

The strategic plan for higher education for the period 2021+

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 CZECHIA

Timeline



ID number 38997

Background

The Strategic plan for higher education prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the period from 2021 (SP2021+) details the general priorities that have been formulated by overarching documents, especially the 2030+ Education policy strategy and the Innovation strategy of the Czech Republic: Country for the future. It includes additional relevant topics specific to the higher education sector.

Objectives

The Ministry's long-term objective and task is to create conditions for all higher education institutions to provide quality education to students in full-time, combined and distance forms of study, as well as through lifelong learning courses that are open to the general public; to carry out research, development, artistic and other creative and professional activities, the outputs of which will support the social, economic and cultural development of the country; and, to make higher education institutions themselves actors in society that are open to cooperation, discussion and knowledge sharing.

Description

The SP2021+ formulates a general vision for higher education and its significance for society.

Six priority objectives have been set:

- (a) develop competences directly relevant to life and practice in the 21st century;
- (b) improve the availability and relevance of flexible forms of education;
- (c) improve the efficiency and quality of doctoral studies;
- (d) strengthen strategic management and the effective use of capacities in research and development at higher education institutions;
- (e) build capacity for the strategic management of higher education;
- (f) reduce the administrative burden on the staff of higher education institutions so that they can fully pursue their mission.

Each priority objective is detailed down to the level of operational objectives and specific measures, which take several forms: from regulatory changes or the use of financial instruments to providing information support to higher education institutions and the public, or measures to be taken at the level of individual higher education institutions.

The Ministry of Education will support the creation of new and the modernisation of existing degree programmes in areas where there is a significant societal demand for graduates. In designing these programmes, emphasis will be placed on cooperation with practice and the use of modern education methods. An update to the Government Regulation on standards for accreditation will be proposed, expanding and further specifying the requirements for accreditation of degree programmes in combined and distance forms so that their specifics are adequately taken into account and the requirements for their implementation are clearly outlined. The design of curricula requires due attention to the development of soft skills and general competences arising from the Higher education qualifications framework or that are needed in order to meet the graduate's profile in the relevant field of education, and monitoring the fulfilment of these requirements.

As a separate annex to SP2021+, the Strategy for the internationalisation of higher education from 2021 onwards formulates objectives and measures aiming to strengthen the international dimension of higher education institution activities.

2020 Approved/Agreed

The strategic plan was approved on 30 June 2020.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, based on the Strategic plan of the Ministry, individual HE institutions prepared their own strategic plans.

2022 Implementation

An amendment of the Act on HE institutions was prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and discussed among relevant stakeholders. It is aimed especially at the reform of doctoral studies. The aim is to substantially increase the efficiency of the system, both in terms of resources spent and in terms of the time and potential of students and their supervisors.

Besides that, the development of so called industrial doctorates by individual HE institutions is being supported. Some HE institutions have already developed their industrial doctorates. The scope and parameters of the development are being discussed. There was a notion expressed by the representatives of the Ministry that probably no legislation changes will be necessary, but the final shape of the initiative is a subject of ongoing discussions.

Further adjustments to doctoral studies are the subject of a draft amendment to the Government Regulation on accreditation standards. Certain requirements concerning the content of studies in the doctoral study programme are newly introduced. In order to initiate cooperation between students and innovative enterprises and expert organisations, to support the transfer of knowledge into practice and to facilitate the employment of doctoral graduates outside the academic and research sphere, the study programmes may include involvement in direct cooperation with the applied sphere. These measures are currently under discussion.

2023 Implementation

The 2023 implementation plan of the Strategic Plan for Higher Education primarily focused on strengthening the quality and relevance of education, research and innovation. Key priorities included supporting internationalisation, increasing the flexibility and innovation of study programmes, including distance learning, and ensuring equal opportunities for all students. At the same time, it emphasises the strengthening of pedagogical and psychological services for students and academic

staff. The plan also emphasised research development industry links, increasing international cooperation and obtaining external grants.

Progress towards these priorities includes various partial initiatives by individual universities. A project involving 26 universities is focused on microcredentials, which aligns with the priority of innovating and increasing the flexibility of study programmes. In terms of internationalisation, initiatives include supporting automatic recognition of qualifications and supporting the cooperation with foreign ENIC-NARIC centres.

2024 Completed

The 2024 implementation plan of the Strategic Plan for the Higher Education Sector 2024 primarily focused on increasing the quality of education and on innovations in key areas such as digitisation, artificial intelligence, and international cooperation. Emphasis was placed on the modernisation of teaching methods, the support of professionally oriented study programmes and strengthening industry links. The plan also supports graduate tracking and the systematic exchange of experience between universities. Efforts to improve the pedagogical skills of university teachers and the development of academic staff in an international context also play a significant role.

A significant amendment to the Higher Education Act was approved by the government on March 27, 2024. This amendment substantially reformed doctoral studies by:

- a. increasing the minimum doctoral stipend to 1.2 times the minimum wage to improve doctoral students' financial situations;
- b. encouraging doctoral student employment for enhanced financial stability and social security (e.g., mortgage applications);
- c. introducing applied doctorates to foster academia-industry links and private sector funding;
- d. reducing doctoral student admissions to prioritise quality.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports annually develops, submits, and approves an implementation plan for the Higher Education Strategic Plan. HEIs submit their own annual strategic implementation plans accordingly.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners

Education professionals

Adult educators

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

European and international dimensions of VET

VET internationalisation strategies

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Strategic plan of the Ministry of Higher Education for the period 2021+](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

VET-related measures in the Czech National recovery and resilience plan

Section 3 of the plan, Education and labour market, proposes the following reforms and measures in education and training:

Transforming HE institutions to adapt to new forms of learning and changing the labour market needs by 2026:

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2023 Completed

National qualifications framework: higher education qualifications framework

The higher education qualifications framework was approved by the Ministry of Education in November 2018, but has not been included in the Higher Education Act so far. The approval provides a formal basis for the implementation of the document.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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