

8th

Evaluation
Conference
in Prague

Regional policy instruments: Do they address the regions' actual needs?

Linda Maršíková

November 3, 2022



EUROPEAN UNION
Cohesion Fund
Operational Programme Technical Assistance



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ



EVALUATION
UNIT NCA



Are the needs of the regions truly identical to the implemented projects?

01

RESOURCES FOR THE
PRESENTATION

02

KEY-TAKEWAYS FROM THE
ONGOING REGIONAL EVALUATION

03

Q&A, DISCUSSION





RESOURCES FOR THE PRESENTATION




What data sources are used for this presentation?

 **Results Evaluation of the Benefits of European Funds at Regional Level**

 1/2021-7/2024

 Unique project database based on the data from the MS2014+

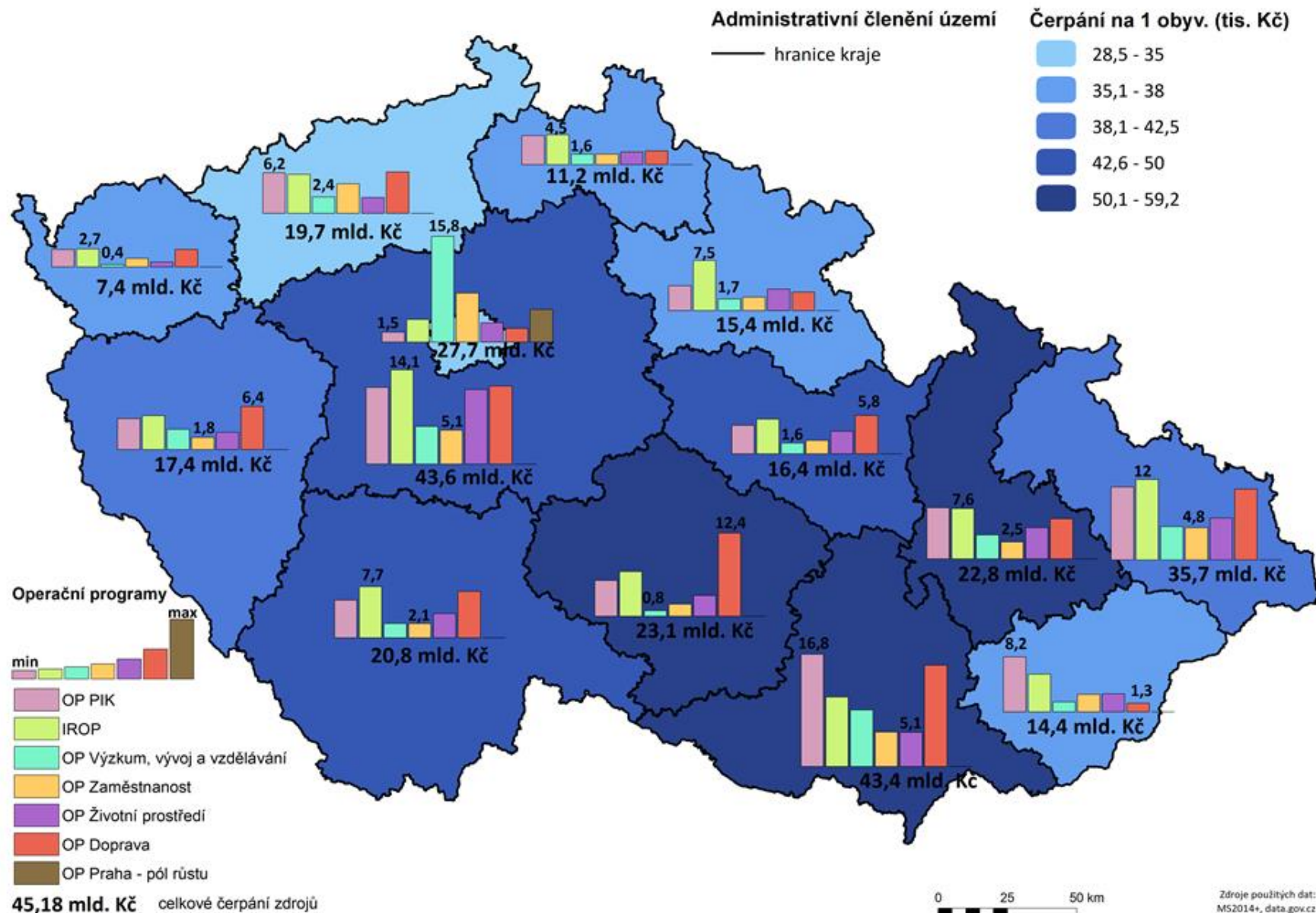
 14 regional reports (6 submitted)

 Over 150 interviews with representatives of regions, municipalities, umbrella and support organisations, LAGs, ITI/IPRU, NGOs, private beneficiaries and others



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE ONGOING REGIONAL EVALUATION





Significant **regional differences** in per capita spending.

As a regionally focused programme, **IROP** has the largest financial allocation.

In terms of geographical distribution, large cities dominates in absolute terms, while **small municipalities** are the most supported per capita

The use of EU funds was uneven, in absolute terms and per capita, peripheral regions receive the least funding

Type of territory	Average per capita funding in CZK	Share of total funds
Peripheral	50 300	4 %
Stabilized	59 400	24 %
Developing	72 400	73 %

What has been achieved in the region of Hradec Králové?



5 162

Households have reduced their emissions of heat.

This represents approximately 5% of the region's households.



158 km

Sewers constructed. Nearly 7 % increase in the length of the region's sewerage network compared to 2014.



104 km

Class II and III roads have been newly built or reconstructed.

Only 3% of regional roads, but 11% of the total length of reconstructed roads in Czechia.



40 886

Children, pupils and students have access to better quality education.

This is almost 40% of the 105,000 children attending primary schools in the region in the 2019-2020 school year..



65

Zoning documents in a total of 16 cities.

The documents cover more than a third of the region's area, allowing, for instance, for expedited construction procedures.



6 469 ton

of waste will be recyclable.

As a result, each citizen will be able to increase the amount of waste sorted by 11.7 kg per year, or 20%.

“The most important change thanks to the ITI is the start of long-term cooperation between Brno and the surrounding municipalities. At first, there were fears of the mayors - Brno did not communicate with the hinterland and there was a lot of mistrust about what would happen. Then we started a series of meetings with the mayors (a spaniel ride), talking to them and explaining the future strategy. [ITI leadership]”

“We need to plan ahead for construction preparations before the challenges come. The deadlines are simply impossible. Or clicking on the distribution of subsidies for IZS under IROP. This has distributed the allocation in ISKP in seconds on a click basis. Just for a key function like the IMS? This is absurd. Even our Governor has criticised this. [Municipal leadership]”

“The environment is a metropolitan issue that should be addressed in a more systemic way. The ambitions and expectations at the beginning were far greater than what was realised, it was a disappointment for us. [ITI leadership]”

“RESTART is the first real regional policy after ROP. The integrated tools do not have nearly the same scope... in the regions you see ROP signs everywhere, but ITI at least...”

“We remember the ROP well, it was easier to work with, there was no brutal competition and the region could choose what to use it for. Now there will be RAPs - it's a bit similar, but fewer topics and less money. [Regional leadership]”

“The European Union aims to plan and implement projects in partnership, but ultimately this is not happening. According to the MRG, the territorial dimension is ensured through the Permanent Conference. It is fine that people with the same opinion meet occasionally, but this is not the partnership that the EU has in mind. The territorial dimension does not exist in other ministries. [Regional leadership]”

“Before start the of each OP, it is stated that the administration and rules will be simplified, but the exact opposite occurs during the process. Simultaneously, a uniform methodological environment would suffice, with the same rules for individual OPs despite their unique characteristics. Greater trust in individual LAGs, which could establish evaluation criteria based on local needs, would also aid in achieving higher rates of absorption. [LAG]”

GENERAL

- ▶ The framework strategic requirements of the regions are quite comparable.
- ▶ The sub-strategies are fundamentally distinct; for instance, some topics that are vital to one region have no resonance in the neighbouring region.
- ▶ Even though EU funds are a prerequisite for the implementation of projects/programmes, strategic management is not advancing significantly.
- ▶ In regions with shared leadership, needs are met more efficiently.
- ▶ Mutual trust between stakeholders is still relatively low; where it does exist, it is founded primarily on historical basis.

ITIs/IPRÚs (integrated tools)

- ▶ Tools can reflect the needs of agglomerations better than individual calls for proposals
- ▶ Thematic targeting remains inadequate.
- ▶ ITIs and IPRUs have minor success in developing integrated solutions.
- ▶ Some topics received almost no support whatsoever (environment).
- ▶ ITI/IPRU calls are nearly identical to individual calls and do not reflect the needs of the territory or the strategies conducted.

LAGs

- ▶ The success of LAGs is frequently dependent on a handful of capable leaders who push the territory forward.
- ▶ LAG calls are crucial for small municipalities and small businesses that fail in individual calls.
- ▶ Due to a number of obstacles in the calls, smaller municipalities do not take advantage of certain call themes.
- ▶ LAG calls are virtually identical to individual calls and do not reflect the needs of the territory or the allocation was insufficient.



JAROMĚŘ

A photograph of a large, metallic, three-dimensional sign spelling 'JAROMĚŘ' mounted on the roof of a building. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Q&A AND DISCUSSION



Thank you for attention

Linda Maršíková

linda.marsikova@cz.ey.com

731 627 035



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ

