

Progress Report on the Czech Republic Sustainable Development Strategy

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The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development was adopted under Czech Government Resolution no. 1242 of 8 December 2004. The Strategy defines the principal (strategic) goals, as well as partial goals and instruments, formulated so as to eliminate, to the maximum extent possible, imbalances in relations between the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability. They are designed to achieve the best attainable quality of life for the present generation and to create conditions for a high quality of life for future generations. Strategic goals are defined for individual themes of social development: 1) Economic pillar: strengthening the competitiveness of the economy; 2) Environmental pillar: protecting nature, the environment, natural resources and the landscape, environmental limits; 3) Social pillar: strengthening social cohesion and stability; 4) Research and development, education; 5) European and international context; 6) Good governance.

The evaluation of the Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development has been carried out by means of Progress Reports. The present Progress Report (third in the series) is based on a set of sustainable development indicators organized according to the six themes of the Strategy. The Report contains 34 indicators in total and these indicators are based on official data and authenticated methodology. The aim of the Report is not always explicitly to rate indicator values obtained as 'good' or 'bad'. The indicators provide information on significant facts related to sustainable development in several ways: 1) Where an explicit target (e.g. expenditures on international development aid, greenhouse gas emissions, etc.) is set, the indicators inform of its achievement, or alternatively, the approximation or recession of the given quantitative target; 2) Where no explicit target is set, it may be compensated for by experience from countries (cities, companies, etc., depending on the respective level) against which the level achieved can be benchmarked (pesticide consumption, life expectancy, etc.); 3) Where data exist and indicators are constructed following identical methods for longer time periods, time series can be obtained. The assessment can then be complemented with a trend analysis, improving the expressive value of the indicator, but not sufficient on its own. Detailed assessment must always be made in a broader data (information), time, and space context.