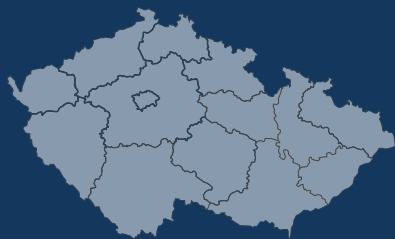


THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS DRAWING EU FUNDS AT RECORD RATE



In recent years, the Czech Republic has become one of the leaders in drawing of EU funds that **significantly contribute to improving the living standards** throughout the EU.

We managed to use up all the funding from the previous programming period 2014–2020 and now the disbursement is even faster.

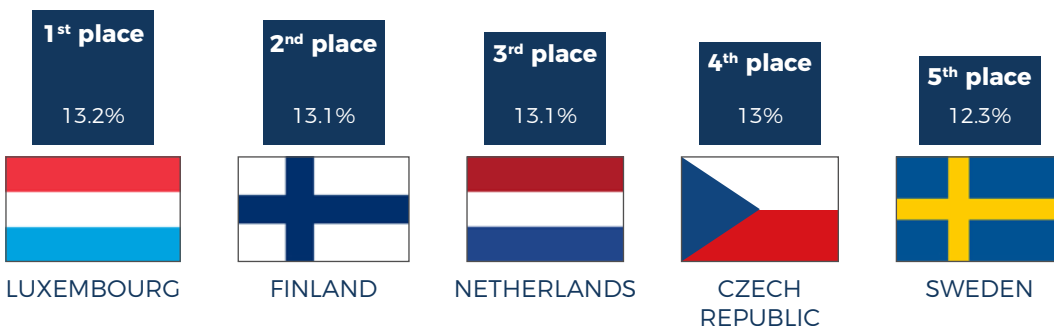
EU funds have been with us for more than 20 years

- Upon its accession to the European Union in May 2004, the Czech Republic gained the opportunity to draw financing from EU funds.
- Since then, we have participated in three already completed programming periods with a total allocated amount of approximately EUR 53 billion.
- In 2025, we are halfway through the 2021–2027 programming period, in which we have EUR 21.1 billion available for five core investment priorities.

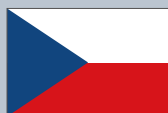
A quick start: Czech Republic has successfully launched the 2021–2027 period

The Czech Republic is among the fastest Member States in drawing EU funds and took an excellent fourth place at the beginning of 2025. By that time, the European Commission had already reimbursed us 13% of the available funds, while the EU average was only 7.5%.

And we are proud of another significant achievement – by the end of 2024, we had already contracted more than half of the funding available for this period. This means that the beneficiaries have committed to using these funds for specific projects and activities.



Czech Republic is successful thanks to:



- Meaningful projects
- Meticulous and experienced administration staff
- Simplified rules and cost reporting options

Key results for sustainable development and innovation in the 2021–2027 period



More greenery for more people

almost a million people will live near public parks.



More digitised enterprises

541 companies will introduce advanced technologies.



Support for researchers

we will help 3,514 experts in research.



Faster internet in municipalities

1,000 municipalities will connect to new networks.

We are just in the middle of the programming period. Results will improve significantly in the coming months and years.

WHERE EU FUNDS HELP: HOW DO THEY CHANGE OUR DAILY LIVES FOR THE BETTER?

Environment



EU funds help to protect and improve the environment. They have contributed to reduced air pollution, more efficient water treatment and energy savings, which has improved the quality of life.

2014–2020 results:

- The population share in areas with polluted air decreased from 26.5% to 1.4%, also thanks to the EU funds aid.
- Energy consumption decreased by 3.2 million GJ per year, which corresponds to 3.5% of total heat consumption in the Czech Republic.
- Composting increased by 70% and 305,122 tonnes of waste are sorted annually, not ending up in landfills.
- In 88,806 households, solid fuel boilers were replaced with more environment-friendly variants.

Research, development and innovation



EU funds connect research organizations with companies to speed up the uptake of new knowledge.

2014–2020 results:

- Joint projects of companies and researchers increased by two thirds.
- Cooperation with research institutions was established by 3,525 enterprises.
- Registrations were made of 3,981 results of applied research applicable in new or innovated products or services.
- The aid of EU funds helped to slow down the decline in the number of published research outputs while increasing their quality.

EU funds help substantially to improve the quality of the environment and the transport infrastructure, they support research and innovation and increase the competitiveness of the Czech Republic.

Transport infrastructure



EU funds are upgrading roads and modernising railways, which speeds up transport and increases safety.

2014–2020 results:

- 357 km of new roads and motorways were built, and 1,500 km were reconstructed.
- 25% of municipalities gained better connections to regional capitals.
- 439 km of railways with 43 stations were modernized, 26 km of new railway lines and 71 km of metro, tram and trolleybus lines were built.
- The number of trains on the renovated lines increased by 14%, which reduced waiting times for passengers.

Competitiveness



EU funds help small and medium-sized enterprises to grow and expand. The Czech economy is better adapting to modern technologies and sustainable development.

2014–2020 results:

- Grants for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs fostered the development of regions.
- 1,500 brownfield sites were redeveloped into modern spaces for business and housing. The total remediated area is equivalent to approximately 36,540 football fields.
- High-speed internet was introduced to 18,125 households in remote areas.
- The digitalization of public administration made major progress. An example is the launch and innovation of the Citizen's Portal that facilitates access to approximately 400 digital government services.

Revitalization for a thriving landscape

The blind arm of the Slaník River has been restored to its original state, improving the natural hydrology of the landscape over an area of more than 1 hectare. Thanks to the revitalization, biodiversity has increased, new wetland habitats have emerged, and natural water retention in the landscape has been supported. This not only protects the local ecosystem but also enhances resilience against drought and floods.



Investment in research and development

The modernization of existing research infrastructure has transformed the HiLASE facility into a top-tier center of excellence of European significance. In close collaboration with the prestigious UK institution STFC, the center fosters technological advancement and provides state-of-the-art equipment for both scientific and industrial applications.



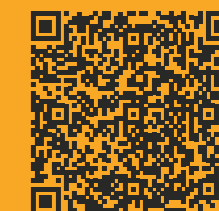
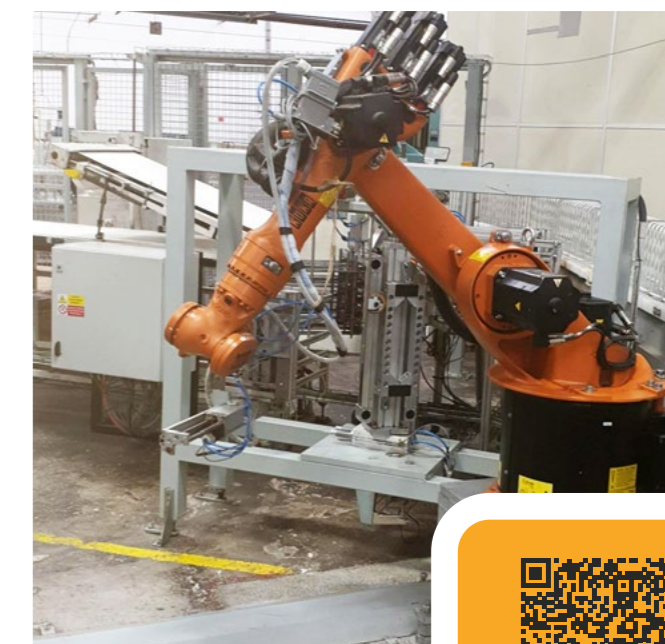
Faster and smoother railway connections in South Bohemia

The modernization of the transit railway corridor has improved accessibility and efficiency in rail transport. The project connected the existing sections between Soběslav and Doubí near Tábor, ensuring a smoother and faster journey for both passengers and freight while integrating with previously upgraded sections.



Support for small and medium-sized enterprises

Sans Souci, a company operating in the traditional Czech glassmaking industry, has invested in six new technologies, including robots and coating equipment, to accelerate and automate production. This has led to higher product quality, stronger export potential, and increased competitiveness in the market.



The future of EU funds after 2027

One of the main goals of the European Union is to **raise living standards** through cohesion policy. That seeks to level out **disparities between regions** with the support of EU funds.

Cohesion policy objectives after 2027:



innovation



education



green transition



addressing demographic issues



connectivity

In the future period, however, this policy will face new challenges, such as reduced funding due to the emergence of new priorities, notably in the areas of energy and defense. This will require changes and new approaches. **What are the Czech Republic's priorities for negotiating the cohesion policy after 2027?**



Sufficient budget

to maintain cohesion policy as a key instrument for balanced development of all regions and EU competitiveness.



Tailor-made approach

shifting away from strict thematic concentration while prioritizing the specific needs of individual regions.



Linking relevant reforms and investments

to focus on achieving concrete results and ensure predictable environment for using EU funds.



Enhancing capacities

to invest in institutional development and human resources is essential for improving qualifications and ensuring the effective use of EU funds.



More effective use of funding

to promote a combination of public and private resources and make greater use of financial instruments.



Reduced bureaucracy

through effective shared management, a partnership approach, simplified rules, and a decreased administrative burden in implementation.

It is essential to leverage each region's unique potential and enable investments tailored to their needs and strengths. **Ensuring absorption capacity, particularly in vulnerable or lagging regions, should be a key aspect of cohesion policy implementation.**

Benefits of EU funds in figures

What has been supported in the Czech Republic and in what areas can we verifiably observe the positive effects of European grants? The new evaluations provide concrete answers:



Summary of evaluations



Co-funded by
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