Mr JUDr. Ludvík, MBA, Director of the Motol Faculty Hospital;
iii. Annex 1a - Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre - Needs Assessment - Ministry of Health dated 2 June 2022 and signed by the Deputy Minister Mr. Dvořáček;
iv. Annex 2a - Contract award notification (F03) dated 02 January 2023 downloaded from the tender tool;
v. Annex 2b - Report from the contracting authority dated 29 December 2022 and signed by Mgr. Trhalová, lawyer representative of the contracting authority;
vi. Annex 3 - Assessment of the fulfilment of the public contract award in terms of construction dated 13 February 2023 and signed by Eng. Mošnička on behalf of the Ministry of Health;
vii. Annex 4 - Assessment of the fulfilment of the public contract from the medical point of view dated 10 February 2023 and signed by Eng. Laaksonen, Head of Science, Research and Education Subsidy on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

The authorities also provided:

viii. Annex 5 – Schedule of activities in the intensive medicine simulation centre prepared by the Ministry of Health;
ix. Annex 6 – Project study prepared by D.Stejskal Karlínblok s.r.o and dated June 2022;
x. Annex 7 – Timetable for the call of tenders prepared by the Ministry of Health;

**Analysis:**

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

**Notification of the award of the public contract to build the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre which will provide training to healthcare professionals in a wide range of medical fields:**
Anesthesiology and resuscitation, other medical and non-medical skills training related to emergencies, pre-hospital care and ambulance, urgent admission, intensive care units and multipurpose operational room, integrated rescue system and soft skills - team communication, crisis communication, leadership.

In line with the Council Implementing Decision, Czechia provided the notification of the award of the public contract to build the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre published by Motol Faculty Hospital. The public contract was awarded to PORR a.s., with its registered office at Dubečská 3238/36, Strašnice, 100 00 Prague 10 (Registration Number: 43005560) the 22 December 2022 as shown in Annex 2a.

In addition, the Intensive Medicine Simulation Centre will provide training in a wide range of areas as shown in the further evidence provided in Annex 5. For example, simulation courses in anesthesics and resuscitations will be organised in the simulation rooms and there will be a total of 11 simulating rooms including laboratories which recreate the entire course of intervention from the emergency arrival to the emergency reception unit and follow up care in the resuscitation or intensive care of the patient (Annex 3)

The contractor shall be selected through open and public tender procedures.

In line with the Council Implementing Decision, on the 12 July 2022, Motol Faculty Hospital published an open and public call for tenders for the construction contractor (Annex 7). The Annex also reflects amendments recorded in the document. The tender received five bids. The tender received five bids. The public contract was awarded to PORR a.s. whose offer was considered the most economically advantageous option which fulfilled all the conditions and requirements laid down by the contracting authority in the context of the public procurement procedure and the milestone description. In addition, as shown in the written record of the tender created on behalf of the contracting authority there was no appeal against the outcome of the tender (Annex 2b).

The contract with the contractor was concluded on 22 December 2022 (the link to the contract is publicly available: [https://smlouvy.gov.cz/smlouva/22905901](https://smlouvy.gov.cz/smlouva/22905901)) and the notification of the contract award from the tender tool is attached as Annex 2a. The conclusion contract award is attached as Annex 2 on the official tender notification form.

A needs assessment shall be carried out prior to the launch of the tender.

In line with the Council Implementing Decision, the Ministry of Health conducted a needs assessment prior to the launch of the tender. The tender was launched on 12 July 2020. The needs assessment (Annex 1a) was undersigned by the Deputy Minister Mgr. Dvořáček on 2 June 2022. The needs assessment focuses on the overview of the Czech medical situation, and the need to tackle an inadequacy of capacity of existing facilities, specialised training needs, and Research and Innovation. It then develops on how the Intensive Simulation Centre will tackle these needs, and how stakeholders including patients and healthcare professionals will benefit from such Investment.

The previous needs assessment is supported by the “Assessment of the needs of the project for the construction of an intensive medical simulation centre” conducted by the Motol University Hospital undersigned by the Director of the Motol Hospital on 14 June 2022 (see Annex 1).

The general framework of the needs assessments is set out in the strategic document Strategic framework for the development of health care in the Czech Republic until 2030 – Health 2030 found in Annex 8.

**Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number: 240</th>
<th>Related Measure: CZ-C[6.2]-[I1]-M[240]: Building and establishment of the Czech Oncological Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Milestone: Feasibility study validated by an independent authority</td>
<td>Qualitative Indicator: Validation of a feasibility study by an independent authority</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Context:**

The objective of this investment is to build the Czech Oncology Institute in Prague with the view to establish a healthcare centre concentrating cancer prevention, diagnosis and all treatment modalities in one single point of care, with an international outreach in the Central and Eastern Europe region.

Milestone 240 concerns the validation by an independent authority of (i) Medical programme/functional plan and a draft design suitable for Design and Build procurement purposes and (ii) feasibility study, including needs assessment in context of the wider health strategy, technical, operational and economic feasibility, sustainability in both of financial and staffing terms, and impact on provision of oncology care at regional and country level, including on the travelling time and professional proficiency.

Milestone 240 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by milestone 241, which is the last milestone, related to the Czech Oncology Institute being put in operation. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 20 June 2026.

**Evidence provided:**

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and of the corresponding measure in the Council Implementing Decision annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled, dated in November 2023;

ii. Annex 1 – copy of the feasibility study concerning Motol Oncology Center issued by the Motol Faculty Hospital and dated July 2022;

iii. Annex 2 – copy of the statement of the Czech Oncological Society dated 27 September 2022 addressed to the Ministry of Health on the consistency of the project of the oncology centre with the society’s position on oncology care in Czechia;

iv. Annex 3 – copy of the study entitled ‘Assessment of the feasibility study concerning the Motol Oncology centre’ issued by the company Advance Healthcare Management Institute, s.r.o. on 23 January 2023.

The authorities also provided:


Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Czech authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Validation by an independent authority of (i) medical program/functional plan and a draft design suitable for Design and Build procurement purposes and (ii) feasibility study, including needs assessment in context of the wider health strategy, technical, operational and economic feasibility, sustainability in both of financial and staffing terms, and impact on provision of oncology care at regional and country level, including on the travelling time and professional proficiency. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the Ministry of Health shall submit by 15 March 2022 a set of necessary documents, including a medical program/functional plan and draft design suitable for Design and Build procurement purposes, and a feasibility study. These documents shall be validated by an independent authority by 31 December 2022.

The assessment of the fulfilment of the milestone relies on the documents, as mentioned under (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

As evidenced under Annex 1, the feasibility study concerning the Motol Oncology Center was prepared in July 2022. The author of the study is the Motol Faculty Hospital in Prague, a public organisation under the direct management of the Ministry of Health, which consulted the preparation of the study with the Ministry’s working group created for the purpose of the project (see Annex 1, page 3). As required in the Council Implementing Decision, the study outlines in detail the medical programme of cancer treatment in the region of city Prague and the surrounding regions (see pages 10 to 26, 44 to 56) and the draft design suitable for Design and Build procurement purposes (see pages 109 to 112). Further, it also sets out the technical, operational and economic feasibility (pages 77 to 103) and the impact on the provision of oncology care at regional and country level, by assessing suitable locations for the Czech Oncological centre considering the travelling time and the need for recruitment of specialised personnel (see page 31).

In line with the description of the measure, the study contains a needs assessment in the context of the wider health strategy and the technical, operational and economic feasibility and sustainability in both financial staffing terms. It demonstrates that the planned centralised cancer treatment in the Motol Oncology Center addresses the identified gaps due to the present scattered oncology care in Prague and other regions. The main added value of the centre consists in the integrated treatment and research which would result in better and faster access of patients to cancer treatment, including innovative cure, higher number of clinical studies and effectiveness of equipment use as well as ensuring adequate number of specialised personnel (see pages 12 and 30). In addition, these benefits are assessed compared to the other existing centres, including at international level (see page 28).

On 27 September 2022, the Czech Oncological Society, an independent professional association, endorsed the findings of the study under Annex 1 as regards the planned development of cancer care in Czechia in a statement addressed to the Ministry of Health, as evidenced by Annex 2. On 24 January 2023, the consultancy company Advance Healthcare Management Institute, s.r.o. issued an evaluation report entitled ‘Assessment of the feasibility study concerning the Motol Oncology center’. As evidenced on page 40 of Annex 3, the latter confirms that the study contains the needs assessment, as required in the Operational arrangements. Further, it also concludes the project as described in the study under Annex 1 to be feasible and sustainable.

In addition, in line with the requirement of validation by an independent authority, the company that issued the report under Annex 3 is considered independent from the authorities because it is a
third party selected in a tendering procedure. As evidenced by Annex 3 (pages 6, 7, 17), the company’s assessment was prepared as independent, in full awareness of this requirement in the Council Implementing Decision. Moreover, it is also relevant that the professional association, independent from the recipient of the support, endorsed the study findings as concerns the medical programme. These two elements provide an additional guarantee of independent assessment of this investment in terms of both added value and feasibility.

The Council Implementing Decision required the Ministry of Health to submit the documents such as the medical programme and the feasibility study by 15 March 2022. It also required that these documents are validated by an independent authority by 31 December 2022. It is demonstrated that the study was prepared by the Motol Faculty Hospital, as opposed to the Ministry of Health, and the two steps in question took place in July 2022 and January 2023 respectively. Whilst these elements constitute a minimal deviation from the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, they do not affect the overall progress towards the achievement of the objectives of this investment which is ongoing as scheduled in the Recovery and Resilience plan submitted by Czechia (see Annex on Component 6.2, page 13 and 14 envisaging the construction works to take place during the period between 2023 and 2025; construction works were initiated on 10 October 2023, as evidenced by the press release of the Hospital Motol (https://www.fnmotol.cz/tiskové-zpravy/motolske-onkologicke-centrum/). Moreover, the fact that the author of the study is a public hospital under the direct management of the Ministry of Health is consistent with the Recovery and Resilience plan submitted by Czechia (see also Annex on Component 6.2) which envisaged that an entity responsible for implementation of the project will be an organisation under direct management of the Ministry of Health. It is also demonstrated that the preparation of the study was carried out under supervision of the Ministry, through the working group set up for this purpose. Lastly, despite the delays recorded in the preparation and validation of the study, it is relevant that the validation as a step subsequent to the preparation of the study was carried out broadly on time with a very short delay of three weeks in comparison to the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, thus allowing to consider the project fully on track as planned and with no negative impact on the progress towards completing the investment. On this basis, given that the minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards completing the investment that the milestone represents, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The feasibility study recommended guidelines have been presented by the EC in the “Guide to CBA of Investment Projects, December 2014.


Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled