



Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda Czech Republic 2025



1	Main messages	4
2	Executive Summary	5
3	Methodology: Preparing the VNR	6
4	Ownership of the SDGs and VNR	9
	Government and state institutions	10
	General public and private sector	12
5	Institutional framework for implementing sustainable development	14
	National level	15
	Global level	17
	EU level	18
	Local and regional pillar of achieving the SDGs	19
6	Leave No One Behind	21
	Protecting rights and preventing discrimination in Czechia	22
	Vulnerable children	22
	Foreigners in Czechia	24
	Social entrepreneurship	24
	Other persisting challenges	25
	Are we equal in the Czech Republic?	26
7	Structural issues	28
	Decarbonisation and just transition	29
	Societal resilience	33
	Sustainability in everyday life	38
8	Perspective of the Youth	43
	Sustainable development in general	44
	Social inequalities	44
	Decarbonisation	44
	Societal resilience	45
	Protecting democracy	45

9	Progress in achieving the SDGs	46
	● SDG 1: No Poverty	47
	● SDG 2: Zero Hunger	49
	● SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	51
	● SDG 4: Quality Education	54
	● SDG 5: Gender Equality	56
	● SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	59
	● SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	61
	● SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	63
	● SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	65
	● SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	67
	● SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	69
	● SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	72
	● SDG 13: Climate Action	74
	● SDG 14: Life Below Water	76
	● SDG 15: Life on Land	78
	● SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	81
	● SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	83
10	Sources	85
11	Annexes:	91
	Annex 1: List of acronyms	92
	Annex 2: List of 2030 Agenda indicators used	94
	Annex 3: Czechia and sustainable development in different perspectives	96

1 Main messages

Czechia's 3rd Voluntary National Review represents a longstanding commitment to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and focuses on the progress made since the 2nd VNR in 2021. **It draws on the updated Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030** with an outlook to 2050, approved by the Government in 2024. Although **Czechia ranks 12th out of 167 countries** (Sustainable Development Report 2024), the VNR provides a self-critical assessment that contributes to improving SDG implementation.

The VNR is based on **solid data evidence and reflects the current state of our society. It has been created in a transparent and participatory way**, incorporating inputs from stakeholders including experts, youth, and NGOs.

The **social dimension** of sustainable development in Czechia is underpinned by a strong social protection system that continues to improve access to health care, including mental health. Progress has been made towards accessible quality education and social integration of disadvantaged groups. Some gender equality issues remain difficult to address, but efforts are on-going. Czechia follows the LNOB approach, e.g. by strengthening human rights, protecting vulnerable groups, and supporting social entrepreneurship. Overall, significant steps forward have been taken toward a more inclusive society.

Czechia is making tangible progress in the **economic pillar** of sustainable development and the related SDGs. Decarbonisation of the Czech economy continues, with total emissions falling below 100 Mt CO₂ eq. in 2023 for the first time. Since 1990, emissions have already fallen by 47%. The energy intensity of the economy is decreasing, and the share of renewable energy is steadily increasing. Czechia steadily supports research and innovations, which is essential for the transformation of the traditional manufacturing industry into a modern, technologically advanced economy with sustainable and competitive production.

Czechia is determined to contribute its part to the Paris and Kunming-Montreal commitments. Ongoing **climate adaptation and nature protection** measures focus on water quality and management and its retention in landscape, reforestation, sustainable land-use practices, the preservation of natural habitats and the improvement of ambient air quality and waste management. Progress in nature restoration is slow but steady. Although some sectors continue to exert pressure on the environment, improvement efforts persist.

Local and regional governments are increasingly involved in efforts to advance SDG implementation, through e.g. green infrastructure projects and sustainable public services. Legal and financial autonomy enables municipalities and regions to tailor their efforts to their specific needs and priorities. Community engagement and participation of different stakeholders are promoted through a variety of participatory methods. National and European financial subventions have contributed to more dynamic SDGs localisation.

Czechia embraces its responsibilities toward sustainable development. **It remains a reliable, globally engaged partner.** Its ODA amounted to USD 572 million in 2024. Czechia promotes human dignity and SDGs through a human rights-based approach, by strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, partnering with the private sector and NGOs, and contributing to the EU Global Gateway. **The Russian aggression against Ukraine has severely impacted sustainable development both regionally and globally.** Czechia responded with solidarity and efficiency, providing key support to refugees, while continuing its global development and humanitarian commitments.

Meaningful progress towards the SDGs has been achieved, but the data shows that there is still a long way to go. It is not possible to make headway without increasing our efforts together with relevant stakeholders. **The way forward is to strengthen policy coherence.** This means making policies coherent with the SDGs and rendering both strategies and laws into effective policymaking tools. It is also crucially important to demonstrate sustainability in everyday life to prevent it from becoming an empty concept. That is the aspiration of Czechia.

2 Executive Summary

The Czech Republic presents its 3rd Voluntary National Review (VNR 2025), which assesses in detail the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda. Good news – none of the SDGs for the 2021–2024 reporting period show a significant setback based on their global indicators. **Progress is seen in ten goals, while six goals are stagnating.** On the other hand, compared to the previous VNR (2021), some goals that did not pose a challenge (SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities, and SDG 16 – Peace, justice, and strong institutions) now require more attention, also due to the changing geopolitical landscape.

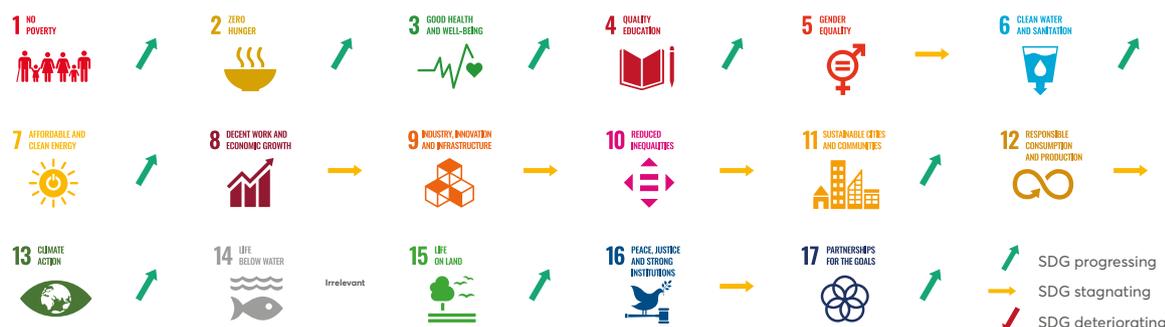
In general, this shows that the Czech Republic is on track in the SDGs implementation, which brings tangible achievements, but at the same time it still faces persistent and new challenges. These are the subject of this VNR 2025 and should certainly be the subject of public and political interest in the near future.

In addition to the assessment of each SDG, this VNR 2025 focuses on **cross-cutting themes** to bring a better and more holistic view of specific problems of the Czech Republic at the national level. The themes are set in a context, bringing domestic and foreign readers to a deeper level of understanding. Several themes, for instance decarbonisation and social inequalities, build on the previous VNR 2021 and show significant progress. In contrary, some of the themes reflect current transformations (geopolitical, natural, social, and economic) and evaluate how they are tackled at the national, global, and local level. Sustainable development is not merely an abstract concept, which is why this VNR reflects it through ownership and bringing up specific issues of everyday life. Geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine, natural disasters, disinformation threats, or the ageing population affect all of us. A fundamental problem in these matters is also their way of communication, which often reaches various limits (lack of information, misunderstanding, interest groups). For these reasons, big part of the structural issues section addresses societal resilience.

With the **participatory design**, VNR 2025 contains a detailed perspective of the youth, which greatly contributes to shaping the future vision of a sustainable Czech Republic. Young people most frequently consider SDG 16 – Peace, justice, and strong institutions as the most important, followed by SDG 3 – Good health and well-being, SDG 4 – Quality education, and SDG 13 – Climate action. The meeting with experts from the public, non-governmental, and private sectors on the topics of communication, media, and disinformation, and the world café with experts on global development were also crucial in terms of participation.

The **Ministry of the Environment (MoE)** has been responsible for sustainable development agenda since 2018 and is the author of the *Reviewed Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 with outlook to 2050*. The framework, which focuses inter alia on the gaps in sustainable development, was approved by the government in 2024 and it serves as a tool for translating SDGs to a national level. In addition to its strategic work, the MoE also manages the Government Council for Sustainable Development. Cooperation is the most important for the implementation of the SDGs and it has been in place for a long time in particular with the Czech Statistical Office, which gathers and provides data from three indicator sets, that are essential for the VNR. As for separate topics, there is close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Regional Development. The Office of the Government also joined the team to work closely on the VNR.

Progress towards achieving the SDGs 2021–2024



3 Methodology:

Preparing the VNR

The Czech Republic continuously assesses the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at national and global level using an evidence-based approach, in which it uses both qualitative and quantitative methods. Quantitative monitoring is based on three **indicator sets** with data collected by the Czech Statistical Office. These sets include 248 indicators of Agenda 2030, 170 indicators of Czech Republic 2030, and 39 subjective indicators of quality of life.

The overall findings are published regularly in the **evaluation report of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 and in the Czech Voluntary National Review**. The Ministry of the Environment publishes an evaluation report every three years. The second evaluation report was prepared in 2023 and approved by the government in February 2024. The assessment showed that the Czech Republic has remained far behind from reaching its sustainability goals even after the second review period.

In the Voluntary National Review, the Czech Republic assesses the status of implementing the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The first Voluntary National Review was published in 2017 and the second one in 2021**. In its third VNR, the Czech Republic builds on previous reports and assesses the progress made over the last 4 years. It therefore does not assess the state comprehensively but focuses on areas where significant progress has been made or where significant challenges remain. In terms of progress in achieving the SDGs, only selected relevant targets are evaluated, which were selected based on their importance for sustainable development in the context of the Czech Republic and the data availability for indicators thereof. Specific examples of projects that contribute to the SDGs are included. These projects evenly represent the efforts of the public sector, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The assessment of the implementation of each SDG is based on a combination of an assessment of relevant targets¹ only, for which indicator set data are available, and policies and measures that significantly penetrate these areas and are relevant to the goal achievement. The assessment of progress, stagnation or deterioration in the observed indicators is based on expert assessment of the areas in question and retrospectively verified using the Eurostat methodology for assessing the SDGs implementation.² The progress towards the selected targets is assessed in a text of the SDGs chapters.

The overall assessment of the SDGs is then illustrated in the executive summary. The SDGs marked in green, i.e. **on track** to their fulfilment, are SDGs whose targets showed progress in the majority of cases in the review period, while the SDGs, where the progress slowed down or where only a part of the indicators showed improvement, while other showed a significant drop in their values, were marked as **stagnant**. In order for the SDG to be considered **deteriorating**, its targets would have to show a predominantly negative trend.

The assessment of the current state of sustainable development in the Czech Republic is the result of the cooperation of all stakeholders involved. 3rd VNR of the Czech Republic was prepared by a work group consisting of representatives of the **Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Office of the Government, and the Czech Statistical Office (CSO)** as the parties coordinating relevant agendas. The MoE is responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda as a whole and therefore it was the leader and coordinator in the preparation of the VNR. The MFA provided a foreign and development perspective, the MoRD provided examples of the SDGs localisation, and the Office of the Government ensured that the report adequately reflected the Czech Republic's human rights commitment. The CSO supplied the most recent data, allowing the report to observe mainly the 2021–2024 period.

¹ List of non-relevant targets or indicators for which data are not available. Available [here](#).

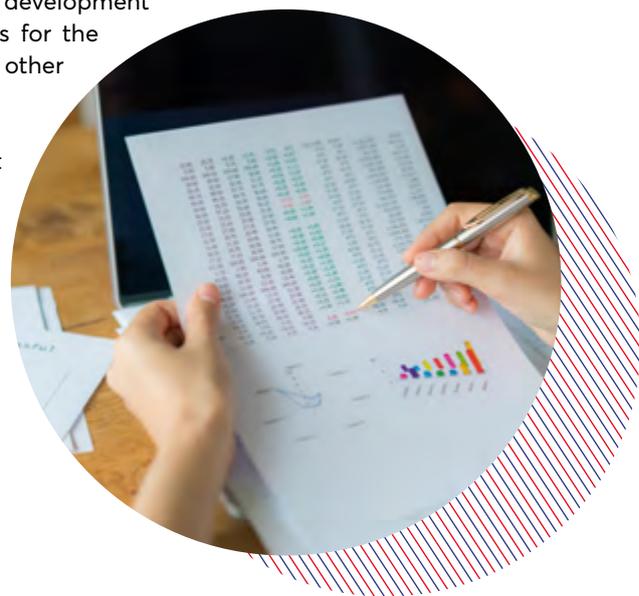
² Eurostat (2024) The methodology for assessing the EU Member States status and progress towards SDGs. Available [here](#).

The intention to deliver the 3rd VNR and its concept was presented at the meeting of the **Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD)** on 23 October 2024. The GCSD consists of representatives of ministries, academia, economic and social partners, as well as the non-governmental sector. The members were invited to get involved by proposing priority themes and collaboration was established with relevant ministries and other organisations such as the Czech Council of Children and Youth and the Association of Social Responsibility. The GCSD also played a key role in the final stage of preparation, the first VNR draft was presented at the meeting on 18 March 2025. The members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft, which was incorporated into the final version.

The concept of the 3rd VNR builds on previous Voluntary National Reviews and therefore tracks progress in the adoption and implementation of the sustainable development agenda at vertical levels, the grasp of the Leave No One Behind principle, and the progress and transformation of structural issues that interconnect multiple SDGs. The VNR also includes a chapter on the youth perspective. The core of the report consists of the assessment of selected targets for all 17 SDGs.

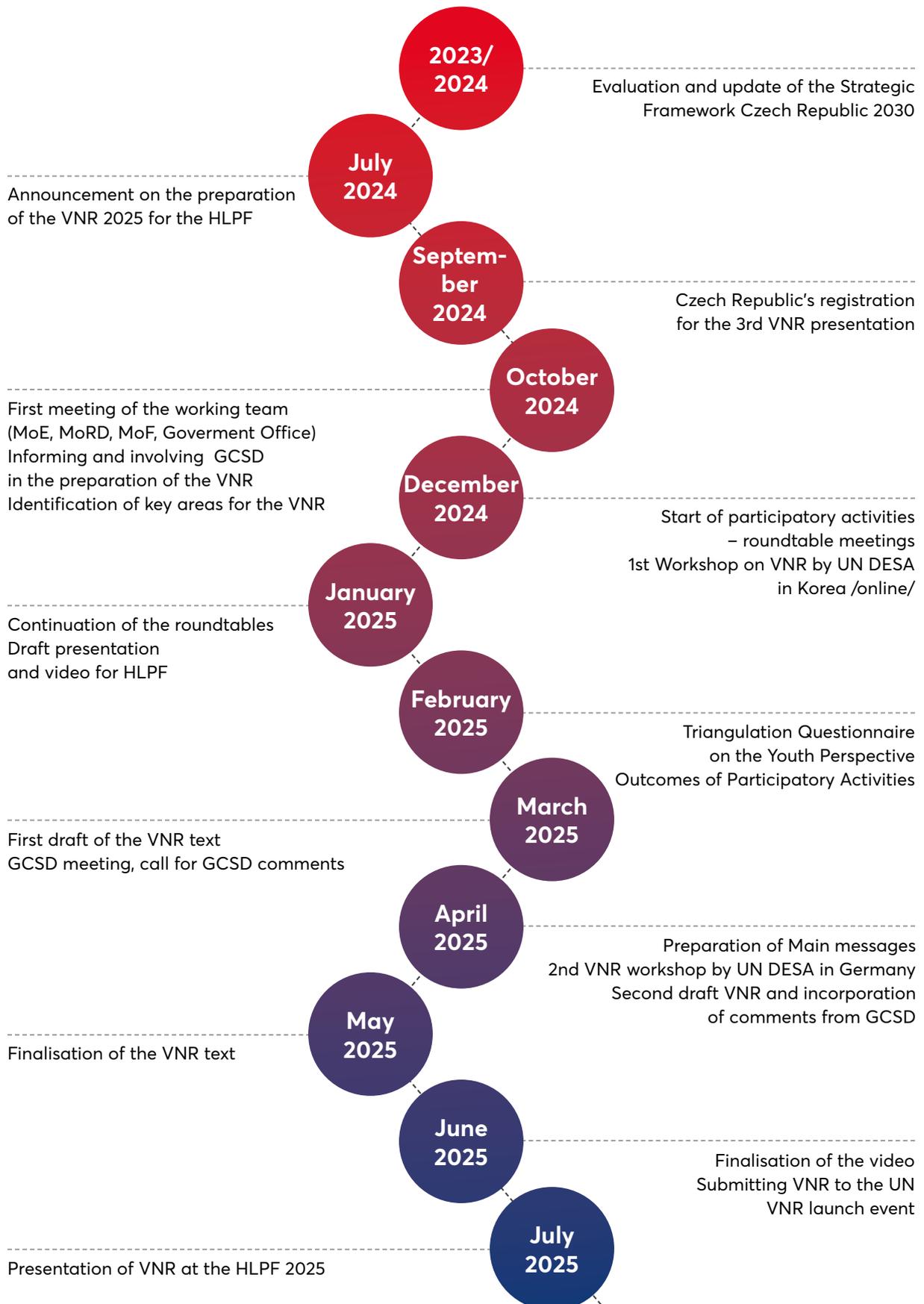
Participatory involvement of partners and stakeholders in the evaluation is an integral part of the VNR preparation. To this end, six meetings were held between December 2024 and January 2025. Four of the meetings focused on representatives of the youth from secondary schools and secondary general schools from various regions of the Czech Republic. Students discussed cross-cutting themes and could also choose a theme that interested them. Most frequently, this theme of choice was SDG 16. In addition to these meetings, two thematic events for stakeholders were held. A meeting with media representatives was held at the MoE, addressing the issue of communicating green and sustainable topics to the public and combating misinformation. The MFA held a 'world café' on global development issues. The outputs of these activities form the basis for the chapters on structural issues and are integrated in other sections of the report as well.³

Unless otherwise stated, the amounts in this document have been converted from Czech crowns to Euros using the average exchange rate for the period of 2021–2024 (EUR/CZK = 25). Amounts are rounded with respect to the context.



³ More round table summary: perspectives of the youth [here](#), media and communication [here](#), global development [here](#).

VNR CREATION PROCESS





Ownership of the SDGs and VNR

4 Ownership of the SDGs and VNR

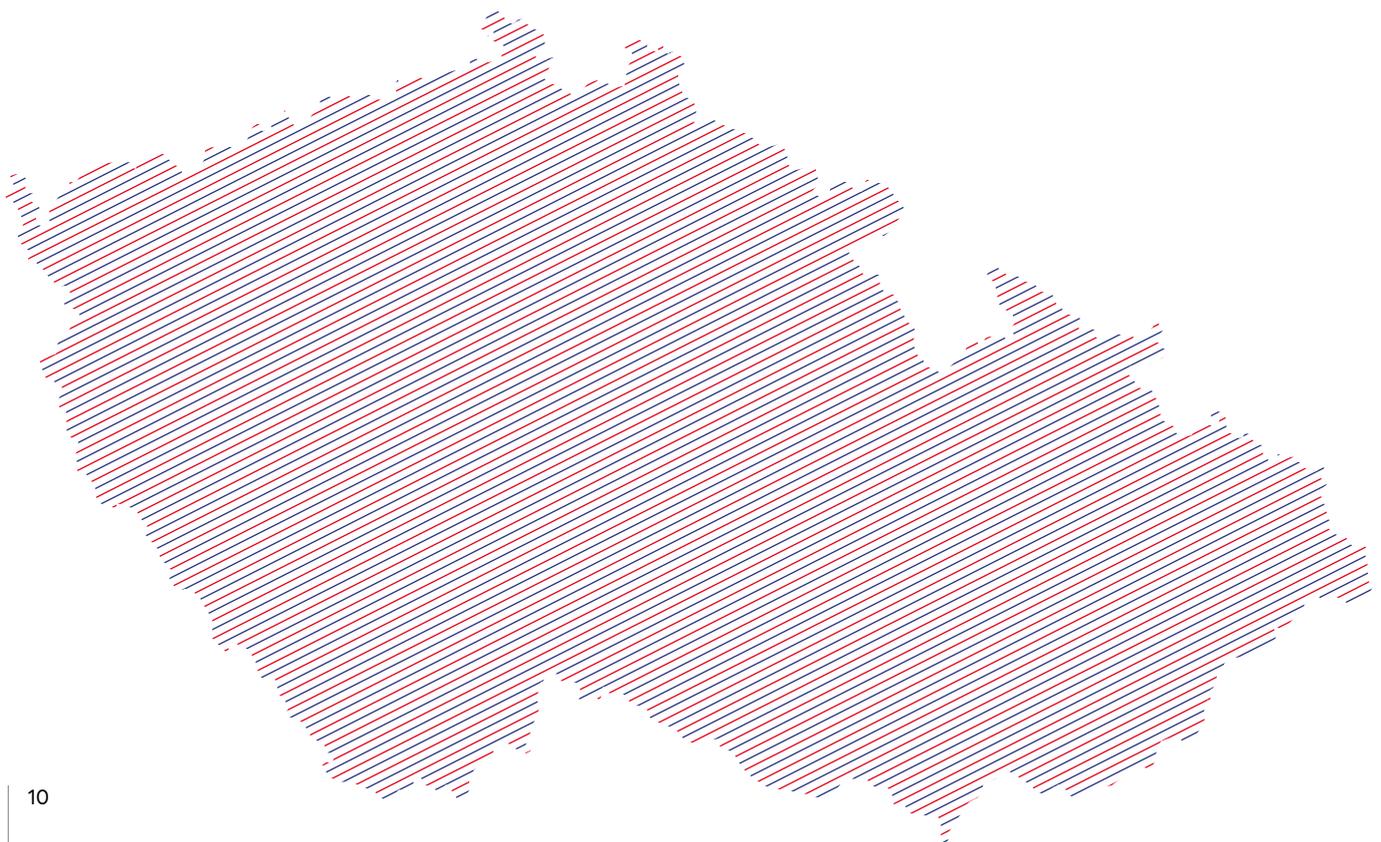
Government and state institutions

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a major comprehensive agenda of the United Nations (UN) today. On behalf of the Czech Republic, the government signed up in 2015 to its implementation. It built on its previous efforts in sustainable development in 2004 and 2010. The practical effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was expressed by the preparation and adoption of the new **Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030**, which served as the basis for the first VNR in 2017. Since 2017, the Czech foreign policy also follows the **Development Cooperation Strategy 2018–2030** (DC Strategy), which emphasises the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in relation to developing countries.

In 2018, the responsibility for the sustainable development agenda was assumed by the **Ministry of the Environment** (MoE), where the Sustainable Development Unit and the Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD) were transferred.

The **Government Council for Sustainable Development** (GCSD) was established in 2003 as a permanent advisory, initiating, and coordinating body of the Government of the Czech Republic for sustainable development and strategic management. The Council aims to connect experts with politicians as well as with strategic departments of ministries, and the professional public with civil society, thus providing a comprehensive view on the major issues that affect the development of the country. It is also responsible for implementing the overarching Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030, which leads the development of public administration strategic materials and translates the SDGs into the Czech environment. The GCSD holds regular meetings and uses thematic committees for discussing matters in deeper detail, e.g. for social and economic development, sustainable energy and transport, sustainable development indicators, etc. The GCSD also organizes an annual Sustainable Development Forum, a conference where experts and the public meet with representatives of the government, NGOs, and the private sector. The GCSD also participated in the preparation of the 3rd VNR of the Czech Republic.

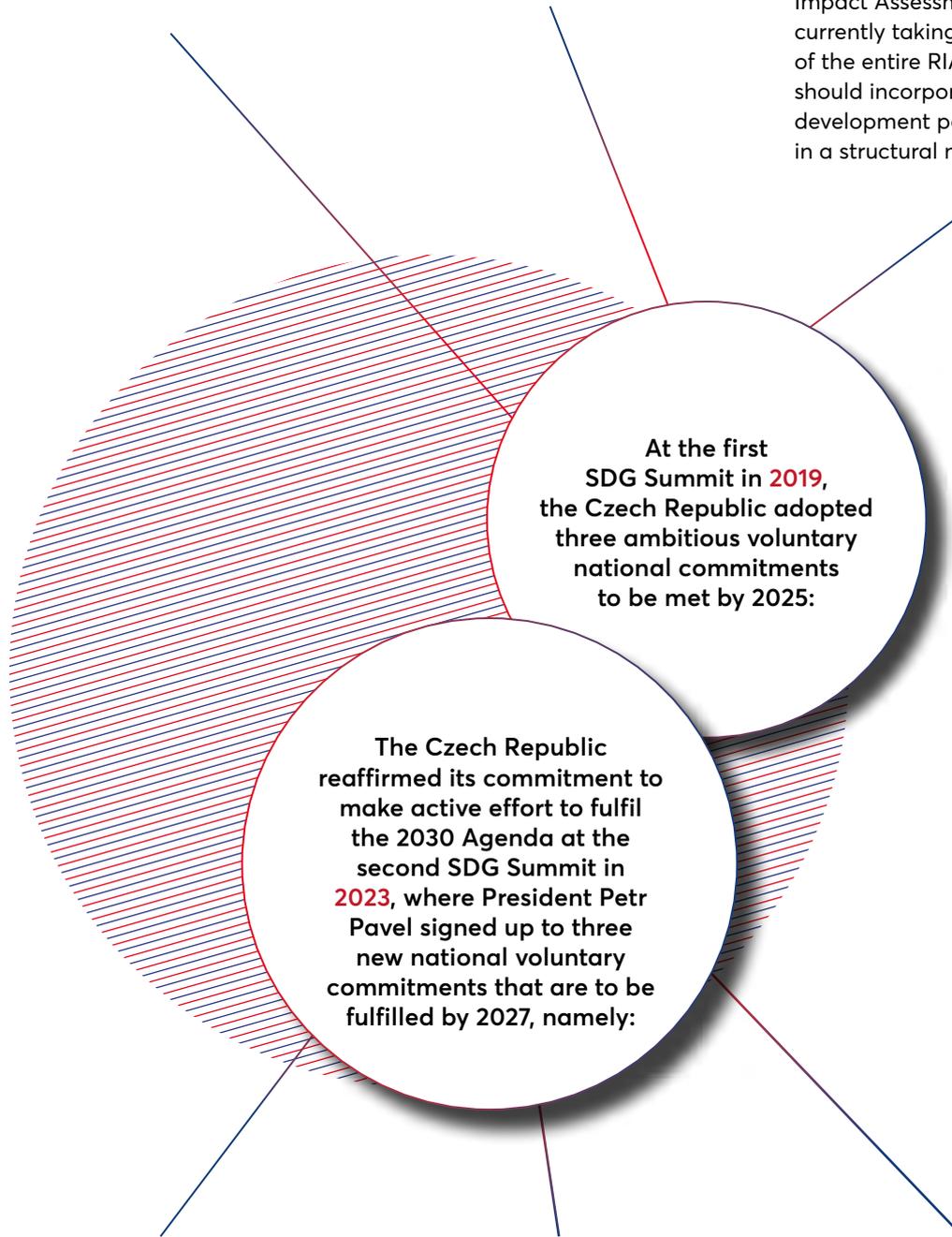
At the working level, the GCSD operates a network of focal points for sustainable development within each ministry. These partners cooperate with the MoE, they are responsible for mutual sharing of information and are involved in coordinating the sustainable development agenda.



1 — Adoption of 500 voluntary commitments to support the SDGs implementation at the level of the Czech Republic – Not yet fulfilled, 158 commitments have been registered. 

2 — Planting 10 million trees – 3.7 million trees have been planted outside forests in 2019–2022; the planting and data gathering continues. 

3 — Incorporation of the sustainable development perspective into regulatory impact analysis – Fulfilled, the MoE published a Guide to Considering Sustainable Development in Regulatory Impact Assessment in 2023 and is currently taking part in a reform of the entire RIA process, which should incorporate the sustainable development perspective in a structural manner. 



1 — To enhance effectiveness of the strategic planning to deliver on the SDGs in public administration. 

2 — To establish an online national platform for reporting on SDGs. 

3 — To contribute the sum of 4 million USD to the Green Climate Fund for the period 2024–2027. 

General public and private sector

The sustainability commitment cannot be political only, the society as a whole must engage in it. At the 2019 SDG Summit, the Czech Republic agreed to make 500 voluntary commitments. Such a commitment can be made by anyone – an individual, a business company, a public administration, a non-governmental organisation, or an interest organisation. These can register their commitment online on the website, where 158 commitments have been published so far. The Sustainable Development Unit also motivates citizens to adopt sustainable approaches through **awareness campaigns** on social media. In autumn 2021, campaign titled 'How to Sustain' was launched – celebrities shared tips on the circular economy, intergenerational dialogue, and healthy exercise. The second campaign in 2023 targeted young people and aimed to show them how to take sustainability 'with all hands'. Influencers engaged in a series of challenges related to water saving, ESG, and improving the quality of life within local communities.

We also try to raise awareness of sustainable development personally through events for professionals and the public. The MoE regularly organises a conference focused on ESG, but also many professional and participatory events. The MoE coordinates the **European Sustainable Development Week** in Czechia and motivates partners to engage and actively participates in the festival itself.

An important part of sustainability is the active involvement of the **private sector**. Businesses are now adapting to the requirements of **non-financial reporting** (ESG), encouraging them to examine the impacts of their activities in more detail and to develop strategies for more sustainable practices. This undertaking guides them to analyse the risks associated with climate change and biodiversity loss, and their actual and potential impact on business activities. Other key themes of non-financial reporting include circular economy and pollution, which can bring short-term as well as long-term savings to businesses. However, sustainability and non-financial reporting also includes a responsible approach to people, leading some businesses to report on the impact of their activities on employees, clients, and supply chains. Some companies are required to include information on the implementation of their diversity policy in their annual reports.



The cooperation with stakeholders and private sector partners is continuous. At the Global Development world café, it was mentioned that the ESG introduction has helped to create better environment for the NGOs and private sector to work together on sustainability. The MoE is a member of the Czech Association of Social Responsibility and a partner of the SDG Awards, which award the best projects in 7 categories from the non-governmental private, and public sector.

SDG Awards

The SDG Awards serve as the globally unique prize for the achievement of the SDGs. The awards, which inspire the whole world, were created in 2017 by the Association of Social Responsibility, the largest initiative of the Sustainable Development Goals and ESG in the Czech Republic. Over the past years, over 1500 projects have seized the opportunity to show how their business and activities actively help to implement the principles of sustainable development. These include large global companies, small and medium-sized regional enterprises, NGOs, schools and municipalities.

The SDG Awards are not just about recognising achievements in sustainability, but also about gathering public support to address urgent global challenges. They attract a wide range of participants from various sectors and highlight the reputation of organisations and projects. The SDG Awards as such embody collaboration and partnership between NGOs, government, and the private sector (the so-called Public Private Partnership) and significantly help achieving the last of the 17 goals – Partnership for the Goals.



In order to ensure high quality of education and subsequent support in the sustainable development in (not only) corporate practice, the MoE worked with the National Pedagogical Institute on preparing a Sustainability Manager qualification standard. There is also ongoing **cooperation with universities** in the preparation of educational programmes, courses, and conferences. Universities play a crucial role in developing awareness and educating about sustainable development. 24 Czech universities united under the UNILEAD project in 2022 onwards with the aim to reinforce the role of universities as 'effective, responsible, and inclusive' public organisations, which ensure cooperation in the transfer of good practice within the SDGs into the operational aspects of universities. Each university has developed a set of recommendations in the field corresponding to its focus. This was further developed in the UNILEAD 2 project in 2023, which leads to the preparation of sub-generic and individual strategies.





Institutional framework for implementing sustainable development

5 Institutional framework for implementing sustainable development

National level

Czech Republic 2030 and implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 with outlook to 2050 (Czech Republic 2030) is a national overarching strategy for sustainable development, which reflects the long-term priorities of the Czech Republic. It is also a specific operational document of the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals tailored to the Czech Republic. The original Czech Republic 2030 was adopted by the government in 2017 and an updated version was approved by the government in 2024.

The Czech Republic 2030 covers **three pillars** of sustainable development – **social, economic, and environmental**, as well as **three levels of governance** – **international, national, and regional**. Each area has a defined vision of the end state, which is further specified by strategic and specific goals.

The Czech Republic 2030 is a consensus framework for developing public administration strategies and it focuses the long-term work of public administration towards one set of general goals. Specific steps towards achieving the goals of the Czech Republic 2030 fall under the responsibility of the relevant ministries and the Office of the Government and are contained in sectoral and thematic strategies.

Measures and recommendations in individual **implementation plans** cover potential gaps in achieving the goals of the Czech Republic 2030 (policy gaps) and areas, where more intensive action is needed. The first implementation plan has been drawn up for 2018–2020. The second one covers the 2022–2025 period.

The progress in achieving goals is assessed every three years. A second evaluation report was issued in 2023, which however showed that the Czech Republic is still far behind from its goals.



Public administration aiming for sustainable development

To an extent, all sections of the public administration follow the line of sustainable development, but concentrated and coordinated efforts in this direction strongly depend on projects bounded by time.

In 2019–2023, a project funded from the Operational Programme Employment titled **Mechanisms for Promoting Sustainable Development Principles in Public Administration** was implemented, which led to updating and evaluating the Czech Republic 2030 and other strategic documents concerning sustainable development. The project also helped setting up processes for monitoring progress in sustainable development, implementing the perspectives of sustainable development into the regulatory impact assessment system and focusing on the importance of the perspective of beneficiaries to ensure policy coherence. Last, but not least, the project included public participation activities related to the sustainable development assessment in Czechia and information campaigns on various issues, mainly through social media networks, but at a number of events as well.

The project on **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** (Improving Strategic Planning to Achieve Sustainability Goals) funded from the National Recovery Plan is being implemented in the 2023–2026 period and delves even deeper than the previous project. It uses the identified shortcomings in the coherence of strategic documents for policy-making, together with previous experience how public administration has so far approached the issue of sustainable development. The project aims to increase the coherence of the strategies in relation to the SDGs, or the Czech Republic 2030, and to adjust the existing strategic environment of state administration as to transform the strategies into instruments of real and effective management and implementation of policy development. Another project output is setting up an information dataset management system for monitoring sustainable development indicators. This project is implemented by the MoE and its partners, namely the Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Czech Environmental Information Agency, and the Czech Statistical Office (CSO).

The **Ministry of Finance** (MoF) (Department Sustainability Policy) plays an important role in this area and is involved in development of strategies, legislation, and methodologies in relation to the Green Deal for Europe, sustainability funding, and other sustainability development policies on the national and EU level. A key activity of this department is to analyse the impact of the green transition on public budgets and the economy, while proposing measures to reinforce its resilience, competitiveness, and long-term stability, as well as the goal of mobilising private capital for sustainable projects.⁴ Evidence-based policy making, which is based on quality analysis, economic modelling, and monitoring of key indicators, is emphasised here.

In addition, the MoF is actively engaged in EU working groups and other international structures, it coordinates the development of approaches to corporate sustainability reporting at the public administration level and forms conditions for implementing public investments with positive environmental and social impacts. By doing so, its activities significantly help promoting sustainable development principles across public policies and reinforcing strategic management in the Czech Republic.

While quality strategic work is crucial in anchoring sustainable development, it is equally important to project its principles onto **day-to-day activities of the public administration**.

Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is one of the options that can bring a sustainability perspective into legislative and non-legislative proposals. The RIA process in the Czech Republic is being currently reformed so that impact analysis is introduced at the very beginning of the legislative process and serves its purpose. A frequent shortcoming in the RIA preparation parallel with the legislative solution was that the assessment might be 'tailored' to the proposal. The RIA includes a process of defining a problem, gathering, and evaluating knowledge and data, and subsequent proposed options for addressing the problem as a basis for preparing regulations and for policy decision-making. When of good quality, RIA serves as a mechanism to help ensure policy coherence and promote the sustainable development principles; it incorporates a long-term perspective, a multidimensional approach that takes adverse side effects into account and integrates the perspective of policy beneficiaries via consultations. In terms of content, the three pillars of sustainable development are a part of each impact area. To ensure better understanding and use of sustainable development

⁴ See also MoF. 'Sustainable Finance Policy Options'. (project supported by the European Commission). Available [here](#).

in the preparation of impact assessments, the MoE published the Guide to Considering Sustainable Development in Regulatory Impact Assessment in 2023, a recommended methodology for preparing RIAs.

Another way to promote sustainability is through rules that might potentially positively affect other areas. In 2021, the Czech **Public Procurement** Act was amended to introduce an obligation to comply with the principles of socially responsible, environmentally responsible, and innovation-oriented procurement. Public procurements and investments amount to 39.76 billion EUR (990 billion CZK) per year, which is roughly 15% of the Czech GDP. In addition to the above-mentioned act, public procurement is governed by the National Public Procurement Strategy for 2024–2028. The strategy aims to change the way public procurement is perceived – from an emphasis on formal process to a strategic approach that emphasises value for money.⁵

Public procurement of food

In 2025, Strategy for Responsible Catering in School Catering Facilities in Jičín Schools was among the awarded projects. Public procurement of food has the potential to contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems in a way to make it environmentally friendly and supports short supply chains, the competitiveness of small and medium businesses, including micro-enterprises and social farms, and development and employment in rural areas.



Global level

Activities in the field of sustainable development have an international dimension as well as the national one. The new **Foreign Policy Conception from 2025** identifies the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals as one of the main areas of the Czech Republic's activity in multilateral organizations, along with promoting respect for human rights and international law, ensuring security and cooperation on climate change issues, and the use of new technologies.

⁵ MoRD (2024) *Národní strategie veřejného zadávání v ČR (National Public Procurement Strategy in the Czech Republic)*. Available [here](#).

The Conception of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy and the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 serve as a base for Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic, which anchors the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the developing areas.

The Czech Republic actively promotes the 2030 Agenda in international organisations. As a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (last from 2022 to 2024) or the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (2023–2025), it helped with formulating strategies for sustainable development. At **the UN**, it also promoted democratic values and effective institutions – a cross-cutting principle of the 2030 Agenda. The Czech Republic is a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and has repeatedly been a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which it chaired in 2023.

Support for the 2030 Agenda in relation to **partner countries** is anchored especially in the Development Cooperation Strategy (DCS). In years 2021–2025, neither the geographical nor thematic priorities of the Czech DCS have changed. Countries with priority are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Cambodia, Moldova, and Zambia. As for themes, the development cooperation focused on good (democratic) governance (SDG 16), sustainable management of natural resources (SDG 6 and SDG 13), agriculture and rural development (SDG 2 and SDG 15), economic transformation and growth (SDG 7 and SDG 8), and inclusive social development (SDG 3 and SDG 4).

Also, the Czech Republic has created '**cross-cutting priorities**' that go through all activities of the Czech development cooperation and humanitarian aid: good governance, environmental and climate friendliness, human rights, and gender equality. The Czech Republic also applies principles of effective development cooperation, in particular the principle where developing countries own the development process, which it supports by setting goals and indicators for its activities in accordance with the priorities of partner countries and involving local persons and entities in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the development activities.

The Czech development cooperation takes the **LNOB principle** into special account. This principle is applied in line with the cross-cutting priority of human rights and gender equality, which ensures that the fruits of development are available even to the most disadvantaged individuals. The Czech Republic works closely with local communities in the development, humanitarian, and transformation area, including the identification and support of particularly vulnerable groups.

EU level

The EU is one of the largest global economies, as well as a global leader in sustainability. Being an EU member state, the Czech Republic shares the ambition and commitment to a sustainable, just, and democratic society expressed in the seven priorities of the European Commission. The EU's comprehensive approach is a practical example of how the basis of transformative policies lies in the involvement of civil society and experts, continuous monitoring, and evaluation of not only results but also of processes. For the green transformation to be successful, it must also be socially just. A practical expression of the EU's efforts to achieve the SDGs is the preparation of the first **EU-wide Voluntary Review in 2023**. The EU supports member states in pursuing and implementing sustainable development by, for instance, including them in the coordination of their economic and social policies through the **European Semester** or by enacting directives on corporate due diligence in sustainability and on corporate sustainability reporting.

There is a joint will to address the challenges posed by the complexity of global development which led the EU to adopt the **Global Gateway** Strategy in 2021 aiming to promote sustainable development in the world. The strategy seeks to achieve transformation in digital technologies, climate, energy, transport, healthcare, education, and research. It focuses on smart investments in high-quality infrastructure, while achieving the highest social and environmental standards in line with EU interests and values.

The Czech Republic and the EU share a priority – **reinforcing policy coherence and reducing administrative burdens**. Quality regulation that effectively achieves its objectives and enhances policy synergies is crucial for ensuring peace and prosperity of citizens. Balance between the environmental, economic, and social pillars is a cross-cutting principle of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, which, in this context, act as the primary

support for ensuring policy coherence. The Czech Republic therefore very much appreciates the amendment of the Better Regulation Framework, which sets out guidelines for assessing impacts in line with sustainable development and integrates the global Sustainable Development Goals into impacts. The Czech Republic has prepared a parallel methodology for assessing impacts considering sustainable development.

After the Green Deal for Europe was adopted, setting out a pathway for the EU's economic transformation and a strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the **Fit for 55** package was introduced in 2021, which contained legislative proposals aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990. A significant part of this package was negotiated in 2022, during the Czech Presidency of the EU Council. Council Conclusions on the Trade and Sustainability and Council Conclusions on Disaster Risk Reduction within external relations of the EU were also adopted during the Czech Presidency.

Post-pandemic recovery cannot simply mean returning to the situation before the outbreak. Our economy is gradually recovering from the crisis; however, our goal is to make society more resilient. The Czech Republic therefore welcomes the new **Next Generation EU programme**, which features the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), in particular the REPowerEU plan and support via TSI projects, a tool for a joint and sustainable transformation. It also welcomes the Just Transition Fund, which is directly linked to the climate neutrality goal and addresses the social and economic impacts that accompany the achievement of the goal. In 2021, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the **National Recovery Plan** based on EU-wide sustainability criteria and is associated with the RRF funds. The Czech National Recovery Plan includes climate-related measures and support for green transformation, digital transformation tools, social and employment support, education support, and increases the health care resilience. The Czech Republic also uses the Modernisation Fund resources for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Local and regional pillar of achieving the SDGs

Czech municipalities have sufficient legal and financial autonomy to initiate and support development activities to achieve individual goals of sustainable development regarding local specifics and various local and regional issues and challenges. **Municipalities are able to implement a wide range of local projects** focused on education, culture, improving the quality and scope of technical and civic infrastructure, including public space, social inclusion, economic growth, and environment within their competencies. Special attention is paid to the favourable urban climate promotion, waste management, and community-based energy conceptions. The achievement of sustainable development goals is supported by state and local governments through support of various **formal and informal municipal partnerships**, within the public sector (inter-municipal, cross-border, and international cooperation) as well as between public and private sector (cooperation with civil society, non-governmental organization, the business sector, and schools, including universities and research institutes).

Regions contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals through territorial planning instruments, with emphasis on regional strategic management. Regions use their budgets to support renewable energy, sustainable transport, natural resource protection, infrastructure improvement, education and health, and technical innovation projects. The goals and priorities of regional projects vary with regard to the different social, economic, and cultural specifics of individual regions.

The achievement of SDGs is based on **multi-level management**. Local and regional initiatives in the implementation of individual SDGs are **supported legislatively, financially and methodologically by national institutions, especially ministries**. For example, the Ministry of Regional Development funds projects aimed at improving housing affordability, at implementing smart city technologies, or sustainable tourism; the Ministry of the Environment supports the achievement of selected environmental goals through renewable energy, water management, waste management, and nature protection subsidies. The Ministry of the Interior also plays an important role as it supports various forms of inter-municipal cooperation to achieve sustainable development goals through legislation. The Municipalities Act amended in 2024 diversified the possibilities of municipalities to achieve synergy in sustainable development, as it allows new forms of inter-municipal cooperation based on the shared competences in the field of local development. Various EU programmes and funds also play an important part in achieving the SDGs.

Growing **municipal investments** in blue-green infrastructure projects, community energy generation, mobility, etc. have been influenced in recent years by stricter national and European legislation, as well as by the real impacts of the energy crisis, inflation, and climate change.

The monitoring of territorial sustainable development and the definition of the main issues to be addressed within municipalities and regions is implemented through analytical territorial data for spatial planning, which defined by the Building Act of the Czech Republic (realised by regions and municipalities with extended powers). The analysis of territorial sustainable development is the basis for specific measures aimed at supporting the territorial sustainable development and the preparation of land-use plans and other strategic documents.

In recent years, investments in community and social initiatives (culture, sport, leisure activities), education, and public space have become the primary tool used by municipalities to dynamize local and regional sustainable development. The key development challenge continues to be, above all, ensuring affordable housing, identifying suitable development sites, and adapting the local economy to demographic trends and structural shifts in the global economy.

Cirkula

An inspiration for innovation and sustainable development is the Cirkula project, which brings together not only ecological initiatives but also helps foster a positive social climate in the municipality. The 'Waste Prevention in Selected Municipalities of the Zlín Region' project is being implemented in a former coal warehouse. The 'Cirkula' building serves as a re-use centre, a biomass heating plant supplemented by a solar power plant and heat pumps, an underground water tank, and a re-used collection site. This helps to maintain a socially affordable price of heat for residents. The re-use centre has established itself as a space that fosters community engagement and supports local social life.⁶

'Municipality 2030' competition

The 'Municipality 2030' held under the auspices of the Union of Local Governments, has made a significant contribution to advancing the localization of the SDGs. It highlights and evaluates municipal innovative projects focused on energy self-sufficiency, environmental protection, and the integration of smart village principles.⁷

⁶ Good Practice Database. Slavičín: Energeticko-odpadový komplex Cirkula. Národní síť zdravých měst (Slavičín: Cirkula power and waste facility. National Healthy Cities Network.). Available [here](#).

⁷ Association of Local Governments of the Czech Republic. Obec 2030 (Municipality 2030). Available [here](#).



**Leave
No One
Behind**

6 Leave No One Behind

The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle is among the core principles of the 2030 Agenda. This approach communicates **the need to ensure that no individuals or groups face exclusion from majority groups and that they are not left behind**. The Czech Republic has agreed to follow this principle and incorporate it into its strategic documents and policies, thus aiming to reduce inequalities and improving the living conditions of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable ones.

The Czech society faces challenges related to demographic changes, social impacts of climate change, structural or regional inequalities, and global challenges. These issues can disproportionately affect vulnerable groups in the society, such as the elderly, women, people with disabilities, members of national and ethnic minorities, and people living in socially excluded areas. The [Are we equal in the Czech Republic?](#) Infographic provides a general statistical overview.

Protecting rights and preventing discrimination in Czechia

The LNOB principle is embedded in some of the Czech national strategies that focus on reducing inequalities and supporting vulnerable groups. Among those are, in particular, the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030, the National Strategy to Protect Children’s Rights 2021–2029, the Czech Education Policy Strategy 2030+, the reviewed Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030, the Strategy for Roma Integration 2021–2030, the Social Housing Concept 2021–2030, the Family Policy Strategy 2024–2030, and the Strategic Framework of Employment Policy for 2030. These and other strategic and conceptual documents prove that the Czech Republic is willing to **contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals without neglecting any of the vulnerable groups**.

The Czech Republic emphasises the protection of human rights and the prevention of discrimination through its legislation and the work of specialised institutions. The **Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**⁸ is a key document, and sets out fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, provides for their protection, and defines the citizen and state power relationship. Another important legal framework is the **Anti-Discrimination Act**⁹, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, age, race, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs. There is also an ombudsman who plays an important role in helping victims of discrimination and promoting equal treatment. The promotion of human rights and gender equality at the system level comes under the responsibility of the Government Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic maintains a number of advisory bodies in the field of human rights, including the Government Council for Human Rights, the Government Council for Gender Equality, and the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

Nevertheless, we are still facing challenges in protecting citizens’ rights and preventing discrimination. This mostly includes discrimination in the labour market, which particularly affects women, the elderly, people with disabilities, or members of ethnic minorities. There is also an issue in access to housing and education, where some of the groups face systemic barriers or prejudice.

Vulnerable children

Children are among **the most vulnerable groups**, especially when they are raised in an unsupportive environment, experience violence or neglect, or cannot grow up in their own family. In recent years, the Czech Republic has taken substantial steps to improve the situation of these children.

⁸ Constitutional Act No. 2/1993 Sb., the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, as amended.

⁹ Act No. 198/2009 Sb., on Equal Treatment and Legal Means of Protection against Discrimination and on Amendments to Certain Acts (the Anti-Discrimination Act), as amended.

One of the most significant actions is the **restriction of the functioning of homes for the youngest**, the infant care institutions. With the coming year 2025, it will not be allowed to place children under the age of 3 in these institutions, and as of 2028, this ban will also apply to children under the age of 7. The aim is to redirect the children into the care of foster families and specialized family-type facilities, which have a much more positive impact on the development of children. In 2023, a total of 1,615 children were placed in foster care¹⁰.

Another major step is the introduction of a **children's ombudsman**, who will work alongside an ombudsman for human rights from 1 July 2025. The children's ombudsman will engage in protecting children's rights and will have the authority to intervene in relevant legal proceedings under certain conditions. They will also raise awareness of children's rights and help improve the care and protection system.

In June 2024, the government also **amended the Civil Code**¹¹, which enshrines the **inadmissibility of corporal punishments**. The amendment is currently being negotiated by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

However, there are still challenges, especially concerning the prevention of removal of children from their families and ensuring accessible psychosocial support for families in crisis. Bullying is also a persisting problem (85% of children experience physical or verbal violence in the classroom¹²) and deteriorating mental health among children (up to 40% of nine-grade pupils show moderate and severe depression and 30% show moderate and severe anxiety¹³). Another major challenge is to support young people who leave foster or institutional care as to help them enter an independent life as smoothly as possible.

TripleP

TripleP is a **positive parenting program** that aims to reduce maltreatment of children. The project was launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Health and contributed to **reinforcing parental competences, supporting families in their functions, and better mental health**. The activities include parent training, which also addresses specific target groups such as parents of children in the care of psychiatric wards or children with educational problems in special education institutions. The goal is to work on introducing purely preventive programmes for parents of youngest children and to spread the principles of positive parenting.



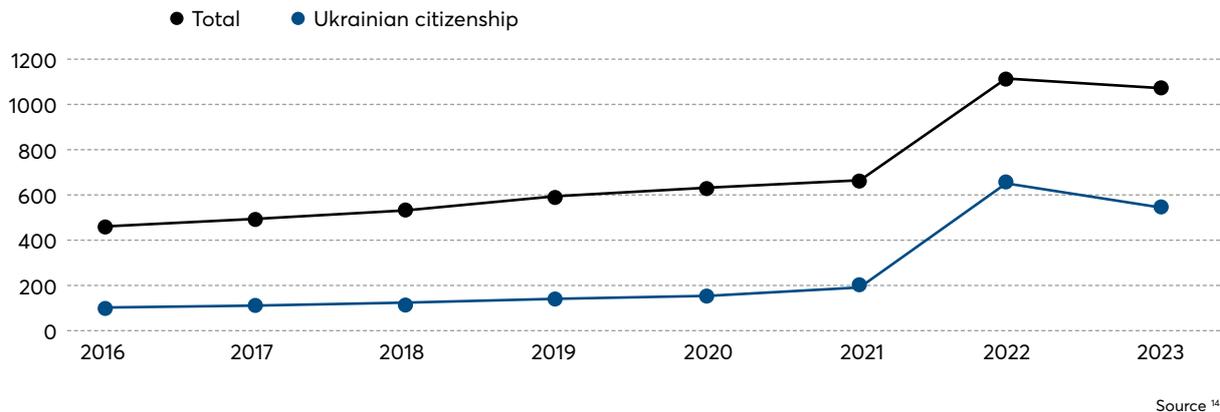
¹⁰ MLSA (2023) Roční uýkaz o uýkonu sociálně právní ochrany dětí za rok 2023 (Annual report on the performance of social and legal protection of children for 2023). Available [here](#).

¹¹ Act No. 123/2024 Sb., amending Act No. 89/2012 Sb., the Civil Code, as amended, and other related acts.

¹² Mol (2025) Vládní program Bezpečné dětství (Government Programme for Safe Childhood).

¹³ National Institute of Mental Health (2023) Národní monitoring duševního zdraví žáků na základních školách v České republice (National monitoring of mental health of primary school pupils in the Czech Republic). Available [here](#).

Number of Foreigners in the Czech Republic (thousands)



Foreign nationals constitute an important part of Czech society and are a welcome source of work force. As to 2023, **over one million foreigners legally resided in Czechia**, of which almost 350,000 were permanent residents¹⁵. However, foreigners in the Czech Republic, especially those without permanent residence, face a number of disadvantages that result from more than just cultural differences and language barriers. In health care for example, not all foreigners have access to public health insurance, meaning that they have limited access to health care, including preventive or mental health care. Barriers can also appear in the field of social security, for example in relation to old-age pensions, which some foreigners may not have access to, especially if they have worked in another country for some part of their life. In the labour market, some foreigners still face limited employment opportunities and a higher risk of precarisation. Other inequalities may appear in education due to different native languages, or when trying to secure housing, and especially due to prejudices.

The Czech Republic, however, continues its efforts to improve the quality of life of foreign nationals. It is taking steps towards improvement, for example through the development of **regional integration centres** or **foreigner employment support** in the Czech Republic¹⁶. The range of **Czech language programmes** for children and adults has been expanded, plus there are **specialised information portals and community centres** that help them to better understand the Czech environment. The state cooperates with the non-profit sector. Strengthening the integration of foreigners is key for the development of society and for the realisation of the potential offered by people coming from abroad.

Social entrepreneurship

Significant progress in the field of social entrepreneurship is crucial for achieving integration of all groups in society. The goal of social entrepreneurship is to **provide benefits to society or the environment**. Social enterprises in Czechia employ people impeded by disadvantages on the regular labour market, for example people with disabilities, those who are long-term unemployed, people who have served a prison sentence, or members of ethnic minorities.

Social entrepreneurship falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA), which supports these enterprises through various grants and awareness-raising activities. Regional centres, SPoints, and NGOs, providing advice and training for new and existing social enterprises, also play a key part.

¹⁴ CSO (2024) Počet cizinců, demografické události (Number of foreigners, demographic events). Available [here](#).

¹⁵ CSO (2023) Počet cizinců, demografické události (Number of foreigners, demographic events). Available [here](#).

¹⁶ Example: Labour Office project: Labour market integration and support for foreigners in the Czech Republic. Available [here](#).

In recent years, significant progress has been made in this area. Many programmes were launched, which continued to be **funded by the European Social Fund** and enabled to create new social enterprises and support their sustainability. The **legislation** has been substantially amended¹⁷ to clearly define the conditions for an integrating social enterprise, set out the duties of such enterprises, in particular towards employees, as well as to determine the possibilities of social enterprise funding by the state. However, issues remain in the social enterprise system, for instance in sustainable funding of the enterprises or linking with the public procurement system. These temporary shortcomings are well on track to being addressed; with the help of for example the new National Public Procurement Strategy in the Czech Republic, which focuses, among other things, on social enterprises.

Other persisting challenges

Despite the significant progress that the Czech Republic made in the LNOB concept and the diminishing of social inequalities, several major challenges remain. **Regional inequalities**, where people in some regions have less access to quality education, healthcare, and social services, which further deepen the social and economic disparities, are one of the main challenges.¹⁸

Another issue is that **social services have been underfunded** for long time, making them operate on the edge of financial sustainability. The lack of funds is leading to a staffing crisis. This also applies to other key areas outside of social services, such as health and education, which too face shortage of qualified professionals. Regarding the ageing population, this challenge will become rather crucial in the near future, especially in the area of social services and health care.

Inequalities between men and women also pose a significant challenge. While the situation in the Czech Republic is improving in many ways, the goal of equality is still limited by the prevalence of domestic violence, the victims of which are predominantly women, and the unequal pay of women in employment or retirement.

The Czech Republic will continue to make efforts in the inclusion of all groups in society, decent living conditions, and to make the population active. Targeted support for vulnerable people and the reinforcement of general social respect will be crucial for ensuring that truly no one is left behind.

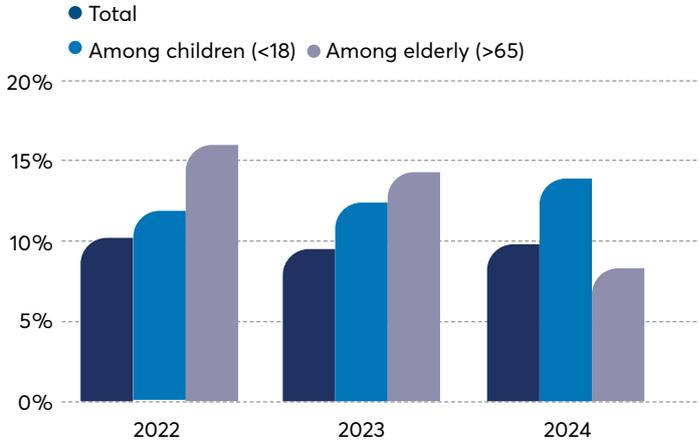
¹⁷ E.g. Act No. 468/2024 Sb., on Integrative Social Enterprise, or Act No. 470/2024 Sb., on Employment, as amended, and other laws.

¹⁸ The structurally affected regions (Karlovy Vary Region, Moravian-Silesian Region, and Ústí Region) show a lower level of educational attainment (CSO, Census 2021), a higher percentage people in judgement enforcement (PAQResearch, Debt map), or a higher unemployment rate (CSO, Share of unemployed individuals in regions).

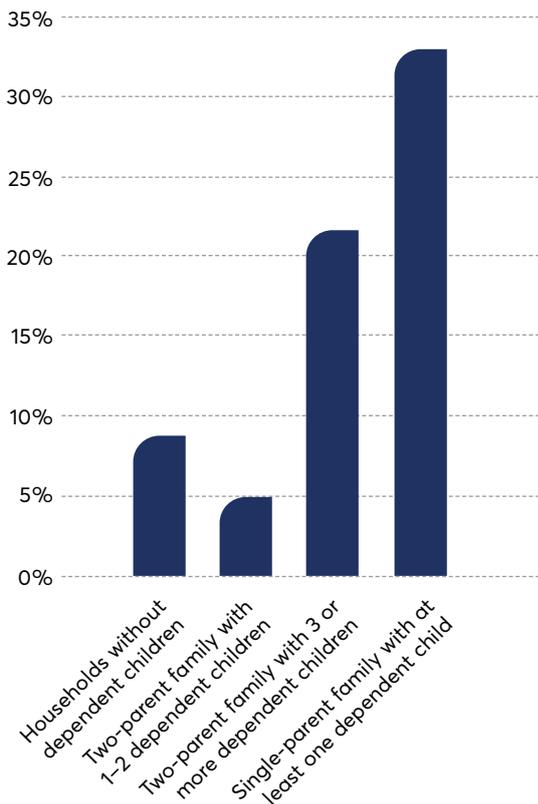
Are we equal in the Czech Republic?

Income

At risk of income poverty in general and by generation



At risk of income poverty among families with children

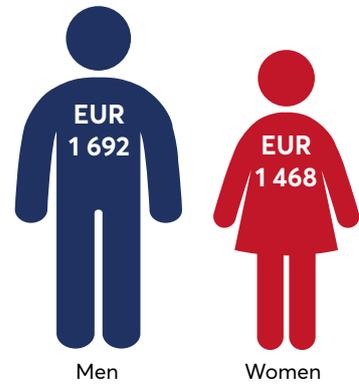


Source: CSO, Životní podmínky (Living conditions - EU SILC), 2022, 2023, 2024

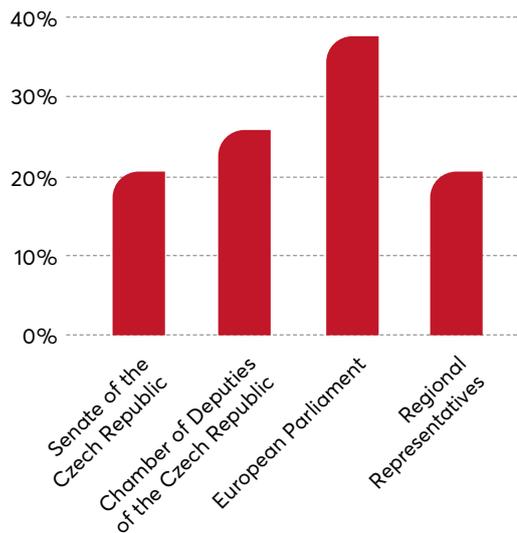
Gender

Income differences between men and women

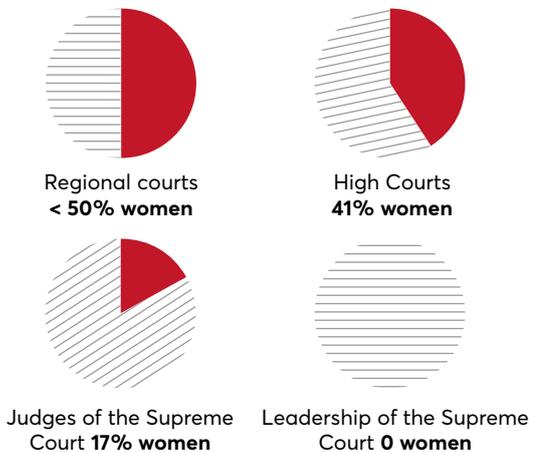
Median gross monthly wage, 2023



Representation of women in political decision-making positions



Representation of women in the judiciary

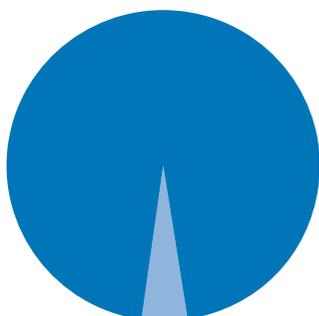


Sources: CSO, Zaměstnanost a mzdy žen a mužů (Employment and salaries of women and men) Fórum 50% GO, Zpráva za rok 2023 o rovnosti žen a mužů (Report on gender equality 2030)

Education

Pupils with physical disability in primary schools

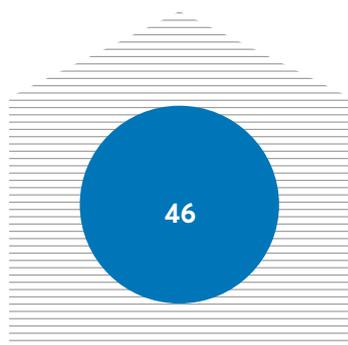
In regular classes:
95,4%



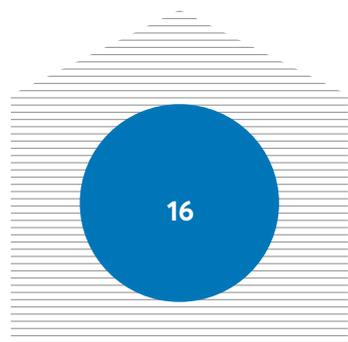
In special classes:
4,6%

Ethnically segregated schools

Number of schools with a strong proportion of pupils of Roma ethnicity



50% or more Roma pupils

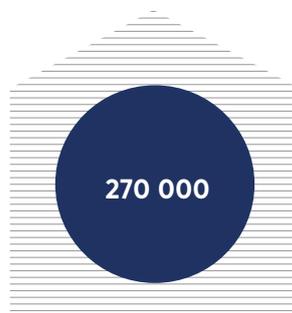


90% or more Roma pupils

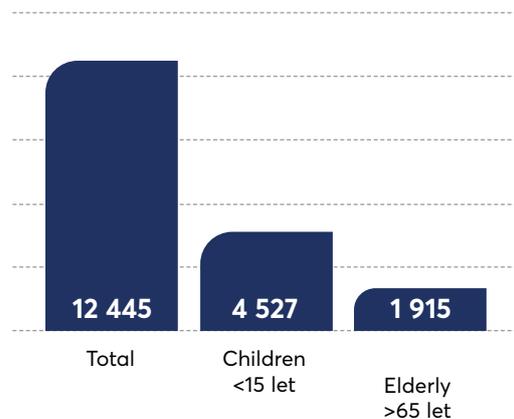
Sources: MEYS, Statistická ročenka školství (Statistical Yearbook of Education), 2023/2024
MEYS, Zpráva ze zjišťování kvalifikovaných odhadů počtu romských žáků v základních školách (Report on the Survey of Qualified Estimates of the Number of Roma Pupils in Primary Schools), 2023/2024

Housing

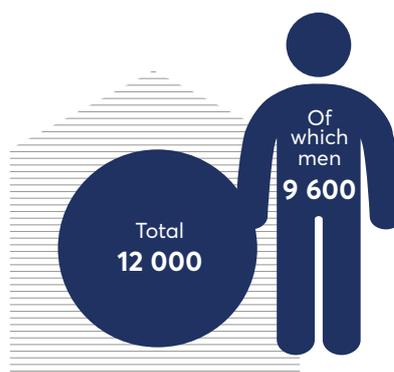
Number of people living in poor living conditions



Number of people living in shelters



Number of homeless people



Housing situation of refugees from Ukraine

In 2022, **30% of refugees from Ukraine were living in shelters**, hotels or non-residential types of housing.

Only **1/4 of the refugees** lived in an apartment with **sufficient living space** (more than 6m² per person) and a private bathroom.

Sources: MLSA. Sčítání osob z vybraných kategorií klasifikace ETHOS 2022 - shrnutí (Census of persons from selected ETHOS classification categories 2022 - summary)
MLSA. Informace o vyplacených dávkách (Information on benefits paid - data each for Decemeber) 2022, 2023, 2024
Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, PAQ Research. Hlas Ukrajinců (Voice of Ukrainians) 2022



Structural issues

7 Structural issues

Decarbonisation and just transition

The Czech Republic has set up a long-term goal – to reduce GHG emissions by 2030 in line with the commitments under the Fit for 55 legislative packages, which forms a part of the European Green Deal, and to work towards climate neutrality by 2050. In the 2017–2018 period, the decrease of emissions in the Czech Republic stopped, the volume even started to increase in this period. Since 2018, however, the volume again started to continuously decrease. **For the first time in the history of the independent Czech Republic, total emissions dropped below the 100 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, to 98.9 Mt CO₂ eq in 2023** (including the LULUCF sector).¹⁹ When compared to 2022, emissions have dropped by 15%, and by 47% compared to 1990. This makes the Czech Republic well on track to achieve the 55% reduction in total emissions by 2030, while current modelled scenarios show a reduction of up to 68% in 2030 compared to 1990, provided that ambitious policies and measures are adopted. It should be noted however that the Czech Republic is achieving these positive results due to the decline of extensive heavy industry on its territory.

The main source of GHG, apart from the industry, remains the energy and heat generation sector, which, like the industry, accounts for around a third of the national production of all greenhouse gases. However, a decline in their carbon footprint is seen between 2022 and 2023 in both fields, with emissions dropping by 7 million tonnes in the energy sector and by 3 million tonnes in the industry and construction. The third largest source of GHG emissions remains transport, which is the only sector to record an increase in total GHG emissions, save for a brief decline in the years of Covid outbreak.

Since 2019, the LULUCF sector (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) had a negative role, as it temporarily ceased to fulfil its natural role as a carbon storage and CO₂ absorber due to the bark beetle calamity. These emissions are primarily related to a significant increase in total timber harvesting associated with the need to harvest trees infested with bark beetles. In 2023 however, this negative trend was reversed and the carbon absorption in the LULUCF sector was reported at -3.5 million tonnes of CO₂ eq.

Transforming the energy mix

One of the major decarbonisation challenges in the Czech Republic is the energy mix. The Czech plan to decarbonise energy and heat production relies primarily on a **combination of nuclear power and renewable energy sources** (RES), which are to replace the currently dominant fossil-fuel sources. The announcement of the winner of the tender for the construction of two new nuclear units at the Dukovany NPP, a Korean KHNP, was a key step in this respect. The Korean company should start the construction in 2029 with a planned commissioning in 2036. Also, ČEZ has entered a strategic partnership with Rolls-Royce SMR in the development and construction of small modular reactors that might serve as a complement to major nuclear units in the future. The heat generation sector is also undergoing large-scale decarbonisation. The primary effort is to save energy and reduce heat consumption through in-depth renovation of buildings and heat distribution systems or by using waste heat. In terms of the heat production decarbonisation, coal is gradually being replaced by combustion of natural gas as an intermediate fuel, by using biomass as an energy source, by waste incineration, and by using geothermal energy and ambient energy (heat pumps). The use of hydrogen in combined heat and power production and its blending with natural gas is envisaged as well. An example of such a change is the plan for heating the Government Office building, which will use a heat pump and water from the Vltava River as a heat source.

The second important step was the approval of the updated National Energy and Climate Plan, which set a new **target of 30% share of RES in total final energy consumption by 2030**. In order to achieve this goal, the pace of construction of new RES will need to speed up substantially. The newly adopted legislation

¹⁹ UN (2025) *Czechia. 2025 National Inventory Document*. Available [here](#).

in transition to clean energy sources should help to achieve this. In 2023, the Energy Act, the so-called Lex RES I, became effective and facilitated the permission and construction process of RES. This was followed a year later by Lex RES II, which introduced energy communities and RES communities as new participants on the market. Lex RES III, which should introduce the concepts of electricity flexibility accumulation and aggregation into the legal system and the draft law on the accelerated introduction of RES, which should lead to the definition of '**RES acceleration zones**' are now in the legislative process

The Czech Republic has committed to **ending the use of coal for heat and power generation by 2033**. However, some forecasts suggest that the discontinuation of coal use might occur much sooner. But such step requires to have a sufficiently large reserve of controllable power prepared in time for the retirement of coal power plants, as these still produce up to one-third of all electricity²⁰ in the Czech Republic.

Transformation of industry

The traditional manufacturing industry plays a key role in the Czech economy and the decarbonisation is therefore one of the key challenges for the future of the Czech economy and its competitiveness. **The industry account for around 26% of GHG emissions, with cement, steel, and chemical industry having the largest share.** Reducing emissions from manufacturing processes that require extremely high temperatures or specific chemical reactions may in the future ensure the wider use of so-called **green hydrogen**, i.e. hydrogen produced using RES through electrolyzers, electrification of industrial processes, or the introduction of **CCUS** (Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage) technologies to capture emissions that are difficult to remove, e.g. in the cement and lime production sector or the chemical industry. The heavy industry should therefore perceive decarbonisation primarily as an opportunity where high investments in making the production greener will pay off in terms of increased competitiveness of the companies as such and their products.

The start of decarbonisation of Czech industry

The industry in the Czech Republic is already being decarbonised and modernised, both in robust heavy industry plants and in medium-sized enterprises focusing on various branches of manufacturing. The transformation is greatly supported by the Modernisation Fund, which has funded projects up to 2023 with a total of EUR 7.77 billion. Investments in the industry environment are thus directed, for example, to projects such as the modernisation of melting and casting to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions in the production of packaging materials and rolled aluminium semi-finished products (AL INVEST Břidličná, a.s), the decarbonisation of cement production by installing a line for the calcined clays production (Holcim Česko, a.s.), or the modernisation of nitric acid production through

the remodelling of the production line through state-of-the-art technologies for the catalytic combustion of gassed ammonia under increased pressure (BorsodChem MCHZ, s.r.o.). Most of these projects are about more than just modernising the production process with new technologies, they are about making entire industrial ecosystems more efficient, resulting in substantial savings in resources used and a reduction in their energy demands.

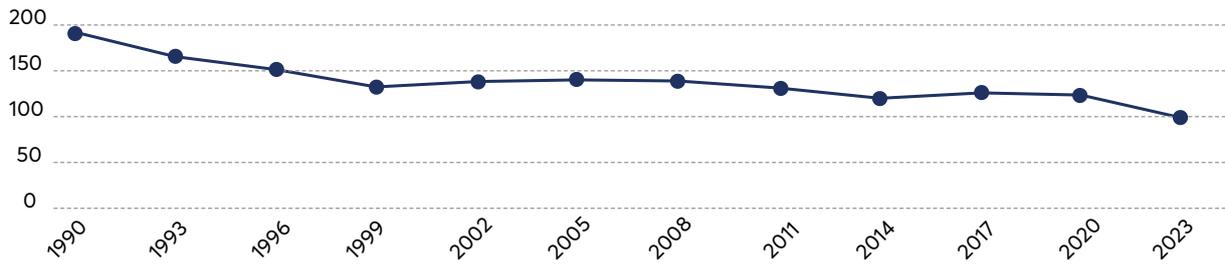


²⁰ [oEnergetice.cz](https://energetice.cz) (2025) *Elektroenergetika u ČR v roce 2024 (Power industry in the Czech Republic in 2024)*. Available [here](#).

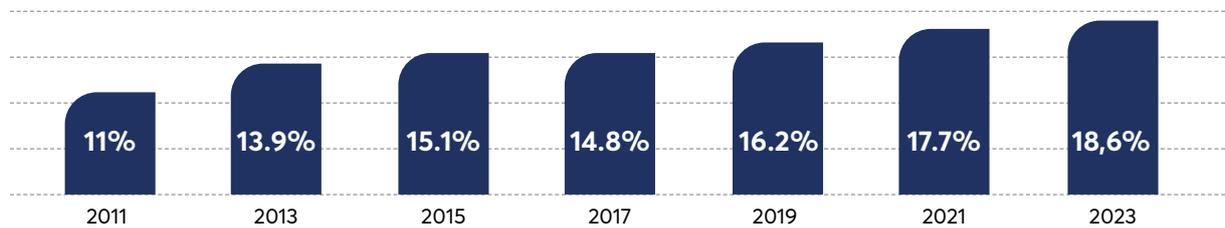
Decarbonisation in the Czech Republic

Total CO₂ emissions in the Czech Republic

Mt CO₂ eq.

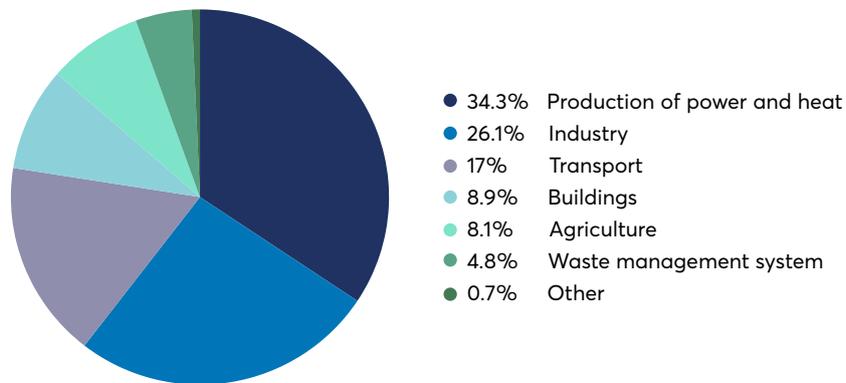


Share of renewable energy in total energy consumption



CO₂ emissions by sectors in the Czech Republic

(in 2022)



Sources: CHMI National Inventory System, NECP 2024, Climate Facts, 2022, MIT of the Czech Republic

Just transition

The decarbonisation does not have impact on just the state, energy producers, and large-scale industry, but small businesses, households, and individuals are also feeling the impact, especially in the context of the energy crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **For a successful transition to an emission-free economy, suitable conditions and tools need to be prepared to help the society with adapting to a carbon-free future.** Today, funds from the **Operational Programme Just Transition** are already helping to transform regions traditionally focused on coal mining and burning with social, environmental, and economic issues. The support is directed towards innovative projects focused on education, landscape restoration, and clean technology development. One of the key initiatives is the SYNERGYS project, which aims to create a test centre for pilot demonstration of geothermal energy, underground heat accumulators, and green hydrogen production. For instance, the REFRESH project, aiming to build a unique European infrastructure for research and transfer of technologies in sustainable energy, digitalisation of industrial production, automation in transport, environmental technologies, and smart material technologies, or the 'CEPIS' project, which supports innovation and teaching of modern study programmes.

Currently, just transition in the Czech Republic is mainly supported by European funds, in particular the Just Transition Fund, which provides financial resources for restructuring the most affected regions. Also, the **RE:START Strategy** is still being implemented; its 6th Action Plan was approved in 2024, and it further develops the areas of economic restructuring of coal regions, that is the Moravian-Silesian, Ústecký, and Karlovy Vary Region.

However, it would be wrong to assume that the green transition will affect these areas only. The transition to a zero-emission economy will affect the entire society and the territory of the Czech Republic. Therefore, the main objective of the transition is to **ensure that the changes do not lead to a deepening of social and economic inequalities, but instead bring new opportunities for employment, education, and development of modern industries**, so that the potential of the dual (green and digital) transition can be used to the fullest. Retraining the workforce, attracting new investments, and promoting innovation are the key areas to be addressed.

The most topical and biggest challenge is getting ready for the introduction of **EU ETS 2**, which extends the emissions trading system to fuel combustion in buildings, road transport, and other industrial activities not yet covered by the existing ETS. The introduction, and especially the adjustment, of the EU Social Climate Fund (SCF) will be essential to offset the impacts. The SCF targets vulnerable groups that are at risk from the inclusion of buildings and road transport in emissions trading. Individuals in these groups include primarily vulnerable households and micro-enterprises, who face a risk of transport or energy poverty. An essential part of helping these groups will be to define the terms 'energy poverty' and 'transport poverty', i.e. which parts of society will be perceived as most vulnerable to the EU ETS extension. Neither of these terms is yet defined in Czech law.

Energy poverty (conclusions of the MLSA)

During 2023, the MLSA presented a study²¹ produced in cooperation with the Platform for Social Housing and the University of Ostrava, aimed at **mapping energy poverty** in the Czech Republic and recommendations for its solution. The study defined individuals in energy poverty as those who cannot afford to heat their homes, have energy debts, or spend more than 20% of their net monthly income on energy, while being in poverty. According to this definition, **up to 1.3 million people in the Czech Republic were at risk of energy poverty (13%) in 2023**, of which 440,000 people were in extreme energy poverty. The groups most vulnerable to the energy poverty are single mothers, low-income families with children, disabled pensioners, and single elderly women.

²¹ MLSA (2024) *Energetická chudoba v roce 2023 (Energy Poverty in 2023)*. Available [here](#).

Understanding transport poverty in the Czech Republic

In 2024, mapping analyses and quantitative research were used to define **transport poverty** as a condition where **limited access to public transport prevents individuals and households from meeting basic social and economic needs** (employment, education, health care, etc.). The main factors contributing to transport poverty include, among other things, low household income, living in an area with inadequate public transport, and the inability to own or operate a car (students, individuals without a driving licence, disabled). The analysis²² showed that approximately 3.7% of the Czech population (400,000 people) live in municipalities with critically low public transport accessibility, i.e. with less than 5 pairs of central connections per day. A further 1.7 million inhabitants (16% of the population) live in communities with limited access to transport (up to 23 connections per day), which often leads to dependence and increased costs on individual car transport. Most at risk are people in sparsely populated areas, where mobility costs are a significant part of the family budget. One of the potential solutions can be the introduction of demand-based transport, optimisation and electrification of regular bus transport, etc.

Societal resilience

Resilience in the context of sustainable development means the **ability to adapt to the changing conditions of the world around us, while minimising the negative impacts of environmental, social, and economic crises**. Climate change brings challenges such as extreme weather events, long periods of drought, floods, as well as bark beetle and, in recent years, wildfires. These manifestations of a changing climate threaten not only natural ecosystems, but also the stability of the economy and the population's quality of life. Improving the resilience therefore requires a wide range of measures, such as efficient water management, protection of landscape from erosion, developing energy self-sufficiency, and promoting local food production. Urban planning elements such as green infrastructure, sustainable construction, and smart technologies can also play an important role in preventing climate impacts and increasing the ability of cities and municipalities to withstand extreme conditions as well as improving the quality of life of inhabitants through modern public transport, better accessibility to services, or reinforcing social cohesion. In addition to environmental, economic, and social threats, today's societies face hybrid threats such as disinformation, cybernetic attacks, or geopolitical pressures, which can undermine the trust of citizens in state institutions and democratic principles, and which in extreme cases can lead to the erosion of the democratic order. Resilience to these challenges requires a **combination of security measures, high-quality education, and the promotion of media literacy**, which must start to be taught in primary schools. That means that linking sustainable development to societal resilience is not merely about environmental protection, social justice, and sustainable economic growth, but also about the stability and security of society as such.

²² STEM (2024) *Dopravní chudoba v České republice – situační analýza* (Transport poverty in the Czech Republic – situational analysis). Available [here](#).

Response to the Ukraine war

A case where the resilience of Czech society showed was its reaction to the war in Ukraine and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees. From the EU countries, **the Czech Republic is among countries with the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita, with refugees from Ukraine making up about 3.5% of the population in 2024.** The Czech Republic was able to provide material support to the newcomers and integrate them into society. Securing housing, access to education, and integration into the social and health care system has required significant resources, but also a number of legislative adjustments. In addition, the refugees benefited the society through their integration into the labour market.



Disinformation or lack of information?

Disinformation is a frequently discussed topic in the area of new threats. It is a part of almost all communication channels of human society, from social networks, through chain emails, to disinformation websites. Their operations sow uncertainty and conflict and cause the impossibility of agreement even on basic principles, and thus pose a threat to societal cohesion, trust in institutions, and democracy itself. One of the specific areas of disinformation is **climate scepticism**, i.e. denial of the very existence of climate change or the fundamental role of humans in its occurrence and progress. Although climate scepticism takes a significant portion of the communication space, the segment of the population that actually denies climate change and actively creates or listens to climate disinformation is actually very small. In the case of the Czech Republic, **only 6% of the population believes that there is no climate change** and that it will not happen in the future.²³ Therefore, the focus should be on the rest of the population, to whom the nature and impacts of climate change as well as the meaning and purpose of green policies associated with it need to be actively explained.

Surveys show that 70% of the Czech population encounters disinformation. 42% of the population find it easy to distinguish such disinformation from true information, but 43% struggles to do so. As a rule, people who are older, have less education, or live in smaller towns are more likely to support radical views presented on the Internet²⁴. Research with media representatives shows that people from weak social backgrounds are the most vulnerable. Disinformation and radical views attract particularly those from less stimulating social backgrounds, who are more affected by crisis situations (e.g. financial deterioration during the Covid-19 pandemic) and, due to lower education, find it harder to navigate the media space.

During a round table discussion on the topic of communication of sustainable themes held specifically to prepare VNR, experts and media representatives agreed that **disinformation should be perceived primarily as a lack of information on the part of the public.** The point of disinformation is not to make people believe something that is not true, but to make them question facts and reality and make them refuse to accept them. *"Today's disinformation is tied to social media due to its easy possibility of having influence. The principle of social media is to cut out two articles and sell them as newspapers. I cannot even imagine what will happen in the future on Twitter, Facebook, or TikTok"* (participant of the round table on communication). The solution, above all, lies in **high quality educational structure** that includes media literacy education, for children as well as for the adult population, among which there is a significant lack of sufficiently educated tutors.

In the Czech Republic, the **Centre Against Hybrid Threats (CHT)**, established at the Ministry of the Interior responsible for combating the most serious disinformation that could pose a security risk to the state

²³ Institute 2050 (2024) *České klima 2024: Reprezentativní výzkum veřejného mínění u otázkách změny klimatu, dekarbonizace a Zelené dohody (Czech Climate 2024: Representative public opinion research on climate change, decarbonisation, and the Green Deal)*. Available [here](#).

²⁴ CVVM (2019) *Výzkum veřejného mínění k problematice dezinformací (Public opinion research on disinformation)*. Available [here](#). Note: This is the most recent research found at the Czech level and does not consider the wave of disinformation associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's military aggression in Ukraine.

itself. The CHT operates as an analytical and conceptual office, whose activities focus, among other things, on internal national security threats to the Czech Republic, such as disinformation or public order and reinforcing the resilience of public administration and other entities. One of the Czech Republic's responses to the wave of disinformation is the Action Plan against Disinformation, which was created in 2022. In 2025, the Framework Educational Programmes in the Czech education system is being subject to revision, part of which is a significantly increased emphasis on digital competences of young people (working with information, digital literacy, safety in online environment). The perspective of the youth shows that the younger generation is aware of the risks posed by disinformation, perceives the negative impact on society, and tries to avoid it mainly using verified sources of information or secondary verification. It should be however noted that social background is an important factor in vulnerability to disinformation, and age is not the decisive factor in this respect.

Education against disinformation

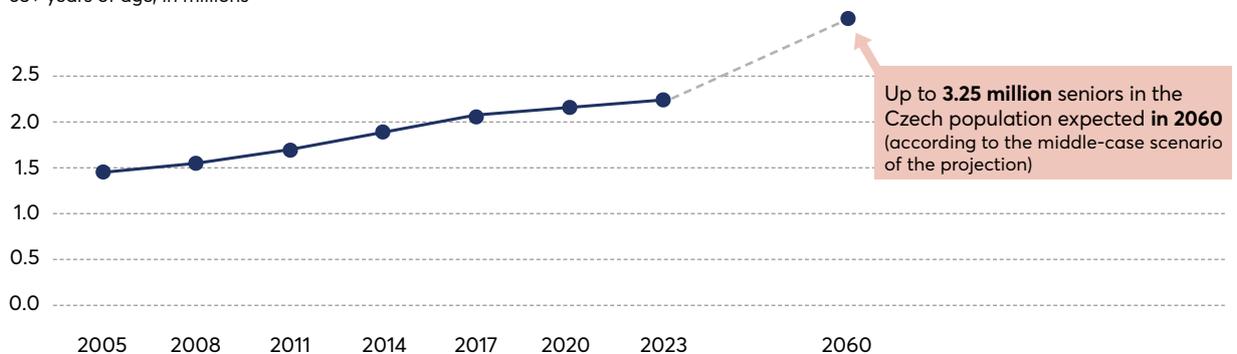
Possible defence against the effects of disinformation and the narratives it spreads is high-quality education in media literacy. Several successful projects deal with this in the Czech Republic. Since 2016, the **'Go Info' (Zvol si info) project** has been working on improving media literacy of the entire society through workshops, books, educational games, and the creation of educational materials. **Courses for teachers** about media education and critical thinking are being prepared, for example, the **'One World'** project. A network of Czech libraries also actively focuses on media literacy through the **'#tothelibrary' (#doknihovny)** project.

Ageing of population

Demographic ageing of the population is one of major structural challenges for the Czech Republic. **The number of retired individuals is increasing, while the proportion of economically active people in the population is decreasing.** The average age of the population has been steadily increasing since the early 1980s. The economic dependence index (the ratio of the economically unproductive to the economically productive part of the population) is also rising and currently there are 72 people in non-productive age per 100 people in productive age²⁵. Efforts to **ensure the sustainability of the social security system**, especially the old-age pensions, are key in this matter. The Czech Republic is already taking measures to cope with these challenges, and in this context, **legislative changes have been made to the pension system**, for example in the form of changes to pension adjustment, bonuses for raising children, and benefits for the working elderly.

Number of elderly in the population

65+ years of age, in millions



Source^{26 27}

²⁵ CSO (2023) *Projekce obyvatelstva České republiky 2023–2100* (Projection of Population of the Czech Republic 2023–2100). Available [here](#).

²⁶ CSO (2024) *Senioři* (The Elderly). Available [here](#).

²⁷ CSO (2023) *Projekce obyvatelstva České republiky 2023–2100* (Projection of Population of the Czech Republic 2023–2100). Available [here](#).

These demographic phenomena will be a **major structural issue and will put severe pressure on public budgets**, especially in the future. The Czech Republic anchors the current and future necessary actions, for example, in the Strategic Framework for the Preparation for Societal Ageing, which defines measures aimed at supporting jobs for the elderly, ensuring the availability of social and health services for the ageing population, and creating conditions for the long-term active participation of older people in work as well as social life.

The issue of **delayed parenthood and reduction in birth rate** is also a challenge related to this. The birth rate was gradually increasing until 2018 and then stopped at 1.71 children per woman for two years; however, the total fertility rate reached 1.54 children per woman in 2023. The average age of mothers at childbirth is also rising and increased by half a year in the past decade to the current 30.4 years²⁸. A key effort of the Czech Republic in this matter is to ensure that parenthood does not lead to decline in the standard of living. For example, the parental allowance has been increased and efforts to develop flexible working continue to be made. However, the issue of low availability of housing or infrastructure for children and childcare remains.

Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure

The cyberspace now affects almost all areas of human activity. That makes its safety one of the essential elements of a quality and sustainable life. At the same time, the escalating international tensions across the globe give rise to the **threat of hybrid attacks and conflicts**. As a result, attacks on cybernetic infrastructure are becoming increasingly frequent and sophisticated, thus creating a need for the state to improve its security in the digital environment and thus protect its citizens.

The **National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NCISA)**, established in 2017 under the Cyber Security Act plays a key role in this matter. The NCISA coordinates the protection of critical information infrastructure against hybrid threats and ensures the security of state institutions and the private sector. It also participates in a series of educational projects focused on the preparedness and resilience of the public and government to the threats in virtual space.

The core step to the future secure operation of cybernetic infrastructure will be the implementation of the EU Cybersecurity Directive (NIS 2 Directive), which aims to improve cybersecurity within the EU by for example extending the requirements on network and information system protection in more sectors and companies. It introduces stricter duties concerning risk management, incident reporting, and cooperation between member states. The implementation in the Czech Republic should be through an amended Cyber Security Act, which is being proposed by the NCISA. The act extends IT security duties to more entities, including smaller companies in key industries. It emphasises prevention, risk management, and incident reporting to strengthen overall threat resilience and enhance supply chain security.

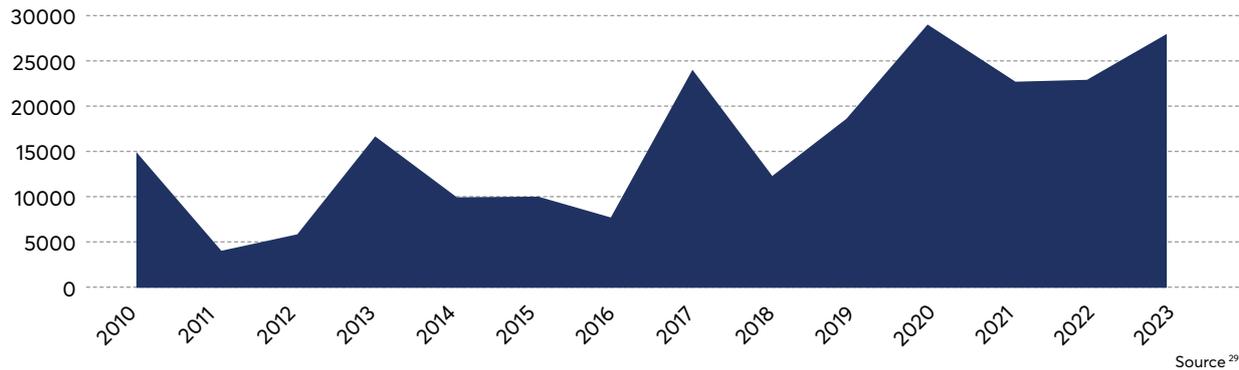
Critical infrastructure, preparedness and adaptation to extreme impacts of climate change

A resilient critical infrastructure is crucial to the stable functioning of society. Its importance is even bigger in the context of climate change, which is bringing more frequent and intense extreme events such as heat waves, severe storms, floods, and extensive droughts. These events can disrupt energy networks, transport systems, water supply, and telecommunications, threatening not only the economy but also the safety of the population. Adapting critical infrastructure therefore involves increasing its resilience through modern technologies, decentralisation of resources, and smart management systems. The current challenges should be reflected by the **new Czech Act on Resilience of Critical Infrastructure Units**, which includes a revision of the Crisis Act that responds to the recent major crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic or extreme weather events.

²⁸ CSO (2025) Aktuální populační úvoj u kostce (Summary of Current Population Development). Available [here](#).

Events related to natural disasters in the Czech Republic

Total: traffic accidents, fires, technical accidents, hazardous chemical spills, other



Climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore by humans, is the cause of **increasing frequency of extreme weather events**. Although the frequency and intensity of these events vary by territory, they are now occurring in various degrees and forms basically all over the world, affecting not only infrastructure and the economy, but most importantly, human lives. The key document in this respect is the **Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic**, which identifies the manifestations of climate change that pose the highest risk and the most vulnerable sectors. Primary prevention includes new retention basins, revitalizing water streams, and creating landscape features such as wetlands and pools that help retain water and prevent erosion. In the urban areas, green and blue infrastructure is being expanded, including planting trees, green roofs, and systems for efficient use of rainwater. The resistance of buildings and infrastructure is also being improved, for example through sewerage improvements, better thermal insulation, or measures to prevent overheating in urban areas.

Extreme climate change manifestations in the Czech Republic

In the last 5 years, the Czech Republic faced several significant extreme weather events that are directly being associated to ongoing climate change. In June 2021, a devastating tornado hit southern Moravia, causing extensive damage in the municipalities of Hrušky, Mikulčice, Moravská Nová Ves, Lužice, and parts of Hodonín. This was **the largest tornado in Europe since 2001** and resulted in 6 fatalities in addition to the massive damage to property and infrastructure. A year later, **a forest fire broke out in the Bohemian Switzerland National Park, which gradually took 1,060 hectares of forest area and extinguishing it took almost three weeks**. The rapid spread of the fire was also due to a prolonged drought, which, according to the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, lasted continuously from June 2022 to October 2023. Last but not least, the Moravian-Silesian and Olomouc regions were hit by **extensive flooding** in autumn 2024. A 100-year flood was recorded at 55 measuring stations and caused tens of billions of Czech crowns in damage, severely damaged the water infrastructure in the affected regions, and, sadly, caused loss of life. A total of 80 million EUR was allocated from the state budget for the rapid repair of damaged water treatment plants, water supply systems, drinking water sources, and sewerage systems through an extraordinary call titled Renewal of Infrastructure for the Environment. With the rapid financial aid as well as the quick intervention of all responsible forces and a number of volunteers, safe and stable conditions for drinking water supply and wastewater treatment in the affected areas were ensured.



²⁹ Envirometr (2024) Počet událostí a zásahů u důsledku živelních pohrom (Number of Incidents and Interventions due to Natural Disasters). Available [here](#).

Disaster risk reduction

Disaster risk reduction and resilience reinforcement is a long-term priority for Czech humanitarian aid and the Official development assistance (ODA). The subsidy to support reduction of disaster risks continued with its successful implementation. The MFA regularly provides financial contributions to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the implementation of **the Sendai Framework and the implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative**. The LARA programme for the restoration of semiarid soils in Africa is being implemented in cooperation with the World Food Programme, and there is an ongoing resilience programme in fragile countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali), supported through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). From 2022, we are also interconnecting relevant data holders (ITU, WMO) with humanitarian project implementers (UNICEF, WFP, non-government non-profit organisations).

Sustainability in everyday life

Sustainability is something that accompanies us at almost every step in today's world. That makes everyday experience of sustainable development an element that influences the choices we make as well as the trends in society. It covers a wide range of areas that we see every single day – **from healthy lifestyles and sports, through cultural activities, to our perception of sustainability topics as such**, mediated by the media and professional organisations that shape public perception of green issues. Everyday choices such as what to eat, how to transport oneself, and what to do with free time can have a major impact on our living, social, and economic environment and our personal well-being. Similarly, the way sustainability is discussed in the public space influences how people perceive these issues and whether they are willing to make a change.

As part of the preparation of VNR 2025, a round table meeting with representatives of media and organizations dedicated to communicating sustainable issues and climate change to the public was organized to discuss how the Czech Republic is or is not effectively communicating these topics, what obstacles stand in the way of communicating them, and last but not least to share examples of good practice. The following chapter summarizes the main outputs of this meeting and, in particular, outlines how to effectively and engagingly communicate with the today's public about the sustainable development issues that surround basically everyone on a daily basis.

Communicating sustainability and green issues

In a world where information is literally a mouse click away, where news often hits us at moments when we are not looking for it, and where the attention spans of individuals are often fragmented into shorter and shorter windows, meaningful communication on complex issues such as climate change and sustainable development is increasingly difficult. The way to effectively and clearly communicate these themes is primarily through **positive examples and stories** of everyday practice of specific individuals, with whom it is easy to relate to. *"Environmental communication should not be antisocial, should not focus on how we should limit ourselves, but quite conversely it must show that an environmentally friendly life is possible, and, above all, better"* (participant of the round table meeting on communication).

But in order to share examples of good practice and compelling success stories that have improved people's lives while being eco-friendly, a number of hurdles must be overcome first. The first of them is the complexity of sustainable development as such and the associated topics, where journalists and experts alone cannot cover the full breadth of their knowledge and expressed concerns that their work will be challenged for possible shortcomings: *"It is difficult for editors to report on these topics, and you can see the fear and worry of people in the office that they won't be prepared enough and will mention something wrong. This is also related to the issue that the Czech Republic does not have a university major about decarbonisation and climate protection. This is one of the things that prevents journalists, but also politicians, from communicating sustainability issues in a sufficiently relevant way, as they have too small information base and lack the appropriate means to obtain the necessary knowledge."* (participant in the round table meeting on communication).

Another pressing issue is the **absence of a quality educational structure for climate change**, which would prepare future experts aimed directly at mitigation and climate change adaptation, who could then communicate this complex issue to the public in an erudite and effective way. An example of a positive shift in this area is the **Master's degree** at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University that is being prepared, which focuses on the quality of governance in the Czech Republic and offers a specialisation on environmental policies. In addition to this programme, the faculty also offers the Erasmus Mundus European Environmental Economics and Policy programme in English, which is being prepared in cooperation with 4 other European universities. In relation to education, the round table participants also mentioned the lack of tutors themselves and thus emphasized the need to focus on them as well when addressing environmental education.

Modern communication channels, which most of the society carry with them in their pockets every day, represent a specific tool and a challenge at the same time. Social networks are thus crucial for communicating sustainable development, especially to the younger generation. According to surveys, **'greenfluencers'** are the primary source of information for many young people and are growing in popularity, as they present environmental topics attractively and in an understandable way.³⁰ Even the Ministry of the Environment cooperates with greenfluencers to spread information on climate protection and sustainability, thus trying to get in touch in particular with the younger generation and to spread awareness across society. However, their reach is often limited to thematic 'bubbles', which makes wider mainstreaming of these issues and their acceptance by the wider public challenging. The lacking media literacy and the growing gaps in education among children as well as adults is visible in the ability to adequately filter the information everywhere on social media. In addition to social media, the importance of podcasts is also increasing, as they allow for a deeper discussion of sustainability-related topics and reach a wide range of listeners.

Credible ambassadors who would be able to link expert messages to different target groups are another key aspect. Research suggests that there is still a lack of such persons in the Czech Republic³¹, especially at the regional level. Involving respected and locally anchored individuals can help bridge the information gap between experts and the public, while contributing to greater acceptance of sustainable change across the society.

Perception of green issues in Czech society

The barriers and characteristics provided above can be applied to a large part of modern societies when it comes to sustainability communication. However, the discussion in the Czech Republic has its own specifics that distinguish it from others. Research³² shows that the **Czech population perceive nature protection very positively, but they show a relatively high level of scepticism about specific measures.**

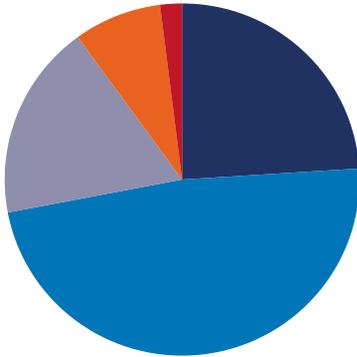
³⁰ Youth Survey 2024, Eurobarometer, available [here](#).

³¹ Institute 2050 (2024) *České klima 2024 (Czech Climate 2024)*. Available [here](#).

³² *ibid.*

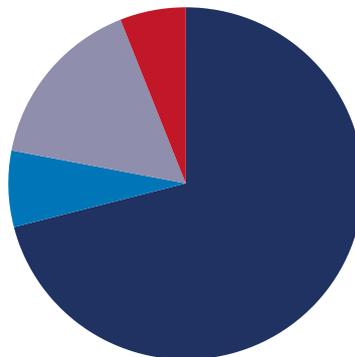
The attitudes of Czechs towards climate protection

Are you or are you not sympathetic to the idea of nature conservation?



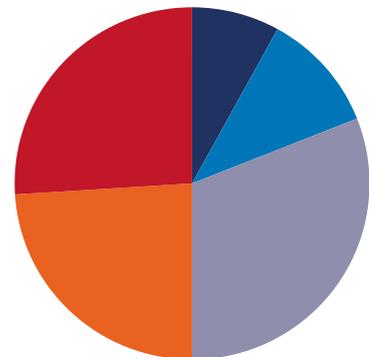
- 24% I am definitely sympathetic
- 48% I am quiet sympathetic
- 18% I don't know, neither
- 8% I am rather not sympathetic
- 2% I am definitely not sympathetic

Which of the following statements about global climate change is most similar to your opinion?



- 71% Global climate change is already happening
- 7% Global climate change is not happening now, but will happen in the future
- 16% I don't know, I can't answer
- 6% Global climate change will not happen at all

What do you think about the future of the Green Deal for Europe?



- 8% It should be strengthened and extended to additional objectives
- 11% It should remain as it is
- 31% I don't know
- 24% It should be reduced in its objectives
- 26% It should be cancelled

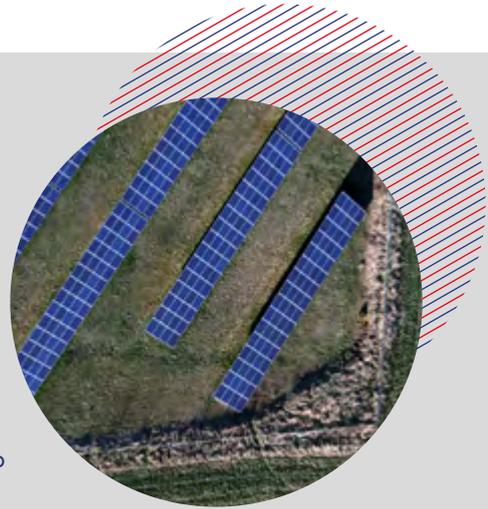
Source³³

But the very shape of the Czech climate debate has changed. Where there used to be pure climate scepticism in the 00s, today, thanks to the climate change mainstreaming in the Czech media, information is much more available. As a result, disinformation that directly denies the reality of climate change has less space and becomes more of a marginal issue. New shows in the public media are also helping to achieve this. For example, **Czech Radio** regularly broadcasts the 'Mycelium' (Podhoubí) programme on the Radio Wave station, which features interviews with foresters, farmers, and other experts on various aspects of the environment to present possible ways of more sustainable life. The **Czech Television** is preparing a series of reports on **how the Czech Republic and Europe tackle the climate**, presenting projects in the field of decarbonisation, just transition, and organic agriculture. Environmental education, upbringing, and awareness (EEUA) programmes help develop a positive attitude towards sustainability from an early age. Supporting schools in sustainable operations (e.g. through decarbonisation methodologies or eco audits) helps reducing undesirable environmental impacts as well as strengthen the environmental mindset of pupils and students. These initiatives thus do their part in forming wider social awareness of climate and nature protection.

³³ Institute 2050 (2024) *České klima 2024 (Czech Climate 2024): Representative public opinion research on climate change, decarbonisation, and the Green Deal*. Available [here](#).

Facts on Climate (Fakta o klimatu)

Facts on Climate is a Czech project aimed **at providing understandable and scientifically based information on climate change**. Its goal is to moderate a discussion about the transition to a low-carbon economy in the Czech Republic and to translate current scientific knowledge to the public. The project is made up of experts from various fields such as natural and social sciences, data analysis, pedagogy, and communication and is being implemented under the 2050 Institute. The Climate Facts project cooperates with media, politicians, private sector and non-profit organisations, aiming to make information clear and accessible to everyone.



Sports and sustainability

Sports and sustainability are interconnected parts of human activity, at the level of professional sport as well as in the everyday movement exercises. A sustainable approach to sports covers a wide range of options, from the use of environmentally friendly sports venues that, for example, allow rainwater to be drained off using drainage sumps, which are then used for irrigation in times of drought, over responsible manufacture of sports equipment, to the fact that physical activity as such leads to a healthier lifestyle, acting as a prevention of potential health complications and diseases. The **question of whether winter sports will survive** is a topical one as well, as they are experiencing more and more complications with the preparation of their individual disciplines due to the progressing climate change. Athletes also have continuously been reducing space to train in real winter conditions and have to prepare for new seasons in temporary conditions.

In the Czech Republic, aspects of sustainability are slowly penetrating all sports areas. For instance, in 2023, the Tipsport Foundation introduced the **'Sport without Waste'** project, through which it helps sports clubs reduce their environmental footprint by streamlining waste management through individual measures based on waste analyses. Clubs from the top football, hockey, or basketball levels as well as amateur teams, are gradually joining this project. **The Czech Olympic Committee presented its own sustainability strategy for 2030** in 2021, regularly holds conferences concerning sustainability in sports and in January 2025, it prepared a carbon calculator by which sports organisations can measure their carbon footprint in all possible aspects related to sport – from transport to international sporting events to the sportswear production. **The 'Make Czechia Run'** (Rozběháme Česko) event is held for the public first day of the year and aims to support people in their search for a healthier lifestyle and inspire them to regularly exercise. The AutoMat association has been organising an annual event called **'Going to Work by Bike'** since 2011, which regularly tries to motivate city residents to commute to work and go around the city sustainably and at the same time draws attention to the need for safe and functional infrastructure for cycling and walking.

Sustainability on stage

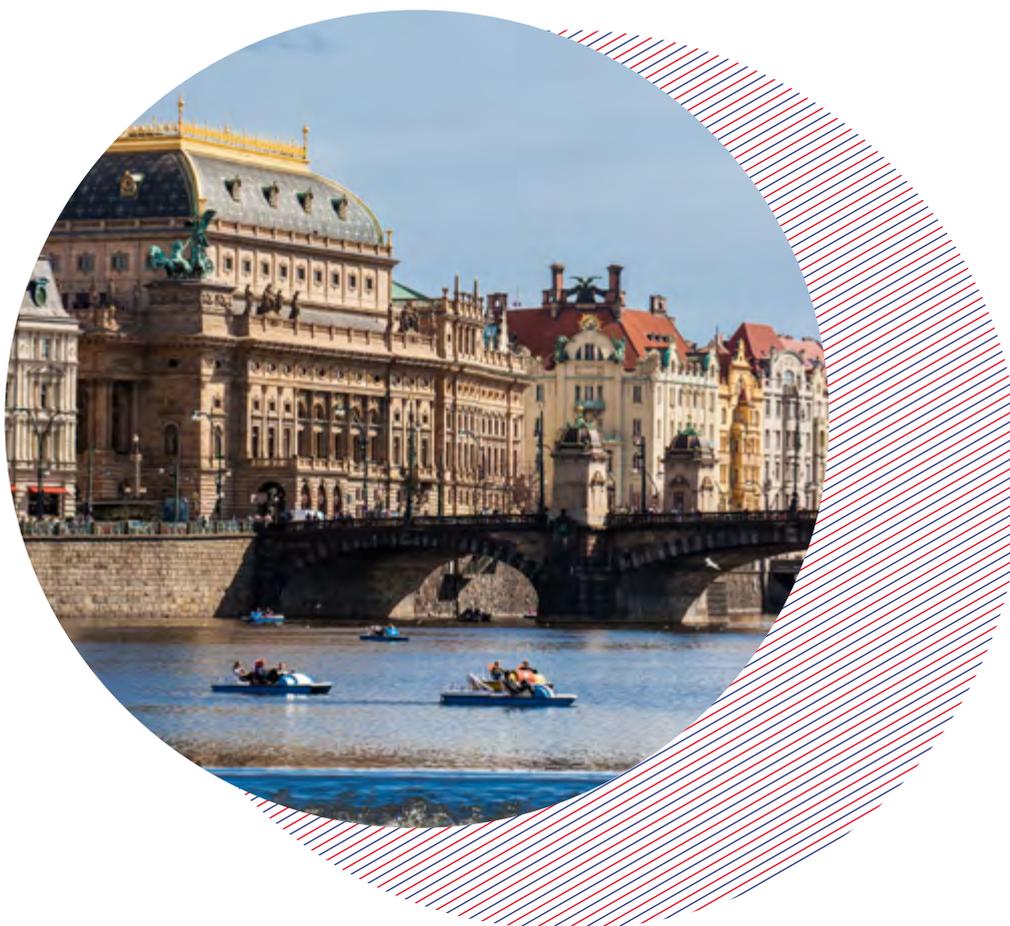
The environmental impact of cultural production is often overlooked, despite the fact that it is an important factor including, for example, the energy consumption of concerts and theatre performances, or the ecological footprint of music festivals. As a result, there are increasing efforts to introduce new sustainable and environmentally friendly measures, such as avoiding the use of disposable materials, using recycled and local raw materials, or promoting green mobility for cultural events visitors. **Many cultural venues also make a strong claim to social responsibility through community work in their venues**. This creates spaces and communities, where everyone feels safe and welcome, and contributes in many ways to the quality of life in their regions and to environmental awareness.

There are several positive examples of **sustainable culture** in the Czech Republic. Since 2008, the **'Clean Festival' project** underway, seeking to motivate visitors at Czech music events to sort waste and to pique their interest in circularity. One of the largest Czech festivals, 'Rock for People', goes even further and besides

offering a wide range of sorting options, it cooperates with the facilities at venue vicinity, where the festival waste is reused. Thus, for example, bio-waste ends up in the neighbouring composting plant and gastro-waste in the nearby biogas plant. Right on the festival grounds, a special 1-hectare park has been established to help create a local microclimate, prevent soil and wind erosion, and offer shelter to birds and insects.

In the field of drama, the **National Theatre** has become a pioneer of sustainability. Since 2006, it has been developing a system of energy-saving measures and technologies for more sustainable and economical operation; for example, it uses water from the Vltava River for cooling and uses the warm spent air from the auditorium to heat the air brought from outside. But the principles of sustainability are present in other areas such as the production of decorations and costumes, the functioning of the institution as such, catering, and interpersonal relationships.

Libraries and galleries play a specific role as they act as local community centres and places for educating the public. In the period 2021–2022, the promotion of the SDGs was a common communication theme for Czech libraries, to which the 'Sustainability in Libraries' initiative contributed. This initiative continuously helps introduce the principles of the SDGs into the internal processes of libraries and their educational offers for the public. The dedicated 'Sustainable Library' and 'What a Library Can Do' websites give methodological support and provide examples of good practice suitable to libraries of all types and sizes.





Perspective of the Youth

8 Perspective of the Youth

The young generation is a key element in addressing the issues of sustainable development of the world and society. The view of the young generation on the current challenges is crucial from the strategic perspective, especially because it is the generation that will feel the long-term effects of the decisions that are shaped and implemented today the most.

The Voluntary National Review of the Czech Republic would not be complete if it did not give floor to the generation of the young to express their attitudes, experiences, hopes, and concerns. This chapter will summarize the main findings of the survey done with the young generation. These outputs are a combination of notes from the focus groups and the questionnaire survey of the youth.

Sustainable development in general

Sustainability is a largely familiar concept for the younger generation. Some of the survey participants had not heard the term before, but most of them showed at least a basic awareness of its existence or its meaning. The general definition of sustainable development according to the youth is a way of living and developing that does not harm the planet and can be applied without negative consequences. The SDGs that young people most frequently consider most important are **SDG 16** – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, followed by **SDG 3** – Good Health and Well-being, **SDG 4** – Quality Education, and **SDG 13** – Climate Action.

Social inequalities

The young generation is aware of social inequalities. It is also aware of those inequalities that do not directly concern the youth. However, the participants of the survey also recognised inequalities directly around them and they also observe certain types of inequalities among themselves. Generally speaking, the younger generation agrees that **they feel disadvantaged because of their young age** – they feel weaker political representation, the need to fight harder for recognition in society, and the limited impact of their voice compared to older generations. They also experience disadvantages in the form of a lack of job-related skills. They are concerned that as recent graduates with no work experience, it will be difficult for them to enter the job market, which often favours older people with practical experience in the field. They also feel that acquiring housing and financial security is more challenging compared to the older generation.

The young are aware of **gender inequalities**, especially in the world. They are aware of its presence in the Czech Republic, they encounter gender stereotypes based on questioning women's skills in technology sectors and feel that they may face disadvantaging women in the labour market in the future due to motherhood. They also recognize **inequalities in the integration of foreign national**, while having the most experience with war refugees from Ukraine. In most cases they are aware of inequality towards refugees but find many positives for Czech citizens and the Czech Republic in their integration, typically in the form of economic benefits and cultural enrichment. However, they note the limited housing options, the unavailability of which becomes even more pressing after the need to provide housing for the Ukrainian refugees. They do not attribute this problem to Ukrainians themselves, but to the generally unfavourably set housing policy in the Czech Republic. They feel that Ukrainian integration sometimes divides the Czech society and is the source of many social conflicts.

Decarbonisation

The youth is particularly **positive about the general sense** of decarbonisation but is generally very **sceptical about its practical implementation**. Although they are aware of the desirability of decarbonisation for the environment, they note several obstacles and shortcomings, especially in the financial and structural

requirements or inadequate conditions in the Czech Republic for production based on RES only. They deem decarbonisation in the Czech setting mostly unrealistic in the next 8 years. Part of the respondents stated that the idea of transitioning to renewable energy sources in the Czech Republic in 15 years is more realistic. Some individuals are particularly sceptical about the efforts of the Czech Republic and the EU, as they consider them unnecessary due to the fact that they are not the world's major emitters. The youth generally strongly support nuclear energy as a suitable alternative for the Czech Republic. Some representatives of the younger generation also expressed their concern about job losses in emissions-heavy industries and accentuate the need for their retraining.

On the topic of **electric vehicles**, the young people have a similar attitude – they have positive opinion on the promotion of electromobility as a means of reducing emissions to protect the climate. However, they point to the environmentally demanding production, storage and disposal of batteries, or the financial demands that make EVs almost unaffordable for ordinary households in the Czech Republic. They see the ban on the production of new cars with internal combustion engines in the next few years as an overly coercive, hasty, and generally ineffective.

Societal resilience

According to the young generation, the key for the resilience of society is strong democracy, informedness and information literacy in society, empathy and respect, purpose, availability of work or other opportunities for self-fulfilment, quality education, sufficient income and savings, health, safety, and provision of basic human needs. **Social media** have shown as a particularly crucial topic for the young, as they can have various effects on the resilience of society. Young people are aware that social media are a means to disseminate information quickly, to communicate, and to learn about various topics. However, they see a number of negative impacts of social networks both on the resilience of society, in the form of the spread of disinformation and propaganda or cybernetic attacks, and on themselves, especially in the form of impaired self-esteem or decreased attention-span. According to them, the most vulnerable group in the digital space are the elderly, people with lower education, or with worse social and economic conditions, and people with a low level of media or information literacy in general, who are perceived by them as the vulnerable to believing disinformation.

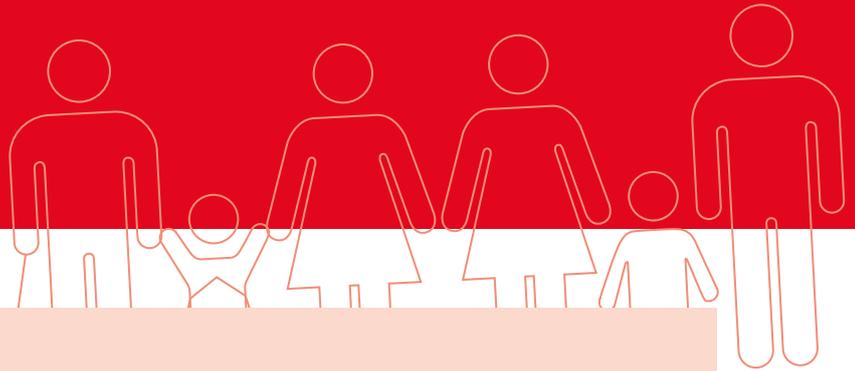
A significant majority, however, consider social media a necessity nowadays, as they perceive that going off the media can lead to their (partial) exclusion from the peers or limiting their chances to succeed in business. They suggest that age limits for the use of various social media should be under more strict control, that parents should supervise the behaviour of their children online more closely, and that there should be sufficient opportunities for education in media and information literacy.

Protecting democracy

According to the survey, very important for the young generation to **protect democracy and to maintain the sovereignty and competitiveness of the Czech Republic**. They feel it is essential to protect the Czech Republic and Europe from authoritarian regimes and to have a strong security policy, both internal and external. The youth is concerned about the situation where politicians and business leaders have influence on the media, the fear of oligarchizing, and stress the need for instruments to protect the media objectivity.



Progress in achieving the SDGs



Selected targets:

- **1.2** As of 2024, the percentage of **people at risk of income poverty** was 9.5% (10.6% women, 8.4% men). This rate has been stagnating at a similar value for a long time ([data](#)).

Social security

The Czech Republic successfully maintains a **low risk of poverty** in the population, mainly thanks to a **strong social security system**. This system is a key base of support for citizens who find themselves in various life situations such as illness, disability, maternity, parenthood, old age, or loss of employment.

The social security system offers several types of financial aid, which are set out by the law³⁴. It is based on specific life situations. Social insurance entitles individuals to **sickness insurance benefits, maternity allowance, pension benefits, and unemployment benefits**. The system of non-insurance social benefits also includes support for families through **family benefits** (e.g. parental allowance, childbirth allowance, funeral allowance, substitute maintenance, or foster care allowance).

Individuals, whose income is insufficient to provide for their basic needs are entitled to **allowances in material need**. **Emergency funding** is available for sudden and crucial expenses. There are also **benefits for people with disabilities**. In the case of dependence on the care of another, it is possible to receive a **care allowance**. In 2023, a total of 6.8 billion EUR (170 billion CZK) was spent on various benefits in addition to old-age pensions.

Adjustments are being made to the system of non-insurance social benefits, aiming to make it more efficient. The so-called '**super-benefit**' of state social assistance aims to merge the housing allowance, living allowance, and the child allowance into a single benefit, leading to significantly simplified administration. The minimum wage is also being regularly increased to ensure decent living conditions for working people, which reached 834 EUR (20,800 CZK) per month for 2025. Persons whose income cannot provide for their basic needs are entitled to the minimum subsistence level benefits.

Risk of poverty of the elderly

Reaching old age is a risky period in the context of the poverty risk, especially due to the **loss of regular income** from work activities. However, the Czech Republic is successful in improving the income situation of the elderly and maintaining their social security, mainly thanks to the pension system. Nevertheless, there are groups among the elderly who are at greater risk of income poverty than the rest of the population, namely those aged 65 and over who live alone in their household. In 2024, this group was at risk of income poverty in 18.6% of cases. Year before that, however, it was 33.2% and even 37.8% of cases in 2022³⁵, so there has been a **strong decline in the risk of poverty and a general improvement in the income situation**

³⁴ Act No. 436/2024 Sb., on social security contributions and contributions to the state employment policy, as amended.

³⁵ CSO (2024) *Příjmy a životní podmínky domácností (Household Incomes and Living Conditions)*. Available [here](#).

of the elderly. The risk is generally worse for elderly women, as they usually live longer and are more likely to live alone as widows. At the same time, elderly women generally have lower pension incomes than men. However, the so called 'upbringing pension', which is an increase in the old-age pension for each child raised, introduced in 2022, helps with this. With this amount and the double adjustment of pensions in 2023, incomes of retired household have increased by 15% year-on-year.

An important aspect of the life of the elderly is not only income limitation, but also the **threat of social isolation and lack of participation in social life.** This age group also faces risks of age discrimination. This group must continue to receive sufficient attention in order to comprehensively improve the quality of life, to support their access to the labour market, and to involve them in active social life, thus eliminating the accumulation of other risks.

With the pension reform, the age for retirement is being gradually increased and pension growth is also temporarily slowed down; however, the regular adjustments in response to increases of salary and prices remain. The reform includes an incentive element in the form of a tax reduction for the working elderly. The purpose of this pension reform is to reinforce a sustainable system for future generations. Even after the reform, the pension system should ensure adequate pensions and a sufficient standard of living for current and future retired people.

Elpida

Elpida is an organisation that manages a range of activities for the elderly aimed at **mobilising them and preventing their social exclusion.** It offers educational courses, exercise lessons, and creative workshops. It also provides counselling and a free-of-charge crisis helpline for the elderly or those caring for them. Beside the improvement of the quality of life of the elderly, Elpida also contributes to a better social perception and respect for this generation. It also organizes professional conferences and campaigns.





Selected targets:

- **2.2** The strong majority of the Czech population, including children, **does not face malnutrition**. Conversely, the continuously **increasing proportion of overweight people**, 60% of whom are overweight in the adult population and 25% among children aged 13 to 17, is a problem.³⁶
- **2.4** The share of Czech **agricultural land cultivated under the organic farming mode is growing steadily**. In 2023, it exceeded 16.8% of the total cultivated area.³⁷
- **2.a** The Czech **official development assistance continues to support rural areas and agriculture** in developing countries. In 2023, a total of 4,27 mil. USD (data) was provided in this regard.

Growing risk of overweight and obesity

Food shortage and malnutrition remain a marginal issue. This issue is prevented primarily by ongoing programmes and food and material support. However, the **growing percentage of the population that is overweight or obese poses a serious risk**. Over 60% of the Czech adult population has their BMI higher than 25 (the threshold for being overweight). The rising rate of **obesity among children** is also a major concern, as the proportion of overweight children aged 13–17 rose from 10% in 1996 to 25% in 2024. In this respect, the environment has a significant impact, with children from lower social and economic backgrounds having less exercise than their peers. A child born into a lower-income family faces almost three times the risk of obesity compared to a child from a family with above-average circumstances, and twice the risk compared to children of middle-class families.³⁸

Active Czechia (Aktivní ČESKO)

The Active Czechia platform promotes an active lifestyle and thus combat obesity. It promotes and directly organizes various projects and events to make physical exercise popular among the whole society, aiming to **improve the physical and mental condition** of the Czech citizens. In autumn, it regularly organises 'Active September' campaign, which introduces the general public to the positive benefits of regular exercise through various sporting events, festivals or open days at a wide range of sports facilities.



³⁶ SHI (2024) Více než 60 procent Čechů má nadváhu, trpí jí až čtvrtina dětí. Obezita způsobuje závažné zdravotní komplikace (Over 60 percent of Czechs are overweight, up to a quarter of children suffer from it. Obesity causes serious health complications). Available [here](#).

³⁷ MoA (2025) Ročenka Ekologické zemědělství v České republice 2023 (Yearbook on Organic Agriculture in the Czech Republic 2023), p.6. Available [here](#).

³⁸ SHI (2024) Více než 60 procent Čechů má nadváhu, trpí jí až čtvrtina dětí. Obezita způsobuje závažné zdravotní komplikace (Over 60 percent of Czechs are overweight, up to a quarter of children suffer from it. Obesity causes serious health complications). Available [here](#).

Development of organic farming

The Czech Republic continues to actively support the **development of organic farming** (OF). The aim is to produce healthy and quality food in a sustainable way. OF utilizes the latest scientific knowledge and combines it with proven traditional practices. This includes processes to avoid soil degradation and the broad promotion of biodiversity in the landscape. It also utilizes the exclusion of agrochemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMO). It also provides a wide range of important and quantifiable ecosystem services. The approach also ensures above-standard living conditions for animals, as it corresponds as much as possible to their natural needs. The result is the production of quality organic food without agrochemical, hormone, or pharmaceutical residues. Organic farming can consistently ensure sufficiently high yields even in periods of adverse climatic changes; thus it is globally perceived as an essential alternative for agricultural production of the future and is an integral part of the Czech agrarian policy. The **long-term goal** of the Czech Republic according to the Czech Action Plan for Development of OF is that **by 2027, 22% of agricultural land will be farmed organically**. By the end of 2024, 5564³⁹ organic farmers in the Czech Republic were farming on more than 604.8 thousand hectares of agricultural land; one in eight farms in the Czech Republic is already utilizing organic farming. It is also important to provide broad and stable support of OF, primarily through the Common Agricultural Policy and other related programmes.

Living Soil

In recent years, initiatives aimed at protecting soil and agricultural landscapes have emerged in the Czech Republic. One example is the 'Living Soil' (Živá půda) project, created by the Partnership Foundation, goal of which is to **stop land degradation**. The project targets a wide range of target groups. It gives advice to owners on how to improve soil quality and value, helps farmers manage land regeneratively and efficiently, engages the public in monitoring soil erosion, and lobbies politicians for soil conservation and regenerative agriculture. 'Living Soil' operates a free-of-charge advice service which has been used by over 3,500 landowners in three years. By using the unique data on leasehold parameters gathered by the 'Living Soil', it helps landowners agree with farmers on improving the care of their land. The project was behind the founding of the **Regenerative Agriculture Foundation** and launched an Internet platform for regenerative agriculture intended to farmers, professionals, scientists, and other individuals interested in this topic. The Living Soil project has already helped improve farming on more than 35,000 hectares of farmland.



The Czech Republic is committed to eradicating hunger and improving **access to high quality and safe food**. Between 2021 and 2025, Czech development projects around the world aimed at reinforcing self-sufficiency and increasing incomes of farmers, diversifying production, adapting to climate change, and creating value chains. In terms of interconnecting humanitarian and developmental activities, the Czech Republic worked with the World Food Programme on providing urgent food aid as well as comprehensive and innovative solutions to ensure nutrition and access to healthy and safe food. In cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Czech Republic provided its know-how on sustainable agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture.

³⁹ MoA (2025) Registr ekologických podnikatelů (Register of Organic Entrepreneurs). Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **3.4** In the long-term perspective, there is a **clear reduction in the percentage of people who die as a result of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease**. The current figure is 12.4%. Men face up to twice the risk compared to women ([data](#)).

- **3.5** For 2023, the **average pure alcohol consumption per capita** (15 years of age and over) **was 9.4 litres**. There is a very slight to negligible decrease over time (9.7 litres in 2020) ([data](#)).

Availability of health services

Availability of health services is a key to a quality health care system. With the public health insurance in the Czech Republic, access to a wide range of services is provided to citizens. **Prevention and early diagnosis** are emphasised greatly.

Although health insurance companies must ensure locally available services to insured individuals, there are **significant accessibility differences between urban and rural areas**, where people often face longer waiting times and worse transport accessibility. The Czech health system is also facing a **shortage of doctors in some specialisations** (especially paediatricians, general practitioners, psychiatrists, and child and adolescent psychiatrists) as well as nurses. The **ever-increasing average age of workers in healthcare** is an additional problem. One of the current goals of the health care system is therefore to make the health care profession more attractive to young people in peripheries, however, the existing hospital capacities must also be transformed from acute care towards follow-up and long-term care, taking into account the demographic ageing of the population.

'Záchranka' app

'Záchranka' (Ambulance) is a free mobile application that allows users to **quickly call for help in a crisis** and directly transmits information about the caller's location to the rescue or mountain rescue service. If the user cannot speak, help can be called simply by pressing a button. The application also has a number of other features, such as instructional videos, a locator for the nearest defibrillators, and a list of nearby emergency facilities.

Mental health

Mental health represents one of the key areas of health and social policy in the Czech Republic. Support of mental health is challenging, especially due to the previous lack of development in this area, but also due to current events in society, like the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian aggression in Ukraine, economic changes, and the increased use of digital technologies and social networks. **Mental health has been worsening significantly over the last few years, especially among children.** Up to 40% of 9th graders shows symptoms of moderate or severe depression and 30% exhibit moderate or severe anxiety⁴⁰.

In recent years, there has been considerable progress in the **mental health care reform**. The main objectives of the reform are de-institutionalisation of care, reinforcement of community services, improving the quality of life, and access to support for people with mental illness as well as prevention. So far, the reform has achieved a number of partial successes. A significant development is the introduction of **multidisciplinary services**, mental health centres, which play a vital role in preventing hospitalisations and helping people suffering from mental illness to return to normal life. Other **specialised health services** are also being developed and are more closely linked to people's everyday lives. **Increasing access** to acute inpatient psychiatric care, **improving the quality of care**, and changes in the competencies of the professionals and other people involved, such as peer workers, are also supported.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the reform still faces many challenges, such as the uneven availability of services, the lack of qualified personnel, and the persisting stigma of mental illness. Eliminating these issues will be the subject of further efforts.

'Nepanikař' app

'Nepanikař' (Don't Panic) is an application that provides **quick help during psychological difficulties**. Since it works online and is free to use, it is widely available and allows for quick intervention in a crisis situation. The application also features online counselling or therapy. It also lists contacts for professional help, as well as courses and workshops in the field of psychological help.

Substance use

Substance use is a **significant problem** in the Czech Republic, affecting individuals, families, and society as a whole. The most prevalent addictive substances are **alcohol and tobacco**, the excessive consumption of which leads to serious health complications. As of 2023, there were approximately **2 million adults** in the Czech Republic (22.5% of the adult population) who **smoke cigarettes on daily or almost daily basis**⁴¹. The number of electronic cigarette users is also on the rise, with 11.1% of respondents using electronic cigarettes at least once a month in 2023 (an increase of almost 1 percentage point since 2022). Almost a third of electronic cigarette users started using them between the ages of 15–19⁴². Around **1 million adults** (11.4%) **drink alcohol on daily or almost daily basis**. 17.8% of the population above the age of 15 can be considered as at-risk drinkers. 16.5% of the population have taken psychoactive drugs in the last 12 months, 28.8% of the adult population have tried an illicit drug at least once (of which 25.5% have experience with cannabis-based substances)⁴³.

⁴⁰ National Institute of Mental Health, Czech School Inspectorate, CSI (2023) *Národní monitoring duševního zdraví žáků na základních školách v České republice (National Monitoring of Mental Health of Pupils in Primary Schools in the Czech Republic)*.

⁴¹ National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addictions (2023) *Národní úzkum užívání návykových látek (National Survey on Substance Use)*. Available [here](#).

⁴² National Institute of Public Health (2023) *Národní úzkum užívání tabáku a alkoholu v České republice (National Survey on Tobacco and Alcohol Use in the Czech Republic)*. Available [here](#).

⁴³ National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addictions (2023) *Národní úzkum užívání návykových látek (National Survey on Substance Use)*. Available [here](#).

A steep increase in the **use of HHC and Kratom among adolescents** is a high-risk phenomenon and was caused mainly due to the easy availability of these substances, especially on online stores and vending machines. This has been responded to by legislation that restricted the availability, banned sales in vending machines, and made stricter conditions for online sales.

In recent years, a number of **prevention programmes** has been established and implemented, aimed particularly at young people, to eliminate and prevent smoking and alcohol use. Among the examples is the National Institute of Health's campaign titled 'Nicotine Takes More Than It Gives'⁴⁴ or the 'Nicotine-Tobacco Free School' project⁴⁵. The problem of substance use in the Czech Republic is addressed by the National Strategy to Prevent and Reduce the Harm Associated with Addictive Behaviour 2019–2027, which focuses on prevention, therapy, and minimisation of harm and damage.

⁴⁴ More information is available [here](#).

⁴⁵ More information is available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **4.2** The participation rate of five-year-old children in **preschool education** reached 94.3% in 2022. This value has been rather stable over the long term ([data](#)).
- **4.3** In the **25–64 age group**, only **9.9% of people have engaged in formal or non-formal education** or professional training (in the last 4 weeks) in 2023. However, this rate has been increasing slightly over the long term ([data](#)).
- **4.4** In recent years, there has been an **increase in most information technology skills** possessed by young people and adults. In 2023 for example, 58.3% of people aged 16 and older are able to move a file between a computer and another device. 55.3% of people can copy or move a folder. 40.5% of people can use basic arithmetic commands in a spreadsheet. Values are generally significantly higher for the age group of 16–24 ([data](#)).
- **4.6** As to 2023, 75.2% of the population of the Czech Republic aged 16–65 years have **reading literacy**, 78.7% have **mathematical literacy** ([data](#)).

Education for all

In recent years, the Czech Republic has focused on **strengthening inclusive education and reducing segregation in school institutions**. The education for all principle is anchored in the Education Act, which is gradually being amended to reflect on the current needs. The introduction of **index-based funding** for schools according to the social circumstances of the pupils will be important, as it will bring more stable resources to schools, enabling systematic funding of school psychologists and special educators, who provide support for children with specific educational needs.

Segregated schools remain an issue, especially for **Roma children**, who face the most the denial of access to quality education⁴⁶. In the 2023/2024 school year, there were 16 schools in the Czech Republic where Roma children made up more than 90% of the pupils, 16 schools had 75% of Roma children, and 46 had 50%⁴⁷. Additional issues are the shortage of teaching assistants and other related positions, poor remuneration, and prejudice against the inclusion of disadvantaged pupils into mainstream education. Equal access to high-quality education is one of the two strategic lines of the Strategy for the Education Policy of the Czech Republic for 2030+.

⁴⁶ The root of this issue lies primarily in outdated diagnostic methods in special education centres, which are also overloaded, in the problematic setup of catchment areas within socially excluded areas, and generally from regional inequalities or the concentration points of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic.

⁴⁷ MEYS (2024) Zpráva o počtu romských žáků v základních školách (Report on Number of Roma Pupils in Primary Schools). Available [here](#).

SOFA

Society for All, or SOFA, is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that has long been engaged in promoting **accessible education for everyone**. Many of the project aim to ensure equal opportunities and the possibility of fulfilling the potential of each and every pupil. It is also involved in initiatives concerning well-being and mental health, school safety, social and emotional learning, parenting competencies, and helping children at risk.



Response of education system to changing labour market

The Czech education system is increasingly focusing on **adapting educational programmes to the dynamically evolving needs of the labour market**. The development of **vocational training and the acquisition of digital and technological competences**, which are crucial for life in the 21st century, are also key. Responding to the new labour market requirements includes a revision of the framework educational programmes, which takes into account the new needs of pupils and students for their successful entrance in the labour market. An additional goal of the changes is to emphasise the adoption of sustainable principles in education.

There is also a growing emphasis on **lifelong learning**, which enables adults to adapt to the changes brought by digitalisation, technological developments, and climate issues. The Czech Republic has recently increased funding for retraining programmes and courses. However, in terms of adult participation in further education, it is still below average in comparison to other countries.

Acquisition of competences required for active civic, professional, and personal life is the second strategic line of the Strategy for the Education Policy of the Czech Republic for 2030+.

Archimedes-net

The Archimedes-net project consists of **educational and community centres interconnected by a digital platform**. These multi-purpose centres promote lifelong learning, personal development, and active solutions to environmental challenges, while strengthening the life of local communities. They combine in-person meetings with online activities, allowing for effective collaboration between schools, communities, and professional groups as well as specialist teams. The classroom as such is a multi-purpose certified wooden building.





Selected targets:

- **5.2** In 2023, there were a total of **1,484 solved cases of violence against women and girls aged 15 and older**, where the perpetrator was their current or former partner in life. The highest prevalence is in age groups from 25 to 44 years ([data](#)). **The most common situation is that the perpetrator is the current or former partner of the woman**, but this type of violence is very latent and often remains unreported. As to 2023, the total number of solved acts of sexual and psychological violence against women aged 15 years and older, where the perpetrator was someone other than the partner in life, was 1,272 ([data](#)).
- **5.5** In 2023, **women held 25% of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies and had 29% of the seats at the local government level** ([data](#)). In the same year, managerial positions were taken by a woman in 27.4% of cases, a relatively stable figure over the long term ([data](#)).

Gender-based violence

The Czech Republic is directing its efforts to **prevent gender-based violence**. This issue includes all acts of physical, social, psychological, economic, or other violence that target victims based on their gender. The solution to this issue is incorporated into the updated Gender Equality Strategy for 2021–2030. In 2023, the Czech Government approved a new Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2023–2026. Supporting crisis centres, raising public awareness, and training police officers and other professions who help victims is emphasised as well. In 2025, the **unified definition of domestic violence** was incorporated into the Civil Code⁴⁸ and the **position of victims in civil and offence proceedings was strengthened**. Starting in 2025, Czech legislation has **redefined the concept of rape**, which is based on the performance of intercourse against the will of the other person instead of being coerced into sexual intercourse. These legislative amendments aim to improve the position of gender-based crime victims. The Czech Republic has also created a **compensation mechanism for victims of forced sterilization**, especially Roma women.

Gender-based violence is still a serious problem that affects the lives of many women and men in the Czech Republic. The statistics show that almost 60% of women have experienced some form of sexual violence, 20% of women have experienced rape⁴⁹.

Issues such as low reporting rates of violent crimes, insufficient regional coverage of specialised services for victims, and unstable funding for non-profit NGOs providing assistance services to victims still exist.

Another issue is the lack of protection for specific groups exposed to increased risk of gender-based violence, including sexual and gender minorities, Roma women, migrant and refugee women, people with disabilities, women working in prostitution, and homeless women.

⁴⁸ Act No. 89/2012 Sb., the Civil Code, as amended.

⁴⁹ ProFem (2024) *Sexualizované násilí: újskyt, dopady a náklady na zdravotní péči (Sexualized Violence: Prevalence, Impact, and Health Care Costs)*. Available [here](#).

The persistence of suspended sentences for sexual violence also remains a challenge, as they deepen the deterring effect of the criminal justice system and may reduce the willingness of victims to report crimes. This is addressed by a parliamentary proposal to amend the Courts and Judges Act⁵⁰, which aims to improve the education of judges. The proposal is currently being negotiated by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

In 2024, the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic discussed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, **the Istanbul Convention**. The necessary majority was not reached in the Senate, and the ratification process remains incomplete.

PORT

In January 2024, proFem opened a centre called PORT, the first specialised centre in the Czech Republic dedicated to **supporting victims of sexual violence**. The centre provides comprehensive specialised services, expert social counselling, aid in crisis (including crisis housing), psychotherapeutic assistance, and a health service for collection of evidence and testing for STDs, as well as gynaecological prevention.



Gender inequalities on labour market

The Czech Republic seeks to improve conditions for women in the labour market, for example through the reviewed Gender Equality Strategy for 2021–2030 and the Strategy for Family Policy 2024–2030. It also continues to motivate employers to create a more supportive working environment in order to **reconcile work life and family life**, for example through the running of company nurseries and children's groups, or by offering part-time employment.

However, significant gender inequalities persist in the Czech labour market. Among the most significant issues is the **gender pay gap**, which reached 18% to the detriment of women in 2023, which is high above the EU average⁵¹. The gap persists in old-age pensions as well, with women receiving approximately 13% lower old-age pensions than men. The Czech Republic is working on reducing the gender pay gap. During the Czech Presidency of the EU Council in 2022, a directive on pay transparency was adopted. In the same year, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the Action Plan for Equal Remuneration of Women and Men 2023–2026.

The Czech Republic has long sought to increase the participation of women in the labour market. The main step is to **improve the offer and availability of childcare services**. In addition to the backbone of kindergartens, since 2014 there have been children's groups that provide childcare services for children from 6 months of age, helping women to return to the labour market earlier. As of March 2025, there were a total of 1,933 children's groups in the Czech Republic with a total capacity of 26,297 spots⁵². In 2025, the act on children's groups was amended⁵³, which, among other things, introduces **Neighbourhood Children's Groups** as an additional pre-school service option for the youngest children when parents return to the labour market. This imposes a duty on municipalities to provide spots for children or to provide financial compensation to parents.

⁵⁰ Act No. 6/2002 Sb., on courts, judges, bench judges, and the state administration of courts, and on amendments to certain other acts (the Courts and Judges Act), as amended.

⁵¹ Eurostat (2023) Gender Pay Gap Statistics. Available [here](#).

⁵² MLSA (2025) Evidence dětských skupin (Children's Groups Report). Available [here](#).

⁵³ Act No. 84/2025 Sb., amending Act No. 247/2014 Sb., on the provision of childcare services in a children's group and on amendment of related acts, as amended, and other related acts.

In 2024, the **parental allowance was also increased to 14,000 EUR** (350,000 CZK) and the period of use has been reduced until the child reaches the age of three. Three years before that, the advance maintenance for dependent children was introduced into, which supported single parents in difficult situation. It also aims to increase participation of fathers in childcare. There is an option to take 'paternity leave', time off work with partial wage reimbursement during the six-week period after birth. Since 2022, paternity leave has been extended from 1 week to 2 weeks.

MUMDOO

'MUMDOO' is an organization that aims to **reconcile career opportunities with parenthood**. It is committed to provide for a smooth return of women and men on parental leave to the labour market. The organization connects parents with businesses. It uses its expertise to help companies fill their missing capacities among potential employees, who are parents and who are professionally qualified for the given positions and contribute to more effective communication between the employer and the employee caring for the child.





Selected targets:

- **6.3 The ratio of wastewater treatment remains high;** municipal wastewater remains close to 98% ([data](#)). The number of watercourses that fall within class I and II of water quality (unpolluted and slightly polluted water) is increasing, with 20% of watercourses falling into this category in 2023 and 47% of watercourses falling within class III (polluted water).⁵⁴
- **6.4 Water consumption of individuals** has slightly decreased from the previous VNR to **daily consumption of 87 litres per capita** in 2023.⁵⁵ Contrary to that, water consumption in industry and other customers is slightly increasing. The water source load rate rose to 16.8% in 2022 ([data](#)).
- **6.6 The water retention capacity of the Czech landscape** continues to be unsatisfactory and, combined with more frequent droughts, water scarcity is a future threat in some areas. However, the situation is being improved by the more and more frequently developed small, mostly local, measures to help the landscape adapt.
- **6.a Help with water management and sanitation continues to be one of the priorities of the Czech official development assistance.** In 2023, the total support amounted to an all-time-high 6,93 mil. USD ([data](#)).

Drought and water retention in landscape

The year 2023 was the warmest in the Czech Republic in terms of average annual air temperature (9.7 °C) since 1961. The above-average temperatures are also associated with significant periods of drought, especially during the summer. The Czech Republic faced continuous drought from June 2022 to October 2023. For the above reasons, evaporation from the landscape is growing. Intense torrential rains, which cannot be contained by the landscape, are also becoming more frequent, leading to further threat of drought. The landscape needs to adapt as quickly as possible to the progressing climate change and thus mitigate its impacts. **New Adaptation of Aquatic, Non-forest and Forest Ecosystems to Climate Change programme** is helping with that, as it supports the creation and restoration of wetlands and the revitalisation and renaturation of watercourses.

⁵⁴ CHI (2024) *Hydrologická ročenka České republiky 2023* (Hydrological Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2023). Available [here](#).

⁵⁵ CSO (2023) *Vodovody, kanalizace a vodní toky – 2023* (Water Supply, Sewerage, and Watercourses – 2023). Available [here](#).

Study by UN Water

The Czech Republic is one of the few countries making significant progress towards SDG 6.

A study on the progress towards SDG 6 by UN Water in 2024 showed that water protection and water management in the Czech Republic has improved significantly since 1990, while water pollution has decreased. The Czech Republic is successfully meeting all of the SDG 6 indicators. **98% of the population has access to drinking water and 89% of households are connected to safe sewerage.**⁵⁶ This success can be attributed, among other things, to increased awareness of the need for water quality among towns and municipalities and a long tradition of water management planning. Since the country joined the EU in 2004 and there was a need to harmonise legislation, the Czech Republic now has very good national legislation.

Making significant investments in water infrastructure supported by public budgets and European funds is also important. The Czech Republic also successfully uses nature-based solutions, especially in flood risk reduction. It cooperates with neighbouring countries in the area of cross-border watercourses and is a party to the UN Water Convention. Through its development cooperation, it supports water-related projects in Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, and Kyrgyzstan.



Development cooperation on SDG 6

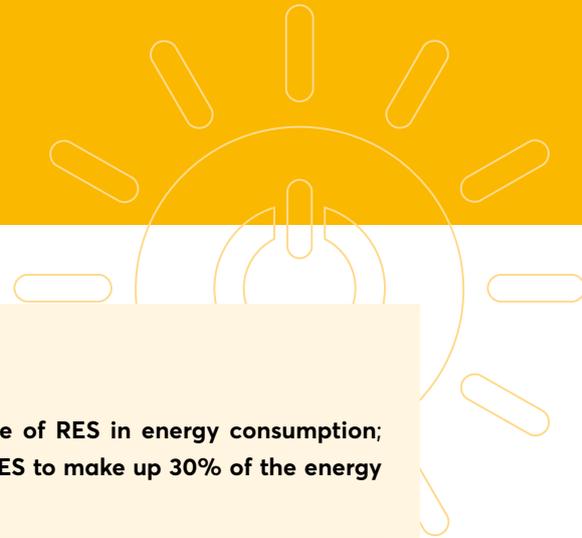
Sustainable management of natural resources is one of the thematic priorities of the Czech ODA in almost all priority countries. It plays a key role in the fight against climate change. Effective management and protection of water resources and associated ecosystems, such as land and forests, contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions and increases the resilience of ecosystems to the negative impacts of climate change. The Czech ODA focuses on sustainable drinking water availability, water resources management in agriculture, waste management development, and overall improvement of environmental governance in partner countries. By doing so, it not only supports local communities in adapting to the changing climate but also contributes to global efforts to mitigate the climate crisis. In 2023, the support of projects focusing on water management and sanitation amounted to 6.93 million USD (data).

'Smart Landscape' Project

All available knowledge and technology must be used and applied to combat drought and declining groundwater supplies. The project of the **Czech University of Life Sciences** uses state-of-the-art digital technologies to gather data and monitor weather fluctuations in order to use the acquired knowledge for the reducing their impact on the landscape as much as possible. Adaptive landscape measures such as small water reservoir and wetland systems, modern irrigation systems, and other are being tested on 500 ha of land.



⁵⁶ UN Water (2024) SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Study: Czech Republic, Geneva. Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **7.2** The Czech Republic continues to steadily increase the share of RES in energy consumption; in 2023 the share was 18.59% (data). The long-term goal is for RES to make up 30% of the energy mix by 2030.
- **7.3** The demand of energy of the Czech economy has been steadily declining in recent years, but according to the latest available data, it still consumes more energy per economic output unit than the EU average (data).⁵⁷
- **7.a** Through its ODA, the Czech Republic continues to support a number of clean energy R&D projects and RES development in developing countries. In 2023, the total support amounted to 745.2 thousand USD (data).

RES development

The Czech energy mix is still dominated by fossil fuels, but the long-term goal of the Czech Republic is to ensure a resilient, competitive, and low-carbon energy mix, which will be based primarily on a combination of nuclear energy and RES. **The share of RES is steadily growing and amounted to 18.59% (data) as of 2023**, but to reach the target of 30% of RES in the final energy consumption set by the reviewed National Energy and Climate Plan of the Czech Republic, the development of green source will have to be accelerated. One of the possible ways are the so-called **acceleration zones**, which allow speeding up the permission procedures for the construction of wind and solar power plants. The legal system now includes the concepts of **energy accumulation and aggregation**. The construction of new RES continues to be supported through subsidy programmes.

Energy intensity

The energy intensity of the Czech Republic is decreasing steadily. However, it remains above the EU average, mainly due to its energy-intensive industry. Adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce energy consumption and climate change impacts are successfully implemented via subsidy programmes such as the New Green Light to Savings or OP TAC, which helps funding the insulation of buildings, replacement of sub-par heat sources, or increasing the capacity of regional distribution systems to increase the possibility of connecting other sources. Last but not least, efforts to reduce the energy consumption of buildings are also supported in the public sector, where **more than 500 renovation projects in state-owned buildings** have been supported.

⁵⁷ Eurostat (2025) Energy Intensity. Available [here](#).

Bio-gas plants in developing countries

The Czech University of Life Sciences and its Biogas Research Team has focused on a project to build biogas plants in developing countries. **Over 990 small biogas plants were built within this project in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia.** These plants transform organic waste into biogas, which is used not only for generating electricity, but also for heating or cooking. Other benefits of the stations include their ability to produce digestate as an organic-mineral fertiliser; they also increase local energy self-sufficiency, improve hygienic conditions, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This makes them one of the most affordable and efficient elements of sustainable energy, not only in developing countries.





Selected targets:

- **8.1 The Czech economy has been stagnating in recent years due to the energy crisis and high inflation.** GDP dropped by 0.1% in 2023, but we can observe a return to gradual growth in 2024, with GDP increasing by 1.3% year-on-year in Q3.⁵⁸
- **8.2 The Czech Republic is focusing on promising sectors of innovative technology such as artificial intelligence research or semiconductor manufacturing** and development. Through these, it seeks to develop industry with high value-added and improve the qualifications of Czech workers.
- **8.4 Despite the efforts to improve material and energy efficiency, the economic intensity of both aspects remains relatively high.** Annual material consumption has increased in recent years, and in 2023 it reached almost 19.5 tonnes per person ([data](#)).
- **8.5 The unemployment rate is stabilized at low value** (2.6% as to 2023) ([data](#)) and the proportion of employed to the total population of 15–64 year old citizens remains high at around 75%⁵⁹. However, **the labour market is rigid** and shows a low frequency of job changes, which slows economic growth.
- **8.a Through the Aid for Trade, the ODA continues in a stable pace**, and the amount provided under the programme reached 492 thousand USD ([data](#)).

GDP, unemployment, and necessary labour market transformation

The Czech economy had to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent energy crisis caused by the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. These events have led to stagnating economic growth, inflation, and drop of real wages. This trend stopped later, in 2024, when inflation started to decrease, and real wages rose again for the first time in three years. Faster economic recovery and its stable long-term growth are being disrupted by a rigid labour market with continuously low unemployment rate. In this market, people change jobs very little, and businesses find it difficult to find new qualified employees. This labour market set-up is hindering the transition of the Czech economy from traditionally industrial sectors to more technologically demanding areas with higher added value and a growing service sector.

⁵⁸ CSO (2024) *Vývoj ekonomiky České republiky – 3. čtvrtletí 2024* (Economic Development of the Czech Republic – Q3 2024). Available [here](#).

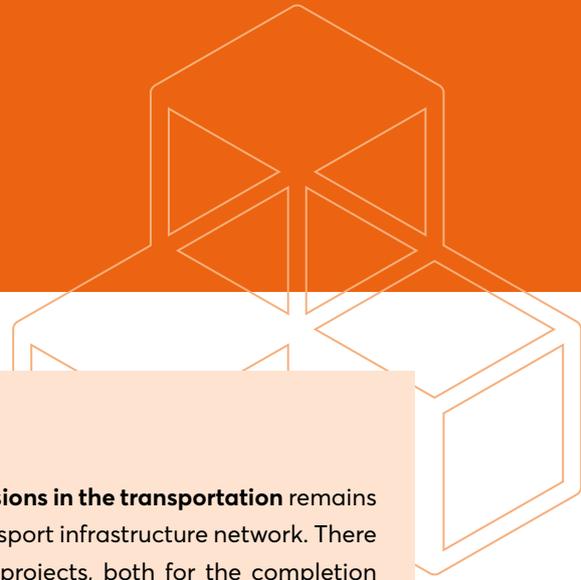
⁵⁹ CSO (2024) *Zaměstnanost a nezaměstnanost (VŠPS)* (Employment and Unemployment (Labour Force Survey)). Available [here](#).

Economic strategy and technological innovation

In October 2024, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a new **Economic Strategy**. Its main goal is to achieve long-term sustainable growth of the Czech economy, making it **competitive and providing high added value**. The strategy targets selected areas where it sees potential for economic growth of the Czech Republic with regard to environmental and social responsibility; these are investments in education, science, research, and innovation, through which it wants to increase the added value of Czech companies and their competitiveness on international markets. Other strategies approved in 2024, such as the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 and the National Semiconductor Strategy, both of which represent the ambition of the Czech Republic to play a significant part in digital technologies, innovation, and Industry 4.0, are also key in this respect.

Retraining support

To "shake" the rigid labour market, it is crucial that employees are not afraid to change jobs and can find the necessary support in the active employment policy system. In 2023, the MLSA launched the 'I'm on Course' (Jsem v kurzu) site, through which both the unemployed and the employed can choose from a wide range of educational courses. **The Ministry's main goal is to develop digital skills of the citizens**, and up to 82% of these courses is paid for by the MLSA, which seeks to train 100,000 people by mid-2025 to prepare the Czech society for the ongoing transformation of the labour market. The 'NRP Digi for enterprises' (NPO Digi pro firmu) project for companies was launched in spring 2024 as a part of the support for further education, which aims to support digital training for employees directly through their employers.



Selected targets:

- **9.1 Development of transport infrastructure and reduction of emissions in the transportation** remains a challenge for the Czech Republic despite a dense and stable transport infrastructure network. There is a significant successful development of projects through PPP projects, both for the completion of the highway network and for the planned construction of high-speed railway.
- **9.4** Although industrial enterprises are gradually modernising and adopting more sustainable technologies, the pace of transformation is off-track to the EU climate targets, especially in the area of decarbonisation. **Reducing energy intensity and improving integration of renewable energy sources remains a major challenge.** The emission intensity of producing value added in 2023 reached 14.57kg CO₂ per thousand CZK ([data](#)).
- **9.5 Total expenses on R&D are steadily growing** and in 2023 reached a total of 5.6 billion EUR.⁶⁰ However, the proportion of R&D expenses to GDP has been declining in recent years, with its figure being 1.83% ([data](#)), still below the EU average. In 2023, the proportion of researchers (FTE) was 4,484 per 1 million population ([data](#)).

Developing modern and resilient infrastructure

The construction of transport infrastructure in the Czech Republic is gradually transitioning towards more modern and sustainable solutions. To accelerate key road and railway constructions, the state has started to make more **use of PPP projects**. The first major project completed was the construction of sections of the D4 motorway in the south of the country. Once this operation model has been verified, the plan is to complete other parts of the backbone motorway network in this form. Also, first sections of the high-speed railway (HSR) in Moravia are due to start soon; the government decided to utilize PPP for this as well.

In the field of **critical infrastructure protection**, legislation is being amended to reflect the requirements of the EU CER Directive. The issue of critical infrastructure will be removed from the Crisis Act and addressed in a separate law that will regulate resilience of critical infrastructure entities. The new regulation responds to specific findings from recent emergencies (Covid-19, floods, tornadoes) and amends the now-outdated system of measures for emergency response.

⁶⁰ CSO (2024) Výdaje na výzkum a vývoj v Česku loni vzrostly (The R&D expenses in the Czech Republic increased last year). Available [here](#).

Transformation of industry

The Czech economy is strongly rooted in traditional industries, especially the **automotive industry**. This set-up faces challenges in the field of technological advances, global competition, and the demands of climate-related policies, and requires adaptation, innovation, and decarbonisation across the whole sector. According to the new Economic Strategy, identification of several strategic industries that the state will focus on is a way to the future of Czech industry. These sectors include the implementation of clean and sustainable technologies, digital innovation, and advanced materials. **The Czech economy should thus be diverse, resilient, and able to respond quickly to changes in global conditions.** In terms of industry decarbonisation and with respect to the role of the automotive sector, the transition to clean mobility will be crucial, which, thanks to its strong competencies and comparative advantages, represents another key sector of the future of Czech industry.

Science and research

Support for science and research in the Czech Republic has been steadily growing, with support for science and research increasing for seven years in a row now, reaching a total of 5.6 billion EUR (139.7 billion CZK)⁶¹ in 2023. However, government spending on R&D has been below the EU average for a long time, accounting for only 0.51% of GDP in the same year. The state is consistently supporting the long-term development of research activities of universities and other public research organisations. For the first time, it spent over 1 billion CZK (42.37 million EUR) on environmental research.⁶²

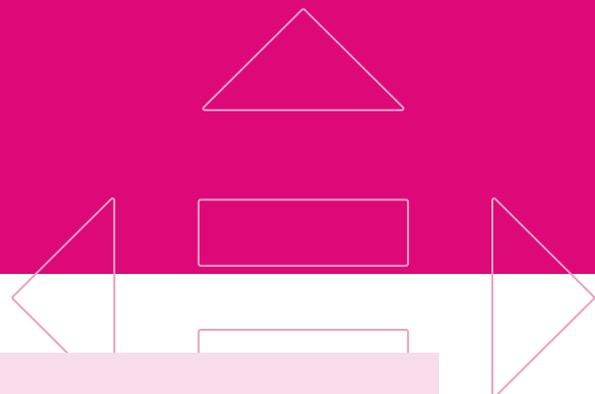
IT4Innovations

IT4Innovations supercomputer centre in Ostrava is one of the leading scientific centres in the Czech Republic. It specializes in research, development, and innovation in High Performance Computing (HPC), High Performance Data Analytics (HPDA), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing (QC), and their applications to other scientific, industrial, and societal disciplines. The centre is a member of the LUMI consortium, which groups 11 European countries. Thanks to this engagement, **one of six EuroHPC quantum computers in Europe will be installed and operated at IT4Innovations.** It also works closely with the private sector to participate in projects on reduction of emissions in manufacturing and introduce of the latest innovative practices.



⁶¹ CSO (2024) Výdaje na výzkum a vývoj v Česku loni vzrostly (R&D spending in the Czech Republic increased last year). Available [here](#).

⁶² CSO (2025) Kolik dává stát na vědu (How much does the state spend on science). Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **10.2** In the Czech Republic, **5.4% of the population is living on income below 50% of the median wage**. This figure is more significant in women and in children and adolescents ([data](#)).
- **10.7** The Czech Republic meets the conditions for a **qualitative assessment of the migration policy system** ([data](#)).

Integration of the Roma

Roma integration is one of the main challenges in **social inclusion** in the Czech Republic. The Roma minority faces frequent discrimination, unequal access to education and housing, and limited job opportunities, which contributes to social exclusion.

The Strategy for Roma Integration 2021–2030 and other government programmes aimed at improving access to education and employment play a key role in promoting integration. **Access to housing** is crucial as well – 9% of municipalities in the Czech Republic were experiencing social exclusion in 2023 (37% of municipalities were under the ‘at risk’ category and 54% were ‘not at risk’)⁶³. Among the positive steps for integration are **promotion of inclusive education**, community projects that **strengthen social cohesion**, and the government’s approval of **anti-gypsyism definition** in 2024. The work of NGOs also contributes greatly. Despite some progress, this remains a key priority for achieving equality and reducing inequalities.

In the past, **involuntary sterilization of the Roma women**, which was performed without their informed consent and thus constituted a fundamental violation of their human rights, was a major manifestation of inequality. This had been occurring mainly in the second half of the last century, with the last known case occurring in 2009. In 2021, an act providing compensation for the women affected was passed⁶⁴. The compensation process has already commenced but is delayed.

Omama

‘Omama’ is a project aimed at the **development of the youngest children born into socially excluded localities**, which are usually Roma families. Omama is supporting the development of cognitive functions, speech, vocabulary, and gross motor skills in children up to the age of three, which is the essential period for human development. However, the project does not only help children but also help mothers in particular with their parenting skills and provides them with a space for healthy and loving parenting.



⁶³ MoRD (2023) *Rozsah sociálního vyloučení v obcích (Extent of Social Exclusion in Municipalities)*. Available [here](#).

⁶⁴ Act No. 297/2021 Sb., on the provision of a lump sum of money to persons sterilised in violation of the law and on the amendment of certain related acts.

Integration of refugees from Ukraine

The integration of refugees from Ukraine has become a key issue in recent years, especially in the context of the Russian military aggression in Ukraine, which has brought tens of thousands of refugees to the Czech Republic. In October 2024, a total of 379,806 active applications for temporary protection were registered in the Czech Republic, which are issued to those fleeing to the Czech Republic due to the war conflict in Ukraine⁶⁵.

For a long time, the Czech Republic has been among the EU countries with **the highest number of Ukrainian refugees** per capita. In 2024, Ukrainian refugees accounted for approximately 35 per 1000 persons, which corresponds to 3.5% of the population.⁶⁶ In 2024, 37 thousand Ukrainian asylum seekers were registered among pupils of Czech primary schools and 5.3 thousand Ukrainian asylum seekers among secondary school students. There has been a decrease compared to 2022⁶⁷. Since the refugees started coming from Ukraine, **their integration into the Czech labour market has improved** considerably, as 80% of them are economically active. However, it is often impossible to utilize their education or previous experience in a corresponding position⁶⁸. On the matter of **housing**, 2024 survey says that almost 80% of refugees are already living in rented apartments, about a tenth in lodging-houses, and 8% remain in solidarity households⁶⁹. In March 2022, a total of 98.6 thousand received **humanitarian benefits** to aid the refugees from Ukraine, while by March 2025 only 52.6 thousand benefits had been paid⁷⁰.

In response to the sudden wave of Ukrainian refugees, support of employment and education as well as social security in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine has been legislated⁷¹. The Czech Republic has provided humanitarian benefit and extraordinary emergency benefit, strengthened social work, focused on the involvement of Ukrainian pupils and students in Czech schools, announced subsidy calls to support integration, e.g. for maternity and family centres and housing, and a number of other measures aimed at making life easier for war refugees.

Post Bellum

One of the ways Post Bellum is helping Ukraine is through the **'Memory of the Nation' (Paměť národa) Adaptation Centre for Ukrainian students**. It focuses on young people who fled the war and often arrived in the Czech Republic without their parents. These teenagers are at risk of social isolation and early leaving the educational process; this centre has been created for them. It offers intensive courses of Czech language, a preparatory 'zero year', career counselling, and organised trips to facilitate their integration. Since its launch, over 350 students have used the centre, which has helped them learn the language, cope with the new environment, as well as resume their studies.



⁶⁵ Mol (2024) Čtvrtletní zpráva o migraci III (Quarterly Report on Migration III). Available [here](#).

⁶⁶ Mol (2024) Čtvrtletní zpráva o migraci III (Quarterly Report on Migration III). Available [here](#).

⁶⁷ MEYS (2024) Počet dětí/žáků-uprchlíků z Ukrajiny (ušichni zřizovatelé) (Number of Children/Pupil Refugees from Ukraine (all establishing authorities)). Available [here](#).

⁶⁸ CVVM (2025) Výzkum Hlas Ukrajinců ('Voice of Ukrainians' Research). Available [here](#).

⁶⁹ CVVM (2025) Výzkum Hlas Ukrajinců ('Voice of Ukrainians' Research). Available [here](#).

⁷⁰ MLSA (2022 and 2025) Informace o vyplacených dávkách (Information on Benefits Paid). Available [here](#).

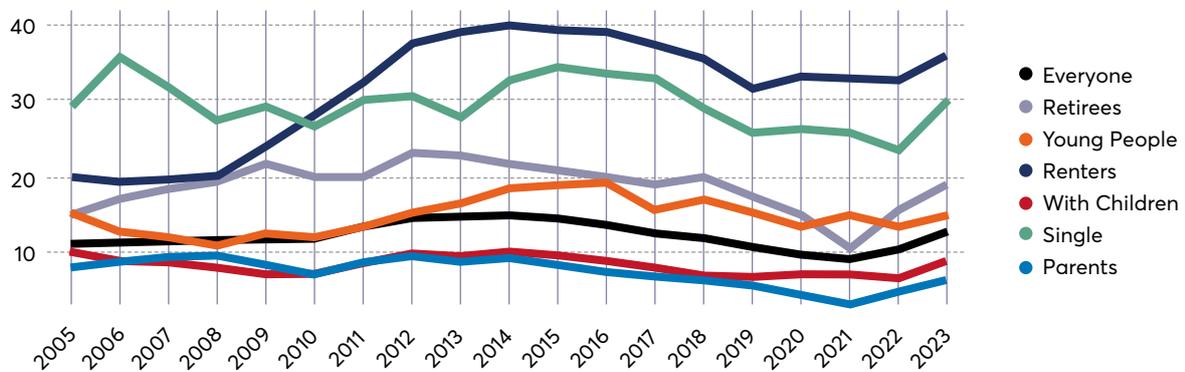
⁷¹ Act No. 65/2022 Sb., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended, and other related laws.



Selected targets:

- **11.1 The affordability of housing** in the sense of sustainable development of municipalities is currently the **subject of an ongoing housing reform** in the Czech Republic, which combines legal, financial, and informational tools.
- **11.2 Transport and accessibility are among the priority topics** for the development of sustainable and safe municipalities at the national, regional, and local levels. The use of public transport has been significantly affected by changes in the behaviour of residents and businesses, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of hybrid and remote work models.
- **11.3** The introduction of the Community of Municipalities institute in the Municipalities Act enables more **effective cooperation between municipalities** in sharing services and resources.

Excessive Burden of Housing Expenses (%)



Source⁷²

Access to housing

In April and May 2025, the Housing Support Act was approved by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and it is expected to come into effect on January 1, 2026 (following the anticipated signature of the President). Its goal is to create **institutional support to tackle actual housing problems**. At the same time, support for the development of housing stock with affordable rental housing is open through national subsidy and loan programmes. In 2024, the process of digitisation of construction procedures was launched, aiming to reduce the administrative burden (construction administration information systems are now in a transitional mode). Pilot projects of **participatory housing** (a combination of ownership, economic, and spatial housing solutions) have been launched in selected municipalities in recent years, but the lack of an institutional environment (absence of legislation enabling the creation of permanent participatory housing projects) limits the more intensive use of this concept.

⁷² MoRD (2025) Data o nadměrném zatížení údajů na bydlení (Data on Housing Cost Overburdening). Available [here](#).

Municipal agencies: strengthening the affordability of housing through private renting

Establishment of **municipal rental agencies** that connect homeowners with people in need of housing are one of the tools for promoting affordable housing. Owners lease their apartments through the municipal agencies with lower rents while benefiting from guaranteed regular payments of rent, insurance, and property maintenance. Examples include City rental agency Brno (MNA – Who We Are) or the Liberec city rental agency.⁷³



Availability of public transport

The public transport availability considerably varies across individual regions; it is intensively used especially in metropolitan areas, while accessibility problems persist mainly in inner peripheries and economically and socially disadvantaged areas. A tool to improve transport accessibility in these regions is the development of **'on-demand' connections**, where municipalities are served based on phone reservations, along with other flexible forms of public transportation. In 2024, the Road Transport Act has been amended, allowing the introduction of **demand-responsive public transport**.

The state supports the development of transport infrastructure and the transition of public transport to alternative fuels; special attention is paid to the development of transport services provided by **integrated regional systems** with interconnected timetables, unified conditions, shared tickets, and a common information system. The interconnection between public and individual transport is being developed, for example by establishing park-and-ride car facilities. Cities keep improving transport availability through the investments to the intelligent transport systems and sustainable urban mobility plans.

CITYA – Demand-responsive transport service

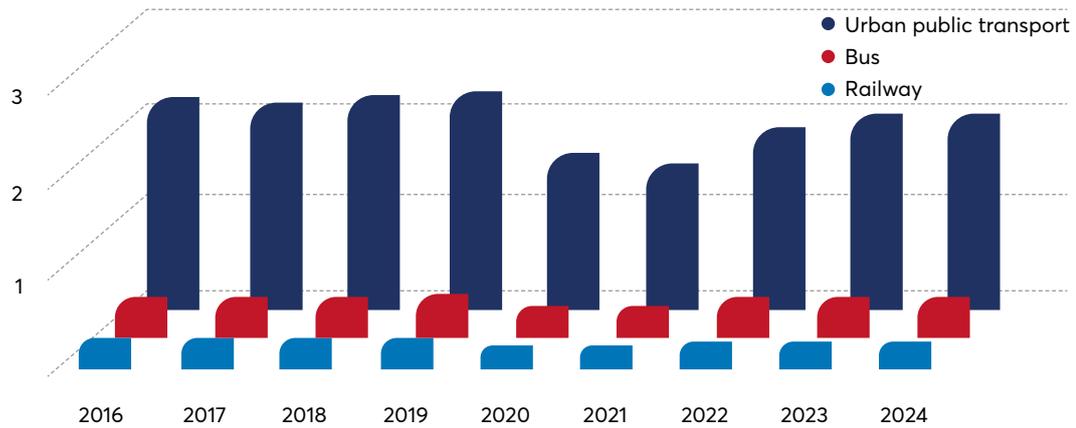
A start-up company that uses smart technology in transportation – demand-responsive public transport adapts to client needs and current passenger demand; it is not determined by fixed routes or timetables.⁷⁴



⁷³ CSO (2025) Data za osobní dopravu (Personal Transportation Data). Available [here](#).

⁷⁴ CITYA (2025) Poptávková doprava na klíč. (On-demand transport.) Available [here](#).

Number of people transported (billion)

Source ⁷⁵

Participatory instruments

Participatory and integrated instruments for sustainable development have become a permanent element of inter-municipal cooperation in achieving the SDGs. Examples include the voluntary associations of municipalities, local action groups, or 'Euroregions'. Various forms of inter-municipal cooperation have been extended in 2024 by a new legal instrument, so-called **Community of Municipalities** institute, whose aim is to strengthen the efficiency of public administration through sharing of administrative staff, provision of public services, or expert knowledge. Their establishment is voluntary and initiated by municipalities themselves and their formal functioning is set out in the Act on Municipalities. Examples of successful projects include the establishment of **joint social service centres**, inter-municipal schools, shared waste collection and transport services, as well as coordinated planning of spatial development, infrastructure, and investments. A notable example is the inter-municipal cooperation in the Malá Haná region in the domain of municipal waste collection. Municipalities forming a voluntary association established the company TS Malá Haná, Ltd., which now serves 50 municipalities and 2 towns, covering approximately 37,000 residents and over 100 businesses⁷⁶.

⁷⁵ CSO (2025) Passenger transport - quarterly data. Available [here](#).

⁷⁶ Technical services Malá Haná. Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **12.2** In the recent years, **material consumption has stabilised and is not growing** but remains above the EU average. In 2023, domestic material consumption (DMC) was 151 thousand tonnes ([data](#)).
- **12.5** The rate of **material recycling has been increasing steadily**. In recent years, the overall waste production has also reduced ([data](#)).
- **12.7** In 2024, the Government approved the National Public Procurement Strategy, which includes, among other things, a chapter on **environmentally and socially responsible public procurement**. The measures focus on ensuring that environmentally and socially responsible procurement becomes the norm.⁷⁶

Material intensity and waste

The material intensity of the Czech economy has a long-term downward trend and decreased by 45.4% in the period 2000–2022⁷⁸. Domestic material consumption in 2023 reached a historic low in the Czech Republic, with a consumption of 13.9 tonnes of raw materials per capita ([data](#)). There is also a **decline in total waste production** starting from 2021, stopping at 37.95 million tonnes ([data](#)) of waste produced in 2023. The quantity of other waste is mainly the generation of construction and demolition waste, especially in connection with investments in the modernisation and construction of transport infrastructure. The use rate of recycled material increased to 12.8% in 2023⁷⁹, surpassing the EU average (11.8%). Material use continues to dominate overall waste management, with a steadily increasing share of 31.9 million tonnes in 2023, representing 84% of total waste production.⁸⁰ The key reforms in the area of waste management includes amendment to the Packaging Act is currently in the passing process, which, if approved, will introduce a system of mandatory retainer for plastic and metal beverage packaging. The goal is to reduce the total amount of waste, reduce it being thrown away in the environment, and thus strengthen the overall elements of the circular economy.

⁷⁷ MoRD (2023) *Národní strategie veřejného zadávání (National Public Procurement Strategy)* (p.38). Available [here](#).

⁷⁸ *Envirometr (2024) Materiálová náročnost hospodářství (Material Intensity of the Economy)*. Available [here](#).

⁷⁹ Eurostat (2024) *Circular Material Use Rate*. Available [here](#).

⁸⁰ MoE (2025) *Odpady v roce 2023 (Waste in 2023)*. Available [here](#).

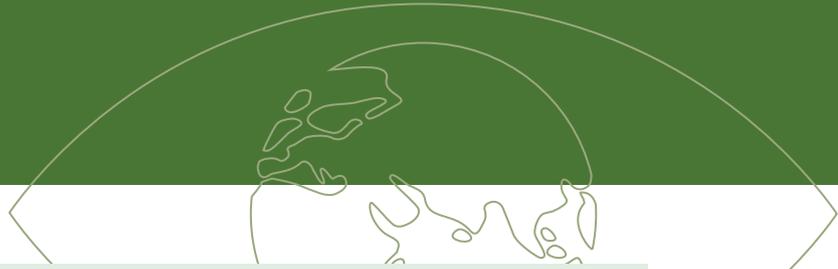
Strategies for sustainable consumption and production

In recent years, the Czech Republic has prepared several key strategic documents to ensure progress in responsible and sustainable consumption, production, and waste management. It has become essential for the circular economy to implement the goals and measures outlined in the **Strategic Framework for the Circular Economy of the Czech Republic 2040**, approved by the government in 2021. Another key strategic document is the **Waste Management Plan**, the review of which for the period 2025–2035 is currently being finalised and which includes the Waste Prevention Programme. In addition, the promotion of sustainable practices is also projected into the National Public Procurement Strategy approved by the Government in 2024. Among other things, the strategy aims to create and further develop an environment that opens the way for environmentally and climate responsible procurement, focusing on low-carbon solutions in construction procurement, blue-green infrastructure in cities, and the circular economy as mitigation measures.

Myco startup

Myco, a Czech biotech startup, has developed an **environmentally friendly packaging material made up of fungal mycelium** and waste from the woodworking or agricultural industry. In terms of production, the material is energy-efficient, inexpensive, and this packaging has no impact on the environment at the end of its lifespan. The industrial deployment of the technology can significantly reduce the amount of plastic packaging and replace it with 100% natural material, which is then easily degradable.





Selected targets:

- **13.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions in the Czech Republic are on the decline** for a long time. In the 2019–2022 period, the figure was around 120 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, with a significant drop to 102 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (excluding LULUCF sector) in 2023 ([data](#)). If including the LULUCF sector, the total emissions of the Czech Republic **in 2023 dropped below 100 million tonnes of CO₂ eq.** for the first time in the country's independent history, specifically to 98.9 Mt CO₂ eq.⁸⁰ The decline is caused by the decarbonisation of the economy. Developments in the forestry sector, which is recovering from the impact of the bark beetle calamity, are also contributing to the reduction in the overall emissions balance. **Emissions in the energy generation, industry, and construction sectors are also falling, but transport emissions are still rising.**
- **13.a.1** The provided and mobilized amounts related to the continuing existing **target of collective mobilization of the developed country commitment of 100 billion USD by 2025** were in 2020 more than 13.5 million USD (300 million CZK), in 2021, more than 13.7 million USD (290 million CZK), in 2022, more than 8.9 million USD (200 million CZK), in 2023, more than 10.1 million USD (220 million CZK) ([data](#)).

Climate finance

The Czech Republic continuously contributes to climate protection projects, and the 2020–2024 period was no exception. From 2024, the Czech Republic **resumed its commitment to contribute to the Green Climate Fund**. For the 2024–2027 period, it has agreed to contribute **1 million USD every year**⁸². Strengthening the resilience also in the context of climate change is one of the priority themes of humanitarian aid and the Czech FDC (Foreign Development Cooperation).

Adapting to climate change

Like other countries, the Czech Republic is facing the **effects of climate change**. It tries to actively tackle these situations and summarises its approach in the **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Czech Republic**⁸³. This Adaptation Strategy builds on international conventions such as the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2013), the Paris Agreement (2015), Agenda 2030 (2015), and the Green Deal for Europe (2019). The aim is to **increase the preparedness** of the Czech Republic for climate change – to reduce the vulnerability and improve the resilience of society and ecosystems to climate change and thus mitigate its negative impacts. Specific measures relate, for example, to **increasing the landscape retention capacity, reducing water and wind erosion** of agricultural land, and **increasing the ecological stability** of forests.

⁸¹ UN (2025) *Czechia. 2025 National Inventory Document*. Available [here](#).

⁸² *Green Climate Fund (2024)*. Available [here](#).

⁸³ MoE (2021) *Strategie přizpůsobení se změnám klimatu u podmínkách ČR (Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Czech Republic)*, Available [here](#).

In December 2024, the Government approved the new **National Energy and Climate Plan of the Czech Republic**⁸⁴, which takes into account the reaching of the climate and energy goals of the EU. It also accounts the current experience of the security and price crisis that the energy sector has faced after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. For example, the new plan **envisages a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990; with shift away from power generation from coal by 2033 and an increase in the share of RES** from the today's 13% to 37% by 2030.

The reviewed **National Clean Mobility Action Plan**⁸⁵, which was approved in 2020 and reflects the latest developments in EU legislation and commitments under international agreements, is tightly related to climate change as well. The reviewed plan aims to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants** from transport. This is to be achieved by **developing infrastructure and promoting low-emission vehicles**. Specific targets are set so that by 2030, up to 500,000 cars will be using the roads in the Czech Republic and their drivers will have up to 35,000 charging stations available.

In parallel with the implementation of specific strategies on climate change, projects to raise awareness of the importance of the topic and the possibilities of solutions are being implemented in the Czech Republic. In 2023, the Ministry of the Environment planned to support **environmental and climate education** with up to 4.2 million EUR (105 million CZK)⁸⁶. These funds were provided to support environmental centres, schools, lifelong learning projects, or entirely new climate-related study programmes.

Water Retention in the Broumov region

The 'Water Retention in the Broumov region' project focuses on **land restoration and water retention** in nature, helping to mitigate the effects of drought. Volunteers, guided by experts, build pools, wetlands, **and stream meanders**. These water features **support biodiversity** and ensure that water is returned to the landscape. In addition to pools, the project also engages in **tree planting and the creation of field boundaries**, which helps to retain water and improve ecological conditions.

Climate Plan of the Capital City of Prague for 2030

For four years now, Prague has been implementing the measures of the Climate Plan.⁸⁶ The climate plan aims in particular to reduce CO₂ in the capital by 45% by 2030 and to **process biodegradable municipal waste using the biogas plant** in the city. The project for the construction of an energy centre at the Prague Central Wastewater Treatment Plant is an exceptional opportunity to **recover heat from treated wastewater** using heat pumps. Other priorities include the **decarbonisation of the bus fleet**, the development of new **tram lines**, the **construction of charging infrastructure for EVs**, the **use of geothermal energy from the construction of a new subway line**, and the preparation of rules for climate-responsible public procurement. Prague communicates its activities and plans with the public, experts, politicians, representatives of the non-profit sector, and civil society through a series of meetings titled 'Prague Climate Dialogue'.

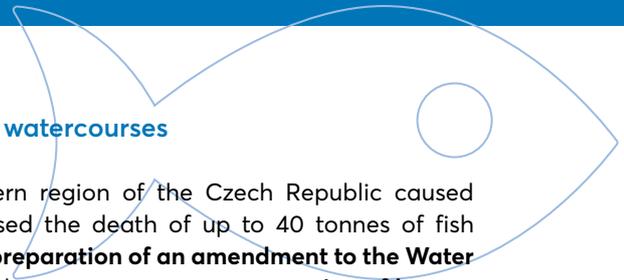
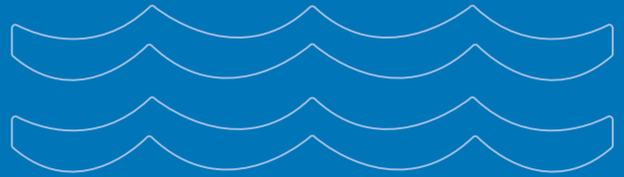


⁸⁴ MoE (2024) *Národní klimaticko-energetický plán (National Climate and Energy Plan)*. Available [here](#).

⁸⁵ MIT (2024) *Národní akční plán čisté mobility (National Clean Mobility Action Plan)*. Available [here](#).

⁸⁶ MoE (2023) *"Rekordních 105 milionů jde na klimatické vzdělávání"* (Record 105 Million Goes to Climate Education) press release. Available [here](#).

⁸⁷ City of Prague (2021) *Klimatický plán hl. m. Prahy (Climate Plan of Capital City of Prague)*. Available [here](#).



Prevention and methodology for dealing with accidents on watercourses

In 2020, an **accident occurred on the Bečva River** in the eastern region of the Czech Republic caused by the **release of a large amount of toxic substances** that caused the death of up to 40 tonnes of fish in a 40km section of river. This has significantly contributed to the **preparation of an amendment to the Water Act** (passed by the government in 2024)⁸⁸, which introduces new rules to ensure **greater protection of human health and the environment**, preserving species diversity and ecological balance. The amendment introduces comprehensive legislative **solutions for the disposal of accidents** on surface waters. It introduces continuous monitoring of wastewater discharges from selected polluters (about 100–200 companies) and establishes a digital register that will gradually include all discharges from surface water pollution sources along more than 100 thousand kilometres of watercourses. It also includes a more thorough application of the 'Polluter Pays' principle, which brings a fivefold increase in fines for those who cause accidents, as well as clear rules for managing accidents.

Volunteer river cleaning

Although the Czech Republic is a landlocked country and does not have access to the sea, it is aware of its **impact on the water pollution in general**. There are several organisations in the Czech Republic⁸⁹ involved in **environmental awareness activities** and coordinate **regular cleaning of watercourses** and their surroundings. This is an established tradition of more than 15 years and have been attended by thousands of volunteers who take out undesirable items from the environment, both from shores and from boats. Schools as well as work teams participate, but so do local interest associations, such as the volunteer fire departments. Through these events, people become more aware of the consequences of littering outside designated areas and develop a closer relationship with the area where they live.

Watercourse care

The **quality of water** in Czech rivers has **improved significantly** in recent decades, mainly due to a significant **increase in the number of wastewater treatment plants**. The Czech Republic even received UN recognition in 2024 for its approach to water protection, water management in municipalities and cities, and for reducing river pollution⁹⁰. Despite this, there are still streams with heavy pollution. **Intensive agriculture remains the primary source of surface water pollution**, mainly due to the excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides. The continuing lack of wastewater treatment and the presence of climatic extremes also have its part on the issue. In terms of prevention, water managers are trying to **monitor discharges into watercourses**. However, some discharges are illegal; thermal imaging is deployed in these cases. In the case of discharges, the usual pollutants such as phosphorus and nitrogen compounds are not the only ones that pose a risk, pharmaceutical residues as an issue as well. Pharmacological substances can threaten the proper development and reproduction of fish and pose a risk to humans as antibiotic residues accelerate the development of ATB-resistant bacteria.

⁸⁸ MoE (2024) "Průlom v české legislativě na ochranu vod. Novelu, která by měla zabránit možnému vzniku havárií, dnes ve třetím čtení schválila Sněmovna." "Breakthrough in Czech water protection legislation. The amendment, which should prevent the possible occurrence of accidents, was passed today by the House of Commons in the third reading" press release. Available [here](#).

⁸⁹ Clean Sázava River (2025) Project Description. Available [here](#).

⁹⁰ MoE (2024) "Czech Republic wins 'Water Oscar' in New York. The UN has praised the progress in water management and the improvement in the state of rivers." press release Available [here](#).

Save Turtle

The 'Save Turtle' project is an initiative of Save Turtle⁹⁰, Czech a non-profit organisation founded in 2017. It focuses on **protecting sea turtles** in their natural habitat, especially on nesting beaches in Indonesia (on the Lembata and Denawan islands) and Sri Lanka. The organization carries eggs to safety, protects nests, and release hatched turtles into the sea. In addition to saving turtles, the project promotes **environmental awareness, education**, and provides advice where needed.



⁹¹ Sea Turtles (2025) Project description available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **15.1 The proportion of forested land to the total area of the state is very slightly increasing.** There was an increase from 37.47% to 38.23% between 2015 and 2023 ([data](#)). The proportion of important areas for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in protected areas has remained basically the same in recent years. For important terrestrial areas, the proportion for 2023 is more than 94% and over 92% for freshwater ([data](#)).
- **15.2 The Czech Republic is continuously heading towards sustainable forest management.** There have been no significant changes in individual indicators in recent years. **The annual addition of forest areas is 0.3%** in the long term ([data](#)). The above-ground biomass stocks in forests have stagnated at 213 t/ha in recent years. **The share of forest in protected areas is 14%** of forest area. Over 90% of forests have a long-term forest management plan. Forests certified by independent certification for sustainable management have exceeded area of 1.8 million hectares.
- **15.4 The proportion of significant mountain biodiversity sites covered under protected areas has not changed significantly in recent years, totalling 97.72% in 2022** ([data](#)).

Conditions of forests

Forests cover roughly a third of the Czech Republic⁹². Their condition is currently not considered good. The negative impact is caused by **monotonous structure and species composition** of forests, which is dominated by coniferous forests (mainly spruce), which cover about 65% of the forest area (natural share is about 35%). Deciduous forests cover only 30% of the forest area (the natural share is estimated at 65%). In recent decades, there is a visible **targeted change in species composition towards a more natural (and more stable) forest structure**, which is done primarily by planting deciduous species instead of conifers.

Following 2015, the **population of bark beetles started to increase** in the Czech Republic, same as in most of Central Europe, due to extremely dry and warm weather. The situation was critical particularly in areas with a high ratio of monoculture spruce stands. **The calamity peaked in 2020–2021 and has been on the decline since then.** However, large-scale tree felling has impacted the overall carbon balance of forests. While Czech forests acted as a carbon sink in previous years, since 2018 this balance shifted from negative to positive values, turning forests into a source of greenhouse gas emissions. With the gradual stabilization of the bark beetle outbreak, a record level of reforestation occurred in affected areas, leading to a return to a negative carbon balance for the LULUCF sector in 2023 (-3.6 Mt CO₂ eq.)⁹³. **Carbon sequestration capacity** of forest ecosystems remains a priority for the coming period. However, long-term soil carbon storage occurs primarily in natural forest ecosystems. In the long run, it is therefore important to support this function by introducing nature-friendly farming methods.

⁹² MoE (2024) Zpráva o stavu ŽP 2023 (Report on the Environment of the Czech Republic 2023). Available [here](#).

⁹³ UN (2025) Czechia. 2025 National Inventory Document. Available [here](#).

The National Recovery Plan, which is linked to the Recovery and Resilience Facility, a key element of the NextGenerationEU initiative, also addresses forest improvement. The funds were directed at **increasing the species diversity of forests in order to increase their resilience and combat drought**. Currently, forestry measures are funded from national and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) resources.

Land degradation – Erosion

Soil degradation in the Czech Republic is mainly caused by erosion. The vulnerability of soil to erosion in the Czech Republic is related to the predominance of **intensive farming with mineral fertilisers**. In addition to loss of soil, washout of soil particles also causes surface water pollution and siltation of water reservoirs. Also, the climate change is increasing the risk of erosion events due to the occurrence of localised rainfall with high intensity after periods of drought⁹⁴.

Structural changes in Czech agriculture are partly addressed through the **eligibility criteria for financial support to farmers**. Among the conditions for receiving the full amount of direct aid is to farm in accordance with **standards of good agricultural and environmental condition** (GAEC 5), while as of 2023, the limits on the size of the continuous area of a single crop are already in place. On soils strongly prone to erosion, the limit is set at 10 hectares, while other soils are limited to 30 hectares (DZES 5g). In addition to the areas severely prone to erosion and areas not threatened by erosion, two new categories of areas with moderate risk of erosion have been defined. The farmers have to choose more environmentally friendly farming methods to protect their fields while preserving their agricultural production. **In the case of violation, they face subsidy cuts**. The CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027 also sets out rules for the conditionality of payments, including measures such as crop diversification, crop rotation, and minimum vegetation cover during the most sensitive periods (winter, post-harvest). As of this year, **new measures have been introduced under the environmental fee system** to encourage farmers to **establish and maintain landscape features and to promote strip cropping**. Climate and environmental fees, including the balance of organic matter on arable land, help increasing organic matter in soils. A methodological guideline is being prepared to further support erosion control measures, selecting appropriate measures and setting out procedures for dealing with erosion events. **Organic farming is also promoted**.

Biodiversity loss

Since 1982, the **number of all common bird species in the Czech Republic has declined** by about 12% overall, with the decline being strongest in the last five to ten years⁹⁵. The greatest decline was recorded in farmland-area bird species, whose population decreased by 46.8% between 1982 and 2023 due to high agricultural intensity. Bird populations are also affected by climate change. The majority of European significant species (59.8%), plants (75.4%), and habitats (79.6%) in the Czech Republic are in poor or unfavourable state. **Tools for active species protection** are being implemented for 16 species of animals and 13 species of plants. The export of CITES protected species is increasing. The most balanced group of animals are birds (especially parrots), followed by reptiles and then amphibians.

⁹⁴ MoE (2024) Zpráva o stavu ŽP 2023 (Report on the Environment of the Czech Republic 2023). Available [here](#).

⁹⁵ MoE (2024) Zpráva o stavu ŽP 2023 (Report on the Environment of the Czech Republic 2023). Available [here](#).

Concept of active tools for species conservation

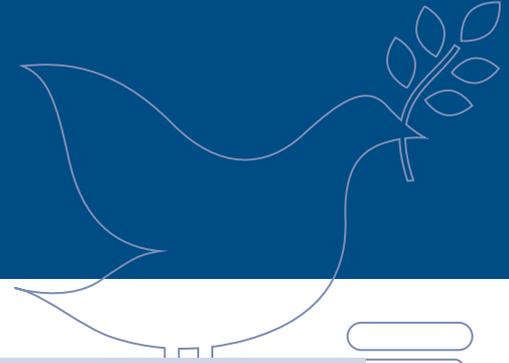
In 2023, the Czech Republic adopted the Concept of Active Species Conservation Tools for 2023–2032, which **defines categories of active species conservation tools** (rescue programmes, care programmes, and regional action plans) and describes criteria for selecting plant and animal species⁹⁶. Firstly, there are **rescue programmes** defined, which focus on stabilising and restoring the population of currently endangered species. Each programme focuses mostly on habitat protection and restoration and may include rescue breeding and release or replanting into the wild. The concept also features **conservation programmes** that focus on ensuring the long-term protection of species that are not in immediate danger of extinction but whose occurrence may conflict with human interests. The concept also addresses **regional action plans**, the possibilities of **securing funding** (from national, European, and international funds) and the importance of **cooperation between different organisations** (e.g. scientific institutions, NGOs, and local authorities). With the rescue programme, for example, the Bohemian Sand Pink was saved from extinction, whose remaining population (numbering about 200 plants in the 1990s) has increased more than forty times, and the population of the species continues to expand.

Bird parks

The Bird Parks project of Czech Ornithological Society aims to **restore and protect natural areas, seeking to increase the biological value of the landscape and promote bird diversity**. These being established over large areas **outside of state-protected areas** and include grazing sites, wetland restoration, grass cutting, and other natural interventions. In addition to saving birds, the project also promotes public access to natural values. There are currently **seven bird parks** with a total area of 691 ha.



⁹⁶ MoE (2023) *Koncepce aktivních nástrojů druhové ochrany* (Concept of Active Tools for Species Conservation). Available [here](#).
COS (2025) *Ptačí parky* (Bird Parks). Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **16.1** The number of completed intentional acts in which one or more persons were killed has been below the threshold of 80 per year (data) for several last years. The number of victims of these acts may be higher, and we know that it was higher in 2023 as a result of the mass shooting at the Faculty of Arts Charles University. The number of victims of this type of violence was below the threshold an average of one victim per 100,000 population until 2022, when methodological changes were made to the indicator. The number of registered acts of physical, psychological, and sexual violence (but not resulting in death) has been stagnating over the long term, at around 10,000 cases per year (data).
- **16.5** The number of criminal offences of bribery by legal entities has long been below 10 cases per year, although some individual years have seen a sharp increase above this level, followed by a decline (data). In the **Corruption Perceptions Index** produced by Transparency International, the Czech Republic has been between 54 and 59 points for the last ten years, while its position has been stagnating.⁹⁶
- **16.a** In the Czech Republic there is no independent national institution dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights that would strictly comply with the Paris Principles (data), but the **Office of the Ombudsman** partially fulfils this role.

Globally speaking, the Czech Republic performs very well on issues related to SDG 16, but in the context of OECD or EU countries, the results are generally rather average, with the degree of progress or ability to maintain its long-term position varying by individual areas.⁹⁸

Striving for effective institutions

Public administration in the Czech Republic fulfils all the basic functions that the European population expects from the state. Same as in other countries, **digitalisation is playing an increasing role** in provision of services (e.g. the Citizen Portal (Portál občana)⁹⁹, eID (eDoklady)¹⁰⁰, and pilot operation of eLegislative (eLegislativa) and eCollection (eSbírka)¹⁰¹, making the applicable and prepared legislation accessible electronically), although compared to the EU average, the progress is less than desirable or slower than anticipated. However, the public services and policies could be much more effective if the Czech Republic were able to tackle three problems: **resortism and lacking strategic management, weak support for structural innovation and weaknesses**

⁹⁷ Transparency International / Corruption Perceptions Index. Available [here](#).

⁹⁸ World Bank (2024) World Wide Governance Indicators, available [here](#); IDEA (2024) Global State of Democracy Report 2024, available [here](#); EIU (2024) Democracy Index 2024, available [here](#); V-Dem Institute (2025) Democracy Report 2025, available [here](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung (2024) Czechia Report 2024 – Sustainable Governance Indicators. Available [here](#).

⁹⁹ Portál veřejné správy (Public Administration Portal). Available [here](#). Portál občana (Citizen Portal). Available [here](#).

¹⁰⁰ eDoklady (eDocuments). Available [here](#).

¹⁰¹ eLegislativa a eSbírka (eLegislation and eCollection). Available [here](#).

in the evidence-informed approach. While the Czech Republic has not made significant progress in addressing the first two issues since the last VNR, and results in the area of policy coherence and strategic management are expected to be brought currently running projects, there is a noticeable tendency towards a change in the evidence-informed approach.¹⁰² A central **Government Analytical Unit** was established, which began to prepare more thorough documents for decision-making of the government, and a number of new analytical units of ministries was established. Work has begun on a complete review of the RIA process to make it compliant with the principles of the EU Better Regulation initiative. The Data Management Strategy in Public Administration was prepared by the government, which envisages the systematic cataloguing of public administration data for analytical purposes. None of these efforts are yet complete and the immediate effects are so far limited.

Political participation as domestic and foreign policy issue

Political power and the form of policies in the Czech Republic are derived from the will of its citizens. **Elections are held at national, regional, and local level.** In the 2021–2025 period, the Czech Republic held elections to the Chamber of Deputies (2021), presidential elections (2023), and elections to regional councils and the Senate (2024). The Czech Republic is trying to improve the representation given by the elections. In 2021, the political representation responded to the decision of the Constitutional Court and amended the legislation to potentially reduce the number of lost votes in the most important of these elections – to the Chamber of Deputies (lower chamber of the Parliament).¹⁰³ In 2024, other changes were also adopted to make it easier to vote (e.g. voting by post¹⁰⁴).

Non-electoral participation, which should give citizens the opportunity to directly participate in the development of specific policies, also takes place to some extent. This is not a system-level setup, and the participation is still rather experimental, from consultations with the public in the process of strategies-making to local-level participatory budgeting. Since 2023–24, some interesting ideas have been discussed, including the common public administration rules for meaningful participation of NGOs a whole-public administration competence centre on participation, or the idea of organising a national citizens' assembly on a specific topic, but these ideas have been fully materialized only to a small extent till now.

The issue of peace, justice, and strong institutions is not pursued by the Czech Republic on the national level only but is also raising issues internationally. Through its activity in **the UN Human Rights Council** (e.g. the 2024 resolution on equal participation in political and public life) as well as through its co-chairing of the **'Pathfinders'** initiative, which unifies countries and international and NGOs with effort to achieve SDG 16. It also continued to implement the **Transition Cooperation Programme**, which helps Czech and local NGOs to implement projects in the 'Eastern Partnership' and the 'Western Balkan' countries. The programme aims to reinforce rule of law institutions, strengthen the independence of the judiciary, civil society, and the media, and to involve young people, women, and disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes.

Charter against Domestic Violence

Certain types of violence (e.g. domestic violence) are latent and is reported to a much lesser extent than they occur actually. Capacity of the state to prevent and detect this type of violence is limited. For that reason, the Czech Republic started a cooperation between the state, NGOs, and businesses in 2023. The Charter against Domestic Violence¹⁰⁴ sets out common principles, facilitates information channels that were previously less frequently used (such as internal procedures in companies) and offers specific assistance (such as Bright Sky app, or connection with relevant NGOs).

¹⁰² MoE (2024), 2. zpráva o kvalitě života a její udržitelnosti (2nd Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability). Available [here](#).

¹⁰³ Act No. 189/2021 Sb., amending Act No. 247/1995 Sb., on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic and on change and amendment certain other acts, as amended.

¹⁰⁴ Act No. 268/2024 Sb., amending Act No. 88/2024 Sb. on the administration of elections, and certain other acts.

¹⁰⁵ ROSA Centrum pro ženy, z.s., Nadace Vodafone a IKEA pod záštitou Úřadu vlády ČR. Charta proti domácímu násilí (Charter against Domestic Violence). Available [here](#).



Selected targets:

- **17.2** There has been an **increase in ODA** over the past period. In 2024, the Czech Republic reported ODA in the amount of **572 million USD** (0.17% of GNP).¹⁰⁵ However, the costs associated with the influx of refugees from Ukraine, which were partly included in ODA in accordance with OECD reporting rules, were a major contributor to this increase.
- **17.14** In 2025, the first **Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) action plan** was adopted. Through it, the institutions concerned will address the issue of institutional embedding of the PCD, building capacity, and identifying the most relevant thematic areas for coherence.

Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid

A **mid-term evaluation of the Foreign development cooperation (FDC) Strategy** was conducted in 2024. In January 2025, an expert roundtable on the topic of global development was held. Among the positives are the linking of humanitarian and development activities, the focus on climate goals and the linking with security issues. On the other hand, inadequate utilisation of existing instruments to support private sector involvement was identified as a challenge. The limited and unpredictable funding is also a deteriorating factor. Some actors also point to the limited staff capacity in development cooperation.

Major actors in development cooperation are still NGOs, businesses, and academic institutions. At the European level, the Czech Republic has joined the **EU Global Gateway** initiative. In cooperation with the UNDP, the Czech Republic operates **Challenge Fund** programme, which aims to mediate the experience and technologies of Czech companies and NGOs, seeking to support the SDG implementation in developing countries. The involvement of businesses in development cooperation is also aided by the **B2B** grant programme and the National Development Bank's guarantee programme. In 2023, the **National Development Bank** was authorised for delegated cooperation with the EU. In the area of development of tools for private sector engagement, the Czech Republic achieved clear development but should continue to seek ways of getting more interests from companies.

The Czech Republic continued with the **Czech Strategy for Global Education 2018–2030**. In 2024, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports approved a revision of the Framework Educational Programmes to include global education in cross-cutting themes such as sustainable environment and society for all.

The current major security, political, and economic challenge for the Czech Republic, the EU and the world is **Russia's aggression against Ukraine**. In 2022, the Czech Republic launched the Humanitarian, Stabilization, Reconstruction, and Economic Assistance Programme for Ukraine 2023–2025. The projects implemented so far has focused on health, energy, and securing urgent needs of internally displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries. The rapid and effective response of the Czech Republic to the impacts of Russian aggression worked well in Ukraine as well as in the Czech Republic thanks to good communication between state and non-state actors. This confirmed the resilience of Czech development actors and positively influenced their further work not only in Ukraine but also in other countries.

¹⁰⁶ OECD, *Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2024 by members of Development Assistance Committee (preliminary data)*. Available [here](#).

Working in international organisations and policy coherence

The Czech Republic contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a member of the UN Economic and Social Council, the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives, and the UN Human Rights Council. During its **Presidency of the EU Council in 2022**, the Czech Republic pushed through key reforms in the areas of climate policy, tightened the emissions trading market rules, and promoted battery recycling. During the Czech Presidency, the EU contributed to reaching an agreement at COP 27 on a mechanism for financing loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change. The Czech Republic, as the chair, also actively supported the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

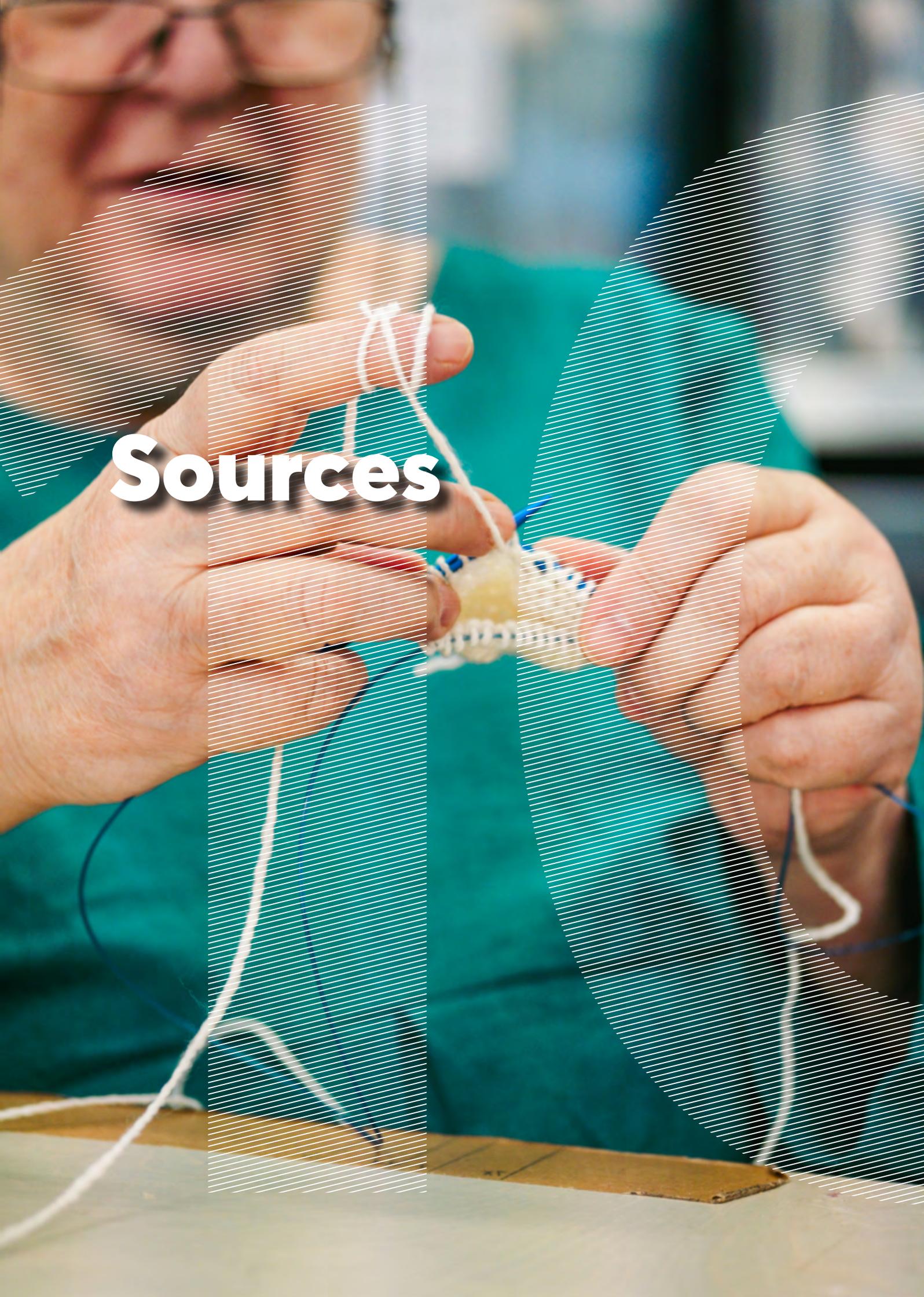
Currently, the Czech Republic does not yet have its own official statistical methodology for calculating **spillover effects**, which would allow to assess e.g. environmental impacts and natural resource use in relation to imports and exports. In the combat against illegal financial flows and tax evasion, which represent another area of potential spillover effects, the Czech Republic is implementing the latest OECD and UN standards and is actively participating in specifying them. In terms of policy coherence for development, the Czech Republic implemented a research project in 2023–2024, which it utilised to adopt its first **PCD Action Plan** for 2025–2027.

The Czech Republic a participant to the **Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)** and has pledged to repay a total of 14.45 million EUR (361.37 million CZK) by 2044, while as to January 2025, it contributed 7.98 million EUR (199.38 million CZK). As a shareholder, the Czech Republic supports the World Bank Group reform process. In connection with the EU anti-money laundering package, the Czech Republic adopted new national legislation in 2024. In the field of international cooperation in tax matters, the country joined the second pillar of the BEPS project within the OECD (introduction of a minimum income tax for corporations) and signed the OECD conventions on exchange of information in response to the development of the digital economy.

People in Need

People in Need (Člověk v tísni) is an international **humanitarian and development organisation working in areas affected by natural disasters, poverty, or conflict**. In 2023, it operated in more than 40 countries with a budget of over 200 million EUR, of which 3.5% is the contribution of the Czech state. Contributions from Czech private donors constituted 11% of the organisation's total budget. People in Need works with over 600 local partners and with a global team of experts on programmes targeting the most vulnerable communities and all SDG areas.





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11 Annexes:

Annex 1: List of acronyms

AI: Artificial Intelligence

BEPS: Base Erosion and Profit Shifting

BMI: Body Mass Index

CAP: EU Common Agricultural Policy

CCUS: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage

CEPIS: *Centrum podnikání, profesních a mezinárodních studií* (Centre for Business, Professional, and International Studies)

CER: Certified Emission Reduction

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

CO₂: Carbon dioxide

COP 27: 27. Conference of the Parties

CZ 2030: Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030

ČR: Czech Republic

CU: Charles University

DMC: Domestic Material Consumption

DZES: Good agricultural and environmental conditions of soils

ESG: measurable criteria to assess and compare sustainability – Environmental, Social and Governance)

ETS: Emissions Trading System

EU: European Union

EUR: Euro

FDC: Foreign development cooperation

FSV: Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

FTE: Full-Time Equivalent

GCSD: Government Council for Sustainable Development

GDP: Gross domestic product

GNI: Gross national income

HHC: Hexahydrocannabinol

HPC: High Performance Computing

HPDA: High-Performance Data Analytics

HSR: High-speed railway

IT: Information Technology

ITU: International Telecommunication Union

LNOB: Leave No One Behind

LULUCF: Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

LUMI: A research consortium of 11 European countries, Large Unified Modern Infrastructure

MDRI: Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

MFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

MLSA: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

MoRD: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic

MEYS: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

MoE: Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic

MoF: Ministry of Finance

MoT: Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic

NRP: National Recovery Plan

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OP TAC: Operational Programme 'Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness'

PCD: Policy Coherence for Development

PPP: Public Private Partnership

QC: Quantum Computing

RES: Renewable Energy Sources

RIA: Regulatory Impact Assessment

RRF: Recovery and Resilience Facility

SCF: EU Social Climate Fund

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

SEEPiA: Strategic Environmental Evaluation and Policy Impact Assessment

UN: United Nations

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNILEAD: 'University Leaders in SDGs – Resources for Change' project

USD: United States Dollar

VNR: Voluntary National Review

WFP: World Food Programme

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

WWTP: Wastewater treatment plant

Annex 2: List of 2030 Agenda indicators used

1.2.1 Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector

3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (age 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill

4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan

7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems

8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

9.4.1 CO₂ emissions per unit of value added

9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

10.7.2 Proportion of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025

15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management.

15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

Annex 3: Czechia and sustainable development in different perspectives

Indicators

All available 2030 Agenda and CR2030 indicators for the Czech Republic are published on the website: www.sdg-data.cz

The screenshot shows the website interface for 'Sustainable Development Goals' in the Czech Republic. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Union logo, 'European Union European Social Fund Operational Programme Employment', and 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Data', 'Agenda 2030', 'CZE 2030', a search icon, and language options 'CZ' and 'EN'. The main content area is split into two columns. The left column is titled 'Agenda 2030' and contains a paragraph explaining the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, followed by a grid of 17 colorful icons representing the Sustainable Development Goals. The right column is titled 'Czech Republic 2030' and contains a paragraph explaining the national strategic framework (CR 2030) and its focus on indicators. Below the text is a circular graphic with 17 segments, each containing a goal icon and a Czech text label.

Agenda 2030

In New York in 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted an action plan for global development goals named Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (or Agenda 2030), as a reaction to an increasingly interconnected world and the need to make it sustainable. The 17 goals that are part of the agenda should be met by all UN Member States by 2030. The goals are balanced by all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. In 2017 a global indicator framework was created to monitor the goals of the 2030 Agenda. In the Czech Republic, data for the individual indicators to evaluate progress in fulfilling the SDGs has been collected since 2019.

Czech Republic 2030

At the national level, the Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework (CR 2030) was developed in 2017. This framework adapted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to the context of the Czech Republic and divided them into 6 key areas, 27 strategic and 97 specific goals, whose fulfillment is monitored by indicators. While Agenda 2030 covers global goals that apply to all member states, CR 2030 focuses on those goals that are relevant to the Czech Republic. CR 2030 represents a fundamental document of the state administration for sustainable development and improvement of the quality of life, and defines decisive areas for long-term development. The fulfillment of CR 2030 should direct our country towards development that will be sustainable from a social, economic and environmental point of view.

Second Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability (2024)

Report assessing the implementation of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 for the period 2021–2023. To analyse progress in strategic and specific goals, a set of indicators available on the website sdg-data.cz, created by the Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA), is used.

The document is available [here](#).

Sustainable Development Report 2024

The latest available version of the Sustainable Development Report, published annually by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#), states for 2024 that the Czech Republic has already met or is on track to meet 58% of the SDG targets. Overall, the Czech Republic was assessed as **the 12th most advanced country out of 167 countries monitored**, with only limited progress on 20% of the SDG targets and insufficient progress on 22%.

SDG Dashboard Czech Republic¹⁰⁷



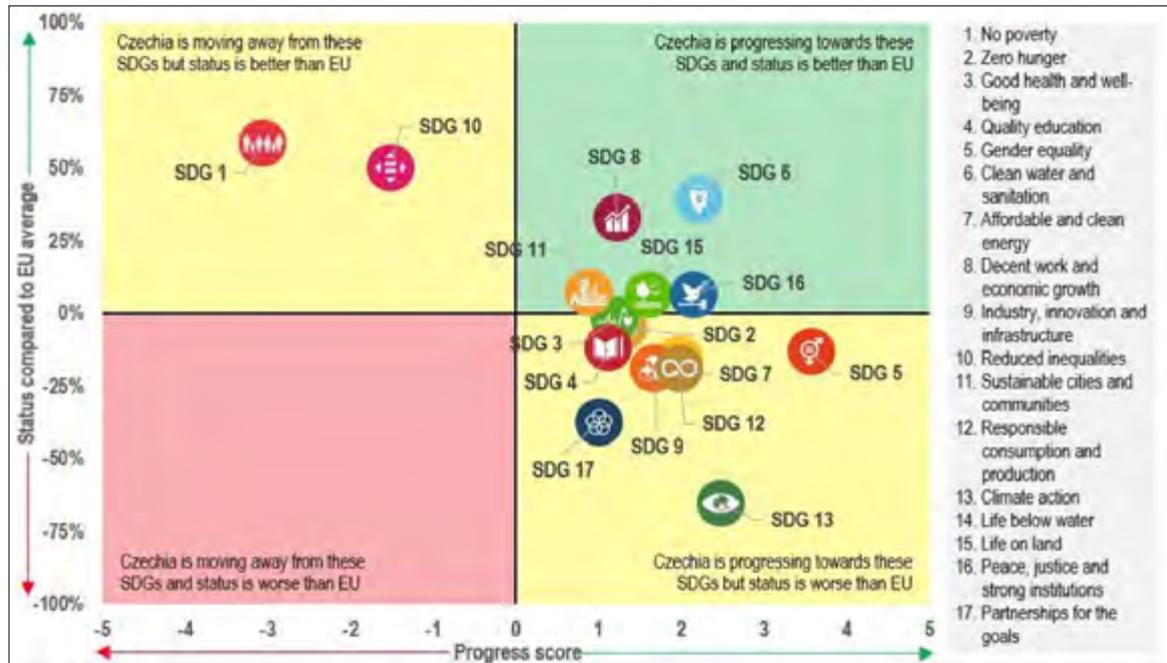
Progress in SDGs implementation according to Eurostat

Since 2020, the European Commission has regularly devoted one of the annexes to the annual Country Reports to an assessment of the implementation of the SDGs in Member States, which is based on data collected by Eurostat. According to the [2025 Country Report](#), the Czech Republic has made progress in all SDGs except for SDGs 1 and 10, for which decline was recorded, but the values of their indicators are above the EU average. However, despite the positive development, most of the Goals (10) still lag behind the EU average and it is necessary to continue to focus on their consistent fulfilment. The y-axis shows the position of the given SDG relative to the EU average, while the x-axis records the growth value of the given goal and whether it is moving towards its fulfilment.

In addition to assessing the status of the SDGs in Member States, Eurostat also evaluates overall progress towards the SDGs in the EU in its annual [Sustainable development in the European Union](#).

¹⁰⁷ Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2024), *The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024*. Available [here](#).

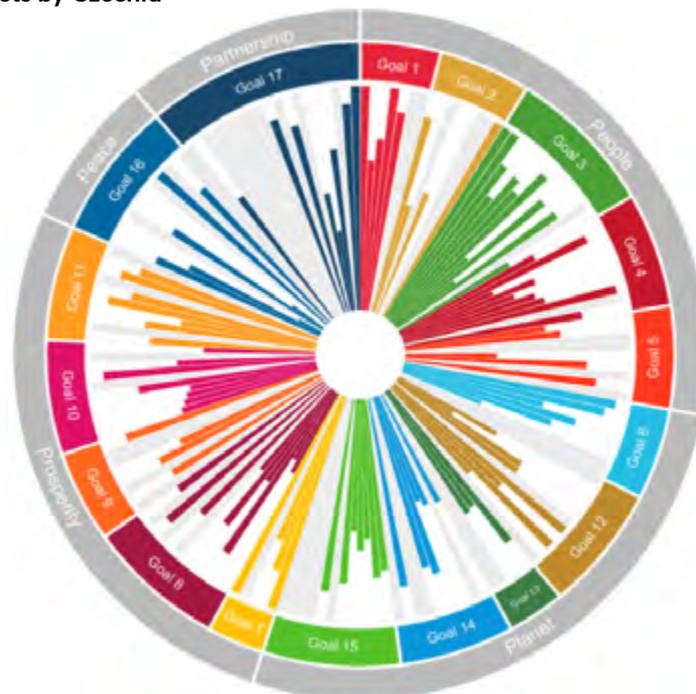
Progress of the Czech Republic in the achievement of SDGs¹⁰⁸



OECD – Measuring the distance to SDGs targets

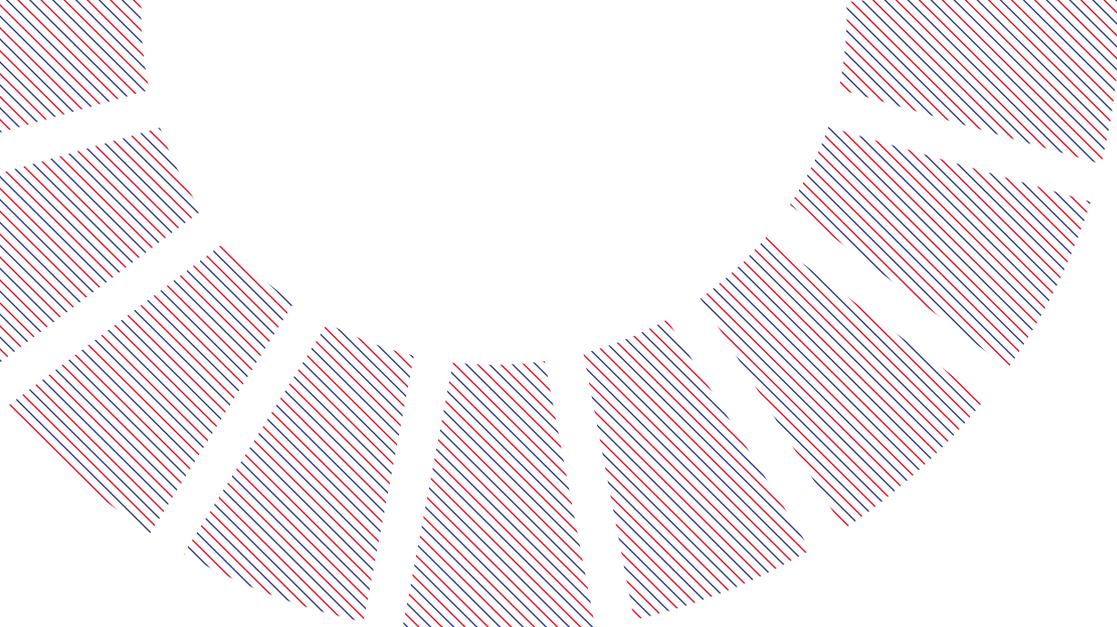
The OECD methodology for measuring the distance to SDG targets examines specific targets and integrates multiple data sources that are aligned with the UN global framework and complemented by OECD datasets, providing greater coverage and granularity. This approach assesses both current performance and trends to estimate future progress. Over the last measurement period, Czechia has moved closer to targets under SDG 1, SDG 3 and SDG 6, while it remains distant from targets under SDG 15, SDG 16 and SDG 17.

Distance to SDG targets by Czechia¹⁰⁹



¹⁰⁸ Eurostat (2025), 2025 Country Report – Czechia. Available [here](#).

¹⁰⁹ OECD (2025). The OECD Hub on Sustainable Development Goals. Distance to SDG targets by OECD country – Czechia. Available [here](#).



17 June 2025

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Collaboration:

Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Regional Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Office of the Government
Czech Statistical Office

Graphics

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Publisher and media owner:

Ministry of the Environment
Vršovická 65
100 10 Prague
CZECH REPUBLIC

Photo credits:

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ISBN 978-80-7212-676-7

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Further information on sustainable development in Czechia can be found at <https://www.cr2030.cz/>



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