

## **Involvement of Czech Public Higher Education Institutions in the European Research Programme Horizon 2020**

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*Abstract.* Public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic are mainly financed by public institutional financial sources from the state budget via the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic on the basis of the laid down criteria. Nevertheless, the public higher education institutions need specific financial sources required for the development of their main activities, especially in the field of research. Specific financial sources are subject to public competition: different national, European and international financial providers open programmes and calls for proposals. Among major programmes supporting research, innovation and international research cooperation is the programme Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation programme for the period 2014 – 2020.

The main aim of the research was (i) to compare involvement of higher education institutions in the Czech Republic in Horizon 2020 in the period 2013 – 04/2020, (ii) to describe management of the involvement in Horizon 2020 in the Czech Republic and at the University of Pardubice, one of the higher education institutions, and (iii) to propose possible steps and motivation methods to increase the involvement for the follow-up programme Horizon Europe.

We used basic statistical methods and basic analyses to compare the involvement of public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic in Horizon 2020. We obtained the data from the European Commission figures provided to the National Information Centre for European Research in the Czech Republic and from the Annual Activity Reports 2019 of public higher education institutions.

Twenty six public higher education institutions were established in the Czech Republic. Only 16 of those were involved in Horizon 2020, twelve had the role of the main coordinator. Public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic obtained more than 170 million EUR from Horizon 2020.

The support of research and development is managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. The involvement of the Czech Republic in the European Research Area is methodologically and informationally supported by the Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences and its National Information Centre for European Research, and by the Czech Liaison Office for Research, Development and Innovation in Brussels. There exist regional and/or professional contact points which built together with the national information centre the National Information Network for EU Framework Programmes. The regional contact point for the Pardubice region was established at the University of Pardubice in 2000 as a part of the Office of International Affairs and Development. The regional contact point for the Pardubice region and its current project “INCENTIVE – Information Centre for Internationalization of Research and Involvement in the ERA” is currently financed and supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

*Keywords:* Horizon 2020, programme, research, project, higher education, management, motivation

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