

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to provide information on current Czech system of development cooperation and to discover the attitudes of its stakeholders towards the system and its problems. The theoretical part describes the system from various points of view, firstly speaking of its legislative and institutional background and its stakeholders, then coming to the practical questions of territorial and sector finance allocation and project cycle management. In short the findings of this part are that there are many policy documents concerning development cooperation, however the central law has still not been prepared. Regarding the institutional structure, it is quite fragmented - MFA plays the role of the main coordinator, while nine sector ministries have control over management of the projects connected with their sphere of competence. Even though the progress concerning the standardization of procedures among the ministries has been made, still the system as it is causes problems to the implementors of the development cooperation projects. Concerning the financial aspect - the Czech Republic gives to ODA approximately 0,11 % of GNI, which is far to reach the target set either by EU (0,33 % GNI) or UN (0,7 % GNI). Still the Czech Republic plays the leading role among the countries which accessed EU in 2004. The theoretical part is closed by the recommendations based on the findings of the OECD/DAC peer review provided to the Czech Republic.

In the practical part of the paper I interviewed eleven experts representing various bodies of the Czech development constituency trying to find out how they perceive the system, its strengths and weaknesses. The experts were divided into four sectors - state, private, public (NGOs) and academic. The opinions differ not only among the sectors but also within them, so it was not possible to identify the crucial problem of the system from its stakeholders point of view. However, majority of the experts claimed that the main problem is the institutional

fragmentation. The change of the system, however, is currently a sensitive political issue, as the sector ministries are not willing to give up their competences in favor to the planned development agency. On the other hand, the ways how to use the expertise of these ministries after the establishment of the agency have not been planned yet, which in a way justifies the doubts of the sector ministries whether their expertise and experience will not be lost. This leads to other major problem of the Czech development constituency - the lack of capacities - which definitely stems from the fact, that the system started to function only in 1995.