



CZECHIA

“ A year of promising initiatives, we need to keep going ”

By FoRS

Main trends

2022 was marked by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Its serious global implications were addressed with the help of reduced initial budgets for humanitarian and development assistance. Additional humanitarian funding was mobilised to support Ukraine throughout the year, eventually reversing the government cuts. Support for Ukrainian refugees in Czechia caused a rapid increase in total reported ODA. This also resulted in a reversal of the ratio between bilateral and multilateral cooperation: in 2021, the bilateral component amounted only to 24 %; in 2022 it reached 72% of ODA. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU was another challenge and opportunity. Czechia used it to intensify its multilateral support to Ukraine and to strongly promote a preventive approach in the humanitarian and development spheres. It initiated the adoption of the EU Council Conclusions on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in EU External Action. A number of outputs of the Czech Presidency will be reflected in bilateral cooperation, especially during 2023, when new cooperation programmes are prepared and the mid-term evaluation of Czechia's Strategy for Foreign Development Cooperation for 2018-2030 is launched.

The most pressing problem for Czech development efforts remains its limited, stagnating or even declining funding, when not counting extra assistance to Ukraine. Although preliminary results of Czechia's ODA for 2022 show a significant increase (from EUR 309 million to over EUR 800 million and from 0.13 to 0.36% of GNI), this is an exceptional figure due to the one-off inclusion of funds spent on the reception of Ukrainian refugees.

Government's relationship with civil society

The mixed conservative-liberal government has expressed an interest in strengthening engagement with CSO experts and the not-for-profit sector during 2022. Some positive initiatives include a) the appointment of a Government

Reported ODA: EUR 827 million

0.36% GNI (↑ from 0.13% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 286 million

0.12% GNI (↓ from 0.13% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 541 million

65.4% of total



Commissioner for Human Rights to promote the rights of children, older people, and people with a disability; b) the appointment in 2022 of a Governmental Envoy for Ukraine, who serves as an interlocutor among Czech bodies involved in stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in Ukraine with counterparts in Ukraine and in the international arena; and c) the first ever appointment of a Government Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs. Despite improvements in certain aspects of existing cooperation with the government, its quality remains varied. This is in part due to the complexity of the current situation, but also due to the chaotic way in which the planned state budget cuts severely impacted the social services sector. The very nature of the conservative-liberal coalition government is also a factor.

The Czech government should:

- **Implement a predictable, phased, long-term ODA budget; in this respect, the most important requirement is to move from an annual to a multiannual financing plan.**
- **Ensure sufficient staffing and professional capacity within the Czech Development Agency to guarantee that the quality of development projects and the scope of overall bilateral development cooperation is not compromised.**
- **Increase bilateral ODA budgets and improve granting modalities, particularly with respect to Trilateral cooperation, Global Education, and Awareness Raising; more bilateral calls for priority partner countries are also needed.**
- **Ensure more effective local use of ODA and a participatory approach in traditional partner countries, as well as in Ukraine.**