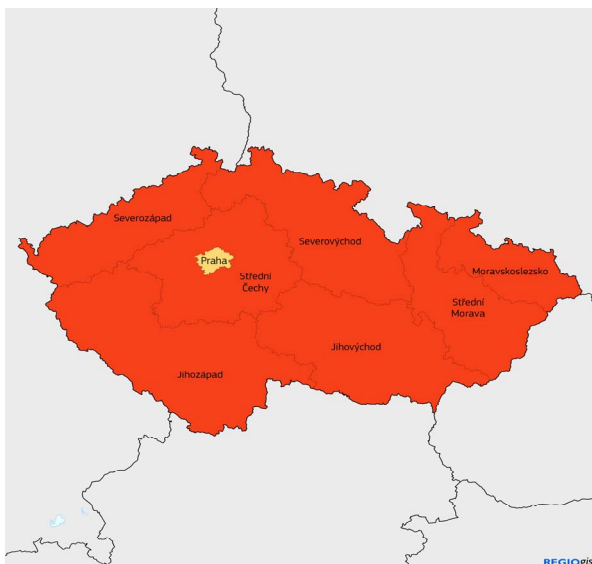


# Cohesion Policy and the Czech Republic

In 2014-2020, the Czech Republic will manage **eight operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, three programmes will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), two will receive funding from the ERDF and Cohesion fund, two will be funded by ERDF and the European Social Fund (ESF) and one will be funded by ESF including the Youth Employment Initiative.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions  
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions  
(GDP/head between  $\geq 75$  % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions  
(GDP/head  $\geq 90$  % of EU-27 average)

## How much will be invested in the Czech Republic in 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, the Czech Republic has been allocated around **€22 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€15.3 billion** for less developed regions (all except Prague).
- **€88 million** for more developed regions (Prague).
- **€6.3 billion** under the Cohesion Fund.
- **€340 million** for European Territorial Cooperation.
- **€13.6 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, the ESF in Czech Republic will represent at least **€3.39 billion**. The actual share will be set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

## What are the main investment priorities for the Czech Republic?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities are expected to include:

- Promoting an innovation-friendly business environment by enhancing the competitiveness and innovation of SMEs and improving innovation and research performance.
- Developing basic infrastructure in particular key transport networks and sustainable urban transport.
- Supporting human capital driven growth and improved labour market participation by reinforcing all levels of education, increasing access to employment of the most vulnerable groups in society and integration of socially excluded groups, notably Roma.
- Promoting an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy by supporting energy efficiency and a low carbon economy, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change.
- Improving the quality of public administration by improving efficiency and effectiveness of the public services, reducing administrative burden for businesses and creating a business-friendly environment.

## What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 26.7 billion.

Since the start of the 2007-2013 funding period, EU Cohesion Policy funding has helped the Czech Republic to:

- create more than 15 000 jobs in different sectors of economy, such as in research and innovation;
- provide direct investment aid to almost 6 000 SMEs;
- support 45 cooperative projects between enterprises and research institutions;
- support about 1.5 million people in their effort to fight unemployment or social inclusion;
- improve road infrastructure and accessibility including the reconstruction of almost 2 000 km of roads (ca. 200 km of new roads);
- purchase more than 500 ecological public transport vehicles;
- invest in almost 190 renewable energy projects and 194 waste management projects;
- reconstruct more than 200 historic monuments;
- improve health, social and education services and infrastructure;
- enable almost all basic and secondary schools to invest into problematic areas of education with corresponding equipment via simplified costs;
- create 325 life-long learning centres at secondary schools.

## Cohesion Policy success stories 2007-2013

### ERDF projects

#### ● **New Innovation Park for start-ups**

The JIC Innovation Park, established in Brno, houses almost 60 innovative companies and start-ups ranging from online services, software engineering, computer security, civil engineering to biotechnology, robotics as well as other high technology fields. The Park provides companies for up to three years with office space and tailor-made advice on their business plan, development and growth. Since its launch in 2003, more than 100 companies have been incubated and almost all have successfully established themselves afterwards.

*Total cost: € 12.5 million (ERDF contribution: € 9 million)*

- **Integrated Safety Centre for all emergency services in the Moravian-Silesian Region**

The previously separate call centres for the emergency services (fire brigade, paramedics, state and municipal police, crisis management, military, regional transport information) have been centralised into [one combined emergency response centre](#). This centre coordinates the actions of all emergency services to an incident in the region, which increases the efficiency in the emergency and intervention management in the whole region.

*Total cost: € 27.3 million (ERDF contribution: € 22.1 million)*

- **New research centre on nanotechnology**

An [emerging R&D centre](#) in Brno is developing new applications and educating tomorrow's experts in the subject of nanotechnology. The centre meets the growing demand from innovative industrial companies for production processes that require the development and use of the state-of-the-art nanotechnology but with minimal investment and operational costs, and minimal intervention in current manufacturing procedures.

*Total cost: € 10.7 million (ERDF contribution: € 7.6 million)*

## ESF projects

- **Training café brings an end to isolation**

[The Startujeme association](#) decided to create a training café in Slaný to help mentally disabled people back into mainstream society and working life. People with mild to moderate mental disabilities were working as bartenders and waiters. When the project finished, jobs were found for all disadvantaged people involved in the project and participants gained more self-confidence through work.

*Total cost: € 127 000 (ESF support: € 108 000)*

- **Help for the unemployed in South Bohemia**

The ESF-funded '[EFEKT](#)' project (Through Efficient Qualification to the Labour Market) is helping unemployed individuals younger than 25 and older than 50, as well as new university graduates and parents with young children, to find jobs in the South Bohemia region. 10 jobs were created and in total 160 people were supported, of whom 80 received a completion certificate.

*ESF support: € 208 699*

## Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in the Czech Republic

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)