

## New EU Member States

# CZECH REPUBLIC

### Will the Czech Republic meet its EU 2010 minimum aid target of 0.17%?

**NGO Prediction : UNLIKELY**

According to the European Commission's March 2006 figures, the Czech Government is spending 0.11% ODA/GNI in 2005. However, €12 million of Czech ODA in 2005 will deliver no new aid resources for developing countries, according to our calculations.

Czech NGOs are seriously concerned that the Czech Republic will not meet its 2010 commitment. This is because the Czech Government has announced that its spending will remain at 0.11% of GNI for 2004, 2005 and 2006. Czech NGOs urge their Government to provide a substantial increase in genuine aid.

According to OECD figures €10 million of Czech ODA was spent on debt cancellation in 2005. In addition, if we draw on official aid trends for the last four years, €4 million was spent on housing refugees within the Czech Republic.

Czech NGOs note additional problems with Czech ODA, highlighting that the complicated administrative system of Czech ODA has led to a fragmentation of responsibilities, with no central development agency. There are also problems linked to the one-year financing system that complicates all stages of the development project cycle.

State aid administration is currently divided among 11 different ministries and it is extremely important to establish a Czech Development Agency as a necessary precondition for effective planning and implementation of ODA projects and programmes.

However, on a more positive note, Czech NGOs praise the Government for the enormous progress it has made in terms of transparency in its aid delivery. A new ODA

administration system to be introduced in 2006 should enhance transparency of project identification and formulation and results of project monitoring and evaluation.

Czech NGOs note that their greatest overall demand, however, remains the need for a steady increase in Czech ODA in line with its EU aid commitments.

Organisations consulted:

**FoRS - Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, Development Centre of the Institute of International Relations, People in Need.**

# CYPRUS

### Will Cyprus meet its EU 2010 minimum aid target of 0.17%?

**Prediction : UNLIKELY**

According to the European Commission's March 2006 figures Cyprus spent 0.04% ODA/GNI in 2005, making Cyprus the least generous aid giver of all new Member States. Due to a lack of data, it is not possible to reveal how much of this delivered no new aid resources for developing countries.

Cypriot NGOs are extremely concerned that Cyprus will not meet its EU aid target in 2010 and consider these numbers very low, given the economic context of Cyprus. They urge their Government to increase the amount of genuine aid they give in the next couple of years. They also demand that there is greater transparency in ODA reporting in Cyprus.

In addition, Cypriot NGOs point out that the targets set by the Cyprus Government include a focus on the Millennium Development Goals and especially the poverty reduction goal, the untying of ODA and a strong interest in ensuring aid effectiveness.

The demands of Cypriot NGOs include a better allocation of aid funds, and Cypriot NGOs hope a climate of trust can be established between development NGOs and the Government.

Organisations consulted:

**CARET, Doctors of the World Cyprus, Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute.**