



Czech Republic

“Partnerships for administrative and absorption capacity”

Framework and setting

- Geographic scale** Partnerships for absorption and administrative capacity were established in 7 NUTS II Czech self-administrative regions (all regions except NUTS II Prague).
- Policy framework** The partnerships are realised within the framework of the Joint Regional Operational Programme, one of the five programmes financed from EU Structural Funds in the Czech Republic. The project corresponds to the priority axis of human resources development.

Partnerships at work

- Rationale** Czech regions were not fully prepared for the absorption of EU Structural Funds. Effective use of these funds is of paramount importance to the regions in helping them to tackle their structural problems. It is for this reason that the decision was made to develop an initiative based on the European Commission’s “partnership concept”, to enhance administrative and absorption capacity at the regional level.
- Objectives** To prepare all relevant regional institutions and stakeholders to increase their use of EU financial resources within the framework of the next programming period 2007-2013.
- Functions** The partnerships involve regional key players in EU funds absorption, with the aim of increasing their identification with existing regional strategies. Key fields requiring training and consultancy are identified. Another function is creating sector and regional partnerships within the targeted NUTS II region.
- Policy areas** The top policy priority is regional development of the area concerned. The impact of the project nevertheless transcends regional policy, entering into the fields of education, social and R&D policies.
- Policy tools/ Instruments** The partnerships use a wide variety of different measures and instruments to address regional and local issues. Instruments mainly include training measures, support for development of local and sector partnerships, and counselling facilities. In addition, the partnerships have generated a pipeline of strategic projects covering all priorities of the new Structural Funds programme. Updating existing regional and micro-regional strategies and implementing new methods of public administration management are other vital policy tools.
- Timeframe** The partnerships began in the late 2004 and will run in its current form until the end of 2007. There is a consensus that partnerships should be continued into the new programming period, albeit in a slightly narrower form.
- Partners** While regional authorities invited a wide range of partners into the project, some of them played a more important role; including economic development agencies and the principal NGOs of the region. All partners are invited to take an active part in the project’s realisation, and both regional authority officials and project partners have influenced the strategic orientation of the partnerships.
- Contracts** The project partners signed an agreement with the regional authority, for the time period of the realisation of the project.
- Legal status** None
- Sources of Financing** The project is financed from the European Social Fund (ESF) and national and regional sources. Funding amounts to as much as EUR 20,000,000 (2005-2007).
- Results** The partnerships’ results will only become clear in the long term. More than 300 people

have already received some sort of training financed by the project, and a substantial number of local and sector partnerships were created. The project is likely to receive even more EU funding in the new programming period.

Partnerships' highlight

- Programme/Project** Training of participants potentially involved in the preparation and realisation of strategies and projects co-financed by the EU.
- Timeframe** October 2004 – December 2007
- Objectives** The creation of adequate absorption capacity is key to enhancing regional competitiveness. In practice, this means having a sufficient number of specialists within the region who are acquainted both with the needs of the region, its micro-regions, municipalities and citizens, and with the rules of project management. The latter includes knowledge of relevant financial sources.
- Activities** Different training courses were prepared, ranging from short one-day courses to intensive seven-month courses for project managers. Completely new curricula and study materials were developed for these courses. The training is free of charge for participants from the target regions and accessible to all partners of the regional authorities.
- Results** More than 1,300 people have been trained so far.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination at national / sub-regional level

Managing Authority for Joint Regional Operational Programme, Ministry of Regional Development, Radka Soukupová, Staroměstské nám. 6, 110 15 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Tel: +420 / 224 861 383, Fax: +420 / 224 861 428, e-mail: sourad@mnr.cz, www.mnr.cz

Partnership co-ordinators at regional / local level

The project is implemented in 13 NUTS II regions:

Region NUTS III South Bohemia: Alena Čapková, Tel.: +420 / 386 720 158,
e-mail: capkova@kraj-jihocesky.cz

Region NUTS III South Moravia: Iveta Kopcová, Tel.: +420 / 541 651 326,
e-mail: kopcova.iveta@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

Region NUTS III Karlovarský: Irena Ptáčková, Tel.: +420 / 353 502 166,
e-mail: irena.ptackova@kr-karlovarsky.cz

Region NUTS III Královehradecký: Jiří Mošna, Tel.: +420 / 495 817 274,
e-mail: mosna@cep-rra.cz

Region NUTS III Liberecký: Jaroslav Křepel, Tel.: +420 / 485 226 627,
e-mail: jaroslav.krepel@kraj-lbc.cz

Region NUTS III Moravia-Silesia: Jaroslava Třaskavá, Tel.: +420 / 595 622 320,
e-mail: jaroslava.traskava@kr-moravskoslezsky.cz

Region NUTS III Olomoucký: Jiří Juránek, Tel.: +420 / 585 508 378,
e-mail: j.juranek@kr-olomoucky.cz

Region NUTS III Pardubický: Štěpánka Makarová, Tel.: +420 / 466 026 307,
e-mail: stepanka.makarova@pardubickykraj.cz

Region NUTS III Plzeňský: Ivana Čapková, Tel.: +420 / 377 195 353,
e-mail: ivana.capkova@kr-plzensky.cz

Region NUTS III Středočeský: Dagmar Vyklická, Tel.: +420 / 257 280 499,
e-mail: vyklicka@kr-s.cz

Region NUTS III Ústecký: Lucie Kuželová, Tel.: +420 / 475 657 560,
e-mail: kuzelova.l@kr-ustecky.cz

Region NUTS III Vysočina: Martin Černý, Tel.: +420 / 564 602 536,
e-mail: Cerny.M@kr-vysocina.cz

Region NUTS III Zlínský: Miluše Tichá, Tel.: +420 / 577 043 417,
e-mail: miluse.ticha@kr-zlinsky.cz