

3. Abstract

The Czech Republic became a member of the European Union in 2004. As a member state none of whose NUTS II regions (except Prague) reaches the level of 75 % of the European annual per capita Gross Domestic Product, it has the opportunity to receive support from Structural Funds under the terms of Objective 1, whereby the largest volume of finance is being provided.

The Joint Regional Development Programme is one of the programmes set up during the first programming period (2004 – 2006) in the Czech Republic. The programme differs from others in its field of activity because it combines infrastructure, human resources, information technology, tourism and small and middle enterprises, whereas each of the rest of the programmes specializes in just one sector. The total funds withdrawn from the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund amount to €60,2 million.

The main purpose of this study is to explore the level of cohesion between the programme results and the needs and problems of the less developed NUTS III regions in the Czech Republic (Olomoucký, Moravskoslezský, Ústecký and Karlovarský).

The second part of the analysis concentrates on the results of the programme at the state level. The aim is to determine how successful the programme was and whether there are sectors of the programme where the specific aims were not fulfilled.

The author of the work considers questions that lead to the following specific conclusions:

1. The Joint Regional Development Programme could be considered as successful in terms of fulfilling the monitoring indicators and a money ran out.
2. The projects financed from JROP are not concentrated in the less developed areas of the NUTS III regions.
3. The programme is consistent with the overall stated aim, but socio-economic development in the less developed regions has not improved significantly since 2004.
4. The indicators amount to at least a 90% level of the planned value in all given priorities.