

Updated Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 with Outlook to 2050



Table of Contents

Vision: The Czech Republic in 2030	2
Purpose and implementation of the document	3
Sustainable development principles	5
People and Society	6
Vision	6
Goals	6
Economic Model	14
Vision	14
Goals	14
Resilient Ecosystems	21
Vision	21
Goals	21
Municipalities and Regions	26
Vision	26
Goals	26
Global Development	34
Vision	34
Goals	34
Good Governance	38
Vision	38
Goals	38



European Union
European Social Fund
Operational Programme Employment

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Vision: The Czech Republic in 2030

The Czech Republic is a democratic, rule-of-law state that is based on respect for personal and economic freedom, and for the civil, political, economic, and social rights of its citizens, while developing its culturally rooted identity. The pro-Western character of the Czech Republic is defined by its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for each individual and society as a whole, while ensuring that this development is sustainable and considers the needs of both current and future generations. The state and public policies create conditions for improving the well-being of the population, with particular support for vulnerable groups. These policies respect natural limits, protect biodiversity, and contribute to decarbonisation goals through a just transition. Moreover, they actively promote these values elsewhere in the world. The Czech Republic is a cohesive, active, and entrepreneurial society, offering equal opportunities and working to minimise structural and social inequalities. Public administration is modern and lean. Society and decision-making systems are resilient and adaptable, capable of identifying potential risks early and responding effectively to unforeseen changes and shifting global dynamics. The resilience of social bonds and structures, as well as practical solutions to both domestic and global challenges, are strengthened through open discussion and mutual agreement. The Czech Republic boasts sustainable demographic development, stable public finances, and long-term balanced budgeting. The goals outlined in *Czech Republic 2030* are pursued within the approved expenditure limits of individual budget chapters.

Purpose and implementation of the document

Czech Republic 2030 with Outlook to 2050 (CR 2030 or, informally, *Czechia 2030*) serves as an overarching development framework reflecting the Czech Republic's long-term priorities beyond electoral cycles. It also outlines the specific, tailored operationalisation of the country's international commitment to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The original version of *CR 2030* was adopted by the Government in 2017.¹ In 2024, the Government approved this updated version.

CR 2030 covers the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. social, economic, and environmental issues, as well as three levels of governance, i.e. international, national (including the functioning of public administration), and regional (including the functioning of regional and local government). In each area, a vision of the end state is formulated, which is detailed further by strategic and specific goals.

CR 2030 is a consensus-driven blueprint for public administration strategies and aligns the long-term efforts of public administration with one set of general goals. Specific steps towards the fulfilment of *CR 2030* goals are the responsibility of the relevant ministries and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and they are set out in sectoral and thematic strategies.

Any “blind spots” (policy gaps) in achieving *CR 2030* goals and areas requiring accelerated progress are addressed by measures outlined in separate implementation plans initiated by the Ministry of the Environment.² The Ministry of the Environment is also responsible for basic interdepartmental coordination of *CR 2030* implementation. For this purpose, it relies on a network of focal points³ and the Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD). The GCSD also serves as the main platform for discussion with organised public groups and stakeholders. Closer cooperation in this respect has been established with the Czech Statistical Office (indicators), the Ministry of Regional Development (MRD) (strategic management), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) (the external dimension of policy coherence and international activities).

Progress towards *CR 2030* goals is assessed every three years.⁴ The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for evaluating progress towards the goals and for proposing the action that should be taken in response to these evaluations. All available indicators for monitoring changes in goals are publicly available online at <https://www.sdg-data.cz/>. Quality-of-life indicators are also published online alongside these. The data is regularly updated by the Czech Statistical Office.

¹ Government Resolution No. 292 of 19 April 2017 on the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030. The first Sustainable Development Strategy was adopted by the Czech Government in 2004.

² The first implementation plan was approved in 2018, see Government Resolution No. 669 of 17 October 2018 on the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 Implementation Plan. The Second Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 Implementation Plan for 2023–2025 was approved in 2022, see Government Resolution No. 766 of 14 September 2022 on the Second Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 Implementation Plan for 2023–2025.

³ Government Resolution No. 669 of 17 October 2018 on the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 Implementation Plan.

⁴ The first evaluation report (*Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability*) was prepared in 2020 and approved in 2021, see Government Resolution No. 68 of 25 January 2021 on the Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability. A second evaluation report (*Second Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability*) was approved in 2024, see Government Resolution No. 91 of 7 February 2024 on the Second Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability.

Following the approval of the *CR 2030* update, the Czech Republic's strategy documents at national level will be revised in 2024–2025. Edits will be proposed to ensure consistency with *CR 2030* and contribute to the pursuit of *CR 2030* goals.⁵ This consolidation should have the secondary effect of reducing the number of strategic documents and making their structure clearer. At the same time, the costs of achieving the goals of *CR 2030*, or more precisely, those of the key sectoral and thematic strategies, will be analysed. It will be possible to set public finances, including fiscal consolidation, to ensure long-term financial sustainability without clashing with the pursuit of the Czech Republic's long-term priorities.

As per the recommended periodicity, the Czech Republic will undergo a regular UN Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2025 and 2029 in order to report to other countries on its efforts related to its international commitment under the UN's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs).⁶

CR 2030 implementation timetable:

Year	Activity
2025	completion of the review of strategies related to the implementation of <i>CR 2030</i> and the submission to the Government of the proposed way forwards Third Voluntary National Review (VNR)
2026	monitoring of the second implementation plan (for 2023–2025)
2027	ongoing <i>CR 2030</i> evaluation (evaluation report) preparation of the third implementation plan (for 2028–2030) and its submission to the Government for approval
2029	Fourth Voluntary National Review (VNR)
2030	monitoring of the third implementation plan (for 2028–2030) <i>CR 2030</i> evaluation (evaluation report) if required, a <i>CR 2030</i> update for the next period / the creation of a new strategic development framework following international discussions on the UN global development framework, which builds on the <i>2030 Agenda</i>

⁵ *National Recovery Plan*, extension of component 4.4 Improving the efficiency of public administration.

⁶ The Czech Republic was also reviewed in 2017 and 2021.

Sustainable development principles

This document formulates long-term priorities responding to the problems and challenges faced by the Czech Republic.⁷ They are embedded within the framework of sustainable development. These may change depending on the current social situation. The document does not cover the full breadth of public policy-making and therefore also recommends some basic principles to follow in circumstances where more precise guidelines are not provided:

- Think about problems holistically and consider the impacts of possible solutions in decision-making.
- Protect the environment for present and future generations, respecting the scarcity of all resources.
- Respect human rights and promote diversity.
- Participate, discuss, and be transparent.
- Learn from experience and from each other.
- Think long-term and globally, act locally.
- Leave no one behind.

⁷ For the original 2017 version, this was an analysis incorporated into the documentation. Further developments were addressed in the 2021 and 2024 evaluation reports, see footnote 4.



People and Society

Vision

The Czech Republic is a modern society of educated, responsible, and active citizens. Society is cohesive due to functional families and participating communities, a sufficient supply of dignified labour, accessible quality health and social care, equal access to culture, and an effective education system that enables everyone to reach their individual educational potential and promotes the development of transferable skills. Social exclusion is reduced to a minimum. People living in this society prefer a healthy lifestyle, live in a healthy environment, and favour conscious consumption.

Goals

1. The social climate is universally supportive of families and children, and barriers are minimised. The family, parenthood, marriage, and partnership enjoy special protection and social respect, including with regard to the best interests of the child.

- 1.1 Appropriate socio-economic conditions support the good functioning of families. They focus on family financial security, work-family balance, and care services for children and the elderly. As such, they enable individuals to have enough free time to work on family relationships.

Favourable conditions for the family as a source of prosperity and societal cohesion must be achieved through comprehensive systemic measures that enable the fulfilment of individual family aspirations, including the number of children, without the risk of a deterioration in living standards or other social threats. This includes the appreciation of the important role played by families in the economic system, a comprehensive understanding of family policy as a significant pro-growth element, and a programme of long-term investment in human capital in the form of future generations in order to maintain demographic stability. This involves ensuring adequate financial compensation for the work and expenses associated with the caring for and raising of children by society, reflecting rising costs and the value of the associated lost opportunities. Key priorities include the availability of care services for both the youngest and oldest, alongside the expansion of part-time and flexible jobs that enable parents to balance family responsibilities with economic activity. Efforts will also focus on shifting employers' attitudes towards employees with caregiving responsibilities, including encouraging and supporting men in caring roles.

- 1.2 Families with special needs receive particular attention. Targeted measures aim to contribute to equal access to education and employment for members of

these families within the labour market and society, while also addressing other barriers they face.

Single-parent families, families with multiple children, and those with members who have disabilities or other specific needs are among the most vulnerable to declining living standards, in terms of both absolute and relative poverty compared to others in the same income category. These families may face additional disadvantages as well. It is therefore essential for family policy to address their unique needs alongside general family support measures. Targeted actions, tailored to their specific circumstances, will focus on reducing the risk of falling living standards, poverty, or social exclusion, while ensuring equal opportunities in education and employment. Access to social and other services is also important, as well as enabling their participation in public life and broader societal activities.

1.3 Support for families includes primary prevention in partner, parental, and wider family relationships to enhance the quality and stability of family life and mitigate risk factors.

Primary prevention in these areas is crucial for fostering stability, ensuring quality family life, and promoting mental health and well-being. The aim is to address and prevent risky phenomena such as addictions, conflicts, or domestic violence, which can threaten family cohesion and potentially lead to breakdowns. Programmes focused on developing healthy, respectful relationships will strengthen family stability and improve family functioning across all areas and stages of life, enabling families to play as fully as possible their role as a foundation of society.

1.4 Society exhibits low tolerance for domestic violence, corporal punishment, and psychological harm, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and disadvantaged individuals.

Violence has no place in family or partner relationships. Measures will prioritise prevention programmes, emphasising upbringing in a way that will build empathy, mutual respect, and intolerance of violence. Providing a safe and supportive environment for vulnerable groups will remain a priority. This will involve not only strengthening legal protections but also ensuring access to services that promote physical and mental health while preventing marginalisation.

2. Technological and social advancements are increasing access to dignified work opportunities.

2.1 Structural imbalances in the labour market are diminishing at both national and regional levels, reducing polarisation and its associated social impacts.

Measures to support retraining and lifelong learning will address socio-economic inequalities in the labour market, enhancing professional mobility and workforce adaptability to meet evolving demands. It will be important to leverage technological advancements not only for the benefit of production, but also to support employees, ensuring these developments do not lead to their exclusion from the labour market. Regional development programmes will strengthen local economies, helping to equalise opportunities and stabilise the labour market across various areas.

2.2 Access to dignified work is being extended to groups that remain disadvantaged in the labour market.

Groups previously marginalised, such as women with children, young people under 24, people over 50, seniors, foreigners, and individuals with disabilities, will benefit from improved access to dignified work. Flexible, secure forms of employment will be developed, alongside targeted retraining and integration programmes. Measures to reduce the pay gap between men and women and support the reconciliation of family and working life will also be prioritised. Initiatives to increase women's participation in leadership roles and promote equal opportunities for all employees will play a vital role. The labour market will be open to employing individuals of retirement age, allowing them to continue contributing productively while passing on their experience.

2.3 The proportion of long-term unemployed is declining, along with the overall unemployment rate.

Active employment policy will focus on expanding retraining opportunities, upskilling the workforce, and fostering motivation and psycho-social adaptation to facilitate the effective return of the long-term unemployed to the labour market. An individualised approach and targeted support for the long-term unemployed, including counselling, training, and collaboration with local employers, will be emphasised. Lifelong learning initiatives and an inclusive labour market will help to reduce the number of young people neither working nor studying.

2.4 Efforts will minimise precarity and involuntary flexible work arrangements, including those emerging in the platform economy and other new atypical forms of employment.

The state will support legislation that establishes clear employment conditions to eliminate work precarity. Key measures will ensure employment rights and protections for workers engaged in all forms of employment, including new flexible working arrangements. There will be an emphasis on dignified work, fair pay, career development, and job stability and security. The role of the State Labour Inspection Office and other related bodies in monitoring compliance will be crucial. Raising awareness of labour rights and motivating workers to assert these rights will also be essential.

2.5 Immigration and integration policies will focus on attracting skilled foreigners, strengthening the labour supply essential for innovation. Public policies will also encourage Czech citizens abroad to return.

Migration policies will simplify the recognition of foreign qualifications, facilitating the integration of skilled foreigners into the Czech labour market. At the same time, public policies will support the return of Czech citizens from abroad by offering comparable conditions, whether in terms of job opportunities, wages, or quality of life. Czech universities will offer scholarships to talented students from developing countries.

3. Structural inequalities in society are low.

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

The Czech Republic has a long-term focus on reducing the proportion of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion through comprehensive measures, including improving access to employment, education, social services, and housing. A stable social system will ensure support and assistance for the most vulnerable groups, such as low-income families, the

elderly, people with disabilities, and children leaving institutional care. These efforts will be reinforced by regional and community development programmes designed to enhance living conditions and foster social integration for disadvantaged individuals.

3.2 Income inequality remains low and there is an emphasis on maintaining a strong middle class.

Maintaining low income inequality as a source of social stability and strengthening the middle class involves implementing comprehensive, coordinated measures across various sectors, particularly the labour market, education, the social security system, and housing and tax policies.

3.3 Gender inequality is being reduced.

Efforts will be stepped up to promote equality of opportunity and address disparities between men and women in all areas of life. Key measures will focus on eliminating discrimination against women in the labour market, particularly by reducing the gender pay gap, supporting women in leadership positions, and increasing the availability of childcare services. They will also promote the offer of flexible working hours and working from home to help reconcile work and family life, as well as recognising and compensating unpaid domestic work, care, and childcare, which is more often carried out by women. Efforts will also aim to dismantle barriers, including financial constraints, time limitations, and gender stereotyping, while encouraging and rewarding men for more active participation in family life. This shift is crucial for the stability and quality of partnership relations within the family, early childhood development, and reducing the gender gap in caregiving and career progression. An emphasis will also be placed on creating legislative frameworks and policies that combat domestic violence and violence against women, and that ensure fair treatment and gender equality in the workplace, education, and public life.

3.4 Equal access for individuals at risk of discrimination is ensured.

Discrimination based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, disability, or social status can affect individuals and groups in various aspects of life. Key measures will include legislative adjustments to ensure protection against discrimination, address instances of multiple discrimination, and raise public awareness about equality and social diversity. It will also be important to adopt international commitments to combat discrimination and implement programmes and policies that support both the prevention of discrimination and the integration of disadvantaged groups into society. Accessible counselling and public support for victims of discrimination will be crucial. These efforts will be based on collaboration with non-profit organisations and community centres.

4. Education develops individuals' potential and their ability to manage and influence change, while supporting a cohesive society focused on sustainable development.

4.1 The education system is inclusive and flexible, avoiding early segregation of students into talented and untalented and limiting the influence of socio-economic backgrounds on educational outcomes.

The Czech Republic will deepen the permeability and inclusiveness of the education system and actively develop measures to limit the influence of socio-economic background on the educational aspirations and outcomes of pupils and students. The aim will be to ensure equal

opportunities for all children, regardless of their talents, background, or family financial situation. The potential for each pupil to achieve their personal best will be developed by adapting educational methods to their individual needs. The system will promote diversity in learning approaches and provide support programmes to help remove barriers to education for disadvantaged pupils, thereby increasing the chances of educational success for all pupils and students, regardless of their socio-economic background.

4.2 The education system supports teachers and other educators to make the necessary changes in education and to guide learners in a changing world. It is open to intensive contact with the real world, involving all stakeholders in education.

The Czech education system will actively support teaching staff, focusing on their professional development and providing them with the necessary resources and training to respond effectively to dynamic changes in society and technological advances. It will also support them in introducing innovative educational approaches. Additionally, the education system will foster intensive contact with the real world, including collaboration with various education stakeholders, such as parents, communities, businesses, and non-profit organisations. This will ensure that education is practical, relevant, and connected to real-life situations.

4.3 Education ensures that everyone has access to the development of transferable skills needed for an active civic, professional, and personal life. The system includes an adequate general foundation necessary for further education, participation in society, and an understanding of the interconnectedness of the contemporary world.

Transferable skills are essential for an active and quality life across civic, professional, and personal spheres. The educational system will support the development of core skills and the ability to apply them to real-world problems. An emphasis will be placed on the development of critical and analytical thinking, the ability to communicate effectively, and the ability to learn new skills. The system will provide everyone with the adequate general foundation essential for further education, societal participation, and understanding complex interconnections in a globalised world. All students will gain the basic knowledge needed to promote sustainable development and become information and financially literate.

4.4 The lifelong learning system is publicly guaranteed and widely available, focusing on both vocational and transferable skills training.

The lifelong learning system in the Czech Republic will ensure access to learning opportunities throughout life for every citizen. This system will not only focus on vocational training to help individuals to retain skills relevant to the labour market, but will also develop transferable skills, such as critical thinking, communication, and the ability to apply acquired skills to real-world problems. In this way, lifelong learning will enhance personal development, professional flexibility, and active participation in society, contributing to individuals' adaptability to the rapidly changing conditions of the modern world.

5. The health of all population groups is improving.

5.1 Healthy life expectancy is increasing for all population groups in the Czech Republic.

It is desirable to continue pursuing changes that lead to longer healthy life expectancy, which will benefit society not only in terms of health, but also economically and socially. The basis of the Czech Republic's health policy is the promotion of health throughout life, with a long-term systematic approach to the protection and promotion of health, healthy lifestyles, and primary disease prevention. Health care should prioritise prevention and aim to prevent people from becoming ill. In this context, it will be important to continue developing the population's health literacy and to strengthen the concept of personal responsibility, alongside patient autonomy in decision-making, with positive motivation, such as through prevention funds from health insurance companies. These core principles will be further supported by the gradual digitalisation of the Czech healthcare system and the creation of clinical recommended practices.

5.2 Influences causing health inequalities are being reduced.

Health inequalities need to be reduced regardless of socio-economic status or place of residence. The network of healthcare providers will continue to need to be optimised, including expanding cross-border cooperation to ensure that health care is available in border regions. This process will involve not only the introduction of quality assessment and the standardisation of care, but also extending the computerisation of health care, which will simplify the transfer of data between healthcare facilities. Reducing health inequalities also includes an active medicines policy that minimises the risks associated with sudden drug supply shortages. Special attention will be paid to all vulnerable groups.

5.3 The public health system is stable, universally accessible in terms of quality and capacity, and is developing an appropriate professional structure. The average age of medical and non-medical staff is decreasing.

To ensure long-term sustainable high quality and optimal accessibility of health care, it will be necessary to develop and consistently implement a comprehensive system of healthcare quality management and evaluation, including setting up mechanisms for the standardisation of health care. This will also involve the development of healthcare computerisation to collect and evaluate quality indicators effectively. Maintaining quality health care in the long term will require optimising the healthcare system's capacity and increasing the attractiveness of working in health care in order to address the uneven distribution of health workers over time. The system will focus on supporting training and optimising the educational process, including the rationalisation of the skills of individual health professions.

5.4 Healthy lifestyles are promoted, with an emphasis on primary disease prevention and health promotion throughout life.

In terms of quality of life, it will be important to promote positive lifestyle changes, the sufficient physical activity of the population, and proper nutrition and dietary habits. A particular emphasis will be placed on promoting healthy lifestyles among children. The Czech health system will continue to focus on using all available disease prevention tools to prevent illness. It will also need to be prepared to face new challenges, such as the risk of new infectious diseases, rising antibiotic resistance, and the growing incidence of mental illness in society. In addition to enhancing the capacity to respond to new threats, the health system will be adaptive, as geriatric care, including follow-up care, will need to be supported and expanded in line with the increasing life expectancy.

5.5 The consumption of addictive substances and the burden of health hazards such as noise and light pollution are being reduced. The pollutant and noise limits are not exceeded.

As part of reducing and preventing risky behaviour, it will be necessary to support and develop prevention programmes, including the support and expansion of the range of addiction and social services with a focus on excluded localities. An emphasis will be placed on preventing risky behaviour among adolescents. Targeted measures will also minimise health risks caused by pollution, excessive noise, and light pollution, and the monitoring of harmful substances in the environment will be intensified.

6. Public investment supports the core functions of culture and equal access to culture and creativity.

6.1 Adequate funds are secured for cultural development and the opportunities for long-term financial planning of cultural organisations are being strengthened.

Promoting culture will be seen as a key element in preserving cultural heritage, developing creativity and strengthening social cohesion. Cultural organisations will be empowered to effectively plan and develop their activities over the long term and to develop creative and innovative projects.

6.2 Support is provided for the equal availability of cultural offerings, the creation of creative regional groups, and opportunities for cultural production.

The Czech Republic will focus on ensuring equal access to cultural offerings, making certain that all citizens have access to cultural activities, regardless of their geographical location or other specific factors. Support will be provided for the creation of creative regional groups, which play a key role in the development of local culture and contribute to enriching cultural life in various regions. Cultural organisations and creative groups will have access to institutional support, enabling artists and cultural workers to develop their projects and collaborate on new initiatives.

6.3 The cultural and creative industries are interlinked across sectors, offering opportunities for economic development.

The cultural and creative industries encompass a wide range of activities, from the arts, architecture, literature, and design to technology, marketing, and media, all of which collectively strengthen economic growth and innovation beyond the cultural sphere. The arts, cultural heritage, and landmarks will be a significant source of jobs and opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises. The interdisciplinary reach will have a positive impact on education, tourism development, and will make a substantial contribution to talent development. Start-ups and creative hubs will be supported within the cultural and creative industries.

Key strategies for the People and Society focal area

- State Cultural Policy 2021–2025
- State Environmental Policy 2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Strategic Employment Policy Framework up to 2030
- Strategic Framework for Healthcare Development in the Czech Republic up to 2030

- Strategy for Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Czech Republic 2021–2027
- Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+
- Family Policy Strategy 2024–2030
- Roma Integration Strategy 2021–2030
- Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030
- Social Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030
- Strategy for Public Administration Cooperation with Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations 2021–2030
- Czech Educational Policy Strategy up to 2030+
- Medium-Term Fiscal Structural Plan (2025–2028)

Relevant strategies for the People and Society focal area

- Concept of Home Care in the Czech Republic
- Concept for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – “In Mutual Respect”
- Nursing Concept
- Concept of Probation and Mediation Development up to 2025
- Rural Development Concept 2021–2027
- Social Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2015–2025
- Prison Service Concept up to 2025
- National Action Plan for Mental Health up to 2030
- National Cancer Plan of the Czech Republic 2030
- National Plan to Promote Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2021–2025
- National Strategy for the Protection of Children’s Rights 2021–2029
- National Strategy for Prevention and Reduction of Harm Associated with Addictive Behaviours 2019–2027
- National Strategy for the Development of Social Services in 2026–2036
- Strategic Framework for Preparing for an Ageing Society 2021–2025 / Action Plan to implement the Strategic Framework for Preparing for an Ageing Society 2023–2025
- Ministerial Strategic Plan for Higher Education from 2021
- Strategy for the Development and Support of Cultural and Creative Industries 2021-2025
- Czech Tourism Development Strategy 2021-2030



Economic Model

Vision

The economy of the Czech Republic and its output are at an advanced level, globally competitive, keeping pace with global trends in sustainability, and building a strong position in global value and supply chains. The economy is adapting to climate change and contributing to its mitigation. The Czech Republic supports socially and economically sustainable decarbonisation and aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with international commitments, through dual (digital and green) modernisation. It helps the business sector in its transformation and supports its competitiveness on the path to achieving this vision. The material and energy intensity of the economy is being reduced, with a focus on efficiency rather than output volume, and the application of digital technologies to accelerate decarbonisation. Economic development is ensured by focusing on high added value, knowledge-intensive activities based on innovation, sector diversification, skilled jobs, a stable business environment, and the effective use of research and development outcomes in the private sector. The circular economy, low-carbon technologies, robotics, and digitalisation are being developed. The economy relies on resilient and high-quality infrastructure. The state is committed to completing the basic infrastructure. It is based on the principles of an economic model that emphasises individual responsibility as well as helping those who truly need assistance. The state strives to maximise cooperation and coordination between the public, business, and non-profit sectors. Public funds are efficiently allocated in line with the strategic priorities of the Czech Republic.

Goals

7. The economy follows global trends in sustainable development, and the domestic sector is strong.

7.1 The domestic parts of the economy are developing, with increased added value in products and services. At the same time, their shift to higher positions in the international division of labour and value chains is being supported.

Economic development is closely tied to the development of new technologies and digitalisation, with the key to progress being the successful integration of these technologies with the achievement of climate and environmental goals through “dual modernisation”. It is crucial to support businesses in their shift from subcontractors to independent producers capable of positioning their own products and services in the global market with higher added value. This includes the use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation.

The Czech economy should continue to support innovation and technological development more broadly, which will help move domestic companies to higher levels in global value chains and strengthen their competitiveness.

7.2 The SME sector is growing.

SMEs have the greatest potential to contribute to sustainable economic development while creating high-value-added products. To unlock this potential, it is crucial to remove barriers to SME growth, such as limited access to capital and high administrative barriers, and support their involvement in “dual modernisation”. The growth of SMEs will be supported by the use of digital innovations and new technologies, such as automation, artificial intelligence, and e-commerce. Support for SMEs will also include internationalisation, increased participation in international programmes, and the strengthening of their research and innovation capacity through collaboration with research institutions.

7.3 Green and digital modernisation contributes to the modernisation of the Czech economy and ensures its international competitiveness.

Dual modernisation enhances the competitiveness of Czech companies in the global market, ensures long-term economic prosperity, and contributes to the sustainable development of the Czech Republic. This development strategy must be supported by both public and private investments, which are essential for implementing the planned changes. Dual modernisation will also create numerous jobs in new sectors, which will require a strong focus on retraining and upskilling workers currently employed in sectors that are hard to decarbonise. Digital technologies play a key role in achieving climate neutrality. Green modernisation is also significantly transforming the digital sector, where challenges such as the growing energy demand of data centres and cloud infrastructures will need to be addressed.

7.4 The quality of foreign direct investments and other investments is increasing.

The added value of the Czech economy must be supported by private investments. Investments with high technological intensity and a focus on projects contributing to higher positions in international value chains will be supported. These investments must also be assessed in terms of their security.

7.5 The economy integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects, including relations in international trade.

All businesses will be encouraged to adopt sustainable practices and include sustainability information in their regular reports to maintain their competitiveness in the international market. Key areas include strengthening the circular economy, reducing dependence on primary raw materials, and improving energy efficiency. Ethical conduct concerning workers, communities, and the environment is also crucial. The provision of financial services based on ESG principles is encouraged, and the integration of ESG into decision-making and regulatory processes within government institutions is included.

8. The Czech Republic has well-functioning and stable institutions for supporting applied research and development and for identifying opportunities in this area.

8.1 The Czech Republic has stable material and personnel capacities for research and development with an appropriate structure and focus, to which both the state and businesses invest sufficient financial resources.

Support for fundamental, applied, and experimental research is ensured, with an emphasis on the effective transfer of technologies and knowledge into practice. An important element is the cooperation between research organisations and the private sector, while maintaining the freedom of research, which should be further strengthened through strategic investments in modernising research capacities and developing human resources. Both the state and businesses are motivated to increase their investments in research and development, thereby contributing to the development of the knowledge economy and an innovative environment. Czech public and private institutions are also able to assert themselves internationally in research and development and present an attractive environment for both Czech and foreign workers. This includes ensuring dignified working conditions and support for international cooperation.

8.2 The innovation activity of businesses, primarily based on domestic research and development results, is growing, and the extent of cooperation between the research and business sectors is increasing.

Cooperation between research institutions and the private sector will be strengthened, enabling the effective transfer of scientific knowledge into practice and its commercialisation. This cooperation must be supported by quality education. The objective includes increasing investments in research and development, supporting technological start-ups and SMEs, and developing an innovative business environment. The public and private sectors in the Czech Republic must focus on patenting their innovations and producing other high-quality, commercially applicable research results, reversing the overwhelming dominance of foreign applicants in this area.

8.3 The Czech Republic is undergoing a digital transformation and flexibly responding to emerging technological trends.

The pace of digitalisation is significant and is penetrating an increasing number of areas, creating a foundation for the development of a stable digital economy. The state must ensure quality digital infrastructure for the development of digital technologies in cooperation with the private sector. The role of the state as a regulator must be guided by the principle of technological neutrality, considering its applicability in the future. In terms of impacts, the Czech Republic must be prepared not only for the fact that digitalisation will affect various segments of the labour market, mental health, and may create new inequalities, but also for the growing demands on energy consumption and new security challenges related to the digitalisation of the economy. It must be able to respond flexibly to the demand for ICT professionals and adjust its education and retraining systems accordingly.

9. Economic development is decoupled from increases in the consumption of natural resources and environmental pollution.

9.1 Socially and economically sustainable methods are being used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon intensity of the economy.

The focus is on the effort to decarbonise the economy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 through dual modernisation. Key elements of this strategy include the efficient use of the Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), increasing energy efficiency, and developing renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and implement low-carbon technologies. Investments should primarily target sectors such as construction, renewables, and electromobility, as well as other sectors based on medium-term and long-term priorities, as

these have the highest potential for a multiplier effect. An emphasis is also placed on ensuring that the modernisation process is socially sensitive, which means supporting low-income households and ensuring retraining for workers in sectors that are difficult to decarbonise. Given that these goals have a longer time horizon than most other objectives, it is essential for the state to establish appropriate procedures in key strategy documents.

9.2 The share of the circular economy in total material flows is increasing.

The circular economy prioritises waste prevention, and in cases where waste is generated, it focuses on efficient handling, such as recycling and energy recovery. A key element is also supporting the development of infrastructure for environmental services that respond to new types of waste generated by technological advancements, such as composites and nanomaterials. The goal is to reduce dependence on primary raw materials and enhance resilience to disruptions in supply chains, thus increasing the strategic autonomy of the Czech Republic.

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

The foundation is to ensure a resilient, competitive, and low-carbon energy mix, which will primarily rely on a combination of nuclear energy and renewable energy sources (RES). An emphasis is placed on introducing low-carbon technologies, supporting the circular economy, and promoting innovative practices in the business sector that enhance productivity and reduce material intensity. It is also necessary to focus on improving infrastructure, including upgrading energy networks and developing renewable energy sources, with the goal of reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Consideration must also be given to the energy intensity of new digital technologies, such as cloud infrastructures, advanced AI systems, and data centres, and appropriate preparations must be made to meet their energy consumption demands.

9.4 The use of domestic agricultural production is increasing, reducing the import of agricultural products and strengthening food self-sufficiency.

Food waste is being minimised. Food waste at producers, retailers, and especially households, is being significantly reduced. In the Czech Republic, it is crucial to focus on food security through agriculture that is resilient to climate change, in accordance with ecological principles, and produces high-quality food.

9.5 Economic activities do not lead to environmental pollution, particularly of water, soil, and air, and there is no degradation of ecosystems.

The Czech Republic will need to respond across all sectors to the ongoing climate change and related extreme weather events, particularly drought and water shortages, floods, heavy rainfall, and heatwaves. Key measures include integrated prevention, preventing leakages into the air, water, and soil, efficient waste management, water retention in the landscape, protection of water sources, and the implementation of low-emission technologies. The goal also includes the promotion of renewable energy sources, BAT technologies, increased energy and material efficiency, and an emphasis on circular economy principles. It also involves efforts to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity, including reforestation and the protection of soil from erosion and degradation.

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

10.1 The state maintains permanent control over the critical infrastructure system, which is being developed and is capable of withstanding risks, including those arising from current security threats and climate change.

There is an effective regulatory framework ensuring the long-term functionality and reliability of infrastructure, with a focus on managing risks from geopolitical threats, pandemics, and climate change. It is crucial to have crisis plans prepared for various infrastructure failure scenarios and to build, in collaboration with critical infrastructure operators, a protection system focused on prevention and managing the consequences of infrastructure failure. Investments in critical infrastructure must be long-term and flexible, responding to current challenges.

10.2 Quality transport connections with the economic, population, and transport centres of all neighbouring countries are ensured.

Modernisation and expansion of Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) will provide better conditions for imports and exports and support economic development in all regions of the Czech Republic. An emphasis should also be placed on reducing the negative impacts of transit road freight transport, which is why the development of railway infrastructure, including the modernisation of freight railway corridors and the construction of high-speed rail, is supported. Achieving this goal also requires a reduction in administrative burdens and acceleration of the permit processes for key transport projects and technological developments.

10.3 The electricity grid is prepared for the decentralisation of energy sources, including community energy, and ensures the distribution of electrical energy at the required technical standards.

Transitioning the electricity grid to integrate small, decentralised sources, such as solar panels, wind turbines, or biogas plants, requires adjustments to the network so that it can manage fluctuations in energy production and consumption while also addressing the impacts of climate change. A key role is played by the introduction of legislative terms such as accumulation and aggregation, which will support the development of decentralised energy sources and energy communities. The goal is also to increase the share of renewable energy sources in total consumption and promote investments in adaptable infrastructure that responds to current challenges.

10.4 District heating systems are being transformed into sustainable forms by using ambient energy and energy from renewable and secondary sources, and by reducing energy consumption in the residential, public, and industrial sectors.

The use of renewable and secondary energy sources, such as biomass, biogas, geothermal energy, and waste heat from industrial processes, will increase, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and strengthening energy independence. The transformation of the CHP sector contributes to energy decentralisation, improves heat utilisation efficiency, and reduces the energy demands of buildings in all sectors.

10.5 Despite the negative impacts of climate change, the state maintains a high standard of water management services and is increasing their accessibility.

It is essential for the state and owners of water management infrastructure to invest in water retention in the landscape, the use of modern water supply technologies, the interconnection of trans-regional water supply systems, and the maintenance and creation of new water sources. These actions will ensure a reliable supply of drinking water and efficient wastewater

treatment. Another important measure is the continued cost-effective reduction of water losses in distribution networks and the use of the best available technologies in turning raw water into drinking water and in the collection, drainage, and treatment of wastewater. Water management services must be prepared for worsening hydrological conditions, such as drought and water shortages. Increasing the resilience of water resources to contamination and improving the quality of treated wastewater are key to protecting aquatic fauna and flora, as well as water-dependent ecosystems.

10.6 The state, in cooperation with the private sector, has prepared legislation and infrastructure for carbon capture, utilisation, and storage.

Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) technologies are an important element of industrial decarbonisation. The state and the private sector must collaborate to increase investment in the research and development of these technologies, which are still often in the testing phase or too costly for wide commercial use.

11. Public budgets are tools for implementing long-term priorities.

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

The objective includes three main pillars: the quality of public expenditure, an acceptable and sustainable tax revenue structure from a social, economic, and administrative perspective, and a flexible balance of income and expenditure facilitating counter-cyclical policies and investment during recessions. Expenditure must align with the results achieved, various groups of citizens must be taxed fairly, and the tax system should not hinder economic activity. The sustainability of public finances is supported by reforms on both the expenditure and revenue sides, with an emphasis on long-term resilience and adaptation to socio-economic changes.

11.2 The efficiency of public spending is increasing through the standard use of expenditure evaluation tools in budget preparation and fiscal expenditure monitoring from the perspective of sustainable development.

The cornerstone is improving the public financial management system through internal and external audits, adherence to the 3E principle (economy, efficiency, effectiveness), performance-based budgeting, programme budgeting methods, and strengthening best practices in responsible public procurement. Regular and thematic spending reviews should also be conducted. A key aspect is increasing transparency and data availability, which allows better monitoring and evaluation of the success of public policies in an international context. Effective public finance management should also respect the Czech Republic's commitments within the EU and international environmental and climate goals.

11.3 Fiscal and tax policy considers social impacts from the perspective of sustainable development and encourages the private sector to develop green and social innovations, contributing to the modernisation of the economy towards a sustainable economic model.

An emphasis is placed on using fiscal tools to support ecological and social initiatives, such as the transition to a low-carbon economy and the promotion of green technologies. The state is already motivating companies and citizens towards such sustainable innovations, for example,

through the EFEKT III programme and the New Green Savings programme. In addition to climate change (i.e. decarbonisation and adaptation), the public finance system must prepare for the impacts of other megatrends – ageing, technological advancement, and growing inequalities. Adjustments should, among other things, respond to changes in the country's socio-economic system, not negatively affect economic growth, and be realistic in terms of the competitiveness of Czech economic entities. Tax policy should be set to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and motivate the private sector to invest in sustainable and innovative solutions.

11.4 Publicly supported investments are evaluated for alignment with climate neutrality, resilience to the impacts of climate change, and the principle of “do no significant harm” to the environment.

By verifying public investments for their climate change impact and resilience (i.e. climate proofing) and applying the “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, the economy is oriented towards dual modernisation, while also fulfilling international commitments. In this context, it is desirable for investment plans with a long expected lifespan to consider both current and anticipated climate change impacts.

Key strategies for the Economic Model focal area

- Economic Strategy of the Czech Republic: Czechia in the Top 10
- Comprehensive Strategy of the Czech Republic for Critical Infrastructure Issues
- National Research, Development, and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic 2021+
- Climate Protection Policy
- State Energy Concept of the Czech Republic
- State Environmental Policy 2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Circular Economy Strategic Framework of the Czech Republic 2040
- Strategy for Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Czech Republic 2021–2027
- Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+
- Medium-Term Fiscal Structural Plan (2025–2028)
- National Energy and Climate Plan of the Czech Republic

Relevant strategies for the Economic Model focal area

- Update of the National Clean Mobility Action Plan
- Convergence Programme of the Czech Republic
- National Semiconductor Strategy
- National Critical Infrastructure Protection Programme
- Waste Management Plan of the Czech Republic 2015–2024
- Secondary Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic
- Mineral Resources Policy of the Czech Republic
- Hydrogen Strategy of the Czech Republic



Resilient Ecosystems

Vision

Agriculture, forestry, and water management actively consider natural limits and global climate change – improving soil conditions, slowing water runoff from the landscape, and supporting biodiversity. The settlement, technical, and especially transport infrastructure is developed with the utmost consideration for maintaining, restoring, and strengthening ecosystems and the services they provide to humans. Our efforts focus on reducing air, water, and soil pollution. This effectively protects not only the environment but also our health.

Goals

12. The landscape of the Czech Republic is viewed as a complex ecosystem, with ecosystem services providing a suitable environment for the development of human society.

12.1 The share of arable land is optimised, while the share of landscape elements and permanent grasslands in the agricultural land fund is increasing.

The appearance of the Czech rural landscape is primarily shaped by agriculture and suburbanisation. To ensure sustainability for future generations, it is essential to adapt the landscape to climate change now. Agricultural subsidies must primarily be used to improve soil fertility and the resilience of the landscape structure. For soils unsuitable for arable farming due to their properties, further support will be given for grassing and afforestation. The restoration and protection of landscape elements, such as tree rows, hedgerows, wetlands, groups of trees, and the designation of non-productive areas, including various protective buffers, fallow land, or support for the cultivation of cover crops and nitrogen-fixing plants, will help to improve the diversity of the landscape. This provides suitable habitats for various plant and animal species. The restoration of wetlands, which are among the most significant and yet most endangered ecosystems, will also be supported by the targeted regulation of old, unnecessary drainage systems. The restoration of local paths will make the landscape more accessible to humans again. As construction changes the functionality of the landscape and decreases its permeability for wildlife, it is essential to protect significant migration corridors from new obstacles, and effectively clear existing barriers in these corridors, connecting habitats with relatively high ecological stability.

12.2 The ecological stability of forest stands is increasing.

The resilience of forests to pests, extreme weather events, and erosion requires the support of natural forest regeneration, the use of pioneer tree species that help to retain water and more effectively accumulate carbon, and the introduction of ecologically sound management

practices, such as no-till farming, which minimises soil erosion and compaction. The use of nature-based methods, including the preference for species suitable for the given site, contributes to improving the microclimate and reduces the vulnerability of forests to calamities, thereby increasing their stability and supporting their ecological functions, including water retention in the landscape and soil erosion protection. For biodiversity support, it is essential to leave sufficient dead wood, which increases the organic matter content in the soil and helps the soil to retain water.

12.3 The conversion of agricultural land in cities and in the open countryside is being reduced.

The amount of land conversion, which would have irreversible impacts on the land's functions, will be significantly decreased. A balanced approach that takes ecological aspects into account will become the standard practice for land conversion, with the state protecting the most valuable soils and preserving ecosystem functions. This will be supported by an emphasis on brownfield regeneration. The development and strengthening of infrastructure must ensure minimal damage, such as landscape fragmentation or the conversion of agricultural land.

12.4 Assessments of ecosystem services are integrated into decision-making processes.

Healthy, resilient, and productive ecosystems can provide a wide range of quality ecosystem functions and services, such as water retention, soil erosion protection, biodiversity maintenance, and the mitigation of climate change impacts. Spatial planning and decision-making at the municipal and regional levels must reflect these values, increase interest in the non-productive functions of the landscape, and promote sustainable natural resource management and the protection of natural and cultural values – both preserving valuable areas and restoring currently degraded land. The strategic land consolidation process must be optimised and further developed.

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

13.1 The diversity and stability of habitats and populations of native plant, animal, and fungal species are increasing. The decline of pollinators has been reversed.

To support biodiversity, it is crucial to improve the protection and condition of natural habitats and species, ensure appropriate care for the open countryside and protected areas, and promote natural processes, including the renaturation of abandoned and suitable areas, and the maintenance of significant migration corridors. The Czech Republic will proceed in line with the Nature Restoration Law in this respect. Raising public awareness of the importance of maintaining functional ecosystems and their benefits for humans is vital, e.g this includes the dependence of food production on the presence of pollinators or the role of natural communities in water retention in the landscape and mitigating drought impacts. To ensure viable pollinator populations, it is essential to support diverse agricultural practices, including integrated plant protection and a higher share of landscape elements. This approach will be supported by agricultural subsidies. At the same time, it is necessary to regulate invasive species that threaten native biodiversity and ecosystem health.

13.2 The natural regeneration of ecosystems significantly altered by humans is a common practice.

Allowing certain areas, especially those abandoned after mineral extraction, industrial activities, or military use, to undergo natural development will allow the return of native species and processes, serving as a key tool for increasing biodiversity. An emphasis is placed on the revitalisation of wetlands, the restoration of natural morphology, and the natural hydrology of watercourses, as well as the support of natural succession processes. The use of natural processes and spontaneous renaturation is supported by European strategies and regulations, such as the Nature Restoration Law, contributing to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the landscape against climate change and other environmental challenges.

14. The landscape is adapted to climate change, and its structure supports water retention.

14.1 Water runoff from the landscape is slowing down significantly.

Adaptation measures are being implemented to improve the landscape's ability to retain water and balance the water regime. To mitigate the effects of hydrological extremes, it is essential to restore riverbeds, river floodplains, wetlands, and reservoirs, as well as to implement other long-term measures across the entire river basin. Factors such as improving soil structure, reducing compaction, and increasing organic matter content, for example through organic farming, contribute to the soil's ability to retain water. The restoration and planting of vegetation, including permanent grasslands and forests, also increases the landscape's capacity to retain water. The revision of often widespread drainage systems will help to improve the water regime in the landscape and the efficiency of agriculture. Nature-based forest management practices help to retain water in forests.

14.2 The quality of surface water and groundwater is improving.

The quality of both surface water and groundwater depends on natural conditions but is heavily influenced by human activity – pollution from point and diffuse sources. Reducing pollution from agricultural activity, particularly by decreasing nutrient runoff and pesticide use, and supporting organic farming, minimises chemical inputs into surface water and groundwater, thus reducing the cost of water treatment. Restoring nature-based morphology and the natural hydrology of watercourses and floodplains also contributes to effective water treatment and improves water quality. Besides pesticides, risks include pharmaceutical residues and other relatively new chemicals, including hormonally active substances, which will require research to assess their impact on aquatic ecosystems and human health. Raising awareness of responsible water resource management and supporting innovative wastewater treatment technologies are also part of the goal.

15. Soils are protected from degradation, and the landscape's potential is maximally utilised for carbon capture and storage.

15.1 The share of arable land that is organically farmed is growing significantly.

Organic and precision farming are important tools for minimising the negative environmental impacts of conventional agriculture, such as pesticide and artificial fertiliser use, and help to reduce soil erosion while improving soil structure and water retention. By 2027, the share of land farmed organically in the Czech Republic is expected to reach 22 %, in line with the EU's plan for a quarter of agricultural land to be farmed organically by 2030. The expansion of organic and precision farming, particularly on arable land, will support diverse crop rotation and the integration of perennial forage crops, helping to maintain organic matter in the soil and improve its fertility.

15.2 The organic matter content and soil structure correspond to the natural state of the soil type.

If there is a sufficient proportion of organic matter, this increases soil fertility and resistance to erosion. It positively impacts soil structure, slows down water runoff, and contributes to carbon sequestration. The increase in organic matter content is achieved by returning post-harvest residues to the soil and using organic fertilisers. An emphasis is placed on diverse cropping

practices, including perennial forage crops, which help to maintain a stable soil structure and enhance natural resistance to erosion, as well as the use of appropriate soil-conserving technologies.

15.3 The risk of soil erosion by water and wind is being reduced.

Anti-erosion agronomic practices are applied, particularly on sloping land, by growing crops in a way that minimises the time the soil is uncovered and introducing dividing elements such as hedgerows, windbreaks, and permanent grasslands to slow down rainfall runoff and protect the soil from wind. The restoration of natural vegetation and afforestation also improve the soil's ability to retain water and significantly prevent nutrient leaching.

15.4 The species composition of forest plantings corresponds to habitat conditions and prevents further degradation of forest soils.

In the Czech Republic, forests still predominantly consist of historically planted, mostly same-aged forest stands with inappropriate species composition and spatial structure, with low or no mixing, a result of past orientation towards spruce or pine forestry. The trend towards a more natural species, age, and spatial structure of forest stands will continue. The species composition of forests must match specific habitat conditions. Supporting more sustainable practices in forest establishment, regeneration, and harvesting will improve the overall condition of forest soils – increasing organic matter content and improving the chemical composition and water regime in forests. The use of pioneer species, thanks to their ability to rapidly accumulate carbon in forest soils and subsequently introduce climax species, is a promising adaptive and mitigation measure in the restoration of calamity-stricken clearings. Improving the microclimate in forests will reduce their susceptibility to insect infestations and increase their wind resistance, restoring the landscape's ability to retain water and supporting biodiversity.

Key strategies for the Resilient Ecosystems focal area

- State Environmental Policy 2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Biodiversity Protection Strategy of the Czech Republic 2016–2025
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Czech Republic
- Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and Outlook up to 2030

Relevant strategies for the Resilient Ecosystems focal area

- State Forestry Policy Concept up to 2035
- Action Plan of the Czech Republic for Organic Farming Development 2021–2027
- Drought Protection Concept for the Czech Republic for 2023–2027
- National Action Plan for Safe Pesticide Use in the Czech Republic (NAP)
- National River Basin Plans 2022–2027 (Elbe, Oder, Danube)
- Flood Risk Management Plans of the Czech Republic (2022)



Municipalities and Regions

Vision

Responsible land use establishes conditions for the balanced and harmonious development of municipalities and regions. It enhances territorial cohesion, directs suburbanisation trends, and reduces forced mobility. Strategic and conceptual measures take into account the specific characteristics of different types of areas. Towns, municipalities, and regions create the foundation for maintaining and improving quality of life for their inhabitants, including setting up the conditions for safeguarding and ensuring the long-term sustainability of cultural and natural heritage. Competent public administration communicates openly with citizens, ensuring transparent decision-making and planning processes while involving citizens in these efforts. Settlements are adapted to climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals are considered at local level.

Goals

16. Local public services are more accessible to all citizens.

16.1 Strategic and spatial planning is horizontally and vertically coordinated across all levels.

Coordination is essential for efficient investment and for delivering high-quality public services that should be accessible to all citizens. It is crucial to integrate spatial and strategic planning with public budgets and budgetary management. The coordination of strategic, spatial, and economic planning is desirable not only within individual municipalities and regions, but also among municipalities and regions with functional links. This approach maximises resource efficiency and fosters collaboration, for example, through integrated territorial investments (ITIs) or cross-border cooperation. The state supports planning cooperation and coordination at regional level and implements digital technologies to enhance these processes. The digitalisation of building permit procedure and the development of digital technical maps for regions and municipalities will improve the accuracy and accessibility of information. Digitalisation can also interconnect spatial planning, construction proceedings, and efforts to reduce the energy intensity of buildings. The coordination of spatial and strategic planning will support the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in the context of demographic and economic changes (e.g. suburbanisation, the promotion of reurbanization, and the efficient use of existing urban structures such as brownfield sites) while mitigating undesirable phenomena (e.g. gentrification).

16.2 Standards for the accessibility of public infrastructure and basic public services are defined and considered, with attention to accessibility.

Easy and equal access to public service functions is fundamental to successful regional development in all Czech regions. Establishing clear standards for public equipment, in line with existing public infrastructure standards, can contribute to the equitable and socially cohesive development of towns and communities. These standards should ensure that all citizens, including vulnerable groups, have access to basic public services, such as housing, transport, health care, and education, regardless of age, social status, or health. Promoting affordable housing and barrier-free public spaces is also important, as these factors significantly influence social cohesion and quality of life. The accessibility and availability of essential public services must be ensured already during the planning phase of spatial and strategic initiatives.

17. Improving the quality of life in individual municipalities reduces regional disparities.

17.1 Rural and peripheral areas do not face depopulation or an ageing population at higher rates than in the urbanised areas.

Metropolitan areas, large cities and their hinterlands, or agglomerations of interconnected medium-sized and smaller towns will likely remain the primary drivers of economic growth. However, many areas, often at regional borders, exhibit poorer socio-economic characteristics due to their geographic position. This includes peripheral regions and certain rural areas. Efforts must therefore be made to improve service availability, develop transport services and infrastructure, and support the local economy in these regions, particularly through the creation of skilled jobs and economic diversification. The state focuses on providing methodological support and implementing strategies tailored to the specific needs of these areas to prevent social exclusion.

17.2 The state supports social innovation adapted to specific regional factors and enhances the skills of local populations.

Addressing persistent societal issues and realising the full potential of towns, communities, and regions requires not only traditional solutions but also social and organisational innovations. The state, alongside regional and local administrations, plays an active role in initiating, supporting, testing, and implementing such innovations. Educational and training programmes that improve the skills and employability of citizens, especially in economically disadvantaged areas, are essential. Support for local entrepreneurship and job creation that leverages regional resources is crucial for economic recovery and sustainable development. The state prioritises tools such as Territorial Impact Assessments (TIAs) and Rural Proofing to evaluate the social, economic, and environmental impacts of policies on specific territories.

17.3 Diverse forms of housing are encouraged.

The housing stock will change significantly in the coming years, with a focus on environmentally friendly and energy-efficient solutions in both new construction and the renovation of older properties. The state will promote the development of diverse housing options within municipalities and regions, with an emphasis on accessible rental housing and social housing as viable alternatives to the reduced availability of owner-occupied housing. This support includes finding solutions that prevent the formation of socially excluded areas, families, and individuals, curb the diversion of public support into unjustifiably high rents, and facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugees.

17.4 Integrated approaches enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Local integrated strategies should replace sectoral strategies at local level, addressing issues such as housing, education, employment, health care, social services, and other areas comprehensively in order to respond to the specific needs of citizens in various regions and types of territories. A key element is fostering cooperation between the state, regions, and municipalities to ensure equitable access to services and resources and tackle problems directly where they arise. An emphasis is placed on social inclusion and preventing segregation in order to avoid conflicts and promote harmonious coexistence among diverse communities, families, and individuals. The state also provides methodological support for knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices between regions. In addition, integrated solutions are essential in technological areas (connecting transport, energy, architecture, and communication and green technologies) and their integration with societal and development needs (e.g. the Smart Cities concept).

18. The sustainable development of settlement units is ensured.

18.1 Municipalities are welcoming to people of all ages, social backgrounds, and user groups.

Creating a friendly environment in towns and communities that respects and accommodates the needs of diverse social groups require active involvement of public in planning and decision-making processes. This approach enables the identification and fulfilment of specific needs for children, seniors, and individuals with physical, mental, or social disadvantages, among others. Efforts will focus on removing barriers in public spaces and in the design and delivery of public services. Addressing the challenges of an ageing population is particularly pressing. Adequate housing, public spaces, community facilities, and appropriate services must be prepared to accommodate these demographic changes. The specific needs of other social groups will also be considered.

18.2 Municipalities routinely plan development in collaboration with the public.

Local policies and strategies must be trustworthy and consider the interests and needs of a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, the public, and non-profit organisations. A participatory approach fosters collaboration between different groups, ideally leading to consensus-based decisions that reflect the unique needs and characteristics of specific regions. Creating a platform for public debate is essential, allowing stakeholders to discuss and seek shared solutions and compromises. Integrated approaches like Local Agenda 21, URBACT, and community-led local development (CLLD) are valuable tools for promoting networking and cooperation among municipalities and regions. These can be complemented by innovative measures such as participatory budgeting.

18.3 Municipalities support the preservation, restoration, and development of tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage within their territories.

Local governments care for cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible, cultural events, and natural landscapes, with a focus on sustainable development and integration into community life. Effective protection and restoration of this heritage requires collaboration with local organisations, citizens, and experts. Supporting cultural heritage and conservation is a strategic investment with long-term potential in larger towns and smaller municipalities alike.

Special attention is given to the cultural and creative industries as drivers of social and economic change.

18.4 Sustainable forms of tourism, especially in environmentally sensitive areas, are promoted.

The state will encourage forms of tourism that do not disrupt local communities, the environment, or cultural heritage, and that do not hinder current or future development in the area. Parameters of tourism, such as its type, visitor capacity, and transport and infrastructure solutions, must be carefully calibrated. Educating tourists and locals about sustainability and environmental protection is also crucial, as is safeguarding areas of natural value.

19. Towns and municipalities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and adapted to the negative impacts of climate change.

19.1 Towns and municipalities are preventing and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Efforts must be made to minimise the adverse effects of climate change on towns and communities while improving urban and landscape planning. This includes enhancing water management infrastructure, creating green spaces, and supporting blue-green infrastructure to reduce urban heat effects and improve air quality. Municipalities should also promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources to cut greenhouse gas emissions. This will be accompanied by the development of community energy systems – encompassing energy production, storage, and sharing – that require collaboration between local resources and distribution to efficiently link production and consumption across broader areas. Building resilience involves cooperation between the state, regions, and local communities in creating contingency plans and improving response capabilities for climate extremes, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. Raising public awareness of climate change and encouraging the public's active involvement in adaptation measures, including education and participation in planning and implementation, is essential. The state will continue to support municipalities in preparing plans and implementing measures to reduce air pollutant emissions and lower carbon footprints. Municipalities can voluntarily participate in European initiatives like the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or Climate-Neutral Cities.

19.2 Urban heat islands are decreasing in intensity and extent.

Efforts must focus on reducing urban heat island effects caused by dense development and a lack of green spaces, which lead to higher temperatures in cities compared to rural areas. Key measures include increasing green and blue infrastructure, such as parks, trees, green roofs, and facades, which help to cool the urban environments and improve air quality. Municipalities should encourage permeable materials for pavements and roads to allow water infiltration and reduce runoff. Urban planning must consider the heat load and support architectural solutions that minimise the heat effects of buildings.

19.3 The pace of building renovations is increasing to achieve zero-emission building stock.

Czech buildings currently have one of the highest energy consumption rates per square metre in the EU. New buildings must be designed and constructed to operate with zero emissions by

2030. Existing buildings, particularly those with lower energy ratings, should be progressively renovated to improve energy efficiency. Measures include insulation, window replacement, the upgrading of heating and cooling systems, and the implementation of smart technologies for energy management. Under the EU directive EPBD IV, all European building stock should be zero-emission by 2050. Achieving these goals will require cooperation between the state, municipalities, developers, and building owners, incentivising private investment in energy-saving measures and providing financial and technical support tools.

19.4 Publicly accessible elements of blue-green infrastructure are increasing in number and becoming more interconnected in urban areas.

A crucial aspect of climate adaptation involves expanding and interlinking elements of blue-green infrastructure in urban settings. This includes enhancing green and blue spaces (parks, gardens, bodies of water, tree-lined streets, green roofs, and facades) to form continuous networks that facilitate movement for people and wildlife within urban areas. Effective implementation requires collaboration among urban planners, public authorities, and local communities, with a focus on innovative and sustainable planning approaches and project implementation.

19.5 Infrastructure supporting active mobility is developing significantly.

Various forms of zero-emission and low-emission transport must be advanced while reducing reliance on individual car use. This includes constructing and maintaining safe, connected cycle paths, pavements, pedestrian zones, and public spaces that are accessible and convenient for all users, including children, the elderly, and those with limited mobility. Integrating these elements with reliable, safe, and accessible public transport is essential to ensure intermodal connectivity. Collaboration among urban planners, transport engineers, and communities is vital for project planning and implementation. Municipalities can prepare for these changes by developing Strategic Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs).

19.6 The number of zero-emission and low-emission vehicles is increasing, and the corresponding infrastructure is developing proportionally.

Clean mobility will lead to a growing share of electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and other low- or zero-emission vehicles in both public and private transport. To successfully integrate these vehicles, it is essential to establish and expand infrastructure such as charging stations for electric vehicles and alternative-fuel stations, allowing for the convenient and efficient use of these technologies. Towns and municipalities should also promote car-sharing initiatives and multimodal transport systems that combine various forms of transport to enhance their efficiency and accessibility. Cooperation between the public and private sectors, technological innovation, and the provision of comfortable and reliable public or mass transport are all key to achieving this goal.

19.7 The amount of municipal waste sent to landfills is decreasing, while the quantity of separately sorted and recovered bio-waste is on the rise.

Municipalities must prepare as soon as possible for the ban on landfilling recyclable waste, which will take effect in 2030. Therefore, it is crucial for municipalities to focus on waste prevention. If waste has already been generated, the principles of the circular economy must be applied to the greatest extent possible. Municipalities should work on improving the availability and efficiency of waste sorting systems, including expanding collection points and raising public awareness about the importance of proper sorting. Support for composting and

the use of biodegradable waste for biogas production or soil enrichment reduces greenhouse gas emissions and creates resources for renewable energy while improving soil quality.

20. Local government strategically utilises tools for the sustainable development of municipalities.

20.1 Central government provides methodological support and develops tools for the sustainable development of municipalities.

The state plays a key role in developing and implementing tools that help municipalities to integrate sustainability principles into their planning and development processes. This includes support for the application of modern technologies, the fostering of participatory approaches, the provision of training programmes, and the sharing of best practices among towns and municipalities. The state also provides the financial and legislative framework necessary for the efficient implementation of sustainable projects and initiatives. Awareness and knowledge among local and regional government bodies about the significance and potential of localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will continue to grow.

20.2 Local government has sufficient institutional capacity to address the sustainable development agenda.

Methodological support must be backed by adequate capacity to tackle a wide range of issues and manage delegated authority. It is essential to ensure that there are sufficient human, financial, and data resources to enable the efficient planning and implementation of sustainable development measures. Decision-making that considers the local dimension must be based on high-quality data, including population projections, socio-economic trends (such as migration), and other relevant indicators with their forecasts. Key components include enhancing staff expertise through educational programmes, training, and knowledge-sharing (networking), which strengthens their ability to address far-reaching problems and make evidence-based decisions. Additionally, it is vital to support and strengthen collaboration and capacity-sharing at the inter-municipal level, which can improve municipalities' ability to provide essential public services and meet broader development needs.

Key strategies for the Municipalities and Regions focal area

- Digital Czechia
- Transport Policy of the Czech Republic 2021–2027 and Outlook up to 2050
- Client-Oriented Public Administration of the Czech Republic 2030
- Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2021+
- Climate Protection Policy
- State Environmental Policy 2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Circular Economy Strategic Framework of the Czech Republic 2040
- Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+ (2019)
- Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Outlook up to 2030
- Family Policy Strategy 2024–2030
- Roma Integration Strategy 2021–2030
- Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030
- Social Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030
- Strategy for Public Administration Cooperation with Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations 2021–2030

- Czech Educational Policy Strategy up to 2030+

Relevant strategies for the Municipalities and Regions focal area

- Social Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2015–2025
- Update of the National Clean Mobility Action Plan
- Waste Management Plan of the Czech Republic 2015–2024
- Czech Tourism Development Strategy 2021-2030



Global Development

Vision

The Czech Republic, as a confident, pro-Western, and cooperative member of the international community, pursues the interests of its citizens through its domestic and foreign policies. It places an emphasis on the development of stable partnerships with democratic countries, the promotion of Czech economic interests, European values, and principles of sustainable development both within the EU and globally. It contributes to the global implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, strengthens partnerships across sectors, and focuses on reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience in the face of current global challenges.

Goals

21. The Czech Republic, rationally and proactively, with an emphasis on national priorities, helps to shape an environment that supports sustainable development at global and European Union levels.

21.1 The Czech Republic advocates for national and European values and supports the global implementation of international commitments on sustainable development while fulfilling these commitments itself.

Faced with global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, digitalisation, geopolitical tensions, persistent global and domestic inequalities, and post-pandemic recovery, the Czech Republic strives for an immediate and systematic approach to addressing these issues. It places a stress on the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with EU states, the UN, NATO, and other international partners. The Czech Republic aims to reduce critical dependencies in strategic economic sectors and, through resource diplomacy, replace energy and other material supplies from Russia and other authoritarian or unstable states with responsible partners, working towards significant strategic autonomy. At EU level, the Czech Republic supports the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and other initiatives related to sustainable development, including the European Green Deal. In trade policy, it provides preferential market access to developing countries in line with EU standards. Globally, the Czech Republic supports the implementation of the SDGs through international collaboration, including development cooperation, humanitarian aid, and the promotion of innovation and technology transfer. It commits to meeting its Official Development Assistance (ODA) obligations at 0.33% of GNI, climate finance, and mobilising additional funds for developing countries, as recommended by the OECD. The Czech Republic's efforts are guided by its 2018–2030 Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy. Through Team Europe initiatives, it will provide targeted and coherent assistance to third countries in addressing current

development challenges. The country will also support financial tools for investments in sustainable development and SDG implementation, including participation in delegated cooperation and flagship projects under the Global Gateway strategy. In collaboration with the OECD and other international organisations, the Czech Republic will enhance cooperation with developing countries on tax matters, support debt relief initiatives for the poorest nations, and contribute to the ongoing reform of international development banks to mobilise resources for fragile and unstable states. On the international stage, the Czech Republic will work towards the equitable participation of Global South countries in decision-making processes. The Czech Republic will also actively engage in shaping the global vision and sustainable development agenda for the post-2030 period.

21.2 The Czech Republic supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), both globally and within the European Union.

The Czech Republic advocates for effective, rule-based multilateralism as the most suitable approach for addressing current and future global challenges. It does so through measures such as its candidacy for the UN Security Council for 2032–2033. In response to geopolitical challenges, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Czech Republic seeks intensified cooperation with third countries, EU member states, NATO, and other international partners. It views global security broadly, encompassing conflict prevention and resolution, human rights, inequality, climate change, and energy and cyber security. The Czech Republic promotes human rights, democracy, and the development of accountable and transparent institutions in target countries through transformational cooperation programmes.

21.3 The Czech Republic raises public awareness of global development issues.

The Czech Republic prioritises raising awareness about global sustainable development and the importance of international development cooperation. It focuses on deepening understanding of global interconnectedness and disseminating knowledge. Efforts are made to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from civil society, private companies, academia, and the general public. In doing so, the Czech Republic aims to foster a more informed and active society in relation to global challenges and sustainable development.

21.4 Through its active advocacy, the Czech Republic enhances its added value within international organisations (particularly NATO and the UN) and the European Union.

Consistent and coherent representation of the Czech Republic in discussions on international challenges and sustainable development at international forums is essential. This approach strengthens the effectiveness of its foreign policy, boosts credibility, and enhances the country's global reputation. Within key organisations for sustainable development, such as the UN, EU, NATO, and OECD, the Czech Republic will advocate for priorities outlined in *CR 2030* and related sectoral strategies, support the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and promote respect for human rights and democratic principles. To increase its value within international organisations, the Czech Republic will enhance interdepartmental coordination, support the participation of Czech experts in programmes and projects, and encourage their election to leadership roles within these organisations.

22. By strengthening the coherence of its domestic policies with external impacts, the Czech Republic supports global sustainable development.

22.1 The Czech Republic continuously incorporates its international commitments into conceptual documents and tools for external policies while advancing national priorities in sustainable development.

The Czech Republic systematically integrates adopted international commitments and national priorities in sustainable development into its legislation, conceptual documents, and external policy tools. A particular focus is placed on ensuring coherence, engaging all relevant stakeholders in the development, evaluation, and revision processes, and on collecting data and maintaining regular reporting. Cross-sectoral spill-over effects in policy (e.g. environmental protection in the context of international energy security and food security) and their synergies (e.g. improving health through investment in education) are assessed and addressed in favour of sustainable development through innovative governance tools, such as impact assessments not covered under Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). In this respect, the Czech Republic also monitors the approaches and experiences of other countries. Through communication campaigns aimed at both experts and the wider public, including public administration, the Czech Republic seeks to raise awareness of the principles of policy coherence for sustainable development and implement standards for non-financial reporting.

22.2 The Czech Republic monitors the cross-border effects of domestic policies and limits their negative impact on global progress towards sustainable development.

Public administration, leveraging international experience, continuously monitors and evaluates the impacts of domestic policies on other countries to reduce the Czech Republic's negative footprint and enhance its added value in external activities, including the political, security, environmental, trade, and development or humanitarian domains. By employing innovative monitoring tools and methods, it ensures the timely identification and assessment of transboundary effects, such as greenhouse gas emissions, social or migration flows, and environmental and social responsibility within supply chains.

22.3 The Czech Republic actively advocates for the monitoring and pursuit of policy coherence at European Union level, in the EU's external policies and at the global levels.

The Czech Republic aims to ensure alignment between global, European, and national priorities in sustainable development, embedding the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda into all relevant sectoral policies. Within the EU, the Czech Republic supports the integration of key sustainable development principles into EU strategies and documents, emphasising the harmonisation of internal and external policies and minimising the adverse impacts of internal policies on third countries, particularly those in the Global South. The Czech Republic also actively promotes the principles of policy coherence for sustainable development in other international organisations, such as the UNECE and OECD.

Key strategies for the Global Development focal area

- Climate Protection Policy

- Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030
- Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018–2030

Relevant strategies for the Global Development focal area

- Environmental Security Concept 2021–2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Human Rights and Transformation Cooperation Concept
- Foreign Policy Concept of the Czech Republic
- Global Development Education and Awareness-Raising Strategy
- Humanitarian Aid Strategy for 2024
- Strategy for the Support of Czech Citizens in EU Institutions
- Strategy for the Engagement of Czech Citizens in International Organisations



Good Governance

Vision

The Czech Republic operates under democratic and long-term effective governance. Public administration is modern and lean, prioritising quality over quantity in its workforce. The governance structure is resilient, flexible, and inclusive. Citizens participate in public decision-making, with the state creating appropriate conditions and encouraging this engagement. Through public policies, public administration consistently enhances the quality of life for Czech citizens while adhering to the goals and principles of sustainable development.

Goals

23. Public administration and civil society possess the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively fulfil their roles in policy-making.

23.1 Public administration training genuinely develops systems thinking, the ability to involve the public in policy-making, and provides access to the latest scientific knowledge and international experiences.

Public administration will define desirable skills – not just specific knowledge – and focus on achieving them. These skills will reflect the national and global challenges facing public administration as an organisation (e.g. teamwork, a human-centred approach, digital and AI proficiency, participatory processes, communication skills, and advanced data analytics skills for analysts). Tools include civil service training systems, EU institutional internships, public administration competency centres, and collaborative projects between the Government Analytical Unit and ministries' analytical units.

23.2 The education system and non-profit sector activities provide skills development, enabling meaningful citizen participation in policy-making.

Meaningful policy participation – from information handling to debate rules – is a skill that all citizens can learn. The state will prioritise its inclusion in the education system, including adult education (“civic education”), and will provide opportunities for the public to apply these skills. Public administration will also foster long-term partnerships with the non-profit sector to this end.

24. Public policies are coherent with the Sustainable Development Goals as represented by the strategic framework *Czech Republic 2030*

24.1 Public administration has sufficient institutional capacity to create coherent policies.

Effective horizontal and vertical coordination of public administration will be ensured. Existing communication channels, such as government advisory bodies, a network of focal points/contact persons for sustainable development, and meetings of state secretaries, can be leveraged. Transforming the Office of the Government into a true centre of government would be beneficial.

24.2 Public administration institutions formulate long-term intentions and manage their implementation through strategy documents.

Public administration strategies will primarily define purposes and value-driven goals, timelines, and feedback mechanisms for progress assessment. Long-term, the focus will be on reducing the number of thematic and sectoral strategies and integrating them into larger interconnected frameworks. For key sectoral and thematic strategies, at least, the costs of achievement will be estimated, and a system linking long-term strategic goals to resource allocation will be in place. Strategies will not conflict with *CR 2030*, and key strategies will actively contribute to achieving its goals.

24.3 Public policies are evidence-informed and systematically evaluated in advance for impacts on beneficiaries, side effects, and long-term outcomes.

Policies will be designed and maintained coherent through predictable, transparent, and rules-based impact assessment tools. Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs), including their components (e.g. environmental, gender equality, family, or regional impact assessments), will play a key role at national level. Decision-making across all public administration levels will be data-driven and informed by public administration's analytical work.

24.4 Public policies are systematically evaluated both continuously and retrospectively.

Policies will be evaluated primarily as integrated measures combining regulatory, distributive, and redistributive tools. Ex post RIAs will be conducted. Every strategy will include an evaluation mechanism, focusing not just on task monitoring, but on comprehensive assessments. In addition to ex post evaluations, strategies will incorporate ongoing evaluations to adjust the direction and pace of goal achievement. To enable policy evaluation, the purpose of each policy must be clearly defined from the outset.

25. Data and information required for policy-making is of high quality, readily accessible, and supports informed decision-making

25.1 Data and information collection and sharing systems operate effectively, respecting the right to privacy and informational self-determination. These systems enable adequate problem analyses, the development of alternative solutions, ex ante impact assessments, and evaluations of policy outcomes.

A system will be developed to regularly update public administration's data and information requirements and integrate sources across various domains. Digitalisation serves as a suitable

framework for this purpose. The systemic solution will include a legal obligation for public administration to conduct data reviews, during which the data possessed by specific organisations is identified. Based on these reviews, data descriptions will be created, recorded, and made easily accessible in a public register.

25.2 Public administration data and information is accessible to citizens in a way that facilitates their engagement in policy-making as much as possible.

There will be easy and timely public access to relevant information, underpinned by digitalisation and an open data infrastructure (open linked data). Attention will also be paid to people who are unable or unwilling to engage in the digital environment (bridging the digital gap).

25.3 Research significantly contributes to policy-making, both for long-term intentions and immediate needs.

Public administration will engage in intensive cooperation with academic institutions (e.g. universities, research organisations, the Czech Academy of Sciences, and public research institutions). The state's research and development support system will foster and encourage this collaboration. Tools include departmental research organisations, long-term research consortia (e.g. the TA CR PPŽ 3 programme model), and missions oriented policy within the RIS3 strategy.

26. Innovation in policy-making is a permanent feature of public administration at all levels

26.1 A support system for innovation in policy-making is in place.

Innovations in the delivery of public administration services and the content of policies will go beyond minor improvements to include focused efforts towards predefined long-term objectives (mission-oriented innovation) and the ability to navigate various future scenarios in uncertain environments (anticipatory innovation). The approach will not only involve “doing things right” but also “doing the right things”. Organisational support for this will include, for example, quality management tools in public service offices, design and experimental policy labs, and foresight tools.

26.2 Experimental testing is a widespread approach in policy-making.

Evaluating the effects of proposed solutions requires reviewing existing knowledge, including international insights, and employing various small-scale testing methods with rigorous evaluations (e.g. randomised controlled trials, prototyping, regulatory sandboxes, and pilot projects).

26.3 Deliberation is a common approach in policy-making.

Deliberation involves structured discussions aimed at justifying proposals with arguments, leading to consensus-based decisions. Even when a consensus is not reached, decisions made by a legitimate political majority take diverse perspectives into account. This method will be employed particularly during the preparation phase of policies, including the selection of starting points and goals. Tools include mini-public (citizens' juries, citizens' assemblies/deliberative polls), long-term advisory bodies, and public administration consultation portals.

27. Public policies enhance democracy and the long-term effectiveness of governance

27.1 Policy-making is representative, and direct participation is integral to it.

The representativeness of democracy will be pursued not only in constitutionally guaranteed rights, but also in practical implementation. Public administration will understand how to reflect the views and needs of diverse population groups both in its activities and its policies. Forms of direct involvement, such as participatory budgeting, will be used.

27.2 Public debate is inclusive and facilitates the assessment of information sources and quality.

The state will prioritise active strategic communication that is comprehensible to all and considers factors specific to various social groups. It will help to adapt public debate as a whole to the digital environment, addressing system elements like algorithms, AI, opinion and information bubbles, and rapid information dissemination. This approach involves not only obtaining relevant information but also distinguishing it from misleading or manipulative content (e.g. fake news and deep fakes) and disinformation. Effective barriers against hate speech will be in place, alongside efforts to ensure media plurality and the engagement of public-service media.

27.3 The state ensures access to justice and rights protection for all citizens, based on an understanding of their needs and challenges.

The state will have a thorough understanding of the obstacles its citizens face in protecting and enforcing their rights and offer appropriate solutions. The judiciary will be high-quality, accessible, and efficient, with minimal regional disparities in rulings. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (e.g. in consumer protection and employment) will complement the judiciary where more effective. In achieving justice, the active efforts of the state to combat unequal treatment (whether in the form of corruption or discrimination on any other basis) will offer support to citizens, along with effective assistance in cases where individuals are not treated equally. In addition to swift and transparent decision-making by public administration and courts, national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles and strong protection for whistleblowers of unlawful and unethical conduct are particularly valuable for this purpose.

27.4 Public administration services and processes are digitalised wherever it benefits the recipients.

The full potential of digitalisation and artificial intelligence will be harnessed in state administration, as well as in regional and local government. The key will be whether digitalisation truly benefits the recipients, and whether it contributes to the purpose for which the policy is being created, or the service is being provided. The primary consideration will always be whether a particular process makes sense; and only then will the question of whether it should be digitalised be addressed. Consideration will also be given to the fact that not everyone is able or willing to engage digitally (addressing the digital gap). The same key will guide the approach and extent of AI use, especially in its more complex forms. Careful attention will also be paid to the risks of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, ranging from traditional cybersecurity issues to the risk of AI acting as the final decision-maker, as well as control over data usage.

27.5 Public procurement is strategic and adheres to 3E principles.

Public administration will set an example, leveraging its purchasing power strategically to achieve national policy priorities. Public procurement will align with 3E principles, with tools like spending reviews to examine the links between strategic goals, resources spent, and outcomes achieved.

27.6 The state delivers security.

The security of individuals, communities, and society relies on the state; no one can replace its role here. Beyond traditional dimensions of internal security (e.g. fighting and preventing crime, including effective measures against recidivism, countering organised crime and terrorism, protecting children from abuse, fighting and preventing terrorism, and supporting victims of crime), security also encompasses social, economic, and environmental aspects. Systems for crisis prediction and response will be enhanced to address crises of any origin.

Key strategies for the Good Governance focal area

- Digital Czechia
- Client-Oriented Public Administration of the Czech Republic 2030
- Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030
- Strategy for Public Administration Cooperation with Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations 2021–2030

Relevant strategies for the Good Governance focal area

- Security Strategy 2023
- Digital Decade
- Concept to Counter Extremism and Prejudiced Hate 2021–2026
- Environmental Security Concept 2021–2030 and Outlook up to 2050
- Concept of Probation and Mediation Development up to 2025
- National Research, Development, and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic 2021+
- National Cybersecurity Strategy
- National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030
- National Strategy of Public Procurement in the Czech Republic
- National Research and Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)
- Strategy of Crime Prevention in the Czech Republic for 2022–2027
- Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+
- Strategy for Controlled Access to Data to Ensure Conditions for Quality Data Management in Czech Public Administration / Data Management Strategy in Czech Public Administration (2024–2030)
- Czech Educational Policy Strategy up to 2030+
- Government Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2023–2026