



Evropská unie  
Evropský sociální fond  
Operační program Zaměstnanost

Ministerstvo životního prostředí

# Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability

Evaluation of the implementation of  
the Strategic Framework *Czech  
Republic 2030*



MINISTERSTVO  
PRO MÍSTNÍ  
ROZVOJ ČR



cenia



ČESKÝ  
STATISTICKÝ  
ÚŘAD

**The Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability was compiled as part of the *Mechanismy prosazování principů udržitelného rozvoje ve státní správě (Mechanisms of Promoting the Principles of Sustainable Development in State Administration)*, Reg. No.: CZ.03.4.74/0.0/0.0/15\_019/00014042.**

## Table of contents

Management summary .....	6
People and society .....	6
Economic model .....	6
Resilient ecosystems .....	7
Municipalities and regions.....	8
Global development.....	8
Good governance .....	8
Introduction: purpose and structure of the report .....	10
Quality of life indicators: use and interpretation.....	13
1. People and society .....	16
<b>Strategic goal 1</b> The social climate is broadly favourable to families, barriers and societal pressures have been minimised. Family, parentage, and marriage enjoy special legal protection and are socially highly-valued.....	16
<b>Strategic goal 2</b> Technological and social development broadens access to dignified work.....	21
<b>Strategic goal 3</b> Structural inequalities in society are low. ....	28
<b>Strategic goal 4</b> Education develops the individual potential and ability of persons to manage and influence change and supports a coherent and sustainable development-oriented society.....	36
<b>Strategic goal 5</b> The health of all population groups is improving. ....	42
<b>Strategic goal 6</b> Increased public investment promotes the key functions of culture and equal access to culture and creativity. ....	50
2. Economic model.....	52
<b>Strategic goal 7</b> The economy has been growing over the long term and the domestic sector is strong. ....	52
<b>Strategic goal 8</b> The Czech Republic has well-functioning and stable institutions to support applied research and development and to identify opportunities in this area. ....	59
<b>Strategic goal 9</b> Natural resources shall be used as effectively and in the most efficient way possible in order to minimise the external costs of their consumption. ....	64
<b>Strategic goal 10</b> Economic activities are supported by a stable and functional infrastructure.....	72
<b>Strategic goal 11</b> The fiscal system as a precondition for a successful economy is stable. ....	80
3. Resilient ecosystems.....	84
<b>Strategic goal 12</b> The Czech landscape is understood as a complex ecosystem and ecosystem services provide an appropriate framework for the development of human society. ....	84
<b>Strategic goal 13</b> The Czech landscape is diverse and biodiversity is being restored.....	90
<b>Strategic goal 14</b> The landscape is adapted to climate change and its structure helps water retention.....	94
<b>Strategic goal 15</b> Soils are protected from degradation and the landscape potential is used to the maximum extent possible for carbon capture and storage.....	99
4. Municipalities and regions .....	104

<b>Strategic goal 16</b> Public services in the territory are better accessible to all residents. .	105
<b>Strategic goal 17</b> An increase in the quality of life in individual municipalities reduces regional inequalities. ....	110
<b>Strategic goal 18</b> The quality of the urban development of settlement units is ensured. ....	118
<b>Strategic goal 19</b> Cities and municipalities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and adapted to the negative effects of climate change. ....	125
<b>Strategic goal 20</b> Territorial public administration makes targeted use of the instruments for the sustainable development of municipalities. ....	138
5. Global development.....	143
<b>Strategic goal 21</b> The Czech Republic actively, and with a focus on national priorities, creates an environment conducive to sustainable development at the global and European Union level.....	143
<b>Strategic goal 22</b> By strengthening the coherence of internal policies with external impact, the Czech Republic supports global sustainable development.....	152
6. Good governance.....	156
<b>Strategic goal 23</b> Public policy makers have the knowledge and skills that enable them to participate fully in the public debate. ....	156
<b>Strategic goal 24</b> Public policies are coherent in relation to the objectives of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030. ....	161
<b>Strategic goal 25</b> Public policy makers and creators have high-quality and easily accessible data and information for decision-making. ....	167
<b>Strategic goal 26</b> Public policy-making innovations are a progressive solution that increases the democratisation and/or long-term effectiveness of public policies; such innovations are a permanent part of the functioning of public administration at all levels. ....	173
<b>Strategic goal 27</b> The quality of the government in terms of beneficiaries of public policies has increased.....	178
The main conclusions from the input evaluation of Czech Republic 2030.....	187
Policy coherence instruments for sustainable development.....	190
Public participation .....	193
List of abbreviations .....	194
Annex no. 1: Indicators of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 .....	198
1. People and society.....	198
2. Economic model .....	231
3. Resilient ecosystems .....	250
4. Municipalities and regions.....	262
5. Global development.....	281
6. Good governance .....	284
Annex no. 2: Quality of life indicators.....	297
1. Income and wealth.....	297
2. Employment.....	301
3. Housing .....	306
4. Health .....	309
5. Harmonising work and private life .....	313

6. Education.....	315
7. Interpersonal relations .....	318
8. Civic engagement and good governance .....	322
9. Environment.....	325
10. Safety .....	331
11. Personal well-being.....	337

# Management summary

## People and society

The Czech Republic enjoys a number of structural advantages in the social sphere. It has a universal system of social security, shows low levels of poverty and income inequality in an international comparison, has a stable public education system, a good level of education and accessible healthcare. In the long term, however, the country faces some fundamental challenges: The risk of poverty is disproportionately high among some groups (the elderly, in particular elderly women, incomplete families with children). Gender inequalities persist in society. Socio-economic background has a significant impact on both education results and the length of healthy life. Trends in demographic ageing and progressive robotization and digitalisation on the labour market will continue to significantly affect the development of society. By 2030, therefore, the country needs to maintain existing structural benefits and to invest significantly in prevention and health literacy, to strengthen systemic support for educators, male and female, as beneficiaries of change in the education system, to maintain high employment by developing the green and silver economy, and to increase the labour market participation groups that have been under-represented until now.

Although no specific objective of Czech Republic 2030 has yet been achieved, two-thirds of those objectives are showing progress in actual results. Some structural advantages remained in place. Income inequality in the Czech Republic is one of the lowest in the EU and incomes themselves have long been rising. Minimum and guaranteed wages have increased, and the Czech Republic is doing well in terms of unemployment rates and long-term unemployment in general. On the contrary, there are warning signs that inequalities in the sphere of health are intensifying. The prevalence of frequent drinking and binge drinking of excessive amounts of alcohol is on the rise. Positive, although not comforting news, is that the proportion of everyday smokers has fallen.

The Czech Republic has not yet found an adequate response to a number of the challenges identified in the Implementation Plan Czech Republic 2030 (Implementační plán ČR 2030) of 2017, or only has partial results. While labour market polarisation has eased, the Czech Republic still faces regional inequalities in almost all respects. There are gaps in raising the level of qualification of those who have not completed primary education in particular. The problem of the dependence of education results on socio-economic origin has not been successfully resolved. The development of education based on good general foundations, creativity, and the ability to learn is supported by the newly-ratified Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030+ (Strategie vzdělávací politiky ČR do 2030+). Development in the sphere of lifelong learning so far is not favourable, neither is there any link between formal and informal education. Gender inequality is decreasing only very slowly, pay differences remain, and the matter of equality is not sufficiently advocated in the government's decision-making positions. While the institution of job sharing has been anchored in legislation, which could improve the situation of workers who care for their children or their elderly, the offer of part-time jobs remains insufficient. Parental allowance has increased and the act on substitute alimony benefit for a dependent child was approved at the end of 2020. No social housing system has been established and some public services are not available to vulnerable groups, particularly in socially-excluded locations. The Czech Republic's public expenditure on culture has stagnated, although the salaries (wages) paid to cultural workers are slightly increasing; an act on public cultural institutions was not adopted.

## Economic model

The Czech economy needs to find new sources of growth, as growth based on direct foreign investment has already hit the buffers, especially on the labour market. It is crucial that we foster the innovation of SMEs, where there is the highest potential for growth, and the competitiveness of large firms, which make up the largest part of the economy. However, the economy must grow without increasing consumption of resources and energy at the same rate. The objective by 2030 is therefore decoupling, meaning eliminating the dependence of economic growth on growth in material and energy consumption. The progressive decarbonisation of the economy is also a technological opportunity, a challenge, and a contribution toward international efforts to mitigate climate change. Economic development is dependent on sustainable infrastructure that identifies resilience and stability. Sustainable public finances must in the future be able to cope with changes in the structure of incomes and new requirements on expenditure, and to ensure the most efficient public spending.

The domestic sector of the economy should show positive development, or at least a desirable trend, until early 2020. Some two-thirds of the targets showed significant progress, or the objectives were practically achieved. However, the COVID-19 crisis will have a major impact on economic development, and thus on further achievement of the objectives. While all sectors of the economy enjoyed a boom until the beginning of 2020, the importance of large companies and companies under foreign control rose slightly, which further increased their importance in the field of R&D and innovation. The outflow of profits abroad, in particular dividends, did not decrease at all. Despite partial improvement, the Czech economy is still associated with higher material, emission, and energy performance. The development of the last 3 years has shown no efforts at transformation, and the decarbonisation of the economy is still a major challenge in particular. Czech infrastructure (critical, transport, energy, and water) is generally in good shape, but each area also shows a number of greater or lesser risks. In terms of public finances, there has been no significant change to their structure, main resources, or the structure of expenditures compared to previous decades. The effectiveness of public spending is not systematically monitored and evaluated.

## Resilient ecosystems

The Czech Republic's ecosystems are under considerable pressure from the economic exploitation of the landscape, which contributes to soil degradation and reduces its ability to retain water. The landscape in the Czech Republic is fragmented and biodiversity is being lost. A significant part of surface water is contaminated by field flush due to intensive agriculture and waste waters. Synergies between increasing soil fertility, capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere in soil in the form of organic matter, and water retention in the landscape can be exploited to reverse these trends and improve the situation by 2030. Appropriately-set landscape management conditions, whose achievement will also be tied to the provision of subsidies, can ensure the restoration of ecosystem services.

A comprehensive approach to coherently address existing challenges and to provide an appropriate framework for the protection of nature and the environment is lacking. Landscape protection policy or efforts to improve soil condition have significant room for improvement, and the assessment of ecosystem services is not considered to be a fixed part of decision-making processes. While the proportion of ecologically-managed land does continue to rise, it still remains low overall. Climate change also affects the stability and function of ecosystems. Water management measures have not yet been able to systematically prevent water draining from the landscape, nor to achieve a long-term

balance of surface water quality and underground water quality. While there have been a number of positive steps in terms of biodiversity, progress is insufficient and we are not yet able to capture any data. Rather, as a result of inappropriate farming practices and the advancing fragmentation of the landscape, biodiversity is still waning and directly related to degradation of the functioning of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Its sensitivity to climate change is increasing, as is the risk of incursion of alien species. The data for a good assessment of soil development and degradation are lacking, as are those for and evaluation of the organic matter content in soil. There has been a gradual improvement in the condition of forests and its species composition, which could paradoxically accelerate bark-beetle calamity. No specific objective has been achieved in this key area, and the Czech Republic has made almost no progress in around 50 % of the cases since 2017. At the same time, the problems are spread across all areas.

Meanwhile, the public attaches great importance to tackling environmental problems, as shown by the increase in the number of people who consider any of the environmental problems in the Czech Republic to be very serious. And not only in terms of domestic problems (e.g. A lack of drinking water), but global issues too (e.g. global warming).<sup>1</sup> Even more, the public sees the matter as a part of the quality of its life and its dissatisfaction with the condition of the environment in the Czech Republic is rising, in general and by individual area.<sup>2</sup>

### Municipalities and regions

The Czech Republic continues to face social, economic, and territorial inequalities among regions, which are manifested in the emergence of internal and external aspects. These territories may be characterised by, for example, lower living standards and economic stability, reduced availability of services and transport infrastructure. Such negative development is, inter alia, linked to a negative suburbanisation process, which increases forced mobility and the number of road traffic accidents, including traffic emissions. Climate change forces municipalities to adapt to its impacts and introduce concrete measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and increase their own resilience to sudden weather changes. Furthermore, the forms and practices of strategic and land-use planning need to be improved by 2030, to create a certain standard of availability of public services in the territory and to return the original function to cities and towns.

Some progress has been made in most of the objectives, but none can be deemed as having being met. Public administration is active, but any progress on a number of objectives cannot be monitored sufficiently accurately, a number of adaptation and mitigation measures related to climate change included. Some partial problems have been successfully addressed over time; e.g. alleviating the extent of social exclusion. A trend that is at least positive can be seen elsewhere, although the speed of progress is slower than would be desired. Examples include requirements to reduce the energy performance of existing and newly-built buildings and low-emission and emission-free mobility, including related infrastructure. A positive trend can be seen in a high level of sorting waste; on the other hand, however, the recycling capacity and reduction in the volume of dumped municipal waste are insufficient. However, the unwanted trend of suburbanisation and the advancing take of agricultural land have not been reversed and remain negative. No methodology for the coordination of strategic and land-use planning has yet been developed and the generally acceptable standards of publicly available services are merely at the preparation stage. Local Agenda 21 - as a sustainable

---

<sup>1</sup> Quality of life indicator 9.14.

<sup>2</sup> Quality of life indicator 9.11., Quality of life indicator 9.11.b.



development tool designed directly for local level, has long come up against a number of obstacles and the number of implementers remains limited.

### Global development

The Czech Republic accepts its global responsibility and adapts its foreign policy and its internal policy if having an impact abroad. Key commitments include the delivery of Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, including concrete commitments to financing development, climate protection, or policy coherence for (sustainable) development.

At an international level, the Czech Republic actively supports the implementation of Agenda 2030 and related international agreements. It has formally integrated its commitments into domestic policies, cooperation on foreign development included. There is, however, scope for improvement in the actual implementation of these policies. None of the objectives can therefore be said to have been achieved, even though progress has been made in most. However, the Czech Republic still has significant gaps in fulfilling its commitments to finance development and in the practical implementation of the principle of coherence of development policies.

### Good governance

Good governance is a prerequisite for long-term development, and an essential tool in achieving the objectives of Czech Republic 2030. The key challenges in this area are the stagnating or decreasing levels of political participation through political parties and elections, the weak capacity for horizontal (network) coordination of public administration, the limited ability to work in decision-making with a long-term perspective, and weak innovation in public policy-making. It is therefore necessary to strengthen mechanisms to ensure public policy coherence, to develop an innovative environment in public administration, to improve the representative and strengthen the participatory and deliberative elements of democracy, to strengthen the data, knowledge, and skills capacity of public administration, and to develop a system of sharing data and information within public administration and with citizens. Good governance is not just a matter of public administration, but this has the greatest influence and particular attention should therefore be focused on it, although not on it alone.

No objective in this area has yet been achieved. In some cases, there has been a clear shift in the desired direction since 2017, most significantly in data collection and sharing. For most objectives, however, real progress has been small, if not non-existent. This also applies to policy coherence and innovative approaches. Although public administration has made greater or lesser efforts, genuine results have often not (as yet) emerged or cannot be properly assessed. This reflects the continued orientation of Czech public administration on activity or administrative output - both can be plentiful - rather than on data-backed results in terms of objectives or female and male citizens.

All of this in the situation in which confidence in the representative bodies of the state has been low for some time, as is public expectations of the Czech Republic's ability to cope with various threats, ranging from epidemics, water scarcity to rising poverty or deepening economic inequalities. The annual rolling average of citizens' trust in the Chamber of Deputies, as the main body of representation, has ranged between 30 and 40 % since 2015.<sup>3</sup> And according to public opinion, the likelihood that the Czech Republic will succeed in addressing possible future challenges is lower than 50 %.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Quality of life indicator 8.2.

<sup>4</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.14.



# Introduction: purpose and structure of the report

The task of presenting the Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability stems from Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 (hereinafter referred to as “Czech Republic 2030”).<sup>5</sup> This was to be submitted to the government once every two years. It should have been based on an analytical part which, on the basis of indicators, assesses developments in each priority area with a specific link to strategic and specific objectives. The report should also contain recommendations on the content of policies or strategic documents, concepts, programmes and measures in terms of fulfilment of the objectives of Czech Republic 2030.

The content and structure of the Report were further specified in Implementation Plan Czech Republic 2030 (hereinafter referred to as “IP Czech Republic 2030”).<sup>6</sup> In addition to evaluation of the objectives, the Report is intended to evaluate the implementation of the measures and recommendations of IP Czech Republic 2030 and to assess the key aspects of implementation, in particular policy coherence and the involvement of those engaged in implementation. The Report therefore replicates the structure of Czech Republic 2030 and assesses its achievement at the level of 97 specific objectives aggregated under 27 strategic objectives and 6 key areas.

Other key aspects are not dealt with separately in the Report, as these are given attention in evaluation of the fulfilment of the strategic and specific objectives of Czech Republic 2030 which structure the Report. This concerns, in particular, methodological support for municipalities (SC 20) and the fulfilment of international commitments on sustainable development (objective 21).

Another substantial change was adjustment of the evaluation cycle from 2 to 3 years so that the results of measures can be reflected, while simultaneously reducing the administrative complexity of the process. However, it should be borne in mind that a document of such universality as a strategic framework should be implemented through other strategic documents, legislative measures, and financial instruments, and the list in IP Czech Republic 2030 can by nature never be exhaustive.

Compared to the initial intention, the submission of the Report is not accompanied by the updating of IP Czech Republic 2030; the Ministry of Environment, as the manager of the sustainable development agenda, will request a deferral of one year, i.e. to 31. 12. 2021. This is mainly due to the Covid-19 coronavirus epidemic (“Covid-19”), which directed the attention of public administration and the public towards immediate health challenges, likely economic recession, and its social consequences. Instead of the formal updating of IP Czech Republic 2030, it is therefore preferable to pay attention to stabilisation of the situation and preparation for reconstruction linked to the transition towards a green, fair, and digital future. The key institutional framework is the European Union, in particular the European Green Deal,<sup>7</sup> the Recovery and Resilience Facility<sup>8</sup>, and the Just Territorial

---

<sup>5</sup> Approved by Government Resolution No. 292 of 19 April 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Approved by Government Resolution No. 669 of 17 October 2018.

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_cs](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_cs)

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility\\_cs](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_cs)

Transition Plan,<sup>9</sup> enabling the Czech Republic to invest more than half billion koruna in transition. Although the report is mainly based on data from 2019 and earlier and does not capture changes caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, its findings and evaluations may be useful for considering restoration and transition. It can be said that the effects of Covid-19 show the weaknesses and shortcomings identified in the Report in an even sharper light and relativize successes to date. A thorough assessment of the impact of Covid-19 will only be possible in the next evaluation Report in 2023. However, the effects of Covid-19 will be taken into account when IP Czech Republic 2030 is updated in 2021, inter alia based on the table of evaluation of measures presented in Annex 3.

The approach to evaluating fulfilment of the objectives of Czech Republic 2030 used in the Report is focused on the degree to which the relevant objective has been achieved. For ease of reference, it uses the following colour distinction in evaluating specific objectives:

- **green** indicates the objectives achieved. If also achieved in the next evaluation, it will be possible to update the wording of Czech Republic 2030 (i.e. if the evaluation is green even in 2023, a different target may be formulated or the target will remain, but from then on there need be no measures for that objective; checking the trend would be sufficient);
- **orange** indicates significant progress in real results; the objective could be achieved by the next evaluation, (i.e. if nothing fundamental happens, the objective could be marked green in 2023);
- **red** indicates that we are almost as far from reaching the objective as in 2017; little progress in real results since the adoption of Czech Republic 2030;
- **black** indicates those objectives for which it is difficult, on account of having insufficient relevant information, to assess the impact of activities on achievement of the objective and the extent of its achievement; in particular, this concerns the key area of Municipality and Regions, which maps out the creation of conditions for the meeting of objectives that are difficult to assess due to the complex structure of territorial partners and the important role of local authorities.

At the same time, it should be remembered that Czech Republic 2030 is a societal framework and that state administration can only influence the fulfilment of certain objectives indirectly. As this is the first evaluation report of Czech Republic 2030, most of the objectives cannot be considered as having been met. Therefore, the evaluation of specific objectives is accompanied by a complementary evaluation focusing on activity and efforts based on the implementation of measures and recommendations (see Annex 3) to provide a more comprehensive view of achievement of the objectives. Activity level is marked as follows:



**low** activity rate (an overall majority of measures and recommendations remained unfulfilled)



**moderate** activity rate (a balanced share of measures and recommendations implemented and those not)



**high** activity rate (overall majority of measures and recommendations have been implemented)

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources\\_cs](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources_cs)

The first *Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development* is submitted in parallel to this Report, assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to provide information for international reporting and a so-called voluntary national review within the process of evaluating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations level. The report presented assesses progress on objectives set by the Czech Republic itself in the area of sustainable development and which reflect more its specificities. The methodology used to assess achievement of the objectives is therefore different as it focuses on evaluation of the effort rate and not the achievement of the target, as does this report. However, both reports draw on the same types of information:

- available data for 162 indicators in Czech Republic 2030 of a total of 192 approved indicators - see Annex 1;
- reports from ministries (the managers of individual measures and/or recommendations in IP Czech Republic 2030) provided by those ministries through a network of focal points for the Sustainable Development Agenda in spring and summer 2020; the level of implementation of individual measures and recommendations stemming from reports by the managers of the measures and/or their consolidated version created by the Ministry of the Environment if the evaluations of managers differed is set out in Annex 3;
- additional information that had to be found in order to evaluate all measures and objectives.

## Quality of life indicators: use and interpretation

The fourth source of information comes from quality of life indicators and/or the available data for 85 of them from the 140 proposed indicators<sup>10</sup> (see Annex 2).<sup>11</sup> The systematic integration of the life perspective in the assessment of the success and impact of state policies is not yet overly developed in the Czech context. To this end, in the context of the project System of Long-term Priorities for Sustainable Development in the State Administration, Reg. No.: CZ.03.4.74/0.0/0.0/15\_019/0002185, implemented by the Office of the Government in 2016-2018, a proposal for quality of life indicators was created. Their long-term collection and evaluation should contribute toward a comprehensive evaluation of the development of the Czech Republic and provide a 'mirror', i.e. how people and different target groups see and assess the impact of policies. The quality of life perspective also broadens our attention in terms of economic success by expressing a GDP indicator both with the perspective of beneficiaries (e.g. measuring income and consumption from the perspective of households) and other aspects outside the market sphere which we none the less still see as significant (e.g. degree of satisfaction with one's own life or availability of leisure time), although subjective. Inspiration for the quality of life indicators came from the OECD approach that conceptualises quality of life and/or *well-being* through 4 items of capital (natural, human, economic and social) into 11 areas.<sup>12</sup> However, this does not mean that financial security can be neglected. According to the results of European Social Research (2016), work and financial security are (unsurprisingly) followed as a key factor in life satisfaction by perceived good health.<sup>13</sup>

However, the practical use of quality of life indicators remains limited in this Report. First of all, due to the fact that less than only around two-thirds of the proposed set could be met, due to a number of factors: data came from irregular sample surveys or projects that were not re-implemented; highly-aggregated data had insufficient informative value; indicators were experimental in nature and the proposed managers did not have them available or it was shown that they had more appropriate data for the same purpose. As a result of the work done by ČSÚ, methodological sheets were compiled for quality of life indicators, which will facilitate their onward development. Another limitation is the fact that some indicators are similar to those of Czech Republic 2030, the key areas of Czech Republic 2030 do not fully correspond to the 11 areas according to the OECD, and some have not yet been possible to fully use. The measurement and interpretation of quality of life therefore remains a challenge in the Czech Republic, and in other European states, and the creation of a data set is an open process that will be transformed in the future based on the experience gained.

For the reasons set out above, quality of life indicators are incorporated in the text in the form of accompanying boxes where they provide additional and broadening information;

---

<sup>10</sup> Office of the Government (2018), *Souhrnná zpráva o měření kvality života v ČR* (Summary report on measuring quality of life in the Czech Republic).

<sup>11</sup> 81 indicators draw on the Summary report on measuring quality of life in the Czech Republic, 4 additional indicators were added at the suggestion of ČSÚ (Czech Statistical Office) as part of project activity on Mechanismy prosazování principů udržitelného rozvoje ve státní správě (Mechanism for the promotion of the principles of sustainable development in state administration), Reg. No: CZ.03.4.74/0.0/0.0/15\_019/00014042.

<sup>12</sup> These areas are: 1. income and wealth; 2. employment; 3. housing; 4. health; 5. harmonising work and private life; 6. education; 7. interpersonal relations; 8. civic engagement and good governance; 9. environment; 10. safety; 11. personal well-being.

<sup>13</sup> Jaroslava Pospíšilová, Eva Krulichová (2016) *Jak se žije Čechům v současné Evropě?*, pp. 51–52.

in several cases they are also used to evaluate the achievement of a strategic objective or for the needs of a management summary (43 indicators). The indicators remaining unused (21) and the additional information (2) needed to evaluate the indicators can be summarised as follows:

- Satisfaction with one's own life has not changed in the Czech population for some time, ranging from 6.6 to 7 on a scale of 0–10 between 2002 and 2018, where a higher value also indicates greater satisfaction.<sup>14</sup> The good news is that the most radical solution to life dissatisfaction or mental illness - suicide - is decreasing. However, men are more prone to take their own life than women.<sup>15</sup>
- The Czech Republic is perceived by its citizens as a safe country. The percentage of the population that rather and decidedly felt safe - despite the number of global threats - rose from 76 % to 87 % from 2015 to 2019.<sup>16</sup> Attacks qualifying as terrorist attacks are still exceptional in the Czech Republic,<sup>17</sup> expressions of extremism - among which we include 106 identified and disclosed acts from the Criminal Code - represent 0.186 per mille of all disclosed crimes in 2019.<sup>18</sup> However, trust in migrants to the Czech Republic and their benefit to Czech culture has decreased; this was the highest before the Czech Republic joined the EU and, on the contrary, reached its historical minimum after 2015.<sup>19</sup> Foreigners are rather perceived as a threat.<sup>20</sup>
- The feeling of safety is even higher where people live.<sup>21</sup> Property and violent crime and the number of criminal offences recorded have decreased slightly, especially in cases of intentional homicide, attacks and aggression, although there has been a slight increase in sexual assault and rape.<sup>22</sup> In this case, however, it should be noted that these are only the cases to have been reported; the results of sociological surveys show a far more worrying situation. According to recent research, 21 % of Czech women have experienced sexual harassment and 34 % have experience of physical, sexual or psychological violence.<sup>23</sup> According to a metastudy in the area of violence against a partner, 19-39% of women have experienced physical violence at the hands of a partner.<sup>24</sup> The slight decrease in reported crimes has not yet significantly affected the absolute number of prisoners or their share vis-a-vis the population.<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Quality of life indicator 11.1.

<sup>15</sup> Quality of life indicator 4.5. However, this indicator should be interpreted very carefully; the suicide rate in the Czech Republic has long been above the European average and suicide is the second most common cause of death in the 15–24 age group, see Národní akční plán prevence sebevražd (National Suicide Prevention Action Plan), Ministry of Health (2020), p. 13, available from: <https://www.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/N%C3%A1rodn%C3%AD-ak%C4%8Dn%C3%AD-pl%C3%A1n-prevence-sebevra%C5%BEd-2020-2030.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.11.

<sup>17</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.8.

<sup>18</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.9.

<sup>19</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.7.

<sup>20</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.8.

<sup>21</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.12.

<sup>22</sup> Quality of life indicators 10.3 and 10.4.

<sup>23</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) Violence against women: an EU-wide survey, p. 31, available from: [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14\\_cs.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_cs.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Jana Dvořáčková (2017) Analýza existujících výzkumů v ČR v oblasti partnerského násilí, p. 17, available from: <https://www.tojerovnost.cz/images/analyzy/Analyza-existujicich-vyzkumu-v-oblasti-partnerskeho-nasili.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> Quality of life indicator 10.5.

- Although the citizens of the Czech Republic are generally satisfied with their lives and their surroundings and consider the country to be safe, they remain more cautious and less trusting of people they do not know (on a scale of 1-10, trust in others ranged from 4.2 to 5.0).<sup>26</sup> However, they believe that most people would not try to cheat them if the opportunity arose or would try to be honest (on a scale of 1-10, trust in the honesty of strangers was between 5.0 and 5.4;<sup>27</sup> it can therefore be assumed that the lack of trust people have is slightly affected by the perception of their standard of living/life situation).
- In contrast, the primary unit of the social structure and network with which people identify remains for the vast majority the family. It is more important for women than for men, more for the elderly than for the younger, more for those with more education, more for residents of smaller municipalities than those of large cities, more for Moravians than for Bohemians. The differences, however, are not usually significant, moving in the order of percentage points (p.p.).<sup>28</sup>
- The importance of friends and acquaintances has increased since 1991. While in 1991, 21 % of respondents considered it very important to have friends and acquaintances in life, the figure rose to 47 % in 2017 (confidence intervals for the entire Czech Republic are 20-23 % in 1991 and 44-49 % in 2017). From a sociological point of view, this increase might indicate that friendly social contacts (we can even talk of social capital) are gaining in importance in Czech society.<sup>29</sup>
- The third significant identification area is work and employment. There have also been a number of positive, subjectively perceived changes in this area in recent years. Satisfaction with remuneration increased significantly, by one-fifth, between 2013 and 2019. Average gross hourly earnings increased by one third between 2015-2019.<sup>30</sup> The ratio of the minimum wage and the average gross monthly wage for converted numbers of employees also increased, by less than 5 p.p., bringing it closer to the much-debated level of 40 %.<sup>31</sup> Working conditions have improved and security and the feeling of self-realisation increased; only relationships at work and employment stagnated. The time demands of work were partially reduced and the work-life balance improved.<sup>32</sup> The results are slightly surprising particularly in relation to increasing certainty and improving time demands; the subjective dimension of perceiving satisfaction here might obscure the risk to the labour market in the medium-term from automation, robotisation, and digitisation, or the penetration of digital technologies that shift and blur the boundaries between work and private life. Always more than 60% of respondents had worked at the weekend at least once during the past month in 2016-2019.<sup>33</sup> Occupational safety - expressed by the number of fatal occupational injuries - has not changed in the long term and remains high.<sup>34</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.1.

<sup>27</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.2.

<sup>28</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.11.

<sup>29</sup> Quality of life indicator 7.12.

<sup>30</sup> Quality of life indicator 1.3.

<sup>31</sup> Quality of life indicator 1.5.

<sup>32</sup> This is a newly classified indicator, based on the recommendations of CVVM (Public Opinion Research Centre), which is not included in the original set; see Note 11. The Index of subjective quality of working life in the Czech Republic, the administrators of which are CVVM and the Sociologický ústav AV ČR, v.v.i. (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences), shall be included among the quality of life indicators as indicator 2.16; data are also available from: <http://kvalitapracovnihozivota.vubp.cz>

<sup>33</sup> Quality of life indicator 5.14.

<sup>34</sup> Quality of life indicator 2.9.



- However, other research differs in its assessment of the feeling of self-realisation in the world of work. More than three-quarters of respondents who have paid work said that they decidedly agree that they consider their jobs to be interesting and beneficial and that they are capable of independent self-realisation in that work (it should be kept in mind, however, that this is only a proportion of the whole and groups of respondents do not necessarily overlap; in other words, the data does not imply correlations between interest, benefit, and autonomy). Only around a quarter of respondents with paid work said that they strongly agree that their work can help other people.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>35</sup> Quality of life indicator 2.12.

# 1. People and society

*Income inequality in the Czech Republic is among the lowest in the EU and revenues have a long-term upward trend, minimum and guaranteed wages have increased, and the Czech Republic is faring well in general unemployment rates and long-term unemployment. On the contrary, there are warning signs that inequalities in the sphere of health are intensifying. The prevalence of frequent and binge drinking of excessive amounts of alcohol is rising. Positive, although not comforting news, is that the percentage of everyday smokers is falling.*

*The Czech Republic has not yet found an adequate response to a number of the challenges identified in 2017, or has only partial results. While labour market polarisation is decreasing, the Czech Republic still faces regional inequalities in almost all respects. There are gaps in raising the level of qualification of those who have not completed primary education in particular. The problem of the dependence of education results on socio-economic origin has not been successfully resolved. The development of education based on good general foundations, creativity and the ability to learn is supported by the newly agreed Strategie vzdělávací politiky ČR do 2030+ (Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic until 2030+). The development of lifelong learning so far is not positive, while a link between formal and informal education is decidedly lacking.*

*Gender inequality is decreasing only very slowly, pay differences remain, and the matter of equality is not sufficiently advocated in the government's decision-making positions. While the institution of job sharing has been anchored in legislation - which could improve the situation of working people who care for their children or their elderly - the offer of part-time jobs is insufficient. Parental allowance has increased and the act on substitute alimony benefit for a dependent child was approved at the end of 2020. No social housing system has been established and some public services are not available to vulnerable groups, particularly in socially excluded locations. The Czech Republic's public expenditure on culture has stagnated, although the salaries (wages) of culture workers are rising slightly; no law on public cultural institutions has been adopted.*

1 The social climate is broadly favourable to families, barriers and societal pressures have been minimised. Family, parentage, and marriage enjoy special legal protection and are socially highly-valued.

*The family has an irreplaceable function for society - it is the fundamental social unit and the first place of socialisation necessary for the development of individuals and society. It should therefore be sufficiently valued by the state from an economic, societal, and social point of view so as to benefit all generations. Harmonising work and family life must thus enable families to support their children and their elderly. Particular attention should also be paid to families that find themselves in a specific situation.*

***In terms of harmonising work and family life, the parental allowance has been increased and the institution of job sharing anchored in legislation. Job sharing could in the future improve the situation of workers who care for their children or for their elderly. Social activation services for families with children and, from 2021 onwards, the act on substitute alimony benefit for a dependent child are primarily involved in ensuring particular attention to families with special needs.***

1.1 appropriate socio-economic conditions promote the proper functioning of families. They focus on the financial security of the family, compatibility of work and family, and care services for children and the elderly. This helps create sufficient free time in which to improve family relationships.

Effective policy that supports the family in all its basic functions is built on recognition of the autonomy of the family. It is, within the context of the proper functioning of the family, necessary to create conditions in which people will not feel financially vulnerable, while simultaneously not being forced to choose between family and work. We therefore evaluate the following tools in promoting the proper functioning of families.

The option of using flexible forms of work is one of the essential prerequisites for the effective harmonisation of family and working life among parents with small children, particularly for women whose employment is strongly influenced by maternity.<sup>36</sup> The employment rate among women with a child of pre-school age has been lower than 50% over the long term<sup>37</sup> and is one of the lowest in comparison with other EU States. The opposite stands in the case of women with dependent children (aged 12 years and older), whose employment rates have long been the highest in the countries of the EU (93 % in 2019).<sup>38</sup> Increasing the employment rate of parents with pre-school children is one of the priorities of Koncepce rodinné politiky 2017 (Family Policy Concept of 2017), which seeks to address the problems associated with the insufficient supply of flexible forms of work, such as part-time work, flexible working hours, and the possibility of working from home. The institution of job sharing, which will be implemented as of 2021, is a success in this area.<sup>39</sup> A new European Directive is to be transposed into the Czech legal order in forthcoming years, introducing the possibility of taking 10 working days of paternity leave, at least 5 working days of care leave to care for a relative or a person living in a common household a year, and at least 4 months of parental leave with 2 non-transferable months for each parent.<sup>40</sup> Further support for the proper functioning of the family takes the form of an accessible childcare service (for more see Objective 4.1), which, in terms of the financially affordable offers, is insufficient for children under three years of age and regionally for children of three and four years; this stands throughout the Czech Republic.<sup>41</sup> Current support for childcare services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is built on children's groups that currently have a capacity of more than 15 thousand places for children from one year of age to the start of compulsory schooling. Another type of facility is the mini-creche with a current capacity of 440 places for children from half a year to four years of age. These facilities are now financed mainly thanks to projects supported by OP Employment with more than 8.3

---

<sup>36</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2017) Family Policy Concept 2017.

<sup>37</sup> Ind. 1.1.1.

<sup>38</sup> Eurostat (2020) Employment rate of adults by sex, age groups, educational attainment level, number of children and age of youngest child (%) Available from: [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfst\\_hheredch](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfst_hheredch).

<sup>39</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>40</sup> EU Work-Life Balance Directive.

<sup>41</sup> MPSV Czech (2017) Family Policy Concept for 2017

billion koruna.<sup>42</sup> To make them sustainable and as accessible as possible, a national funding system is being prepared, which should operate from 2022 onwards.<sup>43</sup>

Needy families are supported by the non-insurance social benefits of state social aid, emergency benefits, and benefits for disabled persons and those in need of care. Since January 2020, the Act on State Social Support has been amended to increase the total amount of parental allowance from CZK 220 thous. to CZK 300 thous. (in the case of twins and multiple births from CZK 330 thous. to CZK 450 thous.). Parents of children under four years of age who were actively receiving the parental allowance on 1 January 2020 and those who started receiving it after 1 January 2020 shall be entitled to the increased amount of parental allowance. Support for men's participation in care in general is mainly addressed through paternity benefit introduced in February 2018 (one week of paid leave for fathers during the postpartum period). Long-term care allowances have been provided as of June 2018, meaning up to 3 months of leave to care for a relative and a contribution of 60% of the daily assessment base (DVZ). In terms of services for the family, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs provides family support grants to non-state non-profit organisations as part of Rodina (Family) grant procedure. The aim of this programme is primarily to support primary prevention, which contributes to greater stability in family and partner relationships and supports the development of parental competences - there was an increase in the allocation in 2020 of CZK 23.5 million<sup>44</sup> to CZK 120 million.<sup>45</sup>

A stable and well-functioning family helps social cohesion in society and is essential for its future development. However, the cost of upbringing and childcare significantly affects the family budget and an increasing number of children reduces the average income of the whole household. The average annual disposable income per person in a Czech household in 2019 was CZK 191,470, i.e. approximately 16 thousand koruna a month, a figure that has increased steadily since 2005. The rising trend in disposable income can be observed for all types of household in the Czech Republic. A person in a household without children has reliably the highest annual disposable income (almost CZK 222 thousand in 2019). The number of children thereafter is visibly reflected in the family budget over the long-term. While a household with one child had a disposable income of almost 20 % lower (CZK 179,625) than a child-free household, the difference in a household with two children was almost 30% (158,252) and with three

---

<sup>42</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>43</sup> Amendment to Act No. 247/2014 Sb., which was approved by the Government in July 2020.

<sup>44</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (2019). Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announces grant procedure in support of the family for 2020. Available from: [https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/511219/16\\_10\\_2019+TZ+-+Vyhlaseni+NDT+Rodina+na+rok+2020.pdf/55c7f1d2-ecef-4816-5a24-0d6025a75594](https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/511219/16_10_2019+TZ+-+Vyhlaseni+NDT+Rodina+na+rok+2020.pdf/55c7f1d2-ecef-4816-5a24-0d6025a75594).

<sup>45</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

or more children up to 44 % (124,257) in 2019.<sup>46</sup>

The good news is that despite the more challenging economic situation in families with children, the total fertility rate is faring rather well in the Czech Republic. Over the last 20 years, the total fertility rate in the Czech Republic has increased by one-half on average – from 1.13 live births per one woman aged 15–49 in 1999 to 1.71 in 2019 (only between 2009 and 2012 did fertility stagnate or decrease slightly). The lowest fertility rate is traditionally in Prague (1.52 children in 2019). The regions with low fertility levels in recent years (average 2017-2019) are the Karlovy Vary, Moravia and Silesia, and Zlín regions. On the contrary, women had the highest total fertility rates in recent years (2017-2019 average) in the Vysočina, Central Bohemia, South Moravia, and Liberec regions. The highest fertility of all in 2019 was recorded in the Pardubice region (1.82 children per one woman).<sup>47</sup>

It is therefore in the interest of the state to compensate economically for the costs and efforts relating to care and upbringing and to pursue a policy that supports the family in all its essential functions, so as to create the conditions in which people can meet expectations of the number of children and so that the birth of the child does not bring the potential risk of poverty.

However, families do not care only for children, but also the generation of their parents. From the point of view of social security for the elderly, the law addresses the increase in pensions with regard to the rise in the consumer price index and the rise in wages. Pensions are currently rising according to the index of consumer prices taken into account at 100 per cent and based on real wage increases taken into account at 50 per cent. Regular indexation leads to an increase in pensions in line with the possibilities of the economy. There is also a process in the indexation mechanism to enable the government to eliminate the effects of nominally low pension increases. In raising pensions over a period of time, the variable amounts of pensions paid might be increased by such a percentage that the aggregate amount of the increase for the average old-age pension is 2.7 % of its amount, if not reaching that increase. This is also confirmed by the continually rising trend in pensions paid since 1990. In 2018, the average old-age pension for men was CZK 13,703, and CZK 11,296 for women.<sup>48</sup> Since 1 January 2018, the indexation (excluding the broadening of the price index used according to best value) increased from one-third of the growth in real wages to one-half. Moreover, the basic amount of all pensions increased from 9% to 10% of the average wage since September 2018. Both adjustments thus depend on the evolution of wages in the economy, which also reflects economic performance. In 2018, the average disposable income of a person in a household of pensioners was almost 164 thousand Koruna and was 14 % lower in

---

<sup>46</sup> Ind. 1.1.4.

<sup>47</sup> Ind. 1.1.5.

<sup>48</sup> Czech Statistical Office (2020). Available from:  
[https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/cr\\_od\\_roku\\_1989\\_duchod](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/cr_od_roku_1989_duchod).

comparison with all households in the Czech Republic.<sup>49</sup>

**Increasing the parental allowance and the legislative anchoring of the institution of job sharing are major successes in harmonising work and family life. Although the Czech Republic is on the right track in terms of family policy, more accessible childcare services (more in 2.2) and adequate compensation for the increasing costs and efforts of parents associated with caring and raising children are lacking to be able to meet the objective. Setting the amount of the old-age pension is ensured by a transparent mechanism that takes into account the development of the economy.**

Families with special needs have the same conditions set in the system as other families, but they are not always given sufficient attention by the state. As of mid-2021, the Czech Employment Office will pay substitute alimony benefit<sup>50</sup> for dependent children to a maximum amount of 3 thousand koruna a month, for a maximum of two years. This financial assistance will cover around 24 thousand dependent children. In a proposed amendment to the Civil Code, support will be provided to consensual resolution of matters to concern a minor, and in particular the safeguarding of the child's proper nutrition.<sup>51</sup> Support for families with children whose development is at risk due to a long-term crisis situation has been targeted through a call in OP Employment within the bounds of specific projects aimed at social activation services for families with children. As part of that call, in which regions are the beneficiaries, Sociálně aktivizační služba pro rodiny s dětmi (Social activation service for families with children) was supported in 18 projects and 11 regions, mainly through OP Employment. This service was supported with CZK 631 million in 2016–2019. Significant support for families was also provided by projects within Koordinovaného přístupu k sociálně vyloučeným lokalitám (Coordinated Approach to Socially Excluded Areas), which were from 2016 to 2019 supported with almost 80 million koruna.<sup>52</sup> The project “Snižování rizik odsouzených prostřednictvím intervenčních programů” (Reducing the risks of convicts through intervention programmes) will also pay attention to parental rights and the obligations of parents convicted of criminal activities. The project aims to strengthen family ties and reduce the stressful situation among family members when going to prison and the stigma surrounding

---

<sup>49</sup> Ind. 1.1.4.

<sup>50</sup> Act No. 588/2020 Sb. on substitute alimony benefit for a dependent child and on the amendment of certain related acts.

<sup>51</sup> Draft amendment to Act No. 89/2012 Coll., The Civil Code, as amended, and other related acts (parliamentary document No. 899).

<sup>52</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

1.2. Special attention is paid to families with special needs. Targeted measures shall be taken to contribute to equal access to education and the participation of members of those families on the labour market and in society.

members of the imprisoned parent's family.<sup>53</sup>

**Objective 1.2 shows significantly worse achievement compared to the previous objective. However, in order to ensure particular attention to families with special needs, social activation services for families with children will be engaged more and should be supported by the newly approved act on substitute alimony benefit for a dependent child from 2021 onwards.**

Quality of life 1.1 - Compensation to employees  
Total gross wages and salaries of employees both in cash and non-monetary payments, together with social security contributions paid by the employer to the so-called compensation of employees in the percentage of GDP showed an increasing trend between 2015 and 2019.

---

<sup>53</sup> Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (2020), EEA and Norway Funds. Available from: <https://www.eeagrants.cz/cs/programy/spravedlnost/schvalene-projekty/snizovani-rizik-odsouzenych-prostrednict-3058>



## 2 Technological and social development broadens access to dignified work.

*Dignified work is essential for the quality of life. For many years it has been not only a source of livelihood, but also an essential element of human identity and socialisation. Opportunities for access to work are increasing and it is important to be able to respond flexibly to them. The opportunities for flexitime, work from home, or shortening working time are broader with advancing digitalisation and robotics. At the same time, however, the new options may also bring complications such as the disappearance of certain jobs, increased monitoring of workers, or theft in virtual settings. In addition to technological progress, social situations also impact on the labour market, which, due to the ageing population, need not be too encouraging in the coming years.*

***Significant progress is being made in raising the minimum and guaranteed wage. Efforts are being made for improvement in terms of retraining, but there is a need to better reflect the impact of population ageing and the trends of digitalisation and robotisation on the labour market. The precariousness and low flexibility of work is still relatively common in the Czech Republic. The offer of part-time positions is insufficient and the shared economy is not overly anchored in the Czech system. The availability of career guidance for persons with disabilities is relatively well-secured on the labour market. However, there is a significant lack of support for the development of social entrepreneurship and new social enterprises. The Czech Republic is faring well at the general level of unemployment and long-term unemployment, even when compared to EU countries. There are gaps, however, in increasing the qualification level of mainly those who have not completed primary education. While labour market polarisation has eased, the Czech Republic still faces regional inequalities in almost all aspects - whether unemployment or incomes. By contrast, continuation of the implementation of migration projects is currently going well. However, the Czech Republic is still poor at actively attracting qualified workers from abroad.***

2.1 The labour market has lower structural imbalances at national and regional level, labour market polarisation and societal impacts are mitigated.

The average number of job seekers in the Czech Republic long surpassed the number of job vacancies. However, this trend started to change slowly after 2013, when although the highest number of jobseekers was recorded in general (cca. 600 thousand) and very few vacancies (35,000), the number of jobseekers thereafter started to decrease and the number of job vacancies increase. The turning point came in 2018, when the number of vacancies exceeded the number of applicants by about 100 thousand. The excess of job vacancies then continued, with an even greater gap, in 2019, with the lowest filling of vacancies for operators of machinery and equipment, fitters, tradesmen and repairmen. By contrast, the number of candidates (officials and staff in services and sales) exceeded the offer of positions in 2019.<sup>54</sup>

Although there might appear to be surplus vacancies in the Czech Republic, structural imbalance still persists in some regions in the form of the opposite problem. The number of unqualified candidates significantly exceeds the number of job offers in the Moravian and Silesian region, the Ústí region and the Olomouc region. The situation is similar in the South Moravia region, where the overstaffing is in services and sales. By contrast, there was a shortage of labour shortage in Prague and in the Central Bohemia, Pardubice and Pilsen

---

<sup>54</sup> IND. 2.1.1.

regions in 2019.<sup>55</sup>

There is currently a regular increase in the minimum wage and of the lowest levels of the guaranteed wage.<sup>56</sup> This has repeatedly reduced labour market polarisation rates and income inequalities among employees since 2015.<sup>57</sup> The minimum wage (CZK 14,600) in 2020 was around 40 % of the average gross nominal wage.<sup>58</sup>

Work plays a key role throughout almost the entire life of a person. It is therefore necessary to reflect different life stages and changing needs and expectations on the labour market. In modernising the instruments of active employment policy, the Czech Republic is moving ahead in stages and primarily aims to promote further professional education aimed at finding positions for people on the labour market and increasing the targeting of active employment policy instruments (APIs). Career guidance provided through employment offices, regional centres (e.g. InfoKariéra in Pilsen, Centrum vzdělávání všem in Brno, etc.) and non-profit organisations is designed to help people find a place on the labour market.

The current system of requalification primarily targets needs associated with an ageing population and, on the other hand, the digitising society. In the area of improving the quality of the system of further education, the MLSA implements the “KVASAR” project (budget CZK 156 million), the aim of which is to set up the retraining system to reflect already taught skills. Systemic projects are also being implemented with the aim of increasing the effectiveness and accessibility of further education in digital literacy in relation to the Strategie digitální gramotnosti ČR (Czech Digital Literacy Strategy) for the period 2015 to 2020 (the “DigiStrategie 2020” project for CZK 43 million), the creation of a self-assessment tool for the validation of digital competences (the “DigiKatalog” project for CZK 37 million).<sup>59</sup> However, the requalification system lacks greater emphasis on structural labour market imbalances at regional level.

The offer of combined study programmes at universities (HEIs) is also related to the change or addition of qualifications. This option is used by a quarter of all students and up to 30 % of students in follow-up Master’s programmes. Almost all public SEIs offer lifelong learning courses with a focus on the pursuit of a profession. In 2007, the Act on the Recognition of Further Education Results took effect.<sup>60</sup> The National Qualifications System is an essential tool for the implementation of this Act in practice.<sup>61</sup> 23 243 professional

---

<sup>55</sup> Ind. 2.1.1.

<sup>56</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>57</sup> Ind. 2.1.2.

<sup>58</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>59</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>60</sup> Act No. 179/2006 Coll., on the Validation and Recognition of Further Education Results and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts (Act on the Recognition of Further Education Results).

<sup>61</sup> National Qualifications System. Available from: [www.narodnikvalifikace.cz](http://www.narodnikvalifikace.cz)

qualification examinations were carried out in 2019. The total number of exams thus increased to 226 922 in the reporting period.<sup>62</sup> In 2018, 8.5 % of adults in the Czech Republic participated in lifelong learning training activities, which is below the European average (11.1 %).<sup>63</sup>

The issue of robotisation, its taxation and the impact on the labour market in terms of reducing the tax burden on labour or the shortening of working hours is not currently being addressed or analysed in professional or political discussions. A certain shift can be seen in the field of digitalisation, but where only a digital services tax proposal has been put forward.

**Significant progress is being made in raising the minimum and guaranteed wage. Efforts are being made for improvement in terms of retraining, but there is a need to better reflect the impact of population ageing and the trends of digitalisation and robotisation on the labour market. While labour market polarisation has eased, the Czech Republic still faces regional inequalities in almost all aspects – whether it be unemployment or incomes.**

2.2 Access to decent work is also extended for groups that are still disadvantaged on the labour market – parents on parental leave, persons with disabilities or persons over the age of 50.

In accessing decent work, it is also necessary to focus on groups that are disadvantaged on the labour market – parents with small children, persons with disabilities (OZPs) and persons over the age of 50. The highest employment rate in these groups is in persons above 50 (41 %). About a quarter of OZPs work and only 16 % of those working carry out part-time work due to caring for a child or another adult.<sup>64</sup>

The professional advice provided by the Czech Employment Office is, by default, adapted to the needs of all clients, including the OZP. For example, the project 'Developing a system of support for employment on the free labour market' creates a network of specialists in the field of labour market advice for OZPs, including counselling for employers when employing DPs. Social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic is only financed through the Operational Programme Employment (OP E) of the European Social Fund (ESF) and does not receive greater attention. In terms of the development of social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic, there is a very serious lack of subsidy support for the creation of new businesses and the development of existing ones. The existing financial instruments tend to support the development of larger, stabilised social enterprises, but do not encourage the emergence of new social enterprises. Social entrepreneurship<sup>65</sup> in the Czech Republic also faces a lack of support through socially responsible public procurement.

**The availability of career guidance for OZPs is relatively**

---

<sup>62</sup> MEYS (2020) Annual Report on the State and Development of Education in the Czech Republic in 2019. Available from: <https://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/skolstvi-v-cr/statistika-skolstvi/vyrocnizpravy-ostavu-a-rozvoji-vzdelavani-v-ceske-1>

<sup>63</sup> Euroskop (2019) Available from: <https://www.euroskop.cz/9003/33150/clanek/v-cr-se-celozivotne-vzdelava-jen-8-5-dospelych/>.

<sup>64</sup> Ind. 2.2.1.

<sup>65</sup> In cases where one is not simultaneously an employer recognised on the protected labour market.

2.3 The share of long-term unemployed persons in total unemployment decreases simultaneously with the general unemployment rate.

**successfully ensured on the labour market; there is a very strong lack of support for the development of social entrepreneurship and new social enterprises. This area is practically dependent on the EU subsidy programme.**

In 2019, the general unemployment rate for people over 15 years of age was 2 %<sup>66</sup> and the long-term unemployment rate was 0.6 %.<sup>67</sup> In the area of unemployment, there has therefore been a positive development (decrease) – although it is possible that the situation is very likely to change starting from 2020 in view of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Further education for people at risk of long-term unemployment is facilitated by the Czech Employment Office. The aim is to provide comprehensive support and advice to clients both regarding the social sphere and labour market and employment procurement (e.g. addressing debt issues as a prerequisite for finding employment). People at risk of long-term unemployment are involved in retraining courses. People with primary school as their highest level of education are the target group of API instruments as they are most likely to face unemployment (10,1 % in Q4 2019).<sup>68</sup> Where possible, retraining and job creation shall be ensured for them, in particular through community service and through the establishment of a socially effective job position.

Predictions for labour market developments are addressed by the KOMPAS project, co-financed by the OP E. The newly adopted regulation on unseizable benefits should contribute to the advantages of the legal employment of over-indebted persons.<sup>69</sup> The objective of the adopted government regulation is to increase the unseizable amount and thereby remedy the adverse situation where, after the deduction of statutory wage deductions, debtors did not have sufficient funding to ensure food and housing for their family. This pushed them down to the poverty line.

**The Czech Republic is faring well at the general level of unemployment and long-term unemployment, even when compared to EU countries. There are inadequacies, however, in increasing the qualification level of mainly those who have not completed primary education.**

Across ministries, the aim is to minimize the rate of precarity and involuntary flexibilisation of work through the implementation of the measures of Company Action Plan 4.0 and Work Action Plan 4.0, but

---

<sup>66</sup> Ind. 2.3.1.

<sup>67</sup> Quality of life indicator 2.3.

<sup>68</sup> Ind. 2.3.1.

<sup>69</sup> Government Regulation No. 62/2020 Coll.

2.4 The rate of precarity and involuntary flexibilisation of work is minimised, including for activities carried out through the platform economy and other new atypical forms of work.

progress is slow.

Compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code is verified by labour inspection authorities. In addition to the main inspection tasks, such as labour agency inspections or checks regarding illegal employment, incentives from the public for carrying out inspections are also reflected on. 7 015 inspections were carried out in the area of labour relations in 2019, of which more than half violated legislation, most frequently in the area of remuneration.<sup>70</sup> Another area of concern is one of the forms of illegal work, the so-called false self-employment. Its inspection and sanctions are long included among the main inspection priorities by the State Labour Inspection Office. In 2019, 273 cases of false self-employment were investigated, with about half of the cases being citizens of the Czech Republic, a third non-EU foreigners and the remainder (12 %) of cases EU citizens.<sup>71</sup> Although the prevention of the false self-employment system is a priority, no significant progress has been made in the long term.

The share of employment in an indefinite period employment relationship in both Europe and the Czech Republic is decreasing.<sup>72</sup> Similarly to the share of people with a fixed-term contract which, on average, has also been slightly decreasing since 2015. However, despite this, the number of hours actually worked has not changed significantly over time.<sup>73</sup> Fixed-term contracts are considerably more frequent in the case of women.<sup>74</sup> The issue of new forms of work organisation concerns, for example, the dissemination of precarious work and threats to insurance systems and ensuring its compatibility with the Czech employment legislation, its taxation and integration into social and health insurance systems.<sup>75</sup> Discussions on the limitation of the renewal of fixed-term employment in the case of agency work have not been carried out.

**The precariousness and low flexibility of work is still relatively common in the Czech Republic. The Company Action Plan 4.0 is being implemented slowly, the supply of part-time contracts is insufficient and shared economy is not very anchored in the Czech system. Risks of the false self-employment system are not being successfully prevented in the long term.**

The number of foreigners with a registered or authorised residence in the Czech Republic has been growing long-term – at the end of 2019 around 596 thousand persons were registered.<sup>76</sup> The number of

---

<sup>70</sup> MLSA CZ Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), State Labour Inspection Office (2020) Annual Summary Report on the Results of Inspection Actions for 2019.

<sup>71</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>72</sup> National Training Fund (2016) Labour Initiative. Available from: [https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/848077/studie\\_iniciativa\\_prace\\_4.0.pdf/62c5d975-d835-4399-e26b-d5fbb6dca948](https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/848077/studie_iniciativa_prace_4.0.pdf/62c5d975-d835-4399-e26b-d5fbb6dca948)

<sup>73</sup> Ind. 2.4.1.

<sup>74</sup> Ind. 2.4.2.

<sup>75</sup> MLSA (2017) Work Action Plan 4.0. Available from: [https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/848077/akcni\\_plan\\_prace\\_4.0.pdf/536141a0-2916-1e4d-0c42-e339df0902aa](https://www.mpsv.cz/documents/20142/848077/akcni_plan_prace_4.0.pdf/536141a0-2916-1e4d-0c42-e339df0902aa)

<sup>76</sup> Ind. 2.5.1.

*2.5 immigration and integration policy emphasises the attraction of qualified foreigners and strengthens the diversity of the workforce, which is important for innovation. Public policies also support the return of Czech citizens from abroad.*

persons who arrived in the Czech Republic during the course of 2019 on the basis of an application/permit for permanent or temporary residence, or who were granted asylum in the Czech Republic was almost 66 thousand, the highest number since 2009. The people most frequently migrating to the Czech Republic are citizens of Ukraine (22.8 thousand in 2019), Slovakia (5.8 thousand) and Russia (4.3 thousand).<sup>77</sup> Citizens of Ukraine (146 thousand in 2019) and Slovakia (121 thousand), followed by Vietnam (62 thousand) and Russia (38 thousand) dominate among foreigners with a registered residence in the Czech Republic.<sup>78</sup>

In order to support and manage economic migration more effectively, the current migration projects were transformed into four new ones in 2019: (1) The Highly Qualified Employee Programme; (2) The Key and Scientific Personnel Programme; 3) The Qualified Employee Programme; 4) The Extraordinary Work Visa Programme for Ukrainian nationals working in agriculture, the food industry or forestry. On the other hand, support for migration policy is undermined by the lack of staffing capacity of the relevant administrations, including representative offices.

Their university education in the Czech Republic is closely linked to qualified workers from abroad. It may increase the likelihood of foreign graduates finding employment on the Czech labour market. The share of foreigners in the total number of university graduates in the Czech Republic has been increasing steadily since 2001. In 2019, foreigners accounted for 14 % of higher education graduates, but more than half of them are from Slovakia. The graduates are most often people from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. Information and communication technologies is the most sought-after field by foreigners.<sup>79</sup> Since 2019, a new type of residence permit<sup>80</sup> (amendment on the residence of foreigners) lets foreign university graduates remain in the Czech Republic, allowing citizens of third states to stay for up to 9 months after the completion of their studies or scientific research in order to seek employment.

In order to attract qualified foreigners to the Czech Republic, it is necessary to actively improve our country's image abroad. This measure is partially implemented, e.g. through the foreign network CzechInvest, which promotes the Czech Republic as a technologically advanced country suitable for investment. At the same time, CzechInvest covers projects for attracting talents from abroad (Talent Attraction).<sup>81</sup>

In view of the increasing intensity (turnover) of international migration in the last four years,<sup>82</sup> information for foreigners about the conditions

---

<sup>77</sup> Ind. 2.5.2.

<sup>78</sup> Ind. 2.5.1.

<sup>79</sup> Ind. 2.5.4.

<sup>80</sup> Act No. 176/2019 Coll. Act amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., On the Residence of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and Amending certain Acts, as amended, and other related acts.

<sup>81</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>82</sup> Ind. 2.5.3.

of entry and stay in the Czech territory will be available not only in English but thematically also in other languages. Among other things, a network of 18 Foreigner Integration Support Centres has been legally anchored and operates in all Czech regions. The long-term goal is to improve not only the availability but also the accessibility of practical information, e.g. through an assistance infoline in Mongolian, Vietnamese and Ukrainian languages, and information brochures all the way down to the municipal level<sup>83</sup> or a Manual for the Local Integration of Migrants in the Czech Republic.<sup>84</sup>

This is related also to the development of Czech language teaching in institutions abroad as well as in the Czech Republic. This purpose is currently served, for example, by the development programme Promoting the Education of Foreigners in Schools (MEYS) or the Programme for Promoting Czech Cultural Heritage Abroad for the years 2016-2020 (MEYS and MFA), the cost of which is around CZK 30 million in 2020 for 35 trainees in 25 countries, and which shall continue also in the period 2021-2025.<sup>85</sup>

Wage protection and regulation was met in 2019 via the introduction of the so-called wage criterion. All foreigners newly arrived in the framework of government migration programmes must have a certain guaranteed wage, e.g. employers must ensure participants in the most widely used Qualified Employee Programme a minimum wage of min. 1.2 times the guaranteed wage.<sup>86</sup> This has a positive impact on the prevention of wage dumping and partly on wage increase in lower-paid sectors. At the end of 2020, a project aimed at introducing a multi-criterial point system for economic migration was launched to highlight in particular the long-term needs of the domestic labour market.<sup>87</sup>

**Continuation of the implementation of migration projects is currently going well. An amendment on the residence of foreigners has been adopted, allowing foreign graduates to stay in the Czech Republic for 9 months to seek employment. However, the Czech Republic is still lacking in terms a more active attraction of qualified workers and specific data for a more reliable evaluation of the relative measures.**

---

<sup>83</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>84</sup> Available from: [https://www.migrace.com/cs/regularizace/mesta-a-inkluzivni-strategie/integracni\\_manual](https://www.migrace.com/cs/regularizace/mesta-a-inkluzivni-strategie/integracni_manual).

<sup>85</sup> Programme for Promoting Czech Cultural Heritage Abroad for the years 2021-2025, approved by Government Resolution No. 926 of 14. 9. 2020.

<sup>86</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>87</sup> MLSA CZ (2020) Projects in preparation. Available from: <https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/pripravovane>

### 3 Structural inequalities in society are low.

*Inequality and discrimination reduce economic growth as well as the quality of life of the population. Systematic and targeted support for the development of the local economy, healthcare and transport operators in the peripheral regions of the Czech Republic can reverse negative trends, in particular in terms of social exclusion and the risk of poverty. A topical issue in this area is also the fight against discrimination based on sex, age, care for dependent persons or disability.*

**Combating discrimination is a topical issue in the Czech Republic, but the success rate varies. In terms of wage differences, gender inequality in the Czech Republic is slightly and very slowly decreasing. However, the problem lies in harmonising personal and work life and in the social understanding of this issue, which is very difficult to change. The issue is neither greatly supported in decision-making positions, which are mainly occupied by men, nor in the state budget. Compared to the EU, the Czech Republic is merely at the start of its journey toward gender equality. There is a slight improvement in terms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, as their share of the labour market has increased slightly in recent years. On the other hand, a social housing system has not yet been established and some public services are not available to vulnerable groups – especially in socially excluded locations. Income inequality in the Czech Republic is one of the lowest in the EU and incomes themselves have long been rising.**

3.1 The proportion of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion is decreasing over the long term.

The long-term objective of the Czech Republic is to minimise the number of people at risk of income poverty, material deprivation or social exclusion, taking into account regional imbalances. This issue is addressed in more detail by some strategy documents (e.g. the Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2020, the 2016-2020 Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion or the Concept for the Prevention and Management of Homelessness in the Czech Republic until 2020, and the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030). Currently, continuity for the coming years in other strategic documents is ensured, for example, for social inclusion, but not for homelessness. At the same time, there is a lack of interconnectedness between the various strategic documents.

Quality of life 3.11 and 3.12 – The number of people without a roof and without dwelling  
Almost 24 thousand people were 'without a roof' or 'without dwelling' in 2019, of which 8 892 people survived outside. Many others lived in temporary private housing.

A positive trend since 2014 has been the decreasing share of people at risk of material deprivation and those living in households with low labour intensity. On the contrary, the share of people at risk of income poverty has increased slightly since 2017. The situation is also affected by significant regional disparities – up to 17 % of people at risk of income poverty are located in the Northwest region, which is most affected.<sup>88</sup> In terms of government efficiency, it is worth noting that the level of effectiveness with which social transfers reduce poverty decreases over time, that is, it decreases with the reduction of poverty prior to social transfers. At a lower initial poverty rate, social transfers are less effective than at a higher initial rate. At a higher rate, transfers were able to reduce poverty by about a half, while at a lower

<sup>88</sup> Ind. 3.1.1.



rate they were able to reduce it by approximately a quarter.<sup>89</sup>

It should be noted that current trends of poverty and social exclusion may be slowed or reversed by effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the way in which income poverty is calculated, post-pandemic statistics may paradoxically show lower income poverty rates. However, the deterioration of living standards in the Czech Republic points to a decrease in the poverty threshold rather than the resulting rate.<sup>90</sup>

People at risk of social exclusion and income poverty partially include the Roma minority. Therefore, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, which is the coordinator of Roma integration, actively cooperates with regional coordinators for Roma affairs, field workers and non-state non-profit organisations. In socially excluded locations, the situation is addressed in cooperation with the Agency for Social Inclusion (Agency) aimed at supporting the provision of suitable housing, employment, community work, addressing debt issues or supporting community-based work. The OG also supports the prevention of social exclusion and equal access to services partly through the national subsidy programmes Preventing Social Exclusion and Community Work and Supporting Field Work. Between 2016 and 2019, the social exclusion issue was supported by a total of CZK 1 526 mil. via projects financed by the OP E.<sup>91</sup>

In 2018, the MRD created a draft of the Social Housing Act, but the view on the creation of a social housing system shifted in the course of its preparation. The most appropriate option turned out to be the preparation of a regulation which subsequently allowed municipalities to receive subsidies for the construction of social rental

Quality of life 3.4 – Share of households in rental housing with an extreme economic burden from housing

The share of households in rental housing that spend more than 40 % of their net disposable income on housing has decreased since 2015. In 2019, 28 % of households lived in such a way.

apartments according to their needs. The Social Housing Act was thus replaced by a programme for the acquisition of social apartments, social housing and mixed homes. The programme is also aimed at promoting the expansion of the housing stock owned by cities and municipalities (see objective 17.3). Significant progress has been made in the area of debt relief. The standard debt relief period remains 5 years, but under certain conditions a so-called accelerated debt relief regime of 3 years is permitted. However, due to the debt relief amendment to the Insolvency Act<sup>92</sup>, the conditions for exemption from

---

<sup>89</sup> Ind. 27.1.4.

<sup>90</sup> Fialová, Mysíková (2020) Jak může pandemie koronaviru ovlivnit chudobu v Česku? Simulace dopadů na míru příjmové chudoby. (How can the coronavirus pandemic affect poverty in the Czech Republic? Simulation of impacts on income poverty rates) In: Sociological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Available from: <https://www.soc.cas.cz/aktualita/jak-muze-pandemie-koronaviru-ovlivnit-chudobu-v-cesku-simulace-dopadu-na-miru-prijmove>

<sup>91</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>92</sup> Act No. 31/2019 Coll. with effect from 1. 6. 2019.

the remainder of debts have been modified. The conditions for debt relief have been modified in such a way that the exercise of all the debtor's best efforts to fully satisfy creditors' claims is required. As a result, for example, the debtor is not required to pay 30 % of his/her liabilities over 5 years. Furthermore, the total length of new debt relief should be reduced from 5 to 3 years as of mid-2021. Legal advice is provided free of charge to those who do not have a higher income than three times the subsistence level in the half year preceding the application.<sup>93</sup> In 2020, the project 'Working Together through Debt Relief' was initiated, its objective being to develop, test and further disseminate the risk debtor identification tool. Between 2016 and 2019, the issue of debt was supported by a total of CZK 289 mil. via projects financed by the OP Employment.<sup>94</sup> In the area of non-bank lending, the Consumer Credit Act<sup>95</sup> has been most enforced in recent years, which tightens the conditions for granting loans and instructs non-bank loan providers to obtain a licence from the Czech National Bank. On the other hand, the regulation of non-bank loans remains a marginal issue in the Czech Republic.

The probation office significantly assists in the resocialising of persons on parole and simultaneously supervised – offering assistance to them in solving difficult life situations (also dealing with the client's financial literacy, indebtedness, etc.) or providing contact with other organisations (e.g. the Czech Employment Office, debt advisers and other entities).<sup>96</sup>

The issue of usury is linked to prevention in excluded locations and preventive action between national minorities.<sup>97</sup> The Local Level Crime Prevention Programme has long been supported by the Crime Prevention Assistant (APC) project. The APC project is not primarily directed against usury, but it is a specific project increasing safety in socially excluded locations, operating in a preventive manner against extremism and supporting self-governing units and citizens in finding more appropriate solutions to problems.<sup>98</sup>

Education and the cooperation of Police of the Czech Republic, MoI or non-profit organisations contribute to the effective fight against trafficking in human beings. At the same time, the Czech Republic accepts and implements international commitments on this matter.<sup>99</sup>

---

<sup>93</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>94</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>95</sup> Act No. 257/2016 Coll., on Consumer Credit.

<sup>96</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>97</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>98</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>99</sup> The Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings entered into force in 2017 in order to strengthen the protection of the human rights of victims of trafficking and to promote international cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings. One year later, the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs entered into force.

Large-scale preventive-information activities on human trafficking are carried out every year in the framework of the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings,

In 2019, the National Strategy for Preventing and Reducing Damage Related to Addiction Behaviour 2019-2027 and its Action Plan for 2019-2021 were adopted. At the same time, with the support of several other countries, the Czech Republic managed to promote a change in drug precursors and to include red phosphorus (one of the essential substances abused for the illicit manufacturing of metamfetamine in the Czech Republic) under legislative control throughout the EU. The Reliéf project, which deals with the investigation of pressed shipments of drugs, has been successfully handed over to Interpol.<sup>100</sup>

**The Czech Republic has a number of strategic documents on the issue of poverty and social exclusion, and several legislative adjustments have been adopted in recent years to address the situation as regards trafficking in human beings. On the other hand, a social housing system has not yet been established and some public services are not available to vulnerable groups – especially in socially excluded locations.**

---

<sup>100</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

3.2 Income inequality is decreasing and emphasis is placed on maintaining a strong middle level.

Over the past more than 10 years, the value of the income inequality coefficient<sup>101</sup> has been stagnating<sup>102</sup> in the range of 3.4-3.6 with no apparent development trend. At least maintaining the current (decreasing) trend is desirable, and this has been successful in recent years.<sup>103</sup> The evolution of incomes of people at risk of income poverty has been positive since 2014.<sup>104</sup> The average<sup>105</sup> and median<sup>106</sup> wages have risen each year over the last seven years.

Strategy papers aimed at reducing inequalities in general are being continuously implemented, but some measures specifically related to the reduction of the tax burden on working pensioners and families with children are not strictly fulfilled. The low level of available housing, which does not significantly benefit from state support, also makes it very difficult to achieve the objective. The MRD supported housing with CZK 328.9 million in 2019 and the State Housing Development Fund/State Investment Promotion Fund (SFPI)<sup>107</sup> provided CZK 1 533 million, which represents around 1 % of the volume of mortgage loans granted in 2019. It is therefore clear that the MRD and SFPI programmes could not have had a significant impact on increasing the availability of housing in the Czech Republic.<sup>108</sup> Nor does the system for granting advantageous loans for young families work sufficiently well. Since 2018, the SFPI has provided a 'Credit programme for the acquisition or modernisation of dwellings for people under the age of 36 caring for children under the age of 15', i.e. a loan of CZK 30-300 thous. for young people caring for a child for the purpose of modernisation, and CZK 2 mil. for the acquisition of a family house, and CZK 1.2 mil. for the acquisition of an apartment. However, the programme supported less than 300 families in 2018 and the overhang of applicants was enormous.<sup>109</sup>

**Income inequality in the Czech Republic is one of the lowest in the EU and incomes themselves have long been rising. On the other hand, the statistics do not reflect the results of any new measures. The largest deficiency is available housing in all forms.**

In reducing gender inequality, the Czech Republic should focus in particular on the area of the participation of women with small children

---

<sup>101</sup> The income inequality coefficient is S80/S20, i.e. the ratio of one fifth of the highest incomes per fifth of those with the lowest income.

<sup>102</sup> Brázdilová (2016) Příjmová nerovnost v České republice (Income inequality in the Czech Republic). Available from: <https://www.statistikaamy.cz/2016/08/09/prijmova-nerovnost-v-ceske-republice/>

<sup>103</sup> Quality of life indicator 1.12; Eurostat (2019) Available from: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20190718-1?inheritRedirect=true&3redirect=%2Feurostat%2Fnews%2Fwhats-new.>

<sup>104</sup> Ind. 3.2.1.

<sup>105</sup> Ind. 3.2.2.

<sup>106</sup> Ind. 3.2.3.

<sup>107</sup> The State Housing Development Fund was as of 1. 6. 2020 renamed the State Investment Promotion Fund.

<sup>108</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>109</sup> Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

### 3.3 Gender inequality is decreasing.

in the labour market, the elimination of the gender pay gap<sup>110</sup> (GPG) and women's representation in politics and decision-making positions. At the same time, the negative role of gender stereotypes that support the preservation and replication of gender inequalities should be taken into account.

Strategy papers are being pursued on an ongoing basis, but a number of objectives set out in the *Government Strategy for Gender Equality in the Czech Republic for the years 2014-2020* will most likely not be achieved by the end of 2020. Although the GPG has decreased for the whole economy compared to 2008 (18.4 % in 2019),<sup>111</sup> the Czech Republic continues to find itself at the bottom of rankings assessing the level of gender equality.<sup>112</sup>

In the area of inspections of equal pay, the work of the State Labour Inspection Authority has increased and inspections were increased in relation to the 22 % K ROVNOSTI (22 % TO EQUALITY) project<sup>113</sup> co-financed by the OP E. A coordinated approach on gender equality is part of the standard methodological management of social service providers.<sup>114</sup> Although there is a strong effort to ensure informedness and debate on how to implement the so-called Istanbul Convention<sup>115</sup>, a proposal to ratify it has still not been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Czech Republic is thus currently one of the few EU countries whose Parliament has not ratified the Convention, though the government signed it in 2016.

The above-mentioned 22 % K ROVNOSTI project, which prepares instruments to detect differences, analyse causes and eliminate them, helps to reduce the pay gap. A wage and salary calculator is available on the website of the project to determine the average wage or salary level according to the criteria entered. The obligation for employers to provide anonymised information on salaries according to gender is not legally anchored.<sup>116</sup>

In support of women's representation in politics, rather soft measures have been implemented, such as workshops or the competition Office of the Year "Half and Half" for self-governing authorities, which, however, are not significantly reflected in the results. As a result, women's participation is still not close to 50 %; there are 4 women (out of 13 members) in the government, less than 15 % of women in the Senate and 22 % of women in the Chamber of Deputies<sup>117</sup>(see

---

<sup>110</sup> Freely translated: unequal pay between men and women.

<sup>111</sup> Ind. 3.3.1.

<sup>112</sup> Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (2019) Available from: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2019/CZ>

<sup>113</sup> More on the project website: <https://www.rovnaodmena.cz/>.

<sup>114</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>115</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2011) Available from: <https://rm.coe.int/1680462471>

<sup>116</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>117</sup> Ind. 3.3.2.

objective 27.1 for more info).

Promoting the harmonising of women's and men's personal and work life is in the interest of the state, but the Czech Republic does not excel in this area in comparison to the EU. In the vast majority of cases, women play the role of carers<sup>118</sup> and face difficulties on the borderline between family and work life significantly more frequently than men. Although at a certain age they conclude fixed-term contracts more frequently than men,<sup>119</sup> the employment rate of women with grown children has long been the highest in the EU.<sup>120</sup> At the same time, women's participation in the formal economy compared to men has not changed too much in over 25 years.<sup>121</sup> The promotion of women's participation in gender atypical professions is highly dependent on projects funded by the OP E, even if their impact is significantly limited.<sup>122</sup> More on this topic in specific objective 1.1.

**In terms of wage differences, gender inequality in the Czech Republic is slightly and very slowly decreasing. However, the problem is in reconciling personal and work life and the social understanding of this issue, which is very difficult to change. The issue is neither greatly supported in decision-making positions, which are mainly occupied by men, nor in the state budget. The Czech Republic is at the start of its path toward gender equality compared to the EU and more energy needs to be exerted on meeting the target.**

3.4 Equal access to persons at risk of discrimination based on sex, age, care for dependent persons, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or worldview is ensured. Particular emphasis is placed on preventing multiple discrimination.

Discrimination makes it impossible to make optimal use of human potential, which is not merely a problem of the entire society in terms of values, but also in terms of the economy. Although the subjective sense of belonging to a discriminated group in the Czech Republic is relatively low (3.7 % in 2018),<sup>123</sup> discrimination on the labour market is demonstrable. In 2019, a lower employment rate compared to the average employment rate of the total population occurs mainly in the case of women (51 %), persons aged 60-65 (47 % and below) and persons with disabilities (24%).<sup>124</sup>

Quality of life 7.5 – 'What groups of people would you not want to have as neighbours?'

Negative preferences in the Czech Republic are most often related to persons dependent on drugs and alcohol with a history of crime. Furthermore, almost 60% of respondents would not like to have a psychologically ill person as their neighbour, while 'only' 7% of respondents would not want to live next to a physically handicapped person.

---

<sup>118</sup> Ind. 1.1.1.

<sup>119</sup> Ind. 2.4.2.

<sup>120</sup> Eurostat (2019) Employment rate of adults by sex, age groups, educational attainment level, number of children and age of youngest child (%). Available from: [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfst\\_hheredch](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfst_hheredch)

<sup>121</sup> Ind. 3.3.3.

<sup>122</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>123</sup> Ind. 3.4.2.

<sup>124</sup> Ind. 3.4.1.

Within the framework of the project 22 % K ROVNOSTI, a methodology for the inspection of equal pay for men and women is being developed and tested. At the same time, the project was jointly involved in the training of staff of the State Labour Inspection Authority and provincial labour inspectorates on gender inequalities in the labour market and gender stereotypes.<sup>125</sup>

Special capacities or financial resources are not set apart for raising public awareness of anti-discrimination measures, in particular in relation to national minorities (including Roma) and the disabled persons. Frequent negotiations on amendments to the Labour Code are taking place within the framework of the Czech Economic and Social Agreement Council Working Team on labour relations, collective bargaining and employment.<sup>126</sup> However, the need for a methodological procedure to implement the European Accessibility Act has not yet been analysed in relation to the availability of goods and services for persons with functional limitations (in particular people with disabilities, elderly people, pregnant women and travellers).

Access to free legal protection is ensured for persons discriminated against (see objective 3.1). In addition, e.g. holders of a severe disability card or severe disability with an assistant card, persons under the age of 15, or persons who receive a stage III and IV care allowance do not pay a fee (CZK 100) for processing the application.<sup>127</sup>

The principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination in relation to persons with disabilities follows up on the a UN convention, the newly approved National Plan for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025. However, these are future tasks.

Over the past period, the availability of psychiatric care has been gradually ensured, with a focus on its low-threshold. The expression of systemic changes in the reform is seen at several levels – e.g. in the regional area, steering groups have been created to gradually network institutions in individual regions working with the given target group.<sup>128</sup> Implementation of the Psychiatric Care Reform Strategy takes place through projects. The most important projects include the Deinstitutionalisation of Services for the Mentally Ill, Promoting the Creation of Mental Health Centres I - III and Supporting New Services in Care for the Mentally Ill. The common objective of these projects is, in particular, to increase the share of community care and a qualitative shift in care for the mentally ill. To this end, activities are being carried out on an ongoing basis to support the transformation of existing psychiatric facilities.<sup>129</sup> 21 mental health centres were launched, of

---

<sup>125</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>126</sup> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>127</sup> Ministry of Justice Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>128</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>129</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

which 5 have already been set up for sustainable national funding.<sup>130</sup>

**The current trend in ensuring equal access to discriminated groups cannot be evaluated in the long term. However, in recent years it has been rather favourable in terms of the slightly increasing share of employed disadvantaged groups. The implementation of the reform strategy for psychiatric care currently plays a major role in achieving this objective. However, the objective is not being fully achieved.**

---

<sup>130</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



4 Education develops the individual potential and ability of persons to manage and influence change and supports a coherent and sustainable development-oriented society.

*The current world is changing significantly. With innovation and new job opportunities, demands for skills (competencies), as well as the volume and content of modern people's knowledge, are changing. Education should have a wider scope and support critical thinking (identification and verification of information) and the ability to cope with change. The knowledge of foreign languages and computer skills, which are a prerequisite for navigating a globalised world, will be crucial. Similarly, it is important to apply knowledge in an adequate value framework based on humanism and enlightenment traditions.*

***The Czech education system lacks a stronger link between formal and non-formal education. In particular, addressing the issue of the dependence of educational outcomes on socio-economic origin, which has a significant regional dimension. The development of education towards a good general base, creativity and learning in context is supported by the newly approved Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ and the updated Framework Training Programme. Given the speed and intensity of changes in today's society, it is desirable to anchor the system of support for the development of pedagogical staff in the official education system. The trend in lifelong learning has not been favourable so far. Comprehensive conditions for lifelong learning at all levels and in all forms have not yet been created.***

4.1 The education system is inclusive and mutually interlinked, does not classify pupils at an early age as talented and untalented and reduces the dependence of educational paths and outcomes on their socio-economic background.

The objective is pursued by maintaining free public education (with the exception of the fee for extending the standard period of study by more than one year in a bachelor's or master's programme) and through social and accommodation scholarships. Since 2016, the social scholarship has been linked to the base rate of the minimum monthly wage. A student of either a public or private university may apply for a scholarship if his/her income does not exceed 1,5 times the subsistence level. The 2020 unit rate of the accommodation scholarship for students is CZK 5 400, but the scholarship is redistributed according to the internal regulations of individual universities.<sup>131</sup>

In general, differences in the distribution of secondary school pupils at regional level can be observed, which, inter alia, characterises the Czech education system. Overall, in 2019, 27 % of secondary school students in the Czech Republic attended a gymnázium (grammar school), 48 % a secondary vocational school with a graduation examination and 24 % attended a secondary vocational school without a graduation examination. There is a slight difference between Prague, where there are more grammar schoolers and fewer pupils in fields without a graduation examination. The opposite is true for the Karlovarský and Ústecký region, where almost 30% of pupils study in fields without a graduation examination.<sup>132</sup> These two regions point to an extremely strong dependence between the child's socio-economic background and educational outcomes, which are influenced by family background and place of residence. At the same time, other problems such as poor housing, distraint and higher levels of risk of poverty

---

<sup>131</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>132</sup> Ind. 4.1.1.

accumulate here.<sup>133</sup>

Projects funded by the State Support Programme for Work with Youth and Children for NNOs focused on linking the formal and non-formal education sectors in 2017-2020. Furthermore, since 2014, the OP RDI projects, which focused mainly on the development of key competences (28 projects), the development of competencies for democratic culture (13 projects) and the emergence of digital educational resources and activities (11 projects).<sup>134</sup> Steps are currently being taken in ensuring the availability of early childhood institutions to improve accessibility and the overall situation, which has not been favourable in recent years. Early childhood education was supported in 2014-2020, e.g. by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (CZK 5.1 bil.),<sup>135</sup> microcrèches were supported by OP E projects (CZK 435 mil.).<sup>136</sup> The subject of early childhood care is also partly addressed in objective 1.1.

Quality of life 6.5 – Children who like going to school  
The proportion of children (at the age of 11, 13 and 15) who report that they 'really like school' decreased between 2014 and 2018 in all age categories.

The subsidy Crime Prevention Programme contributes at the local level to helping not lose vulnerable children and young people at risk from the education system. When applying, the applicant must guarantee social work with the target group. Since 2020, work with their parents has been guaranteed during residential, weekend and excursion projects for children and young people and emphasis is placed on the importance of attendance and education.<sup>137</sup> In the context of the rate and form of inclusive education in the Czech Republic, a draft amendment to the Inclusion Decree is currently being discussed.<sup>138</sup>

**The specific objective aimed at the non-selectiveness of the education system in the Czech Republic has been successfully pursued. However, there is a lack of a stronger link between formal and non-formal education and, in particular, addressing the issue of dependence of educational outcomes on socio-economic origin, which also has a strong regional dimension.**

Another step towards the development of the education system is the support of teachers and their cooperation with the wider world. This objective supports, for example, the involvement of other parties in

---

<sup>133</sup> MEYS (2020) Implementation card of the key measure of the Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2023. 'Increasing the quality of education in structurally affected regions'.

<sup>134</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>135</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>136</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>137</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>138</sup> Czech Expert Society for Inclusive Education (2020) Available from: <https://cosiv.cz/cs/2020/09/22/tiskova-zprava/>

4.2 The education system supports teachers and other educators to bring the necessary changes into education and to take over the role of guides for participants in learning in a changing world. It is open to intensive contact with the real world and engages all entities involved in education.

education, such as municipalities or entrepreneurs. By way of methodological guidance, schools have been recommended to use workshops of co-operating secondary schools or polytechnical centres in technical subjects. In addition, students may visit technology-centred popularisation centres (public workshops) – e.g. PrůšaLab, TechnoLab, Techmania and others. Students are introduced, in particular, to state-of-the-art technologies. In 2018, the ICT curriculum revision was launched in line with the Citizen’s Digital Competence Framework (DigComp) and the Digital Education Strategy by 2020. As part of the OP RDI, open digital training resources were created and the field of civic education was supported. From the point of view of cooperation between schools and companies, the directors of secondary vocational schools have been obliged, through the School Act<sup>139</sup>, starting from September 2019, to establish cooperation with employers in the area of the creation of the schools’ education programme. In addition, an obligation is imposed to ensure the practical teaching of pupils at employers’ workplaces and the participation of professionals from companies in schools.<sup>140</sup>

There is no system of career development of pedagogical staff in the official education system in the Czech Republic that appreciates the quality of the educators’ work, their participation in further education and professional

Quality of life 6.7 - Teacher training In the last 4 weeks prior to the investigation, 16.6 % of teachers had completed formal or non-formal education (2019).
---

development.<sup>141</sup> Although there is an effort, for example, to improve the quality of future teachers through projects of pedagogical faculties, or to reduce the gap between starting and experienced teachers, a number of measures remain unanchored. However, many projects support the improvement of the situation. Testing is underway of support for starting or newly arrived teachers as part of the OP RDI project, called the System of Support for the Professional Development of Teachers and Directors (SYPO). The aim is to design and verify comprehensive and continuous support for inexperienced teachers in cooperation with initiatory teachers and the school management. In addition, as part of the SYPO project, methodological study rooms are being piloted as a place where teachers can expand their knowledge and professional skills, exchange experiences with colleagues and continue professional training in their field; the following 3 study rooms were piloted in 2020: *Czech language and literature, informatics and ICT* and *mathematics and its applications*.

The National Pedagogical Institute (NPI) of the Czech Republic provides targeted further training for educational staff and support for

---

<sup>139</sup> Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education

<sup>140</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>141</sup> Ind. 4.2.1.

career guidance in lifelong and further education.<sup>142</sup>

The professional development of teachers must also place emphasis on education that is in contact with practice and the real world. For example, by means of the web-based application Profil Učitel21 (Profile Teacher21), which is intended for teachers to evaluate and plan the development of their own digital competences, or the popularisation campaign Gramotnosti pro život – Učíme se v souvislostech (Literacy for life – We learn in context), and www.imysleni.cz, in which emphasis is placed on linking the children's learning world at school to the real world. The National Cabinet for Informatics and ICT (SYPO project) was created to support the development of the ICT methodological support network.<sup>143</sup> In the context of growing opportunities in the virtual world, contact with the real world is an important part of the education system that should be taken into account in the future.

In previous years, project CIVIS<sup>144</sup> aimed at developing social and civic competencies for sustainable development was implemented. Supporting topics of sustainable development has been divided into two sub-areas: Methodological support and further training of educational staff in the field of global development education (GDE) and study excursions of educational staff to foreign schools and educational establishments dealing with GRV and sustainable development.<sup>145</sup>

Since 2017, the salaries of teachers and non-pedagogical staff have been raised to 150 % of their previous level. Another objective is to continue the current positive trend and to ensure that average teacher wages amount to at least 130 % of the average wage by 2030. However, further wage developments cannot be anticipated mainly due to the current crisis situation and its impact on the economy as a whole. Compared to the average salary of a university graduate, a teacher's salary remains one fifth to a quarter lower in recent years. In 2019, the average salary of a teacher was 39 422.<sup>146</sup>

Quality of life 6.9 - Expenditure on education  
Public expenditure on educational institutions (all levels) decreased between 2015 and 2016.  
Public expenditure on education in 2016 totalled 4,12 % of the GDP.

**While objective 4.2 shows progress, a number of measures are still missing. Given the speed and intensity of changes in today's society, it is desirable to anchor the system of support for the development of educational staff in the official education system. It is essential to continue ensuring adequate pay for educators.**

The Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic until 2030+

---

<sup>142</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Lipka - Training facility for environmental education Brno, contribution organisation.

<sup>145</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>146</sup> Ind. 4.2.2.

4.3 Education provides everyone with access to the development of transferable competencies needed for an active civic, professional and personal life. The system includes an adequate general basis necessary for further training, participation in society and an understanding of interdependencies in the current world.

(Strategy 2030+)<sup>147</sup> focuses on acquiring the competencies needed for active civic, professional and personal life, as well as on content transformation, methods and the assessment of education. At the same time, Framework Training Programmes (RVPs) are being revised. Under Strategy 2030+, emphasis is placed on the integration of the principles of sustainable development into education. This also includes a working group on health education in the preparation of innovated content related to human health and personal safety. As part of the upcoming revision of the RVP, it includes experts from the field of personality education, healthy lifestyles and security topics. The maintenance of environmental topics is also envisaged. Digital competencies are among the key competencies for which it is necessary to increase their integration across the curriculum. In 2018, the Proposal for the Revision of the Framework Training Programmes in the area of computer science and information and communication technologies for early childhood education, primary education, grammar schools and secondary vocational education was finalised. The final version of the revised ICT curriculum will be completed by December 2020.<sup>148</sup>

Education for sustainable development (VUR) will be included in the RVP for primary education, which is currently being revised. Digital literacy will be described in the RVP as a whole – a summary of competencies where virtually every educational field contributes to building their basis and is developed by applications in different contexts of school work. In secondary vocational education, the topic of the environment and VUR is predominantly part of the education field Natural Sciences Education, where it is a separate subject of Ecology and the Environment, as well as the cross-cutting theme Man and the Environment. Schools are obliged to include the cross-cutting theme Man and the Environment in school education programmes and these can be implemented in different ways.<sup>149</sup>

Career guidance is an integral part of both school advisory services and facilities. As part of the VIP II Kariéra project, the E-kariéra e-learning modules have been updated and made available to advisory staff on the ISA+ portal. In general, more emphasis on careers as well as other forms of counselling in universities is lacking. Career guidance is further mentioned in specific objectives 4.1 and 4.2.

Teacher training in the area of work with a heterogeneous group is among the measures of the Long-term Plan for Education and Development of the Czech Education System for the period 2019-2023, which are continuously implemented. The OP RDI's call Development of Key Competencies is intended for supporting the sharing of experiences among educators and with the subject didactics of faculties educating pedagogues.

The knowledge level of Czech pupils was average to slightly above

---

<sup>147</sup> Approved by Government Resolution No. 1062 of 19.10.2020.

<sup>148</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>149</sup> *ibid.*

average in 2018 compared to EU and OECD countries.<sup>150</sup> In 2018, around 20 % of pupils were at a low level in reading literacy,<sup>151</sup> in numerical literacy,<sup>152</sup> as well as in natural sciences literacy<sup>153</sup>. In contrast, the share of pupils at a high level is lower – reading (8.3 %) and natural sciences literacy (7.6 %), numerical literacy (12.6 %). As a general rule, girls have a higher level of reading literacy than boys. In mathematics and natural sciences-related fields, the level is then comparable.

**The development of education based on a good general foundation, creativity, and the ability to learn is supported by the newly-ratified Strategie vzdělávací politiky ČR do 2030+ (Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic until 2030+). The achievement of the objective will also affect the form of the update of the RVP. Taking into account historical data, it is problematic to assess the objective due to difficult implementation of the measure into practice.**

4.4 The lifelong learning system is publicly guaranteed and widely accessible: It focuses on both vocational and transferable skills.

The National Qualifications System (NQS) is continuously being built and extended. Professional qualifications are defined through standards in such a way as to define the competencies of natural persons that are independently applicable on the labour market in the context of a specific work activity, reflecting current needs and trends on the labour market. In order for this basic NQS principle to be met, it is necessary that professional qualifications be acceptable by employers and that roof employers play a fundamental role in the definition of the content of professional qualifications. The so-called Sectoral Councils became a platform for employers' involvement in the NQS creation. They are independent associations of experts organised by employers and aimed at establishing a system reflecting employers' real needs and requirements for their employees, their skills and educational opportunities. In 2019, it took over and further develops the National System of Occupations of the MLSA.<sup>154</sup>

The Czech Republic is one of the countries with an under-average participation of adults in further education. This situation is influenced by several factors, e.g. company training, but also by form. Candidates pay for further education mainly from private sources and perform it in their leisure time.<sup>155</sup> Since 2014, the proportion of adults aged 25-64 who have participated in any form of further education (formal or non-formal) in the last 4 weeks exceeded 10 % only in 2017. This was then

---

<sup>150</sup> ČSÚ (2018) Mezinárodní šetření PISA 2018 - International PISA 2018 Investigation Available from: [https://www.csicr.cz/Csicr/media/Prilohy/PDF\\_el\\_publicace/Mezin%C3%A1rodn%C3%AD%20%C5%A1et%C5%A9en%C3%AD/PISA\\_2018\\_narodni\\_zprava.pdf](https://www.csicr.cz/Csicr/media/Prilohy/PDF_el_publicace/Mezin%C3%A1rodn%C3%AD%20%C5%A1et%C5%A9en%C3%AD/PISA_2018_narodni_zprava.pdf).

<sup>151</sup> Ind. 4.3.1.

<sup>152</sup> Ind. 4.3.2.

<sup>153</sup> Ind. 4.3.3.

<sup>154</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>155</sup> Národní observatoř zaměstnanosti a vzdělávání (2015) *Konkurenční schopnost České republiky – Kvalita lidských zdrojů* (National Employment and Education Observatory (2015) Competitiveness of the Czech Republic - Human Resources Quality).

followed by a decrease below 9 %.<sup>156</sup> The results of adults in reading literacy are comparable to those of other European countries. However, it should be noted that more than 10 % of adults in the Czech Republic are at a level of low reading literacy.<sup>157</sup>

**Overall, the objective is not being achieved, as the trend in lifelong learning is so far not favourable. Comprehensive conditions for lifelong learning at all levels and in all forms have not yet been created.**

---

<sup>156</sup> Ind. 4.4.1.

<sup>157</sup> Ind. 4.4.2.

## 5 The health of all population groups is improving.

*A higher level of quality of life and a better health status contribute to cost-effectiveness in the health sector and are reflected in the economy and the labour market. In the field of health, it is important to focus on reducing inequalities, on the impact of the quality of the environment and the working environment on human health and on prevention.*

***In the area of health, the consequences of the measures taken are delayed – sometimes in the order of tens of years. Even with regard to existing measures, data still show increasing health inequalities. Action needs to be stepped up to increase public spending on primary prevention, to promote health literacy and healthy lifestyles, in particular in the case of children. Furthermore, the extent of the pollution situation must be taken into account as much as possible, the technical condition of vehicles and in-use emission measurements, which may be extremely risky to the health of the population, should be strictly followed and inspected. The prevalence of frequent drinking and binge drinking of excessive amounts of alcohol is on the rise. Positive, although not comforting news, is that the proportion of everyday smokers has fallen.***

### 5.1 Life expectancy in all population groups of the Czech Republic is increasing.

The positive development of the values of life expectancy at birth in the Czech Republic shows that the average life expectancy of the population is growing. For women it was 82.1 years in 2019, and 76.3 years for men.<sup>158</sup> However, despite a significant improvement in mortality rates after 1990, the Czech Republic is lagging by about 2 years behind the average life expectancy of the EU states.<sup>159</sup> Life expectancy in the regions of the Czech Republic varies. The highest value on average for both sexes (2018-2019) was reported by Prague, the Královehradecký region and the Vysočina region, while the lowest values were recorded in the Ústecký and Karlovarský region. For example, men in the capital city Prague live on average 4 years longer than men in the Ústí region.<sup>160</sup> The rate of achievement of objective 5.1 also refers to the mean healthy life expectancy (HLY) at birth and for persons aged 65. HLY at birth was 63.4 years for women in 2018, 62.2 for men. HLY for people aged 65 was 8.5 years for women in 2018 and 8.1 years for men.<sup>161</sup> Since 2015, citizens of the Czech Republic have enjoyed an average shorter life in health compared to the EU average.<sup>162</sup> In the long term, life expectancy in the Czech Republic is stagnating, and life in disease is on average 15 years for men and 20 for women.

Health is covered by the Národní strategií Zdraví 2020 (Health 2020 National Strategy), which promotes disease prevention, mobility activities, mental health, healthy dietary habits, the development of health screenings, the development of health literacy, etc..<sup>163</sup> Specific projects support, for example, healthy lifestyles and a responsible

---

<sup>158</sup> Ind. 5.1.1; Quality of life indicator 4.1.

<sup>159</sup> Němečková (2018) Žijeme o dva roky méně než průměrný Evropan. In: Statistika&my Available from: <https://www.statistikaamy.cz/2018/02/20/zijeme-o-dva-roky-mene-nez-prumerny-evropan/>

<sup>160</sup> Ind. 5.1.1; Quality of Life Indicator 4.1.

<sup>161</sup> Ind. 5.1.2; Quality of life indicator 4.2.

<sup>162</sup> Eurostat (2020) Healthy life years at age 65 by sex. Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/TEPSR\\_SP320](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/TEPSR_SP320)

<sup>163</sup> MoH of the Czech Republic (2020) Health 2020 National Strategy.



approach to one's own health in schools or increasing access to healthcare for people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.<sup>164</sup>

**Despite the existence of a number of measures, it is difficult to evaluate the objective.**

**Particularly in the area of health, the consequences of the measures taken are delayed – sometimes in the order of tens of years. Changing approaches to lifestyle and self-health is a challenging process involving a number of actors and the coordination of society as a whole. For that reason, it is necessary to maintain the objective and continue its fulfilment.**

Quality of life 4.16 - Level of health literacy

In 2015, as part of a representative survey of 1 037 respondents, almost 60 % of people showed reduced health literacy in the Czech Republic.

5.2. The causes of health inequalities are decreasing.

In addition to regional disparities (see specific objective 5.1), the health of a person (in addition to age) is also affected by his/her socio-economic status, i.e. the level of education and income. The proportion of people over the age of 16 with basic education who, for health reasons, are limited in the long-term in the activities that

Quality of life 4.6 – Subjective health state of health  
Subjective self-assessment of one's health has not changed significantly since 2015. Approximately 20 % assess their health condition as very good, 70 % as good or satisfactory and 10 % as poor or very bad. (EU-SILC)

people usually perform, was up to three times higher in 2019 than the proportion of people with higher education. A similar difference in health limitations can also be observed among those with the lowest and highest income. Overall, the situation in the Czech Republic is not improving. Rather, there is an increase in the proportion of people who, for health reasons, are limited in normal activities in the long-term, with the most significant deterioration being observed in the population with the lowest income. As a result, up to 47 % of people with the lowest income were limited in normal activities in the long-term in 2019.<sup>165</sup>

In order to achieve the specific objective, it is necessary to raise awareness of the reasons for health inequalities among both the professional and the general public, which is currently being addressed by the State Health Institute project “Efektivní podpora zdraví osob ohrožených chudobou a sociálním vyloučením” (Effectively Promoting the Health of People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion). In order to reduce health inequalities, 14 regional health promotion centres were set up, including In the capital city of Praha, which ensures the implementation of the project. A total of 68 intervention incentive programmes to support decision-making in favour of health have been set up and implemented. The project created a network of co-operating professional capacities (staff of the regional authority departments concerned, regional public health offices, general practitioners, regional Roma coordinators, etc.) who are invited to Health Promotion Round Tables 4x per year in each

<sup>164</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>165</sup> Ind. 5.2.1.

region.<sup>166</sup>

The incentive programme Zvýšení sdílené odpovědnosti ve zdraví a ve vztahu k rizikovým faktorům životního stylu (Increasing Shared Responsibility in Health and in Relation to Lifestyle Risk Factors) has not yet been developed. However, other projects that strengthen health responsibilities (World Hand Hygiene Day, Zdravé koule - Healthy Balls) are being carried out and draw attention to lifestyle risk factors (prevention of diabetes, heart disease prevention).<sup>167</sup>

**According to the available information, the causes of inequalities in the area of health are not decreasing. Although it is difficult to evaluate the achievement of the target, as many projects are still being implemented, data continue to show increasing health inequalities.**

---

<sup>166</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>167</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

5.3. The public health system is stable, widely available in terms of quality and capacity, while at the same time developing an adequate professional structure. The age average of both medical and non-medical personnel is decreasing and the remuneration of all healthcare professionals is improving.

The systematic adjustment of the valuation of both medical and non-medical professionals in the healthcare sector has not been implemented with regard to the different providers of healthcare services. Employees' wages can currently be influenced by the government only by setting the lowest level of guaranteed wage.<sup>168</sup> The average remuneration/valuation of healthcare professionals is increasing every year, with an average salary of CZK 40.5 thous. in 2018 and an average wage of CZK 33.8 thous. The highest increase occurred mainly for doctors, dentists, general nurses and midwives, with a 39 % increase in salaries between the years 2014-2018 for the last two groups.<sup>169</sup> In 2020, the salary rates for healthcare professionals increased by CZK 1 500.<sup>170</sup>

The age structure of physicians has changed significantly in the Czech Republic over the last few years. While in 2008 8 % of physicians in the Czech Republic were aged 65 and over, in 2018, this share rose to more than 14 %, <sup>171</sup> which is above the average of other EU countries.<sup>172</sup> Although the number of physicians in the Czech Republic has increased over the last decade, a number of them are currently close to the retirement age, which may lead to an increase in healthcare expenditure in the future and to a deterioration of existing regional differences, in particular in the availability of healthcare.<sup>173</sup> From the perspective of the regions, the largest number of healthcare professionals per capita are located in Prague, where care is also provided to the people of the Central Bohemia region, however. In general, the concentration of healthcare in large regional cities is higher due to the catchment area. In some regions, the density of physicians per capita is up to double compared to the region with the lowest density of physicians per capita.<sup>174</sup> However, the number of physicians (full-time equivalents) per capita in the Czech Republic has increased in recent years, in 2018 it was 40 physicians (full-time equivalents) and 7.2 dental practitioners (full time equivalents) per 1 000 inhabitants. On the other hand, the number of general nurses has stagnated in recent years.<sup>175</sup> In the interest of a pay tariff award procedure, employers can remunerate the incoming physician with a higher tariff sooner than it would be obtained via achieved practice,

---

<sup>168</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>169</sup> Ind. 5.3.2.

<sup>170</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>171</sup> Ind. 5.3.1.

<sup>172</sup> Eurostat (2018) Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Healthcare\\_personnel\\_statistics\\_-\\_physicians](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Healthcare_personnel_statistics_-_physicians).

<sup>173</sup> OECD (2019) Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2019\\_chp\\_cs\\_czech.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2019_chp_cs_czech.pdf)

<sup>174</sup> ÚZIS (2017) Available from: [https://www.uzis.cz/sites/default/files/knihovna/nzis\\_rep\\_2018\\_E04\\_Personalni\\_kapacity\\_Odmenovani\\_2017.pdf](https://www.uzis.cz/sites/default/files/knihovna/nzis_rep_2018_E04_Personalni_kapacity_Odmenovani_2017.pdf)

<sup>175</sup> Ind. 5.3.3; Quality of life indicator 4.8; Quality of life indicator 4.9.

which facilitates the transition of physicians into practice.<sup>176</sup> Furthermore, amendments to the reform of the housing system and the permeability of education in basic strains are currently being prepared.<sup>177</sup>

From the point of view of the unmet need for medical care, the Czech Republic reaches very low values which, on a European scale, are among the lowest. According to data for 2018, only 0.3 % of people over the age of 16 reported that they had needed to visit doctors in the past year, but did not visit them for financial, transport accessibility or waiting time reasons.<sup>178</sup>

The Czech Republic is one of the countries with a lower value of patient monitored neoplasm survival rates, but the situation is improving and values are approaching the European average.<sup>179</sup> A major success is the decreasing mortality rate for colon cancer, which is very frequent in the Czech Republic. Between 1997 and 2017, there was a decrease in the gross mortality rate for malignant neoplasms of the colon and rectum by 44 %.<sup>180</sup>

The area of the interconnection of health and social services has long been problematic in the Czech Republic. At present, only the method of interconnection has been agreed on, and that is in the form of an amendment to the Health Services Act, which should also include the issue of health and social linkages. The topic is further devoted space in the strategic framework Zdraví 2030 (Health 2030). The achievement of the target is therefore at the outset from this point of view.

From the point of view of the implementation of the Národní strategie elektronického zdravotnictví ČR 2016–2020 (National eHealth Strategy of the Czech Republic 2016-2020), the objectives are gradually being met and the digitalisation of health is generally a priority. The new eRecepty (ePrescription) function, which allows the prescription of medicines without the need to visit the doctor, is widely used by physicians, pharmacists and patients. Another novelty is a shared drug record, which has contributed to increasing the level of safety in the dispensing of medicines since June 2020 and makes it possible, for example, to prevent duplications and unwanted drug interactions. Furthermore, the implementation of the project Vybudování základní resortní infrastruktury eHealth Informační a datové resortní rozhraní (Building a Basic eHealth Sectoral Infrastructure: Information and Data Sectoral Interfaces) is being

---

<sup>176</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>177</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>178</sup> Ind. 5.3.4.

<sup>179</sup> Ind. 5.3.5.

<sup>180</sup> ÚZIS (2020) Available from:

[https://www.svod.cz/graph/?sessid=hfg55kfb9ndgh387dgvj36s3d7&typ=incmor&diag=C18&pohl=&kraj=&vek\\_od=1&vek\\_do=18&zobrazeni=table&incidence=1&mortalita=1&mi=0&vypocet=w&obdobi\\_od=1977&obdobi\\_d\\_o=2017&stadium=&t=&n=&m=&pt=&pn=&pm=&t=&n=&zije=&umrti=&lecba.](https://www.svod.cz/graph/?sessid=hfg55kfb9ndgh387dgvj36s3d7&typ=incmor&diag=C18&pohl=&kraj=&vek_od=1&vek_do=18&zobrazeni=table&incidence=1&mortalita=1&mi=0&vypocet=w&obdobi_od=1977&obdobi_d_o=2017&stadium=&t=&n=&m=&pt=&pn=&pm=&t=&n=&zije=&umrti=&lecba.)

carried out.<sup>181</sup>

**Objective 5.3 is partially being achieved. In some areas, the trend to date is rather positive (average remuneration of healthcare professionals), in others it is undesirable (the average age of physicians). The Czech public health system does not, in most cases, deviate significantly from the average compared to the EU. However, it will depend on its further set-up, e.g. in terms of the successful linkage of the social-health boundary and greater support for prevention.**

Quality of life 4.11 - Healthcare expenditure in relation to GDP  
The share of total healthcare expenditure (i.e. health insurance expenditure, expenditure from state and local budgets, household expenditure, non-profit organisations, businesses and private insurance) increased from 7.7 % to 8.1 % between 2017 and 2018.

5.4 Healthy lifestyles are promoted through higher public spending, with a focus on primary disease prevention and health promotion throughout life.

The health and social care boundary is covered in the strategic framework Health 2030 which, inter alia, focuses on the establishment of a functionally and legislatively connected system of health social services for all age categories of patients, allowing for the individual setting of health and social services according to the patient's current needs.<sup>182</sup>

The amount of funding from health insurance prevention funds for preventive healthcare is increased every year, amounting to almost CZK 1.4 billion in 2019 (a year-on-year increase of more than 26 %). However, there is no increase in public spending on primary disease prevention from the state budget.<sup>183</sup> On the contrary, with the exception of 2018, public expenditure on primary prevention (increasing health literacy, raising awareness, education and counselling, vaccination programmes) has been decreasing since 2014. In 2018, it amounted to 0.68 % (CZK 2.5 billion) of the total public health expenditure. The cost of secondary prevention (screenings, diagnostic tests and medical examinations) was 1.97 % (CZK 7.1 billion) of the total health expenditure.<sup>184</sup>

Preventive health insurance programmes are aimed at the early detection of cancer and cardiovascular diseases and early containment of risks leading to metabolic diseases. Vaccination contributions not covered by public health insurance (e.g. against tick-borne encephalitis or influenza) are also an integral part of the programmes. Smoking cessation support schemes are also available for a significant proportion of insured persons.<sup>185</sup>

Promoting health throughout life is desirable, but it is the most effective in the case of children. It should be based on regular physical activity and a healthy diet. Since 2017, compulsory swimming instruction has been included in the first stage of elementary school education. In

<sup>181</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>182</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>183</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>184</sup> Ind. 5.4.1.

<sup>185</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

5.5 The consumption of addictive substances, as well as citizens' burden with substances harmful to health and noise are reduced through improved quality of the environment. The relevant limits of harmful substances and noise are not exceeded.

addition, the experimental verification of the three-year project Hodina pohybu navíc (An Extra Hour of Physical Activity) aimed at helping to create a positive and lasting relationship toward physical activity was popular with both pupils and schools. Interest in the European programmes “Ovoce a zelenina do škol” (Fruit and Vegetables for Schools) and “Mléko do škol” (Milk for Schools) is also increasing annually.<sup>186</sup> However, the situation has not improved much in terms of obesity and excessive weight in children. On the contrary, the number of children with an excessive weight is slowly increasing. More than one fifth of the population of children aged 11 to 15 is overweight or obese.<sup>187</sup>

**The achievement of the objective is being channelled through efforts to cover the social and health boundary in the Health 2030 strategic framework, although the changes have not yet been implemented. Further action needs to be stepped up to increase public spending on primary prevention, to promote health literacy and healthy lifestyles, in particular in the case of children.**

Health and quality are also closely linked to reducing and avoiding harmful factors, not merely alcohol and tobacco, but also, for example, worsened air quality and high noise exposure.

Areas with worsened air quality (without ozone inclusion) covered about 13 % of Czech territory in 2018, thus affecting more than a third of the population.<sup>188</sup>

With the help of 'boiler subsidies', almost 90 thousand outdated boilers which should not be used after August 2022 will be exchanged,. There has been no significant progress in the incineration of moist wood, but operators will be alerted of the need to burn only dry wood in the framework of the planned campaign. Operators will also be alerted of the importance of monitoring the moisture of incinerated wood (possible indicative humidity measurements by the control technician) as part of technical status inspections and the operation of stationary combustion sources. In addition, subsidy support from the Operational Programme Environment is successful in reducing the main pollutants (in particular solid pollutants). On the contrary, support for the reduction of odour-dispersive pollutants was not renewed (the State Environmental Fund halted the announcement of these calls).<sup>189</sup>

Cars and their technical condition, unlike the combustion of wood, affect not only the air but also the level of noise exposure. Legislative amendments have ensured a tightening of conditions of the system for periodic inspections of the technical state of vehicles and enabled the implementation of mobile technical inspections, including real-world emission measurements. Vehicles with the largest contribution to air

---

<sup>186</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>187</sup> Zdravá generace (2019) Available from: <https://zdravagenerace.cz/reporty/obezita/>

<sup>188</sup> Ind. 5.5.3.

<sup>189</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

pollution are thus being gradually removed.<sup>190</sup>

A new end-of-life product act which includes cars has been prepared. The draft is currently under discussion by the Czech Parliament and proposes that the emission charge depend on compliance with the exhaust emission limit values in accordance with EU regulations.<sup>191</sup>

Quality of life 9.1 – Air pollution  
The highest proportion of the population exposed to concentrations of pollutants above the emission limits aimed at protecting human health live in the Moravian-Silesian, Zlín, Olomouc and Ústí region. In the Moravian-Silesian region, this accounts for 96 % of the population.

In 2017, 11.6 % of the population in agglomerations was exposed to an excess noise burden from road transport. 64.8 % of the population in agglomerations was exposed to an all-day noise exposure  $L_{dvn}$  above 55 dB. The most serious noise burden situation in 2017 was in Prague and Liberec.<sup>192</sup> Critical points are defined as part of strategic noise mapping by populated territory where the relevant noise indicator limit is exceeded. Specific noise control programmes (NCP) are developed within the so-called action plans for individual critical sites (territory) established for each noise source, mainly based on the results of a more detailed analysis of the area concerned (e.g. detailed acoustic studies). The solution is more consistent urban acoustic planning (bypasses, reduction of the passage of trucks, etc.). Urban noise is also determined by the speed of passing vehicles, which is, however, within the jurisdiction of each particular municipality.<sup>193</sup> Likewise, the quality of the road surface, which is the responsibility of the road owners and/or managers. The preparation of railway projects for high-speed lines and the completion of road bypasses are a matter of the upcoming years.<sup>194</sup>

The second group of health hazards are risk activities. This is primarily the over-drinking of alcohol<sup>195</sup> and the use of tobacco products. Since 2016, the prevalence of frequent drinking of excessive amounts of alcohol has been growing, especially among women.<sup>196</sup> However, even the binge drinking of larger amounts of alcohol increased between 2014 and 2019, both for men (an increase from 23 to 25 %) and women (an increase from 7.6 to 9.2 %). Almost 21 % of people over the age of 15 reported drinking a high amount of alcohol at least

---

<sup>190</sup> Ministry of Transport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>191</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>192</sup> Ind. 5.5.4; Quality of life indicator 9.8.

<sup>193</sup> Ministry of Transport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>194</sup> Ministry of Transport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>195</sup> There are three categories of alcohol drinking (WHO): moderate drinking (up to 20 grams of alcohol in women and up to 40 grams of alcohol for men per day); at-risk drinking (20 to 40 g of alcohol for women and 40 to 60 g of alcohol for men per day); harmful drinking (more than 40 g of alcohol for women and more than 60 g of alcohol per day for men).

<sup>196</sup> Národní monitorovací středisko pro drogy a závislost (2020) Výroční zpráva o stavu ve věcech drog v ČR v roce 2019 (The National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction (2020) Annual Report on the State of Drugs in the Czech Republic in 2019). (Note: The episodic drinking of excessive doses of alcohol is defined as an intake of 60 or more grams of alcohol on a single occasion with a frequency of at least once a week or more).

once per month in the last year (2019), while in 2014 it was less than 15 %.<sup>197</sup> 7.9 % of people met the criteria for risky drinking in 2019 and 9.3 % met the criteria for harmful drinking. For men, both the over-consumption of large amounts of alcohol on a single occasion and the occurrence of harmful alcohol drinking are statistically significantly more frequent than for women.<sup>198</sup> Men also smoke more than women. The proportion of people aged 15 and over who smoke daily was 18 % (in 2019), with a proportion of 21 % for men, compared to 15 % for women. The proportion of daily smokers in the Czech Republic has slightly decreased in recent years.<sup>199</sup> In addition, there are a number of other risk activities. 900 thousand people in the Czech Republic abuse sedatives and hypnotics, 125 thousand are risk users of cannabis, 80-120 thousand are pathological gamblers and 45 thousand inject methamphetamine and opioids. The area is conceptually covered by the Národní strategie prevence a snižování škod spojených se závislostním chováním 2019-2027 (National strategy for the prevention and reduction of harm associated with addictive behaviour). In 2019, funds spent through subsidy titles of state institutions on drug policy were partially centralised. The main state-level addictology service benefactors are the OG and MLSA. This reduces the administrative burden on providers of addictology services and improves the internal efficiency of the system. Funding for providers of addictology services is ensured by public budgets, which were successfully increased annually until 2020.<sup>200</sup>

**In order to further achieve the target, it is necessary to take utmost account of the level of the emission situation and to strictly follow and inspect the technical state of vehicles and in-use emission measurements, which may be extremely risky to the health of the population. The prevalence of frequent and binge drinking of excessive amounts of alcohol is rising. Positive, although not comforting news, is that the proportion of everyday smokers has fallen.**

---

<sup>197</sup> Ind. 5.5.1 (Indicator output frequency every 5 to 6 years, a high quantity is defined as the ingestion of at least 60 g of pure alcohol on a single occasion).

<sup>198</sup> SZÚ (2020) Užívání tabáku a alkoholu v ČR 2019 (Use of tobacco and alcohol in the Czech Republic 2019).

<sup>199</sup> Ind. 5.5.2; Quality of life indicator 4.12.

<sup>200</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



## 6 Increased public investment promotes the key functions of culture and equal access to culture and creativity.

*Culture translates into the value system of society, it co-creates national identity and develops creativity. At the same time, its significance is particularly important in a modern secular democratic state. Through the knowledge of one's own culture and its values, together with respect for the diversity of cultural expressions, society can be better protected against adverse influences such as loss of cultural identity or xenophobia. For these and many other reasons, it is in the interest of the State to promote the development of cultural knowledge, reduce inequalities in the accessibility of culture and thus contribute to improving the quality of life.*

**Although it is in the interest of the State to promote the development of cultural knowledge, Czech public spending on culture tends to stagnate, investment in contemporary art is low and the law on a public cultural institution is not anchored. On the contrary, the stabilisation of funding film incentives is a success due to increasing subsidies from the state budget and the slightly increasing salaries (wages) of workers in culture – although their growth is not as rapid as the increase in overall revenues.**

6.1. Higher public spending is being channelled into the cultural area and the possibilities for long-term financial planning of cultural organisations are strengthened.

For more than 10 years, the government has been discussing the share of culture in the total expenditure of the state budget, yet it still fails to reach 1 % of the state budget.<sup>201</sup> In July 2020, a budget of CZK 165 billion<sup>202</sup> was adopted by the Ministry of Culture which, as in previous years, is slightly higher than the previous year. Unlike the overall budget for culture, the share of support for culture from the total culture expenditure only increased in 2018. Until then it had been decreasing, from 18.5 % in 2014 to 15.9 % in 2017 and the year after it increased to 17 %.<sup>203</sup>

**The objective has been partly achieved thanks to existing measures in the State Cultural Policy, but is not fulfilled, as it stagnated prior to the last one-off increase in expenditure on culture in 2018.**

Nor is the development and creation of new cultural organisations supported at present. The draft of the act on a public cultural institution was abolished in February 2020. The implementation of the planned long-term investment programme for the period 2020-2028, which would be based on multi-source funding (typically the state, the city, the region), is currently being discussed. Support for the development of the creativity of society is implemented, e.g. by tools of the National Information and Advisory Centre for Culture as part of the development and promotion of non-professional art activities, and the activities are not mainly targeted at the youngest generations.<sup>204</sup> Investment in the growth of contemporary art collections over the last 10 years is about 31 million CZK, of which 7.7 million CZK were invested in 2019. The overwhelming amount of funds to expand contemporary art collections

---

<sup>201</sup> Státní kulturní politika na léta 2015–2020 (s výhledem do roku 2025) (State Cultural Policy 2015-2020 (with a view to 2025)).

<sup>202</sup> Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (2020) Available from: <https://www.mkcr.cz/schvaleny-rozpocet-2020-2288.html>

<sup>203</sup> Ind. 6.1.1.

<sup>204</sup> Ministry of Culture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

6.2 The development and creation of new cultural organisations is systematically supported according to the needs of a changing society.

was between 2009 and 2019 in the framework of the contribution institutions of the MoC for the National Gallery in Prague (CZK 8.8 million), the Olomouc Museum of Art (CZK 7.8 million) and the Artistic and Industrial Museum (CZK 6.4 million ).<sup>205</sup>

**The achievement of the objective is currently relatively distant, due to the unanchored act on a public cultural institution and low investment in contemporary art.**

6.3 Cultural and creative industries are promoted as an opportunity for the development of the economy.

The cultural and creative industries are not sufficiently supported in the Czech Republic. The volume of public expenditure incurred for their support has fluctuated over the last years and amounts to around 1 % of the total industrial expenditure, i.e. around CZK 2 billion in 2018.<sup>206</sup> The establishment of a Strategie rozvoje cestovního ruchu ČR 2021–2030 (Tourism Development Strategy for the Czech Republic 2021-2030) and the Strategie kulturních a kreativních průmyslů (Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy (KKP Strategy)) is currently awaited as the first step that should direct the Czech Republic toward harnessing its potential across ministries and regions.<sup>207</sup> However, plans from the State Cultural Policy 2015-2020 (with a view to 2025) have not been implemented within the framework of the KKP Strategy.<sup>208</sup>

**The measure of specific objective 6.3 has not been implemented, but progress has been made in some recommendations. In 2019, the MoC and the MIT signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in the area of cultural and creative industries. Furthermore, work on the stabilisation of the financing of film incentives was made possible thanks to increasing subsidies from the state budget. In 2019, film incentives increased by CZK 500 million to a total of 1 300 million koruna.<sup>209</sup> However, the implementation of measures to achieve the objective is crucial.**

6.4 Workers in culture are supported methodologically and financially with the aim of increasing their prestige and improving the conditions necessary for their creative and incentive role towards other groups of society.

Since 2014, there has been a gradual increase in salaries in the cultural sphere. The average salary (wages) in the cultural sector in 2009 was CZK 23.4 thousand, and in 2018 it was 29.6 thousand koruna.<sup>210</sup> In 2020, salary valorisation of employees in culture occurred. In the context of the contribution organisations set up by the MoC, this is, for example, an annual growth (2019/2020) of staff costs by 8.16 % on average, based mainly on a change in salary rates (merging salary scales) and an increase of CZK 1500 for each recalculated employee.<sup>211</sup>

**Although salaries (wages) are increasing in the cultural sphere, their increase is not as rapid as the increase in total revenue.**

---

<sup>205</sup> Ind. 6.2.1.

<sup>206</sup> Ind. 6.3.1.

<sup>207</sup> MoC Czech Republic (2020) Available from: <https://strategiekkp.mkcr.cz/>

<sup>208</sup> Ministry of Culture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>209</sup> Ministry of Culture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>210</sup> Ind. 6.4.1 (Note: These values refer only to culture and not to recreation.).

<sup>211</sup> Ministry of Culture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

**While these workers had relatively average salaries in 2009, they were rather below the average in 2018, which not only decreases the prestige of their professions, but also fails to improve the conditions for their further functioning in society.<sup>212</sup>**

---

<sup>212</sup> ČSÚ (2020) Available from: [https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/prace\\_a\\_mzdy\\_prace](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/prace_a_mzdy_prace)

## 2. Economic model

*The domestic sector of the economy developed positively or at least in the desired direction until the beginning of 2020, but the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be an essential factor affecting the economic and social developments of the coming years. Until the beginning of 2020, all sectors of the economy benefited from the boom, but the importance of large firms increased slightly. Furthermore, the importance of foreign-controlled firms that further increased their importance in R&D&I and the level of outflow of profits abroad, in particular dividends, did not diminish.*

*Despite partial improvement, the Czech economy is still associated with higher material, emission, and energy intensity. Although a slow and long-term rather positive trend can be observed here, the development of the last 3 years has shown no transformation efforts and, in particular, the decarbonisation of the economy is still a major challenge.*

*Economic development is always highly dependent on functional and resilient infrastructure (critical, transport, energy and water). This is generally in a good condition in the Czech Republic, but each region also has a number of partial or higher risks that should be taken into account in the coming years.*

*Despite some good results, public finances are not entirely in an ideal state, no significant change compared to the previous decades has occurred in their structure, main resources and expenditure structure, and the effectiveness of public spending is not systematically monitored and evaluated. In general, the indebtedness of both the state and the population is increasing, not only because of the large impact of the COVID-19 crisis, but also due to the general trend of increasing indebtedness.*

7 The economy has been growing over the long term and the domestic sector is strong.

*If the Czech economy is to be competitive in the long term, it is necessary to focus on promoting entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship support must cover all business sectors, but in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as the least developed sector with the highest growth potential. It is also important to focus on increasing the quality of foreign direct investment and to support the shift from subcontractor to a stand-alone producer able to apply its own product on the final production market. Large enterprises form the backbone of the Czech economy and it is important to support the ability of large enterprises to access and maintain a position at the forefront of technical, organisational and commercial developments in the world. SMEs have the greatest potential to contribute to economic growth, as they are less developed than large and micro enterprises in the Czech Republic. Although they have around the same share of workers as average EU countries, they have a lower share of gross value added (HPH). The biggest obstacles to the development of SMEs need to be removed, in particular to facilitate access to capital and to reduce relatively high administrative barriers.*

*The national private enterprise sector is developing positively. The share of domestic firms in creating added value in the economy is slightly increasing, not only at the expense of the public sector but also by reducing the share of foreign-controlled enterprises. SMEs benefited from a favourable short-term boom and increased their number, employment and value added. However, in comparison to large firms, their importance in the economy has slightly decreased, since the favourable period between 2015-2019 was better utilized by large firms. There has been success in shifting Czech businesses to higher positions in international trade. However, we are*

**rather below the top of the chart, as the exports of high-tech products are stagnating. However, the importance of medium high-tech exports has increased and revenue from technology services is also increasing. An increase in the quality of foreign direct investment can be expected, also because of the tighter conditions for investment incentives. However, this shift cannot yet be directly assessed due to the short period of validity of these conditions and the units of the investment actions carried out. Overall, labour productivity has increased significantly over the years, but we are still lagging behind the EU average and some sectors have been severely affected by the impact of Covid-19.**

7.1 Domestic parts of the economy are developing

Targeted support to domestically owned firms has become an essential topic in terms of discussion on the issue of the outflow of profits abroad. The outflow of profits through dividends abroad is a long-term phenomenon and nothing has changed in recent years.<sup>213</sup> In 2019 it was a dividend outflow of CZK 272 billion, in particular from the financial, insurance and motor vehicle industries.<sup>214</sup> This reflects the high investment attractiveness of the Czech Republic and profitability for foreign investors.

The Czech Republic is implementing interim measures to reduce administration for entrepreneurs. For 2018, this totalled 15 measures that generated administrative cost savings of over 300 million.<sup>215</sup> However, this is a static evaluation of the tasks and does not take into account the newly created administrative burden. The evaluation of administrative burden takes place over a longer period of time<sup>216</sup> and will be performed in 2021. In 2019, the so-called business decalogue “Živnostenský balíček” (business package) was implemented in order to improve the Czech business environment. Measures have been implemented to define family entrepreneurship, align time limits, information and forms. Limited progress has been made in statistical surveys, tax simplification and tax exemptions. Action on distraintment and the simplification of construction law is still unsuccessful.<sup>217</sup>

The criteria for granting investment incentives<sup>218</sup> since 2019 also take into account SMEs in the form of a halved investment cap compared to other companies and a real higher level of public support. Following the entry into force of the amendments to the Government Regulation from the end of 2020<sup>219</sup>, the entry limits for obtaining investment

---

<sup>213</sup>OG (2016) Analýza odlivu zisků: Důsledky pro českou ekonomiku a návrhy opatření. (An analysis of the outflow of profits: Implications for the Czech economy and proposals for measures.) Available from: <https://www.vlada.cz/assets/evropske-zalezitosti/analyzy-EU/Analyza-odlivu-zisku.pdf>

<sup>214</sup> CNB (2020) Zpráva o vývoji platební bilance 2019. (Report on the Development of Payment Balance-sheet 2019). Available from: [https://www.cnb.cz/export/sites/cnb/cs/menova-politika/galleries/zpravy-o-vyvoji-platebni-bilance/zprava\\_o\\_vyvoji\\_platebni\\_bilance\\_2019.pdf](https://www.cnb.cz/export/sites/cnb/cs/menova-politika/galleries/zpravy-o-vyvoji-platebni-bilance/zprava_o_vyvoji_platebni_bilance_2019.pdf)

<sup>215</sup> Detailed information is available in the annual Report on the implementation of measures to reduce administrative burden.

<sup>216</sup> Last in 2016.

<sup>217</sup> MIT Report on the implementation of Czech Republic 2030. Information on progress in the implementation of the business package is available from: <https://www.zivnostensky-balicek.cz/>

<sup>218</sup> Act amending Act No. 72/2000 Coll., on Investment Incentives and Amending Certain Acts (Investment Incentives Act), as amended, and Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended.

<sup>219</sup> Government Resolution No. 1231 of 30. 11. 2020 amending Government Regulation No. 221/2019 Coll., on the implementation of certain provisions of the Investment Incentives Act.

incentives for small businesses will be reduced to one quarter compared to large enterprises. For medium-sized enterprises, the entry limit remains at one half compared to large enterprises. The Czech Republic is also engaged in the fight against tax evasion and havens and in 2017 it became a signatory to an international initiative against aggressive tax optimisation and implemented ATAD rules against tax avoidance practices.

The promotion of innovation and cooperation between the business community and research institutions is implemented at programme (TRIO, TREND) or strategy level Inovační strategie ČR (Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic) 2019-2030). However, despite the existence of these public programmes, the innovation activities of companies tend to stagnate in time and 15 % of businesses have worked with public research institutions and universities on their innovation activities.<sup>220</sup> Corporate innovation costs still mainly involve the acquisition of machinery, equipment and software (52.1 %). The cost of own or purchased R&D accounts for 36.1 % in the firm.<sup>221</sup>

The structure of gross value added in the economy has not changed significantly from the point of view of origin between 2015-2018. However, the national private sector slightly increased its share in the economy to 48.9 %<sup>222</sup> (in 2015 this was 47.3 %). This was to the detriment of both the public sector and, in particular, the private sector under foreign control. At the same time, the gross value added of the national private sector increased by 21 % (the most of indicated sectors) between 2015 and 2018. For the public sector it was by 14.4 % and for foreign-controlled enterprises by 13 %. Thus, the overall importance of foreign-controlled enterprises has decreased by more than 1 percent since 2015 and reached 32.2 % in 2018.

**The objective is therefore to be pursued, although it is not clear whether and how the measures have a real impact on the monitored objective.**

The domestic business sector is primarily composed of SMEs. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are at the heart of the Czech economy, their flexibility increases competitiveness, they provide employment in the regions and return their profits to the domestic economy. SME support is implemented under the Akčního plánu podpory MSP (SME Support Action Plan), which includes a number of programmes and administrative measures. The Platforma podnikatelské a inovační infrastruktury (Platform on Enterprise and Innovation Infrastructure) is used for the popularisation of entrepreneurship and activities to promote awareness,

---

<sup>220</sup> ČSÚ (2020) Inovační aktivity podniků (Business Innovation Activities) - 2016-2018. TAB 39A Businesses with 10 or more employed persons in the Czech Republic that cooperated with other entities on innovative activities in the period 2016-2018 according to the type of cooperating partner. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/122363224/2130032039a.pdf/6d9ac5df-23fa-439c-8035-aa89e2b7c4fb?version=1.1>

<sup>221</sup> ČSÚ (2020) Inovační aktivity podniků (Business Innovation Activities) - 2016-2018. Analytical section. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/122363224/21300320a1.pdf/66912f0f-47c2-47d0-abb2-220c0b6b9a32?version=1.3>

<sup>222</sup> Indicator 7.1.1.

entrepreneurship, start-ups and expansion are carried out. SMEs are also the main beneficiary of European funds from the OP EIC, which is the long-term main source of funding to support SMEs. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, several programmes were launched under the anti-crisis measures, providing guarantees and ensuring the solvency and cash flow of affected enterprises. This aid was also targeted at trade license holders. However, the dependence of the funding of support to the business sector on EU funds has not been reduced and, in the context of new funds responding to the challenges of the European Green Deal<sup>223</sup> or the COVID-19 crisis, an increase in this dependency can be expected.

The need for greater popularisation of entrepreneurship among the public and especially youth is reflected in framework training programmes as well as in the modernisation of vocational training. A number of secondary schools also implement training in fictitious firms that use simulations as tools to acquire knowledge and competencies, or the concept of real student firms and an extended entrepreneurship programme for graduates of fields with a vocational certificate is also implemented.

Between 2015 and 2018, the total number of active SMEs increased by around 12 thousand, with almost 33 thousand legal entities causing this growth.<sup>224</sup> On the other hand, the number of trade license holders decreased by around 21 thousand. Employment in SMEs increased by 38 000 people, but in 2018 it reached 57.7 % of total employment in the business sector (it was 59.7 % in 2015). SMEs generated a value added of CZK 1.79 trillion per year, which is around CZK 240 billion more than in 2015. However, the share in relation to the total value added of enterprises decreased to 54.7%, i.e. 2 % less than in 2015. In terms of development, it is clear that SMEs have benefited from the short-term boom and increased their performance and employment in absolute terms, but they slightly weakened in comparison to large firms over the monitored period.

The time needed to process and pay taxes from 2015 onwards has virtually stagnated at 230 hours.<sup>225</sup> This time lets us know how many hours are spent annually by a medium-sized company on preparing, submitting and paying three main types of taxes: corporate income tax, value added tax and personal income tax, including the administration of social insurance. The longest time is dedicated by companies in the Czech Republic to the payment of VAT, more than 100 hours per year. When compared internationally with high income countries of the

---

<sup>223</sup> European Green Deal. For more details see [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en).

<sup>224</sup> MIT (2019) Zpráva o vývoji podnikatelského prostředí v České republice v roce 2018 - Report on the development of the business environment in the Czech Republic in 2018. Available from: <https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/male-a-stredni-podnikani/studie-a-strategicke-dokumenty/2019/11/MSP-za-rok-2018.pdf>

<sup>225</sup> Indicator 7.2.2.

OECD (159 hours per year), this remains a high value.<sup>226</sup> It takes a shorter period of time to pay taxes in the Baltic States, the Nordic countries, but also the Benelux Union and Slovakia.

**The goal is met only in absolute terms due to the peak of the economic cycle. However, from the point of view of the relative contribution of SMEs to the creation of value added and employment, this objective is not fulfilled and the trend is opposite. However, the administrative barriers in the example of the time needed for tax payments seem to evidence a lack of progress.**

7.3. The state supports the shift of the economy to a higher position in the international division of labour and in the international value chain

The share of high-tech products in total Czech exports is growing in across-border terms and reached 19.9 % in 2019.<sup>227</sup> Overall, since 2015, the quantity of products in this category has increased by 39.3 %, i.e. an increase of 3.1 percentage points in the last five years. This is mainly due to the export of ICT equipment, computers and optical devices. The main markets for these products are the Netherlands (47.7 % of total exports) and Great Britain (24.3 %), with an increasing share in Germany (19.6 %). However, according to the design of this indicator, imports and exports of any goods crossing the Czech border are counted, i.e. even the simple transfer of goods between the warehouses of multinational transport and commercial companies for the EU region. In the case of a national concept (i.e. counting exports and imports only in the event of a change of ownership), the share of high-tech products increased by only one percent to 12 % between 2015 and 2019, of which most are computers and electronic and optical devices and equipment.

The share of medium high-tech products in Czech exports in national terms increased by 3 percentage points between 2015 and 2019 and amounted to 54 % in 2019, mainly due to a steady increase in the proportion of motor vehicle exports in 2016. The proportion of medium low-tech products slightly decreased to a level of 18 % and accounts for 12 % of Czech exports; stagnation occurred especially in the category of fabricated metal products and low-tech products.

Revenues from the sale of technology services abroad have increased by 45.7 % since 2015<sup>228</sup> and their share of the total exports of services abroad was as high as 19 % in 2019. The most important

categories are computer services – IT consultancy and related services, and the creation of original computer software. Revenue from R&D services has increased by 30.7 % since 2015, mainly due

Quality of life 1.2 – Average total hourly labour costs  
A shift towards the production of higher value added and more innovative products and services is necessary for the Czech Republic. Average labour costs have increased over the long term, amounting to EUR 11.65 per hour of full-time work in 2019.

<sup>226</sup> World Bank Group (2020). Doing Business 2020 - Comparing Business Regulation in 190 Economies. Available from: <https://www.doingbusiness.org/content/dam/doingBusiness/media/Profiles/Regional/DB2020/EU.pdf>

<sup>227</sup> Indicator 7.3.1.

<sup>228</sup> Indicator 7.3.2.



to custom-made R&D. On the other hand, property rights revenue from R&D results has decreased by 21 %. Royalties revenue for the right to use industrial property has increased since 2015 and is mainly generated from US and Chinese markets.

In addition to subsidies for competitiveness, risk capital support and financial instruments under the management of the Czech Moravia Guarantee and Development Bank (ČMZRB - Českomoravská záruční a rozvojová banka) have been launched to a lesser extent. In 2020, the IPO Fund financial instrument for SMEs is being launched, demanding capital through the public subscription of shares. The Start market is already in place on the Prague Stock Exchange for small joint stock companies which aim to obtain lower tens of millions of koruna in capital. The 2019 Concept of the Ministry of Finance is in charge of the comprehensive development of capital markets, which are still very small and ineffective.

The number of patent applications from the Czech Republic at the European Patent Office fluctuates over the years and reached 243 applications in 2018.<sup>229</sup> However, the number of patents granted has increased steadily since 2015 and in 2018, 125 patents were granted. The European Patent Office and the United States Patent Office are the most significant For the Czech Republic (577 applications in 2018).

**The objective is being achieved, the importance of medium high-tech export is growing due to the export of motor vehicles. However, the share of high-tech exports remains practically identical. Revenues from technology services are increasing. In the context of services, the Czech Republic is strengthening custom research and the creation of software.**

7.4. The quality of foreign direct investment in the Czech Republic is increasing

However, the Czech economy is highly composed not only of domestic firms but also of foreign-controlled enterprises. After many years of areawide support for foreign direct investment, the Czech Republic is introducing an approach to the selection of priority investment sectors (so-called domains) and regions suitable for the preferred location of foreign investment. The support for foreign investment in 2019 was amended and is newly focused primarily on supporting technological investment and R&D. The incentives are newly approved by the government, regional benefits are assessed and projects with higher added value are supported – through higher wage indicators or the proportion of R&D personnel. They should therefore contribute to increased labour productivity in the processing sector in the future. In addition, entry thresholds for SMEs are also reduced, making incentives more accessible to them. In the case of elimination of potential security risks related to foreign investment from non-EU countries, a draft on foreign investment screening is being discussed in the legislative process. It introduces a mechanism for controlling and monitoring foreign direct investment in terms of its security and reflects the development of EU cooperation in this field.<sup>230</sup>

---

<sup>229</sup> Indicator 7.3.3.

<sup>230</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019

The Czech Republic has been preparing a comprehensive Economic Strategy since 2019, which will have to include transformation steps to harness the potential of a number of global trends. This strategy will be based on already existing themes,<sup>231</sup> however, in the context of the impact of the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Národní plán obnovy (Recovery and Resilience Plan) will also be part of this strategy. This plan is a prerequisite for the use of funds in the European Recovery and Resilience Facility,<sup>232</sup> intended to rebuild the EU economy from the economic crisis of 2020.

Indirect financial support to firms other than the above-mentioned investment incentives is not utilized. In addition, the Start market operates on the Prague Stock Exchange for Small Enterprises in order to support small companies aiming to obtain lower tens of millions of koruna in capital, but the 2019 Concept of the Ministry of Finance is in charge of the necessary comprehensive development of capital markets.

The main indicator of this target – labour productivity – increased by 11.5 % in the reporting period 2015-2018.<sup>233</sup> This amounted to CZK 900 thousand of gross value added per full-time equivalent worker (FTE). Real estate activities (+16.3 %), information and communication activities (+10.8 %), money and insurance (+7.6 %), public administration and defence and compulsory social security (+12.4 %) were the most important sectors supporting overall growth. The manufacturing industry is still below the average of national labour productivity and its labour productivity increased by only 5.9 % between 2015 and 2018.

In the context of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, there were diametrically different developments in overall labour productivity and labour productivity per hour worked in the first quarter of 2020.<sup>234</sup> Overall labour productivity (GVA per worker) has decreased most in the trade, transport, accommodation and catering sectors and in the manufacturing industry.

**The target is generally being met and labour productivity increased in 2018 not only because of hours worked but also through increased labour efficiency. However, the Czech Republic is still lagging behind the EU average and the real evolution of labour productivity in 2020 will be significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. For areas of investment incentives, the real impact of the changes made in 2019 has not yet been reported. Since then, only units of investment incentives have been applied for and the impact on productivity depends on**

---

establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union.

<sup>231</sup> Teze hospodářské strategie - Economic Strategy Proposition. Approved by Government Resolution No. 54 of 20.1. 2020.

<sup>232</sup> Recovery and Resilience Facility. A more detailed description can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020mff\\_covid\\_recovery\\_factsheet.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020mff_covid_recovery_factsheet.pdf)

<sup>233</sup> Indicator 7.4.1.

<sup>234</sup> MIT (2020). Analýza vývoje ekonomiky – červen 2020 (Analysis of the development of the economy – June 2020). Available from: [https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/rozcestnik/analyticke-materialy-a-statistiky/analyticke-materialy/2020/7/Analiza-vyvoje-ekonomiky-CR\\_cerven-2020.pdf](https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/rozcestnik/analyticke-materialy-a-statistiky/analyticke-materialy/2020/7/Analiza-vyvoje-ekonomiky-CR_cerven-2020.pdf)

**the implementation of these investment projects in future years.**

## 8 The Czech Republic has well-functioning and stable institutions to support applied research and development and to identify opportunities in this area.

*A prerequisite for a higher level of innovation is a functioning link between research organisations, quality education and businesses. It is necessary to renew and support the institutional base of applied research and to streamline the dissemination and sharing of knowledge from research organisations, with a focus on their subsequent application in practice. The ability to innovate on the basis of research and development is a prerequisite for raising the standard of living. Our ability to respond to expected societal needs and global challenges also depends on innovation. A challenge for the future, in addition to the innovation activity itself, is the ability of businesses to trade innovations and create an entire value chain from them. They need to not only find new solutions at home, but also use and sell them in such a way that as much of the added value as possible remains in the domestic economy. A key role for the state is to support the linking of the activities of research organisations to SMEs and to streamline and accelerate the commercialisation of research results, thus strengthening the still insufficient institutional base of applied research.*

***Resources for Research and innovation (R&I) are increasing, as well as the number of researchers and specialists, mainly thanks to foreign-controlled enterprises. However, R&D&I investment expenditure is decreasing and government expenditure is below the stated objectives. The attempt to halt the decline of students in technical fields is not successful, although there is still significant potential for increasing the number of students and graduates.***

***Innovative activities of businesses are increasing, not only in the case of foreign-controlled enterprises. Domestic firms are increasingly carrying out in-house research and cooperation with the higher education sector is gradually increasing from the point of view of sales. However, R&D and innovation are predominantly the domain of foreign and large enterprises. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are innovating significantly less. In terms of international comparison, the Czech Republic is still a moderate innovator and is not among European leaders in this area.***

8.1 The Czech Republic has a stable physical and personnel capacity of R&D, with an appropriate structure and focus, in which both the state and the companies invest sufficient financial resources.

Research and development activities play an important role in the emergence of new knowledge and, through their transformation into new or innovated products, technologies or processes, are a prerequisite for the stable and long-term sustainable economic growth of society. Without an adequate amount of financial support from both the state and the business sector, it cannot be expected that R&D in the Czech Republic will bring internationally competitive knowledge, innovation and technology that will contribute to improving the productivity and employment of the Czech economy and thus indirectly social cohesion and the sustainable development of society.

According to the evaluation of the implementation of the Národní politika VaVal 2016–2020 (National R&D&I Policy 2016-2020)<sup>235</sup>, a number of tasks have to be carried out on an ongoing basis by the end of 2020 and beyond. However, in terms of ensuring capacity for implementing the R&D&I policy, most ministries negatively assess staff and system changes due to the change in the systematisation of ministries in recent years.<sup>236</sup>

---

<sup>235</sup> Zpráva o hodnocení plnění opatření NP VaVal (Report on the assessment of compliance with measures of the NP R&D&I). Available from: <https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=866175>

<sup>236</sup> Reports of the Ministries on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

Total R&D expenditure (GERD) amounted to EUR 102.8 billion in 2018, which means R&D intensity to GDP of 1.93 %.<sup>237</sup> This share stagnated in the reporting period due to significant economic growth, but in absolute terms expenditure was increased by more than CZK 14 billion between 2015-2018. From the point of view of the implementation sectors, it is clear that the influence of private enterprises under foreign control has increased, in particular in the manufacturing industry, where they finance 2/3 of business R&D and are the largest source of funding for R&D in the Czech Republic.

Investment expenditure decreased significantly between 2015 and 2018 and strengthened the importance of long-term intangible assets within their structure – software, know-how and industrial rights. This expenditure accounted for 22 % of R&D investment in 2018. These investments are mainly carried out by private enterprises under foreign control in the manufacturing industry. For R&D investment intensity (ratio of investment in R&D compared to gross fixed capital formation in the region), the best result with 3.1% of R&D is achieved by the South Moravia region, but this ratio has a decreasing tendency in the long run since the peak in 2012-2013.

The state budget expenditure on R&D is increasing over the long term, in 2018 reaching 33.4 billion koruna.<sup>238</sup> However, the share of this expenditure in GDP has increased very little since 2015. Overall public expenditure amounted to 0.79 % of GDP by 2018, thus still below the national 1 % of GDP target.<sup>239</sup> These expenses were practically evenly distributed between institutional and targeted support in 2015-2018 and are, with exceptions, of a non-investment expenditure nature. The largest provider was the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (more than CZK 14 billion in 2018). From the perspective of the beneficiaries, these are mainly public and national universities and workplaces of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Private enterprises are only a small portion of the beneficiaries, supported in particular by domestic and medium-sized enterprises. These enterprises are active predominantly directly in research and development, or in the electrical, metal-working and automotive industries, information and communication activities. Public R&D funds are mainly directed towards the development of knowledge in sciences (36.4 %), industrial production and technology (10.8 %), health (8 %), development of knowledge in engineering sciences (6.9 %) and humanities (6.3 %).

Qualified human resources directly active in research and development play a key role in the process of the creation and transfer of knowledge, thus being one of the essential prerequisites for ensuring the long-term sustainable economic and technological development of society through its own power. The total number of people working in R&D is growing over the long term and as of 2018 it

---

<sup>237</sup> Indicator 8.1.1.

<sup>238</sup> Indicator 8.1.2.

<sup>239</sup> The national target under the Europe 2020 strategy was 1 % of GDP from public sources for R&D. This target has also been set at a national level by 2030 on the basis of the Czech Innovation Strategy 2019-2030.

was 75 thousand full-time equivalents<sup>240</sup> (FTE<sup>241</sup>). 71 % of these people are men and the number of men and women is significantly approximated only for auxiliary positions. Of the total number of persons, 55 % are researchers, 31 % are technical and professional staff and 14 % are other auxiliary personnel. These ratios are stable. The largest number of workers is active in private enterprises under foreign control (32 %), public and state universities (23 %) and domestic enterprises (23 %). Most of the workforce carries out its activities in the field of technical sciences (45 %) and natural sciences (34 %).

The number of science and technology specialists<sup>242</sup> in the economy is increasing and they are significantly concentrated in the metropolitan areas and facilities of large cities (Praha, Brno, Ostrava). There are about 3 times more men than women and specialists are increasing in all age categories. The relatively highest number is between the ages of 30 and 44. The wages of specialists have been growing in the long term and amounted to an average of CZK 55 461 for men per month and CZK 46 257 for women in 2019. In the Central Bohemia Region, the average wage in 2019 was higher than in Prague.

The number of students and graduates of technical disciplines, i.e. students in mathematics education, statistics and sciences, ICT as well as technology, production and construction, has decreased since 2015.<sup>243</sup> For the first category, the environment was the only growing field of education, given the number of students. For the ICT category, only the development and analysis of software and applications showed an increase. The share of students in all these subjects in proportion to young people at the age of 20-29 remained the same or decreased. For example, ICT students only make up 0.6 % of the population of 20-29 year-olds (of males 2.9 %). The fields of mathematics, statistics and natural sciences are the only ones in which women dominated. In relation to other students, mainly the fields of technology, production and construction have experienced a decrease, in particular due to interdisciplinary programmes.

**R&D resources as well as the number of researchers and specialists are increasing, mainly thanks to foreign-controlled enterprises. However, R&D investment expenditure is decreasing and government expenditure does not meet the set objectives. The attempt to stop the decline of students in technical fields is not successful, although there is still significant potential for increasing the number of students and graduates.**

R&D is considered a key factor for innovation activity. In 2018, firms invested in innovation activities a total of 151 billion koruna.<sup>244</sup> More

---

<sup>240</sup> Indicator 8.1.4.

<sup>241</sup> Full time equivalent – recalculated number of full-time employees. The registration number in 2018 for natural persons (Head Count) was 113 447 persons.

<sup>242</sup> Indicator 8.1.5.

<sup>243</sup> Indicator 8.1.6.

<sup>244</sup> Indicator 8.2.4.

8.2 Business innovation activities, based in particular on the results of domestic R&D, and the scope of cooperation between the academic and business sectors, are growing.

investment in innovation is made by foreign-controlled firms, almost twice as much as domestic businesses. The share of innovative enterprises simultaneously carrying out R&D activities amounted to 46.7 %, <sup>245</sup> of which the costs of in-house R&D amounted to CZK 37.5 billion. More often, these R&D activities are carried out by domestic innovating enterprises. The share of innovation costs in the revenues of these innovating enterprises has not changed over time, it was around 2.1 % in 2019.

A total of 46.8 % of businesses in 2018 implemented successful procedural and product innovation. <sup>246</sup> This was mainly procedural innovation, which suggests an emphasis on in-house processes, marketing methods and organisational changes. These innovations are being implemented by enterprises under foreign control and their application increases with the size of the firm. Innovation also affects the geographic markets in which firms operate. The national, wider European market and the global market are more important for innovative firms than for firms that are not innovative. The latter dominate regional markets and markets of the countries neighbouring the Czech Republic. <sup>247</sup>

Between 2016 and 2018, 28 % of innovating enterprises benefited from public support to carry out innovative activities <sup>248</sup>, domestic businesses draw these subsidies more often (30.8 % of innovating domestic businesses), mainly from EU resources. Public support is divided into direct support, received by 22.7 % of innovating enterprises and indirect (tax) support, which was received by 9.3 % of innovating enterprises. In both cases, the implementation of this aid increases with the size of the company, in particular in the case of direct government aid for R&D. Public support of R&D in private enterprises increased again after a fall in 2016 to a value of 7.6 billion koruna. <sup>249</sup> Of this, indirect tax aid amounted to CZK 26 billion and has not changed in recent years. After it was practically equivalent to Czech direct subsidy aid in 2016, the trend of the decrease in subsidies stopped and a growing trend has taken its place. Overall, public support of the Czech Republic and the EU financed 12.5 % of R&D costs in private enterprises in 2018.

In the period 2016-2018, firms' R&D expenditure increased, and in 2018 amounted to 63.7 billion koruna. <sup>250</sup> R&D investment costs were around 10 % and R&D expenditure most often over CZK 100 mil.

The level of decision-making in companies that belong to a whole group of enterprises is also linked to innovation. Innovating companies

---

<sup>245</sup> Indicator 8.2.3

<sup>246</sup> Indicator 8.2.2.

<sup>247</sup> ČSÚ (2019) Business Innovation Activities 2016-2018. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/122363224/21300320a1.pdf/66912f0f-47c2-47d0-abb2-220c0b6b9a32?version=1.3>

<sup>248</sup> Indicator 8.2.6.

<sup>249</sup> ČSÚ (2019) Nepřímá veřejná podpora výzkumu a vývoje 2018 - Indirect public support for R&D 2018. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/neprema-verejna-podpora-vyzkumu-a-vyvoje-2018>

<sup>250</sup> Indicator 8.2.1.

have a higher degree of autonomy in these groups or contribute to the preparation of the business plans of the whole group to which they belong. Innovating and non-innovating businesses in these groups both have fully autonomous decision-making and full competences in about half of the cases, but innovating companies are more often a part of these groups. Only in 7 % of cases do innovative companies ensure only the operational implementation of plans and supporting documents prepared and approved by another part of the group. For non-innovating companies this is true in 15 % of cases.<sup>251</sup>

Revenues of enterprises from innovated products increased and reached CZK 1.2 trillion in 2018,<sup>252</sup> with approximately half of the revenues from innovated products placed on the market by the enterprise prior to its competition. Overall, these product innovations account for 12.8 % of businesses' revenues. Cooperation between the business sector and higher education and government research has been increasing over the years. Revenues from the research services of public universities are growing and exceeded CZK 1 billion already in 2017, primarily thanks to income from domestic firms in the field of engineering sciences.<sup>253</sup> The share of these revenues in total R&D business expenditure has increased very slightly.<sup>254</sup> For the government sector (in particular the Czech Academy of Sciences and ministerial research sites), the trend is similar, though on a smaller scale and with natural sciences as the dominant area. Government sector income from revenues of R&D services to domestic firms amounted to CZK 301 mil. The share of innovating enterprises cooperating with universities on innovation reached 11 % in 2018.<sup>255</sup> This share has not changed over the years and primarily reflects the cooperation of large enterprises with universities.

**The innovative activities of businesses continue to grow, not only for foreign controlled enterprises. The trend of declining public aid for R&D in enterprises has been reversed since 2016. Domestic firms are increasingly carrying out in-house research and cooperation with the higher education sector is gradually increasing from the point of view of revenues. However, innovation is generally the domain of foreign controlled firms and large firms. In terms of international comparison, however, the Czech Republic is still a moderate innovator and is not among European leaders.**

---

<sup>251</sup> ČSÚ (2019) Business Innovation Activities 2016-2018. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/122363224/21300320a1.pdf/66912f0f-47c2-47d0-abb2-220c0b6b9a32?version=1.3>

<sup>252</sup> ČSÚ (2019) Business Innovation Activities 2016-2018. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/122363224/21300320a1.pdf/66912f0f-47c2-47d0-abb2-220c0b6b9a32?version=1.3>

<sup>253</sup> ŠSÚ (2019) Ukazatele VaV za vládní a vysokoškolský sektor - R&D indicators for government and higher education sectors. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/3-ukazatele-vav-za-vladni-a-vysokoskolsky-sektor-e9n7qqtauo>

<sup>254</sup> Indicator 8.2.5.

<sup>255</sup> ČSÚ - Draft of indicator 8.2.8 Enterprises with innovations cooperating on innovative activities with universities.





9 Natural resources shall be used as effectively and in the most efficient way possible in order to minimise the external costs of their consumption.

*Sustainability, productivity and, last but not least, the maturity of the economy are reflected in the ability to work with resources, in particular in the efficiency of their recovery and recycling. An important part of such a solution is a better use of domestic resources – replacing natural materials by recycling waste and secondary raw materials.*

*The use of resources is linked to externalities or external costs and benefits. Externalities are only partially included in the cost of resources and society therefore uses resources either more or less than corresponds to their social value.*

*Energy and other minerals, land, water and clean air are among the most important resources of the Czech economy. Another important parameter of resource consumption is greenhouse gas emissions, in particular CO<sub>2</sub>, pollutants and waste generation.*

***The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has rather stagnated over recent years. The emission intensity of gross domestic product has been successfully decreasing in the long run, but is multiple times higher than compared to the EU.***

***The circular economy has not yet been developed, which corresponds to the long-term and transformative nature of this objective. Many activities in the public administration have already taken place, but the transformation of industry and economy, and the increase in the cyclical use of resources and increased use of secondary resources have not yet been kick-started.***

***Material and energy efficiency is gradually increasing and the trend is well-directed, but despite this positive trend it is below the material efficiency of the European standard and shortcomings arise in the field of energy savings, in particular in meeting the commitments of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.***

***Adequate food self-sufficiency is achieved only for some commodities. For a number of commodities, we have been unsuccessful in achieving national production targets and the share of domestic commodities is therefore decreasing. The development trend is not yet indicative of meeting the national targets for both 2025 and 2030.***

9.1 Greenhouse gas emissions and product emission intensity are reduced.

The national targets and expected trajectory for reducing greenhouse gas emissions are set out in the strategic paper Politika ochrany klimatu v ČR (Climate Protection Policy of the Czech Republic).<sup>256</sup> A reduction target of 32 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq compared to 2005 is set for 2020. (Without counting the LULUCF sector<sup>257</sup>), i.e. to reach a total of approximately 114 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq. As of 2018, greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 127.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq.<sup>258</sup>, indicating a very small decrease in the period since 2015.

Since 2017, there has also been a gradual negative impact of the LULUCF sector, in particular due to the impact of the bark beetle calamity. As a result of this calamity and intensive logging, this sector has ceased to absorb and has instead been making a significant contribution to the production of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 2018. Within the sectoral breakdown of the period 2015-2018, emissions increased from transport (1524 thous.t of CO<sub>2</sub>eq.), industrial

---

<sup>256</sup> MoE (2017). Climate protection policy. Available from: [https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/politika\\_ochrany\\_klimatu\\_2017/\\$FILE/OEOK-POK-20170329.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/politika_ochrany_klimatu_2017/$FILE/OEOK-POK-20170329.pdf)

<sup>257</sup> LULUCF is the acronym Land Use Change and Forestry

<sup>258</sup> Indicator 9.1.1.

processes and product use (913 000 thous.t of CO<sub>2</sub>eq). Waste management (194 thous.t of CO<sub>2</sub>eq) and manufacturing and construction (208 thous.t of CO<sub>2</sub>eq) have seen a slight increase in the same period.

The evolution is more positive in terms of emission intensity (GDP emissions), but only because of significant GDP growth. Emission intensity is decreasing and as of 2018 amounts to 26.9 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>eq per CZK 1 thousand GDP at constant 2010 prices<sup>259</sup> (in 2015 it was CZK 29.8 CO<sub>2</sub>eq/thous. ). However, this is still significantly above the EU level. The Czech economy is thus still highly dependent on carbon technologies and fuels. In comparison to emission intensity, the Czech Republic reaches 0.617 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>eq. per 1 euro, while the EU27 average is 0.289.<sup>260</sup>

The Czech Republic implements a number of measures to reduce greenhouse gas production. These measures are generally based on the Climate Protection Policy in the Czech Republic. Czech Republic 2030 therefore only proposes some measures in this area. The structure and types of support for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency improvements have been set out in the Vnitrostátní plán ČR v oblasti energetiky a klimatu (Czech National Energy and Climate Plan) from 2020 onwards. This support is specified in the current and upcoming operational programmes. The setting of operating aids for supported energy sources is then prepared in the draft amendment to Act No. 165/2012 Coll., on Supported Energy Sources (amendment is taking place in 2020). The preparation of the construction of new nuclear resources is also a long-term measure.

The action plans of the Strategie restrukturalizace (Restructuring Strategy), which also focus on the social transformation of structurally affected regions,<sup>261</sup> are updated every year and are being updated in 2020 with a focus on energy considerations and linking with the conclusions of the Coal Commission, which in 2020 recommended a procedure for phasing out coal mining and exploitation in the Czech Republic.<sup>262</sup> Furthermore, this restructuring is linked to the implementation of the Just Transition Fund, which has been allocated by the EU for the transition of coal regions in particular. For this reason, the Territorial Just Transition Plan for the Ústí, Karlovarský and Moravian-Silesian region is also being prepared.

There is still high demand for the exchange of obsolete solid fuel boilers. The exchange of these boilers was financed by the OPE ENV, while demand overhang was further financed by Nová zelená úsporám

---

<sup>259</sup> Indicator 9.1.1.

<sup>260</sup> Eurostat (2019), Air emissions Measure by NACE Rev. 2 activity, last update of 24.2.2020. Available from: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=env\\_ac\\_aeint\\_r2&language=en&mode=view](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=env_ac_aeint_r2&language=en&mode=view)

<sup>261</sup> Ústí, Karlovarský and Moravian-Silesian region.

<sup>262</sup> According to the approved document of the Czech Government, *the Proposal for a procedure by the State Enterprise DIAMO, s. p. to eliminate the effects of mining activities within the individual mines and associated quarrying areas of OKD, a.s.*, the date of termination of mining in OKD's coal mines is 2022. The recommendation of the Coal Commission of 4.12. 2020 establishes the recommended year of departure from the use of coal as 2038.

(NZÚ) in 2019. Negotiations are ongoing in 2020 on the setting up of a new operational programme, in which the “boiler subsidy” should appear again after 2021, with a focus on socially weaker citizens and reducing energy poverty. A continuation of the successor programme of the NZÚ is planned. In addition to the above programmes, additional EC programmes are also being created, in particular the Modernisation Fund, which is primarily focused on energy transition.

Regrettably, legislation on the possibility of using the EPC (energy performance contracting) method in public sector buildings has not yet been regulated due to strict budgetary rules preventing credit for the state's organisational units.<sup>263</sup> Financial instruments as an alternative to subsidies are not yet widely used, an increase is expected in the next programming period.

However, a legislative amendment<sup>264</sup> has already been proposed to abolish the moratorium on increasing rates from past reserved minerals and extending the register on 'market price' in order to increase or reduce the payment rate objectively.

**The reduction target has not been achieved. The emission intensity of gross domestic product is decreasing, but it is still very high compared to the EU.**

9.2 The contribution of the circular economy to the total volume of material flows is increasing

The share of secondary raw materials in the total material input has increased slightly to 8.3 % since 2015.<sup>265</sup> However, the long-term development of the years 2011-2019 indicates stagnation rather than a progressive increase in their use in place of primary raw materials. The circular economy thus remains an ambition for the future.

According to the indicator of the cyclical use of materials, the Czech Republic reached a rate of 8.1 % in 2017, which is 1.2 percentage points higher than in 2015, but still less than the European average (EU-27) of 11.2 %.<sup>266</sup> However, due to the design of this indicator, secondary raw materials are not included in this proportion.

Since 2019, the strategic framework of the circular economy in the Czech Republic, the so-called Cirkulární Česko (Circular Czech Republic) 2040, has been underway. It aims to analyse the current situation, define the priorities and objectives of the Czech Republic in the field of circular economy and identify the measures and tools for achievement by the Czech Republic. The preparation of the document takes place in cooperation with the OECD and is funded by the EU Structural Reform Support Programme. The adoption of the document is expected at the beginning of 2021.

In the field of promoting the circular economy, a comprehensive regulation of waste legislation was prepared following four EU

---

<sup>263</sup> Act No 218/2000 Coll., on Budgetary Rules.

<sup>264</sup> Act amending Act No 44/1988 Coll., on the Protection and Exploitation of Mineral Wealth (the Mining Act), as amended.

<sup>265</sup> Indicator 9.2.1.

<sup>266</sup> Eurostat (2020), Circular material use rate, data as of 2017, data update of 20.1.2020. Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/cei\\_srm030/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/cei_srm030/default/table?lang=en)

directives of the European Parliament and of the Council in the field of waste management (the Circular Economy Package<sup>267</sup>). The bills are still in the legislative process in mid-2020, with the envisaged effectiveness of the laws from 1 January 2021. Simultaneously to the preparation of the new legislation, there is also an update of the Czech Waste Economy Plan and the Waste Prevention Programme so as to implement new requirements and objectives of European waste management legislation. The bill contains a significant increase in the rate of the landfill charge, the strengthening of waste prevention, the application of the eco-modulation principle or PAYT ('pay as you throw'). The transposition of the European Single Plastic Packaging Directive was launched in 2020.<sup>268</sup>

Since 2016, several methodologies have been prepared<sup>269</sup> for waste prevention, education and awareness of the population and students, as well as the development of public administrations and voluntary agreements on waste prevention. In 2018, the MoE launched a campaign and the initiative 'Dost bylo plastu' (Enough with the Plastic) against the over-using of single-use plastic products. The MoE has concluded voluntary agreements with a number of companies that have undertaken to reduce the consumption of plastic and disposable tableware in their operations. A number of organisations and initiatives are also dedicated to raising awareness of waste prevention in the Czech Republic. The MoE has also long supported activities of non-state non-profit organisations in the field of waste prevention through the NGO support programme, where awareness-raising projects in this field are often supported. Expert conferences (Waste prevention) and competitions (Transformation of waste into resources) are conducted. A number of measures were implemented as part of the fulfilment of the Second Raw Material Policy updated in 2019. For example, an analysis of the possibilities of introducing a system of return of flat glass or a methodological process and input for the use of secondary raw materials and waste in the construction sector has been created. This methodology is applicable in public procurement and for the fulfilment of obligations in the preparation of construction works. The portal [www.recyklujmestavby.cz](http://www.recyklujmestavby.cz) has also been created, which provides a catalogue of products and materials containing secondary raw materials in order to strengthen trust in recycled products and materials.

Support for specific projects was implemented through the OP ENV 2014-2020 also under priority axis 3, where a total of 17 waste prevention and material and energy recovery challenges were implemented. In addition, the OP EIC programme was used to support the recycling capacity of SMEs and public sector-owned companies.

---

<sup>267</sup> 2018 Circular Economy Package - Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/first\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.html](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/first_circular_economy_action_plan.html).

<sup>268</sup> Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, published in the Official Journal of the EU 12.6.2019.

<sup>269</sup> Project for the MoE - Hledání nových způsobů informační podpory při realizaci Programu předcházení vzniku odpadů ČR - Monitoring new ways of information support in the implementation of the Czech Waste Prevention Programme (TA ČR TB050MZP009).

9.3 The energy and material efficiency of the economy is increasing.

**The target has not yet been achieved and the cyclical use of resources is not increasing. Although a number of preparatory activities of the public administration are ongoing, it is necessary to complete the preparation of legislative changes and, in particular, start purchasing products from recycled materials and secondary raw materials according to the parameters of green public procurement. In addition, it is necessary to incentivise the private sector and entrepreneurial activities according to the principles of the circular economy to achieve European objectives.**

Material productivity, i.e. economic performance per unit of raw materials consumed<sup>270</sup> increased by 8.4 % between 2015 and 2018 (by 18.2 % from 2010 onwards). Thus, in 2018, the Czech Republic achieved an economic output of CZK 27.92 per kg of raw material consumed.<sup>271</sup> However, we are lagging behind significantly compared to the average material productivity in the EU, especially due to the historical and current importance of industry in the economy and the increasing consumption of energy raw materials. In recent years, the biggest effects of increased imports and consumption of materials are the growth of the manufacturing industry, in particular automotive, and energy consumption in transport, in particular oil.<sup>272</sup>

The energy intensity of the economy is constantly decreasing over the long term (by a half since 1990), reaching 0.396MJ/CZK<sup>273</sup> in 2018. Between 2015 and 2018, it decreased by 6.16 % (in 2010-2018 by a total of 20.16 %). From the point of view of other EU countries, the Czech Republic has worse results and is among the countries with the highest energy intensity of the economy, mainly due to energy-intensive industries. However, the average annual decrease between 2005-2017 (-2,7 % p.a.) is faster than the EU average (-2 % p.a.).<sup>274</sup>

In the area of the mandatory reduction of consumption under Directive 2012/27/EU, the Czech Republic follows the so-called alternative scheme where the commitments are borne by the state and the achievement of savings is mainly implemented through a subsidy policy. The Czech Republic has failed to meet its obligation resulting from Article 7 of the Directive to increase energy efficiency and achieve accumulated energy savings of 204.4 PJ for the period 2014-2020, and will not be able to fulfil this commitment by 2020. The second commitment, i.e. the exemplary role of the buildings of public entities resulting from Article 5 of the Directive, will be met by the Czech Republic under the condition that all the notified investments are fulfilled. The objective under Article 3 of the Directive, i.e. the national

---

<sup>270</sup> Material productivity is measured as the value of the gross domestic product produced at constant 2010 prices against domestic material consumption (DMC).

<sup>271</sup> Indicator 9.3.1.

<sup>272</sup> CENIA (2019) Environmental Report 2018. Available from: [https://www.cenia.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zprava\\_o\\_ZP\\_CR\\_2018.pdf](https://www.cenia.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zprava_o_ZP_CR_2018.pdf)

<sup>273</sup> Indicator 9.3.2.

<sup>274</sup> EEA (2019), Energy intensity in Europe. Available from: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/total-primary-energy-intensity-4/assessment-1>

indicative energy efficiency target, is fulfilled by the Czech Republic.<sup>275</sup>

In the next programming period, as before, the Czech Republic relies on the fulfilment of energy efficiency targets and commitments on an alternative scheme complemented by a voluntary agreement scheme. Voluntary agreements serve as a tool for the involvement of third parties without the need to apply a mandatory fulfilment scheme by the state. Funding programmes, complemented by financial instruments, remain the core pillar of the implementation. The extension of the offer of financial instruments is currently being discussed.

In order to improve the situation by 2030, the National Energy and Climate Plan proposed an allocation of around CZK 140 billion to support energy efficiency improvements.<sup>276</sup> In terms of ensuring ESIF funds for businesses, the OP CIE allocated CZK 17.3 billion for the period 2014-2020. However, by the end of 2019 only CZK 3.34 billion had been drawn, with 11.36 billion already linked to the projects carried out. Approximately CZK 10-12 billion are foreseen in the next period 2021-2027 in the framework of the OP TAC<sup>277</sup> In addition to this programme, the EFEKT, ENERG, OP ENV (for public buildings), and IROP programmes will further be utilised. Other instruments are still being negotiated in 2020, such as the Modernisation Fund, the Just Transition Fund or the Recovery and Resilience Facility. At the same time, it is necessary to secure funding for Nová zelená úsporám, which is one of the main pillars of the Czech Republic's energy efficiency commitments. With regard to ensuring a sufficient absorption capacity of the market, setting up rapid funding programmes and speeding up the actual implementation of the measures will be crucial in order to adjust the implementation of the commitments.

Funds for the Nová zelená úsporám (New Green Savings) (NZÚ) programme were secured until 2020 as part of profit from the sale of emission allowances accrued by the MoE. At the same time, the NZÚ does not amount to the total share of profit from the sale of allowances accrued under the Act.<sup>278</sup> The use of these funds and the continuation of the successor programme are not yet clarified for the following period. The use of funds after the end of the NZÚ programme has not yet been clarified.<sup>279</sup>

In international comparison, the consumption of fuels and energy of households in the Czech Republic is slightly above average compared to the EU. The average energy supplied at the entrance of a building

---

<sup>275</sup> MIT (2020) 8. zpráva o pokroku dosaženém při plnění vnitrostátních cílů energetické účinnosti.- 8<sup>th</sup> Progress report on national energy efficiency targets. Available from: [https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/energetika/energeticka-ucinnost/strategicke-dokumenty/2020/6/8-pokrokovazprava\\_200428\\_final.pdf](https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/energetika/energeticka-ucinnost/strategicke-dokumenty/2020/6/8-pokrokovazprava_200428_final.pdf)

<sup>276</sup> MIT Report on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>277</sup> MIT Report on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>278</sup> Act No. 383/2012 Coll., and Act 1/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 383/2012 Coll., On the terms and conditions of trading in greenhouse gas emission allowances, as amended, and Act No. 4/2020 Coll., On the conditions of business and on the performance of state administration in the energy sectors and on amendments to certain acts (Energy Act), as amended.

<sup>279</sup> MoE Report on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

is 227 kWh per m<sup>2</sup> of living space per year (2015 survey data).<sup>280</sup> The average consumption of electricity alone is 39 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> floor space, with electricity accounting for 18 % of the total energy consumption (it is more for natural gas and renewable energy – wood). Annual fuel and energy costs are increasing over the long term, amounting to CZK 439 per m<sup>2</sup> of floor space of the dwelling.<sup>281</sup> From the point of view of reducing energy consumption via insulation of the housing capacity, 18.8 % of housing still has no form of insulation and there are significant reserves in the insulation of roofs, which 2/3 of housing do not have.

**Material and energy efficiency is gradually increasing and the trend is well-directed, but despite this positive trend it is below the material efficiency of the European standard and shortcomings are also emerging in the field of energy savings, in particular in fulfilling the commitments under Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.**

Implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy with a View to 2030 and the first evaluation of these measures will take place in 2021. This strategy also includes ensuring adequate food self-sufficiency. Nonetheless, the measures are being implemented and ongoing results are available in the annual Zpráva o stavu zemědělství (State of Agriculture Report). Food self-sufficiency depends on the availability of input production raw materials. For sensitive commodities, their production is supported, in the case of raw materials in which we are self-sufficient, it is a matter of maintenance or expansion of processing capacity. The aim is to limit the export of primary raw materials and the re-import of higher value-added end products from these domestic raw materials. However, the degree of self-sufficiency in the production of certain basic crops, i.e. the coverage of domestic consumption by domestic production, shows a rather negative trend in the Czech Republic.<sup>282</sup> Indicative targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030 are set by the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy with a view to 2030.<sup>283</sup> Of the monitored crops covered by this indicator<sup>284</sup> (the data are available for 2019), eggs (89.2 %) and milk and dairy products (134.8 %) positively approach or already meet the indicative 2020 targets. In contrast, fruit (67,8%), vegetables (35,5%), potatoes (74,6%), pork (50.8%), poultry (72.4%), beef (120.9%), hops (190%) and legumes (81.1%) are evolving differently to the desired trend according to indicative 2020 targets. Furthermore, in 2019, self-sufficiency in vegetable production was increased due to higher domestic production and due to adverse weather developments, which led to a significant increase in consumer prices in Europe. Self-sufficiency in potato production is slightly

---

<sup>280</sup> Quality of life indicator 3.9.

<sup>281</sup> ČSÚ (2017). Spotřeba paliv a energií v domácnostech - Fuel and energy consumption in households. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/spotreba-paliv-a-energii-v-domacnostech>

<sup>282</sup> Indicator 9.4.1.

<sup>283</sup> MoA (2016), Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture with a View to 2030. Available from: [http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/460683/460659\\_683669\\_Strategie\\_resortu\\_ministerstva\\_zemedelstvi\\_s\\_vyhledem\\_do\\_2030.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/460683/460659_683669_Strategie_resortu_ministerstva_zemedelstvi_s_vyhledem_do_2030.pdf)

<sup>284</sup> Due to the availability of data, industrial crops and feed are not covered.



increasing and the market is expected to recover in 2020. Milk production is negatively affected by a slight reduction in dairy yield. The consumption of pork meat is influenced by its rising price and the trend is a further reduction in the level of self-sufficiency.<sup>285</sup>

Subsidy programmes are implemented in order to achieve greater food sovereignty. Investments in farms, with a preference of the processing of their own production or products, shall be encouraged to promote competitiveness. The same applies for investments in the processing of agricultural products in food businesses where the main beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme are small and medium-sized enterprises. And large enterprises are supported by the national subsidy programme 13. Funds are earmarked for the development of innovation for the purpose of modernising the food industry in order to improve products, processes or technologies.<sup>286</sup> For the long-term conservation of genetic resources, their use and the conservation of the world's natural resources there exists a Národní program konzervace a využívání genetických zdrojů (National Programme for the Conservation and Use of Genetic Resources).

The activities of the Food Safety Information Centre, bringing together information "from farm to fork" were carried out in the context of raising awareness and increasing the health of the population.<sup>287</sup> The Centre operates public online portals on food defects and safety, carries out educational activities for schools and provides information on food prevention and healthy nutrition. The Ministry of Agriculture strengthens the consumers' relationship with food originating in their region and with Czech foodstuffs. For example, the „Regionální potravina“ (Regional Food) label<sup>288</sup> for the highest quality regional foods, or the voluntary label „Česká potravina“ (Czech Food).<sup>289</sup>

**The objectives of food self-sufficiency can only be achieved for some commodities. In some commodities, we achieve a positive trend corresponding to indicative national targets, but not in a number of others. Thus, expecting achievement of the 2020 targets is ambitious and the trend to date for some commodities is not consistent with the trajectory for 2025 and 2030. In view of the failure in a number of commodities, it is appropriate to consider the effectiveness of the current setting of food self-sufficiency in the future, including in the context of the EU internal market.**

---

<sup>285</sup> MoE Report on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>286</sup> MoE Report on the implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>287</sup> <https://www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz/>

<sup>288</sup> The label "Regional Food" is awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture in 13 regions of the Czech Republic to the highest quality agricultural or food products, which must be produced from local raw materials and have a link to their region – either in the traditional production method or via the original regional recipe.

<sup>289</sup> The logo with the Czech flag and the words "Česká potravina" or only the words "Česká potravina" may be used by food producers to voluntarily mark their products, provided that they comply with the requirements of Section 9b of Act No. 110/1997 Coll., on Foodstuffs and Tobacco Products, as amended. This label refers to the place of origin of the food.



## 10 Economic activities are supported by a stable and functional infrastructure.

*A prerequisite for a resilient economy, entrepreneurship and quality of life is a well designed, high quality and reliable infrastructure in good condition, which is sized with sufficient reserves. It contributes to the smooth functioning of other sectors. In addition, it ensures resilience to crises caused by humans or nature. The sustainability of strategic infrastructure is due to the ability to provide services of general economic interest to a sufficient extent at an acceptable price in economically efficient systems. It depends on the structure and interaction of network industries operating the infrastructure, public and private costs for its recovery, demand changes and technological innovations in network services. The quality of the services it provides is a measure of the success of the building and management of the infrastructure.*

***The critical infrastructure system for the functioning of the state is being developed and the protection of this infrastructure is ensured. The construction and modernisation of transport infrastructure of international importance is, however, very slow and, in the current trend, it is not possible to speak of ensuring high-quality transport connections or the competitiveness of rail versus road transport. The electricity transmission network remains stable and ensures a smooth and secure supply of electricity. However, the expected development of the following years shows a number of risks that need to be calculated. Heat supply and the Czech thermal energy supply system is developing positively and the share of efficient systems using renewable and secondary energy sources is increasing. The infrastructure and availability of high-speed internet are improving and most of the population has an internet connection, but there is a problem with the stability of this connection in rural areas. In the future, it will be necessary to further focus on increasing transmission speed and the use of appropriate technologies. Water infrastructure is developing positively, with the pace of development seemingly sufficient on the side of the sewerage and the WTP, but the trend of construction and modernisation is slower than it should be.***

10.1 Maintaining permanent state the critical infrastructure system and developing a critical infrastructure protection system.

The list of critical infrastructure elements (CI) is prepared and updated once a year and also includes infrastructure that is not operated by the state but falls within the substantive competence of the state's organisational unit. For strategic reasons, significant state influence is ensured in the energy companies sector (ČEPS and OTE).

The monitoring activities are carried out by the competent ministries and other central administrative offices which inspect the CI's emergency preparedness plans and the protection of CI elements. In the case of security events and incidents, critical information and communication systems shall also be communicated with the National Cyber Security Centre. The resilience of critical infrastructure can be administratively assessed on the basis of ongoing inspections and their findings. In this case, the inspections follow up on the development of emergency preparedness plans for critical infrastructure entities.<sup>290</sup> These inspections have been underway since 2013 and their number varies significantly throughout the years, probably following the gradual identification of critical infrastructure elements. The largest number of inspections took place in 2019 (25),

---

<sup>290</sup> The particulars and method of preparation of the crisis preparedness plan are set out in Sections 17 and 18 of Government Regulation No. 462/2000 Coll., on the implementation of Sections 27(8) and 28(5) of Act No. 240/2000 Coll., on Crisis Management and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Crisis Act).

and significant inspection findings have not yet been detected during the entire period from 2013 onwards.<sup>291</sup> For a number of CI it was recommended to introduce further physical protection measures, but from the perspective of the readiness of operators and their legislative obligations, it can be said that the critical infrastructure operated by them is protected from known risks.

Technical standards and binding documents available for the protection of critical infrastructure are continuously developed and several hundreds already exist. Certified methodologies are also complemented by corporate standards. For example, the MoI has created a set of binding documents for the Information Security Management System<sup>292</sup> that set criteria for the cyber security of critical information infrastructure. However, some ministries report limited progress on technical standards.<sup>293</sup>

For the efficient management of critical infrastructure, the relevant legislation should be sufficiently flexible and regularly amended to respond to new findings and threats. Government Regulation No. 432/2010 Coll. on the criteria for determining the critical infrastructure element was last updated in connection with the crisis situation caused by the occurrence of the coronavirus in the Czech territory.<sup>294</sup>

Quality of life 10.14 - Adaptation to potential threats  
Czech residents assess general preparedness for different types of threats as slightly insufficient. On a range of 0-10 (10 - full preparedness), the population assessed a number of threats affecting critical infrastructure in 2019 (natural disasters, lack of drinking water, oil and gas shortages, long-term failure of the Internet and mobile networks, etc.) at level 4,3-4,8

As part of this update, the health sector has been extended to include a sectoral criterion related to the production of medicinal products. However, overall progress is limited.

**The objective has been achieved, state control is ensured and critical infrastructure should be protected from known risks according to the inspections performed.**

Long-term development is based on the Czech Transport Policy (Dopravní politika ČR), which is updated in 2020. In the case of road infrastructure, the objective shall be to ensure communication at least in the category of the alternating three-lane, in the case of railway infrastructure an electrified railway line on which a driving time at least comparable to parallel road infrastructure can be reached. Infrastructure projects shall be implemented in line with the Transport Sector Strategies (2018) (Dopravní sektorové strategie) and their funding is ensured. Progress is being made, but the share of upgraded lines in the Trans-European TEN-T network in the Czech Republic

---

<sup>291</sup> Indicator 10.1.1.

<sup>292</sup> pursuant to Act No. 181/2014 Coll., On Cyber Security and Change of Related Acts (Cyber Security Act).

<sup>293</sup> Reports of the Ministries on the Implementation of Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>294</sup> Government Regulation No. 154/2020.

increased by only 1 percentage point between 2018-2020.<sup>295</sup> In the case of rail, only 45 % of the infrastructure is modernised by 2020, and for roads it is 62 %.

Piloting of the Public-private partnership format (PPPF) is still being prepared for the finalisation of the D4 motorway.

From the point of view of driving time between selected foreign cities (from Prague and Brno), the shortest option of individual car transport still dominates.<sup>296</sup> In particular, on the Prague-Wrocław (Brno-Krakow) line, this difference is up to two hours compared to the second shortest option, and the car is thus faster by 36 % (52 %) of time compared to rail. In contrast, rail and bus services share second place approximately equally. Rail transport is more time-efficient (from Prague and Brno), in particular to Bratislava, Budapest and Warsaw.

Quality of life 10.7. - Road traffic accident rate

The accident rate in road transport continued to increase in 2015-2019 (107 572 accidents occurred in 2019). Less negative assessments can be made on the number of injured persons, which does not show an increasing trend (26 045 people were injured in 2019 as a result of an accident). The number of road deaths was lower than in 2015 (in 2019, 547 people died as a result of an accident).

In contrast, bus transport (from Prague and Brno) is more time-efficient to Dresden, Berlin and Nuremberg. Using the expected driving time according to the feasibility study of current and upgraded railway lines, the position of the railway can be expected to improve compared to bus transport on the routes Prague-Munich, Prague-Vienna and Brno-Poprad, Brno-Wrocław, Brno-Berlin. The rail connection should be faster than by vehicle on the lines Brno-Warsaw and Brno-Vienna. Only prospectively in terms of decades and with the deployment of high-speed lines is a time advantage envisaged for rail over cars on most cross-border routes.

**The achievement of the 2030 target is rather unrealistic with the current trend. The slow modernisation process and the forecasting of the improvement of the position of rail vis-à-vis road transport do not allow it to be met for decades.**

In light of current developments, the Grid Operation Codes at European Level have been adopted in recent years (Kodexy pro provozování sítí na evropské úrovni). The rules for the operation of distribution systems and the rules for the operation of the grid shall fully reflect these facts. The development of the grid system shall take place in accordance with the Ten-Year Grid Development Plan (Desetiletý plán rozvoje přenosové soustavy) approved by the Energy Regulatory Office. In order to ensure stability, legislative adjustments are in place for the operation of grids in emergencies. Measures for the digitisation of the electricity system and the development of smart grids are implemented through the implementation of the National Action Plan for Smart Grids (NAP SG), which has only implemented infrastructure projects since 2019. The European Commission's Clean

<sup>295</sup> Indicator 10.2.1 (data available only for 2018 and 2020).

<sup>296</sup> Indicator 10.2.2.

10.3. The electricity grid shall ensure the distribution of electricity in the required technical standard, regardless of the structure of the resources.

Energy for All Europeans package of 2018<sup>297</sup> is being gradually implemented, inter alia, in the context of the creation of a new energy law, the draft of which will be submitted to the government for approval in 2020. The NAP SG also includes support for the development of decentralised electricity generation.

Network capacities need to be strengthened and the concept of smart grids should be developed in parallel. Work is currently underway on 20 NAP SG 2019-2030 projects. Of these, there are 11 implementation projects where the result is a solution directly used in practice. The conditions for the connection of renewable sources to the electricity system are already defined by legislation<sup>298</sup>, whereas the conditions for connecting electricity storage devices will be part of the 'small' amendment to the Energy Act.

The structure and types of promotion for renewable energy sources are framed in the Czech National Energy and Climate Plan with the goal of reaching a share of 22 % of renewable resources in 2030. The establishment of operating aid is then specified in the draft amendment to Act 165/2012 Coll. on Promoted Energy Sources. The investment subsidies took the form of operational programmes and are also prepared for the following period.

The power adequacy shows the ability of the electricity system to fulfil its main function, i.e. to transmit and distribute electricity between resources and consumers, while taking into account the changing energy balance structure. From the perspective of data for 2015-2019, it is very positive that no system power shortfall in ENS (energy not supplied) nor in the number of hours when the load is not covered (LLD – loss of load duration) has occurred. However, these indicators are also relevant as grid development indicators, which are part of the so-called regular medium-term adequacy forecast.<sup>299</sup> From the perspective of these forecasts, a significant increase in dependence on foreign energy imports is expected, while at the same time increasing the likelihood of system power shortages and deterioration of these indicators, especially after 2025, due to the increase in renewable energy sources and the gradual phasing-out of conventional coal sources. The LOLE (Loss of load expectation) in the baseline scenario amounts to 42 hours per year by 2025, in the case of EENS (expected energy not supplied) to 11,7 GWh. In the low-carbon scenario, these values are significantly higher. The ČEPS safe limit is 3-6 hours per year. In the scenarios under assessment, performance adequacy is highly dependent on the extension of the lifetime and construction of new Dukovany units and the provision of the grid's reserve transmission capacity in the event of a shortage of

---

<sup>297</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/cleaner\\_air/](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/cleaner_air/)

<sup>298</sup> Act 165/2012 Coll. on Promoted Energy Sources (Section 7) and Act 458/2000 Coll. on Business Conditions and Public Administration in the Energy Sectors and its implementing regulations.

<sup>299</sup> ČEPS (2019) Hodnocení zdrojové přiměřenosti elektrizační soustavy ČR do roku 2040 - Evaluation of the source adequacy of the Czech electricity system until 2040. Available from: <https://www.ceps.cz/cs/tiskove-zpravy/novinka/maf-cz-prinasi-hodnoceni-zdrojove-primerenosti-cr-do-roku-2040>

supply of any of the sources.

The ČEPS electricity continuity indicators under the Energy Regulatory Office Report<sup>300</sup> show fluctuations in the number of interruptions in electricity transmission and their total length over the period 2015-2019, with a peak in 2019 (11 interruptions, 143 minutes). Similarly, the total energy not supplied fluctuated, with the maximum in 2015 (140 MWh) and the minimum in 2016 (45 MWh).

**The objective of security and stability of the grid is being pursued. However, the resource adequacy forecasts as of 2025, regardless of the scenario of different types of resources used, are slightly risky, almost warning.**

10.4. Thermal energy supply systems create conditions for the efficient use of heat from renewable and secondary energy sources available at regional and local level.

The Czech Republic has a significant number of households connected to the central heat supply. Thermal energy supply is an essential condition for a healthy and good-quality household life. In particular, the interest is to have a high proportion of efficient supply systems containing a significant share of heat from renewable and secondary sources or a high share of cogeneration. Efficient systems are monitored by the Energy Regulatory Office pursuant to Act 165/2012 Coll. on Promoted Energy Sources. The number of efficient thermal energy supply systems<sup>301</sup> increased between 2016-2020 and reached a peak in 2019 (217 systems). From a regional point of view, these systems increased in particular in the Olomouc, Central Bohemia and South Bohemia Regions. On the other hand, a significant decrease of this type of heat supply system occurred in the Moravian-Silesian, Pilsen and Královéhradecký regions.

New plants put into operation from 2021 onwards are considered with operating support. Combined high-efficiency power generating plants, which cease to be eligible for existing support, will be able to apply for new operating support schemes to keep these power plants in operation, unless they benefit from other operating support. Resources for the reconstruction and development of efficient heat supply systems beyond 2020 are prepared and earmarked under the Modernisation Fund. At the same time, the VAT rate for thermal energy has been reduced from 1 January 2020 from 15 to 10 %. However, the alignment of conditions in the form of introducing a carbon tax for individual heat production plants not covered by the EU ETS with the aim to reduce the share of solid fossil fuels in these sources has not been implemented. These smaller heat generating plants compete with large heat supply plants, although they may not meet the same conditions for CO<sub>2</sub> and pollutant emissions.

The new Waste Act provides for an increase in the landfilling fee

---

<sup>300</sup> ERÚ (2020) Report on the operation of the electricity system of the Czech Republic 2019. Available from: [https://www.eru.cz/documents/10540/5381883/Rocni\\_zprava\\_provoz\\_ES\\_2019.pdf/debe8a88-e780-4c44-8336-a0b7bbd189bc](https://www.eru.cz/documents/10540/5381883/Rocni_zprava_provoz_ES_2019.pdf/debe8a88-e780-4c44-8336-a0b7bbd189bc)

<sup>301</sup> An efficient thermal energy supply system is a system meeting the conditions set out in Section 2(v) of Act No. 165/2012 Coll., as amended (50 % of heat from renewable sources, 50 % of heat from secondary sources, 75 % of heat from cogeneration, or 50 % of heat from a combination of these options), the definition is based on Directive 2012/27/EU.

which, combined with the upper limit of the energy recovery of waste, will ensure a shift from landfilling to the adequate energy recovery of waste while respecting priority recycling and meeting binding EU recycling targets.

**The target is being achieved, the trend of increasing efficient thermal energy supply systems corresponds to its achievement.**

10.5 The availability of high-speed Internet is increasing

High-speed Internet is intended to cover fast and ultra-fast broadband connections (i.e. connections above 30 Mbit/s). The MIT continuously launches calls for support for NGA networking<sup>302</sup> in the so-called white areas. Decisions worth CZK 1 billion were taken in the first half of 2020 and further calls are being prepared. The MIT has been able, after several years of problems, to set the rules for support for the construction of NGA networks in such a way that they are not discriminatory and are sufficiently attractive to potential applicants. The Supreme Audit Office also addressed this issue.<sup>303</sup> The conclusions of the inspection report show that the Czech Republic has not been too successful in public promotion for the construction of these networks and the extension of coverage to white spaces, and has found itself in a good situation particularly due to investments of the business sector.

The internet access service was already provided for 32 million active connections in 2018, of which 2.7 million are non-business (residence) connections. However, the proportion of active connections above 30 Mbit/s in all active connections is only 55 %.<sup>304</sup> The proportion of participants with such a rapid connection in the total population of the Czech Republic is only 16.3 %. The most common technology is wireless access in free or licensed bands, including WiFi, which has a majority representation in municipalities up to 2 000 inhabitants. However, this technology generally does not offer higher internet transmission speeds, i.e. in particular 100 Mbit/s and higher.

The total number of available connections declared by internet access providers is more than 10 million as of 2018 and is expected to develop to 14-15 million connections in 2021.<sup>305</sup>

In general, the Czech population's access to the internet has improved over the long term<sup>306</sup> and as of 2019, 81.1% of households had access

---

<sup>302</sup> New Generation Access Network.

<sup>303</sup> NKÚ (2020). Kontrolní závěr z kontrolní akce NKÚ č. 19/15 - Audit conclusion from the NKÚ audit action 19/15. Available from: <https://www.nku.cz/assets/kon-zavery/k19015.pdf>

<sup>304</sup> ČSÚ (2020) Informační společnost v číslech 2020 - Information Society in Numbers 2020. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/informacni-spolecnost-v-cislech-2020>

<sup>305</sup> Grant Thornton (2019). Analýza stavu rozvoje sítí NGA v ČR pro zajištění přístupu k vysokorychlostnímu internetu dostupnému v pevném místě - Analysis of the state of development of NGA networks in the Czech Republic to ensure access to high-speed internet available at a fixed location. Final report, prepared for the MIT. Available from: [https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/e-komunikace-a-posta/elektronicke-komunikace/koncepce-a-strategie/narodni-plan-rozvoje-siti-nga/2020/2/Zaverecna-zprava\\_GTA\\_12\\_12\\_2019.pdf](https://www.mpo.cz/assets/cz/e-komunikace-a-posta/elektronicke-komunikace/koncepce-a-strategie/narodni-plan-rozvoje-siti-nga/2020/2/Zaverecna-zprava_GTA_12_12_2019.pdf)

<sup>306</sup> In 2020, there was a subjective user worsening of internet access services, apparently due to the impact of Covid-19 and a broad transition to home-offices. However, due to the lack of national data, except for the shock deterioration in quality at the beginning of the pandemic in March, we cannot confirm this subjective sense.



to the internet.<sup>307</sup> Only 40% of pensioners' households had Internet, with only 18.3 % of people in the 75+ age group. As of 2018, the coverage was the worst in the Ústí (73.9 % of households) and Olomouc region (74.4 % of households). The share of households with internet access and usage increases substantially with increased income and education. The lowest fifth of households by income (1<sup>st</sup> quintile) have internet available and only use it in 50.7 % of cases. In terms of the size of municipalities, differences in internet availability in households are not significantly high.

Students and women on parental leave are among the specific groups extensively using Internet and mobile connections. In terms of internet share, there is a gap between men (83.6 %) and women (78.3 %) also in the use of mobile data (men 66.8 %; women 62.3 %). Women in the age groups 55-74 and 74+ are particularly affected by a decrease in internet usage.

The main activities of Czech households online include the use of e-mail (76.2 %), reading of news and newspapers (74.4 %) and online shopping (58.8 %). A specificity is the significant share of persons using online banking compared to the EU (62.5 %). Social networks are used by 54 % of people, especially the younger age groups 16-34, that is, students.

**The target is being achieved and most of the population is already covered by high-speed internet. However, in the future it will be necessary to continue increasing its speed and make use of the most appropriate technologies to enable both high-speed and ultra-fast internet and the transition to a so-called gigabit society and services requiring this connection rate.**

Ensuring the supply of good-quality drinking water and functional sewerage is essential for sustainable development in the territory and for the quality of life of the population. The development of water infrastructure is carried out in accordance with the Regional Water Supply and Sewerage Development Plans (Plány rozvoje vodovodů a kanalizací krajů), which are regularly updated. These are financed from the regional budget. The update of the plans for the development of water supply and sewerage of the Czech Republic is financed by funds from the Ministry of Agriculture. The aim of the update is to identify the most appropriate technical and economic solutions in terms of drinking water supply and waste water collection and treatment. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) carries out inspection activities of the owners of water supply and sewerage for public use in the Czech Republic, as well as data collection in the sector. Monitoring the sustainability of water and sewage infrastructure is one of the key objectives of sector regulation. The results are published annually in the Benchmarking Report (Zpráva z benchmarkingu).<sup>308</sup> Benchmarking is expected to be further deepened and developed mainly for the purposes of supervision and regulation of the water and

---

<sup>307</sup> Indicator 10.5.1.

<sup>308</sup> More information available at: <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/voda/vodovody-a-kanalizace/benchmarking-vak/zprava-za-rok-2018/>.

10.6 Despite the negative impacts of climate change, the state maintains a high standard of water services while increasing their availability

sewage sector. Risk analysis for good operating practices is also used to a limited extent, and is addressed by the legislation in force, e.g. by approving the operating rules of water supply and public wells. One of the main problems in the water supply and sewerage sector is the strong atomisation of the market, creating inefficiencies in both the performance and quality of services. These challenges will further increase in relation to the manifestation of climate change, especially in less populated areas. The sector is underfunded and lacks around CZK 4 billion each year for the renewal of the infrastructure compared to the income of the owners in water and sewer rates.<sup>309</sup>

The population permanently living in buildings connected to public water supply is stable over the long term. The high standard of drinking water quality from tap or public faucets was thus provided to 10.064 million people in 2018.<sup>310</sup> This is over 134 thousand more than in 2015. However, the rate of increase of the population connected to the public water supply is slower than would be needed to meet the indicative target of 95 % of the population for 2020. The increase is also not area-wide. There is a reverse development in the Karlovarský and Moravian-Silesian regions and to a lesser extent in the Ústí and South Bohemia regions. The likely impact is mainly due to the long-term reduction of the population in these regions. The development of a long-term decline of the population connected to the water supply, together with a decreased population, has a similar linear pattern when comparing data.<sup>311</sup>

The number of houses connected to public sewerage with a domestic waste water treatment plant also increased significantly between 2015 and 2018 by more than 244 thousand.<sup>312</sup> Thus, the trend of the increase in the share of the population connected to sewerage is in line or faster than the indicative water and sewer development targets for 2020 (+1.5 percentage points compared to 2014/15). Since 2010, the number of connected residents has increased significantly in all regions (over 660 thousand people).

The issue is also relevant from the point of view of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (Národní akční plán adaptace na změnu klimatu)*. The preventive protection of water resources remains an issue, as there are still no more detailed management plans for protected areas of natural water accumulation, the use of herbicides, pesticides and the salting of communications and their impact on water quality. Adaptation measures in the area of water resources are continuously implemented by the OP ENV and through the MoA Programmes: Support for landscape water retention - ponds and water

---

<sup>309</sup> MoA (2019) Benchmarking Report 2018. Available from: [http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/649387/III.1. Zprava\\_z\\_benchmarkingu\\_za\\_rok\\_2018.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/649387/III.1. Zprava_z_benchmarkingu_za_rok_2018.pdf)

<sup>310</sup> Indicator 10.6.1.

<sup>311</sup> Data on the overall increase in the number of people in the Moravian-Silesian region are used from the ČSÚ (2019) Obyvatelstvo V MSK v roce 2018 - The population in the MSR in 2018. Available from: [Population%20v%20Moravskoslezsk%C3%A9m%20kraji%20v%20roce%202018,ne%C5%BE20polit%C3%A1n%20low%C3%ADlela%20migration%20population](#)

<sup>312</sup> Indicator 10.6.2.

reservoirs for the period 2016-2021, Promoting the competitiveness of the agro-food complex - irrigation Stage 2, Support for measures on small watercourses and small water reservoirs and, last but not least, Support for measures on small watercourses and small water reservoirs - Stage 2.

**Supervision of the development of the sector is improved and benchmarking has introduced functional quality criteria. The coverage of the population by water and sewerage infrastructure is very high, but in terms of the modernisation and construction of public water supply, the trend is not consistent with the 2020 target and thus neither with the trajectory for 2030. In the area of the development of sewerage, the trend is consistent with both the 2020 targets and the 2030 trajectory.**

## 11 The fiscal system as a precondition for a successful economy is stable.

*Fiscal policy plays an important role in macro-economic stabilisation, but the long-term sustainability of public finances is a prerequisite for this role. The sustainability of public finances is based on the quality of public expenditure and its efficient spending, a sustainable tax revenue structure and a flexible balance of revenue and expenditure responding to the current economic situation and the stage of the economic cycle. In the long run, this balance should be stable and countercyclical.*

***The state of public finances appears to be somewhat tense according to the developments and forecasts for the following years. The consolidation of public finances in the context of the impact of the economic crisis in relation to Covid-19 is not realistically foreseeable in the medium term.***

***The effectiveness of public spending is still not widely and continuously evaluated. However, on the basis of examples of international comparisons, areas where the use of public resources may not be fully effective can be envisaged.***

11.1 The medium-term outlook maintains structurally balanced budgets, thus ensuring both the stabilisation function of public budgets and their long-term sustainability.

Fiscal policy is one of the economic policy instruments and plays a very important role in macroeconomic stabilisation. However, its long-term sustainability is an essential condition, while effective control and management of public finances is a prerequisite for such sustainability. So far, there has not been a legislative change in this area, only within the approved Client-oriented Public Administration strategy, the tasks for producing analyses and the draft bill on public finance management and control have been approved. The MF implements interim measures against tax evasion, but the final stage of the implementation of the EET was postponed in the context of Covid-19. The Moje daně (My Tax) project, which will facilitate tax declarations, tax payments and communication of the citizen with financial administration, is gradually being implemented and should be available in the form of an online tax office from 2021 onwards. For the effective management of state debt, the MF also issues an annual strategy for its financing and management. At the same time, the MF may update this strategy on a quarterly basis to benefit from more favourable market conditions in line with market developments.

Quality of life 10.13a, 10.13b - Risk of threats to the Czech Republic  
In recent years the Czech population considers the threat of a raw material crisis and the global economic crisis to be increasingly high. In 2019, 34 % of people already perceived a major threat of a raw material crisis and 39 % a major threat of a global economic crisis. They consider, inter alia, long-term weather fluctuations, widening economic disparities between population groups or natural disasters as the most realistic threats to the population.

General government debt is one of the basic indicators of the long-term sustainability of public finances. As such, the indicator developed positively between 2015 and 2019 and significantly decreased by 9.2 percentage points to 30.2 % of GDP in Q4 2019.<sup>313</sup> This is mainly due to the growth of the economy at the top of the economic cycle. Thus, the Czech Republic had one of the lowest debt levels in the EU and is far from the mandatory Maastricht debt criterion of 60 % of GDP. The so-called 'debt brake' of 55 % of GDP was sufficiently distant for the

<sup>313</sup> Indicator 11.1.1.

situation in 2019.

The structural balance of the general government sector demonstrates the genuine fiscal government policy, as it is net of seasonal and calendar effects. This balance developed positively in 2015-2019,<sup>314</sup> however, in 2019 it reached -1 % of GDP, which was around the limit value established by legislation.<sup>315</sup> This 'government' balance was offset by the results of the management of local governments and social protection funds, which were positive. However, the above-mentioned positive developments have been significantly affected by the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the related economic crisis. Based on the April 2020 forecasts<sup>316</sup>, the Ministry of Finance expects debt to rise to 37 % of GDP in 2020 and 40.1 % in 2021 due to the implementation of anti-crisis measures, the economic downturn and lower tax revenues. Due to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the permitted structural balance limit was increased to -4 % for 2021, with a gradual improvement of 0.5 percentage points per year by 2028 to -1 %.<sup>317</sup> According to the MF macroeconomic forecast of September 2020, the structural balance will be - 2,7 % of GDP in 2020<sup>318 319</sup>

Quality of life 3.5 and 3.6 - Total of active loans for housing and the GDP ratio of housing loans  
It is important to monitor not only public budgets but also the indebtedness of households. The most significant part of household debt is housing loans, the share of which to GDP has been growing and currently amounts to 23.18 %. The volume of these loans increased by more than one third between 2015-2019. The Czech Republic is still among the countries with the lowest indebtedness of households, but also among the countries with the highest increase in this debt. The increase in both debt and real estate prices also led to a warning of the European Systemic Risk Board against systemic risk in the banking sector in 2019.

**The target has not yet been met. In connection to the government's measures to combat the COVID-19 crisis, the negative impact on the revenue side of the budget and the planned consolidation of public finances by 2027, the target most likely cannot be met in the coming years.**

The MF Central Harmonisation Unit ensures the training of public administration in the area of public procurement and uses good and poor practice. It also plans to use the public procurement methodology

---

<sup>314</sup> Indicator 11.1.2.

<sup>315</sup> Act No. 23/2017 Coll., on the Rules of Budgetary Responsibility.

<sup>316</sup> MF (April 2020), Konvergenční program ČR 2020 - Czech Convergence Programme 2020. Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-convergence-programme-czechia\\_cs.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-convergence-programme-czechia_cs.pdf)

<sup>317</sup> Act No. 207/2020 amending Act No. 23/2017 Coll., on the Rules of Budgetary Responsibility, as amended by Act No. 277/2019 Coll.

<sup>318</sup> MF (2020) Macroeconomic prediction - September 2020. Available from: <https://www.mfcr.cz/cs/verejny-sektor/makroekonomika/makroekonomicka-predikce/2020/makroekonomicka-predikce-zari-2020-39418>

<sup>319</sup> Czech Fiscal Council (2020), Report on the long-term sustainability of public finances 2020. Available from: [https://unrr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Zpr%C3%A1va-o-dlouhodob%C3%A9-udr%C5%BEitelnosti-ve%C5%99ejn%C3%BDch-financ%C3%AD\\_2020.pdf](https://unrr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Zpr%C3%A1va-o-dlouhodob%C3%A9-udr%C5%BEitelnosti-ve%C5%99ejn%C3%BDch-financ%C3%AD_2020.pdf)

in its own update. The area of central purchasing has evolved and is already a relatively standard procedure. Experience has led to the simplification and further harmonisation of procedures and rules.<sup>320</sup>

Unfortunately, the evaluation obligation has not yet been fully integrated into the practice of public administration. However, as part of the approved strategy, the public administration has approved tasks for the production of analyses and the draft bill of the Act on Public Finance Management and Control. Monitoring of the effectiveness of spending and performance-based budgeting has not yet been integrated and would require a complete change in the approach to state budgeting.

The DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) is among the methods enabling benchmarking and identification of a potentially efficient policy. This method is non-parametric, allowing access to input-output ratios to identify firms, states or areas that achieve better results in the policy in relation to the amount of money, human resources and other inputs. These may serve as a benchmark vis-à-vis others. This method fulfils the purpose of the experimental indicator of objective 11.2.<sup>321</sup>

The DEA method was used to compare the effectiveness of regional innovation systems and resources intended for them in the Central and Eastern Europe region<sup>322</sup> in relation to the economic benefit of these policies. The Bratislava region is most effective in this 'price/performance' ratio. In the Czech environment, rather paradoxically, it is the Northwest (Karlovarský and Ústí regions); however, not due to excellent results, but rather to the fact that the results correspond to the allocated resources, which are proportionally low. By contrast, the very efficient region of Prague appeared slightly inefficient in this efficiency analysis, as it now reaches only 90 % of the benchmark. In this analysis, NUTS2 Central Bohemia is assessed very negatively, with only 69% of efficiency compared to the benchmark (Bratislava).

The second area is, for example, the efficiency of the education system. Here it can be said that, in general, it is possible to achieve efficiency gains in the education system in the EU as a whole by around 15-18 % without the need to increase expenditure requirements.<sup>323</sup> The most efficient (i.e. best price/performance ratio)

---

<sup>320</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 487 of 8 July 2019, on the Report on the evaluation of central government purchases and departmental centralised procurement systems for 2018 and on joint purchase rules.

<sup>321</sup> Experimental indicator 11.2.1. - Output efficiency of public expenditure. Comparison of the selected output indicator of the selected public policy (e.g. healthy life expectancy or average PISA value in the year in which the investigation is conducted) with the volume of public expenditure in the relevant chapter of the state budget using the efficiency analysis method.

<sup>322</sup> Dzemydaitė G., Dzemyda I., Galianienė B. (2016). The Efficiency of Regional Innovation Systems in New Member States of the European Union: A Nonparametric DEA Approach. *Economics and Business 2016 /28*. Available from: <https://vb.vgtu.lt/object/elaba:15799500/15799500.pdf>

<sup>323</sup> Agasisti, T., Munda, G. & Hippe, R. (2019). Measuring the efficiency of European education systems by combining Data Envelopment Analysis and Multiple-Criteria Evaluation. *J Prod Anal* 51, 105-124 (2019). Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11123-019-00549-6>

in the EU are the United Kingdom (the study works with data up to 2019), the Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia and Estonia. Also Romania, which is mainly due to extremely low expenditure on education. Compared to the above-mentioned "efficient" benchmark, the efficiency of the Czech Republic is about 94 %. According to the analysis carried out it is therefore only possible to increase education efficiency slightly.<sup>324</sup> One of the conclusions of this method is also the high inefficiency of the Nordic countries, which have a high level of learning outcomes, but at disproportionate costs. At the same time, this methodology does not take into account the long-term benefits of quality education both at the level and outside of the labour market.

**The increase in the efficiency of public spending cannot be objectively assessed, as the continuous evaluation of public finances is not taking place. The individual cases of the DEA analysis and comparison with the situation in other EU Member States show possible improvement potential in a number of areas.**

---

<sup>324</sup> This also corresponds to the second chosen method of multi-criterial analysis, where the Czech Republic is firmly anchored among countries with a high performance of the education system.

### 3. Resilient ecosystems

*The key area of resilient ecosystems focuses on the conservation of the landscape as a whole and the interactions between all living organisms, including humans, on a sustainable and viable ecosystem, as human life is directly correlated with the achieved environmental quality. Questionnaire surveys among the population of the Czech Republic show that people are well aware of the importance of the environment, not only at the level of the republic but also from a global perspective. However, protecting systemically and comprehensively valuable natural and cultural features of the landscape in such a way that they form a sustainable environment for all organic communities has not yet been successful. Human efforts to shape and adapt the landscape often to short-sighted needs result in the disruption of biodiversity and cause deep interference in communities of different populations of indigenous species, whose viability in our territory has decreased in recent years.*

*In relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Czech Republic has achieved relatively good results. Awareness of the importance of global goals and problems is evidenced by the results of the questionnaire survey on quality of life issues focused on the perception of global environmental hazards. In terms of meeting global objectives, the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 intersects with the aim of preserving the largest possible existing biodiversity typical for the nature of the Czech landscape in the future.*

12 The Czech landscape is understood as a complex ecosystem and ecosystem services provide an appropriate framework for the development of human society.

*The landscape is composed of individual ecosystems – and as a whole it is a higher order ecosystem – a landscape ecosystem. As such, it provides many different benefits in the form of ecosystem services. The current Czech landscape contains valuable natural and cultural features that need to be protected, as well as degraded parts where it is necessary to decide on a change in their use. So far, the Czech landscape has been shaped mainly by agriculture, the challenge being to reduce the negative effects mainly of intensive agriculture on the landscape in the future. The preparation and implementation of land modifications should be significantly strengthened, with a focus on the creation of landscape features with an ecostabilisation function and the provision of the necessary land for their implementation. Land-use planning has important tools to influence the use of the landscape, its aim being, inter alia, to protect the landscape, maintain the mosaicity of natural and cultural areas/elements, and thus ecological stability. Efforts to improve the landscape also mean improving the permeability of the landscape for wild organisms, restoration, or the creation of new local routes that make the landscape accessible, and the planting of associated elements, such as avenues.*

*So far, the Czech Republic is making efforts to improve the state of the landscape as a complex ecosystem in the form of measures across different strategic documents. This is due to the fact that no more significant progress has been made in achieving the objective neither in terms of complexity nor in terms of partial outcome. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the objective is very complex and has several levels of implementation. Some of them, e.g. land policy or soil improvement, still have large reserves in their implementation. Similarly, the share of organically farmed land is not very high. The ratio of forest land area to the total size of the state is increasing slowly. The evaluation of ecosystem services is not yet perceived as a natural part of decision-making processes, which is due, inter alia, to the undersizing of research and public administration, misunderstandings at the political level, and barriers such as low*



***levels of interdisciplinary communication.***

12.1 A landscape policy and its implementation rules, which various levels of public administration use for their decision-making, are .

The objective responds to the current state of nature and the landscape and the need to protect them. The first step should be the wording of the landscape policy as an opportunity for deeper and more detailed analysis of public administration performance, evaluating the compatibility of existing tools – and subsequently – a broader debate on coherent actions. In this sense, it can be concluded that these analyses were carried out as part of the update of the Czech Republic's 2020-2025 State Nature and Land Conservation Programme (Státní program ochrany přírody a krajiny České republiky pro období 2020–2025 - SPOPK), a conceptual document, de facto action plan to meet the objectives and measures defined in the 2016 Czech Biodiversity Protection Strategy (Strategie ochrany biologické rozmanitosti ČR). In addition to analysing the current threats and pressures on nature and the landscape, and a description of the existing legislative instruments for nature and landscape protection, the SPOPK also maps existing economic instruments to ensure funding for nature and landscape protection. Specific measures were also proposed as part of the update of the SPOPK, landscape policy itself is already contained in a number of strategic documents.<sup>325</sup>

**The objective has not yet been achieved, landscape policy as a comprehensive document has not been prepared, nor has work on its preparation even commenced yet. Its intentions are spread across different strategies instead of being contained in one umbrella document, which would be desirable. However, some progress has been made in the framework of the SPOPK. It also appears that existing tools to achieve the objective could be sufficient, but are not being used to the necessary extent.**

12.2. The share of arable land is decreasing and the share of permanent grassland in the agricultural land fund is increasing

The objective, based on data on the share of arable land, which is negatively high in the Czech Republic compared to the EU average, is aimed at reducing the share of arable land. It is desirable to at least approach the EU average, as the Czech Republic (together with Slovakia) has a residual balance in the form of continuous large fields from the period of collectivisation.

The aim is to increase the area of grassland at the expense of arable land, which can significantly contribute to the protection of soils at risk of erosion. Data for both the Czech Republic and the individual regions show a very slight (around 1 %) reduction of the share of arable land area in the total agricultural land fund, and a very slight increase in the share of permanent grassland. The development is therefore very slow.<sup>326</sup>

In general, the Rural Development Programme (PRV) considers this intention by supporting various activities aimed at increasing the area of grassland, inter alia in areas at risk, in water protection zones, in vulnerable nitrate areas or along water bodies, all with the aim of slowing down surface run-off of water from arable land, increasing the retention of water in the soil and landscape, and reducing the risk of soil erosion. In specially protected areas and protection zones of

---

<sup>325</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>326</sup> Ind. 12.2.1 and Ind. 12.2.2.

national parks, the grassing of arable land is carried out with species-rich or regional plant mixtures. Special seed mixtures are used in the conversion of arable land to grassland to ensure resistance to accelerated run-off during torrential rain. The PRV is also linked to different forms of transferring information on the reasons and practices for grassing arable land to farmers. A series of seminars have been carried out for applicants in all specially protected areas, where one of the topics was the grassing of arable land.<sup>327</sup>

In the case of a link to the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, the total funding for agri-environmental-climate measures was available. The promotion of arable land grassing will also be proposed for the period 2021-2027.<sup>328</sup> Support under the national landscape-creation programmes of both the MoE and the OP ENV is also ongoing.<sup>329</sup>

In the field of the sound management of grassland, progress was made on monitoring and research activities in the form of studies,<sup>330</sup> and in the applied research programme of the Ministry of Agriculture "LAND" (ZEMĚ) for the period 2017-2025<sup>331</sup> Further, biennial monitoring of "The Evaluation of Environmentally Sound PRV Practices" was completed in 2019, which monitors the impact of PRV interventions on the state of soil, in particular the status of organic matter, biological activity in soil and soil fertility. Principles have been introduced as part of the PRV which have extended the conditions for granting subsidies for forage, including grasses and clovers, but this concerns only 2020.<sup>332</sup>

**The objective has not yet been achieved since, even in the context of subsidies, the measure to improve soil status is only voluntary, though the trend demonstrated by indicator measurements shows a well-established path. However, it is a very slow process. It is clear that through programme funding the objective has been partly achieved, but there are still reserves in its fulfilment, i.e. reducing the share of arable land in favour of grassland.**

12.3. The share of arable land managed under organic farming is significantly increasing

The share of arable land managed organically remains insufficient and attempts to increase it to a more significant value have failed.<sup>333</sup> Until 2016, it oscillated around 2 %, and was successfully increased to 2.7% in 2018.

In order to maintain and increase the share of organic arable land, it is necessary to ensure the continuity of funding for organic farmers

---

<sup>327</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>328</sup> In 2019, 3 400 ha of arable land and 16.4 ha of the concentrated run-off paths were newly grassed with PRV support, see the Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>329</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>330</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>331</sup> 151 research projects are currently supported under the LAND Programme, see the Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>332</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>333</sup> Ind. 12.3.1.

even after the end of the current programming period.<sup>334</sup> This is currently being done in the framework of the PRV, including for 2020. Support for organic farming is also planned under the SZP Strategic Plan in the next programming period. The funds to cover the so-called transitional period are being discussed with the EC. Attempts are also being made to introduce expert guidance on ecological management. At least in part, this intention is covered, for the period 2017-2025, by the Advisory System Concept (Konceptce poradenského systému) providing expert consultations of ministry-oriented research institutes and the university sector, including in the area of organic farming. However, the number of consultations or other forms of use of the system are not yet known. There is also support for the organic food market, e.g. in the form of the “September – Month of Organic Food” campaign, the long-term objective of which is to explain to consumers the reasons for buying organic food and promoting organic farming. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture, the consumption of organic food in the Czech Republic increased by up to 30.5 % between 2016 and 2017.<sup>335</sup> However, the increase in consumption of organic food is not caused by the production of Czech organic farming, but rather by imported organic products.<sup>336</sup>

**The objectives are not being achieved. The share of organic arable land still remains marginal, fluctuating between 1.8 and 2.7 % over the last 10 years, which is completely insufficient. While the consumption of organic foods is increasing, consumer interest is satisfied by imported organic foods.**

The share of forest land in the total size of the state is slowly increasing.<sup>337</sup> This is partly due to the overhang of the area of newly-forested originally non-forest land over the acreage of land removed from the forest for various reasons, partly due to the continuous refinement of cadastral data.<sup>338</sup> Forests mitigate the effects of climate change by increasing absorption capacity for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, enhancing landscape biodiversity, improving its ecological balance, stabilising hydrological and climatic conditions, protecting soil and water, reducing the risk of erosion, improving water regime, microclimate air conditions, and, of course, having non-negligible aesthetic and recreational benefits. The area of forest land should be increased in particular in areas suitable for afforestation, which is

---

<sup>334</sup> According to the Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), organic farming is currently implemented at around 16 % (relative to the size in LPIS) and the Czech Republic ranks fourth in the EU. The Action Plan 2021-2025 considers the target of 20 %. Under the European Green Deal, at least 25% of agricultural land in the EU is to be farmed organically by 2030.

<sup>335</sup> Households' organic food expenditure in 2017 exceeded 3 billion koruna, see the Ministry of Agriculture Report on the evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>336</sup> see data from Ind. 12.3.1.

<sup>337</sup> IND. 12.4.1 – the indicator of the proportion of forest land in the total area of the Czech Republic shows a slow upward trend which, in absolute figures, will increase the size of forest land from 2,657,376 ha in 2010 to 2,675,670 ha in 2019, i.e. by almost 20 thousand ha.

<sup>338</sup> Report on the state of forests and forestry of the Czech Republic in 2018, namely 4.1 Forest area development. MoA 2019. Available from: [http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/640937/Zprava\\_o\\_stavu\\_lesa\\_2018.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/640937/Zprava_o_stavu_lesa_2018.pdf).

12.4 The proportion of forest land in the total area of the Czech Republic is increasing

restricted to land with a high slope and other factors relevant to the prevention of erosion. These are ravines, skeletal, shallow or wet soil, i.e. a layer established on the basis of the scientific data of the Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation (Výzkumný ústav meliorací a ochrany půdy, v.v.i). The afforestation and creation of forests takes place in the framework of the PRV where the instrument of the opinion of the MoE on the afforestation of agricultural land was also introduced. In general, a condition for the granting of support is afforestation carried out on parts of land blocks delineated in an area suitable for afforestation (the so-called afforestation suitability layer). Outside this layer, afforestation is not supported.<sup>339</sup> In view of this tightening of the criteria for the afforestation of agricultural land, the increase in forest area has slowed down in recent years. As management plans are not binding on the owner, the area can only be addressed by a financial stimulus. Specific procedures exist for the Natura 2000 system. On these sites and in specially protected areas, the sub-activity is channelled by summaries of the recommended measures for European sites, with approved management plans for Protected Landscape Areas and small specially protected areas if they overlap with Natura 2000 sites. Implementation is monitored and adjusted if necessary.<sup>340</sup> As a result, applications under the Natura 2000 measures in forests are submitted in the order of tens amounting to a total of units of millions of koruna.<sup>341</sup>

The preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (Strategický plán Společné zemědělské politiky) 2021-2027, in parallel with the discussion at EC level, is ongoing to bridge the transition from the 2014-2020 programming period to the 2021-2027 programming period. It is clear that support for the afforestation of agricultural land will also be proposed for the next programming period.

Afforestation projects in terms of cultural values (e.g. protection zones of cultural sites or areas with valuable archaeological sites) have not yet been addressed.

**The objective is being slowly met, the area of forest land is growing in proportion to the total area of the state. The conditions of the next programming period for the selection of areas for afforestation in relation to Natura 2000 sites and specially protected areas will be relevant for a comprehensive evaluation of the objective.**

The permeability of the landscape, which is a survival concern for many animals, is primarily a task for land-use planning, in which it is

---

<sup>339</sup> In 2019, 29 ha of arable land was newly afforested with PRV support, see the Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020). The afforestation suitability layer includes land with slopes greater than 10° and those factors that are not essential for the environment and economic interests.

<sup>340</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>341</sup> In 2018, 24 requests for a subsidy for an area of 2.3 thousand ha in the amount of CZK 3.5 million; as part of the measure to improve the species mix of forest stand, 68 applications for a subsidy for 3.3 thousand ha were submitted in 2018 amounting to CZK 8.2 million, see the Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

12.5. The permeability of the landscape for the migration of wild animals shall increase

desirable to apply the protection of migration corridors up to the level of individual territories addressed in the spatial planning documentation. The standard spatial planning processes ensure the competence of the nature protection authority concerned to apply an opinion on the content of the spatial planning documentation<sup>342</sup> (and this principle is maintained in the draft of the new Building Act). Since 2018, a new observed phenomenon of the *biotope of selected specially protected species of large mammals* has been added to the spatial analytical materials (územně analytické podklady - ÚAP). Since January 2020, the AOPK provides this data layer as a spatial planning material and the first fulfilment of the observed data event will occur at the 5th full update of the ÚAP in 2020. There are no data on the previous period. Another layer provided is the *location of specially protected plant and animal species of national concern*, but it is necessary to ensure the practical application of such knowledge and evidence, including the provision of the necessary methodological support. The relevant objective of the Czech State Nature and Land Conservation Programme for the period 2020-2025 is also focused on addressing this issue.<sup>343</sup>

It is not yet possible to derive a trend from the measurement of the number of hotspots along the long-distance migration corridors; measurement has been performed only twice, with the same value for both 2010 and 2015. This concerns large mammals corridors, other animals are not observed<sup>344</sup>.

**However, while some steps have been taken to achieve the target, it can be concluded that progress has not yet been made in terms of complexity or in achieving a partial outcome by 2020. In the future, it will be necessary to transfer from data evidence, at least partly, to a practical application.**

The aim should be to set up a clear scope structure for national ecosystem assessments to be carried out by a team of research institution experts. It is a prerequisite for such an assessment to define specific processes at all levels of the public administration when deciding on the territory and managing natural capital, and to adapt them to the nature of the evaluation or to create an understandable basis and tools. The objective is pursued by Action 18-1 of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (NAP ACC) including the concept of ecosystem services in measures in agricultural, forestry and aquatic ecosystems and urbanised areas. According to the NAP evaluation, it has been partially fulfilled. The solution is also part of the

---

<sup>342</sup> opinion pursuant to Section 4(2)(b) of the Building Act.

<sup>343</sup> In particular, measure 1.1.4 Limit the negative impact of landscape fragmentation and other significant anthropogenic causes of mortality, injury and other endangering factors affecting animals. MoE, State Nature and Land Conservation Programme 2020-2025. Available from: [http://amsp.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/St%C3%A1tn%C3%AD-program-ochrany-p%C5%99%C3%ADrodny-a-krajiny-%C4%8CR-pro-obdob%C3%AD-2020-2025\\_ALBSBLCCVMN4.pdf](http://amsp.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/St%C3%A1tn%C3%AD-program-ochrany-p%C5%99%C3%ADrodny-a-krajiny-%C4%8CR-pro-obdob%C3%AD-2020-2025_ALBSBLCCVMN4.pdf)

<sup>344</sup> Ind. 12.5.1.

## 12.6 The assessment of ecosystem services is integrated into decision-making processes

Integrated project LIFE “Jedna příroda” (One Nature),<sup>345</sup> which will, inter alia, develop methodological procedures and tools to regularly monitor and evaluate the socio-economic benefits of the ecosystem for decision-making by nature protection authorities at the local and national level. The procedures, tools and their use when deciding on the management of ecosystems shall be verified in case studies, and the tools will allow for an overall assessment of ecosystem services in the territory of the Czech Republic.<sup>346</sup>

For mass implementation of the concept of green infrastructure in any planning, decision-making or other processes, it will also be important that the chosen method is sufficiently simple and staff-intensive.

However, the necessary uses of the assessment of ecosystem services are not identified by the MoE, other departments and institutions. There is currently insufficient staffing capacity to formulate this policy; it would be necessary to sponsor this work at the political level, as inter-research cooperation is needed here, and financial costs are also involved. Thus, other systemic barriers that will need to be overcome in the future are being revealed, such as the low degree of interdisciplinary communication and the lack of data flow between the various landscape sectors – both of which are due, inter alia, to the undersizing of research and public administration staff.

**While the objective has not yet been achieved, progress in its implementation is already evident. It is likely that, at the next evaluation, the system will be set up through the LIFE project and the NAP ACC measures, including the verification of its applicability.**

---

<sup>345</sup> Integrated LIFE project for the Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic (2019-2026). Available from:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=7002](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=7002)

<sup>346</sup> A partial shift in the practical application of the concept of ecosystem services can be provided by the ongoing Technology Agency of the Czech Republic research project Defining green infrastructure in spatial analytical materials, especially in the territorial plan, as a tool for strengthening ecosystem services in the territory.

### 13 The Czech landscape is diverse and biodiversity is being restored.

*Diverse communities of wild species of fauna and flora, linked to their natural habitats, that are able to adapt to changing environmental conditions, are a prerequisite for the provision of quality ecosystem services. The Czech Republic's objective for the next decades is to achieve the presence of viable, genetically diverse populations of indigenous species in the landscape. A targeted restoration will lead to sufficient size and quality representation of individual habitats. In order to preserve and restore biodiversity, it is essential to protect natural or aesthetically very important or unique territories, to preserve or improve their condition, to preserve the natural functions of the landscape or to leave the territory or parts thereof to autonomous development, as abandoned areas in the landscape continue to exist and develop, e.g. after the extraction of minerals, and where appropriate, it is desirable to leave some of these abandoned areas to self-development based on natural processes. In the current intensively economically used and populated landscape, there is a lack of habitats that provide appropriate conditions for the continued existence of diverse biological species and their typical communities – be it small wetlands, river floodplains and natural troughs of free-flowing rivers and streams, boundaries, groves, species and spatially diverse forests, including light, old trees, traditional pastures or flowering meadows.*

***The achievement of the target is not yet in sight, although it cannot be said that steps to achieve it have not been taken. However, they remain insufficient. The objectives and measures to promote biodiversity are contained in the State Nature and Land Conservation Programme of the Czech Republic for the period 2020-2025, but for the time being, they make rather limited progress. Some positive steps have been taken in the field of the restoration of disrupted ecosystems (e.g. developing methodologies or measures for the use of mining works and quarries to accumulate water), but at the same time, not enough data is available to assess the whole target in order to estimate its achievement rate.***

13.1. The diversity and stability of biotopes and populations of individual indigenous plant and animal species is increasing.

The purpose of objective 13.1 is to return interconnected natural elements to the Czech landscape, which entails the need to pay more attention to the open landscape outside protected areas, to strengthen ecosystem services, for example, by means of farm planning, and to preserve the diverse historical structure of the cultural landscape.

Promoting landscape mosaicity (diversity of the natural areas in the landscape – water, forest, meadow, etc., and the related enhancement of its ecological stability) e.g. by segmenting the land (or land blocks) may return elements such as boundaries, ditches, alleys, shelter belts, etc. Their existence contributes to resistance to drought, as well as to maintaining, promoting and restoring landscape retention capacity. Greening (climate-friendly and environmentally beneficial practices) ensures the protection of permanent grassland, environmentally sensitive grassland, and 5 % of ecological focus areas are obligatorily set apart in the case of agricultural areas. These are areas where inputs are wholly or partly limited and which support the maintenance of biodiversity (e.g. fallow with growth used in the ecological interest, fallow for melliferous plants used in the ecological interest, ecological focus landscape features, buffer strips, fast growing areas, afforested areas, catch crops, or areas with nitrogen fixing crops). This aims to ensure the sound management of already existing valuable biotopes are their maintenance, as well as the creation of new biotopes, which occurs via the grassing of arable land with species-rich or regional mixtures, or by creating food and shelter sources for birds, small vertebrates and pollinators in the agricultural



landscape.

In order to preserve biodiversity, different types of subsidies are granted by different departments.<sup>347</sup> The protection of species and habitats is also the subject of long-term projects financed by the OP ENV and national grant instruments (the Land Management Programme, Support for the Restoration of Natural Landscape Functions, etc.) as well as support from international sources (e.g. LIFE, the EEA and Norway funds). A total of 11 rescue programmes for endangered species and 3 care programmes in the Czech Republic contribute to secondary protection in 2020. However, in specially protected areas, it has not yet been possible to ensure the adequate (full) implementation of the necessary measures, only partial activities are carried out in the form of some of the above-mentioned subsidy titles.

The standards of the Good Agricultural and Environmental State of land (GAES), namely GAEC 7, the main objective of which is landscape and ensuring a minimum level of care for it, are important for the good state of the landscape. GAEC 7 deals with both the protection of trees and landscape features (boundary, terrace, grassy valley, group of trees, avenue, solitary woody plant, ditch and wetland) and limiting the continuous area of one crop to a maximum of 30 ha. Monocultures must be separated by landscape features, buffer strips, or several crops must alternate on the land (each on an area not exceeding 30 ha).<sup>348</sup>

Awareness and work with the public is needed to understand the importance of biodiversity-oriented activities. This agenda has its place within nature protection departments and both the Czech AOPK and national parks understand its importance and implement good quality public awareness activities, including the development of cooperation with it.

Without the systematic monitoring of impacts on biodiversity, measures would not be relevant. Monitoring shall take the form of different types of biomonitoring, e.g. on areas with commitments supporting restoration, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, on control areas demonstrating the positive benefits of implementing commitments under subsidy titles or monitoring the biodiversity of selected groups of invertebrates and vegetation on different types of sites.<sup>349</sup> For example, trends in the development of avian populations are of great value as birds are among the best studied groups of animals. Changes in bird populations reflect changes in land use and since around the mid-1990s, climate change has been a factor that

---

<sup>347</sup> For example, the total allocation for the “M10 Agri-environmental-climate Measures” (AEKO) amounts to EUR 905 023 388 (including old commitments from 2007-2013). In 2019, 3 243 ha of growth were supported under PRV 2014-2020, 3 400 ha were grassed, bio-belts were supported on 1 095 ha, protection of the Northern lapwing was supported for 152 ha, as well as 16,4 ha of concentrated drain paths. Available from: <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/dotace/program-rozvoje-venkova-na-obdobi-2014/opatreni/m10-agroenvironmentalne-klimaticke/> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>348</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>349</sup> Ind. 13.1.2, quality of life indicator 9.9.

increasingly affects the composition of Czech birds. It has caused the disappearance of Nordic species from Central Europe and a slight increase in thermophilic species, which have so far been concentrated in Southern Europe. In terms of other European animal and plant species, we note local improvements in insects, amphibians and reptiles, mammals and moss and lichens, while species linked to water communities, fish and lamprey demonstrate an unfavourable state.<sup>350</sup> As regards the red-listed endangered species index, as well as invasive species, we still have data only as of 2017 and no trend can therefore be determined.<sup>351</sup> On the basis of biomonitoring, specific recommendations can be proposed to increase the benefits of implemented subsidies to promote biodiversity in subsequent periods.

Furthermore, the objectives and measures aimed at promoting biodiversity are set out in the State Nature and Land Conservation Programme of the Czech Republic for the period 2020-2025, and rather limited progress has been made so far.

In order to strengthen ecosystem services, it is desirable to prepare elements of the farm planning system as part of agri-environmental-climate measures. Farming Plans (FPs) are one of the support measures under agricultural guidance and aim to increase the effectiveness of environmental support. However, they are not yet binding on the drawing of subsidies and are not used as a voluntary tool by farmers. Ongoing preparation of the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027 is currently underway, in parallel with EC-level discussions on Farm Plans.<sup>352</sup>

**The objective has not been achieved and progress towards it is slow. The drawing of programme subsidies cannot be presented as progress, possibly only an awareness-raising activity, and public work may be evaluated as the beginning of the right trend.**

The human factor, as well as climate change, will increasingly influence biodiversity in the coming decades. If it is not at least partly compensated by a more appropriate landscape structure, the result will be an overall reduction of indigenous biodiversity. Climate change benefits only a limited number of very adaptable species, weeds or species with a tendency to spread rapidly. On the contrary, the presence of rare species, in particular with very specific environmental demands, is reduced. In order to preserve biodiversity, it is essential to protect territory that is scientifically or aesthetically very important or unique, to preserve or improve its state through targeted care planning, and sometimes to let the territory or parts thereof develop autonomously. However, the comprehensive natural restoration approach is not yet sufficient. In the area of legislation or methodology, some progress has taken place – the amendment of the Act on the

---

<sup>350</sup> Ind. 13.1.3.

<sup>351</sup> Ind. 13.1.4 and 13.1.5.

<sup>352</sup>The Farming Plan is a comprehensive management design taking into account both the biotopes and the species present on the farm and the management mode of the enterprise, including an overview of the possibilities for drawing the relevant subsidy titles (in particular from agri-environmental measures).

13.2 atural restoration of significantly is a commonly used procedure

Protection of Agricultural Land Resources has been supplemented so that agricultural land afforested by means of natural regeneration can be transferred without a fee to the status of forests.<sup>353</sup> Another positive step is also the processing of a methodology to evaluate alternative ways of rebuilding the post-mining landscape<sup>354</sup> to create a database of land development after mining.

However, work on the amendment of the Mining Act, which affects a relatively large area of the territory, has been slow. The purpose of a specific measure aimed at amending the Mining Act is administrative simplification, which could facilitate changes to plans that do not reflect more recent perspectives on landscape creation. This amendment would not seriously undermine the control and approval role of public-interest authorities. However, since there was a concern that changes could entail greater space for the arbitrariness of mining organisations and could weaken the legal framework for remediation and restoration, the measure has not yet been implemented and its further specifications will be subject to discussion.

The affected areas cannot restore themselves in the necessary manner. Their nature-friendly restoration must therefore be institutionally ensured. Currently, there exist Preference of the Hydric Use of Mining Works and Quarries for the Accumulation or Retention of Water measures, which according to the NAP ACC Evaluation are partially fulfilled, but these are merely an extract from the whole complex of the nature-friendly restorations in disrupted areas. Partial progress has been made in the field of methodological management, where a methodology for nature conservation authorities' procedures has been developed in relation to the use of the nature-friendly restoration of land from harvesting or dumping of materials<sup>355</sup>, or a certified methodology for assessing alternative methods of rebuilding the post-mining landscape.

**The evaluation of the target is faced with a lack of data, nor are any indicators or relevant information available from individual administrators. A positive step has been taken in the field of methodology and the above-mentioned measure of using mining works and quarries to accumulate water is also a positive activity, but this is merely the first step and the objective itself is far from being achieved. From this point of view, it can only be evaluated in red.**

---

<sup>353</sup> Act No. 334/1992 Coll. on the Protection of Agricultural Land Resources.

<sup>354</sup> <http://www.ochranaprirody.cz/metodicka-podpora/metodiky-aopk-cr/metodiky-k-rekultivacim/>

<sup>355</sup> See Technology Agency of the Czech Republic project TB040MZP214. For more details on the methodology, see <https://starfos.tacr.cz/cs/result/RIV%2F00216208%3A11690%2F16%3A10337822>

## 14 The landscape is adapted to climate change and its structure helps water retention.

*Strategic objective 14 focuses on issues of the landscape water regime and adaptation to climate change, which have a profound impact on the water regime. Water is an essential component of all organisms and ecosystems and a precondition for their existence, it is essential for quality of life and an irreplaceable input raw material for the economy. The capacity of the landscape to retain water has in the past been undermined mainly by extensive technical adjustments to watercourses and by the draining of agricultural or forestry managed land. The degraded capacity of the landscape to retain water affects not only the stability and function of the ecosystems itself, but also the potential availability of drinking water to humans, both directly (e.g. by reducing the volume and degradation of quality primarily surface but also groundwater), and indirectly by further undermining the capacity of the landscape to retain water. This is also due to the geographical location of the state, where water runs off from the Czech Republic and water management is almost entirely dependent on water which falls in the form of atmospheric rainfall. The nature of agricultural management, including the removal of a number of natural barriers to run-off and wetland drying, watercourse treatment, an increase in the size of fixed impermeable areas (mainly urbanised areas, road infrastructure, as well as industrial and logistic zones), has caused a serious water management situation.*

***The measures taken by the ministries are undoubtedly progressing towards the objective, but have not yet been effective enough to assess the objective as being met. The adaptation of the landscape is still affected by climate change, only sub-measures are being adopted in the area of water regime in the landscape and water management, and these are not systematically slowing down water run-off from the landscape or ensuring a long-term stable balance of surface and groundwater quality. The failure to adopt a decree on the protection of agricultural land against erosion also plays an important role in the unsatisfactory implementation of the objective of water regime in the landscape.***

### 14.1 The run-off of water from the landscape is significantly slowing down

The water regime in the Czech landscape is essential in order to maintain the stability of ecosystems and ecosystem services they provide and to mitigate the consequences of hydrological extremities in the context of climate change. At the moment when water supply in the soil is not available, evaporation will decrease along with the associated cooling of air. Such a development increases the likelihood of the occurrence of heat waves, droughts and forest fires. Air is also able to contain and maintain more water at a higher temperature, which may lead to increased precipitation. This is directly linked to processes of soil erosion and the flushing of soil together with fertiliser residues into watercourses and tanks.

An increase in the frequency of extreme precipitation can be observed in the Czech Republic in the last 15 years. The evolution of the climate has led to a decrease in the level of groundwater and to a decrease in flow rates, especially in the dry transition periods of summer and autumn. Small flow rates and a lower flow mean longer water retention in rivers and tanks, the water is more heated, creating conditions for cyanobacteria and algae growth, reducing oxygen content, and leading to the deterioration of living conditions for aquatic animals. Lower flow rates also mean a smaller volume of water to dilute pollution and thus its higher concentration.

Various measures to detain water in the landscape are implemented

through the programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, according to which significant progress has been made in this respect.<sup>356</sup> However, the implementation of the measures referred to in the NAP ACC is stagnating, some are not being implemented at all. The trend is set, but processes are slow. The issuing of a decree on the protection of agricultural land from erosion, which should be a key document, is also stagnating; the legislative process could only be started at the end of 2020.

In the field of spatial planning, NAP ACC measures, e.g. in the area of methodologies. contribute to the development and strengthening of the water resources. The MRD, as the territorial development administrator, supported several tens of territorial landscape studies in the framework of the IROP for almost a quarter of the territory of the Czech Republic. Measures from the Concept for Protection against the Consequences of Drought for the Territory of the Czech Republic should also contribute to the development and strengthening of water resources in the field of land-use planning. Two updates of the Czech Territorial Development Policy focused on water management took place in 2019 and 2020.<sup>357</sup>

Complex land adjustments, which are ongoing with the financial support of the Rural Development Programme, can make a very important contribution to slowing run-off from the landscape. Some progress has been made here – 2555 comprehensive land modifications and 2946 simple land modifications have been completed. Directly from the PRV 2014-2020, anti-erosion measures from operation 4.3.1. Land Modification were implemented on 85,49 ha, water management on 97,65 ha, organic on 89,21 ha, as well as on 416,712 km of field roads. However, the procedure remains slow and too distant from achieving the objective.<sup>358</sup>

Another way to slow down water run-off from the landscape is the implementation of the defined measures resulting from river basin management plans. This should lead to the achievement of at least good ecological status and good chemical status of surface water bodies, in order to achieve a good chemical and quantitative state of bodies of groundwater, and to ensure the protection of waters in protected areas. Three years after the approval of the river basin management plans, 15.7 % of the measure was completed, 49.9 % of the measure is being implemented, 33.3 % of the measure has not been commenced and 1.1 % of the measure has been cancelled. The measures resulting from river basin management plans show developments towards achieving the target, but the effectiveness of the 1 056 measures and 1 168 measures as part of the so-called other measures cannot be evaluated on the basis of the data provided.<sup>359</sup>

The evaluation of the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan submitted to the government in January 2020

---

<sup>356</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>357</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>358</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>359</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

identifies that the largest share of the ongoing and/or fulfilled tasks is not located in the area of the water regime in the landscape and water management, but in the areas of Extraordinary events, Training, education and awareness-raising and Forestry. In the area Water regime in the landscape and water management, 2 specific objectives are addressed: An increase in the natural retention capacity of watercourses and floodplains and Effective protection and use of water resources, which are assessed as partially met.

The first strategic material aimed solely at addressing the problem of long-term drought through a set of measures to limit its consequences on our territory is the Concept for Protection against the Consequences of Drought for the Territory of the Czech Republic. The thematic concept complements and further develops the measures proposed in the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. It can be concluded that sub-activities to improve the management of drought are taking place under all the proposed measures. At the same time, there is insufficient progress in achieving the strategic objectives of the Concept. Particularly soft additional measures have been successful, the procedure for implementing technical measures is minimal. The main cause is the absence of or the restrictive legislative provisions that have not yet been amended and which do not sufficiently enable the Concept to be met and thus constitute a serious threat to achieving its vision and objectives.

In assessing the possible consequences of climate change on water supply balance in the most vulnerable regions and a possible study of measures that counter water deficit best, sub-steps have been initiated. This issue will be part of the research programme Environment for Life, which will be addressed between 2020 and 2026. Therefore, the necessary activities were not carried out in the previous assessment period and the objective was not met.

In the sub-territories of the Czech Republic, where territorial protection is applied pursuant to the Act<sup>360</sup>, the slowdown of water run-off from the landscape is addressed through the application of planning documentation (in the form of management plans or principles of care in special protection areas, summaries of recommended measures in European important sites or bird areas). While these instruments are not directly aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and inappropriate economic exploitation of the landscape in the past, they contribute by designing optimal care for natural and nature-friendly communities to strengthen their retention capacity.

**The objective has not yet been achieved and although the measures taken have been assessed as progress or even significant progress, it is still far from being fulfilled. The run-off of water from the landscape has not significantly slowed down, as demonstrated by the fact that certain measures from the NAP ACC are not being implemented at all. Similarly, there has not yet been a significant shift in the adoption of the Ordinance on the**

---

<sup>360</sup> Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on the Protection of Nature and Landscape, as amended.

## Protection of Agricultural Land from erosion.

The purpose of this objective is evident – to implement measures and procedures to prevent further pollution of surface water and groundwater and ensure the gradual improvement of their quality. The proportion of surface water bodies of good or very good quality in relation to the total number of surface water bodies has deteriorated dramatically since 2012, when regular measurements are carried out at all observation sites every three years.<sup>361</sup> A similar situation applies to the chemical status of surface water and groundwater – there has been a decrease in the quality of surface water since 2012, with the exception of Odra; as regards groundwater, the proportion of water quality fluctuates. However, it can be noted that improvements have been made at many locations (measurement at six-year intervals).<sup>362</sup>

Measures resulting from river basin management plans for the period 2015-2021 contribute to ensuring the objective. This could be the path to achieving at least a good ecological and chemical state of surface water bodies, as well as a good chemical and quantitative state of groundwater bodies, and ensuring the protection of waters in protected areas.<sup>363</sup> However, as can be seen from the indicator measurements, not only has progress not taken place, but the situation is deteriorating. Development in terms of the quantitative state of groundwater bodies is slightly better, the ratio of groundwater in a good quantitative state to the total number of groundwater bodies increased during the six-year measurement.<sup>364</sup>

The above-mentioned decree on the protection of agricultural land against erosion should also be an important measure contributing to ensuring the quality of surface and groundwater, but this has not yet been adopted. To date, a consensus between the different parties involved is being sought. The submission of a decree to the interministerial comment procedure (MPŘ) was foreseen during 2020.

To improve the quality of surface and groundwater, measures to reduce the input of pollutants from the so-called general pollution sources (in particular in agriculture) should also be helpful. For the next four-year period, the MoA defined measures aimed at reducing nitrogen input into soil or increasing incorporation into the soil.<sup>365</sup> This is also linked to supporting activities to reduce the entry of pesticides into groundwater and surface water and the introduction of electronic records to control the quantities and types of pesticides as part of the protection of water resources. The presence of pesticides is

---

<sup>361</sup> Ind. 14.2.1.

<sup>362</sup> Ind. 14.2.2.

<sup>363</sup> It is a territory defined in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

<sup>364</sup> Ind. 14.2.3.

<sup>365</sup> Government regulation on the identification of vulnerable areas and the action programme 262/2018 Coll. Available from: [https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf/C1B9746A459F2D94C1257B1A003079EF/%24file/NV%20262\\_2012.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf/C1B9746A459F2D94C1257B1A003079EF/%24file/NV%20262_2012.pdf) The last amendment of the Regulation defined above took place in June 2020 with effect from 1 July 2020, further amendments are planned in June 2024.

associated with the use of plant protection products (PPP) in agriculture. The general measures related to the use of the PPPs are anchored in the National Action Plan on the Safe Use of Pesticides in the Czech Republic (Národním akčním plánem k bezpečnému používání pesticidů v České republice), the main instrument being compliance with the principles of correct PPP application, in particular respecting the protective distances from water bodies and water resources intended for human consumption.<sup>366</sup>

In Natura 2000 sites and in specially protected areas (national parks, protected landscape areas, national nature reserves, nature reserves, national natural landmarks and natural landmarks), it is desirable to implement measures with regard to the subject matter of protection and, where appropriate, in accordance with the management plan, the principles of care or a summary of the recommended measures, in terms of surface and groundwater quality. While sub-activities are ongoing in these areas, there is still a deficiency in staffing and financial resources.<sup>367</sup>

**According to indicator measurements, the state is unstable, e.g. the quantitative state of bodies of groundwater has experienced a positive development during the six-year measurement. On the other hand, the measurement of the ecological state of water bodies has shown an alarming state for virtually all the bodies of water monitored. Similar to objective 14.1, there is also a zero shift in the adoption of a decree on the protection of agricultural land against erosion.**

---

<sup>366</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>367</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



15 Soils are protected from degradation and the landscape potential is used to the maximum extent possible for carbon capture and storage.

*Increasing organic matter content in soil and maintaining the natural state of the soil type is crucial to increasing soil fertility. We know that in too intensively managed soil the proportion of organic matter decreases, especially if a minimum of organic matter is incorporated back into the soil, the loss of which has a number of negative impacts, e.g. soil hardening, resulting in increasing soil vulnerability to water and wind erosion, reduced filtration ability and decreased retention capacity of the soils. The low proportion of organic substances also causes a higher tendency to acidify, weakens the soil's ability to absorb contaminants and reduces its ability to absorb nutrients, leading to an increase in nitrate levels with a negative impact on plant nutrition and on the quality of surface water and groundwater.*

***It is still impossible to sufficiently relevantly evaluate part of the strategic objective because we lack sufficient data from the point of view of soil degradation and monitoring the organic content in soil. The fact is that the average size of the soil block in the Czech Republic is still too large, which contributes to a high threat of water and wind erosion, nor has reducing soil blocks as a way to limit erosion events had the expected impact. The fragmentation of the various instruments on the protection of agricultural and forest land across the Czech legislation and the absence of the anti-erosion decree also hamper the process of addressing soil erosion as a whole. The focus on improving the condition of forests and the renewal of their species mix is also part of the strategic objective. A significant part of even-aged forest stand with an inappropriate spatial composition is affected by both the ongoing bark beetle calamity and other biotic and abiotic disturbances. Due to the limited possibility of using natural forest restoration on large calamity clearings, forest owners are not always using the entire spectrum of habitat-suitable tree species for artificial restoration. Adaptation of forest management to changing climate conditions is essential.***

Organic matter carries most of the soil's functional properties and regular monitoring is desirable. The status of soil organic matter in natural forest areas (PLO) is regularly monitored, comparing the condition of forest soils and the state of nutrition of forest trees.<sup>368</sup> Other investigations concerning forest soil are ongoing in forests throughout the Czech Republic. In addition to ICP Forests (European Forests Monitoring Programme, of which the Czech Republic is a member)<sup>369</sup>, it is the investigation of the National Forest Inventory (Národní inventarizace lesů), which covers, inter alia, soil, including organic matter.<sup>370</sup> For agriculturally managed land, the application of the Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation can at least be used for the online calculation of the soil block organic matter balance (it calculates the organic carbon balance, which is the main and integral part of soil organic matter, as well as a representative for evaluating its amount<sup>371</sup>). However, monitoring is not yet

---

<sup>368</sup> The report of the Ministry of Agriculture states that in 2019 a survey was carried out in PLO No.1 Krušné hory – sampling and analysis of 321 soil samples (basic nutrients, microelements and selected risk elements) were performed in a total of 107 sampling points. Ministry of Agriculture on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>369</sup> Ročenky monitoringu stavu lesa - Forest Status Monitoring Yearbooks. Available from: <https://www.vulhm.cz/monitoring-stavu-lesa/icp-forests/soubory-ke-stazeni/>.

<sup>370</sup> Ústav pro hospodářskou úpravu lesů (2019) Národní inventarizace lesů 2011–2015 - Institute for Forest Economic Management (2019) National Forest Inventory 2011-2015. Available from: [http://nil.uhul.cz/downloads/kniha\\_nil2\\_web.pdf](http://nil.uhul.cz/downloads/kniha_nil2_web.pdf)

<sup>371</sup> Calculation of organic matter balance available from: <http://www.organicahmota.cz/#/Bilance>

15.1 Soil organic content and soil structure correspond to the natural condition of the soil type

underway. Nor has the obligation of a stable balance been introduced so far. GAEC Standard 6, the main purpose of which is to maintain the level of the organic constituents of soil by appropriate procedures and to achieve balanced SOM input and loss on agricultural parcels, and which is one of the conditions for granting the full amount of direct support, is binding on all applicants for direct payments and area payments of the Rural Development Programme. A solution is being sought as part of the setting of GAEC 5 which, however, is aimed at reducing erosion (i.e. not directly at the conservation of organic elements in soil, as is the case with GAEC 6).<sup>372</sup>

It is clear that the objective has not yet been achieved, even in view of the high ambition it has to carry out regular monitoring of the state of soil organic matter throughout the Czech Republic and also to achieve a balanced input and loss of soil organic matter (SOM) in order to maintain a favourable SOM content on agricultural parcels.

As indicator data are not yet available (they are to be of annual frequency), it cannot be evaluated whether at least the first steps to implement the measures have already been taken. According to the administrator's report, due to the complexity of the problem, the introduction of a calculation of the organic matter surface balance could not be carried out.<sup>373</sup>

**The issue of soil organic matter is not being paid the attention that would be needed. The unavailability of indicator measurements complicates the evaluation of the target.**

15.2 Water and wind erosion hazard levels are reduced.

It can be estimated that as a result of climate change, the damage caused by erosion in 2030 will be as much as double compared to the current state, unless the structure of the Czech landscape and farming practices have improved by then.<sup>374</sup> Objective 15.2. draws attention to the danger that the Czech Republic is rapidly losing agricultural land due to water and wind erosion, and that by 2030 it is necessary to halt this pace and set the opposite trend. The severe consequences of erosion are the reduction of the thickness of the soil profile, the deterioration of topsoil on agricultural land, as well as the negative effect on soil chemical properties, which reduces organic matter and mineral nutrients. Erosion also affects production – ha yields may be significantly lower on heavily eroded soils compared to land of the same type in good condition.

With regard to water erosion, danger in terms of erosion is posed mainly by high intensity short duration rain; in the case wind erosion, large areas of land planted with a single crop type and the absence of shelter belts, whether natural or artificially planted, present dangers. In 2018, 56.7 % of agricultural land was potentially threatened by aquatic erosion, of which 17.8 % by extreme erosion and 18.4 % of

---

<sup>372</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>373</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>374</sup> VÚMOP; CHMI (2016) The effect of expected climate change on the land of the Czech Republic and the evaluation of its production function.

agricultural land by wind erosion.<sup>375</sup> The trend is negative in the long-term and the fact that the level of potential threat of extreme erosion is significantly increasing is particularly alarming. In the long term, the loss of soil in areas with the most highly valued soils is the biggest problem – this is due to inappropriate soil management and the use and degradation of site conditions because of climate change (a more frequent incidence of torrential rain, long-term drought, temperature increase, etc.). On arable land, all applicants for direct payments and areawide payment of PRV must comply with GAEC 5, which lays down the conditions for counter-pollution protection, e.g. by defining crops which may not be grown at all or only using the so-called land protection technology on certain types of parcels.

The protection of agricultural and forest land in the Czech Republic is not harmonised and is dealt with by different instruments in the relevant laws. There is also no single legal framework for soil protection at European level. In the Czech Republic, the protection of the agricultural land fund was modified on the basis of an amendment to the Act on the Protection of Agricultural Land Resources – e.g. by modifying competences, by improving the obligations of both the owner and the tenant of the land and by increasing the protection of the soil against degradation processes, including erosion. Anti-pollution measures according to good agricultural and environment practice standards are implemented on 25 % of arable land, which is still insufficient.<sup>376</sup> At present, protection against water and wind erosion, e.g. creating or rebuilding boundaries, groves, conducting ditches and shelter belts, can benefit from funding from the OP ENV and the PRV, in the past a contribution of the MoA for the planting of meliorating and reinforcing trees was provided from state programmes, and own resources of the state enterprise Lesy ČR have been an important source of funding aimed at flood protection and anti-pollution measures.

The forthcoming anti-erosion decree could improve the situation. Its proposal was already subject to a comment procedure in 2017 and has not yet been approved.

The Anti-erosion calculator support tools allow the land user to simulate the loss of soil on his/her land in the longer term under specific farming methods, but we do not have information on how widely this tool is used.

**The measures taken do not yet appear to be sufficient. Although the size of the soil block has decreased since 2004, which is a positive factor because the size of the entire arable land block coincides with the susceptibility of the soil to erosion, the Czech Republic still has too large an average area of the soil block, its landscape is highly fragmented, over 18 % of agricultural land is**

---

<sup>375</sup> IND. 15.2.1 and the MoE 2018 Report on the State of the Environment. Available from: [https://www.cenia.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zprava\\_o\\_ZP\\_CR\\_2018.pdf](https://www.cenia.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zprava_o_ZP_CR_2018.pdf)

<sup>376</sup> According to the web application of the State Land Office and the Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation in 2018, a total of 276 erosion events were registered in the Czech Republic (169 in 2017). Available from: <https://me.vumop.cz/app/j>

**threatened by wind erosion and over 50 % by water erosion.<sup>377</sup> Reducing the threat to soil erosion as a whole is progressing slowly, it is uneven within the regions; the most vulnerable soils are located in the South Moravia and Moravia-Silesian regions.<sup>378</sup>**

15.3 The species composition of planted forest stand corresponds to the and prevents further degradation of forest soils

A forest as a self-contained ecosystem affects an environment much larger than its own area. It affects air quality, local climate and water quality. It is crucial for the life cycle of animals and plants that reside there, it has an aesthetic, recreational and, last but not least, production significance. Its high vulnerability to the expressions of climate change also affects other ecosystems. Defoliation and inappropriate species composition with a predominance of spruce monocultures cause poor resistance to drought and insect pests, spruce monocultures contribute to the further acidification of forest soils already disrupted by historical acid rainfall. Defoliation rates are among the highest compared to other European countries and show a very slightly increasing trend in long-term monitoring. It is caused, on the one hand, by the ongoing pollution burden, although to a lesser extent, and by the long-term disruption of the stability of the forest ecosystem due to the effects of pollution over the past decades. Spruce dominates, and is among the species of trees that are the most sensitive to the activity of pollutants.<sup>379</sup> It should be noted that forests respond to changes with significant delays, a combination of drought and a lengthening growing season only increases the damage caused in forests by insect pests. The degradation of forest land thus has a key impact on the overall state of life in the forest and its growing species composition. It is desirable to rebuild and set up species-rich forests and to restore habitats with appropriate trees. Since 2010, the species mix has gradually changed, the proportion of conifers decreased from almost 60 % to 55 %. On the contrary, the foliage ratio increased from 40 % to 44 %. The difference between the two groups has been reduced to 10 %, compared to 2010 when it was double.<sup>380</sup> However, we have so far shown that we do not have sufficient suitable species of trees to commence natural restoration sufficiently fast, especially on the calamity clearings of the habitat of risky tree species.<sup>381</sup> The General Plan for the Restoration of Forests after Calamity (Generel obnovy lesních porostů po kalamitě) is regularly updated, covering the whole territory of the Czech Republic.<sup>382</sup> For some sites, namely the Moravian-Silesian, Olomouc and Vysočina Region, a Methodology for the Recovery Procedure for Calamity Clearings has been developed.

---

<sup>377</sup> Ind. 15.2.1.

<sup>378</sup> IND. 15.2.2 records the time series for each region from 2004 to 2020 inclusive.

<sup>379</sup> MoA (2018) Report on the state of forests and forestry of the Czech Republic in 2019. Available from: [http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/640937/Zprava\\_o\\_stavu\\_lesa\\_2018.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/640937/Zprava_o_stavu_lesa_2018.pdf)

<sup>380</sup> Ind. 15.3.1.

<sup>381</sup> MoE (2020) State Programme for the Conservation of Nature and Landscape of the Czech Republic 2020-2025.

<sup>382</sup> Institute for Forest Economic Management (2020) General Plan for the Restoration of Forests after Calamity, Stage III. Available from: [http://www.uhul.cz/images/ke\\_stazeni/Generel\\_obnovy/III/Generel\\_etapa\\_III.pdf](http://www.uhul.cz/images/ke_stazeni/Generel_obnovy/III/Generel_etapa_III.pdf)

Therefore, the trend is correctly set, but for various reasons it is significantly slower than we need. Only further evaluations will show whether the adverse situation has been reversed.<sup>383</sup> Ensuring natural forest restoration is complicated mainly in non-state forests, where the State can operate only through financial stimulation, in particular from resources of the MoA and MoE.

A healthy state of the forest also calls for the optimisation of cloven-hoofed game counts, which cause major damage to forest cultures. This is a long-term task where the gradual increase in hunts should lead to the achievement of a numerical status that is in balance with the environment and that doesn't cause excessive damage in forests and agriculture. The first step is to regulate the legislation. The amendment to the Act on hunting is in preparation, but its impacts will only be measurable after 2022 when the hunting plan should be properly set up and fully implemented. So far, there is at least a methodological guidance for the hunting public authorities to reduce the number of cloven-hoofed game populations in order to reduce the impact of game on the restoration of forest stands.<sup>384</sup>

The assumption of a good trend appears to be found in the case of Natura 2000 sites where, in future years, the conversion of stands and geographically non-indigenous timber species into stands of natural wood composition should be pursued in accordance with the Farming Framework Directive, which is part of the summaries of recommended measures.<sup>385</sup> In the next evaluation, it could therefore already be clear whether this measure is being achieved.

**The gradual improvement of the condition of the forest is logically due to its long production time and the need to maintain the fulfilment of all forest functions. It is clear that there is an effort to achieve the objective, but the procedure is only partial, as the current increase in foliar representation in restoration will logically only show in the upcoming years. However, it should be noted that it is the calamity that has contributed to a complete change in the species mix, which would otherwise be reflected in 100 years due to the production age of the species. A significant possibility of changing the species mix is during the restoration phase. The efforts made are appreciated, as the problem is age-old and has been postponed for decades.**

---

<sup>383</sup> Decree 298/2018 on the processing of regional forest development plans and the definition of farming files replaced Decree 83/1996 and significantly increased the proportions of meliorating and reinforcing trees, thereby helping to speed up the required trend.

<sup>384</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>385</sup> Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 for 2021-2027. Available from: [https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/akcni\\_ramec\\_natura\\_2000/\\$FILE/ODOIMZ-CZ\\_paf\\_20201008.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/akcni_ramec_natura_2000/$FILE/ODOIMZ-CZ_paf_20201008.pdf)

## 4. Municipalities and regions

*Key Area 4 targets the sustainable development of municipalities and regions. Responsible access to the territory should be achieved by developing municipalities and regions that reduce regional inequalities and direct suburbanisation trends, create conditions for a better accessibility of public services and higher quality of life of the population, promote public participation in planning and, last but not least, actively contribute to adaptation to the negative effects of climate change. In order to achieve this ideal status, municipalities and regions need to face a wide range of challenges. These include, for example, the take-up of the land fund, the under-average availability of services, the collapse of the centres of certain cities, the loss of population in some regions, social inequalities and varying economic performance in the regions, insufficient use of sustainable development tools, air pollution, lack of green space in cities or a lack of measures to retain water in the landscape.*

*The public administration responds to these challenges, in some areas its efforts are sufficient, in others it needs to intensify them. In the context of the availability of public services, a uniform methodology at national level for the coordination of strategic and spatial planning and public service availability standards is at the stage of preparation, but the national level contributes to methodological support for ensuring the availability of essential public services already at the spatial and strategic planning stage. Territorial landscape studies are being conducted that go beyond the level of municipalities and allow efficient solutions to be implemented in the landscape. A decreasing trend is observed in the number of socially excluded sites and the number of people at risk of poverty. In the context of ageing, it is possible to observe insignificant negative trends in regions, elsewhere there is considerable depopulation or population growth. The problem of built-up areas persists in urban centres where, inter alia, often low non-compact construction can be found, which supports the negative trend of suburbanisation. Programmes are being implemented by the state for the re-use of brownfields. In the context of climate change, the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan delivers on measures that cannot be evaluated at present as they are often long-term. The energy intensity of new buildings is steadily decreasing, but not at the required pace, the number of low-emission and emission-free vehicles is increasing and infrastructure for these vehicles is being built, but there is room for improvement. The deadline for the end of landfilling was postponed, but the envisaged legislative regulation that would make landfilling disadvantageous due to charges is a step forward. Regular conferences are organised to promote sustainable development instruments in order to disseminate awareness of these instruments. The implementation of these instruments still faces a number of obstacles. The Local Agenda 21 introduces the principles of sustainable development in the territories, but they face obstacles that prevent an increase in the number of implementers.*

## 16 Public services in the territory are better accessible to all residents.

*Responsible land use is crucial to ensuring the harmonious development of municipalities and regions. Strategic and spatial planning should ensure a balanced development that avoids the excessive spread of cities into the open landscape, ensures efficient mobility and the accessibility of public services. In view of the fragmentation of the Czech settlement structure, the state should set minimum standards for the availability of public services to be taken into account in strategic and spatial planning. Integrated planning in its development and deepening inter-municipal cooperation is in the interest of municipalities. Many cities are undergoing a gradual change and face different negative trends that hamper their development. One of them is the gradual deterioration of their centres. This may be the result of outflow of people for work, inappropriate public space solutions or its degradation due to excessive suburbanisation and the concentration of activities outside the city centre. Suburbanisation entails, inter alia, increased infrastructure and transport costs. The task of municipalities and cities is to provide the population with civic facilities, a well-located public space and affordable housing for all age groups. Planning public spaces, suitable investments in renovations or new constructions such as public lighting, parks, transport infrastructure and buildings in its management are in the hands of the self-government. The ever-increasing share of an ageing population will also place demands on public services and the sufficient functioning and serviceability of the municipality.*

**Support activities leading to integrated territorial approaches (subsidies for spatial plans, territorial landscape studies, integrated ITI, IPDT and CLLD tools) are implemented in support of the availability of public services. However, there is a lack of a uniform methodology at national level to coordinate strategic and spatial planning and standards of the availability of public services, but they are at the stage of preparation. Ensuring the prerequisites for the availability of essential public services already at the spatial and strategic planning stage is supported methodologically at national level, but the introduction of this methodology into practice is very limited. Strategic and spatial planning beyond the level of individual municipalities is also limited. Examples include territorial landscape studies. For the time being, there are no other options to address strategic and spatial planning beyond the territory of the municipalities.**

The interdependence of documents should be ensured at all levels vertically (e.g. the linking of European documents to state and regional documents) as well as horizontally (e.g. municipal documents). The strategic planning of municipalities determines the objectives and visions that the municipality or city intends to achieve. Urban planning in the public interest protects and develops cultural and natural values in the territory under the Building Act.<sup>386</sup> The aim is to ensure coherent sustainable planning and avoid the chaotic approval of individual unpremeditated projects. Ensuring consistency of documents requires staffing capacities which are insufficient in this respect, but also a change in thinking and approaches. National land-use planning and coordination of regional planning activities are dealt with by the Policy on Territorial Development of the Czech Republic (Politika územního rozvoje ČR). The territorial development policy defines, inter alia, the basic development areas and development axes, and coordinates the territorial planning activities of the counties and municipalities. Territorial Development Principles apply to the territory of the region, but they do not go into excessive detail. These documents follow up

---

<sup>386</sup> Act No. 183/2006 Coll., on Spatial Planning and Building Regulations.

on the territorial plans of individual municipalities, which must comply with the principles of territorial development and territorial development policy. The most detailed regulatory plans issued for part of the territory of the municipality (e.g. for certain development areas or for the historic city centre) are the most detailed. Therefore, in the context of spatial planning, a vertical link to individual documents is ensured.

The development and updating of spatial plans is supported by national subsidy sources, e.g. the Spatial Plan (Územní plán). 67 spatial plans were supported in 2019.<sup>387</sup> 93% of all municipalities have prepared a spatial plan and there is still a strong interest in this programme.

The OP E supports the strategic management and planning of the public administration during the 2014-2020 programming period. On the other hand, the promotion of coordination of strategic and spatial planning has not yet been included in the programming documentation, this activity is currently foreseen in the Czech SRD Action Plan 21+. An additional spatial planning tool is a territorial study. In the 2014-2020 programming period, these studies were financially supported by the IROP, financial support for the 2021-2027 programming period has not yet been established (support from the OP ENV is being considered).<sup>388</sup>

One of the widely used integrated tools is the community-led local development of the so-called CLLD. As a result of the CLLD developed strategies, 5 301 integrated projects were implemented between 2017 and the end of June 2020.<sup>389</sup> Some LAG are successful and more than 50 projects were implemented by May of this year from the OP E, IROP, PRV and OP ENV programmes. On the other hand, there are several LAG which have not yet carried out a project.

Integrated ITI and IPRÚ tools are available for metropolitan areas and agglomerations. A total of 444<sup>390</sup> projects were implemented and finalised by 2019, of which more than 100 were carried out under the Ostrava Metropolitan Area. As of 2019, the number of projects increased significantly, which demonstrates the success of this integrated instrument.

The Ministry of Regional Development, inter alia, initiated two projects in which the relationship between spatial and strategic planning is addressed. These projects mainly address the link between strategic and spatial planning and the possibility of using public administration tools that have not yet been used to coordinate regional development policy together with spatial planning. However, these are only partial

---

<sup>387</sup> Successful applicants received subsidies for the development of a spatial plan. Available from: [https://www.obecniportal.cz/33/uspesni-zadatele-obdrzeli-dotace-na-tvorbu-uzemnich-planu-uniqueidqOkE4NvrWuOKaQDKuox\\_Z-R1H-uAh3ntlJR9Hs5aM2Y/?serp=1](https://www.obecniportal.cz/33/uspesni-zadatele-obdrzeli-dotace-na-tvorbu-uzemnich-planu-uniqueidqOkE4NvrWuOKaQDKuox_Z-R1H-uAh3ntlJR9Hs5aM2Y/?serp=1)

<sup>388</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>389</sup> Ind.16.1.2.

<sup>390</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



activities that do not deal with coordination at the national level.<sup>391</sup>

**Sub-activities supporting an integrated approach to the territory are directed at the fulfilment of the objective. The more successful ones include both the subsidy for the acquisition of the spatial plan or territorial landscape study, as well as the integrated tools ITI, IPRÚ and CLLD. On the other hand, methodological guidance at national level to coordinate strategic and spatial planning is still lacking, with insufficient staffing and financial capacity in the offices that process these documents.**

---

<sup>391</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

16.2 Binding standards for the availability of basic public services and their corresponding public civic equipment infrastructures are established and valid for all buildings

Buildings and land used in the public interest, i.e. transport, technical, civic equipment (educational, social, health, protective or public administration bodies) and public spaces (public greenery, squares, streets, etc.) can be generally included in public infrastructure. In 2017, the Ministry of Regional Development prepared a document called the Czech Settlement Structure (Sídlní struktura České republiky), which proposes to categorise Czech settlement centres and define their main links in both the national and central European context.<sup>392</sup>

Quality of life 5.10 – The number of rejected applications to homes for the elderly and homes for disabled persons  
Every year, owing to the lack of free capacity, up to thousands of applications to homes for the elderly are rejected.  
In 2019, this amounted to a total of 60 643 for the entire Czech Republic. It is therefore desirable to ensure the provision of publicly available services, including the coordination of social services where necessary.

These outputs, together with other related materials, should be reflected in the upcoming national spatial analytical materials of the Czech Republic, which should generally facilitate the coordination of spatial planning. The MRD also plans to issue a methodology on the settlement structure.

In 2019, the Ministry of the Interior renewed a working group on the availability of public services, which prepared a definition of public services and their list. In cooperation with territorial partners and experts, the establishment of mandatory standards for public services is still in the preparation process.<sup>393</sup>

However, the definition of public services is by far not a simple task. We are also facing the question of the quality of service provision. An example could be a commuter project from a geo-demographic perspective of selected out-patient health services in the Czech Republic. It draws attention to the issue of permanent residence, sought medical care and its actual availability. Anonymised VZP CZ data also served to process this project.<sup>394</sup> In this case, the cooperation of various organisations is desirable. The question of uniform standardisation and the methodology for the availability of public services is still open.

The issue of public services is further captured and developed in the Rural Development Concept and the Czech Regional Development Strategy 21+; specifying here that the exception is social services, where planning is reserved for regions.<sup>395</sup>

### **Binding standards on the availability of public services are still**

<sup>392</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>393</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>394</sup> Dojíždka za vybranými ambulantními zdravotními službami v Česku z geodemografického pohledu - Commuting to selected out-patient health services in the Czech Republic from a geo-demographic perspective. Available at: <https://www.natur.cuni.cz/geografie/demografie-a-geodemografie/sidlo/publikace-1>

<sup>395</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

missing, but are under preparation.<sup>396</sup>

---

<sup>396</sup> Ind. 16.2.1.

16.3 Prerequisites for the availability of essential public services are already ensured at the spatial and strategic planning stage

The issue of the availability of public infrastructure, which is a prerequisite for the provision of public services, the alignment of its definition and spatial planning practices is addressed by the methodology of the 2016 Public Infrastructure Accessibility Standards (Standardy dostupnosti veřejné infrastruktury) (2020 revision).<sup>397</sup>

The Working Group (see objective 16.2) of the Ministry of the Interior uses the certified methodology TB050MMR001 Public Infrastructure Accessibility Standards for its work only to a limited extent. This is due to the different range of services covered.<sup>398</sup>

The question also remains how to work with these standards in practice and how often to update them, as the evolution of demand for services and the spatial projection of this demand are extremely dynamic. From this perspective, the setting of uniform mandatory standards could be in some ways counterproductive.

A partial limit is the adoption of a methodology by municipalities with extended powers. Only less than half of the municipalities with extended powers (70)<sup>399</sup> meet its requirements in the development of spatial plans and spatial analysis plans. In the case of regions, the situation is even worse – only 3 regions fulfil the methodology.

Civic equipment, transport infrastructure and technical infrastructure, including their accessibility and public spaces, will be evaluate spatial analytical materials (hereinafter ÚAP) on the basis of the amendments to Decree No 500/2006 Coll. of 2018; the assessment of accessibility will be based on the above-mentioned methodology. The modification of the content of the ÚAP will take place in 2020 at the 5th full update of the municipalities' ÚAP.

**Although there is a methodology for the availability of public infrastructure at national level, its introduction into practice is very limited. With the update of the ÚAP we expect progress in identifying existing deficits in area coverage with public infrastructure, but the elimination of these deficits is not thus addressed.**

16.4 Strategic and spatial planning procedures shall be coordinated at a level beyond the level of individual municipalities.

The interdependence of municipalities is due, for example, to sharing common infrastructure, public infrastructure and services. Ensuring the conditions for the coordinated development of the territory has a major impact on the quality of life in the territory and on the development of the municipalities themselves. Some municipalities rely on each other and on the services provided to each other. We speak here, for example, of commuting to school, the hospital or work.

The completed Action Plan SRD Czech Republic 21+ provides for an activity to support the coordination of strategic and spatial planning. Actors that can support the sustainable development of the territory

---

<sup>397</sup> Standardy dostupnosti VI - Public Infrastructure Accesibility Standards. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/stavebni-pravo/stanoviska-a-metodiky/stanoviska-odboru-uzemniho-planovani-mmr/9-ostatni-stanoviska-a-metodiky/standardy-dostupnosti-verejne-infrastruktury>

<sup>398</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>399</sup> Ind.16.3.1.

beyond the level of one municipality include voluntary unions of municipalities or LAG.<sup>400</sup>

The so-called territorial landscape studies are currently used to coordinate territorial development beyond one municipality. It is a spatial planning tool, but with a significant emphasis on formulating concrete actions that should be implemented in the territory as part of the strategic planning process. As regards the content of territorial landscape studies, the MRD and the MoE issued a common methodological guideline in 2016;<sup>401</sup> the aim of territorial landscape studies is to strengthen the complexity of land planning while paying adequate attention to unsettled territories. Cooperation, a multidisciplinary approach and coverage of the entire SO ORP is needed to prepare the study.

**The objective has not yet been achieved. Territorial landscape studies as a basis for individual territories are processed in varying quality and other options to address strategic and spatial planning beyond the territory of a single municipality are not yet being used.**

---

<sup>400</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>401</sup> Commissioning of a territorial landscape study for the administrative district of a municipality with extended power. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/stavebni-pravo/stanoviska-a-metodiky/stanoviska-odboru-uzemniho-planovani-mmr/3-uzemne-planovaci-podklady-a-jejich-aktualizace/metodicky-pokyn-zadani-uzemni-studie-krajiny-pro-spravni-obvod-obce-s>

## 17 An increase in the quality of life in individual municipalities reduces regional inequalities.

*The Quality of Life Index cannot be expressed only by GDP values, which is primarily an indicator of economic performance per capita. Although economic growth may be a precondition for achieving a higher quality of life, it is necessary to consider development as a broader concept closely related to an individual's standard of living, health, life expectancy, access to culture or education, etc. Not all regions of the Czech Republic develop similarly. Some regions suffer from population loss, others from inferior economic performance or social inequalities, etc. Solutions should be found for these regions fostering the competitiveness of local businesses, ensuring social housing, etc.*

***The current favourable economic situation makes the values of the indicators appear positive and therefore the strategic objectives seem to be achieved. However, this does not mean that there is no significant room for improvement. Better convergence between the private and academic sectors, the number of socially excluded sites and the number of people at risk of poverty are decreasing. What is stagnating, however, is the promotion of accessible housing, for which far from sufficient funding is being provided. SMEs are supported through targeted subsidy titles and an improvement in the Czech Republic has been observed until 2020 in the business environment, but this is currently heavily influenced by the covid-19 pandemic. The ageing of the population is a major challenge for the whole territory of the Czech Republic and it is not demonstrable that rural and all peripheral areas face a greater challenge, as is stated in specific objective 17.1. This specific objective cannot be assessed objectively. As regards the reduction of regional disparities itself, the activities described in this paragraph have a positive impact on the economic development and quality of life in the Czech Republic, but in order to effectively reduce the interregional disparities, effective targeting is needed of those regions that are actually in need of this. This is also partly achieved by, for example, the Restructuring Strategy of the Ústí, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovarský regions.***

17.1. Today's rural and peripheral areas are not depopulating and their populations are not ageing more than in urbanised areas

The report on the implementation of the Czech Republic's Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020<sup>402</sup> states that despite the relatively low level of migration activity compared to other countries, a regional formula of long-term increasing migration regions has begun to shape. Employment opportunities and service activities are concentrated in major centres and it can therefore be assumed that the trend will continue. Since 2013, divergence between a group of state-assisted regions and other SO ORPs can also be observed. This reduces the attractiveness of the regions with the support of the state. Very low inter-regional variability is observed in the age index. The only region where a decrease in the age index was observed was Prague. The state's concentrated support is mainly targeted at regions with a significantly increasing age index.

The lack of labour and job opportunities due to migration is characteristic of the Ústí, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovarský regions.<sup>403</sup> Younger and more educated people leave the regions. The comprehensive action plan "Restructuring Strategy for the Ústí,

---

<sup>402</sup> MRD Report on the Implementation of the Czech Republic's Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 (2017).

<sup>403</sup> MRD (2017) Strategic Framework for the Economic Restructuring of the Ústí, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovarský Regions.

Moravian-Silesian and Karlovarský Regions 2019-2020<sup>404</sup> specifies tasks for the human resources area. It aims in particular at supporting highly skilled human resources, research, business consulting, scientific and research infrastructure or promoting housing and housing policies.

In the approval process, the Strategic Framework of Preparation for an Ageing Society 2020-2025 now looks at the consequences that this negative trend can bring about. It formulates a goal for the development of social work in municipalities, with a focus on rural areas where there is a risk of social exclusion for elderly people. The measures aim at establishing a minimum quality of social work and opportunities for elderly people's education, their participation in social, cultural, economic, but also civic events. The issue of barrier-free housing for the elderly in the context of their social isolation is also addressed here.<sup>405</sup>

The ageing of the population and the exit of economically active populations from some peripheral areas and their transfer to core areas is currently a challenge faced by a large proportion of peripheral municipalities. As a result, some regions are depopulating (reporting population loss), while other regions are increasing their population. It is important to ensure that rural and peripheral areas do not lose too much of their population and that their populations do not age faster than those of other regions. The age index, one of the indicators of an ageing population, is linked to the development of birth rates, changes in age structure and extended life expectancy, currently increasing in the vast majority of regions and SO ORPs (in some regions faster than others). This is a natural manifestation of the demographic transition. However, some regions may show a more rapid rate of ageing of the population supported by the outflow of economically active populations from the region/SO ORP. This is mainly due to insufficient employment opportunities, but also poor transport services, lack of quality and availability of services, etc. These areas require concentrated effective support to ensure that the economically active population does not leave the region/SO ORP. Peripheral areas are depopulated, for example, in the Central Bohemia Region. About 15 thousand people transfer each year to the Prague-East and Prague-West districts (around half of them are inhabitants of Prague). From the periphery of the Central Bohemia Region, the population transfers mainly to Prague. Several hundred inhabitants move to each of the districts of Prague-East and Prague-West from the periphery of the Central Bohemia Region.

In order to better understand the issue and evaluate the achievement of the objective, the migration balance indicator is followed, which provides information on the depopulation of the territory by migration (number of migrated to minus the number of those moved away, but some regions decrease naturally, i.e. deaths predominate over births);

---

<sup>404</sup> MRD (2019) Summary Action Plan on the Restructuring Strategy for the Ústí, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovarský Regions 2019-2020.

<sup>405</sup>MLSA (2020) Strategic Framework of Preparation for an Ageing Society 2020-2025.

and the age index, which states how the numbers of the territory's elderly and children population changes (number of inhabitants aged 65 and over per 100 children aged under 15).<sup>406</sup>

In 2019, the highest population growth by migration was recorded by the SO ORP Černošice, which meant an increase in value for the third year in a row. The second highest value was for the SO ORP Pilsen (an increase for the second year in a row). The third highest value was the SO ORP Brandýs nad Labem, which, however, registered a slight decrease in the value compared to previous years. A total of 7 SO ORPs had a migration balance value above 1 000 in 2019. The lowest (negative) values are mainly reported by the SO ORPs of the Moravian-Silesian Region: Ostrava, Karvina, Havířov. A total of 60 SO ORPs showed a negative migration balance in 2019. Compared to previous years, this is a significant decrease in the number of SO ORPs with a negative migration balance. Between 2011 and 2016, this number was always higher than 100, it decreased to 86 in 2017, to 61 in the following year and to 60 in 2019.<sup>407</sup> The age index in 2019 was highest in the SO ORP Pacov, followed by SO ORP Milevsko and SO ORP Horažďovice. On the contrary, age index values in 2019 were lowest in the SO ORPs Lysá nad Labem, Brandýs nad Labem and Černošice.<sup>408</sup>

Problems related to the achievement of this specific objective include, for example, unclear competences and, in particular, unclear tools to address the strategic objective. Poorly designed support programmes to mitigate the migration balance also pose economic barriers. The lack of policy tools to influence the suburbanisation trend is observed at regional compared to state level. A distinction should also be made between regions where the demographic structure is changing through natural processes.

The MRD national subsidy titles, which partly support the availability of basic public services, contribute to the specific objective. The aid focuses on the preparation of premises for the operation of basic medical and commercial services.<sup>409</sup> The negative migration balance was used as one indicator to define economically and socially vulnerable territories. These territories are then specifically addressed in the implementation documents. It should be stressed that demographic change poses challenges for all municipalities and regions and it cannot be said that small municipalities and rural regions face more significant challenges. More significant challenges are mainly faced by municipalities which are disadvantaged by their location and are not sufficiently involved in economic relations. These municipalities record a population loss.<sup>410</sup> Progress has also been

---

<sup>406</sup> For greater clarity, it is also possible to include an indicator of the total population gain/loss under this objective. The inclusion of an additional indicator, e.g. the average age of the population, is also an option. The proportion of people aged 65 and above in the total population could express the intensity of the population's ageing process more appropriately than the age index.

<sup>407</sup> Ind. 17.1.1.

<sup>408</sup> Ind. 17.1.2.

<sup>409</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>410</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



made by the MoI. An extensive analysis of selected spatial aspects of the public administration and improvement of the availability of their services has been developed, addressing the aspects listed in measure 17.1.c. These aspects are also part of the concept Client-oriented Public Administration 2020 (Klientsky orientovaná veřejná správa 2020). Actions should be implemented between 2021 and 2024 in the period of application of the first Concept Action Plan.<sup>411</sup>

**The specific objective is very limited due to the fact that the issue of population ageing affects the whole territory of the Czech Republic and it cannot be said that certain regions (e.g. rural areas) are facing more significant challenges. The implementation of the measures and recommendations is targeted throughout the Czech Republic and not only at regions/municipalities. There is a possibility of reassessing the setting of the objective. The depopulation of peripheral areas is still a major challenge, which is currently being addressed in a very limited manner.**

High-skilled employment opportunities shall be supported in SMEs exploiting local and regional potential.

Under specific objective 17.2 there is an aim to increase the number of high-skilled employment opportunities that exploit local and regional potential. The effective promotion of qualified jobs exploiting regional potential can also contribute to the previous objective, i.e. that the economically active population not leave the peripheral areas. Households' pensions are monitored for the purpose of evaluating this target, showing the average level of expenditure per capita in the region, as well as the amount of resources allocated at state level to support small and medium-sized entrepreneurship in the regions. The increase in households' pensions in the regions can then be linked to the correct adjustment of financial support.

For this specific objective, two indicators are monitored: indicator 17.2.1 Disposable household income per capita per region (ČDDD), and indicator 17.2.2 State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises outside the main agglomerations. As regards indicator 17.2.1, this is constantly growing in the Czech Republic. As part of interregional comparison, the capital of Prague is above the average ČDDD per capita. In 2010, the value for Prague was CZK 264 690. On the contrary, the lowest figure for 2018 is reported by the Ústí region (CZK 215 963). However, this is again an increase compared to 2010, when the value in this region was CZK 173 658.<sup>412</sup> Only the total figure for the Czech Republic in 2018 is available under indicator 17.2.2, where the total state aid to small and medium-sized enterprises in the Czech Republic was CZK 8 905 569 491.<sup>413</sup>

The Concept of Support for Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs 2014-2020<sup>414</sup> sets dates for 2020 for supporting R&D capacities. The Czech Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020<sup>415</sup> sets out

---

<sup>411</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>412</sup> Ind. 17.1.2.

<sup>413</sup> Ind. 17.2.2.

<sup>414</sup> MIT (2012) Concept of Support for Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs 2014-2020.

<sup>415</sup> MRD (2013) The Czech Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020.

deadlines for supporting the reduction of regional disparities and enabling the local potential to strengthen the competitiveness of the local authorities. The Europe 2020 strategy was then aimed at employing 75 % of people in the 20-64 age category by 2020.

The achievement of the objective can be affected, for example, at political level (promoting small and medium-sized entrepreneurship at state level, innovation procurement, possibly indirect support through education, deployment of modern infrastructure by regions and municipalities). Existing measures to support the achievement of the specific objective include, for example, grants (under the MIT and MoA) supporting SMEs, innovation or innovative start-ups. Favourable loans, guarantees, capital inputs and consulting are also provided and supported by investors bringing higher added value investments (e.g. science and research). At social level, the achievement of the objective can also significantly affect the activities of the population and the non-state sector.<sup>416</sup>

The MIT annually prepares a report on the development of the business environment in the Czech Republic. This monitors the implementation of the various measures contained in the SME Support Concept 2014-2020. These measures aim at improving the business environment, access to funding for SMEs, strengthening innovation activities for SMEs, access to foreign markets and others. The report shall address the basic economic indicators related to SMEs and shall also include information on their evolution over the past years. The report also summarises information on the implementation of SME support programmes of the individual ministries. From the point of view of the evaluation, it can be concluded that established measures are being implemented on an ongoing basis. This report has already been addressed in more detail in the chapter on objective 7.2. The total SME support amounted to around CZK 11 billion for the period 2014-2020. It included the implementation of 5 233 projects, which focused, for example, on the applicability of research outputs in the business sector, high-speed internet access networks, reduced energy consumption and others. The share of SMEs in the total number of enterprises was 99.83 % in 2018. The number of trade licenses as of 31 December 2018 was 3 743 413 valid trade licenses. This is an increase of 82 769 licenses compared to 2017.<sup>417</sup> The problem in achieving the objective is that investors are autonomous and public administration merely provides a framework for support, but does not itself ensure the arrival of investors. Despite the fact that the public administration focuses on the framework of support, promotion and efforts to link the business and investment environment, the objective is not being achieved.

Another problem is the decreasing proportion of the population with university education compared to the EU-27 (which, however, has increased annually in recent years). According to the Europe 2020

---

<sup>416</sup> Specific objectives card of the key area Municipalities and Regions (2018).

<sup>417</sup> MIT Report on the Development of the Business Environment in the Czech Republic in 2018 (2019).

strategy, the share was to be 40 % in 2020. Only Prague and the South East regions meet this target in 2020. The EU-27 average was 40.3 % in 2020.<sup>418</sup> However, according to GDP or ČDDD per person, we observe the trend of increasing wealth in the regions.

A SME Support Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2021-2027 and OP TAC is also being prepared. The MEYS provides a common platform for the business sector and the higher education sector. It is the Industry and University Forum. Increased cooperation between SMEs and universities is facilitated by the introduction of the so-called professional profile of study programmes. This requires a greater involvement of practitioners in the training itself. As part of the 2020 Long Term Plan for Universities<sup>419</sup>, universities are recommended to support innovative student activities in the form of incubators, start-ups and other tools.<sup>420 421</sup>

**As part of this objective, the partial implementation of activities for the effective convergence of the private and academic sectors takes place. In addition, subsidies supporting SMEs or innovation are also involved in the implementation. Another positive fact is that household income per capita is increasing annually.**

17.3 Different forms of housing are supported, in particular available rental housing for all segments of society

Under this specific objective, the aim is mainly to halt the number of people and/or households who do not have access to adequate housing, are at risk of loss of standard housing (or are without housing). The focus should be on how to effectively adjust the area of housing benefits, support the development of affordable housing and provide assistance to vulnerable groups in solving problems through social work tools.

In the context of the EU, the Czech Republic has a rather lower share of municipal apartments and seems to have a low number of newly emerging social apartments. The largest share of households living in rent out of the total number of households has long been in the capital city of Prague. On the contrary, the region of Vysočina has the lowest share. The median share of total housing expenditure in disposable household income has been steadily decreasing since 2013. In 2019, this figure was 16.3 %. Compared to 2013, this is a decrease of 3.8 percentage points. The share of rented housing in occupied apartments was the same in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (19 %). In the second half of the first decade of the century, the value was slightly above 20 %. In 2019, with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development and the State Housing Development Fund, a total of 262 social apartments were purchased. At present, it is 410 apartments in

---

<sup>418</sup> European Commission (2020) Eurostat regional yearbook 2020.

<sup>419</sup> MEYS (2020) Plan for the implementation of the long-term target for universities 2020.

<sup>420</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>421</sup> The OP RDE supported a number of calls aimed at creating appropriate conditions to establish and implement cooperation between research organisations and the application sector. The INTER-EXCELLENCE International Research and Development Cooperation Programme includes an INTER-EUREKA sub-programme, which allows industrial enterprises to cooperate with research organisations in international R&D.

2020 so far.<sup>422 423 424 425</sup>

The objective can be influenced, for example, by setting up legislation (Social/Accessible Housing Act) or by economic support instruments (promoting the construction/development of accessible housing). Social housing also covers two types of benefits: housing allowance and housing pay up. The fulfilment of social housing objectives is specified in the Social Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2015-2025 (Koncepce sociálního bydlení České republiky 2015–2025).<sup>426</sup> The title was changed in 2020 and the government was presented with the Concept of Available Housing 2020-2025 for discussion.<sup>427</sup> Both concepts aim at creating a social housing system that develops an accessible and adequate rental housing fund, brings together and streamlines benefit support and social work tools helping to address the challenges.

Quality of life 3.3 and 3.4 - Share of households with extreme economic burden from housing and in rental housing with extreme economic burden  
A positive trend has been observed in recent years in terms of the evolution of the share of households with extreme economic housing burdens and the share of households in rental housing with extreme economic housing burden. The values of both indicators have decreased slightly in recent years (2015 to 2019). The former decreased by 3 percentage points from 2015 to 2019, and the latter decreased by 5.8 percentage points.

In 2018, the government decided not to continue preparing a substantive plan for the Social Housing Act and replaced it since 2019 with the programme Construction under the Auspices of the MRD. The programme provides support through the State Investment Support Fund for social rental housing (the acquisition of social apartments, social houses and mixed houses) and accessible rental housing (acquisition of accessible apartments, accessible houses and mixed houses).<sup>428</sup>

Existing measures that meet this objective include, in particular, the MRD subsidy title Supported Apartments. The aim is to ensure social housing for people from the target group so that they have access to rented housing. The construction and provision of social housing can also be financed through the IROP and OP E. The aid to municipalities is capped by the *de minimis* scheme.

The availability of housing is also taken into account by spatial planning. According to Decree No 500/2006 Coll.<sup>429</sup>, spatial analytical materials must also assess the status and development of the area

---

<sup>422</sup> Ind. 17.3.1.

<sup>423</sup> Ind. 17.3.2, Quality of life indicator 3.2.

<sup>424</sup> Ind. 17.3.3.

<sup>425</sup> Ind. 17.3.4.

<sup>426</sup> MLSA (2015) Social Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2015-2025.

<sup>427</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>428</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>429</sup> Decree No. 500/2006 Coll., on spatial analytical materials, spatial planning documentation and the method of registration of spatial planning activities, as amended.

with regard to housing and civic facilities. However, a more extensive application of the methodology is foreseen only during the regular update of the supporting documents of the regions and municipalities. The state aid for accessible housing has already been discussed in more detail under specific objective 3.2. Only for summary, this support by the MRD and SFPI could not have had a significant impact on increasing the availability of housing in the Czech Republic and if it is to have any effect in the future, the financial expenditure to support affordable housing must be increased. From 2020 onwards, support is planned to be around 3 billion per year.<sup>430</sup>

As part of the recodification of public building law, the government approved a new Building Act, which deals with the simplification, acceleration and streamlining of building authorisation processes in all regulations relating to public building law in the Czech Republic. The new Construction Act no longer uses a two-step process of authorisation of buildings (land and construction) but combines it into one permit process.<sup>431</sup>

### **The achievement of the objective is significantly limited by the capped financial support for various forms of housing.**

The specific objective addresses the mapping of social exclusion aspects and the consequent avoidance of procedural inconsistency and enabling of the optimisation of financial and human capacities designed to address social exclusion. Emphasis is placed on the correct planning and implementation of selected measures to reduce the risk of widening the disparity between the different types of municipalities and regions.

A good message is that a decline of SO ORP territory with the presence of socially excluded sites can be observed. Their number decreased from 785 in 2016 to 441 in 2019.<sup>432</sup> The share of persons showing signs of social exclusion is also decreasing. For the entire Czech Republic, this was 1.40 % in 2016 and 0.70 % in 2019.<sup>433</sup> Unfortunately, a change in the perception of social support cannot be captured as it is measured every six years. Data are available for 2014, when the share of people with poorly perceived social support was 12.8 %.<sup>434</sup>

The Strategy against Social Exclusion<sup>435</sup> contributes to the specific objective and its Action Plan addresses the existence and prevention of socially excluded sites. The Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030<sup>436</sup> contains priority topics for social inclusion by 2020 and for drawing on the Czech public budgets, as well as the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds of the EU. The concept of preventing

17.4 Local integrated strategies reduce social disparity in the territory, strengthen non-conflict coexistence and improve quality of life for all

---

<sup>430</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>431</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>432</sup> Ind. 17.4.1.

<sup>433</sup> Ind. 17.4.2..

<sup>434</sup> Ind. 17.4.5..

<sup>435</sup> OG CZ (2016) Strategy against Social Exclusion 2016-2020.

<sup>436</sup> MLSA (2020) Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030.

and addressing homelessness in the Czech Republic by 2020<sup>437</sup> debates the area of poverty and formulates measures to maintain a certain limit on the number of people at risk of poverty, material deprivation, or the number of people living in households without employed persons.

The latest data indicate that as of 14 July 2020, the Social Inclusion Department (Agency) cooperated with a total of 108 municipalities under the Coordinated Approach to Socially Excluded Areas (KPSVL), 38 municipalities under remote support and 50 municipalities as part of the support of Local Action Plans. In total, this involves cooperation with 196 municipalities since KPSVL was launched, while the Agency is currently cooperating with 169 municipalities. The Agency helps to address the issue of poverty and social exclusion in a comprehensive manner for those municipalities with which they are engaged. Through cooperation with the Agency, municipalities have the possibility to draw from specific calls of European subsidies. This cooperation includes the establishment of a Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion of the Municipality (SPSZ). The status of the achievement of the objectives and actions of the SPSZ shall be monitored in the framework of follow-up evaluations. An example is the evaluation report for Ralsko, which mentions the current state of fulfilment: the fulfilment of most of the SPSZ specific objectives, the successful implementation of the crime prevention assistants project, a reduction in the crime index in recent years, but the failure to fully implement social services under the SPSZ (however, the increased capacity of social services is considered sufficient), the lack of a social prevention service or the persistent problem of drug use in youth.<sup>438</sup>

The Czech Regional Development Strategy 21+ together with the Rural Development Concept generally places emphasis on the use of integrated approaches.<sup>439 440</sup> The MRD supports the use of smart approaches throughout the whole territory of the Czech Republic, e.g. through the research project: Sustainable Rural Development using Smart Solutions (the main elements are social services or health solutions). The topic of support and awareness of smart approaches also addresses the methodology for preparing and implementing the Smart Cities concept at the level of cities, municipalities and regions.

LAG have the possibility to introduce innovative elements in relation to integrated territorial development planning in a separate chapter of the CLLD of the post-2021 strategies. The ITI and CLLD integrated territorial strategies for the period 2021-2027 will not only focus on implementing integrated actions through EU funds, but also through

---

<sup>437</sup> MLSA (2013) Concept for the prevention and resolution of homelessness in the Czech Republic by 2020.

<sup>438</sup> MRD Czech Republic (2020) Evaluation Report for Ralsko.

<sup>439</sup> MRD (2019) The Czech Regional Development Strategy 2021+. Available from: [https://www.dataplan.info/img\\_upload/7bdb1584e3b8a53d337518d988763f8d/srr21.pdf.pdf](https://www.dataplan.info/img_upload/7bdb1584e3b8a53d337518d988763f8d/srr21.pdf.pdf)

<sup>440</sup> MRD (2019) Koncepce rozvoje venkova - Rural Development Concept. Available from: [https://www.dataplan.info/img\\_upload/7bdb1584e3b8a53d337518d988763f8d/koncepce-rozvoje-venkova.pdf](https://www.dataplan.info/img_upload/7bdb1584e3b8a53d337518d988763f8d/koncepce-rozvoje-venkova.pdf)

other instruments (e.g. national and regional subsidy titles).<sup>441</sup>

**As part of fulfilling the objective it has been possible to reduce the number of socially excluded localities as well as the proportion of people showing signs of social exclusion. At a general level, there is an improvement of the values of the monitored indicators, which is nevertheless also influenced by the positive economic situation in 2016-2019. There is room for improvement at the level of individual measures and recommendations.**

---

<sup>441</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

## 18 The quality of the urban development of settlement units is ensured.

*The municipalities and cities of the Czech Republic should find a natural balance between the role of large cities, referred to as the growth poles, and the historically formed territory of a polycentric nature with a dispersed settlement structure. It is necessary to strengthen, for example, border cooperation for external peripheries and to ensure the availability of public services, including basic civic facilities for all age groups, to remote communities. Municipalities and cities must ensure the balanced development of their territory and guide the suburbanisation trend. This is mainly located around the metropolises, agglomerations and other major regional centres. It entails a large number of negative factors such as the build-up of the agricultural land fund (ZPF) and the open landscape, increased public infrastructure costs and increased forced mobility to areas outside the centre.*

**Although the legislation seeks to protect both the size and quality of the ZPF, soil degradation is steadily increasing (see objective 15) and loss and removal of soil from the ZPF is occurring for various purposes. Low buildings are preferred in cities, characterised by their non-compactness. The appropriate potential for construction and use of areas can thus be found in the regeneration of brownfields. There is a relatively large amount of financial support in this area, which is also widely used. Municipalities are trying to find ways to openly communicate with citizens and increase friendliness towards all age groups, but they take a very individual approach to this issue. There are a number of activities at national level that help to raise the issue of a friendly municipality and civic participation, but there is no complete assessment of the approach of all municipalities.**

18.1 The take-up of agricultural land in cities and in the open landscape is decreasing. Brownfields are being regenerated.

Soil is a depletable resource that performs a number of production and ecological functions. Reshaping the landscape undermines its original function, retention properties and reduces biodiversity. Although there has been no change since 2017 in the procedure neither for the calculation of the tax for removal from the ZPF nor the addition of exemptions from the payment of contributions referred to in Section 11a of Act No 334/1992 Coll.,<sup>442</sup> the ZPF area continues to decrease. The effects of the newly published Decree No. 271/2019 Coll., on the establishment of procedures to ensure the protection of agricultural land resources, which responds to the terminology and spatial planning procedures, have not yet become apparent.

Between 2015 and 2019, the total agricultural land area of the Czech Republic decreased by 9 813 ha to 4 202 112 ha.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
839947	841168	842937	843827	843458	842467
4215622	4211935	4208375	4205288	4203726	4202112

Area in hectares: built-up area and yards (top row)/Agricultural land (bottom)

The main reason for the loss of ZPF is predominantly residential, warehousing, commercial and transport infrastructure or mineral extraction. The built-up area now accounts for 1.6 % of the total territory of the Czech Republic, i.e. 842 467 ha. Since 2015, we have registered an increase in the built-up area of the territory by 1 299 ha.<sup>443</sup>

<sup>442</sup> Act No. 334/1992 Coll., on the Protection of Agricultural Land Resources, as amended.

<sup>443</sup> Ind. 18.1.1.



However, this figure is not sufficient. The Czech Republic should improve the monitoring of the development of the settlement structure and built-up areas, including communications (roads, walkways, cycle routes, in some cases tracks, etc.) for the effective monitoring and overview of the overall development of the territory.

The basic principle of regulating the construction of buildings within the framework of territorial development in the Czech Republic is determined by the Building Act. Conceptual materials such as the Czech Regional Development Policy and the Architecture and Culture Policy of the Czech Republic prefer construction within the existing built-up area. The definition of new areas for build-up should take into account the utilisation rate of the built-up area and the potential for its development.

Brownfields have some potential in terms of land use in cities and municipalities. The reutilisation of abandoned or underutilised real estate can help to reduce new construction in the open landscape. This issue is also addressed in the Czech Regional Development Strategy 21+, the Czech Republic's Innovation Strategy for 2019-2030 and, in particular, the National Brownfield Regeneration Strategy 2019-2024.

The MIT, through its Smart Parks for the Future programme, which delivers on the objectives of the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030, supports the reclamation of brownfields for the construction of new industrial parks or the expansion of existing ones. On the other hand, in peripheral areas with higher unemployment or social problems, or in the so-called economically and socially vulnerable territories (HSOÚs) according to the Czech SRD 21+, it should be possible to build new industrial zones on greenfields, which should be a step towards promoting small and medium-sized entrepreneurship. However, priority should be given to the reclamation of brownfields, including the elimination of the ecological burden, over the take-up of open landscape for construction. The MIT also announces the Regeneration and Business Use Programme aimed at HSOÚs and structurally affected regions.

CzechInvest manages its own database of business real estate, including long-term unused brownfields and, thanks to regional branches, advises in the regions. The national database of brownfields (NDB) records these properties/localities in order to provide an overview of the number of brownfields in the Czech territory, including their offer to potential investors and an overview of direct or indirect aid for their regeneration. At the end of March 2017, 489 sites were recorded in the public area in the NDB<sup>444</sup> and its continuous update is ongoing. The agency monitors the state of demand and supply of business real estate.

The Ministry of Regional Development financially supports the regeneration of brownfields. Since 2016 it has been announcing the

---

<sup>444</sup> The Investment and Business Development Agency CzechInvest (2017) *Statistics*. Available from: <http://www.brownfielddy.eu/statistiky/>

Demolition of Buildings in Socially Excluded Localities programme, helping to revitalise land in municipalities with a link to the existence of a socially excluded site. This programme supported almost all requests received in 2019. In addition, since 2019 it has launched calls to support the regeneration of brownfields for non-business use. Out of this subsidy programme, a total of 103 projects were implemented worth CZK 1.1 bil. in 2019 and 2020.

**In the Czech Republic, there is a general problem of building up areas in the centre of cities, low buildings, non-compactness. All these aspects aid gradual suburbanisation, which is at the expense of the ZPF or the open landscape. There is a lack of legislative regulation in this regard. The State has made efforts to financially support the revitalisation of territory in which there is a high interest. On the other hand, not all projects comply with the conditions of the call.**

18.2 Cities are friendly to all age and user groups.

The creation of sustainable cities that are open and friendly to all age groups is an important task. Municipalities should adapt the local environment (parking sites, indoor spaces, monuments, offices, etc.), public spaces and services to ensure and make them accessible to everyone. Actively communicate with their population to identify their needs. Seek to integrate vulnerable groups, remove current barriers, e.g. for people with disabilities, ensure safety, health and well-being. Demographic developments in the future will lead to an increasing number of people over the age of 65. In addition, the number of socially risky and incomplete households, single mothers and elderly living alone will increase.

Municipalities can adapt the public space to people with disabilities or elderly people by building barrier-free environments and by strengthening low-floor transport. A positive trend is seen, for example, in the sub-programme of the MRD Apartment Buildings without Barriers, which records 157 approved applications with a support of CZK 214 mil. in 2019<sup>445</sup> and also in increasing the share of public transport low-floor vehicles in cities by almost 10% since 2015, to 5 380.<sup>446</sup>

The topic of disability, which may prevent certain people from engaging in social, cultural or economic activities, is addressed in the National Plan for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities. According to ČSÚ statistics, up to 13 % of the population aged 15 is disabled.<sup>447</sup> It is therefore necessary to implement measures to integrate people with a disability into normal life and society, to set up a functioning system of education, social services and a barrier-free environment.<sup>448</sup> Other national documents discussing population ageing and integration are

---

<sup>445</sup> Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/getmedia/6a023d47-2c0b-41a8-bb7a-b6270002d234/Bytove-domy-bez-barier-2020-schvalene-zadosti.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf>.

<sup>446</sup> Ind. 18.2.3.

<sup>447</sup> ČSÚ Sample survey of people with disabilities 2018. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/vyberove-setreni-osob-se-zdravotnim-postizenim-2018>

<sup>448</sup> The National Equal Opportunities Support Plan 2015-2020 (2015). Available from: [https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/vzpo/dokumenty/Narodni-plan-OZP-2015-2020\\_2.pdf](https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/vzpo/dokumenty/Narodni-plan-OZP-2015-2020_2.pdf)

addressed in the Strategic Framework of Preparation for an Ageing Society 2020-2025 and the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030, which the MoH also participates in.<sup>449</sup>

The first of the above-mentioned strategies, namely the Strategy for the Preparation for an Ageing Society 2019-2030, addresses awareness-raising and the promotion of an ageing of society in the media, fair pensions, more accessible and better social and health services, etc. Activities such as awareness-raising and media campaigns to prepare for an ageing society in cooperation with other actors (non-profit organisations, the business sector, libraries, etc.) and the implementation of a continuous campaign aimed at encouraging active elderly people who may go to work or their employers are being developed here..<sup>450</sup>

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs manages the subsidy title Obec přátelská rodině a seniorům (Family and Elderly-friendly Municipality). This is a non-investment programme to support municipalities and cities/districts in two subsidy areas, namely I. Family-friendly Municipality and II. Elderly-friendly Municipality. There are five subsidy area size categories by population. Each of the subsidy areas of the categories is allocated CZK 6 mil. In 2020, a record 82 applications were submitted for the Family and Elderly-friendly Municipality, a total of 19 municipalities were finally supported and an increased amount of CZK 15.6 million was paid out. The aim is to support measures and activities aimed at family and elderly people in order to improve the environment in which they live. Furthermore, to raise awareness and educate on the status of elderly people in society and their needs based on the principle of equality and the reduction of discrimination against them. In the framework of the international day of the elderly (1. 10.) an awareness-raising conference is organised to discuss and address socio-economic status, quality of life and human rights of elderly people in the Czech Republic.<sup>451</sup>

For the quality of life in cities, it is important to ensure public administration services and the cordiality of public administration. The Ministry of the Interior therefore announces a contest for the Friendly Office. This contest has a very high level of participation, 146 municipalities (ORP) came forward in the fourth year (2019), but this is a decrease of more than 40 municipalities compared to 2016.<sup>452</sup> The offices are monitored for their barrier-free access, services for blind and deaf persons, equipment for families with children or services for persons with disabilities. Examples of good practice also regularly include the elderly taxi service, which increases the mobility of elderly people and the accessibility of public administration services to this group of citizens. In general, the focus is on increasing client services and client access. By incorporating these topics into the criteria, the

---

<sup>449</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>450</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>451</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>452</sup> Available from: <https://www.mvcr.cz/>.

representatives of municipalities with extended powers find this issue linked with the standard of quality of services, which is de facto a summary of the criteria of the Friendly Office contest. This promotes the aforementioned topics and examples of good practice associated with them.<sup>453</sup>

The MoI supports access to public service information and services for persons with disabilities. A methodology is developed for this area using which public officials create simplified and legible information in Easy to Read (ETR) format for persons with disabilities or those who are weak in reading and the perception of complex information. In cooperation with selected non-profit organisations and experts in the preparation of ETR materials, the MoI produced simple texts on living situations that need to be dealt with repeatedly in the life of a citizen, such as participation in elections, the application for an identity card and travel document, etc..<sup>454</sup>

The MoI action plan for the next period includes pilot training of municipal officials and the development of a methodology for the central government and local authorities aimed at communicating with disabled persons. The MoI will continue to focus on specific recommendations for a successful resolution of the most common living situations in which citizens come into contact with public administrations, such as the birth of a child. The descriptions of these official procedures will be prepared in the ETR form and in the format of a manual allowing independent contact with the office for those who are weak in the perception of complex official texts.<sup>455</sup>

In terms of the factual focus in relation to specific objective '18.2 Cities are friendly to all age and user groups', the potential of voluntary unions of municipalities is not fully exploited.

The Ministry of Interior supports the development of community partnerships through inter-municipal cooperation. It seeks to create systematic rules that would apply to the functioning of voluntary unions of municipalities (DSOs) involved in inter-municipal cooperation. For this reason, it carried out an investigation last year among the DSOs, which showed good practice and recommended methodological steps to guide the functioning of DSOs.<sup>456</sup>

**There are a large number of successful activities at national level to support municipalities in the care of their citizens, in particular vulnerable groups. The situation is similar in the case of municipalities and organisations. However, each city approaches this task differently. The objective is successfully pursued in relation to the state's awareness of the territory. However, the overall assessment of the different municipalities is not available.**

The specific objective aims to map out how and to what extent the public is involved in strategic and spatial planning and how

---

<sup>453</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>454</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>455</sup> Ibid.

<sup>456</sup> Ibid.

18.3. Municipalities commonly plan development with the public.

municipalities cooperate with the public in general. Strategic planning is a process that creates consensus and a common vision for a better future in society, a reflection process that plans for the future and manages activities in the long term. The development process of the strategic and territorial plan includes, for example, socio-economic territorial analysis, social surveys of the territory, followed by the actual development of the strategic plan, as well as an action plan. It is appropriate to involve the general public in the process, thus allowing it to participate in spatial planning. Strategic decisions should be based on quality data and consensus among the general public. Civic participation, not only in the development of strategic documents, but also in other decision-making processes, is an important element of responsible strategic planning and development management.

The results of the Strategic Work Planning project (co-financed by the OP E) show, inter alia, long-term weaknesses in public involvement in the production, implementation and monitoring of strategy papers. Therefore, the development of civic participation is also one of the recommendations that the project has provided for the future.<sup>457</sup>

The achievement of the objective can also be measured through the extent to which municipalities, for example, implement the Local Agenda 21, or innovative tools such as participatory budgeting can be monitored, which gives citizens the opportunity to decide how public funding is spent.

The number of Local Agenda 21 implementers fluctuates<sup>458</sup> (see the evaluation of objective 20.3). On the other hand, the number of municipalities carrying out participatory budgeting increases on an annual basis. In 2014, it was one municipality, in 2019 the number increased to several dozens of municipalities. However, the size of the participatory budget relative to the total expenditure of the municipality in the previous year represents less than 0,5 % in the vast majority of cases,<sup>459</sup> and in its current form participatory budgeting cannot replace the share of the public's participation in the preparation of territorial plans

---

<sup>457</sup> MRD (2020) *Strategic Work Planning*. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/microsites/portal-strategicke-prace-v-ceske-republice/strategicke-projekty/mapovani>.

<sup>458</sup> Ind. 18.3.1.

<sup>459</sup> Ind. 18.3.3.

Methodological support for participatory development planning is provided by the MRD through the application of the ObcePRO, which allows small municipalities to form their own development plan. Participation is also supported under the CLLD tool. The new community-led local development strategies for the period 2021-2027 must describe how the community is included in the strategy creation process. The Ministry of the Interior is involved in promoting civic participation across different public authorities, with a particular focus on the authorities of municipalities with extended powers. The Ministry of Interior also regularly updates and publishes examples of good practice such as the participatory preparation of strategies (e.g. Brno 2050), participatory budgeting (e.g. Zlín, Most) or ideathons (e.g. Prague 13).<sup>460</sup> These activities are carried out with the support of the European Structural Funds under OP E projects. The Prague 13 project has developed a<sup>461</sup> methodology which could also be used by other authorities that would be interested in creating ideathons in strengthening strategic governance. In the context of a competition, the Ministry monitors whether municipalities with extended powers are introducing participatory budgeting and whether they organise regular meetings with citizens at which they discuss the development of the city.

Quality of life 9.14b - The urgency of environmental solutions  
Civic participation can also be supported by subjective perceptions of the urgency of the situation. Citizens' perception of the urgency of environmental solutions has been monitored since 2003 and has been evaluated since 2015 for the purpose of this report, and the proportion of citizens who consider environmental solutions to be very urgent increased between 2015 and 2020 (an increase of 15 percentage points in 2020 compared to 2015). On the contrary, the share of citizens who do not consider environmental solutions to be urgent at all compared to 2015 decreased by 12 percentage points.

The Ministry of Regional Development systematically aims to raise public awareness of participatory methods in the development of strategies, concepts and plans in general. A Smart Governance (TAČR) methodology is available online, which presents an overview of human resources management methods, strategic planning options, participatory methods and the provision of services in public administration in a simple manner.<sup>462</sup>

Participation was also integrated into the STRATeduka course implemented by the MRD.<sup>463</sup> The updated methodology for preparing public strategies (2019) also focuses on participation. One of the recommended methodology practices is a more pronounced participation in the development and implementation of regional

---

<sup>460</sup> <http://www.kvalitavs.cz/>

<sup>461</sup> <https://www.praha13.cz/vyuziti-inovacnich-reseni-pro-posileni-strategickeho-rizeni-Prahy-13.html>.

<sup>462</sup> MRD (2020) Smart Governance Methodology, Available from: <https://mmr.cz/getmedia/39d9e7ec-449d-4efd-bb5a-ad4c7c4d1c05/Publikace-smart-governance-FIN-web.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf>.

<sup>463</sup> created as part of a project co-financed by the OP E.

strategy papers.<sup>464</sup> Furthermore, a relevant tool is available in the Strategy Database.

**In general, it is very difficult to assess how municipalities in the Czech Republic are managing the creation of strategic documents and public involvement in these processes. No aggregate data mapping the situation in all 6 254 municipalities of the Czech Republic is available at this time. However, there are a number of supporting methodological materials and awareness-raising activities at national level to promote participatory methods. There is still significant room for improving the management of self-governing units, e.g. in the formulation of conceptual materials together with the public or via participatory budgeting.**

---

<sup>464</sup> MRD (2020) Methodology for preparing public strategies. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/microsites/portal-strategicke-prace-v-ceske-republice/nastroje-a-metodicka-podpora/vystupy-projektu>.

## 19 Cities and municipalities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and adapted to the negative effects of climate change.

*Climate change can bring about a number of adverse effects on society and nature. Where climate change cannot be avoided in terms of reduction or slowdown (mitigation), adaptation processes are in place. Adaptation measures at local level are not only intended to prepare cities and municipalities for climate change impacts, but also to prevent these impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, using alternative energy sources, promoting sustainable mobility, etc. Adaptation to climate change at local level requires both political and administrative synergies. Both local political elites and public authorities have a role to play in it, at the level of spatial planning, environmental protection or municipal financing. The adaptation strategies of cities and municipalities are integrated into broader strategy papers. In these documents, cities respond to climate change through specific measures (flood measures, drinking water management, urban temperature reduction, etc.). However, there are not yet many municipalities that have developed their separate adaptation strategies.*

***Climate change and environmental protection are challenges with growing importance from year to year. Municipalities have the potential to adapt with the support of subsidy titles, prepared strategies and methodological and expert assistance on climate change, and contribute to the local reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in many different forms. Overall, it can be concluded that partial progress has been made at local level, but instead of being linear, it fluctuates both in place and time. The local level solution complex covers a wide range of measures, the effectiveness of which is uneven due to uneven implementation: e.g. the increase of green spaces in cities depends to a large extent on the actions of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, which will be completed only in the long term; at present it is addressed in relevant detail by spatial, e.g. regulatory plans. A positive step is the attempt to eliminate emission forms of transport, but only strategic support is currently ensured, the infrastructure needed is not sufficient. Similarly, the share of buildings adapted to climate fluctuations has not increased, although the number of new buildings in energy class B has risen, but only the new legislation will enforce the obligation to build the maximum number of new buildings in class A. In the complex of adaptation measures at local level, the process of managing municipal waste, the treatment of which can be a major source of greenhouse gases, plays an important role. In general, it can be concluded that only sorting and recycling is insufficient, the aim is for municipal waste to be generated in a minimum quantity – there is still significant room for improvement in the municipalities. In the area of the elimination of thermal islands it is not yet possible to relevantly evaluate the procedure due to a lack of data. The strategic objective as such is thus being gradually pursued, but there is still a long way to go before it is actually achieved.***



The specific objective aims at the capacity of municipalities to prevent and manage the effects of climate change. Increased emphasis is placed on larger cities and on the administrative units at micro-regional level, i.e. those with extended powers. The evaluation of the achievement of this objective is primarily at the level of assumptions and preparedness to respond to climate change. The problem in meeting the specific objective is the pressure to resolve the problem and coordinate public administration at the level of the ORP, but the responsibility of a type III municipality for the managed territory is insufficiently legally formulated.

It is desirable for this objective to increase the share of type III municipalities with an integrated and/or development strategy that addresses climate change issues. The aim is to observe the increasing number of SO ORPs that meet this specific objective using their own spatial and strategic planning documents. The municipalities then reflect in their strategy papers the future impacts of climate change and prepare adequate adaptation and mitigation measures.

At national level, this specific objective is developed in the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.<sup>465</sup> In particular, measures in this area should focus on implementing responsible management tools to reduce the ecological footprint of settlements resulting from growing demands for built-up areas, transport, food, water, heating, and services.

Local manifestations of climate change require appropriate coordination in the territory. The national level provides methodological and financial support, the regions and the SO ORPs provide coordination support. Different tools can be used to achieve this specific objective. These are, for example, policy-level tools (the transfer of state competence to urban planning offices in municipalities with extended powers). Another level is the environmental level guided along the line of nature and landscape protection bodies and non-state organisations. The last level is the economic level, which involves the provision of sufficient resources.

The share of integrated strategies of type III municipalities on climate change in the total number of local strategies applicable to SO ORPs is currently unknown. The forecast for 2017 indicates that around 10 % of the type III municipalities actively prevent and adapt to the impacts of climate change.<sup>466</sup> However, the approach to planning is very incomplete. For example, these strategies do not address the whole territory of the SO ORP or deal only with certain topics related to climate change. From the point of view of spatial planning, the level III municipalities are to receive a subsidy from the IROP for the acquisition of a spatial land study of the whole SO ORP. Spatial landscape studies contribute to climate change adaptation and partly also to the specific objective. However, this subsidy will no longer be available under the 2021-2027 IROP as it should be supported under

---

<sup>465</sup> MoE (2017) National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

<sup>466</sup> Specific objectives card of the key area Municipalities and Regions (2018).

the OP ENV. Nonetheless, the MRD provides and will provide methodological support for spatial landscape studies.<sup>467</sup> However, the practical implementation of the measures proposed in the spatial landscape study will normally depend on other actors (individual municipalities, operators, the State Land Office – land adjustments).

An amendment to the Water Act is currently being prepared to bring about changes in the promotion of the accumulation and use of precipitation water from constructions and eliminate legal uncertainty in the use of both precipitation and waste water for land irrigation. In the case of approval, the amendment will be effective from 2022.<sup>468 469</sup>

The revitalisation of public spaces will be supported as part of the preparation of the new programming period, with a focus on the implementation of green infrastructure and related measures for its development and for improving the quality of public spaces, as well as the revitalisation of unused areas where public spaces and green infrastructure will be built.<sup>470</sup>

Quality of life 9.10 and 9.11 – Life satisfaction at the place of residence and in the Czech Republic  
Environmental satisfaction at both the place of residence and in the Czech Republic decreased between 2015 and 2019 for citizens. The proportion of people who are very satisfied or quite satisfied is mostly decreasing and the proportion of people who are dissatisfied or quite dissatisfied is increasing slightly. However, for both indicators, the proportion of people who are quite satisfied with the environment is still predominant.

It is not yet possible to use the Strategy Database information system to evaluate the target. A simple evaluation of existing descriptors in relation to climate change is currently being developed within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals Mechanism (SDG) project.<sup>471</sup>

**The objective is pursued and coordinated at the national level. However, the challenge in meeting the specific objective is the pressure to resolve the problem and to coordinate the public administration at the level of the ORPs. The objective is partly met by the acquisition of spatial landscape studies or by effectively targeted subsidy titles for the next programming period. However, implementation depends on activities at lower levels of administration than national.**

The thermal island of the city are the zones of the urban area according to their susceptibility to overheating. This is an area which deviates by more than 2°C from the surrounding areas. The 2017 data for Prague, Brno, Ostrava and Pilsen are available. Out of the four cities monitored, Ostrava had the highest percentage of areas susceptible to overheating in 2017 with 15 %. Pilsen ranked second

---

<sup>467</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>468</sup> Ministry of Agriculture Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>469</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>470</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>471</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

19.2 The number and intensity of urban thermal islands is decreasing.

(11 %), followed by Prague (6 %) and the value for Brno was 2 %.<sup>472</sup>

The specific objective aims at reducing the number and size of the thermal islands. Today, their number and intensity in the world is growing in the context of climate change. Urbanised areas are heated during hot days, the build-up area reduces air ventilation, a high proportion of the build-up area combined with impermeable surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt) and a small proportion of vegetation causes the rapid run-off of precipitation, scarcity of water for evaporation and low humidity. Emissions from automotive transport, industry and waste heat also contribute to this process. This has a negative impact on the quality of life and endangers the health of people with reduced thermal control capability. There are a number of tools for reducing the amount and intensity of thermal islands. For example, the energy intensity of buildings and transport can be reduced, better water management can be promoted, or the share of greenery in the city increased.

Although it is desirable to reduce the number and intensity of thermal islands, uniform data are not yet available to monitor urban environment and climate throughout the Czech Republic. *Ad hoc* research is available, working with different types of thermal data and temperature regimes related to the urban environment structure, e.g. university sites. The perceived temperature map of Olomouc and Pilsen, produced by scientists at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Palacký University Olomouc in cooperation with the Olomouc Town Council, can serve as an example.

The Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic<sup>473</sup> and its implementation document National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan<sup>474</sup> addresses this issue and establishes the monitoring, for example, of hydrometeorological extremities. In 2017, an assessment of the state of vulnerability and adaptation of the Czech Republic was carried out in the base year 2014 and subsequently reporting in 2019 pursuant to Article 15 of the EP and Council Regulation No. 525/2013 – Report on National Adaptation Measures. In 2019, there was also an evaluation of the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, an assessment of the state of vulnerability and adaptation of the Czech Republic in the initial year 2014. The Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan are being updated in 2020. An evaluation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan was also developed in 2020.

The state administration can influence the number, extent and intensity of thermal islands in the long term, through legislation, methodology, subsidy programmes or awareness-raising.

---

<sup>472</sup> Ind. 19.2.1.

<sup>473</sup> MoE (2015) Strategy for adaptation to climate change in the Czech Republic.

<sup>474</sup> MoE (2017) National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan contains a wide range of actions related to this specific objective. This includes, for example, the establishment of urban requirements for protection against urban thermal islands and the design of a procedure to take them into account in the context of spatial planning. However, the MRD currently does not have the staffing capacity to perform this task. Furthermore, the focus should be on promoting appropriate adaptations of the historical centres of cities and municipalities in a way that respects landmark care and takes into account climate change. Nor can it be neglected to ensure an optimal microclimate of the internal environments of healthcare facility buildings during the occurrence of extremely high temperatures. Other measures focus on green infrastructure. This includes, for example, the definition and protection of a system of settlement greenery or the processing of a methodological guideline to define green infrastructure. Furthermore, it entails financial and methodological support measures for the system of settlement greenery.

Quality of life 9.7 – Tropical days  
The average number of tropical days per year in the Czech territory says how many days the maximum air temperature was higher than or equal to 30 °C. Those days affect the intensity of thermal islands and, in the context of climate change, it is possible that their number and intensity will increase in subsequent years. However, the values vary considerably per year and we cannot estimate a trend from the time series. For example, in 2015, the territory of the Czech Republic had, on average, 25.7 tropical days, and the following year it was 7.2 days.

For example, the problem in meeting this objective is caused by an increase in build-up areas and paved surfaces. In the legislative area, the lack of regulation of responsibility for the management of rainwater is a problem. Increasing emphasis on the proper management of rainwater is part of the so-called "dry amendment" to the Water Act (Sections 5 and 5a) pending approval. Other problems are the low quality of urban greenery and the lack of legislation on the possibility of managing rainwater from transport areas. Green roofs and green façades need to be implemented through building owners, and their implementation in cities may also face displeasure from landmark care.

The main recommendations for achieving this specific objective are economic support for the adaptation of buildings to climate change, increasing the scale and quality of urban greenery, improving the management of rainwater and/or taking into account climate change in urban planning, and seeking to mitigate its impacts in urbanised areas.

Adaptation measures to climate change are mainly supported in the Operational Programme Environment. Energy-saving measures for public buildings are supported by measures to improve the quality of the indoor environment, in particular the installation of shading technology and forced ventilation. Furthermore, the replacement of impermeable paved surfaces with permeable, accumulation underground tanks for the capture and reuse of rainwater, the

construction of roofs with accumulation capacity (energy, retention), rain gardens (a combination of blue and green infrastructure) or surface infiltration and retention devices supplemented by the greenery (contour furrow, infiltration tank) shall be encouraged. Under the National Programme Environment, support for rainwater management systems for residential buildings has been provided since 2017. Since then, around 4.2 thous. projects have been supported with a total aid of 165 million koruna.<sup>475</sup>

Municipalities hold the key to achieving this specific objective through planting greenery, the implementation of water areas, the promotion of rainwater retention, etc. At central level, these measures can be supported by methodological activities, promoting examples of good practice and providing subsidy titles. In 2019, the MoE carried out a study on rainwater management in urbanised areas. This study was the first strategic document for the management of rainwater that the government discussed and acknowledged in October 2019. Some of the proposed changes are being gradually implemented.<sup>476</sup> The main objective of the study was to create a framework to improve the water regime of urbanised areas with a view to adapting them to climate change and improving the quality of life in them. In particular, the study's sub-objectives were to set strategic water management objectives in urbanised areas in the field of rainwater management, map the current situation in the Czech Republic, identify deficits in the current conditions and propose amendments to address them in order to achieve all of the six strategic objectives.

In research, attention shall be paid to the delimitation of green infrastructure in spatial planning documentation, in particular in the territorial plan, as a tool for strengthening ecosystem services in the territory. The results will be available in 2021.<sup>477</sup>

**There are many activities at national level concerning the elimination of heat stress in cities. The issue is, inter alia, fully addressed in the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. However, it is rather complicated to collectively evaluate and analyse developments in, for example, all larger cities. In addition, some measures from the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan will be fulfilled in the medium term. In general, the elimination of urban thermal islands is largely in the hands of cities, it should be taken into account namely in the preparation of spatial planning documentation. Here architectural requirements should be clearly defined, including sufficient green areas – horizontal (roofs, parks) and vertical (vertical gardens) without requirements for artificial irrigation, and water areas to prevent the formation of thermal islands. Sub-activities are ad hoc projects that use modern research technologies and can be an important analytical basis for the city's management to start addressing the situation.**

---

<sup>475</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>476</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>477</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

All newly completed buildings shall be classified in energy class A. Existing buildings shall be gradually renovated to at least energy class level C

Under specific objective 19.3 at least half of the new buildings built after 2020 are expected to belong to energy class A, and 100 % of buildings after 2025. This measure helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also provides a prerequisite for the use of elements adapted to manifestations of climate change. For existing buildings, the renovation rate to energy class C or better is to be at least 1 % per year of the total number of buildings after 2020 and at least 2.5 % after 2025. The planned new buildings that require building permits must already be in the so-called nearly zero-consumption standard. However, the standard is set in the Czech Republic with little ambition and only some of these buildings will actually be built in energy class A. The European Commission proposes in its recommendations for the Czech Republic a severe tightening of the standard, which can be expected from 2025 onwards.

The share of completed buildings in Class A in the total number of completed buildings increased only marginally between 2010 and 2018. In 2010, the share of residential buildings in energy class A in the number of buildings completed was 4.0 %, and the share of non-residential buildings was 1.3 %. In 2018, these figures amounted to 6.1 % (residential buildings) and 2.4 % (non-residential buildings). Although the proportion of completed buildings in Class A is not increasing at a significant pace, we observe a significant increase in the number of completed energy class B buildings, while the number of completed energy class C buildings is decreasing.<sup>478</sup>

Existing measures to achieve this specific objective are normative in nature (e.g. measures setting energy performance requirements for buildings) or economic (financial support from the OP ENV, IROP, OP Prague – growth pole, OP EIC or Nová zelená úsporám).

From the legislation in force, this objective is affected by Act No. 406/2006 Coll., on Energy Management and Decree No. 264/2020 Coll., on the energy performance of buildings. As regards strategic documents, this issue is discussed, for example, in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, the Building Reconstruction Plan within the scope of Article 5 of Directive 2012/27EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan or the Programme Documents of Operational and National Programmes. However, there is a lack of a long-term renovation strategy for buildings.

The MIT has prepared a new energy intensity decree, which entered into force on 1. 9. 2020. As of 1. 1. 2022 it tightens the requirements for NZEB due to the fact that the current setting allows for buildings that do not fulfil the essence and meaning of NZEBs. This tightening also leads to an approximation to the primary energy values for these building types in terms of consumption as set out in EC Recommendation 1316/2018 on guidelines for NZEB and best

---

<sup>478</sup> Ind.19.3.1.

practices to ensure that by 2020 all new buildings are NZEB.<sup>479</sup>

The MIT promotes the extension of financial instruments to the support energy-saving renovation of buildings, including in the form of guarantees, in the negotiation of the setting of support under the new programming period. The MIT also implements pilot projects of EPC in the state sector in cooperation with selected central institutions.<sup>480</sup> The MIT also supports the adaptation of buildings to the manifestations of climate change, as part of the complexity of the projects.<sup>481</sup>

Although there are a number of measures to support this specific objective, it is clear that they are insufficient or insufficiently ambitious to meet the indicators. The main barriers include the lack of progression of the requirement for new buildings, financial barriers, but also non-financial barriers (administrative intensity, lack of publicity, lack of knowledge of concrete measures and their benefits on the part of building investors...).

Furthermore, the energy efficiency decree for buildings<sup>482</sup> was amended and the introduction of a second step for nearly zero-consumption buildings was recommended in line with the EC recommendations for buildings for which building permits will be requested after 1. 1. 2022. In this regard, it will be necessary to prepare financial instruments complementary to the subsidy support for the energy-efficient renovation of buildings and, last but not least, to more intensively include support of the elements of the active adaptation of buildings to climate change manifestations in support instruments.

**The measures and recommendations in question are partially being fulfilled, but the objective of implementing a certain proportion of energy class A buildings is far from being met.**

The specific objective focuses on increasing the share of public greenery in urban agglomerations, i.e. nature-friendly green areas such as forests, meadows, wetlands and pastures. In an urbanised environment, these are parks, avenues or gardens. Greenery in the city helps with rainwater management, reduces surface run-off and improves the adaptation of the city to torrential rain. It also has a positive impact on the health of the population and the quality of life in the city. Thus, the potential for improving quality of life lies in the implementation of green roofs and façades, garden colonies, grassy tramway belts or partially paved parking areas with greenery.

Municipalities have extensive competences in this area. However, the state administration can significantly influence the scope of public greenery in urban agglomerations in the long term, both by means of legislation and methodologies, awareness-raising or economic

19.4 The share of public greenery in urban agglomerations is increasing

---

<sup>479</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>480</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>481</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>482</sup> See Decree No. 264/2020 Coll.

instruments such as subsidies.

The share of green space in cities is known only as of 2017 for all regional capitals. In 2017, Karlovy Vary (87 %) had the largest share of greenery, followed by Liberec and Zlín, which share second and third place with 81.2 %. In contrary, České Budějovice had the lowest share (61.7).<sup>483</sup>

The National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan<sup>484</sup> aims at regulating the density of the build-up area of settlements at the expense of free and green areas in the determination of areas for build-up and the planning of settlement greenery and water areas in relation to density and population. To this end, it is necessary to define and protect systems of settlement greenery, to develop a methodological guideline to delimitate settlement greenery, and to encourage the acquisition of documentation for the registration and categorisation of the areas and elements of settlement greenery and care for it. Another document developing measures to achieve this specific objective is the Czech State Environmental Policy 2012-2020.<sup>485</sup> It aims to create conditions for the maintenance and demarcation of new green areas and elements, increasing the biological value of settlement greenery, promoting nature-friendly practices and methods for revitalising and creating green areas, as well as supporting structural-architectural solutions for buildings appropriately reducing the requirements of the built-up area. In the field of methodological support, the topic of greenery is addressed by the publication Principles and Rules of Spatial Planning.<sup>486</sup>

Subsidies related to public spaces are declared under the sub-programme Promoting Rural Reconstruction and Development. This includes, for example, the support of winners of the Village of the Year competition, the revitalisation of public areas in the built-up territory of the municipality, or the promotion of the construction and restoration of active and passive rest places.

Obstacles in this area include, for example, the financial capacity of individual municipalities, limits for greenery planting in existing public areas, such as the insufficient width of the street, the degradation of hygiene parameters in surrounding buildings, potential conflict with the interests of landmark protection and, where appropriate, public resistance. Other barriers are, for example, the insufficient quality of greenery maintenance and climate change and associated drought episodes.

The share of public greenery in agglomerations is also linked to the issue of the concentration of existing settlements and of ensuring and improving the quality of greenery, a healthy environment and housing quality. This measure is feasible at the level of the territorial or even

---

<sup>483</sup> Ind. 19..4.1.

<sup>484</sup> MoE (2017) National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

<sup>485</sup> MoE (2016) State Environmental Policy.

<sup>486</sup> The Institute for Spatial Development (2019) Principles and Rules of Spatial Planning. Available from: <http://www.uur.cz/default.asp?ID=2571>.



regulatory plan and/or a territorial study of the public area, which are documents procured by municipalities. In the past, the MRD prepared a methodology for the regulatory plan and the territorial study of the public area. It has also issued informational material for municipalities that explains the nature and benefits of the regulatory plan.<sup>487</sup> The applicable legislation in spatial decision-making and building regulations is set up to implement the relative measure in Section 20 of Decree No. 501/2006 Coll., on general requirements for land use, as amended, where requirements for land delimitation, establishment of conditions for its use and the location of buildings on it are set in such a way that the quality of the environment and the value of the area are not compromised.<sup>488</sup>

**The achievement of the target is dependent on the implementation of the measures of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. However, the measures will only be implemented in the long term. Territory is addressed in corresponding detail in the spatial plan (or the regulatory plan).**

19.5 The length of cycle routes and communications suitable for cyclists is increasing significantly

Specific objective 19.5 focuses on the construction of new cycling infrastructure. It therefore develops non-motorised transport involving cycling and pedestrian transport. The great potential for the development of cycling and pedestrian transport is linked to distance to work. Half of the population has a working distance of less than 5 kilometres. This potential needs to be linked to the will to develop infrastructure for pedestrian and cycling transport. This infrastructure must also be pleasant and safe for users. The development of cycling and pedestrian transport results in reducing transport emissions and further improving the health of the population.

The National Strategy for the Development of Cycling Transport of the Czech Republic for the Years 2013 to 2020<sup>489</sup> sets strategic objectives at a national level. The specific objectives are then aimed at ensuring the financing of cycling infrastructure, safety or the implementation of the Cycling Academy project or the national project Česko jede (The Czech Republic Rides). The Cycling Academy project provides methodological support for the development of cycling transport in cities and agglomerations. The Česko jede project promotes the construction, marking and maintenance of long-distance cycle routes (European EuroVelo routes, national and regional routes) and supports their integration into the concept of spatial development. It also includes marketing support for cycle tourism. Strategic objectives at local level include, for example, increasing the number of cyclists, creating conditions for mobility and optimising the cycle trails and cycle routes network, or removing obstacles to the development of cycling transport. Furthermore, ensuring safety and barrier-free access,

---

<sup>487</sup> MRD (2020) Regulatory Plan issued by the municipality – questions and answers. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/stavebni-pravo/stanoviska-a-metodiky/stanoviska-odboru-uzemniho-planovani-mmr/2-uzemne-planovaci-dokumentace-a-jejich-zmeny/regulacni-plan-vydavany-obci-%E2%80%93-otazky-a-odpovedi>

<sup>488</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>489</sup> MoT (2013) National strategy for the development of cycling transport in the Czech Republic for the years 2013 to 2020.

improving the conditions for parking and storing bicycles, or promoting cycling more efficiently by means of the positive marketing of bicycles.

In 2018, there were 3 240 km of cycle and protected communications for cyclists in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, there were about 39 thousand km of cycle routes in the Czech Republic in 2018. From the point of view of the measures taken to promote, build and maintain cycling transport, this is the ensuring of the construction of cycling trails, construction and maintenance, the implementation of cycling lanes to improve safety, and methodological guidance to implement economically cheap cycling measures. Other measures include the reconstruction and new building or intermodality of abandoned railway bodies, watercourses and river paths, field and forest routes. In the current programming period (2014-2020), new cycle trails and cycle routes in the length of 152.16 km have been built for the present programming period (as of August 2020).

Barriers to the implementation of the measure include, for example, the lack of budget for cycle routes, the lack of quality projects and the fact that municipalities, when reconstructing and building new roads, ignore pro-cycling measures, the Directorate of Roads and Motorways and the regions do not accommodate municipalities with regard to the implementation of cycling lanes on class I, II, III roads. Furthermore, river basin enterprises and the MoA do not see the secondary function of flood barriers associated with cycle tourism. Cities and municipalities make little use of land modifications for cycling transport, the forest network is not used for cycling transport and project solutions are often poor.

The Ministry of Transport is preparing an update of Decree No. 30/2001 Coll. with regard to cycling, which should create optimal conditions for planning and designing cycling infrastructure, which will also have an impact on improving overall transport safety. This is a time-consuming process linked to the preparation of sustainable urban mobility plans. When planning and financing cycle routes outside the body of the road, these cycle routes are to be regarded as part of or accessories to the road and thus be subject to a separate investment. Measures from the Urban and Active Mobility Concept will focus on changing these conditions.<sup>490</sup> Cooperation with the authorities on improving awareness of the benefits of safe infrastructure for cyclomobility is also ongoing.<sup>491</sup>

**At a national level, the objective is addressed strategically, but it lacks data to assess the achievement rate.**

The task of the specific objective is to increase the number of emission-free and low-emission vehicles. These are mainly vehicles using electricity, natural gas, hydrogen or propane butane for their propulsion and non-motorised vehicles. Such vehicles produce less greenhouse gases and less health-risk substances than those with an internal combustion engine.

19.6 There is a significant increase in the number of emission-free and low-emission vehicles

---

<sup>490</sup> Ministry of Transport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>491</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

Vehicles are currently regulated by the EURO emission standard system. The Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles supports the development of a clean vehicle market. This Directive requires that energy and environmental impacts over the lifetime of a vehicle are taken into account by contracting entities and public transport operators. The End-of-Life Vehicles Directive requires manufacturers to restrict the use of hazardous substances in new vehicles and that new vehicles facilitate reuse and recycling. Regulation 443/2009 sets emission performance standards for new passenger cars as part of the Community's integrated approach to reducing carbon dioxide emissions from light commercial vehicles. This Regulation requires newly registered passenger cars in the EU to comply with an emission limit of 130 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km. Regulation 333/2014 then reduces this limit to 95 CO<sub>2</sub>/km from 2020. Regulation 510/2011 sets emission performance standards for light commercial vehicles and Regulation 253/2014 amends those standards with effect from 2020. Car manufacturers should reduce average carbon dioxide emissions by 15 % by 2025 and further by 30 % by the end of 2030 compared to 2021.

The National Clean Mobility Action Plan (NAP CM)<sup>492</sup> builds on the requirement of Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. As regards electro-mobility, natural gas and hydrogen, this Directive obliges Member States to develop the necessary recharging and refuelling infrastructure. The NAP CM contains requirements for the construction of recharging and refuelling points between 2020 and 2030. Car manufacturers are including low/ultra-emission vehicles in their fleet as part of the super-credit system as of 2020 (in the case of light trucks since 2017).

The development of low-emission and emission-free transport is taking place in the Czech Republic. The number of electric vehicles registered in the Central Vehicle Register increases annually. There were only 18 in 2011, and 2482 in 2018.<sup>493</sup> CNG/LNG recharging points have also been increased on the public road network from 57 in 2015 to 193 in 2019.<sup>494</sup> However, it is also necessary to ensure adequate infrastructure for foreign low-emission and emission-free transit traffic. The NAP CM contains a total of 49 specific measures and specific objectives to increase the number of electric and alternative vehicles.

The Operational Programme Transport has already supported the construction of 500 high-speed recharging points, more than 400 conventional recharging points, 18 LNG refuelling points and 5 hydrogen stations. In addition, as of April 2019, owners of electric vehicles may request the issue of a special registration plate for electric vehicles. Such vehicles can benefit from certain advantages, e.g. driving in dedicated lanes. Furthermore, car owners with this special registration plate may benefit from exemption from the

---

<sup>492</sup> MIT (2019) National Clean Mobility Action Plan.

<sup>493</sup> Ind. 19.6.1.

<sup>494</sup> Ind. 19.6.4.

payment of motorway vignettes and tolls. The National Transport Information Centre will collect all data on recharging and filling stations as of mid-2021. This will significantly improve public awareness. A study on the use of hydrogen power in the Czech Republic was also carried out in 2018. The outputs were used to prepare the calls of the OP T to support hydrogen filling stations.<sup>495</sup>

Large cities are also introducing car and bicycle sharing systems. For example, a bicycle sharing service is provided by Rekola and car sharing is performed by the service Autonapůl. Both companies are active in several cities of the Czech Republic. This measure is the responsibility of municipalities seeking to put it into practice through Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. Electro-mobility and clean mobility are also key elements of Smart Cities.

**Low-emission and emission-free transport is being developed on the territory of the Czech Republic, but the necessary infrastructure still needs to be provided. Strategic support is ensured.**

19.7 The amount of landfilled municipal waste is decreasing

The specific objective focuses on municipal waste, namely on reducing the amount of landfilled municipal waste. The Czech State Environmental Policy 2012-2020 foresees that the amount of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled in 2020 will fall to 35 % of the total quantity of biodegradable municipal waste generated in 1995. The Czech Waste Management Plan 2015-2024 states that the amount of waste landfilled should be reduced and the material recovery of waste should be increased. Initially, in 2024 it was to be prohibited to landfill mixed municipal waste, recyclable and recoverable waste, but the current draft law, the effect of which is proposed from 2021, is postponing this deadline to 2030. The proposal was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment on 9 December 2019 and is currently under discussion in the Czech Parliament. The amendment proposes a gradual increase in the rate of the landfill fee (for recoverable waste) up to CZK 1850 per tonne until 2029. The current fee is 500 koruna per tonne (since 2009).

Regulatory measures can be used to reduce the amount of waste landfilled and to increase the material recovery of waste. Those already feasible include, for example: the legislative definition of the possibility and conditions for the energy recovery of waste, a ban on landfilling certain types of waste from 2024 (or 2030), including mixed municipal waste among waste which is expected to be banned from landfilling from 2024 onwards (or 2030), establishing a system for the separate collection of biodegradable waste in municipalities, or promoting and developing a system for collecting biodegradable municipal waste. However, other normative measures that have not yet been implemented are also a possibility. For example, an on-going adjustment of the landfill fee for recoverable municipal waste (the amount of the fee would render disadvantageous the landfilling of waste types that will be prohibited from landfilling from 2024) or measures to support the building of an efficient infrastructure needed

---

<sup>495</sup> Ministry of Transport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

to ensure and increase the energy recovery of waste.

The landfill price is a major problem in reducing the landfilling of municipal waste. The Waste Act establishes this price, and landfill is the cheapest method of waste disposal. The landfill fee for municipal waste should therefore be increased. The landfilling of mixed municipal waste, which may contain up to 30 % of biodegradable waste, is a problem. Biodegradable waste accounts for about 40 % of municipal waste.

Since 2015, a decrease in the landfilling of municipal waste in favour of material and energy recovery has been observed; in 2009 the proportion of material recovery of waste was 23 %, and in 2018 it was 39 %. The share of energy recovered waste was 6 % in 2009 and 18 % in 2018. The material and energy recovery of waste helps to reduce landfilling. However, landfill still represents a significant share of municipal waste management (64 % in 2009, 46 % in 2018).<sup>496</sup> In 2019, the government approved the latest update of the Policy for Secondary Raw Materials for the period 2019-2022, which focuses on the circular economy and the closure of material flows.<sup>497</sup>

The participation of the Czech population in waste sorting is increasing. Success in this area is mainly attributed to the good availability of the sorting system and awareness-raising. To date, 5 calls aimed at promoting recycling have been launched under the OP EIC.<sup>498</sup> The Ministry of the Environment supports the introduction of smart systems in the area of waste recycling. This is, for example, a PAYT system (pay as you throw) or Door to door system. These systems are designed to help municipalities move away from landfilling, bring in savings, and are also meant to provide new jobs. As part of the awareness-raising of these systems, the MoE prepared 13 workshops, which took place in 2017, focusing on the representatives of cities. The MoE also launched the #dostbyloplastu (Enough with the Plastic) initiative to reduce single-use plastics.

As of 1 April 2019, the amendment to Decree No 321/2014<sup>499</sup> introduced an obligation for municipalities to ensure the annual collection of biodegradable municipal waste and, from 1 January 2020, the obligation for municipalities to provide all-round locations for the separate focussing of edible oils and fats.<sup>500</sup>

**Fulfilment occurs at the local level in relation to the sorting boom. Smart waste management systems are coordinated and implemented at the national level and legislation is being prepared which will make landfilling disadvantageous through fees. However, in order to meet the target, waste management infrastructure should also be built in order to reduce the volume**

---

<sup>496</sup> MoE (2019) Summary data on the waste management of the Czech Republic in 2009-2018.

<sup>497</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>498</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>499</sup> Decree No. 321/2014 Coll., on the scope and method of ensuring the separate focussing of municipal waste components.

<sup>500</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

**of waste landfilled.**

## 20 Territorial public administration makes targeted use of the instruments for the sustainable development of municipalities.

*The strategic objective is focused on the sustainable development of municipalities. In particular, this concerns sustainable forms of the development of cities, municipalities, regions of micro-regions, which are intended to lead to a satisfactory and high-quality life of their citizens. In order for local public administrations to be able to approach governance with regard to sustainability, it is important that they receive support, in particular, from the government level, both in the form of methodologies and in the form of educational and awareness-raising activities. An important aspect is ensuring sufficient institutional capacity and promotion of quality management tools. The aim remains to support the increase of the number of local Agenda 21 implementers, which is still the most developed system tool for fulfilling the principles of sustainable development*

***It can be said that the government seeks to promote instruments for sustainable development; however, only for a few of them can there be mention of systematic methodological support. Activities to popularise sustainable development instruments (e.g. regular conferences) are being developed. However, the practical implementation of the instruments still faces a lack of institutional capacity for the performance of the sustainable development agenda within territorial public administration.***

***Coherent support and monitoring is provided by the Local Agenda 21 which, taking into account the specificities of the territory, puts the principles of sustainable development into practice. Regrettably, however, it faces obstacles that hinder a greater increase in the number of implementers, even though the quality of its implementation is growing. In order to overcome these obstacles, it is necessary to make specifications in the future on the basis of an open discussion***

20.1 Central state administration methodologically supports and develops tools for the sustainable development of municipalities

A set of measures which are supra-ministerial and allow for "doing the right things correctly" can be regarded as a tool for sustainable development.<sup>501</sup> These tools are voluntary at municipal level and are applicable at all levels, so they are carried out in municipalities, cities, microregions and regions. This requires support from the public administration, in particular in the area of methodologies, awareness-raising and training.

There are currently 7 instruments for sustainable development in the Czech Republic:

*Local Agenda 21:* A comprehensive instrument for sustainable development at the local/regional level. The evaluation takes place both in cross-cutting areas (public engagement and local partnership building, strategic planning and governance, awareness-raising and education) and in 11 thematic areas of sustainable development with expert assessments and recommendations.

*Intelligent/Smart City:* a comprehensive methodology/instrument for sustainable development with an emphasis on energy, transport and information and communication technologies.

*ESIF Integrated Instruments* (CLLD, ITI, IPRÚ): sustainable development is a horizontal principle of ESIF supporting the development of integrated and sustainable urban strategies.

---

<sup>501</sup> Strategic Framework 2030 (paragraph 617).

*The Covenant of Mayors for the Climate and Energy*: a sub-system for quality management and improvement – primarily focused on climate and energy. The initiative is part of the priorities of the EU Energy Union to reduce emissions, decrease energy consumption and invest in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

*Rural Recovery Programme*: a national programme aimed at supporting rural communities and micro-regions in rural regeneration, harmonious development while respecting a healthy environment, maintaining the natural and cultural values of the rural landscape and developing an environmentally sound economy.

*CAF 2013 – Common Assessment Framework*: a comprehensive system of governance and quality improvement in the public administration, including strategic and procedural governance leading to a partial implementation of the principles and the SDGs.

*CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility*: a commitment of a voluntary nature; it includes those activities that the organisation carries out in addition to legal obligations, whether in relation to its employees or to the company and the environment. The CSR aims to contribute to the sustainable development of society as a whole.

Educational activities in the field of the use of sustainable development tools in territorial self-governing units (ÚSC) also play an important role. The National Rural Network (CSV) under the Rural Development Programme focuses on educational and information activities. These are implemented on the basis of annual implementation plans prepared according to the requirements of CSV partners at national and regional levels. It thus responds to current needs and can therefore include issues of sustainable development for municipality in its activities. The ÚSC projects are being implemented in calls intended for the CSV, in which cities, municipalities and regions can establish or develop quality management, including related training activities.

OP E call <sup>502</sup>	No. 33/34	No. 58/117	No. 80/118	No. 92/119
year of the announcement of the call	2016	2017	2018	2019
number of approved projects containing quality management activities	32	5	12	4
number of completed projects containing quality management activities (as of 31. 12. 2019)	24	1	-	-

A total of 24 projects were implemented in call 33/34, which included the activity of establishing/developing quality management. In total, 6 of these projects focused on the implementation/development of MA21, in which 13 cities/municipalities were supported (one project was carried out by a voluntary union of municipalities – DSO). Training activities aimed at establishing/developing MA21 in the municipalities were also an integral part of these projects.

<sup>502</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).



The MoE, in cooperation with Charles University (UK), provided the implementers of MA21 e-learning education for sustainable development and MA21, which includes both a broad global context and specific support for the implementation of MA21.

The MRD is preparing a new Smart Cities Concept aimed at exploiting innovation in the territory for the benefit of municipalities, cities and regions and their populations.

**The instruments for the sustainable development of municipalities are supported by the state administration. Of these instruments, MA21 is characterised by systematic methodological support, and a new Smart Cities Concept is being prepared.**

20.2 Territorial public administration has sufficient institutional capacity to deliver on the sustainable development agenda

This specific objective focuses on ensuring that territorial self-government has sufficient capacity to use sustainable development tools. Within the current concept of the Strategic Framework for the Development of the Public Administration of the Czech Republic 2014-2020,<sup>503</sup> the Ministry of the Interior carries out activities supporting quality management in territorial self-governing units. In 2017, a Methodological Recommendation on Quality Management in Territorial Self-governing Units was issued. It includes the recommended scope of quality management in ÚSC as well as information on the implementation of the quality management project in the organisation of territorial public administration. It also contains recommendations for training activities for employees.<sup>504</sup>

Regrettably, it has not been possible to obtain the necessary data for this objective, namely the number of self-governing authorities using quality management tools (e.g. MA21, ISO, CAF, etc.). The evaluation of the level of achievement of the objective is therefore difficult. For example, the number of projects of ÚSC with a quality management element supported by the OP E or an overview of ongoing activities may be taken into account on a provisional basis.

The number of newly implemented ÚSC projects with a quality management element in the OP E has fluctuated in recent years. In 2016 it was 32, in 2017 5, 15 in 2018 and 4 projects in 2019; a total of 56 projects were supported.<sup>505</sup>

It should be noted that there is currently no single database of municipalities to map their approaches to quality management. Only MA21 provides a detailed database of its implementers, including data and analysis thereof.

In terms of the coordination of financial and methodological support for the performance of the sustainable development agenda in ÚSC, the MoI has been working with the MLSA since 2016 on preparing calls

---

<sup>503</sup> MoI (2014) Strategic Framework for the Development of the Public Administration of the Czech Republic 2014-2020.

<sup>504</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>505</sup> Ind. 20.2.1.

for ÚSC. In addition to calls under the OP E, support is also being implemented through, for example, the organisation of conferences in public administration, organisation of competitions (Friendly Office, the MoI Award for Quality and Innovation in Public Administration), preparation of quality management training activities, and the collection and presentation of examples of good practice.<sup>506</sup> Methodological support for sustainable development within ÚSC is also provided through the web portal of ObcePRO, in which municipalities process their development programmes. In addition, the web contains methodological manuals for municipalities (including methodological manuals for municipalities issued in the framework of the edition "The MRD for Municipalities", e.g. management of water in the municipality, management of trees in the municipality, etc.).<sup>507</sup> The SRD CZ 21+ provides for the creation of so-called sustainable development centres as a regional system for promoting sustainable development. These centres should help to raise awareness of SD and to promote the systematic education of SD in public administration.<sup>508</sup>

The Ministry of the Environment provides methodological support for sustainable development for ÚSC and MA21 implementers in the form of funding for expert evaluation in 11 areas of sustainable development. In addition, the MoE provides long-term methodological support to regional authorities under the Environmental Education and Awareness programme.<sup>509</sup>

**It should be noted that quality assessment methods are currently available, but sufficient capacity to deliver sustainable development at local authority level is not ensured.**

20.3 The number and quality of Local Agenda 21 implementers shall increase.

This specific objective focuses on Local Agenda 21 implementers, namely their increasing number and quality. Its achievement requires the cooperation of the state and the territory concerned. The state has certain policy and financial instruments in the areas of sustainable development and provides methodological support. However, at local level, MA21 is a voluntary instrument.

MA21 is a local or regional development programme that introduces the principles of sustainable development into practice, taking into account the specificities of the territory. The administrator at the level of the state is the Ministry of the Environment, the advisory body of the administrator is the Working Group on Local Agenda 21 (PS MA21).

Every year there is a transparent assessment of the quality and results of individual MA21 implementers – cities, municipalities, small municipalities, city districts, regions, microregions or LAG. In view of this, methodologies for different types of municipalities have been differentiated, which is a positive step. Currently, there are valid

---

<sup>506</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>507</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>508</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>509</sup> Ministry of the Environment Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

methodologies for assessing the sustainability of cities, small municipalities, city districts and LAG, and newly also a methodology for regions.

For the different categories of municipalities, or types of municipalities, data for 2006-2019 are available indicating that the highest number of municipalities are interested in less demanding categories (C and D).<sup>510</sup> The year-to-year fluctuations are due, inter alia, to variations in the offer of financial support by the state and political changes in the management of municipalities.

The Concept of support for Local Agenda 21 in the Czech Republic until 2020<sup>511</sup> sets out measures in the field of MA21 support. It aims, for example, at raising awareness of information on MA21, ensuring the exchange of information between partners and MA21 implementers, increasing the availability of financial resources or making cross-sector cooperation more effective. However, cooperation is not sufficient and, for example, financial support for the implementation and development of quality management from call 4.1 of the OP E, where funds for MA21 can be requested, covers a number of other activities and the MA21 itself accounts for only a small part of the allocation of the OP E calls for ÚSC. Furthermore, the lack of qualified sustainable development personnel or the lack of interest in the instrument by potential implementers is also hampered by the achievement of the objective.

The state-guaranteed free education system for sustainable development was not established for all target groups. Only sub-activities were created. SRD CZ 21+ proposes the creation of sustainable development centres.<sup>512</sup> These should aim to support education, awareness-raising/promotion and participation and dissemination of good practice from the regional level. This would result in the vertical interconnection of levels. The MoE has established a free education system for sustainable development for MA21 implementers and sustainable development evaluation experts (basic full-time and online training, e-learning, training for SD audits and individual on-demand training for both politicians and the office)

The administrative overload of self-governments is also a barrier to the achievement of the objective, as they do not have the capacity to implement voluntary instruments. MA21 is often considered to be difficult to understand and an administrative burden; moreover, the long-term MA21 concept may not correspond to short-term electoral cycles or the low interest in voluntary commitments.

**The quality of MA21 implementers is slowly increasing. The lack of promotion and communication not only by MA21 itself, but sustainable development in general, especially from the ministries, has the effect of the number of implementers not increasing more significantly and faster. The problem is an**

---

<sup>510</sup> Indicator 20.3.1.

<sup>511</sup> MoE (2012) Concept of Support for Local Agenda 21 in the Czech Republic until 2020.

<sup>512</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

**unclear definition of both sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 and its context by different actors (a clear context and comprehensive situational perspective are missing). A key issue is the failure to respect a coordinated approach at the national level.**

## 5. Global development

*The Czech Republic accepts its global responsibility and adapts its foreign policy as well as internal policy, in cases where it has an impact abroad. Key commitments include the fulfilment of 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, including concrete commitments to financing development, climate protection, or policy coherence for (sustainable) development.*

*At an international level, the Czech Republic actively supports the implementation of Agenda 2030 and related international agreements. It has formally integrated its commitments into domestic policies, cooperation on foreign development included. There is, however, scope for improvement in the actual implementation of these policies. None of the objectives can therefore be said to have been achieved, even though progress has been made in most of them. However, the Czech Republic still has significant gaps in fulfilling its commitments to finance development and in the practical implementation of the principle of coherence of development policies.*

21 The Czech Republic actively, and with a focus on national priorities, creates an environment conducive to sustainable development at the global and European Union level.

*The Czech Republic is a responsible member of the international community. In order to maintain this situation, it must, in particular, comply with the commitments on sustainable development which it has entered into, including regular reporting. For reasons of increased democratic legitimacy, it should support, in the long term, solutions of the global sustainable development agenda also within international organisations, in particular the United Nations.*

*In the international field, the Czech Republic takes a proactive approach to sustainable development issues and supports the fulfilment of global commitments through its foreign and development policy. The Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework reflects these commitments while at the same time identifying national priorities for sustainable development and improving quality of life. Non-compliance with a part of the international commitments and the principles of sustainable development domestically is an obstacle to the achievement of the strategic objective.*

21.1 The Czech Republic promotes and implements the global implementation of international commitments in the field of sustainable development, their implementation at European Union level and their transposition into the work of international organisations.

The key global commitment to sustainable development accepted by the Czech Republic in 2015 is the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Promoting them at all levels (global, national, regional/local) and transposing them into national and foreign policies is an essential prerequisite for fulfilling the SDGs. The main implementation platform of the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic is the umbrella strategic framework Czech Republic 2030 (ČR 2030) and the 2030 Agenda Implementation Roadmap, approved by the government in 2017 and 2018.

During the monitoring period, a number of other strategic documents have been developed at national level<sup>513</sup> which have a strong link to

---

<sup>513</sup> These include e.g. the Czech Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2030, the Action Plan for Regional Development Strategy 2019-2020, the updated National RIS3 strategy,

Czech Republic 2030 and elaborate its sub-objectives.<sup>514</sup> It can be concluded that the share of newly adopted national strategy papers with links to Czech Republic 2030 is satisfactory, but is gradually decreasing over time. Moreover, a number of specific objectives of Czech Republic 2030 have not yet been further elaborated by sectoral strategies.<sup>515</sup> In 2020, the Ministry of the Environment prepared the first comprehensive evaluation summarising both the state of implementation of the SDGs and the national key measures proposed beyond Czech Republic 2030. According to it, in half of the global targets, the Czech Republic has progressed successfully. However, there is also insufficient activity in eight SDGs. The Czech Republic has the largest reserves in the area of gender equality.<sup>516</sup>

In addition to the 2030 Agenda, the main international commitments in the field of sustainable development of the Czech Republic stem from the Paris Climate Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development (AAAA). Climate protection and adaptation to its change are addressed in the Czech Republic through the Politika ochrany klimatu (POK - Climate Protection Policy) and the Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic. The implementation of the POK will be evaluated by the end of 2021 and the update of the strategy is planned by the end of 2023 following the review of commitments under the Paris Agreement. For the time being, however, greenhouse gas emissions are not being successfully reduced.

The Sendai Framework in the Czech Republic reflects the Environmental Safety Concept 2016-2020 with a view to 2030, which sets out preventive, mitigation and adaptation measures leading to a gradual reduction of the risks of emergencies and crisis situations. The Czech Republic is successful in fulfilling the Concept, most of its activities have already been completed, and for the remainder it is clear that the conditions for successful completion are being created. A National Energy and Climate Plan has been developed based on climate and energy commitments towards the EU and European legislation, which is newly reconciling the scope of the State Energy Concept and Climate Policy, that is, concepts for improving air quality. It is thus a roadmap for an integrated energy and climate-environmental policy.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is also an essential component of development funding outside the domestic resources of

---

the updated Secondary Raw Materials Policy 2019-2022, the Implementation Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy 2017-2020, Health 2030, the National Reform Programme 2020, the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030 or Client-oriented Public Administration 2030.

<sup>514</sup> Ind. 21.1.1.

<sup>515</sup> MoE (2020) Evaluation of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030.

<sup>516</sup> MoE (2020) Pilot report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, available from: [https://www.cr2030.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hodnot%C3%ADc%C3%AD-zpr%C3%A1va\\_SDGs\\_11.6\\_web.pdf](https://www.cr2030.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hodnot%C3%ADc%C3%AD-zpr%C3%A1va_SDGs_11.6_web.pdf).

each country. However, the commitment of the Czech Republic to provide ODA in the minimum amount of 0.3 % of gross national income (GNI) is not being met in the long term. At the same time, the original deadline for achieving this value under the OECD (DAC) and the EU commitment was the year 2015 . Although Czech ODA has gradually increased slightly in the last three years, it reached only 0.15 % of GNI in 2017. Moreover, due to strong economic growth, there was a decrease to 0.13 % of GNI<sup>517</sup> in 2018 and 2019, even though it increased from CZK 6.6 to 7 billion of ODA in absolute figures in the same period. The Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy 2018 - 2030 does not contain a concrete roadmap for achieving this commitment.

Furthermore, in the context of the AAAA, much attention is paid internationally to the capacity of developing countries to mobilise domestic funds. In this area, the Czech Republic contributes to the bilateral technical assistance in tax matters as well as active participation in multilateral platforms, both within the United Nations and the OECD, including participation in the initiative against tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).<sup>518</sup>

Furthermore, the fulfilment of the principles of policy coherence for development and, in the broader context, of policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is key to ensuring resource efficiency both at national level and in the area of DC. The commitment to the PCSD stems from the 2030 Agenda itself and its implementation is also addressed in the EU and OECD working bodies. The Czech Republic is actively reporting on this commitment and supports its implementation at international level. However, PCSD measures at national level are not yet being implemented (see objective 22 for more).

At EU level, the Czech Republic supports the objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and with partial reservations<sup>519</sup> also welcomes other initiatives in the field of sustainable development, including the European Green Deal.<sup>520</sup> The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is actively promoted primarily within the EU Council through the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda. In order to improve the coordination of the position of Czech representatives in EU institutions in relation to the implementation of the commitments on sustainable development, a framework position was created in 2019 and adopted by the Government Committee on the EU, in which the Czech Republic specifically supports the development of the 2030 Agenda implementation strategy at EU level.<sup>521</sup> In addition, during the

---

<sup>517</sup> Ind. 21.1.2.

<sup>518</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of SDGs (2019).

<sup>519</sup> Statement by the Czech Republic on the economic recovery procedure following the Covid-19 pandemic and the European Green Deal, available from: [https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/zelena\\_dohoda\\_prohlaseni/\\$FILE/OMV-EGD\\_prohlaseni%20CZ\\_vlada-20200528.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/zelena_dohoda_prohlaseni/$FILE/OMV-EGD_prohlaseni%20CZ_vlada-20200528.pdf).

<sup>520</sup> Ind. 21.1.1.

<sup>521</sup> The Czech Republic's Framework Position on the European Commission Reflection Paper "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030" (2019).

monitoring period, the Czech Republic as part of the working group actively sought to coordinate the positions of the EU to streamline the process of voluntary national reviews in the High Level Political Forum on SDGs (HLPF). In March 2018, it presented an “EU position on future development of the HLPF” in the Council for the 2030 Agenda working group together with Sweden. On the basis of this initiative, the Austrian Presidency decided to create an informal Voluntary Task Force (VTF) which prepared a proposal for the working group to prepare the UN SDG Summit and materials for the reform of the HLPF. The Czech Republic was subsequently asked to assume the role of coordinator in the VTF. The non-paper which the Czech Republic worked on contained ambitious but reasonable positions on the HLPF, which subsequently became the starting point for negotiations between the EU and Czech Republic at the UN in New York.

The Czech Republic was also a member of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) between 2016 and 2018, while presiding over the ECOSOC between July 2017 and July 2018. The main priority of the presidency was the topic of participation of all parts of society on public affairs and good governance, which are part of Sustainable Development Goal 16 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' (SDG 16). At the same time, the HLPF is under the auspices of ECOSOC, which is the main UN platform for sustainable development and plays a central role in monitoring and reviewing the 2030 Agenda and its objectives. It is therefore a key institution in the field of sustainable development. In 2017, the Czech Republic completed a voluntary national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>522</sup> and has applied for the next review in 2021. The Czech Republic's presidency in ECOSOC is widely assessed as a success. The Czech Republic defended its priority theme and presented participation as an important tool for good governance and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Czech Republic has noted a clear positive response to its constructive approach to SDG 16 and the inclusion of a wide range of interest groups in the events accompanying the presidency. The Czech Republic also participated throughout the monitoring period in the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development of the UNECE and relevant OECD working bodies and other international organisations.<sup>523</sup> The Czech Republic also worked closely with the OECD on the national case study on institutional implementation mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda.<sup>524</sup>

Coordination of Czech participation in sustainable development issues in the field of international organisations is ensured through several working groups and instruments. In the context of the OECD, the OECD Working Group under the MFA will continue to fulfil this

---

<sup>522</sup> Office of the Government (2017) National Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available from: [https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/udrzitelny-rozvoj/dokumenty/CZE-VNR-to-HLPF\\_2017\\_National-Report.pdf](https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/udrzitelny-rozvoj/dokumenty/CZE-VNR-to-HLPF_2017_National-Report.pdf).

<sup>523</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>524</sup> OECD (2019) Governance as an SDG Accelerator: Country Experiences and Tools, available from: <https://www.oecd.org/publications/governance-as-an-sdg-accelerator-0666b085-en.htm>



function. Coordination of policies for acting in the EU is ensured by the Office of the Government, and the departmental coordination groups and procedures under the DAP portal continue to function. The opinions of the Czech Republic on the main topical issues in the field of sustainable development at European level specify the three framework positions of the Czech Republic on the various implementation stages of the 2030 Agenda in the EU. However, the general awareness of these positions within the relevant government departments has not been identified. Although the coordination of positions between representatives of the Czech Republic works satisfactorily, there is room for improvement in the active use of the DAP procedures by representatives of all the sub-WGs. Furthermore, the coordination of these groups with the 2030 Agenda Working Group could also be improved at the level of the Council Secretariat. Within other international organisations, the coordination function was to some extent held by the GCSD on the coordination of the Czech Republic's positions on sustainable development, but its function has effectively been replaced by a network of contact points for sustainable development since 2019. For this reason, the Council was repealed in 2020. The positions are coordinated between the departments concerned or within the working channels of the MFA, GCSD or DC Council. More use could be made of the potential of Czech representatives working directly in these organisations or operating in its elected bodies (see objective 21.3 for more).

**Thanks to its active approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both at global and national level, the Czech Republic had a satisfactory starting position. It can be said that in the field of international organisations, even as a small state, it is successful in fulfilling its commitments to sustainable development. Some commitments at national level are less successful (in particular the commitment to the ODA amount or PCSD monitoring).**

21.2 The Czech Republic, both at global and European Union level, supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and specifically Objective 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Beyond the promotion of the 2030 Agenda as a whole at global and European level, the Czech Republic committed itself to focusing specifically on SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions. The emphasis on this objective is based on the long-term priority of Czech foreign policy, namely the promotion of democracy, human rights and good governance. The Czech Republic should implement its support primarily through foreign development cooperation and its engagement in international organisations, not least through the implementation of SDG 16 and relevant measures at the national level.<sup>525</sup>

The promotion of good governance is one of the five main priorities of the Czech DC Strategy 2018-2030, which aims at shaping a democratic society respecting human rights with access to justice. In 2019, projects were carried out under this priority area in Czech DC priority countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ethiopia, Zambia and Cambodia) as well as in other countries, e.g. under the Transformation Cooperation Programme. Good governance

---

<sup>525</sup> More on fulfilment at national level also in the KO 6 evaluation.

is also one of the cross-cutting criteria of Czech DC, the fulfilment of which is required in all bilateral projects and is assessed as part of monitoring and evaluation.<sup>526</sup> The share of bilateral DC funds dedicated to strengthening human rights and good governance in developing countries fluctuated between 2016 and 2019 between 5.2-20 %, with a significant decrease from 19.6 to 9.1 % between 2017 and 2019 and a further decrease to 5.2 % in 2019.<sup>527</sup> The Czech Republic currently does not have a specific objective established for funding SDG 16; in the long term it is desirable, in particular, to systematically support and deliver on the thematic and geographical priorities of the DC. As already mentioned in the evaluation of the previous objective, the Czech Republic also supports SDGs in the field of international organisations and specifically SDG 16 became a priority for the Czech presidency of ECOSOC (2017-2018).

The Czech Republic is currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council (2019-2021), it is active in the Council of Europe and a representative of the Czech Republic presides over the OSCE Human Dimension Committee for the second consecutive year. Promoting the protection of human rights, civil society and good governance is elaborated in detail by the Concept for the Promotion of Human Rights and Transformation Cooperation. Under the Transformation Cooperation (TRANS) programme, Czech NGOs as well as representative authorities support civil society, independent media or human rights, in particular in eleven priority countries.<sup>528</sup> A number of projects are supported annually under this programme. In 2019, the projects focused, for example, on using participatory approaches, social inclusion or combating disinformation and corruption.

The implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which includes a set of social responsibility recommendations, also contributes to the fulfilment of the objective. In addition to the implementation of the Directive in the domestic environment of the Czech Republic, it also supports its adoption and implementation by non-Member States. In 2019, the MFA also co-organised a number of seminars and workshops to support the implementation of SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda.<sup>529</sup>

SDG 16 also includes an emphasis on participation, which, on a global scale, means, in particular, greater involvement of developing countries in the global economic and political system. The Czech Republic is not against the extension and strengthening of the participation of developing countries in international organisations, but it does not view this as a priority and therefore this intention is not

---

<sup>526</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>527</sup> Ind. 21.2.1.

<sup>528</sup> Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar, Serbia, Ukraine and Vietnam.

<sup>529</sup> This was e.g. a workshop in Algiers on the transformation experience of V4 countries in the context of the implementation of SDG 16, a workshop in Lusaka on urban planning participation, a workshop in Berlin on SDG 16 on the topic of peace, democracy and sustainability, the Budapest debate on women as economic leaders in the context of the implementation of SDG 16, or a mediation seminar organised by the UN Department.

included in any of the current foreign policy concepts. The Czech Republic promotes a fair and balanced representation of states in international organisations and an international system based on multilateralism and international law.<sup>530</sup> Indirectly, activities in this area can be observed in supporting WTO modernisation or financial support to institutions in which developing countries are as equally represented as developed countries (e.g. Green Climate Fund). The strengthening of the capacities of less developed states in order for them to be able to implement their interests under existing mechanisms also has a positive impact (e.g. through the Aid for Trade programme under the MIT).

At national level, the MFA cooperates and consults foreign policy areas with other government actors, NGOs and representatives of the business community. Inter-ministerial coordination is mainly ensured by the DC Council. Development cooperation programmes are signed with all priority countries, they reflect the given country's specific needs and also reflect the priorities of the Czech DC. Different subsidy programmes exist for the involvement of partners (sectoral platforms, trilateral projects, B2B, the Czech Challenge Fund under the UNDP).<sup>531</sup>

Furthermore, activities in the prevention of armed conflicts and the promotion of the protection of human rights are crucial for the implementation of SDG 16. The Czech Republic is a Contracting Party to the Arms Trade Treaty governing the control of trade in military material. Currently, this Treaty has 106 Contracting Parties and the Czech Republic is aspiring to have as many States as possible join.<sup>532</sup> The licensing and export control of Czech military equipment complies with the relevant EU legislation and respects all arms embargos promulgated by the UN, the EU and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Although exports of military equipment are not an important item in the total Czech exports, they have tripled over the last 10 years and in 2019 reached almost 16 billion koruna.<sup>533</sup> From the point of view of international security and human rights protection, the Czech audit authorities focus in particular on countries not complying with international humanitarian law, States with repressive regimes or systems where the end-users of illegal military equipment are at risk of becoming non-governmental armed groups.<sup>534</sup> The obligations arising from international agreements as well as national legislation in the field of illicit arms trade are fulfilled by the Czech Republic.

---

<sup>530</sup> Mol Report on the Evaluation of SDGs (2019).

<sup>531</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>532</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>533</sup> MIT (2019) Annual report on the control of exports of military equipment, small arms for civilian use and dual-use goods and technology in the Czech Republic in 2019, available from [https://mpo.cz/assets/cz/zahranicni-obchod/licencni-sprava/o-licencni-sprave/2020/7/Vyrocnni-zprava-za-rok-2019\\_2.pdf](https://mpo.cz/assets/cz/zahranicni-obchod/licencni-sprava/o-licencni-sprave/2020/7/Vyrocnni-zprava-za-rok-2019_2.pdf).

<sup>534</sup> EU Council (2008) Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment. Available from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/CS/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32008E0944&from=EN>

**The Czech Republic actively speaks internationally on the promotion of SDGs and specifically Objective 16. This priority was reflected in both foreign development cooperation and its activities and priorities within the EU, the OECD and other international organisations, specifically in the ECOSOC Presidency (2017-2018). It engages both in human rights and good governance and in supporting the participation of all relevant actors in foreign and development policies. The Czech Republic supports measures preceding the emergence of armed conflicts and fulfils its obligations in the area of legal and illegal trade in military material. However, from the point of view of compliance with SDG 16 it is necessary to evaluate more closely the risks of exporting this material to countries with repressive regimes and the systems in which there exists a threat of misuse.**

21.3 The Czech Republic is strengthening its added value in activities in international organisations and the European Union

Representation in international organisations (IO) gives the Czech Republic the opportunity to directly support the achievement of the objectives and principles of sustainable development at global and European level. In particular, the representation of the Czech Republic in elected bodies of these institutions is key for these activities. The Czech Republic cooperates with almost 500 IOs. At the same time, there is a lack of representation in key IOs in terms of staff and budget share.<sup>535</sup> As part of strengthening the added value of the Czech Republic, the purpose of this specific objective is to increase the number of Czechs in key organisations (mainly elected positions), and increase interest in traineeships and junior positions, which may later lead to higher managerial positions and improve coordination and staff capacity to ensure activity in IOs.

In particular, the Strategy for the Assertion of Czech Citizens in International Organisations (2017), along with which the function of the Government Commissioner for International Organisations was established, is key to achieving the objective. The Strategy identified 21 key IOs in which the Czech Republic should seek to improve its representation. The specific number of employees or occupied positions were not specified by the strategy. However, the function of the Government Commissioner was abolished by Resolution No. 579 of 25 May 2020 of the Government of the Czech Republic and will continue to be exercised under the competencies of the Special Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for supporting citizens of the Czech Republic in EU institutions and international governmental organisations. The achievement of the objectives of the Strategy was not evaluated during the implementation period, the state funds provided to international organisations and other related expenditure were reviewed by the NKÚ in 2019, which concluded that the MIT implemented most of the measures of the Strategy. In 2016, Czech citizens were active in senior management positions in only six IOs (11 out of the total 262 citizens active in IOs). In 2018, following a change in the definition of managerial positions, Czech citizens were active in managerial

---

<sup>535</sup> MFA (2017) Strategy for the Assertion of Czech Citizens in International Organisations.

positions at 15 IOs (31 Czech citizens out of the 278 in assistant and professional positions in IOs). The total number of Czech citizens operating in IOs increased minimally.<sup>536</sup>

Under this agenda, the MFA is currently mainly focused on supporting the assertion of Czech citizens within the EU and OECD structures. Strengthening cooperation with Czechs in EU institutions, promoting their engagement in strategically important locations and, in general, improving the functioning of the Czech administration is the objective of the Strategy for Supporting Czechs in EU Institutions approved in 2015.<sup>537</sup> As part of the Strategy, the Czech Republic supports the preparation of Czech candidates for selection procedures (EPSO), communicates with delegated officials and other Czech citizens operating in EU institutions and coordinates secondment for short-term or long-term traineeships (see specific objective 25.3 for more information on traineeship evaluation). Short-term traineeships include Erasmus for Public Administration, in which there is a long-term relatively high interest, and National Experts in Professional Training (NEPT), for which the number of applications has increased sharply over the last three years in connection to increased state support. Secondment is longer-term for Seconded National Experts (SNEs) or studies at the College of Europe, for which government scholarships are provided to selected candidates. In 2016, funds amounting to CZK 265 million were allocated, for 2017 it was CZK 28.5 million and for 2018 CZK 365 million. However, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the 2018 Strategy shows that despite a sufficient number of applicants, it has been difficult to draw on these resources in the past.<sup>538</sup> More effective cooperation with the departments and offices of Czech public administration with the OG and the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic in the European Union was immediately reflected in the total number of SNEs in the following year. By the end of 2019, 18 SNEs were operating in EU institutions with the exception of the European External Action Service, and as of 1 March 2020 there were 27. This positive development was also reflected in the rate of drawing financial resources. Therefore, in order to meet the objectives of the Strategy in 2020-2022, annual funding in the amount of 40 million was approved by a resolution of the Czech Government, both for the secondment of NEPT national experts and trainees and for preparation for EPSO tests, taking into account the upcoming presidency of the Czech Republic in the EU Council in 2022.

As part of supporting the assertion of Czechs in the OECD Secretariat, the MFA provides a voluntary contribution to the programme of secondment of Czech government staff for short-term traineeships that contribute to the acquisition of practical experience in an

---

<sup>536</sup> NKÚ (2019) Audit conclusion of audit action 19/05. Available from: <https://www.nku.cz/assets/kon-zavery/k19005.pdf>

<sup>537</sup> also the follow-up New Concept 2018-2020, the Revised Action Plan on the Strategy and the Concept for the Preparation of Czechs for Tenders for Institutions of the European Union 2020-2022.

<sup>538</sup> Office of the Government (2018) Summary report on the implementation of the 2015-2017 Strategy for supporting Czechs in EU institutions.

international organisation and enhance the chances of applying them in the OECD and, where appropriate, other international organisations.<sup>539</sup> Between January 2017 and August 2020, 9 (out of the 13 registered) Czech public administration employees underwent a traineeship in the Staff on Loan 9 programme, with interest being assessed as adequate in the light of the complexity of the secondment and selection process, and having increased slightly in recent years. A large proportion of graduates continue to operate in Czech public administration, mostly in senior positions in the seconding institution or in another ministry, two graduates are active in international organisations.<sup>540</sup>

It can be concluded that during the monitoring period the Czech representatives managed to acquire elected positions in IO bodies that are relevant for sustainable development. The Czech Republic was also a member of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) between 2016 and 2018, while presiding over the ECOSOC between July 2017 and July 2018. Since 2017, the Czech Republic has been a member of the Executive Board of the International Labour Organisation and from that year to 2022 a representative of the Czech Republic has been active in the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the UN Population Fund and UN Project Office. In 2019, a representative of the Czech Republic also chaired the Hydrological Forum of the World Meteorological Organisation.<sup>541</sup> However, capacity is generally lacking in order to actively use these contacts to support the enforcement of the SD.

**Although the measures of the Strategy for the assertion of Czech citizens in international organisations have been largely implemented, there has been no significant increase in Czech representatives in senior managerial or professional positions in each key IO for the time being. A positive aspect is the increased interest in traineeships and improvement of state support for short and medium-term secondments (the removal of funding problems in the context of Act on Civil Service, etc.). Following the removal of the function of the Government Commissioner for International Organisations, the possibility of a systematic and inter-ministerial approach to the issue and the development of partial strategies to operate in each key organisation has also decreased. Activities related to the promotion of the representation of Czech citizens in EU institutions and international governmental organisations remain a priority for Czech foreign policy. Of the 21 key institutions, attention is paid mainly to the EU and the OECD, where a major shift towards the goal can also be seen.**

---

<sup>539</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>540</sup> information provided by the Czech SM under the OECD.

<sup>541</sup> Ind. 21.3.1.

## 22 By strengthening the coherence of internal policies with external impact, the Czech Republic supports global sustainable development.

*The strategic objective is to respect the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) principle, i.e. minimise the negative external effects of domestic policies, in particular their inconsistency with foreign development cooperation objectives. The fulfilment of this principle will enable the Czech Republic both to make its own resources spent in the area of DC more effective and to contribute directly to building a responsible global environment conducive to sustainable development.*

***The implementation of the PCD places increased demands on the analytical, monitoring and coordination capacities of the state administration. The agenda falls primarily within the remit of the MFA and the DC Council, and in the broader context of policy coherence for sustainable development, also the MoE and the GCSD. In the meantime, the Czech Republic has taken steps to raise awareness of the issue and transposed the commitment to the PCD into all relevant concept papers. However, there is still a lack of systematic and methodological understanding of the agenda, analysis from the perspective of the PCD of problematic areas and their regular monitoring in order to achieve the objective in practice.***

22.1 The Czech Republic shall continuously reflect international commitments and national priorities in the field of sustainable development in the concept documents and instruments of external policies

The Czech Republic is a responsible member of the international community. In order to maintain this situation, it must, in particular, comply with the commitments on sustainable development which it has entered into, including regular reporting. The Czech Republic should continuously reflect these commitments and national priorities in the area of SD in the national strategic documents and instruments of external policies.

The main concept document reflecting sustainable development in external policies is the Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2030. The DC strategy takes into account both the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and other Czech international commitments (commitment to ODA, commitments under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, commitment to the fulfilment of the coherence of policies for sustainable development,<sup>542</sup> etc.). Its implementation shall be discussed on an ongoing basis in the DC Council and its medium-term evaluation is planned in 2024, including the submission of outputs to the government. The Czech DC is also evaluated within the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the resulting recommendations contribute to its improvement.<sup>543</sup> In the last year, a medium-term evaluation was carried out according to which the Czech Republic already successfully complies with 11 out of the 16 DAC Peer Review recommendations from 2016. The main criticism from the review is the low share of ODA in GNI and its insufficient year-on-year growth with regard to the commitment by 2030.<sup>544</sup> The initial deadline for achieving this international commitment was in 2015. A further review is expected next year.<sup>545</sup>

---

<sup>542</sup> For more on the issue of PCSD see objective 22.2.

<sup>543</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>544</sup> OECD (2019) Czech Republic Mid-Term Review, available from: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/DAC-mid-term-Czech-Republic-2019.pdf>.

<sup>545</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

Bilateral DC projects as well as other foreign cooperation programmes shall be subject to regular evaluation, consisting of systematic assessment of the benefits and impacts of development interventions in partner countries in accordance with the OECD DAC evaluation criteria methodology. The evaluation itself shall normally be carried out by independent experts on the basis of the awarding of the contract. On a long-term basis, the MFA commissions on average 4 evaluations per year. In 2015, the Supreme Audit Office carried out an audit of the funds spent under DC, which pointed out falling expenditure on Czech DC, the issue of project sustainability and control, and the setting of indicators for the evaluation of targets for some projects.<sup>546</sup> These findings were in line with the mid-term evaluation of the Development Cooperation Concept 2010-2017. However, since this period there has been considerable progress and continuous adjustment according to the results of the evaluation in the DC.

**It can be said that, in the sense of translating commitments into strategy papers and instruments, the Czech Republic is on track to meeting the objective. The Czech Republic takes a very active approach to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and continuously monitors its progress. In the context of DC, it uses evaluations and reviews to continuously increase efficiency. However, the practical implementation of specific commitments (in particular ODA and PCSD), where no significant steps have yet been taken, remains problematic.**

22.2 The Czech Republic actively builds institutional capacity to monitor the coherence of internal policies with external impact and limits their negative effects on the global direction of sustainable development

The interdependence of the global economy and policies is so strong in a globalised world that the actions of one state or region are manifested in neighbouring countries as well as at the opposite end of the planet. Member States must therefore coordinate their policies on the protection of the environment, world trade or human rights and ensure that domestic policies do not conflict with the objectives and principles of sustainable development both within and beyond their territory.

The concept of coherence between all Czech external and internal policies with the objectives of development cooperation is anchored in the Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2030 as well as in Czech Republic 2030. The main platform for addressing this agenda is the DC Council, in which all ministries and other key actors in the field of development cooperation are represented. However, institutional and analytical capacities are still lacking in order to comply with the PCD principles in the Czech Republic, and the agenda is not methodologically accessible.<sup>547</sup> Consistency of policies for sustainable development should be monitored and analysed in specific thematic

---

<sup>546</sup> NKÚ (2016) Audit conclusion of audit action 15/11, available from: <https://www.nku.cz/assets/kon-zavery/k15011.pdf>.

<sup>547</sup> Ind. 22.2.1.



areas<sup>548</sup> defined in Czech Republic 2030.<sup>549</sup>

In the context of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Czech Republic supports the extension of the concept of PCD to the coherence of all policies with the Sustainable Development Goals at national level (*PCSD, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*). The setting-up of the mechanisms for monitoring and securing PCSDs in line with the OECD recommendations and closer cooperation between the MoE and MFA should help to fulfil this commitment by 2023. It is also crucial to take into account the sustainable development perspective in Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). No major change to the mechanism is foreseen for the RIA process, it is rather about improving existing procedures and methodological guidance (see strategic objective 24 for more).<sup>550</sup>

The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD) is a key advisory, initiating and coordinating body of the government in which all key actors are represented at a high level. Between 2014-2018, the GCSD was chaired by the Prime Minister. Since 2018, the responsibility for sustainable development was moved to the portfolio of the Minister of the Environment. Although this transfer does not have an impact on the fulfilment of Czech Republic 2030 as a whole, given the highly targeted nature of the PCSD agenda and the limited capacity of individual departments to address possible incoherency across the entire state administration, the OECD considers it more favourable to anchor this agenda in the so-called *centre of government*.<sup>551</sup> However, in connection with the transfer of most cross-cutting agendas to the competences of other ministries, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic is generally ceases to fulfil the function of such a centre. The GCSD committees, which have been actively involved in the development of key strategic documents, ensure working levels in each of the topics of sustainable development. Following the implementation phase of the strategies, the number of committees and their frequency of meetings have been reduced since 2018. For the purposes of communication, coordination and reporting on the implementation of concept papers in the field of sustainable development, Government Resolution No. 670 of 17 October 2018 established so-called focal points at all the responsible ministries. Through these contact points, reports from the responsible ministries were collected both on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030. The secretariats of both advisory bodies and representatives participating in the meetings shall ensure the coordination of GCSD and the DC

---

<sup>548</sup> trade policy; social and environmental standards; corporate social responsibility; intellectual property; goods and raw materials; tax and financial policy; climate change; energy; science, research and innovation linked to climate change and food security; food security in European Union development policy; the European Union's common agricultural policy; migration; reduction of brain drain; remittances; safety; biodiversity; responding to conflicts and failing or fragile states.

<sup>549</sup> Ind. 22.2.2.

<sup>550</sup> MoE (2020) Options for including the sustainable development perspective in the impact assessment system in the Czech Republic.

<sup>551</sup> OECD (2019) Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2019: Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality.

Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1787/a90f851f-en>; OECD (2016) Better Policies for Sustainable Development 2016: A New Framework for Policy Coherence. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264256996-en>

Council. Setting up cooperation with other relevant government advisory bodies, which is currently only on an *ad hoc* basis, would also be desirable in order to achieve the objective. A more systematic understanding of the link between regional and local concept papers and policies and the Czech 2030 objectives is currently under preparation.

**Through long-term broad inter-ministerial cooperation in the field of sustainable development, awareness of the issue of coherence of policies for sustainable development in the Czech Republic and the need to reduce the negative impacts of internal policies beyond Czech borders are being improved. Thanks to the creation of a network of focal points, the process of reporting on the fulfilment of Czech Republic 2030 and the 2030 Agenda has been facilitated and information flows between the responsible departments and the MoE have improved. However, despite this partial improvement, the issue of PCSD in the Czech Republic is still not handled methodologically. So far, there has also been no increase in analytical capacities and the implementation of the measures on analysis and monitoring in terms of PCSD key themes.**

22.3 The Czech Republic actively promotes the monitoring and implementation of policy coherence at European Union level, in the external policies of the European Union and at global level

Policy coherence for sustainable development is also a relevant issue at international and global level. Given the interdependence of the world economy and the strong position of transnational actors, international organisations also play a key role in this area. In particular, they should monitor and implement the PCSD principles within their competencies and ensure adequate coordination and support in their implementation for the countries of their region.

The Czech Republic regularly participates within the EU Council in the meeting of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda, where it has long been striving for a proactive and comprehensive approach to the implementation of SDGs at EU level. Its position on PCSD issues at EU level was reflected in the Framework Position on the European Commission Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030', which specifically calls for the PCSD agenda to be a direct part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the PCSD should include strengthening coordination across the EC institutions, strengthening coordination between the working bodies of the Council in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and developing policy impact assessment mechanisms. The Czech Republic considers it important to make maximum use of existing tools such as *Better Regulation* tools or regulatory impact assessment mechanisms within the PCSD. The concept of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), i.e. coherence between the EU's internal and external policies, is regarded by the Czech Republic as an integral part of the PCSD.<sup>552</sup> Czech representatives base the preparation of instructions for relevant EU Council working groups on the Framework Position, but PCSD issues have not yet been identified as priorities or regularly discussed topics.

---

<sup>552</sup> The Czech Republic's Framework Position on the European Commission Reflection Paper "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030" (2019).

The promotion of the PCSD is also addressed by the OECD and the European Commission working groups directly targeting the issue and involving national coordinators, including representatives of the Czech Republic. This issue is also partly addressed by the European Network for Sustainable Development, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the EU Copernicus Programme.<sup>553</sup>

**Although the specific objective is being fulfilled formally, the active promotion of PCSDs in international organisations is limited by low activity in this area at national level. (see objective 22.2)**

---

<sup>553</sup> Ind. 22.3.1.

## 6. Good governance

*Good governance is a prerequisite for long-term development, and an essential tool in achieving the objectives of Czech Republic 2030. Several major challenges have been identified. They are the stagnating or decreasing levels of political participation through political parties and elections, the weak capacity for the horizontal coordination of public administration, the limited ability to work with a long-term perspective in decision-making, and weak innovation in public policy creation. It is therefore necessary to strengthen mechanisms to ensure public policy coherence, to develop an innovative environment in public administration, to improve the representative and strengthen the participatory and deliberative elements of democracy, to strengthen the data, knowledge, and skills capacity of public administration, and to develop a system of sharing data and information within public administration and with citizens. Good governance is not just a matter of public administration, but this has the greatest influence and particular attention should therefore be focused on it, although not on it alone.*

*No objective in this area has yet been achieved. In some cases, there has been a clear shift in the desired direction since 2017, most significantly in data collection and sharing. For most objectives, however, real progress has been small, if not non-existent. This also applies to key objectives of achieving policy coherence and innovation of the approach. Although public administration has made greater or lesser efforts, genuine results have often not (as yet) emerged or cannot be properly assessed. This reflects the continued orientation of Czech public administration on activity or administrative output – both can be plentiful – rather than on data-backed results in terms of objectives or citizens. All of this in a situation in which confidence in the representative bodies of the state has been low for some time, as are public expectations of the Czech Republic's ability to cope with various threats, ranging from epidemics and water scarcity to rising poverty or deepening economic inequalities. The annual rolling average of citizens' trust in the Chamber of Deputies as the main body of representation has ranged between 30 and 40 % since 2015. And according to public opinion, the likelihood that the Czech Republic will succeed in addressing possible future challenges is lower than 50 %.*

23 Public policy makers have the knowledge and skills that enable them to participate fully in the public debate.

*Public administration is not merely an anonymous rule structure, just as the public is not merely an abstract term. Public policies are created by specific people, both from and outside public administrations. It is not possible to focus only on how policies arise and ignore who is responsible for their creation. Policy makers – not only from the public administration – must have the necessary skills, in particular the ability of meaningful discussion. Moreover, public administration as the driver and organizer of policy-making must have an understanding of the diversity of values and the ability to work with it. Employees of public administration must have the necessary knowledge, often professional, with an overlap beyond the Czech border. None of this can only be left only to personal initiative, as even the hugest individual efforts will eventually fail if systemic obstacles are constantly encountered and if they are not supported. At the same time, these skills, knowledge and expertise will be futile if they are not requested from the public administration political representation.*

**There is a system of training for public administration employees, but the creation of**

***Czech Republic 2030 did not influence its form in any way, and whether the system actually develops the desired elements cannot be adequately assessed. To the extent that this can be assessed, it is a marginal issue. Ministries have at least a partial idea of their long-term research needs and aim to implement them. There is a formal technical support system for policy-making, but we do not know its effect in a number of directions. Public education institutions support the development of participatory and deliberative skills that are necessary for meaningful involvement in policy-making, but only to a limited extent and only for children and young people, not for adults.***

23.1 The system of training of public administration staff will effectively develop conceptual and the latest scientific knowledge, contact with experience from other countries and insight into how to critically with this knowledge.

If we want to form a policy on the basis of sufficient knowledge and skills, the public administration's employees must not only be incentivised, but must also be effectively supported. And they must have the possibility to apply the acquired knowledge or skills.

The training of public administration staff is ensured in formal terms. Since 2015, there have been framework rules for staff training in service and administration offices. These rules are general and, according to them, training is carried out separately by individual authorities depending on their possibilities and training needs. The MoI prepares monitoring reports on an annual basis.<sup>554</sup> Regions and municipalities ensure the training of their employees on the basis of the Act on Officials of Territorial Self-government Units of 2002 and subsequent regulations.

The 2016-2019 reports show that the internal form of education is predominant for the service authorities, i.e. all ministries, inter alia. The increase in qualifications or education (e.g. in the form of university studies or traineeships) is scarcely used and remains marginal.<sup>555</sup> For the purpose of evaluating the objective, it is in particular necessary to know what the identification of educational needs looks like in practice, what the effect of the training activities in relation to the work carried out is, or how they fulfil the principles set out in this objective. From the information provided by the authorities themselves, it can be concluded that, in some form, all of these are ongoing and that formal service evaluation mechanisms play a key role in identifying needs and evaluating effects. In addition to regular query, the MoI carries out random inspections of the authorities, but no continuous real status mapping was carried out.<sup>556</sup> In summary, the current system does not prevent the development of elements contained in the specific objective, but we are not able to say whether it actually supports it.

If we focus specifically on topics key to the other objectives of Czech Republic 2030 (education for strategic work, education in pilot and behavioural approaches, deliberative skills education), no significant shift can be noted based even on other sources. The Institute for Public Administration Prague – an organisation offering a large majority of the education carried out by an organisation outside service

---

<sup>554</sup> Reports on the training of staff in administrative offices and state employees in civil service offices, available from: <https://www.mvcr.cz/sluzba/clanek/vzdelavani-ostatni-dokumenty.aspx>.

<sup>555</sup> MoI (2017, 18, 19, 20) Report on the training of employees in administrative offices and state employees in civil service offices 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

<sup>556</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

offices, not counting language training; it is of key importance also for education in municipalities and regions – does not pay attention to these topics. The number of administrative training projects carried out from the OP E has been increasing since 2017, but only concerns a small part of the ministries. At the same time, only STRATeduka (Strategic planning and management in public administration) corresponds to the specific objective, the first run of which took place in 2017, and possibly also partially PROAK (Promoting professionalisation and quality of civil service and public administration).<sup>557</sup> However, if we monitor the number of people undergoing strategic work training (STRATeduka), we notice a reduction in 2019 following larger numbers in the years 2017 and 2018. The last run in 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak.<sup>558</sup>

In the case of municipalities and regions, we see an interest in training projects from the OP E, but this interest has decreased compared to 2016, either depending on the electoral cycle or because of a limited range of those with the capacity for the given matter.<sup>559</sup> As in the case of service authorities, the regions and, to a lesser extent, municipalities carry out a very small part of their own training through their own accredited courses. At the same time, there are a large number of other accredited educational institutions. The MoI makes sure that the education meets the needs of administrative activities by awarding or renewing the accreditation of educational institutions and individual courses, as well as through random inspections.<sup>560</sup> At the level of ministries, the content of individual administrative activities, the content of specific competence tests and preparation for them is currently being revised and gradually updated, based on the practical needs of officials. The output should be mandatory standards for this area.<sup>561</sup>

It is not known how many employees and workers who have acquired special knowledge or skills, in particular in the context of follow-up education, are then active in public administration on a permanent or long-term basis. The information is missing both for the public administration as a whole and in the case of public administration in a narrower sense.

There is no functioning system so far that facilitates and incentivises the selection of quality education (e.g. continuously updated learning opportunities both throughout the public administration and in the academic sector, 'suggested' automatically according to the position held). Employees at all levels must still rely mainly on their own knowledge and initiative in this regard. At a more general level, the public administration regulates the offer of education (e.g. statutory

---

<sup>557</sup> Ind. 23.1.1.

<sup>558</sup> Ind. 23.1.3.

<sup>559</sup> Ind. 23.1.2.

<sup>560</sup> MoI (2020) Annual report on the training of officials of self-government units in the Czech Republic in 2019.

<sup>561</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

requirements for the performance of work, the process of accreditation of educational institutions and training courses aimed at carrying out administrative activities in the ÚSC, including their update, etc.), but does not facilitate practical choices much and only to a limited extent incentivises appropriate choices.

**The formal education system already existed before the establishment of Czech Republic 2030 and still exists. However, whether the system actually develops conceptual thinking, facilitates the latest scientific knowledge, systematically transfers foreign experience or teaches to work with value diversity is difficult to assess, and in cases where it can be assessed, its effects are rather marginal.**

23.2 The education system provided by public education institutions will ensure the development of the participatory and deliberative skills of citizens.

However, public policies are not and should not be created merely by public administration, public participation is also expected. As with employees and public employees, there must be conditions for citizens to participate in policy-making in an informed, active and accountable manner. In particular, they must acquire and develop participatory and deliberative skills. At the same time, these skills are not something that a person learns once and for all. As a majority of skills, they are mainly improved through use and often also learned best through use/specific examples.

These skills can be acquired through formal school education, but can also be acquired and renewed in a number of other areas and later stages of human life. Overall, we speak of the so-called civic education in lifelong learning. However, there is still no consensus on this type of education at national level, the public administration does not create a coherent assignment. An attempt to do so, which at the same time would not be limited to formal education and persons under the age of 18, has existed since 2016. However, the ministries have long passed around the task among each other; only in the summer of 2018 was the government presented with the basic document for the Civic Education Concept, which contained basic ideas and procedures for the future concept and was to be developed by 2020. However, the government has never discussed this document and work has not started. Since 2019, the topic is the responsibility of the MEYS. It already supported civic education in the field of early childhood and school education earlier, from OP RDE funds, and has now transposed the topic into the Education Policy Strategy 2030+.<sup>562</sup> However, the original ambitions linked to the preparation of the concept of civic education, namely to extend the scope to a group other than youth, have not been achieved. The entire range of activities of this kind is also not known, as the attempt to map them, intended as part of the preparation of the Civic Education Concept, was also not completed. The procedure is confirmed in this respect by the fact that there are long-term large reserves in the realisation of lifelong learning (see objective 4.4).

When referring to practical applications, participatory and deliberative

---

<sup>562</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

mechanisms form a fixed part of MA 21. Its criteria have been extended to include requirements for the use of advanced techniques. However, only a very small number of municipalities work with MA21, in the relevant MA21 categories these are units, and their number has not changed too much in the long term<sup>563</sup> (see objective 20). The trend of the direct involvement of the population in decisions on (municipal) budgets, the so-called participatory budgeting, is a positive one, even though the share of municipalities that have opted for this form of budgeting is still very small. The same is true for local referendums, in which Czech participation is relatively high. The number of referendums in the last decade ranges from 10 to 39 per year, i.e. two orders below the number of municipalities in the Czech Republic. Therefore, there is no indication that the skills sought would be more widely applied, that there is an increased demand for them.

**Public education institutions support the development of participatory and deliberative skills when we speak about youth. However, we do not know the exact effect – partly because some activities are merely an intention for the future – but it is certainly not massive for the time being. Forms of civic education outside pre-school and school education remain apart from the systemic attention of public administration.**

23.3 A state support system for oriented and applied research will ensure the continuous influx of knowledge and innovation and long-term effectiveness of governance.

The third channel intended to feed knowledge and skills into the public policy-making process is state-supported professional research, in particular so-called oriented and applied research, suitable for policy-making purposes and provided as expert support to the public administration. Although the achievement of the objective should not be limited to departmental research, it is true that the research carried out by ministries – either through ministerial research organisations or through TAČR – will always be an essential component.

The ministries therefore need medium-term concepts of technical support and related R&D. The majority has them. The concepts were mostly developed before 2017 or in the given year, later updates were not too frequent and new concepts are rare. Some ministries do not have concepts, for example, on the grounds that they themselves are not the providers of funds, although the meaning of these concepts lies not only in the allocation of funds in the R&D&I system. Similarly, some ministries have research concepts only for some areas, or considered it sufficient to draw on expert knowledge as a by-product of the implementation structure of the Czech Innovation Strategy 2019-2030. The intensity of using departmental research organisations in line with the objective is not possible to capture because the planned evaluation (on the common basis of the results in the R&D&I evaluation system) did not take place. In general, most ministries use their departmental research organisation and started to evaluate them after 2017 in line with the part of the Evaluation methodologies of research organisations and the evaluation of targeted support programmes relevant to those organisations. The research tasks of departmental organisations are mostly defined until

---

<sup>563</sup> Ind. 23.2.1.



2022-2023. Interim evaluation reports are only available for some ministries. This is why it is difficult to assess the impact of departmental research organisations on policy-making across public administration.

The idea to support practising academicians has remained outside the interest of public administration over the past period, and their cases of activity are few. Thus, there are still many systemic tools to support the parallel work of academicians in public administration/policy-making and academia. The Act on Civil Service allows academicians to switch between academics and public careers, but does not substantially support parallel activity in both fields.<sup>564</sup> There are no incentives on the academic side, given career habits, to be a 'practising academician'. As a result, this contributes to maintaining the separate forces of academia and the practice of public administration.

**Most ministries have at least a partial idea of what their long-term research needs are and seek to implement them. There is a formal technical support system for policy-making; reprogramming took place in 2017 and findings from the relevant policy making from this system flow into public administration. However, we do not know the effect in a number of directions.**

---

<sup>564</sup> In the case of the Act on Civil Service, it is the fact that scientific and pedagogical activities do not require a special permit and that 6 days of individual study leave per year can be taken.

## 24 Public policies are coherent in relation to the objectives of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030.

*If the objectives of Czech Republic 2030 are to be achieved with limited resources, the policies implemented must be coherent, consistent. However, policy-making is such an extensive and comprehensive process that its coherence cannot be kept in mind and managed by a single person, however apt that person might be. The process must be conducted largely on its own, on the basis of an initial impetus and due to the existence of systemic rules and relationships that incentivise all those involved to act in a certain way. And this process requires capacities that will make it possible to respond to these incentives.*

***The institutional capacity of the public administration to formulate coherent policies has not improved since the creation of Czech Republic 2030, in some cases it has deteriorated in recent years. The systematic monitoring of long-term impacts is not taking place, strategic work in public administration is not improving. Public policies are undoubtedly assessed in advance to a certain extent and public administration is able to meet the basic formal requirements it imposes on itself. However, in practice, the assessment is far from systemic, the quality of the assessment is volatile and there is no consistent establishment of the available knowledge. Real progress in policy evaluation is small.***

24.1 Public administration at all levels will have sufficient institutional capacity to develop coherent policies (competences, personnel, funds, communication channels, etc.).

Policy coherence is primarily dependent on the capacity of public administration to act in a certain manner. In a narrower sense, this is the capacity for strategic work and, more broadly, the capacity of public administrations to fulfil their purposes in terms of the recipients of their outputs and services.

However, the capacity for strategic work remains insufficient, strategic work is not properly handled. There has been no positive change since 2017. The MRD completed an analysis of strategic work in public administration in 2018. Its results have confirmed previous findings that strategic sectors are also focused mainly on operational activities, there is a lack of staff, frequent changes in political assignments, or significant discontinuity, caused by the electoral cycle.<sup>565</sup> The analysis led to recommendations, including recommendations for the creation of a network of strategic services. The MRD planned to support implementation of these recommendations was planned via a stand-alone project, but its implementation is only intended to be implemented and, in some form, the incentives remain only in the form of future tasks in the 2030 oriented public administration strategy.<sup>566</sup> So far, the 2018 methodological guideline remains the only formal auspices for the creation of strategic work capacity, which instructs the service authorities, inter alia, to set rules and a system for strategic work.<sup>567</sup> The capacity for strategic work has not only not improved as a result of the systemisation carried out since 2017, in some cases it has deteriorate. The systemisations carried out were also the force of the MRD as a methodological centre of activities.

We link institutional capacity in the broader sense to quality

---

<sup>565</sup> Ind. 24.1.3; The project Mapping Strategic Work and its Outputs. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/microsites/portal-strategicke-prace-v-ceske-republice/strategicke-projekty/mapovani>

<sup>566</sup> MRD Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoI (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, objective 3.4.

<sup>567</sup> Mol (2018) Guidance on Quality Management in Civil Service Offices.

management systems, as they are tools for re-identifying an institution's tasks, what its state is and what and how would need to be changed in order to best perform the tasks. The Mol methodologically manages and supports the process of implementing quality management. Methodological materials have been approved<sup>568</sup> and quality management has been made compulsory for civil service offices.<sup>569</sup> Civil service offices shall implement the systems by June 2021 at the latest. According to a Mol report<sup>570</sup>, most authorities decided to achieve the so-called minimum level of quality management, not the optimal level. At the same time, practice shows that this minimum level also places considerable demands on the functioning and management of civil service authorities. Only a small part of ministries used the possibility to implement projects financed by the OP E; most decided to implement them using existing resources. The quality management system has so far been implemented by 4 civil service offices, i.e. less than 2 % of the total number.<sup>571</sup> At those offices, an external review by the Mol Civil Service Department was carried out by the end of 2019, other civil service offices make use of the capacities of the Civil Service Department and discuss issues from practice on an ongoing basis.

In the case of municipalities and regions where the introduction of such systems is voluntary, fluctuations of interest are observed.<sup>572</sup> However, it can be said that all regions perform some form of quality management. However, the levels vary. While some function only at the most basic level, others, e.g. the Moravian-Silesian region, are trying to apply also very advanced forms.<sup>573</sup>

Incentives for the use of *systems thinking* are, in the case of public administration, materialising only in the form of principles that translate into a new public administration strategy.<sup>574</sup> In the case of self-government, attempts at such an approach are more numerous, although still sparse. As an example we can name a project on the functioning of authorities for the social and legal protection of children (OSPOD) in the Pardubice region, see also the evaluation of objective 26.2. The MoE decided for an experimental verification of policy coherence from the point of view of beneficiaries, but the results will only be available at the end of 2021.

**Although public administration is active to a certain extent, actual institutional capacity to formulate coherent policies remained practically the same compared to 2017, i.e. insufficient. In some**

---

<sup>568</sup> Mol (2017) Methodology for the Introduction of Quality Management in Civil Service Offices, Mol (2018) Guidance on Quality Management in Civil Service Offices, <http://kvalitavs.cz/>

<sup>569</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>570</sup> Mol (2020) Information on the State of Implementation of Quality Management in Civil Service Offices in 2019, more generally <https://www.mvcr.cz/sluzba/clanek/podpora-zavadeni-rizeni-kvality-ve-sluzebnich-uradech.aspx>; the interim reports are also for 2017 and 2018.

<sup>571</sup> Ind. 24.1.1.

<sup>572</sup> Ind. 24.1.2.

<sup>573</sup> Additional information of the Mol on the Mol Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>574</sup> Mol (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030.

24.2 Public policies will take into account the long-term impacts and public administrations will monitor these impacts in their own strategic materials.

**cases, it has even deteriorated as a result of systemisation. The systemisations carried also weakened the force of the MRD as the methodological centre of activities.**

It is important for policy coherence to think in a longer time perspective, in practice particularly strategic work, good drafting and the implementation of strategic documents. The MRD analyses also confirm the long-term weaknesses identified already during the preparation of Czech Republic 2030. We can mention here the weak link between strategic planning and management of financial resources, low levels of public cooperation, incoherent linkage between analysis and strategy objectives, lack of coherence between strategies or underestimating monitoring and evaluation.<sup>575</sup> Research on the compliance of strategies with the Methodology of Preparing Public Strategies (2012, updated 2019), carried out on a selected sample of 61 strategies across the public administration has shown that around 30 % of documents are desirable; the compliance rate is slowly increasing over time.<sup>576</sup> Strategic documents are very numerous, there are currently over 1600, of which around half exist at local level<sup>577</sup> and the intensity of strategy development is significant. Since 2015, at least 100 strategies are developed in public administration every year, and frequently many more.<sup>578</sup> This places particular demands on good work with them, in particular their hierarchization and interdependence. In the updated strategy development methodology, simple guides are created for this purpose, but they are not continuously followed in practice.<sup>579</sup> According to MRD research, assignments change relatively often, governments devote relatively little attention to earlier strategic objectives and tend to start from zero, which, of course, is also caused by the fact that strategic materials are only evaluated to a small extent.<sup>580</sup> The development of strategies, at least at national level, is therefore a reflection of the current preferences of a particular government, rather than a process of systematic efforts to achieve long-term objectives.

While the MRD has prepared recommendations for improving strategic work, for the level of ministries, regions and the strategic departments themselves, it is not yet possible to speak of their achievement and the topic remains anchored only in the formulations and measures under the already mentioned objective of Client-oriented Public Administration 2030.

**Although a large number of strategic materials are produced, their quality is highly volatile and work with them shows long-term weaknesses. It cannot be said that public administration continuously monitors the long-term effects of its decisions**

---

<sup>575</sup> The project Mapping Strategic Work and its Outputs. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/microsites/portal-strategicke-prace-v-ceske-republice/strategicke-projekty/mapovani>

<sup>576</sup> Ind. 24.2.2.

<sup>577</sup> Strategy Database. Available from: <https://www.databaze-strategie.cz/>

<sup>578</sup> Data from Ind. 25.1.1.

<sup>579</sup> Ind. 24.2.1.

<sup>580</sup> The project Mapping Strategic Work and its Outputs. Available from: <https://www.mmr.cz/cs/microsites/portal-strategicke-prace-v-ceske-republice/strategicke-projekty/mapovan>

**within its strategic materials, and most activities in the direction of good strategic work continue to exist in the form of future tasks.**

24.3 Public policies will be based on available knowledge and will be systematically assessed in advance with regard to potential impacts on beneficiaries and impacts on areas other than primary areas of interest.

The monitoring of the impacts of public policies need not, of course, be linked to a strategic approach. Impacts should also be monitored in the day-to-day activities of the public administration. Formally, there are a number of instruments in the Czech Republic intended for this purpose. Their backbone is the Regulatory Impact Assessment system (RIA)<sup>581</sup>, which has been operating in the Czech Republic since 2005 and 2007. The RIA Advisory Commission, which provides feedback to processors on the quality of the final RIA reports, has been in place since 2011. The current version of the Guidelines for Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been valid since 2016 and an update is in preparation. The methods using which proposals are evaluated are stabilised.

The RIA system has, in principle, good preconditions to take into account the prospects of sustainable development if, however, the evaluation were carried out in better quality.<sup>582</sup> While the quality of RIA processing has increased for government proposals since 2017, less than 60 % of proposals met the requested quality demands in 2019.<sup>583</sup> The RIA concerns only government legislative proposals (laws and their drafts, government regulations), not those that come from the parliament. In the case of government proposals, exceptions may be granted, or the non-preparation of RIA is approved in the framework of the government's legislative work plan. In the case of government proposals, exceptions would not necessarily be a deficiency if they did not also include proposals with substantial impacts. The final RIA report therefore contains only a part of the proposals in the legislative process. The share differs from year to year, e.g. in the case of laws, this share started to decrease after 2016, and in 2019 it was less than half of the proposals – and these were not always of good quality.

The intention to include impact assessment needs from the systemisation of strategic or analytical departments of ministries was not implemented. The capacity of the ministries for the good performance of RIA has certainly not increased, if has rather decreased directly as a result of the political decisions of recent years – the priority of reducing the staffing of the public administration. The intention therefore persists as a task for the future in 2030 public administration. In the face of this, it is not surprising that the public administration does not have the capacity to disseminate the principles of policy impact assessment beyond its own borders, e.g. to parliamentary chambers, which are very active creators of legislation. However, in the case of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, there is also a very weak demand from the legislators. It is true that

---

<sup>581</sup> Available at: <https://ria.vlada.cz/>

<sup>582</sup> In detail MoE (2020) Options for Including the Sustainable Development Perspective in the Impact Assessment System in the Czech Republic.

<sup>583</sup> Ind. 24.3.1. We understand quality as the proportion of proposals recommended by the RIA Committee without reservations or after some form of modification.

proposals drawn directly from the legislators are subject to an impact assessment only in a very simplified form; compared to government proposals they are *de facto not assessed* at all.

In addition to RIA, there are other types of impact assessments that are usually carried out at different levels, in particular at the local level, either exclusively or in addition to the national level. Of the codified mechanisms, this includes impact assessments of programmes, concepts, strategies (SEAs) and environmental impact assessments of specific objectives (EIA). The basis for the assessment comes from 1992, the present form has been used since 2001. These impact assessments are focused primarily on the environment.

At national level, as well as at other levels, it is possible and recommended to monitor the gender impact of decisions. The OG performs a methodological role in this respect. The gender impact assessment methodology for materials presented to the government has been in place since 2015, but consideration of the given issue is still mainly a result of the efforts of the OG itself, its awareness-raising and training activities, as well as interventions in the policy preparation process itself. According to an 2018 analysis of the use of the methodology carried out on a selected sample, for more than 40 % of the submitted materials the impact on gender equality had not been assessed at all. For proposals for which an impact assessment was clearly intended to be carried out, the submitters did not fulfil their obligation in 80 % of the cases. The methodology itself was used only in a fraction of cases. Further analysis of the problem will be completed at the end of 2020.<sup>584</sup>

Other forms of impact assessments are not used in practice. Whether it is an assessment of impact on the territory (which was approved in 2017 but the MRD is still seeking a way of anchoring it<sup>585</sup>) or an assessment of the impact on health (which was prepared in 2014 and a new impetus was to be obtained by updating the methodology, but the MoH initiative was not carried out).<sup>586</sup>

**Public policies are, to a certain extent, assessed in advance and the public administration is able to meet the basic formal requirements it imposes on itself, albeit with a differing quality of output. However, in practice, the assessment is far from systematic and the consistent establishment of available knowledge is not taking place. Even in those areas where the assessment is the most systematic (e.g. RIA), long-term problems remain.**

Policy coherence cannot be achieved only by evaluating possible impacts in advance. Evaluation, retrospective assessment, is an instrument that helps the public administration, as well as political

---

<sup>584</sup> OG (2018) Analysis of the application of the Gender Impact Assessment Methodology for materials submitted to the Czech Government, Report of the OG of the Czech Republic on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>585</sup> Action Plan on the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-20, part of measure 8.2.

<sup>586</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

24.4 Public policies will be systematically assessed retrospectively (ex-post evaluation).

representation, to learn from previous experiences and not to repeat the same errors. What is desirable is not only an evaluation of specific legislation or a strategy (classic ex-post evaluation), but also an interim evaluation of the aggregate impact of different policies on a specific area, i.e. policy coherence. At the same time, the evaluation has to be taken into consideration already during the design itself and, for example, formulation of specific objectives, so that they can actually be evaluated at all.

The idea of the value of evaluation has been slowly spreading through public administration in recent years, as evidenced by the establishment of evaluation conferences organised annually by the MRD since 2015. The number of public administrations expressing an interest in this form is slightly increasing, with a large proportion of ministries involved in conferences.<sup>587</sup> However, as in 2017, evaluation is still mandatory only in the area of ESIF and DC. There was no shift in the legislative introduction of an assessment obligation across the activities of the public administration. The MF plans to reopen the topic as part of the preparation of the amendment to the Act on the Management and Control of Public Finance, but so far only a general intention has been included in Client-oriented Public Administration 2030.<sup>588</sup> The long-term weaknesses in the evaluation of the strategies have already been mentioned in the evaluation of objective 24.2. In 2019, the MRD attempted to facilitate the assessment of strategies through the creation of an appropriate module in the Strategy Database, but this module is not yet being used. The intention to evaluate the existing assessment of strategies has not been implemented.<sup>589</sup>

The most concrete proposal to make evaluations systematic at this point in time takes the form of the formalisation of evaluations in the regulatory impact assessment (ex-post RIA) process. Since 2017, the OG has submitted two proposals to this end, but no proposal has yet been submitted to the government for discussion. The most problematic points were questions of staff capacity and organisational costs necessary for a truly systematic and quality assessment and the publication of the resulting reviews. The second of these proposals was submitted to the inter-ministerial comment procedure in spring 2020, but this has not been completed. The proposal put forward constitutes an evaluation of specific legislation rather than an assessment of the cumulative effect of policies, which is more substantial in terms of monitoring coherence. The combined review of several different related regulations allows for the proposal, but it is still a regulation effect, and not parallel distributive and redistributive policies, for example.

Therefore, in practice, the review usually takes place during the preparation of an amendment to the legislation, if at all. However, its quality depends on the capacity and practice of administrators, such a

---

<sup>587</sup> Ind. 24.4.2. plus information from the Department of Publication and Evaluation of the MRD.

<sup>588</sup> Ministry of Finance Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>589</sup> Ministry of Regional Development Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

review usually doesn't have a written outcome and cannot therefore be fully evaluated. At the same time, this practice causes problems during staff replacements, where complex know-how often leaves along with key experts.

**Although the idea of evaluation is no longer entirely foreign to public administration, real progress is still very small compared to 2017 and it is certainly impossible to say that public policies are systematically evaluated.**



## 25 Public policy makers and creators have high-quality and easily accessible data and information for decision-making.

*We can certainly create public policies at random or on the basis of the impressions. However, their effects may not be positive and may often be completely different from what we intended. Good intentions are therefore not sufficient. For our decisions to be deliberated, public administrations must have sufficient relevant information and be able to work well with it. And, on the other hand, access to public administration data and information must also be available to the public – both professional and lay – if the public administration is to be a fully-fledged partner in policy-making.*

***A system of data collection and sharing in public administration exists and is indeed being further developed. There are still a number of barriers in this area and there has been no significant shift in the sharing of analytical evidence for decisions since 2017. The system of traineeships as a tool to acquire and exchange experience exists and interest in its use has increased in recent years. This concerns primarily the relationship between the Czech Republic and the EU or the OECD. On the contrary, the exchange of experience with other public administrations or within domestic public administrations exists only in the form of ad hoc negotiations, at most in the form of the functioning of government advisory bodies. Public administration data and information are, in principle, accessible to citizens. However, only to a very limited extent in electronic form, which is becoming the most comfortable and effective form of communication in terms of policy-making participation, though public administration has made more ambitious efforts in the last two years.***

25. A system of collection and sharing and information will be developed within the public administration to enable problem analysis, option-making and impact estimation.

The public administration receives a large amount of data and information, partly due to the legal obligations of other actors (e.g. citizens, businesses, etc.), and partly as a product of the administrative processes it manages. Quasi-autonomous organs, such as the ČSÚ, also play an important role here. However, the information collected is not always exactly what the public administration would need most in order to assess the impact of its decisions, public service systems, products and, in general, measures on quality of life in the Czech Republic. Interest in an *evidence-informed* approach that is postulated in the new strategic framework of public administration<sup>590</sup> will make this need even more pressing.

The issue can be divided into two parts. On the one hand, whether the public administration obtains all the information it would need and, on the other hand, whether the information obtained is well used.

In terms of the collection of information itself, it remains a long-standing problem that, for various reasons, not all the data needed by the public administration to assess the effectiveness of public policies and their impact on the quality of life of citizens is collected. One of the few attempts for systematic handling – namely the design of quality of life indicators, which was prepared by the OG in 2018 – was rather experimental in nature and will require further work. Data collection processes also take place to a large extent without the participation of public administrative analysts, i.e. those who should work with the data to the greatest extent.

---

<sup>590</sup> Mol (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration, Objective 3.1.

Data collection alone is only one aspect of the problem. As stated, the public administration as a whole collects or generates relatively enough information itself, but it would be necessary for the information obtained to be used to the maximum extent by all public administrations. For it not to have to be recovered separately, with other claims on its providers and the cost of obtaining it. A blueprint of this solution already exists in the form of a so-called connected data fund, which mainly consists of an information system of basic registers (basic registers and agenda information systems) and an e-Government Online Service Bus data-sharing interface. Basic concept papers have also emerged which should direct further developments<sup>591</sup> with the Information Concept, one of the three pillars of the Digital Czech Republic strategic framework, serving as an umbrella document. However, legislative barriers to data sharing are often encountered. This problem should be solved by amendments to laws, establishing a general authorization, which will enforce procedural processes. The proposal was adopted by the government and will be discussed by the Parliament in the second half of 2020.<sup>592</sup> In connection with the above, a rebuilding of the information systems of ministries is also taking place. An example could be the MEYS Ministerial Information System, which aims at creating a data base available to all actors in the education system. Data from the school register, the register of universities and accredited study programmes, the register of associate professors and professors, the pooled registers of university students, the recognition of education, the recognition of professional qualifications and data collection of a statistical-administrative nature will all be included in one place. At the same time, these data will be linked, for example, to selected data from the Czech School Inspection System, the Centre for the Survey of Education Results (CERMAT) and the National Institute for Education. As in a number of similar cases, these are thus far intentions which should have an effect at the earliest around 2023.<sup>593</sup>

It is not only data collected by the public administration on the basis of a legal obligation or authorisation, but also data and information obtained, for example, in analyses that public administration organisations process or have processed in the context of their own agenda, obtained in consultation with the public and stakeholders (e.g. in the RIA process), information obtained by the system of measurement and evaluation of public administration, policy evaluation, etc. Although analyses of this type are published to a certain extent, it is largely only possible to find out about them at random. This is mainly done on an informal level through networks. The only more formal is the Working Group on the Cooperation of Analytical Services operating under the GCSD. The 2017 OG initiative,

---

<sup>591</sup> The National Architectural Framework, National Architectural Plan, ICT Management Methods in Czech Public Administration and the e-Government Glossary. Available from: <https://archi.gov.cz/>

<sup>592</sup> Additional information of the MoI on the MoI Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>593</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

i.e. efforts to record analytical materials at least in a simple form accessible to all was not long-lasting. No knowledge library of analytical material, nor anything similar, is available to the public administration. This is envisaged for the future.<sup>594</sup> Finally, there is a strategic work support system, a Strategy Database in which information relevant to strategic documents of the public administration can be found. The operation and further development of the database is ensured also for the upcoming period. In this way, a large amount of information can potentially be shared. However, the level of strategic work incl. the use of the Strategy Database is problematic (see objective 24.2).

25.2 Public administration data and information will be available to citizens in the most comfortable manner.

**A system of data collection and sharing in public administration exists and is indeed being further developed. However, it is primarily developed in the area of data collection and sharing from basic registers, or in the line of information requirements already introduced before the creation of Czech Republic 2030. The need to assess the impact of policies on quality of life translates little into collection. There are still a number of barriers to sharing data and information and we have progressed very little in terms of sharing analytical materials for the purpose of decisions since 2017.**

The public is not only an object of interest for public administration, or a source of information. It is and should also be a public policy-making partner. Therefore, the public must have access to information that enables it to be such a partner. This implies that the provision of information is one of the forms by which the public administration accounts for its conduct and trust in institutions is built through this openness. Finally, the information available is one of the prerequisites for citizens to benefit from the services provided by the public administration (see objective 27.2).

The easy availability of data and information is primarily linked to the extension of electronic communications in the broad sense, i.e. in particular the possibility to obtain data and information easily and quickly from the public administration via the internet and without the need for the personal activity of public officials. It is essential to share these data in a form that allows further work, i.e. in open data and linked data format. At this point in time, the electronic form of sharing may not be the most comfortable or user-friendly form of access for all, but it is such for large groups of people. Interest is increasing and it is likely to become the most comfortable form for almost everyone in the future. Already in 2010-2019, the number of people using the internet in communication with the public administration increased in all categories. Overall, it increased by 17.5 %. The largest rate is long evident in the case of economically active persons, and in the case of university graduates – it is quite self-evident in these groups – but also in the case of people over 65 the combined frequency of use increased by 13.1 %.<sup>595</sup> For a more accurate picture, it would be necessary to

---

<sup>594</sup> Mol (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, objective 3.1.3.

<sup>595</sup> Ind. 25.2.2.

know if the share of those using electronic paths in the total number of those who do not come into contact with the public administration at all is growing. However, such a continuous survey has not yet been carried out. But the public administration has at least decided to obtain information on the increasing share of digital services in the total number of public administration services, which is particularly relevant for objective 27.2.

Open data are of particular importance in the context of this objective. This form of disclosure of data and information is not dependent on any other system of data sharing within the public administration, so open data is by its very nature available to the widest range of actors. The legal anchorage of open data took place in 1999 in the context of free access to information, but the National Open Data Catalogue (NODC) started to operate only in 2016. The number of institutions publishing open data is increasing. It was 26 public institutions in 2017, and 38 institutions in 2019. Only 6 ministries out of 15 (14 ministries + the OG) published open data in 2017, in 2019 it was 10 ministries. Only 4 regions out of 14 (13 regions + Prague) published open data in 2017, this year it has risen to 7 regions.<sup>596</sup> The development of a NODC is also part of the Information Concept, one of the three pillars of the Digital Czech Republic Strategic Framework, adopted in 2018. The amount of information disclosed in this way varies, as well as its severity, but the trend is positive.

Citizens should also have a good overview of what public policies are being prepared, what debate on them is taking place within the public administration and, in the case of legislative acts, what the journey of proposals looks like from their conception to approval, as well as authoritative information on how public policy is currently regulated by legislation and interpreted. This is partly enabled by the public part of the e-library of the forthcoming legislation (eKLEP).<sup>597</sup> However, its substantial addition and expansion in the form of e-Legislativa and e-Sbírka projects has been repeatedly delayed and the initially expected start of the applications can only be expected in 2022.

Some types of information may be of a specific nature and may not be shared with the public in the form or extent that citizens consider desirable. For such cases, there is a legal auspices. More generally, the right to information is anchored in constitutional terms and is specified in particular in Act No. 106/1999 Coll. and Act No. 123/1998 Coll. Certain aspects of public access to information are also covered by the EU regulation which anchors a person's right of access to collected personal data relating to him or her, or laws on municipalities and regions that anchor, for example, the obligation of public meetings of the council, the taking of minutes of such meetings, as well as all other cases where specific information must be made publicly available.

**Public administration data and information are accessible to citizens to some extent. However, in electronic form – which is**

---

<sup>596</sup> Ind. 25.2.1, quality of life indicator 8.9.

<sup>597</sup> Available from: <https://apps.odok.cz/veklep>.

**becoming the most comfortable and effective form of communication in terms of policy-making – this is true at present only to a very limited extent, although particularly in the last two years, public administration has made more ambitious efforts. The trend is good, but real results are still weak.**

25.3 A system of the exchange of experience between higher and lower levels of public administration, between different sectors of the government and Czech public administration and public administrations abroad will be developed.

Apart from the knowledge and information that the public administration should draw on and generate mainly through the system set-up (see objective 25.1), there is another source from which experience can be gained. Experience can be gained by employees of the public administration either directly, through their own work (see objective 26.2), or can be obtained through a mediator. The backbone of activities should, also in this case, be a system that induces and facilitates such matters. First of all, it is a system of personal experience acquisition, traineeships.

There is a long-term established system of domestic public administration traineeships in EU structures. The longest traineeships take place under the seconded national experts regime, but these are traineeships lasting between 6 months and 4 years, so their effect can only materialise at a larger distance, while at the same time their volume will never be too large. As of 2018, they included 15 employees of ministries, a significant share of whom were MF representatives.<sup>598</sup>

In terms of the continuous sharing of experience, there may be more interesting mid- and short-term traineeships in NEPT (National Experts in Professional Training, 9 allocated positions, 3-5 months) and Erasmus for Public Administration (4 allocated positions, 8.5 days) programmes. This is also the case for traineeships in the structures of the European Commission. In particular, NEPT trainees may, for example, work on material that the Czech Republic will be obliged to implement in the future, thereby providing their seconding office with valuable information on the reasons and circumstances of the creation of proposals.

In the case of NEPT, the domestic rules and level of state support have changed over the last three years and interest in such traineeships has increased significantly. 7 applications were accepted in 2017 and only 3 positions were actually filled in the NEPT, in 2018 it was 19 applications, 36 applications in 2019 and 45 applications in 2020. Thus, the demand for traineeships today significantly exceeds the number of positions allocated to the Czech Republic, even after the European Commission has temporarily increased capacity to 14 positions in connection with the upcoming presidency of the Czech Republic in the EU Council. Based on the MoI's contact with former NEPT trainees, most trainees remain in civil service after returning from a traineeship and therefore the effect of their traineeship can theoretically be observed, but the level of turnover of trainees is not continuously monitored.

There is a long-term interest in Erasmus for Public Administration, which also includes a 'job-shadowing' process in the performance of

---

<sup>598</sup> OG (2015) Strategies for supporting Czechs in EU institutions – 2018 review, Annex VIII.

work. 49 applicants applied in 2018, in 2019 it was 40.<sup>599</sup> 2020 was partially affected by restrictions due to Covid-19. 24 applicants came forward for the first two runs of this year, but the third was cancelled in view of the epidemiological situation.

A slight increase is also evident in the promotion of more continuous vocational training abroad, such as studies at the College of Europe. Compared to the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 – in both cases only one application from a candidate from public administration was submitted and only in the first case did the applicant succeed in the admission procedure and receive a government scholarship – there was an increase in the number of candidates for study in the academic year 2020/2021. 4 government employees applied, 2 of them were admitted to study and will be provided with a government scholarship.<sup>600</sup>

The interest in a further form of more continuous professional work, namely a longer-term traineeship in the OECD (the staff on loan programme), has also increased slightly compared to the period before 2017, but is not high overall. 3 people have annually taken part in traineeships of 3-5 months in recent years. The vast majority of people who underwent traineeships since they began have remained in public administration. However, under the existing conditions, although some ministries were willing to pay costs for their trainees that were not directly mandatory in recent years, interest is not expected to increase significantly. Moreover, unlike short-term traineeships in the EU, positions are not permanently allocated to the Czech Republic, they depend on the willingness of the OECD and vary. On a long-term basis, it has been possible to anchor the MF in the traineeship system, its representatives arrive every two years and perform the role of 'liaison officers' for the Czech Republic in preparing the OECD Economic Overview.<sup>601</sup> The effect of traineeships in the OECD has also been e.g. an analysis of the effectiveness of emission limits in the Czech Republic over the past period and the consequences that this should have on their form, or the analysis of approaches to the 2030 Agenda and the basis for working with them in the Czech environment.

On the other hand, there are no similar traineeships in public administrations of other states; the exchange of experience takes place at best during short business trips usually designed to address a specific subject. There are also no centrally coordinated traineeships within domestic public administration (e.g. at another ministry, another level of the same ministry, in thematically close positions in self-government). An exception to this is only the fact that some authorities send their staff for traineeships to the Czech Permanent Representation in Brussels, which is, strictly speaking, still within domestic public administration.<sup>602</sup>

---

<sup>599</sup> Ind. Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>600</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>601</sup> Information on permanent representation in Paris.

<sup>602</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

Likewise, foreign experience of the relevant type is not automatically a guarantee of higher salary. It can play a role in the selection for a certain position, but is not remunerated per se, so it is up to the Ministry to decide whether or not to take this into account. While ministries are encouraged to allow foreign traineeships and partly reimburse them from other items of the state budget,<sup>603</sup> the employees themselves are not incentivised through a career perspective or in a material manner.

There are other forms of the systemic sharing of experience in public administration. This may include, for example, cooperation between service offices with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)<sup>604</sup> – the EIPA seminar was held in Prague for the first time in 2018. The Czech Republic had the second largest representation among participants from one state – the participation of the Czech Republic in OECD Committees, the Modern Public Administration Conference, organised by the MoI each year since 2016, or the functioning of government advisory bodies, which, inter alia, perform this function. However, we have no more consistent information on the effects of these other forms of experience sharing.

**There is a system of exchange of experience if we primarily link it to a traineeship system, and it has been adapted in recent years in a way that has led to increased interest in using it. It mainly concerns the relationship of the Czech Republic with the EU and the OECD. On the contrary, exchanges of experience with other public administrations or within domestic public administrations only exist in the form of *ad hoc* negotiations, at most in the form of government advisory bodies.**

---

<sup>603</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>604</sup> In 2018, the EIPA seminar was held in the Czech Republic for the first time, specifically Prague. 21 people attended the seminar, of which 6 were Czech, the second largest number from one state.

26 Public policy-making innovations are a progressive solution that increases the democratisation and/or long-term effectiveness of public policies; such innovations are a permanent part of the functioning of public administration at all levels.

*It is not enough to “do things right”, it is necessary especially to “do the right things”. At the same time, no solution to the problem can be prescribed as a one-size-fits-all solution. The forms change and need to change, the key is to monitor the purpose. Public administration must be able to learn from experience, change accordingly and especially change public policies. In other words, it must be able to innovate its actions in relation to the long-term objectives of Czech Republic 2030.*

***The system of support for innovation in policy-making does not yet exist, rather, there exist isolated places of positive development. It is not possible to speak about a change in the entire public administration environment in this respect. Pilots are not a common part of public policy-making. Policy testing is still very strongly linked to the individual activity and interest of lower levels of government; higher levels of government or political representation rarely make requests. Even the deliberation of public policies has not become the rule everywhere it would be appropriate; in a consistent form it is practically absent. Although there are some systemic options for participation, it is generally allowed rather than actively incentivised.***

26.1 A system of support for innovation in public policy-making shall be developed.

Public administration must become an environment in which it is possible to innovate easily. Even the best innovative solutions, when becoming a one-time experiment, are of little practical importance.

Today's public administration is not such an environment, and this has not changed since 2017. It applies even more strongly in the European context. Since 2007, the European Public Sector Award (EPSA) competition has been held every two years to promote innovative trends and the achievements made in this field. Usually only one application came from the Czech Republic, with the total volume of applications ranging from 150 to 250 per competition. No Czech EPSA project in any category has ever won or been nominated, only rarely has it been classified as one of 30-60 projects of best practice.<sup>605</sup> In the OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation database, there was no Czech project until this year and the one that appeared in 2020, namely NODC, was undisputedly very useful, but does not represent a very innovative approach.<sup>606</sup> Looking at a similar competition in the Czech environment – The MoI Award for Innovation in Public Administration awarded since 2005, - there is a fluctuation in the number of projects registered and a certain decrease of interest occurred after 2015 following the tightening of standards. The trend does not reflect a decline in innovativeness, but rather the long-term low level of innovation and depletion of the range of interested organisations.<sup>607</sup> It is indicative that when the MoI collected information in 2020 for basic information and promotion materials through which it wished to draw attention to the subject of innovation, specific examples from the Czech Republic were found only in the case of self-

---

<sup>605</sup> Ind. 26.1.2.

<sup>606</sup> Ind. 26.1.1.

<sup>607</sup> Ind. 26.1.3.



governments and not in public administration.<sup>608</sup>

Where systemic support for innovation already existed before 2017, this support continues. Predominantly under the so-called Social Innovation Programme from the OP E, in recent years also in TAČR programmes, in particular in the ÉTA programme. A positive example is the concept “housing first”, developed and tested in the context of social innovation in the OP E, extended to other cities in material priority within the current period, and now among the activities in priority 2 in the OP E+ (2021-2027).<sup>609</sup> However, what these activities have in common is that they are not directly part of policy-making, their connection to the day-to-day operation of public administration is free. Moreover, in the case of the OP E, they are linked to the drawing of European funds, with all the risks that this poses in the future when the amount of funds will decrease. The public administration does not create any specific expenditure items intended for policy innovation and experimental testing.

It should also be said that we are still lacking a comprehensive picture of the current state of innovation in state administration. On the basis of a number of clues, the degree of innovativeness is considered to be low and has systemic causes. However, since 2017, the topic has still not been thoroughly mapped and its biggest barriers specified, nor has work even started on the removal of these barriers. On the other hand, it is true that in 2019 the Czech Republic agreed to the OECD Declaration on Innovation<sup>610</sup> and in November 2020 it supported the conclusions of the EU Council to use experiments when creating regulations.<sup>611</sup> The MoI initiated the creation of a relevant working group in 2019, the analysis of the state of innovation was included in the tasks for the first period of the new public administration development concept<sup>612</sup> and the National Research Policy; the development and innovation of Czech Republic 2021+ provides for the creation of an innovation laboratory (policy lab) in 2021.<sup>613</sup> Approximately since 2017, the team is also of an innovative laboratory nature, developing the Citizen Portal (see Objective 27.2).

**The development an innovation support system, or even a change of environment, remains non-existent; innovation is still an isolated and difficult activity to push through. However, there has been a change in the atmosphere and the first real action, which could lead to a greater shift in 2021-2023, has taken place.**

---

<sup>608</sup> MoI (2020) Tips for the development of innovation in government organisations, MoI (2020) Tip for the development of innovation in local government organisations.

<sup>609</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>610</sup> OECD (2019) OECD Declaration on Public Sector Innovation. Available from: <https://oecd-opsi.org/projects/innovationdeclaration-2/>

<sup>611</sup> EU (2020) Council conclusions on Regulatory sandboxes and experimentation clauses as tools for an innovation-friendly, future-proof and resilient regulatory framework that masters disruptive challenges in the digital age. Available from: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13026-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>612</sup> MoI (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, objective 2.5.

<sup>613</sup> MEYS, RDIC (2020) National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic 2021+, measure 26.

26.2 Piloting will become part of public policy-making wherever appropriate, depending on the nature of the policy.

However, it is not just about a system that promotes innovation, though this does have the largest significance. It is also an extension of certain specific procedures. For objective 26.2 we aim to make testing the effects of the intended policies a rule, not an exception. Neither experimental design nor modern behavioural approaches (e.g. nudge theory) just tell us what "simply works". However, they help us avoid too strong expectations about the effect of a certain solution and can identify in advance the problems that the solution considered may have. They therefore tend to show us what "simply doesn't work". Testing solutions on smaller samples – whether in experimental designs, but also in simple case studies – is certainly better than putting a solution into practice areawide, even with the best of intentions, and waiting to see what will happen. Testing on smaller samples makes it possible to prevent damage and should be understood as a tool for the cost-effective treatment of public funds.

The situation has not changed since 2017. Ministries rarely pilot public policies, most do not pilot them at all, and these efforts have the nature of a control experiment only in very exceptional cases.<sup>614</sup> Some ministries will sometimes focus on behavioural approaches that have an experimental dimension, such as the MEYS and its projects Promoting the Development of IT Thinking and Supporting the Development of Digital Literacy.<sup>615</sup> At some point, rather than piloting, this means a gradual entry into force, as it is not expected that a solution would not eventually be introduced in more or less its original form. Examples include the MEYS methodological cabinets, Mental Health Centres established by the MoH, or the e-monitoring project of the MoJ Probation and Mediation Services.<sup>616</sup> Such procedures are certainly better than the areawide deployment, but they do not make sufficient use of the potential of testing.

Higher demands are placed on projects in the above mentioned Social Innovation Programme, where a quasi-experimental environment is created. With regard to public administration projects, we can mention the development and piloting of a comprehensive set of tools to help people in housing emergency by the Municipal Council of Prague. In addition, testing of the OSPOD function, which was initiated by the Pardubice Region and is aimed at minimising those OSPOD functioning processes that do not support the main purpose, i.e. direct assistance to vulnerable families. Or the Prison Service project – a control group experiment – which seeks to reduce the recidivism of those convicted for violent crimes through the application of the Good-Lives-Model. In cooperation with the public administration, although not directly by its forces, e.g. the quasi-experimental development of a labour-related rehabilitation centre is under way, which should increase the chances for people with a work handicap of reducing their

---

<sup>614</sup> Ind. 26.2.1.

<sup>615</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>616</sup> MEYS Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoH Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoJ Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

dependence on the social and health care system.<sup>617</sup>

**Piloting has not yet become a common part of public policy-making. Whoever was already developing this initiative before the creation of Czech Republic 2030 continues to do so; the others have not started. Policy testing is very strongly linked to the individual activity and interest of lower levels of government, higher levels of government or political representation rarely make requests. Pilots are not part of the preparation of policies initiated by governments on the basis of their programme objectives, overlapping occurs at most.**

26.3 Deliberation of public policies will be the rule where appropriate depending on the nature of the policy.

The deliberation of public policies, in particular at the early stages of their development, should also become the rule. This should be real deliberation to a greater extent, i.e. a form of discussion in which interested parties seek to justify their views through arguments. The main functions of the deliberation of public policies are to describe a subject from different perspectives, agree whether the topic is a problem to address, consider different options for solutions and find the widest possible support for the resulting solution. It is one of the few ways for public administration to get an idea of the perspective of policy beneficiaries with the highest degree of specificity (human-centred design). Deliberation is a two-way process – we explain our position and try to understand the position of others, which makes it possible to change the initial view.

Public participation in general is important for public policy-making (see objectives 18.3, 24.2, 27.1). Some participation options are embedded in the public policy-making process. Public consultation is also a mandatory part of the preparation of legislation and/or the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of the forthcoming regulation. However, they often take the form of consultations with the usual stakeholders in response to existing working groups and networks, i.e. those with the largest capacity to intervene in the process. These are mainly stronger interest organisations, rarely individuals.<sup>618</sup> There are other forms of participation in public policy-making established by law (e.g. EIA, SEA). But this is merely an option, the active encouragement of this form is rare, plus they have no discussion dimension. Participation is also recommended in the development of strategic materials and could have the nature of deliberation, but cooperation with the public is among the biggest weaknesses in the preparation of strategies (see objective 24.2).

Participation is a necessary part of deliberation, but deliberation is not exhausted by participation. From the point of view of the objective, the discussion format of a so-called mini-public is particularly desirable (a forum based on random selection, usually according to demographic criteria and usually for a symbolic remuneration, the discussion is organised or facilitated by dedicated staff and also involves experts).

---

<sup>617</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic Report on Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>618</sup> MoE (2020) Options of Including the Sustainable Development Perspective in the Impact Assessment System in the Czech Republic, Ind. 26.3.1.

However, we do not find such forms of deliberation in domestic public administration. The next closest form are round tables – from the post-2017 period, e.g. the MEYS and the preparation of the Education Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030+, or in part SMEs and amendments to the Act on Courts and Judges – which, however, rely heavily on the active interest and capacity of those participating in them. Therefore, they continue to involve a very similar circle of people. The perspective of beneficiaries can also be transposed into policy-making through long-term advisory bodies directly designated for this purpose (e.g. The MoH Patient Council, which has been functioning since 2017), but in this way, primarily formally organised interests are involved in the discussion. Efforts for continuous deliberation at local level enshrined in MA 21 are limited by a long-term small number of municipalities involved.<sup>619</sup> Nor do other sources present a significantly different image.<sup>620</sup>

In general, public administration does not really know how to ensure public participation and, above all, how to make the most efficient use of it. Although a manual of consultations with the public has existed since 2010, it is not used, nor has the MoI ever actively promoted it. Moreover, the material is generally focused on participation, more complex deliberative processes have little space. The MoI has decided to return to the topic after 10 years<sup>621</sup>, but the outcome of its attempt will not be available earlier than 2023.<sup>622</sup> In parallel, the MoJ in cooperation with the OG will also take a similar direction in 2020 with a project where the element of participation is considered in the broader context of the implementation of the principles of open governance.<sup>623</sup> However, even in this case, the practical use of the instrument under consideration will not take place before 2022.

**There are some possibilities for participation in the public policy-making system, but this is merely enabled rather than actively incentivised and most often looks at simple forms of written comments, possibly leading to deliberation in the form of round tables, but limited by many practical restrictions. The deliberation of public policies has not become the rule everywhere it would be appropriate; in a consistent form it is practically absent.**

---

<sup>619</sup> Ind. 26.3.2.

<sup>620</sup> Available from: <http://kvalitavs.cz/dobra-praxe-navigace/>.

<sup>621</sup> MoI (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, Objective 5.2.2.

<sup>622</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>623</sup> The commitment to develop the methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes, as anchored in the draft MoJ (2020) Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for the period 2020 to 2022.

## 27 The quality of the government in terms of beneficiaries of public policies has increased.

*Although Czech Republic 2030 sets out tasks primarily for public administration, its perspective should not be the perspective of the public administration itself. It is intended to be the perspective of citizens – the recipients of its services, recipients of public policies. At the same time, it is not enough that the public administration will be enlightened and work with this idea. The focus on policy beneficiaries must also be reflected in the personal experience of citizens. Both in the area of the democratisation of governance and in terms of the efficiency of the administration.*

***There exist mechanisms that ensure a certain degree of government inclusiveness and a slight positive development or stagnation is occurring within their framework. The situation is therefore not deteriorating, but the fundamental development of further processes to increase government inclusiveness is not occurring. The efficiency of the public administration, monitored from the perspective of the beneficiaries and measured in comparison with the adoption of Czech Republic 2030, is improving only in some areas (e.g. the functioning of jurisprudence or digitalisation), in other cases the matter either cannot be assessed yet or the results of the effort have not yet emerged (reducing administrative burden).***

27.1 Procedures increasing inclusiveness from the point of view of citizens will be developed

In the case of democratic participation, this is an effort to improve the real possibility of involving citizens in public decision-making and public policy-making.

The basic form of democratic participation in the Czech Republic is elections to the legislature on all levels. In the tradition of liberal democracy, it is precisely elections that are linked to the idea of public debate and the fulfilment of legitimate interests. However, the situation is not ideal in this respect. Voting participation in the Czech Republic in all types of elections has decreased since the early 1990s or remained relatively low in the long term. At the same time, it has remained quite stable in the last 20 years. In the case of elections to the Chamber of Deputies as the most important elections, there has been a significant decrease between the early 1990s and the second half of the 1990s, and again after 2000. For the last 20 years, electoral participation has been around 60 %. The two direct presidential elections that have taken place so far had a similar voter turnout. For other types of elections, voting participation in the long term is below 50 %, in some cases (elections to the European Parliament, 2nd round of Senate elections) even below 30 % in the long term.<sup>624</sup>

Therefore, with the exception of elections to the Chamber of Deputies and presidential elections, fewer than half of the citizens who could be represented in the Czech Republic are represented through elections. In the case of first-order elections, at least one third of qualified voters are not represented. There may be more reasons for this and they need not be specific only to the Czech Republic. They may have root causes in habits or traditions, not necessarily in the formal institutional set-up. This does not, however, mean that this is the situation once and for all. Whatever the causes are, it means that a significant part of Czech citizens do not consider this form of participation to be sufficient

---

<sup>624</sup> Ind. 27.1.1., Quality of life indicator 8.1.

or appropriate to lead public debate and satisfy their interests.

Less than two fifths of the addressed persons do not consider elections to be an effective way to influence what politicians do and, although it is one of the best results since the beginning of the measurement in 2004, it is still 37 %.<sup>625</sup>

Quality of life 8.2 - Trust in parliamentary institutions The annual rolling average of citizens' trust in the Chamber of Deputies as the main body of representation has ranged between 30 and 40 % since 2015.
---

In fact, the aforementioned dissatisfaction partly causes a lack of confidence in democracy in general. The proportion of people according to whom it does not matter whether there is a democratic or non-democratic regime in the Czech Republic has decreased significantly in recent years from its highest level in 2012 and 2013 (27 %), but it is still 15 % of the population. Another group – between 20 % and 30 % over the last decade – according to which authoritarian governance is better under certain circumstances, should also be taken into account. Compared to the last decade, the number of people who agree with dissolving the Parliament and abolishing political parties has decreased this year, but is still 24 %.<sup>626</sup> The trend is therefore positive, but the current values are still alarming.

In addition to a representative model of liberal democracy, there are possibilities in the Czech Republic to use forms of other traditions of democracy, in particular participatory and deliberative democracy, which translate citizens' participation more closely into the policy-making phase and focus it on more specific problems.

One of the possibilities are referendums that take place in the Czech Republic at local level. At the regional level, although this is possible in 10 years' time, no action has yet taken place and despite repeated attempts to approve a form of national referendum, the only case of this kind was an *ad hoc* referendum for the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU in 2004. The average participation in local referendums ranged from 40 % to 60 % from 2006 onwards, mostly from 50 % to 60 %. Participation is therefore slightly lower than in elections to the Chamber of Deputies, but in the Czech Republic it represents a form of higher participation. Unlike elections to the legislature, in the case of a referendum, a minimum participation is set for the referendum to be valid (and in that context the binding threshold of the decision). The proportion of valid referendums, i.e. a referendum involving at least 35 % of the beneficiaries, never fell below 50 %.<sup>627</sup> However, the utilisation rate is also linked to the size of municipalities, it is very difficult to achieve both a valid and binding referendum in large cities.

Another form of direct co-decision is the so-called participatory budget. If we select the data of the single organisation that actively develops

---

<sup>625</sup> CVVM (2020) Citizens' engagement and their understanding of policy – February 2020.

<sup>626</sup> CVVM (2020) The Czech public's opinions on the functioning of democracy and non-democratic alternatives to the political system – February 2020.

<sup>627</sup> Ind. 27.1.2.

this form in the Czech Republic,<sup>628</sup> we see that the trend is positive. Both in terms of growth and in the fact that most municipalities that introduce participatory budgeting continue to use it. As of 2017, this was 35 municipalities, and 38 as of 2018, in 2019 this increased to 63 municipalities, and as of August 2020 the total is 83 municipalities. Their number is very small compared to the total number of municipalities. No participatory budget project has yet been carried out either at the level of the regions or at the level of ministries.

Deliberative mechanisms can also be used for policy-making. However, as the evaluation of objective 26.3 shows, at least at national policy level, this is a formal possibility of participation rather than an active attempt by the public administration for deliberation. There are also government advisory bodies,<sup>629</sup> the essential feature of which should be the inclusion of the professional and general public and deliberation. However, no continuous information on their degree of inclusiveness is available, not counting the structure of the representation. It can be concluded that public administration and organised interests dominate in these authorities. According to the opinion of the NKÚ,<sup>630</sup> which criticised even the just over half representation of non-governmental actors in one of the advisory bodies, it cannot be expected that inclusivity will increase.

We get a less encouraging picture if we focus on gender equality in the context of representation. Over the last 20 years, more than 22.2 % of women have never been elected to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate (the Chamber of Deputies 22 % in 2010 and 2017, Senate 22.2 % in 2006 and 2016). In the case of regional representation (regional councils), more than 20.3 % were never elected (2016), though the 2020 elections might bring about a change. Only the last elections to the European Parliament were a minor exception, 33.3 % of women were elected.<sup>631</sup>

The situation is slightly better at the level of local representatives. Since the mid-1990s, elections of this type show a continuous increase in the proportion of both nominated and elected women.<sup>632</sup> At the same time, the largest number of women among all types of elections in the Czech Republic are now elected in local elections, both in absolute numbers and relatively. However, even here, the national average never exceeded 27.99 % (2018), the regional averages only exceptionally surpassed 30 %. However, in individual municipalities the representation of women may be higher. Parity has been achieved in some places and in some municipalities a majority of women was even elected, or in some election periods the council was composed solely of women. At the same time, while there are municipalities to which no single woman has been elected in the last 30 years, the opposite has never occurred. Looking at the six most populous cities

---

<sup>628</sup> Data from Ind. 18.3.3. Agora. Available from: <https://www.participativni-rozpocet.cz/aktuality/>

<sup>629</sup> Available from: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/>.

<sup>630</sup> SAO (2019) Audit conclusion of inspection action 18/03.

<sup>631</sup> Ind. 27.1.3.

<sup>632</sup> OG (2019) 2018 Report on Equality between Women and Men, graph 1.

of the Czech Republic for the last decade, the proportion of elected women rarely increases 30 %, only in one of these cities repeatedly.<sup>633</sup>

At the same time, more than 4 women have not simultaneously been in the government during the last 20 years; they most often managed the MEYS. Their representation rate has never in history exceeded 27 %.<sup>634</sup> Three women hold the position of the State Secretary in 2020, while in 2016 it was only one. However, overall, there are 14 or 15 positions of this type. The lower in the decision-making hierarchy we go, the higher the representation of women – from deputy directors through department directors to the heads of units. This situation remains stable in the long term.<sup>635</sup> A better, though not equal representation could only be found if we combined all the leading positions in the ministries into larger blocks. 40.4 % of women worked in senior positions<sup>636</sup> in 2019, departments were led by women in 44.8 % of cases in the same year.<sup>637</sup>

We also see a similar picture in the area of justice. In an aggregate perspective, gender representation is balanced, even favourable for women. At the beginning of 2019, women accounted for 53.3 % of employed persons in these institutions, a year earlier it was 60.7 %.<sup>638</sup> However, the latest available data on the positions of presidents of the court, i.e. senior positions, show 41 female judges in 2018 compared to 55 male judges, with the vast majority of female judges at district level, and almost exclusively men at higher levels.<sup>639</sup>

However, democracy is not only an issue of inputs. As well as all other political arrangements, democracy also gains legitimacy through its outputs. Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy is clearly linked to socio-economic conditions. The worse the claimed standard of living, the lower the degree of satisfaction with the functioning of democracy. The proportion of people who are indifferent to whether the arrangement is democratic also increases along with a declining declared standard of living.<sup>640</sup> The formal right to participate is not the only deciding factor for the degree of participation. The socially weak participate less and the importance of the social position factor has

---

<sup>633</sup> Ind. 27.1.3. The most populous cities are Prague, Ostrava, Brno, Pilsen Liberec and Olomouc. The proportion of women in Liberec repeatedly exceeds 30 %, with a maximum value over the last decade of 33.33 % of women.

<sup>634</sup> OG (2018) 2017 Report on Equality between Women and Men, graph 3 plus the current situation

<sup>635</sup> Ind. 27.1.5 and for comparison the ČSÚ – focus on men and women edition since 2014.

<sup>636</sup> minister, secretary of state, deputy, director of a department, director of a ministerial organisation.

<sup>637</sup> Data from Ind. 3.3.2.

<sup>638</sup> Data from Ind. 3.3.2.

<sup>639</sup> ČSÚ – focus on men and women 2019 edition, Presidents of the Court by type of courts and sex in 2018.

<sup>640</sup> PORC (2020) The Czech public's opinions on the functioning of democracy and non-democratic alternatives to the political system – February 2020.



been growing slowly since 1990.<sup>641</sup> The proportion of people living below the poverty threshold following social transfers can be used as a simple inspection of the link between, on the one hand, policies implemented, and socio-economic conditions on the other hand (although this does not concern the largest amount of social transfer, pensions). The proportion of people below the poverty threshold even after social transfers remains stable over the long term and relatively low (from 2005 to the present, the lowest value was 8.6 % and the highest 10.4 %).<sup>642</sup> In terms of democratisation, this is a positive finding. However, the effectiveness of social transfers (see objective 3.1) is also worth paying attention to.

Since 2017, no government has set up priorities for the inclusiveness of governance and changes in this area are still proposed on an *ad hoc* basis. Such proposals may increase the inclusiveness of governance (e.g. introducing correspondence voting from abroad in the draft amendment to the Act on Election Administration), but these are isolated steps. The only case that could correspond to prioritisation is to include the topic of public participation and deliberative policy-making practices among the objectives of public administration development over the upcoming decade.<sup>643</sup> However, emphasis in this direction is mainly on awareness, less on increasing the inclusiveness of governance.

**There are mechanisms in place to ensure a degree of inclusiveness of governance (e.g. elections, referendums, policy-making consultation mechanisms, etc.) and in their framework either positive development or, in the worst case, stagnation occurs. The situation is not deteriorating significantly. However, we the fundamental development of further processes to increase government inclusion is not occurring.**

27.2 Procedures will be developed to increase the efficiency of public administration citizens and entrepreneurs and firms.

Citizens must also have personal experience with the efficiency of public administration. Efficiency has several aspects, four topics are particularly urgent in the context of this objective.

The first one is the subject of digitalisation. Based on the Digital Economy and Society Index, we can observe a gradual rise of the Czech Republic, but the country is still below the EU average.<sup>644</sup> At the same time, the evaluation of objective 25.2 stated that the frequency of electronic communication with the public administration has increased significantly over the last 10 years in all categories, including categories of people over 65. In the category of economically active/employed persons, the combined frequency of electronic communication exceeded 50 % of the population, the same applies when looking at people aged 25-44.<sup>645</sup> For part of the domestic

---

<sup>641</sup> Linek, L. (2013) Rostoucí sociální nerovnosti ve volební účasti v Česku v letech 1990–2010. Naše společnost 11(1), s. 3–14., Linek, L. (2015) Účast ve sněmovních volbách v roce 2013: zdroje, mobilizace a motivace. Evropská volební studia 10(2), pp. 76–90.

<sup>642</sup> Ind. 27.1.4.

<sup>643</sup> Mol (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, specific objective 5.2.

<sup>644</sup> DESI 2020.

<sup>645</sup> Data from Ind. 25.2.2.

population, e-mail contacts with public administration have become the norm and we should assume that interest in this type of communication and use of public administration services will continue to grow. The trend is likely to be accelerated also by the Covid-19 outbreak. This is also illustrated by the fact that during the first half of 2020, more requests to set up a data box were submitted via the Czech Point contact points than in the entire year 2019, which broke the record. At the same time, the number of requests to set up a data box for a natural person has increased significantly.<sup>646</sup>

It is therefore desirable to achieve a situation where anyone wishing to use public administration services will be able to do so electronically, without physical presence at the office and without the intermediation of public administration staff, but at the same time will not be forced to do so. An act<sup>647</sup> was adopted in 2020 which postulates the right to digital services. However, the act will come into effect gradually, some provisions in two years and some after five years. It is, so far, more a matter of the internal preparation of the public administration, rather than an effect for citizens.

However, real progress can occur through the established concept of e-identity,<sup>648</sup> allowing remote identity verification and thus actions in the electronic world that are regarded as an equivalent to physical conduct. Means of proof of identity can be set up by any natural person who is maintained in the basic population register, and they can choose which means they wish to use.<sup>649</sup> Banks and banking institutions are also included as means of proof of identification in 2021 and a large increase in the electronic communication of potential public administration clients can therefore be expected.

Another significant forward shift is the intention of the Citizen Portal<sup>650</sup> as part of the Public Administration Portal. In 2017, the MoI team presented the concept of a progressively expanding circle of life events (e.g. marriage, divorce, birth of a child, filing of a tax return, information on the status of the driver's point balance, etc.) during which the public needs to or must come into contact with the public administration and translate those events for which it is appropriate into electronic form. After the pilot phase, the Citizen Portal was put into operation in 2019 and is expected to expand or deepen.<sup>651</sup>

Just as we warn of the socio-economic dimension of the problem in

---

<sup>646</sup> Available from: <https://www.czechpoint.cz/public/statistiky-a-informace/statistiky-czp/>.

<sup>647</sup> Act 12/2020 Coll., on the Right to Digital Services and Amendments to Certain Acts. Act 12/2020 Coll., on the Right to Digital Services and Amendments to Certain Acts.

<sup>648</sup> Act No 250/2017 Coll., on Electronic Identification.

<sup>649</sup> Available from: <https://archi.gov.cz/nap:nia>.

<sup>650</sup> Available from: <https://obcan.portal.gov.cz/prihlaseni>; for concise information <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/portal-obcana.aspx>, for background information MoI (2020) Public Administration in the Czech Republic – Annual Report on the State of Public Administration in the Czech Republic 2019.

<sup>651</sup> MoI Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoT Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoI (2020) Public Administration in the Czech Republic – Annual Report on the State of Public Administration in the Czech Republic 2019.

the event of participation, attention should be paid to it also in the case of finding the most effective solutions and process in digitalisation. When looking at the frequency of electronic contacts with public administrations according to economic activity, the unemployed, which can be viewed as a proxy for the socially weaker here, use the internet to communicate with the public administration significantly less than employed persons. And although their number is growing, the pace is clearly slower than in the case of employed persons. At the same time, the socially weaker will often need more information and public administration services.<sup>652</sup> It therefore remains true that an agenda, service or process must only pass through electronicisation if this is useful for the beneficiaries. The MoI team preparing the Citizen Portal takes this into consideration.<sup>653</sup>

Other activities of the public administration are aimed in a similar direction. The MoH shall ensure that new functions are added to the system of issuing prescriptions in electronic form (eReceipt). The system is intended to provide e.g. a higher degree of safety when dispensing medicine, or to allow the prescription of a medicine without visiting the doctor's office. This year, a shared drug record function has been added to help prevent unwanted drug interactions. The MoJ is in charge of the development of a new insolvency register information system (the so-called eSIR, with the exception of certain activities) or the preparation of the online founding of limited liability companies. The MIT is preparing the Trade Business Portal as well as the Entrepreneur Portal, which will be the transaction part of the BusinessInfo Portal, and is considering the use of this portal for the forthcoming pan-European Single Digital Gateway project. The MFA shall extend the Czech Point network to representative offices, or tested the functioning of the payment gateway at embassies and general consulates of the Czech Republic.<sup>654</sup> The intentions are worthwhile, but at the moment they are, for the most part, merely intentions or preparations. Unlike the Citizen Portal, most of these matters could not yet have been translated into the experience of policy beneficiaries, with the exception of some MoH activities.

The strategic framework Digital Czech Republic is the overarching document for these activities, as well as for other intentions related to the digitisation of public administration, and thus society. It was approved by the government in 2018. The first implementation plans, focusing in particular on shared services, cross-cutting solutions and methodological and legislative initiatives supporting overall digitalisation, were adopted in 2019.

In this regard, it seems the Covid-19 outbreak will accelerate matters or make them more conceivable. In the context of the epidemic, the most significant progress has been probably made in the digitalisation

---

<sup>652</sup> Data from Ind. 25.2.2.

<sup>653</sup> Ministry of the Interior Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>654</sup> MoH Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MoJ Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MIT Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020), MFA Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

of healthcare, for example, a system capacity monitoring system (machines, workers, beds) providing real-time data started to operate, an application was developed to facilitate the tracing of people in contact with infected persons, and health insurance companies allowed their providers the extended use of electronic targeted examination.<sup>655</sup>

The second area where we expect progress in the context of the objective is a reduction in the administrative burden on public policy beneficiaries, wherever this will not put at risk the intended public policy function and/or where this will strengthen the intended public policy function. The aim is not to reduce the administrative burden at any cost, but to strengthen the quality of the public policy from the point of view of the beneficiaries (i.e. its effectiveness, relevance, etc.). In view of this, it may sometimes be justified to increase administrative burden (e.g. in order to obtain data to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy), provided that it is clear how the short-term increase will lead to a reduction in the burden over a longer period of time.

In the case of entrepreneurs, the main aim is to reduce the administrative burden of activities of the MIT, which has initiated and evaluated annual plans in this area since 2008. However, the re-measurement of the administrative burden is carried out only at large intervals. The last re-measurement in 2016 indicated a reduction in the burden compared to 2005.<sup>656</sup>

In terms of reducing the administrative burden on citizens and public administrations, we are still at the beginning. In 2019, in cooperation with TAČR, the MoI launched a competitive procurement dialogue, which should lead to a mapping of the aforementioned burden and to the formulation of both legislative and non-legislative measures that will reduce that burden.<sup>657</sup>

This objective also calls for better public administration services in the field of the judicial power. Using as an example one of the basic expectations that the public has, that is, the speed of proceedings, we can monitor both the decreasing length of proceedings and a reduction of differences between courts from 2014 onwards.<sup>658</sup> However, although the speed of a court ruling is very important, the problem should not be narrowed down to merely this. On the one hand, the dispute can also be solved by means other than judicial proceedings, and despite formal equality, barriers to judicial resolution can be imposed in practice and these are linked to income, level of awareness, physical handicap, geographical location, etc. The MoJ declares that, in this context, it pays attention also to modern trends also outside the Czech Republic, but the effects of this attention are difficult to assess. The MoJ considered a legal needs survey to help broaden the perspective of the beneficiaries in the area of justice.

---

<sup>655</sup> Ministry of Health Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>656</sup> MIT (2016) Information on the Reduction of Administrative Burden on Entrepreneurs for 2016.

<sup>657</sup> MoI (2020) Client-oriented Public Administration 2030, the rule to assess their impact on the administrative burden on citizens and public administrations when implementing all measures.

<sup>658</sup> Ind. 27.2.2.

However, different priorities were established and the research was not carried out.<sup>659</sup>

In the area of the efficiency of the public administration, at the boundary of judicial and executive powers, lies the need for an impartial exercise of public administration, which often has an extraordinary impact on the legitimacy of both executive and judicial powers in the eyes of the public. From one point of view, we can discuss the area of the fight against corruption, i.e. a breach of the principle of impartiality in favour of some private profit. However, in terms of sustainable development, impartiality is not seen as a value only in the context of corruption. It should be seen in the context of particularism in general – the principle of impartiality is also violated by discrimination based on funds, race, sex, religion, etc. Therefore, to address the problem, rules on the financing of political parties, laws on the register of contracts, on public procurement or on conflicts of interest all help to address the problem, as well as, for example, the so-called Anti-Discrimination Act. And, of course, not only the conduct of the public administration itself but also, the interpretation of the rules developed by court rulings.

Quality of life 8.10 – Corruption Perception Index

In the composite Corruption Perception Index, drawn up on the expert basis of Transparency International (TI), the Czech Republic has improved compared to 2013 and 2012. However, TI noted that this improvement was fragile, as confirmed in the last edition of the index for 2019, where the evaluation of the Czech Republic fell to values from 2015. The Czech Republic has long been below the EU average.

The government document that particularly addresses this issue is the Government Concept of Combating Corruption for the years 2018 to 2022 and its action plans. Specific anti-corruption measures approved by the government include, for example, a proposal for regulation on lobbying, extension of the powers of the NKÚ or the transposition of the so-called V. AML Directive. However, these legislative proposals have not yet been approved by the Parliament.<sup>660</sup>

Overall, as regards the elimination of discrimination, there is a slight positive trend, but the labour market continues to discriminate certain groups in the long term, and in the case of certain types of discrimination, the public administration is unable to evaluate the

---

<sup>659</sup> Ministry of Justice Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

<sup>660</sup> Ministry of Justice Report on the Evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 (2020). For Act No. 527/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 253/2008 Coll., on Selected Measures against Legitimation of Proceeds of Crime and Financing of Terrorism, as amended, and other related acts, acts related to the adoption of the act on the registration of beneficial owners and Act No. 186/2016 Coll., on Gambling, as amended, the legislative process has already been completed.

impact of its efforts (see objectives 3.3 and 3.4).

Finally, in the context of this objective, it is important to pay attention to the establishment of a mechanism that enables the long-term efficiency of the public administration to be assessed and, on that basis, to innovate on a continuous basis. One level is the functioning of quality management systems (see objective 24.1). The results in this direction are not yet sufficient. The second level is a comprehensive evaluation system

that passes through the public administration as a whole. A certain basis for this system was created in 2017, but was not put into practice. Therefore, in the context of the preparation of the new public administration development strategy, an up-to-date *measurement and evaluation of the public administration* was adopted in 2020, which, inter alia, brought the assessment criteria closer to the perspective of the beneficiaries.

**In the areas of digitalisation, mechanisms to monitor the performance of public administrations and the functioning of jurisprudence, progress has been made in real-world results, although especially in the case of digitalisation, the largest part of the work lies ahead of us. There is no information on the effective reduction of the administrative burden in the reporting period, or the results could not have presented themselves yet.**

Quality of life 7.6 – Would you identify yourself as a member of a group that is discriminated against in this country  
Subjectively perceived discrimination shows relatively low values – 3.7 % of the Czech population was convinced of discrimination in 2019 – and this conviction is slowly weakening in time.

# The main conclusions from the input evaluation of Czech Republic 2030

The input evaluation of Czech Republic 2030 consists of 4 independent parts: the mapping of strategic documents, an analysis of the state of strategic work in the Czech Republic, a questionnaire survey of contact points for the sustainable development agenda and an evaluation of the use rate of tools according to the CZ 2030 typology. The main conclusions of this Evaluation are used in this Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability.

## The mapping of strategy papers

The interconnectedness and coherence of the 2017-2019 strategy papers is often significantly formalistic from a detailed point of view and reflects superficial thematic coherence, but not coherence at the level of objectives (the desired state) or implementation steps. The strategic framework CZ 2030 and IP have so far had a convex and informative function, not a management function. In the reporting period 2017 to 2019, no strategy was found that would be in direct contrast with Czech Republic 2030. At the same time, a quarter of the new strategies have no coherence with Czech Republic 2030, often because they cover areas beyond interest or under the distinctive capacity of the universality document of the strategic framework. 76 % of strategies therefore show a strong or weak coherence with Czech Republic 2030. From a time perspective, a strong significant coherence is observed only in 2017, where the impact of broad participation on the creation and text of Czech Republic 2030 is evident, including the involvement of authors and administrators of sectoral strategies. However, over time, it is clear from the point of view of the impact on coherence that this wide and open process in state administration unfortunately wasn't followed up on at the implementation stage. The specific objectives of Czech Republic 2030 have been covered by more than half of the strategic materials since 2017 (56 %). However, one fifth of the Czech Republic 2030 targets have been identified as somewhat neglected in the framework of strategic governance. The main problems in this analysis are identified for strategic objectives 7, 9, 12 and 16.

The MRD analysis on the strategic work of public administration<sup>661</sup> presents a number of identified shortcomings and corrective actions. In particular, from the perspective of the sustainable development agenda, these recommendations can include an increase in the intensity of information activities and the overall awareness of both the public administration and the public in the area of sustainable development. There is a need to accelerate the mainstreaming of sustainable development principles into strategic work while sharing practical experiences and examples of good practice that can be

---

<sup>661</sup> This is a selection of the outputs of the OP E project *Mapping strategic work in public administration institutions and proposals to streamline*, the recipient of which was the MRD - Analyses and recommendations for the tools used for strategic work, Qualitative analyses of strategic work in ministries and regions, and the questionnaire survey. The aggregate project outputs are available from: [https://www.mmr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/urad/projektova-kancelar/projekty-\(2\)/esif/ukoncene/mapovani-strategicke-prace-v-institucich-verejne-s?feed=AllPageFefed](https://www.mmr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/urad/projektova-kancelar/projekty-(2)/esif/ukoncene/mapovani-strategicke-prace-v-institucich-verejne-s?feed=AllPageFefed)

replicated across the administration.

An important element is the need for optimal levels of participation and cooperation throughout the scope of the issue, so that narrowly defined details at the expense of other themes and underestimation of the contribution of key actors and the public to strategic work are avoided.

In addition, there is also a need to improve approaches to the assessment of economic, social and other impacts and to raise awareness of the tools for monitoring and evaluating implementation, in particular by increasing the inclusion of quality of life indicators in measuring the success of strategies from a sustainable development perspective. Including through the use of external capacities or a clearer definition and management of the implementation.

As part of the questionnaire survey of the contact points for sustainable development in state administration, it is clear that the awareness and knowledge of Czech Republic 2030 and sustainable development is rather passive and often taken into account purely formally. Coherence with Czech Republic 2030 is generally respected according to the ministries, the Sustainable Development Goals are at least formally respected, but the problems are in concrete and important details. Internal coordination is often functional but not very effective. Inter-ministerial coordination of cooperation is considered to be good, but it more often involves anchored formal processes (MPŘ) than, for example, the use of an implementation *task force*. Cooperation with the public is possible in some diverse form in all ministries, but no ministry approaches it comprehensively.

It cannot be said that there already exists a model office in state administration that could serve as a clear example of good cooperation and participation practices. Rather, there is a paradox of the presumption of sufficient knowledge of the strategic framework and sustainable development, but simultaneously very low coherence of ministerial strategy papers with Czech Republic 2030. The main recommendations are, in particular, the need for wider information sharing, increased communication intensity and methodological support during implementation.

The use of diverse tools to achieve comprehensive SDGs is an indication of a robust and rational approach to implementation risks. Robustness does not mean an even representation of all available instruments, but in order to prevent risks of inappropriate implementation and to seek synergies for an enhanced effect and impact of implementation, it is appropriate to have at least basic diversity in the chosen solution to the problem.

In terms of setting up and using the tool mix of the CZ 2030 Implementation Plan, it is clear that each key area has a completely different portfolio, reflecting the specificities of the given areas.

The key area of *People and society* mainly uses two types of tools. Both organisationally institutional, and financial and economic. Furthermore, strategic and normative tools are also used. From the



point of view of the instrument mix, these are relatively diverse instruments and a one-sided focus on one type is rather exceptional (in 3 objectives). A potential problem is the very low representation of voluntary and research instruments within the portfolio.

The key area *Economic model* primarily uses financial and economic tools, and organisationally institutional and strategic and project tools. Other types of instruments are used in a very fragmented manner and some instruments are not used at all. In particular, participation is not systematically used together with education and research. Only in a few cases is a broad diversified mix chosen.

The key area *Resilient ecosystems* concentrates strongly on four types of tools. Namely strategic, planning and project, financial and economic, and technological. On the other hand, the types of tools from the second spectrum represent participatory and deliberative and educational tools that are used marginally. From the point of view of the whole document, the role of technology tools related to the development of technological processes, care plans or anti-erosion protection is very specific.

The key area *Municipalities and regions* uses, in particular, strategic and planning tools as well as financial and economic instruments. Other types of tools are used significantly less and many of them aren't practically used at all. In particular, a specificity of this area is the very weak representation of participatory and deliberative tools, which should be very functional for the territorial dimension. In addition, there are a number of objectives that are addressed by only two types of instruments and there is no effort for a robust approach.

The key area of *Global development* concentrates for virtually all objectives on organisational institutional and strategic programming tools. Regrettably, many other types of instruments remain untapped and the robustness of the tool mix is not very high. In particular, the area of education and awareness-raising, which may be important for the successful representation and public acceptance of foreign and international policies in the Czech Republic, could be a significant risk. It is appropriate to consider a wider portfolio of instruments as part of the update.

The key area *Good governance* primarily uses strategic and planning tools and organisational institutional ones, with a very high concentration on these types of instruments. At the same time, a unilateral concentration toward one selected instrument type occurs on the level of individual objectives. The other types are used marginally. The tool mix is therefore not too robust. A potential risk is the weak use of financial and economic tools.

# Policy coherence instruments for sustainable development

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda put the signatories to the agreement, including the Czech Republic, before the issue of the creation and improvement of tools with the help of which the sustainable development perspective would be able to permeate the actual process of shaping and implementing public policies. That is why the CZ 2030 strategic framework also covers the area of governance and emphasises the coherence of policies, i.e. cohesion in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, at the UN 2019 SDG Summit, the Czech Republic made a voluntary commitment<sup>662</sup> that its system of assessing the impact of public policies will be permeated by the sustainable development perspective by 2025.

One way is coordination focused directly on the CZ 2030 strategic framework, follow-up implementation plans and the related Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the turn of 2018 and 2019, the ministries designated contact points responsible for both intra- and inter-ministerial coordination. The MoE then ensured the joint work technically and methodologically. However, the stability of the network was negatively affected by the government's systemisation and changes to the internal structure of ministries. As a result, during the first year of existence of the focal points, some ministries replaced the staffing of the contact persons, sometimes repeatedly, and further changes took place in 2020. Changes took place mainly at working level, only the MFA – due to the specificity of service abroad, i.e. the rotation of employees – changed its team completely. In the case of the MRD, there were changes in the spring of 2020 as well as changes to the departments in charge of the agenda. The existence of a network has clearly helped to increase awareness of the role of these strategic materials across the public administration, and, in some cases, led to the simple awareness of their existence. The evaluation of these materials can also be best coordinated through this network. However, experience has clearly shown the limits of this approach when it comes to monitoring policy coherence.

Indeed, coherence cannot be effectively ensured by a one-off assessment carried out from a single public administration location, not matter how much it serves as a hub. This is not just a problem of capacity, it is even more so a conceptual problem. Among the number of items addressed by the public administration in parallel and on a continuous basis, any such one-off assessment of coherence would be significantly outdated in the course of its preparation and the steps taken on the basis thereof would arrive into a substantially different situation than those which led to their proposal. One-off assessment is relevant as regards long-term procedural processes or when long-term trends are evaluated in terms of content and are at a higher level

---

<sup>662</sup> Available from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=33262>.

of universality. On the contrary, it is very limited when applied to the details of the content questions. For this purpose, the sustainable development perspective must be part of the daily activities of the public administration, the mechanisms for assessing the impact of public policies that function automatically and autonomously, without the need for repeated input by the MoE and independently of the above mentioned network of contact persons. The MoE paid analytical attention to this topic in 2019-20<sup>663</sup> The main conclusions are included in this section of the evaluation report.

There are two main approaches in other countries to integrating the sustainable development perspective into the impact assessment system. The first includes sustainability elements in Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), thus using established processes and seeking to improve and/or modify them. The second approach creates a separate impact assessment (SIA), usually in relation to the wording of the SDGs and works in parallel with other forms of impact assessments or is only activated in certain circumstances. Examples of national procedures show that RIA can provide a sufficient platform for the application of the principles of policy coherence – where evaluations are carried out in good quality, consistently, or procedures are partially modified – and that the individual impact assessments carried out are not fundamentally different from those used in the RIA.

The EU and the OECD are also subject to improving the mechanisms to ensure policy coherence and sustainable development in the long-term. The EU is concentrating its efforts on 'Better Regulation', which includes part of the previous efforts of the European Commission advocated under Coherence for Development (PCD). This is also partly a response to the introduction of the 2030 Agenda. As a key means of implementing the 2030 Agenda, the OECD offers the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) mechanism. It builds on the SIA methodology and shares with it three fundamental pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. The PCSD represents eight building blocks that contribute to systematically promoting policy coherence, regardless of national specificities and bureaucratic culture. These blocks include political commitments and guidance, policy integration, long-term perspective, analysis and evaluation of policy impact, political and institutional coordination, regional involvement, cooperation with stakeholders, monitoring and reporting. Comparing these building blocks and the regulatory impact assessment structure (RIA) in the Czech Republic, it is clear that both systems can be interconnected. The RIA process offers sufficient theoretical potential to include the sustainable development perspective. However, in order to transfer this perspective into practice, impact assessments need to be carried out in truly good quality, especially at the stage of problem definition, but also at the stage of assessing options and identifying areas of impact.

The analysis also included a real design of the RIA process and

---

<sup>663</sup> MoE (2020) Options for Including the Sustainable Development Perspective in the Impact Assessment System in the Czech Republic.

attempted to find problems that could have the greatest impact in terms of promoting the sustainable development perspective. Among the most pronounced, it is possible to identify the problem of insufficient staffing for quality evaluation processing, the mechanical character of processing, availability or use of certain types of data or the small, or completely absent interest in certain design effects screening tools (experiments and pilots, more sophisticated forms of public participation).

On the basis of the analysis, the MoE shall, on the one hand, proceed with the formulation of general recommendations of the parties to the design and implementation of the impact assessment (RIA), including emphasis on increasing processing capacities, as well as the creation of a specific manual and set of practical examples and information sources that would bring processors closer to the perspective of sustainable development not only as an abstract concept but as an easily accessible, rapid and understandable action they can take. Outputs will be presented in 2023. The analysis itself should be expanded by other aspects, be updated over time and serve as an open summary of relevant information on the subject in the future.

Ex post policy coherence

Instruments ensuring *ex ante* policy coherence are, however, only one party to the notional equation. On the other hand, we are able to check whether our original estimates were correct and whether the results are as requested by us. Some ways of retrospective evaluation of our actions have been mentioned in the evaluation of objective 24 (general evaluation, evaluation of strategies, ex-post RIA). The level is still insufficient, but the problem is that we do not make sufficient efforts rather than not knowing how to proceed.

In addition, we should seek to capture the degree of coherence, i.e. whether the activities of the various components of public administration, oriented to certain sections of responsibility, together lead to the achievement of the objectives from the point of view of the final beneficiaries, with a 'from the bottom' perspective. Research under the conditions of the MoE carried out by a team led by Jan Sládek (Philosophical Faculty at Charles University) has therefore been prepared.

We have defined several life situations. These life situations are a combination of the problems identified in the various key areas of Czech Republic 2030 and for which measures are formulated in the IP of CZ 2030. If the IP CZ 2030 measures were implemented, this should be reflected in the solution of such situations. If there is no evidence, this does not necessarily mean that the measures were flawed or had no effect. It does mean, however, that we have not yet achieved the most substantial goal, that is, to improve the quality of life and have citizens actually feel this improvement.

The beneficiary's perspective 'gives a voice' to those for whom public policy is developed. It may draw attention to the problems that public administrations do not consider to be a significant barrier and therefore disregard them, or problems for which it is not possible to easily use common and standardised public administration tools, and public

administration will therefore tend to avoid them. In practice, however, these matters can play an essential role in the way people act and therefore how effective the measures that are in the IP CZ 2030 will be. Given the structure of the life situations being examined, we also examine the more general ability of the public administration to 'prepare tailor-made solutions', not only to provide broad and universal ones. Research thus also serves in a narrower sense as part of the assessment of the key area of *Good Governance*.

Each life situation is designed to be individual and a virtual person will be selected to represent that situation. However, information on each life situation will be drawn in practice from at least three sub-case studies/three people. The backbone of the information will be in-depth interviews and their analysis. The interviews will take place repeatedly, in two waves with an interval of about half a year. In addition, research will rely on materials of a similar nature already collected by some institutions for their internal needs (e.g. the Private Agriculture Association), administrative data and some statistical data. During October, piloting should take place on a single life situation, based on the results of which the modification of the research design and work procedure will be decided on. The results of the evaluation should be available at the end of 2021.

# Public participation

Although the Czech Republic 2030 and even more significantly the implementation plan are mainly guidelines to the public administration process, sustainable development cannot be a matter of the state alone. Not only in the sense that many matters cannot be changed by the public administration alone but, by virtue of their procedure or rules, they affect the behaviour and actions of the wider public, and only this change in behaviour and actions will decide whether those objectives will be achieved. Also in the sense that, if the public is not involved in policy-making, it will be difficult for the public administration to have an idea of the perspective of those for whom it works and those whose quality of life is expected to improve as a result of its activities.

Public participation is therefore expected in the context of the strategic framework at two levels: (1) in general, at the level of participation in policy-making corresponding to the focus of the CZ 2030 2) in the area of cooperation on the management of implementation, i.e. institutionalised cooperation within the GCSD, and at the same time in the form of participation in the evaluation of CZ 2030.

The first level of assessment overlaps with the evaluation of objectives 26.3, 27.1, 23.2 and 25.2. In summary, participation in policy-making is possible at multiple levels, in some directions it is also formally codified. On the other hand, the public administration often enables participation rather than supporting it – and in some cases allows it unwillingly – and the long-term problem of a meaningful utilisation of this participation persists.

On the second level, we should first mention the activities of the GCSD and its committees. Details can be found in the GCSD Annual Activity Reports and on the website<sup>664</sup>. A positive result of the period since the approval of Czech Republic 2030 was undoubtedly the fact that the GCSD discussed and its members commented on all of the essential downstream materials, i.e. the CZ 2030 implementation plan (2018), the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic (2018) and both evaluation reports, the pilot and the first regular report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the first regular report on CZ 2030 (2020). In addition, a series of round tables and online investigations were planned specifically for the evaluation of Czech Republic 2030. The round tables were meant to take place in 2020 for each of the key areas of the strategic framework and were to be used for the evaluation of the first implementation plan. However, the measures put in place to combat the Covid-19 outbreak have undermined this plan. This will make the implementation of the second intention even more crucial, namely the online investigation, planned for 2022 and intended not only to evaluate the second implementation plan, but also to collect incentives for a possible update of CZ 2030 in 2023.

---

<sup>664</sup> <https://www.cr2030.cz/rvur/>

# List of abbreviations

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
AEKO	Agri-environmental-climate measures
AOPK	Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
APC	Assistant for the prevention of crime
AEP	active employment policy
ATAD	Council Directive (EU) laying down rules against tax avoidance practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market
B2B	business-to-business
BEPS	Tax base erosion and profit shifting
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CLLD	Community-led Local Development
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide equivalent
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSV	National rural network
ČDDD	Net disposable income of the household
CEPS	The company ČEPS a.s. - Czech transmission system
CHMI	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
ČMZRB	Czechomoravská Guarantee and Development Bank
CZ	Czech Republic
ČSÚ	Czech Statistical Office
CSIA	Czech School Inspection Authority
DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
dB	decibel
DEA	Data envelope analysis
VAT	Value added tax
DSO	Voluntary union of municipalities
DVZ	daily assessment base
GAEC	Good agricultural and environmental condition of land
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EENS	Indicator of expected energy not supplied
EET	Electronic registration of sales
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIPA	European Institute of Public Administration
EC	European Commission
ENS	energy not supplied indicator
EP	European Parliament
EPC	Energy performance contracting
EPSA	European Public Sector Award
ESF	European Social Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
EU ETS	European Emissions Trading System

FP	Farming plans
FTE	Fulltime equivalent
GBARD	Government budget allocations on research and development
GERD	Gross domestic expenditure on research and development
GPG	gender pay gap
GDE	global development education
GDP	Gross domestic product
HLPF	High-level political forum
HLY	healthy life expectancy
GNI	gross national income
GVA	Gross value added
HSOÚ	Economically and socially vulnerable territories
CHKO	Protected landscape area
ICP	
Forests	European forest status monitoring
ICT	information and communication technologies
IND.	indicator
ISDP	Integrated spatial development plans
IROP/	Integrated Regional Operational Programme
ISA+	Information system on the assertion of school graduates on the labour market
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investment
CZK	Czech koruna
CI	Critical infrastructure
KKP	cultural and creative industries
KPSLV	Coordinated approach to socially excluded locations
L <sub>dvn</sub>	day-night noise indicator
LLD	indication of the number of hours when the system load is not covered
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LOLE	Indicator of expected number of hours when the system load is not covered
LPIS	Land Parcel Information System
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MA21	Local Agenda 21
LAG	Local action groups
Mbit/s	Megabit per second
MoT	Ministry of Transport
IO	international organisation
mil.	million
MoC	Ministry of Culture
bil.	billion
MRD	Ministry of Regional Development
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MPŘ	inter-ministerial comment procedure
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MT	megatonnes



Mol	Ministry of the Interior
MWh	Megawatt hour
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoE	Ministry of the Environment
NAP ACC	National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan
NAP CM	National Clean Mobility Action Plan
NAP SG	National Smart Network Action Plan
NCP	Noise Control Programme
NEPT	National Experts in Professional Training
NGA	Next generation access network
NKOD	National Open Data Catalogue
NNO	Non-state non-profit organisation
NP	National park
NPI	National Pedagogical Institute
NNL	National natural landmark
NNR	National nature reserve
NQS	National Qualifications System
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
NZÚ	Nová Zelená úsporám (New Green Savings)
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OP EIC	Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness
OP TAC	Operational Programme Technology and Applications for Competitiveness
OP RDE	Operational Programme Research, Development and Education
OP T	Operational Programme Transport
OP E	Operational programme Employment
OP ENV	Operational Programme Environment
ORP	Municipality with extended powers
UN	United Nations
OSPOD	Authority for the Social and Legal Protection of Children
OTE	The company OTE a.s. - Electricity and gas market operator
OZP	persons with disabilities
p. p.	percentage point
PAYT	Pay as you throw
PCD	coherence of development policies
PCSD	policy coherence for sustainable development
PCR	Parliament of the Czech Republic
PLO	Natural forest areas
SOM	soil organic matter
POK	Climate protection policy
PPP	products for the protection of plants
PP	Natural landmark
PPPF	Format of public-private partnerships
PR	Nature reserve

PRV	Rural Development Programme
PS MA21	Working Group on Local Agenda 21
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
FTP	Framework Training Programme
GCSD	Government Council for Sustainable Development
s.e.	State enterprise
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFPI	State Investment Promotion Fund
SNEs	Secoded National Experts
SO ORP	Administrative district of a municipality with extended powers
SVS	Secondary vocational school
SPOPK	State nature and landscape conservation programme
SIPS	Social Inclusion Plan strategy
SRD CZ	Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic
SAP	State agricultural policy
TAČR	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic
TEN-T	Trans-European transport network
thous.	thousand
TRANS	Transformation cooperation programme
ÚAP	Spatial analytical materials
ÚHÚL	Forest Management Institute
ÚP	Territorial plan
ÚP CZ	Employment Office of the Czech Republic
SD	sustainable development
ÚSC	Territorial self-government unit
TLS	Territorial landscape study
OG	Office of the Government
ÚZIS	Institute of Health Information and Statistics
R&D	Research & Development
R&D&I	Research, development and innovation
VPP	Community service
HEI	Higher education institution
VWG	voluntary Working Group
VÚMOP	Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation
ESD	Education for sustainable development
VZP CZ	General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic
WiFi	wireless communication standards, so called non-licensed frequency bands
WTO	World Trade Organisation
ZPF	Agricultural Land Fund
DC	foreign development cooperation
PS	primary school
ZTP	particularly severe disability
ZTP/P	particularly severe disability with an assistant

