

“The Czech Republic wants to maintain the existing level of foreign development aid, roughly 0.12 percent of its GDP annually.”

Jan Kohout, Deputy Foreign Minister,  
April 2008.



# Czech Republic

**Has the Czech Republic established a timetable to reach the target of 0.17% by 2010? NO**

**Will the Czech Republic meet the EU target of 0.17% of GNI in 2010 without inflating its aid? NGO prediction: NO**

ODA as a percentage of GNI in the Czech Republic has not increased over the past four years. In 2007 the Czech Republic spent 0.11% of its GNI on ODA, a volume of €131 million. This figure is 0.01% less than in 2006. At this pace, it is highly unlikely that the government will reach the 0.17% target by 2010. Instead, aid is allocated in low absolute sums without any relation to the growing Czech GNI. The projected Czech ODA levels are far behind the agreed international commitments for 2010 and 2015.

It is estimated that debt cancellation, refugee and student costs represented 15% of total ODA in 2007. Debt cancellation, refugee costs and student costs will be certainly included in future aid reporting. Bilateral and multilateral ODA accounted for 46% and 54% respectively. South East Europe received the largest proportion of Czech bilateral ODA.

## • Aid quality

The Czech Official Development Assistance system has begun its transformation in 2007 with the aim to centralize the system under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). As a first step, the Czech Development Agency was established in January 2008. The agency will gradually take on the administration and monitoring of development projects from all ministries. The process should be finalized in 2010. Also the Czech council on ODA was established as an inter-ministerial coordination body and advisory body for the MFA.

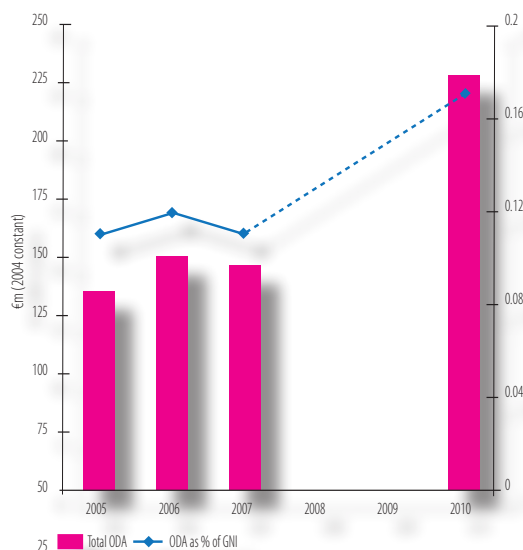
The Czech NGOs consider these to be very positive steps towards the improvement of the Czech ODA. However, the appropriate procedures are still to be developed and tested. Information on multilateral financial flows is not easily accessible and some data on issues such as debt relief is not publicly available. The new system should provide a promising perspective for improvements of both transparency and the evaluation of Czech ODA which are still insufficient.

The Czech NGOs are alarmed by the relative decrease in bilateral ODA expenditures and the low predictability of spending. The government has not set any clear political agreement for multi-year aid commitments. There is no specific gender strategy in development cooperation nor is there earmarked funding for gender issues.

## Czech NGOs call on the Czech government to:

- ensure substantial increases in bilateral ODA and set clear political commitments and binding time-frame to reach the agreed overall ODA targets by 2015.
- strengthen the poverty focus of Czech ODA in programming for sectoral and geographical priorities.
- improve the institutional capacities of Czech aid administration structures including embassies in partner countries.
- ensure results-based approach and make use of the results of evaluations in programming.
- increase better predictability of aid flows and provide multi-year funding.

**Czech Republic total ODA and % ODA/GNI**



Organisations consulted: FoRS – the Czech NGDO Platform, People in Need, ARPOK, Glopolis.