

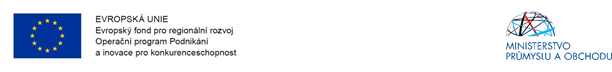
**Executive Summary**

**„Outcome evaluation of OP EIC specific objectives“**

**3rd part: Outcome evaluation of SO 2.3 and 2.4**

**HaskoningDHV Czech Republic, spol. s r.o.**

**Version 1.0**



# Introduction

This document represents a brief executive summary of the Final Evaluation Report which was created under **Outcome evaluation of OP EIC specific objectives, 3rd part: Outcome evaluation of SO 2.3 and 2.4.** The main objective of this report is to provide the contracting authority with the information about outcomes and results of the analyses and surveys that have been conducted, and also about conclusions and recommendations. This evaluation was being elaborated during the period of 18 December 2018 – 31 May 2019 by the evaluation team of HaskoningDHV Czech Republic, spol. s r.o.

# Executive Summary

Under this contract, the evaluation team assessed the results that have been reached in case of SO 2.3 – To increase business usability of the infrastructure (the support programme of Real Estate) and SO 2.4 – To increase the capacity for vocational education in SMEs (the support programme of Training Centres).

From the analyses that have been conducted it followed that the interventions implemented under the support programme of **Real Estates** had contributed to creation of new objects and to an increase in a number of regenerated objects, and also to an increase in the total area of brownfields for business purposes. An investment has made it possible for beneficiaries to extend production and production premises in enterprises, to innovate the current production, to improve environment and to extend a portfolio of products.

Under finished projects from the support programme of Real Estates (as to 15 May 2019) an area of 267 358,26 m2 was regenerated, which accounts for 1,45 % of the area of registered brownfields/real estates in OP EIC database. According to the data obtained, the largest share in the total value falls on the Zlín region (20,15 %), the Jižní Morava region (16,07 %) and the Ústí nad Labem region (10,91 %). The smallest share falls on the Plzeň region and the Liberec region. From the whole Czech Republic´s perspective the above-mentioned value represents an increase in the regenerated objects and also in the total area (compared to the state in 2014) by 0,1 %.

As per the output indicators, it is possible to assess the support programme of Real Estates as partially successfull. The programme has had unambiguously positive impact on an increase in the added value, fixed assets, equity capital and the economic result of the supported companies. However the impact on competitiveness indicators – ROA, ROE, ROS and labour productivity per a crown unit of input wasn´t proved.

From the analyses that have been conducted it further followed that the interventions implemented from the support programme of **Training Centres** have contributed to creation of capacity for vocational education in SMEs, have assisted to improve expertise and qualification of trained persons. The support has also partially contributed to intensification of employee trainings of supported businesses compared to the period of time before the support.

However, a statistically significant effect of the support on productivity or competitiveness of the supported businesses has not been proven.

The interventions resulted to an increase in innovation activities only in case of some projects of the supported SMEs (e.g. through improvement of company processes or by means of a more modern products for customers) as a consequence of better accessibility of qualified human resources.

For the evaluated projects (of those currently being implemented/finished) it was verified that already now more trainings have been realized monthly as a consequence of the financial support from the programme of Training Centres compared to the period before the support. The average rate of fulfilment of the maximum training´s capacity accounts approximately for 60 % for the evaluated projects. It is also necessary to state that in some training centres trainings have not started or they are just to be implemented.

However, the assessment is affected by the time the evaluation has been carried out, which has not allowed for taking a sufficient time after terminating support for the supported companies, and which is based only on a restricted amount of available data and information about effects of the provided support.

Under both of the programmes unintended effects have been identified. However, generally it is possible to state that unintended effects are not largely identified by beneficiaries. The statement is connected with the fact that the effects of the interventions under the assessed programmes of Real Estates and Training Centres are straight forward, which was, from the intervention logic´s perspective, apparent already in the beginning of the implementation.

Examples of unintended positive effects:

* Development of cooperation of an enterprise with a university in the area of research and development.
* In total a project´s higher added value for an enterprise
* It is possible to buy more additional machines and to further extend production
* A positive awareness of the significant clients about a company (thanks to an improved environment after reconstruction)

Unintended negative effects from beneficiaries´ perspective are often connected with administrative problems, demanding character of the administration and a lack of clarity in OP EIC rules that they didn´t expect.

The analysis clearly points to a large fail rate of small and micro companies in case of submitting a request, both in case of the support programme of Real Estates and the support programme of Training Centres.

In general, it is possible to state that results that have been reached can be considered sufficient from the perspective of the set objectives at the time of the assessment, however, it is necessary to take into account the current phase of implementation of the projects in case of both the assessed support programmes of Real Estates and Training Centres (i.e. the projects have just been finished or they are still being implemented). The results discovered are in compliance with a theory of change elaborated before implementation of given interventions.

# Overview of main recommendations of the evaluation

| **Recommendations** |
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| To clarify record keeping in both the OP EIC database and in the National database of brownfields (overlaps, continuity, validity of information, structure of information and the like) with respect to obtaining relevant data in the course of assessment of a context monitor indicator 23 300 *Total area of regenerated localities in the National Database of Brownfields for business use by SMEs.* |
| It would be appropriate that even a consent to providing selected data for purposes of an evaluation (within a 10-years horizon from terminating a support) was one of the conditions of submitting a request in case of the **Real Estates** programme.  The Real Estates programme and its economic effects should be evaluated again, that is at least 3 – 5 years after terminating support. |
| A stronger methodological support of small and micro companies in the course of submitting requests should be ensured. For example by means of free consultations and other supportive tools, that would remove this barrier. |
| To carry out assessment of the intervention under the **Training Centres** programme after several years so that contribution of a larger number of finished projects to fulfilment of the set objectives is possible to be assessed (development of infrastructure for education and human resources development in the business sector).  To systematically demand of a brief assessment of capacities for vocational education of SMEs and of realized trainings from beneficiaries in the course of submitting the final monitoring reports / reports prepared during the sustainability period. This information will be possible to use for the assessment of contribution of interventions provided under the Training Centres support programme. |
| It would be appropriate that even a consent to providing selected data for the evaluation purposes was one of the conditions of submitting a request in case of the **Training Centres** support programme.  The analysis is necessary to be carried out while taking a necessary time so that the results are really valid. The conducted analysis is limited to a very short-term results, in fact the effects in the time of the support. Therefore it would be appropriate to carry out an analysis again after at least 3 – 5 years after terminating support (medium-term effect), alternatively after 10 years after terminating the support (long-term effect).  Simultaneously it is necessary to consider links among monitor indicators, which are followed by the supported companies, and programme objectives. If a monitor indicator is represented purely by a number of trained persons (without further specification clearly pointing to a provable gain of an additional know-how, for example certification), then it is often about actions of a purely declaratory nature which of course will not have an impact on a higher competitiveness of a company. |
| To systematically and compulsorily gather information about realized trainings (number, training capacity, focus of training) both during implementation of a project and during a period of sustainability, so that a contribution of an intervention from the support programme of **Training Centres** can be relevantly assessed. |
| To conduct evaluation of interventions under the support programmes of Real Estates and Training Centres after several years after finishing their implementation, so that their contribution to fulfilment of the set objectives is possible to be assessed, including long-term objectives. |