

The identification and solution of problem areas of the rural municipalities development with regard to the civic and technological equipment

Identifikace a řešení problémových okruhů rozvoje venkovských obcí se zaměřením na občanskou a technickou vybavenost

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Abstract: The development of rural areas is solved by the regional policy from a great part. Since every country implicating and applying this support system is identified by its geographical and political specifics, many problems rise also in the Czech Republic and they complicate the implementation of the regional policy principles in the final result. The possibility of improving this situation is given through identification of the relevant problems and the realization suggested actions. The problem areas in rural municipalities development requiring solution are as follows: poor transport services, non-existing cooperation inside the transport and mutual losses compensation, poor technical equipment of municipalities, securing a constant support of rural development, establishing functioning ties to the community center areas in the micro- regions, establishment of foundations, decomposition of rural development aims, public administration. Respecting of the proposed solution areas in municipalities would help to decrease regional disparities in rural areas.

Key words: civic and technical equipment, rural municipalities, development, support of development

Abstrakt: Rozvoj venkovských oblastí se z velké části snaží řešit regionální politika. Vzhledem k tomu, že každá země, v níž je tento systém podpor zaváděn a užíván, se vyznačuje svými geografickými a politickými specifiky, vzniká i v České republice řada problémů, jež v konečném důsledku implementaci principů regionální politiky ztěžují. Zlepšení této situace je možné prostřednictvím identifikace vlastních problémů a realizace navržených opatření k jejich řešení. Problematické okruhy rozvoje venkovských obcí vyžadující řešení jsou zejména tyto: nedostatečná dopravní obslužnost, neexistující kooperace pozemní dopravy a vzájemné krytí ztrát, nedostatečná technická vybavenost obcí, zajištění trvalé podpory rozvoje venkova, zajištění vazeb na spádové oblasti – mikroregiony, zřizování nadací, dekompozice cílů rozvoje venkova, veřejná správa. Respektování navržených okruhů řešení v obcích napomůže ke snížení regionálních disparit venkova.

Klíčová slova: občanská a technická vybavenost, venkovské obce, rozvoj, podpory rozvoje

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development of rural areas is the goal of many regional development strategies not only in our country, but also in the European Union. This problem is the subject of discussion concerning the amount of finance allotment that is necessary for fulfillment of the above-mentioned goal.

The efforts to achieve sustainable development of rural areas are expressed in the origin, functioning and exploitation of development support funds and programs especially intended for the development of less favoured problem regions. The problem of financial support reallocation for rural development is liable to many appointed principles and fundamentals of the European Union, which will affect our approaches to rural development in the process of harmonization of the European legislation to the conditions of the Czech Republic. The important question is, what kind of support should be applied and

how wide the area of financial resources should be used to maximize the effect of their exploitation.

There are significant economic and social disparities among regions, the reduction of which is conditioned by the sufficient technological equipment of municipalities and the territory services. For example, the railway and the public passenger transport have been noticed to show the highest decrease in the volumes of services since the year 1990.

Owing to the unresolved share of public resources on the support of public transport, some areas are hardly accessible to the major part of rural inhabitants.

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

Specialists often criticize the civic and technological equipment in municipalities for its non-development, which makes the living standard of rural inhabitants

worse. To solve the problematic situation of rural development, I am proceeding from the presumption that the technological equipment of rural municipality is the basic condition for sustaining life in the rural areas.

If we follow the structure of municipalities and their inhabitants in the Czech Republic, we find our country to have a large amount of small municipalities and next, many of them do not dispose of technological equipment, i.e. water- supply system, sewerage and gas pipe-line.

According to the legal amendment on municipalities from the year 2000, a municipality with the number of 3 000 inhabitants and more obtains the statute of town. The municipality needs to have at least 300 inhabitants to gain independence. Rural areas defined in this way represent a large percentage of municipalities (93.2%) and number of inhabitants (30.0%), which means also enormous expenses for complementation of the missing infrastructure in these dwellings.

If we evaluate rural area according to the OECD methodology, the number of municipalities reduces to 45.2% with 23.8% of inhabitants, which decreases considerably financial resources necessary for provision of the missing technological equipment in rural municipalities.

I have solved the chosen problems coming out from the above-mentioned facts as follows:

- I have determined problem spheres of rural areas development, where the advisable efficiency is owing to the financial resources exploitation in the view of the state according to the study of the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic (2000) and I have proposed disposals for the solution of the identified problem spheres at the same time.
- I have proposed a new system of transport services according to direct experience with the transport in Great Britain – in the view of the financially advantageous administration – and with reference to the local.
- I have supplied an overview of the technological equipment conditions of municipalities in the Czech Republic after a study of materials processed by Müller (1999) and I have recommended the solution procedure of this sphere, including the concept of financing.
- Respecting the principles of regional policy and financial circumstances of the Czech Republic and its investment opportunities for regional development, I have proposed the base for determination of especially supported municipalities and the way of their future development with the assistance of associations, Regional Offices and foundations with the respect of bad economic situation in the Czech Republic and the system of public administration of some EU states.
- Considering the regional policy principles and development strategy of the Czech Republic, I have attempted to decompose the goals of rural development and comprehensibly connect to them also the ways necessary to be realized – by my opinion – to achieve the determined goals.
- I have made my own research in rural municipalities to receive results and to test some facts in the public administration. I have considered as a rural municipality

every commune with the number of inhabitants under 1000 for the purposes of this research, because I have found out, according to Müller's data (1999), that there are 80% of these municipalities in the Czech Republic with 16.8% of the total inhabitants. The municipalities, where the research was made, are situated in comparable geographical conditions in the district, which is not economically weak according to Hrabánková (1996). I have proposed the solution also in this problematic sphere for the consideration of the obtained data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Czech Republic has 60% of municipalities under 500 inhabitants. Since 1996, about 0.2% of GDP created in the current year has been allocated into the resort of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic every year. There is not in financial possibilities of our state to provide all municipalities with the necessary equipment. As a proof of this, there is the example of the Netherlands, where GDP was 19 560 ECU per capita (Eurostat 1997) – for comparison: in the Czech Republic, there was GDP 9 857 ECU per capita in the year 1997 (Eurostat) – and in spite of that, there is envisaged disappearance of 150 smallest municipalities (from the total number of 625 municipalities) during 10 years. It should be mentioned that the Netherlands have the most populous regions in the EU (367 inhabitants/km²). There are not enough funds to provide the appropriate equipment for all municipalities even in such a developed country. However, there have shown recently the trends of small municipalities grouping in the Netherlands.

There is the following situation in other EU countries: France is the only large country of the EU, which does not consolidate its smaller municipalities. However, there are 756 associated municipalities there, which try to solve their own problems together. France is very similar to the Czech Republic, by its structure: 61% of municipalities under 500 inhabitants and 90% of municipalities under 2 000 inhabitants. France is divided into 96 departments that try to help the municipalities' associations in solving their requests. The largest regions are in Spain (approximately 30 000 km²), the smallest ones in Switzerland (under 2 000 km²). The least populated regions are in Finland (15 inhabitants/km²) and Ireland (51 inhabitants per km²).

In full 7 of 15 countries, they have a double-level public administration; other 8 countries have three-level public administration. In the EU countries, there is applied the decentralized regional administration. The municipalities are responsible for drinking water and energy supplies for their inhabitants almost in all member countries. Those duties are frequently shared up with a superior entity, mostly a province or a district, especially in the countries with the three-level public administration. These larger entities then ensure also the regional development planning and direct help provided from the structural funds into localities in need.

During the solution, I have found out that the problems belonged to the following spheres:

- social-economic,
- technological infrastructure,
- organizational,
- administrative.

I have focused especially on the problem of technological infrastructure regarding priorities of rural development. The state of equipment in the Czech Republic is demonstrated by the following data:

• *Water-supply*

The technological equipment of rural municipalities is not sufficient. In 1998, 75.6% of municipalities were equipped by water-supply, while the lowest number of municipalities equipped by water-supply was in Středočeský region (57.5%). The districts present a more detailed overview regarding equipment of municipalities with this feature of infrastructure. In the Czech Republic, there are many districts, where the connection to public water-supply does not reach even 60% of all municipalities in the district. The following districts are concerned in the Středočeský region: Beroun (54.7%), Kladno (57.0%), Kolín (44.0%), Kutná Hora (42.7 %), Nymburk (31.1%), Praha-východ (48.4%), Příbram (51.7%), Rakovník (57.6%). The districts less equipped with water-supply in the Jihočeský region are as follows: Písek (53.9%) and Tábor (59.5%), there is only the district Plzeň-jih (48.0%) in the Plzeňský region and the district Hradec Králové (55.4%) and Jičín (55.0%) in the Královéhradecký region.

• *Sewerage*

The municipalities connected to sewerage do not reach the number of municipalities connected to water-supply. 28.5% of all municipalities in the Czech Republic were connected to sewerage in 1998. Many districts notice the number of so equipped municipalities less than 20%. The concerned regions and districts are: in the Středočeský region: Beroun (7.0%), Kladno (17.0%), Kolín (12.0%), Kutná Hora (14.6 %), Mladá Boleslav (11.5%), Nymburk (16.7%), Rakovník (8.2%), in the Jihočeský region: Písek (15.8%), Strakonice (17.9%), Tábor (16.2%), in the Plzeňský region: Domažlice (14.0%), in the Liberecký region: Liberec (19.3%), in the Královéhradecký region: Hradec Králové (15.8%), Jičín (9.0%), in the Pardubický region: Chrudim (12.5%), Svitavy (12.4%), in the Jihlavský region: Havlíčkův Brod (15.0%), Jihlava (17.4%), Pelhřimov (19.2%), Třebíč (13.9%), Žďár nad Sázavou (12.7%), in the Brněnský region: Blansko (17.8%), Vyškov (15.0%), in the Olomoucký region: Prostějov (16.8%), in the Zlínský region: Kroměříž (15.2%).

Especially problematic situation is in municipalities with the number of inhabitants from 2 000 to 5 000 without a sewage water cleaning plant. There is an urgency to construct new sewage water cleaning plants and to reconstruct the old ones.

• *Gas pipe-lines*

The gas implementation in municipalities, particularly in rural municipalities, considerably lags behind. The gas pipe-lines supply 31.4% of all municipalities in the Czech

Republic. Large number of districts report this missing infrastructure; a great number of municipalities supplied with the gas pipe-lines does not reach 25% there. The concerned districts and regions are in the Středočeský region: Benešov (1.8%), Beroun (12.8%), Kladno (12.0%), Kolín (4.0%), Kutná Hora (9.0%), Mělník (15.7%), Mladá Boleslav (9.0%), Nymburk (6.7%), Praha-východ (20.9%), Praha-západ (17.5%), Příbram (2.5%), Rakovník (7.1%), in the Jihočeský region: Český Krumlov (21.7%), Jindřichův Hradec (23.6%), Písek (6.6%), Prachovice (16.9%), Strakonice (2.7%), Tábor (10.8%), in the Plzeňský region: Domažlice (14.0%), Klatovy (16.3%), Plzeň-jih (23.0%), Plzeň-sever (19.6%), Rokycany (23.5%), Tachov (24.0%), in the Liberecký region: Česká Lípa (20.0%), Semily (23.1%), Jičín (16.2%), Náchod (20.5%), Rychnov nad Kněžnou (14.5%), in the Pardubický region: Svitavy (22.1%), in the Jihlavský region: Havlíčkův Brod (18.3%), Jihlava (21.5%), Pelhřimov (7.5%), Žďár nad Sázavou (24.9%), Bruntál (23.9%).

All three most important areas of technological infrastructure are developed unsatisfactorily in rural municipalities. However, the municipalities' equipment with technological infrastructure is absolutely necessary for their survival and their continual preservation. The Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic (2000) takes this fact into account and includes it in the Disposal: infrastructure development for increasing of the developing potential of the Czech Republic regions. The developing activities carrier will be, above all, the region.

Problem 1: insufficient transport services

The disposals for solving this problem lie in the improvement of adjustment and absorption ability of regions and in the population mobility in regions of the Czech Republic. There can be proposed a public motivation with financial benefit from usage of public transport to their complementation. In the concrete:

- return ticket just a little more expensive than a one-way ticket,
- mutual certification of fares inside the integrated transport system, railway and long distance bus service with provision of the same transport price for a customer,
- time harmonization of all kinds of public ground transport.

Problem 2: non-existing cooperation of ground transport services and mutual compensation of losses

The disposal to solving the problem lies in the cooperation of the ground transport means, which will have these effects:

- a stronger motive for using the public transport ,
- important system of the eventual complementation of different transport means to the distant places or to the localities with a poor public transport service,
- transport service in this transport system would take up together temporally and it would enable a more fre-

quent transport service to the regions, whereby there would disappear the transport service overlapping at the same time and often creating identical “transport pauses” without service,

- this system would enable allocation of the public among the different transport means and thus it would help to reduce the general losses from public transport.

An assumption for the reduction of general losses from public transport is cooperation and not a competition among the road transport, bus service and railway. From the economic point of view, there would be possible the mutual compensation of losses in the ground transport section or the mutual equalization of economic result flowing from cooperation of both above mentioned kinds of transport, by the separate economy of each transport means at the same time.

The total result of this system would then be not only advantageous traveling by mass transport motivating the reduction of individual personal transport and higher usage of public mass transport, but also the relatively stable economics of road and railway transportation and thereby the provision of jobs stability in both these transport branches.

Problem 3: insufficient technological equipment of rural municipalities

During the process of regional programs for rural development, there can be recommended the implementation of the economical viability valuation and development potential of individual rural municipalities in a district with reference to the territorial location and the historical progress of seats at first. In rural municipalities that demonstrate the potential of a primary settlement, let us give them the name of “satellite municipalities”. It is necessary to determine the priority of their development and to realize them in that order.

Priority No. 1: The equipment of the all satellite municipalities with the connection to the public drinking water supply by the year 2007.

Priority No. 2: The construction of sewerage system with a connection to sewage water cleaning plant in all satellite municipalities by the year 2007.

Priority No. 3: The provision of sufficient transport services to satellite municipalities.

Priority No. 4: The construction of the gas pipe-line in satellite municipalities by the year 2010.

There can be proposed to the municipality without water-supply, sewerage with a sewage water cleaning and a gas pipe-line the utilization of concurrently constructing all technical infrastructure and thereby making the funds for their construction significantly effective. It is important, that the municipality correlates the combination of the government grants for this construction and the time aspect of realization of these actions correctly.

There can be recommended also the concurrent utilization of the program of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic “The program of construction and tech-

nical renovation of water-supplies and water-reservoirs” for the water-supply construction and “The program of infrastructure development of small municipalities” from the State Fund of Environment of the Czech Republic for the pipe-line construction. The municipality can receive from the above mentioned programs up to 50% of total costs from the State Fund of Environment, for the constructional part of water-supply construction up to 80% of total costs from the Ministry of Agriculture. Considering that the excavation works will be made only once, it saves a large expenses proportion of one of the projects – preferably from the water-supply, to get costs for the construction and technological part under 5 million CZK, that means the grant support (the higher amount would mean the returnable financial help or a grant for covering the loan interests).

Further resources, considering the pipe-line construction, can be saved by making a contract with a gas company, which provides to the municipality up to 80% of construction costs according to, the contract between the gas company and the municipality. In accordance with this contract, the gas company will be the investor and the municipality will be the realized side. The contract modifies further, that the municipality will make the realized infrastructure the gas company property after following through the action and the gas-works will serve the customers also with the appropriate service.

I propose to utilize the grant from the Program of small water-management ecological actions by the need of the construction or an annex of sewerage. The other possibility is utilization of The program of village restoration – depending on the situation – the grant title No. 7 or 8.

The proposal of financial solution of the technological infrastructure improvement

The financial provision of the above mentioned priorities can be recommended through the realization of individual projects of rural municipalities and municipalities associations. It means to achieve a complex plan of satellite municipalities development within a micro-region. It is necessary to exploit the grant help from the programs of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and from the program of the pre-accession aid of the EU SAPARD in the course of these big projects. The most critical situation at all is in the Middle Bohemia, where the largest portion of the grants would be directed.

The region should support greatly the realization of large projects of micro-regions at the same time both by the financial interest and by the political encouragement of its area development. The financial interests of regions in the total expenses of projects would be individual in the range from 0 to 25% of the total project expenses. The range of this help would depend on:

- project allocation,
- economic advantage of the micro-region,
- total benefit of the project realization from the global social aspect,

- urgency appreciation of the projects from the sustainable rural development point of view,
- harmonisation with the strategy of regional development.

The region would provide financial interest entirely for the projects of micro-regions, not for the individual projects of municipalities. The small satellite municipalities will be thus motivated to associate into larger entities, where they will realize their development activities.

The micro-regions would hand in the applications for financial interest in the projects to the Regional Office always by the 30th September of the year previous to the year of realization of the first action within the project of the micro-region. The region decides afterwards about the allocation and preferences of the micro-regions by the March 31 of the current year of the project realization. The projects lasting for several years are allowed.

Problem 4: The provision of permanent support of rural development

There is a need to support rural municipalities to fulfill the goal of sustainable life in the country. At present, it happens through grant programs of the ministries of the Czech Republic and the municipalities have a chance to take advantage of the programs of the pre-accession aid through the projects of municipalities or micro-regions development in the chain of entry events of the Czech Republic to the EU.

By the project processing, there can be recommended the parameter monitoring, according to which the project will be chosen. The submitted project will be reviewed also from the formal aspect (if it meets all requirements) and from the general aspect (according to the selective criteria: general, cost and financial) – it is due to the choice provision of the best proposals and projects support according to the territory and economic and social level in the concerned area. There will be accepted the projects with ensured: the efficiency of exerting resources, the costs minimization, the investment return maximization, the maximal profit or social benefit and the minimal risks.

It is necessary for each integrated project to respect the global and area integrity. It concerns the unifying motive of the project in the case of global integrity, i.e. it concerns the area selection on which the project planning is focused. The example is the water management, tourism development, jobs creating for the micro-region inhabitants, building of collective infrastructure. The wide spectrum of aim-directed areas can cause non-synopticity of the project; the small choice of areas does not show an important cohesion of municipality development intentions within itself. The acceptable volume of projects creation risks can be ensured by the exact input of tasks and goals by the author of the project, who will processes it with regard to the emphasis of ties existing among the individual municipalities of the micro-region. The condition of the area integrity requires its territorial entirety within the rural micro-region for the integrated project processing.

Within the project of municipalities confederation, there can be also planned and realized even the extraordinary activities regarding only its part for some areas that require also their own specific approach.

The project must be regarded as a total action processing from the preparation to its total realization with the obvious goal. Its realization presupposes the accomplishment of these phases:

1. The phase of the initiative project preparation, i.e. the project design with respect to the global and area integrity.
2. The phase of the project implementation preparation, i.e. the preparation for realization of the particular actions.
3. The phase of the very realization of the project prepared actions; i.e. the observance of the signaled intentions in the project preparation.
4. The phase of monitoring; i.e. the process following the individual actions.

The project structure by its processing depends on the form of the author's concept, on the time of project realization and on its global content. There is also significant the financial demand of the project from this point of view.

Generally, there should hold the principle of the effective finance exploitation for the rural development. The disposal that can aim this goal from the state point of view is to detach the municipalities with significant potential of economic development (measured by representation of industrial and commercial companies) in contrast to those without presumptions for viable development.

Problem 5: Binding provision to the attraction zones – micro-regions

The above-mentioned systems of public administration correspond with an effort of the Czech Republic for their implementation into practice, i.e. the origin of new regions and endowment of municipalities with extended competencies (instead of the present District Offices). However, the present country conception – the formation of attractive zones, i.e. micro-regions solving the common problems – does not comport completely with the future needs of the state and municipalities, in relation to the development and the goal of sustainable life in the country. These micro-regions act individually and do not have too big support (many times none whatever) in their regions. However, there is supported an integration of municipalities in regions, the regions do not plan direct support to these municipalities. The mentioned form of municipalities development is therefore unsatisfactory and there is a need to choose a new approach to the municipalities development and to providing sustainable life in the rural areas.

Following points can be suggested for solution of the above-mentioned problem:

- the towns with a big economic potential will be chosen in each district within the still existing districts – measured according to the representation of industrial and

Table 1. The determination of satellite municipalities by their distance from a town

The amount of inhabitants in a city	The distance of satellite municipalities from a town
5 000–9 999	to 5 km
10 000–19 999	to 10 km
20 000–49 999	to 15 km
50 000 and more	to 20 km

Source: Vosejpková (2001)

business companies and to the number of job opportunities in towns and possibilities creation or usage of many present jobs,

- primarily supported municipalities will be those with the distance from towns in accordance with the Table 1 by grants from the ministries of the Czech Republic,
- these supported municipalities will be named satellite municipalities and just there will be the development and technological and civil equipment broadly supported,
- the development of other municipalities, so-called back municipalities, will be supported especially from the EU programs. There is a real assumption that those municipalities will be serving for the secondary settlement mainly, i.e. mostly for recreational purposes.

The reason of creation and support of the satellite municipalities is their potential of development with the following provision of chances at each satellite municipality:

- a slight distance from towns providing the education, cultural and sports chances,
- frequent and regular transport service linking the benefits of a town and a village for both village and town inhabitants,
- the villagers have a chance to use all the services offered by a town and to find there a job,
- the country plots are economically advantageous for a purchase and thus will reflect in the positive demographic growth and in a big opportunity of house constructions for a considerably lower price,
- the technological equipment of the municipality, i.e. the public water-supply, gas pipe-line, sewerage connected to the cleaning system, will provide the feeling of a full-scope life and the chance of utilization of all energies in hygienic environment to the inhabitants of satellite municipalities,
- the construction of missing technical equipment will not be so expensive considering the distance of the municipality from town (connection possibility), as it would be in the case of back areas,
- the assertion of the necessary transport services in short time periods (e.g. 40 minutes in working days) can be operated also because of the slight distances from towns.

It can be further suggested for solution of satellite municipalities' development:

- that the development of satellite municipalities is supported by the locally competent region, that will also

contribute to the building of the above described equipment not only in financial (as mentioned above), but also in political way; it means, that the region will lobby for development of its municipalities and will allocate finances depending on their projects and needs;

- satellite municipalities will be allowed to associate into mutually non-competitive alliances, that will create certain rings around towns. There will be asserted the policy of equal demographic growth in this alliance of satellite municipalities at the same time; the reason is the achievement of equal transport service costs, its equal utilization, prices equilibrium of land plots at the approximately same price level and thereby also competitive prices in relation to the urban plots and conservation of the village character of satellites.

Problem 6: The endowment foundation

Another resource acquisition within satellite associations can be advised by the chance of endowment foundation. These foundations will not act as centers for finances "migration" from donors to recipients, but they will work on the principle of a company financing needs of associated municipalities from its profit. So it will depend on the foundation itself, how it will be able to manage the entrusted money and to cover from the produced profit not only its operation, but the purpose of its founding particularly, i.e. financing of the associated satellite municipalities' needs.

Problem no. 7: The goals decomposition of rural development

The rural development calls for determination of long-term and specific goals. Their synopsis is organized in Table 2.

Problem 8: Public administration

The association of municipalities is considered as important from the point of public administration view, because the professionally oriented municipality council provides much greater development possibilities to associated municipalities, than it would be in case of individual municipalities. The reason is the concentration of financial resources on the municipalities development projects, top preparedness of municipality councilors for new changes that will take place in public administration and more time accessible councilors to solving problems of the inhabitants.

It is evident from the realized research, that the best results are reached by the municipalities where the mayor function is professional. The use of this possibility can be recommended to the municipalities, that want to fully develop themselves and to exploit their economic and natural potential. Besides the new created job in a municipality, there is another important feature: a capable mayor will have enough time for the municipality management and being occupied by legislative, the suitable

Table 2. The long-term and specific goals of rural development and means to their achievement

Goals of rural development	Means to goal achievement
Long-term goals	
reduction of rural population unemployment	support of small and medium enterprise, support of young people employment, tourism development and tourist industry support
increase of rural enterprise competition	support of local raw materials and traditional products exploitation, support of regional product marketing, support of regional producers and processors cooperation
improvement of rural micro-regions economical base	support of preparation and realization of collective micro-regional projects, counseling support, support of energy savings and alternate energy sources (support of landscape cultivation investment and revitalization of river systems, support of ecological and mixed forms of tourism and tourist business)
improvement of technical infrastructure and equipment	support of drinking water supply improvement, support of cleaning and sewage disposal development, support of renewable energy resources exploitation and fossil fuels substitution, support of transport service optimization in micro-region, support of local road maintenance and their renewal, support of rural estates maintenance, support of cultural and sports facilities maintenance, support of association's activity and rural tradition development
Specific goals	
support of small and medium enterprise in the country	specialization in local raw materials exploitation, traditional article production and tourist industry development
improvement of technical infrastructure and civil equipment of the country	especially, this is the question of construction of water-supply with drinking water, sewerage, sewage cleaner and fossil fuel substitution by ecological preferable ones. Important is also the local communications of 2 nd and 3 rd class reconstruction and equipment providing by elementary schools, medical facilities and police stations in rural seats. Considering its character they should be a part of regional operation plans of concrete NUTS II regions.
renovation and development of rural character of villages, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage	the Program of rural restoration can be used with advantages and by its effect concentrate municipalities into rural micro regions

use of which can help to the municipality greatly in the effective development.

It can be advised to councilors of small municipalities without a medical center, or even a "commuting" physician, to find a capable general practitioner and to make a deal with him/her about medical care providing in the concerned municipality in specified days of the week (at least one day a week). It can also be recommended that the municipality offers the possibility of using appropriate rooms in municipality property for the purpose without charge to such a physician.

To the care of municipality's property, it can be recommended to participate in the Program of Rural Restoration, where applications for grants are accepted always at the beginning of the year. The dead-line for applications was 5th January for the year 2001.

The Subcommittee for Rural Restoration works by the House of Representatives, its main goal being to help to small municipalities and to advise them optionally how and where from it is possible to gain the necessary finances for project realization. Regional development agencies can advise the municipalities in the organizational and program sphere. These agencies also participate in the project elaboration in their region.

Especially small municipalities should solve their situation by the disposal consisting in participation in alliances of municipalities and towns because they will have

a greater probability of grants exploitation in this position, especially from the program SAPARD.

CONCLUSION

There can be identified eight problems in the sphere of rural development, solving of which assists to increase the living standard of rural population. The tasks aiming to decrease the country disparities are as follows: to adapt and correlate the traffic system with the municipalities' needs, to improve technological equipment of rural municipalities, to supply the financial resources through the globally prepared and suitably structured projects.

The solution consists in change of financing of the municipality development projects, in the effective exploitation of received finances from grant titles of the Czech Republic and from the EU programs from the point of view of their allocation, further in system reorganization of financial resources with their specification of range and place of use of the provided state support depending on rural area according to its economical ability of survival and effective investment usage, further in exact goal setting of rural development and in the change of position and help of public administration lower levels with regard to financial supports gaining from its sources.

All present knowledge gives testimony that the principles accepted by the European Union for effective usage of resources from the EU funds and other sources for rural development will be necessary to respect even in the conditions of the Czech Republic. There is a chance, that higher efficiency of the expended resources will be achieved at Czech rural development, if the EU principles will be put into practice also in the case of state financial resources.

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