

Focus group 3 – implementation of measure „cooperation“ in Leader

Estonia meeting, 16th February 2010

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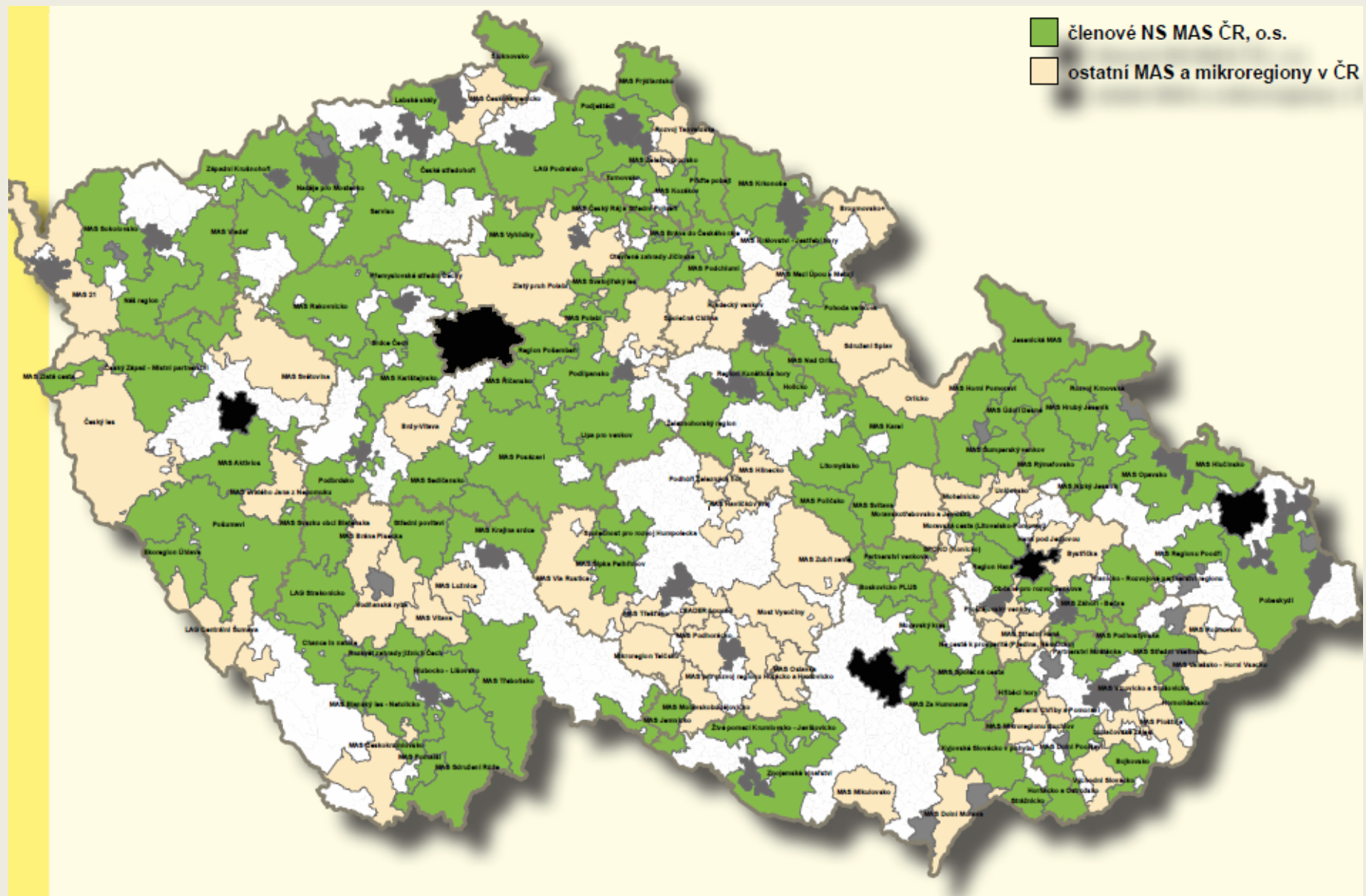


General information about current situation in Leader in the Czech Republic

- Local partnerships started to establish in 2003, 2004 – 2006: Leader + programme, 2006-8 Leader ČR (national programme)
- LAGs cover about 73% of total country area
- Total 149 LAGs, 112 of them have been selected for RDP support
- LAGs are free to enter the National LAG network (116 of them are associated currently)
- National Rural Network – started to operate officially in November 2008



National network of LAGs in the Czech Republic



Leader ČR 2007 - 2013

LEADER ČR 2007 - 2013

112 vybraných MAS

- 1. výběr 48 vybraných MAS (5.6.2008)
- 2. výběr 32 vybraných MAS (8.4.2009)
- 3. výběr 32+ vybraných MAS (27.4.2009)

07. Královéhradecký kraj
 Společná Cíle
 MAS Pohoda venkova
 Společný Spas
 MAS Hrástovka - Jevišovka
 MAS Mlýnská
 MAS Křivčice
 Hradecký venkov
 MAS Stránská
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08. Pardubický kraj
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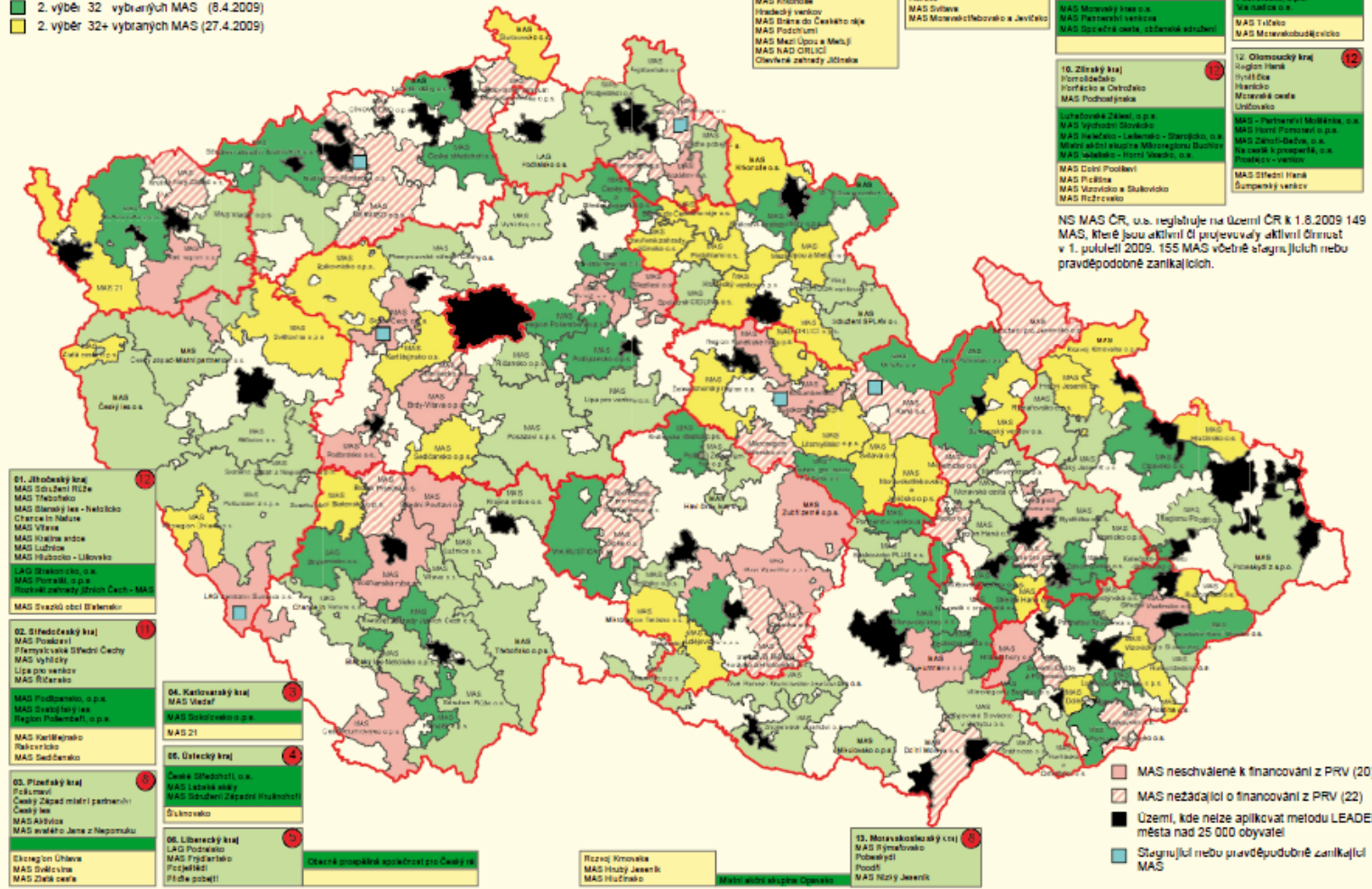
09. Jihočeský kraj
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10. Vysočina kraj
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12. Olomoucký kraj
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NS MAS ČR, u.s. registruje na území ČR k 1.8.2009 149 MAS, které jsou aktivní či projednávají aktivní činnost v 1. pololetí 2009. 155 MAS včetně státní, jichž nebo pravděpodobně zanikajících.



01. Jihozápadní kraj
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02. Středočeský kraj
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03. Plzeňský kraj
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04. Karlovarský kraj
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05. Ústecký kraj
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06. Liberecký kraj
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07. Moravskoslezský kraj
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- MAS neschválené k financování z PRV (20)
- MAS nežádající o financování z PRV (22)
- Území, kde nelze aplikovat metodu LEADER města nad 25 000 obyvatel
- Stagnující nebo pravděpodobně zanikající MAS

1. Different timing in decision-making and different administrative rules

TIMING

- In Czech Republic, the system of periodical calls is used (twice a year, so far 3 calls have been launched, the last one is still being evaluated)
- Evaluation procedure takes about 5 months
- After a project is approved, LAG needs to provide agreement of partner MA within 6 months.
- In future, the period should be prolonged for 8 months (also 8 month period for the calls)
- There is a number of Czech-Slovak partnerships, but Slovakia will use the ongoing application system (may cause problems)

PREPARATORY TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Preparatory technical support – to some extent, it is working under National Rural Network – methodological support



1. Different timing in decision-making and different administrative rules

LEVEL OF FUNDING

- Total amount of project: min. – 300 000 CZK (approx. 12 000 eur), max. – 5 000 000 CZK (approx. 200 000 eur). Maximum applies for the Czech part of the project, total maximum level of funding not specified
- Project preparation : max – 600 000 CZK (24 000 eur) and 15% of eligible costs
- Project coordination: max – 800 000 CZK (32 000 eur) and 30% of eligible costs
- Although limits are set, they seem to be convenient

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

- Cooperation agreement/letter of intent/declaration of honour is required. PA has its own samples for cooperation agreement for TNC
- However declaration of honour is sufficient, LAGs which have already a signed agreement, have advantage (extra points can be obtained)
- Also LAG, which has not been selected according to Article 63, reg. 1698/2005, can be a beneficiary in cooperation project in Czech Republic.



2. Different expectations towards beneficiaries in different programmes

DEFINITION OF COMMON ACTION

Basic features of TNC projects required in CZ:

- The project crosses the borders of LAG and individual projects
- Provides new information, thoughts, stimulates and supports innovation and skills to improve achieved results
- Project brings a steady-state value to inhabitants in every cooperating LAG
- Project has an outcome in every cooperating LAG
- Project, which could be implemented separately with the same outcomes, is not a cooperation project
- Partners have to establish common project staff. Representative of every partner performs at least one significant activity within the project

Specific conditions are defined by eligible actions and eligible costs

- Every partner has to share at least 7% of the budget

3. Information needs

- When preparing a cooperation project, the main difficulty is that each country has its own system in Leader, LAGs need as much information as possible

Main areas, where information is needed:

- **General rules** on LAG functioning in partner country
- **Timing** for TNC projects – specific dates or ongoing calls
- **Eligible costs** – in CZ, these are limited to list of eligible costs according to measures in RDP, depends on activities
- **Eligible activities** – eligible activities are limited to some measures of RDP – training and information activities (axis 1), non-productive investments in forests (axis 2), support of tourism, renewal and development of villages, civic amenities and services, protection and development of cultural heritage in rural areas, promotion, education and information activities (axis 3).
- **Documentation required**
- **Potential partners** – database and possibly project ideas
- **Possibilities for LAGs, which were not supported from RDP** – are they eligible when they want to participate in a TNC project? Possible problems from MA in other countries?

3. Information needs

PROPOSALS:

- Common database of data on LAGs in general and system in TNC – for every country to be made public (Country fiches are a very good basis for that)
- Common database of projects to be made public – prepared, ongoing and finished project. This would facilitate information exchange between MA, no need for LAGs to present an agreement from partner MA
- Common database of project ideas, partnership offers



4. Areas where cooperation projects are needed

- Topics are limited by eligible activities
- 28 projects running to date
- From the experience in national cooperation, projects are aimed at:
 1. Cultural and natural heritage – renewal of local sights, mapping, trails
 2. Regional products – labelling, marketing
 3. Equipment for local cultural and sport events
 4. Education and information activities
 5. Support of rural tourism – e.g. local museums
 6. Civic amenities – playgrounds etc.
- In future, similar topics can be foreseen
- So far 2 TNC projects led by CZ partners have been approved – one aimed at cultural heritage, the other at information activities
- In general, areas for a cooperation projects have 3 main sources: A) they come out of particular needs, B) are sought on purpose – according to the eligible activities, C) are based on common features of the partner regions
- Projects, which have a concrete physical outcome in the region, are welcome (But: common implementation vs. individual actions)