### Commentary

According to the results of the Structural Survey on Vineyards 2020, in total 16 541 vine growers maintained 18 099 ha of vineyards. In comparison with the previous survey, conducted in 2015, the number of vine growers decreased by 9.2% (−1 675 holdings) and the area of vineyards grew by 2.3% (+411 ha). The average area of vineyards per one holding rose from 0.97 ha to 1.09 ha (+12.7%).

The vast majority of vine growers in the Czech Republic were natural persons (16 159 vine growers; 97.7% of the holdings). They maintained 7 556 ha of vineyards (41.7%) and their average vineyard area was 0.47 ha. There were only 382 legal persons, i.e. 2.3% of the total number of vine growers; however, they utilised more than one half of the total vineyard area (10 544 ha; 58.3%). The average vineyard area of a legal person – 27.60 ha – was distinctly higher in comparison with the average for a natural person.

The size structure of vine growers did not distinctly change during the last five years. Small vine growers with their vineyard area up to 1 ha prevailed also in 2020 (15 305 holdings; 92.5%). These growers with their average vineyard area of 0.15 ha utilised 2 292 ha, i.e. 12.7% of the total vineyard area. The size class from 1 ha to 30 ha involved 1 125 vine growers (6.8%) having almost one third of the vineyard area (5 472 ha; 30.2%); their average vineyard size was 4.86 ha. More than one half of vineyards (10 336 ha; 57.1%) was maintained by 111 holdings (0.7%) in the highest size category of above 30 ha. The average vineyard area in this category reached 93.11 ha.

During the last five years, the number of the smallest vine growers (up to 1 ha of vineyards) decreased by 1 718 holdings (−10.1%); area of their vineyards went down by 337 ha (−12.8%). There were transfers of the vineyard area among the growers; the area of vineyards belonging to growers in size class of 1 to 30 ha grew by 194 ha (+3.7%) and that of growers in size class of above 30 ha by 554 ha (+5.7%). The number of vine growers in these two categories did not change distinctly (+39 and +4 holdings, respectively).

As concerns the production type, vineyards with wine grape varieties suitable for the production of wines with protected designation of origin (PDO) prevailed. In 2020 they covered 17 970 ha (99.3% of the total vineyard area). Vineyards with wine grape varieties suitable for the production of wines with protected geographical indication (PGI) were planted on 107 ha (0.6%) and the area of other vineyards, i.e. vineyards intended to produce vegetative propagation material, breeding plots and gene pool, was 23 ha (0.1%).

Vineyards in production covered 16 819 ha; i.e. the vast majority (93.0%) of the total area of vineyards with wine grape varieties. Vineyards not yet in production were planted on 1 258 ha (7.0%).

Prevailing part of vine growers specialise in vineyards intended for production of wines with PDO. In total 15 525 holdings (93.9%) with 16 630 ha of vineyards (91.9% of the total vineyard area) belonged to this category. Vineyards exclusively intended for production of wines with PGI were grown by 762 vine growers (4.6%) with their area of 78 ha (0.4%). Vineyards suitable exclusively for production of wines with PDO and PGI were cultivated by 236 holdings (1.4%) and their area was 564 ha (3.1%). Other vine growers (18 holdings; 0.1%) with 827 ha (4.6%) had vineyards intended for wine production in combination with other than wine production.

White vine varieties prevailed on vineyards in Czechia: they were planted on 10 976 ha (60.6%). Red varieties were cultivated on almost one third of the area (5 112 ha; 28.2%), and other varieties on one tenth of the area (2 011 ha; 11.1%).

Veltliner grün (1 637 ha; 9.0% of the total vineyard area), Müller Thurgau weiss (1 409 ha; 7.8%), and Riesling weiss (1 364 ha; 7.5%) were recorded as white varieties with the largest area. Red varieties planted the most were Blaufränkisch (1 030 ha; 5.7%) and Saint Laurent (997 ha; 5.4%). Pinot gris was the most frequent among other varieties (1 022 ha; 5.6%).

More than one half of vine growers planted their vineyards with Veltliner grün (9 222 holdings; 55.8% of the total number of vine growers). Further favourite varieties were Müller Thurgau weiss (7 807 holdings; 47.2%), Saint Laurent (7 389 holdings; 44.7%), and Welschriesling (6 764 holdings; 40.9%).

Varieties, which recorded the highest enlargement of their area, compared to the survey in 2015, were Riesling weiss; its area grew by 138 ha (+11.3%) during 5 years, followed by Pinot gris (by 116 ha; +12.8%) and Chardonnay blanc (by 88 ha; +9.8%). On the contrary, the largest decrease was observed among traditional varieties: by 207 ha (−17.5%) for Saint Laurent, by 146 ha (−9.4%) for Müller Thurgau weiss, and by 116 ha (−10.2%) for Blaufränkisch. The total area of red varieties declined by 404 ha (−7.3%) while the area planted by white varieties rose by 628 ha (+6.1%) and the area of other varieties by 187 ha (+10.2%).

The age structure of vineyards was dominated by ones fully in production aged between 10 and 29 years. This category involved 8 660 ha, i.e. almost one half of the total vineyard area (47.8%). The proportion of varieties was even. Compared to 2015, the area of vineyards fully in production declined by 993 ha (−10.3%).

New vineyards aged up to 2 years were planted on 1 263 ha (7.0% of the total area of vineyards). The largest share in new plantations were represented by varieties Pálava, Veltliner grün, and Pinot gris, which covered almost one third (31.2%) of this age category. In comparison with the previous survey, the vineyard area in new plantations grew by 76 ha (+6.4%).

Young vineyards aged 3 to 9 years covered 2 766 ha (15.3% of the total area). Prevailing varieties were Pálava, Veltliner grün, and Pinot gris, which together were planted on 26.9% of young plantations. Compared to 2015, the vineyard area in this age category increased by 1 092 ha (+65.3%).

The oldest plantations aged over 30 years comprised nearly one third of vineyards: 5 410 ha (29.9%). The largest share was represented by varieties Veltliner grün, Müller Thurgau weiss, Welschriesling, and Saint Laurent, which together covered more than one half of vineyards in this age category (52.5%). The area of the oldest vineyards rose by 235 ha (+4.5%) in comparison with 2015.

Varieties Pálava, Pinot gris, Gewürztraminer, and Chardonnay blanc shared the largest part of young plantations up to 9 years of age (63.4%, 28.2%, 25.5%, and 25.4%, respectively, of the total area of these varieties). The largest shares in the oldest age category over 30 years were recorded for traditional varieties - Veltliner grün, Saint Laurent, Müller Thurgau weiss, and Welschriesling (56.2%, 55.4%, 54.5%, and 53.0%, respectively, of the total area of these varieties).

The vast majority of vineyards (16 957 ha; 93.7%) as well as vine growers (15 972 holdings; 96.6%) were located in Jihomoravský Region. A much lesser extent of vine planting was recorded in Zlínský Region, where 404 vine growers maintained 459 ha of vineyards (2.5%). There were 73 vine growers with 332 ha (1.8%) in Středočeský Region, 49 vine growers with 325 ha (1.8%) in Ústecký Region, and 14 vine growers with 15 ha (0.1%) in Hlavní město Praha. In all other regions, the vine cultivation was marginal as the number of vine growers did not exceed 10 holdings per region and the vineyard area was negligible as well. The only region with no vineyards registered was Karlovarský Region.

In comparison with 2015, the largest changes were recorded in Jihomoravský Region, where the number of vine growers went down by 1 647 holdings (−9.3%) but the area of vineyards rose by 268 ha (+1.6%). The vineyard area grew also in Zlínský kraj, where 117 ha of vineyards - i.e. by one third more (+34.1%) - were newly cultivated; however, the number of vine growers decreased by 32 holdings (−7.3%).

Further detailed data on production type, specialisation, and on varietal and age structure of vineyards are presented in the publication Vineyards (structural survey) 2020.