



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE

Czech Republic

APRIL 2008

OVERVIEW

The United States looks to the Czech Republic as a partner in issues ranging from Afghanistan to the Balkans and seeks opportunities to strengthen this relationship. The Czech Republic joined the North



Prague

Atlantic Treaty Organization on March 12, 1999, and the European Union (EU) on May 1, 2004. As a member of both the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, the Czech Republic maintains diplomatic relations with more than 85 countries.

Between 1990 and 1997, USAID delivered \$169 million to support the Czech Republic in its transformation from a state-controlled economy under authoritarian rule to a market-oriented democracy. Aid from the

American people focused on just and democratic governance, economic growth, health and social services, and environmental protections. Although the USAID Mission in Prague closed its doors in 1997, the legacy of USAID development assistance has endured.

PROGRAM LEGACY

REFORMS WHICH SUPPORT THE RULE OF LAW

The Central European and Eurasian Law Institute brings judges, lawyers and legal reformers to Prague from all of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union for intensive practical and skills-based training to help them meet the challenges of democratization, including the development of just and independent judiciaries, professional codes of ethics, increased access to justice, and legislative reform.

ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT BENEFITS ALL CITIZENS

Along with its neighbors Hungary and Slovakia, the Czech Republic participated in the \$2.8 million Roma Integration Program (RIP), which provided grants to Roma communities for education, training, and job placement to promote their integration into mainstream society. The poor living conditions of the Roma, an indigenous displaced people, have been a major challenge in the transition of formerly socialist economies. RIP sought to increase Roma participation in economic, political, and

CZECH REPUBLIC SNAPSHOT

Date of independence:
January 1, 1993
Capital: Prague
Population: 10.228 million
GDP per person: \$22,000
(purchasing power parity)

For more information,
see www.usaid.gov
Keyword: Czech Republic



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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

social spheres as a means of supporting the development of inclusive, cohesive societies in the region. Community projects have improved access for thousands of beneficiaries to education, health, employment and other services; a national initiative led to the establishment of a Roma advisor resource center in the Czech Ministry of Social Affairs.

INVESTMENT IN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The CERGE-EI partnership serves as a model of how the elimination of Communist-era divisions between universities and research institutions can create an environment of intellectual curiosity and scientific rigor that reinforces the interdependent, mutually beneficial relationship between teaching and research. A unique, joint workplace agreement in the field of Economics between The Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education of Charles University (CERGE) and the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (EI), CERGE-EI has been recognized as a regional center of educational excellence and has won numerous accolades from the U.S. Government, the European Commission, international grant authorities and research organizations. The CERGE-EI PhD program is fully accredited in both the United States and the Czech Republic.

POST-PRESENCE RELATIONS

A SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Today, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of Transition utilizes key lessons learned from USAID development efforts to guide its country's continuing transformation. In the future, the United States hopes to collaborate with the Czech Republic, now an emerging foreign assistance donor, to promote democracy and economic growth in the region and elsewhere in the world.

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