

Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme

SUPPORT MEASURE SET-UP

issued by
the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

on
the Support Measure
Sustainable Tourism and Enhancing Biodiversity

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, acting through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (hereinafter referred to as 'SECO')

referring to the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Czech Republic concluded on 29 June 2023 as well as to the Country-Specific Set-Up and the Regulations on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution to selected Member States of the European Union to reduce economic and social disparities within the European Union issued by Switzerland and setting out the general rules and procedures on the implementation of the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme (hereinafter referred to as the 'Framework Agreement', 'Country-Specific Set-Up' and 'Regulations'), and

considering the financing of the Support Measure 'Sustainable Tourism and Enhancing Biodiversity' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Support Measure') in the Czech Republic,

has decided as follows:

Article 1 – General provisions

The legal framework as defined in Article 2 of the Framework Agreement shall apply. The application of the Regulations mentioned in this Support Measure Set-Up shall be read in conjunction with the derogations defined in the Country-Specific Set-Up.

Article 2 – Objective and eligibility period

1. The Support Measure is assigned to the following thematic area(s): Nature conservation and biodiversity.
2. The objective of the Support Measure is to reduce the pressure on ecosystem functions and services in national parks and protected landscape areas in the Czech Republic through projects targeting visitor management and sustainable tourism, on the one hand, and to enhance biodiversity on the other.
3. The Support Measure starts on the day when this Support Measure Set-Up enters into force according to rules established in Article 2 paragraph 2 of the Framework Agreement and ends on 31.10.2029. Only expenditures incurred during this period are deemed to be eligible in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Regulations.

Article 3 – Obligations of the Partners

1. Switzerland decides to grant a contribution of up to 38'400'000 Swiss francs for the implementation of the Support Measure according to the budget (Annex B).
2. The contribution of Switzerland shall cover a maximum of 85 % of the total eligible expenditures of the Support Measure as specified in Chapter 6 of the Regulations.
3. The Swiss contribution to the Support Measure is based on:

- a) the final version of the Support Measure Proposal MF-598/2024/5804-10 dated 14.06.2024 attached to this Support Measure Set-Up (Annex A); and
 - b) the conditions put forward by Switzerland as part of the decision to support the Support Measure and communicated to the Czech Republic by means of the Decision Letter from SECO, dated 18.07.2024 appended hereto (Annex C).
- 4. In accordance with Article 7 of the Framework Agreement the responsibility of Switzerland with regard to this Support Measure is limited to providing funds in accordance with Article 3 paragraph 1 of this Support Measure Set-Up.
 - 5. The Czech Republic shall ensure the timely provision of the co-financing for the total eligible expenditures of the Support Measure, as described in Article 4 paragraph 5 of the Framework Agreement and in Article 3.1 paragraph 1 and Chapter 6 of the Regulations.
 - 6. Costs for staff of the Programme Operator who are assigned to carry out tasks for the Support Measure, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, are eligible expenditure under this Support Measure, within the limits set in the budget in Annex B of this Support Measure Set-Up and in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Regulations.

Article 4 – Implementation responsibility

- 1. The National Coordination Unit (NCU) and the Paying and Audit Authorities shall have the roles and responsibilities defined in the Regulations, in particular in Articles 3.1 to 3.6, and further specified in the Country-Specific Set-Up.
- 2. The Programme Operator of this Support Measure is the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. It shall perform the following main tasks:
 - a) Programme management
 - b) Call for proposals administration
 - c) Programme implementation and monitoring
 - d) Programme financing
 - e) Programme reporting
 - f) Programme modification management
 - g) Programme irregularity management
 - h) Programme communication and promotion
- 3. The Support Measure shall be implemented in cooperation with the following Swiss Support Measure Partner: Swiss Parks Network (Netzwerk Schweizer Pärke). Funds from the Swiss Expert Partnership Fund (SEPF) are available for this purpose.

Article 5 – Support Measure Steering Committee

1. The Executing Agency shall establish the Support Measure Steering Committee as defined in Article 4.11 of the Regulations and in the Country-Specific Set-Up. The Support Measure Steering Committee shall assume the following tasks:
 - a) as defined in Article 4.11 of the Regulations and in the Country-Specific Set-Up;
 - b) approve the final Call for Proposals documents and the Assessment Criteria documents for the selection of Programme Components under the two Pillars and the Small Grant Facility of the Support Measure;
 - c) approve the Programme Components with a budget above the threshold of 2'000'000 Swiss francs;
 - d) approve the final version of the Logframe for the Support Measure.
2. The Support Measure Steering Committee shall be composed of the following members (institutions):
 - a) the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic as the Programme Operator (Chair and Secretary);
 - b) the NCU of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic;
 - c) the Swiss Contribution Office (SCO).
3. The following members (institutions) shall have a voting right:
 - a) the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic as the Programme Operator;
 - b) the NCU of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic;
 - c) the Swiss Contribution Office (SCO).
4. The quorum shall be constituted by the presence of all three members of the Support Measure Steering Committee with a voting right.
5. The NCU and the SCO shall have the right to veto any decision taken by the Support Measure Steering Committee.
6. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic shall act as secretary and shall assume the tasks set forth in the Article 4.11 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Regulations and in the Country-Specific Set-Up.

Article 6 – Advance payments

In accordance with Article 8.3 of the Regulations no advance payments to the Czech Republic shall be made under this Support Measure.

Article 7 – Policy dialogue

A policy dialogue is not foreseen for this Support Measure.

Article 8 – Procurement

1. The procurements under this Support Measure Set-Up shall be made in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Regulations and in the Country-Specific Set-Up.
2. A procurement plan shall be created following the approval of the Programme Components and submitted to SECO for selection of procurements and specification of requirements in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Regulations and the Country-Specific Set-Up within 20 working days. The periodically updated procurement plan shall be submitted to SECO with the Reimbursement Request.

Article 9 – Post-completion obligations and ownership of assets

1. The post-completion obligations related to the assets (operating assets as well as equipment, installations and buildings) financed by the Swiss Contribution under this Support Measure as well as their ownership are described in Article 4.15 of the Regulations.
2. In the event that Programme Components are at risk of not being completed by the end date of the SM (as defined in Art.2 paragraph 3 of this Support Measure Set-Up), the PO and the NCU commit to engage early consultations in the Steering Committee in order to identify measures for addressing these risks.
3. In accordance with Article 4.15 paragraph 7 of the Regulations the ownership of the assets provided with the Swiss Contribution for the duration of the Support Measure, shall be decided by an amendment of the Support Measure Set-Up as soon as such ownership can be determined.

For the duration of the Support Measure the assets procured under the Swiss Contribution shall be used in accordance with Article 4.15 paragraph 6 of the Regulations.

4. The NCU or the Executing Agency shall ensure that the receiving entity agrees under contract to fulfil the obligations set out in Article 4.15 paragraph 2 of the Regulations concerning equipment, installations and buildings financed by the Contribution. In accordance with Article 4.15 paragraph 7 of the Regulations, following the completion of the Support Measure, the use and ownership of the assets provided with the support of the Swiss Contribution shall be decided by an amendment of the Support Measure Set-Up .

The NCU or the Executing Agency shall ensure that the receiving entity agrees under contract to fulfil the obligations set out in Article 4.15 paragraph 2 of the Regulations concerning equipment, installations and buildings financed by the Contribution.

5. The ownership of the proprietary rights in and to the results of the activities performed under this Support Measure, any intellectual property rights, including copyright, and the right to any revenues generated by the intellectual property rights shall be decided by an amendment of the Support Measure Set-Up on completion of the Support Measure.

Article 10 – Reimbursement procedures, reporting, audits, compliance

Reimbursement procedures, reporting, auditing and compliance rules are set out in the Framework Agreement and the Regulations.

Article 11 – Annexes

This Support Measure Set-Up has the following Annexes:

Annex A: Final version of the Support Measure Proposal, dated 14.06.2024, including Logframe

Annex B: Budget

Annex C: Decision Letter from SECO, dated 18.07.2024

Article 12 – Amendments

The Support Measure may be modified in accordance with Article 4.12 of the Regulations and the Country-Specific Set-Up, or by way of an amendment to this Support Measure Set-Up pursuant to Article 2 paragraph 2 of the Framework Agreement.

Article 13 – Suspension and termination

The Support Measure Set-Up may be suspended or terminated in accordance with Article 4.16 of the Regulations.

Article 14 – Entry into force and duration

1. This Support Measure Set-Up covers the duration of the Support Measure as stated in Article 2 paragraph 3 of this Support Measure Set-Up.
2. This Support Measure Set-Up shall enter into force according to rules established in Article 2 paragraph 2 of the Framework Agreement and remain in force until all obligations under it have been fulfilled.

Decision taken in Berne on August 19, 2024

For the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

Dominique Paravicini
Ambassador
Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade
Agreements

Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme

Annex A: Final version of the Support Measure Proposal 14.6.2024, including Logframe

on
the Support Measure
'Sustainable Tourism and Enhancing Biodiversity'

Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme

Annex B: Budget

on

the Support Measure

'Sustainable Tourism and Enhancing Biodiversity'

Annex C: Decision Letter from SECO

on
the Support Measure
'Sustainable Tourism and Enhancing Biodiversity'