

Regional Studies Association

COUNTRY REPORT – CZECH REPUBLIC 2009

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The main aim of this report is to provide a brief information and summary of regional studies issues in the Czech Republic in 2009. This is a first report on the Czech Republic case which was elaborated with a close cooperation of academics and practitioners at the University of Economics in Prague and IREAS, Institute for Structural Policy.

The Country report of the Czech Republic consists of 3 parts:

1. Report on regional studies in Czech Republic with a specific focus on change in political and economic situation in CZ
2. List of forthcoming international events and conferences on regional policies taking place in the Czech Republic
3. Contact lists
 - Of universities, institutions, departments, agencies specialised in regional policies
 - For Aureliane Beauclair – RSA e-bulletin and information about RSA membership

Report on regional studies in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a democratic parliamentary republic in the heart of Europe. It was formed on 1 January 1993 following the split of Czechoslovakia into two separate countries. Since 2000, it has developed more efficient government at regional level, but retains a system of supreme national authorities headed by the president. The Czech Republic is a member of the UN (United Nations), the EU (European Union), NATO (North Atlantic Alliance), the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), the Visegrad Group and numerous other important international organisations and groupings.

The Czech Republic is presiding over the meetings of EU-27 between January and June 2009. However, the preparations for the Presidency have actually taken two years. The organisation and formulation of our own priorities, meetings with heads of state and prime ministers of all Member States as part of the “tour de capitals”, as well as closer cooperation with the European Commission have all been very important. The cooperation within the Trio Presidency rounds off the preparations. Together with France, which will hand over the Presidency to the Czech Republic, and Sweden, which will take over the Presidency in the second half of 2009, we have elaborated the 18-Month Trio Presidency Programme. All of this has been necessary in order to make the Presidency a success and achieve real results, especially with the fall of the Czech government during the period of EU presidency.

The University of Economics in Prague¹ were conducted the research project during the period 08/2008 – 03/2009 concerning the issue of urban-rural relations in the framework of EU Territorial Agenda implementation. Project were financed by the Ministry of Regional Development CZ and was focussing on the context of Action 1.1 of the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU. Outputs of this project (general analysis and synthesis, policy implications) were used by the Ministry of Regional Development during the Czech EU presidency. There are 2 other projects, in which the issue of urban-rural relations will be further analysed. Experts at the University of Economics in Prague are now open for possible collaboration in other countries in such issues.

IREAS is now preparing an academic platform on the issue of EU cohesion policy impact evaluation in Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia). The main objective of the project is to help to increase effectiveness and impacts of EU Cohesion policy in Visegrad countries and create a background qualitative analysis for next programming period 2014 – 2020 analysis. The project will be partly cofinanced by Visegrad Fund and possibly RSA. Partners will be Corvinus University of Budapest (HU), University of Miskolc (HU), University of Matej Bel, Banska Bystrica (SVK), IEEP, Institute for Economic and Environmental Policy, University of Economics Prague (CZE) and IREAS, Institute for Structural Policy (CZE), Kozminski University in Warsaw (PL).

List of current associations and journals on regional studies issues in the Czech Republic:

- **Association for Urbanism and Planning** (*Asociace pro urbanismus a plánování*)
Website: <http://www.urbanismus.cz/asociace-pro-urbanismus-a-uzemni-planovani/auup.php?lg=en&sel=menu&menuID=40>

¹ Faculty of Economics and Public Administration, Center of Regional Studies and Public Administration, chief of the center is prof. René Wokoun.

- **Česká geografická společnost** (*Czech Geographical Society*) – is also issuing the oldest scientific journal in Czechia published since 1895. All contributions are reviewed. Issued by Czech Geographic Society. Published four times a year, usually three issues in Czech language, one in English. At the most two issues per year are prepared as special issue.
Website: <http://geography.cz/sbornik/about-proceedings/about-this-journal/>
- **Future Cities Forum** which was launched at Conference in Brno in April 2009. Membership of the Future Cities Forum will put members in touch with the leading practitioners and thinkers worldwide who are involved in the future of urban areas. They are currently working alongside multi-media organisations in order to use modern technology to create a regeneration web portal through the Future Cities Forum. This takes the form of an interactive web platform for sharing ideas and experiences on an international basis and formulating new and innovative solutions to urban challenges.
Website: www.futurecitiesforum.com
- **The Association of Historical Settlements in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia** (SHS ČMS) is helping to create conditions and instruments for the preservation and permanently sustainable use of the cultural heritage. Its attention is focused on historical settlements, but does not neglect other monuments, the immovable and movable heritage, and the traditional folk culture.
Website: <http://www.shscms.cz/en/>
- **University of Economics in Prague – “Czech Regional Studies” journal**
Website: <http://regionalni-studia.vse.cz/>

List of forthcoming international events and conferences on regional policies taking place in the Czech Republic

- “Breakthrough Cities”, 11th June 2009, Prague City Council,
<http://creativecities.britishcouncil.org>
- The University of Economics in Prague is preparing the conference “URBANUS – Města a vyvážený rozvoj region (*Cities and harmonious regional development*)”, 10 – 11th November 2009, Prague (language – Czech), approximately 200 participants, place – Prague City Council

The list of conferences and seminars in the Czech Republic will be updated in September 2009.

Contact list

Of universities, institutions, departments, agencies specialised in regional policies:

Institution	Name	Contact
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IREAS, Institute for Structural Policy	Mr. Oto Potluka, M.A.	email: potluka@ireas.cz www.ireas.cz
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Association of Regions of the Czech Republic	---	Asociace krajů České republiky Zborovská 11 150 21 Praha 5 Tel.: 257 280 122 Fax: 257 280 639 www.asociacekrajů.cz
Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics Department of Regional Studies and Environmental Economics	Dr. Jan Malinovsky	Address: Havlickovo nabrezi 38, Ostrava Room: E 502 Tel: +420 597 322 232 E-mail jan.malinovsky@vsb.cz http://en.vsb.cz/

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- Mgr. Viktor Kveton, Charles University, PhD student, kveton@ireas.cz
- Dr. Jan Malinovsky, Technical University of Ostrava, E-mail jan.malinovsky@vsb.cz
- Ing. Gabriela Rihova, University of Economics in Prague, PhD student, rihova@kaufmann-partner.com