

## **Assessment of Environmental Impacts of the proposed Sectoral Operational Programme for Tourism and Spa Industry**

Assessment team:

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## **Introductory information on the assessment of environmental impacts of the Sectoral Operational Programme for Tourism and Spa Industry**

### **1.1. Sectoral Operational Programme: Tourism and Spa Industry**

Sectoral Operational Programme for Tourism and Spa Industry (SOP for tourism) is developed in compliance with resolution of the government No. 470 dated May 14, 2001 as a part of the National Development Plan of the Czech Republic for 2000-2006. The National Development Plan of the Czech Republic represents the basic document for the preparation of the future draw from the EU Structural Funds in the Czech Republic.

The Programme is developed under the management of the Ministry for Regional Development and instructions of the European Commission. The Commission emphasises the assessment of expected environmental impacts of programmes with a financial support.

### **1.2. Basic information on the assessment of environmental impacts of the SOP for tourism and spa industry**

The Assessment of the Environmental Impacts of Tourism and Spa Industry fulfils the task of an assessment according to **the requirements of the Czech legislation** (§14, Act No. 244/92 Coll. On the Assessment of Environmental Impacts) and in the same time of a so called **environmental part of an ex-ante appraisal** according to EU legislation.

The Assessment of environmental impacts of the SOP for tourism and spa industry is a result of a combined procedure, which meets the requirements of both legislations:

- Requirements of § 14 of the Act N. 244/92 Coll. on the assessment of environmental impacts; The Act No. 244/92 Coll., § 14 relates to the concept for the following industries: energy, transport, agriculture, waste management, and tourism. The concept is being prepared and will be approved at the level of the government of the Czech Republic. The Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, as the institution submitting the Assessment, is responsible for the assessment of environmental impacts of the programme (concept). The Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic issues its standpoint to the environmental impact of the assessed programme as a basic document for the decision of the government.
- Requirements for the assessment of impacts of operations of EU Structural Funds on the environment, included in the EC Directive No. 1260/99 and in the ensuing methodological recommendations of the European Commission (Vademecum on Plans and Programming Documents for Structural Funds 2000-2006, DG XVI, 1999 a Handbook on Environmental Assessment of Regional Development Plans and EU Structural Funds Programmes, DG XI, 1998).

In the same time, regarding the content, the Assessment of environmental impacts fully complies with the Methodology of the Ministry of Environment for assessing environmental impacts of development concepts. This Methodology is also based on the above-mentioned legislative regulations.

### **1.3 Detailed information on assessment procedures of environmental impacts of the SOP for tourism and spa industry**

The assessment of environmental impacts of the SOP for tourism and spa industry was prepared immediately after the completion of the proposal of the SOP for tourism and spa industry. The author and presenter of the SOP for tourism and spa industry enabled incorporation of individual recommendations of the team of assessors into the SOP for tourism possible. The Assessment focused on assessing the following basic parts of the SOP for tourism and spa industry:

- Analysis of tourism issues (SOP for tourism and Spa Industry: chapter 2)
- Proposal of Strategic targets (SOP for Tourism and Spa industry: chapter 3)
- Proposal of measures and activities (SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry: chapter 7.1)
- Proposal of implementation (SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry: Chapter 5)

Proposals of adjustments, re-wording of statements and amendment of the text recommended by the team of assessors were prepared in form of revision into the original text of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry and form the annex of SEA documents.

## **II. Assessment of key elements of SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry**

### **II.1. Assessment of the analysis of tourism issues**

The team of assessors recommended adjustments and amendment of the analysis in chapter 2 of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry with basic trends of tourism development related to the environment. All recommendations were accepted and the SEA team has no further comments to this part.

### **II.2. Assessment of the proposal of Strategic Targets of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry**

The team of assessors assessed the originally submitted strategic targets of tourism regarding the protection of environment in chapter 3 of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry which were taken from general provisions of the State Policy on Environment of the Czech Republic. These targets were found inappropriate for assessment team proposed their reformulation into 10 strategic targets of the protection of environment for sustainable development of tourism. The proposed targets follow the recommendations for environmentally sustainable tourism set out in the Report of the UN Secretary General on Tourism and Protection of Environment (UN Council for Sustainable Development no. 7, document No. E/CN.17/1999/Add.3). They include:

1. Introduction and utilization of new tools for the protection of environment, which increase long-term competitiveness of tourism services (e.g. EMS, EMAS, voluntary agreements, use of environment friendly products, eco-labelling, etc.)
2. Reduction of excessive load of the territory through tourism management at overloaded territories
3. Time and space diversification of tourism (including off-seasonal character of tourism and diversification of gateways)
4. Support of environment friendly means of transport at territories attractive for tourism, including town centres (support to cycling, walking and public transport)
5. Respect to the limits of carrying capacities while distributing tourism infrastructure
6. Improvement of local environment within activities of tourism facilities
7. Protection of historical environment (care of cultural and natural environment)

8. Support to the participation of key interest groups in proposing tourism products
9. Monitoring of tourism development (the whole industry or localities) according to set indicators of sustainable development and publication of these data
10. Informing visitors about the specifics of local environment and principles of its protection (environmental education of the public).

SEA team recommended replacement of the original environmental targets for SOP with the above mentioned ones. These recommendations were fully accepted and the SEA team has no further comments to this part.

### **II.3 Assessment of the proposal of measures and activities**

The team of assessors assessed the proposed activities within individual measures stated in chapter 7.1 of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry. The assessment resulted in the proposal to reword these activities and in setting measures that should eliminate negative environmental impacts. These measures must be respected when the activities are implemented. In the same time the team of assessors proposed to complete the assessment criteria of projects with criteria respecting requirements of the protection of environment. (A detailed table assessment of individual activities is stated in chapter III. of this SEA document).

Within the assessment, proposal of a new measure, or activity emerged. This measure, or activity would solve accreditation of tourism destinations. This proposal can be solved in a complex way within the assessment of environmental impacts and therefore the team of assessors recommends to complete the proposal of measure 2.1 with another activity called “introduction of a system for accreditation of tourism destinations (communities) and in the same time to establish a working team of representatives from the Ministry for Regional Development and Ministry of Environment, who will further elaborated factual features and time schedule of further proceeding. Outputs of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the activity of this working team should be available by the end of November 2001, so that these issues could be reflected in the standpoint of the Ministry of Environment to the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry according to § 14, Act No. 244/92 Coll.

All recommendations were accepted and the SEA team has no further comments to the proposal of the measure.

### **II.4 Assessment of the proposed implementation of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry**

The research team assessed the proposed implementation in chapter 5 of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry and proposed a system of monitoring environmental impacts of its implementation. The presenter of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry accepted this system – general recommendations were incorporated into chapter 5.2, and a detailed system of monitoring and assessment of environmental impacts of implementation of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry into chapter 7.5 of the above-mentioned SOP. That means that the recommendations of the team of assessors were fully accepted and the team of assessors has no further comments to the proposed implementation of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry.

### **III. Detailed table assessment of proposed activities**

Table assessment of activities stated below informs about:

- The assessment of potential environmental impacts of individual proposed activities of the SOP for Tourism and Spa Industry
- Relevant proposal of compensatory and moderating measures for their implementation.

#### **Assessment of potential environmental impacts**

Environmental impacts are assessed according to annex No. 3, part C.III of the Act No. 244/1992 Coll. and include direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, synergic, short-term, temporary, long-term and permanent impacts in the following spheres:

- A. impacts on the population (mainly health risks of violating convenience, noise, etc.);
- B. impacts on eco-systems, their components and functions (impacts on air and climate, water, soil, territory and mineral environment, flora and fauna, ecosystems);
- C. impacts on anthropogenic system, its components and functions ( impacts on buildings, architectural and archaeological sights and other man-made products, intangible cultural values – e.g. local traditions, etc., geological and palaeontological sights);
- D. impacts on structures and functional utilization of the territory impacts on transport, infrastructure development, including energy and waste);
- E. other impacts (aesthetic quality of the territory and recreational utilization of landscape);
- F. large-area impacts in the nature (suitability of the location from the view of carrying capacity of the territory, present and potential final situation concerning the load of the territory.

When filling the table, the following symbols were used to describe the above-mentioned potential impacts:

- 2 potentially a very negative impact
- 1 potentially a negative impact
- 0 no potential impact
- +1 potentially a positive effect
- +2 potentially a very positive effect
- ? Cannot be assessed because of uncertainties

#### **Proposal of mitigating and compensatory measures**

The recommended criteria for selection of projects for activity implementation are derived from the following specific targets of the protection of environment.

11. Introduction and utilization of new tools for the protection of environment, which increase long-term competitiveness of tourism services (e.g. EMS, EMAS, voluntary agreements, use of environment friendly products, eco-labelling, etc.)
12. Reduction of excessive load of the territory through tourism management at overloaded territories
13. Time and space diversification of tourism (including off-seasonal character of tourism and diversification of gateways)
14. Support of environment friendly means of transport at territories attractive for tourism, including town centres (support to cycling, walking and public transport)

15. Respect to the limits of carrying capacities while distributing tourism infrastructure
16. Improvement of local environment within activities of tourism facilities
17. Protection of historical environment (care of cultural and natural environment)
18. Support to the participation of key interest groups in proposing tourism products
19. Monitoring of tourism development (the whole industry or localities) according to set indicators of sustainable development and publication of these data
20. Informing visitors about the specifics of local environment and principles of its protection (environmental education of the public).

The following symbols are used for filling the tables:

- 2 compulsory criterion (must be met)
- 1 recommended criterion (its meeting should increase the chance of getting a support from public funds for the project)

Measure No. 1.1. Construction, reconstruction and modernization of basic tourism and spa infrastructure	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measure for elimination and reduction of negative impacts										
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for the implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																	
Construction, reconstruction and modernisation of small and middle-sized accommodation facilities with respect to carrying capacities of the territory	+1	-1	+2	-1	+1	0		1	1			2	2	2			
Reconstruction and modernisation of large accommodation facilities with respect to the limits of carrying capacities of the territory (including new developments if they meet strict environmental limits)	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	-0		2	1			2	2	2			
Construction, reconstruction and modernisation of other categories of buildings designed for tourist accommodation	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0											
Development of special recreational facilities for physically handicapped and refurbishment of existing facilities so that they could be utilized by physically handicapped	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	0		1									2
Development and modernisation of specialized catering facilities especially within the revitalisation of sites	+1	0	+2	+1	+1	0		2				2	1	2			
Development of multifunctional convention centres of regional importance (conference tourism, etc.) within the programme of development and revitalisation of sites	-1	0	+1	-1	+1	0		2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2		
Basic criteria for selection of projects under measure No.1.1: support mainly to small and middle-sized businesses, preference of reconstructions and modernisations of buildings, priority to developments in developed areas, consistent respect to the limits of carrying capacities of the territory, support to the introduction of the EMS																	

Measure No. 1.2. Development of supportive tourism infrastructure	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measure for elimination and reduction of negative impacts											
							Comments of the public		Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																		
Development of a system of international and regional tourist cycling routes and cycling trails	+2	-1	+2	+2	+1	0			1		2		1	2				2
Development of environment friendly water tourism and development of tourist water ways in suitable localities with respect to the limits of carrying capacities of the territory	-1	-2	+1	-1	-1	-1		2	1	2	2	1	1	2				2
Development and upgrading of facilities for environment friendly winter tourism	0	-1	0	-1	+1	0	1	2		2	2	1	2	2	1			2
Construction of small and middle-sized recreational centres (mainly sport and recreational ones) within the development and revitalisation of urban areas	+1	0	0	-1	+1	0	2	1		2	2	2	2	2				2
Development of supportive infrastructure for management of automobile transport utilized by tourism (development of navigation systems, development RP car parks, support to public transport in areas attractive for tourism)	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	0		2		2	2				2			
Construction and modernisation of complex sport and recreational centres and sport and recreational infrastructure of regional importance within limits of carrying capacities of the territory (swimming –pools, sport halls, multifunctional sport-grounds, etc.)	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	2		2		2	2	1	2				2
Support of the development and modernisation of technical infrastructure in tourist centres and tourist areas	0	0	0	+2	0	0	-											
Development and renovation of heritage trails and information boards	+2	-1	0	+2	+2	0	-			2		2				2		2
Development and renovation of tourist trails	+2	-1	0	+2	+2	0	-			2		2				2		2
Basic criteria for selection of projects under measure No.1.2: support mainly to small and middle-sized businesses, preference to reconstruction of sites, priority to buildings in developed areas, consistent respect to the limits of carrying capacities of the territory, support to the introduction of EMS in all facilities, support to environment friendly means of transport																		

Measure No.1.3 Development of tourism information systems	Assessment of potential negative environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for elimination and reduction of negative impacts										
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																	
Development of a national tourism database	0	0	0	0	+2	0										2	1
Development of a National tourism information and reservation system	0	0	0	0	0	0			2							2	2
Restructuralizing regional and local statistical data on tourism (including reorganisation of data collection)	0	0	0	0	0	0									2	1	
Interconnection of information networks TIC	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Development of a Tourism Satellite Account	0	0	0	0	+2	0											
Basic criteria for selection of projects under measure 1.3: guarantee of monitoring tourism development according to set indicators of sustainable development., publication of these data and informing visitors about specifics of local environment and principles of its protection.																	

Measure No. 2.1 Improvement of joint services for the tourism and spa industry	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for elimination and reduction of negative impacts										
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																	
State support to the development of organisational structure of the tourism industry (development of a network of regional and local tourist organisations and associations, creation of tourist regions)	0	0	0	0	0	0			1						2		
Joint tasks of the Czech Central Agency for Tourism (e.g. organisation of its branches in regions)	0	0	0	0	0	0									2		
Organisation and support to a nation-wide research in tourism demand	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Support to activities of the Club of Czech Tourists and other interest associations	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0			1			1	1			2	
Development of consultancy regional centres (e.g. by regional development agencies)	0	0	0	0	0	0								2		2	
Introduction and guarantee of standards and certification of tourism services	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0		1					1	1		1	
Introduction of the system of accreditation of destinations (communities) for tourism	0	0	0	0	+1	0		1		1		1	1	1			1
Basic criteria for selection of projects under measure No. 2.1: support to the introduction of EMS, support to improvement of local environment and to the protection of cultural and natural environment within activities of tourism facilities																	

Notes: CCCR = Czech Tourist Authority  
KTC = Czech Tourist Club  
RRA = Regional Development Agency

Measure No. 2.3 Improvement of curriculum and profiles of graduates for individual tourism industries	Assessment of environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for the elimination and reduction of negative impacts										
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																	
Establishment of a special study programme for tourism at universities (e.g. a 3-year bachelor's programmes aimed at the education of tourism destination marketing and management respecting principles of protection of environment, and on education of regional and municipal managers)	0	0	0	0	0	0											
New standards of students of secondary schools and high schools and universities in the sphere of tourism, including students of live-long education	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Development of new modern textbooks and teaching tools	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Development of programmes for live-long education	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Basic criteria for the selection of projects under this measure: guarantee of introduction of specialised educational programmes about principles of the protection of environment within tourism management																	

Measure No. 3.1 Marketing support of tourism	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for the elimination and reduction of negative impacts										
							Comments of the public	Recommendation of criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity									
	A	B	C	D	E	F		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Proposed activities																	
Long-term promotional campaign about tourism offer of the Czech Republic at home and abroad	0	0	0	0	0	0			2						2		2
Participation in important European and world tourism fairs	0	0	0	0	0	0			2								2
Support to the promotion and sale of regional and special national tourism products	0	0	0	0	0	0			2								2
Creation of promotional material	0	0	0	0	0	0			2								2
Organisation of international tourism symposiums and conferences	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Marketing research among visitors and research in tourism trends	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Elaboration of marketing studies for tourist regions in the Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	2	1					1		
Participation in international cooperation (e.g. programme Philoxenia)	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Presentation in media at home and abroad	0	0	0	0	0	0			2								2
Basic criteria for the selection of projects under this measure: preference of touristically unoverloaded regions and environment friendly forms of tourism. Information about the principles of the protection of environment at relevant territories should become a part of promotional activities.																	

Measure No. 3.2: Support of the development of new tourism products	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for the elimination and reduction of negative impacts												
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria for the selection of projects for implementation of the activity											
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Proposed activities	A	B	C	D	E	F													
Products and projects of a cross-regional Heritage trail (based on e.g. wine tradition, handicrafts, folklore, history and culture)	+1/-1	0	+2	-1	+2	0			2	2	2		1	2				2	
Products and projects of cross-regional wine centres and routes	+1/-1	0	+2	-1	+2	0	1		2	2	2		1	2				1	
Projects of rural tourism (agro-farms, eco-tourism, etc.)	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	2											2	
Products and projects for seniors and physically handicapped																			
Products and projects of city tourism	-1	0	+2	-1	+2	0			2	1			2	2				1	
Products and projects of incentive tourism																			
Products and projects of spa therapeutic stays	+2	0/-1	+2	+1	+2	0	1		1		2	2	2					2	
Preparation of sectoral plans for the development of golf courses	0	?	0	0	0	?	1				2		2						
Preparation of sectoral plans for tourist water ways (including white-water rafting)	0	0	0	0	0	0			2		2		2						
Basic criteria for the selection of projects under this measure: guarantee of a time and space diversification of tourism, support to the participation of key interest groups in proposing tourism products, respect to the limits of carrying capacities when distributing tourism infrastructure																			

Measures No. 4.1: Support of the renovation, maintenance and utilization of cultural, historical and technical sights and natural attractions for tourism of a cross-regional importance	Assessment of potential environmental impacts of proposed activities						Measures for the elimination and reduction of negative impacts												
							Comments of the public	Recommended criteria of the selection of projects for implementation of the activity											
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Proposed activities	A	B	C	D	E	F													
Project of regeneration of monuments (e.g. UNESCO monuments)	+2	0	+2	0	+2	0							2	2				2	
Projects of regeneration of town historical reserves and zones, rural architecture	+2	0	+2	0	+2	0							2	2				2	
Projects for regeneration of important museums and exhibitions	+1	0	+2	0	+2	0							2					1	
Development of a concept of sustainable tourism development in national parks and protected landscape areas	0	+2	0	0	+2	0		2	2	2	2		2	2					
Basic criteria for the selection of projects: protection of cultural and natural environment and support to the participation of key interest groups in individual projects and concepts																			