

Long-term plan for education and the development of the education system of the Czech Republic (2019-23)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 CZECHIA

Timeline



ID number 39033

Background

The Long-term plan is prepared in line with the provisions of Section 9 of the Act No 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, basic, secondary, tertiary professional and other education, as amended. The essentials of the Long-term plan and its content structure are set out by the Decree No 15/2005 Coll., as amended.

The Long-term plan builds on the goals of the Strategy of education policy of the Czech Republic until 2020 while respecting the Czech Government programme statement of June 2018, the Strategic framework Czech Republic 2030 and following multiple conceptual strategic documents issued at national or supranational levels. The follow-up Long-term plan 2023-27 will serve as the implementation document of the Strategy 2030+ (approved in October 2020).

Objectives

The Long-term plan sets out strategic directions for education and the development of the education system in the following areas:

- (a) lifelong learning;
- (b) improving the quality and efficiency of education and training systems;
- (c) facilitating equal access to education for all;
- (d) sustainable development;
- (e) educational attainment of the population, demography, labour market, employment, social cohesion.

For the period 2019-23, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MŠMT) set three key strategic goals of the regional education policy in the Long-term plan:

- (a) more funding for quality teaching;
- (b) completing the curriculum revision and supporting the implementation of innovated framework educational programmes in schools;
- (c) improving the management of schools and school facilities by making cooperation between the central level administration and the middle management component

(regional authorities) more effective.

Achievement and effective implementation of these goals in practice fully depend on consensus and cooperation among the MŠMT, the Government of the Czech Republic and relevant political actors.

Description

The Long-term plan for education and the development of the education system of the Czech Republic (the Long-term plan) covers the entire system of regional education (pre-school, basic, secondary, tertiary professional education). Decision-making and consulting powers are vested in self-governing bodies: regions (for public VET schools at upper secondary and tertiary professional levels) and municipalities (pre-school and basic schools).

The plan determines the framework of long-term plans for all 14 regions, unifies the approach of the State and individual regions, particularly in setting up the parameters of the education system and the objectives of education policy of the Czech Republic.

More specifically, the following priority goals are set for:

Upper secondary education:

- (a) innovate the system of fields of study and revise the framework educational programmes at upper secondary level;
- (b) improve the procedures of admission to education and completion of study at upper secondary level;
- (c) increase the involvement of employers and relevant ministries, and foster the introduction and strengthening of elements of dual education;
- (d) equal opportunities, education and guidance provision to learners with special education needs;
- (e) unemployment of graduates;
- (f) reduce the risk of early school leaving.

Tertiary professional education:

- (a) innovate newly accredited educational programmes of tertiary professional education with regard to the changing labour market;
- (b) improve the offer of tertiary professional education programmes and continue expert debate leading to greater permeability between tertiary professional education and higher education;
- (c) interlink the process of accreditation of tertiary professional education programmes with entries in the school register.

Continuing education:

- (a) support and further develop continuing education in the Czech Republic;
- (b) encourage greater use of the National register of qualifications by the general public;
- (c) support for teachers' and headmasters' CPD.

Regulatory tools for school system management:

- (a) prepare the Strategy for the Education Policy of the Czech Republic until 2030, which is to serve as a basic strategic document of the Czech education policy;
- (b) agree with the regions and regional authorities the mechanisms of cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and regional authorities in the areas of State administration with the aim of securing more effective cooperation on the management of the regional education system and lowering the decision-making level for selected administrative activities;
- (c) reduce complexity of the administrative burden placed on schools and school facilities.

2019 Approved/Agreed

The document was approved by the Government Resolution No 489 in June 2019.

2020 Implementation

All 14 regions prepared their Long-term plans for education and the development of the education system 2020-24, which were approved in the first half of 2020. The plans were drawn up in line with the Long-term plan for education and the development of the education system of the Czech Republic 2019-23 (DZ CR) and other strategic documents of the Ministry of Education, and the regions in their plans further developed trends and goals set at national level and came up with their own specific solutions accompanied by conceptual, methodological and financial support of development programmes.

2021 Implementation

Implementation, both at the national and regional levels (in all 14 regions of the Czech Republic) continued. By the end of 2021, working groups to prepare and draft topics for the Long-term plan 2023-27 started to be formed. The Long-term plan 2023-27 will be the main implementation document of the second implementation period of the Strategy for education policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+.

2022 Implementation

In March 2022, the MŠMT established the VET Council as a permanent top-level platform for discussing conceptual, strategic, methodological and legislative documents, including support and recommendations to the Ministry in areas related to upper-secondary and tertiary VET in the Czech Republic and the EU. The establishment of the Council was a direct response to the Long-term plan requiring the Ministry to increase the involvement of employers and relevant ministries.

The VET Council has 19 members and its composition mimics the tripartite model of cooperation and representation of partners with whom the MŠMT discusses conceptual and legislative documents under the Education Act. The Council includes representatives of the relevant ministries, representatives of employers with national scope, a representative of the relevant central trade union, representatives of school associations and of regions. The Council in particular:

- (a) cooperates, coordinates and evaluates VET at all levels of the education system and with interaction with social and other partners,
- (b) discusses the requirements for changes to the system of fields of study resulting from the changes in the labour market,
- (c) assesses, mainly on the basis of suggestions from the Council members, the intentions of concepts, strategies and plans affecting the VET system in the Czech Republic,
- (d) proposes conceptual measures that support the improvement of the quality of VET
- (e) initiates the systemic involvement of the relevant ministries according to the sectoral division and system of education fields.

The first meeting of the VET Council took place in October 2022. The VET Council meetings will be organised at least twice a year.

Another new body that has been established is the National Council for Qualifications that focuses on the field of continuing education in relation to the Act No. 179/2006 on verification and recognition of further education results (Validation Act).

2023 Completed

At the end of the year, an evaluation of the implementation of the long-term plan was published. Achievement of vocational education targets was affected by delays and the

revised vision and priorities of the Ministry of Education regarding innovation and the longer process of revision of the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education. While the nomination of members to five expert platforms for Innovation of the Secondary Education took place in September 2022, the actual operation of these platforms only started in October 2023.

A key achievement was aligning vocational competences in initial vocational education programmes (especially those leading to VET certificates) with National System of Qualifications requirements. The government approved a new long-term plan (2023-2027) in December 2023.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Regional Authorities

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)

Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Learners with disabilities

Adult learners

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Education professionals

Teachers

School leaders

Entities providing VET

Companies

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[The Long-term development plan \[in Czech only\] on the Ministry of Education website](#)

[Education Act, Act No 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, basic, secondary, tertiary professional and other education \[Zakon c. 561/2004 Sb., o predskolnim, zakladnim, strednim, vyssim odbornem a jinem vzdelavani \(skolsky zakon\), ve zneni](#)

[Government Decree No 15/2005 Coll., setting out the requirements for long-term plans and annual reports, as amended \[Vyhlaska c. 15/2005 Sb., kterou se stanoví nalezitosti dlouhodobých zameru a vyrocních zpráv, ve zneni pozdejsich predp](#)

[The Long-term development plans of all 14 regions of the Czech Republic \[in Czech only\] on the Ministry of Education website](#)

[Evaluation of the status of implementation of the Long-Term Plan of the Czech Republic 2019-2023](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Innovation of the fields of study system

By 2023, the VET system will be structured to focus on the common professional basis within the relevant group of fields of study. This innovation will allow for a gradual choice of career paths and will able learners to postpone early specialisation.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

School support and governance: piloting the middle component of support

Through their activities in schools, the middle component will contribute to reducing administrative and non-pedagogical burden on schools, creating space for headmasters and other members of school management to develop pedagogical leadership and increase the quality of education.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Practical

measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Approved/Agreed

Quality standards for company and school-based workplaces for practical training

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports focuses on expanding options for students to get practical training in a real work environment with the use of elements of the dual system of VET.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Completed

Reform of regional school funding

On 1 January 2020, the Czech Republic introduced long-expected changes into its system of regional education funding. The main modification the new system has brought about is that the school funding is no longer based on the number of students (per capita approach).

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Strategy for education policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ (Strategy 2030+)

The preparation of the Strategy 2030+ built on maximum transparency and openness. It comprised a series of expert and public consultations and roundtables on the visions and objectives of education policy and its implementation.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Approved/Agreed**Revision of the national curriculum for upper secondary education**

In 2017, the Ministry of Education approved a proposal for revising the national curriculum for upper secondary education (RVP) and the educational programmes of individual schools (SVP). The revision of curriculum documents is among the national priorities until 2020.

 CZECHIA**Type of development**Practical
measure/Initiative**Subsystem**

IVET

2025 Approved/Agreed**Reinforcing cooperation between schools and employers**

The Amendment to the School Act, which came into force in September 2017, obliges schools to develop, with regard to the field of study, efforts to support cooperation with employers towards joint fulfilment of the objectives of secondary education.

 CZECHIA**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Long-term plan for education and the development of the education system of the Czech Republic (2019-23): Czechia. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39033>

