

**National report on the implementation and
impact of the YOUTH Community action
programme
2000 - 2006**

CZECH REPUBLIC

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Evaluation of the implementation of the YOUTH programme in the Czech Republic was executed on the basis of documents and guidelines of the European Commission. Evaluation was based on several methods including contacts with main actors influencing the programme (young people, youth organisations, employees of CNA, regional consultants) and also it was prepared analysing documents, which were made accessible by the Czech National agency (final reports, statistics, internal guidelines, contracts, reports from the events, etc.)

Implementation of the programme is seen as very successful in general. Existence of the YOUTH programme has influenced not only directly young people and their lives (competences, experience) but the programme had the impact also on national and regional youth policies and wide public. YOUTH programme was during the years 2000-2006 the greatest supporter of international youth mobility projects in the Czech Republic. It has its good reputation among the experts and institutions, which are active in the field of youth and it is well recognised.

Outcomes of this report clearly show how the programme contributed in great way to building up new partnerships, to strengthen the awareness of the public about the youth mobility and its effects.

Czech National agency has succeeded to target all relevant beneficiaries and effective way of running the programme was noted when comparing the administration costs and financial envelope dedicated to projects.

Funds of the programme used in the Czech Republic has reached altogether 25 741 participants in 1 843 supported projects. The most valuable outcomes for young people include building European and multicultural awareness and programme has contributed to motivation of young people to be active in society. Youth workers have been able to gain new competences and together with their organisations and groups they develop functional partnerships in almost all of the Programme countries.

According to the results it is feasible that impact of the programme has long-term sustainability mainly in the field of personal development of participants and also in the terms of strengthening the quality of work of Czech youth organisations, associations and groups.

II. INTRODUCTION

Community YOUTH programme has been adopted by the legally binding Decision No. 1031/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2000. YOUTH programme is being realized in more than 30 countries of Europe (EU, EFTA, accession countries) and was determined for young people from 15 until 25 years of age and for the youth workers. It financially supported mainly international youth activities enforcing non-formal learning, intercultural learning, personal development, tolerance, mutual communication among young people, development of communities and fight against negative social phenomenon (prejudices, racism, xenophobia) Programme was opened to all young people who are residents of one of the programme countries, while priority was given to inclusion of young people with less opportunities.

Main actors and their involvement in the evaluation

YOUTH programme in the Czech Republic was administrated by National institute of children and youth (NIDM) and its department Czech National Agency (hereinafter CNA). Employees of CNA provided informational and consultation service, necessary contacts, they realised educational activities and organised seminars and conferences connected to the content of the YOUTH programme.

Employees of the CNA were involved into evaluation in a form of in-depth interviews (former and present heads of CNA) and interviews (project managers of individual Actions). CNA staff assisted also in gathering quantitative data for outputs analysis and they provided technical assistance for organising individual evaluation activities.

Regional consultants are part of the management of the programme at regional level. CNA co-operated with 14 regional consultants over the years 2003-2006. The regional net had influence on accessibility of the programme, therefore consultants were involved in the evaluation by interview, which was oriented on the question directly connected with their presence in the regions.

Young people themselves and youth workers were included in large extent into the evaluation activities. Most of the qualitative criteria are based on evaluation activities, in which these target groups of the programme participated.

Goals of evaluation

The European Commission outlined goals of the Evaluation:

- Describing the inputs (human, financial and time resources) and outputs (projects, participants, publications, etc.) under the YOUTH programme;
- Assessing the extent to which the Youth programme has achieved its objectives in terms of initial impacts (results) and longer-term impacts (outcomes). This assessment will focus mainly on the impact on young people and organisations directly participating in the programme as well as on local communities, policies, legislations and institutions which are affected in a more indirect way.
- Analysing the efficiency of management procedures and the financial management;
- Assessing the accessibility of the programme;
- Assessing its complementarity with other policies and programmes;
- Assessing the utility and the sustainability of the programme;

These goals were followed in the evaluation process in the Czech Republic and moreover some few specific national goals were added according to the need and situation of youth policy and state of mobility. These were:

- participation of young people in realisation of projects
- effect of the regional network on quality and quantity of the projects
- effectiveness of the training and support activities of the National agency
- effect of the programme on existence of follow-up activities of the organisations or informal groups

III. METHODOLOGY

In respect with outlined goals of evaluation we decided to combine qualitative and quantitative research methods:

- method of interviews,
- method of questionnaire,
- method of focus group,
- content analysis of accessible documents connected to the projects supported by the YOUTH programme,

Realization phases of evaluation

Because of the complexity of the problem it was necessary to realize research in four phases described hereunder.

1. Focus groups

During evaluation period we have organised 7 focus groups, which were attended by 52 young people and projects 'organisers. The content of the focus groups were concentrated on four main elements: Impact of the programme on young people and organisations, Accessibility of the programme, Involvement of the young people in the projects, Activity of CNA and their relevance for projects. The overview of the focus groups 'participants is attached in the Annex 1.

2. Questionnaires

Questionnaire included opened questions, which were determined for young people and organisations and groups. In this phase we focused on personal experience with preparation, realisation and evaluation of projects, their impressions about significance and impact of the participation in these projects on their personal and professional development, on barriers they met during realization of the project on the level of community, regional consultants, National Agency. Altogether we have received 40 questionnaires filled by organisations participating in all YOUTH Actions.

3. Analysis of documents

We examined accessible final reports of the CNA presented to the Commission during the years 2000 – 2006. This analysis was used to evaluate the progress of the quality of different questions and also to sum up quantitative outputs.

4. Interviews

Interviews were used to analyse the management of the CNA, progress of implementation of the programme in the Czech Republic. We focused on the system of operation of the YOUTH programme in the Czech Republic, view of the interviewers on implementation of goals of the programme into the everyday life of youth, opinions on biggest successes and problems in realization of the YOUTH programme.

Research pattern was created by:

- ◆ the heads (1 in 2002-2006, 1 in 2006) of CNA;
- ◆ 7 employees of NA involved in administration of the YOUTH programme;
- ◆ 9 regional consultants;
- ◆ 83 young people, applicants of the YOUTH programme;
- ◆ final reports from years 2000 – 2006.

We did not meet any problems when choosing research pattern. There were few problems with attendance of young people to some of the focus groups in regions. Regional consultants were rather difficult to motivate to fill in the questionnaire. Despite this fact they succeeded in bringing some important evaluation points.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Since 2000 when YOUTH programme is being implemented in the Czech Republic, 25 741 participants were involved in the projects until the end of 2006. 11 328 of them were Czech residents. The most applicants showed interest in Action 1.1 followed by Action 3.1. There were 649 volunteers involved in Action 2 (outgoing and incoming), 5 362 young people took part in youth initiatives and 2 666 youth workers participated in activities of Action 5 (see graph 1 in Annex 3). The equal participation of women and men was secured and have very successful results (see Annex 1/2). The highest

percentage of women participants occurred in Action 2 (60%), the relatively lowest in Action 1 (50,7%).

Financial envelope dedicated to the projects in the Czech Republic amounted at 11 689 445 €. Out of this amount, 9 599 000 € were actually spent, which represents 82,1%. This amount is evaluated as a success, especially looking back at problems during the first years of programme 's implementation regarding the late arrival of funds and beginning with EVS. Action 2 had a big financial coverage from the beginning but not many projects were supported in first years (8 projects in 2000 comparing to 176 in 2006) due to lack of hosting projects and low popularity and promotion of the Action.

In total, CNA has registered 2 886 applications for all projects including CBC co-operation. Out of this amount, the financial grant was committed to 1 843 projects (see graph 4 in Annex 3) with total successful rate of 63,9%. Comparing to other grant programmes run in the Czech Republic we can state that this percentage is relatively high in comparison with other programmes. The success rates were very different during the years of the implementation. While the success rate in the year 2000 was 76,9%, it was 56,4% in 2004. This fact is caused by two factors. The number of projects was increasing continuously, which was the effect of growing popularity of the programme and measures taken in the field of promotion and information, especially after year 2003. The second factor is closely related to high increase of funds following Czech Republic entering EU in 2004. Nevertheless, in 2006, the success rate was 77,2%, which can be interpreted as a big success of information strategy of CNA, as despite of higher financial envelope, there was also increase in number of submitted projects. This situation is also positively affecting the quality of the projects as competition is higher but still the chance of being supported is high. This keeps motivation of potential applicants to present an application at decent level.

The relatively high amount of application was registered under Action 3.1. Employees of CNA including heads of NA state that this is because of two elements. Language barrier which still exists, especially among the group of youth workers limits the possibilities of international co-operation. Another element is connected with low level of financial possibilities for supporting the local projects from the side of state and regional authorities. Majority of the projects presented under Action 3.1 were rejected (54,7%) as they lacked European dimension or those projects were aimed at regular activities of the youth organisations.

Interesting outcomes were noted in participation of different types of applicants regarding the different Actions. Action 1 was mostly used by local and regional youth organisations and associations, Action 2 generally by NGO's, Action 3 by non-formal youth groups and Action 5 by youth organisations at local, regional, national and international level. This result shows the systematic approach of CNA in involving different types of organisations and groups in the programme. Results in Action 3.1 in this respect shows that priority was given to non-organised youth generally of disadvantaged background and attention was paid to their motivation to be involved in the programme. This strategy brings results also in follow-up activities after finishing of the Action 3 projects, namely it brings higher involvement of participants in local community and also setting up new non-governmental organisations run by former participants.

Project themes were also evaluated. Action 1 projects were mostly dedicated to the topics of European awareness, Youth policies and Youth information. This shows that youth organisations and groups tend to work on the topics, which would further develop the state of the youth policy in the Czech Republic and it creates a good base for further involvement of participants in youth work generally. Action 2 projects were mainly focused on Environment, Youth information and Health. Youth initiatives were build around the topics of Social inclusion, Disability and Urban/rural development. Finally Action 5 projects aimed at European awareness, Youth information and Racism and xenophobia. This scale of topics is seen as very interesting and encouraging. Most of the topics used in the projects represent the priority areas of European policies and they also reflect the priorities stated at national level.

Involvement of young people with less opportunities is also visible in the projects. In total 19% of all participants belonged to some of the defined categories of youth with less opportunities. This result is corresponding with results of the questionnaire, where 20,5% of respondents claimed that their project included youngsters with less opportunities. CNA promotes the inclusion of less privileged young people into the programme very widely and systematically through its own Inclusion strategy. This was based on national priorities but also regional consultants worked on their own target groups and they organised training activities targeted mainly on these groups. This fact is underlined by the fact that 76% of all Training and co-operation plan activities were aimed at priority topics and inclusion of young people with less opportunities.

Geographical balance of the projects is still not equal concerning the different regions. Most of the projects come from county Prague and the least amount of projects was supported from Karlovarský county. This shows the future challenges that should be addressed by the CNA.

Concerning the geographical balance among partner countries, the most popular country for sending activities is Slovakia followed by Germany, Italy, Poland and Greece.

Projects run in the Czech Republic were mostly visited by participants from Germany (16%), Slovakia (14%), Poland (11%), Italy (5%) and Austria (5%). It clearly shows that the most of the partnerships are created between Czech organisations and groups and their partners from neighbouring countries. It is influenced by close language links (Slovakia, Poland) or high developed partnerships outside of the programme (Germany).

V. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY OF MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

CNA administrated the YOUTH programme with the help of regional network of consultants. Regional consultants worked for the purpose of the programme since 2003. CNA provides informational and consultation service, providing necessary contacts, realising educational activities and organising seminars and conferences connected to the content of the YOUTH programme.

Since beginning of the existence of the programme in the Czech Republic, each Action of the programme was managed by at least one project officer who was also responsible for training and educational activities concerning the Action in question. Administration of the programme involved in 12 full time project officers plus 14 regional consultants.

Financial envelope dedicated to operating agreements of the CNA amounted at 1 677 190 € over 7 years. The amount of finances committed to projects (as mentioned above) was 9 599 000 €. The efficiency between those two values is visible. If we take as a base the total amount invested in the programme in the Czech Republic (11 276 190 €) amount spent on administration of the programme (excluding training and co-operation activities) represents 14,9% (see graph 2 in Annex 3). This figure is seen as very effective and highly evaluated.

Competencies of employees of the National Agency

Competencies of the employees were changed during the period following the change of the management in the programme. Employees working as project officers were required to obtain full university degree. It was also required to have active knowledge of English language and possibly knowledge of another world language having in mind the necessity to communicate with partners from different countries. Employees of the CNA have to had good communicative, presentation and training skills. They had to be able to deliver presentations and seminars and to be flexible so they can communicate with different target groups (state officers, colleagues form other agencies, experts, representatives of local authorities, youth groups, young people).

The main objective of the work of CNA is advisory activities and facilitating of selection process. Employees were expected to know the YOUTH programme so they are able to answer different questions and put them into consequences with overall aims of the programme. They had to be open-minded, flexible and competent to serve young people. The necessity was that employees are opened to different cultures and opinions, because this is the basic philosophy of the programme. They also had to be capable of work in multicultural teams. The selection criteria for the employees were changed in 2003 following the structural and personal changes in the management of Institute of children and youth and consequently also in CNA.

Management and cooperation within National Agency and regional network

The management of the CNA was marked by the years 2002 – 2003 when structural changes of the agency were executed. The problems occurred during this period as most of the employees have left the CNA and new employees had to be recruited. For the period of 6 months new head of CNA was designated. Following his leave, open call was organised. The new director put the emphasis on building up professional team of workers in co-operation and help of other National agencies, namely those from Visegrád 4 countries. The systematic approach of the new management has resulted in more structured and transparent implementation of the programme. CNA has also started to collaborate more closely with other NA´s. As an example we can state that until the year 2003 no international TCP activities were held in the Czech Republic. After new management created new training strategy, approximately 5 – 6 activities are organised each year.

Employees perceived their superiors as persons opened to new ideas and impulses. Style of management is characterised as democratic one. Staff of the CNA had introduced joint meetings out of the office where employees had a chance to discuss their successes, challenges, problems and visions to future.

Employees of the NA would welcome additional positive feedback. There was enough space to express their opinions or own ideas but providing further positive feedback would bring positive aspects including significance for employee himself /herself or also other employees by presenting good and effective methods of work.

Employees positively rated their own cooperation. According to the amount of new information connected to particular actions they quote necessity to further improve system of inner communication and exchange of knowledge within the agency.

Employees stated that the work in National agency positively influenced their personal development namely in the ability to work with target group, to work with public, training and presentation skills. Also they mentioned the possibility to work in multicultural environment.

Cooperation with regional consultants was more or less without problems. Actually the fact that this kind of network exists was rated very positively from the view of CNA as well as from the view of applicants. These people are closer to youth itself and do know conditions and environment of their regions. Thanks to this, they were able to provide CNA with information about necessities and priorities in practise and know-how how to adapt information about the YOUTH programme so it is attractive and acceptable for youth. Especially young people appreciated fact that they do not have to travel to Prague for information and they feel that programme is really accessible to all young people, also for ones living in remote and less prosperous parts of the Czech Republic.

Specificity of the regional consultants is that they are working in different institutions involved in the field of youth. For this reason they are not full time workers of National Agency, but work for the NA on the basis of an open agreement. Regional consultants think that sometimes employees of National Agency do not realize this situation and consultants are given tasks as they were full time workers of National Agency. In

communication with National Agency they sometimes have impression that they are overloaded and their work could be more effective by more prompt information from the side of the NA. In the same time they suggest to change status of regional consultants to full time employees, what would make their work more effective.

Interactions of CNA and regional consultants with target group

The work of CNA was evaluated also by youth organisations' representatives and young people. Generally, applicants evaluated the work of CNA positively. Support of the CNA was rated between 1,3 to 1,8. (1 was the best grade, 5 worst). The best rated activity was Credibility of information and Professional approach of the employees. The relatively worst rated (1,8) was Effective help during the realisation of the project. The whole summary is to be seen in Annex 4, table 3.

Respondents in focus groups declared that communication with CNA staff was very flexible and helpful also in support with problems that occurred during the project realisation. CNA was ready to help not only with legal issues but also with other difficulties, for example problems of difficult behaviour of participants, problems with insurance, etc. Good level of support was stated also during the preparation of final reports including financial reporting.

Young people and youth organisations questioned in focus groups and questionnaires were also very positive about the work of regional consultants. Usefulness of the regional consultants were rated between 1,4 to 2,0. (1 was the best grade, 5 worst). The best rated activity was Effective support when writing applications, Credibility of information and Easy and quick possibility to communicate. The relatively worst rated (2) was Standard of training activities. The whole summary is to be seen in Annex 4, table 3.

During the focus groups, applicants stated that there is a need for developing the regional network including setting up more branches. Applicants would also welcome that consultants work full-time for the programme without other duties in their home organisations. Another difficulty was presented, that regional consultants are not promoted more widely so all the applicant would know about their existence. The potential of the regional network is also seen in their support towards informal groups of young people and youth from little towns and villages. The importance of existence of

the network can be underlined that all participants in focus groups declared the need of such a network.

Concerning management procedures there was also one significant common opinion of respondents (young people, youth workers, employees of CNA, regional consultants) that microproject system is much more flexible and transparent in the programme. Respondents in Czech Republic (90%) believe that this system should be kept in future programmes of the Directorate General.

Respondents have positive attitude also to system of fixed amounts and lumps sums. Although youth workers declared that preparing financial tables was the most difficult part of the project cycle (26% of questionnaire respondents) they see it as fair and not-discriminatory system. It must be noted that this system is very rarely used in the Czech Republic, it is seen as progressive and "nice" and also very "youth-oriented". Generally the system of fixed amount and lump sums promotes the youth dimension of the project and helps to keep the programme popular.

Applicants stated that the time between the presenting an application and receiving pre-financing payment is sufficient (55%) but some of the beneficiaries are not satisfied with payments of the last payment after presenting final report (16%). Some percentage of beneficiaries (11%) think that time between application and first payment is too long.

According to the results of questionnaire, 43% of respondents would welcome the possibility of applying by email or electronically. To more specific question, whether it would be a problem for their organisation/group to present application ONLY on-line on the web, surprising percentage of 93% stated "NOT AT ALL".

Cooperation with European Commission

CNA is mainly cooperating with European Commission. This co-operation was evaluated positively from the point of view of employees of NA and heads. They considered system of communication on this level as effective and productive.

The difficulties were reported related to function and usefulness of YouthLink database. Employees stated that the most important problems are connected with reporting module of the database. For financial operations there is a need to run the specific database

outside the YouthLink as it is not trustful source for tracking the changes in financial management of projects. Reporting module also does not give information on some of the elements that are usually required by the Commission, e.g. type and number of participants with less opportunities.

Financial management

The evaluation of the management of financial procedures can be split into 2 periods. The first evaluated period was before the new management started to work (2000-2003). During this period, the financial management was done at two levels – one in CNA premises and the other in Institute of children and youth. The transparency of the financial processes was less secured as there was no need for signature of the head of CNA to authorise all transactions. Although no discrepancies were found by auditing authorities, there was a possibility that budget of CNA operational funds could be overspent because of complicated system.

The new management of the Institute and CNA developed new system of financial management. CNA has employed one full time financial manager who run and controlled all the financial transactions connected to operational funds as well as projects' finances. The new system allows tracking the finances spent in CNA and also double checking is secured from the side of the Institute.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

Impact on young people

During the realisation we evaluated if and to what extent the inclusion of young people into the programme is performed and how this experience affected them in their life and personality. The team of experts based its study on subjective statements of young people themselves in focus groups and in questionnaires and administrators of the programme. The aim of this part of the study was to find out how young people and employees of the National agency perceive the relevance of the YOUTH programme.

According to results, the participation of young people in the projects brings visible impact. Respondents were asked different questions related to their experience during the projects. The general positive impacts include beginning of new friendships (77% of respondents who answered this question), knowing different cultures and countries

(64%), language learning (43%). The negative experience included statement that partners from abroad did not take the project seriously enough (69% of those who responded) and problems with being from different culture (21%). Nevertheless, the negative experience was not always defined, as 40% of respondents did not state any negative experience. Overview of these elements is provided in table 6 and 7 in Annex 4.

During the focus groups, young people often mentioned tolerance as key word to describe their new attitudes and competences. Young people are more willing to help foreigners in their own country, they see different cultures living in the Czech Republic through the eyes of the experience they have been part of. To illustrate some of the experience there are few quotations from the focus groups:

“I think project is a University of listening of each other”

“Development of whole personality. Tolerance, better communication skills, ability to express the opinion, breaking barriers especially in relation with nationalities that are less “popular” and knowing different mentalities, ability to go beyond our borders.”

“Young people from village were involved in the project, they continue in the activities themselves, it was worth to kick off.”

Youth workers present in focus groups underlined also the importance of contacts gained during the project. Young people often continue in realisation of further activities, they are more ready in fundraising activities, they gained experience with legal issues too.

Respondents also claimed that they enriched their knowledge about the visited country, way of life, traditions.

It can be concluded that participation on the project did not necessarily changed the way of their life, but changed their view of people not only from different countries but also from their surroundings. They understood that to implement this kind of project does not mean to travel, even if it could be their first motivation to participate. Preparation itself led them to think over and evaluate. There is a portion of responsibility and therefore the fear from mistakes during implementation. After the project they are proud of themselves that they made it.

As valuable impact is seen also the fact that young people are more skilled in project management.

Opinions of regional consultants, who are in daily contact with beneficiaries, were diverse concerning the change of attitudes towards other cultures. 20% of them think that the impact can be seen only from long-time perspective and often they lose contact with those, who participated in the programme few years ago. This group of consultants state that rather than "change of attitudes" we can see "change in having significant more information about different cultures", which is a solid base for further "way to change". But 50% of the consultants say that it is also possible to see the direct impact especially in those young people who participated in more activities or they have been involved in long-term projects. Sometimes the change is very visible and usually it is connected also with different behaviour, communication style and attitude towards others in community.

Involvement of young people is evaluated as satisfactory. The importance of the role, which young people played in the projects' implementation was rated at 70,1%. That means that 70,1% of respondents think that role of the young people is absolutely needed for a successful realisation of the project (while the importance of the role of youth leaders was rated at 67,6%).

Impact on youth workers, organisations, groups and local communities

Czech youth workers participated in the evaluation process were very positive about the training activities of the CNA and regional consultants. They tend to use the opportunity offered from the CNA for different training activities in order to be better prepared for projects. Almost 61 % of respondents claimed that they have attended some kind of preparation (information day, seminar, training) before writing the application.

The most valuable elements of the programme as youth workers understand it are represented by possibility to guide young people for higher participation and activism (50% of respondents). The second most mentioned element was strengthening intercultural and interpersonal tolerance. For youth workers personally it is important that they have possibility for non-formal learning and gaining professional experience in youth work (49% of respondents).

Big relevant impact was registered in relation to the work of youth organisations. More than 70% respondents stated that project implementation helped their organisation in designing and running new types of activities after completion of the project.

More than 31% of respondents declared that after organising the project, they have new employees or co-workers, whom they recruited as a consequence of the project (see also table 8 in Annex 4).

Many organisations continue in their youth work activities also via supporting projects under YOUTH programme. 62% of those applicants who answered questionnaire and concluded Action 1 activity have already planned new project. 42% of these beneficiaries plan to present the project under different Action.

The assessment was focused also on defining the areas, in which applicants encountered difficulties. Youth organisations and groups declared that during the preparation phase the most difficult part was preparation of financial tables (28% of respondents who replied to this question). This was followed by planning activities (20%) and writing applications (17%). Overview is provided in the table 4 of Annex 4.

During the realisation of the projects, 40% of respondents declared no problems. The most common problem was preparation of financial tables for final report (16%). Overview is provided in the table 5 of Annex 4.

Impact on local communities is visible predominantly in the long-term projects of EVS and youth initiatives. Regional consultants declared that municipalities, in which YOUTH projects took place are more willing to co-operate with other subjects and they rate international events in their communities as important. This attitude gradually decreases with higher population in community.

5 of 9 consultants state that local communities in small villages and in geographically remoted areas reflect the YOUTH programme very positively and they have also rather large amount of information about its possibilities. This fact supports the idea of having preserved the microproject system, which allows supporting local initiatives and small projects as they have significant impact on local community.

According to our survey, projects of youth exchanges (being hosted in the Czech Republic), EVS and also youth initiatives often use contact with mayors of local municipalities as a part of the programme. We can also conclude that in many cases (50% of regional consultants mentioning) young people have experienced direct contact with their voted representatives and mayors, which would probably not happen without being involved in the project.

Regional consultants also mention that many active young people from small communities become participants on their training activities and later they run their own projects or participate in the EVS activities.

In questionnaires, 87,5% respondents state that their projects had significant or rather positive impact on local community.

Impact on policy, legislation and institutions

YOUTH programme was the biggest supporter of international youth projects in the Czech Republic in 2000 and this situation preserves until today. Nevertheless, there is interesting increase of local and regional initiatives that are influenced by the programme. Many aspects related specially to national policy and legislation are discussed in the PART VIII. of this report.

It can be evaluated that significant impact of the YOUTH programme is visible in regional policies towards youth, which are composed in self-governing regions. It must be noted that youth work is decentralised area of national policy and each of the 14 geographical regions of the Czech Republic has space to develop its own youth policy.

Specially in the regions where regional consultants work effectively and regional authorities are open, new initiatives are being taken and implemented in relation to international youth work. As an example we can present the case of region Vysočina (Highlands), where regional authorities offer to YOUTH beneficiaries the possibility of co-financing their projects, which were already supported by the YOUTH programme. This strategy lead to increase of projects in all Actions and gives positive signal to young people that regional politicians care about their activities. This approach was followed by few other regions later in last years (region Moravskoslezský). In Olomoucký region the co-financing was possible for projects under Action 1.1. Where regional authorities did not introduce such measures, until influence of young people there are local initiatives as for example in town of Vlašim, where similar measures are being implemented at local level.

VII. ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCESSIBILITY

To secure that the YOUTH programme would become active programme in the Czech Republic it was essential to present it to the young people as the programme, which is

supporting their activities, which is not unnecessarily burdened by administrative work and is opened to new ideas.

CNA has worked on accessibility of the programme in two different periods. During the period 2000 – 2003, promotion and accessibility of the programme was secured mainly by information materials, brochures and direct consultations with the projects. The penetration of the programme into the regions was limited and there were no systematic approach. After 2003, CNA has decided to put great amount of work on setting up the regional network.

CNA continuously attempt to publish information about possibilities of involvement into the YOUTH programme after 2003. Mainly it is by interesting flyers and informative brochures, which apart from eye-catching graphics and imaginative colour arrangement include basic information for potential grant applicants. Of course there are to be found necessary contacts for replenishment and clarifying received information.

Respondents were asked in questionnaire to evaluate the information brochures and booklets published by CNA. They could rate different materials from 1 (excellent) to 5 (useless). The average mark for publications was 1,8, which declares the importance and relevancy of the material, which is produced in CNA. Respondents also stated, that information activities of the CNA are very informative and useful (mark 1,7) and at the same time they think they are also interesting and not boring (mark 1,8).

Addressing of target groups through specific seminars and trainings on which potential project participants participate was indicated as effective method. Training sessions were organised in greater way since 2003 and they are most commonly delivered and guided in an interactive way. Their aim was to motivate participants to spread the information through friends of their age to more people. People after training are showing potential for multiplying ideas of the programme among the young people of their age group. This method of promotion is effective because many applicants state that their first notion of the YOUTH programme came from the training as mentioned above.

Also with the aim to get closer to the young generation the agency was promoting its activities via Internet and mailing list. This media were used to address specific target

groups. Other media (local daily newspaper, radio and television broadcast and national media) were also used by administrators.

The NA was using big public events in smaller range as for example the Youth Week or different street happenings or conferences where young people were informed about possibilities of the YOUTH programme and experience of the others.

Consultations of the projects

Applicants had a possibility to consult their projects before submitting an application either within the network of regional consultants or directly in the agency.

Consultancy could involve technical (filling in the application form) problems or questions connected to the content of the project. CNA was also inviting applicants to the trainings, which are focused on explanation of the whole conception of the YOUTH programme and its priorities as well as the process of writing the project and realization of activities. This approach saved workload of the employees and secured that information was provided to those who are really interested.

Significant part of consultancies included logistical support of the administrator from the moment of supporting the project until submitting the final report. The main responsibility of the consultants was to provide promptly necessary information and to try to guide good ideas to ready-to-realize ones. Regional consultants were also playing important role in this process.

Overall, the advisory service system is possible to consider as good and adjusted to the specific needs of applicants. Its advantages were appreciated by the majority of questioned young people and youth workers.

Internet plays an important role in the whole communication and information strategy. During group discussion regional consultants mentioned the positive reactions of young people concerning information and design quality of the NA web page.

VIII. ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPLEMENTARITY

Successful realisation of the YOUTH programme in the Czech Republic (11 328 Czech participants involved during 2000-2006) has had an impact on state policy as the agenda of youth mobility is a part of the discussions at state level. Programme itself, its outcomes and popularity among youngsters is often used as an argument declaring the importance of international youth work with the relation to building social competences of individuals, which are necessary for a life in multicultural society

YOUTH programme had a significant impact on discussion about state policy towards children and youth and its aims in these areas:

1. Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes concerning different cultures, nations, ethnic groups, races and groups with different social backgrounds;
2. Strengthening of youth work at local level (in villages and towns);
3. Enlarging of meaning of the term voluntary work and voluntary service;

Xenophobia in the Czech Republic is a recognised problem and affects young people in a great extent. Existing barrier of communication with someone from abroad is closely linked to this problem. YOUTH programme provided great space for young people to learn being confronted with own stereotypes and prejudices. On the other hand there is no sufficient amount of projects based on the theme of "Fight against racism and xenophobia".

The high demand for Action 3 projects (supporting regional and local development) was registered among young people. This demand may be interpreted also as a consequence of language barrier that has caused limited demand for contacts with partners from abroad.

The situation presented has lead to a big increase of Action 31 projects – Youth initiatives, where co-operation with foreign partner is limited. There is still high demand for Action 3 in relation to the budget available and statistics from other Programme countries.

According to the employees of CNA, the programme is not used sufficiently by the decision-makers in the youth policy at the local level and those who practically shape the state youth policy at the level of region or municipality.

YOUTH programme has enriched the state policy with a new phenomenon – European voluntary service. Existence of European voluntary service in the frame of the YOUTH programme has contributed to the latest development of legislation regarding voluntary work. The Act on voluntary service was adopted by the Parliament in April 2002 and in a great way the procedures at national level were inspired by EVS experience.

Czech Republic has also several bilateral agreements in the field of youth including youth mobility projects. These agreements are signed with e.g. Slovakia, France or Germany. The biggest financial envelope is dedicated to activities with Germany and specific co-ordinating organisation – TANDEM – works on the administration of the agreement in both countries. According to the heads of CNA, activities granted under the bilateral agreements are not in contradiction with the philosophy of the YOUTH programme but rather in complementarity. The co-ordinating organisation for German – Czech co-operation is also one of regional centres for YOUTH programme and therefore the synergy effects might be supported.

CNA and its employees are members of the working groups related to the different areas in youth work and state policy. As an example, CNA is an active organiser of Conference of non-formal learning, active member of preparation committee for the campaign „All different – all equal“, debates about volunteering and debates about the new Act on youth.

IX. ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILITY

During the evaluation period all the methods and the results were compared in order to analyse whether the overall functioning of the programme is in line with the needs and issues addressed both at European and national level.

Projects implemented in the Czech Republic generally reflect the problems, which are not only discussed nationally but at the same time most of the projects follow the European priorities. As employees and heads of CNA stressed during the interviews as competition

among project is especially during last years high, it is possible to follow the priorities. This approach can be seen also when looking at the most frequent topics of the projects (see chapter IV). The topics and issues on which the projects are built are in close link with the type of the projects and also type of the organisations, for example: Action 2 – NGO´s – Environment and Health. Similarly in Action 3 – informal groups – Social inclusion and Urban/rural development.

This approach allowed CNA to use different types of Action to really enhance the work on those topics, which are relevant Europe-wide.

Action 2 is seen by employees of the CNA also as a big chance for young people to build up new partnership abroad, which may lead to future work mobility. This is in accordance with EU Lisbon agenda to enhance growth and jobs by developing human capital and enhancing employability of young people. The practical implementation of the Lisbon agenda within the YOUTH programme in the Czech Republic is secured not only by the fact that employees are aware of this need. They actively promote good examples of volunteers who stayed to work abroad or stayed in the Czech Republic. This is also a good motivation point for those who are not yet open to do it.

Generally, YOUTH programme is promoted as a „programme of mobility“ and that´s how it is „sold“ to wide public. Thus it is considered as a tool, which helps to enhance not only mobility within third sector, but in general.

X. ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY

Positive effects gained during the project are seen by respondents as long-term. Especially young people were positive about the impact concerning the gained skills and attitudes. As an example we can quote few participants during the focus groups:

„I feel developed in many ways, for example my attitudes to foreigners in my own country. I approach these people somehow with more tolerance and with the will to help.“

„My connections with other young people are much more easier. It is not a problem today to call to my friends whether I can visit them and stay in another country or they can stay here.“

„(After my project) I plan to realise one project now in summer as a leader.“

Concerning the sustainable impact at the level youth organisations, questionnaire show that 70,1% of organisations questioned broaden their activities within organisations. This result shows clearly that new activities, new tasks and new experience had positive impact and organisations were motivated to incorporate them into their normal activities. Organisations and groups also tend to inform about the results of the projects in public or using different ways (see table 9 in Annex 4).

Sustainability is seen also at the political level of youth work. YOUTH programme motivated several regional self-governments and also municipalities to set up measures that would further support project of youth mobility (co-financing of already supported projects). This might be later the base for developing the own complementary programmes at regional or local level.

Taking into consideration all analysed elements we conclude that sustainability is visible and feasible at all levels – from personal development of youngsters via work of youth organisations up to policy level. This brings a solid base, on which all actors on youth scene will continue in developing and also disseminating the good results from the projects.

There are also new challenges concerning sustainability of the programme. It is with no doubts that young people benefit from the programme to a great extent. It is not clear how young people can use this experience in the future life as for example during acceptance to different formal education institutions or while looking for a job. So far, participation in the YOUTH programme does not affect the success in getting the job. There is no survey how Czech volunteers who are obtaining a certificate use it and whether they provide potential employers with a certificate as a support document. It is clear that young people would have much bigger interest in YOUTH programme if there would be a clear message that participation in the programme might bring very concrete practical benefits. This situation also underlines the importance of further continuity in the work done in the field of conception of non-formal learning.

Certification of the non-formal learning is very discussed issue. Discussion is held primarily about the value of the certification and whether this process will not change non-formal learning into formal education. CNA put a great emphasis on developing the

public awareness about YouthPass. It is promoted during the all training events and during the official conferences where representatives of CNA are invited. Co-operation with the national authority is also very close in this subject.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to the implementation of the programme were noted from all the members of the research pattern. Therefore we conclude the most discussed recommendations in respective format.

Beneficiaries of the programme:

- Need to broaden the age scale for youth initiatives
- Need to work more with formal institutions (schools) – at least so they would know about the programme and they would not have problems to excuse pupils during the school year
- It would be positive if there is a flexibility in the beginning of „action period“
- There is a need to adapt the legislation in order to run smoothly and safely the international projects
- Need to broaden the net of regional consultants

Employees of CNA and regional consultants:

- Need to keep the microproject system
- Adaptation of YouthLink especially in financial management

Taking into consideration all outcomes of this report and to secure further qualitative enhancement of the programme, external evaluators suggest to focus on these areas in the future:

- Promoting programme in greater way in the regions that are less represented
- Promoting the less represented topics of the project, which are at the same time priority themes (e.g. Fight against racism and xenophobia)
- Developing web page in order to set up it as more user-friendly

- Actively working with regional policy makers to spread the good examples in youth policy among the regions
- Promoting the programme among the local municipalities
- Work further on methodology concerning specific training activities aimed at project management.
- Analyse the expectations of the young people before realisation of a project and consequently use those expectations which are in line with the philosophy of the programme as promotion element
- Continue to underline the importance of all phases of the project – preparation, realisation, evaluation for non-formal learning
- Work on methodology for involving all participants into evaluation of the projects
- Work further on recognising of the YOUTH programme and its benefit in professional life of young people
- Provide public with information about importance of work of youth centres and youth organisations
- Include information about voluntary and non-formal activities in to the syllabus of civics

XII. ANNEXES

Annex 1/A: Indicators

A. Input indicators (financial indicators to be expressed in €):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Financial envelope of AGN operating agreements over 7 years | 1 677 190,- EUR |
| 2 | Total financial volume of ADEC agreements over 7 years. | 11 689 445,- EUR |
| 3 | Funds committed per Action per budget year | See tab. 1 |
| 4 | Percentage of funds committed per Action in relation with the total decentralised Actions budget. | A1=48%, A2=19,7%, A3.1=14,9%, A3.2=2,6%, A5=14,7% |
| 5 | Financial envelope of Eurodesk operating agreements over 7 years (where applicable) | 256 077,- EUR |
| 6 | Financial envelope of SALTO operating agreements over 7 years (where applicable) | not applicable |
| 7 | Number of full-time equivalent staff employed in the a) NA, b) SALTO Resource Centre and c) national Eurodesk respectively over 7 years. | See tab. 2 |
| 8 | Number of staff in regional offices of the NA involved in a) the management of the programme and/or b) assuming information and advisory tasks. | a) 0 b) 14 |
| 9 | a) Total direct national contribution to the NA operating costs over 7 years and b) percentage that this represents in relation to the Community contribution to the operating costs. | a) 838 595,- EUR, b) 50% |

B. Output indicators

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 10 | Number of participants per Action a) per budget year and b) in total | See tab.3 |
| 11 | Total number of a) projects and b) participants under the Training and Cooperation Plan | a) 295, b) 1876 |
| 12 | Number of submitted projects a) per Action and budget year and b) in total (please list Cross-Border Cooperation and Training and Cooperation Plan projects separately) | See tab. 4 |
| 13 | Number of approved projects a) per Action and budget year and b) in total (please list CBC and TCP projects separately) | See tab. 5 |
| 14 | "Success rate" of approved projects in relation with submitted projects (please list CBC projects separately); | ADEC – 61,3% CBC – 66,3% |
| 15 | a) Number and b) percentage of control/audit visits to granted projects | a) 51, b) 3% |
| 16 | a) Number and b) percentage of on-site monitoring visits to granted projects | a) 292, b) 17% |
| 17 | Average age of participants per Action | A1 – 21, A2 – 22, A3 – 19, A5 - 32 |
| 18 | Average activity duration per Action | A1 – 9 days, A2 – 8 month, A3 – 10 month, A5 – 5 days |
| 19 | Average cost per participant per project for each Action | A1-253 EUR, A2- 2490 EUR, A3-200 |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| | | EUR, A5–486 EUR |
| 20 | Distribution of project themes | See tab. 6 |
| 21 | Distribution of project target groups | See tab. 7 |
| 22 | Share of a) bilateral and b) multilateral Action 1 projects. | a) 48%, b) 52% |
| 23 | a) Number and b) percentage of EVS short-term projects in relation to all granted EVS projects per budget year. | See tab.8 |
| 24 | Nationally approved Host Expressions of Interest (HEI) since 1 January 2005. | 66 |
| 25 | a) Number of HEI accreditors since 2005 working for the NA and b) estimate of man-days of work per HEI | a) 6, b) 1 |
| 26 | Number of one-sided funding exceptions for Actions 1.1 and 2.1 since 2004 | 3 (A2.1) |
| 27 | a) Number and b) geographic destinations of participants resident in your country having been sent abroad to other Programme Countries and c) top 5 Programme countries or country groups that are the most popular and d) that are the least popular among participants sent abroad. | See tab. 9 |
| 28 | a) Number and b) geographic origin of participants visiting your country from other Programme Countries | See tab. 10 |
| 29 | Distribution of a) outgoing and b) incoming participants in international cooperation projects according to country groups (Eastern Europe and Caucasus, South East Europe, Mediterranean Partner Countries, Latin America). | a) EE and Cauc. – 90, SEE – 32, Med. and partner count. – 0, Lat. Am. – 25 b) EE and Cauc. – 112, SEE – 45, Med. and partner count. – 103, Lat. |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| | | Am. – 0 |
| 30 | Share of female participants per Action and budget year | See tab. 11 |
| 31 | Share of granted projects involving young people with fewer opportunities (and for Action 5 with the theme of the activity related to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities). | 19% |
| 32 | Share of participants with fewer opportunities (incl. people with disabilities) a) per Action per budget year and b) in total | See tab. 12 |
| 33 | Share of participants with disabilities a) per Action per budget year and b) in total | Not defined |
| 34 | Share of activities under the Training and Cooperation Plan related to the priorities of the programme: active citizenship, inclusion and cultural diversity. | 76% |
| 35 | Total number of participants in SALTO training courses (where applicable) | 263 |
| 36 | a) Total budget of volunteer trainings and b) share of volunteers actually participating in these trainings | a) 104 819,- EUR b) 99% |
| 37 | Total number of a) YOUTH information events and b) YOUTH publications and c) respective target population reached. | a) 147, b) 7, c) youth, youth workers |
| 38 | a) Number of EVS certificates disseminated since 2005 and b) percentage of volunteers sent abroad who actually received an EVS certificate since 2005. | a) 43, b) 33% |
| 39 | a) Number of publications aiming to disseminate best practice and results of YOUTH projects and b) target | a) 5, |

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| | population reached. | b) youth, youth workers |
| 40 | a) Number of events that served the dissemination of best practice and results of YOUTH projects and b) target population reached. | a) 45, b) youth, youth workers |
| 41 | Rate of implementation of annual NA activities in accordance with proposals of the reference work programme (%) | 80% |

Annex 1/B: Indicators

Tab. 1 : Funds committed per Action per budget year (in thousands of EUR)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Action 1 | 375,2 | 348,1 | 344,5 | 316,6 | 933,3 | 1226,3 | 1143,6 |
| Action 2 | 22,3 | 130,7 | 174,9 | 166,8 | 272,5 | 432,2 | 526,6 |
| Action 3.1 | 177,3 | 85,0 | 74,1 | 110,6 | 232,1 | 327,4 | 520,6 |
| Action 3.2 | 0 | 0 | 17,2 | 10,2 | 51,7 | 63,6 | 79,3 |
| Action 5 | 65,9 | 126,3 | 72,4 | 82,9 | 306,9 | 297,7 | 484,2 |

Tab. 2 Number of full-time equivalent staff employed in the a) NA, b) SALTO Resource Centre and c) national Eurodesk respectively over 7 years

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| a) NA | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| b) SALTO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| c) Eurodesk | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Tab. 3 Number of participants per Action a) per budget year and b) in total

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Action 1 | 1200 | 2266 | 1430 | 3888 | 1836 | 3606 | 2786 | 17012 |
| Action 2 | 8 | 62 | 72 | 85 | 109 | 137 | 176 | 649 |
| Action3.1 | ND | 580 | 445 | 535 | 1436 | 980 | 1386 | 5362 |
| Action3.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 21 | 52 |
| Action 5 | ND | 378 | 712 | 136 | 563 | 283 | 594 | 2666 |
| Total | 1208 | 3286 | 2661 | 4647 | 3954 | 5022 | 4963 | 25741 |

Tab. 4: Number of submitted projects a) per Action and budget year and b) in total (please list Cross-Border Cooperation and Training and Cooperation Plan projects separately)

ADEC projects:

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Action 1 | 60 | 112 | 108 | 127 | 178 | 182 | 186 | 953 |
| Action 2 | 13 | 71 | 101 | 115 | 139 | 143 | 180 | 762 |
| Action3.1 | 49 | 69 | 64 | 91 | 131 | 144 | 164 | 712 |
| Action3.2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 19 | 24 | 65 |
| Action 5 | 25 | 45 | 29 | 50 | 54 | 43 | 68 | 314 |
| Total | 147 | 297 | 307 | 386 | 516 | 531 | 622 | 2806 |

CBC projects:

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Action 1 | - | - | 39 | 2 | 23 | 11 | 14 | 89 |
| Action 2 | - | - | 4 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 32 |
| Action3.1 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 27 |
| Action3.2 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Action 5 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 39 |
| Total | - | - | 46 | 8 | 48 | 43 | 42 | 187 |

Tab 5: Number of approved projects a) per Action and budget year and b) in total (please list CBC and TCP projects separately)

ADEC projects:

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Action 1 | 47 | 52 | 50 | 44 | 76 | 121 | 139 | 529 |
| Action 2 | 8 | 62 | 72 | 85 | 109 | 137 | 176 | 649 |
| Action3.1 | 37 | 28 | 19 | 23 | 64 | 53 | 93 | 317 |
| Action3.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 21 | 52 |
| Action 5 | 21 | 25 | 7 | 13 | 22 | 33 | 51 | 172 |
| Total | 113 | 167 | 150 | 168 | 281 | 360 | 480 | 1719 |

CBC projects:

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Action 1 | - | - | 14 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 45 |
| Action 2 | - | - | 4 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 31 |
| Action3.1 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 18 |
| Action3.2 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Action 5 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 30 |
| Total | - | - | 21 | 8 | 35 | 28 | 32 | 124 |

Tab. 6: Distribution of project themes

Most popular projects themes:

| Action 1 | Action 2 | Action 3 | Action 5 |
|---|--|---|---|
| European awareness, Youth policies, Youth information | Environment, Youth information, Health | Social inclusion, Disability, Urban/rural development | European awareness, Youth information, Rasism and xenofobia |

Tab. 7: Distribution of project target groups

Most frequent profile of the applicant:

| Action 1 | Action 2 | Action 3 | Action 5 |
|--|----------|---------------------------|--|
| Youth organisation or assotiation on the local or regional level | NGOs | Nonformal groups of youth | Youth organisation or assotiation on the local, national and international level |

Tab. 8: a) Number and b) percentage of EVS short-term projects in relation to all granted EVS projects per budget year.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| a) number | 0 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 31 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| b) percentage | 0% | 16% | 4% | 9% | 3% | 4% | 19% |
|---------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|

Tab. 9: a) Number and b) geographic destinations of participants resident in your country having been sent abroad to other Programme Countries

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------------|--------------|------|------|--------------------------------|---|------|------|
| a) number | 368 | 344 | 357 | 362 | 493 | 463 | 602 |
| b) destination | EU countries | | | EU countries.+ third countries | EU countries +partner countries + EuroMed countries | | |

Total 2000-2006: 2989 participants

c) top 5 Programme countries or country groups that are the most popular among participants sent abroad: Slovakia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Greece

and d) that are the least popular among participants sent abroad: Luxembourg, Lichtenstein, Norway, Latvia, Cyprus

Tab. 10: a) Number and b) geographic origin of participants visiting your country from other Programme Countries

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| a) number | 840 | 1611 | 1877 | 1008 | 2533 | 3508 | 3036 |
| b) geographic origin | 5 most popular countries: Germany (16%), Slovakia (14%), Poland (11%), Italy (5%), Austria (5%) | | | | | | |

Total 2000-2006: 14 413 participants

Tab. 11: Share of female participants per Action and budget year

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Action 1 | 50% | 44% | 60% | 44% | 56% | 50% | 51% |
| Action 2 | 50% | 58% | 76% | 66% | 57% | 57% | 56% |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Action 3 | 55% | 50% | 54% | 60% | 60% | 47% | 53% |
| Action 5 | Not defined | ND | ND | 54% | 46% | 30% | 53% |

Tab.12: Share of participants with fewer opportunities (incl. people with disabilities) a) per Action per budget year and b) in total

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Action 1 | 5% | 19% | 22% | 5% | 34% | 11% | 10% | 15% |
| Action 2 | 5% | 5% | 0 | 9% | 4% | 1% | 4% | 4% |
| Action 3 | 5% | 43% | 32% | 43% | 44% | 38% | 42% | 35% |
| Action 5 | 10% | 16% | 29% | 23% | 18% | 24% | 28% | 21% |
| Total | 6% | 21% | 21% | 20% | 25% | 18% | 21% | 19% |

Annex 2: Analysis of focus groups' participants

1. Number of participants:

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| men | 21 |
| women | 31 |
| total | 52 |

2. Age average: 29,5 years old, oldest participant: 58 y.o., youngest 16 y.o.

3. Distribution among counties

| Kraj | Praha | Střed očesk ý | Jiho český | Plzeň ský | Karlo varsk ý | Ústec ký | Libe reck ý | Vyso čina | Olomou cký | Moravsko slezský | Jihomo ravský | Tot al |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Numbe r of pax | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 52 |

4. Highest completed education:

| Education level | Number of pax |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Elementary | 7 |
| Training no final exam | 1 |
| High school with final exam | 19 |
| Higher expertise schools | 4 |
| University | 20 |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 52 |

5. Status of participants:

| Your present situation | Number of pax |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Student, no employment | 5 |
| Student with part-time employment | 10 |
| Student with full-time employment | 4 |
| Employed | 29 |
| Unemployed | 2 |
| Retired (health reasons) | 1 |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 51 |

6. Your organisation:

| Type of organisation | Number of pax |
|---|----------------------|
| Civic association | 34 |
| Charity | 2 |
| Informal group | 5 |
| Educational institution | 4 |
| Other | 2 |
| I am not a part of organisation structure | 4 |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 51 |

7. Involvement in the programme's Action:

| Action | Number of pax |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Action 1 | 30 |
| Action 2 | 9 |
| Action 3 | 21 |
| Action 5 | 17 |
| None of the actions | 2 |

N = 52

Each respondent or her/his organisation could participate in more Actions, therefore the total does not sum at 52.

8. Your seat:

| Village/town | Number of pax |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Up to 4 999 inhabitants | 9 |
| 5 000 – 19 999 inhabitants | 1 |
| 20 000 – 49 999 inhabitants | 9 |
| 50 000 – 99 999 inhabitants | 16 |
| More than 100 000 inhabitants | 16 |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 52 |

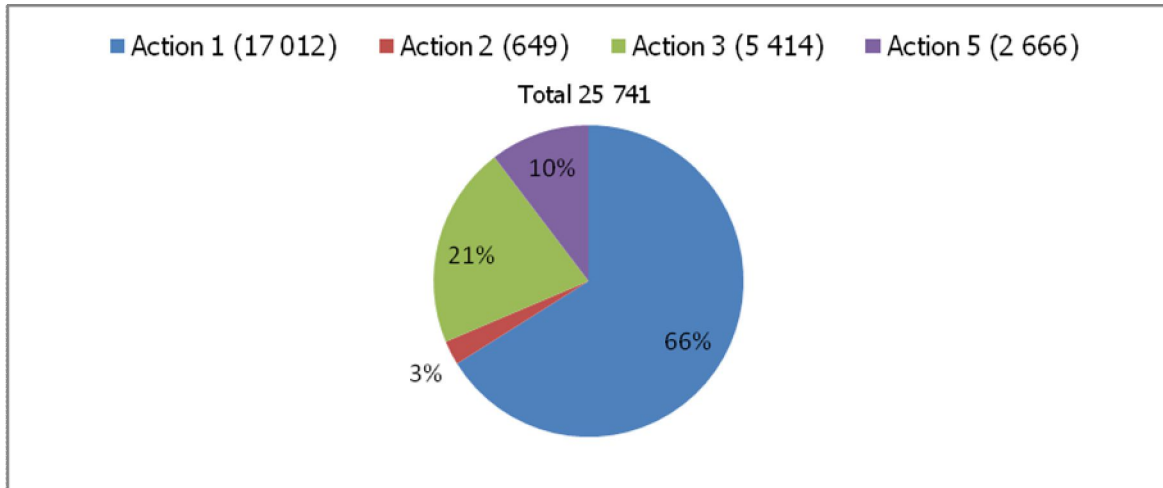
9. Overview of number of respondents in different focus groups in regions:

| No. | Venue | Number of pax |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | FG Praha, January 26th 2007 | 5 |
| 2 | FG Praha, January 26th 2007 | 12 |
| 3 | FG Ústí nad Labem, February 20th 2007 | 7 |
| 4 | FG České Budějovice, March 6th 2007 | 9 |
| 5 | FG Plzeň, March 7th 2007 | 4 |
| 6 | FG Brno, April 5th 2007 | 5 |
| 7 | FG Jihlava, April 6th 2007 | 10 |
| | Celkem | 52 |

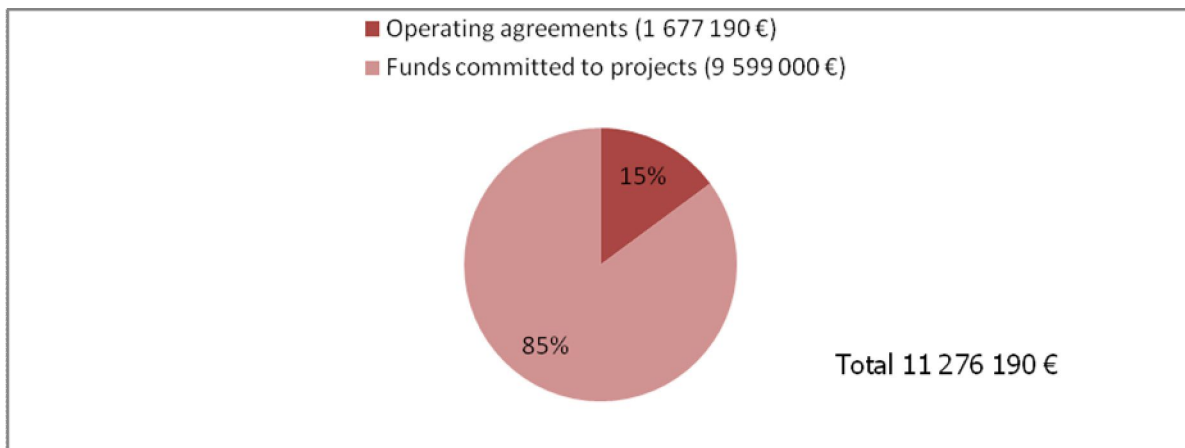
The shortest focus group lasted 65 minutes, the longest one 120 minutes.

Annex 3: Graphical presentation of selected factors

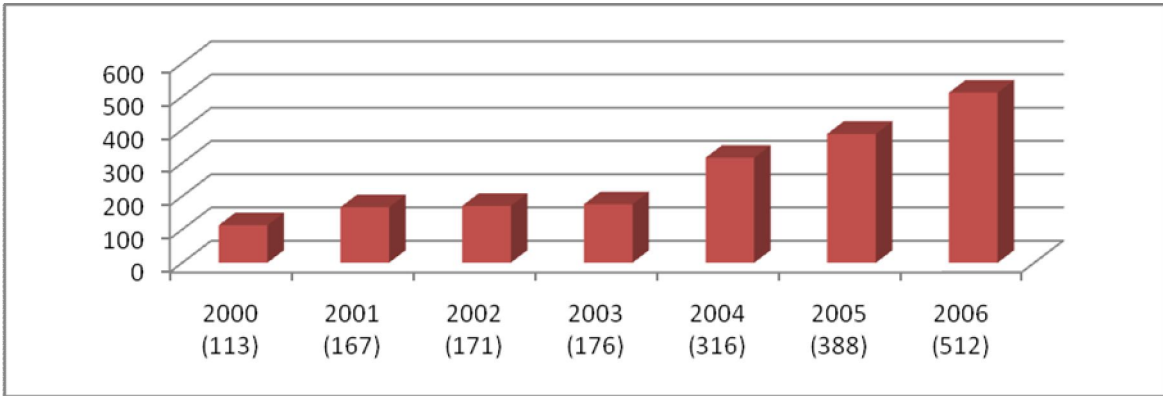
Graph 1: Total number of participants in the projects supported by CNA (all years, all countries)



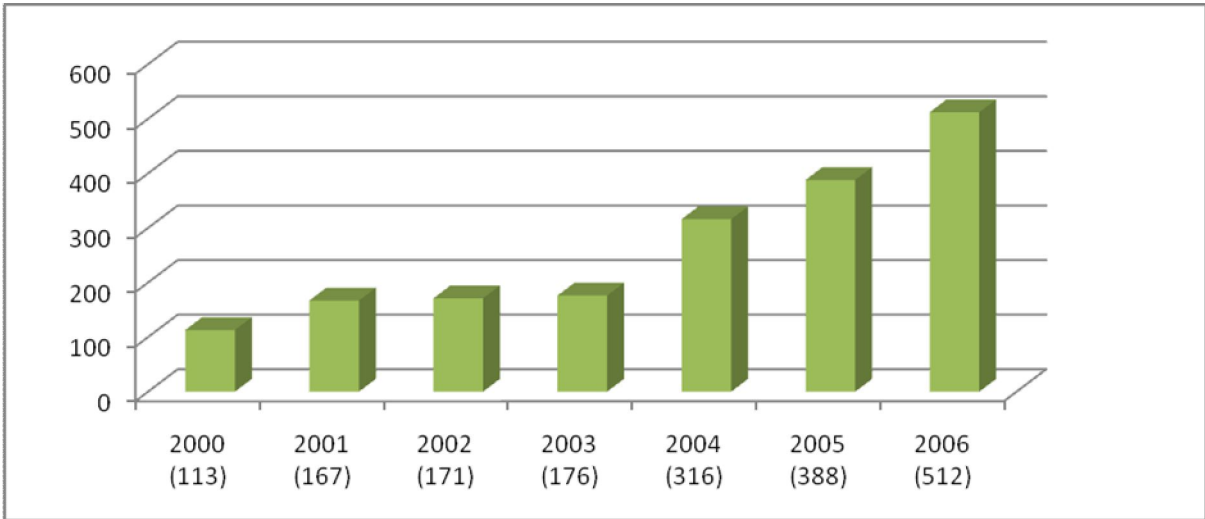
Graph 2: Comparison of amounts for operating agreements and funds committed for projects (all years, all projects)



Graph 3: Funds committed per year in thousands € (all Actions)



Graph 4: Number of approved project per year for all Actions (including CBC projects)



Annex 4: Selected factors from the questionnaire

Table 1: Age of questionnaire respondents

| Age | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| 15 - 20 | 9 | 21,9 |
| 21 - 25 | 6 | 14,6 |
| 26 - 30 | 11 | 26,8 |
| 31 - 35 | 2 | 4,8 |
| 36 - 40 | 4 | 9,7 |
| 41 - 50 | 4 | 9,7 |
| 51 - vice | 3 | 7,3 |
| Total | 39 | 95,1 |
| Missing | 2 | 4,8 |
| Grand total | 41 | 100 |

Table 2: Sources of information about the programme

| Source | Frequency |
|--|-----------|
| web pages of cna | 3 |
| web of regional consultants | 0 |
| web of eurodesk | 1 |
| other web pages | 0 |
| member of selection committee or programme comiittee | 0 |
| information activities of regional consultants | 0 |
| informationa ctivities of cna | 5 |
| employees of cna | 1 |
| regional consultant | 3 |
| friends, colleagues | 20 |
| other (foreign partner, future volunteers) | 6 |
| i do not know | 2 |
| total | 41 |

Table 3: Evaluation of work of regional consultants and employees of CNA (1 – excellent to 5 – very poor)

Regional consultants:

| Criteria | Average evaluation | Number of pax |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Amount of information about the programme | 1,4 | 19 |

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Easy and quick possibility to consult | 1,4 | 18 |
| Effective help with writing an application | 1,4 | 16 |
| Client orientation | 1,5 | 18 |
| Knowledge about the programme | 1,6 | 17 |
| Dissemination of information | 1,7 | 20 |
| Professionalism | 1,8 | 17 |
| Effective help during the realisation of project | 1,9 | 14 |
| Training activities | 2 | 15 |

Employees of CNA:

| Criteria | Average evaluation | Number of pax |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Amount of information about the programme | 1,3 | 26 |
| Easy and quick possibility to consult | 1,3 | 26 |
| Effective help with writing an application | 1,5 | 24 |
| Client orientation | 1,5 | 27 |
| Knowledge about the programme | 1,5 | 27 |
| Dissemination of information | 1,5 | 26 |
| Professionalism | 1,6 | 26 |
| Effective help during the realisation of project | 1,6 | 24 |
| Training activities | 1,8 | 23 |

Table 4: The most difficult barriers when **preparing** projects

| Problem | Frequency |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| writing application | 7 |
| financial calculations | 11 |
| philosophy of the programme | 2 |
| preparation of materials | 1 |
| finding a partner | 4 |
| planning activities | 8 |
| other | 3 |
| no problems | 4 |
| total | 40 |
| missing | 1 |
| grand total | 41 |

Graph 5: The most difficult barriers when **realising** projects

| Problem | Frequency |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| co-operation with foreign partners | 7 |
| co-operation with czech partners | 0 |
| late arrival of pre-financing payment | 2 |
| late announcement of the grant | 3 |
| report about realisation on the spot | 1 |
| content part of final report | 2 |
| financial part of final report | 6 |
| calculation of travel costs | 6 |
| monitoring and control | 0 |
| other | 3 |
| no problems | 7 |
| total | 37 |
| missing | 4 |
| grand total | 41 |

Graph 6: Postive experience gained during the projects

| Experience | Frequency |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| knowing other cultures and countries | 24 |
| more open towards other cultures | 13 |
| beginning of new friendships | 28 |
| we started our own project afterwards | 7 |
| we are more tolerant to people | 11 |
| language learning | 16 |
| other | 1 |
| no answer | 3 |

Graph 7: Negative experience gained during the projects

| Experience | Frequency |
|--|------------------|
| foreign partners were not serious enough about the project | 16 |
| unpleasant experience with foreigners | 5 |
| we failed to start contacts between participants | 1 |
| we did not have adequate support in cr | 2 |
| other | 3 |
| no answer | 15 |

Graph 8: Impact of the projects on the life of the organisations and groups

| Impact | Frequency |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| yes, our activities were broaden | 29 |
| yes, our contacts were broaden | 23 |
| yes, new co-workers | 13 |
| no change | 2 |
| project had negative impact | 0 |
| other | 1 |
| no answer | 1 |

Graph 9: Ways of promotion the projects by beneficiaries

| Promotion | Frequency |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Yes, in nation-wide media | 8 |
| Yes, in regional media | 22 |
| Yes, in local media | 12 |
| Yes, within organisation | 14 |
| Yes, via personal contact | 18 |
| no | 0 |
| other | 2 |