



## THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Name of national urban policy	<i>Principles of Urban Policy (Zásady urbánní politiky)</i>
Date of national urban policy	2010
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Ministerial guidance
Previous/secondary policies	<i>2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy</i>
Stage of development	Diagnostic/drafting <i>Principles of Urban Policy</i> : first version published 2010, to be updated from 3Q/2016
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Last step: Government resolution No. 344, from 15 May 2013 Before that the urban policy had been a part of the <i>Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2007-2013</i> (according to the Act No. 248/200 Coll. on Support to Regional Development) The <i>Principles of Urban Policy</i> were participatory prepared by the National Working Group on Regional Development Strategy
Implementing body	Ministry of Regional Development
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	Not applicable
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	No information available

### Current national urban policy

The Czech Ministry of Regional Development produced the *Principles of Urban Policy (Zásady Urbánní Politiky)* in 2010 (OECD, 2015). It is a framework document that provides guidance and aims to help co-ordinate urban development activities at all levels of government and to link existing sectoral policies with urban policies. It contains six principles:

1. the regional nature of urban policy, including linking urban and regional policy and supporting urban-rural linkages;
2. polycentric development of the population pattern, including co-ordinating land-use planning at multiple levels of government, promoting urban networks and strengthening relationships between cities and towns of various sizes;
3. strategic and integrated approach to urban development, including co-ordinated urban development activities carried out by national ministries and regional governments;
4. promotion of the development of towns as development poles in a territory, including policies to foster entrepreneurship, research and innovation, infrastructure, affordable housing, social cohesion and tourism;
5. care for the urban environment, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change, sustainable resource use, and the protection of green spaces and green belts; and
6. the deepening of co-operation, the creation of partnerships, and the exchange of experience in sustainable urban development, including stakeholder dialogues,

urban-rural partnerships and information-sharing (Czech Ministry of Regional Development, 2010).

### Previous national urban policy and developments

Before the *Principles of Urban Policy*, urban policy was integrated in the *Regional Development Strategy* of the Czech Republic. The *Principles* still emphasise that a regional approach is the natural approach to address urban issues. The document was created as a stand-alone guidance and co-ordination document, as it was not considered possible to change the *2007-2013 National Development Plan*. The *Principles* laid the groundwork for the creation of a comprehensive national urban policy after 2013 (Czech Ministry of Regional Development, 2010). To date, work on a comprehensive national urban policy has not begun (Dodson et al, 2016). However, the *Principles* provide an example of how the act of diagnosing a need for a national urban policy can, in itself, help define urban problems and point to the areas that an eventual national urban policy would need to address (Dodson et al., 2015). Furthermore, the *2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy* has an urban dimension, which emphasises considering cities in the context of functional urban areas and the importance of urban-rural linkages (OECD, 2014). The *Principles* will be updated in conjunction with the upcoming Urban Agenda for the European Union (OECD, 2015); the process to be commenced in second half of 2016.

### Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>Principles of Urban Policy</i>
Economic development	Moderate
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Low
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Low

### Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Principles of Urban Policy* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

## Bibliography

- Czech Ministry of Regional Development (2010), *Principles of Urban Policy*, Ministry of Regional Development, Prague, [www.mmr.cz/getmedia/f333120b-88d5-4bd8-bec9-dd58a26f9812/principles\\_of\\_urban\\_policy.pdf](http://www.mmr.cz/getmedia/f333120b-88d5-4bd8-bec9-dd58a26f9812/principles_of_urban_policy.pdf) (accessed 1 June 2016).
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