

Summary

The evaluated project is one year long project called „Support of the integration of the people with hearing disability into the society, Kosovo“, which was realized during 14 months in a period: 2010-2011. The responsible party of the project was Czech Developing Agency. The implementer was organisation People in Need. Local partner was Kosovar association of the Deaf. Ordering party of the evaluation was Czech ministry of foreign affairs. The evaluator was company Navreme Boheme, s.r.o.

The Evaluated project continuing on previous positive Czech intervention in this thematic field and after the project duration there was realized in 2011 another project with focus on the same target group and furthermore in presence there is another project in the realization period – this project has been planned to finish on December 2013 and aiming support of the sign language interpreting services for Deaf community in Kosovo.

Key project activities:

Presentations for deaf participants in following fields: 1a) Human rights and gender equality 1b) Communication via sign language interpreter 1c) Raising awareness about Kosovar sign language.

Creating of supplementary materials: 2a) Creating of Handbook about human rights (in Albanian) 2b) Translation of the Handbook into Kosovar Sign language 2c) Translation of the Handbook into English.

Support for the local coordinators: 3a) Initial meeting of the coordinators in Pristina, 3b) Financial support for local coordinators in terms of salaries, 3c) Sign language interpreting support to local coordinators in terms of salaries for sign language interpreters.

Key findings related to evaluation assignment:

Criterion	Evaluation (high/almost high/almost low/ low)
Relevance	Almost high
Efficiency	Almost high
Effectiveness	Almost high
Sustainability	Almost low
Impact	Almost high

Due to Czech previous diplomatic and developing activities, according to needs of target group in the Kosovo region, due to the major lack of interest of other subjects about this target group and due to Czech expertise in the field, the Czech intervention in Kosovo is seen as positive.

Czech Republic has an expertise, financial and organizational potential to apply developing projects targeting on deaf minority even in other countries of partners states of developing cooperation, but only in condition of including deaf or hearing expert mastering the field of developing projects focusing Deaf communities.

Positive activities and outputs according OECD-DAC evaluation criterions were identified as: i) support of local coordinators (including involvement of the sign language interpreters) and ii) presentations series.

Negative activities and outputs according OECD-DAC evaluation criterions were identified: i) creating of the Handbook about human rights including language mutations, ii) presence of the person from the area of the Czech Deaf experts, whose expert level was identified as very low and iii) quality of the work of local project coordinator (compare to expectations of local partners and implementer).

Project has positive and relatively strong impact on the local community (despite limited time and amount of the funding) especially via support for local coordinators (including interpreters). These coordinators have initiated seeds of future cooperation between local deaf centers with local municipalities, local state employment offices and associations of people with disability. This has some empowering effect on community in terms of making decisions and taking actions about themselves. Furthermore this activities targeting on cooperation between local deaf centers and local municipalities creates some successes and examples of good practice. The possibility of the potential of higher results of this activity was limited by lack of further continuous methodological and fundraising support for local deaf coordinators. By wider point of view and according to time and funding, this project can be seen as mostly successful pilot project.

There are two themes focussing on transversal principles of Czech Developing Cooperation (democratic principle and human rights) which both were integral part of the project.

There are some comments to intervention logic of the project. In the project documentation there are mentioned indicators for objectives and goals as „facilitated integration of deaf to the society“. There is no possibility how to measure and verify this claim and therefore the table of logic of intervention has some deficiency. In wider context the intervention logic is sufficient, but for fulfilling the objectives and goals (Support of integration for deaf people into society), there will be need for stronger focus on other activities related to interpreting services, access to good quality bilingual education and adult education for deaf and information and trainings for their hearing families.

Another important conclusion is that in this region, there is for a long period already actively presented Finnish Association of the Deaf, who has been already doing development cooperation focus on deaf people in Kosovo. Representatives from Kosovar Association of the Deaf and representatives of Finnish Deaf Association asking for more coordination and cooperation between Czech, Finish and Kosovar sides on planning of the projects to fix higher degree of relevance.

Members from Kosovar Association of the Deaf suggested higher expertise from the implementer in terms of developing cooperation focusing on Deaf communities. This lack of specific expertise has had the impact for example in an invitation of deaf Czech expert with very low level of expertise and problems with inadequate quality of the work of project coordinator. Due to this limited specific expertise there are some content and terminological imperfections in project documentation as well. Higeher level of expertise is the most required one in planning and realization of the project, too. The gain of specific expertise for the implementer can have very positive impact to reach higher level of relevance in project.

Recommendations:

A) Recommendation to the field of the project and continuing of Foreign Developing Cooperation in this sector and country:

A1) The plan of intervention must be based on detailed knowledge of the field, including study of the documents, research reports, and reports and evaluations reports of other project aiming the same target group in the region and coordinate Czech activities with activities of Finnish association of the Deaf.

Addressee: Czech developing agency, the implementer (Czech rep.)
Degree of urgency: 1

A2) Consider a longer project period than for only one year.
Addressee: Czech Developing Agency, the implementer (Czech rep.)
Degree of urgency: 1

A3) Regarding to priorities in Kosovo, it is recommended to focus on projects and activities supporting bilingual education, adult education, access to sign language, interpreting services, easier access to state services, and support of employment.

Addressee: Czech Developing Agency, the implementer (Czech rep.)
Degree of urgency: 1

B) Recommendation in terms of processes and whole system with general applicability to Foreign Developing Cooperation.

B1) Increasing the level of expertise of Czech implementer in the field of developing cooperation targeting on deaf communities, including the planning and the realization period of the project as well. This expertise raising can be done by active cooperation with experienced deaf person expert.

Addressee: Czech Developing Agency, the implementer (Czech rep.)
Degree of urgency: 1

B2) Focus on more attention for support of capacity building activities and controlling activities within local partner organization with a stress on support on developing and support of the local centers and their coordinators.

Addressee: Czech Developing Agency, the implementer (Czech rep.)
Degree of urgency: 1