AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Czech agriculture

- agricultural landscape:
  - approx. 30% of area of the Czech Republic
  - 43% in risk of erosion
- high percentage of arable land
- disappearance of hedgerows, individual trees, animal and tree species
- apart from other problems, significant decrease of biodiversity -> introduction of measures to stop this

- N2 and SPAs contribute to 13.5 % area of the country (covering 67% of forest areas and 25.6% of agricultural land – 2900 km2).
- impact of AES and N2 dotations: case studies available
Measures

- Ministry of Agriculture:
  1. AES dotations – for “landscape friendly” agriculture
  2. Payments in **N2 areas and Water Framework directive 2000/60/ES** – areas has to overlap with SPAs/PLAs

- AES payments: 80 – 849 eur/1ha
- N2: min area 1ha, grassland only
- N2 payments: 112 eur /1ha, approx 10 millions CZK in 2008
- in total over 1 billion CZK for more sustainable agriculture in 2011
National agricultural strategy: Area of agricultural land managed in a way that supports biodiversity, protects water, mitigates climate change, protects soils, avoids abandoning of land.

- no info about overlaps. 77 000 ha = 28% of total N2 area that is agricultural land
Outlook

• capacity of AES is full, new applications can be submitted only to measure “creating new grassland from arable land”
• prolonging of current contracts is complicated
• monitoring of AES impacts on country level in process, no public data available
Problems I.

- **case study by Prazan et al.** - two protected landscape areas:
- demanding implementation process for all stakeholders
- most fragile habitats under contracts
- introduction of conflict resolution system
- indicator of success: area of habitat under AES – **no info about the actual quality**
- suggestions:
  - better preparation
  - development of social capital
Problems II.

- **case study by NGO Daphne:**
  - lack of knowledge about N2 among farmers and heads of municipalities *(majority does not know what N2 is).*
  - More interest in dotations than impacts on nature.

- **evaluation** of AES in EU and National agr. strategy:
  - lack of aspiration, goals hard to measure
  - question, if other measures than AES can not bring better results
  - AES distribution only based on eligibility, no tenders
Conclusion

• AES are put into practice also at areas under nature protection x very likely it is more because of dotations than knowledge of farmers about importance of nature protection

• reserves in national priorities and implementation
Literature

- [http://www.rudieurope.net/uploads/media/Czech_Axis_2_01.pdf](http://www.rudieurope.net/uploads/media/Czech_Axis_2_01.pdf)
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