

## Czech Republic

**A renewed umbrella framework and commitment to policy coherence enables the government to pursue 2030 Agenda coherently.** The strategy *Czech Republic 2030*, with sustainable development and wellbeing at its core, uses PCSD as a guiding principle for national, regional and local policies. The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSO), chaired by the First Deputy Minister and Minister for the Environment since April 2018, plays an important role in promoting PCSD across the government. The commitment to PCSD is also reaffirmed in the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030. Translating commitment into practice would be supported by greater awareness on PCSD and by fostering an administrative culture of cross-sectoral co-operation within the public service.

**A co-ordinating body allows for a shared approach to sustainable development domestically and abroad.** The SDG implementation process is led by the Ministry of Environment and supported by the Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSO). The GCSO provides a platform for inter-sectoral policy co-ordination among central administrative authorities. Ministries and other stakeholders contribute to its work through nine thematic committees. The establishment of a formal co-ordination mechanism among GCSO committees is being discussed, raising the possibility for the GCSO to arbitrate between committees and ministries to resolve any overlaps or inconsistencies in the formulation and implementation of policies. An effective interface between the GCSO and the Council for Development Cooperation would support a unified approach to PCSD and help to ensure synergies between domestic and international actions the country has identified as a major challenge in DAC reviews.

**A monitoring and reporting system focused on priority areas, as well as synergies and trade-offs, will be instrumental in enhancing policy coherence.** *Czech Republic 2030* identifies six priority clusters: People and Society; Economy; Resilient Ecosystems; Regions and Municipalities; Global Development and Good Governance, which help in identifying thematic synergies, managing trade-offs and reporting coherently. A biannual analytical *Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability* will be submitted to the government, building on indicators operationalising the 97 specific goals outlined in *Czech Republic 2030*. GCSO committees are responsible for data collection and indicator preparation within their respective fields. The draft report will be prepared by the Sustainable Development Department of the Office of the Government and consequently be subject to consultations with relevant committees and approval by the GCSO before submission. The Czech Statistical Office plays a key role in providing relevant data and is responsible for co-ordination related to the global set of indicators.

**Table 3.3. Institutional mechanisms for PCSD in the Czech Republic**

Building Block	Czech Republic
Political commitment	Commitment to PCSD is reflected in the strategic framework <i>Czech Republic 2030</i> as well as in government strategies and communications. Two priority areas of the national strategy (Good Governance, Global Development) contain strategic goals aimed at improving PCSD.
Policy integration	The regular discussion of sectoral documents between departments in government advisory bodies and interministerial co-ordination groups provides a basic mechanism for policy integration. Ongoing methodological work to draft an implementation plan based on policy gap analysis to identify trade-offs/synergies among different policy objectives is fostering policy integration.
Intergenerational timeframe	A long-term perspective is ensured by the nature of <i>Czech Republic 2030</i> as well as co-operation with stakeholders and informal networks of actors crossing both agendas and political boundaries. The biannual monitoring report may however serve as a revision mechanism for future governments.

L Policy effects	A number of existing policy impact assessment tools (RIA, SIA, EIA) are used. Methodological guidelines are also being developed to analyse the transboundary impacts of policies, but depend on an increase of analytical capacity.
Co-ordination	The governmental body responsible for PCSD, the Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD), seeks to engage the support of political representatives through a participatory process. Chaired by the First Deputy Minister and Minister for the Environment, with the participation of the Minister of Industry and Trade, the GCSD is the main forum for consultations, building new partnerships and developing the national strategic framework. Future ideas for co-ordination include the establishment of PCSD focal points in relevant ministries and building institutional capacity for strategic work by applying quality management methods.
Local involvement	Regions and municipalities have a key role in <i>Czech Republic 2030</i> . The Department of Sustainable Development organised 8 regional round tables/workshops in 2017 to gather input from regional and local stakeholders. The GCSD includes representatives from three important municipal associations and the Committee on Sustainable Municipalities, which represents all key municipal associations and organisations.
Stakeholder participation	A number of stakeholder forums, academic institutions and voluntary associations exist to support SDG implementation in the agenda-setting phase and contributed to developing <i>Czech Republic 2030</i> , e.g. the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS), think-tank Glopolis, CSO consortium <i>Mej se k světu</i> , the Charles University Environment Center, the Association of Social Responsibility and the Green Circle. Relevant ministries and government agencies are also engaged in dialogue with the private sector. The PCSD governmental body provides a platform for discussion and mediation among stakeholders.
Monitoring and reporting	Progress towards national goals will be monitored by the biannual analytical <i>Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability</i> prepared by the Sustainable Development Department. Indicators are outlined and operationalised in the national strategy. The Czech Statistical Office plays a key role in providing relevant data, while the GCSD reviews national implementation and encourages maintained commitment. Embassies report to the MFA on developments in the field.

### Box 3.2. Identifying and setting priorities for SDG implementation

In July 2015, the government of the Czech Republic tasked the prime minister with revising the 2010 national Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development. This process aimed to formulate key priority areas and long-term objectives for sustainable development and well-being, mainstream the SDGs into national policies, and identify opportunities and threats as well as global megatrends influencing the development of the Czech Republic.

In mid-2015 the prime minister invited all government advisory bodies and major CSO networks to send proposals for the country's long-term development. Inputs were collected online via the Database of Strategies, a special application created for this opportunity operated by the Ministry of Regional Development. By 15 October 2015, 49 organisations and institutions had provided 172 inputs.

The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD) team edited and evaluated the inputs. The National Network for Foresight, consisting of six academic institutions and think-tanks focusing on strategic management and foresight, supported their efforts. On the basis of their analysis using the Delphi method, relevant inputs were selected and, through the similar added keywords, added to each input clustered into six key areas. The selected areas were presented at the Sustainable Development Forum in December 2015 and consulted with relevant GCSD committees.

A nearly two-year process of drafting of the *Czech Republic 2030* strategy followed. This involved organisation of six roundtables (one for each key area), organisation of eight regional roundtables, two public hearings, consultations in

both chambers of parliament and numerous consultations with experts across different sectors. Overall, around 500 experts and 100 different organisations participated in the process.

*Source:* OECD (2018), "Country profiles: Institutional mechanisms for policy coherence", in *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2018: Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264301061-6-en>.