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2025 Environmental Implementation Review

Country Report - CZECHIA

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2025 Environmental Implementation Review for prosperity and security

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Executive summary

In May 2016, the European Commission launched the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), a regular reporting tool based on analysis, dialogue and collaboration with EU Member States to improve the implementation of existing EU environmental policy and legislation⁽¹⁾. Following previous cycles in 2017, 2019 and 2022, this report assesses the progress made while describing the main outstanding challenges and opportunities regarding environmental legal implementation in Czechia. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the implementation performance and highlight the most effective ways to address the implementation gaps that impact human health and the environment and hamper the economic development and competitiveness of the country. The report relies on detailed sectoral implementation reports collected or issued by the Commission under specific environmental legislation.

The main challenges set out below have been selected from Part I of this report, 'Thematic areas', taking into consideration factors such as the gravity of the environmental implementation issue in light of the impact on the quality of life of citizens, the distance to target and financial implications.

While Czechia shows a growing commitment to **transitioning to a circular economy**, its resource productivity remains well below the EU average and the Circular Czechia 2040 framework needs to be speedily implemented in practice. Czechia is at risk of not meeting the 2035 target of a maximum of 10 % of **municipal waste** being landfilled and has made no progress on shifting reusable and recyclable waste away from incineration. It needs to do more to **divert reusable products and recyclable waste from landfilling and incineration**.

Czechia needs to step up its **zero-pollution** efforts. As regards **industrial air pollutants**, Czechia has the sixth highest level of damage in the EU, and it comes fourth for emissions intensity. As regards **industrial emissions of heavy metals to water**, Czechia has the 10th highest amount of emissions in the EU, and is also in 10th position for emission intensity. As regards **water quality**, there is a **trend of deterioration concerning the ecological and chemical status** of Czechia's surface water and groundwater bodies. The main pressures are

industrialised large-scale agriculture heavily relying on fertilisers, and waste water polluting rivers and lakes with nutrients causing eutrophication.

Czechia faces **climate action** challenges. There is still no progress in **decarbonising transport**. The **share of renewables** in the electricity sector is substantially below the EU average and it is growing very slowly. While Czechia's **land use, land-use change and forestry sector** has the potential to function as a net carbon sink, there has unfortunately been no progress and projections show that Czechia will miss its target.

The overall **environmental investment needed** to enable Czechia to meet its objectives, beyond climate change, is estimated at EUR 6.8 billion per year, broken down as follows: EUR 1.7 billion for the circular economy; EUR 2.2 billion for pollution prevention and control; EUR 1.6 billion for water; and EUR 1.3 billion for biodiversity and ecosystems. The additional investment needed over the current levels – **the investment gap** – reaches an estimated EUR 2.3 billion per year in Czechia, which represents around 0.82 % of its GDP (slightly higher than the EU average of 0.77 %).

On **environmental governance**, Czechia needs to improve the accessibility of high-value spatial datasets for implementing environmental legislation. There is also room for further improving access to courts in national environmental cases by the public concerned and eliminating practical barriers, such as excessive costs. Finally, Czechia should publish more exhaustive information on EIA and SEA procedures, including on public participation possibilities and on publication of final decisions, and provide information on the average duration of all steps in the EIA process.

On the positive side, Czechia introduced in 2024 a simplification of the conditions for assessing the environmental impacts of wind power projects. This was accompanied by a procedural integration of 29 different administrative acts relevant for Renewable Energy Sources projects. Further, food waste is one of the priority waste streams in Czechia's updated National Waste Prevention Programme. This is accompanied by active support for food banks and food donation, including mobile applications offering food leftovers from restaurants.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Delivering the benefits of EU environmental policies through a regular

environmental implementation review, COM(2016) 316 final of 27 May 2016, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2016%3A316%3AFIN>.

Part I: Thematic areas

1. Circular economy and waste management

Transitioning to a circular economy

Advancing the transition to a circular economy in the EU will reduce the environmental and climate impact of our industrial systems by reducing input materials, keeping products and materials in the loop for longer and reducing waste generation, thus decoupling economic growth from resource consumption. A circular economy has considerable potential to increase competitiveness and job creation and will also promote innovation and provide access to new markets. With the 2020 circular economy action plan (CEAP)⁽²⁾ measures either in place or legislatively advanced, EU Member States will now have to focus on a swift and effective implementation.

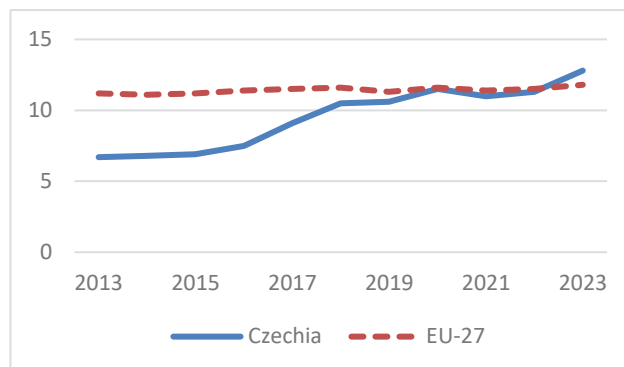
The 2020 CEAP launched the legislative process for a set of initiatives that will now have to be implemented by national governments across the EU. These initiatives were all introduced following a holistic life-cycle approach, with measures addressing the different stages of a product's life cycle, from design through use to end of life.

In the CEAP, the EU sets as its overarching objective the doubling of its circular material use rate (CMUR) by 2030.

The CMUR is a measure of one aspect of circularity: the share of the total amount of material used in the economy that is accounted for by recycled waste. A higher CMUR value means that more secondary materials were used as a substitute for raw materials, thus reducing the environmental impacts of extracting primary material.

The circular use of materials in Czechia has been steadily increasing since 2013, and reached 12.8 % in 2023, thus surpassing the EU average of 11.8 % (Figure 1). This progress emphasises Czechia's growing commitment to sustainable resource management within the circular economy framework.

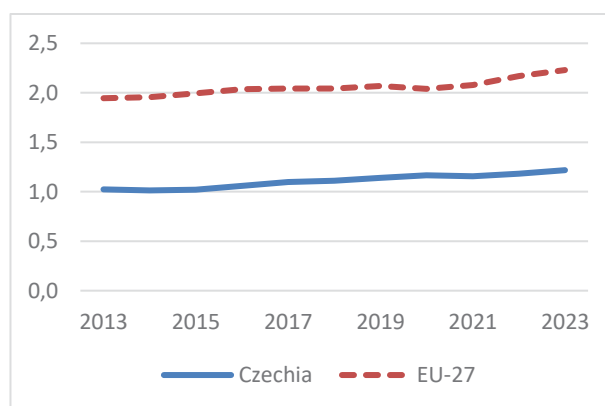
Figure 1: CMUR (%), 2013–2023



Source: Eurostat, 'Circular material use rate', env_ac_cur, last updated 13 November 2024, accessed 10 December 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/view/env_ac_cur.

Resource productivity measures the total amount of materials directly used by an economy in relation to gross domestic product (GDP). Improving resource productivity can help to minimise negative impacts on the environment and reduce dependency on volatile raw material markets. As shown in Figure 2, with EUR 1.21 generated per kg of material consumed in 2023, resource productivity in Czechia remained well below the EU average of EUR 2.23 per kg.

Figure 2: Resource productivity (EUR/kg), 2013–2023



NB: The unit of measurement used is EUR/kg chain-linked volume (2015). Chain-linked volumes focus on changes on quantities and prices of commodities in previous years, taking account of inflation, and are indexed to the nearest appropriate year, in this case 2015.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – A new circular economy action plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe,

COM(2020) 98 final of 11 March 2020, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A98%3AFIN>.

Source: Eurostat, 'Resource productivity', env_ac_rp, last updated 7 August 2024, accessed 10 December 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/view/env_ac_rp.

Policies and measures

In parallel with European initiatives under the CEAP, Member States are encouraged to adopt and implement circular strategies at the national, regional and city levels. These should be tailored to each national and local reality, to harness the proximity economy's ⁽³⁾ potential, while following the principles of a holistic whole-value-chain approach.

Since the launch of the online European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform in 2017 ⁽⁴⁾ national, regional and local authorities have used the platform to share their strategies, roadmaps and good practices, for example alternative business models and innovative technologies.

A strategic framework for Czechia's transition to a circular economy by 2040 (also called Circular Czechia 2040) was adopted by the Czech government in December 2021 as part of a reform introduced by the Czech recovery and resilience plan (RRP) ⁽⁵⁾. The implementing action plan for 2022–2027 ⁽⁶⁾ was adopted in June 2023. Its main function is to specify the measures to be rolled out by 2027 to achieve the strategic goals of Circular Czechia 2040.

Circular Czechia 2040 sets out 10 priority areas related to the circular economy: products and design; industry, raw materials, construction and energy; bioeconomics and food; consumption and consumers; waste management; water; research, development and innovation; education and knowledge; economic instruments; and circular cities and infrastructure. The action plan identifies initiatives for each priority area, ranging from awareness raising to financial support.

Specific targets, goals and measures for plastics, textiles, construction and demolition waste are set in the Czech waste management plan, the Czech waste prevention programme and in the new Circular Czechia 2040 strategy.

Circular cities are one of the strategic goals of Circular Czechia 2040, and local governments are slowly taking up circularity measures.

Green public procurement

Public procurement accounts for a large proportion of European consumption, with public authorities' purchasing power representing around 14 % of EU GDP. Public procurement using green or circular criteria (life-cycle analysis, PaaS (platform as a service), second hand) can help drive the demand for sustainable products that meet reparability and recyclability standards.

In 2017, Czechia adopted rules to ensure a responsible approach to public procurement and purchasing by the state and local governments. Under the public procurement law, from 1 January 2021, contracting authorities must comply with social, environmental and innovative requirements when purchasing goods and services.

A national strategy of public procurement for 2024–2028 has been adopted, in which priority is given to socially and environmentally responsible public procurement.

Czechia has been supporting the increased demand for products made from recycled materials for a long time through the operation programme environment 2021–2027. When purchasing products made from recycled materials – in so-called green tenders – applicants receive a higher level of support in the form of a bonus.

The EU Ecolabel and the eco-management and audit scheme

The number of EU Ecolabel product groups and the number of eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)-licensed organisations in each country provide some indication of the extent to which the private sector and national stakeholders in that country are actively engaged in the transition to a circular economy. The EU Ecolabel is awarded to products with best-in-class environmental performance. EMAS is a voluntary environment management scheme aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of organisations.

As of September 2024, Czechia had 5 396 products out of 98 977, and 43 licences out of 2 983 registered in the EU Ecolabel scheme, showing a reasonable take-up of the products and licences ⁽⁷⁾. Moreover, 21 organisations are currently registered in EMAS, 3 more than in 2021 ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽³⁾ European Commission, 'Proximity and social economy ecosystem', European Commission website, https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy_en.

⁽⁴⁾ Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/strategies>).

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.planobnovy.cz/ke-stazeni>.

⁽⁶⁾ Ministry of the Environment, *Akcni plán cirkulární Česko 2040 pro období 2022–2027*, Prague, 2022, https://www.mzp.cz/cz/akcni_plan_cirkularni_cesko_2040.

⁽⁷⁾ European Commission, 'EU Ecolabel facts and figures', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel/businesses/ecolabel-facts-and-figures_en.

⁽⁸⁾ As of October 2024. European Commission, 'EMAS Register', European Commission website, <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/emas2/public/registration/list>.

Czechia has shown some progress on fulfilling the 2022 priority action suggesting the implementation of the country's circular economy policy framework. An action plan was adopted to introduce circular economy initiatives, but the on-the-ground implementation still needs to happen.

2025 priority action

- Speed up the transition to a circular economy by implementing an updated national strategy and the EU framework and recommendations, in particular to complement it with upstream circularity measures.

Waste management

Turning waste into a resource is supported by:

- addressing the full life cycle of products, from conception to end of life, by setting requirements on the design of products to ensure that they are more sustainable;
- fully implementing EU waste legislation, which includes the waste hierarchy, the obligation to ensure separate collection of waste, landfill diversion targets, etc.;
- reducing waste generation per capita and in absolute terms;
- increasing the recycling rates of waste containing critical raw materials (CRMs), with a view to reducing dependencies and building resilient value chains, and stimulating demand for recycled content in all products;
- limiting energy recovery to non-recyclable materials; and
- phasing out landfilling of recyclable or recoverable waste.

One of the main objectives of EU waste law is to decouple economic growth from its environmental impacts.

The EU's approach to waste management is based on the waste treatment hierarchy: prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, recovery and, as the least preferred option, disposal (which includes landfilling and incineration without energy recovery).

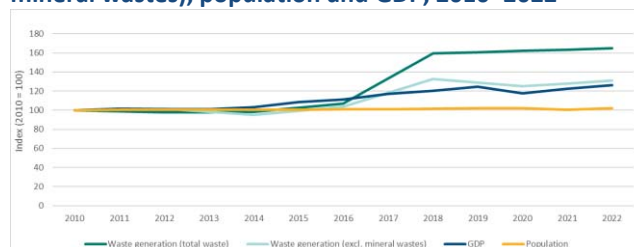
All legislative proposals in the field of waste management put forward by the Commission since 2021 are intended to encourage Member States to promote better product design, to require producers to cover the costs of managing the waste resulting from their products and to ensure that waste is managed at the higher levels of the waste hierarchy.

The total amount of waste generated in Czechia has increased considerably over the last 12 years, especially

since 2016 (Figure 3). This trend is mainly driven by a change in data collection methodology in 2018, when the range of entities covered by the Czech waste statistics widened and thus the coverage of businesses improved, leading to higher recorded waste amounts.

The slight increase in total waste from 2018 to 2020 is mainly driven by the mineral and solidified waste category, and within this, excavated soils in particular. The amount of total waste excluding major mineral waste showed a decrease from 2018 to 2020, mainly driven by recyclable waste. Czechia's GDP has been continuously growing, with the exception of a decrease in 2020, which is most likely due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Looking at the periods 2010–2016 and 2018–2022 separately due to the break in time series, it seems that waste generation largely followed economic growth trends.

Figure 3: Generation of waste (total and excluding major mineral wastes), population and GDP, 2010–2022



Sources: Eurostat, 'GDP and main components (output, expenditure and income)', nama_10_gdp, accessed 15 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/nama_10_gdp_cust_om_9301905/default/table; Eurostat, 'Generation of waste by waste category, hazardousness and NACE Rev. 2 activity', env_wasgen, last updated 30 September 2024, accessed 22 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/env_wasgen/default/table?lang=en; Eurostat, 'Population change – Demographic balance and crude rates at national level', demo_grind, accessed 15 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/demo_grind/default/table?lang=en&category=demo.demo_ind.

Critical raw materials

Czechia focuses on key products that contain a high level of critical raw materials, such as batteries (extended producer responsibility, collection systems, recovery of critical raw materials), electrical and electronic equipment (repair, refurbish, extended producer responsibility, collection systems), vehicles (extended producer responsibility), construction and demolition waste (recycled materials) and mining waste (recycling critical raw materials). The Waste Management Plan with outlook to 2035, the Circular Czechia 2040 and New Raw Material Policy for Minerals and their Resources integrate issues on critical raw materials.

In December 2023, Czechia notified the Commission of its intention to postpone the attainment of the aluminium packaging waste recycling targets for 2025 and 2030 established by the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. Attached to the notification, Czechia submitted an implementation plan laying down the measures necessary to attain the targets within a postponed timeframe (i.e. 2030 instead of 2025, and 2035 instead of 2030). According to the implementation plan, the main measures Czechia will put in place include a mandatory deposit-return system for metal beverage containers, awareness-raising campaigns and the implementation of advanced sorting technologies. The Commission found that the plan submitted does not comply with the requirements set out in the relevant waste legislation ⁽¹⁴⁾.

In the *Waste Early Warning Report*, the Commission recommended that Member States accelerate their efforts to improve their recycling performance. The Commission is, on one hand, working together with the national authorities and stakeholders to speed up the implementation of measures necessary to meet the targets, including through dedicated financing. On the other hand, the Commission is pursuing enforcement actions against those Member States, including Czechia, that, based on data submitted to the Commission, do not achieve the targets of the Waste Framework Directive ⁽¹⁵⁾, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive ⁽¹⁶⁾ and the Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment ⁽¹⁷⁾.

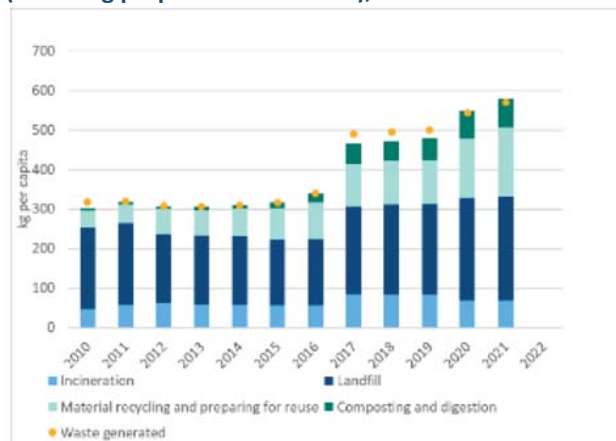
Municipal waste

Czechia's municipal waste generation shows a significant increase over the last 10 years (Figure 5). In 2021, Czechia generated 570 kg per capita of municipal waste, which is slightly above the estimated EU-27 average of 527 kg per capita. Figure 5 shows a break in the time series of data in 2017, due to a change in the municipal waste definition extending it to include waste from companies that is similar to household waste ⁽¹⁸⁾.

The preparing for reuse and recycling rate of municipal waste shows a moderate increase, from 32 % in 2017 to 44 % in 2021, which is slightly below the (estimated) EU-27 average of 49 % (Figure 6). Both material recycling and composting and digestion have contributed to the increase.

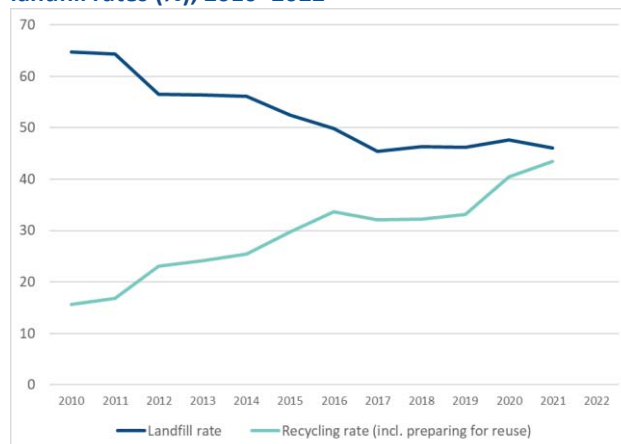
Despite a significant decrease since 2010, the landfill rate was still 46 % in 2021 (Figure 6) and has stagnated since 2017, while the incineration rate was 12 % in 2021. Additional efforts are needed to further reduce landfilling.

Figure 5: Municipal waste management and recycling (including preparation for reuse), 2010–2022



Source: Eurostat, 'Municipal waste by waste management operations', env_wasmun, accessed 22 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ENV_WASMUN/default/table.

Figure 6: Recycling (including preparation for reuse) and landfill rates (%), 2010–2022



Source: Eurostat, 'Municipal waste by waste management operations', env_wasmun, accessed 22 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ENV_WASMUN/default/table.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Commission Decision C(2024) 1486.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, [Directive - 2008/98 - EN - Waste framework directive - EUR-Lex](#).

⁽¹⁶⁾ European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste (OJ L 365, 31/12/1994, p. 10–23), [Directive - 94/62 - EN - EUR-Lex](#).

⁽¹⁷⁾ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38), [Directive - 2012/19 - EN - EUR-Lex](#).

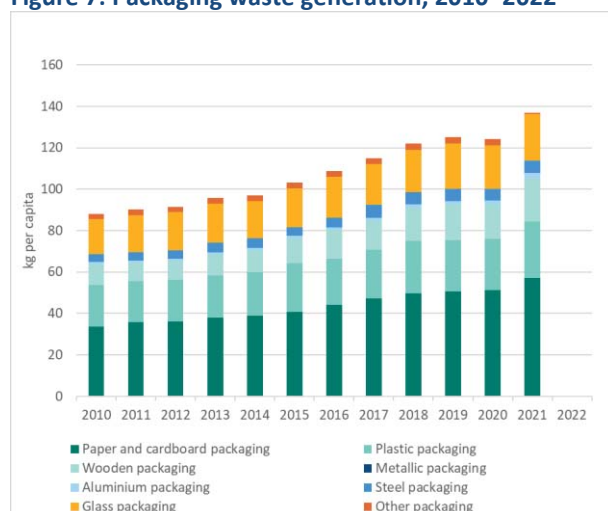
⁽¹⁸⁾ EEA, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal and packaging waste – Czechia*, Copenhagen, 2022, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/many-eu-member-states/czechia/view>.

The Waste Framework Directive⁽¹⁹⁾ sets legally binding targets for the preparing for reuse and recycling of municipal waste. Czechia and 17 other Member States failed to meet the target for 2020 of preparing 50 % of municipal waste (e.g. paper, metal, plastic and glass) for reuse and recycling. Czechia, along with most Member States, also failed to meet the 65 % separate collection target set by Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment. The Commission initiated an infringement procedure in July 2024⁽²⁰⁾.

Packaging waste

Packaging waste generation in Czechia has continuously and significantly increased since 2010 (Figure 7). Czechia generated 137 kg per capita in 2021, which is significantly below the estimated European average of 189 kg per capita for the same year⁽²¹⁾.

Figure 7: Packaging waste generation, 2010–2022

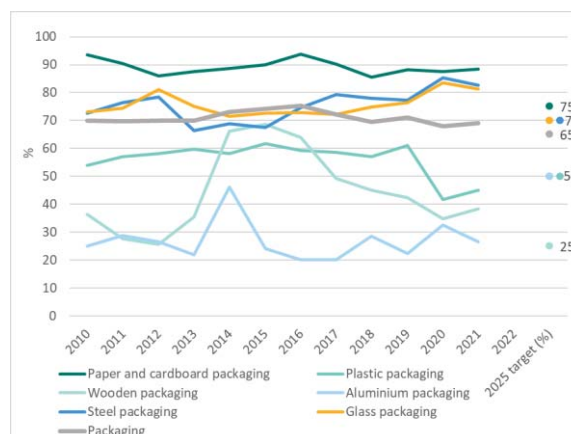


Source: Eurostat, 'Packaging waste by waste management operations', env_waspac, last updated 23 October 2024, accessed 28 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ENV_WASPAC_cust_om_842634/default/table?lang=en.

Czechia's overall packaging waste recycling rate stagnated in 2010–2021, reaching 69 % in 2021 (Figure 8), which is above the estimated EU-27 average of 64 % for the same year. The overall packaging waste recycling rate is mainly driven by paper and cardboard, as this is the largest packaging fraction. The recycling rates of paper and cardboard, glass and steel packaging waste are all above 80 %. The plastic packaging recycling rate shows a significant decrease between 2019 and 2020, which can be attributed to the application of new calculation points

since the reference year 2020. The recycling rate of aluminium packaging is the lowest and needs to nearly double in order to meet the 2025 recycling target.

Figure 8: Packaging waste recycling rates (%), 2010–2022



Source: Eurostat, 'Packaging waste by waste management operations', env_waspac, last updated 23 October 2024, accessed 28 October 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ENV_WASPAC_cust_om_842634/default/table?lang=en.

Policies to encourage waste prevention

Waste management plans and waste prevention programmes are instrumental to the full implementation of EU waste legislation. They set out key provisions and investments to ensure compliance with existing and new legal requirements (e.g. on waste prevention, on separate collection for certain waste streams, on recycling and on landfill targets).

Czechia's current national waste prevention programme addresses 2015–2024. The programme includes reuse measures for certain priority product categories, including electrical and electronic equipment and textiles and furniture. Moreover, the programme aims to prevent the generation of single-use plastic waste, and related measures focus on education and providing information on the availability of reusable alternatives to single-use plastic products and fishing gear.

Food waste is one of the priority waste streams in the updated national waste management plan, with prevention measures addressing all stages of the food chain. Czechia is very active in support of food banks and food donation. There are several mobile and web applications that offer food leftovers from restaurants. In

⁽¹⁹⁾ Directive 2008/98/EC (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/98/oj/eng>) as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/851/oj/eng>).

⁽²⁰⁾ The Commission calls on all Member States to meet waste collection and recycling targets. See European Commission, 'July infringement package: Key decisions', European Commission

website, 25 July 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_24_3228.

⁽²¹⁾ The EU average might have been influenced by not all Member States fully applying the reporting rules for packaging waste set out in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/665.

2023 there was also a change in food legislation that enabled the donation of uneaten meals from canteens and catering services. The waste management plan also includes a target for the reduction of single-use plastic beverage cups and food containers.

In the past few years, many projects involving reuse centres, furniture banks and makerspaces have been implemented all over Czechia. An online portal called Let's Repair Czechia ⁽²²⁾ helps citizens to find repair services in their neighbourhoods for electrical and electronic equipment, furniture, textiles, sports equipment and other products.

Policies to encourage separate collection and recycling

In Czechia, plastics, paper and cardboard, ferrous metals, aluminium, composite packaging, glass and edible oils and fats are mainly collected by means of high-convenience drop-off points and civic amenity sites and, in less densely populated areas, to some extent also through door-to-door collection.

Hazardous waste from citizens is mainly collected through civic amenity sites or mobile collection organised by the municipalities.

Biowaste collection is focused on garden waste, mainly collected at civic amenity sites. In towns, suburbs and rural areas, there are also drop-off points and door-to-door collection for biowaste. There are plans to expand the separate collection of food waste, wood and textiles waste, and the plan for implementation is set out in the updated waste management plan. The separate collection of food waste (i.e. animal-based kitchen waste) will start in 2026.

The obligation for the separate collection of textile waste will start in 2025. The Ministry of the Environment has prepared a guidance document for municipalities to help them in the set-up of separate textile waste collection ⁽²³⁾.

Policies to discourage landfilling or incineration

Since 2021, Czechia has had a landfill tax that increases each year. The landfill tax is increased annually from EUR 32/t in 2021 to EUR 73/t in 2029 for recoverable waste and will become considerably higher than the average for Member States applying such taxes. The Czech Waste Act also establishes landfill taxes for residual waste,

hazardous waste, technological waste and remediation waste.

Municipalities that landfill less than a specific amount of recoverable waste (190 kg per inhabitant in 2022, 180 kg per inhabitant in 2023 and 170 kg per inhabitant in 2024) are exempted from the landfill tax, but this threshold has been decreasing over the years. The exemption aims to prepare the municipalities for a landfill ban to be introduced in 2030, in accordance with the Waste Act, for waste that exceeds 6.5 MJ/kg in dry matter, waste that exceeds a threshold value for the biological stability parameter AT4, and waste that can be recycled efficiently. Additionally, since 2021, separately collected municipal waste suitable for reuse or recycling is no longer allowed to be landfilled or incinerated.

Czechia does not apply incineration taxes and currently has no intention to introduce them. This is because the energy recovery rate of municipal waste is very low in Czechia and the main aim is to divert municipal waste from landfilling rather than from incineration ⁽²⁴⁾.

In the 2022 environmental implementation review (EIR) Czechia had six priority actions in the field of waste. It has made no progress on shifting reusable and recyclable waste away from incineration. Czechia has made some progress in improving the separate collection of waste. Their waste management plan includes measures for expanding the collection of food waste, with a focus on sending animal-based kitchen waste from households to biogas plants. Czechia has evaluated its national waste prevention programme to update and strengthen it. Czechia has made some progress on incentivising sorting at source, as a pay-as-you-throw system is in place, but it currently only covers about 20 % of the population. Czechia has made progress on the functioning of EPR, with an EPR scheme in place for packaging waste from households and non-households. The EPR scheme could still be improved by aligning it with the general minimum requirements on EPR. Czechia is planning to introduce EPR schemes for textiles, furniture, sports equipment, plastic toys and some other product groups.

2025 priority actions

- Invest in waste prevention measures to reduce the total amount of waste generated.
- Implement, harmonise, and gradually increase landfill taxes to phase out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste.

⁽²²⁾

<https://www.opravmecesko.cz/#:~:text=Za%20pomoci%20si%20partnerů%20z,a%20přechod%20na%20cirkulární%20ekonomiku.>

⁽²³⁾

Ministry of the Environment, information provided during the Eionet review of the draft EEA country profile on waste management for Czechia, 2024.

⁽²⁴⁾

EEA, 'Technical note accompanying the EEA briefing "Economic instruments and separate collection – Key instruments to increase recycling"', Copenhagen, 2023, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/economic-instruments-and-separate-collection/technical-note-accompanying-the-eea/view>.

- Further shift reusable and recyclable waste away from incineration, including through economic instruments.
- Improve separate collection at source e.g. through economic instruments, investing in infrastructure for separate collection, sorting and recycling, and increasing public awareness.
- Increase the recycling rates of packaging waste.
- Improve municipal waste preparation for reuse and recycling.
- Increase the collection and recycling rate of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).
- Implement and expand the pay-as-you-throw system for businesses and households.
- Develop EPR schemes for problematic waste and introduce fee modulation.

2. Biodiversity and natural capital

Global and EU biodiversity frameworks

Biological diversity and healthy ecosystems are critical for our societies, underpin our economies and well-being and are essential for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Kunming–Montreal global biodiversity framework (GBF), adopted in December 2022, sets comprehensive and measurable targets to tackle biodiversity loss by 2030. To implement this global framework and integrate biodiversity considerations into national decision-making, the EU – as well as all Member States – had to submit national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), or to communicate national targets aligned with the global targets, by the end of 2024.

The EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 (BDS) aims to put EU biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. It sets quantified targets intended to protect and restore nature and manage ecosystems in a sustainable manner, as well as measures to enable implementation and commitments to support global biodiversity. A BDS actions tracker⁽²⁵⁾ and a dashboard of indicators⁽²⁶⁾ provide information on implementation progress.

The recently adopted EU Nature Restoration Regulation⁽²⁷⁾ is the first EU-wide, comprehensive law of its kind and a key instrument for the EU to deliver on the global biodiversity targets for 2030. It lays down an overarching objective at the EU level to put in place effective restoration measures on 20 % of EU land and sea by 2030 and for all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. To achieve this, it sets binding targets for Member States to restore and maintain ecosystems, as well as an effective implementation framework based on national restoration plans.

The BDS is the main instrument used by the EU to deliver on its obligation under the GBF. The Commission has submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity its report on GBF-aligned EU targets that stem from the BDS and from other policy instruments under the European

Green Deal.

Member States' NBSAPs need to provide coherent frameworks for national delivery on the global and EU 2030 biodiversity targets. In line with the global obligations, NBSAPs should also include a biodiversity financing plan and a capacity-building plan, based on needs assessments, as well as an overview of the national indicators used to measure progress.

Czechia's most recent biodiversity strategy (for 2016–2025) was adopted in 2016. It sets out four priorities for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity⁽²⁸⁾. Czechia is in the process of updating its NBSAP. In July 2024, Czechia uploaded to the Convention on Biological Diversity's online reporting tool⁽²⁹⁾ two preliminary new national targets (on protected areas and on ecosystem integrity, connectivity and management), pending their integration into a revised NBSAP.

The EU aims to allocate to biodiversity objectives at least 7.5 % of annual spending under the EU budget in 2024, rising to 10 % in 2026 and 2027.

For details on biodiversity financing and investments for Czechia, see Chapter 5.

Nature protection and restoration – Natura 2000

Natura 2000⁽³⁰⁾, the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world, is key to the achievement of the objectives set out in the Birds and Habitats Directives. These objectives are to ensure the long-term protection, conservation and survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats and the ecosystems they underpin. Key milestones towards meeting the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives are (i) the setting up of a complete and coherent Natura 2000 network; (ii) the designation of sites of community importance (SCIs) as special areas of

⁽²⁵⁾ EU Biodiversity Strategy Actions Tracker (<https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/kcbd/actions-tracker/>).

⁽²⁶⁾ EU Biodiversity Strategy Dashboard (<https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/kcbd/EUBDS2030-dashboard/?version=1>).

⁽²⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 (OJ L 2024/1991, 29.7.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj>; see also the Commission web page on the law (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en).

⁽²⁸⁾

[https://www.mzp.cz/web/edice.nsf/4A46CA81084E521FC1258050002DAE0C/\\$file/SOBR_CR_2016-2025.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/web/edice.nsf/4A46CA81084E521FC1258050002DAE0C/$file/SOBR_CR_2016-2025.pdf).

⁽²⁹⁾ <https://ort.cbd.int/national-targets?countries=cz>.

⁽³⁰⁾ Natura 2000 comprises sites of community importance (SCIs), designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive, as well as special protection areas (SPAs), classified pursuant to the Birds Directive. Numbers of protected areas in Figure 9 do not add up to the total of SCIs plus SPAs, because some SCIs and SPAs overlap. A special area of conservation (SAC) is an SCI designated by a Member State.

conservation (SACs)⁽³¹⁾; and (iii) effective management of all Natura 2000 sites through the setting of site-specific conservation objectives and measures.

Setting up a complete and coherent network of Natura 2000 sites

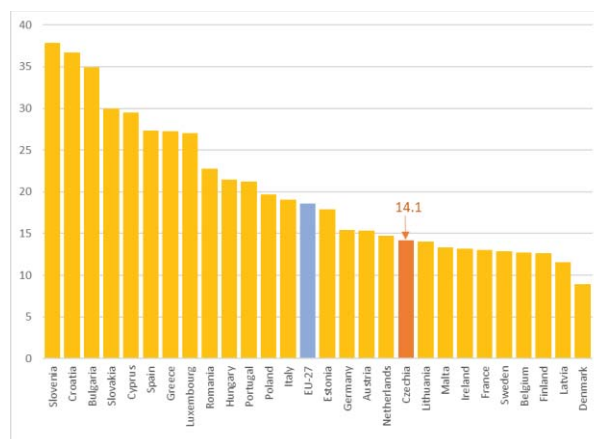
The setting up of a complete and coherent network of Natura 2000 sites is a cornerstone of the EU's international commitments, under the BDS and GBF, to legally protect a minimum of 30 % of its land area and 30 % of its sea area.

Meeting these commitments requires the full implementation of Article 3 of the Habitats Directive. The Natura 2000 network should represent a complete and coherent ecological network composed of sites hosting natural habitat types and species of community interest. The Natura 2000 network enables the natural habitat types and the habitats of species concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored to a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Czechia hosts 60 habitat types⁽³²⁾ and 173 species⁽³³⁾ covered by the Habitats Directive. The country also hosts populations of 85 bird taxa listed in the Birds Directive Annex I⁽³⁴⁾.

As shown in Figure 9, in 2023, 14.1 % of the national territory of Czechia was covered by Natura 2000 sites (EU average: 18.6 %). Special protection areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive covered 8.9 % (EU average: 12.8 %) and SCIs designated under the Habitats Directive covered 10.1 % (EU average: 14.3 %) of Czech territory.

Figure 9: Natura 2000 terrestrial protected area coverage per Member State (%), 2023



Source: European Environment Agency (EEA), 'Natura 2000 Barometer', 2023 data, accessed March 2025, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/natura-2000-barometer>.

Considering both areas covered by Natura 2000 and other nationally designated protected areas, Czechia legally protects 21.8 % of its land area (EU-27 average: 26.1 %)⁽³⁵⁾.

The latest assessment of the SCI part of the Czech Natura 2000 network shows that there are a few remaining insufficiencies, which Czechia is in the process of resolving. There is an ongoing infringement against Czechia related to these insufficiencies⁽³⁶⁾.

Designating special areas of conservation and setting site-specific conservation objectives and measures

To ensure that SCIs contribute to the objectives of the Habitats Directive, Member States must designate them as SACs, setting site-specific conservation objectives based on the ecological needs of the species and habitats present on the sites. Such site-specific conservation should define attributes and targets that describe the habitats or species' condition as favourable or

⁽³¹⁾ SCIs are designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive, whereas SPAs are designated pursuant to the Birds Directive. Figures of coverage do not add up because some SCIs and SPAs overlap.

⁽³²⁾ EEA, 'Number of habitats and species per Member State', Article 17 dashboard, Annex I total, 19 December 2019, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/article-17-national-summary-dashboards/general-information-on-habitats-and-species>.

⁽³³⁾ EEA, 'Number of habitats and species per Member State', Article 17 dashboard, 19 December 2019, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/article-17-national-summary-dashboards/general-information-on-habitats-and-species>.

⁽³⁴⁾ EEA, 'Number of bird species/populations per Member State', Article 12 dashboard, Annex I total, last updated 11 May 2023,

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/article-12-national-summary-dashboards/general-information-on-bird-species-populations>. This counting only takes into account bird taxa for which information was requested.

⁽³⁵⁾ Eurostat dataset env_bio4, terrestrial protected area percentage for 2022, March 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/env_bio4/default/table?lang=en.

⁽³⁶⁾ European Commission, 'November infringements package: Key decisions', European Commission website, 27 November 2019, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_19_6304.

unfavourable, addressing key pressures and threats. Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive Member States must establish and implement measures to achieve these objectives.

The six-year deadline set by the Habitats Directive to designate SCIs as SACs and establish site-specific conservation objectives and measures has expired for all 1 060 sites in Czechia. Site-specific conservation objectives and measures have been put in place for all these sites. As of May 2024, 1 014 sites have been designated as national protected areas and Czechia has committed itself to continuing the designation process for the remaining sites.

Recovery of species

One objective set by the BDS is that, by 2030, there should be no further deterioration in conservation trends or the status of any protected species. The BDS also states that Member States should ensure that at least 30 % of species not currently in favourable conservation status achieve that status or show progress towards doing so (e.g. by exhibiting positive population dynamics or stable or increasing range and habitat size), by 2030. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), based on reporting required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, a quarter of species in the EU were of good conservation status as of 2018 ⁽³⁷⁾.

One of the primary objectives of the Habitats Directive is the maintenance of or restoration to favourable conservation status of all species of community interest. Moreover, the Birds Directive also aims to ensure that all wild birds in the EU enjoy a secure status. To achieve these objectives, it will be necessary to address key pressures and threats. The two directives lay down a framework of species protection rules and rules on the conservation of habitats and species to combat these threats.

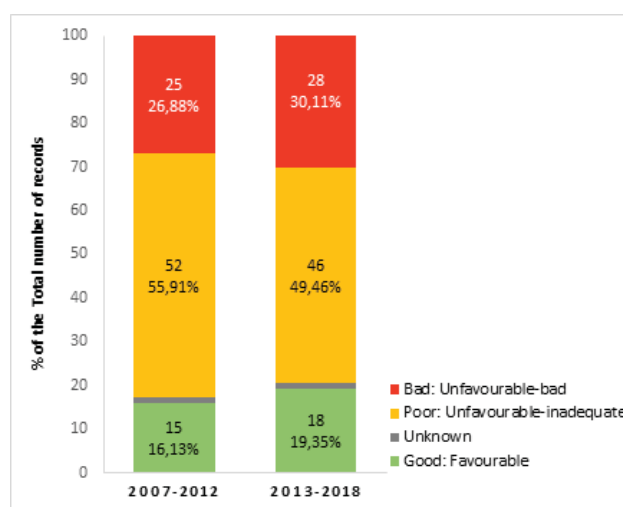
Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, Member States are required to report on the conservation status of habitats and species every six years. Reports for the current reporting cycle, covering 2019–2024, is due for submission in July 2025. Figures 10 and 11 show the latest available conservation status data.

According to Czechia's report for 2013–2018 on the conservation status of habitats and species covered by Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, the share of habitats

assessed as having good conservation status was over 19 %. The share of species assessed as having good conservation status was over 30 %. Regarding birds, about 44 % of the breeding species showed short-term increasing or stable population trends while the same figure for wintering species was 51 %.

Between the two reporting periods, the share of habitats assessed as having bad conservation status also increased slightly to 30 % while the same figure for species decreased to 26 %.

Figure 10: Assessments of conservation status of habitats for the 2007–2012 and 2013–2018 reporting periods



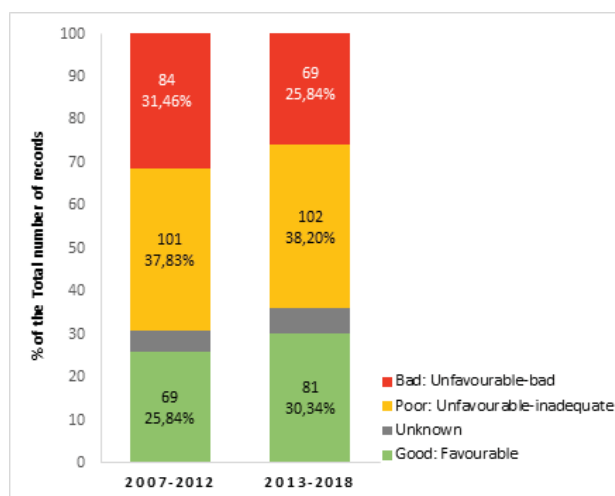
NB: The values shown for 2007–2012 with those for 2013–2018 are not necessarily directly comparable because changes in area conservation status in a Member State may result from changes to methods or use of better data, rather than reflecting genuine changes.

Source: EEA, 'Conservation status and trends of habitats and species', 19 December 2019, accessed February 2025, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/maps-and-charts/conservation-status-and-trends-article-17-national-summary-dashboards-archived>.

⁽³⁷⁾ EEA, *State of Nature in the EU: Results from reporting under the Nature Directives 2013–2018*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020,

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-nature-in-the-eu-2020>.

Figure 11: Assessments of conservation status of species for the 2007–2012 and 2013–2018 reporting periods



NB: The values shown for 2007–2012 with those for 2013–2018 are not necessarily directly comparable because changes in area conservation status in a Member State may result from changes to methods or use of better data, rather than reflecting genuine changes.

Source: EEA, 'Conservation status and trends of habitats and species', 19 December 2019, accessed February 2025, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/maps-and-charts/conservation-status-and-trends-article-17-national-summary-dashboards-archived>.

As mentioned above, the share of habitats and species with good conservation status increased slightly between the two reporting periods. Although the share of habitats with bad conservation status also increased, the share of species with bad conservation status decreased. Natural processes were by far the main pressure for habitats, while for species the main pressures were agriculture, natural processes and forestry. With regard to forestry, cases of massive logging were reported in Natura 2000 sites such as Východní Krušnohoří or Ždánický Forest to be destroying the habitats of protected saproxylic beetles and birds.

Czechia is implementing One Nature, an integrated financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) project for 2019–2026 focusing on the management of the Natura 2000 network. With a project budget of around CZK 500 million (EUR 20.4 million), the objective of the project is to introduce the most appropriate form of management for the sites and thus conserve them for the benefit of both nature and the people⁽³⁸⁾.

Several other LIFE nature and biodiversity projects have been implemented in Czechia in recent years or are still

ongoing, dealing with the restoration of mires in the transboundary Šumava–Bavarian Forest area, the conservation of thermophile habitats in the České středohoří hills⁽³⁹⁾ or the protection of priority grasslands in South Moravia⁽⁴⁰⁾.

Czechia made progress in implementing the priority actions set out in the 2022 EIR. The Natura 2000 designation process is nearing completion while conservation measures defined in the Natura 2000 management plans have been implemented in the sites, supported by the integrated LIFE project One Nature. Czechia has also made efforts to integrate biodiversity considerations into other policies such as those on agriculture, forestry and fish farming; these efforts need to continue.

2025 priority action

- Strengthen the integration of biodiversity actions into other policies (e.g. on energy, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, urban and infrastructure planning and sustainable tourism) and promote communication between stakeholders.

Recovery of ecosystems

Agricultural ecosystems

The BDS works alongside the common agricultural policy (CAP) to support the transition to sustainable agriculture.

The strategy has set five common agriculture-related targets for 2030, namely to:

- reduce by 50 % the overall use of – and risk from – chemical pesticides;
- reduce by 50 % the use of more hazardous pesticides;
- reduce by 50 % losses of nutrients from fertilisers (which will result in a 20 % reduction in the use of fertilisers) while ensuring that there is no deterioration of soil fertility;
- restore at least 10 % of agricultural area to have high-diversity landscape features; and
- increase the area under organic farming to at least 25 %.

⁽³⁸⁾ <https://www.jednapriroda.cz/en/>.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Czechia_Update_EN_Final_Feb23_Rev.pdf.

The “Vision for agriculture and food” ⁽⁴¹⁾, adopted by the European Commission in February 2025, sets a roadmap to an agri-food system that is attractive, competitive, sustainable and fair for current and future generations. To ensure a sustainable future for EU agriculture, it is crucial that these four priority areas are pursued together, and that public and private support are adequately targeted toward this objective.

CAP and the national CAP strategic plans are key instruments to facilitate and strengthen the efforts of European farmers to protect biodiversity and the environment at large. The Commission approved Member States’ CAP strategic plans in 2022 for the programming period 2023–2027. CAP is the largest source of funding for the implementation of EU environment policy, including that on biodiversity. Strategic plans should continue playing a key role in the protection of soil, water, air quality and biodiversity.

While certain CAP result indicators focus on interventions favouring sustainable agriculture practices that regenerate ecosystems, the impact of these measures is difficult to assess. The uptake of eco-schemes is voluntary for farmers.

The utilised agricultural area in Czechia decreased from 3 524 890 ha in 2012 to 3 488 790 ha in 2016 and then increased to 3 530 420 ha in 2022 ⁽⁴²⁾.

Landscape features are small fragments of non-productive and typically – but not exclusively – semi-natural vegetation present in, or adjacent to, agricultural land. They provide ecosystem services and support for biodiversity. The indicator ‘share of agricultural land covered with landscape features’ is the ratio between the area covered by landscape features and the area covered by agricultural land. Based on the Land Use/Cover Area Frame Survey landscape features estimates, the share of agricultural land covered by non-productive landscape features in Czechia is 4.7 %, below the EU average. At the EU level, landscape features cover 5.6 % of agricultural land.

In 2024, the CAP basic regulations were amended ⁽⁴³⁾ to simplify certain rules, inter alia, the standards for good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAECs) of land. These changes removed the obligation for farmers benefiting from CAP area-related support to have a minimum share of 3–4 % of non-productive area or landscape features in their farms. The amended regulation does not remove the obligation under GAEC 8 to retain existing landscape features, however. It also sets out an obligation for Member States to establish and provide support for eco-schemes covering practices for the maintenance of non-productive areas, such as land lying fallow, and for the establishment of new landscape features, on arable land.

The recently adopted Nature Restoration Regulation ⁽⁴⁴⁾ focuses on the restoration of agricultural ecosystems and requires Member States to put in place measures that aim to achieve an increasing trend at the national level of at least two out of three indicators for agricultural ecosystems ⁽⁴⁵⁾. One of these indicators is the ‘share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features’.

Organic farming practices are highly beneficial to biodiversity. As shown in Figure 12, it is estimated that 15.97 % of Czechia’s land area is used for organic farming. Czechia is contributing above the EU-average of 10.50% to achieving the target of 25 % of the EU’s agricultural land being used for organic farming by 2030.

⁽⁴¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

⁽⁴²⁾ Eurostat, ‘Utilised agricultural area by categories’, tag00025, accessed 5 December 2024, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tag00025/default/table?lang=en>.

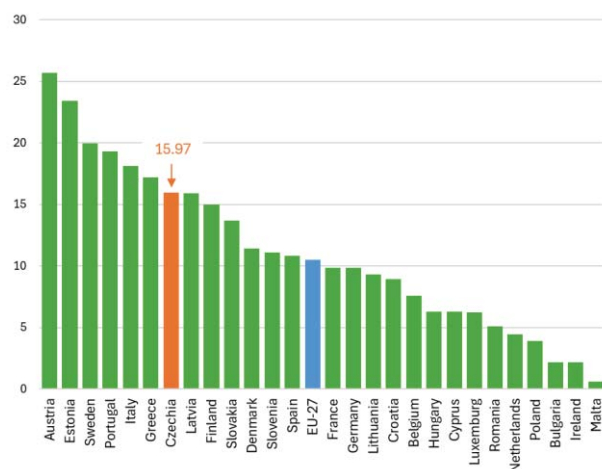
⁽⁴³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1468 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendment of the CAP

strategic plans, review of the CAP strategic plans and exemptions from controls and penalties (OJ L, 2024/1468, 24.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1468/oj>.

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 (OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj>.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ The three indicators are ‘grassland butterfly index’, ‘stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils’ and ‘share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features’.

Figure 12: Share of total utilised agricultural area occupied by organic farming per Member State (%), 2022



Source: Eurostat, 'Area under organic farming', sdg_02_40, accessed 5 December 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_02_40/default/table?lang=en.

In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received priority actions to reduce pressure from the agricultural sector on natural resources, and to improve incentives for farmers to better protect the landscape. Czechia's CAP strategic plan has since advanced environmental goals by expanding organic farming, reducing pesticide use, enhancing biodiversity on over 40 000 ha and supporting sustainable practices through targeted funding for small and medium-sized farms.

2025 priority action

- Implement eco-schemes and agri-environmental measures and practices to address the environmental needs of Czechia.

Soil ecosystems

Soil is an essential, finite and extremely fragile resource. Its increasing degradation poses a threat to EU food security and climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.

The EU soil strategy, adopted in November 2021, aims to

support soil protection, sustainable soil management and the restoration of degraded soils to achieve the Green Deal objectives as well as land degradation neutrality by 2030.

This entails:

- preventing further soil degradation;
- making sustainable soil management the new normal;
- taking action for ecosystem restoration.

The proposed directive on soil monitoring and resilience ⁽⁴⁶⁾ aims to introduce the first comprehensive legislation on the protection of all soils in the EU. Should the directive be adopted, Member States will have to transpose it into national legislation and implement it, starting with putting in place the governance systems and a sound monitoring framework building on existing national soil monitoring frameworks. The objective of the proposed directive is to provide better and more comparable soil health data with the view of attaining healthy soils by 2050.

Degradation of soil ecosystems encompasses several aspects. The proposed Directive requires Member States to assess soil health according to a set of common indicators and to define the necessary regeneration measures. The area of soil that is sealed is an important factor in monitoring land-use change and represents an important pressure on nature and biodiversity. Other soil issues related to land degradation are soil erosion, soil compaction, loss of soil organic carbon, soil contamination, soil salinisation and the presence in soil of nitrogen and phosphorus in excess. The impact assessment accompanying the proposal, which builds on the data available in the EU Soil Observatory, points to the following soil degradation issues in Czechia ⁽⁴⁷⁾.

A quarter of Czechia's land area is affected by unsustainable soil erosion by water, wind, tillage and harvest, representing 64 % of croplands. 22 % of the national territory experiences loss of soil organic carbon in mineral soils ⁽⁴⁸⁾, and 10 % has a high or very high susceptibility to topsoil compaction.

⁽⁴⁶⁾ Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on soil monitoring and resilience (Soil Monitoring Law), COM(2023) 416 final of 5 July 2023, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0416>.

⁽⁴⁷⁾ Commission staff working document – Impact assessment report: Annexes – Accompanying the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on soil monitoring and resilience (Soil Monitoring Law), SWD(2023) 417 final of

5 July 2023, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/IMPACT_REPORT_ANNEXES_SWD_2023_417_part4.pdf.

⁽⁴⁸⁾ De Rosa, D., Ballabio, C., Lugato, E. et al., 'Soil organic carbon stocks in European croplands and grasslands: How much have we lost in the past decade?', *Global Change Biology*, Vol. 30, No 1, 2024, e16992, <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.16992>.

Grasslands

Grasslands are among the most diverse ecosystems in the EU; they can contain as many as 80 different plant species per square metre and are home to a large variety of animals, ranging from small insects, birds and rodents to large herbivores. Grasslands are essential for agriculture and livestock herding. Natural grasslands also play an important role in storing carbon. However, changes in agricultural practices and land uses have caused grasslands to disappear at an alarming rate, making them one of Europe's most threatened ecosystems.

Czechia protects 13 grassland habitat types listed Annex I to the Habitats Directive. Of these, 12 have an unfavourable (U1 or U2) status in at least one of the country's two biogeographical regions. The main threats to grasslands include reseeding, conversion to other land uses, overgrazing and the application of natural fertilisers.

Wetlands/peatlands

Wetlands act as water sources and purifiers; they are the planet's greatest natural carbon stores and they are crucial to agriculture and fisheries. Peatlands are a special type of wetlands dominated by peat-forming plants such as *Sphagnum* mosses. Nearly all peatlands in the EU are habitat types listed in Annex I to the Habitats Directive. Drained peatlands under intensive agricultural use constitute only 3 % of the EU's utilised agricultural area. At the same time, they are responsible for 25 % of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the EU's agricultural sector. Restoring peatlands brings multiple benefits, as peatlands improve water retention and quality, store carbon, reduce GHG emissions and increase biodiversity.

As in the rest of Europe, bogs, mires and fens are not doing well in Czechia. Of the seven habitat types in this group that Czechia protects, only one has a favourable conservation status. Furthermore, four of the seven also show a trend of deterioration. Droughts, natural

succession, air pollution and drainage are among the main threats to these habitats.

Forest ecosystems

Forests are important carbon sinks, and conserving them is vital if the EU is to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The EU forest strategy for 2030, adopted in July 2021, is a plan of actions to promote the many services that forests provide. Its key objective is to ensure healthy, diverse and resilient EU forests that contribute significantly to the achievement of the EU's biodiversity and climate ambitions. About 27 % of the forest area in the EU is covered by habitat types listed in Annex I to the Habitats Directive. Moreover, forests host several species protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives, including those for which there is a requirement to designate Natura 2000 sites and to protect breeding sites and resting places.

Several Commission guidelines on forestry management were published in 2023. They covered biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting; closer-to-nature forest management; and defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting primary and old-growth forests. Further guidance on payment schemes for ecosystems services has also been published.

In 2023, the Commission proposed a new forest monitoring law ⁽⁴⁹⁾ that aims to create a comprehensive forest knowledge base, address information gaps and enable a better response to growing pressures on forests.

Assessments show that, of the 27 % of EU forest area protected under the Habitats Directive, less than 15 % is of favourable conservation status ⁽⁵⁰⁾. The share of forested areas in the EU with a bad conservation status increased from 27 % in 2015 to 31 % in 2018.

In Czechia, forests covered 34.7 % of the territory in 2020 ⁽⁵¹⁾ and more than 90 % of the assessments reveal a bad to poor status. In total, 10 000 ha in Czechia is covered by primary forests ⁽⁵²⁾.

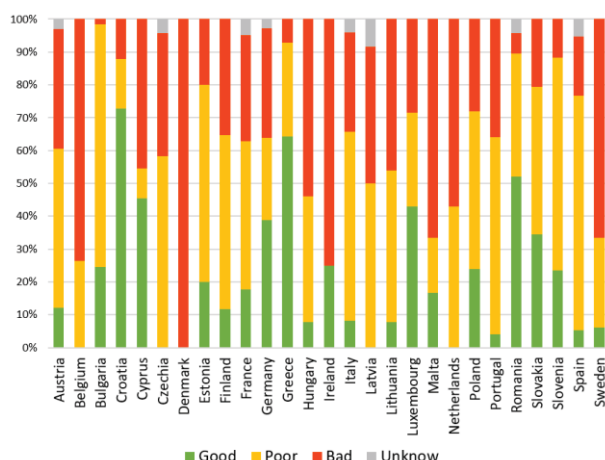
⁽⁴⁹⁾ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a monitoring framework for resilient European forests, COM(2023)728, 22 November 2023, [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2023\)728&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2023)728&lang=en)

⁽⁵⁰⁾ EEA, *State of Nature in the EU: Results from reporting under the Nature Directives 2013–2018*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-nature-in-the-eu-2020>.

⁽⁵¹⁾ EEA forest information system for Europe, 'Countries – FISE country factsheets', forest information system for Europe website, <https://forest.eea.europa.eu/countries>.

⁽⁵²⁾ European Commission: Joint Research Centre, *Mapping and assessment of primary and old-growth forests in Europe*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, p. 13, <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC124671>. According to Czech authorities, Czech legislation defines the

Figure 13: Conservation status of forests protected under the Habitats Directive per Member State (% of assessments), 2013–2018



Source: Commission staff working document – New EU forest strategy for 2030, SWD(2021) 652 final of 16 July 2021, p. 24, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0652.

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)⁽⁵³⁾ prohibits the placing on the EU market of illegally harvested timber. According to the EUTR, Member States' competent authorities must conduct regular checks on operators and traders and apply penalties for non-compliance.

On 29 June 2023, the Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR)⁽⁵⁴⁾ entered into force⁽⁵⁵⁾. The regulation seeks to guarantee that products in the EU that are produced using any of list of seven commodities have no links to deforestation. The EUDR repeals the EUTR.

Except for rare isolated cases, forest management is subject to the assessment of its impacts on Natura 2000 sites as required by the Habitats Directive. However, the

Commission received a complaint regarding the lack of assessment of forest management measures in Východní Krušnohoří.

In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received a priority action to improve incentives for foresters to better protect forests, and to ensure sustainable forest management through effective planning, taking into consideration ecosystem services provided by forests. Due to lack of data, progress cannot be assessed.

2025 priority action

- Ensure sustainable management of forests, including by adopting the national forest programme post-2020, and consider the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 forest sites when developing the national forest management plan.

Prevention and management of invasive alien species

Invasive alien species (IAS) are a major cause of biodiversity loss in the EU. Besides inflicting direct and indirect damage on nature and the economy, some IAS also carry and spread infectious diseases, posing a threat to humans and wildlife. Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 (the IAS Regulation) aims to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impacts of IAS on biodiversity. It focuses action on a list of IAS of EU concern (the 'Union list'), which is regularly updated⁽⁵⁶⁾.

The third update of the Union list⁽⁵⁷⁾ entered into force on 2 August 2022. The fourth update is in preparation.

The IAS Regulation⁽⁵⁸⁾ currently lists 88 species subject

highest level of naturalness as 'native forest', which can be understood as 'primary forest'. Nevertheless, it is defined on a narrower scale than in JRC study.

⁽⁵³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (OJ L 295, 12.11.2010, p. 23), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32010R0995>.

⁽⁵⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 (OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115&qid=1687867231461>.

⁽⁵⁵⁾ The law will apply to large and medium-sized companies starting on December 30, 2025, and to micro and small enterprises starting on June 30, 2026.

⁽⁵⁶⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 of 13 July 2016 adopting a list of invasive alien species of Union concern pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 189, 14.7.2016, p. 4), as amended by Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/1263, (EU) 2019/1262 and (EU) 2022/1203, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02016R1141-20220802&from=EN>.

⁽⁵⁷⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1203 of 12 July 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern (OJ L 186, 13.7.2022, p. 10), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R1203>.

⁽⁵⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35).

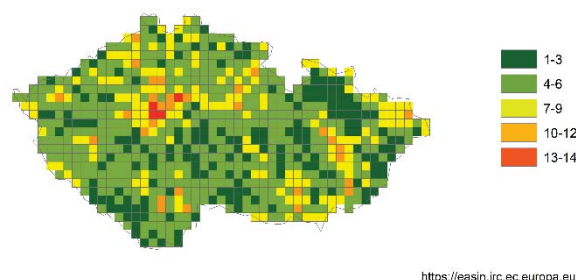
to restrictions on keeping, importing, selling, breeding, growing and releasing into the environment. Member States are required to take measures to (i) prevent the introduction of IAS, (ii) ensure early detection and rapid eradication of IAS and (iii) manage species that are already widespread on their territory.

This aligns with target 6 of the GBF to reduce the introduction of IAS by at least 50 % by 2030 and minimise their impact.

Preventing the introduction and spread of IAS, and managing them, including through eradication and control, can result in a substantial cost saving. Studies estimate that the total cost of IAS in Europe (damages and management) amounted to EUR 116.61 billion between 1960 and 2020 ⁽⁵⁹⁾. More recent studies have put this cost at USD 28 billion per year in the EU, increasing to USD 148.2 billion by 2040 ⁽⁶⁰⁾, and at USD 423 billion annually at the global level ⁽⁶¹⁾.

The total number of IAS of Union concern in the country is 32. This includes 17 species recorded in the previous EIR (2021) and 15 additions. Of these additions, 10 were already on the Union concern list in 2021, and 5 were added later under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1203.

Figure 14: Number of IAS of EU concern, based on available georeferenced information for Czechia, 2024



In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received a priority action to ensure compliance with the IAS Regulation. Czechia has since ensured compliance, and the related infringement proceeding was closed.

2025 priority actions

- Step up implementation of the IAS Regulation, including with regard to enforcement and the capacity of inspection authorities.
- Ratify the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments of 2004 (BWM Convention).

Ecosystem assessment and accounting

The BDS calls on Member States to better integrate biodiversity considerations into public and business decision-making at all levels and to develop natural capital accounting.

Similarly, target 14 of the GBF ⁽⁶²⁾ aims to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policy and planning and, as appropriate, national accounting. This requires effective and coherent

⁽⁵⁹⁾ Haubrock, P. J., Turbelin, A. J., Cuthbert, R. N. et al., 'Economic costs of invasive alien species across Europe', *NeoBiota*, Vol. 63, 2021, pp. 153–190.

⁽⁶⁰⁾ Henry, M., Leung, B., Cuthbert, R. N. et al., 'Unveiling the hidden economic toll of biological invasions in the European Union', *Environmental Sciences Europe*, Vol. 35, No 1, 2023, p. 43.

⁽⁶¹⁾ IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), *Summary for*

Policy-makers – Invasive alien species assessment, 2023, <https://www.ipbes.net/document-library-catalogue/summary-policy-makers-invasive-alien-species-assessment>.

⁽⁶²⁾ Decision 15/4 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>).

biodiversity observation and reporting on ecosystem condition in the EU ⁽⁶³⁾.

The amended Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts ⁽⁶⁴⁾ introduces new requirements for Member States to report on the condition of ecosystems including urban ecosystems, croplands, grasslands, forest and woodlands, coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands. Data reported by the Member States will feed into the second European ecosystem assessment, due in 2027, and can also be used to support policy decisions.

An ecosystem assessment is an analysis of the condition of ecosystems and the pressures acting on them, as well as the benefits that they provide to people, either directly or indirectly through the economy.

An increasing number of platforms, networks and communities of practice involve businesses in protecting biodiversity, including the EU Business & Biodiversity Platform ⁽⁶⁵⁾. These platforms and communities are key tools for promoting and facilitating natural capital

assessments among businesses and financial services providers.

Natural capital assessments help private businesses to better understand both the negative and positive impacts that they have on nature, and to appreciate how nature contributes to their success. Such understanding contributes to the implementation of the EU's BDS.

In 2022, Czechia received priority actions on supporting the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services; ecosystem accounting development; and supporting the development of national business and biodiversity platforms. The first priority action cannot be assessed due to a lack of data. On the second there has been no progress as there is no Czech business and biodiversity network member of the EU Business & Biodiversity Platform.

2025 priority action

- Support the development of the national business and biodiversity network.

⁽⁶³⁾ European Commission: Joint Research Centre and EEA, *EU Ecosystem Assessment – Summary for policymakers*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/81ff1498-b91d-11eb-8aca-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽⁶⁴⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 as regards

introducing new environmental economic accounts modules, COM(2022) 329 final of 11 July 2022, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2022:329:FIN>.

⁽⁶⁵⁾ The EU Business & Biodiversity Platform (https://green-business.ec.europa.eu/business-and-biodiversity_en) aims to promote the business case for biodiversity to businesses and financial institutions through workshops, seminars, reports and a cross-media communication strategy.

3. Zero pollution

Clean air

EU clean air policies and legislation have successfully reduced emissions of key air pollutants and significantly improved air quality, which is now moving towards the levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). This has resulted in clear health benefits and reduced adverse impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. However, to achieve the WHO-recommended levels, more efforts are needed, including full compliance with EU legislation. To guide these efforts, the EU zero pollution action plan sets targets for 2030 relative to 2005. These are to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 55 % and to reduce the EU ecosystems threatened by air pollution by 25 %.

The EU has developed a comprehensive suite of air quality policies⁽⁶⁶⁾. These set health-based EU air quality standards⁽⁶⁷⁾ and stipulate Member States' national emission reduction commitments⁽⁶⁸⁾ for several air pollutants.

The air quality in Czechia is generally good, with some exceptions.

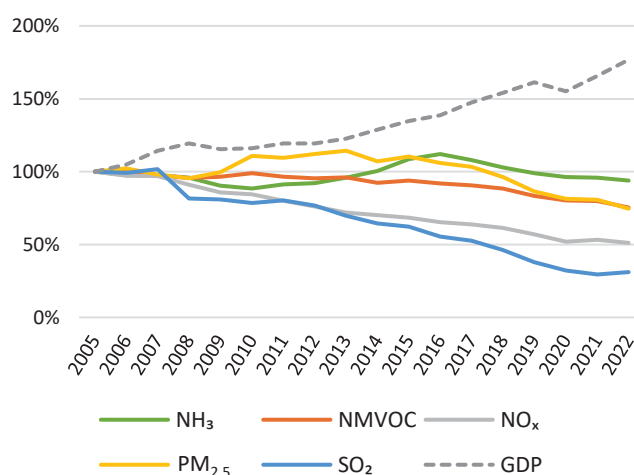
The latest available annual estimates (for 2022) by the EEA⁽⁶⁹⁾ for Czechia attribute 6 900 deaths each year (or 70 700 years of life lost (YLL)) to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})⁽⁷⁰⁾; 730 deaths each year (or 7 500 YLL) to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)⁽⁷¹⁾; and 1 800 deaths each year (or 18 500 YLL) to ozone⁽⁷²⁾.

The emissions of several air pollutants have decreased significantly in Czechia since 2005, while GDP growth has continued (see Figure 15). According to the inventories submitted under Article 10(2) of the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive (NECD)⁽⁷³⁾ in 2024,

Czechia has met its emission reduction commitments for 2020–2029 for air pollutants NO_x, non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and PM_{2.5}. According to the projections submitted under Article 10(2) of the NECD in 2023, Czechia is projected to meet its emission reduction commitments for 2030 onwards for NO_x, NMVOC, SO₂, NH₃ and PM_{2.5}.

Czechia submitted its updated national air pollution control programme (NAPCP) to the Commission on 21 December 2023.

Figure 15: Emission trends of main pollutants / GDP in Czechia (%), 2005–2022



Source: EEA, 'National air pollutant emissions data viewer 2005–2022', 25 June 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth-air-pollution/national-air-pollutant-emissions-data-viewer-2005-2022>.

⁽⁶⁶⁾ European Commission, 'Air', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air_en.

⁽⁶⁷⁾ European Commission, 'EU air quality standards', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/air-quality/eu-air-quality-standards_en.

⁽⁶⁸⁾ European Commission, 'Reducing emissions of air pollutants', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/reducing-emissions-air-pollutants_en.

⁽⁶⁹⁾ EEA, *Harm to human health from air pollution in Europe: Burden of disease 2024*, briefing No 21/2024, Copenhagen, 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/harm-to-human-health-from-air-pollution-2024>.

⁽⁷⁰⁾ Particulate matter (PM) is a mixture of aerosol particles (solid and liquid) covering a wide range of sizes and chemical compositions. PM₁₀ refers to particles with a diameter of 10 µm or less. PM_{2.5}

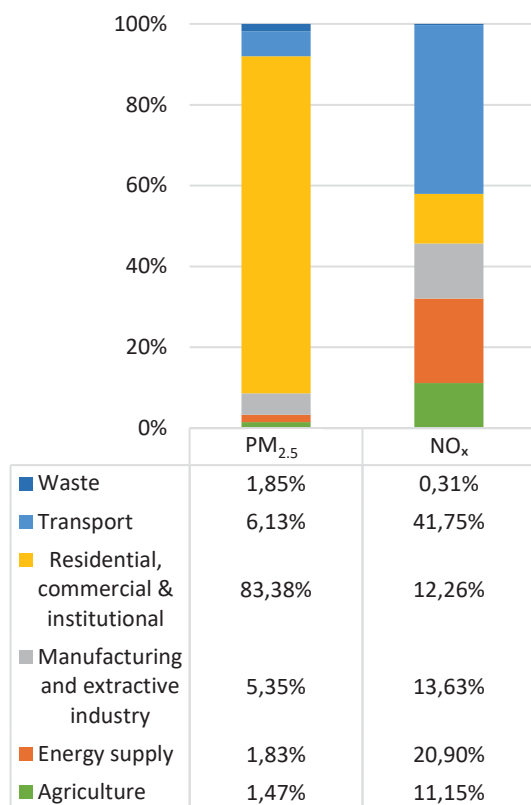
refers to particles with a diameter of 2.5 µm or less. PM is emitted from many human sources, including combustion.

⁽⁷¹⁾ Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) here pertains to a group of gases called NO_x, which also comprises nitrogen monoxide (NO). NO_x is emitted during fuel combustion – for example, from industrial facilities and the road transport sector.

⁽⁷²⁾ Low-level ozone is produced by photochemical action on pollution. This year, for the first time, the impact of long-term exposure to ozone has also been taken into account. In previous analysis by the EEA, only the impact of short-term exposure was estimated.

⁽⁷³⁾ Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC (OJ L 344, 17.12.2016, p. 1), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.344.01.0001.01.ENG.

Figure 16: PM_{2.5} and NO_x emissions by sector in Czechia (%), 2022



Source: EEA, 'National air pollutant emissions data viewer 2005–2022', 25 June 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/air-pollution/national-air-pollutant-emissions-data-viewer-2005-2022>.

In 2023, no exceedances above the limit values established by the Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD) ⁽⁷⁴⁾ were registered in Czechia. However, the target values for ozone concentrations have not been met in several air quality zones, nor has the target value for benzo(a)pyrene concentration in three air quality zones ⁽⁷⁵⁾.

Persistent breaches of air quality requirements, which have severe negative effects on health and the environment, are being followed up by the European Commission through infringement procedures covering all Member States concerned, including Czechia for exceedances of PM₁₀ limit values. The aim is that

appropriate measures be put in place to bring all air quality zones into compliance.

In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received two priority actions. The first priority action was to further reduce emissions in the context of the NAPCP. Czechia has made substantial progress on this, as the latest reported data shows that the 2020–2029 emission reduction commitments have been met and that the emission reduction commitments for 2030 onwards are projected to be reached. The second priority action was to ensure full compliance with EU air quality standards and maintain downward emission trends. Based on the latest data, Czechia has made some progress in this regard. Since 2019, downward emission trends have been reported for all main air pollutants. However, exceedances above target values remain for ozone and benzo(a)pyrene, requiring further action.

2025 priority actions

- As part of the NAPCP, take action to reduce emissions of air pollutants.
- Ensure full compliance with the current AAQD standards, also in light of future stricter requirements under the revised AAQD.

Industrial emissions

The main objectives of EU policy on industrial emissions are to:

- protect air, water and soil and to prevent harmful effects on human health and the environment;
- prevent and manage waste;
- improve energy and resource efficiency, including water;
- contribute to decarbonisation.

The cornerstone of the policy is the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), which was revised in 2024 ⁽⁷⁶⁾. The revision improves the directive's contribution to the zero pollution objective. It has a strong focus on innovation, and builds solid links between depollution, decarbonisation and circularity, making it a key regulatory tool to accompany the green transformation of EU industry by 2050.

The overview of industrial activities regulated by the IED below is based on data reported to the EU Registry in 2022 ⁽⁷⁷⁾.

⁽⁷⁴⁾ Directive 2008/50/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (OJ L 152, 11.6.2008, p. 1), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008L0050>.

⁽⁷⁵⁾ EEA, Eionet Central Data Repository (<https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>).

⁽⁷⁶⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial and livestock rearing emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334,

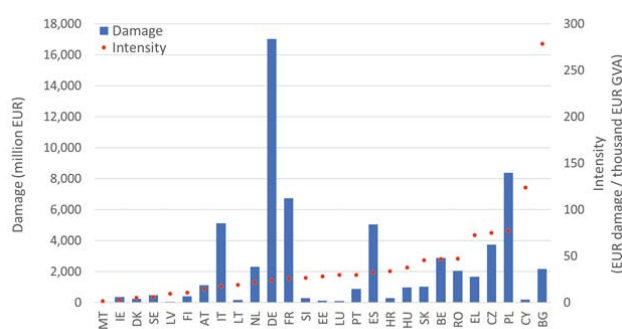
17.12.2010, p. 17), as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02010L0075-20240804&qid=1725983863299>.

⁽⁷⁷⁾ EEA, European Industrial Emissions Portal, <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/>, 2022 being the baseline year for all reports.

In Czechia, there were about 1 800 installations covered by the IED in 2022, around a quarter of them (26 %) being installations for intensive rearing of poultry or pigs. The other main sectors are waste management (19 %), the metals sector (15 %) and the chemical sector (15 %).

Figure 17 shows the damage to health and the environment due to the main industrial air pollutants. As this depends on, among other factors, the size of the industrial sector in each Member State, the figure also shows the ratio between the damage and the industrial activity (expressed in gross value added (GVA)), which gives an indication of the emissions 'intensity'. Czechia has the sixth highest level of damage in the EU, and it comes fourth for emissions intensity, above the EU average of EUR 27.5/EUR 1 000 GVA. The main industrial contributors to emissions to air ⁽⁷⁸⁾ are the energy sector for nitric oxide (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and heavy metals, and the waste sector for dioxins.

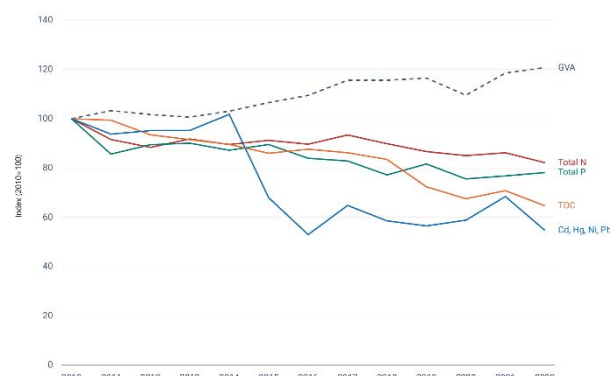
Figure 17: Industrial air pollution damage and intensity per Member State, 2021



Source: EEA, 'Industrial pollution intensity indicators – EU large industry air pollution damage costs intensity', European Industrial Emissions Portal, 2024, <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/analyse/industrial-emissions-indicator>.

Overall, the industrial emissions to water in the EU have decreased over time for all the main pollutants. On average in the EU, they appear to be decoupled from the industrial activity, which has increased over the same period (expressed in GVA), as shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Industrial releases of pollutants to water and industrial activity in the EU-27

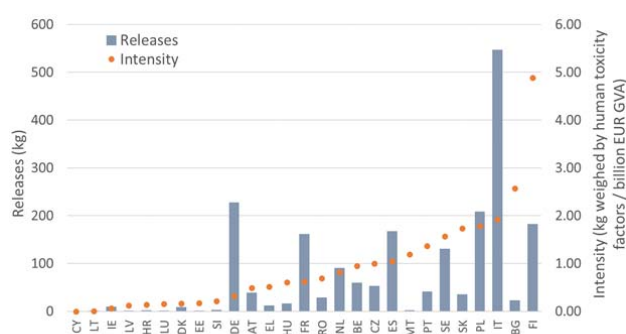


NB: Cd, cadmium; Hg, mercury; Ni, nickel; Pb, lead; total N, total nitrogen; total P, total phosphorous.

Source: EEA, 'Industrial pollutant releases to water in Europe', 30 May 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/industrial-pollutant-releases-to-water>.

Concerning Czechia in particular, Figure 19 shows the industrial emissions of heavy metals to water, taking into account the human toxicity of each metal, as well as the emissions intensity, based on its ratio with industrial activity (expressed in GVA). Czechia has the 10th highest amount of emissions of heavy metals to water and is in 10th position for emission intensity (above the EU average intensity of 0.864 kg/EUR 1 billion GVA). As shown in Figure 20, the main industrial contributors to emissions to water in Czechia are the energy sector for heavy metals, the pulp, paper and wood sector for total phosphorus and total organic carbon, and the chemical sector for total nitrogen.

Figure 19: Industrial releases and intensity of heavy metals to water per Member State, 2022

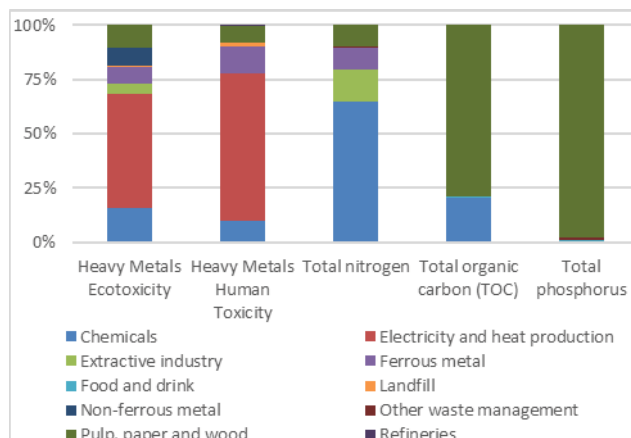


Source: EEA, 'Industrial pollution intensity indicators – EU large industry water pollution intensity', European Industrial Emissions Portal, 2024, <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/analyse/industrial-emissions-indicator>.

⁽⁷⁸⁾ European Environment Agency, LRTAP, Air pollutant emissions data viewer (Gothenburg Protocol, LRTAP Convention) 1990-

2022, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/air-pollution/air-pollutant-emissions-data-viewer-1990-2022>.

Figure 20: Relative releases to water from industry in Czechia (%), 2022



Source: EEA, 'Industrial reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU and European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 – ver. 12.0 Sep. 2024 (tabular data)', EEA Geospatial Data Catalogue, 13 September 2024, <https://doi.org/10.2909/cf5e54c1-be99-4426-bcad-baa26c4f27a0>.

Czechia has been subject to an infringement procedure for not conforming with the transposition of the IED since 2021.

IED provisions on public information and participation require Member States to adopt transposition legislation enabling members of the public to have access to relevant information and participate in the approval process for potentially polluting installations. Thus, the public and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), alongside competent authorities, play a role in ensuring compliance of these permits with EU legislation. The IED contains mandatory requirements on environmental inspections, requiring a site visit to take place at least every one to three years, using risk-based criteria. In addition, IED enforcement provisions require Member States to determine effective, proportionate, and dissuasive penalties applicable to infringements of IED-based national provisions. In the revised directive, the provisions set that worst infringements can be sanctioned by fines of at least 3% of the annual EU turnover of the legal person. The revised IED also introduces a right to compensation for people whose health has been harmed by such infringements.

The development of best available techniques (BATs), BAT reference documents and BAT conclusions ensures effective collaboration between stakeholders and enables better implementation of the IED.

Since the 2022 EIR, the Commission has adopted BAT conclusions on (i) ferrous metal processing, (ii) the textiles industry, (iii) common waste gas management and treatment systems in the chemical sector and (iv) smitheries and foundries.

The Commission relies on the efforts of national competent authorities to implement the legally binding BAT conclusions and associated BAT emission levels in environmental permits. This should result in considerable and continuous reductions in pollution.

In 2022, Czechia received priority actions on addressing air pollution, in particular from the energy sector. Data are not yet available to assess progress on this priority action. However, the energy sector remains among the main sources of industrial emissions.

2025 priority actions

- Complete the correct transposition of the IED 1.0.
- Reduce industrial air pollution damage and intensity.
- Reduce industrial releases to water and their intensity.
- Engage with industry and environmental NGOs to ensure proper contribution to and implementation of BAT conclusions and ensure timely updates to permits following the publication of BAT conclusions.
- Ensure effective public participation and access to justice in relation to the IED.

Major industrial accidents prevention – Seveso

The main objectives of EU policy on the prevention of major industrial accidents are to:

- control major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, especially chemicals;
- limit the consequences of such accidents for human health and the environment;
- continuously improve the prevention of, preparedness for and response to major accidents.

The cornerstone of the policy is Directive 2012/18/EU (the Seveso III Directive ⁽⁷⁹⁾).

The overview below of industrial plants regulated by the Seveso III Directive ('Seveso establishments') is based on data reported on eSPIRS (e-Seveso Plants Information Retrieval System) for 2022 ⁽⁸⁰⁾ and the report by Czechia on the implementation of the Seveso III D ⁽⁸¹⁾.

In 2024, of Czechia's 214 Seveso establishments, 100 are categorised as lower-tier establishments and 114 as

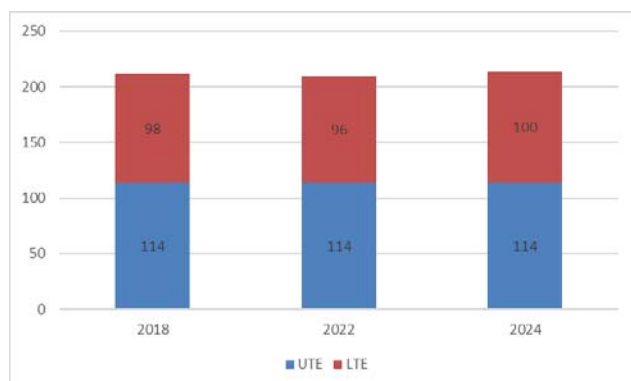
⁽⁷⁹⁾ Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 1), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/18/oj>.

⁽⁸⁰⁾ <https://espairs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/espairs/content>; data extracted in September 2024.

⁽⁸¹⁾ As provided for by Article 21(2) of the Seveso III Directive.

upper-tier establishments (UTEs) based on the quantity of hazardous substances likely to be present. The UTEs are subject to more stringent requirements. The evolution of the number of Seveso establishments is presented in Figure 21.

Figure 21: Number of Seveso establishments in Czechia, 2018, 2022 and 2024

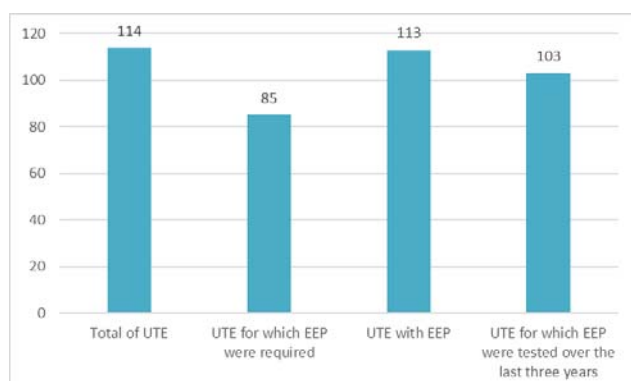


NB: LTE, lower-tier establishment.

Sources: European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Assessment and summary of Member States' implementation reports for Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU (implementing Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances)*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/94d57d74-735b-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>; eSPIRS data, extractions from 2022 and 2024; Analysis and summary of Member States' reports on implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances according to the format established by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU - Publications Office of the EU, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9bd73087-e9b8-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

In 2022, Czechia required an external emergency plan (EEP) for 85 UTEs out of the total 114, as shown in Figure 22. These EEPs are essential to allow proper preparation and effective implementation of the necessary actions to protect the environment and the population should a major industrial accident occur.

Figure 22: Situation regarding EEPs in Czechia, 2022



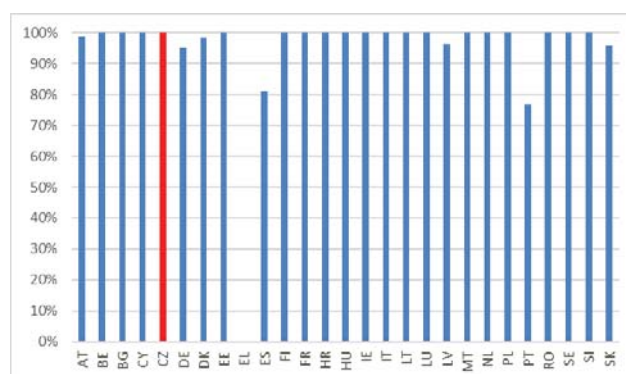
Sources: European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Assessment and summary of Member States' implementation reports for Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU (implementing Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances)*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/94d57d74-735b-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>; eSPIRS data, extractions from 2022 and 2024; Analysis and summary of Member States' reports on implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances according to the format established by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU - Publications Office of the EU, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9bd73087-e9b8-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

dangerous substances), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/94d57d74-735b-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>; eSPIRS data, extractions from 2022 and 2024; Analysis and summary of Member States' reports on implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances according to the format established by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU - Publications Office of the EU, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9bd73087-e9b8-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

The information for the public referred to in Annex V to the Seveso III Directive – especially about how the public concerned will be warned in the case of a major accident; the appropriate behaviour in the event of a major accident; and the date of the last site visit – is permanently available for all Seveso establishments in Czechia.

The shares of UTEs for which information on safety measures and requisite behaviours was actively made available to the public in 2022 in the EU-27 are presented in Figure 23. This provision on knowledge is an important provision of the Seveso III Directive, as awareness by the public of this information may ameliorate the consequences of a major industrial accident.

Figure 23: Share of UTEs for which information on safety measures and requisite behaviours were actively made available to the public per Member State (%), 2022



N.B. No data available for Greece.

Sources: European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Assessment and summary of Member States' implementation reports for Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU (implementing Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances)*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/94d57d74-735b-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>; eSPIRS data, extractions from 2022 and 2024; Analysis and summary of Member States' reports on implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances according to the format established by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/896/EU - Publications Office of the EU, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9bd73087-e9b8-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

Czechia has had some issues with the transposition of the Seveso III Directive into national legislation, identified by

the Commission in 2021 ⁽⁸²⁾. The infringement procedure is still ongoing.

In 2022, Czechia received priority actions to strengthen control and enforcement to ensure compliance with the Seveso III Directive, especially the provisions on EEPs. Significant improvements have been made in that regard.

2025 priority action

- Ensure full and correct transposition of the Seveso III Directive.

Mercury Regulation

The Mercury Regulation establishes measures and conditions concerning the use and storage of and trade in mercury, mercury compounds and mixtures of mercury, the manufacture and use of and trade in mercury-added products and the management of mercury waste, in order to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. The revision of the Mercury Regulation adopted in 2024 sets out rules to address the last intentional uses of mercury in the EU by phasing out the use of dental amalgam by 1 January 2025 except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient, and prohibiting the manufacture and export of additional mercury-containing lamps from 1 January 2026 or 1 January 2027 (depending on the lamp category).

The biggest challenge for Czechia in this area is likely to be the phase-out of dental amalgam. Czechia made use of the derogation under Article 10(2a) of the Mercury Regulation, so the deadline for the phase-out is 30 June 2026. It will be important to quickly put in place the measures set out in the notification on the derogation to ensure a socially and economically sound phase-out, including adapting current healthcare systems by establishing a comprehensive reimbursement framework including mercury-free dental materials, amending

national laws and reimbursement regulations, launching awareness and prevention campaigns, offering training for dental professionals and monitoring implementation. Czechia will also need to ensure that the manufacture and export of mercury-containing lamps are prohibited by the deadlines required by the Mercury Regulation.

Noise

The Environmental Noise Directive ⁽⁸³⁾ requires a common approach to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects of noise. The designated authorities are responsible for making and approving noise maps and action plans for agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports. Member States decide on noise limits that are not set at the EU level. Nevertheless, the zero pollution action plan sets as a 2030 target a 30 % reduction compared with 2017 in the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise.

Excessive noise from aircraft, railways and roads is one of the main causes of environmental health-related issues in the EU. It can cause ischaemic heart disease, stroke, interrupted sleep, cognitive impairment and stress ⁽⁸⁴⁾.

In Czechia, environmental noise is estimated to cause at least around 900 cases of ischaemic heart disease annually ⁽⁸⁵⁾ and some 92 000 people to suffer from disturbed sleep ⁽⁸⁶⁾.

Based on the latest set of information analysed, Czechia has completed its noise mapping of agglomerations, roads, railways and airports.

Action plans for noise management for agglomerations, roads, railways and airports must be updated and submitted to the Commission every five years. The deadline for reporting noise action plans under the most recent reporting cycle was 18 January 2025; these plans have not been assessed yet.

⁽⁸²⁾ European Commission, 'June infringements package: Key decisions', European Commission website, 9 June 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_21_2743.

⁽⁸³⁾ Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise – Declaration by the Commission in the Conciliation Committee on the directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002L0049>.

⁽⁸⁴⁾ WHO, Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region, Copenhagen, 2018, <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/9789289053563>.

⁽⁸⁵⁾ These figures are an estimation by the EEA based on: (i) the data reported by Member States on noise exposure covered by

Directive 2002/49/EC for the round of noise mapping of 2022 ; (ii) European Topic Centre on Air Pollution, Transport, Noise and Industrial Pollution (ETC/ATNI), *Noise Indicators under the Environmental Noise Directive 2021: Methodology for estimating missing data*, Eionet report ETC/ATNI No 2021/06, Kjeller, 2021; and (iii) the methodology for health impact calculations in European Topic Centre on Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation (ETC/ACM), *Implications of environmental noise on health and wellbeing in Europe*, Eionet report ETC/ACM No 2018/10, Bilthoven, 2018, https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-atni/products/etc-atni-reports/eionet_rep_etcacm_2018_10_healthimplicationsnoise.

⁽⁸⁶⁾ More information on the adverse health effects of noise pollution is available at: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/noise/noise-2>

2025 priority action

- Complete and implement action plans on noise management.

Water quality and management

EU legislation and policy requires that the impact of pressures on transitional waters, coastal waters and fresh water (including surface waters and groundwater) be significantly reduced. Achieving, maintaining or enhancing a good status of waterbodies as defined by the Water Framework Directive will ensure that EU citizens and the environment benefit from good-quality and safe drinking and bathing water. It will further ensure that the nutrient cycle (nitrogen and phosphorus) is managed in a more sustainable and resource-efficient way.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive ⁽⁸⁷⁾ is the cornerstone of EU water policy in the 21st century ⁽⁸⁸⁾. The Water Framework Directive and other water-related directives ⁽⁸⁹⁾ form the basis of sustainable and integrated water management in the EU. They aim to achieve a high level of protection of water resources, prevention of further deterioration and restoration to good status. These objectives are very important for the EU's competitiveness, strategic autonomy and security, yet have become even more challenging in the face of climate change affecting our precious water resources.

The Water Framework Directive establishes a procedural framework for reaching good surface water ecological and chemical status and good groundwater quantitative and chemical status. This implies monitoring and classification of all water bodies, assessment of pressures and impacts and identification of the most cost-effective measures to achieve the objectives of the directive. The directive dates from 2000 and set an initial deadline of 2015 for achieving its objectives, with the option to extend the deadline to the end of 2027. Every six years, Member States must report their river basin management plans (RBMPs) to the Commission. They should cover river basin districts in their countries, some of which may be shared with other countries. The Commission has assessed the third cycle of RBMPs, which were to be submitted by March 2022, and

will report its findings to the European Parliament and to the Council in the first quarter of 2025. The Commission has assessed the third cycle of RBMPs, which were to be submitted by March 2022, and reported its findings to the European Parliament and to the Council on 4th February 2025 ⁽⁹⁰⁾.

Czechia's three river basin districts (Danube, Elbe and Oder, all three international) count 1 118 surface waterbodies (1 045 rivers and 73 lakes) and 174 groundwater bodies. 9.4 % of all rivers and 94.5 % of all lakes are designated as 'heavily modified', and 0.5 % of rivers and 5.5 % of lakes are designated as 'artificial'.

Figures 24–27 show the change in ecological status/potential and of chemical status of surface waters, and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters in 2010, 2015 and 2021. Heavily modified and artificial waterbodies must reach good ecological potential rather than good ecological status, which means that all measures must be taken to mitigate the adverse impact of the sustainable human development activities causing the waterbody to be heavily modified / artificial, while not significantly affecting these activities.

The assessment of the third cycle of RBMPs shows a decrease in the number of surface waterbodies with good (or better) ecological status/potential from 18.8 % (in the second RBMP) to only 5.9 % (in the third RBMP). Even if the deterioration is partly due to changes in the delineation of waterbodies, stricter limits for physico-chemical elements (e.g. nutrients) and improved monitoring, it is also clear that Czechia's lakes in particular severely struggle with eutrophication due to the high amount of nutrients therein. With regard to chemical status, the deterioration between the second and third RBMPs is even more significant, as surface waterbodies with good chemical status decreased from 70 % to only 38.9 %. Again, this is partly due to better monitoring of more substances, but also due to ubiquitous persistent bioaccumulative and toxic substances (uPBTs), which are difficult to address.

⁽⁸⁷⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060>.

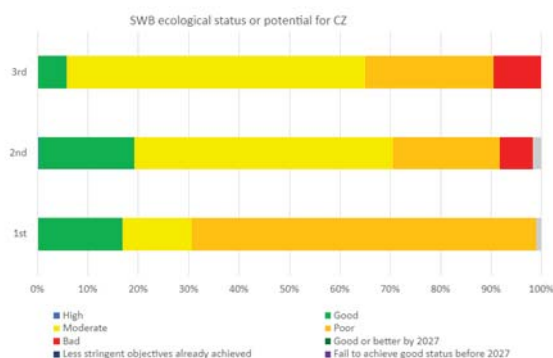
⁽⁸⁸⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water_en.

⁽⁸⁹⁾ These include the Groundwater Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32006L0118>), the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/105/oj>), the Floods Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32007L0060>), the Bathing Water Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32006L0007>), the UWWTD

(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31991L0271>), the new Drinking Water Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020L2184>), the Nitrates Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A31991L0676>), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008L0056>) and the IED (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32010L0075>).

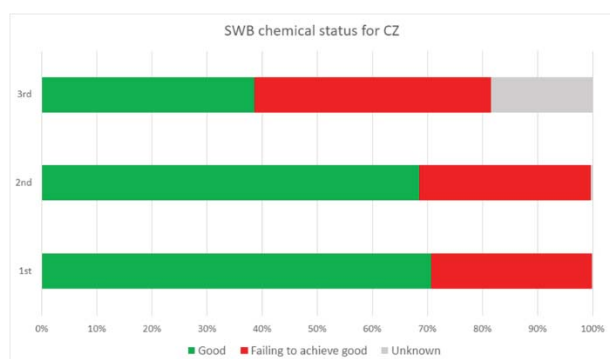
⁽⁹⁰⁾ [ENV - Bibliothèque](#)

Figure 24: Ecological status/potential of surface waterbodies in each RBMP cycle (%)



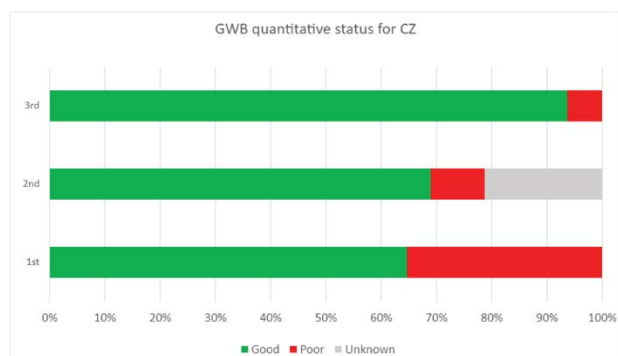
The main pressures are industrialised large-scale agriculture heavily relying on fertilisers, and waste water polluting rivers and lakes with nutrients causing eutrophication.

Figure 25: Chemical status of surface waterbodies in each RBMP cycle (%)



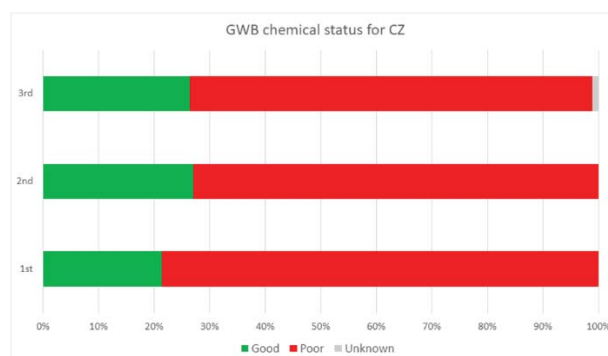
The main pressures on chemical status are discharges not connected to the sewerage network, pollution from agriculture, and urban waste water. The primary substances causing failure are uPBTs that have high resistance to degradation. Other pollutants affecting water bodies are pesticides (cybutryne and dichlorvos) and fluoranthene.

Figure 26: Quantitative status of groundwater bodies in each RBMP cycle (%)



In the third RBMP, 93.7 % groundwater bodies were reported to have good quantitative status, a significant increase from only 69 % in the second RBMP, mostly as a result of the reclassification of 21 % of groundwater bodies previously assigned 'unknown' status as having 'good' status. Pressures are caused by water abstraction for the public water supply and industrial and agricultural uses. 13 % of groundwater bodies have been reported to be at risk of failing to achieve good quantitative status by 2027.

Figure 27: Chemical status of groundwater bodies in each RBMP cycle (%)



Czechia is among the Member States with the highest portion of groundwater bodies (72.4 %) failing to reach good chemical status. Only 26.4 % have good chemical status and 1.1 % have unknown status. This is mainly due to pollution from agriculture (pesticides, nitrates and ammonium). Non-agricultural pollutants showing sustained upward trends are arsenic, nickel, cadmium, nitrate (from the burning of fossil fuels) and aluminium.

To improve the situation, Czechia needs to increase resources to clean up historic industrial pollution (making polluters pay) and step up investments in wastewater treatment, including by connecting the remaining urban and industrial wastewater discharges to sewers and wastewater treatment plants in line with the applicable EU environmental *acquis*.

Until end of 2027, Member States can still apply for time-related exemptions, subject to providing evidence of compliance with the strict criteria set out in the Water Framework Directive. After 2027, the possibilities for applying for exemptions will be much more limited.

The 2022 EIR identified the following priority actions:

- Assess new physical modifications of waterbodies in line with Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive. Consider alternative options and adequate mitigation measures in these assessments.

- Boost investments to improve the water status of the remaining waterbodies in all river basin districts.
- Improve the coordination between water and nature policies.

In this context, some progress has been made: Czechia has mapped out the cost of measures, but only estimated the potential sources of funding. Czechia's strategic plan for the CAP also pays some attention to improving water quality. This includes incentivising farmers to apply wide buffer strips for pesticides around watercourses, and increasing the area used for organic farming from 16 % (above the EU average of around 10 % in 2021) to 21.3 % of agricultural land by 2030 (the Green Deal target being 25 %).

2025 priority actions

Without prejudice to the list of recommended actions in the Commission report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the assessment of the third RBMPs, the following priority actions can be highlighted:

- Reduce pollution from nutrients, chemicals, metals and saline discharges.
- Develop more robust programmes of measures, tackle obstacles identified in the implementation of measures and ensure adequate financing for implementation, including through better use of cost recovery and the polluter-pays principle.
- Improve river continuity and ecological flows, boosting efforts on nature-based solutions to reduce hydromorphological pressures.
- Better justify exemptions to the achievement of good status.
- Improve the classification of water bodies and strengthen monitoring systems.

Floods Directive

Every six years, following the same reporting cycle as the RBMPs, all Member States also report their flood risk management plans (FRMPs), based on the flood hazard and risk maps and the preliminary flood risk assessments drawn up during the second cycle (2016–2021).

The Commission assessed the FRMPs and reported its findings to the European Parliament and to the Council on 4th February 2025, together with the assessment of the RBMPs.

Czechia's second FRMP identifies indicators for monitoring progress. In addition, the second FRMP has addressed, at least partly, three recommendations arising from the first FRMP by providing a method for the prioritisation of measures, including cost estimates, an overall budget and timetables for structural measures. While most measures were reported as 'not started' in the first FRMP, all the measures in the second FRMP are either ongoing or in preparation. The second FRMP also includes nature-based solutions and cross-references to work on floods within the updated Czech climate change adaptation strategy. However, Czechia needs to further step up its efforts.

2025 priority actions

- Consider future climate scenarios in the FRMPs.
- FRMPs should provide details on how the FRMPs were used in the choice of measures and how to consider pluvial flooding.
- Better explain the choice and implementation of flood prevention and protection measures (prioritisation, monitoring, costs of measures).
- Improve public consultation and stakeholder involvement.

Drinking Water Directive

The recast Drinking Water Directive is now applicable, and Member States were required to transpose its provisions into their national legal systems by 12 January 2023. Since the entry into force of the recast directive, the Commission has adopted several delegated and implementing acts establishing (i) a watch list of substances and compounds of concern for drinking water ⁽⁹¹⁾, (ii) a methodology for measuring microplastics in drinking water ⁽⁹²⁾ and (iii) an EU system for testing and approving materials that will be allowed to be in contact with drinking water ⁽⁹³⁾. Member States will have to take these various Commission acts into account when implementing the recast directive.

⁽⁹¹⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/implementing-decision-drinking-water-directive-watch-list_en.

⁽⁹²⁾ Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2024/1441 of 11 March 2024 supplementing Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council by laying down a methodology to measure microplastics in water intended for human consumption (notified under document C(2024) 1459) (OJ L, 2024/1441, 21.5.2024), http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_del/2024/1441/oj.

⁽⁹³⁾ OJ L, 2024/365, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/365/oj; OJ L, 2024/367, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/367/oj;

OJ L, 2024/369, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/369/oj; OJ L, 2024/368, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/368/oj; OJ L, 2024/370, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/370/oj; OJ L, 2024/371, 23.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/371/oj; see the Commission web page on all six delegated acts for more information (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/delegated-acts-drinking-water-directive_en).

Finally, the Commission has now received data from Member States on the quality of drinking water in 2017–2019. The quality of drinking water (supplied by large water suppliers) in Czechia does not give rise to concern. The compliance for all parameter groups in Czechia was at least 99.47 % in 2017, 99.44 % in 2018 and 99.41 % in 2019.

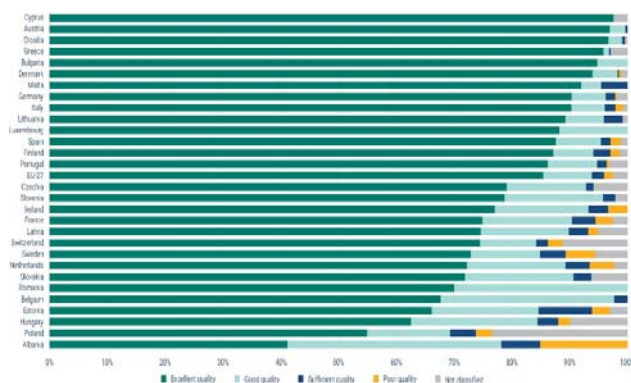
From January 2026, the European quality standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water will apply, ensuring harmonised Member States' reporting of PFAS monitoring data in the future.

Bathing Water Directive

The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It requires that, during the bathing season, Member States disseminate to the public information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable.

Figure 28 shows that in 2023, out of the 153 bathing waters in Czechia, 121 (79.1 %) were of excellent quality, 21 (13.7 %) were of good quality and 2 (1.3 %) were of sufficient quality. No bathing waters were found to be of poor quality. Detailed information on Czechia's bathing waters is available on a national portal and through an interactive map viewer of the EEA.

Figure 28: Bathing water quality per Member State, Albania and Switzerland (%), 2023



Source: EEA, *European Bathing Water Quality in 2023*, briefing No 04/2024, Copenhagen, 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-bathing-water-quality-in-2023/>.

Nitrates Directive

The Nitrates Directive⁽⁹⁴⁾ aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural

sources that can pollute groundwater and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices.

The latest Commission report on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive⁽⁹⁵⁾, dating back to 2021, warns that nitrates are still causing harmful pollution to water in the EU. Excessive nitrates in water are harmful to both human health and ecosystems, causing oxygen depletion and eutrophication. Cleaning of waters by national authorities or farmers, where it has been undertaken, has had a positive impact on the drinking water supply and on biodiversity. It has also benefited the sectors – such as fisheries and tourism – that depend on biodiversity and on a good supply of drinking water. Nevertheless, excessive fertilisation remains a problem in many parts of the EU. The report on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive covering 2020–2023 will be available in 2025.

Despite the quality of the Common agriculture policy strategic plan to incentivize buffer strips for pesticides around water courses, the analysis of Czechia's RBMPs has identified nutrients from agriculture as an important pressure for groundwater / surface waters that is affecting these waters' good status and as one of the main factors in not meeting the Water Framework Directive objectives.

2025 priority action

- Tackle nutrient pollution, especially nitrates from agriculture, through the implementation of the Nitrates Directive.

Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

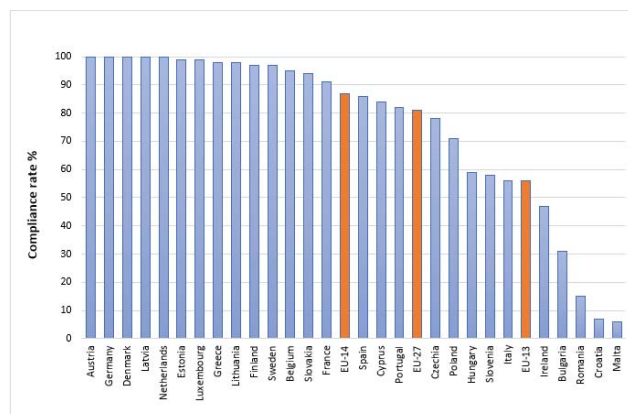
The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) aims to protect human health and the environment from the effects of untreated urban waste water. It therefore requires Member States to collect and treat (secondary or biological treatment) waste water in all urban areas of more than 2 000 people, and to apply a more stringent treatment than secondary, with nitrogen and/or phosphorus removal, to the waste water generated in urban areas, also known as agglomerations, of more than 10 000 people, before they are discharged into waters and their catchments, when they are sensitive to nitrogen and/or phosphorus (i.e. eutrophic or tending to become eutrophic).

Overall, in Czechia, the compliance rate was 78 % in 2020. Twenty-two agglomerations, generating 2 038 828 population equivalent of waste water, did not comply with the requirements of the directive.

⁽⁹⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1561542776070&uri=CELEX:01991L0676-20081211>.

⁽⁹⁵⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/nitrates_en.

Figure 29: Proportion of urban waste water that fully complies with the UWWTD (%), 2020



Source: European Commission, 12th UWWTD Implementation Report, 2024. [12th technical assessment of UWWTD implementation - Publications Office of the EU](#)

An infringement proceeding is open against Czechia for non-compliance with the requirements of the directive⁽⁹⁶⁾. The reasoned opinion from 2020 identified 425 agglomerations failing to provide a collecting system, 62 agglomerations failing to provide secondary treatment and 41 agglomerations failing to ensure more stringent treatment. It is essential that Czechia take the necessary measures to comply with the requirements of the directive.

This is all the more important as the directive has been revised⁽⁹⁷⁾. The revised directive builds on the current *acquis*, strengthening existing treatment standards and establishing a new additional treatment of micropollutants in urban waste water. Other new requirements relate to moving towards energy neutrality in the sector; establishing an EPR system to ensure the sustainable financing of micropollutant treatment by the most polluting industries; and ensuring access to

sanitation, especially for vulnerable and marginalised groups. Czechia has until 31 July 2027 to transpose the new directive into its national legal system.

In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received a priority action to ensure UWWTD compliance in all agglomerations by building up the necessary infrastructure. Despite some progress, Czechia has not yet fully implemented the UWWTD.

2025 priority action

- Take the necessary measures to ensure full implementation of the current UWWTD, taking into account the new requirements of the recast directive.

Chemicals

The EU seeks to ensure that chemicals are produced and used in a way that minimises any significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. In October 2020, the Commission published its chemicals strategy for sustainability towards a toxic-free environment⁽⁹⁸⁾, which led to some systemic changes in EU chemicals legislation. The strategy is part of the EU's zero pollution ambition – a key commitment of the European Green Deal.

The EU's chemicals legislation⁽⁹⁹⁾ provides a baseline protection for human health and the environment. It also ensures stability and predictability for businesses operating in the internal market.

Since 2007, the Commission has gathered information on the enforcement of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation and the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation. In December 2020, the Commission assessed the Member States' reports⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ on the implementation and enforcement of these

⁽⁹⁶⁾ INFR(2016)2141.

⁽⁹⁷⁾ [Directive \(EU\) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment \(recast\)](#).

⁽⁹⁸⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Chemicals strategy for sustainability: Towards a toxic-free environment, COM(2020) 667 final of 14 October 2020, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A667%3AFIN>; Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1), https://publications.europa.eu/resource/ellar/c6b6a31d-8359-11ee-99ba-01aa75ed71a1.0004.02/DOC_2.

⁽⁹⁹⁾ Namely, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of

chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30/12/2006, p. 1), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32006R1907>; and Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008R1272-20221217>.

⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ European Commission, *Technical assistance to review the existing Member States reporting questionnaire under Articles 117(1) of REACH and 46(2) of CLP – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8ee3c69a-bccb-4f22-89ca-277e35de7c63/library/a4abce8c-8425-455f-b7e6-0ead917bde6b/details>.

regulations⁽¹⁰¹⁾. It is apparent from the Commission's report that there are still many disparities in the implementation of the REACH and CLP Regulations, notably in the area of law enforcement. Recorded compliance levels in Member States, generally quite stable over time, appear to be getting slightly worse. This may be because: (i) enforcement authorities are becoming more effective in detecting non-compliant products/companies; and (ii) more non-compliant products are being placed on the EU market.

In August 2021, the Commission published a measurable assessment of the enforcement⁽¹⁰²⁾ of the two main EU regulations on chemicals using a set of indicators on different aspects of enforcement. Since 2021, the list of chemicals subject to restrictions has been expanded as new entries have been added to Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation⁽¹⁰³⁾.

In 2023, new hazard classes were added to the CLP Regulation, and the revision of the regulation was tabled (published on 20 November 2024)⁽¹⁰⁴⁾. The new hazard classes cover endocrine disruptors and persistence-related hazards while the revision of the regulation encompasses new rules on online sales to better tackle non-compliances observed over the years. Also in 2023, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention (COP) decided to include, in its Annex A (which lists banned substances), three new chemicals⁽¹⁰⁵⁾. The Commission is working on the delegated acts to include these substances in Annex I to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulation by 2025 at the latest.

Responsibility for enforcing compliance with both the REACH and CLP Regulations in Czechia lies with the following authorities⁽¹⁰⁶⁾:

- Czech Environmental Inspectorate,
- Czech Customs Administration,
- regional public health authorities,
- Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture,
- State Labour Inspection Office.

Czechia has drawn up and fully implemented enforcement strategies for both the REACH and CLP Regulations⁽¹⁰⁷⁾.

The Member States' reporting exercise set out in Article 117 of the REACH Regulation and Article 46 of the CLP Regulation is conducted every five years. The results of the coming one are expected in 2025, hence the absence of new country-specific data on enforcement since 2022.

In 2022, Czechia allocated only 11 staff members to the enforcement of the REACH and CLP Regulations⁽¹⁰⁸⁾. At 300, the number of REACH checks remained well below the EU average in the 2019 reporting period.

In 2020, Czechia participated in an EU-coordinated enforcement project on products sold online, called the REACH-EN-FORCE (REF)-8 project⁽¹⁰⁹⁾. The project report was completed in November 2021, so it could not be taken into account in the previous EIR.

⁽¹⁰¹⁾ In line with Article 117(1) of the REACH Regulation and Article 46(2) of the CLP Regulation.

⁽¹⁰²⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, *REACH and CLP Enforcement: EU level enforcement indicators*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e5c3e461-0f85-11ec-9151-01aa75ed71a1/>.

⁽¹⁰³⁾ These are substances in tattoo inks and permanent make-up, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, formaldehyde (and formaldehyde releasers), lead in PVC (polyvinyl chloride), siloxanes (D4, D5, D6) and, finally, microplastics.

⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/2865 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, OJ L, 2024/2865, 20.11.2024, p.1 ([Regulation - EU - 2024/2865 - EN - EUR-Lex](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2865/oj))

⁽¹⁰⁵⁾ These are methoxychlor, dechlorane plus and UV-328. In the case of the pesticide methoxychlor, there are no exemptions from the ban. However, for the two plastic additives, dechlorane plus and UV-328, the COP decision lists some time-limited specific exemptions.

⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ European Commission, *Technical assistance to review the existing Member States reporting questionnaire under Articles 117(1) of REACH and 46(2) of CLP – Final report*, Publications Office of the

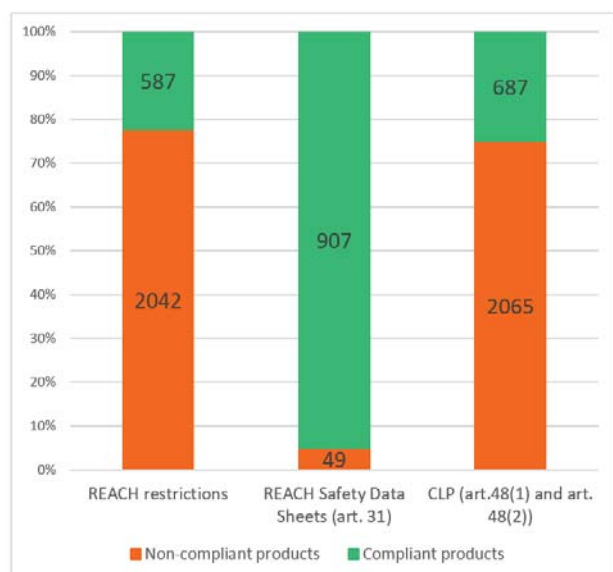
European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, p. 68, <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8ee3c69a-bccb-4f22-89ca-277e35de7c63/library/a4abce8c-8425-455f-b7e6-0ead917bde6b/details>.

⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ European Commission, *Technical assistance to review the existing Member States reporting questionnaire under Articles 117(1) of REACH and 46(2) of CLP – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, p. 76, <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8ee3c69a-bccb-4f22-89ca-277e35de7c63/library/a4abce8c-8425-455f-b7e6-0ead917bde6b/details>.

⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ European Commission, *Technical assistance to review the existing Member States reporting questionnaire under Articles 117(1) of REACH and 46(2) of CLP – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, p. 75, <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8ee3c69a-bccb-4f22-89ca-277e35de7c63/library/a4abce8c-8425-455f-b7e6-0ead917bde6b/details>.

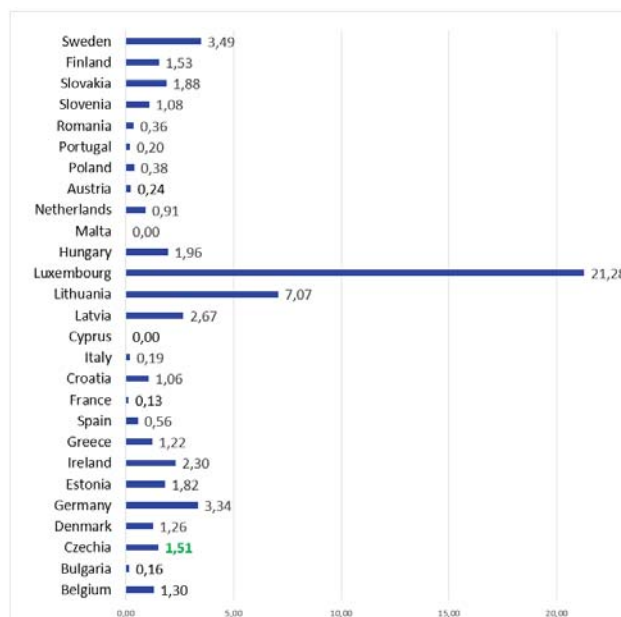
⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ European Chemicals Agency, *REF-8 project report on enforcement of the CLP, REACH and BPR duties related to substances, mixtures and articles sold online*, Helsinki, 2021, p. 20, https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17088/project_report_ref-8_en.pdf/ccf2c453-da0e-c185-908e-3a0343b25802?t=1638885422475.

Figure 30: Compliances of imported products – results of the REF-8 project (%)



A risk approach was used for the targeting of controls in order to maximise the chances of identifying non-compliance. Therefore, the non-compliance rates presented above cannot be considered the average non-compliance rates for products in the EU. However, the proportion of non-compliance cases found in the REF-8 project are of concern.

Figure 31: Number of REF-8 checks performed per 100 000 inhabitants (EU average = 1.24)



Czechia's participation in the REF-8 coordinated enforcement project was around the EU average, which is rather low because of the lack of involvement of certain large Member States.

In 2022, Czechia received a priority action related to upgrading administrative capacities in implementation and enforcement to move towards a policy of zero tolerance of instances of non-compliance. In the absence of reporting since 2022, no progress has been shown and this priority action remains valid in 2025, partly because of the experience with the REF-8 project.

2025 priority actions

- Upgrade the administrative capacities in implementation and enforcement to move towards a policy of zero tolerance of non-compliance.
- Increase involvement in the activities of the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement of the European Chemicals Agency, including in the coordinated enforcement projects, called REF projects.
- Increase customs checks and checks of products sold online with regard to compliance with chemicals legislation.

4. Climate action

The impacts of climate change have continued to increase in recent years, inflicting damage and suffering in the EU and around the world. Globally, 2023 was the hottest year on record, while Europe has been warming twice as quickly as the global average, and is now the fastest-warming continent. The frequency and severity of extreme climate events are also increasing. Against this backdrop, the EU has demonstrated its determination to implement the European Green Deal and to become climate neutral and resilient by 2050, ensuring sustainable competitiveness and supporting EU industry in the net-zero transition. The European Climate Law is the EU's response to the need for action. It sets the objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and a midterm target of a reduction in GHG emissions of at least 55 % by 2030, and outlines the adaptation efforts necessary to adjust to climate change's present and future impacts. Almost all the 'Fit for 55' proposals set out in the European Green Deal have been agreed in law, and the European Commission recommended a new intermediate climate target of a 90 % reduction in emissions by 2040. In 2024, the Member States submitted updated national energy and climate plans for 2021–2030, reflecting the increased ambition of the revised EU legislation. In 2024, the European Commission also released, jointly with the EEA, the first-ever European climate risk assessment.

Over the last three decades, since 1990, the EU has achieved steady decreases in its emissions, reaching a running total in 2022 of – 32.5 %⁽¹¹⁰⁾. However, the EU and its Member States need to step up their implementation efforts and accelerate emissions reduction to stay on track to reach their targets of a 55 % reduction in net GHG emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. Between 1990 and 2022, net GHG emissions of Czechia decreased by 37%, making it one of the countries with an above-average decrease.

The 'Fit for 55' legislative package reflects the need to speed up the green transition. It includes (i) strengthening and expanding the EU emissions trading system (ETS), with the creation of a new, second, ETS for transport and buildings together with a dedicated Social Climate Fund to help citizens during the transition; (ii) increasing targets under the effort sharing regulation; and (iii) a revised regulation for Land Use, Land Use Change and

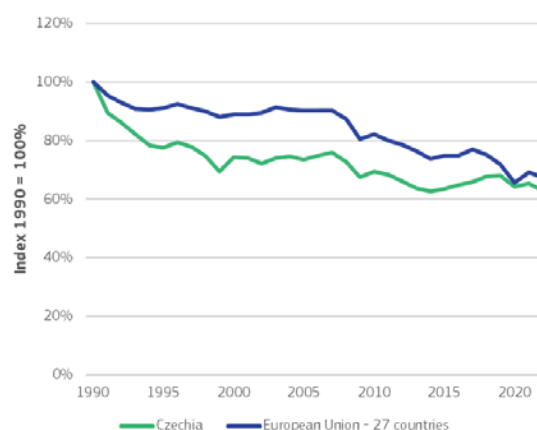
Forestry⁽¹¹¹⁾. The package has been fully adopted, and the Member States have been implementing the legislation.

The key strategic document at country level is the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)⁽¹¹²⁾. Czechia submitted its updated plan in December 2024 after the deadline set by the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action⁽¹¹³⁾. The European Commission assessed the plan and the extent to which Czechia has followed the recommendations for the draft version. The findings from the assessment are:

- Emissions under the Effort Sharing Regulation will decrease by 36% in 2030 compared to 2005, which is way above the target of 26%.
- The latest projections show a gap to the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation target, meaning that current levels of removals have been insufficient.
- Czechia has a gap towards target for the share of renewable energy.
- Czechia is in line with its targets for energy efficiency.

To minimise the impacts of climate policies on vulnerable people and sectors, Czechia is using the Just Transition Fund, Modernisation Fund and will use Social Climate Fund from 2026 (for more information, see Chapter 5 (Financing)).

Figure 32: Total GHG emissions (excluding international aviation) (%), 1990–2022



⁽¹¹⁰⁾ EU net domestic emissions, including the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector and excluding international aviation.

⁽¹¹¹⁾ A full overview of the Fit for 55 package is available at https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal/fit-55-delivering-proposals_en.

⁽¹¹²⁾ More information about NECP is on the dedicated website https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-strategy/national-energy-and-climate-plans-necps_en

⁽¹¹³⁾ Article 14 of Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action

The EU emissions trading system

The EU ETS is the key tool for reducing GHG emissions cost-effectively across all Member States. It is the world's biggest carbon market, covering around 40% of the EU's total GHG emissions from electricity and heat generation, the manufacturing industry, aviation within Europe ⁽¹¹⁴⁾ and, from 2024, maritime transport also.

The system sets a limit or cap on the total amount of GHGs that can be emitted at the EU level. Within this limit, companies buy emissions allowances (one allowance gives the right to emit 1 tonne of CO₂ eq (carbon dioxide equivalent)), in auctions or through trading allowances with others. The cap is reduced annually to ensure that overall emissions in the sectors covered decrease over time.

The emissions under the ETS decreased by 45% from 2005 to 2023.

In 2023, 71 % of the greenhouse gases emitted by Czechia's ETS installations came from power generation, much more than the EU average (57 %). Of the total emissions from all industry sectors, around 20 % each came from cement and lime production and from the metals industry, 7 % from refineries, and only a minor share from the chemical industry, 2 %; about 55 % was classified as coming from 'other' sources. Between 2019 and 2023, the power sector registered a higher greenhouse gas emissions reduction (27 %) than the industry sectors (21 %). While greenhouse gas emissions from power generation have declined by 35 % since 2013, emissions from refineries have increased by 15 %. Between 2013 and 2023, greenhouse gas emissions from industry sectors decreased by 19 %.

From 2027, a new emissions trading system, called ETS2, for buildings, road transport and additional sectors, (mainly industry not covered by the current ETS) will become fully operational ⁽¹¹⁵⁾. Member States should have notified full transposition the provisions of the revised EU ETS directive related to the new ETS2 into national law by 30 June 2024. Czechia did not communicate full transposition into national law by this deadline. The Commission therefore opened an infringement procedure against Czechia on 25 July 2024, by sending a letter of formal notice for failing to fully transpose the provisions into national law.

Czechia had two months to respond and address the shortcomings raised by the Commission. In the absence of

a satisfactory response, the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion.

The Commission also opened infringement procedures against Czechia on 25 January 2024, by sending a letter of formal notice for failing to fully transpose previous revisions of ETS directive ⁽¹¹⁶⁾ into national law. Czechia has since notified partial transposition of either one or both revisions to the Commission. In the absence of a complete transposition, the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion.

Effort sharing

The Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ covers GHG emissions from domestic transport (excluding CO₂ emissions from aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry and waste. Emissions from these sectors account for around 60 % of the EU's domestic emissions. The regulation sets the EU-wide target to reduce emissions from the effort sharing sectors by 40 % by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. This overall target for the EU translates to binding national emission reduction targets for each Member State. Czechia's target is –26%.

In addition to the 2030 targets, Member States have annual GHG emissions limits (annual emission allocations), reducing every year until 2030.

There is some flexibility to take account of annual fluctuations in emissions, by trading emissions and transfers from the ETS and LULUCF.

Based on historical emissions and the most updated projections Czechia is on track to achieve its 2030 ESR target.

Projected emission reduction is 9.8 percentage points above the 2030 target.

The largest contributor is the domestic transport sector, which accounted for 31 % of all effort sharing emissions in 2022. The sector is a very high concern for Czechia because emissions have increased by 12 % since 2005. Czechia still has progress to make on its transition to sustainable mobility. In 2022, battery electric vehicles accounted for 0.2 % of Czechia's passenger vehicle fleet (EU average is 1.2 %). The rate of installing publicly accessible charging infrastructure also remains slow, with some 4 500 publicly accessible charging points in 2023 (one for every five e-vehicles, against the EU average of 1:10). In Czechia, 82 % of distances travelled are by passenger car, only slightly below the EU average of 85 %. Three quarters of freight

⁽¹¹⁴⁾ Flights between the EU Member States including departing flights to Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

⁽¹¹⁵⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/959 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2023.130.01.0134.01.ENG)

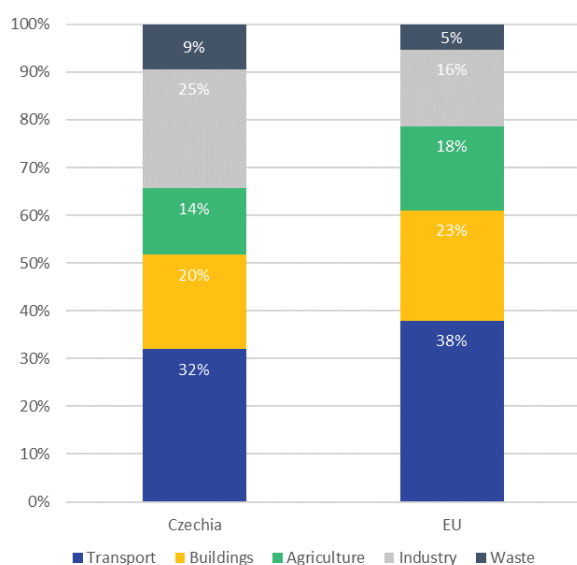
⁽¹¹⁶⁾ [Directive - 2023/959 - EN - EUR-Lex](#) and [Directive - 2023/958 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

⁽¹¹⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/842 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/842>).

transport is transported by road. Only 34 % of Czechia's rail network is electrified (against the EU average of 56 %).

Buildings accounted for 20 % of all effort sharing emissions in 2022. Emissions of the sector have decreased by 19 % since 2005. But Czechia needs to step up its efforts to achieve a meaningful contribution to its 2030 target for building energy consumption reduction. As per its most recent long term renovation strategy, Czechia must reduce building energy consumption by 8 % in 2030 compared to 2020. However, between 2020 and 2022, the final energy consumption of the residential sector did not change. Overall energy performance of buildings is below the EU average. The share of renewable energy in heating and cooling is growing slowly and remains slightly above the EU average.

Figure 33: Effort-sharing emissions by sector (%), 2022



Land use, land-use change and forestry

The Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector plays a significant role in achieving the EU's climate neutrality goal. In the EU, this sector absorbs more GHGs than it emits, removing significant volumes of carbon from the atmosphere. Thus, it is the only sector with negative emissions.

But that is not the case in Czechia. Czechia's removals were slowly decreasing over past decades and then decreased sharply and turned into emissions between 2017 and 2019.

Czechia's target in 2030 is to enhance land removals by an additional -0.8 Mt of CO₂ equivalent compared to the yearly average of the period 2016–2018. The latest

projections show a gap compared to the 2030 target of 0.2 Mt of CO₂ equivalent. Therefore, Czechia needs to apply additional measures to reach its 2030 target.

Adaptation to climate change

Halting all greenhouse gas emissions would still not prevent climate impacts that are already occurring. Therefore, adaptation to climate change is also a key component of climate policy.

Czechia has no regions identified as a hotspots of climate risks most affected by climate change. ⁽¹¹⁸⁾

Climate change affects many sectors in Czechia, and a particular challenge is to improve the status of its water bodies. The effects of conventional agriculture and forestry on soil quality and other factors exacerbate the impact of intensifying droughts, floods and land erosion from wind and torrential rain. The risk of floods has significantly increased, in particular by heavy rainfall combined with low water retention in soils, both in terms of the number of towns exposed and the expected damage. Between 2000 and 2020, on average, 4.5 % of land in Czechia was affected by droughts. This rose to 27.1 % in 2022. Croplands are generally the ecosystem most damaged by droughts in Czechia.

Czechia adopted its national adaptation strategy in 2015 and adaptation plan in 2017. Czechia updated both documents in 2021. There are no sectoral or regional adaptation plans.

European Commission identified five priority actions in the [2022 edition](#) of the review.

Czechia demonstrated progress in energy efficiency but there is still untapped potential. Deployment of renewables remains substantially slow, but Czechia has taken some steps in implementing reforms to accelerate the deployment of renewables.

There is still no progress in decarbonising transport. All parameters remain below the EU average.

The share of renewables in electricity sector is substantially below the EU average and it is growing very slowly (by just 1.5 percentage point since 2015 compared to EU average of 11.5 percentage points).

Biomass sustainability criteria are introduced as part of an amendment to an indirect measure (implemented in 2004 until 2035), which incentivizes electricity produced from renewable energy sources via a feed-in tariff.

The LULUCF sector in Czechia holds substantial importance for the country's greenhouse gas emissions

⁽¹¹⁸⁾ European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA). 2024. Available at [European Climate Risk Assessment \(europa.eu\)](https://eucra.europa.eu/)

profile, offering the potential to function as a net carbon sink. Unfortunately, there is no progress and projections show that Czechia will miss its target.

2025 priority actions

- In the next period Czechia should focus on implementing all policies and measures that are

needed to achieve targets defined by Effort Sharing Regulation and LULUCF regulation. More detailed priority actions are set out in the assessment of the final national energy and climate plan (NECP)⁽¹¹⁹⁾.

⁽¹¹⁹⁾ [National energy and climate plans.](#)

Part II: Enabling framework – implementation tools

5. Financing

The EU budget supports climate investment in Czechia with significant amounts in 2021–2027, with revenues from the ETS also feeding into the national budget. During 2020–2022, Czechia's revenues from auctioning reached EUR 2 billion in total, with 35 % of it spent on climate and energy, corresponding to EUR 700 million.

In addition, the annual investment needed to meet its environmental objectives in the areas of pollution prevention and control, the circular economy and waste, water protection and management, and biodiversity and ecosystems is estimated to be EUR 6.8 billion per year in Czechia.

These four environmental areas currently receive total funding of around EUR 4.5 billion per year; thus, there is a gap of EUR 2.3 billion per year.

Around half of the environmental investment gap is related to tackling pollution (EUR 1 billion per year), with a further EUR 0.5 billion per year each related to water and the circular economy.

Climate finance landmarks

EU funding for climate action

The EU budget supports climate action in the EU-27 with EUR 657.8 billion in the 2021–2027 budgetary period across the various programmes and funds, representing an overall 34.3 % contribution level. Of this, cohesion policy provides EUR 120 billion (over half of it through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)), the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) EUR 275.7 billion and CAP EUR 145.9 billion (¹²⁰).

In Czechia, the EU cohesion policy (considering the EU contribution amount) provides EUR 7.8 billion for climate action in 2021–2027 (with 40 % of this via the ERDF), with a further EUR 14.8 million from the European Maritime,

Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (¹²¹). The RFF contributes to climate finance in Czechia with EUR 3.97 billion up to 2026, representing 43 % of its national RRP (¹²²).

The European Investment Bank (EIB) provided EUR 109.9 billion in financing across the EU-27 between 2021 and mid 2024 to support energy, transport and industry projects that are aligned with the EU's climate objectives. Of this amount, EUR 3.5 billion was assigned to Czechia in the reference period (¹²³).

National financing, including emissions trading system revenues

Revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances under the EU ETS, which feed directly into national budgets, amounted to EUR 719 million in 2020, EUR 604 million in 2021 and EUR 674 million in 2022 in Czechia, totalling EUR 2 billion in the three-year period, 35 % of which (amounting to EUR 700 million) was reported as spent on climate action. Auctioning revenues are not earmarked and the reported spending represents the amounts allocated to climate change and energy purposes in the general state budget of each year, with the remaining revenues going to the general budget (¹²⁴).

From the remaining part of the EU ETS revenues that feed into the Innovation Fund and the Modernisation Fund, further support is available for climate action at the EU level.

It should be noted that investment in climate action also supports the environment and, therefore, the environmental investments described in the following sections cannot be regarded as entirely additional to climate investment (¹²⁵).

Environmental financing and investments

This section describes Czechia's investment needs, current financing and gaps as they relate to the four

(¹²⁰) European Commission, *Statement of Estimates of the European Commission – For the financial year 2025*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, pp. 94–96, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/7a0420e1-599e-4246-9131-ccb7d505d6d9_en?filename=DB2025-Statement-of-Estimates_1.pdf.

(¹²¹) See the Cohesion Open Data Platform (<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>).

(¹²²) EU Commission datasets and the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard, 2024, prior to 2025 revisions (https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/recovery-and-resilience-scoreboard/index.html).

(¹²³) A list of financed projects is provided by the EIB (<https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/index.htm>).

(¹²⁴) European Commission: Directorate-General for Climate Action, *Progress Report 2023 – Climate action*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023, https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-your-voice/news/climate-action-progress-report-2023-2023-10-24_en.

(¹²⁵) NB: Indirect investments (from climate and other policies) in support of the environment are accounted for via the tracking.

environmental objectives beyond climate objectives, namely tackling pollution, the circular economy and waste, water protection and management, and biodiversity and ecosystems ⁽¹²⁶⁾.

The environment overall

Investment needs

The overall environmental investment needs to be sufficient to enable Czechia to meet its objectives in the areas of pollution prevention and control, the circular economy and waste, water protection and management, and biodiversity and ecosystems. The required investment is estimated to be EUR 6.8 billion per year, in 2022 prices.

A significant part of the estimated requirement (up to EUR 2.2 billion a year) can be attributed to the need to support pollution prevention and control. The investment needs for the circular economy were estimated at EUR 1.7 billion per year, for water EUR 1.6 billion per year and for biodiversity and ecosystems EUR 1.3 billion per year.

Current investments

To implement the environmental investments needed, the available financing is estimated to currently reach an annual EUR 4.5 billion in Czechia from EU and national sources combined (in 2022 prices).

Total environmental funding from the multiannual financial framework (MFF) is estimated to reach around EUR 6.9 billion for Czechia in total during 2021–2027 (or EUR 985 million per year).

Table 1: Key environmental allocations from EU funds to Czechia (million EUR), 2021–2027

Instrument	Allocations
Cohesion policy	4 905.7 ^(a)
ERDF	1 985.1
Cohesion Fund	2 589.9
Just Transition Fund	330.7
CAP	1 739.4 ^(b)
European Agricultural	1 322.5
Guarantee Fund	416.8

⁽¹²⁶⁾ Research, development and innovation is accounted for under each environmental objective. The financing needs, baselines and gap estimates are based on the Directorate-General for Environment's internal analysis (of 2024). Throughout this finance chapter, specific references are provided to the most important data sources used.

⁽¹²⁷⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽¹²⁸⁾ European Commission, Horizon Europe, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽¹²⁹⁾ The Connecting Europe Facility (Transport) also includes EUR 11.3 billion transferred from the Cohesion Fund, of which 30 % will be made available, on a competitive basis, to all Member

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	
European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	10.7
Other MFF	241.6 ^(c)
RRF ^(d) (2021–2026)	2 207

^(a) European Commission, 2021–2027 cohesion policy (planned) allocations in *EU amount* excluding national co-financing, based on the tracking in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR, 2021) Annex I. Please note potential data changes that may have arisen between the EIR preparation cut-off date (31 October 2024) and its publication date. Source and further information: https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/2021-2027-Categorisation/2021-2027-Planned-finances-detailed-categorisation/hgyj-gyin/about_data.

^(b) Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP strategic plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L 435 6.12.2021, p. 1), Annex XI, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115>.

Note that 2021–2027 combines factual data for 2021 and 2022 and expenditure under the relevant specific objectives (SOs) of the CAP strategic plans from 2023, using the EU biodiversity tracking methodology (<https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/Biodiversity%20tracking%20methodology%20for%20each%20programme%202023.pdf>). Source: European Commission.

^(c) Space Fund, Horizon Europe, financial instrument for the environment and the Connecting Europe Facility.

^(d) Outside the MFF. Note that the RRF applies a similar environmental tracking scheme (set in the RRF Regulation, Annex VI) as the EU's cohesion policy. RRF dataset version used: July 2024, prior to 2025 revisions. Data source: European Commission.

Czechia, in addition to receiving EU funds earmarked specifically for it in 2021–2027, can also benefit from funding programmes that can be accessed at the EU level and which are open to all Member States. These include the LIFE programme ⁽¹²⁷⁾ (EUR 5.4 billion), Horizon Europe (EUR 95.5 billion) ⁽¹²⁸⁾, the Connecting Europe Facility ⁽¹²⁹⁾ (EUR 33.7 billion) ⁽¹³⁰⁾ and funds that be mobilised through the InvestEU ⁽¹³¹⁾.

Czechia's RRP provides EUR 3.97 billion for climate action (43 % of the total), with an additional contribution of

States eligible for the Cohesion Fund. The remaining 70 % will respect the national envelopes until 31 December 2023. Any amount under national envelopes that is unspent by that date will support all the Cohesion Fund's Member States.

⁽¹³⁰⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, p. 38), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1153/oj/eng>.

⁽¹³¹⁾ The InvestEU Fund is set to mobilise over EUR 372 billion of investment through an EU budget guarantee of EUR 26.2 billion to back the investment of financial partners such as the EIB group and others.

EUR 0.17 billion (1.8 % of total) to environmental objectives.

The EIB provided around EUR 1.4 billion in environment-related financial contributions to Czechia from 2021 to mid 2024, overwhelmingly linked to sustainable energy, transport and industrial projects, which provide significant co-benefits for reducing air pollution, environmental noise and other pollution.

The EU's total national expenditure on environmental protection (operating plus capital expenditure) was EUR 298 billion in 2020 and EUR 321 billion in 2021, representing around 2.2 % of EU-27 GDP. In Czechia, the total national environmental protection expenditure was EUR 1.7 billion in 2020 and EUR 1.7 billion in 2021, representing around 0.8 % and 0.7 % of GDP, respectively.

Of the total environmental expenditure, the national capital expenditure (investment) on environmental protection amounted to EUR 54.5 billion in 2020 and EUR 59.9 billion in 2021 in the EU-27, representing around 0.4 % of the EU's GDP. In Czechia, the national environmental protection investment reached EUR 1.5 billion in 2020, rising to EUR 2.1 billion in 2021, representing around 0.4–0.5 % of GDP.

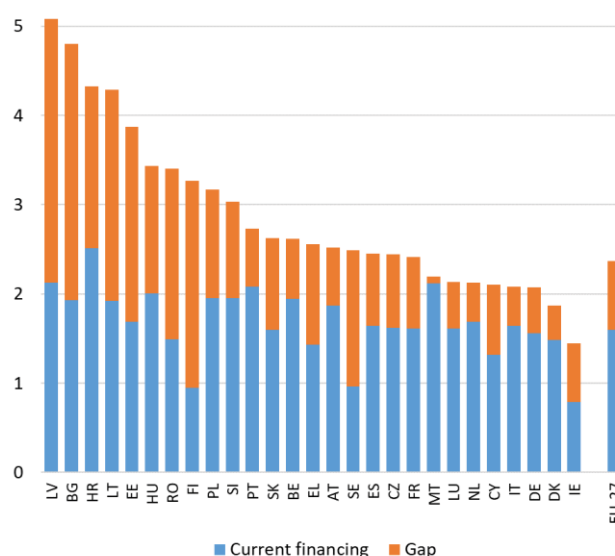
Splitting by institutional sector, 40.1 % of Czechia's national environmental protection investment (capital expenditure) comes from the general government budget, with 23.3 % coming from specialist private-sector producers (of environmental protection services, such as waste and water companies) and 36.6 % from the general business sector, whose environmental activities are usually ancillary to its main activities. At the EU level, 38 % of environmental protection investment comes from governments, 40 % from specialist private-sector producers and 22 % from the general business sector ⁽¹³²⁾.

Czechia's total financing for environmental investment reaches an estimated EUR 4.5 billion per year (in 2022 prices), including EU funding and national public and national private expenditure. Of the total, the share of EU funds (including EIB funds) reaches around 31 %, with 69 % national financing. The total public financing (EU plus national public) represents 59 % of the total.

The gap

To meet its four environmental objectives beyond climate change, the additional investment need over the current levels (i.e. the gap) reaches an estimated EUR 2.3 billion per year in Czechia, representing around 0.82 % of the national GDP, being slightly higher than the EU average (0.77 %).

Figure 34: Environmental financing, needs and gaps per Member State (% of GDP)



Source: Analysis of Directorate-General for Environment.

The following table provides the distributions of Czechia's environmental investment gap (expressed in various forms) by environmental objective.

Table 2: Summary of environmental investment gaps in Czechia per year, 2021–2027

Environmental objective	Investment gap, per year		
	Million EUR (2022 prices)	% of total	% of GDP
Pollution prevention and control	1 044	46.1	0.38
Circular economy and waste	470	20.8	0.17
Water management and water industries	498	22.0	0.18
Biodiversity and ecosystems	251	11.1	0.09
Total	2 263	100.0	0.82

Source: Directorate-General for Environment analysis.

⁽¹³²⁾ Eurostat, 'Environmental protection expenditure accounts', env_ac_epea.

Pollution prevention and control

Investment needs

In pollution prevention and control, Czechia's investment needs are estimated to reach EUR 2.21.9 billion per year (including baseline investments) in 2021–2027. Most of this, EUR 1.9 billion, relates to air pollution control, to comply with the clean air requirements for the five main air pollutants under the NECD by 2030. The estimated needs to reduce environmental noise reach EUR 420 million per year, most of which is delivered by the (same) sustainable energy and transport investments that also benefit clean air⁽¹³³⁾. Industrial site remediation requires an estimated EUR 82 million per year. Protection from radiation (nuclear site decommissioning, nuclear waste) costs around EUR 200 million per year. Microplastics pollution and the chemicals strategy require around EUR 30–40 million per year (each)⁽¹³⁴⁾.

Current investments

The current investment levels supporting pollution prevention and control reach an estimated EUR 1.2 billion per year in Czechia in 2021–2027. Most of the financing concerns clean air (EUR 1 billion per year). Protection from environmental noise receives around EUR 382 million per year, with a further EUR 103 million for site remediation and EUR 34 million for protection from radiation.

In Czechia, the EU MFF provides an estimated 34 % of the clean air financing (mostly via cohesion policy), with a further 16.9 % from the RRF, adding up to 50.9 % of the total. EIB financing contributes 15.2 % and national sources reach 33.9 %⁽¹³⁵⁾.

The gap

To meet its environmental objectives concerning pollution prevention and control (towards zero pollution), Czechia needs to provide an additional EUR 1 billion per year (0.38 % of GDP), mostly related to clean air. The adequate implementation of the NECP with the investments

included for sustainable energy and transport would largely deliver this, while in many Member States additional measures and investments may be required to comply with the ammonia reduction requirements.

According to the latest (2023) NAPCP review report⁽¹³⁶⁾, Czechia complied with ammonia reduction requirements in 2020 and 2021, and it is not at risk of non-compliance with ammonia concerning the NECD's 2030 emission reduction commitments, based on the policies and measures in its NAPCP that take into account climate, energy and CAP plans and financing baselines.

Circular economy and waste

Investment needs

Czechia's investment needs in the circular economy and waste reach EUR 1.7 billion per year (including baseline investments). Most of this, around EUR 1.3 billion per year, relates to circular economy measures in the mobility, food and built environment systems, with a further EUR 435 million necessary for waste management (municipal and packaging waste), covering waste collection, biowaste treatment, recycling reprocessors, waste-sorting facilities, and digitalisation of the waste registry. The amount for waste excludes the investments needed for the uptake of circularity and waste prevention across the economy⁽¹³⁷⁾.

Current investments

Circular economy investments across the economy reach around EUR 0.9 billion per year in Czechia in 2021–2027, with a further EUR 376 million provided for waste management that does not constitute circular economy.

Around 3.8 % of the combined financing for circularity and waste comes from the EU MFF, with a further 1.1 % from the RRF, adding up to 4.9 % of the total. The share of

⁽¹³³⁾ 2021 Phenomena project assessment
(<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f4cd7465-a95d-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1>) and the Commission's 2023 Environmental Noise Directive implementation report

(https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/COM_2023_139_1_EN_ACT_part1_v3.pdf).

⁽¹³⁴⁾ European Commission, *Third Clean Air Outlook*, Brussels, 2022, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/clean-air-outlook_en. See also the impact assessment for the revision of the AAQD, available from the Commission web page on the proposed revision (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/revision-eu-ambient-air-quality-legislation_en).

⁽¹³⁵⁾ Through the tracking of EU funds, EIB projects and national expenditure (environmental protection expenditure accounts, Eurostat). Note that the bulk of clean air financing is provided as a contribution from climate (energy and transport) measures, as per

the tracking schemes in the Common Provisions Regulation Annex I and the RRF Regulation Annex VI. Further information on clean air tracking:

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/0a80484e-2409-4749-94c6-3b23bc6bae8f_en?filename=Clean%20air%20methodology_0.pdf

⁽¹³⁶⁾ European Commission, 'National air pollution control programmes and projections', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/reducing-emissions-air-pollutants/national-air-pollution-control-programmes-and-projections_en.

⁽¹³⁷⁾ See Systemiq and Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Achieving 'Growth Within'*, 2017; and European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Study on investment needs in the waste sector and on the financing of municipal waste management in Member States*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4d5f8355-bcad-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1>.

national financing is absolutely dominant, reaching 95 % of the total financing ⁽¹³⁸⁾.

The gap

To meet its environmental objectives concerning the circular economy and waste, Czechia needs to increase circular economy investments by an estimated EUR 412 million per year, with an additional EUR 58 million concerning waste management action, not belonging to the circular economy. Combined, this amounts to EUR 470 million per year, representing 0.17 % of Czechia's GDP.

Of the circular economy gap, EUR 108 million relates to recent initiatives, such as eco-design for sustainable products, packaging and packaging waste, labelling and digital tools, CRM recycling, and measures proposed under the amendment of the Waste Framework Directive, and EUR 304 million constitutes further investment needs to unlock Czechia circular economy potential.

Water protection and management

Investment needs

The annual water investment needs reach an estimated EUR 1.6 billion (in 2022 prices) in Czechia. This comprises investment needs both for the water industry and for the protection and management of water. The largest part of the total annual need, EUR 858 million, relates to the management of waste water (also including additional costs associated with the revised UWWTD). A further EUR 325 million is necessary for drinking-water-related investments and around EUR 268 million for the protection and management of water ⁽¹³⁹⁾.

Current investments

Water investments in Czechia are estimated to be around EUR 1.1 billion per year (in 2022 prices) in 2021–2027. Of this, EUR 620 million supports wastewater management,

EUR 254 million drinking water and around EUR 181 million the other aspects of the Water Framework Directive (water management and protection).

Of the total financing, 11.2 % is provided by the EU MFF (mostly through cohesion policy), with a further 4.8 % from the RRF, reaching 16 % combined. EIB financing is around 0.7 % of the total, while the bulk of financing comes from national sources (83.4 %) ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾.

The gap

To meet the various environmental targets under the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, Czechia's water investment gap reaches EUR 498 million per year (0.19 % of GDP), with over half related to waste water (EUR 338 million per year). Drinking water measures require an additional EUR 72 million per year and the other aspects of the Water Framework Directive around EUR 87 million per year over the existing levels of financing.

Biodiversity and ecosystems

Investment needs

The investment needs for biodiversity and ecosystems are estimated to be EUR 1.3 billion per year (in 2022 prices) in Czechia's in 2021–2027. This includes the following financing needs:

- Czechia's prioritised action framework ⁽¹⁴¹⁾ concerning the Natura 2000 areas: EUR 150 million per year, mostly running costs;
- additional BDS costs ⁽¹⁴²⁾: EUR 780 million per year on top of the framework;
- sustainable soil management costs ⁽¹⁴³⁾: EUR 325 million per year.

Current investments

The current level of biodiversity financing is estimated to be EUR 1 billion per year (in 2022 prices) in 2021–2027.

⁽¹³⁸⁾ Waste management and circular economy expenditure tracking in the EU funds, EIB projects and in the national expenditure (Eurostat). Datasets: environmental protection expenditure accounts (env_epi) and circular economy private investments (cei_cie012).

⁽¹³⁹⁾ See European Commission, 'Estimating investment needs and financing capacities for water-related investment in EU Member States', 28 May 2020, https://commission.europa.eu/news/estimating-investment-needs-and-financing-capacities-water-related-investment-eu-member-states-2020-05-28_en; and OECD, *Financing Water Supply, Sanitation and flood Protection: Challenges in EU Member States and policy options*, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2020, https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/financing-water-supply-sanitation-and-flood-protection_6893cdac-en.

⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ Water investment levels are estimated through tracking EU funds, EIB projects and national expenditure (environmental protection expenditure accounts, Eurostat).

⁽¹⁴¹⁾ European Commission, 'Financing Natura 2000 – Prioritised action frameworks', European Commission website, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000/financing-natura-2000_en.

⁽¹⁴²⁾ See European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Biodiversity Financing and Tracking – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/793eb6ec-dbd6-11ec-a534-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

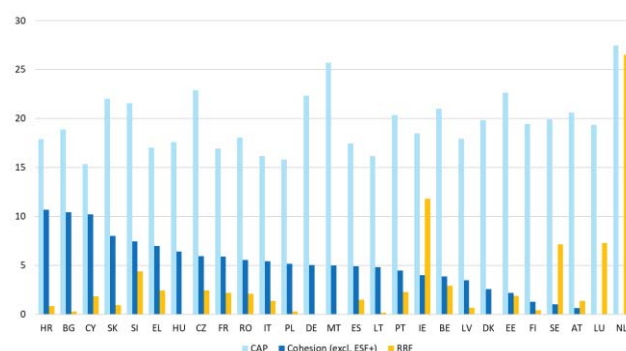
⁽¹⁴³⁾ See Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on soil monitoring and resilience (Soil Monitoring Law) COM(2023) 416 final of 5 July 2023, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-directive-soil-monitoring-and-resilience_en.

90 % of this is considered direct financing to biodiversity and ecosystems, with a 100 % coefficient in the tracking schemes.

11 % of the total financing is estimated to come from EU cohesion policy and 23 % from the CAP. The EU MFF altogether accounts for 35 % of the financing and the RRF for 3 %, adding up to a total of 38 % from the EU budget. The rest, 62 %, comes from national sources ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾.

Czechia has programmed 22.9 % of its entire budget under the CAP in measures benefiting biodiversity, making it the Member State with the third highest share of biodiversity support measures under the CAP for 2021–2027. An estimated 2.5 % of the RRF funds (above the average), as well as 5.9 % of the cohesion policy EU contribution amounts (corresponding to the average), contribute to biodiversity (disregarding ESF+).

Figure 35: 2021–2027 contributions to biodiversity from the main EU instruments per Member State (% of policy total)



NB: ESF+, European Social Fund Plus.

The gap

To meet the environmental objectives concerning the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and other relevant cross-cutting measures, Czechia's investment gap is estimated to be EUR 251 million per year, corresponding to 0.09 % of its GDP.

Public financial management

Green budgeting practices

Green budgeting refers to the use of budgetary tools to achieve climate and environmental goals. Some Member States already use green budgeting tools for identifying and tracking green expenditures and/or revenues ⁽¹⁴⁵⁾. Green budgeting practices provide increased transparency on the environmental implications of budgetary policies.

The Commission has developed a non-mandatory green budgeting reference framework that brings together methodologies for assessing the impacts of budgets on climate and environmental goals ⁽¹⁴⁶⁾.

To help Member States develop national green budgeting and thereby improve policy coherence and support the green transition, the Commission facilitated a technical support instrument (TSI) project on green budgeting from 2021 to 2024 ⁽¹⁴⁷⁾. Czechia participated, in particular by refining plans for national green budgeting as active participants in peer-to-peer exchanges.

Czechia has also been selected for the next round of TSI projects on green budgeting, starting in 2025. The country will prioritise assessing the performance of public expenses linked to green objectives. Moreover, Czechia has established a unit focused on green budgeting in the Ministry of Finance at the beginning of 2025.

Beyond green budgeting, to improve policy outcomes, the Commission has also drawn up climate-proofing and sustainability-proofing guidance ⁽¹⁴⁸⁾, as tools to assess project eligibility and compliance with environmental legislation and criteria.

Green taxation and tax reform

Environmental taxes amounted to EUR 4.1 billion in Czechia in 2022, representing 1.5 % of its GDP (EU average: 2.0 %). Energy taxes formed the largest component of environmental taxes, accounting for 1.45 % of GDP, which is lower than the EU average of 1.6 %. Transport taxes, at 0.02 % of GDP, were under the EU average (0.4 %), as were taxes on pollution and resources, at 0.01 % (EU average: 0.08 %). In 2022, environmental

⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ Based on biodiversity tracking in the EU budget (<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3f466d71-92a7-49eb-9c63-6cb0fadf29dc/library/8e44293a-d97f-496d-8769-50365780acde>), and national expenditure into biodiversity from the Classification of the Functions of Government accounts.

⁽¹⁴⁵⁾ European Commission, *Green Budgeting in the EU. Key Insights from the 2023 European Commission Survey of Green Budgeting Practices*, 2023, https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-and-fiscal-governance/national-fiscal-frameworks-eu-member-states/green-budgeting-eu_en#:~:text=European%20Commission%20Green%20Budgetin g%20Survey%C2%A0.

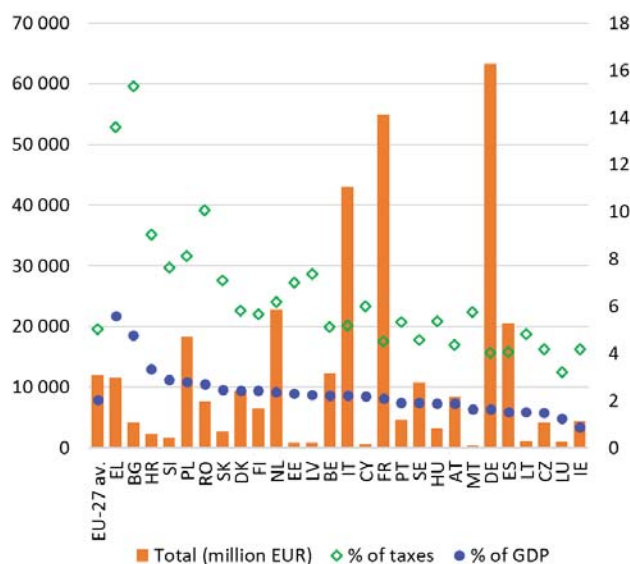
⁽¹⁴⁶⁾ European Commission, 'European Union green budgeting reference framework', 2022, https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-and-fiscal-governance/green-budgeting-eu_en.

⁽¹⁴⁷⁾ https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/revenue-administration-and-public-financial-management/supporting-implementation-green-budgeting-practices-eu_en.

⁽¹⁴⁸⁾ Commission notice – Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021–2027 (OJ C 373, 16.09.2021, p. 1), <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/23a24b21-16d0-11ec-b4fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

taxes in Czechia accounted for 4.2 % of total revenues from taxes and social security contributions (under the EU average of 5.0 %) ⁽¹⁴⁹⁾.

Figure 36: Environmental taxes per Member State, 2022



The EU Green Deal emphasises the role of well-designed tax reforms (e.g. shifts from taxing labour to taxing pollution) to boost economic growth and resilience, and to foster a fairer society and a just transition through the right price signals. The Green Deal promotes the ‘polluter-pays principle’, which makes polluters bear the costs to prevent, control and remedy pollution.

According to a 2024 study ⁽¹⁵⁰⁾, Czechia applies emission charges (various categories of charges for emissions to water and air, plus a fee for solid waste disposal in landfills), product charges (green vehicle tax differentiation) and user charges (volumetric charges for water abstraction and water disposal).

Green bonds and sustainable bonds

In 2023, the total value of green bonds issued by Member States was USD 245 billion (EUR 227 billion), up from USD 234 billion (EUR 198 billion) in 2021.

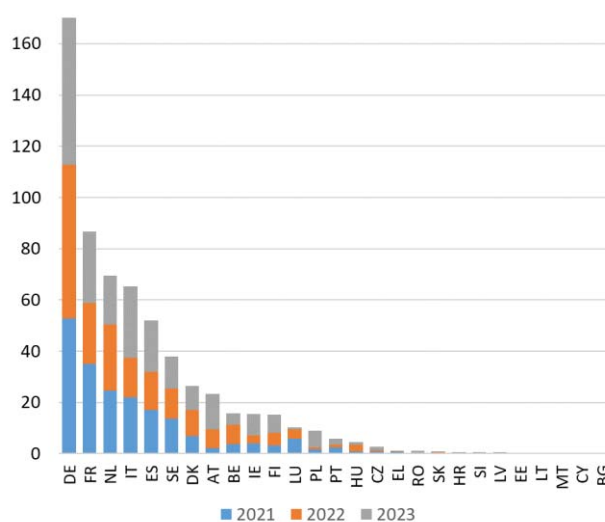
During 2021–2023 combined, Czechia issued green bonds worth USD 3 billion (EUR 2.5 billion). Of this, the issuance in 2023 amounted to USD 1.5 billion (EUR 1.4 billion) ⁽¹⁵¹⁾.

During 2014–2023, 83 % of the green bonds issued by European countries (excluding supranational entities)

served objectives in energy, buildings or transport, while 5 % supported objectives in water, 5.1 % related to land use (with links to nature and ecosystems) and 3.8 % applied to waste management. By 2023, the combined share of energy, buildings and transport had decreased to 73 %, the shares of waste management and land use had increased (to 5.9 % and 8.4 %, respectively) and the share of water had remained around 5 %.

In 2021–2023, 31.7 % of the European green bonds (excluding those issued by supranational entities) was issued by financial corporates, 29.1 % by sovereign governments and 23.1 % by non-financial corporates. 8.3 % of the issuances was linked to government-backed entities, 6.4 % to developments banks and 1.4 % to local governments.

Figure 37: Value of green bonds issued per Member State (billion EUR), 2021, 2022 and 2023



Data source: Climatebonds.net, with some additional data from national sources (e.g. Croatia, Slovenia).

Environmentally harmful subsidies

Addressing and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, in particular fossil fuel subsidies (FFS), is a further step towards achieving the eighth environment action programme objectives and the enabling conditions ⁽¹⁵²⁾. FFS are costly for public budgets and make it difficult to achieve European Green Deal objectives.

The overall downward trend of FFS mentioned in past EIRs was disrupted from 2022 due to the European response to

⁽¹⁴⁹⁾ Eurostat, ‘Environmental taxes accounts’, env_eta.

⁽¹⁵⁰⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Candidates for Taxing Environmental Bads at National Level*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, Annexes 1 and 2, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/35c1bbdf-2931-11ef-9290-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽¹⁵¹⁾ Climate Bonds Initiative (<https://www.climatebonds.net/>). NB. Additionally (and not included in this), national sources indicated EUR 544.8 million issuance for Croatia, in 2022-2023, and a slightly higher amount for Slovenia (+0.27 billion) during 2021-2023 in total.

⁽¹⁵²⁾ Article 3(h) and 3(v) of the eighth environment action programme.

the 2021 energy crisis and subsequent increase in energy prices.

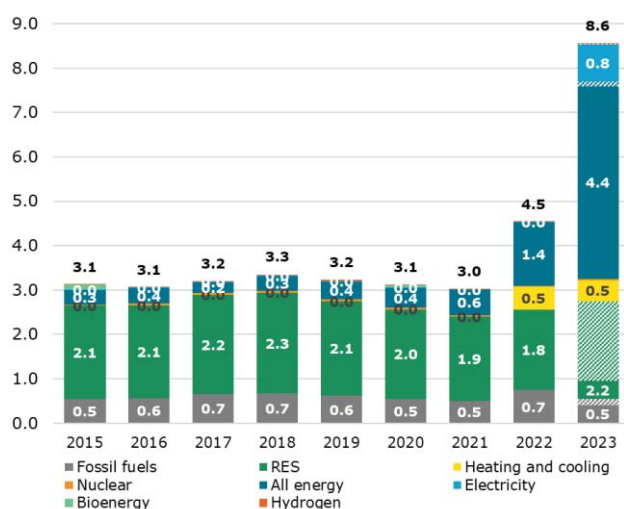
As a direct consequence, annual FFS in the EU have increased to EUR 109 billion in 2023 from EUR 57 billion in 2020. From 2021 to 2023, there was a marked increase in annual fossil fuel subsidies of 72 % in the EU ⁽¹⁵³⁾.

For the majority of the Member States (16) ⁽¹⁵⁴⁾, the year 2022 saw a peak in the amount of overall FFS. A decline was then observed in 2023. In particular, FFS for coal and lignite, natural gas and oil increased in 2022 and a strong increase was observed for natural gas subsidies.

In Czechia, the energy subsidies were stable in 2015–2021. As part of this, FFS stayed at EUR 0.5–0.7 billion per year. Since 2022, energy subsidies have increased, but mainly in the ‘all energies’ category, while FFS have stayed at previous levels.

As a share of GDP, FFS in 2022 ranged from 1.8 % in Croatia to less than 0.1 % in Denmark and Sweden. Czechia’s value reached 0.2 %, well below the EU average (0.8 %) ⁽¹⁵⁵⁾.

Figure 38: Energy subsidies by energy carrier (billion EUR), 2015–2023



NB: RES, renewable energy source.

Source : analysis of Directorate-General Energy

In 2022, Czechia received the following priority actions.

- Tackle the main environmental challenges affecting the country through adequate funding, including through the mobilisation of investments and the use of EU funds (30 % of which are reserved for environmental objectives).
- Enhance the use of economic instruments to make sure polluters pay.

Czechia still has an overall environmental investment gap of around 0.8 % of its GDP (around the EU average), with a significant share related to pollution prevention and controls.

2025 priority action

- Use more national funding (for instance by increasing taxes in favour of the environment and reducing environmentally harmful subsidies), EU funding and private funding to help close the investment gap.

⁽¹⁵³⁾ European Commission, 2024 Report on Energy Subsidies in the European Union, COM(2025), [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)17&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)17&lang=en)

⁽¹⁵⁴⁾ 16 Member States: BE, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, CY, LT, HU, NL, AT, PT, RO and SE.

⁽¹⁵⁵⁾ European Commission, 2024 Report on Energy Subsidies in the European Union, COM(2025), [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)17&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)17&lang=en)

6. Environmental governance

Information, public participation and access to justice

Citizens can more effectively protect the environment if they rely on the three 'pillars' of the Aarhus Convention: (i) access to information, (ii) public participation in decision-making and (iii) access to justice in environmental matters. It is of crucial importance to public authorities, the public and businesses that environmental information is shared efficiently and effectively⁽¹⁵⁶⁾. Public participation allows authorities to make decisions that take public concerns into account. Access to justice is a set of guarantees that allows citizens and NGOs to use national courts to protect the environment, safeguard the rights of citizens and ensure accountability of authorities⁽¹⁵⁷⁾. It includes the right to bring legal challenges ('legal standing')⁽¹⁵⁸⁾.

Environmental information

This section focuses on the implementation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) Directive. The Inspire Directive aims to set up a European spatial-data infrastructure for sharing environmental spatial information between public authorities across Europe. It is expected that this will help policymaking across boundaries and facilitate public access to this information. Geographic information is needed for good governance at all levels and should be readily and transparently available.

Czechia's performance in implementing the Inspire Directive is substantial and has been reviewed based on its 2023 country fiche⁽¹⁵⁹⁾ (see Table 3).

Table 3: Czechia dashboard on the implementation of the Inspire Directive, 2016–2023

	2016	2023	Legend
Effective coordination and data sharing			 Implementation of this provision is well advanced or (nearly) completed. Outstanding issues are minor and can be addressed easily. Percentage > 89 %
Ensure effective coordination			
Data sharing without obstacle			
Inspire performance indicators			 Implementation of this provision has started and made some or substantial progress but is still not close to be completed. Percentage = 31–89 %
(i) Conformity of metadata			
(ii) Conformity of spatial datasets			
(iii) Accessibility of spatial datasets through view and download services			 Implementation of this provision is falling significantly behind. Serious efforts are necessary to close the implementation gap. Percentage < 31 %
(iv) Conformity of network services			

Source: European Commission, 'Czechia', Inspire Knowledge Base, https://knowledge-base.inspire.ec.europa.eu/czechia_en.

In 2022, Czechia received a priority action on the need to make spatial data more widely accessible and prioritise environmental datasets. Czechia has made progress on the accessibility of spatial data. However, the accessibility of high-value spatial datasets for implementing environmental legislation⁽¹⁶⁰⁾ still needs improvement.

⁽¹⁵⁶⁾ The Aarhus Convention (<https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/aarhus-convention/text>), the Access to Environmental Information Directive (Directive 2003/4/EC) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003L0004>) and the Inspire Directive (Directive 2007/2/EC) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007L0002>) together create a legal foundation for the sharing of environmental information between public authorities and with the public.

⁽¹⁵⁷⁾ These guarantees are explained in the European Commission's 2017 notice on access to justice in environmental matters ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52017XC0818\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52017XC0818(02))) and a related

2018 citizen's guide (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2b362f0a-bfe4-11e8-99ee-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF>).

⁽¹⁵⁸⁾ This EIR focuses on the means used by Member States to guarantee rights of access to justice and legal standing and to overcome other major barriers to bringing cases on environmental protection.

⁽¹⁵⁹⁾ European Commission, 'Croatia', Inspire Knowledge Base, https://knowledge-base.inspire.ec.europa.eu/czechia_en.

⁽¹⁶⁰⁾ https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/need-driven-data-prioritisation/blob/main/documents/eReporting_PriorityDataList_V2.1_final_20201008.xlsx.

Public participation

Public involvement at both the planning and project phases maximises transparency and social acceptance of programmes and projects. Consultation with the public (including NGOs) and environmental, local and regional authorities is a key feature of an effective impact assessment procedure. Such consultation also provides an opportunity for public authorities and project promoters to engage with the public actively and meaningfully by making information on the likely significant effects widely available. If carried out with due diligence and taking into consideration useful public input, this process leads to better-informed decision-making and can promote public acceptance. Making information available increases stakeholder involvement, thus lessening resistance and preventing (or minimising) litigation. On the other hand, it is paramount that the procedure is effective.

This section examines how public involvement and transparency are ensured under two instruments, namely the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive⁽¹⁶¹⁾ and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive⁽¹⁶²⁾.

EU law provides for a flexible framework concerning EIAs. The aim of this framework is to ensure the application of the necessary environmental safeguards, while enabling speedy approval of projects. The Commission has contributed to simplifying and accelerating permitting for renewable energy projects and continues to support the Member States in this regard⁽¹⁶³⁾. With effect from 1 January 2024, Czechia introduced a simplification of the conditions for assessing the environmental impacts of wind power projects⁽¹⁶⁴⁾. On the same date, the Act on the Single Environmental Opinion came into force, which introduced a broad procedural integration of 29 different

administrative acts that had previously been issued separately, in particular with regard to construction projects, including RES projects, in the field of environmental protection⁽¹⁶⁵⁾.

The average speed in the EU for issuing permits involving an EIA procedure is 20.6 months, with a minimum duration of 11.4 months and a maximum duration of 75.7 months⁽¹⁶⁶⁾. The duration of each step in an EIA process (screening, scoping, EIA report, public consultation, reasoned conclusion, development consent) varies considerably between Member States and projects. As Czechia did not provide data on the duration of the EIA process, it is not possible to compare it with the EU average. Effective use of EU procedures can positively influence the timely approval of activities underpinning the decarbonisation of the economy on the way to net zero by 2050.

A new report is not yet available on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive in the EU. Nevertheless, a support study has been published with information by Member State⁽¹⁶⁷⁾.

Public access in Czechia to information and documentation on EIAs and SEAs is secured through the EIA/SEA information system⁽¹⁶⁸⁾. However, the website does little to facilitate or encourage public participation. This void is to some extent filled by Czech NGOs that disseminate user-friendly information on how to participate in EIA and SEA processes⁽¹⁶⁹⁾.

As no data are published on participation in EIA and SEA decision-making, it is difficult to assess if the public is becoming more or less engaged. The Ministry of the Environment's annual statistical publication (the latest available publication concerns the year 2022)⁽¹⁷⁰⁾ includes the results of a survey, in which one of the questions asks

⁽¹⁶¹⁾ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011L0092>.

⁽¹⁶²⁾ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>.

⁽¹⁶³⁾ Commission Staff Working Document (SWD/2022/0149 final), 18 May 2022, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022SC0149&qid=1653034229953>.

⁽¹⁶⁴⁾ The simplification sets out that only projects consisting of four or more wind power plants (units) over 50 m in height are subject to the screening and scoping procedure under the EIA Directive, unless the project is located in a sensitive area (from the point of view of nature and landscape protection or noise protection) or is located in the vicinity of another planned or existing wind power project (to avoid the purposeful and undesirable fragmentation of projects), in which case even a single wind power plant is subject

to the screening and scoping procedure (<https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2001/100/2024-01-01>).

⁽¹⁶⁵⁾ <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2023/148/2024-01-01>.

⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Collection of information and data on the implementation of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2011/92/EU) as amended by 2014/52/EU*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, Tables 5 and 6, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8349a857-2936-11ef-9290-01aa75ed71a1>.

⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, Lundberg, P., McNeill, A., McGuinn, J., Cantarelli, A. et al., *Study supporting the preparation of the report on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) – Final study*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/1615072>

⁽¹⁶⁸⁾ https://portal.cenia.cz/eiasea/view/eia100_cr.

⁽¹⁶⁹⁾ For example, the *Citizen's Guide through the EIA Process* (<https://arnika.org/obcanuv-pruvodce-po-procesu-eia>).

⁽¹⁷⁰⁾ https://www.mzp.cz/cz/statisticka_rocenka_zivotniho_prostredi_publikace.

respondents if they had tried to influence in any way the decisions of authorities on environmental issues. The percentage of positive answers declined from 10 % in 2008 to 7 % in 2018 ⁽¹⁷¹⁾.

In the 2022 EIR, Czechia received three priority actions related to EIAs and SEAs: (i) to supplement the information available on the EIA information system with links and detailed information on how the public can participate; (ii) to collect and publish data on public participation in the EIA and SEA processes, and take action to address any reduction in engagement; and (iii) to complete transposition of the revised EIA Directive. The transposition priority action has been resolved. There is no information on clear progress on the other two priority actions.

Access to justice

Access to justice, guaranteed by Article 19(1) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 47 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, is a fundamental right and part of the democratic process. It is vital to ensure the full application of EU law in all Member States and the legal protection of the rights of individuals, including in environmental matters. Access to justice is essential to enable judicial review of the decisions of public authorities and to allow the correction of any wrongdoing committed by these authorities.

This section provides a snapshot of the state of play of access to courts by the public, particularly when it comes to challenging plans, or the non-adoption of plans, under EU law, in the areas of water, waste, air quality, nature and noise, irrespective of the form of the legal act (i.e. regulatory act or administrative decision).

As mentioned in the 2022 EIR, both individuals and NGOs have legal standing only when they can prove that their rights are concerned. In general, this threshold is easily reached.

There are, however, some difficulties in challenging plans and programmes and their omission when these are adopted as normative instruments. Plans of such legal nature can only be reviewed before the Constitutional Court. In these cases, NGOs and individuals do not have legal standing. Laws that regulate plans and programmes that are specifically required by EU legislation do not provide for specific rules for an administrative or judicial review.

In 2022, Czechia received two priority actions on access to justice: (i) to improve access to courts by the public concerned when it comes to challenging administrative or regulatory decisions and omissions, and (ii) to better inform the public about their access to justice rights. There has been no progress on these two priority actions.

2025 priority actions

- Improve access to courts in national environmental cases by the public concerned and eliminate practical barriers, such as length of proceedings and excessive costs in some Member States.
- Ensure that relevant information on EIA and SEA procedures (including on public participation opportunities and on publication of final decisions) is electronically accessible in a timely manner, through at least a central portal or easily accessible points of access, at the appropriate administrative level.
- Provide information on the average duration of all steps in the EIA process.
- Make spatial data more widely accessible and prioritise environmental datasets in implementing the Inspire Directive, especially those identified as high-value spatial datasets for implementing environmental legislation.

Compliance assurance

Environmental compliance assurance covers all work undertaken by public authorities to ensure that industries, farmers and others fulfil their obligations to protect water, air and nature, to manage waste ⁽¹⁷²⁾ and to remedy any environmental damage. It includes measures such as (i) compliance promotion, (ii) compliance monitoring (i.e. inspections and other checks), (iii) enforcement, that is, steps taken to stop breaches and impose sanctions, and (iv) ensuring damage prevention and remediation in line with the polluter-pays principle.

Compliance promotion, monitoring and enforcement

Non-compliance with environmental obligations may occur for different reasons, including poor understanding or lack of acceptance of the rules, opportunism or even criminality. Compliance promotion activities help duty-holders to comply by providing information, guidance and other support. This is particularly important in areas where new and complex legislation is put in place.

⁽¹⁷¹⁾ More recent survey data are not provided in the publication.

⁽¹⁷²⁾ The concept is explained in detail in the European Commission's 2018 communication on EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0010)

[content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0010](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0010)) and the related Commission staff working document ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0010)

When inspections and other control activities identify problems, a range of responses may be appropriate, including the use of administrative and criminal enforcement tools.

The Environmental Inspectorate is working to improve coordination with law enforcement authorities in the fight against criminal activity related to waste management, international biodiversity protection and nature, and landscape and forest protection. To this end, agreements have been signed between the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and the relevant authorities. As noted in the 2022 EIR, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate publishes yearly inspection plans⁽¹⁷³⁾ and annual reports⁽¹⁷⁴⁾ that contain summary data on inspections performed, including the list and descriptions of the most significant instances of non-compliance with national law.

The 2022 EIR recommended that Czechia (i) improve the material available to farmers and land managers on measures to help them implement the Nature Directives and the Nitrates Directive; (ii) provide public access to detailed information on the follow-up to breaches or repeated cases of non-compliance identified during inspections; (iii) follow through on measures to improve coordination among public authorities responsible for tackling environmental crime and publish relevant information on agreements and coordination arrangements in a timely manner; and (iv) facilitate the right to complain about environmental damages or problems of compliance by providing visible and user-friendly information on relevant authorities' websites. Concerning compliance promotion, monitoring, and criminal and administrative enforcement, the 2022 priority actions are not assessed here due to lack of systematic information. Similarly, the Commission is not aware of whether information is easily available online at the national level for farmers regarding compliance with the Nitrates and Nature Directives, and hence the 2022 priority action is not assessed.

The new EU Environmental Crime Directive

The EU has recently strengthened its legal framework on tackling the most serious breaches of environmental obligations, notably by the adoption of the new Environmental Crime Directive (ECD)⁽¹⁷⁵⁾ and new sectoral legislation with stronger provisions on compliance monitoring, enforcement and penalties.

Issues important for the transposition and the implementation of the relevant new instruments are highlighted below; a detailed assessment of these topics will be included in the next EIR once more implementation measures are put in place and more systematic information is available.

The new ECD replaced the 2008 ECD and introduced several new offence categories, such as unlawful ship recycling, unlawful water abstraction, and serious breaches of EU legislation on chemicals, mercury, fluorinated GHG and IAS of EU concern. It also covered the establishment of qualified offences, subject to more severe penalties where one of the offences defined in the directive leads to serious widespread and substantial damage or destruction of the environment. Concrete provisions on the types and levels of penalties for natural and legal persons who commit an offence were also introduced. Other provisions will help considerably to improve the effectiveness in combating environmental crime of all actors along the enforcement chain. These include obligations to ensure adequate resources and investigative tools, specialised regular training and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms within and between Member States as well as national strategies on combating environmental crime.

Member States are required to transpose the new ECD into national law by 21 May 2026 and to take additional measures to more effectively combat environmental crime, in particular through training, coordination, cooperation and strategic approaches. The Commission will provide support, including by facilitating the identification and sharing of good practices. Member States are expected to ensure the necessary resources and specialised skills required and they are invited to encourage their authorities to support and cooperate with the recognised EU-level networks of environmental enforcement practitioners, such as the EU Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law⁽¹⁷⁶⁾, EnviCrimeNet⁽¹⁷⁷⁾, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment⁽¹⁷⁸⁾ or the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment⁽¹⁷⁹⁾. The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation mechanisms for cooperation on cross-border cases should be used more systematically for environmental offences.

⁽¹⁷³⁾ <https://www.cizp.cz/Plany-cinnosti>.

⁽¹⁷⁴⁾ https://www.cizp-cz.translate.goog/cizp/vyrocnizpravy?x_tr_sl=cs&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=it&x_tr_pto=wapp.

⁽¹⁷⁵⁾ Directive 2024/1203/EU on the protection of the environment through criminal law <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1203/oj/eng>.

⁽¹⁷⁶⁾ <https://www.impel.eu/en>.

⁽¹⁷⁷⁾ LIFE+SATEC project <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE2-0-PRE-ES-000001/fight-against-environmental-crime-at-a-strategic-level-through-the-strengthening-of-envicrimenet-network-of-experts-in-environmental-criminal-investigations>.

⁽¹⁷⁸⁾ <https://www.environmentalprosecutors.eu>.

⁽¹⁷⁹⁾ <https://www.eufje.org/index.php?lang=en>.

Environmental Liability Directive

The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) ⁽¹⁸⁰⁾ aims to ensure that environmental damage is remediated in kind at the expense of those who have caused it, in line with the polluter-pays principle. It helps to halt the net loss in biodiversity, as well as reducing the number of contaminated sites and protecting the environmental quality of groundwater and surface waters. The ELD is a cross-cutting tool and a key enabler for better implementation of EU environmental law.

The ELD addresses cases of significant environmental damage to protected species and natural habitats, and, when caused by operators carrying out certain potentially hazardous activities, also damages to water and to soil. The Commission has the legal obligation to periodically evaluate the ELD. The ELD has undergone the second evaluation ⁽¹⁸¹⁾, which was finalised in 2025, and which was supported by an external study ⁽¹⁸²⁾, containing, among other things, evidence, views, reports and other relevant information gathered from different stakeholder groups, including Member States.

One of the most relevant indicators in assessing implementation and enforcement of the ELD is the number of environmental damage cases handled under the ELD, especially when this number is compared with the previous reporting period. Fewer ELD cases have been reported in the second reporting period (2013–2022) than in the first one (2007–2013). However, the downward tendency in the number of ELD occurrences and their overall low number do not necessarily mean that the ELD has achieved its objectives, as it needs to be compared with the overall number of environmental damage cases, some of which may have been handled under the other liability instruments.

The ELD has not always been effective in ensuring that the polluter pays, because the liable operators often lack financial capacity to carry out remediation measures. While the ELD does not provide for a mandatory financial security system, it explicitly calls for Member States to encourage the development of financial security instruments and markets, with the aim of enabling operators to use financial guarantees to cover their responsibilities under this directive.

From 1 May 2013 to 31 December 2021, Czechia did not identify any occurrences of environmental damage under the ELD. However, Czechia reported eight cases of environmental damage that were initially considered ELD occurrences, but finally were managed under other national environmental legislation. In the previous reporting period, no environmental damage occurrences were reported under the ELD.

In its national legislation transposing the ELD, adopted in 2008, Czechia introduced mandatory financial security for ELD liabilities for some categories of economic operators. Environmental insurance policies are widely available. However, only a few insurers provide coverage for gradual (in addition to sudden and accidental) environmental damage. Some insurers either limit or do not provide coverage for biodiversity damage under the ELD. While environmental extensions to general liability policies are also widely available, they most typically cover claims only for bodily injury, property damage and the cost of remediating off-site land or soil pollution resulting from a sudden and accidental incident at an insured site. Thus the only type of insurance that satisfies the mandatory financial security requirements for ELD liabilities in Czechia is an environmental insurance policy.

The 2022 EIR recommended that Czechia provide more detailed and up-to-date information on environmental damages through a central database or registry, and encourage citizens to report environmental damages.

There is limited information available about the progress on this. The efforts to implement the 2022 priority action should continue along with the 2025 priority action.

2025 priority action

- Encourage the use of training programmes provided by the Commission (or developed at the national level) covering the ELD and its interaction with other national liability-related instruments, to ensure more efficient ELD implementation, improve the expertise of the competent authorities and raise awareness among all stakeholder groups.

EU-supported environmental capacity building

The Commission's 2023 Compact ⁽¹⁸³⁾ initiative to enhance

⁽¹⁸⁰⁾ Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02004L0035-20190626>.

⁽¹⁸¹⁾ Commission staff working document - Evaluation of the Environmental Liability Directive, forthcoming 2025.

⁽¹⁸²⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment and Fogleman, V., *Study in support of the evaluation of the Environmental Liability Directive and its implementation – Final*

report, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/006d90e5-980a-11ef-a130-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽¹⁸³⁾ See the European Commission web page on Compact (https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/public-administration-and-governance-coordination/enhancing-european-administrative-space-compact_en).

the administrative space identifies the capacity to lead the green transition as one of three key pillars, along with the public administration skills agenda and the capacity for Europe's Digital Decade. Compact also recognises the role of the EIR reporting tool in improving environmental governance. The two main capacity-building opportunities for the environment provided by the European Commission are the TSI⁽¹⁸⁴⁾ and the TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER tool⁽¹⁸⁵⁾. The technical assistance available through the cohesion policy is subject to shared management and is not dealt with in this subsection.

The Commission's technical support instrument

The TSI provides Member States with tailor-made technical expertise on the design and implementation of reforms. The support is demand driven and does not require national co-financing.

The TSI had annual calls in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The following environment-related projects have been selected for Czechia:

- Methodology for the application of the DNSH principle at the national level, beneficiary: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (2022);
- Supporting evidence-based regulatory practice and policy coherence for implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in Czechia, beneficiary: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (2023);
- Climate adaptation: wildfire prevention and capacity building in the Czech Republic (2023);
- Mid-term evaluation to the SME support strategy 2021+, beneficiary: Ministry of Industry and Trade (2024);
- Support for the preparation of social climate plans, beneficiary: Ministry of the Environment (2024);
- Comparison of water management policy and drought management in the Czech Republic with the countries of Southern Europe (a Public.

Administration Cooperation Exchange project, beneficiary: Ministry of Agriculture (2024).

The Commission's TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER tool

The Commission launched the TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER tool in 2017. It aims to facilitate peer-to-peer learning among Member States' environmental authorities through workshops (single or multi-country), expert missions (where a delegation of experts travels to the requesting institution) and study visits (where a delegation from the requesting institution travels to a host country). Flagship multi-country workshops are those requested by the Commission to present new and upcoming environmental legislation and policy in all Member States⁽¹⁸⁶⁾.

Workshops involving Czechia are as follows:

- Climate adaptation and blue infrastructures (30 May–1 June 2022);
- Circular economy in the Midlands (4–6 October 2022);
- Future challenges in the air protection in Europe (24 November 2022), in collaboration with the EU Czech Presidency;
- Make space for biodiversity: Regional action to mainstream biodiversity and empower stakeholders (21–23 March 2023);
- Decentralised biowaste recycling in Austria (9–11 October 2023);
- Biodiversity, nature conservation and large predators: Examples across European regions (4–6 June 2024);
- Online platforms: EU Batteries, Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (28–29 October 2024);
- New aspects in the cross-border cooperation against environmental crime (19–20 November 2024);
- Freight transport by rail (in relation to waste transport) (17 - 18 March 2025).

2025 priority action

⁽¹⁸⁴⁾ See the European Commission web page on the TSI (https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en).

⁽¹⁸⁵⁾ See the European Commission web page on the TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER tool (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/environmental-implementation-review/peer-2-peer_en).

⁽¹⁸⁶⁾ Flagship multi-country workshops in the reporting period are Recast Drinking Water Directive (3 April 2025); Environmental compliance and governance (18 March 2025); Planning of Renewable Energy Projects (20 February 2025); Air Quality: Implementation of the revised Air Quality Directive (16 January 2025); Industrial safety: awareness raising of emerging risks linked with climate change and decarbonation (12 December 2024); Air Quality: Implementation of the NECD to further mainstream air and broader pollution reduction in agricultural policy

(25 September 2024); Industrial emissions transposition and implementation of the revised directive (12 September 2024); Noise: progress towards meeting Member States' noise limit values and EU reduction targets (5 June 2024); Best practice use of environmental footprint methods on the EU market (30 May 2024); Sustainable finance (9 November 2023); Textile waste separate collection, treatment and markets (3 October 2023); EU environmental funding and support (13 June 2023); Advisory service for businesses to go circular (24 April 2023); Digital product passport implementation (6 December 2022); Public involvement in planning and approval of renewable energy projects (17 November 2022); Environmental compliance and governance (14 November 2022); Biowaste management (19-20 September 2022); and Renewable energy projects: permitting granting processes (13 June 2022). NB: The first flagship workshop on zero pollution for air, water and soil took place on 9 February 2022.

- Improve overall national environmental governance, in particular administrative capacity to support the green transition and coordination at the regional and local levels.

Annex

2025 priority actions
Circular economy and waste management
<i>Transitioning to a circular economy</i>
Speed up the transition to a circular economy by implementing an updated national strategy and the EU framework and recommendations, in particular to complement it with upstream circularity measures.
<i>Waste management</i>
- Invest in waste prevention measures to reduce the total amount of waste generated. - Implement, harmonise, and gradually increase landfill taxes to phase out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste. - Further shift reusable and recyclable waste away from incineration, including through economic instruments. - Improve separate collection at source e.g. through economic instruments, investing in infrastructure for separate collection, sorting and recycling, and increasing public awareness. - Increase the recycling rates of packaging waste. - Improve municipal waste preparation for reuse and recycling. - Increase the collection and recycling rate of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). - Implement and expand the pay-as-you-throw system for businesses and households. - Develop EPR schemes for problematic waste and introduce fee modulation.
Biodiversity and natural capital
<i>Recovery of species</i>
Strengthen the integration of biodiversity actions into other policies (e.g. on energy, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, urban and infrastructure planning and sustainable tourism) and promote communication between stakeholders.
<i>Recovery of ecosystems</i>
- Implement eco-schemes and agri-environmental measures and practices to address the environmental needs of Czechia. - Ensure sustainable management of forests, including by adopting the national forest programme post-2020, and consider the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 forest sites when developing the national forest management plan.
<i>Prevention and management of invasive alien species</i>
- Step up implementation of the IAS Regulation, including with regard to enforcement and the capacity of inspection authorities. - Ratify the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments of 2004 (BWM Convention).
<i>Ecosystem assessment and accounting</i>
Support the development of the national business and biodiversity network.
Zero pollution
<i>Clean air</i>
- As part of the NAPCP, take action to reduce emissions of air pollutants. - Ensure full compliance with the current AAQD standards, also in light of future stricter requirements under the revised AAQD.
<i>Industrial emissions</i>

• Complete the correct transposition of the IED 1.0. • Reduce industrial air pollution damage and intensity. • Reduce industrial releases to water and their intensity. • Engage with industry and environmental NGOs to ensure proper contribution to and implementation of BAT conclusions and ensure timely updates to permits following the publication of BAT conclusions. • Ensure effective public participation and access to justice in relation to the IED.
<i>Major industrial accidents prevention – Seveso</i>
• Ensure full and correct transposition of the Seveso III Directive.
<i>Noise</i>
• Complete and implement action plans on noise management.
<i>Water quality and management</i>
• Reduce pollution from nutrients, chemicals, metals and saline discharges. • Develop more robust programmes of measures, tackle obstacles identified in the implementation of measures and ensure adequate financing for implementation, including through better use of cost recovery and the polluter-pays principle. • Improve river continuity and ecological flows, boosting efforts on nature-based solutions to reduce hydromorphological pressures. • Better justify exemptions to the achievement of good status. • Improve the classification of water bodies and strengthen monitoring systems. • Consider future climate scenarios in the FRMPs. • FRMPs should provide details on how the FHRMs were used in the choice of measures and how to consider pluvial flooding. • Better explain the choice and implementation of flood prevention and protection measures (prioritisation, monitoring, costs of measures). • Improve public consultation and stakeholder involvement. • Tackle nutrient pollution, especially nitrates from agriculture, through the implementation of the Nitrates Directive. • Take the necessary measures to ensure full implementation of the current UWWTD, taking into account the new requirements of the recast directive.
<i>Chemicals</i>
• Upgrade the administrative capacities in implementation and enforcement to move towards a policy of zero tolerance of non-compliance. • Increase involvement in the activities of the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement of the European Chemicals Agency, including in the coordinated enforcement projects, called REF projects. • Increase customs checks and checks of products sold online with regard to compliance with chemicals legislation.
Climate action
• In the next period Czechia should focus on implementing all policies and measures that are needed to achieve targets defined by Effort Sharing Regulation and LULUCF regulation. More detailed priority actions are identified in the assessment of the final national energy and climate plan (NECP).
Financing
• Use more national funding (for instance by increasing taxes in favour of the environment and reducing environmentally harmful subsidies), EU funding and private funding to help close the investment gap.
Environmental governance

- Improve access to courts in national environmental cases by the public concerned and eliminate practical barriers, such as length of proceedings and excessive costs in some Member States.
- Ensure that relevant information on EIA and SEA procedures (including on public participation opportunities and on publication of final decisions) is electronically accessible in a timely manner, through at least a central portal or easily accessible points of access, at the appropriate administrative level.
- Provide information on the average duration of all steps in the EIA process.
- Make spatial data more widely accessible and prioritise environmental datasets in implementing the Inspire Directive, especially those identified as high-value spatial datasets for implementing environmental legislation.
- Encourage the use of training programmes provided by the Commission (or developed at the national level) covering the ELD and its interaction with other national liability-related instruments, to ensure more efficient ELD implementation, improve the expertise of the competent authorities and raise awareness among all stakeholder groups.
- Improve overall national environmental governance, in particular administrative capacity to support the green transition and coordination at the regional and local levels.