



MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN INTERREG PROGRAMMES

Czech Perspective on European Territorial Cooperation after 2020



Position

The Czech Republic calls for a single coordination framework supporting all Macro-Regional strategies.



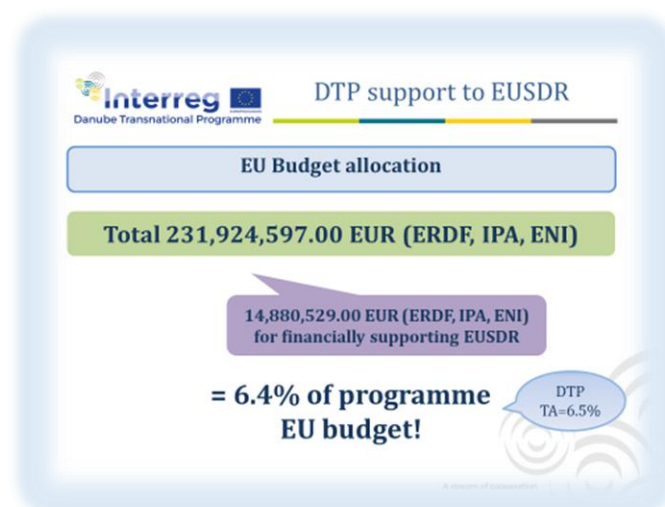
Rationale

The main role of transnational programmes is to use their resources for funding transnational projects with the strategic dimension, providing the ground for projects to test their experimental ideas and pilot new or alternative approaches and solutions in the thematic field of respective programmes. However, Macro-Regional strategies (MRS) go far beyond projects and programmes thematic focus and define a political-strategic framework for cooperation on the macro-regional level. From the programme perspective, which supports MRS, the contribution of transnational programmes to the financing of the governance structure of MRS brings heavy administrative burdens (time wise, human resources-wise, and financially) and reduce programme capacity in achieving its targets.



Example

The issue of the administrative burdens for the transnational programmes can be very well explained on the example of Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). The overall EU programme budget including TA is 15 times bigger than the allocated amount for the EUSDR governance (total 231,924,597.00 EUR including 6.5 % for TA vs EUSDR allocated 14,880,529.00 EUR = 6.4% from total EU budget). In comparison with the timeframe and human resources needed for the preparation of the calls, the programme spends more resources (human and timing) on one EUSDR call (SO 4.2.) than on a regular call (P1, P2, P3, SO 4.1.). It is due to the fact that the programme needs to involve the EUSDR stakeholders in the preparation and their frameworks usually differ (Priority Area Coordinators, Seed Money Facility and Danube Project Support), and therefore individual preparation paths have to be followed. More time is therefore allocated to the creation of a new framework while, in case of regular calls, the programme uses the same initial framework, only with small adjustments.





On top of that, the same activities have to be implemented as is the case in the regular calls (seminars, meetings, consultations etc.), which means that the programme has to dedicate a large number of employees of the Joint Secretariat. Considering the effort used for preparation of each call it is evident that the programme spends more on the preparation of the planned five EUSDR calls (6.5% of the programme budget) than for the planned three regular calls (93% of the programme EU budget).



Suggested change

Transnational programmes play two main roles in supporting MRS. First, the support is provided by funding relevant projects, which helps a MRS to achieve its targets. Second, transnational programmes help to foster capitalization activities among the projects and support the generation of ideas and innovations in the area of each MRS. This is their real nature.

Moreover, some transnational programmes play a new role in providing financial support to the governance structures of MRS. This role reduces their administrative capacity in fulfilling their main roles, since any kind of a financial support from a transnational programme has to follow programmes / project logic - which is rather heavy for stakeholders involved in the governance of MRS. The effectiveness of this new role should go through more in-depth analysis. For the future we support establishing of a **single coordination framework** for the governance structures of the MRS, which should be financed from other funding sources than from the transnational programmes. Establishing a single coordination framework can reduce the administrative burden for all transnational programmes dealing with MRS due to the fact that all MRSs have similar activities (e.g. alignment of funding, communication, evaluation). It would be more efficient if done in a uniformed and centralised way, instead of putting extra efforts and having four or more differing communication / evaluations etc.

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