

End of old rules:

EU funds are to change (not only in Czechia)

The European Commission has presented the draft EU budget - the Multiannual Financial Framework and the introductory part of the legislative rules for the use of EU funding, including the cohesion policy area.

EU Member States, including Czechia (CZ), must prepare for a significant change in the rules, processes and approaches about the ways of using the EU fund support.

New elements in the 2028-2034 budget

Principles:

- Flexibility – more freedom for Member States in setting the processes
- Responsibility – this also means more competences for the Member States
- Focus on results – reimbursement based on achieved targets and milestones
- Partnership approach – involvement of partners

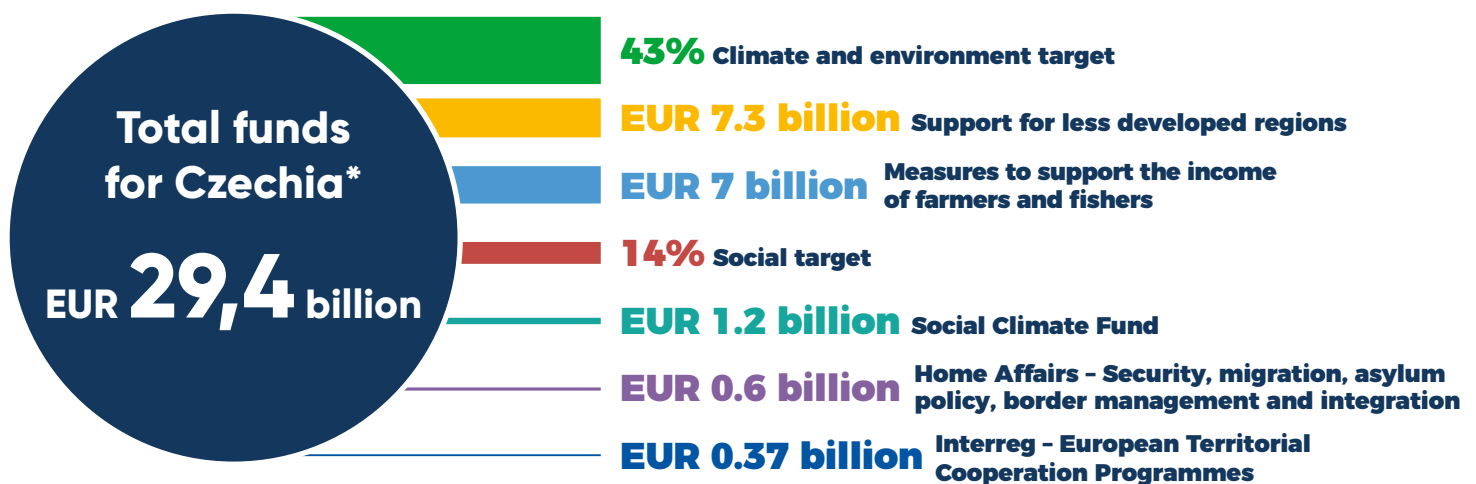
National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs):

- These are strategic documents developed by Member States together with regional and local authorities
- They will replace the current Partnership Agreements and individual programmes, and bring together all EU funds under one common strategy

European Competitiveness Fund:

- It is a new dedicated fund, proposed by the European Commission as part of the draft EU budget for the 2028-2034 period
- Its purpose is to support national and EU investments in strategic sectors across the entire development cycle from research to industrial use

Indicative budget proposal for Czechia and for each area



*Proposal of the European Commission.

Legislative package for the 2028-2034 period

The package of legislative proposals consists of the main regulations and sector-specific regulations.

Main regulations

- On the Multiannual Financial Framework => negotiation led by MoF
- To monitor budget expenditure and the performance framework => negotiation led by MoRD
- On the European Fund and National and Regional Partnership Plans => negotiation led by MoRD
- About the European Competitiveness Fund => negotiation led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade

Sector-specific regulations

- eight sector-specific regulations covering agriculture, fisheries, regional development, internal security and other areas are divided among the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior

Principles and thematic priorities of Czechia for 2028–2034

National and Regional Partnership Plan of Czechia

- **The Strategic Framework of Cohesion Policy 28+** in Czechia is a core basis for the preparation of the next programming period and defines where Czechia intends to channel the EU fund support in the future.
- The CZ Government discussed the document on 30 June 2025 and instructed the MoRD to prepare, together with other ministries, the final version of the **Strategic Framework, including the implementation structure**, and submit it by 30 June 2026.
- **The Ministry of Regional Development – the National Coordination Authority** is entrusted with managing the preparations and negotiation of legislative proposals, as well as setting up the entire fund architecture in Czechia, including the related rules and systems. It will also coordinate negotiations of the framework with the European Commission.

1) Alignment with European Commission priorities

- It is crucial that the Commission has proposed a range of topics from which Czechia will be able to choose its national thematic priorities.
- The Commission also proposed directing funds to key topics such as defence, sustainability, development of regions, demographic change and other areas that coincide with CZ priorities.

2) Territorial dimension and regional balance

- Emphasis is put on a territory-specific approach to interventions in order to foster balanced convergence and development of all CZ regions, especially regions facing structural challenges, economically and socially vulnerable areas and rural areas.
- The territorial dimension is an integral part of all specific objectives.

3) Financial instruments and effective use of funds

- Given the expected decrease in funds, it is key to broaden the use of financial instruments (repayable or combined forms of aid) that enable a more efficient use of public funds and mobilise private capital.

4) Synergy and complementarity with other funds

- The Strategic Framework envisages the use of synergies and complementarities with the European Investment Bank and other EU programmes, in particular the European Competitiveness Fund, in order to maximise the effectiveness of spending and the impact of investments.

Principles of cohesion policy 2028–2034 in Czechia

Clearer priorities, better targeted support

As Czechia prepares for a period with a smaller volume of EU funding, it must **clarify its preferences**. There is a shift towards a smaller proportion of traditional grants, greater use of **financial instruments** and more precise definitions of areas of support. There is also an ambitious plan to unify all funds under one roof.



Defence and resilience

Support for military mobility, critical infrastructure, crisis preparedness of the population, telemedicine and other dual-use projects (e.g. transport infrastructure, research, education, integrated rescue system).



Competitiveness

Supporting innovation, research, digitalisation, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer.



Demographic changes

Addressing population aging, rural depopulation and structurally affected regions, supporting affordable housing, social and health services.



Digital and green transition

Climate change adaptation, environmental protection, circular economy, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, digitalisation of public administration and businesses, development of eGovernment and cybersecurity.

Proposed thematic priorities

How were the priorities shaped?

Czechia has recognised the importance of clearly defining its key areas for EU funding after 2027.

The defined priorities are based on:

- analyses of national and European strategic documents
- evaluations of past programming periods
- consultations with economic, social and territorial partners
- cooperation with the Expert Advisory Body for the Use of EU Funds, which assists in defining strategic priorities and preparing the new programming period

These priorities will be finalised through negotiations with the European Commission and as national priorities are specified.

What are the next steps?

Who will represent CZ interests and negotiate the new form of EU funds?

The role of the Ministry of Regional Development - the National Coordination Authority



**Negotiating
legislation at EU level**



**Preparing and managing
the National and
Regional Partnership
Plan**



**Implementing the
partnership principle at
EU and national level**

The CZ Government has instructed the MoRD-NCA

to coordinate the negotiation of legislative proposals and prepare the settings of the entire fund architecture in Czechia, including the related rules and system.

Negotiation timeline



For information on the future of EU funds, follow:

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dates current as of 11.09.2025