



Czech Republic

**Action Plan of the Czech Republic
Open Government Partnership
for 2025 to 2026**

Submitted by: Minister for Justice

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1. Introduction

Open Government is based on the values of transparency, accountability and public involvement in decision-making and policy-setting and the provision of meaningful feedback. The mission of the international *Open Government Partnership* (OGP) is to promote open government in its member countries. The OGP was officially launched on 20 September 2011 at the UN General Assembly in New York with 8 founding members (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA). OGP has grown dynamically over time. In 2024, the initiative has 75 members at national level and 150 members at regional level (states, regions, cities).

Since its accession to the OGP initiative, which was decided by the Government of the Czech Republic in its Resolution No. 691 of 14 September 2011, the Czech Republic has been using its OGP action plans and their commitments to embed the principles of open government more broadly in the development and implementation of its policies, strategic documents and individual measures, where appropriate and effective. In the Czech Republic, the development and adoption of specific OGP action plans and the commitments contained therein, compared to some other OGP member countries, is not the main instrument for the implementation of public administration reforms and its greater openness towards civil society, but rather a complementary instrument that appropriately complements and is linked to other comprehensive reform strategy documents. Among the most important of these are *the Client-Oriented Public Administration* strategy and *the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030*. In developing and implementing the OGP action plans, the Czech Republic also draws on the OECD Recommendation on Open Government adopted in 2018 and the findings and recommendations formulated in the *OECD Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic* prepared and presented by the OECD in 2023, particularly in Chapter 1: "*Fostering Citizen and Stakeholder Participation in the Czech Republic.*" From the onset, the Government OGP activities have been closely linked to the implementation of measures in the Government's anti-corruption strategic documents. The OGP action plans that the Czech Republic develops and adopts have long emphasized the fight against corruption. Finally, through its OGP national action plans, the Czech Republic has long been working towards the implementation of *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Specifically, towards the implementation of Goal "*16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels*" and its targets "*16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*", "*16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*" and "*16.7 Ensure responsible, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision making at all levels*".

The seventh Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2025 to 2026 (the "Seventh Action Plan") continues to implement of all four OGP core values of access to information, public participation, accountability and technology and innovation. A significant part of the newly proposed commitments is directly related to public participation in decision-making and policy setting processes, including the involvement of discriminated groups, the analysis of the institutional framework to facilitate participation, the introduction of innovative methods of citizen participation, as well as capacity building within the public administration to strengthen cooperation between the public administration and civil society organizations, especially through the training of public servants. The Seventh Action Plan again includes commitments to transparency and the fight against corruption, this time mainly in public procurement, again aiming to ensure that all public funds are spent efficiently and economically and that the scope for potential corruption is in cooperation with civil society significantly reduced. The Seventh Action Plan naturally builds on the content and focus of the previous action plans summarized in the following chapter and builds on their outputs and capitalizes on the experience gained through their implementation.



2. Open Government Efforts to Date

As it follows from the introduction, since the Czech Republic joined the international initiative Partnership for Open Government in 2011, six action plans have been approved by the Government and subsequently implemented. The first **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership** (hereinafter referred to as the "First Action Plan") contained commitments falling into two thematic areas, the first one related to the professionalization, depoliticization and stabilization of the civil service through the Civil Service Act, and the second one to free access to information and open data. From the outset and without exception, the commitments in the Action Plans responded to the anti-corruption strategic documents and their priorities approved by the Government, as well as to the demand from NGOs. The content of the First Action Plan was thoroughly consulted in terms of civil society involvement and its input played a significant role in terms of content.

The second **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2014 to 2016** (hereinafter referred to as the "Second Action Plan"), due to the retention of the original commitments of the First Action Plan, did not go through a further consultation process open to the general public during its drafting, but only took into account the recommendations received from the **Independent Reporting Mechanism** (IRM) and updated the commitments in line with the program statement of the new Government.

The third **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2016 to 2018** (hereinafter referred to as the "Third Action Plan") thematically built on the commitments of the Second Action Plan and included, for example, a successful and quite significant commitment to develop an open data ecosystem in the Czech Republic and to create a National Open Data Catalog. This commitment was also nominated for the Czech Republic in the competition of successful commitments for the period up to 2018, which took place in 2021. The Third Action Plan also focused on access to scientific information, support for volunteering and strengthening security at the local (community) level. The Third Action Plan restored a more prominent role for civil society in the design process and again saw successful proposals for commitments from civil society.

The fourth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2018 to 2020** (hereinafter referred to as the "Fourth Action Plan") again continued its focus on the functioning of the civil service and in the area of open data and access to information it focused on the judiciary and the publication of court decisions, as well as on education. In addition to starting efforts to publish lower court decisions and to raise awareness of whistleblower issues, other major commitments of the Fourth Action Plan included opening data contained in the Czech School Inspectorate's information system, with related commitments successfully completed despite procedural difficulties. During the Action Plan cycle, civil society representatives began to play a more prominent role in the quarterly interim evaluation of the implementation of the commitments, thus having the opportunity to monitor and comment on their implementation in dialogue with their lead agencies.



The development and implementation of the fifth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2020 to 2022** (hereinafter referred to as the "Fifth Action Plan") was significantly affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, where, for example, several activities had to be carried out on-line or postponed. However, consultations on the possibility of creating an open-data database of providers and recipients of public grant funding could eventually take place. Similarly, work continued on commitments to open data on education and the education system and on whistleblower issues. In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, the end of the 8th parliamentary term of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic also affected the implementation of the commitments, as submitted bills that had not completed their deliberations had to be resubmitted to the legislative process. This Action Plan also included for the first time a commitment aimed primarily at promoting public participation, when the first part of the activities of the commitment aimed at the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes was completed. Together with representatives of NGOs, a participatory approach was developed in the form of a *Recommendatory Methodology for the Participation of NGOs in Consultative and Working Bodies and in the Drafting of State Administration Documents*. In terms of the role of civil society representatives, despite the aforementioned complications caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, their involvement in the process of monitoring implementation was managed to be maintained and, in addition, in the framework of the aforementioned commitment to increase the reach of targeted communication on open government issues to members of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Organizations (hereinafter referred to as "GCNGOs").

The sixth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2023 to 2024** (hereinafter referred to as the "Sixth Action Plan") contained both commitments building on the activities of the Fifth Action Plan and new commitments based on the recommendations of the IRM on new topics in economic management of state property, registration of beneficial owners or making data on strategies more transparent. Thus, the first category of commitments included, for example, commitments to pilot the implementation of the *Methodology for the Participation of NGOs in Consultative and Working Bodies and in the Drafting of State Administration Documents*, or to improve the status of whistleblowers, including raising awareness of whistleblowing. The first category included a commitment to make state subsidies more transparent. Activities on opening data on education and the education system also continued. In the second category, commitments in the economic management of state property, commitment to involve the public in monitoring public procurement in the so-called Integrity Pacts and transparency and methodological environment for small-scale public procurement (hereinafter also referred to as "SSPP"), which is also thematically linked to one of the commitments of the Seventh Action Plan, were included. From a procedural point of view, the Sixth Action Plan was approved late compared to the OGP rules, for which the Czech Republic received a Contrary to Process letter, but this delay was compensated by the additional inclusion of commitments, which were in demand both from civil society and some representatives of the Government coalition.



3. Action Plan Development Process

[The Working Commission of the Chairman of the Government Anti-Corruption Council for Open Government and Transparency of Public Administration](#) (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Commission"), which brings together representatives of both the Governmental and non-Governmental sectors, actively participated in the planning and all steps of the process of co-creation of the Seventh Action Plan, and is a multi-stakeholder forum within the OGP processes and rules, and fulfils the minimum requirements of [the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards](#) No. 1.1 and 5.1.

At its meeting on 15 April 2024, the Working Commission discussed and approved the [schedule for the development of the Seventh Action Plan](#). The schedule was published on the [korupce.cz](#) website on 16 April 2024, 14 days before the commencement of the process of co-creation of the Seventh Action Plan, i.e. in accordance with the minimum requirement of the OGP Standards for Participation and Co-creation No. 3.1. The [korupce.cz](#) website and its [dedicated section on the Open Government Partnership](#) also meet the minimum requirements of the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No. 2.1, 2.2 and, through the usually quarterly publication of the evaluation of current commitments, also the minimum requirement No. 5.1. On 30 April 2024, in accordance with the minimum requirements of the the OGP Participation and Co creation Standards No. 3.2 and 3.3, the Ministry of Justice announced a public consultation, where the [call](#) was published on the website [korupce.cz](#), on the website of the Ministry of Justice, on the social networks of the Ministry of Justice and subsequently on 2 May 2024 in partnership with the Government Council for Non-Governmental Organizations on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Information about the launch of the consultations was sent out in parallel by e-mail, shared by the members of the Working Commission and by the Unit of Secretariat of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Organizations of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. At the same time with consultations announcement, a more detailed [accompanying document](#) was published. The deadline for submitting commitments in writing was set to 28 May 2024. On 14 May 2024, [the first public workshop on the draft commitments](#) was held as part of the public consultation. The workshop was attended by representatives from both the Government and non-Government sectors and discussed proposals and suggestions for commitments in varying degrees of specificity and elaboration. A total of 24 more or less concretely formulated commitment proposals were received in public consultation.

The outputs of the workshop, together with the written draft commitments received, served as the basis for the next [meeting of the Working Commission, which took place on 10 June 2024](#). At the Working Commission meeting, all the commitments received-to-date were discussed and a first pre-selection of commitments was made for further discussion with the lead agencies. Following the Working Commission meeting, 3 more proposals for commitments were received separately from the Czech Publishers' Union and were also included for discussion with lead agencies. On 19 August 2024, [an update to the timetable](#) was approved by the Working Commission per rollam, with the original timetable for the next steps being shifted by three weeks. The reasons were both organizational, due to the overlap with other important meetings, and substantive, with some of the lead agencies requesting an extension of time for their comments. The time gained was used to continue discussions with the lead agencies and to further refine the individual commitment proposals.

Following the consultations with the proponents and potential lead agencies of the commitments, a further meeting of the Working Commission was held on 25 September 2024, which was briefed on the results of the consultations with lead agencies to date. Based on the information received, the Working Commission directly recommended the inclusion of five commitments in the Seventh



Action Plan as commitments 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. The conclusions of the Working Commission and their justification are included in the relevant minutes of the meeting. In accordance with the minimum requirement of OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No, 4.1 for providing feedback, the rationale for the Working Commissions` recommendations in relation to the draft commitments received is included in the relevant record of the Working Commission meeting. The records of the Working Commission meetings are continuously published on the korupce.cz website, i.e. accessible not only to the proponents of the relevant proposals, but also to the general public.

The IRM recommendations formulated for the Czech Republic in the [Co-Creation Brief 2024](#) of 23 April 2024 were used throughout the process of creation, public consultation and discussion with the promoters. Among the procedure recommendations that were used were recommendations to reach out to a wider audience in the early stages of the co-creation process, to continue in the well-established cooperation with the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs in the previous period. Simultaneously, the members of the Working Commission were asked to intensify the dissemination of information within their institutions and also externally. Above all, however, it was a case of recommendation for a less formal approach in public consultations. Following on from the substantive recommendations of the IRM brief, the Seventh Action Plan includes commitments on public procurement and commitments to directly promote participation in decision-making and policy-making.

The draft Seventh Action Plan was circulated to inter-ministerial commenting procedure in October 2024 and sent to the members of the Working Commission for their comments. At the same time, a public consultation was called again for a period of 10 working days asking for comments from the general public.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Government, the material was submitted to the inter-ministerial commenting procedure on 15 October 2024 with the deadline for submission of opinions by 30 October 2024. Substantial comments were submitted by the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Office of the Public Defender of Rights, the Regional Office of the South Moravian Region, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Association of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, the Office of the Czech Fiscal Council and the Office for the Protection of Competition. The Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions made only recommendatory comments. Based on a substantial comment by the Ministry of Regional Development, commitments 4.6 and 4.7 were added to the material. No comments were received within the public consultation.



4. Commitments

Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.1. Analysis and design of a national competence center focused on consultation, participation and deliberative processes		
Brief Description of the Commitment	In many European and non-European countries there are centers focused on consultation and deliberative processes. The aim is to analyze the situation abroad and to propose an ideal model of a similar center in the Czech Republic.		
Commitment Lead	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
	Individual ministries, representatives of territorial public administrations, the Office of the Public Defender of Rights	NGOs represented in the Government Council for NGOs and its working bodies	Representatives of academia, OECD, Council of Europe
Commitment Period	01/2025-12/2026 (with possible overlap to 2027)		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The OECD recommendations in the OECD Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic, 2023¹ strongly emphasize the participation of citizens and other stakeholders in the Czech Republic in public affairs. Although there are examples of good practice in the Czech public administration in involving citizens and other stakeholders in public affairs, these are mostly not having sufficient impact. There is no common and overarching vision of cooperation between the Czech public administration and a diverse group of stakeholders, and there is no unifying, coordinating and methodological role of the public administration in this area.

The consequence is the lack of a uniform definition covering a wide range of different types of consultation processes, the ambiguous legal and regulatory anchoring of consultation processes that does not sufficiently promote transparency and accountability, and especially the absence of a center of expertise that would harmonize procedures across public administration institutions and provide professional, methodological and educational support to public authorities.

The recommendation to establish a "Centre" is also strongly emphasized in the Action Plan for the implementation of the OECD Recommendations for the Czech Republic in the field of public administration from February 2024.

¹ Evaluation of public administration performance in the Czech Republic and recommendations for future strategic development, available from: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/hodnoceni-vykonu-verejne-spravy-v-cr-a-doporuceni-pro-budouci-strategicky-rozvoj.aspx>.



The topic of consultation processes appears mainly in Czech strategic documents:

- Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 - see section 6. Good Governance
- Client-Oriented Public Administration 2030 - see strategic objective 5 Informed and participating citizens
- Strategy for cooperation between public administration and non-Governmental non-profit organizations for the years 2021 to 2030 - see strategic objective B - support for effective partnership and cooperation between public administration and the non-profit sector

Strong support for consultative, participatory and deliberative processes is also evident from the European Union - see for example COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes (C/2023/8627).

2. What are the causes of the problem?

The recent development of consultative, participatory and deliberative processes at all levels of public administration may have led to some good practice (e.g. participatory processes at local level, involvement of actors in advisory bodies at national level), but these were *ad hoc* cases without systematic anchoring, linkages and synergies. Despite previous attempts to anchor participation at the national level (see e.g. Methodology for public participation in the preparation of Government documents, Ministry of Interior 2009), there is no coordinated approach to the topic of participation from the central level. The topic of participation of citizens and other stakeholders is not clearly anchored at the central level, there is a lack of clearer definition of participation, including general legislative anchoring of participatory and deliberative processes in the development of public policies, there is an obvious lack of comprehensive methodological and educational support on the topic of participation, and there is also a lack of an expert unit in the Czech environment that would monitor developments abroad and initiate the transfer of new experiences and methods to the Czech Republic. Current data, including international comparisons and examples, are contained in the Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic, 2023, OECD 2024.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The problem has not yet been systematically addressed. Only partial measures have been taken.

2. What solution are you proposing?

The establishment of a national competence center focused on consultative, participatory and deliberative processes must be preceded by a thorough analysis of the situation abroad. Based on this analysis, the structure, mission and institutional setting of the center can be proposed.

Currently, a project named " Supporting Member States' public administrations in designing and delivering meaningful participatory and deliberative processes – Implementing ComPact COM(2023)667 and the Commission Recommendation 2023/2836" is being prepared, in which Portugal, Ireland, Romania, Slovakia and Finland are participating in addition to the Czech Republic. The project is being prepared within the Technical Support Instrument program funded by the European Commission. The project is expected to be implemented in the period 2025-2027. The objectives of the project proposal are to propose an appropriate form of legislative anchoring of the topic of participation in the Czech Republic, take into account international experience, and to prepare a proposal for the form of the competence center, including a calculation of future financial costs and identification of possible sources for their coverage (EU funds, etc.).



The total estimated cost is approximately CZK 1 million. Its payment is expected from external project resources. If the draft project is not supported by the European Commission, the implementation of this commitment in the Czech Republic will be significantly jeopardized.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- Analysis of similar centers in developed democratic countries.
- Proposal for the structure and functions of the National Competence Centre of the Czech Republic.
- Draft of possible legislative changes to promote participatory and deliberative processes.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make the Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>Centers of excellence of this type are also established to increase transparency. Opening up the policy-making process and involving citizens and other stakeholders directly increases the transparency of decision-making.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>As a result of more frequent and better involvement of citizens and other stakeholders in public administration at central level, stakeholders will have easier access to information on how policies and documents are developed and will be better able to participate in transparent monitoring and evaluation of the measures taken.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>Improving the participation of citizens and other stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of the solutions adopted is the main objective of the commitment. The role of the competence center should be to support different types of participatory and deliberative processes at different levels of public administration, to share good practice and to network relevant actors, to provide methodological and educational support and transfer of experience and innovative methods from abroad.</p>



Commitment Planning									
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders						
Preparatory phase: Start of cooperation and setup of communication with partners from abroad	regular meetings with TSI project partners 1 expert from the Republic and 2-3 external experts	06/2025	Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)						
			Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors						
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Government</th> <th>CSOs</th> <th>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>central Government bodies</td> <td>NGOs represented in GCNGOs and its working bodies</td> <td>OECD and representatives of the EU countries that will participate in the TSI project</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)	central Government bodies	NGOs represented in GCNGOs and its working bodies	OECD and representatives of the EU countries that will participate in the TSI project
Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)							
central Government bodies	NGOs represented in GCNGOs and its working bodies	OECD and representatives of the EU countries that will participate in the TSI project							
Implementation phase:	<p>Analysis of similar centers in developed democratic countries</p> <p>Proposal for the structure and functions of the National Competence Centre of the Czech Republic.</p> <p>Draft of possible legislative changes to promote participatory and deliberative processes.</p>	12/2026	Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit) Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Government</th> <th>Government</th> <th>Government</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>central Government bodies</td> <td>NGOs represented in the GCNGOs and its working bodies and others</td> <td>OECD and representatives of the EU countries that will participate in the TSI project</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Government	Government	Government	central Government bodies	NGOs represented in the GCNGOs and its working bodies and others	OECD and representatives of the EU countries that will participate in the TSI project
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Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.2. Preparation of pilot implementation of modern deliberative mechanisms at the central level in the Czech Republic		
Brief Description of the Commitment	The Czech Republic will pilot the implementation of modern deliberative tools such as citizens' assemblies, citizen panels, citizen juries and others.		
Commitment Lead	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
	the ministries responsible for implementation, the Office of the Public Defender of Rights	NGOs represented in the Government Council for NGOs and its working bodies and other NGOs	OECD, Council of Europe, external experts
Commitment Period	1/2025 - 12/2026		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Citizen trust in politicians and public administration is at its lowest level since the Czech Republic was restored.² In European comparison, the Czech Republic is among the countries with lower levels of public trust in national Governments (see OECD (2024): OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions - 2024 Results). Polarization and radicalization of society is on the rise. The general public feels alienated and unable to influence public affairs in any way. The citizens' assembly is an effective instrument of deliberative democracy for addressing these challenges and, in comparison to other countries (Germany, France, Ireland, Poland, etc.) it is not yet used in the Czech Republic.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

A citizens' assembly is a method of informed decision-making on public issues where citizens representing different sections of society work out solutions within a well-defined process.

The growing complexity of societal problems and the associated complexity of their solutions have no solution in simple populist proposals. Deliberative tools allow for effective debate and a joint search for solutions that respect the rights and needs of most parts of society. Czech society is not yet used to finding solutions in deliberative processes. In the world, these mechanisms are used both for decisions with very fundamental ethical and ideological implications (e.g. allowing euthanasia, access to abortion) and for issues that affect the lives of a large part of society on a daily basis (housing, transport, climate protection, etc.).

² CVVM: Trust in Constitutional Institutions - Autumn 2023: <https://cvvm.soc.cas.cz/tiskove-zpravy/politicke/institute-a-politici/5765-duvera-ustavnim-institucim-podzim-2023>; and press release: https://cvvm.sonastarc.cas.cz/media/com_form2content/documents/c2/a5735/f9/pi231214.pdf.



Strong support for consultative, participatory and deliberative processes is also evident from the European Union - see for example COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes (C/2023/8627).

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

It has not yet been systematically addressed. According to the OECD recommendations in the Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic, 2023³, despite partial progress (e.g. in the participation of the non-profit sector), the Czech Republic still has no experience with deliberation at the national level.

2. What solution are you proposing?

The aim is to prepare the conditions for the implementation of at least one modern deliberative process at national level. In the case of a successful pilot test, to specify recommendations on how to implement similar tools systematically in decision-making practice in the Czech Republic. The choice of the deliberative tool has not yet been made. Most likely it could be a citizens' assembly (Members of the citizens' assembly are selected by a lot based on demographic criteria such as age, gender, place of residence, social status, or relationship to the issue under discussion. This temporarily creates a miniature of the community in question, which has legitimacy in the eyes of the public. The role of the CA is to conduct a thorough analysis of the specific problem or dilemma, discuss different solutions, weigh the respective advantages and disadvantages, and finally reach a well-thought-out decision based on mutual consensus), or a citizens' panel (a simplified and faster version of a citizens' assembly), or a citizens' jury (A citizens' jury is usually a one-off event where representatives of the public take a common position on a presented problem or project. The aim is to provide the responsible political representation or officials with a societal perspective on a particular issue). The commitment is directed towards the preparation of a deliberative instrument. The total estimated cost of the preparation is approximately 0.5 million CZK. It is expected to be covered by external project resources.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- To support the implementation of a deliberative tool that enables effective and direct participation of the public and other non-state actors in finding solutions to socially important issues
- Increase in the public confidence in the democratic system.

Commitment Analysis

Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data?</i> <i>How will it make the Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>Modern deliberative tools and processes are primarily designed to be highly inclusive and transparent. The commitment focuses on preparing the implementation of one of the deliberative tools. Already in the preparation phase, procedures and sub-processes need to be clearly defined to ensure a fully transparent process while defining the conditions and rules for partnership work in a safe environment.</p>

³ Evaluation of public administration performance in the Czech Republic and recommendations for future strategic development, available from: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/hodnoceni-vykonu-verejne-spravy-v-cr-a-doporuceni-pro-budouci-strategicky-rozvoj.aspx>.



<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>The opportunity for citizens and other stakeholders to be involved in the solution of a specific public problem leads to increased accountability both on the part of the general public (they are involved, support the adopted solution and at the same time feel co-responsible for its implementation) and on the part of the public administration, which gains practical experience of direct interaction with the involvement of the general public and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>The commitment is aimed at direct involvement of the general public and other stakeholders in finding solutions to public policy issues.</p>

Commitment Planning									
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders						
<p>Preparatory phase: Setting up cooperation</p>	<p>1-2 meetings with ministries and other central administrative authorities and NGOs/experts</p> <p>1 external expert involved</p>	<p>08/2025</p>	<p>Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)</p> <p><u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="959 1108 1448 1413"> <tr> <th data-bbox="959 1108 1092 1220">Government</th> <th data-bbox="1092 1108 1261 1220">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1261 1108 1448 1220">Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="959 1220 1092 1413">central Government bodies</td> <td data-bbox="1092 1220 1261 1413">NGOs represented in the GCNGOs and its working bodies</td> <td data-bbox="1261 1220 1448 1413">OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts</td> </tr> </table>	Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)	central Government bodies	NGOs represented in the GCNGOs and its working bodies	OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts
Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)							
central Government bodies	NGOs represented in the GCNGOs and its working bodies	OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts							
<p>Implementation phase: Preparation of an innovative deliberative instrument at national level</p>	<p>Identification and analysis of the problem to be solved</p> <p>Creation of a set of implementation methodological materials, on the basis of which it will be possible to start piloting the application of the chosen method</p>	<p>10/2026</p>	<p>Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)</p> <p><u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="959 1617 1448 1892"> <tr> <th data-bbox="959 1617 1092 1728">Government</th> <th data-bbox="1092 1617 1261 1728">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1261 1617 1448 1728">Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="959 1728 1092 1892">central Government bodies</td> <td data-bbox="1092 1728 1261 1892">NGOs with expertise in the method</td> <td data-bbox="1261 1728 1448 1892">OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts</td> </tr> </table>	Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)	central Government bodies	NGOs with expertise in the method	OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts
Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)							
central Government bodies	NGOs with expertise in the method	OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts							



Final phase: Evaluation of the implementation of the measures and proposal for further action in with the central Government authorities involved	1-2 meetings with ministries and other central administrative authorities and NGOs	12/2026	Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)			
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u>			
			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)	
			central Government bodies involved	NGOs with expertise in the method	OECD, Council of Europe, other domestic and international experts	



Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.3. <i>Capacity building within Government to strengthen cooperation between Government and civil society organizations</i>		
Brief Description of the Commitment	Strengthening the knowledge and skills of Government representatives will enable a better understanding and appreciation of the role and potential benefits of effective cooperation with civil society organizations.		
Commitment Lead	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
	Mol - Civil Service Section / DIA and individual ministries (in the role of providers and recipients of training)	NGOs represented in the Government Council for NGOs and its working bodies	Representatives of academia
Commitment Period	01/2025-12/2026		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

In 2022, an Analysis of Cooperation between the State Administration and NGOs and NGO Networks was carried out, which identified the main pitfalls of cooperation between the two sectors and also formulated possible recommendations.⁴

The results of the analysis show that the biggest obstacle to increased cooperation is mutual lack of knowledge and lack of information. On the one hand, the ministries do not know who they can turn to in the framework of cooperation, what they can expect from civil society organizations (CSOs) and in which areas they can utilize the cooperation. CSOs, on the other hand, perceive a certain reluctance and lack of knowledge on the part of the Government on how to involve umbrella organizations, networks and other CSOs in cooperation.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

The concept of partner cooperation between the state administration and CSOs is not yet sufficiently developed in the Czech environment. The involvement of CSOs in consultation or commenting processes depends very much on the CSOs activity itself and the ministries do not facilitate this path much.

Strong support for consultative, participatory and deliberative processes and cooperation with civil society is also evident from the European Union - see for example COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes (C/2023/8627).

⁴ For more details see: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/dokumenty/analyza-spoluprace-statni-spravy-se-stresnimi-organizacemi-a-sitemi-nejstatnich-neziskovych-organizaci-198802/>.

**Commitment Description****1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

Different ministries approach the problem differently (not always in a bad way, there are examples of good practice). However, the problem has not yet been addressed in a conceptual and cross-cutting manner. In 2022, the Methodology for the Participation of NGOs in Consultative and Working Bodies and in the Drafting of State Administration Documents was created.⁵ Six central administrative authorities have signed up to pilot it in 2023-2024. The piloting shows that the state administration does not know how to approach effective cooperation with CSOs and/or does not have the necessary capacity to do so.

2. What solution are you proposing?

In accordance with the Strategy for Cooperation between the State Administration and Non-Profit Organizations for 2021-2030 (Strategic Objective B - Promoting Effective Partnership and Cooperation between the Public Administration and the Non-Profit Sector)⁶, in the period 2025-2027, the existing information resources of selected ministries (especially their websites) should be analyzed with the aim of focusing on the availability of information on the possibilities of mutual cooperation, including an overview of the existing advisory and working bodies in the given ministry. On the basis of the analysis and in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (or other concerned entities), individual ministries would then proceed to modify their websites - however, this phase is not part of the commitment for the period 2025-2026.

In parallel, practical trainings will be prepared and implemented for representatives of the individual ministries to introduce the functioning and possibilities of cooperation between CSOs and the state administration. The trainings will include both theoretical part and practical training i.e. piloting of best practices of cooperation between the state administration and CSOs.

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior - Civil Service Section, a training module will be prepared focusing on the role of CSOs and on cooperation i.e. on participation of non-state actors in general. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic will provide the content of the training module and the lecturers. The Civil Service Section will then propose the most appropriate implementation within the framework of the training of civil servants.

In the case of the analysis of existing information sources, it is planned to implement it within the BETA3 program implemented by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The estimated cost is approximately CZK 0.5 million. Preparation and implementation of practical training for representatives of individual ministries and preparation of the training module will be provided from internal resources of the Department of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- Analysis of the websites and implementation of measures to improve the availability of information on partnership cooperation.
- Preparation of a training module for civil servants and employees under standard employment contract on the topic of Cooperation and participation of non-state actors.
- Implementation/creation of the training module.

⁵ For more details see: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/dokumenty/metodika-participace-nestatnich-neziskovych-organizaci-v-poradnich-a-pracovnich-organech-a-pri-tvorbe-dokumentu-statni-spravy-197878/>.

⁶ For more details see: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/dokumenty/strategie-spoluprace-verejne-spravy-s-nestatnimi-neziskovymi-organizacemi-na-leta-2021-az-2030-189753/>.



Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>Civil society, represented in this case by CSOs⁷, their umbrella organizations and networks, should receive not only information and data on their opportunities for active participation in public policy-making as a result of the implementation of the commitment. In particular, they should gain an informed partner in the public administration who is aware of the importance of cooperation with non-state actors.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>As a result of a more frequent and better involvement of CSOs and other actors in public administration at central level, CSOs will have easier access to information on how policy and document development is progressing and will be better able to participate in transparent monitoring and evaluation of the measures taken.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>Improving citizen participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of the solutions adopted is the main objective of the commitment. Specifically, the commitment aims to improve citizen participation indirectly by increasing and improving the involvement of NGOs, their umbrella organizations and networks, through their easier access to the necessary information as well as by strengthening awareness of the importance and necessity of cooperation with the civil sector by the public administration.</p>

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Estimated Completion Date	Stakeholders		
<p>Preparatory phase: Setting up cooperation</p>	<p>1-2 meetings with ministries and other central administrative authorities and NGOs</p> <p>1 external expert involved</p>	<p>06/2025</p>	<p>Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)</p>		
			<p>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</p>		
			<p>Government</p> <p>central Government bodies</p>	<p>CSOs</p> <p>NGOs represented in the GCNGOs</p>	<p>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</p>

⁷ We understand civil society organizations ("CSOs") as the organized or institutionalized part of civil society. Also the term non-profit non-Governmental organisations ("NGOs") is still used for the same purpose.



				and its working bodies	
<p>Implementation phase:</p> <p>a) Carrying out an analysis on the availability of information on opportunities for mutual cooperation.</p> <p>b) Preparation and implementation of training.</p> <p>c) Preparation and pilot implementation of the training module.</p>	<p>Ad a): Newly-created analysis with recommendations on how to improve accessibility of information</p> <p>Ad b): Preparation of learning texts for the so-called Initial Education Follow-up.</p> <p>Implementation of at least 3 training courses and training of at least 40 public administration staff</p> <p>Ad c): Creation of a training module and its pilot testing (implementation of min. 2 training sessions, training of min. 20 people)</p>	10/2026	<p>Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)</p>		
			<p><u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u></p>		
			<p>Government</p> <p>a) DIA + cooperating ministries</p> <p>(b) cooperating ministries</p> <p>c) MoI - Civil Service Section</p>	<p>CSOs</p> <p>External lecturers and other representatives of NGOs</p>	<p>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</p>
<p>Final phase: Evaluation of the implementation of the measures and proposal for further steps in with the central administrative authorities involved</p>	<p>1-2 meetings with ministries and other central administrative authorities and NGOs</p>	12/2026	<p>Lead: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Cooperation with Civil Society Unit)</p>		
			<p><u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u></p>		
			<p>Government</p> <p>Central Government authorities involved</p>	<p>CSOs</p> <p>representatives of NGOs</p>	<p>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</p>



Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.4. <i>Promoting participatory methods in promoting social inclusion at the local level</i>		
Brief Description of the Commitment	Ensuring the participation and empowerment of disadvantaged or discriminated groups in the development of local social inclusion policies supported by the state budget or European funds.		
Commitment Lead	Ministry of Regional Development		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
	MRD - ASI	NGOs	-
Commitment Period	1/2025 - 12/2026 (<i>beyond the Seventh Action Plan through 12/2028</i>)		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Socially excluded groups continue to have a low level of participation in social and political life and in local policy decisions. For example, according to the RILSA 2024 Report on the Socioeconomic Situation of the Roma Population in the Czech Republic 2023/2024, when asked "Do you vote in local, regional, senate, parliamentary or presidential elections?", 52.2 % of the Roma surveyed responded that they never participate in elections and 22.5 % responded that they vote only occasionally. Socially excluded persons are also represented only to a limited extent in local governments and their advisory or working bodies.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

The causes of this problem are not sufficiently researched, but according to the experience of the Agency for Social Inclusion (ASI), they include, in particular, the lack of financial and other resources of the socially excluded, a higher proportion of below-average educated persons among the socially excluded, insufficient compensation for health and other disadvantages, discrimination or prejudice.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

One of the instruments currently used by the state to support the solution of social exclusion is the Coordinated Approach to Social Exclusion 2021+ (CASE 2021+). It relies on inter-ministerial cooperation and strategies focused on social inclusion, using national or European funds to support the inclusion of socially excluded people and the prevention of social exclusion. CASE 2021+ provides support for the planning, management and implementation of integration and inclusion measures within the autonomous competence of the participating territorial units. The principles of the CASE 2021+ focus on individual planning adapted as much as possible to the



needs of the locality, on the use of participatory methods of work, open communication and sharing of experience of individual actors, on initial intensive but also continuous networking and support for community work. These principles must also be adopted to by local authorities seeking to participate in the program. CASE 2021+ is primarily implemented by the Agency for Social Inclusion (of the MRD) in cooperation with the managing authorities of the respective operational programs (OPs) - MLSA (OPE+), MRD (IROP 2021-2027), MEYS (OP JAK).

2. What solution are you proposing?

We are proposing the continued use of the CASE 2021+ and its gradual revision, which would reflect the change in the financing options for social inclusion policies (JTF, Modernization Fund, SCF etc.) and would establish even more firmly the commitments and mechanisms for participation and empowerment of disadvantaged groups. The ASI will provide expert support to cooperating municipalities in the preparation and implementation of integration measures, gradually promoting the use of participatory practices with an emphasis on the involvement of marginalized groups, including Roma. The ASI will support municipalities in the implementation of public meetings (round tables etc.), the involvement of vulnerable populations in the activities of platforms established by municipalities to address specific problems (various commissions, working groups etc.), not only in CASE+ municipalities, but also in other municipalities cooperating with the ASI that are cooperating in other forms and openly adhere to these principles of participation.

The declared commitment will be funded from the current ASI budget and subsequently from the planned budget for the project Systematic Coordination of Social Inclusion, which will start on 1 April 2025 under the OPE+ program. The financial allocation of the project, along with other details, was still under negotiation at the time of the development of the Seventh Action Plan.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The outcome of these activities should be to strengthen the participation of representatives of marginalized groups in local partnership meetings, strategic planning and the preparation of projects and local policies that affect social inclusion in order to improve the quality of decision-making in the municipality's independent competence and to strengthen the ability of vulnerable populations to promote their own interests.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>The commitment will improve access for disadvantaged citizens to information on local policies through the participation of representatives in local partnerships and working bodies.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>The commitment will strengthen citizens' awareness of the implementation of local policies through the participation of representatives in local partnerships and working bodies.</p>



<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>The commitment will strengthen the participation of disadvantaged citizens in the design, monitoring and implementation of local solutions through the participation of representatives in local partnerships and working bodies.</p>
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Commitment Planning									
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders						
<p>Preparation and elaboration of the revised CASE 2021+: elaboration of the draft revised methodology and its pilot verification in practice discussion on the draft and adoption of the revised methodology into the practice of the ASI.</p>	<p>Revised CASE 2021+ methodology supplemented with elements of active participation of marginalized groups</p>	<p>12/2025.</p>	<p>Lead: MRD</p> <p>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="998 701 1445 1171"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="998 701 1187 814">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1187 701 1281 814">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1281 701 1445 814">Others (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="998 814 1187 1171">Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports</td> <td data-bbox="1187 814 1281 1171">Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)</td> <td data-bbox="1281 814 1445 1171"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CSOs	CSOs	Others (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)	
CSOs	CSOs	Others (Parliament, private sector, etc.)							
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)								
<p>Implementation of the revised CASE 2021+.</p>	<p>Number of municipalities using participatory procedures under the revised CASE 2021+: a) MRD (ASI) will support the creation of basic conditions for the active participation of inhabitants from vulnerable groups in decision-making on social inclusion measures in 20 municipalities in which it operates and in which events with the involvement of the</p>	<p>Ad a): 12/2028. Ad b): 12/2028.</p>	<p>Lead: MRD</p> <p>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="998 1310 1445 1873"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="998 1310 1187 1423">Government</th> <th data-bbox="1187 1310 1281 1423">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1281 1310 1445 1423">Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="998 1423 1187 1873">Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)</td> <td data-bbox="1187 1423 1281 1873">ANO</td> <td data-bbox="1281 1423 1445 1873">Local governments</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)	ANO	Local governments
Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)							
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (ASI Monitoring Committee)	ANO	Local governments							



	<p>public in selected topics will be implemented.</p> <p>b) The MRD (ASI) will support the creation of conditions for systematic public participation in social inclusion policies in 6 additional municipalities (at least 20 in total), where public meetings (etc.) will be held and the public will be involved in the activities of municipal platforms (e.g. commissions, working groups).</p>				
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Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.5. An environment for efficient and transparent public procurement		
Brief Description of the Commitment	Strengthening the attractiveness, efficiency, legal certainty and transparency of public procurement in the Czech Republic. This commitment includes the implementation of an electronic environment for public procurement that will be more automated and provide machine-accessible data. This data will improve the quality of management and overall transparency from the perspective of the public and suppliers.		
Commitment Lead	Ministry of Regional Development		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government sector	For civil society	Others (Parliament, private sector, etc.)
	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries	Oživení, Transparency International Czech Republic (TIC)	DatLab, s.r.o. representatives of territorial public administration (municipalities, cities, regions)
Commitment Period	2025-2026		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The commitment addresses several key issues in public procurement. Currently, public procurement is dominated by the single criterion of lowest price, which does not take into account the quality or lifetime costs of the goods, works or services purchased. This approach also fails to utilize the potential of sustainable procurement, which could have a significant environmental impact, and makes it difficult for companies offering innovative solutions to enter the market.

Another problem is the fragmentation and inconsistency of the legal environment (which is, for example, also created by special subsidy rules and the legal regulation in which contracting authorities and control bodies operate) in which controls and supervision of public procurement take place, which may lead to inconsistent interpretation of Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on public procurement and to concerns of contracting authorities about the use of more progressive evaluation methods. Thus, contracting authorities primarily use the procedures that are most likely to be accepted by all control and supervisory authorities.

Certified electronic procurement tools are not linked to the registers through which suppliers prove their qualifications. Suppliers are thus forced to ask for data already held by the State, which increases the administrative burden. In addition, the currently machine-accessible data on public procurement do not comply with the requirements of Decree No. 345/2023 Coll., on the publication of forms for the purposes of the act on public procurement and on the requisites of the contracting authority profile, which worsens the quality of management and overall transparency from the perspective of the public and of suppliers. It also makes it difficult to change the contracting authority profile without data transfer problems.



2. What are the causes of the problem?

In general, public procurement in the Czech Republic focuses primarily on the procedural side of things. However, alongside the emphasis on procedural correctness, it is necessary to focus more on obtaining the best value for money and responding in a healthy way to the challenges of the new era. Unified methodological environment for contracting authorities where they could gain practical experience and information on modern ways of implementing public procurement is absent.

Electronic tools are currently not linked to the relevant registers, which means that there is no environment that would centrally collect information on public procurement implemented in certified electronic tools. This complicates the production of outputs for effective management decision-making and the transfer of data from one contracting authority profile to another.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

So far, this problem has been addressed by partial activities within the framework of projects to promote responsible public procurement by the MLSA, but this approach has not been comprehensive. Therefore, the Ministry of Regional Development has proceeded to elaborate the National Strategy for Public Procurement (hereinafter also referred to as the "Strategy"), which is the first conceptual material that sets out a vision across all topics that determine the area of public procurement.

Suppliers shall prove their qualifications by means of documents obtained from the competent public authorities and are entered into electronic tools. Data are collected from several information systems. When changing the contracting authority profile, contracting authorities use two profiles or export procurement information from the original profile to the new one.

2. What solution are you proposing?

The solution focuses on the introduction of uniform and comprehensible guidelines and recommendations in the implementation of public procurement for both contracting authorities and suppliers, on the promotion of sustainable procurement with minimum standards of environmental and social sustainability, on the strengthening of professionalization in public procurement and on the centralization of purchasing. These measures aim to increase the efficiency, transparency and innovativeness of public procurement in the Czech Republic. The measures will be implemented through the Strategy, see https://mmr.gov.cz/getmedia/fd12c1a1-7b37-40fb-9a8f-1248ea12998a/NSVZ_STRATEGIE_tisk.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf.

Measures related to electronic tools include the creation of a single environment for collecting procurement data from certified electronic tools, which would be linked to the registers through which suppliers prove their qualifications.

The measures are financed by the National Recovery Plan.

Component 4.1 Systemic support for public investment, Sub-component 2 Methodological support and modernisation of public investment, Project Methodological support and modernization of public procurement - Financial amount of support - CZK 117 987 200,00 without VAT.



Component 1.1, 1.2 and 4.4 Development of digitalization in public procurement (National Electronic Tool, Public Procurement Bulletin, List of Qualified Suppliers) - Financial amount of support - CZK 100 000 000,- excluding VAT.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The aim of implementing the Strategy's measures is to make public procurement more efficient, to increase transparency, digitization and data availability in public procurement, to take into account quality, to support innovation and the overall social benefit and sustainability of public procurement, to use non-financial criteria by setting minimum standards for environmental and social sustainability of public procurement for commodities usually procured by the public sector, strengthening the professionalization of public procurement, to promote the centralization of purchasing and methodological support to procurers of commonly procured public contracts as well as to procurers of strategically important investments, and to promote the coordination of control and supervisory bodies to reduce duplication and inconsistencies.

Increased efficiency in proving the basic qualification of the supplier and working with data from certified electronic tools will not only allow more efficient work with data on public procurement but will also allow contracting authorities to change the profile of the contracting authority without significant administrative or financial burden.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>The commitment promotes transparency by introducing uniform and comprehensible rules, by digitizing and automating processes, and by providing machine-accessible data. This will enable more efficient management and increase public control over public procurement.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>The commitment will help strengthen the accountability of public institutions by introducing consistent and clear rules that increase transparency and predictability of processes. The digitization and automation of public procurement will allow for better tracking and control of data, increasing public scrutiny and pressure for accountable behavior by contracting authorities. This will improve the quality of management and strengthen public trust in public institutions.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>By streamlining the electronic environment for public procurement, which will be more automated and provide machine-accessible data, it will be possible to involve citizens and citizen groups in public scrutiny of public procurement. Transparency and accessibility of public procurement data will allow citizens to monitor and control procurement processes, thereby strengthening the accountability of contracting authorities.</p>



Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
End of the project part of the implementation of the National Strategy for Public Procurement in the Czech Republic for the period 2024-2028.	<p>Measures are proposed (see description above) through which the objectives will be met.</p> <p>The proposed measures are formulated in relation to the National Public Procurement Strategy here: https://mmr.gov.cz/getmedia/fd12c1a1-7b37-40fb-9a8f-1248ea12998a/NSVZ_ST_RATEGIE_tisk.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf, both for the individual priorities of the Strategy and in summary in section 10.2 of the Strategy - Timetable, and through which the objectives will be met.</p>	30. 6. 2026	Lead: Ministry of Regional Development		
			Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors		
			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)
		Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries	Oživení, TIC	representatives of territorial public administration (municipalities, cities, regions)	
Approval of the Sustainable Purchasing Action Plan	The outcome will be in the form of minimum standards for responsible public procurement with the aim of strategically using the influence that contracting authorities can exert with their purchasing power in the market. The public administration is responsible for the efficient use of public funds (3E principle), but it is equally responsible for compliance with the principles of socially responsible procurement, environmentally responsible procurement and innovation (Article 6(4) of Act No. 134/2016 Coll. on Public Procurement in conjunction with Article 28(1)(p) to (r) of the same	1Q 2025	Same as above.		



	Act). Therefore, the Sustainable Purchasing Action Plan should be a binding instrument to help contracting authorities to implement social and environmental aspects in public procurement, so that they become standard and are systematically used in all public procurement where appropriate.			
Creating a unified environment for collecting data from certified electronic tools. Linking the single environment to registers.	Creation of an environment for data collection in the form of a public procurement register. This register will aggregate data from both the Public Procurement Bulletin and from individual certified electronic tools, creating a single data base that will provide better quality data covering a significant part of the public procurement market. The possibility to demonstrate qualification within the certified electronic tools in an automated way, with the basic registers being accessible to contracting authorities through contracting authority profiles. The NIPEZ project will create a single authentication and authorization for all modules, which will share data from the basic and other national registers to which NIPEZ will be linked, thus fulfilling the <i>Once only</i> principle, and the contracting authority will no longer have to submit individual documents.	1. 7. 2026	Lead: Ministry of Regional Development	
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u>	
			Gover nment	CSOs
			Oživení	DatLab



Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.6. Strengthening transparency in small-scale public procurement		
Brief Description of the Commitment	The commitment is aimed at strengthening the transparency of small-scale public procurement by amending the Public Procurement Act by adding additional elements of transparency and updating the methodology for small-scale procurement. The update of the methodology should contribute to the unification of the practice of public contracting authorities on this issue. Similarly, the methodological guidance for public procurement co-financed by EU subsidies should be updated.		
Commitment Lead	Ministry of Regional Development		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
		Oživení Datlab	
Commitment Period	1/2025 - 12/2026		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Around 450 billion CZK is spent annually in small-scale public procurement without general rules for basic transparency of this public expenditure. There is thus a systemic risk of corruption, of inefficiency and of restriction of competition. The proposal to increase the limits for small-scale public procurement may increase this risk even further.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

For small-scale public procurement, there are no general basic transparency rules that would make it possible to determine, at least retrospectively, what has been awarded to whom and how. Similarly, there are no uniform binding rules on how to implement in practice the principles contained in Article 6 of the Public Procurement Act. Practice thus varies widely, ranging from the use of an overly formalized procedure similar to sub-limit contracts on the one hand, to the completely free award of contracts "off the cuff", which can pose a high corruption risk.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The Ministry of Regional Development issued a recommendatory methodology without much impact in practice.



2. What solution are you proposing?

The solution is built on 3 pillars:

- 1) Introduction of basic elements of transparency in the Public Procurement Act for public contracts above CZK 1,000,000, i.e. at least ex post publication of the method of supplier selection.
- 2) Issuance of an updated version of the recommended methodology for small-scale public procurement.
- 3) Modification of the methodological guidelines for public procurement from EU subsidies for them to be in line with the central recommending methodology (for the public procurement subsidized from EU funds the methodology will de facto become binding).

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Strengthening the transparency of small-scale public procurement and enhancing the legal certainty of contracting authorities regarding the procedure considered to be in line with the principles of Section 6 of the Public Procurement Act. Increased competition in the small-scale public procurement.

Commitment Analysis

Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make the Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>Strengthening transparency is a key objective of the commitment. Specifically, transparency of small-scale public procurement above CZK 1 000 000 will be strengthened. This financial threshold is already contained in the Public Procurement Act, where it is the financial level above which even the smallest municipalities are obliged to meet the minimum legal requirements, which also imply the obligation to set up a contracting authority profile. It can also be added that from CZK 500,000 onwards, the recipients of subsidies are subject to the obligations of the methodological guidelines for the subsidized public procurement, i.e. the level from which the recipients of subsidies are obliged to compete and fulfil other obligations arising from the methodological guidelines.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>There will be increased <i>accountability</i> of contracting authorities, whose small-scale public procurement will comply with minimum standards for justifying the selection of a supplier in addition to the existing obligations. A significant number of contracting authorities already comply with these minimum data standards. Thus, the harmonization of obligations will only lead to a harmonization of public procurement practice.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</p>	<p>Anti-corruption civil society organizations will be involved in the development of rules for small-scale public procurement. Strengthening transparency will also allow citizens to form their own opinion on the efficiency of public spending by contracting authorities.</p>



<i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i>	
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Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Amendment to Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on Public Procurement, as amended	Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on Public Procurement, strengthening the transparency elements for public procurement above CZK 500,000.	12/2026	Lead: Ministry of Regional Development		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)
				Oživení Datlab	
Update of the methodology for small-scale public procurement	Updated methodology published on the portal of the Ministry of Regional Development	12/2025	Lead: Ministry of Regional Development		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)
				Oživení Datlab	
Modification of the methodological guidelines for public procurement co- financed by EU subsidies according to the updated methodology	Updated methodological guidelines for public procurement from EU subsidies	12/2025	Lead: Ministry of Regional Development		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)
				Oživení Datlab	



Country	Czech Republic		
Number and Name of the Commitment	4.7. <i>Reform of the Office for the Protection of Competition (OPC) regarding the review of public procurement</i>		
Brief Description of the Commitment	Adoption of a bill to reform public procurement review (reform of the Public Procurement Authority) and introduce collective decision-making.		
Commitment Lead	Ministry of Regional Development		
Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors	For the Government	For Civil society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
		Reconstruction of the State Oživení Transparency International Czech Republic Datlab Lobbio	
Commitment Period	1/2025 - 9/2025		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The review of public procurement in the Czech Republic is slow (objections and 4 instances) and lacks sufficient anti-corruption safeguards (especially with regard to the high concentration of powers of the chairman of the OPC), there is a contradiction between formal (who signs the decision) and material (who draws up the decision) responsibility for the decision in the second stage of the administrative procedure, and there is no solution for cases where the chairman of OPC is biased.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

The cause of the problem is the application of the general legal regulation of the Administrative Procedure Code (two-instance and appeal) and the Civil Service Act (institutional set-up of service offices) to the specific agenda of public procurement review. The application of these general principles results in an institutional set-up of the Office that does not meet the needs - i.e. in particular the need for strong anti-corruption safeguards, speed of review (also required by the EU Directive), clear accountability for decisions and ensuring the impartiality of decision-makers.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The minimalist and insufficient solution was the amendment to the Act on the Competence of the Office for the Protection of Competition No. 464/2023 Coll., which introduced the term of office, qualification requirements and conditions for the dismissal of the deputy chairpersons of the OPC and thus strengthened the independence of the first stage of the proceedings at the OPC. This amendment was adopted on the basis of the requirement of the EU directive on



competition on the independence of competition authorities. The OPC itself was the sponsor of the law implementing the Directive. However, the OPC did not initially include the requirement of the EU Directive in its Article 4 in the draft law. The article was only taken into account in the implementing draft law after the NGOs and subsequently the chairman of the Government Legislative Council pointed it out during the discussion of the Government Legislative Council and against the will of the author of the law, i.e. the OPC.

2. What solution are you proposing?

The solution requires a legislative change, which will bring in particular the following 2 institutional changes:

1) The introduction of collective decision-making. Establishment of a collective body that will decide on the review of the procurement procedure instead of the chairman of the OPC, as a single body in one-stage proceedings initiated on a petition and as an appeal body in proceedings initiated ex officio. The collective body must be independent of the chairman of the OPC. Individual cases will be decided by a collective body composed of 3 members each according to the work schedule. Clear rules will be set to deal with potential bias situations. The members of the collective body will sign their own decisions and will be accountable to the public, in particular to the community of public procurement experts who follow and critically evaluate the decision-making practice.

2) Introduction of single-instance decision-making in proceedings initiated on proposal. Proceedings initiated on the basis of a supplier's proposal will be referred directly to the collective body of the Office, which will decide at a single instance. This aspect of the reform is an aspect of *good governance* rather than a purely anti-corruption aspect. The introduction of single-instance collective decision-making has the potential to completely solve the problem described above.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The result is a change in the system of oversight of public procurement that should be more resistant to undue influence, should address bias of those directly involved in the decision-making of the Office and should link formal and material accountability for decisions.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make Government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	<p>Strengthening the transparency of the decision-making of the OPC. At present, second instance decisions are not made in a transparent manner, when they are formally signed by the chairman and are therefore formally the decision of the chairman, but in reality, up to less than a dozen officials and members of appeal committees are involved in the drafting and form of the decision. However, the influence of these other persons is not recorded.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	<p>The commitment will link formal and material responsibility for the decision-making of the OPC. The responsibility for decision-making will always be borne by a specific collective body composed of 3 members. These people will process the decisions themselves. They will also conduct oral hearings where they will communicate their preliminary views to the parties. The members of the collective body will then sign the decision and will also be responsible for it externally.</p>



<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	<p>The commitment can strengthen the participation of anti-corruption NGOs in the development of key legislation that should strengthen anti-corruption safeguards and overall systemic modernization of a key central administrative authority.</p>
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Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
<p>Adoption of the bill amending Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on public procurement, as amended, and Act No. 273/1996 Coll., on the competence of the Office for the Protection of Competition, as amended</p>	<p>Act amending Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on public procurement, as amended, and Act No. 273/1996 Coll., on the competence of the Office for the Protection of Competition, as amended</p>	<p>9/2025</p>	<p>Lead: Ministry of Regional Development</p>		
			<p><u>Supporting Stakeholders / Co-Sponsors</u></p>		
			<p>Govern ment</p>	<p>CSOs</p>	<p>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc.)</p>
			<p>Rekonstrukce státu, Oživení Transparency International Czech Republic, Datlab, Lobbio</p>		



5. List of Abbreviations

ASI	Agency (Department) for Social Inclusion (<i>in Czech: ASZ</i>)
Covid-19	<i>coronavirus</i> disease 2019
DIA	Digital Information Agency
EU	European Union
JTF	Just Transition Fund (<i>in Czech: FST</i>)
IRM	Independent Evaluation Mechanism
IROP	Integrated Regional Operational Programme
CASE 2021+	Coordinated Approach to Social Exclusion 2021+ (<i>in Czech: KPSV 2021+</i>)
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (<i>in Czech: MŠMT</i>)
MRD	Ministry of Regional Development (<i>in Czech: MMR</i>)
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade (<i>in Czech: KPSV 2021+</i>)
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (<i>in Czech: MPSV</i>)
Moi	Ministry of the Interior (<i>in Czech: MV</i>)
NIPEZ	National Infrastructure for Electronic Public Procurement
NGOs	non-profit non-Governmental organizations (<i>in Czech: NNO</i>)
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Open Government Partnership
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations (<i>in Czech: OOS</i>)
OP	Operational Programme
OPE+	Operational Programme Employment Plus (<i>in Czech: OPZ+</i>)
OP JAK	Operational Programme Jan Amos Komenský
UN	United Nations
RILSA	Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs
GCNGOs	Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organizations
SCF	Social Climate Fund (<i>in Czech: SKF</i>)
TIC	Transparency International Czech Republic
TSI	Technical Support Instrument
USA	United States of America
OPC	Office for the Protection of Competition (<i>in Czech: ÚOHS</i>)
SSPC	small-scale public procurement (<i>in Czech: VZMR</i>)