



DNSH CZ - Pilot implementation of the national DNSH guidelines (DLV 7)

*MSMT - OP JAK: ERDF CALL FOR
UNIVERSITIES - QUALITY*

This document was prepared by Trinomics and ISFC as a pilot of the National Guidelines on the Application of the DNSH Principle in Czechia within the TSI project (REFORM/SC2022/112). The pilot is part of Deliverable 7 and was prepared during March 2024. It provides recommendations based on the Guidelines, which are not binding per se, but reflect binding provisions, and input/discussions with the relevant managing authority. The piloting has been prepared on the basis of information and resources provided by the managing authority or publicly available on the Operational Programme website.

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1 Introduction

Context and objective of the pilot

The pilot is intended to support the Czech authorities in implementing a national guidelines for evaluating activities/interventions in terms of the DNSH principle across different EU funds and programmes (RRF and Cohesion Policy funds). It is being developed under Deliverable 7 of the TSI project " Methodology for the application of the DNSH principle at the national level in Czechia" (REFORM/SC2022/112).

The aim of the piloting is to support the testing of the methodology, inter alia in calls for proposals for subsidies under programmes that may have extensive requirements for DNSH, to provide practical advice/consultation on specific activities selected as pilots, with activities/interventions designed in close cooperation with the Czech authorities.

Pilot/call specifications

EU fund(s):	ERDF - European Regional Development Fund
Program:	OP JAK - Operational Programme Jan Amos Komenský
Manag, Authority:	MŠMT - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
Challenge:	ERDF CALL FOR UNIVERSITIES - QUALITY
Policy objective:	4 - A more social and inclusive Europe through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights
Specific objective:	SC 2.1 - Improving equitable access to inclusive and quality education, training and lifelong learning services through the development of accessible infrastructure, including by strengthening resilience for distance and online education and training
Call objective:	To support the infrastructure facilities of higher education institutions, which enables to achieve quality improvement in the teaching of study programmes
Call status:	Call launched - YES, Applications evaluated - NO, Applications selected - NO, Decisions issued - NO

2 Methodology

Pilot processing procedure

The pilot is prepared in MS Excel in the attached separate file. The first sheet is a structured application of the new guideline to the above selected call. The first few rows provide the relevant details of the piloted call, including the definition of the supported activities.

Subsequently (from rows 9/10), the individual steps or sub-steps of the guideline for applying the DNSH principle described in Chapter 2 for Cohesion Policy funds are applied in the individual columns from left to right. Within each step, the individual rows first briefly describe the procedure to be followed (11) and the key recommendations of the guidelines associated with the sub-step (12). This is followed by the application of these recommendations of the guidelines to the specific call in question, with a summary of the conclusions (13) and a description of how the managing authority has proceeded in the case of the call in question (14). On the basis of the comparison of the procedures, it is summarised whether the managing authority's procedure is assessed as sufficient and, where appropriate, recommendations for adjustments to the procedure are proposed (15). The evaluation is complemented by a note on whether there are any information/inputs still missing to finalise the evaluation (16) and which main documents and sources were used in the development of the pilot or its sub-steps (17).

On the second sheet, for clarity, the DNSH EU taxonomy criteria for relevant (supported) activities are listed, in this case for the building reconstructions.

The annexes of the guidelines relevant to the Cohesion Policy Funds are also applied in the development of the pilot. Annexes C, D and E contain templates for the self-assessment checklist, the preliminary and contractual list of documents, respectively. As the call aims, inter alia, to support measures with an infrastructure component, Annex A describing the application of climate proofing (CP) of infrastructure under the Cohesion Policy Funds is also relevant.

3 Conclusions / recommendations

Main recommendations and aspects to consider

- The DNSH eligibility criteria are adequately covered in the call documentation, but it may be considered whether to use the self-assessment checklist and the template in Annex C of the Guidelines for their inclusion in the call.
- As the call and the activities supported by it explicitly target infrastructure support, the MA has implemented the CP for the climate change mitigation pillar at the programme/ call level. However, the call documentation does not specifically address the need for CP for the climate change adaptation pillar (i.e. climate change adaptation - CPA). It is therefore recommended to indicate (in the checklist) that in case of infrastructure acquisition (implementation of civil works), CP for the adaptation pillar is needed at project level (unless CPA is carried out at call level).
- The preliminary list of documents required from project promoters should be supplemented by:
 - Summary conclusions of the EIA, if relevant to the operation, and in the case of infrastructure (construction works)
 - Results of climate proofing for the adaptation pillar (if CPA is not carried out at call level)
 - Description of the fulfillment of the EU Taxonomy criteria mentioned in the PpZP General + Specific parts (the call correctly specifies the criteria and how their fulfillment will be monitored, but lacks an explicit requirement that these criteria be incorporated into the submitted documentation/feasibility study).

And we also give consideration to the use of a form of (more detailed) preliminary list of documents (Annex D of the main methodology for managing authorities)

- No operations/projects have been selected so far, however, it is recommended to request (and evaluate) the documents identified in the previous point from eligible PPs/operations as part of the selection process, e.g. in the form of a (supplementary) preliminary or contractual list of documents (Annex D).
- And it is also recommended to consider including among the monitoring requirements any requirements resulting from the summary conclusions of the EIA if it has been carried out, or from the CP for the adaptation pillar in case of implementation of infrastructure modifications, if the CPA will not be carried out at the call level.