

Making climate action happen

Programming for Cohesion policy – Czech status quo, challenges and opportunities

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Jana Maussen

OPPORTUNITIES – THEORY of PARTICIPATION

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“About us Without us ”

- Experience shows projects are of higher quality when citizens are engaged in selection and delivery.
- This kind of engagement generates “ownership”.
- Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira said that

“all citizens, wherever they are, can feel that they are part of this project” and committed to “visit the regions to understand local concerns—and local aspirations” with the aim “(t)o encourage faster and better implementation of projects, and to let communities know they are not left behind.”

Conference in Brussels in February 2020 “Engaging Citizens for Good Governance in Cohesion Policy”

- Citizen’s engagement in Cohesion Policy 2021–2027
- The Commission organises a Structured Dialogue with stakeholders, i.e. umbrella organisations representing the partners at Union level in order to bring EU funds and Cohesion Policy closer to civil society, to assist the Commission in the development of the policy in different areas of expertise and to discuss the implementation of EU funds.

The European Code of Conduct on Partnership in the Framework of the European Structural And Investment Funds (January, 2014)

- It must be about a constructive dialogue, e.g. availability feed-back and follow-up mechanisms, timing of consultations
- Public authorities can strengthen their participatory practices and build capacity of civil society partners for effective administration and use of the Funds in the next programming period, on the basis of existing rules on partnership.



CHALLENGES – PARTICIPATION in REAL LIFE

Centre for transport and energy (CDE) is a member of Czech platform Zeleny kruh (ZK)

- ZK has around 70 representatives in various commissions and working groups, including monitoring committees
- ZK has no funding – participation is voluntary
- CDE, in cooperation with ZK, participates in the relevant working groups

Participation in the preparation of OP 2021+

- Communication with the responsible National Authority for the coordination of preparations for OP 2021+ –
Ministry for regional development (MRD)
- 4x Request for information according to Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on free access of information, including a
question with participation – 1x no answer, 2x answer without info regarding participation, 1x answer including
info regarding participation

Information on participatory steps on preparation of the Partnership Agreement

- The first proposal was provided for public consultation on 9 December 2019 – as a “Christmas and New Year gift for every citizen of the Czech Republic” with a deadline of 6 January 2020
- Since 2018, Ministry organised 7 round tables – open to the public – the last on 6 December 2019
- What is going on at present? How did this public consultation go? How did they proceed with the evaluation, including information on the process, the number of participants or the number of comments?
- The allocation of EU funds was approved in October, however as the relevant European legislation has not yet

Participation in the monitoring of the current OP PIK – Ministry of Industry

- After 3 months, the official representative of ZK in the Monitoring Committee of the OP PIK was replaced
- In October, the Monitoring Committee did not take place even online, but per rollam.
- What are the rules for nomination to the new OP TAK preparatory platform? Do the representatives of the Mol
OP PIK have a priority right to become members of the preparatory platform?

Nomination of a representative of the NGO to the preparatory team of Just Transition

- Communication with the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Environment
- 6 letters from the CDE or the ZK to the Ministry of Regional Development or the Ministry of the Environment
and 3 letters from the Ministry of Regional Development or the Ministry of the Environment from 4.7. to 29.9.

(Non) possibility of participation in the preparation of the National Renewal Fund

- (Non) communication with the Ministry of Industry
- There was only one day (Friday 9.10.) for the settlement of comments and discussion between the ministries
- The government did not count on a wider consultation at all and submitted to the EC a draft of the RRF that was not even approved by the Government, just acknowledged.
- After the pressure after the consultation, the Ministry of Industry began to hold round tables – a total of 6

CDE as a member of the ZK is represented in the Government Council for NGOs

Working group to draft a Strategy towards non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs) for the years 2021 – 2030

- Develop a methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes.
- There is a risk of some "monopolization" of participation or its use to a lesser extent.
- Strengthen the position and role of umbrella and networks as an intermediary between public administration

and the non-profit sector

CDE as a member of the platform Change for the better

- Platform of progressive businesses and NGOs

Meaningful participation

- Who can participate?
- Under what conditions?
- Is the timing realistic?

