

# **Cooperation of Czech environmental non-profit nongovernmental organizations with European NNOs**

**Diploma thesis**

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## **Abstract**

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This paper is about examining cooperation between Czech ecological NNOs and European NNOs as well as institutions. The objective of this diploma thesis is to provide a recommendation for Czech NNOs how they should enhance better and effective cooperation with European NNOs and institutions working in environmental and also other fields.

According to this objective, the empirical part is focused on qualitative and also quantitative approach of a survey. The qualitative part consists of interviews with representatives of different ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic to analyze certain cooperation. The quantitative part is a questionnaire distributed between Czech ecological NNOs to find out more information about their cooperation.

The results of the survey are compared and analyzed. Based on the analysis and comparison of results from the survey, a final recommendation, and a statement how would it be possible to reach a more effective cooperation between Czech ecological NNOs and European NNOs or institutions are provided. The survey is showing many differences and similarities how Czech ecological NNOs cooperate with each other. Based on these findings, a conclusion about how the cooperation should be running to get the highest advantages is provided. The results of this diploma thesis are then contributions for ecological NNOs working in the Czech Republic. Based on this result, environmental NNOs can learn a lot of useful tips on how to effectively work with other NNOs and the EU institutions. The results of this study also provide a solution to deal with the obstacles of Czech environmental NNOs. These barriers can be a problem for them to establish stronger cooperation and create better results.

## **Keywords**

non-profit organization, environment, ecological non-profit nongovernmental organization, cooperation, communication, european institution,

## Abbreviation

7AEP	7th Action Environment Plan
ANNO	Association for Non-profit Nongovernmental Organizations
CAN	Climate Action Network Europe
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CENIA	Czech Environmental Information Agency,
CoR	Committee of region
CSO	Czech society for ornithology
CZ	Czech Republic
DG	Directorate Generale
EC	European Commission
ECOS	European Environmental Organization for Standardisation
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEB	European Environment Bureau
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EP	European Parliament
EPA	Environmental Partnership Association
EU	European Union
FoEE	Friends of the Earth
GP	Greenpeace
HEAL	Health and Environment Alliance
ISO	International Organization for Standardisation
IUCN	International Union of Conservation of Nature
MoE	The Ministry of the Environment
MS	Member States
NAT	Rural Development and Environment
NFI	Naturefriends International
NNOs	Non-profit nongovernmental organizations
NO	Non-profit organization
NROS	Civic Society Development Foundation
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RNNO	Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations
SDG	Sustainable Development Agenda
STUŽ	Society for stable sustainable live
T&E	Transport and Environment
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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# 1 Introduction

The environment is the most discussed topic not only in Europe but in the whole world. To reach sustainable development of our environment for the future generations, we need political parties and bodies that take care of creating and increasing human wellbeing through environmental policies. In Europe, main actors in the environmental issues are European Union institutions and other nongovernmental nonprofit and lobby groups. The importance of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations (NNOs) in an international environmental co-operation has increased tremendously over the last decades. NNOs can provide valuable input and help to legitimize the decision-making process within the European Union (EU). Their goal is mainly to increase awareness about problems and situation of the environment and through policies protect it. The first environmental policy document was adopted in July 1973 by European Commission and was called Environmental Action Programme. Today we are further and EU is introducing the 7th Action Programme which is dealing with issues of protection of natural capital, resource efficiency and safeguarding from environment-related pressure. Nowadays, many other documents and plans which support environment protection are introduced. In addition, there are more and more institutions and organizations that cooperate with each other and fulfill the goals and objectives of environmental policies. Among the first environmental NNOs belongs European Environmental Bureau founded in 1974 in Brussels. In the 80s, many more independent citizen organizations were established that were active in the environmental policy. At the international level, they are the most effective voices for the concerns of ordinary people. The European organizations and institutions consult with NNOs in different ways, through papers, advisory committees and ad hoc consultations as well as support them by subsidies. Moreover, they are sharing knowledge, creating publications and lobbying for common interests. As the role of NNOs is important in the development of European policies concerning environmental issues, I decided to choose this topic for the thesis and investigate the current situation of cooperation between Czech NNOs, nongovernmental organizations and EU institutions that deal with the environment. What are the networks between environmental non-governmental nonprofit organizations and EU organizations and how could be their cooperation strengthen. (Seap.usv.ro, 2010)

## **2 Methodology and objectives**

The main objective of the diploma thesis is to suggest a recommendation for the Czech environmental NNOs how to enhance the cooperation with the European environmental NNOs. The recommendation is defined based on the information about a cooperation between environmental and other NNOs contained in the theoretical and practical part. Expect analyzing networks of environmental NNOs, the diploma thesis provides information about the cooperation between environmental NNOs and governmental institutions. These findings are obtained from the theory part and a survey. The survey consists of two parts: 1. Qualitative method and 2. Quantitative method. The qualitative method has a form of interviews with main experts and managers from different well-known environmental NNOs. The interview consists of 4 topics. Each topic has several questions that 5 representatives are asked. The interviews are recorded and then analyzed. For the quantitative method is used a questionnaire. The questionnaire is given to different members of environmental NNOs in the Czech Republic. The number of representatives reaches 102 ecological NNOs out of a total number of environmental NNOs in the Czech Republic. The representatives are mainly directors, managers or members of organizations who are responsible for establishing a relationship or cooperation with governmental institutions or nongovernmental organizations.

Moreover, the diploma thesis provides recommendation how the Czech environmental NNOs could reach better communication and cooperation with the governmental institutions. The practices and tools of cooperation of the environmental NNOs in the Czech Republic are compared. There are shown some of the advantages and disadvantages of cooperation between Czech and foreign NNOs and the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between environmental NNOs in CZ and EU NNOs. The theoretical part informs about terms and aspects of a non-profit sector and includes important information that specifies the background of this topic for a better understanding of the matter.

## **3 Literature**

### **3.1 History of the non-profit sector**

In the Czech Republic, the first development of non-profit organizations was after the revolution in the year 1848. This development was connected with founding a civic association in Europe. The citizens participated in solving problems that had an impact on their way of life which strengthened their responsibilities and the community in which democracy was rising. Before the development of the non-profit sector, charitable institutions or non-profit organizations had been founded mainly by religious communities or churches. These first non-profit organizations provided health and social care services or educational service. Their activities decreased social tension and eliminated political conflicts between states and society. Later on, the charitable organizations created small branches and also non-religious organizations contributed to the expansion. This growth was interrupted several times by social conflicts such as two World Wars, changes of socialism regime and others. In these times, non-profit sector faced the lack of professionals, financial support from the private sector or generally a lack of cooperation with others. From 1989, specific non-profit mainly nongovernmental organizations were established that focused their interests on the satisfaction of society needs which could not be satisfied by state or private sector. One of the reasons why this non-profit sector was created was also the fact that the state provided services that were not sufficient anymore. They were protecting individuals and groups of people against the violation of fundamental human rights. Since the human rights needed protection and big world problems needed to be solved, the society needed to establish associations or international organizations with a stronger voice in the world. There was a need to work together and solve social problems communally with other partners such as governmental organizations or other NNOs. The first and biggest environmental associations were defending the interests of society in front of the state and also were cooperating with the state to set better legislative. Until now, the process of networking and cooperation is still evolving and new environmental NNOs are established for better and more efficiently serve citizens' interests to public authorities. (Novotný, 2004; Duben, 1996)

### **3.2 Definition of non-profit sector**

Non-profit sector is a place between state, state institutions, market, profitable private society and individual citizens or groups of citizens. Non-profit sector is also defined as the third sector, charitable sector or even the citizen sector. The third sector consists of commercial organizations, public non-profit organizations and private non-profit sector also called non-governmental non-profit sector. According to different authors there is also the fourth sector called households. The charitable sector is often connected to charitable activities which are one of the features of non-profit organizations. The citizens sector is wider than the non-

profit nongovernmental sector but narrower than the non-profit sector because it does not include public affairs. Due to different definitions and meanings, there is confusion in the correct answer to what the non-profit sector is and in finding the right terminology.

According to Pestoff, the non-profit sector has several parts and thanks to his model called welfare triangle we can examine each individual part of it.

According to that model there are four sectors:

- profit making private – part of the national economy which is financed from resources gained by subjects in profit sector from sales,
- non-profit – part of the national economy where subjects producing goods are getting resources for own activities from redistributed processes. The main function is not getting profit in a financial way but reaching satisfaction in the way of public services,
- non-profit public – part of the non-profit sector which is financed by public resources and it is managed by public affairs,
- non-profit private – part of the non-profit sector whose function is not profit but satisfaction and it is financed by private resources,
- non-profit sector of households – part of the national economy which is part of financial flows and forms civic society and their following quality. (Rektořík, 2010)

In the next chapter, we will focus on the private non-profit sector also called Nongovernmental non-profit sector. The main part consists of terminology of non-governmental non-profit organizations where we discuss definition, roles, and functions and also types and their objectives.

### **3.3 Organizations of non-profit nongovernmental sector**

In general the non-profit nongovernmental sector consists of organizations which provide services that public sphere do not want to or do not know how to provide. Or on the other hand, for the entrepreneurs it is not enough generating profit. The existence of these organizations is based on a principle of self managing and mutual regulation of society. (Boukal, Vávrová, 2007)

#### **3.3.1 Objectives of NNOs**

The main objective of NNOs is an effort to change individual and society. It must focus on a specific segment or a group of people that NNO knows very well. For this reason the aims of NNO should be defined clearly. To know which way the NNO should follow, it is necessary to set the mission as the main sense of NNO. If NNO would not have the mission, in the long term it will not be able to reach their objectives which are subordinate to this mission. The mission is characterized as a reason why NNO exists and what is its intent. The objectives and mission should be

in direct connection with the area where NNO will focus its performance. The first thing that will be defined are the key areas on which NNO will concentrate its potential. Given objectives should not be only clearly defined but also measurable, achievable, important and actual. Moreover, the objectives can be long-term or short-term orientated but still should go in hand with the main mission of NNO. (Boukal, Vávrová, 2007)

### **3.3.2 Characteristics of NNOs**

According to H.K. Anheier and L.M.Salamon the NNOs have these five characteristics: organized, private, non-profit, self-governing and voluntary.

Nongovernmental non-profit organizations are organizations which have institutional background and character, they are private (separated from state and not governed by state), they have non-profit character (do not divide their profit to their colleagues or owners, but the profit is used for reaching objectives/missions of the organization), they are autonomous (making decisions about own issues, not commanded by state or other institutions, they are separated from them), they are voluntary because the membership is not compulsory/enforced by the law and they get voluntary support from voluntary service/work or financial endowment. (Dohnalová, 2005; Haken, 2005; Rosenmayer, 2005)

### **3.3.3 Functions and roles of NNOs**

Each NNO has specific functions and roles which are defined in following subsections as important duties or tasks of the NNOs.

According to different authors there are different functions of non-profit organizations. Such as:

- Service - it means producing in areas of economic activity where the market and the state fails. It can happen when subjects in need are not able to pay for a service. According to Salamon it also means a service which is available to everyone without need to pay for it,
- advocacy – based on Jenkin’s definition it means each activity which is leading to changes in public politics or creating collective product. This function helps bringing together individuals and wide political environment. The advocacy can be divided into two sub functions: policy advocacy (directly oriented on political processes) and citizen’s advocacy (promote changes via enlightenment and civic activities),
- expressive – it is wider concept than promote political and society’s interests. According to Salamon it provides a tool to express cultural, spiritual and professional values, opinions and interests. Kramer explains it as a role of a value guardian with a task to protect individual and social values and support engagement of citizens,
- charity – according to Wolpert’s meaning, the charitable organization redistributes or allocates resources from wealthy people to those who need it mo-

re, philanthropy – the goal of philanthropic activities is to establish and develop institutions like universities, hospitals, museums etc. It includes the activities with focus on the development of social capital and the non-profit organizations as a part of philanthropy,

- innovative – Salamon defines a non-profit organization as an innovator in certain areas, it discovers or creates new ways to solve problems or identify new topics which need attention,
- building community – according to many authors, the common activities of citizens support the trust and mutual relationships that lead to a healthy community. Kramer's meaning of building community is integration of individual to wider society, overcome loneliness and learning social norms and skills. (Pospíšil, 2009)

There are also different roles of NNOs such as economic (it has importance in a cycle of production factors, creating job positions and decreasing state expenditures thanks to various financial supports from individuals and not from the state budget), social (represents interests of citizens in front of different authorities and satisfies specific needs, providing wide range of specific services, participates in social life), politic (protects individual against the violation of fundamental human rights, strengthening democracy, supports active citizenship) and informational that includes public education and enlightenment. (Dohnalová, 2005; Kuvíková)

### 3.3.4 Types of NNOs

By legal subjectivity in the Czech Republic these organizations are divided into: fellowships, universally beneficial organizations, foundations, endowment funds, registered legal entities. According to the Czech statistical office by June 2016 there were 127 544 non-profit organizations on the Czech market. (Neziskovky, 2014 – 2016)

From January 2014, the private law was recodified and includes now also a new Civic law number 89/2012 Col. and an Act on business corporations number 90/2012 Col. which is replacing the previous Business law. These changes have influenced also the non-profit organizations, mainly their legal form.

Based on these changes in laws in the Czech Republic, the following new forms of non-profit organizations exist.

#### Fellowships

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, the existence of civic associations ended and a new form called fellowships has started to establish. The Act number 83/199 Col. on association of citizens was canceled and instead of it the form of fellowship was set by the new Civic Law. The existing civic associations have three years to bring its essential documents and procedures for the operation in line with the new legislation. If they will not be able to do that they can be transformed into new alternative forms like an institute or a social cooperative. The institute is established by the new

Civic Law as a legal entity with objectives to perform socially beneficial activities. It is mainly suitable for offering community services. The social cooperative is a new legal form that is defined in the Act on business corporations. The social cooperative strengthens social and work integration for disadvantaged people.

#### Universally beneficial organizations

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, the Act number 248/1995 Col. on universally beneficial organizations ceased to be valid and it was replaced by a new form in the new Civic Law. The universally beneficial organization under the canceled law can exist but new ones can not be established. Or they can be transformed into the social cooperatives as well.

#### Foundations, endowment funds

In the new Civic Law, new form of foundations and endowment funds is defined. In this case the Act number 227/1997 Col. On foundations and endowment funds was also canceled. New legislative brings wider range of activities of foundations and endowment funds.

#### Registered legal entities

The registered legal entities are following the same legislative and are not a subject to any new law. They are governed by the Act number 3/2002 Col. on churches and religious communities. It includes mainly church legal entities but also school legal entities, ministry of education, youth and physical education.

According to RNN0 the division of non-profit organizations is different. There are trusts, civic associations, endowment funds, universally beneficial organizations, organizational units associations, and registered legal entities. Their objective is to participate in the performance of public affairs on state, region or community level. (Neziskovky, 2017a; Frič, 2001)

Another classification is based on performed activities including European Classification of Economic Activities (NACE) and International classification of non-profit organizations (ICNPO). NACE has used to define various statistical classifications of economic activities developed since 1970 in the European Union. NACE does not differentiate between market and non-market activities. Non-market services in NACE are only provided by government organizations or non-profit institutions serving households, mostly in the field of education, health, social work, etc. (Frič, 2001)

ICNPO is dividing non-profit organizations into 12 areas based on their activities. It includes: culture and art + sport and recreation, education and research, health, social service, ecology, development of communities and housing, protection of rights and lobbying of interests, politics, volunteering, religion international activities, professional and work relationships, another area. (Europe.eu, 2008)



### **3.3.5 Specifics of environmental NNOs**

The key activity of the environmental NNOs is to promote, realize and advocate public interest of healthy environment for every citizen in the world. In general, environmental NNOs lobby towards better legislative changes in the environmental policy. The examples of these activities are demonstrations, open letters to deputies or educational conferences or meetings. The activities can be focusing on creating green jobs, improving food security, achieving universal energy access, improving water resource management, etc. But to fulfill these interests a drastic improvement in global environmental management is needed which is based on a stimulation of cooperation between NNOs network and governmental institutions and fulfillment of the environmental agreements.

Since 1970, animal populations have been reduced by 30%. Global warming has increased: the heating effect of atmospheric pollution has risen by 29% since 1990 and the loss of ecosystem services from forests is over \$4 trillion a year. The world's resources must be protected and renewed in order to ensure the meeting of our needs and the needs of future generations. This can be done by including the civil society and NNOs in decision making, and rightly so: civil society and NNOs bring important technical capacity and local knowledge and express the interests of often overlooked people. It is also needed to invest time and resources to form a more effective, coherent and focused governance system in order to truly achieve the goals and build a better, sustainable future.

In order to reach objectives in environmental issues, the environmental NNOs signed a special agreement called Ethical codex which ties them to fulfill these standards. Another important particularity of environmental NNOs functioning is Aarhus convention which aim is to support free access to environmental information for the public as well as public participation in decision-making in environmental matters. In addition, NNOs regularly held meetings and conferences to strengthen relations between civil society groups, NNOs, and the government side. For example, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio + 20 organized in Brazil in 2012. More information about how the cooperation between NNOs and institutions looks like and what is the legislation on the environment at EU level is provided in the next chapters. (Golmohammadi, 2012)

## **3.4 Environment and legislation**

The quality of the environment has the key role in sustaining good life conditions as well as health. The environment is the public good and its protection is needed for sustainable development for future generations. From the 20<sup>th</sup> century, EU and its member states have introduced laws and regulations with an aim to minimize unfavorable impacts of production and consumption on the environment, to secure cautious use of natural resources and to protect biological biodiversity. EU legal regulation on the environment also covers aspects like waste management, quality of water and climate, greenhouse gas and toxic chemicals. Moreover, EU has integrated other environmental aspects to their policies such as transport,

energy or changes in climate. In general, the EU has introduced the strictest legislation on the environment in the world. (ELEE, 2017)

The protection of the environment is also connected with the competitiveness of EU. It has the key role in job creation and stimulation of investments related to new ecological innovations. These ecological innovations can be produced in the EU and exported abroad, thus increasing the competitiveness of EU and improving the quality of citizen's life. Another point why the environment is really important is the fact that without nature the life on earth would not exist. Year after year, are quickly depleted natural resources. For this reason, almost all natural resources are protected. The sustainable activities are one of the ways to stop the downward endangered animals and plants, reduction of drinking water and reduction of natural resources. As the main actor on the world scene, the EU has the key role in an effort to secure the sustainability of the worldwide development. Due to increasing population, the main objectives of protecting the environment and increasing sustainability are to secure good-quality drinking water and water sources; improve and sustain a quality of climate and decrease noise; limit or eliminate the impact of using harmful chemicals and sustainably use the land and ecosystems. (EEU, 2017a)

### **3.4.1 Aarhus convention**

The environment is a public good and correct environmental information is essential to create the exact steps towards sustainable protection. The laws on ways of obtaining environmental information are stricter than general regulations related to free access to information.

Aarhus convention is a convention of European business commission of OSN about access to information. It is an international convention which guarantees not only citizens right to information about the environment, but also participation in the decision the making processes and a right to legal protection in the matters of the environment. The Aarhus convention connects three pillars which are related to fields of environment, human rights and problems of corruption. The citizens, according to Aarhus convention, have right to know about pollution, so, for example the public authorities cannot hide information on the amount of exhalation from factories, to express their opinion on an endangered environment in their area and to file complaints against example the public authorities to independent judges.

These all rights are included in three pillars which are:

1. give citizens access to environmental information – through public registers, information centers for public, websites, ecological educational systems, ecological audits,
2. active participation of civic society in decision-making processes related to environment – participation in entering product to market, in a creation of plans, programs or policies related to the environment, in a preparation of new laws and regulations with an impact on the environment. The public au-

thorities are obliged to speak to environmental organizations such as NNOs in specific cases and invite them to provide opinions and comments,

3. assure law protection in issues of environment – it is a legal mechanism which can be used by the public to investigate possible breaks the Aarhus convention.

The Aarhus convention was adopted at a ministerial environment conference on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1998 in Aarhus. It came into force on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2001. By 2009 it has been signed by 45 countries and the EU. The ministries of environment and NNOs have occasional meetings. The Czech Republic signed the convention in 1998 and ratified it in 2004 when it came into force. Aarhus convention distinguishes following segments: public, the physical or corporate person, an organization or a group of people, and public authorities who are nongovernmental organizations working in a field of environment and are interested in the decision-making process in the environmental matters.

In general, the Czech Republic is fulfilling the conditions of Aarhus convention by:

- law on right to information on the environment number 123/1998 Col. And law on free access to information number 106/1999 Col.,
- law on appraisal of impacts on the environment number 100/2001 Col., law on nature and country protection number 114/1992 Col., law on waters 254/2001 Col., and a law on integrated prevention number 76/2002 Col.,
- law number 150/2002 Col., Code of administrative justice. (Ucastverejnosti, 2017a, b; OECZ, 2006a)

The association Green circle in cooperation with other NNOs provide information on the Aarhus convention and its fulfillment. The central authority in environmental matters is the Ministry of Environment that the legislature is preparing new regulations in line with the Aarhus convention. Despite laws and rules, the Ministry has difficulty in fulfilling the convention. Officials are not effective in negotiations with citizens. It takes a long time to compose recommendations and opinions of civic society. The judges are slow in making the final decision because they pay attention to process deficits. The ministries do not publish working versions of prepared drafts and other documents on the websites. Regarding the public consultations in the process of creating new laws, the Czech Republic has not embedded these consultations in legislative enough.

As we said above, sometimes there are some gaps in the legislation in line with Aarhus convention but there are also agreements or action programs which contribute to sustainable development. These agreements are called Multilateral Environmental Agreements and are divided into different fields. For example in the climate change field are classified agreements such as Kyoto Protocol or Paris Agreement. From the action programs, the seventh is already promoted as a new strategic document for sustainable global society. (GC, 2008)

### 3.4.2 Environment Action Programme to 2020

To tackle with challenges in the environment protection, the EU created a programme called the 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020. It came into force in January 2014 and it will guide the European environmental policy until 2020.

„The program identifies nine objectives:

- to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital,
- to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy,
- to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing,
- better implementation of legislation,
- better information on improving the knowledge base,
- more and wiser investments into environmental and climate policy,
- full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies,
- to make the Union's cities more sustainable,
- to help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively“. (EEE, 2016a)

In order to give more long-term direction, it sets out a vision where it wants the Union to be by the year 2050.

"In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society“. (EEE, 2016a)

The Action Programme is a really important document which has to be paid attention to in creating environmental policies, in which are involved the European commission and the MS represented by different groups of people as non-profit organizations or another citizens group. In the next chapters is discussed a relationship of EU ecological non-profit organizations as well as the role of the EC and other organs of the EU and how they cooperate and communicate with civic society. (EEE, 2016a)

### 3.5 European and Czech institutions for the environmental NNOs

The EU institutions require tasks which can be done only with cooperation with NNOs. On the another side, the EU institutions are a source of legitimacy for NNOs and their network. Mostly, the European Commission (EC) uses the capacity of NNOs as a source of expertise and also as representatives of civic society in the creation of European legislation. So, the cooperation and communication between

NNOs and the EU are one of the most important tools how to affect the policy of the EU. The citizens or a civic society has then an opportunity to participate in the decision-making of EU. It includes:

- Commission's public consultations with individuals or organizations – to prepare legislations, strategies, policies etc.,
- communication through the European Parliament – which directly represents citizens of member states and it is directly appointed organ of the EU,
- contacts of interest groups with representative of European institutions – lobbying,
- communication through Business and social committee or Committee of regions. (Pospíšilová, 2014)

### **3.5.1 European Commission**

#### Consultations

Public consultation is one of the tools to influence European policy which EU institutions have with organized civic society or with individuals. The European Commission regards these public consultations as important because it is the first step in creating a draft of legislation or other legal documents. There are several ways how the consultation can be conducted, for example – open consultation, consultative committee or listening.

The rules for consultation are set in a document called General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission which is valid from the year 2003 and voluntarily used by all Europe. The Commission requires information about the purpose or mission of the organization or representativeness of NNO. In this case, it is useful to be registered as an organization in the CONNECCS database, which gives answers to these questions. It is associated with the principle of openness and responsibilities set in the document General principles and minimum standards for consultation. (EEE, 2016j)

#### Contribution to law-making

Here are discussed individual steps to contribute to EU law-making from the preparation phase through proposals of new laws and evaluations of how existing laws are performing. The first is an initial idea, the organization or individual can send thoughts on initial ideas for new laws or on plans for evaluation of individual laws. After the initial idea, the organizations or individuals can more express their views on aspects of the idea, before the Commission finalizes its proposals. After the Commission has agreed on a legislative proposal and put it forward for adoption by the EU Parliament and Council, an organization or individual can give a feedback on the proposal and also on the published impact assessment report. The Commission will collect these views and present them to the Parliament and Council. The organization or individual can also contribute to the evaluations and final checks of how existing laws work in practice. In the process of draft implementation, the organization or individual can express the views on the draft

texts of Commission acts that either amend or supplement non-essential elements of existing laws, via delegated acts or specify the conditions for existing laws to be implemented in the same way across the EU, via implementing acts. If the law already exists the organizations or individuals can give comments to the European Commission how they think the existing laws could be better. The Commission will examine these suggestions on how to simplify EU laws and reduce regulatory burden. (EEE, 2017; EEE, 2014)

#### European citizens initiative

It is a new tool which citizens of EU or NNOs can use to participate in forming and creating EU policy. It was created on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and established by the Treaty of Lisbon. According to European citizens' initiative, the European Commission is calling to propose legislation on matters in which the EU has legislative power. The citizens' initiative can be related for example to the environment, transportation or public health. This initiative has to have support from at least one million EU citizens from at least seven countries out of 28 member states. The official organizer of citizens' initiative is called citizens' committee and it has one year to obtain the needed support. The citizens' committee consists from at least seven different MS who are authorized to vote in an election to the EU Parliament. Before gathering support from citizens, the organizers are obliged to register their initiative on the following website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/how-it-works/registration>

The registration form for the initiative can be also downloaded from the website and the organizer can use either paper and/or an online way to collect support. The collected statements of support have to be verified by relevant organs. The successful initiatives will be submitted to the European Commission, together with information on funding, for consideration. If the European Commission will decide in accordance with the civil initiative then prepare a draft and submit it to ratify the legislative authority. (EPEE, 2017a; EEE, 2016b, c)

#### Transparency

Decisions made by the EU have a huge impact on million of citizens, that is why the decision making process needs to be as much transparent as possible. The EU institutions cooperate with wide range of different groups and organizations representing their interest. This cooperation is an essential part of the decision-making process because it reflects better adjusted needs of citizens also in cooperation with NNOs. Transparency is needed to guarantee institutions responsibility for their actions towards voters. Transparency is also a key aspect of support of EU citizens to be an active part of democratic life in the EU. Open and transparent way of cooperation between NGOs or civil society and the EU is the result of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union defined. The EU citizens can see what European institutions are preparing, who is participating and who is receiving a financial support from the EU budget. Moreover, the citizens have access to various documents and have rights to express

opinions directly or through deputies. The access to all information needed for participation in the EU process of decision making is possible via portal of transparency. Another tool for improving transparency is the Transparency register. It was created to give answers to basic questions about interests, interest groups and financial support. (EPEE, 2017b; EEE, 2016d)

#### European Commission and environment

The European Commission department responsible for EU policy on the environment is called The Directorate-General (DG) for Environment which was set up in 1973. The political leader of DG Environment is Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime affairs and Fisheries and the director is Daniel Calleja Crespo. The DG Environment has six directorates divided into thematic units. Their mission is:

„To develop and facilitate the implementation of policies and legislation that contribute to enabling EU citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits, based on an innovative, circular economy, where biodiversity is protected, valued and restored and environment-related health risks are minimized in ways to enhance our society's resilience, and where growth has been decoupled from resource use“. (EEE, 2016f)

Beside main aims such as protection and improvement of the environment for present and future generations or proposition and implementation of policies that preserve the quality of life in the EU, it also monitors the Member states whether they apply EU environmental law correctly. This means helping them comply with the legislation they have agreed on, and following up on complaints from citizens and non-governmental organizations. The objectives are embedded into strategic document called Strategic Plan 2016-2020. DG Environment deals also with policy development and implementation and these activities are guided by the Environment Action Programme to 2020. Each year the EC announces the Annual Activity report showing achievements, activities and resources used during preceding year. (EEE, 2016e, f)

#### Legal action in environment

First EC writes to the Member States (MS) and ask them about all matters relating to any problem in the country, which will be important for finding solutions to problems. The EC has to make sure that they have all the facts before considering legal action. The EC then makes own checks and a get a report from the national authorities and information provided by citizens and environmental organizations. If there is doubt about the correctness of some rules, the EC takes legal action. The citizens or organizations are the main actors who can inform the EC that the authorities have failed to meet setted environmental obligations. They can do this by filing a complaint or using national courts. To solve a problem shared by a form of the complaints can take more than 12 months and it is possible mainly in more complicated cases. The problem can also be solved more efficiently by available informational service. In that case, the EC can propose to transferred it to those

services. At any time, the organization can provide additional information to the EC or ask to meet representatives of the EC. To help national judges better to understand environmental laws, the EC organizes special trainings. These trainings are also available to environmental organizations as a possible form of mutual educational sharing. (EEE, 2016g)

Besides the complaints, the citizens and environmental organizations have several other options how to be more integrated into legislative process and to cooperate with the EC. These rights include information sharing (according to Aarhus Convention entered into force on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2001, all citizens have right to access environmental information held by the public authorities), participation in environmental decision-making (non-profit organizations have right to comment on proposals for projects affecting environment) and access to justice what means that if there has been made a public decision without respecting environmental law, as a citizen or organization you have a right to challenge it. (EEE, 2016h)

### **3.5.2 European Parliament**

The European Parliament (EP) is the only body of the EU elected by voters from Member States of the EC. The one of the ways how the policy of Parliament is influenced is by the elections of Members. Recently, the EP has 751 Members of EP who meet once a per month on plenary session in Strasbourg. (EPEE, 2017d, e)

Beside election, citizens of the EU can submit petitions, which are managed by the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions, contact a Member of the EP and submit a proposal, recommendation and opinions, participate in different public hearings and debates on legislative proposals in committees of the EP (NNOs are invited due to their expert skills and experiences but also for balancing the powers and pressures of other interest groups or the European Commission) and ask questions which are of interest to them in the field of EP activity (for example through Citizens' Enquiries).

The members of the EP are often communication mediators between individual citizens or NNOs and members of the European Commission. (EPEE, 2017c)

#### **Petition**

One of the fundamental rights of every European citizen or NNO is a right to submit a petition to the European Parliament whenever is desired, alone or together with someone else, according to article 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. First, the petitions are sent to the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament. The EP Committee on Petitions may put a question to the Ombudsman or ask the European Commission for more information in a special case. The petition is then put on the agenda for committee meeting where the EC makes an oral statement on the issues. Then the petitioner or NNO will receive a reply. The right can be exercised by a citizen with an address in the member state and also by the organization, company or community in the EU. The petition can be an individual request, complaint or comment on legal rules of the EU or appeal on the EP to make explanation or decision about a certain issue. It makes the possibili-



ty for citizens to alert on breaking rules by EP. It can relate to public or personal interest. (EEE, 2016i; EPEE, 2017f)

#### Information bureau in members states

The EP has in each member state its own information bureau. The purpose of this bureau is to spread information about the EP and the EU and support citizens to participate in elections to the EP.

In a practise, the information bureau answers questions related to the EP and policy of the EU, provides information and informative materials to citizens, organizes presentations, discussions about European topics and press conferences, cooperates with teachers and academic organizations and provide educational materials, and makes contacts with professional communities, companies, NNOs. (EPEE, 2017i)

Informal direct contacts of deputies of EU institutions with interested communities  
Apart from public debates and consultations, the interested communities and NNOs can use other tools to communicate with Members. These include participation on workshops for members and commissioners, informal consultations and lobbying or publishing the attitudes.

The European institutions are recently more opened towards opinions and comments from NNOs. They provide possibilities for interest groups to present their opinions before the official negotiation. For example in the situation of negotiation in the EP, the members need documents or papers from NNOs as they have responsibilities towards them when making an important decision. Moreover, they are connected with citizens and civic society to make and improve personal contacts. We can say that organizations of civic society are one of the most important interest groups that have a direct impact on decision making of the EU. (EPEE, 2017g)

#### Lobbying

Lobbying is an important activity that interest groups can use to influence and affect the political decision-making. The definition from the green paper defines lobbying as "all activities carried out with the objective of influencing the policy formulation and decision-making processes of the European institutions". It is based on meetings between public societies and members of committees where public society persuades or explains its opinion or attitude with an aim to cancel or support a given topic. The institutions which are supporting lobby activities are mainly the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament while the most important role are playing the European Commission and the European Parliament. The EP has its own database of accredited lobbyist from different organizations and communities. In general, lobbying parties are still more and more important in the society because their experiences and attitudes are closer to real situations than attitudes and opinions of ministries or officers. They are able to provide significant analyses from their own field which can support

or reject a certain decision. For successful lobbying, the NNOs should start at a national level to draw parliament's attention to their interest. Then, the NNOs can cooperate at the European level more effectively. The most powerful lobbyings are run by NNOs or associations of NNOs with a strong position in different countries of the EU. Among the most powerful lobbying activities belong those organized by environmental association the Green 10. (ALTER-EU,2017)

#### The European Parliament and environment policy

There are two main institutions which are responsible for creating legislative related to environment and which environmental NNOs can share their attitudes or comments with. At the European Parliament level, there is the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

#### Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

This Committee consists of 69 members what signalizes that it is the biggest legislative Committee in the EP also called ENVI. Their objectives are: suggesting solutions to the issues of public health at the European level, improving information about groceries provided to consumers mainly by regulating the labelling. The main tasks of this Committee include the fight against changes in the climate and elimination or even prohibition of genetically modified organisms. Among other responsibilities belong: air and water quality, protection of biodiversity and waste management. (EPEE, 2017h)

### **3.5.2.1 The Ministry of the Environment**

The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) was established as of 1 January 1990 by Act no. 173/1989 Col., dated 19 December 1989, as the central state administrative authority and supreme inspection authority in environmental affairs in the Czech Republic. It co-ordinates the activities of all Ministries and other central state administrative authorities of the Czech Republic in environmental matters.

„The MoE is the central state administrative authority in:

- protection of natural water accumulation,
- protection of water resources and the quality of groundwater and surface water,
- air protection,
- nature and landscape protection,
- conservation of agricultural land,
- operation of the National Geological Survey,
- protection of the rock environment, including mineral resources and groundwater,
- geological works and environmental supervision of mining,
- waste management,
- environmental impact assessment of activities and their consequences, including transboundary,

- gamekeeping, fisheries and forestry in national parks,
- national environmental policy“. (MoE, 2008 – 2014a)

The Ministry of the Environment nowadays is in negotiating of the following topics: circular economy and changes in EU waste legislation, EU 2030 climate and energy policy framework, climate change international negotiations, new air quality legislation and EU biodiversity strategy targets. (MoE, 2008 – 2014a)

The Czech Republic is not only an active member of numerous international organizations with an environmental component, but also a part of important multilateral environmental agreements. The Czech Republic is involved in multilateral environmental agreements in order to contribute to the solution of current environmental issues and sustainable development in compliance with the Millennium Development Goals, the Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the relevant EU and OECD documents.

The multilateral environmental agreements can be divided according to their orientation. The Czech Republic is active in the MEAs that focus on such fields as: climate change (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement) or ozone layer protection (Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol).

The Ministry of the Environment also supports longterm activities of NNOs in fields of environment protection or sustainable development by providing grants. More about financial support can be found in chapter 3.8. (MoE, 2008 – 2014b)

### **3.5.2.2 The Government Council for NNOs**

In general, civic associations are a necessary part of Czech market. Their support should be in the interest of the Czech government to create better democratic society and living standards. The most important body which supports NNOs is The Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations also called RNNO. RNNO is the only authority of the Czech government with functioning platform on creating conditions for the work of NNOs. It is an consultative body of the Czech government for issues of the non-profit sector. It was established by government resolution number 428 from 1992 of 10 June as the Council for Foundations. Later on by government resolution number 223 from 1998, of 30 March it was transformed to the Government Council for NNOs.

“The Council particularly performs the following tasks:

- initiates and assesses conceptual and implementation materials for government decisions relating to support for NNOs,
- monitors, initiates and issues statements on legal regulations regulating the standing and activities of NNOs,
- initiates and coordinates cooperation between ministries, administration authorities, and bodies of territorial self-governing units in the area of support for NNOs,

- monitors, analyzes and publishes information about the standing of NNOs within the framework of the EU on the integration of the CR into the EU with respect to NNOs and on the financial resources connected to this,
- cooperates with ministries and with authorities responsible for the administration of EU financial resources in the CR, if their use is related to NNOs,
- makes available and analyses information about subsidies from public budgets for NNOs and about the process of releasing and using them,
- participates in measures by ministries and their authorities that relate to NNOs, in particular in relation to standardization of activities, the allocation of accreditation and categorisation of NNO types,
- monitors and informs the government about the use of funds in the Foundation Investment Fund category“. (UV CR, 2017)

### 3.5.3 European economic and social committee

„The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups and others, a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. Its opinions are forwarded to the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. It thus has a key role to play in the Union's decision-making process“. (EESC, 2017a)

It is also called a bridge between Europe and a civic society. And it is because on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 an important agreement was signed by the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to listen more to the voices of the European public.

It was established as a non-political institution of the EU and it operates as a consultative body for the European Commission, Council of the EU and the European Parliament. Its members are divided into three groups which are Employers, Employees and Various interests.

They have an official opportunity to express their opinion on an EU legislative proposal through the Committee. The European Commission consults with this Committee about legislative proposals on selected topics. For example social policy, unemployment, environment, protection of consumers, free movement of services and workforce and others. The Committee has 350 members which are nominated for five years. Each member is responsible for his chosen area from six topics (economy, common market, employment and social issues, transport, energy, informatics society, agriculture and environment, international relationships).

On average, the EESC delivers 170 advisory documents and opinions a year. All opinions are forwarded to the Community's decision-making bodies and then published in the EU's Official Journal. (EESC, 2017a)

#### Czech membership in EESC

The Czech Republic has 12 members in EESC. The objective of Czech representatives is to support opinions of NNOs without consideration on fields or sector in which they are operating. They also keep in touch with each NNOs as they are

interested in their activities. Part of the EESC activities is working on attitudes and opinions on legislative proposals of the EC, Council of the EU or EP. The individual opinions are prepared by study groups which are created in the scope of thematically specialized sections. These opinions are not legislative mandatory for other EU institutions but they provide real information on the situation of civic society. Moreover, these materials should be useful for making compromise solutions for every organization or group represented on the Committee. (EESC, 2017a)

#### European economic and social committee in environment

As we said in the last chapter, the EESC has several sections. The section for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment is called NAT. The NAT section is responsible for the sustainable use of natural resources, the common agricultural policy, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and policies to combat climate change. To go into more detailed topics the EESC takes care of air quality, biodiversity, waste management, fisheries, forestry, organic farming, food safety, animal welfare and civil protection. The section is currently chaired by Brendan Burns, from Group I (Employers). The section is composed of 95 members. Their activities are mainly to make opinions on some issues but also organize hearings and conferences in their fields of interest. This is one of the institutions which has a huge network of contacts within the European institutions, national authorities, economic and social partners and NNOs. (EESC, 2017b)

The Consumers and Environment Category is currently composed of twenty-two members. It is a forum for participants to discuss the policies implemented in their own countries. The Category's main objective is to discuss documents proposed by the European Commission and to ensure that consumer rights and environmental protection are taken into consideration in all of the EESC's work. (EESC, 2017c)

#### Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions is an assembly of regional and local authorities elected by citizens. The members of the Committee comment on legislative proposals of the EU which are related to regional or municipal policy. The Committee can influence legislation by organizing consultations. There are six different commissions which prepare new legislation based on local and regional reaction to given topic. As known, 70% of EU policies have a direct impact on locations and regions, the consultations are organized to share information and comments by local and regional authorities, European, national, regional and local associations, NNOs, non-profit organizations, platforms and networks and others. So the main aim is to connect different interest groups in order to make a correct policy decision. In addition to the consultations, they organize structured dialogues with the President of the EC or with competent Commissioner focused on a specific area of EU policy. They are organized to improve EU legislation by ensuring that the views of local and regional associations are taken into account before formal deci-

sion-making processes start, to ensure a better understanding of the EU's policy guidelines, to make the EU more transparent and meaningful to its citizens and to strengthen policy coordination between the Commission and local and regional authorities. (ECR, 2017a, b, c, d)

The commission responsible for environmental matters is called Commission for the Environment (FoR), Climate Change and Energy. It coordinates activities such as adaptation to climate changes and its mitigation, energy from renewables resources, policy in the field of environment, trans-European energy networks, new energy policies and space policy for territorial development.

The committee of the Region includes local and regional stakeholders in EU decision-making process. The CoR also provides networks enabling a contribution to EU debates and exchange of experiences in specific EU policies.

According to mentioned tools to better decision making on policies, CoR is also an important organ for strengthening opinions and attitudes of different groups as well as non-profit organizations. Thanks to its wide network contacts, the CoR can get NNOs further in meeting their objectives.

Until now, the literature part discussed the governmental bodies and their cooperation or partnership with civic associations or non-profit organizations as well as other different actors, but in the next chapters, the focus is on NNOs cooperating with EU nongovernmental organizations and associations. (ECR, 2017b)

### **3.6 EU environmental association and networks**

One of the fundamental rights of citizens in the EU is participating in civic societies and creating networks between them at European level. This is written in the article number 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. Many associations of NNOs which are located in Brussels or Strasburg work at European level. But it does not mean that the associations should be subordinate towards own members, but vice versa they should be established to strengthen the joint force. So, the national organizations can be part of associations and be able to influence European policy. They can influence legislation, European finance, mainly programs and grants and also European administration. The members of associations can be interested in different topics and fields, for example, civic laws, environment, youth, structural funds, discrimination on market, development of communities and many others. Recently, the number of associations is still increasing due to many advantages. These include: possibility to effectively gather and transmit information and knowledge, possibility to create network of people and organizations across borders, have support from members and mutual solidarity, sharing common purpose, mission, values, and aims, creating platform for debates about issues connected with social interests, joint promotion of objectives mainly through lobbying in EU institutions, negotiation, and presentation.

The next section discusses selected associations and their objectives and roles in society as well as their cooperation and network. The associations which were selected are the biggest ones working at European level. With each organization is

presented a case study as a concrete example how the cooperation has been running and what it has brought. (OECZ, 2006b)

### **3.6.1 Green 10**

It is an important group of ecological organizations in the center of Brussels working at the European level. It is an informal NNO coalition consisting of 10 the largest European environmental organizations or networks and more than 20 million people. The fields of interest are at European, global, national and regional level. The main purpose is coordination and reinforcement of EU policy in the sphere of the environment and sustainable development. The Green 10 observes a democratic process of decision-making and takes into account the views of member organizations, their staff, boards and members. Green 10 works with the EU law-making institutions - the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council and with member organizations around Europe. According to their website, they are mostly communicating through open letters or having events such as receptions with European institutions' representatives or publish publications with commonly with other environmental NNOs. Among another type of cooperation belongs financial support. Some member organizations can gain funding for specific projects from the EU government. The Green 10 is funded by membership contributions from 10 organizations.

"The main activities of Green 10 are:

- encourage the full implementation of EU environmental laws and policies in the Member States,
- lobby for new environmental proposals, as appropriate,
- work with the EU institutions to ensure that policies under consideration are as environmentally effective as possible,
- promote EU environmental leadership in the global political arena,
- inform their members, and the wider public, of environmental developments at EU level, and encourage them to make their voices heard,
- give a voice to thousands of locally-based associations, which would otherwise have no access to EU decision-makers,
- contribute to the strengthening of civil society across Europe, through training in advocacy skills, policy analysis, and the EU decision-making process". (G10, 2017)

The Members of Green 10 are: European Environmental Bureau – EEB, Friends of the Earth Europe – FoEE, Greenpeace Europe, WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature - European Policy Office, Birdlife International, International Friends of Nature, European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), European Public Health Alliance and CEE Bank-watch Network. (G10, 2017; CAN, 2006)

### Case study: Negotiations on air quality and waste

The Green 10 is one of the key actors who is underlining the importance of continuing negotiations in areas of waste and air quality. The Commission designated by Jean-Claude Juncker has proposed to withdraw the waste package and delay a proposal to clean up Europe's air. This also represented an unacceptable scrapping of the 7th Environmental Action Programme (7EAP), a legally binding commitment that was negotiated and agreed by the Commission, Member States, and European Parliament a few years ago. NNOs with the cooperation of ecological organizations expressed dissatisfaction of this proposal and lobbied for retaining of existing Treaty commitments to sustainable development, environmental protection and the integration of environmental concerns into each EU policy area. The negotiations and lobbying were successful also thanks to a written open letter to Vice President Timmermans not to sink the air and waste packages. Moreover, the Green 10 produced a joint 'manifesto' stating top ten demands for the 2014 European Parliament elections. This Manifesto could send anybody to some candidates for election to the EP on 22-25 May 2014 and ask them to support these 10 key demands. This Manifesto was sent by more than 20 million Europeans who wanted the environment to be a priority in the next European Parliament. (Pant, 2015)

The roles and objectives of these 10 ecological organizations of Green 10 coalition are described in the next chapters. Moreover, there is information about their successes or issues which they are recently negotiating. In some cases, information is provided about membership and network which organizations are part of. There is given some examples of memberships of the organizations or common documents for better understanding the cooperation between organizations.

#### **3.6.1.1 European Environmental Bureau**

It is the largest federation of environmental citizens' organizations in Europe created in 1974 in Brussels. It consists of over 150 member organizations in more than 30 countries. The Czech members are Ecological law service, Society for stable sustainable life (STUŽ), Institute for eco policy, Green circle and Arnica. They are also in a dialogue with the EU institutions and departments of the United Nations (UN).

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) ensures that the EU secures a healthy environment and rich biodiversity for all. Their topics are for example biodiversity, waste, nanotechnology, chemicals, ecolabel, climate change etc. Working in working groups the EEB promotes demands of their members at European and global level. Their aim is to improve the environment in Europe, to monitor environment policy in the EU, to support cooperation between EU institutions and members and represent members in dialogues with the EU institutions. The tools used for cooperation and support of the organizations and networks include reports, documents, recommendations, analyses, magazines, expert publications. During the year 2016 the EEB, published 91 documents among which belong for



example studies, open letters to Members or position papers from conferences. (EEB, 2017a)

“The EEB provides members:

- close co-operation and networking on all the most important environmental issues,
- involvement of members in the formulation of EEB policies and positions,
- keep members informed of what it is happening at EU level concerning the environment,
- build a close work relationship with members on specific topics,
- make members aware of how EU decision-making works and how EU policies affect national policies and therefore their work and quality of life,
- the possibility of participation in experts groups (working groups),
- participation in conferences, seminars, and other meetings”. (EEB, 2017b)

Case study: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On 9 February 2016 was written an open letter to Vice-President Timmermans, about strengthening Sustainable Development Agenda. The aim of this letter was to push the EU to make 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG) a reality. The letter called on the EU and each of its Member States to develop an overarching Sustainable Development Strategy with a timeline of 2030 and a concrete implementation plan which coordinates the achievement of the 17 goals, 169 targets and their indicators. More than 80 non-profit organizations were involved in this project or urging the EU to support more sustainable development, including for example World Wildlife Fund (WWF), STUŽ or Climate Action Network (CAN). The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was in September 2015.

For the year 2017, the EEB will be „continuing in monitoring and providing input to the SDG implementation actions and ensure that SDG targets are fully integrated into all EU policies and that policy coherence for sustainable development is secured“. The EEB will be participating in the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE) meetings related to SDG. (EEB, 2017c, d)

### **3.6.1.2 Friends of the Earth Europe**

Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organizations with thousands of local groups.

„Our vision is to a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature“. (FoEE, 2015)

Among their core values belong ecological and cultural diversity, peoples' sovereignty, human and peoples' rights, equity and environmental, social, economic and gender justice, the intrinsic value of nature and the inextricable link between nature and people, participatory democracy and other forms of participatory decision making processes and solidarity, responsibility and human dignity. (FoEE, 2015)

It is part of the Friends of the Earth International which unites 76 national organizations, more than 5000 local activist groups and over 2 million supporters around the world. They work on campaigns about environmental and social problems that demand the most urgent action. What such a big environmental organization does is basically helping to create environmentally sustainable societies at local, national and global levels. Moreover, it supports public participation and democratic decision-making as well as equal access to resources and opportunities at the local, national, regional and international levels. Friends of the Earth International, funded with the support of the EU, are changing the world by changing politics. They pressure politicians at all levels to make decisions that are good for the planet. The main approach how they communicate with EU institutions and organizations is through publications, researchers (in the year 2016 they published 19 papers) and events such as demonstrations which should call for some action to change legislation. The publications are created by members of the FoEE together with different states as well as with some other environmental organizations, for example Greenpeace, Transport & Environment or Central Eastern Europe (CEE) bankwach network. (FoEE, 2017a, b, d; FoEE, 2015)

#### Case study: The European 'Big Ask' campaign

The campaign has brought together Friends of the Earth groups in countries across Europe all with the same big ask - that their governments have committed to reducing carbon emissions, year on year, every year. The campaign has called for cuts in emissions equal to a reduction of EU-wide domestic emissions of at least 40 percent by 2020. The Big Ask campaign was launched in 18 countries across Europe in February 2008. In 2009 studies by Stockholm Environment Institute were created that proved for the first time that 40% domestic emissions cuts by 2020 in Europe are technically possible and financially feasible. The campaign was inspired by the United Kingdom, where, following a campaign by Friends of the Earth, the government adopted a Climate Change Law that will cut greenhouse gasses by 80 per cent by 2050. This victory was followed by success for the Big Ask campaign in Scotland. In June 2009 the Scottish parliament adopted a climate change law with the aim of 42 percent emission cuts by 2020. In the Czech republic in the year 2011 The Environmental Law Service (ELS), a partner organization of Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, has launched a Climate Law Database, which provides information about climate change legislation, both existing and proposed, and gives access to a wide range of related materials. This database allows policymakers, academics, and public to learn about the different climate change legislation which is contributing to the creation of a legal environment that leads to a systematic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, along with the development of renewable energy sources. In the same year, the Big Ask campaign was supported by a music festival in Prague as a message that climate change law will bring benefits for Czech people. The Czech Big Ask campaign has been supported by two out of four governing coalition parties, as well as wide range of other supporters, including 60 green companies and 30 celebrities. In 2012 'Big

Ask' festival was organized in a park in the center of Prague by Czech FoEE FoE CZ. The campaign was supported for example by Czech machinery factory and the Czech Green Building Council and by Trade Unions Confederation to have a wide-ranging debate on a topic the Climate Change Bill. To support campaign FoE CZ, large posters at over 130 sites in the busiest public transport places in Prague were placed pressuring politicians to take action for the climate. The posters featured three major Czech politicians with their faces staged to how they might look in the year 2030. The Friends of the Earth Czech Republic is making a campaign for a climate law to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 2% every year. Friends of the Earth believes that legally binding emission cuts in the form of climate laws are the best way how to make sure that emission reductions will actually happen. Friends of the Earth Ireland in the year 2012 with other members of Ireland's Stop Climate Chaos coalition organized a demonstration outside government buildings in Dublin. Ireland is one of the highest per-capita emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> in the world. NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark) hosted 'The Climate Law – will it be the strongest in Europe?' conference with the Danish government's climate and energy spokesmen, the leading experts on environmental legislation in Denmark, climate scientists and directors from energy and municipal organizations. NOAH has advocated for Denmark to be fossil-fuel-free by 2032 and to fully reduce greenhouse gas emission uptake in 2050. Goals have required a 50% domestic greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2020, based on 1990 levels, and a 90% reduction by 2030.

The campaign Big Ask was successful and proves that the success is possible if various individuals make pressure on politicians to act against the climate change. The Big Ask engaged hundreds of thousands of people across Europe and has been one of the most successful campaigns because it has forced politicians of all sides to seriously decide about the need for legislation in this area. (FoEE, 2017c)

### **3.6.1.3 Greenpeace**

Greenpeace (GP) as a global environmental network of organizations is based in Brussels and active in over 55 countries. It consists of Greenpeace International in Amsterdam and 26 independent national and regional offices. These offices are independent in making campaigns, seeking financial support from donors and are main stakeholders of a consultative international decision-making process. Greenpeace International co-ordinates worldwide campaigns and monitors the development and performance of national and regional Greenpeace offices. The main method how the organization cooperates is through demonstrations, publications or different shared projects. Moreover, it monitors and analyses the work of the EU institutions and challenges EU decision-makers to implement progressive solutions. It is also an active member of the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU), a coalition of over 160 civil society groups, trade unions, academics and public affairs firms. (GP, 2011b)

This is the only organization from Green 10 which does not accept donations from governments, the EU, businesses or political parties. They are holding their

independence from these institutions and companies. The only supporters are citizens and members. (GP, 2011a)

The Greenpeace International provides a range of services to the national and regional offices such as setting up new offices, providing fundraising support for national/regional offices, providing cost-efficient global IT services and Internet tools, and protecting the Greenpeace trademark. (GP, 2011b)

Case studies:

Most of Greenpeace's campaigns are either about creating or upholding laws. The Greenpeace has challenged governments and corporations and has helped shape the law to protect the Planet. Below is a tiny selection of cases in Europe from the last couple of years:

Following a seven-year lawsuit by GPUS company, Friends of the Earth and four United States cities, federal investment and insurance agencies Ex-Im and OPIC company agreed to start assessing climate impacts before financing overseas energy projects. Besides the cooperation with other ecological non-profit organizations, in 2010 the Greenpeace International teamed up with WWF to submit the first-ever amicus curiae brief before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in the Case No. 17 concerning activities in the International Seabed Area. In the year 2013 GP Slovakia obtained a Supreme Court order to halt the construction of a nuclear power plant. (GP, 2016b; CHUNG, 2016)

In 2016 plans to build a nuclear power plant in a unique Dune area by Polish were withdrawn. Poles removed the location "Choczewo" from the list of potential sites for the construction of the first Polish nuclear power plant. It was a result of the public and legal campaign which was taking place for a few years together with the local residents' association "Lubiatowo-Dunes". (GP, 2016a)

### **3.6.1.4 World Wildlife Fund**

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature is an international nongovernment organization supporting protection, research, and development of the environment. It was created in 1961 and until now it has been supported by more than 5 million people from all over the world. The WWF is an independent foundation based on 4 regional hubs. The primary hub is in Switzerland and its role is to coordinate the WWF Network of offices around the world by developing policies, strengthening the global partnership, coordinating international campaigns and others. The national organizations of WWF contribute to the Global Conservation Program of WWF and help with environmental expertises. The specialists of WWF Office in Brussels works to influence the policies of EU. (WWF, 2017a, b)

Its activities are carried out in more than 100 countries in which more than 1300 environmental projects are run. The essence of such successful and large organization is in good partnership with governments and NNOs, mobilization actions, business support and driving better laws and policies from international conventions to local people managing and protecting their natural resources. Among the partners belong conservation NNOs, business & industry, pub-

lic sector finance institutions, local governments, national governments, international conventions & commissions, research institutes, investment banks, farmers, fishers, foresters, indigenous peoples, local communities, protected area managers, landowners, and consumers. With universities, EU government and NNOs such as EEB, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) or CAN they make publications or strategic plans for creating a better place to live. (WWF, 2017c)

The WWF is involved in many international instruments such as conventions, commissions, agreements and treaties on stronger international laws and policies in environmental matters. The WWF has provided the advice on relevant issues, demonstrated concrete actions which the governments can take, advocated for stronger interantional laws and helped governments to implement their commitments under the convention/commission. It is also part of a creation of conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), and Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships. There are also many other conventions, not all of which are ratified by required number of countries. And many of them lack an appropriate mechanism and monitoring measures for their implementation. (WWF, 2017c)

The WWF is financially supported by several important segments or categories; including public sector, businesses and individuals. The public sector's main actors are governments and private investors. The governments provide national finances or development finances, make the bilateral or multilateral agreements, the private investors provide long-term private investments. In 2015 the success of public-private partnership was in sharing the agenda of sustainable development and action on climate changes by all nations on the Earth. The businesses work with WWF on decreasing greenhouse-gas emissions and embrace of renewable energy. The individual's category includes foundations, corporate partners or other people as philanthropists. For example, together these partners supported the WWF by sponsoring 100 million US dollars on the Campaign for a Living Planet. The WWF also joined the Scouts - the world's largest youth movement with more than 28 million members in 160 countries. (WWF, 2017c)

#### Case study: EU Birds and Habitats Directives

„The Directives remain highly relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of species and habitats, for the environment, people and the economy, and as an essential component of EU Biodiversity Policy. On Friday 16 December, the Commission published its conclusions evaluation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, confirming that they were “fit for purpose” to protect Europe’s nature“. The EU Commission supported EU Nature Directives but their achievement of objectives will depend on implementation in close partnership with local authorities and stakeholders in MS. The WWF widely supported these directives and their effective implementation. In December 2015 Member States adopted the Environment Council Conclusions in which they underlined the importance of “not lowering the nature protection standards” of the Birds and Habitats Directives

and “maintaining legal certainty for all stakeholders” and confirmed that their effectiveness “depends on consistent implementation and adequate financial resources”. The Commission has underlined some key benefits of the EU Nature Directives and identified challenges that will have to be addressed in the near future. The first challenge will be a good implementation which is the main problem. Based on a lean implementation, it was proposed to develop an EU Action Plan for Biodiversity. This Action Plan should primarily focus on ensuring the full and effective implementation of the EU Nature Directives, supported by adequate financing and effective enforcement. (WWF, 2016a, b)

### **3.6.1.5 BirdLife Europe and Central Asia**

Birdlife Europe and Central Asia is a partnership of 48 national conservation organizations and a leader in bird conservation. It is set in Brussels and it works on EU policy issues or improves EU legislation relating to biodiversity. The organization influences the policy and decision-making of governments and business leaders by making a dialogue with the EU and national decision makers. They are working with EU institutions such as the European Commission (Juncker Commission), the Council of the European Union (Presidencies) and the European Parliament (2014-2019 Mandate). They communicate by means of consultations or written position papers. The BirdLife Europe and Central Asia Partnership consists of 49 Civil Society Organizations in Europe and Central Asia, including all EU Member States. From the Czech Republic, it is the Czech society for ornithology (CSO). The CSO mission aims to promote research and conservation of wild living birds and their habitats and to provide ecological education to the public. Their common activities are bird watching events or projects involving local communities. (BirdLife, 2017e, f)

Partners of the BirdLife Europe are present in 49 European and Central Asian countries what represent around 2 million members. The most important are countries from the following three regions, the Balkans, the Caucasus region and the Russian Federation. (BirdLife, 2017b)

The BirdLife started in 1985 the Conservation Leadership Programme as a partnership Fauna & Flora International, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the BP Company. Their activities are focused on many locations where are the BirdLife Partners. These activities are: offering support to young conservationists living and working in the following places: Africa, Asia, East/South Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. Initiatives that the Conservation Leadership Programme supports include team awards, training, internships, and opportunities for network development – skills. Over its 25-year history, the Conservation Leadership Programme has supported nearly 3,000 individuals this way. (BirdLife, 2017c, d)

### Case study: Pegasus

Pegasus is an European research project aiming to develop new ways of thinking about how farmland and forests are managed in order to stimulate a long-lasting improvement in the provision of public goods and ecosystem services from agricultural and forest land in the EU. PEGASUS uses social-ecological systems as an analytical framework to explore systemic inter-dependencies among natural, social and economic processes. It will adopt participatory action research with public and private actors and stakeholders to better understand the range of policy and practical challenges in different case study contexts (localities, sectors, management systems, etc.). Throughout the project, it is possible to encourage a wide range of stakeholders – land managers, rural stakeholders, and policy makers at local, regional, national and EU level – to get involved and share their ideas. A part of the system will be consisting of fine-grained analysis within the case studies, and comparative meta-analysis or data-sets, transferable methods, and tools.

BirdLife is involved in the research project from 2015-2018. The project is involving 14 partners in 10 countries. One of the partners, for example, the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information from the Czech Republic. BirdLife works in an active way and publishes around 30 studies that play a role in stimulating long-lasting improvements in the delivery of social, economic and environmental benefits from EU agricultural and forest land in policy. (Pegasus, 2017)

#### **3.6.1.6 Naturefriends International**

Naturefriends International is the global umbrella organization which focuses on designing and implementing the sustainable environment for the society at regional, national and international level. The organization is acting in tourism and leisure time matters. It advocates the social, cultural and ecological development of tourism. The political commitment is presented by lobbying and educational activities as well as networking at regional, national and federal organizations. It was founded in 1895 and it has approximately 45 member organizations with 500 000 members. (NI, 2017a, b)

One of the largest international youth networks is called International Young Naturefriends founded in 1975. It supports the work of its 16 members and 12 partner organizations, consisting of more than 120.000 individual young Naturefriends organized in more than 1000 local groups. The Czech member group of this network is DUHA CZ located in Prague. One of the activities organized in cooperation with the Czech Republic was “Youth leadership for a resilient world” in 2013. The network promotes sustainable life in a social and natural environment and represents young Naturefriends at EU level. They use methods of nonformal, experiential education and intercultural learning, organize outdoor activities and support youth participation. The Naturefriends has a large membership with Green 10 and EEB, the EARTH-network or Tourism European network or Friends-of-Nature groups. The partnership of these networks is based on know-how exchange, joint projects, issuing publications or coordination of training. In the past, one of the joint activities was signed a Common declaration of the new Europe in 2016. The

leaders of 177 European and national civic society organizations and trade unions – among them Naturefriends - call on EU leaders to share more strongly the values of the EU such as sustainability, diversification, fairness, openness and other to tackle with inequalities, climate change or natural resources depletion. The Naturefriends has joined by over 80 environmental NNOs across Europe who has launched the online action “Nature Alert”. The joint action supports the efficient protection of endangered species and habitats and gathers against the weakening of European nature legislation. The [www.naturealert.eu](http://www.naturealert.eu), a web platform, has allowed the EU citizens to participate in the European Commission’s public consultation and to contribute to the protection of biodiversity in Europe. (NFI, 2013)

#### Case study:

NatureBankwatch Network and FoEE together with Naturefriends published a new map with the details of 50 environmentally damaging infrastructure projects in Central and Eastern Europe with the total cost of 22 billion Euros. These costs have been covered by the EU structural and the Cohesion funds or the European Investment Bank. The projects include for example waste incinerators, motorways, water management projects harming aquatic ecosystems. The projects are in conflict with the EU environmental law as for example the R52 in the Czech Republic is harming habitats protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The map should help to ensure that EU finance does not cause damage but brings benefits for citizens and by this promote sustainable development. (NI, 2017c)

### **3.6.1.7 Climate Action Network Europe**

„Climate Action Network Europe is Europe's largest coalition working on climate and energy issues. With over 130 member organizations in more than 30 European countries - representing over 44 million citizens - CAN Europe works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable climate and energy policy in Europe“. (CAN, 2016b)

The CAN has a network with more than 700 non-governmental organizations working on promoting government, the private sector and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. (CAN, 2016b)

The Czech partner for these matters is the Centre for transport and energy, which focus is on transport policy and legislative, and Glopolis - Prague Global Policy Institute. Among the EU partners belong WWF, Greenpeace, FoEE, ClientEarth or Oxfam. The aim of CAN is to decrease greenhouse gas emissions which are the main factors causing the climate change. CAN is also advocating public interest in front of EU institutions by providing publications and letters to policymakers and participating in common conferences or consultations with the EU representatives. The last conferences called 6th European Grid Conference was on 29 September in Brussels with a topic of the steady growth of renewable energy and the energy transition. (CAN, 2016a)



#### Case study: UN Climate Negotiations (UNFCCC)

Climate change is a global challenge and internationally coordinated cooperation in this matter is needed. This is done under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNFCCC. On the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 21 Summit in Paris in December 2015, all countries agreed to take drastic action to protect the planet from climate change and to pursue efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C by rapid reduction of emissions. But the EU's current climate ambition is not consistent with the Paris Agreement. CAN Europe has been working on the UN climate negotiations for more than 20 years and continues to engage actively, and on the UNFCCC process by lobbying activities. The Paris Agreement requires not only climate and energy policies in the EU but also financial policies and investments to ensure a shift in support away from fossil fuels and towards a renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resilience. The CAN Europe works to ensure public finances flow towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. (CAN, 2016c, d)

CAN Europe requires that the next EU budget should consider specifically the need for the EU to increase its greenhouse gas emissions targets in order to limit global temperature rise to well below 1.5 degrees. (CAN, 2016d)

#### **3.6.1.8 Health Environment Alliance**

The Health and Environment Alliance is a leading European non-profit organization addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. The aim of HEAL is to bring health to the center of the spectrum of EU environmental policies. It was created in 2003 and until now it has been supported by more than 70 member organizations. It consists of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NNOs, scientists and public health institutions. HEAL is a leading platform for health and environment groups working to strengthen European environment policies to improve people's health. This is done by creating the better representation of expertise and evidence from the health community in decision-making processes. (HEAL, 2017a)

HEAL also has an ongoing collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE). HEAL is making independent expert opinions and evidence to different decision-making processes. HEAL is a member of Green 10, Civil Society Contact Group or International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN). HEAL was founded by EC, European Climate Foundation or European Environment and Health Initiative. Members of HEAL regularly hold policy co-ordination meetings and consult on policy positions. Together with the members they monitor policy within EU institutions to identify threats and opportunities for environment and health, run advocacy campaigns to bring the voice of the health community to policy makers, build capacity through publications, conferences, workshops and training or environmental events such as festivals and follow policy-relevant research and make it accessible. (HEAL, 2017a)

#### Case study: “Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury” campaign

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Health Care Without Harm Europe (HCWH) joined forces to mobilize the health community in Europe for a global ban on mercury. Twenty-one countries in the European region have had a level of mercury above a widely-accepted recommended safety dose, according to findings of the “Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury” campaign. The findings have been worrying because scientific reports have shown that low-level exposure to mercury in the womb can cause brain damage in children. The hospital, universities or various environmental organizations were participating in this campaign as for example an ecological NNO Arnika from the Czech Republic. These organizations or institutions were calling on the EU to show leadership in efforts to control environmental mercury pollution by securing a global ban on mercury. Ultimately, the only solution was to eliminate all uses of mercury everywhere, to collect remaining mercury safely and to clean up mercury pollution. (HEAL, 2015; HEAL, 2017b)

### **3.6.1.9 Transport and Environment**

Transport and Environment (T&E) is a nonprofit and politically independent organization established in 1990 and works in Brussels. It represents 50 organizations from 26 countries across Europe. T&E has 8 support organizations, from the Czech Republic it is Transport federation and a membership in Green 10 or Coalition for Energy Savings. (T&E, 2017b)

„Transport & Environment’s mission is to promote, at EU and global level, a transport policy based on the principles of sustainable development“. (T&E, 2017c)

T&E contributes to a number of high-profile EU policies such as binding standards for more fuel efficient cars and vans and more sustainable biofuels. They support reaching as low as a possible level of greenhouse gas emissions and air and noise pollution from transport; transport policies that encourage efficiency and smart behavior, and pricing that makes polluters pay for pollution. They communicate through the press releases, letters, briefings, policy papers, scientific statements and many other publications. (T&E, 2017c)

#### Case study: Vehicle Noise

Between 2005 and 2014 T&E worked at the EU and global levels for tighter restrictions on sources of transport noise including cars, lorries, and trains. In December 2011, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new regulation aimed at tightening noise emissions standards for vehicles. The Commission proposal foresees a four-decibel reduction in noise emissions from cars and a three-decibel reduction from lorries. T&E, together with other environmental NNOs, has been advocating for the limits to be enforced faster. These tightened standards will enter into force five years after the regulation receives final approval but not before 2017. With an additional third step of noise reductions for all vehicles to come into

force in 2020. This has been done through declaration which citizens or NNOs can sign a send to the EU institutions. (T&E, 2017a)

### **3.6.1.10 Bankwatch**

It is one of the largest networks of grassroots, environmental groups in central and Eastern Europe. It has been operating since 1995. It monitors the activities of banks and funds that are always important entities. These include the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, and European Structural and Cohesion Funds. It prevents public investments that harm the planet and people's well-being. Together with local communities and other NNOs the Bankwatch expose the influence of international financial institutions and provide a counterbalance to their unchecked power. The Bankwatch provides publications in cooperation with the EU and other organizations such as Carbon Market Watch, the network of 800 NNOs that is advocate public scrutiny of carbon markets and ensuring more effective and fair climate policies for all. The main actor and member of Bankwatch is FoE CZ which in 1995 was one of the founding members of the CEE Bankwatch Network and Centre for Transport and Energy in the Czech Republic. (CEE BN, 2017a, b)

The Bankwatch uses various instruments for communications such as advocacy letters, studies, and official documents. (CEE BN, 2015)

#### **Case study: Coal in the Balkans**

The project Coal in the Balkans is pointing at the situation in Balkan countries about building new lignite power plants during the next few years. Most of the EU countries are giving up building new coal plants and finding ways to close their existing ones. But Balkan countries prefer coal even though it is no longer cheap due to increasing environmental requirements and payments for CO<sub>2</sub>. On the other hand, installation costs for the wind and solar are constantly falling and they are much cheaper to operate, making coal less and less competitive. Under the Energy Community Treaty, signed by all Western Balkan countries, Ukraine and Moldova, all new coal plants have to be in line with EU environmental standards and countries must follow EU state aid rules. This also includes the obligation for member countries to implement EU environmental law and renewable energy targets. There is still time to close the rest coal plants. Bankwatch and its partners are monitoring this situation on Balkans and making researches and publications about environmental impacts of using coal. (Hlobil, 2015), (Pasek, 2015), (Pasek, Gogolewski, 2014)

### **3.6.2 European Environment agency**

It is one of the European union's agencies which objective is bringing quality and independent information about environment to the public. This information helps policy creators in many topics to create policies which will protect the environment. The regulation establishing EEA came into force in 1994 when also

European information and observation network for environment called Eionet was created. This network is a network between EEA and individual states. The agency has a close connection with national contact offices as for example environmental agencies or ministry of environment. Main clients are bodies of the EU: EC, EP, Council and the Member States and also EESC and CoR. Other important users are non-profit organizations, business sphere or academic sphere. The cooperation between EEA and other partners is based on seminars, workshops, conferences or informal meetings. The EEA is working on a mutual dialogue with partners and interest groups in purpose to identify the information they need and understand them. It provides information in forms of publications, short news, articles, printed materials and advices. These materials inform about environment state and trends, economic and social factors, the effectiveness of policies and other issues and problems related to the environment situation. (EEA, 2017a, c, d)

The basic reporting document informing about environment issues published in the Czech Republic is called The State of the Environment Report (SoER) of the Czech Republic. It includes following themes:

- Atmosphere and Climate
- Water management and water quality
- Biodiversity
- Forests
- Soil and Landscape
- Industry and Energy
- Transportation
- Waste and material flows
- Financing (EEA, 2017b)

CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency, is responsible for creating the SoER. It is published annually and it sets a framework for the effective protection of the environment in areas such as protection and sustainable use of resources, climate protection and improvement of ambient air quality, protection of nature and landscape and safe environment. (CENIA, 2012)

Its purpose is gathering information, assessing, interpreting and distributing environmental information. CENIA cooperates with science institutions and universities, it is a contact place of EEA and it participates in Eionet. It is working on:

- An integrated system called ISPOP which secures fulfillment of legislative duties in the environment and provides data.
- Map service of public administration portal called [geoportal.gov.cz](http://geoportal.gov.cz), which represents an application of environmental data.
- Consultations in the field of clean production, certification of ecological products, information about state policy in environment, support of eco-innovation in the CR and other
- Twinning projects, projects financed by the EC, projects of structural funds, national R&D projects

- The environmental information system of statistics and reporting called ISSaR which provides all statistic data and indicators about the environment.

Publications which are provided by Cenia are mainly News about the environment of the Czech Republic (CZ), Surveys about environment situation and statistics about environment in the CZ. The Publisher of these publications is the Ministry of the environment and Cenia is responsible for the content. Beside these main publications the Cenia is a publisher of information and educational materials. Until now the Cenia provided 78 publications, among which belong also multimedia publications. (CENIA, 2012)

### **3.6.3 Client earth**

It is environmental law organization working at European level. The organization works with policymakers to create good laws and properly implement them at EU and member state level to protect EU citizens and environment. They are protecting the environment through advocacy based on research, policy analysis, expertises and scientific knowledge. (CE, 2017a)

„We work to ensure that everybody has access to environmental information, can participate in policy-making processes and challenge decisions that impact the environment through the courts“. (CE, 2017a)

The Client Earth is part of Sustainable Seafood Coalition and Healthy Air campaign. The Client Earth is communicating and cooperating through providing various studies and news or responses to law proposals from the EU. European Environmental Law Observatory Newsletter is one of the documents through which Client Earth communicates engaging debate on European environmental law. It includes updates on important judgments and a legal doctrine. The library of Client Earth currently holds 1436 documents from environmental law teams. (CE, 2017b)

Together with Greenpeace and FoEE, the Client Earth worked on tackling the public health crisis caused by air pollution in Healthy Air Campaign. The campaign took place in London, where it is estimated that 29,000 premature deaths every year are caused by poor air quality. But surprisingly, there is very little awareness of the problem, although certain groups such as children, older people and people with asthma are particularly vulnerable. The European Union sets legally binding limits for levels of major air pollutants under an ambient air quality directive. If any country in the EU breaches these limits, they potentially face huge fines from the European Commission. The UK government is currently in breach of these limits but has been using delaying tactics to avoid fines, rather than tackle the problem head on. A legal action brought by ClientEarth in 2011 forced the government to admit it was breaking the EU law on nitrogen dioxide. (Healthyair, 2015)

### **3.6.4 International Union for Conservation of Nature**

It is another large diverse environmental network working in around 160 countries. It consists of around 1200 governmental and civic society organizations to which it provides data, assessment, and analysis. So, one of the key objectives is

to share the knowledge gathered by a global community of 16 000 scientists. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) product is practically a conservation database and a tool that provides information about the environment. (IUCN, 2017b)

These conservation tools are databases:

- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assesses risk of species extinction
- The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems assesses risk of ecosystem collapse
- Protected Planet assesses protected areas
- Ecolex provides a gateway to environmental law
- Green List of well-managed protected areas. (IUCN, 2017e)

Moreover, it publishes publications, reports, guidelines, more than 150 books and other documents such as major assessments every year related to conservation and sustainable development. Working with many partners and experts, it implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Since 2006, every year around 40 scientific papers listing "IUCN" as an author's affiliation have been published in the peer-reviewed literature indexed in the Web of Science. (IUCN, 2017f)

„IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NNOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organizations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development“.(IUCN, 2017b)

IUCN also provides linkage to EU institutions and stakeholders in Brussels. It connects and engages in policy dialogues with the EU institutions, governments, civil society, scientists, planners, practitioners, landowners, non-profit organizations, and business communities to improve policy and sustainable development. The IUCN has several offices and one of them is also the IUCN European Regional Office representing around 330 European Members of the Union. In the Czech Republic, there are following members: Nature agency for conservation CZ (government organization), CZ Union for conservation and nature (national NNO), The Ministry of environment (state), Management of National Park Giant Mountains (affiliate) and Union of Czech and Slovak Zoological gardens as an international NNO. (IUCN, 2017c, d)

The European Regional Office is engaged in a range of policy areas and projects. For instance, the European Red List of Threatened Species helps to inform policymakers as well as the general public on the status of species in Europe. The cooperation with local and regional authorities supports the promotion of nature-based solutions and highlights the pioneering role of IUCN in attracting new audiences to biodiversity conservation.

Over the years, the European Regional Office has built close relationships with the European Commission, the European Parliament, and with two important platforms: the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and the European Habitats Forum.

IUCN is considered one of the most influential conservation organizations in the world together with the WWF and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

It has established a network covering all aspects of global conservation via its worldwide membership of governmental and non-governmental organizations, the participation of experts in the IUCN commissions, formal involvement in international agreements, ties to intergovernmental organizations and increasing partnerships with international businesses. The World Conservation Congress and the World Parks Event organized by IUCN are the largest gatherings of organizations and individuals involved in conservation worldwide. They involve governmental organizations, NNOs, media, academia, and the corporate sector.

The IUCN activities are supported by donors and contributors including governments, multilateral institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international conventions, foundations, companies, and individuals. These donors or partners are supporting the implementation of a large number of on-the-ground projects throughout the world that have significant development and conservation results. Among the partners and donors belong for example BirdLife International, The World Bank Group or United Nations Environment Programme. (IUCN, 2017a, b, g)

### **3.6.5 EU Environmental Citizens Organization for Standardisation**

European Environmental Citizens Organization for Standardisation (ECOS) is only one non-profit environmental organization worldwide specialized in standardization and technical product policies. It focuses on standards developed to support EU environmental legislation and policies. Its objective is also to represent EU environmental non-profit organizations in decision-making processes related to standards. Its partners are for example the EC, European Committee for Standardisation or International organization for standardization (ISO). It is created mainly by the EU and European Free Trade Association. It promotes environmental aspects in the development of standards and specifications at European and international level. This standardization contributes to a sustainable economy and allows effective and proper implementation of European legislation. (ECOS, 2016b)

Their vision is „a clean and healthy environment where people live in respect of the planet and its natural resources, preserving them for future generations“. (ECOS, 2016b)

The mission is „to influence the development of ambitious strategies to reduce and control sources of environmental pollution, and to promote resource and energy efficiency, environmental health and sustainable development“. (ECOS, 2016b)

It also discusses with the EU institutions how the processes can be improved, especially with respect to transparency and civil society representation and participation in the European standardization system. The ECOS together with the EU Commission or different members publishes position papers or working plans. It also supports environmental NNOs in their involvement in standardization. From this point of view, the key benefit for partners and members is ECOS's technical

expertise regarding standards and their application to their work at national level. (ECOS, 2016a)

In 2016, ECOS membership included 42 well-respected members, including 9 pan-European organizations and 33 national organizations (in the Czech Republic – Green circle) from 22 European countries. Among the Pan-European organizations belong for example the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE), Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL), European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) or WWF-European Policy Office. (ECOS, 2016a)

ECOS cooperates with NNOs and the EU through different projects and activities such as:

- eMobility standardisation activities,
- co-lead the drafting of the CEN Guidance document, to provide realistic and pragmatic calculation methods for buildings, systems, components, and materials for every relevant aspect of a building,
- contribute to the preparation of recommendations for the adoption, promotion and use of the Guide by standardizes,
- identify standardisation needs related to the Circular Economy Package,
- take part in the development of standard ISO 817 for the designation and safety classification of refrigerants. (ECOS, 2016c)

Moreover, the ECOS is leading the organization of the Coolproducts Campaign aimed to ensure the promotion and defense of the environmental interests in EU environmental regulations for energy-related products (Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Policies). ECOS was also participating in The MarketWatch project (April or May 2013 till March 2016). It was a key project for the involvement of civil society in market surveillance, involving 16 environmental NNOs and consumer NNO partners in 10 Member States. ECOS is a central partner, leading one Work Package, contributing technically and supervising the participation of environmental NNOs in the project. The Czech partner of this project is the non-profit organization SEVEN with a mission to protect the environment and support economic development through effective using of energy. (ECOS, 2016d, e)

### **3.7 Environmental NNOs and networks in CZ**

The previous chapter discussed networks called Green 10 which is the largest coalition performing at the European level. To get to know more about networking in the Czech Republic, I have chosen to describe the Czech coalition called Green circle. This chapter is about communication and cooperation of the Green circle and their members, and important NNOs which perform in the Czech Republic.

#### **3.7.1 Green circle**

It is an independent non-political association of 26 important ecological non-profit organizations working in the Czech Republic. It is one of the oldest non-profit organizations in the Czech Republic set up in 1989. Beside member organizations, it



includes almost 80 other organizations. All members organizations are listed in the appendix A. It is also a member of the European Environmental Bureau EEB and European Environmental Citizens Organization for Standardization. The supreme body is plenary assembly consisting of representatives of all member organizations having meetings once a year. The function of the organization is managed by statutes. It cooperates with its members, provides media and legislative services. (ZK, 2017b)

The activities of Green circle are:

- Monitors processes, laws and other parliament materials.
- Provides regular environmental information services to other organizations.
- Coordinates legislative campaigns.
- Supports interests of public focused on sustaining quality environment protection.
- Monitors the issue of citizens' participation in project decision-making.
- Provides transparent financing from structural funds and supports the funding of NNOs.
- Lobbying activities such as speaking to MPs, senators, ministers and provides contact information and meetings and analyzes MPs' voting on key laws.
- Helps to create partnerships, organizes mutual events or projects between organizations based on the departmental platform.
- Publishes news spreads actualities and petitions through social media and promotes interests of member organizations. (ZK, 2017a, b)

The aims are to strengthen the ability of environmental organizations to participate in the decision-making process of environmental laws and to strengthen the positive image of environmental NNOs and civic activism among the Czech public. There are several tools to reach these aims such as professional consultation, expert working groups, practical advocacy information, awareness-raising campaign, promotion of principles of transparency, integrity, and professionalism. (ZK, 2017b)

In the next chapter are described selected organizations of Green circle and their activities. From many projects organized and supported by the organizations of the Green circle, only a few of them are selected to better understand how they cooperate with citizens and organizations, either profit or non-profit.

### **3.7.1.1 Environmental Partnership association**

It was established in 1991 as one of large Czech environmental foundation located in Brno. Its aim is to provide professional services, grants, educate public and organize informative campaigns. The main topics of the foundation are transport, renewable energy sources, education, greenery in cities, water management, cycling and trekking and others. (NadaceP, 2017)

The international cooperation is running through a consortium called Environmental Partnership Association (EPA). EPA is a consortium of six foundations from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, which are Fondaciya EkoObshtnost (BG), Fundatia Pentru Parteneriat (RO), Fundusz Partnerstwa (PL), Nadácia Ekopolis (SK), Nadace Partnerství (CZE) and Ökotárs Alapítvány (HU). (EPA, 2017a)

EPA is supporting community-based projects whose goals are to protect the environment and support local communities and civic society. It operates on the basis of a Consortium Agreement between independent, self-governing, and not-for-profit national foundations. It is a legal entity founded under Czech law. EPA is a member of the European Cyclists' Federation and European Greenways Association. EPA coordinates the European cycle route network EuroVelo at the national level in Central European countries. EPA initiated the project European Tree of the Year. EPA is also a partner of European projects; these are for example INTERREG, Europa Aid, Grundtwig and national structural funds. EPA provides professional counseling for NNOs and small municipalities on effective use of the EC funds at the national level. (EPA, 2017a)

The Foundation has divided activities into three main topics. Each topic is discussed below:

#### Sustainable Mobility and Urban Development

„We promote sustainable development in urban areas through both integrated urban planning and eco-design, as well as through corporate institutional planning for mobility and working environment of their employees“.

They support it by training and assistance programme, urban, school or corporate mobility plans development and promotion, mobility campaign – Bike to work or Euro Velo and Greenways development. The project Euro Velo and Greenways development is promoting the non-motorised transport connecting the urban areas with countryside as part of Trans-European Transportation Network (TEN-T) by means of international conference on Greenways at Elbe Trail in the Czech Republic, participation of Central European Greenways in Annual Meeting of the European Cyclists Federation in Dublin and organization and participation in the European Greenways and cycle tourism conference with focus on sustainable forms of transport. (EPA, 2017b)

#### Climate Change Education

„We raise awareness about top-modern technologies and advanced procedures and promote their practical use to combat climate change“.(EPA, 2017b)

The activities which support education include Open Garden Life story book which is an educational lesson by using a model of passive energy complex of the buildings to promote and communicate climate change. Other activities are training programs for students, grantees and professional public, roundtables, and workshops or water contests and awards organized with the cooperation of international network. (EPA, 2017b)

### Promotion of Natural Capital and Biodiversity Protection

„We promote sustainable development in urban areas through both integrated urban planning and eco-design, as well as through corporate institutional planning for mobility and working environment of their employees“.(EPA, 2017b)

The European GreenBelt Conference in Slavonice is the international week-long bicycle ride organized by EPA partners along the GreenBelt/Iron Curtain from Sopron/Bratislava/AT/CZ to Slavonice to celebrate the GreenBelt conference. The European Tree of the Year is the contest at the national level in all participating countries with on-line voting for the European tree of the year from the winners of the national Tree of the Year contests in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Poland, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, organizing award ceremony in Brussels, attracting important stakeholders including EU policy makers, think-tanks, NNOs, politicians and general public as well. Another activity is the Green Spaces action programme which promotes the creation of green spaces in urban and rural areas in order to affect micro-climates to adapt to global warming by means of support of community best action of tree planting and tree treatments. One of their activities is also the Green Entrepreneurship programme which supports investments in the environment. It is a social enterprise incubation by means of three-year training, assistance and a small start-up grant programme developed in Romania, and investigation of its spread into other CCE countries incl. establishment of cooperation with ASHOCA network. (EPA, 2017b)

#### **3.7.1.2 Greenpeace CZ**

It is an independent non-profit ecological organization established in 1991 to protect the environment. It uses campaigns as the unforced and creative confrontation to point out global environmental problems. It promotes key solutions for improvement of the environment for future generations. Greenpeace is focused on protection of oceans and primeval forests, sustainable rural development, climate change, and prohibition of toxic materials. Following these topics of interest, the Greenpeace have created several campaigns and actions towards the better environment, below is provided an example of one action called Palm oil campaign. (GP, 2014a, b)

According to a huge wildfire in history at the beginning of 2016 caused by the increasing palm oil plantation, the Greenpeace has taken a look at business practices. The most the worst practices were founded in corporations like Pepsi CO, Colgate – Palmolive and Johnson&Johnson. Due to the non-sustainable and non-transparent purchase of palm oil, the Greenpeace CZ sent a challenge to regional branches of Pepsi Co and Colgate-Palmolive, and a petition to Johnson&Johnson. The success of Greenpeace was that the corporation Colagate-Palmolive terminated the contract with controversial suppliers and found a solution how to improve purchase of palm oil. This campaign has been supported by many demonstrations and petitions. (Hrábek, 2017)

Moreover, at the end of the year 2016, an international meeting in the Czech Republic was organized. It was the first meeting where the highest leaders of Greenpeace came to the Czech Republic. The meeting was in Prague where media and communication experts from different places from Iceland to India and from Norway to the Republic of South Africa came. The leaders discussed new trends in communication and energy topics. The main programme of the meeting was a creation of new concept called The Framework which will increase a global interest of the organization. (Hrábek, 2017)

### **3.7.1.3 FoE CZ**

FoE CZ is one of the largest and best-known Czech non-governmental environmental organizations. It successfully promotes environmental solutions to ensure a healthy and clean environment. FoE CZ advocates for better environmental policies, works with the public, policymakers, experts, and journalists. FoE CZ focuses especially on the issues of energy and climate protection, resources and nature protection. The partners of FoE CZ are environmental NNOs such as for example Greenpeace, FrankBold, Veronica ecological institut, Nesehnuti or Neziskovky.cz. It is a member of organizations like Bankwatch, FoEE, and Green circle. (HD, 2016a, b, c, d)

The communication runs on the basis of campaigns, public mobilization, challenges, publications, excursions, expertise, advocacy of new laws etc. It operates on a national and international level. The activities of FoE CZ are supported by donors, celebrities, politics and experts or prestige companies. Another activity by which FoE CZ is supported is a beneficial shop that offers small accessories, textile or books. Moreover, the NNO is supported by regional communities which are branches of FoE CZ center in Brno. (HD, 2016a, b, c, d, e)

### **3.7.1.4 Ecological Institut Veronica**

Ecological Institut Veronica was registered in 1999 as a member of Essential organization Czech union of conservation Veronica. It is a fellowship without legal subjectivity which shares statutes with the Czech union of conservation Veronica. It has offices in Brno and Hostěněnín and it is operated at regional and international level. The Ecological Institut Veronica does professional and educational activities for the public, experts, educational institutions or NNOs. It publishes an environmental cultural magazine Veronica and provides ecological consulting in CZ. One of the projects that is supporting consulting service is an information phone line called Green phone. The main areas in which Veronica operates are environmental protection, protection of climate and sustainable development. Beside publishing activities, it communicates with other NNOs or citizens by organizing lectures, seminars, conferences, discussions or forums. It also organizes vernissages, bio fairs, excursions, performances. (Veronica, 2017a, b, c)

The Institut Veronica established additional civic associations which are the Network of ecological consulting offices, Union for river Morava and Tradition

of the White Carpathians. Moreover, the Institut Veronica is a member of several big associations as for example the Czech Union of conservation, Ceeweb - European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity, and Czech climate coalition. (Veronica, 2017a, b, c)

### **3.8 Associations and networks of NNOs in CZ**

The non-profit sector in the Czech Republic is individualistic and there are since the 90s successful merging of NNOs into networks or roofs. Recently, in the Czech Republic exist around 70-80 entities as networks or roofs. In general, networks are less formal than roofs, they are free of charge organized NNOs with an aim to share information and are organized on a democratic principle without vertical control. The roofs are the exact opposite, they are vertically controlled in an official form and often financed by membership fees. The aim of the roofs is to represent its members in advocating interests. In the Czech Republic, networks and roofs are sectoral or multisectoral. The sectoral networks or roofs were created with the aim to share experiences, solve problems and cooperate with the public affair in specific areas. Multisectoral coalitions are gathered NNOs of different areas of interest which are representing non-profit sector as a whole. In general, it is more popular to create a sectoral coalition than a multisectoral coalition in the Czech Republic. There is also an evidence that more than 50 % of sectoral networks are members in a relevant sectoral roof abroad at the EU level. It is because this process of networking is perceived as positive. The Czech NNOs see there benefits in prestige, sharing professional knowledge or reaching their objectives by making new connections or getting inspiration from abroad and sharing finance. Moreover, the European grant programs prefer the cooperation of NNO coalitions on one project because a network can better lobby in public affairs. Although there are many benefits for NNOs, there is also a threat of losing sovereignty by creating an international coalition, high membership fees or concentration on different interests. In the Czech Republic, half of sectoral roofs are also a part of a network. As an example of the sectoral roof is the Green circle and a foreign network is the European environmental bureau. The most important sectoral roofs in the Czech network is Association of NNOs in CZ called ANNO CZ. According to Pospisilova, until 2015, the ANNO CZ had three members from sectoral roof coalitions. It could happen because of the fact that a wide range of organizations and individuals can benefit from the roof and another membership is not so attractive. But also it can be the consequence of charges which a roof has to pay if it participates in the network. More about ANNO CZ is discussed in the next chapter.

The network of NNOs is not cooperating only with roofs of NNOs but also with the state. Until the end of April of 2016, was created criteria for choosing roof NNO to long-term cooperation with the government. The criteria were recommended to members of government and government representatives in the Czech Republic to use them. The criteria where sent to the Ministries of the Czech Republic to use them for the right choice of a long-term partnership from possible NNOs.

Beside official government support bodies or the Czech networks, the environmental NNOs can be supported by various NNOs whose main purposes are to strengthen democratic values, civic rights and advocate tolerance or spread educational enlightenment. These organizations are for example Civic Society Development Foundation (NROS) or Neziskovky.cz. (UV CR, 2015 – 2020)

### **3.8.1 Association of Non-profit Nongovernmental Organizations**

Association of NNOs in the Czech Republic is a multisectoral organization with the regional structure. The number of members is 45 which cooperate with around 900 own member's NNOs and represent more than 1, 3 million citizens in the CZ. The association has a partnership with Ministries of the Czech Republic mostly with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional development or Ministry of health care and RNNO. This network supports its members through providing information and consultation services as well as grants. The main tool how the network communicates is a project realization. Through projects, it runs an effective communication and cooperation with partners, institutions, and public. It also cooperates on making decisions about legislation on NNO mainly through an external NNO platform. The external NNO platform is based on meetings with representatives of important NNO which are held six times a year. The ideas and comments are brought to the Senate of the Czech Republic. Members of the association also participate in public listenings in the Senate related to NNO issues. Among other communication tools belong a cycle of educational seminars for leaders of NNO in the region. Moreover, the network works with autonomies, stakeholders in regions, Parliament, universities, municipal governments or an international organization V-4. The environmental partners include for example the Czech union for nature conservation which belongs to Asociation NNO in South Moravian region. (ANNO-CR, 2015a, b, c)

### **3.8.2 Civic Society Development Foundation**

„Civic Society Development Foundation NROS is one of the oldest foundations in the Czech Republic dedicated to the promotion of the non-profit sector and the development of civil society.“ It was established in 1993 and has supported more than 4800 projects. They are providing endowment contribution from the grants of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and private and corporate sources. Until now they have provided 1.7 billion CZK. (NROS, 2011a)

The project called Fund for NNOs is designed for NNOs' activities such as promoting the public interest, strengthening the capacity of NNOs, developing their professionalism, decreasing regional differences and strengthening democracy as well as sustainable development and social fairness. This project is supported by Nadace Partnerstvi and financed from EHP funds for a granted period. Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein are donor countries in the EHP mechanism and Norway funds. They are helping to decrease economic and social differences in the European Economic Area. The funds have been divided into four areas from which 232

non-profit projects were funded by 256 million CZK in a period 2014-2016. One of the areas is the Environment protection and climate change from which 50 environmental projects out of 196 applications were funded by 52 million CZK. The founded NNOs were for example Czech union of nature conservation, Green circle, FoEE Czech Republic, Arnika, Frank Bold Society, Nesehnuti or Veronica. In order to the increase of awareness about sustainable development, environment protection and quality of life or climate protection, 1419 tools by environmental NNOs were used in the period 2014-2016. These tools included, for example, educational events, community events or campaigns. The aim of these activities was also to support capacity and development of NNOs, increase the professionalism of workers or volunteers, openness towards a discussion about recent environmental topics. (NROS, 2011b; Fondnno.cz, 2017a, b; Fondnno.cz, 2009 – 2014)

### **3.8.3 Neziskovsky.cz**

Foundation Neziskovsky.cz is a non-governmental organization of public beneficial character. It belongs to a group of Czech NNOs with the longest tradition and initially participated in the development of the Czech non-profit sector itself. Their mission is to provide education, information, and counseling services for NNOs and strengthen mutual cooperation between NNOs. (Neziskovsky, 2017b)

Recently the Neziskovsky.cz in cooperation with BARD Public relations agency created a new project called Non-profit Networking. The project is focused on strengthening cooperation with other partners and helping to share information or contacts better. The project is based on regular meetings with different people, professionals, and individuals. The first meeting was arranged on 8.12.2016. Through these meetings, organizations or individuals have an opportunity to get inspirations, know-how, advice or solve their problems. (Svět neziskovek, 2016), (Neziskovsky, 2017c)

Neziskovsky.cz provides a tool to find a NNO as a potential partner more easily. It is called Catalog of NNOs where each NNO can find an own partner for a special project. Moreover, they provide accreditation or requalification courses for NNOs to strengthen their professionalism but also to support networking and cooperation between them. (Neziskovsky, 2017b)

However, there are many NNOs on the Czech market which are active in the development of civic society and protect civic rights and freedoms. These three NNOs can be considered as the most important parts of the non-profit sector that provide the basis for the development of many NNOs and networks in CZ. The next chapter is focused on a financial contribution from different sources as an important support for NNOs.

### 3.9 Financial support from the EU

The main source of help for NNOs is financial support. The financial help can private or public institutions or organizations receive in different forms. One of the main forms of financing NNOs are grants from the structural funds. The main organ which is responsible or eligible to make direct financial support is the European Commission. The financial help in form of grants supports projects and organizations which contribute to the implementation of an EU programme or policy. This financial support provided for specific projects is managed directly by the EU. The organization can apply for the grant by responding to call for a proposal such as funding opportunities. The financial support, managed in partnership with nations in the total of more than 76% of EU budget, is provided through 5 big funds. These five funds are commonly called structural and investment funds and they consist of:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – regional and urban development
- European Social Fund (ESF) – social inclusion and good governance
- Cohesion Fund (CF) – economic convergence by less-developed regions
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) – improvement of environment and quality of life on the countryside.
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) – sustainable development of European fisheries and aquaculture. (EEU, 2017b)

The structural and investment funds are provided for the period 2014-2020 with the total budget of 454 billion Euros. The main purpose of using these funds is to establish a clear link with the Europe 2020 growth strategy. The Czech Republic obtains almost 24 billion Euros for helping the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. The priority is to deliver a high level of employment, productivity and social cohesion to fulfill the strategy. The cohesion fund is a fund providing financial help for huge investment projects in the environment and transport sectors. 2,6 billion Euros is available in the operational programme for the environment. (MZP, 2008 – 2015a, b)

#### LIFE

Another programme which can be used for financing the environmental projects is called LIFE. The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It is a community programme through which the EU is providing 40-75% of financial support to public or private subjects from the EU. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating, and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. The European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action) manages the LIFE programme. In the LIFE programme 2014-2020 have participated NNOs as CEE, Foundation Partnership, CAN, T&E, WWF, FoEE, EEB or HEAL. This financial support develops an implementation of EU environmental or climate policy and openness of wide-ranging a dialogue



with all stakeholders. Their presence is important to provide a balance in relation to the interests of the actors. It is important that NNOs are able to take part in such a dialogue since they have a good understanding of public concerns on the environment and climate change. European NNOs are valuable, for example, in coordinating and channeling the views of national organizations and citizens as input to the decision-making process. To help with development and implementation of environmental and climate policy, they participate in preparatory work and expert groups and conduct research and studies. For example to give feedback and help shape European policies. Another example of an area where NNOs play an important role is awareness raising and environmental and climate education. (EC, 2017a, b, c)

#### Financial mechanism EEA and Norway

The EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 provided funding to 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. There were 32 programme areas within different sectors ranging from environmental protection and climate change to civil society and research. For the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, a total contribution of €2.8 billion from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway to 15 beneficiary countries has been agreed. The priorities for the 2014-2021 periods reflect the priorities of the EU and aim to respond to the shared challenges facing Europe. Key areas of support in the field of the environment have been: protecting biodiversity, improving environmental monitoring and control, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Total allocation during the period is 184.5 million and it is around 52,7 million more than in 2009-2014 period. In the Environment field is available 25, 5 million €. (EEA G-NG, 2017a, b)

Part of the EEA and Norway programme is a fund which has been established to strengthen bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and the donor countries within the programme areas of the EEA and Norway Grants. Support from the fund is being developed mainly in areas where cooperation already exists and is following the programme areas in the Czech Republic, focusing in particular on the environment, high-risk groups such as children and youth, and socially less integrated groups as well as equal opportunities, culture, scholarships and research, public health and judicial cooperation. The fund is supporting relevant activities including organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences, arranging study trips for Czech experts to the donor countries and vice versa. (EEA G-NG, 2017a, b)

Although there are many instruments providing financial support to environmental NNOs, there is still decreasing the amount of provided finance. According to a conference in Prague called a Nonprofit organization in the year 2016, it was confirmed that in the next years the financial support from the European funds will decrease tremendously. (Šedivý, Horecký, 2017)

### Special programmes for NNOs operating in environment sector

The NNOs operating in the environment sector can draw finance from the European funds. Thanks to grants getting from different funds they can carry out projects for environment protection. EU grants for environment projects for period 2014-2020 are provided to several programmes including:

- Operating programme Environment: it contributes to the improvement of climate conditions, water, and soil conditions, solving problems of waste management, support of using renewables and building infrastructure for environmental education. The operational programme Environment 2014–2020 has provided almost 2,64 billion euros. The Ministry of Environment is the authority and the entity which is mediating finance is the State Environmental fund of the CZ.
- Integrated regional operating programme: it is a programme for international cooperation operating in following countries:
  - Interreg V-A Slovak Republic – Czech Republic
  - Interreg V-A Austria – Czech Republic
- Programme cross-border cooperation: orientated on cross-border cooperation to decrease economic and environmental differences
  - Programme of cross-border cooperation Czech Republic – Bavaria 2014–2020
  - Programme of cooperation Czech Republic –Sasko 2014–2020
- Others – New Green to saving
- Programme development of the countryside. (MMR ČR, 2016a, b)

#### **3.9.1 Financing of NNOs in the Czech Republic**

In this chapter, we will focus on different types of financing of non-profit sector by the Czech Republic. These different types of financial assistance from the Czech Republic can be:

- Public budget – it is the most important financial resource for NNOs. NNOs can obtain financial support from state, regions, and municipalities based on grant policies. State grant is provided by central state administration bodies for the purpose set in advance. It is provided to the certain NNOs for appointed project or activities for one budget year. In order to obtain donation, there is a set of rules which should be fulfilled called “Government principles for providing donations from the state budget to CZ NNO by central bodies of state administration”. It includes following:
  - State donations are provided by ministries. The projects for which it is providing have to be in the content of main tasks of responsible ministry.
  - State donations are divided based on the results from donations selection procedure.
  - Donations do not exceed 70 % of budget expenditures on the accepted project.

- State donation has to be charged out by the beneficiary by the end of January of the following calendar year after the relevant budget year. (Boukal, Vávrová, 2007)

In 2014, 10580 grants from the state budget in the amount of 9322, 4 million CZK were provided. The financial support is provided by the Ministry of Environment according to Act number 6/2010 on Providing financial resources from the State fund of environment of the CR. The Ministry of Environment provided 58,9 million CZK in 2014. It was around 30% higher than in the year 2013. Although the year 2014 was successful in long-term period, there is a decrease in the number of grants provided by the Ministry of Environment in the Czech Republic. The national financial support is provided through the State Fund of the Environment of the CR. This State Fund of Environment of the CR is an important financial source for environment protection and development. Moreover, there is an additional programme, Operational programme Environment and programme New green to savings, called National Environmental Programme which supports projects and activities contributing to environmental protection in the Czech Republic. (UV CR, 2015; Deník.cz, 2015)

Financial donations from regional or municipal budgets are available to non-profit sector entities other than particular NNOs. This financial help is specified according to law No. 218/2000 Col., on Budget regulations of the republic, law No. 250/2000 Col., on Budget regulations of territorial budgets, law No. 129/2000 Col., on Regions and law No. 128/2000 Col., on Municipalities.

- Endowment investment fund – established in the year 1991 based on law N. 171/1991 Col. for purpose foundation appointed by the chamber of deputies of the Czech parliament based on government proposal. The government provided 1 % of stocks from the second coupon privatization as a property of this fund. The proposal for redistribution of resources was prepared by the Council of government for foundation later known as the Council of government for NNOs in the year 1997. The NIF has an important role in the financing of foundations.
- Foundation and endowment funds – they are funded by Endowment investment funds and next they redistribute these funds to other non-profit organizations in a form of grants. It is regulated by law No. 227/1997 Col., on Foundations and endowment funds.
- Tax allowance – state supports NO, legal entities established not for making a profit, indirectly with different types of tax allowances and immunities.
  - Income tax – based on law No. 586/1992 Col., on Natural person income tax can subtract their financial support from the tax base for legal entities on financing culture, education, environment et cetera.
  - Value added tax according to law No. 235/2004 Col. is not related to NO as they are not established for making a profit.
  - Inheritance and gift tax – according to Senate legal action No. 340/2013, the non-profit organizations have free of charge property meant for the financing of public beneficial activities, the property of

universally beneficial organizations, foundations and endowment funds, property for humanitarian charitable purposes, related to the performance of voluntary services, property from public collection.

- Property tax – according to law No. 338/1992 Col., on Property tax the non-profit organizations are free of land and buildings taxes, free of properties taxes in ownership of civic beneficial associations and universally beneficial associations, properties serving social care, foundations, and development of environment
- Corporate donations and corporate foundation and funds – corporate organizations are beginning to be important actors in the world of non-profit organizations. They are supporting NO and directly cooperating on supported programmes and activities. The NO benefits from allocated financial resources and the corporation benefit from active participation in preparation and realization of supported activities. Public corporate donors take part in the formation of citizens society in the state. The corporate donations include, for example, sponsorships. This support is set according to Business law and collection of tax laws.
- Individual donations – an example of individual donation is a public collection which is also an important financial source. This kind of support is explained according to law No. 117/2001 Col., on Public collections.
- Gambling and lottery – it is another possibility how to obtain financial support for non-profit sector based on law No. 202/1990 Col., on Lotteries and other similar games. Every lottery, casino or other gambling games operator is obliged to provide part of the profit for the public beneficial activities. The financial endowment remains in the region or municipality in which the gambling game is run.

There are also other forms of NO funding as for example self-financing: membership fees (financial resource in civic associations, it is stable but not very important due to small amount of contributing money), revenues from own activities (sale of own products which are directly connected with mission of non-profit organization or revenues from rent), et cetera. (Boukal, Vávrová, 2007; Deverová, 2008; Guasti, 2007)

## 4 Methodology

In order to meet the main goal of the thesis, it was necessary to study the available literature and to examine available research and findings. But the most important was to make research to suggest the recommendation for the Czech environmental NNOs how to enhance the cooperation with the European environmental NNOs. The primary data had been got from the questionnaire (quantitative approach) and from structured interviews (qualitative approach). The interviews (n=5) and questionnaires (n=102) were focused on experts and managers from ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic. The interviews consist of four topics.

### 4.1 Qualitative approach

The qualitative method of survey is a method focused on the information about how the individuals or groups of people look at the issues or understand it. The interview was chosen for the qualitative method of survey. The structured interview was made with different representatives of ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic. Between these ecological NNOs belong FoE CZ, Czech union of conservation and nature, Ecological Institute Veronica, Greenpeace CZ and Environmental Partnership Association. The structured interviews have been used for getting more detailed information about topics. The disadvantage of this approach is that it cannot give enough objective information because of the small number of participated respondents. Then can be said that it is more focused on gathering subjective opinions and impressions. The structured interviews were made with each respondent individually in different places. The aim of structured interviews was to get information and opinions about how the cooperation is running between participated ecological NNOs and other subjects recently.

#### 4.1.1 The interviews

The interviews were recorded in Czech language and then translated to the English language. The interviews were made with 5 people with different backgrounds who were from different ecological organizations. The respondents were informed about the purpose of the interview. One interview was processed online through online program Skype and rest of them personally. These interviews provide unique information because of their diversities between the respondents. Each of them works at different work position and answered questions from the different point of view. According to many differences between answers, there are many agreements in statements. The interviews were completed in written forms and then were encoded according to the special key. The example of the encoded interview can be seen in appendix C. The encoded interviews were divided into common categories.

The interview was divided into four topics and each topic consists of several questions related to issues of these topics. There belong these:

- Financial cooperation between Czech ecological NNOs and governmental institutions or NNOs (later called Financial cooperation).
- Cooperation of governmental institutions and Czech ecological NNOs and vice versa (later called Cooperation with government institutions).
- Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with EU ecological NNOs (later called Cooperation with EU ecological NNOs).
- Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with individual subjects and NNOs working in different fields of interests (later called Cooperation with other NNOs and individuals).

## 4.2 Quantitative survey

The objective of the quantitative survey was to get information about current cooperation between ecological NNOs and governmental or non-governmental organizations. The information was got from the questionnaire that was used for the recommendation. The quantitative survey was taken between selected Czech ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic. The form of the quantitative survey was online questionnaire distributed by email addresses that were got from official websites of selected Czech ecological NNOs. A number of addressed Czech ecological NNOs was 575. Only 102 Czech ecological NNOs contributed to the quantitative survey. A total number of sent questionnaire was 1090. The questionnaires were sent to several employees of one NNO to increase the probability of fulfilled questionnaires. The 65% of emails were not opened or there were bounced. From the rest of the sent emails, 32% were opened and filled by respondents. The data from the quantitative survey has been collected for one month.

The online questionnaire was created in Google form in Slovak languages. The translated version of the questionnaire you can see in Appendix B. After the answers were analyzed and the results were translated into English. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first section has included the questions related to Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with governmental subjects and the second section has been related to the topic of Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with other NNOs or individuals. The different types of questions such as opened with one answer, opened with multiple choices and closed were used in the questionnaire. The respondents could use answer "other" where they could fill in their own answer in several questions. Moreover, the questionnaire consisted of a grid that had several claims and respondents could choose on the scale from 1 to 5 how much they agree with the claim. The scale was limited from 1 to 3 for the evaluation of these statements.

The hypothesis and research questions related to questions in the questionnaire are according to ascertaining facts from questionnaires confirmed or not. The hypothesis and research questions are set below.

Research questions and hypothesis 0 related to cooperation with governmental subjects:

- Do at least 70% of the NNOs cooperate with governmental organs and institutions?
- Do at least 70% of ecological NNOs use financial support as a form of the cooperation with the governmental organs or institutions?
- How has a financial support been developed from the individual governmental subjects in last decade?
  
- Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and type of cooperation with governmental subjects.
- Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and forms of the cooperation with the governmental subjects.
- Dependency does not exist between the forms of the cooperation and their conditions to obtain it.
- Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and the behavior of the cooperation with governmental subjects.
- Dependency does not exist between the degree of satisfaction in cooperation with the national subjects and opportunities of the cooperation.

Research questions and hypothesis 0 related to cooperation with NNO's subjects:

- Cooperate at least 80% of NNOs with other nonprofit subjects?
- Is at least for 70% of NNOs reason of cooperation support of the interest of the organization?
  
- Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and NNO's subject of the cooperation.
- Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and type of the association they are members of.
- Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction in cooperation with NNOs and type of the NNOs.
- Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and behavior of the cooperation.
- Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and the opportunities with the NNOs.

#### **4.2.1 Analysis of quantitative survey**

The questionnaires were evaluated with the assistance of the programme Statistica 12 and MS Excel. The questions were calculated minimum, maximum, arithmetic mean, median, modus and standard deviation in form of grids. The stated hypotheses were tested through crosstabs. The significance value was adjusted on  $\alpha=0,05$ . It was used a p-value of Pearson chi-square (Crosstabs) or p-value of Fisher's exact test for the evaluation of the independence or dependence. The degree of inde-

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pendence was evaluated through contingency coefficient and Cramer V. coefficient. The interval for the coefficients is between 0 and 1. The value near to 1 means strong dependency and value near to 0 weak dependencies. Mean value is between 0,2 and 0,4.



## **5 Practise**

This section is divided according to types of the survey into different chapters. The first chapter is provided the output from the qualitative survey, the interviews and second chapter quantitative survey, the questionnaires.

### **5.1 Evaluation of the interviews**

The topics of interviews are divided to three subheads and to each topic is provided analyzed answers from representatives from different Czech ecological NNOs. The analysis of representatives is also provided in this subhead.

#### **5.1.1 Analysis of the representatives**

The introduction of 5 representatives who are part of the qualitative approach is provided in this subhead. All of them are members of some Czech ecological NNO and work on the place of heads of the offices. All the respondents have agreed with possibilities of using their all names for purpose of diploma thesis without anonymity. The detailed information about date, place, and length of interviews, work position of representatives and other identifications about respondents is in the short introduction. The information is registered in the table below.

Table 1. Specifications of Interviews

<b>Name of the NNOs</b>	<b>Name of the respondent</b>	<b>Work position or work section</b>	<b>Main job content</b>	<b>Date of the interview</b>	<b>Place of the interview</b>	<b>Length of the interview (min.)</b>
<b>Ecological Institute Veronica</b>	RNDr. Mojmír Vlašín	Ecologist and manager of projects	conservation and nature, Nature 2000, handicap animals	14.02. 2017	Brno, Ecological Institute Veronica	58:10
<b>FoE CZ</b>	Marie Horáková	Financial manager	Financial coordination, acquisition of grants, accounting of projects	15.02. 2017	Brno, FoE CZ	37:57
<b>EPA</b>	Simona Škarabelová	Fundraising manager	Fundraising activities	20.02. 2017	Brno, Environmental Partnership Association	51:42
<b>CUCN</b>	Mgr. Václav Izák	Chairman of commission for foreign affairs in CUCN	Coordination of professional activities of CUCN	20.02. 2017	Brno, FoE CZ	59:26
<b>GP CZ</b>	Jana Pravdová	Coordinator of civic society	Integration of civic society to global ecological problems	17.03. 2017	Brno	51:35

### Financial cooperation

There are many possibilities how to get the grants or the donations from a governmental side. It was described in chapter 3.9. Financial support from EU and in 3.9.1. Financing of NNOs in the Czech Republic. The ecological Czech NNOs can reach cooperation with EU or the Czech Republic through the financial support. But this kind of cooperation is starting to decrease even if the money budget in the previous year was generous to NNOs. Now, there is a continuous decrease of provided grants. In my opinion, the results like this can happen because of increased requests on getting grants for NNOs or decrease amount of money provided for the environmental non-profit sector.

Moreover, there are many NNOs which provide donations for different projects or campaigns to each other. In general, these NNOs are not disposed of a huge amount of money and they can choose just some ecological projects to help them succeed. Between the Czech NNOs providing financial help belong for example NROS or ANNO.

In the next set of questions are introduced questions about financial support which were given to respondents.

- Is a financial support from different subjects for your NNO important for continuing your activities?
- Do you use a financial support from the governmental organs? If yes, from which ones?
- Do you use a financial support from EU institutions or organizations?
- Do you use a financial support from NNOs? If yes from which ones?
- Can you say from what subject is the financial support the most difficult to obtain?
- How have they been changing a financial support from different subjects in last decade? Has it been decreasing or increasing?
- How could it be improved providing of financial support from EU resources and how from national resources? Are there any tools or possibilities how to make the financial cooperation more effective?
- Do you see any other possibilities how to find available finance for financing your activities? How could it be reached?

The all respondents point out that financial support is the most important cooperation between them and other subjects. They are ecological NNOs dependent on financial support whether from the governmental sector or from nongovernmental sector. The 4 respondents out of 5 are dependent on financial support from government subjects as Ministry of Environment in CZ, Ministry of Agriculture (Veronica), state fund of environment (EPA), or municipalities, regions, cities (here mainly Brno) and also from the European institutions as for example in form of grants or donations from European commission, Operating programs (FoE CZ), Life programs (EPA, CUCN). One of the representatives Greenpeace CZ does not use financial support from governmental institutions or organizations. They want to keep their independence from government to independently perform their activities without consideration on who is a financial supporter.

The financial support from nonprofit sector for these ecological NNOs is important. All of the ecological NNOs use financial resources from NNOs. There are three NNOs which refinance their resources to others in the Czech Republic. The one of the well-known NNO is called Environmental Partnership Association (EPA). This is a special type of ecological NNOs because except their own projects and activities their important activity is re-granting. Their activities are supported for example by German foundation DBU and Forest alliance. They also re-grant financial resources from Norway grants. I found a conflict between re-granting and self-financing of EPA. EPA is still more and more focused on self-financing what can be a problem for ecological NNOs. The respondent 4 says that EPA does it this way, they don't re-grant more but they do self-financing instead of supporting other NNOs. They fulfill their objectives and they have many own projects which are realized directly. There is a small amount of NNOs which financial support other NNOs in the Czech Republic.

Nowadays, a financial situation between ecological NNO is different than in the 90s. The Ecological Institute Veronica sees also these differences. The financing is a continual problem for all organizations similar to them. The financial support is "super important" for them as for ecological advisory center because their activities are professional and the professional consultants need training and it costs money. However, they get a ridiculous salary, they are there and answer questions via email or phone. And because their work is professional the money are needed, but nobody wants to give money from grants for salaries and this is the most problematic issue. If they want to do something they have to find money for it, nobody will give it to them automatically.

The different experiences have Greenpeace CZ which uses or accepts financial support just from the nongovernmental subject. They are dependent on foundations or individual subjects which are not connected with government. For example, they accept money from individual donors who aren't anonymous and they donate regularly (monthly) some financial amount of money to GP CZ.

The individual financial support is important part of all interviewed ecological NNOs. However, the ecological NNOs perceive that the financial support from governmental sector is decreasing. The trend of grant's support evidently decrease. The activities of ecological NNOs were supported much more before. There were more money in past and transformation of society was supported after revolution. Nowadays these resources are moving to the east and here are projects which are not so supported. For getting the financial support from governmental side is needed to do concrete activities with clear impact and measurable goals. According to some respondents these development of financial support was expected. It was predicted that the financial support from EU will be weakened after 2020. It is logical that is already limited in CZ.

Next problem is bureaucracy of grant's projects from governmental sector. The grant's systems are complicated; it takes hours of preparation of different documents. As respondent 2 explains "The more we use the state supports or operational programs, the more the financial support is interesting but more difficult

to obtain". On the other hand, the financial support is the easiest to get from ecological foundations, because they understand the needs of NNOs and they have "fast money". They have the easiest rules to obtain finance and they more believe to NNOs. This is missing in state donation's programs. But money which can be divided by these NNOs is less than from state. For example there are provided donation in minimum 20 millions from the EU level but are hardly reachable. Respondent 4 says that the Ministries or European institutions have much more difficult administration conditions what take a lot of time which the foundation want to spend on granted project. In that case, European financial support is used less because of very demanding conditions. Respondent 4 explains situation on example of Norway and Switzerland funds. "When I was on first meetings with donators from Norway, they made effort to listen to our opinions from NNOs at the beginning and they wanted to create the financial support according to these opinions. But at the end, the priorities of granted program was related to different issues than we discussed after our comments and discussion about important topics which is needed to deal with". Another example of difficulty to get financial support from governmental side is actual trend. It means that there are specific topics more financial supported than others in specific period. It will be more difficult to get financial support from governmental subject for the ecological NNOs which have portfolio of their activities narrower than for these whose portfolio is wider. The ecological NNOs with narrower portfolio are often forced to fit their activities to fulfill topic which donator consider being important.

There can be found many similarities with not re-granted NNOs if we look on the conditions of obtaining financial support from the side of re-granted ecological NNOs. As explain respondent 3 it is much easier to obtain financial support from NNOs than from EU organs or state. "I can give you example from our ecological NNOs where our grant administrative is easy for applicant because we do not redistribute such huge finance. Our grants are for planting trees in amount of 30 000 CZK – 50 0000 CZK. So, there is no reason to have difficult administrative and that's why NNOs, municipalities or cities can easily obtain it".

According to a current situation, the ecological NNOs are forced to find other possibilities how to obtain financial support. One of the possibilities is an individual sector. All of the respondents claim that it is still more and more important to find other financial possibilities besides governmental and endowment finance. In the case of FoE CZ half of financial support creates grants and other half individual donors. In the opinion of respondents, it would be the best if all the financial support would be from individual donors. These financial resources from other subjects are somehow bound with some project's plan or some granted conditions. Sometimes ecological NNOs are forced to use and offer their own capacity for a better price to firms and other subjects as school or group of people to obtain some finance.

### **Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with governmental subjects**

There is defined cooperation of European and Czech institutions with NNOs especially focus on ecological NNOs in chapter 3.5. The cooperation of governmental institutions with ecological NNOs is various. It is not counted financial support in this subhead because it has been discussed in the previous subhead. Here are mainly consultations, publications, debates, hearings or listening in this cooperation. The governmental organizations or institutions are also providing possibilities to participate in seminars and workshops or meetings with deputies. Moreover, they help by providing guidelines, advisory materials or plans to ecological NNOs.

This is just one part of the coin; another part creates a communication from the side of ecological NNOs towards governmental institutions. This communication is different. The ecological NNOs try to draw the governmental institutions attentions to the various ecological global problems by studies, position papers, analysis and other documents providing facts about changing and influencing the environment. It can be also done by nother way as demonstration or mobilization campaigns. It is known from the different resources that ecological NNOs want to focus on deputies and on creating better law in ecological issues. Many of these cooperations are lobby activities in the assertion of better law in ecological matters, it can be seen on examples in chapter 3.6., the different organizations of Green 10 are using, for example, open letters to change the law.

In the next set of questions are put questions to different representatives of Czech ecological NNOs how the cooperation is realized with EU institutions and organizations besides financial donations, whether the representatives of NNOs are satisfied with this cooperation or not and much more.

- As NNO do you cooperate with governmental institutions or organizations whether they are working on EU or national level? If yes with which ones and why?
- How do you communicate and cooperate with these governmental institutions or organizations?
- How do you as NNO speak to governmental institutions and organizations to cooperate with your NNO? What do you use to attract governmental institutions and organizations to make them cooperate with you?
- Is there balance between cooperation from your side and governmental side? Or are you or governmental side more pushing to cooperation?
- Are you satisfied with the cooperation which you have reached until now with governmental institutions and organizations, whether EU or CZ? If not, why? Is there difference between EU and national cooperation?
- Do you think that your cooperation with CZ or EU governmental institutions and organizations is effective? Are there any obstacles to make it more effective? Do you have idea what should be improved and how? Do you see any solutions for making cooperation smoother?
- Do you see now any other governmental institution or organs to which you would like to cooperate? Why?

The cooperation with the governmental side is really important for all of the respondents because all of them cooperate with governmental institutions or organizations. The contacts with governmental organs are wide because to reach system's changes they have to communicate with politics on different levels. The most frequent are different ministries, governmental parties or Government council for NNOs on different levels from assistant to the clerk. "There is strong need to communicate with these subjects to persuade them on solutions to which we want to move", respondent 2 says. Among the other statement can be provided "The spectrum of state governmental institutions or organs with which we cooperate is huge and we cooperate with whichever if the situation needs it", say respondent 1. The individual ecological NNOs also have a special case that they cooperate also with other subjects as Nature conservation agency of CZ, National Parks, Protected landscape area White Carpathians and Nature Inspection, city, and regional subjects.

Related to changes, the NNOs need their support as well the support of EU because it leads to changes and solutions of some laws and that is very important. Different ecological NNOs cooperate with different EU governmental subjects in different fields. It is through Brussels' parliament and it is related to topics such waste policy or conservation of nature and animals in case of ecological NNOs. Moreover, they can cooperate also on international level. As the example of foreign cooperation mediated through MoE can be an international on the convention about conservation of wetlands.

The communication between NNOs and governmental subjects is realized mostly by personal meetings or through the deputies who demand NNO's opinions or statements towards some topics and then they advocate it on EU level. The ecological NNOs mostly publish info letters for deputies to let them know what solutions are right in the opinion of ecological NNOs, organize seminars in the chamber for deputies or mobilize civic society and media to gain a bigger voice in some issue and by this to influence deputies.

The cooperation of all ecological NNOs with governmental organizations or institutions is so varied but the communication from the governmental side is sometimes less initiated than from NNOs. But it always depends on the type of cooperation. If the ecological NNOs publish some common studies it is the more non-confrontational character of cooperation. But in the case of changes in law, for example, the government wouldn't want to accept any law or comment on any law, it is more confrontational and the government would not be so open and cooperative. "We are NNO what has own campaigns and strategies and they often require commenting on plans or on conceptions they publish in the case of cooperation with governmental institutions. For example, if they would want to realize a project that could threaten the environment then the cooperation wouldn't be so friendly to them. Sometimes they do not want to communicate with us and fulfill our requirements. We use the different tools as petitions, a mobilization to government agrees with our requirements in this case" explains respondent 5. The initiation of cooperation from governmental side depends on people. There are

many governmental organizations and institutions which are established to support NNOs and to take in awareness their requirements and they do their job well. There are also governmental institutions which do not respect opinions or requirements of NNOs. As respondent 1 say "we are in a democracy and it is normal that sometimes the cooperation is good or bad, the governmental organizations and institutions just have to be aware of criticism from NNOs". The communication and cooperation depend on the key players at the ministries, on their backgrounds and experiences from the past. The people are different in government, they do or do not respect them as important players, do or don't meet their opinion, do or don't keep their promises. It is about people and their environment. The problem is mostly with differences between opinions or awarenesses of people about issues. If people do not have enough information and awareness about issues it is difficult to communicate or cooperate with them. If their experiences are positive from the past and their view is more open towards NNOs they are more pleasant. They are more respectful to them if they don't accept information about NNOs just from media. For example, the declaration of wetlands in three different states for the cooperation with governmental organs was difficult, as was in the case of cooperation between ecological NNOs and governmental subjects. The governmental subjects did not want to cooperate and the ecological NNOs should push them to make this declaration of significant wetlands placed in three specific areas. The view on NNOs can be also misrepresented by the media. The initiative can happen from the governmental organizations or institutions if there is created demand from civic society or EU organs and if CZ governmental organs do not have any experience and the non-profit sector has these experiences bigger. Then often happens that the governmental organs come to NNOs with the concrete assignment and want to cooperate with them on the concrete project. This happens sporadically and often it happens in ad hoc issues. It is just some request from the governmental side which needs to fill in for some reason. It can be for example that, they are reaching the deadline, they have to present the results from some activities and they do not have anyone. At that time, they are opened and they try to cooperate with NNOs more than any time before.

The respondents compare governmental subjects on national and EU level and all of them agreed that there is not a problem in communication on EU level at all. There is nobody who will let them know that they are unwelcome in Brussel's office. "They always have had time for us and have tried to help us because they know that they are here for us. We are that civic society that has some authority and they are on the opposite side where they are aware being here for us and more, they are well-paid for it. They understand that the public money is not theirs but it is the solution for problems in civic society", says respondent 1. The next example of respondent 1 presents how looks organization and preparation of European project Natura 2000. It is not the only project but it is European duty given by European law and law of each member of the state. The Brussels officers accept the NNOs as partners, give them advice and try to meet their expectations



Moreover, the cooperation can be just at a stroke or continuous between the governmental side and NNOs. More often the respondents stated that cooperation with governmental subjects is at a stroke. The respondent 5 say that the cooperation with national government is more at a stroke but abroad is conservation of nature perceiving differently and then the cooperation between governmental organs and NNOs is more intense from the governmental side than here. But it always depends on projects, subjects, and different other factors. Some programs which were created at the end of the 90s exist from this time continuously until these days. So they are supported by MoE more than 15 years, what is good and it gives employees and other people sense to continue in these programs and reach more interesting results. Some examples of developed continuous cooperation are with networks for handicapped animals or federal land movement. In one-shot projects happens that it is created fast and then it does not have any support for the future and projects go down. Sometimes somebody tries to develop the project and realizes activities alone or with some group of people but if there is no bigger support, it is difficult to keep it and it often does not have any success.

There were some positive but also some negative arguments in the answers of the representatives. There was no agreement whether the cooperation is or isn't effective. As was several times said, it really depends on people, their characteristics, backgrounds, and openness towards the non-profit sector. It really depends on the political side in many times, if everyone would work fair and would have open minds it would be different. The biggest problem is a personal failure on the political side and that the state organs do not behave as state law sets.

They do not take it seriously and they break their own laws. Afterward, it is difficult to reach justice. Also, all representatives claim that they do not find cooperation with governmental organs somehow systematic or regular. The cooperation with governmental organs depends on current problems. They don't find it intensive but they will cooperate intensively with someone on the issues if there is need to cooperate.

### **Cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with NNOs**

It is the most interesting topic about the cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with NNOs described in this third subhead. The topic is related to EU and Czech ecological associations which make changes ecological issues. As it was described in literature overview, there are several big ecological networks on EU level, there are for example European Green 10 and Green circle on Czech level from the selected associations. Moreover, there are described other EU or Czech networks which are also important for the ecological non-profit sector. The findings in the literature show that the members of EU networks are also represented by ecological NNOs in CZ. There can be found a table of Czech ecological NNOs which represent EU ecological NNO in the table below.

Table 2. Czech ecological NNOs representing EU ecological NNO in CZ

<b>EU ecological NNO</b>	<b>Czech ecological NNO</b>
FoEE	FoE CZ
GP International	GP CZ
BirdLife	Czech society for ornithology
Naturefriends International	DUHA CZ
EEA	CENIA
IUCN	Czech union for conservation and nature

There are many representatives in CZ which are part of EU networks but this table is a just example of selected networks. The cooperation between ecological Czech NNOs and EU NNOs is different and various. There belong for example educational activities as shared projects, conferences, outdoor activities, know-how exchange, workshops or training organizing to each other. It can be also common activities as projects, campaigns or events as festivals. And many shared documents, publications, databases, reports, books, brochures or letters.

There are questions about what is exactly cooperation between Czech ecological NNOs and other NNOs on EU level in next set of questions. For example how they cooperate, what tools they use the most, what could be improved and more.

- Do you cooperate with other ecological NNOs? If yes, with which ones?
- How do you cooperate with these NNOs? Are there any activities or tools which are used the most? If yes, which ones and why?
- Are you as ecological NNO in some bigger network/association of NNOs? If yes, in which one? And what possibilities of cooperation do you have between members?
- Do you feel that it is important to cooperate with other ecological NNOs or make a membership in any networks/associations?
- Is the cooperation with EU ecological NNOs for you more important than with Czech ones? If yes, why?
- Is there different cooperation with EU ecological NNOs against Czech ones? If yes, in which way and why?
- Do you see any other options how to cooperate either with EU or CZ ecological NNOs?
- In your opinion, what should be done to make cooperation with ecological NNOs in EU or the Czech Republic more effective and easier?

Each of the representatives communicates or cooperates with some other ecological NNOs. There can be seen below the detailed information about their partners on CZ and EU level. Moreover, there is provided information about common characteristics and also about differences between individual ecological NNOs because not all of them have the same experiences in partnership with other ecological NNOs or associations.

GP CZ cooperates mainly with NNOs that work in conservation of climate and energetics, there are FoE CZ, Arnika or movement called We are limits. This movement We are limits was the result of gathering people who created draft about ecological output limits of mineral resources in North Bohemia. They have expanded on EU level after the campaign finished and they are orientated towards European movement for climatic justice. Then the GP CZ cooperates with Frank Bold, Pardubice civic community, they fight against electricity Valetice, Kořeny, Coalition against palm oil, and Sametové osvícení, they organize each year satire march in masks where different civic communities represent their main topics of interests. Moreover, Peace to animals and Clean up CZ organize an activity for tidy up Czech Republic or film fest called Ecofilm. GP CZ is mainly focused on grassroots cooperation which comes out from offices and lower subjects in the vertical hierarchy because GP CZ wants people to create some activities and initiative to come from them.

FoE CZ cooperates with several ecological NNOs as GP CZ, in activities where they have the goals in common (in energetics mainly) and they cooperate and talk with organizations about nature and biodiversity such as Beleco and Alca. They solve conservation of bests of prey and mapping in cooperation with Alca. It can be sharing information or tactics, gathering information or promotion of common system. Everything depends on what activities NNO is doing because with different ecological NNO it is very different.

EPA has cooperated mainly with CUCN and Ecological Institute Veronica. They cooperate with NNOs that have a common interest as EPA has if there is no common interest on the similar issue, there hardly will be cooperation. It is because they have some different objectives that they want to reach. The time is limited and it is needed to fulfill the interests of the organization in which you work first and second work for other things. It can also happen that the cooperation can be in the interest of one concrete person with other NNOs. Someone is active in several NNOs and he shares information and know-how between them. For example, there is a member who is at the same time member and sympathizer of another ecological NNO in CUCN committee of conservation and nature. The cooperation is then deeper with this NNO. In general, it is more on a personal level than on institutional level. CUCN does not have any organ that could be responsible for cooperating with other subjects. So, they do not have common projects with other NNOs but they somehow cooperate with other NNOs, for example, they publish some statements about actual activities of FoE CZ that they are in harmony with the conversation of nature. Nowadays, CUCN headquarters does not have any common projects on a long run with some NNO.

Each of the represented ecological NNOs approaches cooperation differently. Some of them approach it more systematic or institutionalized and some of them with ad hoc. But general speaking, they mainly cooperate on ad hoc without regular meetings with each partner. They easily know who their partners are, who can or cannot be their partner and do not have any systematic meetings or documents about how to run cooperation. They are also following ethical codex but do

not have any papers about with whom and how to communicate. Moreover, the respondents state that they are inspired by know-how documents spread between their subsidies or documents of good experiences. Even if some of them tried to use some sophisticated approaches they were not successful in practice. "It is more about people, their characteristic and how they are close to each other with topics or opinions in practice," says respondent 4. It depends also on the position in which these ecological NNOs are in. They can be competitors and compete for money but in some projects is better to cooperate with each other. The non-profit environment has lasted a long time and they already defined these positions. The ecological NNOs know each other who work on what topics and they try to respect it. And they choose the model of cooperation that is suitable for them. In the case of many NNOs, there are suitable steps towards common cooperation based on intuitive personal communication with possible partners.

All of the respondents are part of some association or coalition from the perspective of networking. All of them are part of Green circle in them Czech Republic. The respondents explain how the cooperation runs in different associations.

The GP CZ is part of Green circle, it is a coalition of ecological NNOs. They share some trade platforms which connect these ecological NNOs in Green Circle. They are part of several coalitions as Doctors without borders, Foundation Via and Climatic coalition. Their most important membership is in coalition GP International which now goes through big changes. The GP organizations support new concept where civic society are leading towards own activities to do changes. And GP CZ is the one who the changes promote and realized. Moreover, they cooperate between individual GP branches on the coordination of volunteers and on sharing projects on the EU level.

FoE CZ is a member of European and International network Friends of the Earth, the biggest and the most important association. The individual FoE subsidiaries are fundamental partners for transferring know-how mainly from the west countries for FoE CZ. They can share system of campaigns, be inspired and be financial supported. The coalition FoE International has common projects across Europe that are more powerful than in organization of one individual NNO. It provides interesting grants from EC which are not normally available for individual Czech NNO. This is also one of the organizational supports which Czech FoE has had inside of coalition. They are also members of Green Circle that give to Czech FoE support in form of common platform.

EPA is a member of Green Circle and European EPA that is a consortium of 6 foundations and twice per year have meetings. The subsidiaries are in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Poland and in CZ. The founded home organization is in America. Then, they are part of Forest Alliance. Except for association's cooperation, they communicate each week with American expert in fundraising activities. It is long run cooperation between EPA and American volunteer with whom they share know-how and information. In these days, these common meetings are based on sharing knowledge that are less organized. The EPA traveled to Britain on skills

sharing meetings in the area of conservation and nature that were paid by the abroad organization in the past.

CUCN is a member of IUCN, they share information, and cooperate on common individual activities with other partners. It is just one of the International and European ecological NNOs that they are part of. The cooperation with others depends on issues or topics which they solve and also on what kind of activities they can distribute money. The CUCN can provide them information, results, share know-how either on the level of headquarters or regions in common topics and activities. On a European level, CUCN has tried to create new European ecological NNO that would be focused on conservation of soil, as one component of the environment, but without success. CUCN is still willing to return to this cooperation but it is always about lack of money which is not available for these activities and proper, regular cooperation. The agreement on the content of the project is the second problem. It is difficult to find the common view in some networks even if the agreement exists on the general level. But in a time of defining objectives to statutes, not everyone has the same view. Sometimes, neither of the NNOs find agreement in the discussion. So, CUCN does not have any natural partner besides German in that central Europe. But they have really close cooperation with Catalan and Italian ecological NNOs which they have met through the North American organization. This Italian ecological NNO is very similar to CUCN, its focus is all-Italian and has many active regional hubs. The cooperation is closed because the activities and objectives are mainly common in topics related to federal land movement and activity People for Soil. The activity People for Soil is a petition for the conservation of soil where the goal is to reach 1 million signatures for the EU to start dealing with the soil problems. Another goal is to force EU to create European directive on the conservation of soil which doesn't exist yet.

The Ecological Institute Veronica has had more luck and cooperates with neighbors as Slovakia, Hungary, Austria or Poland. The cooperation is very wide with these states. As the example is of border crossing cooperation called Interrec between Slovakia, CZ, and Austria. It was intensive cooperation throughout the three years until they declared first territories wetlands in the world which are placed in three countries. It is a confluence of river Moravia and Dyje. Now it is usual but in that time they have got an international prize in Valencia for this act. In general, Veronica is a subsidiary of CUCN and because they have its own legal form they can be members of some European or International organizations but they are not. It is because they are often members of some International organization through the headquarters CUCN. So as was mentioned about IUCN, it is the most prestige organization for conservation of nature in the world and the Veronica is a member of it because it is part of the CUCN association. The Veronica is a direct member of Nature Garden, Austrian ecological NNO. The Veronica is also a member of other European ecological NNOs such as BirdLife international, an ecological organization for conservation of birds, Eurosite, European ecological NNO for the conservation of territories, Ecobureau, ecological NNO in Brussels, gathering information from different ecological NNOs. This cooperation is border cross-

ing and mainly by ad hoc concreting topic. The common activities are often lobby activities in sense of increasing conservation of European nature with these ecological NNOs. The current cooperation with individual states of these ecological NNOs is very important and goes through headquarters of CUCN.

The respondents were asked to be whether their cooperation in associations is important for them or not. They all answered positively. It is better to cooperate on a long run with somebody and share common interest within the coalition. The coalitions are created because of intensive and regular cooperation between each other or bigger right and voice in Europe. If they would not be a member of any association, they would not reach things that inside of the association they can. They are inspired and share the approaches to work in association. As an example of cooperation inside association can be "skill-sharing group of Czech non-profit sector called Coalition for easy donation. It has 32 members and it was created for common communication to focus on a donation from testament. The NNOs can share skills and fails from a different part of fundraising inside this coalition. In some cases, the coalition negotiates some conditions on market and it is better if 15 organizations sign some statement than just one. It is easier if the organization can say that they speak on behalf of Coalition of easy donation than it would speak for itself" explain respondent 3.

The individual representatives have compared the importance of cooperation with European or International ecological NNOs, or Czech ecological NNOs in the next part. The representatives have not confirmed which level of cooperation is the most important but they have explained that it depends on their projects or topics which are needed for cooperation with someone else on different levels.

In some opinions with big topics, there is need to cooperate with external NNOs and on local problems is need to cooperate with the local non-profit sector, it depends on problems that as NNOs you need to express. It is better to draw experiences from abroad in big topics but on the other side, everything couldn't be transmittable into CZ. There is a different legal system in foreign countries. General speaking for the Czech ecological NNOs is more important cooperate with national ecological NNOs than with EU NNOs. But there is important sharing information, know-how, and inspiration with the foreign NNOs. So it cannot be said that cooperation with foreign NNOs is better, it depends on a project of cooperation. For example, there is European cooperation fundamental in the conservation of system Natura 2000, but the regional or national level of cooperation is more important for the concrete movement in the territory. The importance of cooperation depends on different views. On one side, the problems are seen so important by the local ecological NNOs in CZ but, it is not so important from Brussels' side. The Brussels' partners or ecological NNOs do not see a saving of concrete reservation in CZ as the priority if they need to change some law now. The concrete issues are perceived differently from the different side when we talk about importance. Moreover, it depends also on money, in the case of cooperation, if there are not found available financial support, the realization of cooperation is very difficult.

Almost all respondents also claim that the cooperation with ecological NNOs is more continuous than with other subjects, such as governmental or individual.

The representatives see also differences in cooperation between national ecological NNOs or governmental institutions and European or international ecological NNOs or governmental institutions.

Main differences are between continental, American and foreign ecological NNOs, for example, British history of the social relationship. Next, the Europeans perceive that state is taking care of common issues. But there is no such thing as huge support from the state in America or Britain. If yes, it is just through foundations which community is taken care of. The individual resources, firms, NNOs and then maybe state support the NNOs in the Britain or America. The charities are connected with some political parties and these parties directly support NNOs. They easily count with the individual support which is normal there. But it is not normal in CZ because there are high taxes to the state subjects and Czechs expect that state will take care of all public issues. For example, EPA has many activities for support of local viniculture and cycle trekking and Czech people think that the region does it. This is the main difference that the people expect in CZ, that some systems of public affairs will do many activities instead of individual subjects. The EPA is still inspired by the Anglo-American world to continue persuading all people not to look at national or European governmental institutions with a request for support.

Another opinion is that big influence on cooperation between NNOs and other subjects has tradition and history. There exists legislative that gives to NNOs more credibility and civic society respect in Britain. Their state and legislative support non-profit sector more. And if these NNOs are more credible it influences the flow of individual financial resources. For example, British National trust for the purchase of coasts has obtained a huge amount of money from the public sector for their activities which are not real to reach in rest of Europe. It is so positive that they are able to do this and that civic society is willing to give them big financial resources. Afterwards, these NNOs have a huge obligation towards civic society not to embezzle these financial resources. And it depends on the rate of corruptness which is in Britain or other west countries. It works differently in these issues there and the Czech ecological NNOs would like to have more individual donators who would participate in projects. Those are willing to help at least with sharing enthusiasm or contributing by their available financial resources.

The situation of NNOs is much better in foreign European countries as England, Netherlands, Germany or Austria than in CZ. It is much worse not just in financial or organization cooperation but also in climate and opinions of civic society about NNOs in CZ. The respondent 1 illustrates an example from practice. "I have known one person who worked as a manager in International Corporation and earned huge amount of money not just beyond our income but also beyond British income. Suddenly, he went to NNO for the conservation of birds called Royal association for the conservation of birds which is one of the oldest NNO in Eu-

rope. He has started earning 10 times less than before but civic society has perceived it as kind of prestige because he does something that has a big sense for him and his surroundings. The people would think that he does not know what to do with his money in our republic. There is different the perception of people and it is pity that it is not the same here”.

The last topic of this section is about threats or opportunities related to cooperation. The representatives speak about possibilities of further cooperation with other non-profit subjects and what are big obstacles for them towards improvement.

The Ecological Institut Veronica feels as threat lack of financial resources and organizational responsibilities. The cooperation was more intensive before entering to EU from the view of Veronica. In years 2002-2006, it was possibility went to Brussels five times per year. But in that time, the Veronica does not have financial resources for meetings and every conversation runs through emails or phone calls. In years 2002-2006, they did not have also much money but some Brussels organization gained money for Veronica to come to Brussels and share experiences with them. Nowadays, there is nobody who will look for available money to give to Veronica. It is not just about money but also about organization work that someone has to do and take responsibility for. The personal contact is really important with these European or international partners but if there is almost nobody who will organize meetings for several foreign ecological NNOs, the cooperation will fade away. That would be great for Veronica to restore these connections with European and International partners.

The threats of cooperation are seen from the other side in case of EPA. Sometimes, it can also happen that someone inside association wants to make himself visible on somebody's behalf. Then the threats of cooperation can be misuse of information and taking over data. On the other hand, opportunity for some cooperation can be with new interesting lobby organization. But it should be cooperation based on some concrete project; actually EPA does not register any such NNO.

The threat is a bad financial situation of Green Circle and it is ongoing, see FoE CZ. These troubles are connected with a situation that it does not have the capacity to fill association's role. The similar issue happened on EU level. Then, the FoE is missing mutual connections and cooperation in different projects of central and east EU in the scope of European FoE. Many of these projects were created in the centre of FoE and the know-how went from western part EU through middle part to eastern part. It has been one-way cooperation. But these eastern member's NNOs have moved forward. Now, the cooperation is needed to facilitate with all members, give them space to solve their mutual problems and not to create everything from the centre. There is huge opportunity to connect with all parts of association mutually.

The GP CZ sees opportunity in linking the social area with environmental. The GP CZ works on topics that have more than environmental reach. Then basically, the cooperation is more intense with environmental NNOs than in the case of non-



environmental NNOs, for example, humanitarian NNOs. Even if there are some reserves with ecological NNOs they still cooperate more, based on sharing different platforms and so on. The opportunity for GP is to evolve the idea of mutual support between NNOs. For example, the GP CZ supports FoE CZ in their campaign for National park Šumava and has created petition and publication even if it is not their topic of interest. They would like to evolve informal education between NNOs to cooperate mutually and not to look at each other as competition. Moreover, the GP CZ would like to develop the topic of climate fairness from the grassroots level. It means that they would like the civic society alone to create any activities for support of climate even if this topic of climate is difficult to handle.

CUCN's main opportunity is to create a new partnership with the neighborhood. They have had the ambition to find any partners similar to their ecological NNO in Slovakia in last 15 years but without success. Sometimes, CUCN creates some cooperation with Slovakian partners but it is not something on the long run. Then, they have tried to cooperate with another country historically a similar to CZ as Poland or Hungary. There has been similar situation in the conservation of nature and they have often solved similar problems to Czechs. The CUCN have had several meetings with these Polish ecological NNOs but also without success. Despite the failure, CUCN tries to achieve cooperation with next neighbors' ecological NNOs because it is perceived as a huge advantage and opportunity to expand.

### **Cooperation with other NNOs and individual subjects**

The last subhead is focused on the importance of a wide range of NNOs, not just ecological for proper functioning but the wide non-profit sector in the Czech Republic. There is examined the importance of cooperation between ecological CZ NNOs and other NNOs on the European or national level in this subhead. The ecological NNOs do not just communicate and cooperate with non-profit organizations in their area of interest but also with NNOs in different areas and individual subjects. As was already discussed in subhead 1 there are different NNOs which are providing financial support for ecological NNOs. This subhead is not focused on financial support from NNOs or governmental side as it was in subhead 1 but on financial support that they get from individual subjects. It focuses on other possibilities of support from individual subjects or NNOs that are not working in the area of the environment. Among these support systems can also belong educational, informal or counseling services.

There are questions providing answers on the importance of different NNOs or individual subjects, their possibilities of support for the environmental non-profit sector and more in the next set of questions.

- Do you cooperate with other NNOs or individual subjects which are not working in the environmental field? If yes, with which ones and name some reasons why?
- How do you cooperate with them? What advantages or disadvantages does it bring to you?

- Is this cooperation as important as cooperation with ecological NNOs or governmental institutions or organizations whether working on EU or CZ level?
- Is the cooperation with these NNOs or individual subjects effective enough? How could it improve this cooperation?
- Can you see there any other possibilities how and with whom to cooperate from the non-ecological NNOs or individual subjects?

The ecological NNOs cooperate with different other NNOs and also use different tools of cooperation with them. There are examples of cooperation between ecological NNOs and different other NNOs or clubs in the next article.

CUCN has cooperated with different non-ecological parties for example with hunters, fishers or scouts. The cooperation with these parties depends on personal contact and characteristics of individual municipalities. If the cooperation of some local ecological subsidiary of CUCN cooperates with hunters, it is good that they will often do some activities together which will connect them by sharing their knowledge and experiences. The local subsidiary has a better connection with fishers, scouts or ornithologists somewhere else. It depends on the concrete localities and what the people need to change there and with whom. The important issue is the concrete topic and if for the local subsidiaries is better to solve the problems alone or with the support of some local experts. If the local subsidiaries will get some benefits from cooperating with someone else, they will do it more in favor of that cooperation. For example, if they are together with hunters or any other experts, the local NNOs get better financial resources for their intended activities; the cooperation will be more attractive for them.

Ecological Institute Veronica from non-ecological NNOs cooperates with different charities on a project of natural garden. They have a natural garden in Hostětín where the path for handicapped people is installed for people on wheelchairs, blind or deaf people. They do some activities and programs for them and commonly with these charities, they invite people on prepared educational or funny programs. Moreover, the Ecological Institute Veronica has tried to create cooperation with the association of gardeners or soldierly veterans but without success. Their cooperation with hunters is also minimal because even if they orally support conservation of biodiversity, on the other side, there is not enough proceeding towards poaching.

The EPA cooperates mainly with the association of gardeners because the Open garden is a community garden where everyone can rent a patch. So, there is gardener club with which EPA shares information or organizes some activities and events. The EPA cooperates with Coalition for easy donation in fundraising activities or for example, they are part of Business leader forum. Under Business leader forum, they share relevant professional information to point out environmental problems. Moreover, they work on researchers with different universities, for example with Mendel University on the measurement of the transpirational ability of trees. The EPA cooperates with Sako, Ekokom, waterworks, energy companies or automotive companies. The EPA has had a project focused on safe ways to travel to

schools with Škoda Company or project green oasis for shopping malls. They cooperate with IBM Company on sustainable mobility that is related to traveling of employees to work. According to this project, IBM has been changing their policy of social responsibilities and they started using carpooling or car sharing approaches.

GP CZ also cooperates with universities, for example, they published studies about externalities from the impact of burning coals on society with Charles University in Prague. They cooperate with NNOs as Amnesty International, Human in need, Doctors without borders, Transparent International and different cultural subjects where they come to present their work. They also did a professional presentation for employees in big firms in past, for example, it was presentation about environmental responsibilities in IKEA Corporation.

The FoE CZ cooperates with eco-social and educational institutions working at the ecological education of children or adults. Czech council of children and youth represents a wide spectrum of different organizations, it has big significance in the political sphere and it is also an important partner for FoE CZ related to public prosperity. They use this partnership if there is need to influence good draft of law about public prosperity.

From the perspective of the importance of cooperation with different subjects, the representatives have different opinions. Sometimes, they cannot say that the cooperation with different subjects is or isn't important for them more than the cooperation with ecological NNOs. But there is some evidence that it depends on many factors which influence this cooperation.

The cooperation with non-ecological NNOs is not that interesting for the many respondents, it is not essential and systematic cooperation. The cooperation does not run sometimes because there are not opportunities for this cooperation or finance to set the cooperation. Moreover, as was many times written it depends on topics and common interest of both sides. The organization or municipality has to be interested in this topic and they cannot think that it is waste of time and money. As an example can be seen the cooperation of EPA with recycling companies. Sako Brno or Ekokom has that common interest, it is recycling. These companies are always invited to EPA's events. Their mutual cooperation runs on sharing financial costs, providing promotion or meeting potential partners at the events.

Another respondent explains that it always depends on topic and need of cooperation but in general, the cooperation is at a stroke with these different subjects. If there is a concrete purpose to cooperate with the non-ecological NNOs or other individual subjects they make it. In a case of lobbying activities or explaining some draft of the law, there is need to cooperate with other subjects. For example, if the organization will perceive that some problems are a lack of bees they will cooperate on lobby activities with bee-keepers. But it really depends on the individual topic and need of cooperation.

The respondent 5 says that they as NNO cooperates more with ad hoc with different humanitarian NNOs. They commonly cooperate on fundraising activities or topics. But they have sometimes different opinions as other ecological NNOs have. They would like to cultivate a relationship with these non-ecological NNOs

more intensively than it has been until now. The cooperation with other subjects is for them as important as it is with ecological NNOs.

As opportunities for further cooperation, the ecological NNOs see cooperation with individual sectors as businesses or individual donors.

The majority of the money goes from the state sector and the ecological NNOs would like to see an increased amount of finance resources from the individual sector. This idea is already developed but it goes very slow. The obstacle can be a topic. Some topics are very difficult to handle and explain to civic society. It can be a problem why financial resources are not as much gain from individual subjects. Even if the topic and solving of problem related to the topic is important, it can be very difficult to get financial support from the individual sector. Moreover, the ecological NNOs see opportunities in cooperation with start-ups, different other lobby organizations or to strengthen cooperation within the non-profit sector. As example explain respondent 5 that there is need to cooperate with humanitarian NNOs which solve problems with refugees, wrong distribution of water or lack of drinkable water. These problems are results of climatic changes and that's why it is needed to work on these problems together. These NNOs have often limited resources, work just on one or two issues and solve just impacts and not the cause. They could solve the cause of problems together by changing the law on which these NNOs or subjects do not have the capacity or it is not their priority. The ecological NNOs want to run a discussion about the need to develop systematic changes and cooperate together with NNOs even if they are orientated on different topics. Moreover, they see opportunity in continuing organizing regular meetings or discussions about environmental topics mainly for the business sector for managers or executives as well as for civic society.

### **5.1.2 Resumé of the interviews**

The qualitative research was divided into four categories: financial cooperation, the cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with governmental subjects, the cooperation of Czech ecological NNOs with ecological NNOs and cooperation of ecological NNOs with different NNOs and individuals. The interviews were completed with 5 representatives of the Czech ecological NNOs.

There was found that financial support for the participated ecological NNOs is really important. The representatives have explained that they were much more supported in last decade than nowadays. All of them claimed that financial support from governmental subjects is decreasing. Some of the representatives explained that not the financial supports decrease tremendously but also to gain financial support is much more difficult mainly from EU governmental subjects where the conditions to obtain financial support is more difficult than from national or EU governmental subjects. The system of donations is complicated and consists of much administrative work. Opposite the representatives claim that much easier is to obtain financial support from foundations because they understand the needs of NNOs and have easier conditions. On the other side, they have much less money for distribution and it is always a problem. They also assert that it depends on the

projects or activities which should be supported. According to these facts, the ecological NNOs are forced to find other subjects who could be potential donors. The big opportunities they see in public or private subjects.

The ecological NNOs cooperate with different governmental subjects on different levels. Mainly, they cooperate with ministries to persuade them on better solutions of laws. They also cooperate with other subjects such as Management of National parks or Nature conservation agency. It can be said that the ecological NNOs are not choosing with which governmental subjects they will cooperate but they cooperate with whichever it is needed. The spectrum of the governmental subjects with which the ecological NNOs cooperate and possibilities of mutual cooperation is huge. They publish info letters, organized seminars, by media and mobilization of civic society influence deputies, creates common projects or competitions and do many other lobby activities.

The governmental subjects are less initiative than ecological NNOs in the cooperation. The initiation of the governmental subjects depends on the type of cooperation. If the ecological NNOs want to advocate some solutions or changes of some law the governmental subjects are not opened to cooperation with the NNOs. As representatives claim sometimes, the governmental subjects do not want to communicate with them. The representatives also assert that communication and cooperation with governmental subjects are in more cases at a stroke than continuous but it really depends on projects and subjects of the cooperation. Moreover, the representatives mostly see that cooperation with governmental subjects is not systematic. The cooperation with the governmental subjects depends on current people, their backgrounds, openness towards NNOs, political environment and how the ecological NNOs is perceived to be a strong player. Some of the representatives assert that cooperation with EU governmental subjects is more opened and generous than in CZ. It is because they are more open-minded and aware of their role to be more for public and NNOs as to refuse their requirements and needs.

Each of the representative ecological NNOs cooperates with the NNOs. Mainly, they cooperate with ecological NNOs cooperating in fields as conservation of climate, nature or energetics. The cooperation with different NNOs depends on many factors as for example, the activities or projects what they have or common interests of the NNOs. According to these factors, it depends on what kind of cooperation the NNOs will use. The most often they share knowledge and know-how in different topics and fields, share tactics and information or publishing of some statements. The cooperation with NNOs more depends on personal relationship or positions in the non-profit market according to representatives. The ecological NNOs have already their position on the non-profit market and the others try to respect it. They know who can be their ally and who is opponent between each other. Even if the some of the respondents have been using the sophisticated approaches or documents of good experiences, the personal contact is the most important and the institutionalized steps towards communication are less useful in practice. Besides the personal communication for all respondents, it

is important networking. It means cooperation within association or coalition. All of the respondents are part of Green Circle coalition. The members are sharing platforms, knowledge, and know-how within the coalition. The ecological NNOs are sharing systems of the campaigns, documents of good practice, financial resources or worldwide projects within the domestic associations. The obstacle to run good cooperation is seen to be most often a common area of the interest or lack of money which are a need for activities, meetings, projects and so on. The all of the respondents feel that is important to cooperate regularly within some association and share information and experiences intensive. Moreover, the association speaks for more members and have stronger voice and position in negotiation with other subjects. For the all NNOs has big significance to joint into some association and share know-how and good approaches but not everything from the association can be transmittable to each NNOs. The some of the approaches and practices cannot be applied from abroad into CZ and vice versa because of the different legal system, backgrounds, and history of the country. Moreover, the main problem is that the system of the country more support NNOs by providing more credibility, respect, and support from the civic society in west countries. The respondents see main obstacles towards better cooperation with other subjects in the lack of financial resources, organizational possibilities or capacity or the corectly fulfilling role of the associations. Opposite as opportunities, they see cooperation with lobby organizations or new partners, connecting the environmental area with other as a social area, cooperation with private subjects or civic society.

Moreover, the ecological NNOs cooperate with other NNOs or individual subjects as private companies or universities. Among the other NNOs can be found some charities or clubs especially gardeners. However, they cooperate with these subjects the cooperation with is not so systematic or essential as with ecological NNOs. The respondents also claim that the cooperation with these different subjects really depends on topics, projects or available capacity and finance resources for cooperation. As the main opportunities, the ecological NNOs see in cooperation with individual subjects, companies or entrepreneurs, universities or in a new collaboration with other NNOs.

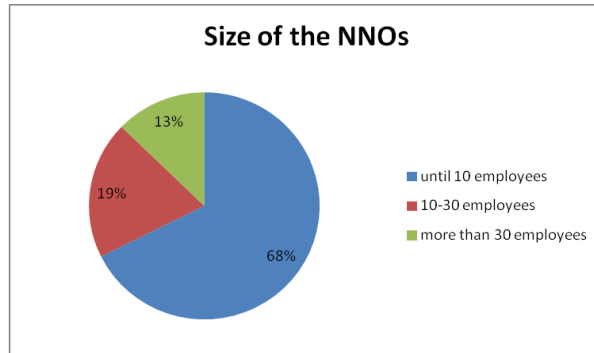
## **5.2 Evaluation of the questionnaire**

The evaluation of the questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part is related to cooperation of ecological NNOs with governmental organs and institutions and the second one is related to cooperation of ecological NNOs with other subjects as different NNOs or individuals.

### **5.2.1 Structure of the respondents**

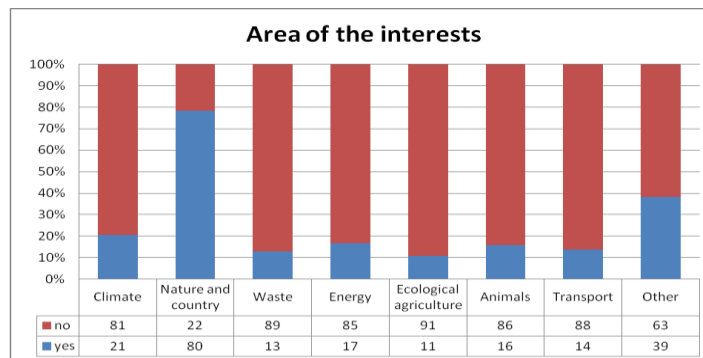
There are evaluated the identification questions to find out the facts about respondents. One of the identical questions was a focus on the size of the NNO. As can be seen in graph 1, the smaller NNOs with less than 10 employees create bigger part of the survey. It is 68%, for the middle NNOs with a number of the em-

employees between 10-30 it is 19% and for the large NNOs with a number of the employees more than 30 is 13%. The categories with 10-30 employees and more than 30 employees are linked for better evaluation of the quantitative survey. It is 69 small NNOs and 33 middle or large NNOs in total number.



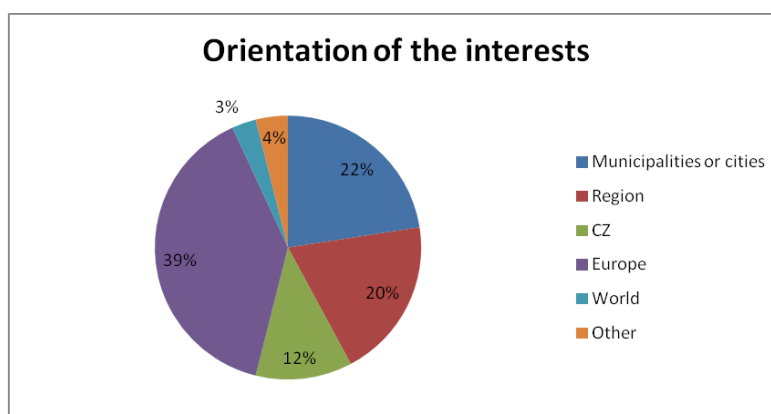
Graph 1. Size of the NNOs

The most of the NNOs work in fields of nature and country according to the area of the interest. In the survey, 78% of the NNOs answered that their area of the interest is nature and country. Many of the NNOs mention education or development in the answer other. There can be seen all counts in the graph below.



Graph 2. Area of the interests

The NNOs are oriented on a different area of interests and also on different places. However, there are more small NNOs that are mostly oriented with their activities and interests in all of Europe. The second and third places of the interests are the municipalities or the cities and regions with around 20%. Only 3% of the answering NNOs are focused on the world. There can be seen all proportions in the graph below.



Graph 3. Orientation of the interests

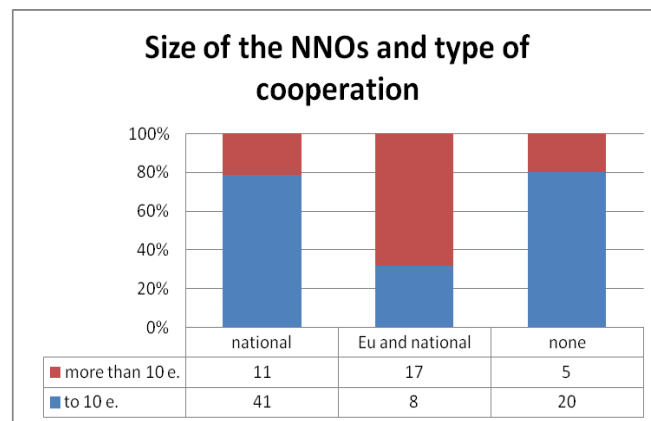
### 5.2.2 Cooperation with governmental organs and institutions

There is evaluated cooperation between ecological NNOs and governmental organs and institutions in this section. The governmental organs and institutions are divided into two groups: national and EU governmental organs and institutions. The 77 representatives out of 102 answered all questions. Only 25 respondents answered questions related to EU cooperation.

The first question in questionnaire analyzed if the ecological NNOs cooperate with governmental organs and institutions or neither of them. The number of evaluated questionnaires was 102 and just 24% of the NNOs cooperate with the national and EU governmental organs and institutions out of 100%. However, almost 40% of the NNOs are orientated on Europe with their activities and interests, they do not cooperate with the European governmental organs or institutions as much as they could. Almost the same number of 25% of NNOs does not cooperate at all with the governmental organs or institutions and 51% cooperate with national governmental organs or institutions. It can be evaluated whether at least 70% of NNOs cooperate with governmental organs and institutions or not. In total, 75% of the ecological NNOs cooperate with some governmental organs or institutions. So, there is answer positive on the first research question.

From the NNOs which cooperate with only national governmental organs and institutions, 79% of them are small NNOs and 21% are middle or large NNOs. On the other side, 68% of middle and large NNOs cooperate with national and also EU governmental organs or institutions and 32% of small NNOs cooperate with national and EU governmental organs and institutions. There are shown all values in the graph below.





Graph 4. Size of the NNOs and the type of the cooperation with the governmental subjects

The graph follows that small NNOs cooperate more often on the national level than on bigger NNOs. On the other hand, the bigger NNOs more often find cooperation not only on the national level but also EU level. For the evaluation of hypothesis, “*Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and type of cooperation with the governmental subjects*” see table below.

Table 3. H0: Dependency does not exist between size of the NNOs and the type of cooperation with the governmental subjects

	Chi square	p-value
Pearson coefficient	19,23827	p=,00007
Contingency coefficient	,3983485	
Cramer V.	,4342931	

According to p-value and Pearson coefficient, it is known that hypothesis is rejected on the level of the significance 0,05. The contingency coefficient and Cramer V. coefficient show that the dependency between the size of the NNOs and type of the cooperation is strong.

The next question is related to the selection of the subjects to which NNOs cooperate. The respondents could choose more than one answer. The NNOs cooperating with the national governmental organs and institutions mostly chose the MoE or other different Ministries and then other subjects as the Government Office or Management of landscape parks. 25 NNOs which cooperate with EU governmental organs and institutions mostly chose EC and other subjects as different European Federations. More can be seen in the table below or in Appendix D.

Table 4. The governmental subjects with which the NNOs cooperate

National subjects	Ministry of the Environment	Council of the NNOs	Political Parties	Other Ministries	Municipality's and region subjects	CZ Nature conservation Agency	Other subjects
Quantity	58	11	12	19	10	6	14
%	44	8	9	15	8	5	11

The ecological NNOs have many reasons why to cooperate with these governmental subjects. The selected reasons why they cooperate with the governmental subjects are in the next table. The minimum was set at 1 and maximum at 3. The minimum means disagreement with statement and maximum means agreement. The median was 2 for all statements. According to values of the deviation, it can be said that values are uniformed.

Table 5. The reasons of the NNOs why they cooperate with the governmental subjects

Statement	Average mean	Modus	Frequency	Deviation
With these organs is easy communication without bureaucracy.	1,69	1	37	0,75
There is possibility to be organizational supported by them in different projects.	2,12	3	35	0,89
It is easy to gain financial support from them.	1,70	1	38	0,78
We have long-time partnership with them.	2,22	3	37	0,84
They support our interest of organization.	2,30	3	37	0,76
They share professional skill and know-how with us.	2,13	3	31	0,82
We have to cooperate with them because it set by law.	1,86	1	38	0,91
Political climate is good and cooperation NNOs with governmental organs or institutions is welcomed.	1,74	1	38	0,82

The organizational support, long-time partnership, support of the interest of NNO and sharing professional's skills and know-how are the strong reasons why the ecological NNOs cooperate with the governmental organs or institutions. The easy

communication, the easy gaining of the financial support, law or political climate they do not often see as reasons for cooperation. Always 40-50% of the ecological NNOs vote for the most often occurring values. On the level of the EU cooperation, the results from modus are the same and other values are very similar. Even if the EU cooperation has really similar results as national cooperation, the representatives see some differences. In comparison, the national cooperation and EU cooperation with ecological NNOs were found these differences:

- The cooperation with the EU governmental organs and institutions is more professional than cooperation with the national subjects.
- There are stronger negotiation power and position in cooperation with the EU than national subjects and more support international projects of the NNOs.
- The communication with the EU governmental organs and institutions is more complicated and more on long-run than with the national subjects.

These differences mostly occurred in answers. There was also mentioned that EU uses less bureaucracy but on the other hands some of the respondents mentioned opposite answer and it is because they have faced more difficult conditions for gaining financial support from EU governmental organs or institutions than in the case of national cooperation.

The next evaluations are related to forms of cooperation. The respondents of the ecological NNOs could select more than one form. There is shown which forms were selected most of the time. The quantity means the frequency of statement and % means how many percents of the NNOs vote for current statement.

Table 6. The forms of the cooperation with the national governmental subjects

Statement	Quantity	%
Fin. support from the state institutions or organs.	43	56
Fin. support from the municipalities or cities	26	34
Mutual education – the seminars, the workshops or conferences	34	44
Consultations	31	40
Cooperation on legislation	24	31
Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials	15	19
Communication with the deputies by the written letters or petitions	16	21
Participation on debates or press conference	16	21
Other: the exhibitions, the planning...	7	9

The graph explains that the forms of cooperation those are used most of the time between the ecological NNOs and governmental organs or institutions are financial supports, mutual education or consultations. The financial support was chosen by 56 ecological NNOs out of 77. The financial support is used by 72% of NNOs as a form of the cooperation with the governmental organs or institutions. The answer positive also in the second research question. At least 70% of ecological NNOs use

financial support as a form of the cooperation with the governmental organs or institutions. In the next table is shown situation for the EU cooperation. Similarly, the most used forms of the cooperation between the ecological NNOs and the EU governmental organs or institutions are the financial support or consultations.

Table 7. The forms of the cooperation with EU governmental subjects

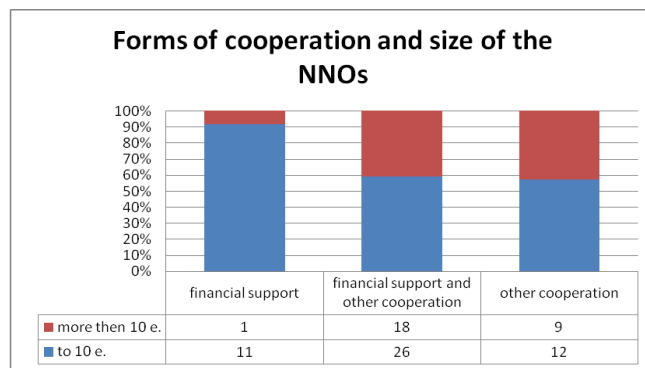
Statement	Quantity	%
Fin. support from EU institutions or organs	16	64
Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences	5	20
Consultations	12	48
Cooperation on legislation	6	24
Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials	7	28
Communication with deputies by written letters or petitions	0	0
Participation on debates or press conference	6	24
Other: competition	2	8

Moreover, it can be evaluated hypothesis “*Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and the forms of the cooperation with the governmental subjects*“. The hypothesis is not rejected at the level of the significance 0,05.

Table 8. H0: Dependency does not exist between size of the NNOs and the forms of the cooperation with governmental subject

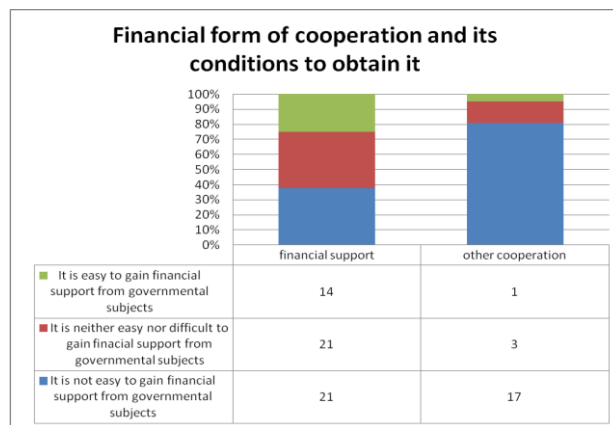
	chi-square	p-value
Pearson coefficient	4,849915	p=,08848
Contingency coefficient	,2434209	
Cramer V. coefficient	,2509699	

In the graph below are shown the values of the individual cases for the hypothesis. Even if the hypothesis is not rejected and dependency of variables does not exist, the graph shows some interesting values. The small NNOs with a number of employees to 10 are using more often financial support than middle or large NNOs. However, the sample has small values, you can see that the larger NNOs look more often for other forms of cooperation (32% of them against 24% of the small NNOs) because they have more of their own financial resources. But the correctness of the assumption would be better on the bigger sample of the NNOs. By the other cooperation is meant all other kinds of the cooperation except the financial support.



Graph 5. Forms of cooperation with the governmental subjects and size of the NNOs

For the evaluation of the hypothesis *"Dependency does not exist between forms of the cooperation and their conditions to obtain it"* first we look at the next table that is showing the individual values.



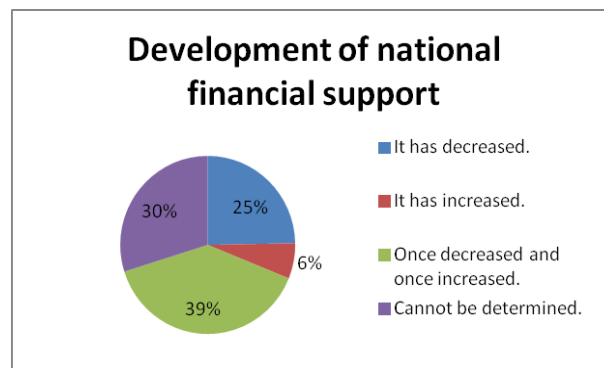
Graph 6. Financial form of cooperation and its conditions to obtain it

There is the observation that the ecological NNOs that are using a financial form of the cooperation perceive that the conditions for obtaining the financial support are easier than for ecological NNOs that use more often other kinds of the cooperation as is shown in the graph above. In this case, the p-value is less than the level of significance 0,05 and hypothesis is rejected.

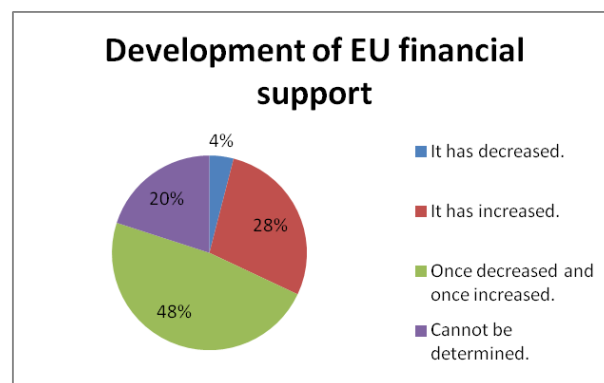
Table 9. H0: Dependency does not exist between forms of cooperation and its conditions to obtain it

	chi-square	p-value
Pearson coefficient	11,69494	p=,00289
Contingency coefficient	,3631195	
Cramer V	,3897208	

The question *"How has a financial support been developed from the individual governmental subjects in last decade?"* is evaluated in the next graphs.



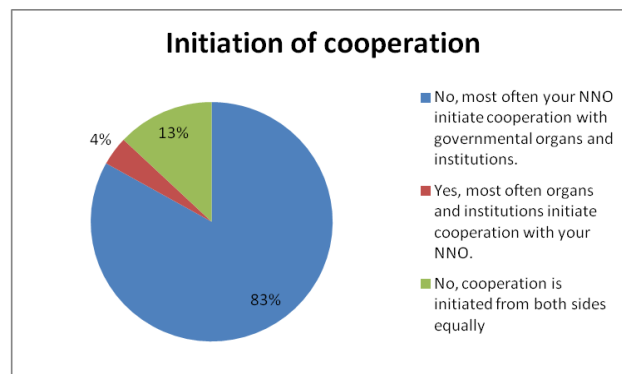
Graph 7. Development of financial support from the national governmental subjects in last decade



Graph 8. Development of financial support from the EU governmental subjects in last decade

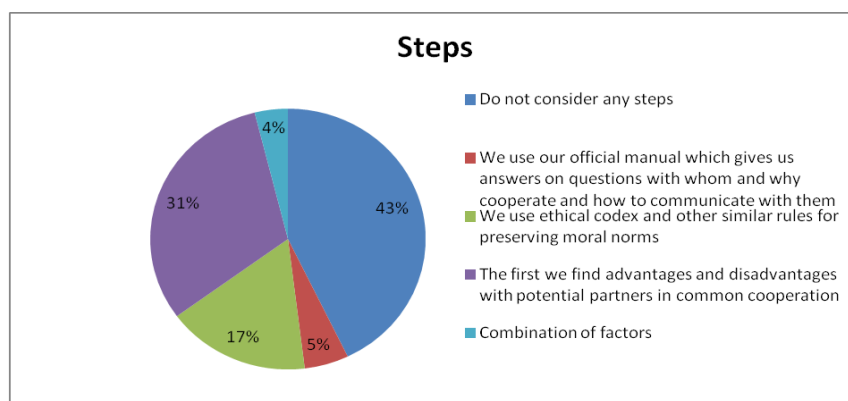
We can see some differences if we look at the graphs. The first graph shows that 25% of respondents answered that national financial support decreased in the last decade. The second graph shows that only 4% of respondents answered that EU financial support decreased in the last decade. The similar appearance but opposite is in the case of answers "It has increased." It can be stated that it is perceived by the ecological NNOs that national financial support has decreased more in last decade against EU financial support that has increased. But in both examples, the most used statement was that the financial support is swinging.

In next graph is shown that 80% percent of the ecological NNOs perceive to be more initiative in cooperation with national governmental subjects than vice versa. Only 4% of them perceive that national governmental subjects initiate cooperation with them. The situation is very similar for the cooperation with the EU governmental subjects.



Graph 9. Initiation of the governmental subjects for the cooperation with governmental subjects

Whether the ecological NNOs consider any steps when creating a new collaboration with the governmental organs or institutions you can see on the graph below. It shows that more than 40% of the ecological NNOs do not consider any steps when they create a new cooperation. 31% of the ecological NNOs use only subjective evaluation of the advantages or disadvantages of the potential cooperation before starting it and less than 20% of the ecological NNOs use ethical codex or official manuals.

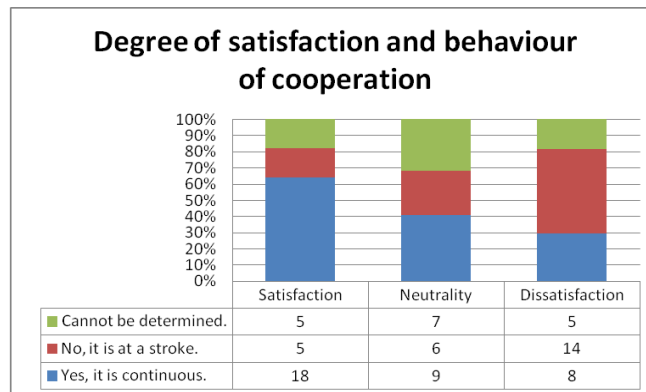


Graph 10. Steps considering to create cooperation with the governmental subjects

In the questions, *“Is cooperation between our NNO and governmental organs or institutions continuous?”* was aimed to find out whether the ecological NNOs cooperate more continuously with governmental subjects or not. From all the respondents, 45% answered that cooperation with governmental subjects is continuous and 33% vote for one-shot cooperation. The rest 22% are respondents who have not determined whether their cooperation with the governmental subjects is more continuous or one-shot. In this case, considering only EU, cooperation the ratios are stated similarly.

The next question is focused on analyzing satisfaction of the cooperation between ecological NNOs and governmental organs or institutions. We can say that satisfaction or dissatisfaction is almost equal. 36% of the ecological NNOs are satisfied with their cooperation and 35% are not satisfied. In the hypothesis *„Depen-*

dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and the behavior of the cooperation with governmental subjects" which means whether the ecological NNOs are cooperating continuously or not, those are the following results.



Graph 11. Degree of satisfaction and behaviour of cooperation with the governmental subjects

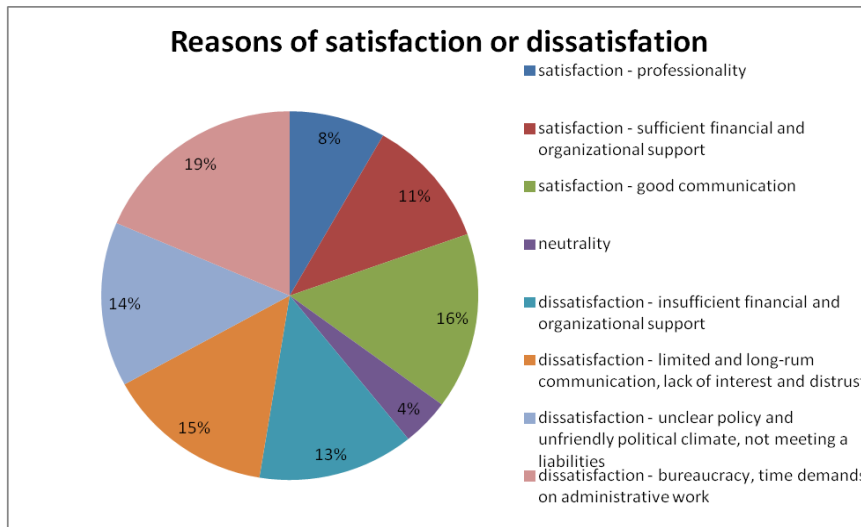
In the graph, you see that more the ecological NNOs are satisfied the more the cooperation with governmental subjects is continuous. On the other hand, the ecological NNOs are not satisfied most of the time when their cooperation is one-shot. The hypothesis in this situation is rejected on the level of significance 0,05. According to other coefficients, it can be stated that the dependency between the variables is strong.

Table 10. H0: Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and the behavior of the cooperation with the governmental subjects

	Chi-square	p-value
Pearson coefficient	10,24673	p=,03647
Contingency coefficient	,3427031	
Cramer V.	,2579481	

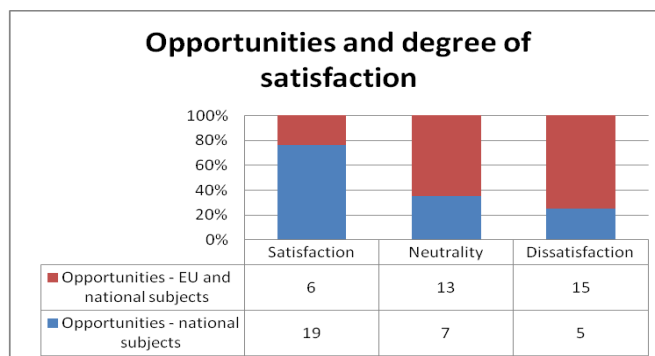
In the next graph are shown reasons of satisfaction or dissatisfaction from the cooperation with the governmental subjects. Many respondents wrote more than one answer on the question and that is why the results are not in the line of the previous question. However, the number of satisfied and dissatisfied ecological NNOs is not equal in the previous question, the reasons for dissatisfaction were mentioned more often than reasons for the satisfaction. The negative statements were mentioned almost two times more in all answers.





Graph 12. Reasons of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the governmental subjects

The evaluation of the question *“Do you see any other future opportunities for cooperation with government bodies or institutions?”* brought the following results. According to answers, 44% of the ecological NNOs see opportunities of the cooperation with the national and EU governmental subjects. 40% of them which is a little bit less see opportunities in the cooperation with only national governmental subjects and just 7% see opportunities of the cooperation with the EU governmental subjects. The ecological NNOs that don’t see further opportunities were 7 of them. In the hypothesis *“Dependency does not exist between opportunities of the cooperation and degree of satisfaction in cooperation with the national subjects.”* can have interesting the result. The values show that ecological NNOs that are not satisfied with their cooperation with the national subjects most of the time see opportunity in cooperation with not only national but also the EU governmental subjects. The ecological NNOs that are satisfied with cooperation with the national governmental subjects most of the time see the opportunities to cooperate only with the national governmental subjects.



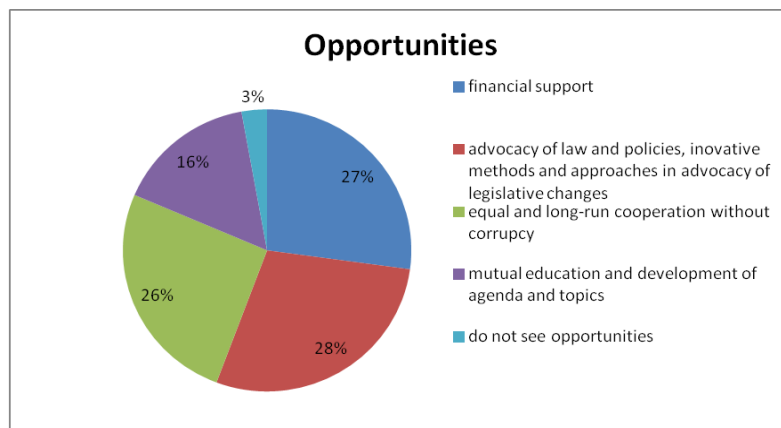
Graph 13. Opportunities and degree of satisfaction with the governmental subjects

In statistics, you can see that p-value is less than level of significance 0,05 and the coefficients show strong dependency. The hypothesis is rejected.

Table 11. H0: Dependency does not exist between the opportunities and the degree of the satisfaction with the governmental subjects

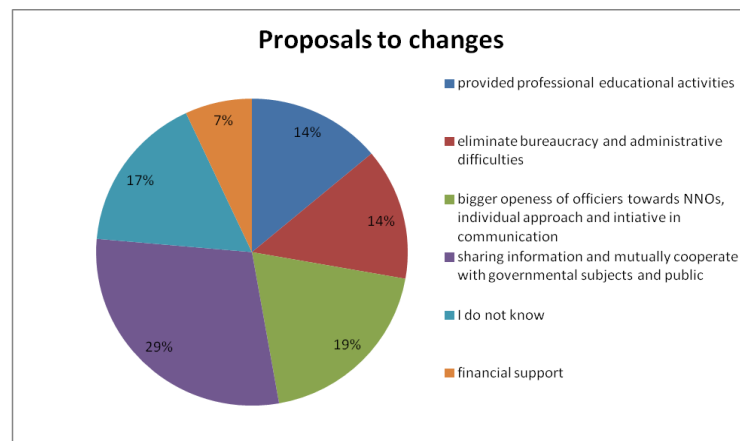
	Chi-square	p-value
Pearson coefficient	13,45019	p=,00120
Contingency coefficient	,4140638	
Cramer V.	,4548912	

If we look at answers to the question “*Where do you see next opportunities for cooperation with the government organs or institutions?*” you will see that three of them are most important for respondents. There is advocacy of law and policies, the opportunities in financial support, and long-run cooperation without corruption.



Graph 14. Opportunities of the cooperation with the governmental subjects

In the last graph in this part, you can see that the proposals changes. Almost 30% of the respondents would like to share more information and mutually cooperate with the governmental subjects or public and almost 20% would like to welcome more openness and initiative from the officers. However, the respondents see big opportunities in financial support with the governmental subjects in previous questions in the question “*What would you suggest to improve the cooperation between your NNO and the government subjects?*” the financial support got the last place.

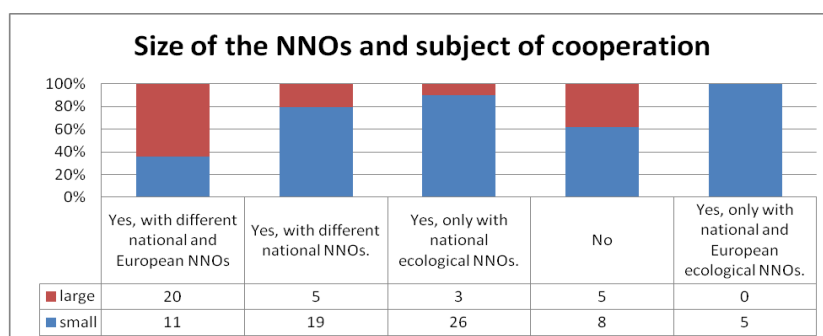


Graph 15. Proposals for the changes of cooperation with the governmental subjects

### 5.2.3 Cooperation with the ecological NNOs and the individuals

The section “Cooperation with ecological NNOs and the individuals” consists of the evaluation of the second part of the qualitative research. This part is focused on cooperation of the ecological NNOs with other NNOs or eventually individuals as private subjects. The 89 respondent answered all 102 questions. 36 of them answered the questions related to EU cooperation with the ecological NNOs or other individual subjects.

The first question of this topic was related to subjects of cooperation in the questionnaire. The ecological NNOs most of the time cooperate with various NNOs on the European and national level (30%), with national ecological NNOs (28%) or with different national NNOs (24%). The answer “Yes, only with national and European ecological NNOs” was voted only 5% which means that if they cooperate with NNOs they are not focused only on NNOs working in the environmental fields but also on different NNOs whether national or European. The research question “Do at least 80% of NNOs cooperate with other nonprofit subjects?” can be answered. The answer is that 87% of NNOs cooperate with other NNOs and only 13% of the participating respondents answered that they do not cooperate with any NNOs. From the amount of the cooperating NNOs with other NNOs, it can be found out whether there is a dependency between the size of the NNOs and NNO’s subject of the cooperation. The next graph is showing that the large or middle NNOs are mostly cooperating with all kinds of national and European NNOs. It is almost 20%. It is opposite in small NNOs, 25% of respondents answered that they cooperate only with the national ecological NNOs. This result is logical because the small NNOs often do not have the capacity to cooperate with foreign NNOs.



Graph 16. Size of the NNOs and NNO's subject of the cooperation

The hypothesis *"Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and NNO's subject of the cooperation"* is evaluated in the next table. It had to be used Fisher's exact test for the evaluation because in 3 cells have expected counts less than 5. According to p- value of the Fisher's exact test, the hypothesis is rejected on the level of the significance 0,05. It can be stated that there is a strong dependency.

Table 12. H0: Dependency does not exist between the size of the NNOs and NNO's subject of the cooperation

	Chi-square	p-value
Fisher s exact test	24,115	P=,000
Contingency coefficient	,445	
Cramer V.	,496	

In the next table, there are provided subjects with which the ecological NNOs cooperate the most. Most of the times were marked answers like the ecological NNOs and educational institutions. As it is shown, the ecological NNOs also voted 27 times for the private subjects. The answers such Fishing clubs or Gardener associations were marked fewer times. It is interesting that the ecological NNOs that cooperate on EU level answered always only the ecological NNOs. It was 36 times.

Table 13. The NNO's subjects of the cooperation

Statement	Quantity	%
Ecological NNOs.	81	40
Educational institutions.	49	24
Charities.	16	8
Hunting clubs.	6	3
Gardener associations.	5	2
Fishing clubs.	3	1
Private subjects.	27	13
Other: other clubs and NNOs	19	9

In the next table, there are evaluated reasons of the cooperation similarly as it was evaluated in section „Cooperation with the governmental organs and institutions“. The minimum was set at 1 and maximum at 3. The minimum means disagreement with statement and maximum means agreement.

Table 14. The reasons of the cooperation with the NNOs

	Average mean	Median	Modus	Frequency	Deviation
With these organs is easy communication without bureaucracy	2,71	3	3	69	0,59
There is possibility to be organizational supported by them in different projects.	2,11	2	3	44	0,93
Is easily to gain financial support from them.	1,40	1	1	65	0,72
We have long-time partnership with them.	2,59	3	3	65	0,74
They support our interest of organization.	2,65	3	3	68	0,68
They share professional skill and know-how with us.	2,57	3	3	63	0,72
We have to cooperate with them because it set by law.	1,28	1	1	73	0,64

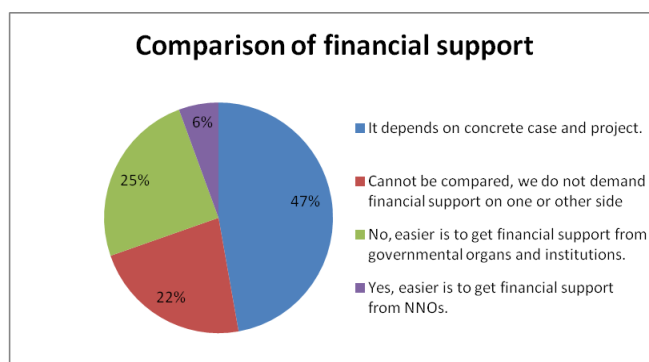
The results of this question are in some cases different than it was in the previous section in similar question. As the table is showing, the communication with ecological NNOs is easy and without bureaucracy than in the case of the communication with governmental subjects. 48% of the respondents marked that communication with governmental subjects is not easy and without bureaucracy and 78% respondents marked that communication with the ecological NNOs or individual subjects is easy without bureaucracy. The differences are shown also in frequencies in some other statements. More than 70% of respondents answered other statements. The deviation is small in all case. The research question *“Is at least for 70% of the ecological NNOs reason of the cooperation support of the interest of the organization?”* is validated. 76% of the ecological NNOs cooperate with the NNOs or individual subject for the reason of the support interest of their organization. The cooperation of the national ecological NNOs with EU NNOs has had the similar results as are shown in table 14.

In the next table, there are compared forms of the cooperation with the national and EU, only with the EU subjects. As it shown, the financial support is used little bit by the EU subjects. The percentage points are around 10 times higher in all other forms than it is in the case of the cooperation with only EU NNOs. In the case of mutual education, cooperation with EU subjects is used by more than 20 percent.

Table 15. Forms of the cooperation with the EU NNOs

Form of the cooperation	Cooperation with the EU and national NNOs		Cooperation with only EU NNOs	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Financial support – donations and grants.	18	20	1	3
Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences.	45	51	25	69
Unifying in associations of NNOs and fulfilling their conditions.	44	50	22	61
Mutual promotion.	45	51	14	39
Participation on common projects.	74	84	27	75
Sharing of know-how and systematic proceedings	55	63	19	53
Other	0	0	0	0

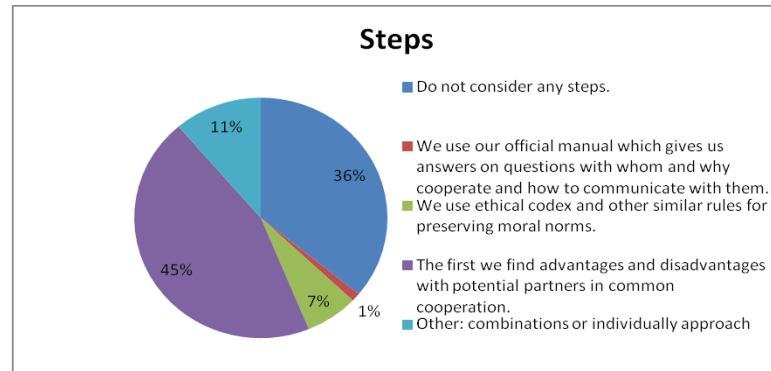
The evaluation of financial support can be seen in the next graph. In the graph, you can see whether the financial support is more difficult to get from the NNOs or governmental organs or it does not depend on appropriate subjects but on project conditions. However, it was seen that the most occurring answer was “it is not easy to gain the financial support” in the reasons of the cooperation, the next graph explains in which ratio. According to the respondents, the financial support is easier to get from governmental subjects than from NNOs. The highest number of respondents which is 47% has thought that to get financial support depends individually on concrete project or case for which the support is required and not on subject.



Graph 17. Comparison of financial support between the NNOs and governmental subjects

The ecological NNOs consider the steps towards creating cooperation with the NNOs. There are shown in the next graph. There are different percentages than in comparison with considering step for cooperation with governmental subjects. The highest number of the respondents marked answer four. Then the second highest amount of respondents voted for answer one. The combination of the fac-

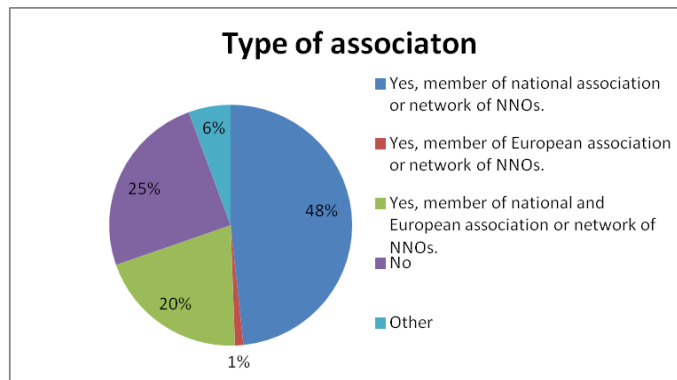
tors or individual approach was voted more times than in the case of the steps towards the creation of the cooperation with the governmental subjects.



Graph 18. Steps considering creating cooperation with the NNOs

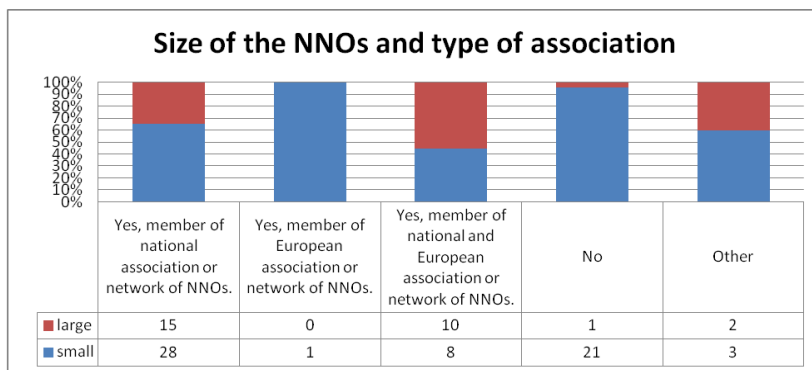
The cooperation between ecological NNOs or individual subjects is mostly continuous. In the first place was answer Yes, it is continuous, 54% of the respondents marked this answer. Less than 30% answered that their cooperation with ecological NNOs is more at a stroke and less than 20% could not determine. From the EU cooperation also more than half of the respondents marked “Yes, it is continuous”.

Some of the ecological NNOs are part of bigger association or coalition. As it is shown in the graph below, 69 % of the ecological NNOs are in association and 26% of them in European. 25% of the ecological NNOs are not members of any association and 6% are either in international associations or in association informally.



Graph 19.Membership of the NNOs in the associations

After the evaluation whether the NNOs are part of some association, it can be evaluated also hypothesis "Dependency does not exist between size of the NNOs and type of the association they are members of". The results of the hypothesis are shown below.



Graph 20. Size of the NNOs and the type of the association

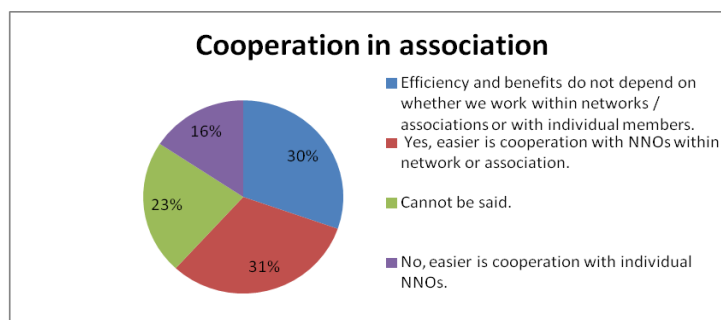
It can be seen that middle or large ecological NNOs are mostly part of national or EU association in the graph. Only 1 ecological NNO does not have any membership in association which is only 3,5%. On the opposite side, there is 35% of small ecological NNOs what are not members of any association. This observation is logical because the small ecological NNOs do not have capacity for making the membership. There can be seen the coefficients related to hypothesis in the table below.

Table 16. H0: Dependency does not exist between size of the NNOs and type of the association they are members of

	Chi-square	p-value
Fisher s exact test	14,322	P=,003
Contingency coefficient	,358	
Cramer V.	,384	

The Fisher’s exact test was used for the evaluation of the hypothesis because in 4 cells have expected less than 5. According to the p-value, the hypothesis is rejected on the level of significance 0,05. The coefficients are showing strong dependency.

How the respondents see benefits of the cooperation within association is demonstrated below on the graph.

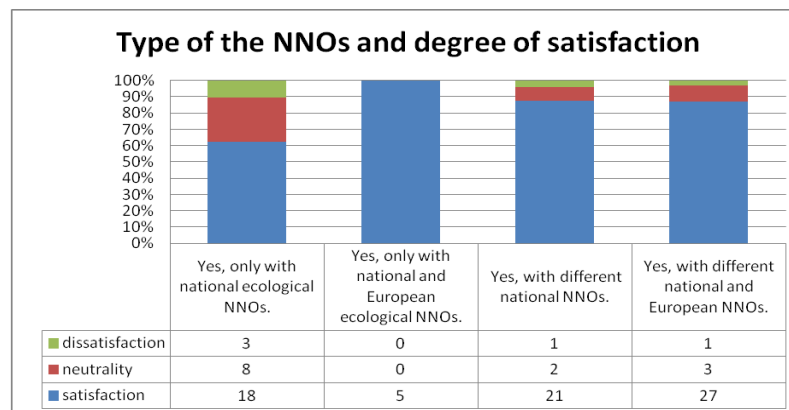


Graph 21. Benefits of the cooperation within association



More than 30% of the ecological NNOs think that the cooperation within association is easier than individual with NNOs. But also 30% of ecological NNOs think that the efficiency of good communication does not depend on whether they are part of some association or not.

Whether the NNOs are satisfied or not with cooperation with NNOs or individual subject have positive results. The ecological NNOs are much more satisfied with cooperation with NNOs than with governmental subjects. Almost 80% of the ecological NNOs are satisfied with their cooperation with NNOs and individuals and only 6% is dissatisfied. Rest of the respondents was neutral in their answers. It is difficult to deduce further results from these proportions. It is more complicated to evaluate data against the evaluation of hypothesis related to the topic in the previous section because there are expected counts less than 5. It was again used Fisher's exact test again for the evaluation of the hypothesis. The hypothesis state "Dependency does not exist between the type of the NNOs and degree of the satisfaction in cooperation with NNOs".



Graph 22. Type of the NNOs and degree of the satisfaction

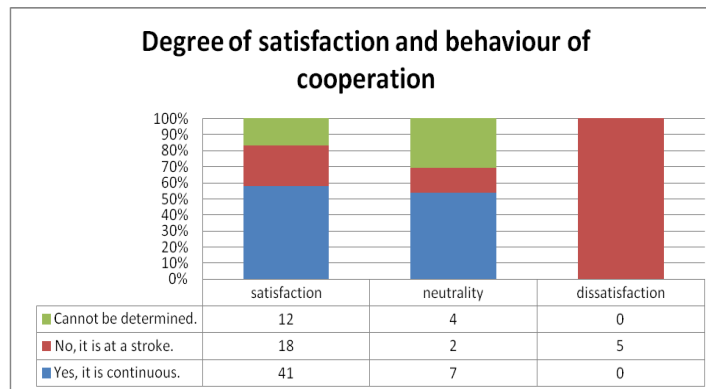
It can be said that the highest values are given to satisfied ecological NNOs which cooperate with different EU and national NNOs and the smallest number is given to dissatisfied or neutral ecological NNOs cooperating with ecological national or EU NNOs. The statistic for this hypothesis can be seen in the table below.

Table 17. H0: Dependency does not exist between type of the NNOs and degree of the satisfaction in cooperation with NNOs

	Chi-square	p-value
Fisher s exact test	7,243	P=,234
Contingency coefficient	,301	
Cramer V.	,223	

According to Fisher's exact test, the hypothesis is not rejected on the level of the significance 0,05. There is not dependency between type of the ecological NNOs and degree of the satisfaction.

The evaluation of the hypothesis "Dependency does not exist between degree of the satisfaction and behavior of the cooperation with the ecological NNOs" see in graph with values below. The highest count is for satisfaction versus continuous cooperation and the lowest are for dissatisfaction versus continuous or not determined. The ecological NNOs which cooperate at a stroke are fully dissatisfied.



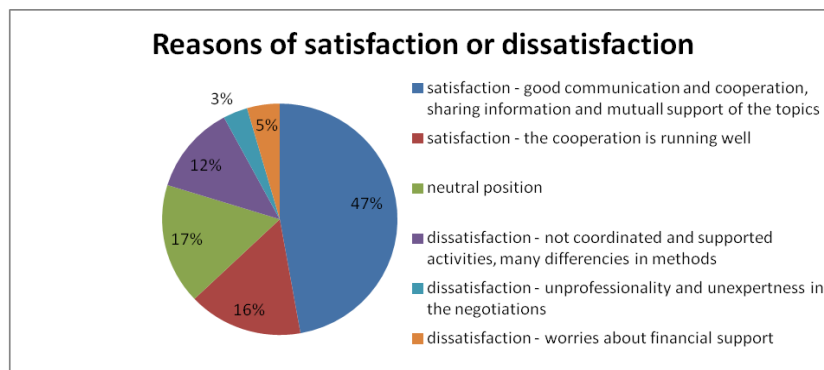
Graph 23. The degree of the satisfaction and behavior of the cooperation with the NNOs

It was used Fisher's exact test for the evaluation of the hypothesis because 5 cells have expected counts less than 5. The hypothesis is rejected on the level of the significance 0,05 according to the p-value. There is middle dependency according to other coefficients.

Table 18. H0: Dependency does not exist between degree of the satisfaction and behavior of the cooperation with the NNOs

	Chi-square	p-value
Fisher s exact test	11,684	P=,008
Contingecny coefficient	,381	
Cramer V.	,292	

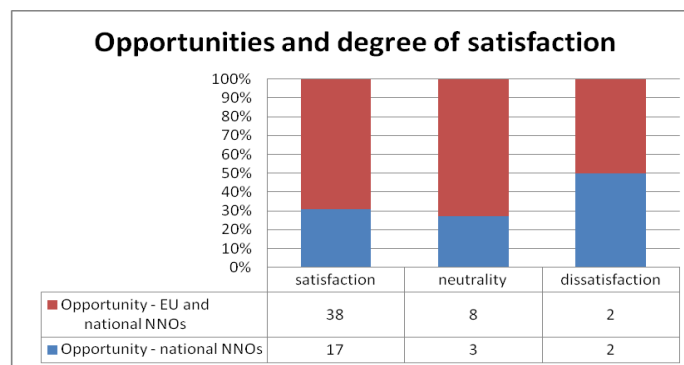
It can be seen why the ecological NNOs are or are not satisfied on the graph below. The graph is showing proportions of the individual reasons. The ecological NNOs mostly express reasons of satisfaction than dissatisfaction. 63% of all reasons provide satisfied reasons. In the case of the cooperation with governmental subjects only, 27% of the all reasons create satisfied answers. But 20% of all reasons create dissatisfied reasons. In cooperation with governmental subjects, 69% of all reasons have been negative.



Graph 24. Reasons of satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the ecological NNOs

As opportunities for the further cooperation with NNOs, the organizations see cooperation with national and EU NNOs at the first place with 40%. The second is cooperation with national NNOs with 25%. The NNOs would like to cooperate more with national governmental subjects than with national NNOs. But most of the time they do not see any opportunity to cooperate with NNOs (21%) than with governmental subjects (9%). On the other hand, they see opportunities in cooperation with the EU NNOs (14) more than with the EU governmental subjects (7).

The analysis of dependency between the degree of the satisfaction and the opportunities with the NNOs is provided below in the table with counts. In the graph, there can be seen that the more satisfied are ecological NNOs with cooperation more they are seeking cooperation with the national and EU NNOs. In general, the cooperation with only national NNOs is seen to be less perceiving as for further opportunity.



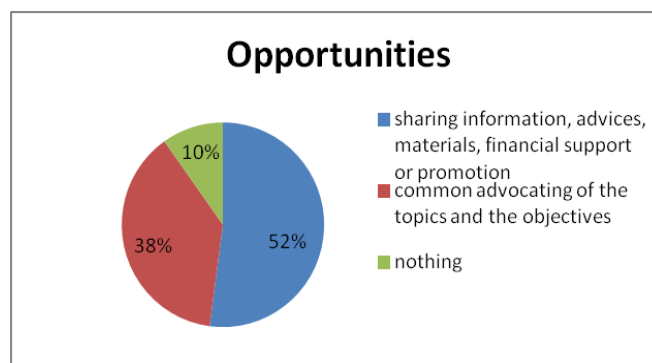
Graph 25. Opportunities and degree of satisfaction of the ecological NNOs

The Fisher’s exact test had to be used to evaluate the hypothesis. There is not dependency between variables according to the p-value, so the hypothesis “*Dependency does not exist between the degree of the satisfaction and the opportunities with the ecological NNOs*” is not rejected on the level of the significance 0,05.

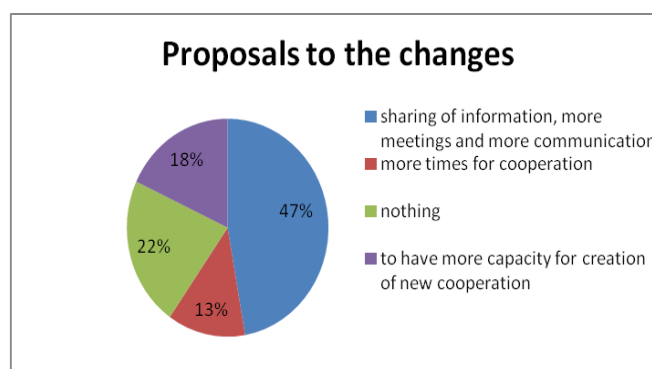
Table 19. H0: Do not exist dependency between degree of the satisfaction and the opportunities with the NNOs

	Chi-square	p-value
Fisher s exact test	0,935	P=,784
Contingency coefficient	,102	
Cramer V.	,102	

There can be seen where the ecological NNOs see opportunities and what they would like to change to reach better cooperation with NNOs or individuals in the last two analyses. On these two graphs are shown some common things such as sharing information. Many of the ecological NNOs state that the sharing information, advices or more general communication is needed for better cooperation. In first graph 52% and in second one 47% of the ecological NNOs vote for sharing more information or other things. As the second opportunity, the ecological NNOs see common advocacy. Between the proposals on the last two places belong answers as more time and more capacity (mainly employees) for the cooperation.



Graph 26. Opportunities with the NNOs



Graph 27. Proposal to the changes in cooperation with the NNOs

#### 5.2.4 Résumé of questionnaire

The questionnaire was fulfilled by 102 ecological NNOs from the Czech Republic. The questionnaire was divided into two groups: cooperation with national governmental subjects and cooperation with EU governmental subjects.

In a total number of 77, the ecological NNOs cooperate with governmental organs or institutions. 51% of ecological NNOs cooperate only with national governmental organs and institutions. Almost 40% of the ecological NNOs are orientated on the EU with their activities and interests but only 24% of the ecological NNOs cooperate with national and also other EU governmental organs or institutions.

This section is focused on cooperation with NNOs or eventually individuals. 89 respondents answered all questions. The result is that 87% of the NNOs cooperate with NNOs or individuals. The rest of the ecological NNOs do not cooperate with other NNOs at all.

The ecological NNOs mostly cooperate with different ministries on the national level or with Governmental Office and Management of landscape parks. The most cooperating governmental subjects are European commission and different European Federations on the EU level. The reasons why they mostly cooperate with these governmental subjects are a possibility to be organizational supported in different projects and interests of the ecological NNO, long-time partnership with these subjects and sharing professional's skill and know-how with the subjects. These are obstacles towards good cooperation or what they do not often see as the reason for cooperation are mainly things as difficult communication and bureaucracy, difficulties to get financial support or unwelcome political climate. The ecological NNOs see as differences between cooperation on national and EU level with governmental subjects: more professionalism on the EU level, stronger negotiation power and position of the EU governmental subjects, long-run and complicated communication with EU governmental subjects.

Usually, the cooperation runs with ecological NNOs (40%) and educational institutions (24%). Besides these subjects, 13% of the ecological NNOs cooperate with private subjects. The ecological NNOs cooperate with different clubs or associations as are a gardener, hunting or fishing. On the EU level, all ecological NNOs cooperate only with EU ecological NNOs at the last place. The most marked reason why ecological NNOs cooperate with chosen subjects are easy communication without bureaucracy, support interest of the organization, long-term partnership and sharing professional skills and know-how. Also as it was in the case of cooperation with governmental subjects for the ecological NNOs, it is not easy to gain financial support from them and they are not forced by law to cooperate with the NNOs subjects. It can be seen that almost 50% of the ecological NNOs marked that communication with governmental subjects is not easy without bureaucracy, 78% respondents who marked that communication with NNOs or individual subjects is easy without bureaucracy. As a difference between cooperation with national and EU subjects is that the financial support is used as a subject of cooperation, on the opposite side is mutual education which is used most of the time as a subject of cooperation with EU NNOs with national NNOs.

Even if the ecological NNOs see difficulties in gaining financial support from governmental organs or institutions, it is always the most often used form of cooperation between ecological NNOs and governmental subjects. 72% of answered NNOs are using financial support. Moreover, the financial support from national subjects which is perceived has decreased against EU financial support which has increased in last decade. Among the other often used forms belong mutual educations or consultations.

The ecological NNOs answered similarly that to gain financial support from other NNOs is also difficult. There is more difficult to gain financial support from NNOs subjects than from governmental subjects according to respondents. Moreover, almost 50% of the respondents think that to gain financial support from NNOs subjects depends on concrete case and project.

80% of the ecological NNOs want to be more initiative in cooperation with national governmental subjects than vice versa. 13% of the ecological NNOs see that initiation have both sides equally.

Some of the NNOs cooperate with associations. There are almost 70% of the NNOs what are in some association. Moreover, there are 26% of the participated NNOs in European association. From the evaluation, we can say that 35% of the small NNOs are not members of any association and from the large or middle NNOs only 3,5%. More than 30% of the ecological NNOs think that the cooperation within association is easier than individual with NNOs (16%). But also 30% of NNOs think that the efficiency of good communication does not depend on whether they are part of some association or not.

The questionnaire has shown that 43% of the ecological NNOs do not consider any steps when they create a new cooperation with governmental subjects. 31% of them use only subjective evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the potential cooperation before starting it. The rest of the ecological NNOs use their official manuals, ethical codex or combinations of steps.

In the case of cooperation with NNOs, 45% of respondents answered that they use subjective evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the potential cooperation before starting it and 36% do not consider any steps. The ethical codex and official manuals were in last positions.

45% ecological NNOs answered that their cooperation is continuous and 33% has voted for one-shot cooperation. In the next results, it was found that more are satisfied with the governmental cooperation that those ecological NNOs what cooperation is continuous than a one-shot. Moreover, the negative statements were mentioned almost two times more than satisfied statements. Among the negative answers belong mostly: unclear policy and unfriendly political climate, bureaucracy and administrative burden, limited long-run communication or lack of the interest and distrust from governmental subjects. Among the positive answers belong good communications or organizational and financial support. Among the opportunities, they mostly stated advocacy of the laws and policies, innovative methods, and approaches in advocacy of legislative changes, equal and long run cooperation without corruption and financial support. Among the changes for better coopera-

tion with the governmental organs, the ecological NNOs see: sharing more information and mutual cooperation with them or more openness and initiation of the officers. The financial support has got the last place in the chart.

In the case of cooperation with NNOs, 54% of the respondents answered that they cooperate continuously, less than 30% at a stroke and less than 20% could not determine. The evaluation of the questions linked with satisfaction has the similar results as it was in the case of cooperation with governmental subjects. The most often satisfied are ecological NNOs in their cooperation with the NNOs if they cooperate continuously than by one-shot. The ecological NNOs that cooperate with different EU and national NNOs than only with ecological NNOs are also more satisfied. In total value, almost 80% of the ecological NNOs are satisfied with NNOs cooperation against 36% that are satisfied with governmental cooperation. The ecological NNOs mostly express reasons of satisfaction than dissatisfaction. In comparison: 63% of all reasons for cooperation with NNOs were satisfied against 27% for the cooperation with governmental subjects. Opposite 20% of all reasons for cooperation with NNOs were dissatisfied against 69% for the cooperation with governmental subjects. Among the most satisfied reasons belong good communication, sharing information and mutual support of the topics. The negative answers were for example not coordinated or supported activities and differences in using methods. Opportunity for the further cooperation sees 40% of the respondents with national and EU NNOs subjects and 25% of them with national NNOs. They see sharing information, advice, financial support, common advocating of the topics as the opportunities with these subjects. Between the proposals for better functioning of the cooperation with NNOs, almost half of the respondents wrote sharing information, rest of them would like to have more time or capacity for strengthening or creating cooperation.

## 6 Recommendation

There were analyzed many case studies about possible cooperation between the ecological NNOs in Europe in the theoretical part. As the examples, the literature overview provided many tools how the communication runs within some of the selected associations in CZ and also in EU. Moreover, there was created the analysis of the EU and CZ institutions which cooperate with them to better advocate requirements and needs of the ecological NNOs. Next, the quantitative and qualitative surveys provided much valuable information how the ecological NNOs cooperate with these subjects and how they run cooperation with them. Besides using tools or practices they provided reasons for cooperation, obstacles, and opportunities of the cooperation. According to these findings, it can be stated recommendation for the ecological NNOs how to cooperate with ecological NNOs working on EU level and institutions.

As can be seen from the surveys, even if there are many ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic not all of them are as large to reach cooperation on EU level. It is the first problem in cooperation with EU subjects. Many of the ecological NNOs who were participated on surveys were the small NNOs. On the other side, even if their interests and activities are focused on EU level they are just less cooperative with the EU subjects. As can be seen, the cooperation with EU institutions or NNOs is difficult to reach because of small capacity of the ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic. As a recommendation for the ecological NNOs is to be the creation of strong coalition for advocating Czech issues on EU level or strengthening the power of the existed coalition Green Circle. The cooperation on a higher level can be more reachable within the strong leading association. As a strong association can facilitate an exchange of information and reporting that is often a critical part of NNO's work.

The problem can be that sometimes the ecological NNOs do not see that communication and then next cooperation with the association is easier than with individual NNOs. Also in the creating cooperation, it is that most of the ecological NNOs do not use any steps towards creating quality cooperation based on exactly set steps. It can also make cooperation less effective without any steps, manuals, timetables and so on. The respondents feel that cooperation is better if it runs continuously or regularly and this could be embedded in the manuals or internal conceptions related to cooperation. The activities of the ecological NNOs should be planned with taking into account also regular meetings and educational activities with other NNOs in their plans or strategies. If the ecological NNOs would have stated their reasons, goals, activities or strategies of cooperation clearer than all cooperation would be more transparent and better managed.

Next, it is really needed to lobby for common interests and projects than play on their own ground. As for example Greenpeace CZ or other ecological NNOs what cooperate on common publications, studies or mobilization campaigns. The necessity is to be interested not even into own activities but either activity of the other NNOs and perceive them as a partner. Sharing information, creating a



stronger partnership, mutual education or create expertises, research findings and common meetings have the big potential in strengthening cooperation with NNOs. It was expressed many times by the respondents from the survey that sharing information, personal contacts, creating meetings are the common things that the respondents would like to propose a change in cooperation with other subjects, not even non-profit subjects but also governmental subjects. According to strong need of sharing information, it could be created a platform where all the ecological non-profit sector or subsidiaries could share their methods, practices, databases and much other information.

On the other side, there starting to be a problem with capacity that ecological NNOs are missing whether it is fewer employees in an organization or financial resources. Here can be as solution shared materials, financial resources, called fast money or small loans to each other in difficult times or at the last place organizational capacity. Many of the employees are connected with more ecological NNOs, personal capacity can be also shared. Besides these things, the workshops, seminars or other educational activities can be organized by different ecological NNOs regularly. Moreover, the most used are a common demonstration, mobilization of campaigns and events.

The creation of stronger organization by merging at least two ecological NNOs into one it the next possible recommendation. As the survey is showing, many small NNOs who do not have enough capacity or possibility to reach EU cooperation are in the environmental non-profit sector. In the examples above, there was pointed out what could the ecological NNOs make better or change. The most effective change would be merging of the small NNOs in bigger and stronger ecological NNOs. This solution could bring low costs, new forms of fundraising, new ideas; no more duplication other's work, making potential donors and much more. Besides many advantages, the merging can bring some necessities as take a time for merging, harmonization of conditions of the organizations, clarifying aims and motivations of merging, first costs of merging, clarifying plans, strategies and other important documents or evaluation of merging. But the merger can bring more stable ecological NNOs with the stronger power to negotiate with EU subjects after overcoming these duties. The merging can be just only in projects of the ecological NNOs what is common or similar. The sharing projects can increase sustainability, better manage responsibilities, using better systems as facilities, influence greater number of people or improve both existing separate programs.

Against cooperation with governmental subjects, the communication between NNOs is open, without administrative burden or non-generous communication. This is a huge advantage which is in the non-profit sector that is presented however they do not dispose of with enough financial or organizational capacity. Good communication and merging can be the reason of deeper and more effective cooperation between the ecological NNOs.

Between the last but not at least recommendation include a suggestion for creation of database as the Foundation Center's Nonprofit Collaboration Database. It is a simple and powerful tool where the NNOs can submit their information

about cooperation. They can share information about purchasing goods/services, co-fundraise, staff training, and utilize space and much more through this server called Collaboration Hub. This database can bring you to an appropriate partner what you currently need. The concept is coming from the United States and nowadays in Europe are two subsidiaries of that center in Switzerland and Germany.

The ecological NNOs are less cooperative with EU governmental subject than national. This situation is logical because they want to change something in the law of the CZ than on the EU level. But most of the ecological NNOs would like to cooperate more also with EU subjects to be inspired by them and their changes or proposals to changes in the law. Among the issues why they cooperate with EU and CZ governmental subjects belong organizational support for their activities, long-run partnership or sharing skills. But they are often working with them because they need to reach some changes in the laws. The main obstacles in negotiation with governmental subjects in CZ are administrative burden and bureaucracy and low initiation from the side of CZ governmental subjects. Moreover, among other deficits in cooperation is a lack of interest from the governmental side and unfriendly political climate. The problem of bureaucracy is minimized on EU level but the main problem seems to be long-run and complicated communication with EU governmental subjects. The professionalism or strong position of the EU government belongs among the positives. As opportunities or proposals for changes were mentioned common advocacy in legislative changes, innovative methods in advocating, equality and openness, initiation in cooperation etc.

The deficit in the survey was mentioned a personal failure of the officers and deputies. The transparency and integration of the civic society can be a good recommendation for the ecological NNOs. The movement of the civic society can stimulate governmental subjects to take ecological NNOs as an equal and strong partner. The ecological NNOs needs to be transparent and visible in the world to integrate society to processes or activities. It is done mainly through media as a strong communication tool, press conferences, feedbacks, talks in media, blogs or reports.

To governmental subjects take the ecological NNOs as equal partners in cooperation the ecological NNOs have to talk to a big community consisting of not only from other allied ecological NNOs but also groups of people, clubs, celebrities, individuals or private subjects. The ecological NNOs also cooperate with educational institutions. These subjects should be also more and more integrated to activities of the ecological NNOs and vice versa to strengthen their position in the non-profit sector and in negotiation with governmental subjects. To be connected with professionals and experts from academic sphere would bring more credibility and authoritativeness into organization.

The second improvement can be in strengthening relationships with officers or deputies which can be through common meetings and discussions, different consultations or conferences related to environmental topics. The ecological NNOs with the governmental subjects should more communicate more through mutual

workshops or seminars where can be shared much information between each other.

As an example of proper and more effective cooperating with governmental subjects can be elected from the ecological non-profit sector the facilitating NNO who would be responsible for communication between ecological NNOs and the governmental side. That facilitator can help the ecological NNOs to explore potential cooperation with governmental subjects, facilitate wit administration, and negotiate better conditions for NNOs.

Of course, that problem can be found in the lack of financial resources for these improvements. As ecological NNOs claim, they have a lack of financial resources and capacity for creation or strengthening the cooperation whether with NNOs or governmental subjects. Partly the financial deficits can be solved with loans but this solution is not available sometimes for ecological NNOs. The situation can be solved by subjects that have these financial resources and are willing to give it to ecological NNOs. In this case, the financial resources have corporations or individuals.

So, to strengthen or to make the better functioning of cooperation between ecological NNOs and other subjects as governmental or non-profits is to have the organizational and financial capacity. But this is always the problem that can be solved by the support of the civic society or corporations.

## 7 Discussion

To fulfill the objective of the diploma thesis, it was used information that was obtained from the internet resources and books. There was provided relevant information related to the topic of the diploma thesis in the literature. The literature overview is provided with primary data to fulfill the objective of the paper. The literature overview provided information about non-profit sector, legislative related to the environment, associations and organizations, case studies of the cooperation of ecological NNOs and much more.

There was analyzed cooperation of the selected ecological NNOs in the practice. 102 ecological NNOs participated in the quantitative survey. The problem in analyzing data was that not enough ecological NNOs answered the questions related to EU topic. It was mainly because of the fact that ecological NNOs in the Czech Republic are not as much cooperative on EU level or do activities on EU level. Moreover, in the survey mostly participated small ecological NNOs with a number of employees less than 10. That's why the a sample of ecological NNOs was smaller than sample of ecological NNOs working on a national level. In the qualitative method, there were used interviews with 5 ecological NNOs. Each of the representatives of the ecological NNOs provided unique answers on the questions related to 4 topics.

As was analyzed in the cooperation between ecological NNOs, this cooperation is easier and without bureaucracy. The problem is that in governmental subjects the environment is less friendly and officers or deputies are less initiative or open towards needs of ecological NNOs as it is in the case of communication with non-profit sector. As a recommendation was provided the selection from the environmental non-profit sector facilitated subject that could be responsible for communication with governmental subjects. The good facilitator can be lobby expert organization or association that speaks with many members. Moreover, there are no interests in officers or distrust. As recommendation is provided creation of seminars, workshop with officers and deputies, and other activities for the education of both sectors. Another advice was more transparency and integration of civic society that can stimulate governmental subjects to take needs and requirements of the ecological NNOs seriously. These deficits on the governmental side are more related to personal failure or more complicated system of administration.

The financial support is another problem. The governmental subjects often set difficult conditions to ecological NNOs obtain financial support. Moreover, the financial resources decreased in the CZ as was analyzed in the survey. The problem of the Czech ecological NNOs is to obtain mainly financial support on EU level where the conditions are more difficult because of higher donations. The situation is different because the respondents perceive that financial support is increased more than in case of CZ but the financial resources are so huge that the ecological NNOs do not reach on it with their projects. The NNOs are also in scope of cooperation sharing financial resources. There are some foundations that provide financial support to other ecological NNOs but the resources are small. The finance seems to

be a really big problem between ecological NNOs as the solution can be narrow cooperation with corporations or individuals what these resources have available.

Even if many participated ecological NNOs are in some association, only 26% of participated ecological NNOs have been in EU association. Also, the results of the quantitative survey were that many of the ecological NNOs think that through association is easier communication with ecological NNOs but also the same proportion of the ecological NNOs think that the good communication and next cooperation do not depend on whether they are part of some association or not. These findings are in conflict with findings that was got from the qualitative survey. The respondents from the qualitative survey definitely agreed that communication and cooperation in associations are better than individually with NNOs. According to next findings that have been analyzed, the respondents see opportunities in sharing information, education or advice. As the recommendation was provided strengthening of cooperation within existed associations what could also strengthen the position of the ecological NNOs in negotiation on EU level. Also, the creation of the educational activities with each other and share responsibilities, costs, materials and other capacity that ecological NNOs are missing can bring stronger relationships.

The respondents also do not consider any steps towards cooperation with other subjects. But on the other side, they feel that cooperation is better regular and systematic. That's why is needed to have timetables, plans or other strategies that could state exact activities of the ecological NNOs with consideration of the regular meetings and educational activities with other NNOs or subjects.

In further research, I would propose to analyze also cooperation from the opposite side. This means to look at the situation how cooperation should be perceived with the ecological NNOs governmental subjects, educational institutions, civic society or other subjects. In the cooperation with the governmental subjects, I would propose more analyzed behavior of the officers or deputies and recommend some more effective and pleasant form of communication. Moreover, in that topic would be useful to make interviews with more representatives of the ecological NNOs and analyze their cooperation between each other and find some common obstacles towards better communication and propose improvements or find ways how to cooperate more effectively.

## 8 Conclusion

The main objective of the diploma thesis is to suggest recommendations for the Czech ecological NNOs how to enhance the cooperation with the EU ecological NNOs. Among the next objectives belong analyzing cooperation between Czech ecological NNOs and governmental or individual subjects and then recommendation of next cooperation. According to this objective, it was needed to analyze the individual subjects with which the ecological NNOs the most often cooperate and evaluate the cooperation within them. There are provided information related to the environmental non-profit sector and its specifics, and list of the main environmental subjects and their cooperation in the literature overview.

Between the secondary data belong information that was got from internet resources, monographs and studies related to the topic of the diploma thesis. The primary data was got from quantitative and qualitative research. The quantitative research was made between the Czech ecological NNOs (n=102). The data were around one month and then analyzed in programme Statistica 12 and MS Excel. It was used interview performed with representatives of 5 Czech ecological NNOs for the qualitative approach. The participated ecological NNOs were Ecological Institute Veronica, Environmental Partnership Association, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Greenpeace Czech Republic and Czech union for conservation and nature. The interviews were recorded and then analyzed according to the special key. The objective of the surveys was to gain detailed information about the cooperation of the selected ecological NNOs with the other NNOs and then other subjects as governmental or individual for the recommendation. The most interesting findings from the surveys see below.

The first finding pointed out that between the participated ecological NNOs more than half of them are small NNOs with less than 10 employees. That means that a small number of that ecological NNOs cooperate on the EU level. The finding is showing that cooperation with the EU subjects is poor. The similar it is with participation into EU associations. A small number of the Czech ecological NNOs cooperates within EU association. The problem is that there is no consensus between the Czech ecological NNOs whether the communication and then cooperation within association is better than individually with NNOs. The next findings are showing that respondents see as big opportunities in sharing information and capacities, education or advice with the other NNOs as possible cooperation. The problem of the cooperation was founded that ecological NNOs mostly do not consider any steps towards cooperation with the different subjects. But on the other side, they perceive that regular and systematic cooperation and communication is basic of a good relationship with ecological NNOs or other subjects. Furthermore, it was found that cooperation and communication in environmental non-profit sector are more opened, friendly and easier without bureaucracy than with governmental subjects. In last but not least findings, the survey pointed out that financial support as the part of cooperation is a huge problem in the environmental non-profit sector.

At the end of the diploma thesis are provided a recommendation for individual findings as well as a recommendation for further surveys related to topics of this diploma thesis. There are also described deficits of the thesis and compared findings in the discussion.

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# **APPENDIX**

## A Members of Green Circle

<b>Members of association Green Circle</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Arnica	Prague
2	Atelier for environment, o.s.	Prague
3	Automat, z.s.	Prague
4	Beleco, z.s.	Prague
5	Calla	Czech Budejovice
6	Centre for transport and energy	Prague
7	Czech ornithologically society	Prague
8	Clean sky o.p.s.	Ostrava
9	Friends of Earth	Brno
10	Frank Bold Society	Prague
11	Glopolis, o.p.s.	Prague
12	Greenpeace CZ	Prague
13	Hnuti Brontosaurus	Brno
14	FoE CZ	Brno
15	Coalition for rivers	Prague
16	Konopa z.s.	Prague
17	Foundation for conversation of animals	Prague
18	NESEHNUTI	Brno
19	Prague mothers	Prague



20	PRO-BIO Associations of ecological farmers, z.s.	Sumperk
21	Rosa – society for ecological information and activities, o.p.s.	Czech Budejovice
22	Chain of ecological advisory centres CZ	Brno
23	Chain of ecological educational centres Pavucina, z.s.	Prague
24	Society for sustainable life	Prague
25	Centre of ecological education and ethics – SEVER Brontosaurus Krkonose	Horni Marsov
26	ZO CUCN VERONICA	Brno

Table 20. Members of association Green Cricle

<b>Members of branch platform</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Actaea – society for environment and country	Karlovice
2	Agentura Gaia	Prague
3	Apus	Prague
4	AREA viva	Valec
5	Armillaria (CUCN)	Liberec
6	Centre of ecological and global education Cas-siopeia	Czech Budejovice
7	Centre of ecological education VIANA (Schola Humanitas Litvínov)	Litvinov
8	Centre for communitary work	Prerov
9	Centre of development Czech Skalice	Czech Skalice
10	CZ Biom – Czech association for biomass	Prague
11	Czech Switzerland o.p.s.	Krasna Lipa
12	Czech and Slovak club of transport	Brno

13	Cmelak - Society friends of environment	Liberec
14	CUCN JARO Jaromer	Jaromer
15	DAPHNE – Institut applied ecology, z.s.	Zumberk
16	Well registered association	Frydek-Mistek
17	Transport federation	Prague
18	Eco – info centre Ostrava	Ostrava
19	Ecoinfocentrum ZO CUCN	Jihlava
20	Ecological centrum Meluzina	Ostrov
21	Fairwood, z.s.	Brno
22	Forum 50%	Prague
23	Chaloupky, o.ps.	Knezice
24	South Czech mothers, o.s.	Czech Budejovice
25	Jizersko-jestedsky mountain club	Liberec
26	Juniperia	Czech Budejovice
27	Krasec, o.s.	Czech Budejovice
28	Krocan o.s.	Prague
29	Moravian ornithologically club	Prerov
30	Museum of environment Czech Paradise	Jicin
31	N.O.S. Nepomuk's ornithologically club	Nepomuk
32	OnEarth	Brno
33	Civic association AMETYST	Plzen
34	OBRAZ – Animal defenders	Prague

35	Revive	Prague
36	Friends of environment z.s.	Prague
37	PRO-BIO LIGA of food consumers and friends of ecological agriculture	Prague
38	Rezekvitek	Brno
39	Association Krajina	Zdar nad Sazavou
40	Silezika, o.s.	Jesenik
41	Society for garden and regional production	Prague
42	Society for animals	Prague
43	Suchopyr, o.p.s	Liberec
44	Union for conversation and nature CZ	Lounovice pod Blanikem
45	TYTO o.s	Verovany
46	Union for river Moravia	Hlubocky
47	VAVAKY, o.s.	Nalzovske Hory
48	Vespolek, o.s.	Jindrichuv Hradec
49	Health environment, z.s.	Jenisev
50	Green house Chrudim	Chrudim
51	ZO CUCN Klíny	Litvinov
52	ZO CUCN 11/11 Zvonecek	Vrana nad Vltavou
53	ZO CUCN BERKUT	Becov nad Teplou
54	Zvonecnik	Prague

Table 21. Members of branch platform

## B Questionnaire

### *Cooperation between your NNO and governmental organs or institutions*

#### *1. Cooperate your NNO with governmental organs or institutions?*

- Yes, only with national.
- Yes with national and European.
- Yes, only with European.
- No.

#### *2. With which governmental subjects do you cooperate most often? (You can mark more than one answer).*

<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>	<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>- Council for NNOs.</li> <li>- Political parties in CZ.</li> <li>- Other (here write your own).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European parliament.</li> <li>- European commission.</li> <li>- European Economic and Social Committee.</li> <li>- Other (here write your own).</li> </ul>

#### *3. Why do you cooperate with these organs or institutions most often?*

*(In next table are statements with scale of five degrees. First degree means disagreement with statement and fifth means agreement with statement. Please mark that degree which is the most truthful in your opinion. Please make it in both columns).*

	<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>					<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>				
With these organs is easy communication without bureaucracy.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
There is possibility to be organizational supported by them in different projects.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Is easily to gain financial support from them.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
We have long-time partnership with them.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
They support our interest of organization.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
They share professional skill and know-how with us.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
We have to cooperate with them because it set by law.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Political climate is good and cooperation NNOs with governmental organs or institutions is welcomed.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

4. In which issues is different your cooperation with national governmental organs or institutions against our cooperation with European governmental organs or institutions?

(here write you own)

5. What form of cooperation is most often used between your NNO and governmental organs or institutions?

(Please mark the answers which are the most truthful in your opinion. You can mark more than one answer).

<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>	<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support – donations or grants.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o From state institutions or organs.</li> <li>o From municipalities or cities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences.</li> <li>- Consultations – participation on consultancy committees.</li> <li>- Cooperation on legislation - creation of drafts and recommendation for law changes.</li> <li>- Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials.</li> <li>- Communication with deputies by written letters or petitions.</li> <li>- Participation on debates or press conference</li> <li>- Other: (here write your own).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support – donations or grants.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o From EU institutions or organs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences.</li> <li>- Consultations – participation on consultancy committees.</li> <li>- Cooperation on legislation - creation of drafts and recommendation for law changes.</li> <li>- Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials.</li> <li>- Communication with deputies by written letters or petitions.</li> <li>- Participation on debates or press conference</li> <li>- Other: (here write your own).</li> </ul>

6. How has a financial support been developed from individual governmental subjects in last decade?

<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>	<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has decreased.</li> <li>- It has increased.</li> <li>- Once decreased and once increased.</li> <li>- Cannot be determined.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has decreased.</li> <li>- It has increased.</li> <li>- Once decreased and once increased.</li> <li>- Cannot be determined.</li> </ul>

7. Are there any that governmental organs and institutions initiate cooperation with your NNO?

<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>	<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No, cooperation is initiated from both sides equally.</li> <li>- Yes, most often organs and institutions initiate cooperation with your NNO.</li> <li>- No, most often your NNO initiate cooperation with governmental organs and institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No, cooperation is initiated from both sides equally.</li> <li>- Yes, most often organs and institutions initiate cooperation with your NNO.</li> <li>- No, most often your NNO initiate cooperation with governmental organs and institutions.</li> </ul>

8. What steps to consider when creating a new collaboration with government bodies or institutions?

- Do not consider any steps.
- The first we find advantages and disadvantages with potential partners in common cooperation.
- We use ethical codex and other similar rules for preserving moral norms.
- We use our official manual which gives us answers on questions with whom and why cooperate and how to communicate with them.

9. Is cooperation between our NNO and governmental organs or institutions continuous?

- Yes, it is continuous.
- No, it is at a stroke.
- Cannot be determined.

10. Are you satisfied with the so far cooperation between you and the government bodies or institutions?

<i>National governmental organs or institutions</i>	<i>European governmental organs or institutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, we are satisfied.</li> <li>- Rather yes.</li> <li>- We are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</li> <li>- Rather no.</li> <li>- No, we are not satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, we are satisfied.</li> <li>- Rather yes.</li> <li>- We are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</li> <li>- Rather no.</li> <li>- No, we are not satisfied.</li> </ul>

11. What is the most essential reason of your satisfaction or dissatisfaction?

- With national governmental organs or institutions: (here write your own).
- With European governmental organs or institutions: (here write your own).

12. Do you see any other further opportunities for cooperation with government bodies or institutions?

- Yes, with national governmental organs or institutions.
- Yes, with European governmental organs or institutions.
- Yes with national and European governmental organs or institutions.
- No.

13. In what ways do you see other further opportunities for cooperation with governmental bodies or institutions?

(here write your own)

14. What would you suggest for improvement cooperation between your NNO and governmental bodies or institutions?

(here write your own)

### **Cooperation between your NNO and other NNOs**

1. Do you cooperate with NNOs?

- Yes, only with national ecological NNOs.
- Yes, only with national and European ecological NNOs.
- Yes, with different national NNOs.
- Yes, with different national and European NNOs.
- No.

2. With which NNOs or other organizations do you work most often?  
(You can mark more than one answer).

<i>National NNOs</i>	<i>European NNOs</i>
- <i>Ecological NNOs.</i>	- <i>Ecological NNOs.</i>
- <i>Educational institutions.</i>	- <i>Educational institutions.</i>
- <i>Charities.</i>	- <i>Charities.</i>
- <i>Hunting clubs.</i>	- <i>Hunting clubs.</i>
- <i>Gardener associations.</i>	- <i>Gardener associations.</i>
- <i>Fishing clubs.</i>	- <i>Fishing clubs.</i>
- <i>Individual subjects.</i>	- <i>Individual subjects.</i>
- <i>Other: (here write your own).</i>	- <i>Other: (here write your own).</i>

3. Name at least three of ecological NNOs with which you cooperate:

National NNOs: (here write your own).

European NNOs: (here write your own).

#### 4. Why do you cooperate with these NNOs or subjects most often?

(In next table are statements with scale of five degrees. First degree means disagreement with statement and fifth means agreement with statement. Please mark that degree which is the most truthful in your opinion. Please make it in both col-

	National NNOs					European NNOs				
With these organs is easy communication without bureaucracy.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
There is possibility to be organizational supported by them in different projects.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Is easily to gain financial support from them.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
We have long-time partnership with them.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
They support our interest of organization.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
They share professional skill and know-how with us.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
We have to cooperate with them because it set by law.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

umns).

#### 5. What's different about your cooperation with national NNOs over your cooperation with European NNOs?

(here write your own)

#### 6. What form of cooperation is most often used between your NNO and other NNOs? (Please mark the answers which are the most truthful in your opinion. You can mark more than one answer).

National NNOs	European NNOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support – donations and grants.</li> <li>- Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences.</li> <li>- Unifying in associations of NNOs and fulfilling their conditions.</li> <li>- Mutual promotion.</li> <li>- Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials.</li> <li>- Participation on common projects.</li> <li>- Sharing of know-how and systematic proceedings.</li> <li>- Other: (here write your own).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support – donations and grants.</li> <li>- Mutual education – seminars, workshops or conferences.</li> <li>- Unifying in associations of NNOs and fulfilling their conditions.</li> <li>- Mutual promotion.</li> <li>- Printing of publication, studies and other educational materials.</li> <li>- Participation on common projects.</li> <li>- Sharing of know-how and systematic proceedings.</li> <li>- Other: (here write your own).</li> </ul>



7. *It is for your NNOs easier to get financial support from NNOs as from government organs and institutions?*

- Yes, easier is to get financial support from NNOs.
- No, easier is to get financial support from governmental organs and institutions.
- It depends on concrete case and project.

8. *What steps to consider when creating a new collaboration with NNOs?*

- Do not consider any steps.
- The first we find advantages and disadvantages with potential partners in common cooperation.
- We use ethical codex and other similar rules for preserving moral norms.
- We use our official manual which gives us answers on questions with whom and why cooperate and how to communicate with them.

9. *Is cooperation between our NNO and other NNOs continuous?*

<i>National NNOs</i>	<i>European NNOs</i>
- Yes, it is continuous.	- Yes, it is continuous.
- No, it is at a stroke.	- No, it is at a stroke.
- Cannot be determined	- Cannot be determined

10. *Are you member of any associations or networks of NNOs?*

- Yes, member of national association or network of NNOs.
- Yes, member of European association or network of NNOs.
- Yes, member of international association or network of NNOs.
- No.

11. *To what association you belong?*

(here write your own)

12. *Is cooperation formed with NNOs in networks and associations of NNOs, whose you are member, for you more beneficial and efficient than cooperation formed outside of those memberships with individual NNOs?*

- Yes, easier is cooperation with NNOs within network or association.
- No, easier is cooperation with individual NNOs.
- Efficiency and benefits do not depend on whether we work within networks / associations or with individual members

13. *Are you satisfied with the so far cooperation between you and other NNOs?*

<i>National NNOs</i>	<i>European NNOs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, we are satisfied.</li> <li>- Rather yes.</li> <li>- We are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</li> <li>- Rather no.</li> <li>- No, we are not satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, we are satisfied.</li> <li>- Rather yes.</li> <li>- We are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</li> <li>- Rather no.</li> <li>- No, we are not satisfied.</li> </ul>

14. *What is the most essential reason of your satisfaction or dissatisfaction?*

- With national NNOs: (here write your own).
- With European NNOs: (here write your own).

15. *Do you see any other future opportunities for cooperation with NNOs?*

- Yes, with national NNOs.
- Yes, with European NNOs.
- Yes with national and European NNOs.
- No.

16. *In what ways do you see other further opportunities for cooperation with NNOs?*

(here write your own)

17. *What would you suggest for improvement cooperation between your NNO and other NNOs?*

(here write your own)

### ***Personal Information***

*Name of organization: (write here)*

*Size of organization (number of employees):*

- To 10.
- 10-30.
- More than 30.

*What is our area of interests?*

- Climate.
- Nature and country.
- Waste.
- Energy.

- Ecological agriculture.
- Animals.
- Transport.
- Other: (here write your own).

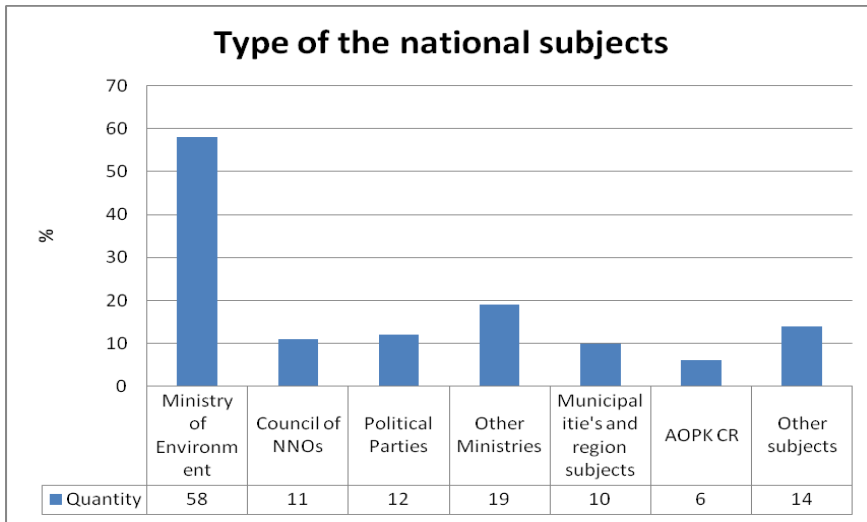
*Interest and activities orientated on:*

- Municipalities or cities.
- Region.
- CZ.
- Europe.
- World.
- Other: (here write your own).

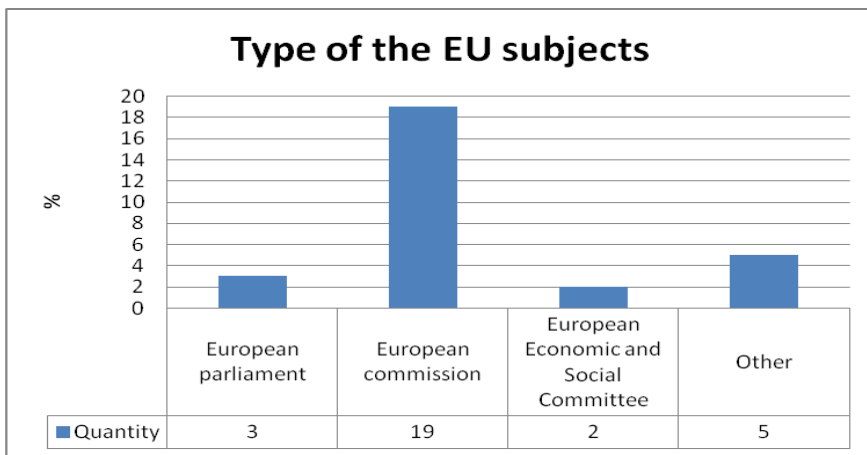
## C Example of coding interview

Topic	Category	Code	Answers
Financial cooperation	Subjects of financial cooperation	State	Grants from regional, state through operational to European funds administrated from EC.
	Self-financing	Individual donors	Half of financial support creates grants and next half of individual donors. Would be the best if the all financial support we would get from individual donors. These financial resources from other subjects are somehow bound on some project's plan or on some granted conditions. The granted resources are very administrative costly and these costs have to be invested to project would be created.
	Development of financial cooperation	Trend Decreasing of financial cooperation	The trend of financial cooperation, grants, evidently decreases. The activities were supported much more ago. In past were more money and transformation of society after the revolution was supported. Nowadays these resources are moving the east and here are projects which are not so supported. It is needed to do concrete activities with clear impact and measurable goals for getting the financial support from the governmental side and in the case of our activities is not so easy.
	Difficulty or opportunities of financial cooperation	Rules of obtaining	The most suitable financial resources are from foundations or individual resources. They have the easiest rules to obtain finance and they more believe to NNOs. The more we go to state structures and supports or operational programs, the more the financial support is interesting but more difficult to obtain. The money has to be planned with clear reachable results what sometimes is not possible to plan it with our activities and then is more difficult to obtain financial support from grants.
	Significance of financial support	Importance of financial support	Financial support from different subjects is very important. We have the budget which is from half covered from individuals and from another half it is covered by grants on regional or state level, operational funds or funds administrated by EC and foundation resources from independent subjects.

## D Graphs



Graph 28. Type of the national governmental subjects



Graph 29. Type of the EU governmental subjects