

EU SDS MEMBER STATES' INPUT

1. General Information/Introduction

The Czech Republic

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The **basic documents** in the area of SD in the Czech Republic are as follows:

The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development, adopted by Govt. Res. No. 1242 of 8 December, 2004;

The First Progress Report on the CR Strategy for Sustainable Development, November, 2005;

The Second Progress Report on the CR Strategy for Sustainable Development, October, 2006.¹

In 2007, the CGCSD prepares a revision of the national SD strategic document (see chapter 6.2. of this report).

2. SDS Policy Guiding Principles

The Czech Republic SDS of 2004 contains the guiding starting points (the preservation of a representative democratic political system and economic system based on a market economy, and an anthropocentric approach based on the belief that the position of humankind in nature is exceptional; the principle of respect for human life (the ethical principle), nature and the values of civilisation and culture) and formulates a set of 28 guiding principles, reflecting the EU SDS ones and partially developing them. Moreover, the Strategy refers to the CR international obligations.

3. Progress on EU SDS key challenges

3.1. Climate change and clean energy

<p><u>Overall Objective</u>: To limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment</p>
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Legislative and Other Main Actions

-Act No. 458/2000 Coll., On Business Conditions and Execution of Public Administration in the Energy Sectors, as amended by Act. No.670/2004 Coll.;

-Act No. 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management, as amended (under this Act, a framework document approved by the Govt. in four year period - National Programme for Economical Energy Management and Use of Renewable and Secondary Energy Sources for 2006-2009, total amount of allocated funds CZK 8 billion; followed by annual state implementation

¹ See: http://www.env.cz/AIS/web-en.nsf/pages/sustainable_development_on_national_level.

programmes to realise the goals of State Energy Policy in terms of project financing. Priorities and targets of the National Programme: maximisation of energy effectiveness and electricity effectiveness and the use of energy savings, higher use of renewable and secondary energy sources, higher use of alternative fuels in transport. Increase of energy effectiveness by 2,6% per year and energy savings by 11 PJ per year, contribution to the meeting of targets in the area of use of renewable sources of energy and transport biofuels. Amendment No. 177/2006 Coll., on Energy Efficiency in Buildings.

-Act No. 76/2002 Coll., On Integrated Prevention (IPPC) of March 1, 2002 - sections referring to the energy sector (electricity generating plants, heat plants, refineries and coke plants, sources and consumption of energy.)

-Act No. 86/2002 Coll., On Air Protection and amending some other acts, as amended;

-Act No. 695/2004 Coll., On Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme and amending some other acts, as amended;

-National Programme to Mitigate Climate Change, Govt. Res. No.187 of 3 March, 2004 with indicative targets for GHG reductions;

-State Energy Policy, Govt. Res. No. 211 of 10 March, 2004 specifies state priorities and objectives during the next 30 years, to be evaluated at three-year intervals. 2007 evaluation, according to Minister Riman statement, promises significant changes. The main goals are as follows: maximum independence from foreign energy sources, safety of energy including nuclear safety, optimising the share of nuclear energy within a safe long-term energy mix, sustainable development, energy efficiency, maximal energy utilisation, high efficient energy technologies, savings of energy, promotion of all types of renewable and secondary sources of energy, completing the transformation and liberalisation of energy sector.

-Governmental Decree No. 315/2005 Coll., on National Allocation Plan for period 2005 – 2007, as amended by Governmental Decree No. 354/2006 Coll.;

-Act No. 180/2005 Coll., On Support of Use of Renewable Sources of Energy and amending some other acts, as amended, regulating the rights and obligation of participants in the renewable electricity market and conditions of support for purchase and registration of electricity production from renewable sources. To meet an indicative target of 8% share of electricity from renewable sources in the gross consumption of electricity by 2010.

New Actions

-Govt. Res. No. 1400 of 6 December, 2006 on National Allocation Plan for period 2008- 2012 - 509,5 mil. MT of CO₂, a document presented to the EC in January, 2007²;

-Govt. Res. No. 25 of 3 January, 2007 on Strategy of Implementation of Environmental Tax Reform to be realised in three phases: 2008-2009, 2010-2013, 2014-2017³.

-Preparing a national negotiating position toward EC Spring 2007 conclusions on GHG emissions reduction and EPE energy mix.

² Under the EC-imposed NAPs, Czech industry will be allowed to emit 86,8 mil. MT of CO₂ annually between 2008-12, instead of the 101,9 mil. MT proposed by the CR. On 25 May, 2007, the CR announced it is going to sue the EC over its decision to downsize the CR NAP for the second phase of the EU emission trading scheme.

³ On 23 May, 2007, the Czech Government approved the final version of the first phase of its environmental tax reform as a part of the reform law to stabilise public budgets. Coal and electricity used for local household heating will be subject to energy excise duty. The reform will exempt from an energy tax households heated by natural gas and by energy coming from cogeneration units. Also exempt will be power and heat from renewable energy sources, methane and nitrogen fuel cells. There will be zero excise duty rate for the use of CNG in vehicles. Electricity used to power public transport will not be taxed.

-Second Report to the EC (completed July 2006) on the Status of Implementation of Requirements arising from the Provisions of Directives 2003/54/EC, 2003/55/EC and 2004/67/EC concerning common rules for internal market in electricity and gas and also Directive 2004/67/EC concerning measures to safeguard security on natural gas supply. The CR reports full liberalisation of its market in electricity and partly opening up in gas. Relevant legislative environment has been improved, significant organisational changes in the position of key participants in the local market have been made. In 2007, as expressed during the EC Spring session, the CR became an opponent of further unbundling.

-Amendment to the Air Protection Act, starting production of combined transport fuels (2-4,5% of fuel should consist of biofuels as of 1 September, 2007) – currently considered by the Parliament.

Quantified targets-binding targets

Fulfilment of international commitments under the UN FCCC Kyoto Protocol (CR ratified on November 15, 2001, avg. annual GHG emissions 2008-12 180,58 MT CO₂eq to achieve the reduction by 8% compared to 1990.) Participation in the clean development mechanism.

Under the Treaty of Accession, the CR committed itself to achieve the target of 8% share of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy in gross national electricity consumption in 2010.

Indicative targets (National Programme to Mitigate Climate Change, 2004; State Energy Policy, 2004)

Reduction of GHG emissions by 25% between 2013-2020 compared to 2000, reduction of CO₂ emissions by 30% between 2013-2020 compared to 2000.

Acceleration and subsequent stabilisation of the annual rate of fall of the energy intensity of GDP creation by 3.0-3.5% (41% between 2005-2030). Avoiding an increase in the absolute value of consumption of primary energy sources. Economic growth mainly supported by increased energy efficiency.

Acceleration and subsequent stabilisation of the annual rate of fall of the electricity intensity of GDP creation by 1.4 – 2.4% .

Achieving the following primary energy consumption structure by 2030: solid fuel 30-32 %; gas fuel 20-22%; liquid fuel 11-12%; nuclear fuel 20-22%; renewable sources 15-16%.

Maintaining limits for dependence on energy imports: in 2010 max.: 45%, in 2020 max.: 50%, in 2030 max.: 60%.

Complying with binding EU emissions limits in 2010 (SO₂ 265 000 MT, NO_x 286 000 MT, VOC 220 000 MT).

Indicators

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following air and energy-related indicators have been used: **Energy Intensity of GDP, Total Primary Energy Supply, Share of Energy from Renewable Sources; CO₂ equivalent emissions per capita, CO₂ equivalent emissions per unit of GDP .**

3.2. Sustainable transport

Overall Objective: To ensure that our transport systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment.

Main Legislative and Other Conceptual Documents:

- Act No. 266/1994 Coll., On Railways, as amended;
- Act No. 77/1997 Coll., on the State Transport Policy of the Czech Republic for 2005-2013;
- Act No. 111/1994 Coll., on Road Transport, as amended ;
- Act No. 13/1997 Coll., on Land Communications, as amended;
- Act No. 49/1997 Coll., on Civil Aviation and on Amendment and Supplement to Act No. 455/1991 Coll., on Licensed Trade;
- Act No. 114/1995 Coll., on Inland Navigation, as amended;
- Act No. 61/2000 Coll., on Maritime Navigation;
- Act No. 104/2000 Coll., on the State Fund of Transport Infrastructure, with indicative target to secure resources for SFTI on the level of 2.5% of GDP in line with EU recommendations.
- National Road Safety Strategy (2004-2010), Govt. Res. No.394 of 28 April, 2004, with the goal of halving road transport death by 2010 compared to 2002;
- National Strategy of Bicycle Transport Development in the CR, Govt. Res. No.678 of 7 July, 2004, with the goal of 50% growth in length of bicycle routes by 2010;
- Transport Policy of the Czech Republic for 2005-2013, Govt. Res. No. 882 of 13 July, 2005, a basic strategic document setting a medium term direction, followed by GEPARDI-The General Transport Infrastructure Development Plan of 2006 for the years 2007-2013, a sectoral document aimed at a detailed plan of transport infrastructure development including financial modelling based on three pillars: transport forecast (DOPROG), transport infrastructure financing methodology (MEFIDO), innovative technologies (INOTECH).
- Concepts and Programmes for Combined Transport Support for 2005-2010, Govt. Res. No.1290 of 5 October, 2005.

New Actions:

Introduction of a toll system on CR highways as of 1st January, 2007 (920 km).

Preparation of an official CR position toward the EU strategy on CO₂ emissions from light duty vehicles, where the average new car fleet should achieve CO₂ emissions of 140 g/km (2008-2009) and 120 g/km (2012)⁴.

March 2007 initiative of the Minister of Transport to start and implement pilot projects financed through the PPP method in order to accelerate the highway network construction in the CR.

⁴ On 16 May, 2007, the Czech government specified the position of the Czech Republic; it agrees with the introduction of binding limits for CO₂ emissions from passenger cars and vans by 2012 to the level of 120 CO₂/km, on condition the EU Council acknowledges that the voluntary agreement of European car makers with the EC is not sufficiently effective.

Quantitative Targets

Indicative quantitative targets contained in the Transport Policy of the CR for 2005-2013 are generally in line with EU sustainable transport strategies and are of two groups - limits and trends- to be evaluated in 2010, resp 2013 (management of the growing transport demand and globalization effects, decoupling of economic growth and the transport demand and reduction of environmental impacts, achievement of a balanced division of transport modes, internalisation of external costs of transport, creation of public logistic centres esp. of that connected to rail and inland waterway transport, significant reduction of imports of used vehicles, reduction of pollutant emissions and noise from transport at source and by mitigation measures and constant reduction of the share of population exposed to excessive noise and air pollution, introduction of telematic systems facilitating solution of congestion problems, technical road safety measures, improvement of the quality of transport activities in passenger and freight transport, start of a shift from road to rail and other).

The strategic lines and means of implementation of the Transport Policy as well as of its sustainable aspects are⁵: investments in upgrades of existing rail and road infrastructure; substantial increase of the share of finished railway corridors and length of motorways and highways (number of finished connections between urban centres of international significance, and between urban centres of national significance and closest urban centres of international significance within territory of the CR); investments into transport infrastructure for environment protection; development of bicycle routes for cycling transport; financing research and development – to increase expenditures gradually until 2013 to the level common in EU 15 countries; improvement of the transport safety.

Good Practice Cases

The Integrated Transport System (PID) in Prague, developed through introduction of new rail cross-connections. The share of population living in a territory included into the integrated transport system should be 70% by 2010, 90% by 2013.

In 2007, a voluntary agreement among the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Environment and leading gas industry companies on acceleration of CNG filling stations opening was concluded.

For public transport, UTIS (Unified Transport Information System) is being implemented in such areas as information and telematic technologies, optimisation of public funds utilisation, improvement of quality and reliability by transport system integration, alternative fuels, environment protection and help to handicapped and elderly people.

Indicators:

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following transport-related indicators have been used: **Passenger Transport Intensity, Freight Transport Intensity**. Since 2003, the development of transport performance proves a decrease in transport intensity, either through more efficient transportation or a significant growth in the GDP. As concerns the modal split, automobile transport continues to be dominant, whereas the performance of public transport has been decreasing. The transportation development is therefore not optimal; nevertheless, the situation has been improving slightly over the previous years.

⁵ The Transport Policy of the CR for 2005-2013.

<http://www.mdcr.cz/en/Strategy/Transportation+Policy+for+2005+--+2013/>

3.3. Sustainable consumption and production

Overall Objective: To promote sustainable consumption and production patterns

Conceptual Documents, Legislation

- National Programme of Cleaner Production, approved by the Govt. Res.No.165 of 9 February, 2000, elaborating the use of voluntary instruments;
- Govt. Res. No 720 of 19 July, 2000 in support of purchase and use of environmentally sound products by public administration; esp. products marked with the label „Environmentally Friendly Product“;
- Waste Management Plan of the CR for 2003-2012, Govt. Res. No. 197 of 4 July, 2003;
- State Environmental Policy of the CR for 2004-2010, Govt. Res. 235 of 17 March, 2004.
- Framework of Programmes on SCP in the Czech Republic, approved by the CGCSD on 14 June, 2005, defined the following strategic priorities: education and transfer of information, integration of objectives of policies, strategies and programmes, eco-efficiency throughout the life-cycle, local SCP initiatives, sustainable public administration and change of market conditions⁶. In 2006-2008, the SCP Framework of Programmes is being developed through the following action plans: Education for SCP, Sustainable Use and Productivity of Resources, Energy Efficiency, Eco-agriculture and Biofood, Sustainable Public Administration, Market Conditions, Sustainable Transport, Quality of Life.
- Programme of Support for Environmental Technologies in the CR, Govt. Res. No. 181 of 22 February, 2006, with the objective to coordinate support for these technologies and define the necessary measures and instruments;
- National Programme on Eco-Labelling Scheme, Govt. Res. No. 26 of 3 January, 2007.
- Act No. 76/2002 Coll., on Integrated Prevention, which provides an opportunity to seek for additional ways to reduce environmental pollution and risks to human health through better use of resources, increased energy efficiency and use of BAT. Regulations also apply to the design of products and use of certain materials, mainly with regard to the safety of consumers and the environment;
- Act No. 137/2006 Coll., On Public Procurement (supplier's EMS registration and/or other relevant CR and EU certificates listed among the evaluating criteria in the field of construction works according to § 63, possibility of including social criteria – handicapped employees).

New Actions and Measures

Draft of the CR Govt's programmes as “Sustainable Public Administration”, “Eco-agriculture and Biofood” and “Sustainable Transport” and their implementation;

In 2007, methodological research on material flows under the auspices of the Czech Government Council for SD has been started.

By 2008, introduction of LCA model assessment for electric appliances and for construction sector.

For 2008-2009, a huge CGCSD-organised and government-sponsored SCP campaign in central media is under preparation.

Recently, the liability of producers within the life-cycle of products has been significantly extended to apply also at the end of the life-cycle; producers are compelled to project the SCP objective related to the closing of the loop of material flows into the design of their products.

⁶ See: „ SCP Framework”. [http://www.env.cz/AIS/web-pub.nsf/\\$pid/MZPAMFCFL1HK](http://www.env.cz/AIS/web-pub.nsf/$pid/MZPAMFCFL1HK)

Quantitative Targets

The main quantitative targets already formulated: to reduce energy consumption within the economy per unit of GDP by 40% by 2020⁷, to achieve at least the EU 27 average level of the material consumption to GDP till 2020⁸; the Waste Management Plan of the CR for 2003-2012 raises the proportion of secondary resources use (esp. of municipal waste – up to 50% till 2010 compared to 2000).

In order to stimulate the use of environmental technologies, the above mentioned programmes and concepts contain a mix of legislative, economic and voluntary instruments based on international experience and are generally in line with EU policies, even when they don't contain strict quantitative targets. Economical approach and innovation leading to a more effective use of materials and energy in the production and consumption system will continue to play a key role in achieving the objectives of SCP. Still, production in the CR is burdened by imbalanced and energy-demanding structure of the economy, by environmentally harmful subsidies, insufficient regard to external costs and the principles of SCP.

Public administration bodies, institutions and NGOs specialised in consumer protection may play a positive role in changing the patterns of consumption toward SCP, in promoting social responsible investment with SCP principles.

Good Practice Cases

The number of companies active in the area of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) increases. Database of good CSR practise in the CR is available on the web pages of BLF (Business Leaders Forum)⁹.

Eco-management schemes (ISO 14001 standard; in late April 2005, there were 1,400 undertakings with ISO 14001 registered in the CR, 18 with EMAS).

Cleaner production experience in the CR (46 companies in the CR in the 1990s showed how preventative measures integrated in the production process can combine environmental and economic effects. Using these measures, the companies significantly reduced the amounts of produced waste and pollution, at the same time reducing their production costs (by approximately 1% of turnover on average). Non-investment organisational measures provided average savings of approximately CZK 1 million per business.

Indicators

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following SCP-related (or partly-related) indicators have been used: **Material Consumption, Energy Intensity of GDP, Material Use of Waste**. Accelerated introduction of modern technologies with lower requirements as to material inputs and producing less waste, an increase in the extent of recycling, is of key importance.

3.4. Conservation and management of natural resources

Overall Objective: To improve management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources,
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⁷ See The Programme Declaration of the CR Government, January 17, 2007. <http://www.vlada.cz/defaultEN.html>

⁸ The draft of the Renewed CR Strategy on SD, May 2007, available only in Czech

⁹ <http://www.blf.cz>

Main Legislation and Other Conceptual Documents

- Act No. 44/1988 Coll., On Protection and Extraction of Minerals (Mining Act), as amended;
- Act No. 388/1991 Coll., on the State Environmental Fund of the CR;
- Act No. 114/1992 Coll., On Nature and Landscape Protection¹⁰, defining six categories of specially protected areas, protection of the most endangered species, as amended by Act No. 218/2004 Coll. on the establishment of the system of protected areas under Natura 2000;
- Act No. 334/1992 Coll., On Protection of Agricultural Soil Fund, as amended;
- Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on Forests as amended;
- Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on Organic Agriculture, as amended;
- Act No. 164/2001 Coll., On Natural Healing Resources, Natural Mineral Water Sources, Natural Health Resorts and Health Resorts Amending Some Related Acts (Health Resort Act), as amended;
- Act No. 254/2001 Coll., On Waters and Amending Some Other Acts (Water Act), as amended.
- Act. No. 86/2002 Coll., On Air Protection (The Clean Air Act), as amended;
- Act No. 346/2005 Coll., amending Act No. 78/2004 Coll. (on Handling of the Genetically Modified Organisms), on the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms and Genetic Products;
- Act No. 100/2005 Coll., on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- State Environmental Policy of the CR for the years 2004-2010 (SEP)¹¹, Govt. Res. No. 235/2004 of 17 March, 2004; focused on four priority areas¹², further elaborated in specific programmes and plans.
- State Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Programme of the Czech Republic, approved by the Governmental Resolution No. 415/1998.
- National Biodiversity Strategy of the CR, approved by Gov. Res. No. 620/2005 of 25 May, 2005, as a fundamental inter-departmental material on biodiversity protection¹³.

New Actions

Preparation of an unified act on environmental protection aimed at transparency of the law.
Addressing challenges to biodiversity from climate change and pollution.
Since 2006, development of interdisciplinary science and approaches in conservation-agroecology at the Faculty of Agriculture, South Bohemian University.

¹⁰ The Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on Protection of Nature and the Landscape implements both European directives (Habitats 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 79/409/EEC) and therefore regulates procedures to establish and protect Natura 2000 in the CR. There are 863 pSCI (proposed sites of Community Importance) approved in the CR by the Government on 22 December 2004, they are on the Czech National List of proposed sites of Community Importance. There are also 38 SPA approved in the CR. More information: <http://www.natura2000.cz>.

¹¹ See The Report on the Environment in the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Environment, 2006. These reports have been published on an annual basis since 1991. Since 1999, the Ministry of the Environment has been responsible for the preparation of the report pursuant to Act No.123/1998 Coll., on the Right to Information on the Environment.

¹² Priorities: protection of nature, landscape and biodiversity; sustainable exploitation of natural resources, flows of material and waste disposal; environment and quality of life; protection of the climate system of the Earth and the reduction of long-distance transfer of pollution.

¹³ See: The Third National Report of the CR to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ministry of the Environment, Oct.2005. http://chm.nature.cz/cooperation/fo1605719/fo1397575/Third_National_Report_CR_full_text.zip (Charts, tables and explanation text related to all items of the CBD).

Preparation of an updated version of the State Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Programme of the Czech Republic.

Quantitative Targets

National targets in the field of conservation and management of natural resources have been established in SEP and NBS corresponding to the EU and to global targets – especially the 2010 target to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010; specific national targets have been added¹⁴. Species Survival/Recovery Programmes have been prepared for specially protected species of flora and fauna to reduce their level of danger (currently 5 of them approved by the MoE, others in preparation. Programmes attempt to create conditions of such a management of their populations that should lead to a reduction of the degree of risk which is caused to them¹⁵. In order to conserve biodiversity, it is important to provide effective and comprehensive conservation of fauna and flora species including their habitats and the whole ecosystems in which these species occur. The landscape fragmentation and loss of natural habitats due to transport infrastructure construction and other human facilities are among the biggest problems to deal with.

The National Programme on Conservation and Use of Genetic Resources of Flora, Fauna and Microorganisms important for nutrition, agriculture and forest management adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture has become a fundamental mechanism in the genetic resources conservation since the 2003 when it came into force. It is closely linked to the CBD, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, FAO, 1999 and other international obligations dealing with the issue of ABS – the access and benefit sharing. The CR is one of the foremost countries in the world which has such a comprehensive systems in the area of the conservation of genetic resources for nutrition and agriculture¹⁶.

In 2004, Ministry of Agriculture adopted the CR Action Plan for the Development of Organic Farming for 2004-2010 (Govt.Res. No.237/2004 of 17 March, 2004), aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Czech agriculture in the EU with emphasis on the management of the landscape and on positive influence on nature. The goal is to achieve a share of 10% of the organic farming land of total agricultural land by 2010¹⁷.

The SEP 2004-2010 contains an integrated and coordinated approach for landscape, water, air and soil protection and management. The SEP is being evaluated in 2007 to develop a comprehensive assessment for future progress. National Forestry Programme approved by the Government Res. No. 53/2003 of 13 January 2003 specifies the issues of forestry management and development of diversity of forest ecosystems¹⁸.

¹⁴See the NBSAP:http://chm.nature.cz/cooperation/fol362718/Strategie_ochrany_ENG_finalni.pdf.

¹⁵ More than 2700 species of higher plants, 2400 species of lower plants, 50 000 species of invertebrates and about 380 species of vertebrates have been recorded in the CR. According to the current Red List, approx. 34% of mammal species, 52% of species of nesting birds, 50% of reptiles, 43% of amphibians, 43% of fish species, 60% of higher plants and 43% of moss species are currently endangered in the CR. (ref: NBSAP, 2005)

¹⁶ Research Institute of Crop Production (RICP), Prague, operates the Czech Information System on Plant Genetic Resources (EVIGEZ). Its passport part is available on: <http://genbank.vurv.cz/genetic/resources>.

¹⁷ In 2004 -836 ecological farms, with the total area of land used of 263,299 ha, which represented 6.16% of total farmland; in 2005 the area of ecologically cultivated land slightly decreased to 6%. The CR ranks first among the New Member States, and among the leading countries world-wide. Most of the area (about 80%) consists of grassland, which is why domestic production of organic foodstuffs from arable land is scanty and needs expanding. The consumer demand for organic foodstuffs exceeds the domestic supply, resulting in most of the organic foodstuffs being imported.

¹⁸ Despite the significant drop in emission rates during the 1990s, the state of the Czech forest remains poor; in fact, it is the worst in Central Europe. While the most serious damage was caused by sulphur emissions at the turn of the 1980s, it is mostly due to surplus nitrogen at present, which enters forest soils primarily from automobile combustion products and from the industry. In addition, ozone emissions are quoted among risk factors on an ever growing scale (mostly in studies conducted abroad). Besides emissions, however, the Czech

The CR doesn't use its indigenous wild fauna or flora for international trade and regulates imports of wild fauna and flora in accordance with the EC legislation and politics on the CITES implementation.

Good Practice Cases

A specialised internet portal - the Gate to Environmental Information, built up by the Ministry of Environment and administered by CENIA together with the Map Services of the Portal of CR Public Administration¹⁹.

Every September - activities and campaigns of the Month of ecological agriculture and bioproducts (common initiative, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment).

The Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (www.chm.nature.cz) providing comprehensive information about the CBD including Articles, Thematic Programme of Works, Conferences of the Parties and other bodies of the Convention. It also informs about the Convention implementation in the CR, about biodiversity, biosafety and other related issues, conventions and processes.

Indicators

In the progress reports to the Czech SDS, the following conservation and management of natural resources-related indicators have been used: **Consumption of Basic Nutrients in Industrial Fertilizers, Consumption of Pesticides, Bird Common Index, Index of Defoliation, Share of Organic Farming in Total Farmland, Environment Protection Expenditures and Public Environment Protection Expenditures.**

The dominant trend in the area of mineral fertilizer and pesticide use is a recognizable decrease in their use after 1990, and a subsequent rise in their use following the CR accession to the EU. Compared to the EU 15 countries, the use rate in the Czech Republic remains among the lowest. One-sided increases in the use of mineral fertilizers by farmers due to their improving financial standing, not accompanied by the necessary structural changes in agriculture along with a shift to environmentally friendlier farming practices, are a potential future threat. Decrease of bird populations typical for agricultural landscapes as well as other birds, along with a converse increase of forest-dwelling bird species, is a world-wide trend. The index of defoliation as an expression of forest health needs further close monitoring and assessment, with factors most seriously affecting defoliation identified and reduced as much as possible.

3.5. Public health

Overall Objective: To promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats

3.5.1.

Main Legislative and Conceptual Documents:

- Act No. 20/1966 Coll., On Care for the People's Health, as amended;
- Act No. 550/1991 Coll., On General Health Insurance and

forests are affected by many other factors; mainly by the forestry management methods used. The species and age composition of the forests is incorrect, with the greatest proportion of Czech forests occupied by non-native spruce monoculture, sensitive to climatic conditions, prone to pest infestation, and degrading the forest soil by their needle shed. Further risk factors include clear-cut forestry, overpopulation of deer, etc.

¹⁹ <http://portal.env.cz>, <http://geoport.cenia.cz>

- Act No. 551/1991 Coll., On the General Health Insurance Fund, moving the health care system towards a compulsory health insurance model, with a number of insurers financing health care providers on the basis of contracts.
- Act No. 48/1997 Coll., as amended, a fundamental norm regulating the statutory health insurance;
- Act No. 258/2000 Coll., On the Public Health Protection;
- Act No. 285/2000 Coll., on Transplantation, regulating the transplantation medicine;
- Act No. 95/2004 Coll., on Medical Occupations in Health Care and
- Act No. 96/2004 Coll., on Non-medical Occupations in Health Care setting out the rules for the acquisition and recognition of professional qualifications in health care medical and non-medical occupations.
- Action Plan on Health and Environment of the Czech Republic; approved by the Govt. Res. No. 810 of 9 December, 1998.
- A Long-term Programme for the Health Improvement of the Population of the CR – Health for All in the 21st Century, approved by the Govt. Res. No. 1046 of 30 October, 2002.

New Actions Under Preparation

In 2006-2007, the Minister of Health, due to financial instability and deficits of the statutory health insurance, prepares a new concept for health care reform which includes among others introduction of higher co-payments by the insured in order to reduce possible over-utilization of health care resources. Additional supplemental private health insurance is under consideration.

Furthermore, in 2008 at the latest, the Ministry of Health is going to revise and update two current national strategic documents dealing with public health listed above.

Quantified Targets and Timetables

According to the main sustainability target of the Long-term Programme for the Health Improvement of the Population of the CR of 2002, the CR should reach the level of the most developed EU countries in all the most important health-related indicators during the next 10-15 years. The Programme, prepared in compliance with the basic WHO document Health for All in the 21st Century and other relevant international documents, contains 21 general goals further elaborately specified and quantified (solidarity and justice, health equity in the CR and in the EU, eradication of infectious diseases, combating cardiovascular and neoplastic diseases, preventive services - preventive examinations, screening, vaccinations, health promotion and education; antenatal and natal care, child health care, drug and alcohol abuse and non-smoking prevention, AIDS prevention, healthy ageing, mental health care, medical care quality and management quality standards including HIA, scientific work and measurement of health-related indicators).

In order to improve national health status, a broad intersectoral and societal co-operation and communication as well as appropriate financial funding, efficiency and evaluation is a basic requirement.

3.5.2.

Specific National Measures and Best Practice Cases

Screening programmes for adult diseases (e.g. cervical cancer, breast cancer or colorectal cancer) have been reimbursed from public insurance since 2000.

Regarding health indicators, rates for the major immunizable diseases vary between 99% and 95%, which are high percentages if compared with those of most developed EU countries. The global child-immunization programme covers tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella. Immunization against hepatitis A and B, tickborne encephalitis, haemophilus influenzae B and meningococcal disease is available upon request and requires full payment. A mass immunization strategy against hepatitis B is under consideration for adolescents from the age of 12 and against haemophilus influenzae B for young children.

In 2000, the Ministry of Health set up a Centre for International Reimbursements of Health Care Services provided in connection with the free movement of persons in the EU²⁰.

In 2005, intersectoral National Anti-Obesity Council started to prepare a national action plan for combating obesity aimed at prevention and cure of obesity. Projects „Healthy Lifestyle and Obesity“, „Nutritional Recommendations for CR Population“, campaigns „Set Your Heart In Motion“, „Keep it balanced“ followed.

In May 2006, EuroHealthNet and the Czech National Institute of Public Health submitted a new proposal to DG SANCO under the EC Public Health Action Programme call to establish an EU Consortium for Action on Socio-economic determinants of health (DETERMINE). The objective of this high level consortium (governments, health bodies, institutions) is to analyse and apply the most relevant and important knowledge on socio-economic determinants of health (SEDs), introduce innovative pilot projects, develop and implement awareness and capacity building programmes. Building on the work of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants the objective is to generate greater understanding and to change conceptions and approaches amongst policy makers and practitioners, so that improving health and health equity is considered in all policy sectors.

Since 1994, an umbrella association of the Healthy Cities of the CR (HCCZ), stipulates a systemic approach to values of SD, health and quality of life.

Indicators:

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following health –related indicators have been used: **Life Expectancy, Mortality Rate.**

In 2005, a new-born Czech boy had a chance of living up to 72.55 years of age, and a new-born Czech girl to 79.04 years. Still, the CR has not achieved the lowest value of the EU-15 countries and lags behind countries with the highest life expectancy at birth by 5 to 6 years (in respect of men) and by 4.5 years (in respect of women). Standardised mortality in the CR exceeded the EU-15 average by 37% in 2004.

3.6. Social inclusion, demography and migration

<p>Overall Objective: To create a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and to secure and increase the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being</p>

Main Legislative and Other Conceptual Documents

-Act No. 435/2004 Coll., On Employment, as amended, a basic document on employment in the CR.

²⁰ The web pages of the centre (<http://www.cmu.cz>) offer important information and documents both for the Czech citizens and citizens of other countries. The web site publishes documents related to the provision of health care in other EU countries (regulations 1408/71 and 574/72, rulings of the Court of Justice, international agreements on social security, a list of agreements on health care provision).

- Act No.107/2006 Coll., on Unilateral Increase of Rent and on a Change of Act No. 40/1964 Coll., Civil Code, came into force as of March 31, 2006, introducing a gradual elimination of housing rents regulation, will allow for development of rental housing market, construction of new apartments for rent and thus promote labour force mobility²¹.
- Act No. 108/2006 Coll., On Social Services; strengthening the role of a client, duality and availability of social services, field services.
- Act No. 110/2006 Coll., On Subsistence and Existence Minimum and
- Act No. 111/2006 Coll., On Assistance in Material Need, introduction of simple range of benefits and further motivation of low-income groups to inclusion into society and taking up a job.
- Act No.187/2006 Coll., On Sickness Insurance, integrating the sickness insurance system for all policyholders, the coming into force has been postponed by 2008.
- Act No. 262/2006 Coll., Labour Code, a complex regulation of employment relationship, partly extending contractual freedom in employment relationships and making them more flexible; e.g. institute of working accounts.
- Act No. 309/2006 Coll., On Occupational Safety and Health Protection.
- Government Priorities and Methods in Gender Equality Promotion, Govt. Res. No. 238/1998;
- National Pro-Family Policy Concept, Govt. Res. No. 1305 of 12 October, 2005, followed by the Action Plan for the years 2006 -2009. The documents set a framework for improvement of social climate and conditions for families and for reconciliation between professional and family roles.
- National Programme of Preparation for Ageing 2003-2007, Govt. Res. No.485 of 15 May, 2002, aiming at continuous integration of seniors into the society.
- National Social Inclusion Action Plan for the years 2006-2008²².
- National Reform Programme 2005-2008 with national employment targets for 2008 (i.e. total employment rate 66.4%, female employment rate 57.6% and employment rate of older workers (55-64 years) 47.5%.
- National Programme for Support and Integration of Persons with Disabilities for 2006-2009, Govt.Res. No. 1004 of 17 August, 2005.
- Principles of a Long-Term Roma Minority Integration to 2025, Govt. Res. No. 393 of 12 April, 2006.

New Actions

A Government Tax Package representing a public finance reform was presented on 3 April, 2007 and will come into effect in 2008 if approved by the Parliament. It contains cuts in direct taxes, introduces an income flat rate of 15%, raises the VAT lower rate from 5 to 9%, together with introduction of cuts to welfare benefits (sick leave, maternal leave, parental allowances).

Quantitative and Other Targets

The CR targets are fully in line with EU objective to reduce the number of people and especially children at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Despite economic growth,

²¹ This act represents a set of non-market reform measures, reacting to long lasting market distortion of price and legal nature. These measures will be implemented in a four-year period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2010.

²² See The National Report to the EC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for the years 2006-2008, September, 2006. http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/2006/nap/czech_en.pdf.

continuous increase in labour productivity, improvement in living conditions of most Czech citizens and decrease of unemployment, social exclusion of certain groups, notably those who are unemployed for a long time or repeatedly and those with multiple handicaps (unfavourable health conditions, low qualification, members of minorities, young people under 25 years), remains a serious problem. The strategy of gradual inclusion into the working process combines consultancy services and active labour market policy and it has two priorities: “Active Employment Policy” and “Social Integration and Equal Opportunities”.

Programmes promoting **creation of new jobs and training** (retraining) of employees and direct regional programmes significantly contribute to reduction of regional differences in unemployment rate and increase in geographical mobility. This concerns notably the programme of investment incentives (promotion of new jobs and promotion of training/retraining of employees), which is addressed to medium-sized and large investors (employers).

The goal of **modernising the employment policy** has been gradually achieved: Since 2004, EURES advisory and information network provides information and consultancy to people seeking a job abroad and to employers looking for employees within the EU; it organises also job fairs. In July 2006, a two year project Labour Market Institute (LMI) as a part of the CR Economic Chamber was launched. Its aim is to adapt management system and personal capacity of public employment services to the needs of the market, to test new ways of co-operation with employers and to improve co-ordination within the whole system. The project should also promote inclusion of school-leavers and people with difficult employability (notably those affected by sectoral or regional unemployment) on the labour market. Integrated Information Portal provides information in the area of employment and social support, job opportunities in the EU and EEA.

Since June 2006 a call centre, a joint project of the Economic Chamber of the CR and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, set up in Prague, helps unemployed from the whole country get a job or to obtain information concerning the labour market and helps employers to find qualified employees. The project will continue with call centres in regions.

Programmes of **social inclusion of Roma communities’ members** help them achieve education, working skills and working habits, introduce teachers’ assistants at schools with higher proportion of pupils from socially and culturally disadvantaged surroundings, in 2005-2008, creation of social fieldwork system has been under way (field programmes for people living in socially excluded communities, facilities for children and youth, social counselling.) At present, a combined system of work incentives and social benefits is being worked out.

For **people with disabilities**, implementation of the National Plan for Support and Integration of Persons with Disabilities for the years 2006-2009 is of crucial importance (consultancy and assistance in re-integration into work, compensation for employers employing people with disabilities, support for creating and keeping sheltered jobs and sheltered workshops, adjustment of the system of social services). Regional and local participants, i.e. regions, municipalities and NGOs, play an important role in providing services aiming at social integration.

A programme First Opportunity aimed at increasing employability of **jobseekers under 25 years** within 6 months from their registration, started in 2002 and was extended to all labour offices in 2004. Czech employment policy responds positively to the EU SDS objective to ensure by the end of 2007 that a job or further education is offered to each young unemployed school graduate within 6 months and within 4 months by 2010.

The goal to increase **older workers’** participation on labour market and facilitate **foreigners’** access to the labour market is sought with the help of Community Initiative EQUAL (e.g. project Lifelong Learning and Equal Opportunities on the Labour Market for Working People

over 50 (2004-2007), Systematic Support for Employing Refugees and Long-term Foreign Residents in the CR (Work in Czech) and Systematic Support for Employing Refugees and Long-term Foreign Residents in Prague (Work in Prague). On the other hand, projects bringing qualified foreign experts into the country are realised.

Good Practice Cases

In May-July 2007, a project „Dad as Mum“, a series of documents prepared by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs about fathers standing in mothers; followed by series „Women without Jobs“ counselling mothers returning to work.

Indicators

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following social inclusion-related indicators have been used: **General Unemployment Rate**²³, **Registered Rate of Unemployment**, **Employment of Older People**, **Population living below the Poverty Line before and after Social Transfers**. Since 2004, the unemployment rate started to decrease, partly due to the implementation of instruments of active employment policy. In 2004, social transfers reduced the poverty rate by 31 percentage points to the resulting 8%. However, the CR has a relatively high concentration of persons just above the poverty threshold. About 8 % of the population was in the range of 60% to 70% of the national adjusted median income, forming a group of potentially future poor.

3.7. Global poverty and sustainable development challenges

Overall Objective: To actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments

3.7.1

The key goals of the Czech development cooperation programme (reintroduced in 1995) include poverty reduction, economic and industrial development, gradual integration of partner countries into the world economy, agricultural development, promotion and consolidation of democracy, human rights and good governance, introduction of principles of lawful conduct, migration control, sustainable development with a focus on environmental protection, and post-conflict reconstruction. When executing development projects, the CR takes into consideration the “cross-cutting issues” (promotion of civic society, gender equality, etc.).

Between 1995-2007, the CR introduced a number of major changes in the concept and organization of development cooperation, aimed at increasing the efficiency of aid provided to partner countries and adapting it to the changing international environment. A turning point was the CR's accession to the EU, the world's leading provider of external assistance. The CR is committed to a continued system reform in order to rank among leading donors, and to meet the obligations arising from the membership in the EU and OECD. Since 2004, when the CR assumed the position of a full donor, the volume of allocated funds has been maintained at

²³ In Q1 2007, measured by the LFSS, total employment grew by 79.7 thousand persons year-on-year and reached the highest level since the middle of 1998. The number of self-employed rose by 26.4 thousand, and the number of employees by 56.5 thousand. The number of unemployed persons according to ILO methodology was down by 102.9 thousand year-on-year, which is the biggest drop since 1993. The number of long-term unemployed dropped by 48.4 thousand. The general unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points to the lowest level in the last eight years (6.1%). See: <http://www.czso.cz/eng/csu.nsf/informace/azam050407.doc>.

0.11 % of GNI. The conceptual and coordination role belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Relevant Legislation and Other Documents

-Res. of the CR Govt. No. 91, of January 23, 2002, "The Concept of the International Development Cooperation of the CR for the 2002-2007 Period"²⁴. The Concept advocated sector and territorial focus of Czech foreign development aid and defined twenty priority countries as key receivers of Czech foreign aid.

-Res. of the CR Govt. No. 302, dated March 31, 2004, "The Principles of International Development Cooperation upon the CR's Accession to the EU" (the CR Government decided to narrow down the territorial focus of development cooperation. Having considered where aid is needed the most, the capacities for aid reception and past development cooperation, eight priority countries were selected²⁵. The CR has started a gradual shift from individual short-term projects to long-term sectoral programs of cooperation. In June 2005, country strategy papers on cooperation with eight priority countries for the period 2006-2010 were approved.

-Res. of the CR Govt. No. 664, dated June 1, 2005, "International Development Cooperation in 2006 and Outlooks of Medium-Term Financing until the Year 2008". The funding for new activities in priority and non-priority countries was distributed according to the experience of advanced donors: in the proportion of 75 % for priority countries, and 25 % for non-priority countries.

-Res. of the CR Govt. No. 1311, dated October 12, 2005, "The Criteria of Selection and Financing of Bilateral Projects of International Development Cooperation of the CR" (the Czech government adopted uniform rules for the selection and funding of bilateral projects that are in compliance with the applicable legislation and directives of the EC. The document provides basic guidelines for the execution of contracts, inspection, financial reporting, document archiving, and public promotion. Also, a new logo of Czech development cooperation was introduced.)

-Res. of the CR Govt. No. 686 dated June 7, 2006, "The Criteria of Selection and Financing of Bilateral Projects of International Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic"²⁶.

New Action

A new law on the CR's development cooperation and humanitarian aid has been under preparation in 2006-2007, its coming into force has been planned for 1 January, 2009.

Quantified **targets and timetables** are fully in line with the EU SDS. As a new Member State the CR would strive to contribute at least 0.17 % of GNI by 2010, rising to 0.33 % in

²⁴ The CR fully embraced the UN Millennium Development Goals and stated that foreign aid is a way to contribute to promotion of democracy, human rights and social justice, integration of developing countries into the world economy, and global sustainable development. A crucial shift in the Concept of 2002 is the focus on partnership in development cooperation and on responsibility of the receiving countries – foreign aid should be based on recipients' requirements, not on a provider's offer. Czech foreign aid follows the principles of efficiency.

²⁵ Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yemen, Moldova, Mongolia, Serbia and Montenegro, Vietnam, and Zambia; together with Afghanistan and Iraq as mid-term priorities.

²⁶ <http://www.iir.cz> .(A Project Cycle Manual : presented by the Development Centre in 2006 for CR's International Development Cooperation further supplements the Rules above. The Manual's purpose is to ensure that project cycle procedures in bilateral development cooperation are standardized. The Manual defines the key objective for each project cycle phase (1. Program Planning, 2. Identification, 3. Formulation, 4. Implementation and Monitoring, 5. Assessment/Evaluation) and procedures and duties of individual stakeholders in each phase, and aims at standardizing the documents used throughout the process.)

2015”, which means the CR’s assistance to developing countries should increase significantly in the upcoming years.

3.7.2.

Specific National Approaches

The CR deems important that development projects’ effects are as wide-ranging as possible and contribute to a general social development in the countries. When assessing each project, the cross-cutting targets are taken into consideration as support for civic society, gender equality, environmental protection and sustainability or improvement in public administration and governance.

Transformation Cooperation concerns experience in the field of nonviolent resistance to totalitarian systems and the subsequent process of social transformation, and it is oriented toward Byelorussia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar (Barma), Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine (education in the fields of key importance for the process of social transformation, promotion of civil society, civil life and relations within local communities, promotion of activities of nongovernmental organizations, public engagement in the decision-making processes, establishment and work of local independent media, improvement of the standards of work of journalists, assistance in resolving problems related to undemocratic rule, and/or to the practice of repressive regimes, as well as in reducing these problems or eliminating them, provision of support to persecuted persons or groups, scientific research of aspects of transformation issues.

The academic community participates in discussions of conceptual and organizational issues and outlooks of Czech development cooperation, it organizes graduate programmes in **development studies** (Palacky University, Olomouc, University of Economics, Prague, Czech University of Agriculture, Prague). The Summer School of Development Studies, a traditional event of development education, is organized annually in cooperation of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Palacky University in Olomouc. In 2006, the 9th year of the Summer School was attended by over 800 students who gained theoretical knowledge of development cooperation, together with practical skills for working in developing countries.

Planning for the future of development cooperation, the Czech government is aware of the importance of **global and development education** of the younger generation. As of September 2007, global and multicultural issues will be compulsory parts of primary schools’ curriculum. They are also reflected in the framework educational programs of secondary schools. In 2003-2004, a joint project with the UNDP took place, elaborating on methods of development education and delivering an output in the form of the Společný svět (Our Common World) manual.

A very important part of these efforts are campaigns and events organized by NGOs as the One World film festival of human rights (People In Need), workshops for primary and secondary schools called the African Day (Humanitas Africa), or the Afghanistan Camp informing the Czech public about the situation in Afghanistan and other poor countries (the Vara association), and many others.

The Development Center of the Institute of International Relations educates experts in development cooperation, organizes training in project cycle management, cooperates with universities, carries out development surveys, functions as an information center for the media and the public.

4. Progress on EU SDS cross-cutting issues

4.1. Education and training

4.1.1.

Main Legislation and Other Conceptual Documents

- Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Modification and Amendments to Other Acts (The Higher Education Act);
- Act No. 109/2002 Coll., on the Provision of Institutional Education or Protective Education at School Facilities and on Preventative Educational Care at School Facilities and on the Amendments to Some Other Acts;
- Act No. 312/2002 Coll., on Officials of Territorial Self- Governing Units and Amending Some Other Acts, on duties of public administration in the field of environmental education.
- Act No. 561/2004 Coll., On Pre-School, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (the Education Act).
- Act No. 563/2004 Coll., on Pedagogical Staff and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts.
- The White Paper. National Programme for the Development of Education in the CR. Approved by the Govt. Res. No. 113 of 7 February, 2001²⁷, considered to be the principal theoretical document for the ongoing educational reform, updated and evaluated every two years.
- National Programme of Environmental Education and Awareness of the CR (NP EEA CZ), approved by the Govt. Res. No. 1048/2000, a basic strategic document, followed by action plans; Action Plan for the years 2007-2009 approved by the Govt. Res. No. 1155/2006.

New Actions

The National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, prepared as a follow up to the UNECE Strategy of 2005, approved by the Czech Govt. Council for SD on May 10, 2007, will be submitted to the Government. This Strategy, followed by action plans, will provide a solid framework for SD educational processes in the CR.

4.1.2. Specific National Actions -Targets and Goals of Educational Reform

The Education Act stresses the importance of “acquisition and application of knowledge of the environment and its protection arising from the principles of sustainable growth and of safety and health protection”. The law introduces a system of educational programmes and it authorises the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to develop the National Educational Programme incorporating goals of education, defining principal educational areas, the content of education and tools necessary for achieving such goals. Framework Educational Programmes shall be published for each educational area within basic and secondary education as well as for pre-school, basic artistic and language education. The law defines the compulsory content, scope and conditions of education. These shall be binding for the

²⁷ The Programme serves the purpose of transformation of a traditional school, its main task is to create a solid basis for lifelong learning, to equip pupils with the necessary tools for learning and to motivate them to do so. A school must strive to provide education that has a sense and personal significance for all pupils. This requires not only changes in educational content, methods and forms of instruction but also a change in the school climate and environment. It focuses on the following strategic guidelines:1. The implementation of lifelong learning for all;2. Adaptation of educational and study programmes to the needs of life in a knowledge society;3. Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of education;4. Support for the internal transformation and openness of educational institutions; 5. Transformation of the role and professional perspectives of educational staff and academics; 6. Transition from centralised administration to responsible participation in decision-making. See: <http://www.msmt.cz/files/pdf/whitepaper.pdf>

development of School Educational Programmes (for the basic school, the programmes are being introduced as of 1 September, 2007), the evaluation of children' and pupils' results in education, the development and assessment of textbooks and teaching texts. Furthermore, Framework Educational Programmes shall be a binding basis for specifying amounts of funds to be allocated pursuant to Sections 160 through 162.

Concurrently with the basic and secondary school curricular reform, with elaboration of complex methodologies, other key longterm programmes and measures are being realised (improvement of access to post-secondary technical and tertiary education, strengthening of interconnection between the systems of initial and continuing education through the lifelong learning concept, promotion of co-operation between educational institutions and employers, increase of ICT literacy and many others.)

Action-plan-based environmental education is conducted by the state environmental administration (MoE, Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the CR, administration of national parks and protected landscape areas), by other ministries, universities, scientific institutes, medical and cultural facilities, tourist centres. Of crucial importance for the realisation of EEA are NGOs, esp. environmental education centres (EEC) united in a national network, providing services to schools and educational institutions²⁸. In the business sphere, Innovation and Development Centre (IDC) and Czech Environmental Management Centre (CEMC) are engaged.

Good Practice Cases

The project UNIV for the years 2005-2008 creates a network of secondary and post-secondary technical schools in 8 regions of the CR for adult education in connection to the needs of labour market.

Institute of Continuing Education in Hradec Kralove (established in 2005) specialises in courses for providers of lifelong adult learning.

In the CR, there is a long tradition of environmental film festivals: "Ekofilm" in Český Krumlov (33rd year in 2007), "It's Your Business Too" in Uherské Hradiště (31st year in 2007).

Indicators

In the progress reports to the national SDS, the following education and training-related indicators have been used: **The Highest Level of Education Attained, Access to the Internet.**

The CR has achieved very good results in respect of the indicator of highest education attained, namely secondary education. The education rate among the Czech Republic's junior population is relatively high, placing the country among the first Europe-wide and world-wide with over 90% of the population segment aged 20-24. Relatively high levels of education are also noticeable among those aged 25-34. The country has fallen behind in the proportion of population with tertiary education. Compared to other European countries, only relatively limited numbers of people receive higher specialist or college education. The proportion of people with tertiary education has been increasing only slowly. The situation is mainly the result of the structure of study programmes at Czech secondary schools and the fact that a relatively great portion of Czech secondary education is specialist, producing fully specialised individuals, who often find good position on the labour market. Other factors include the complicated entrance procedures and throughput capacity at higher specialist schools and colleges.

²⁸ <http://www.narodnisit.cz/>

4.2. Research and development

Principal Legislative and Conceptual Documents

- Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on Support of Research and Development from Public Funds and on Amendment to Some Related Acts (the Act on the Support of Research and Development)²⁹;
- Act No. 341/2005 Coll., on Public Research Institutions;
- Act No. 342/2005 Coll., on Amendment to Some Acts in Connection with Adoption of the Act on Public Research Institutions.
- Act No. 227/2006 Coll., On Research on Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Related Activities and on Amendment to Some Related Acts.
- National Research and Development Policy of the CR (2004-2008) approved by the Govt. Res. No. 5 of 7 January, 2004.
- National Innovation Strategy, Govt. Res. No. 270 of 24 March, 2004, document formulating the state's role in promoting innovations.
- National Innovation Policy of CR for 2005-2010, Govt. Res. No. 851 of 7 July, 2005, with four strategic objectives: to strengthen research and development as a source of innovation; to establish well-functioning public and private partnership, to guarantee human resources for innovation, to make the performance of the state administration in research, development and innovation more effective; containing 48 specific measures³⁰.
- National Research Programme II (NRP II) for 2006-2011, approved by the Govt. Res. No. 272 of 9 March, 2005, implements a substantial part of NR&DP and defines concrete targets of support for 4-6 years for targeted funding of thematic and system priorities of the Czech research. The programme contains a list of criteria for ex-post and ex-ante evaluations, objectives of this programme as a whole and of its thematic and cross-sectional parts, and indicators for the objective fulfilment.
- Revised Long-Term Basic Research&Development Directions, approved by the Govt. Res. No. 1192 of 18 October, 2006; "Sustainable Development" as one of the most important directions³¹.

New Action under Preparation:

National actions aiming at participation in the 7th Framework Programme (EC and EURATOM, 2007-2013) in its main fields: Co-operation, Ideas, People, and Capacities. The office of the State Commissioner for European Research was established at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in order to represent the Government on the meetings of bodies of the EU Council and EC concerning R&D issues and to co-ordinate the activities of domestic R&D.

New National Research and Development Policy to be submitted to the Government by December 31, 2008.

²⁹ See also: Govt. Regulation No. 267/2002 Coll. on the Information System of R&D, Govt. Regulation No. 461/2002 Coll. on Targeted Support of R&D from Public Funds and on Public Tenders in R&D, Govt. Regulation No. 462/2002 Coll. on the Institutional Support of R&D Covered from Public Funds and on the Assessment of Research Objectives.

³⁰ <http://www.vyzkum.cz>

(Analyses of the Existing State of Research and Development in the Czech Republic and a Comparison with the Situation Abroad, year 2006.)

³¹ For more specific information, see the "State-Supported R&D in the Czech Republic –Short Guidebook 2006" http://www.techprofil.cz/statni_podpora.asp?ChangeLang=1.

National Research Programme III for 2009-2013 (NRP III). Draft of this programme is being produced upon the Govt. Res. No. 178 of February 22, 2006, to be submitted to the Government by February 2008. NRP III will be based on thematic priorities of the long-term main directions of research and prepared using the method of technology foresight. NRP III will use a substantial part of public R&D expenditures. Departmental programmes approved by the Government after commencement of NRP III will not be connected with the research themes contained in it; they will become its supplement.

Quantified Targets and Timetables, Indicator

According to the strategic documents, public R&D expenditures should be increased every year by 20-25% to reach the level of 1% of GDP in 2010. (2006 + 10.5% of 2005 expenditures. In 2007-2010, the imposed increases will apparently not be met either, so fulfilment of the objective in 2010 is thus endangered. The goal set by the Lisbon Strategy - total (public, private business and non business, foreign) R&D expenditures should go up to 3% of GDP by 2010 - is hardly to be met - in 2004 they represented 1,27 % of GDP.) Indicator **Research & Development Expenditures** has been included in the progress reports to the national SDS.

Specific Linkages between Actions in Different Fields

In 2005-2006 , the National Research and Development Policy of the CR (NR&DP) of 2000 (Govt.Res.no.16 of 5 January, 2000) was fully harmonised with the National Innovation Policy (NIP). Approved long-term main directions of research (LMDsR) form the basis of fundamental programme documents (National Research Programme III, Operational Programme Research and Development for Innovation (OP R&DfI).

Co-ordination of the updated NR&DP with the NIP resulted in three mutually linked operational programmes for 2007-2013 (Entrepreneurship and Innovation,, Research and Development for Innovation, Education for Competitiveness).

Implementation of the cluster strategy, creation of clusters, training and certification of cluster facilitators continues.

In 2007, development programmes aimed at increasing numbers of graduates and improvement of material and technical conditions in the Science&Engineering disciplines and study programmes started.

Under the existing Human Resources Development OP, financial and consulting support to projects of research and development workers' training, to searching for and evaluating commercial potential of R&D results, technology transfers, copyright and industrial rights protection has been provided.

In relation to the EU framework documents, Czech Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers in the CR was approved by the Government by its Res. No. 951 of 16 August, 2006.

Realisation of some important measures to make the state administration in R&D and innovations more effective (reducing the number of budgetary departmental lines, determination of state administration's responsibilities in the field of innovation) should require an amendment to the Competence Act No. 2/1969; its drafting will start hopefully in 2007.

Establishment of an Innovation Information System (similar to R&D IS and using its know-how) planned for 2008 will be postponed.

Methodology of statistical surveys on innovation was introduced by the Czech Statistical Office (EC Regulation no.1450 of 13 August, 2004) and used for evaluating 2003-2006 data.

The CR in the 6th EU Framework Programme (the first half of 6FP)

The CR participation and comparison of EU 25 countries is based upon the “number of participants in contracted projects converted to a unit population (1 million inhabitants)”. There are 485 projects on the solution of which 594 teams from the CR will participate. These data classify the CR on 22nd place among EU 25 states. When ranking the states according to level of absolute numbers of participations in 6FP projects, Czechia takes 16th place. Czech participants enter projects with overall budget of EUR 98.46 million and ask the EC for support in the amount of EUR 70.63 million (CZK 2 billion).

The CR has most participations (98) in the 6th Thematic Priority consisting of three thematic areas (global climate changes: 47 participations, energy: 26 participations and transport: 25 participations). The second place is taken by participation in programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises (65 participations). The structure of participation of Czech teams has been going through changes in the course of 6FP. While in the 6th Thematic Priority the Czech participation has been reaching a high level in the long term, the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as utilisation of mobility programmes is experiencing a significant growth now.

In terms of contracted support, the highest contribution will be obtained by Czech teams participating in projects of the 6th Thematic Priority (EUR 12.45 mil - total amount for thematic areas of global climate changes, energy and transport), then follow the life sciences (EUR 11.24 mil). The lowest support will be obtained by Czech teams in the space research programme (EUR 0.17 mil) and in the INCO programme -Cooperation of EU with third countries (EUR 0.66 mil).

It is, however, necessary to take into account that the amount of support depends primarily on the size of budgets for individual programmes. This was highest for IST programme. Generally, the Czech teams contract 0.75 % of the so far released budget of 6FP³².

Specific National Measures and Best Practice Cases

Project „Česká hlava“ (Czech Head), announced in March 2002, intends to support scientific and technical intelligence, to increase social respect for Czech scientists and engineers whose results can have significant impact on the future prosperity of the country. Each year the project culminates in a ceremonial honouring the best Czech “heads” of science and technology. Awards are granted on the basis of a public competition. The project’s reputation has been steadily growing. In 2005, the category of National Prize of the CR Government was added. In 2006, “Czech Little Head” project for young intelligence was introduced.

4.3. Financing and economic instruments

The EU SDS and the national SD strategy serve as a basis for numerous sectoral policies and action programmes and plans with their realisation financially secured preferably at least in

³² Database of contracted projects of 6FP, European Commission, Programme Committee SP1, March 2006. Science and technology in Europe, Statistical pocketbook, Data 1993-2003, Eurostat, European Commission, 2005. Statistics in focus, 7/2006, EUROSTAT.

medium term outlook, on condition of a broad political consensus. The CR Government supports the implementation of these policies using the three sources of financing (public resources, EU funding, public private partnership concept).

In the coming years, the Government is determined to struggle against the budget structural deficit, caused mainly by high mandatory expenditures (social transfers).

In 2008, the implementation of a revenue-neutral environmental tax reform (GTR) will start in CR as the first important step in gradually shift of taxation from labour to resource and energy consumption. As a second step, the Government is planning to introduce a new income tax reform and social system reform in 2008.

Moreover, a broader range of economic instruments should be introduced to promote market transparency. In the CR, serious socio-economic impact of externalities and harmful subsidies calls for discussion and for measures to be taken in the near future.

The CGCSD is going to consider the creation of a methodology aimed at monitoring and evaluating of projects under the focus of compliance with SD strategy goals. This methodology should help in channelling national and EU funding in a desirable way to promote sustainable development.

4.4. Communication, mobilising actors and multiplying success

The CGCSD is fully aware of the need to further stimulate informed debate about SD key issues in Czech society, to increase civil society involvement in achieving EU SDS and national SDS goals. These Strategies, primarily information campaign on their revision in 2006-2007, have become among main communication priorities for the Council.

In its efforts the Council takes advantage of its managerial communication tools (CGCSD Communication Strategy, Communication Action Plan for 2005-2007, communication models), developed by the Committee for Communication and approved by the Council in June, 2005. The Committee not only designs efficient processes and instruments of communication, but, in co-operation with the Committee for Strategy, facilitates public discussion by organising public hearings, thematic workshops, national stakeholder forums, e-mail based discussions, information campaigns. (E.g. first half of the year 2007: Presentation of the Second Progress Report on NSDS – a stakeholder's conference, Public Joint Session of the Committee on Strategy and the WG for SDI on the Start of the NSDS Revision, a series of public Regional Roundtables on the NSDS Revision³³, Forum on SD – Public Hearings on the NSDS Revision, co-operation with ministries and stakeholders on the Week of Sustainable Consumption and Production.) Since June 2006, the Committee for Communication operates and acts as an editorial board of a SD-specialised website³⁴.

On annual basis, the CGCSD prepares The Sustainable Development Forum, which serves the purpose of facilitating broad public discussion and access of the public to information on SD key topics. At the Forum, the Chairperson of the Council informs the public of the Council's activities. On the contrary, the proposals and recommendations ensuing from the Forum's meetings are reflected in future Council's programmes.

³³ During the series of Regional Roundtables, held in 14 regions of the country in the period of October 2006-May 2007, hundreds of participants made their proposals for the revision of national SDS. These proposals were gathered and evaluated through an electronic database and handed over to the editors.

³⁴ <http://www.udrzitelny-rozvoj.cz>

Research work of a relatively strong group of SD experts in the academia supports the scientific and innovative approach to SD in CGCSD publications and reports.

The Council was always the main player in preparation and subsequent revision of a national SD strategy through its Committee on Strategy and WG on SD Indicators. Through its other six working groups and in close co-operation with NGO's, it further assists in preparation of regional SD strategies and implementation of local Agendas 21.

In 2006, the Council started a more intensive dialogue with the leaders of the Czech business community. Many leading companies operating in the CR have already formulated and approved their SD and Corporate Social Responsibility strategies (e.g. ČEZ, a.s., Škoda-Auto, a.s.).

More intensive future co-operation with the Association of Regions and Union of Towns and Municipalities of the CR is being planned.

The Council members see as a matter of great importance bringing out the SD topics in the national media so that to provide information and food for thought for the general public and involve them in influencing political processes in the direction of SD. Public visibility is still much better on local and regional level due to concentration on more easily defined and better solvable local problems and issues.

Another goal to be gradually achieved is to better link different policies and policy levels and to link up all the players from high-ranked politicians to local activists. The SD strategies as overarching, of high level importance political documents should affect the Czech Republic's international activities, national and sectoral, as well as local politics and policies in an cross-connected, unambiguously positive way.

Involvement of local and regional levels – good practice case example

The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic (HCCZ) is a national association of active cities, towns and regions in the CR that are implementing the WHO Healthy Cities Project, an international initiative under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO).

HCCZ pursues long-term health and sustainable development, represented by Health 21, local Agendas 21, LEHAP and other strategic steps to support the health and quality of life in the CR regions. Membership is open to all types of municipalities.

Since 1998, the core procedure to be adopted by the members throughout HCCZ has been a methodology for health, sustainable development and the quality of life in the cities of the CR. HCCZ Methodology, selected as a Worldwide Project Expo 2000 and further developed in co-operation with experts and NGOs, is a support platform of strategic city development that helps city looking towards quality in accordance with international documents (Health 21, Agenda 21, NEHAP).

As a practical service to its member cities, HCCZ offers assistance in attaining the quality standards required by the EU. Through HCCZ Methodology, a city is purposefully working on arguments that it can use both for quality local development in the long term: health promotion, quality of life, sustainable development, citizen's participation, cross-sector management and regional co-operation.

In June 2007, the HCCZ had 81 members with impact on 1 206 cities and towns with 2.4 million inhabitants (24% of country population)³⁵.

4.5. Implementation, Monitoring and Follow-up

³⁵ See: <http://www.nszm.cz/cb21/asp/egate.asp?id=1022>

The CGCSD supports the EC intention to develop, in co-operation with Member States through the working group on SDIs, and endorse a set of indicators for monitoring the SDS at EU level and for communication purposes. In its research work on indicators, the CGCSD will approximate its national set of indicators to the EU set.

Voluntary peer reviewing, focusing either on strategies or on specific themes, hasn't been practised in the CR yet.

The CGCSD should make better use of the existing European structure of SD advisory councils and their networks (ESDN, EEAC) for the purpose of exchange of experiences and good practices, for mainstreaming the SD issues. Unfortunately, at present, financial as well as personal resources of the CGCSD are not adequate to the commonly desired scope of bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

5. Progress on implementation of WSSD commitments

See chapter 3.7.

6. Elaboration of NSDS

6.1 Process and organisation

The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development of December 2004 was prepared by the Committee for the Strategy of the CGCSD and endorsed by the CR Government on 8 December, 2004, by its Res. No. 1242³⁶. All ministries are responsible for the coordination of the NSDS on the inter-departmental basis, they have their representatives in the working bodies of the CGCSD. The leading role belongs to the MoE. During the elaboration of the first NSDS, the round tables on regional and local level representing the regional and local administration, civil society, business and NGOs, trade unions, were organised. In the second phase, the broad public discussion took place. In the last phase, the inter-departmental evaluation finished the process.

6.2. Strategic priorities and instruments

Key challenges of the NSDS cover the three pillars of SD and three additional areas (research & development and education, European and international context, good governance). E.g. strengthening the competitiveness of the economy; protecting nature, the environment, natural resources and the landscape, environmental limits; strengthening social cohesion and stability; attain a high level of education in society; advocate and promote the principles of sustainable development in the framework of the broadest international relations, in international global and regional organisations, and as part of bilateral relations; ensure the gradual approximation of the constitutional system to the needs of the society.

With the total number of 6 priority areas and of 167 priorities, the National SDS stresses the importance of all of them as requiring specific attention and doesn't make any difference between key challenges and partial goals. It should possibly reflect the "overarching" character of the document. During the 2007 review, the team of the Committee for Strategy strives to develop a more transparent structure of key themes and partial goals.

To achieve the objectives of the NSDS, a proper mix of legislative and non legislative as well as voluntary and educational tools has been used.

The ongoing revision of the NSDS in 2007 takes account of the renewed EU SDS of 2006 as concerns the main themes and main challenges. The structure and contents of the document are going to be as much as possible comparable with those of the EU SDS.

³⁶ See: http://www.env.cz/AIS/web-en.nsf/pages/sustainable_development_on_national_level.

For the CR, the National SDS of 2004 was the first document of its kind. Its main strength was to raise public awareness of the key challenges of sustainable development in the country as well as in the European and broad international context.

6.3. Monitoring and evaluation

The Committee for the Strategy for Sustainable Development monitors the implementation of NSDS on annual basis through the progress reports.

The NSDS includes 87 indicators in total. In the chapter "Monitoring and updating" a set of 24 indicators is specified for communication purposes. In the 2005 and 2006 Progress Reports a set of 36 indicators has been used.

A progress report for the year 2005 was published in 2006, a progress report for the year 2006 was published in March 2007 in its Czech version (an English version to be published in June, 2007). The first report of 2005 solely informs about the development of the 36 defined indicators. The second report of 2006 contains a broader evaluation approach, including processes and international comparison.

The second progress report to the National SDS (2006) states:

As regards the economic pillar, the situation in the CR has been improving generally. An unmistakable sign of this is the relatively long and considerable growth in GDP and labour productivity. The CR has thus maintained the advantage it had over the other V-4³⁷ member states and some other countries after the fall of the communist regime. On the other hand, we have been trying to catch up with comparable EU 15 member states (Belgium, Sweden or Austria), with some success only achieved very recently. In the long run, our relative position as compared to these countries has not changed to any remarkable extent due to the ongoing transformation and the related restructuring of the economy. Indeed, disappointment is caused by the level of decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth, where none of the indicators (material, energy and transport intensity related to GDP) shows any considerable improvement in the international comparison, although certain differences exist between them. Undesirable trends or negative international comparisons mark the energy and transport intensity (energy and transport indicators related to GDP), while the situation is somewhat better in respect of the material intensity of the economy. The energy intensity of the GDP has shown a positive trend, even though it still cannot stand international comparison.

Indicators in the social sphere show that the development may be considered reasonably good. The value of the indicator which, to a considerable extent, characterises the overall quality of life - the average life expectancy - has been increasing significantly, in fact since the fall of the totalitarian regime. In comparison with the EU 15, however, the situation is not so favourable - the Czech Republic's position has not changed to any significant extent. A positive result, even in the international comparison, is returned by the indicator of the population living below the poverty line after social transfers, where the country held the leading position among all EU 25 countries. On the other hand, the increasing rate of general and registered unemployment is alarming. It is very high, with virtually zero decrease, and is among the serious social problems³⁸. The governmental expenditures on social issues have been rapidly growing since 1999, showing an annual increase of approximately 10%. There are no incentives for those affected to break away from the social network to find a job, which may slow down the economy significantly, particularly in the future. Expenditures on old-age

³⁷ V-4 (Visegrad Four Group), members of which are Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic).

³⁸ Compare with the positive trend of 2007 data on page 15 of this report.

pensions are among the most gently-growing budgetary items. The ratio of the average old-age pension to the average wage has dropped dramatically (from 45% in 1998 to 40% in 2005).

As concerns the environment, considerable improvement was achieved in the early 1990s in particular. Recent years, however, have not seen such enormously positive results. This is due to intensive pollution at the beginning of transformation when the CR had - unlike with the economic situation - the worst starting position of the post-communist countries. Between 1990 and 1999, extraordinarily fast improvement was achieved in the basic parameters of environmental quality. Air pollution was reduced at record-breaking speed, the quality of water improved substantially, and the condition of wildlife (with delayed response) improved as well. The general decline in biodiversity, manifested world-wide, has not been stopped. From approximately 1999 to the present, the decline in the levels of pollution has slowed considerably, or has stalled altogether in some cases. In respect of CO₂ emissions, the CR records slightly worse values than the EU 25 average. In the presented set of indicators, the issue of climate change – characterised by greenhouse gases emissions – predominates, and notably this is one of the least favourable areas in the Czech Republic. In respect of the consumption of industrial fertilisers and pesticides, on the other hand, the CR has one of the best results among the countries being compared. The trend in expenditures on environmental measures is negative. Following a period of high levels of investment in 1992-1998 (above 2% of the GDP), the year 2001 saw a rapid decrease well under 1% of the GDP; this insufficiency has lingered on until the present.

The development trend of the indicator assessing research and development (gross domestic expenditure from the state budget to R&D) has been positive, and the indicator level is higher than in most new EU countries. Nevertheless, compared with the EU 15, its level is still low. In education, the CR has achieved very good results in respect of the indicator of highest education attained, namely secondary education. The result for the indicator of tertiary education is not so comforting. The selected ancillary indicators characterising access to the Internet do not provide a clear picture.

At present, impact assessment is not used as a tool in implementing the strategy. Evaluations are undertaken primarily on a national level. The CGCSD periodically consults its counterparts in the Slovak Republic and will use the lessons of the peer review when completed there.

List of Abbreviations:

CGCSD - Czech Government Council for Sustainable Development

The CR- the Czech Republic

Govt. - Government

IIR - Institute of International Relations, Prague

MoE - Ministry of the Environment

NSDS - National Sustainable Development Strategy

Res.- Resolution

SCP – Sustainable Consumption and Production

SD - Sustainable Development

SDS - Sustainable Development Strategy

SFTI - State Fund of Transport Infrastructure

V- 4 - The Visegrad Four Group (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic), exists since 1991

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