

Regional Development Policy in the Czech Republic

General policy approach

The strategic framework “Czech Republic 2030” serves as a guide for the development of regions and municipalities, and forms a basic framework for other strategic documents on national, regional and local levels. Additionally, the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic (2014–20) sets objectives for regional development and helps to inform the new strategy after 2020.



The Czech Republic’s National Development Priorities guide the use of European Cohesion Funds for the 2014–20 period – the main financing source for the country’s regional development policy. Many of the investment priorities focus on transport, business development and environmental sustainability.

The Principles of Urban Policy, updated in 2017, is a framework document which proposes guidelines for sustainable urban development and aims to co-ordinate the approach taken by the different levels of government.

Rural development policy focuses on the competitiveness of agricultural businesses and the food industry, as well as other programmes for rural regeneration.

Recent policy changes

- There is an increasing focus on improving capacity at the subnational level, as well as the use of information technologies for monitoring and evaluation processes of regional policy. New monitoring indicators were introduced in 2016.
- During the EU 2014–20 programming period, two main types of instruments are used to better target resources from Structural Funds: 1) individual instruments aimed at specific regions; and 2) integrated instruments, including integrated territorial investments, integrated plans for territorial development and community-led local development. The Czech Republic already successfully implements integrated instruments in urban areas using seven integrated territorial investments and six integrated plans for territorial development strategies covering all regional growth poles in the Czech Republic (based on the functional urban areas approach).
- Community-led local development is implemented to support the local needs of rural areas and co-operation among stakeholders at the local level through local action groups. One hundred seventy-eight local action group strategies cover almost all rural areas in the Czech Republic and receive funding from four operational programmes.
- The Concept of Rural Development is currently being prepared and will define the general objectives and guidelines to support rural development.
- The Principles of Urban Policy were updated in 2017 in order to strengthen the role of cities in strategic planning, in line with the European Spatial Development Perspective, the EU Territorial Agenda, the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities and the Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

At the national level, the Czech Republic uses strategic vision documents, action plans, technical planning strategies and a working group on rural development to prepare regions for megatrends. The Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic after 2020, for example, is a forward-looking policy instrument that determines key territorial objectives, co-ordinates sectoral policies according to a place-based approach and aligns local development needs to national priorities.

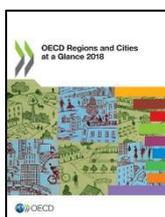
Two additional forward-looking documents containing important regional elements and complementing the Regional Development Strategy are the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic and the National Concept of Cohesion Policy Implementation in the Czech Republic. The Spatial Development Policy focuses on the co-ordination of departmental policies and the physical planning of regions and municipalities. The National Concept of Cohesion Policy Implementation, on the other hand, takes into account aspects such as the quality of prepared strategies, global and national trends, and the urgency of the topic. It includes regional, rural, urban and sector-specific policies.

Other national-level strategies include a working group on rural development, which undertakes research, co-ordinates policy instruments and financial support, and assists the development of strategic documents.

At the regional level, subnational governments are required to prepare regional development programmes. These programmes serve as medium- to long-term planning documents and co-ordinate public and private economic, social, cultural and environmental activities in the region.

Looking for statistical information to complement this?

Take a look at our publication Regions and Cities at a Glance:



<https://oe.cd/pub/2n9>

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vq>.

