



## Czech Republic – National Embedment

1. RI definition	
In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?	
Categories	National Roadmap
Funding	
Categorisation of RI	x
Access to RI	
Organisation within national procedure	
<p>In the national R&amp;D Support Act, RI has been defined as “a research infrastructure, including its acquisition and related investment costs and the costs of ensuring its activities, which is essential for comprehensive research and development with heavy financial and technological demands, which is approved by the Government of the Czech Republic and established for use of other research organisations.” This definition refers to the definition of “research infrastructure” introduced in Article 2 Point 91 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) was entitled to be the national authority for funding the Large Research Infrastructures within a brand new legal and funding framework. The recent Roadmap defines Large Infrastructure as “a unique research facility, including its acquisition and related investment costs and the costs of ensuring its activities that are essential for comprehensive research and development with heavy financial and technological demands and which is approved by the Government of the Czech Republic and <b>established by one research organisation for the use of other research organisations</b>”. Thus, it shall be noted that RI in Czech Republic are “projects” of research organizations, and as such subject of a special type of “project type funding.</p> <p>Within the Czech R&amp;I system several coherent groups of RI have been distinguished within the RI landscape with the following aims:</p> <p>A RI located in the Czech Republic having a significant international impact; representing the Czech national “node” of a pan-European “distributed” research infrastructure; operated in the form of an “access point” of the Czech R&amp;D user community to a research infrastructure located abroad.</p>	

2. RI players in the national R&I system
<p><b>National relevance of RI</b></p> <p>The success of a RI policy is seen in ensuring the quality, reliability and accessibility of technical devices, expertise and data. Generally, it is essential to ensure a user friendly access to all these constituents and easy processing methods. At its best, R&amp;D generated by using RI benefit research communities, industries, businesses, public administration and the general public. RDI policy making is fairly centralized. Regional authorities, the self-governing regions do not have any legally binding responsibilities, yet are also not prevented from developing their own policies. (Srholec and Szkuta, 2016, p. 43)</p> <p>In recent years, the Czech Republic has also responded to the significantly increasing importance of RI. Taking into account that RI are one of the principal components of the Czech national research and innovation ecosystem, a number of steps aiming at providing the Czech RI with a stable legal and financial environment were made.</p>



### Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

Concerning funding, RI in the Czech Republic is financed from several sources. In line with the legal act 130/2000 Coll., all the RI funding is supposed to be project funding, though in several cases program funding and/or contributions to institutional budgets may arise. A RI dedicated state budget line exists at MEYS, which covers part of the operational costs (c. 50 Million €/year) subject of evaluation and RM presence, investments were covered as parts of the OP VaVpI projects (c. 1 Billion € for 7 years), by other OPs, and partially by direct subsidies based on governmental decisions. The MEYS is also managing the new OP Research, Development and Education (OP VVV - with EU contribution 2.8 Billion € EUR for 7 years) and two national programs for sustainability (NPU I and NPU II) with an annual allocation of c. 120 Million €, covering the operational budgets of the OP VaVpI projects (till 2022). Institutional contributions to RI are parts of the institutional budgets of universities and of the Academy of sciences, and not publically available. An older estimate indicated these to amount to 30 % of the RI running costs. Contributions to RI are also a part of international cooperation budget of MEYS.

### 3. RI in the National R&I System

RDI **policy making is centralised** in the Czech Republic. Regional authorities, the self-governing regions do not have any legally binding responsibilities, yet are also not prevented from developing their own policies. The Czech Republic is focusing on the following main areas of activity:

- 1) Physical Sciences;
- 2) Energy;
- 3) Environmental Sciences;
- 4) Biomedicine;
- 5) Social Sciences and Humanities;
- 6) ICT/e-infrastructures.

As to the funding: RI in the Czech Republic are financed from several sources. In line with the legal act 130/2000 Coll., all the RI funding is supposed to be project funding, though in several cases program funding and/or contributions to institutional budgets may arise. A RI dedicated state budget line exists at MEYS, which covers the main part of the operational costs. MEYS is also fund provider through the two National sustainability programs (NPU I and NPU II), which are used to support the starting phase of RI constructed under the Operational programme "*Research and Development for Innovation 2017-2014*" and it acts as the managing authority for the recent Operational programme "*Research, Development, and Education*" which has a strong RI support component.

### 4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

The National RDI Policy of the Czech Republic 2009–2015 is the central policy document, which has been developed to facilitate the implementation of the Reform of the RDI system in the Czech Republic. More recently, the Update of the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy 2009-2015 with an outlook to 2020 assessed the progress achieved so far in implementing the RDI reform. (Srholec and Szkuta, 2016, p. 18)

The first RM (Gov. resolution from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 No. 207) was approved in March 2010 together with an implementation document accounting for RI funding through a dedicated budget line at MEYS. This RM consisted of Existing and Emerging RI in 6 scientific domains (6 + 3 RI in SSH, 3 + 1 RI in ENVI, 17 + 6 RI in Physics and Space, 4 + 3 RI in Energy, 2 + 6 RI in Biomedicine, 1 + 2 RI in e-Infra) including Czech participations in ESFRI project through national nodes and the memberships in international organizations (HiPER, CERN, ESA, EMBL, JINR Dubna).



The construction of the Emerging RI was in part financed by the Operational program Research and Development for Innovation (OP VaVpI 2007-2013 – EU contribution 2.2 billion € for 7 years). This RM was updated in May 2011 acknowledging Structural funds as an investment source. Back in 2012 the Government approved an interim implementation report, which was based on international peer-review evaluation. A second update of the RM dates back to 2015 and another peer-review evaluation by an international panel. This evaluation was used for the new RM 2016-2022.

## References

- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2014). "Evaluation Methodology for Research Infrastructures". In: METODIKA: Individual National Projects for the Area of Tertiary Education, Research and Development. <<http://metodika.reformy-msmt.cz/evaluation-methodology-for-research-infrastructures-soubor>>. [Last access: 07/2017].
- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2015a). Ex-ante evaluation methodology for large research infrastructures. <[http://www.msmt.cz/file/33846\\_1\\_1/](http://www.msmt.cz/file/33846_1_1/)>. [Last access: 07/2017].
- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2015b). Roadmap of large infrastructures for research, experimental development and innovation of the Czech Republic for the years 2016–2022. ISBN 978-80-87601-34-1. <<https://www.czelo.cz/files/Cestovni-mapa-EN.pdf>>. [Last access: 06/2017.].
- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. (2014a). Operational Programme Research, Development and Education. Retrieved from <[http://www.msmt.cz/uploads/OP\\_VVV/OP\\_VVV\\_AJ\\_verze1.pdf](http://www.msmt.cz/uploads/OP_VVV/OP_VVV_AJ_verze1.pdf)> [Last access 07/2017.].
- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. (2014b, November 19). National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic (National RIS3 Strategy). Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Retrieved from <<http://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=753765&ad=1&attid=761392>> [Last access 07/2017.].
- Information included in the InRoad Consultation (survey sent on 02/05/2017).
- Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. (2016). National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic 2016. Retrieved from <[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/nrp2016\\_czech\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/nrp2016_czech_en.pdf)> [Last access 07/2017.].
- Srholec, M., & Szkuta, K. (2016). RIO country report 2015: Czech Republic (Joint Research Centre Science for Policy Report No. EUR 27868 EN). Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. Retrieved from <<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/countryanalysis/Czech%20Republic/country-report>> [Last access 07/2017.].

## External Links

- Application forms and templates for research infrastructure projects (in Czech language) <<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/vzory-dokumentu-op-vvv>> [Last access: 06/2017.].
- Rules for applicants of research infrastructure projects (in Czech language) <<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy-1/obecna-cast-pravidel-pro-zadatele-a-prijemce>> [Last access: 07/2017.].

