



Czech republic experience

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Outline

- **Research institutes in agro-food sector and funding by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture**
- **CZ participation in ERANET/ERANET Cofund actions**
- **Benefits of participation in ERANET actions (researchers view)**
- **Challenges of participation in ERANET actions**

THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN AGRARIAN RESEARCH

The Ministry of Agriculture (acronym MoA) spends considerable finance for Research, Development and Innovation (R&D) within the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector includes agriculture and the food industry; water, soil, forest management and rural development.

The Ministry of Agriculture manages Agricultural R&D through its specialized Department for Research, Education and Consultancy. This department is responsible for the Agricultural research policy, its development and at last but not least for financing of agrarian R&D, i. e. institutional support and research oriented support. **MoA manages 8 public RO and supports private RO**

Research financing is the most important instrument for developing science and research. State budget expenditure for research and development is planned on the basis of a medium-term outlook for R&D expenditure and is released on the basis of the state budget adopted by the Government. The following table shows the total planned expenditure from the state budget on R&D in the Czech Republic for the next four years, paid by Ministry of Agriculture.

The expenditure from the state budget on R&D of MoA (in MM USD)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total state budget on R&D	1 076	1 147	1 171	1 195	1 076	1 147
Budget of the MoA	32	29	31	31	33	34
Share of the MoA (%)	3,0	2,6	2,6	2,6	3,0	3,0

CZ PARTICIPATION IN FP7 - KBBE ERANETS

CZ

EMIDA
CORE ORGANIC II
EUPHRESCO
ANIHWA
PRESTO GMO ERA-NET
FACCE ERA NET PLUS
C-IPM

Country	Projects	Teams
FR	24	51
ES	22	31
DE	21	52
IT	20	30
DK	19	31
UK	19	29
NL	18	29
BE	16	28
FI	15	20
AT	13	16
PT	12	13
SE	12	14
IE	11	11
LT	10	10
SI	10	15
EL	9	13
LV	9	9
EE	8	8
PL	8	11
CY	7	7
CZ	7	7
RO	7	9
HU	4	5
BG	3	4
HR	3	3
LU	2	2
MT	1	1
SK	1	1

PARTICIPATION IN H2020 SC2 ERANET COFUNDS

Country	Projects	Teams
DE	4	14
DK	4	5
FR	4	6
NL	4	8
PL	4	4
UK	4	5
BE	3	7
ES	3	6
FI	3	3
IE	3	6
IT	3	6
RO	3	3
AT	2	2
EE	2	2
LV	2	2
SE	2	2
CY	1	1
EL	1	1
LT	1	2
PT	1	1
SI	1	1
SK	1	2

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- **Usually smaller research consortia, simple to manage, coordinate – and also simple to collaborate and communicate**
- **Access to new technologies**
- **Access to new type of samples**
- **Exchange of research methodology and research material**
- **Simple communication with smaller project consortia commonly leading to new proposals leading to long term continuous collaboration**

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- **Experience in collaboration in bigger teams, presentation of results at international level**
- **Continuation of research (national projects, transnational projects)**
- **Concrete scientific results:**
 - EUPHRESCO II (Apophyt) – research in phytoplasmoses – diagnostics, control, scientific support to EU legislation
 - EMIDA, ANIHWA – validation of automated welfare assessment
 - SAFEFOODERA – detection of food allergens – validation of new methods

CHALLENGES (RESEARCHERS VIEW)

- **Uncertainty of funding even in the case when project is recommended for financial support by international evaluators**
- **Difficulties in the case when one national body decides not to financially support participation research team from its country – after the selection of successful projects has been released. This complicates effort of the rest of consortium members quite a lot.**
- **Restricted budget of national funding administration resulting in financial support not covering total expenditures**
- **Difficulties with reporting since each partner has to report as a part of the whole consortium to project administration, but also to the national funding administration**

- **Low participation – missed opportunities**
- **Barriers at national level**
 - limited financial capacity to participate
 - National legislation – competencies for international cooperation in RDI are solely at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)
 - Other ministries/programme managers can be mandated by MEYS, at present the instrument how to support financially the participation is missing. Thus it is very difficult to allocate money for joint calls
 - The situation should change since 2017 – MEYS should have funds specifically to support P2P activities