

CZECH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SAFETY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Abstract

The aim of the article is a description of the Foreign Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic with the Republic of Moldova with a focus on security. The subject matter of development cooperation is reflected on the basis of options and direction of the current foreign policy of the Czech Republic, with the aim to eradicate poverty and promote security and prosperity through effective partnership. Separately it deals with territorial development cooperation of the Czech Republic in Moldova with a concrete example of a project "Technical assistance for education in the field of safety in Moldova".

Key words

Education, Emergencies, Development Cooperation, International Development Assistance.

Foreword

Czech Republic has been actively involved in the international development cooperation since 1995. The system of the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation has since undergone a major transformation, both thanks to a series of positive changes on the home scene (especially by passing the Law on International Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic, by establishing the Czech Development Agency, or by joining the EU), as well as the changes concerning international development (in particular an adoption of the Millennium Development Goals with the horizon of achieving the goals until 2015). International development cooperation emphasizes human dignity and poverty reduction while introducing new trends, such as transformation to a 'green economy', or the role of a private sector in the development. It is important to continue implementation of the obligations of effective assistance.

Financing the development is increasingly linked with the implementation of "good policies and governance", which are considered to be an essential element of success. An emphasis on peace and security as one of the basic prerequisites for development, as well as on good governance of state administration, law, and human rights, should also become an important aspect of the new framework of development.

This article focuses on the characteristics of the international development cooperation of the Czech Republic. A partial goal is to prepare an overview of the projects of international development cooperation of the Czech Republic in the Republic of Moldova. The function of Content Analysis for processing information, formulation of author's own experience, and literature research, are all methodologically used.

1 Development cooperation

The term Development Cooperation was first used after the World War II as an expression of a modern form of humanitarian tradition; it symbolizes more generally and broadly perceived human development and partnership-based approach of the parties involved.

The cooperation focused on monitoring long-term social and economic conditions in which people in less developed countries live; on finding ways in which these conditions could be globally improved [1].

The process of world globalization is also reflected in the field of development cooperation. Apart from the compression of time, distance and universal human interconnection, the globalization also brings a radical increase in imbalances in the distribution of economic and political powers in various parts of the world. Due to a long-term process of industrial revolution in the North, and the colonization of the South during the 18th and 19th century, the world was gradually divided into the rich and developed North, which benefited from the new distribution of global economic processes (Europe, USA, Australia and some countries of East Asia, whose economics, however, have established themselves only during the past forty years), and the poor, less developed South, where these processes have been almost absent (the rest of the countries in the world, especially African countries, Latin American and South Asian) [2]. Harsh economic and social conditions in which people in less developed countries live have therefore become increasingly acute issue of development cooperation in the past fifty years. Technical progress, capable of producing more accurate indicators of economic advancement, and many other indicators of development throughout the world, then allowed to clearly and coherently point out the vast differences between those two poles. Simultaneously awareness of the fact that the developed world has certain resources (finance, global institutions), with which it would be possible to reverse this state, has grown.

2 Foreign Development Aid

Czech Republic expresses solidarity with the people in underdeveloped countries and feels its share of responsibilities for solving global problems, which are largely related to poverty. International development cooperation is a valuable part of the Czech foreign policy and contributes to the attainment of its objectives.

International development cooperation is a "summary of activities financed from the state budget, aimed at contributing to poverty reduction, economic and social development, environmental protection, and advancement of democracy, observance of human rights, and good governance in developing countries." [3]

The strategic objective of the Czech development policy is to eradicate poverty and promote security and prosperity through an effective partnership that enables the poor and underdeveloped countries to implement their development goals. Starting point represent the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals - MDGs). Sustainable economic growth, integration of developing countries into an international trade, social development and environmental care represent a key stimulus for the development of democratic forms of governance.

By means of development assistance the Czech Republic contributes to the provision of security and stability at the global level as well as the conflict prevention at the regional and local level, to the limitation of unwanted migration, security within the environmental area, promotion of democracy, observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and strengthening of a legally consistent state. [4]

Fundamental principles of the Czech development cooperation are based on the European Consensus on Development (2005), the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), Accra Agenda for Action (2008), and the Busan Partnership Agreement for Effective Development Co-operation (2011):

- The Czech development cooperation is based on a partnership with recipient countries, and is determined by the demand in partner countries and their needs. The CR emphasizes

involvement of local residents (governments, elected representatives, civil society organizations) at all stages of the project cycle in order to strengthen ownership, and therefore the effectiveness of cooperation.

- The Czech Republic supports strengthening of the systems, and increasing capacities of the partner countries. Their more active role in the formulation and implementation of their own development policies is a vital goal.
- The partnership principle is also associated with mutual accountability. Both the Czech Republic as a donor, and the partner countries are responsible for the results and impacts of development programs on their citizens and on to each other.
- The Czech Republic has joined an effort of the donor community to coordinate its development policies and harmonize development activities territorially and sectorally. It supports the implementation of the EU Council Conclusions on Agenda for Change, including plans for joint programming of EU development cooperation [5].

4 International Development Cooperation in Moldova

The Czech International Development Cooperation in Moldova is focused primarily on the environment, agriculture, social welfare, and education. Specific projects in the field of environmental protection are aimed at improving waste management and remediation of the environmental damage. The project "Restoration of wastewater management in Nisporeni" represents a major shift in cooperation with other donors. The project of the CR is complementary to the project "Restoration of water supply system in the Rayon Nisporeni: Municipalities of Nisporeni, Vărzarești, and Grozești, Republic of Moldova" implemented by the Austrian Development Agency, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the European Commission [6].

Another area of development interventions of the CR is an elimination of old environmental burdens, mainly removing pesticides from local warehouses, and assessment of the scope and risks of residual contamination of the surroundings. The three-year project "Survey and Remediation of Sites Contaminated by Oil Products in villages Marculesti and Lunga in Moldova" provides a profound and positive impact on availability of both industrial and drinking water for the residents of both villages.

Another important intervention of the Czech Republic is a project called "Flood warning and monitoring system on the Prut River", whose usefulness was regrettably proved through the catastrophic floods on that particular river in 2010. The project is implemented in a close cooperation with the State Hydro-meteorological Service of Moldova, which will then operate the system. Current projects to remedy the environmental damages caused by pesticides, and recover the wastewater system in Cimislia continue. Agricultural projects aim at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and developing organic farming.

Projects relating to social care that attempt to directly or indirectly reduce negative effects of migration in Moldova are implemented. According to the estimates of the International Organization for Migration, a third of the working age population lives outside the territory of Moldova. A number of so called. "Social Orphans", i.e. children whose parents have temporarily left Moldova, is approximately 150 thousand. Therefore the Czech Republic is implementing a project in Moldova aiming at reducing negative impacts of migration on those children. A title "Improving the quality and accessibility of medical and social services of home care" is primarily aimed at certified training of the staff and voluntary providers of home care, on providing social care services by an accredited local organization, pursuing the model of home care into an integrated system of social care and health care of the Republic of Moldova

and on developing appropriate normative documents for the relevant ministries of the Moldovan government. [7]

I. Overview of ongoing projects:

Health sector

- Promotion of diabetes prevention and treatment in Chisinau

Sector of other social infrastructures and services

- Development of home care services in the north of Moldova
- Crisis centre for migrants in Moldova

Sector of state administration and civil society

- Improving operational and professional competence of Moldovan firefighters
- Increasing efficiency and enhancing transparency of the processes of the National Employment Agency of Moldova (ANOFM) - introduction of electronic filing service

Sector of water supply and sanitation

- Survey and sanitation of sites contaminated by oil products in the villages Marculesti and Lunga in Moldova II.
- Technical and institutional support in the area of solid waste management in southern Moldova
- Remediation of the environmental damages caused by pesticides in Moldova II.
- Renewal of wastewater management in Cimislia
- Renewal of wastewater management in Nisporeni

Sector of agriculture, forestry, and fishery

- Support for the production of fruit and vegetables with added market value
- Creating a registry of wine in Moldova

Education sector

- Expanding the successful model of inclusive preschool education in Moldova
- Comprehensive support for the development of statistics of the population and demographics in Moldova

II. Overview of the Selected completed projects:

Sector of the General environmental protection

- Renewal of monitoring station networks in the Prut River Catchment Area - modernizing the information system of flood protection

Sector of state administration and civil society

- Support for the Regional Development Agency South and Regional Development Council: Updating the strategy of regional development

Sector of water supply and sanitation

- Survey and sanitation of sites contaminated by oil products in the villages Marculesti and Lunga in Moldova
- Remediation of environmental damages caused by pesticides in Moldova
- Renewal of wastewater management in Vulcanesti

Sector of other social infrastructures and services

- Supply of servers for the National Employment Agency
- Support for the creation of a national plan to work with abandoned children
- Improving the quality and accessibility of medical and social services of home care

Education sector

- Path to pre-inclusive education in Moldova

- Support for increasing quality of the Moldovan State Agrarian University (SAUM) through cooperation within their main activities

Sector of agriculture, forestry, and fishery

- Developing entrepreneurial skills of small and medium farmers by increasing transfer of knowledge and best practices
- Development of organic agriculture in Moldova
- Support for the development of organic agriculture in Moldova
- Increasing competitiveness and efficiency of Moldovan small and medium farmers through their orientation towards production with high added value in selected target groups in the areas of Ungheni, Anenii Noi, Cahul

5 Project “Technical support for education in the field of security in Moldova”

The aim of the project "Technical support for Education in the field of Security in Moldova" is to increase quality of Moldovan University Education in security sciences. Specifically, it includes the area of civil protection and crisis management, risk analysis and management, fire protection, and health and safety at work. Actual objectives of the project are to contribute through close cooperation to the development of the areas of security, especially safety at work, fire protection, civil protection, and crisis management in Moldova. Within this project exchange visits of experts from universities, active participation in conferences, expert textbooks and monographs, are all employed. [3]

The subject matter for processing the project is based on an already executed project called "Improving operational abilities and proficiency of Moldovan firemen." The Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic has within this project provided to the Civil Protection and Emergency Office in Moldova technology, special training, and developed a training device (simulator) to simulate actual fire conditions. The project is being carried out in order to improve the quality and abilities of firefighters in Moldova. The project was developed based on several years of previous cooperation of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic and the Office for Civil Defence and Emergencies Moldova.

This project can also be viewed as an attempt to initiate a closer cooperation between the Moldovan and Czech academic environment in the area of security. In future this academic cooperation could of course deepen and expand into other areas.

Conclusion

The Czech Republic characterized its international development cooperation in § 2, par a) of the Act No. 151/2010 Coll., on Foreign Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid to foreign countries and amending related laws as follows: "Foreign Development Cooperation means the summary of activities financed from the state budget, aimed at contributing to poverty eradication in the context of sustainable development, including the MDGs, economic and social development, environmental protection, and to promotion of democracy, human rights and good governance in developing countries".

Development cooperation is governed by this Act and for the purpose of its implementation the Czech Development Agency has been established. It ensures execution of tasks in the field of International Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic, particularly for the preparation and implementation of bilateral projects of international development cooperation. A plan of Development Cooperation has two scopes; it is determined both by sector (what kind of assistance will be provided), and territorially (where the assistance will be

directed). For this purpose the Government designates priority countries for a certain period. The Czech Republic is also involved in the development activities of the European Union and seeks to fulfil its commitments adopted at this level.

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