

Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+

Find out more about the steps planned by the Government to improve the quality of life, tailored to your region

#prolepšíregiony (for better regions)



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ

Foreword

by Minister Klára Dostálová

This publication has been prepared by an expert team at the Ministry of Regional Development to offer a concise view of the territorial development of the Czech Republic. It presents the most important ideas of the new Regional Development Strategy 2021+.


The Czech Republic is a small but very diverse country. The conditions for living or doing business in large cities are completely different from those in remote villages. Regions experiencing reduced coal mining, climate change effects or low digitisation are undergoing economic transformation. The Strategy (RDS21+) seeks to offer solutions tailored to them and so it has defined five types of territory based on their specific needs and potential.

The Strategy has been designed in broad consensus among all stakeholders who are, therefore, committed to its implementation and success. Together we will strengthen the growth of metropolises, develop agglomerations, consolidate the stability of medium-sized towns, so-called regional centres, gradually improve the quality of life in the already economically and socially vulnerable areas and trigger the development of structurally affected regions.

The Strategy provides direction to the use of the EU funds, it guides the design of national subsidy schemes, mainly for municipalities, and stimulates the development of new instruments to reduce regional disparities and strengthen the competitiveness of our country.

To implement the Strategy, action plans will be drawn up to specify the measures, financing and responsibilities. The regional partners should then integrate them into their own development strategies and plans.

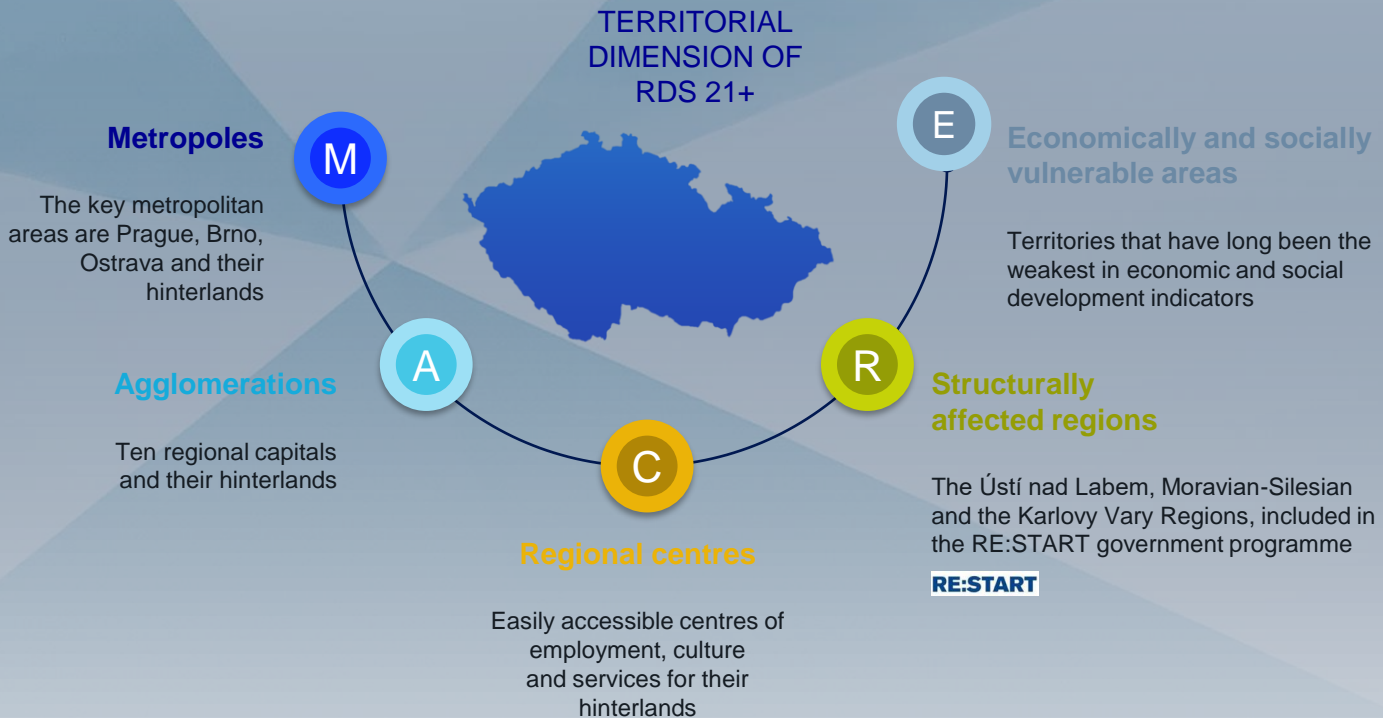
I am convinced that the work invested by all stakeholders in the preparation of the Strategy will translate into strong partnership and cooperation in its delivery for the benefit of all citizens in all regions.



RDS 21+ was prepared by the Ministry of Regional Development with the participation of all important actors - various ministries, representatives of regions, cities and municipalities, representatives of the private and non-profit sector and academia. I thank everyone for their excellent cooperation and I look forward to implementing the Strategy equally vigorously.

Key principles of RDS 21+

The main principle of the Strategy is to subdivide of the Czech Republic into 5 types of territory. That territorial dimension is the basis for specific regional objectives and the corresponding action plans.*



*

RDS 21+ builds on the national development document Strategic Framework of the Czech Republic 2030. The Strategy does not take precedence over other national strategic documents but guides them in defining their territorial dimension.

The ambition of RDS 21+ is to define the main objectives of regional development for the next 7 years, promoting dynamic and balanced development of the Czech Republic. The document serves as a guideline for regional authorities in drafting their own regional strategies.

RDS 21+ applies a territory-specific approach and determines what interventions should be implemented in the different territories.

Our vision is regions fully capitalizing on their potential, increasing their social stability, international competitiveness and improving the conditions for a good quality of life of citizens and for prosperity of companies.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- / Increasing competitiveness
- / Promoting innovation, science and research
- / Landscape protection and sustainable development
- / Reducing regional and social disparities
- / Developing mobility and links with European centres



The Strategy does not aim at solving all problems of the Czech Republic but focuses on areas where it is appropriate to apply specific tools to address the needs of the given territorial dimension.

The purpose of RDS 21+

- ✓ To ensure tailor-made support for regions
- ✓ To reflect the territorial dimension in sectoral policies
- ✓ To develop strategic management based on functional regions
- ✓ To strengthen cooperation among actors in the territory
- ✓ To improve coordination of strategic and spatial planning
- ✓ To develop smart solutions
- ✓ To improve work with data in the area of regional development

Territorial objectives of RDS 21+

The strategic objectives cover the whole territory of the Czech Republic. In some areas they overlap and mingle. This means that each municipality is part of at least one type of territory.



Metropolises

Prague, Brno, Ostrava and their hinterlands

Globally competitive and attractive
With good transport connections to European metropolises and Czech regions
Efficiently using their space for development and housing



Agglomerations

Ten regional capitals and their hinterlands

Thriving regional centres
With good transport connections
Adapted to climate change



Regional centres

Municipalities over 15 thousand inhabitants and catchment areas

Suitable conditions for economic development
With good transport accessibility and quality amenities
Caring for sustainable landscape development



Structurally affected Regions

The Ústí nad Labem, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovy Vary Regions

Good standard of life with a healthy environment
Economic recovery with plenty of quality jobs
Without unused industrial sites and areas after mining

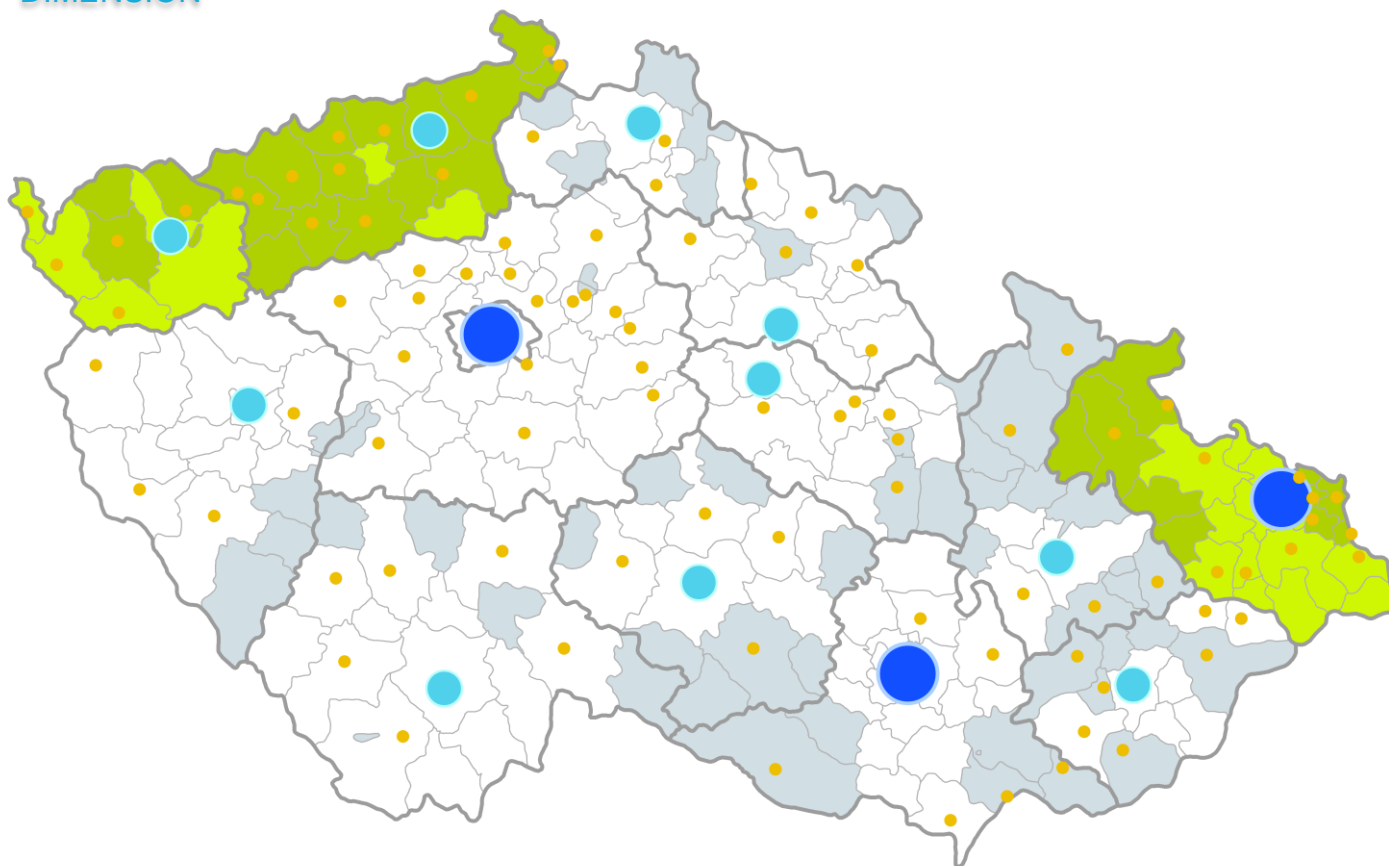


Economically and socially vulnerable areas

Territories with poor results in housing construction, age index, population growth, unemployment rate and intensity of business activity

Creating conditions for the development of innovative businesses
Accessible for transport and equipped with basic services
With strong communities and deep roots

THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL DIMENSION



EXAMPLES OF MUNICIPALITIES AND THE RDS 21+ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES THAT COVER THEM

	Metropolises and hinterlands	Agglomerations and hinterlands	Regional centres	Structurally affected Regions	Economically and socially vulnerable areas
Kladno	●		●		
Pacov			●		●
Děčín		●	●	●	●

Metropolises

M

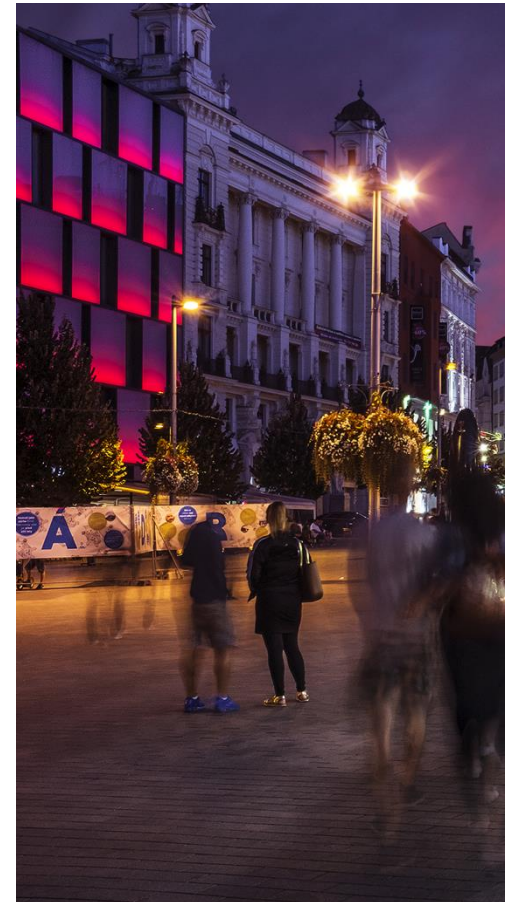
Prague, Brno, Ostrava. Our key metropolitan territories that are successful in global competition and flexibly adapt to economic and population growth

The challenge of rapid growth

Metropolitan areas are facing rapid growth and are under severe pressure on housing availability, transport and public service capacity. We do not want rapid construction to take place at the expense of greenery and agricultural land resources.

Focus on science and development

Metropolitan areas dominate in research and development and show high labour productivity. However, compared with similar metropolitan areas in Europe, they do not make sufficient use of their potential, especially in cooperation between research organizations and industry.



INNOVATION



To transform metropolitan economies towards knowledge-based economies with a higher added value

- / To encourage the arrival of talent and top scientists
- / To help develop the cultural and creative potential
- / To develop regional innovation systems in metropolises

MOBILITY



To improve transport links with European centres and increase the attractiveness of modes of transport other than private car transport

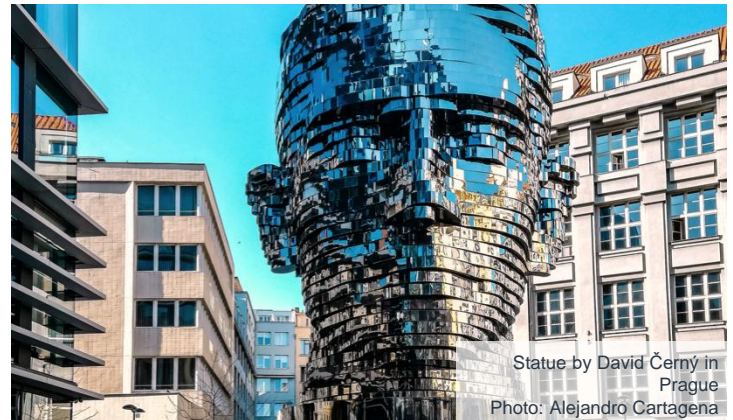
- / To better integrate the public transport system and to develop urban mobility
- / To improve the connection to European metropolises



Náměstí Svobody Square in Brno
Photo: Pavel Gabzdyl



Visualization:
Archive of the University of Ostrava



Statue by David Černý in
Prague
Photo: Alejandro Cartagena

COHESION



To provide public facilities and to reduce the risk of social polarization or excluded localities.

- / To improve the availability of social and health services, education and childcare services
- / To improve housing availability and the quality of housing estates
- / To better integrate foreigners

LANDSCAPE



To limit construction in open country, to expand green areas and streamline water and energy management

- / To ensure coordinated territorial development
- / To improve microclimatic conditions
- / To adapt to climate change

Agglomerations

A

Our regional capitals and their hinterlands own great potential in the development of specialized research, the know-how of the economy and tourism.

Potential for higher growth

Our agglomerations show slower growth compared to the European average. One of the reasons appears to be the weaker links to strong and fast growing metropolises. This concerns not only transport connections but also cooperation in science and research.

Risk of social tension

Agglomerations too are addressing the challenges of population growth, and social segregation is increasing in some areas. Untapped potential is in the development of specialized research and tourism, such as congress tourism.



COMPETITIVENESS



To shift from a cost-oriented economy to a knowledge economy and smart specialization

- / To exploit the economic potential of agglomerations more effectively
- / To strengthen science and research

MOBILITY



To complete connections to major settlements outside national borders and to neighbouring agglomerations. To increase the attractiveness of modes of transport other than private car transport

- / To ensure quality transport connections and service in the territory for passenger and freight transport
- / To manage traffic more effectively and reduce its negative effects

Multimodal transport hub, Pardubice.
Photo: Honza Ptáček



COHESION



To ensure a sufficient range of services and prevent the emergence and deepening of social exclusion

- / To improve the availability of social and health services, education and childcare services
- / To provide more of accessible and social housing for vulnerable groups outside the segregated localities
- / To support the development of culture and tourism

LANDSCAPE



To effectively solve environmental problems associated with a large population concentration and to adapt agglomerations to climate change

- / To promote sustainable spatial development of agglomerations
- / To improve microclimatic conditions in agglomerations

Regional centres

C

Regional centres are easily accessible centres of employment, culture and transport services for regions. They play a stabilizing role in the given micro-region.

Availability of transport infrastructure

Regional centres often have less potential for development because of their location (outside the main development axes), labour shortages, inappropriate skills of employees, inadequate infrastructure and lack of services. In small municipalities in the hinterland of regional centres, the accessibility and quality of services and transport infrastructure are particularly problematic.

Potential of high quality of life

Some regional centres have considerable tourism potential which can play an important role in the economic development of this category of settlements, or of whole micro-regions. Due to the high proportion of greenery in their surface area, regional centres have the potential to provide a high quality of life.



COMPETITIVENESS



To diversify the economic base and support the linkage of companies to the labour market

- / To improve cooperation between employers, the public sector and schools
- / To develop consulting centres for start-up entrepreneurs
- / To revitalize brownfields
- / To improve accessibility of high-speed internet

MOBILITY



To improve transport accessibility within regions

- / To better coordinate transport in the regions
- / To improve the condition of roads and railways



Park reconstruction, Kroměříž
Photo: Antonín Krpaň



Photo: Jonah Petrich



Photo: Antonín Krpaň

COHESION



To improve accessibility of services, with an emphasis on cultural heritage, heritage conservation and local specifics. To respond to challenges of aging or emergence of socially excluded localities

- / To modernize the equipment of schools
- / To ensure the availability of field social services and create conditions for community life
- / To benefit from the cultural potential of regional centres

LANDSCAPE AND ENERGY



To care for the environment of villages, stabilize the use of the landscape and prevent its degradation. To enable energy transformation of the rural hinterlands of regional centres

- / To improve the ambient air in rural hinterlands
- / To strengthen the landowner's responsibility for environmental quality
- / To develop new sources of renewable energy and adapt the transmission and distribution system

Structurally affected Regions

R

the Karlovy Vary, the Moravian-Silesian and the Ústí nad Labem Regions.
Three Regions whose legacy of mining, manufacturing and the chemical industry largely affects their current situation.

Transformation

These Regions have experienced more of the negative effects of the post-1989 transformation. In addition to the generally very low economic growth rates, they have faced problems related to the high number of socially excluded localities, the departure of young and educated people, and other adverse factors. Their economic problems are exacerbated by the overall low attractiveness for living and business and by the shortage of quality job opportunities.

Nevertheless, all three Regions have significant growth potential - primarily they can develop higher added value activities, increase investment in R&D and use local know-how in the energy and chemical industries.



COMPETITIVENESS



To encourage the growth of enterprises so that they are able to cope with changes in global markets and succeed there

- / To promote direct investment with higher added value
- / To ensure skilled and flexible labour force for the industry, services and public administration

RE:START

Assistance to structurally affected regions is provided by the Government through the RE:START programme.

Research project on the functioning of large macromolecular complexes
Photo: Antonín Kapraň



Revitalization of the Osek Monastery
Photo: Antonín Kapraň



Photo: Michal Novotný

INNOVATION



To support innovation through research and development

- / To develop cooperation of local research organizations with foreign entities
- / To focus of R&D on sectors with good prospects

COHESION



To remove development barriers related to social instability and better exploit the development potential of regions

- / To ensure competitive public facilities and services
- / To systematically foster the identification of citizens with their region

LANDSCAPE



To revitalize and regenerate the territory for better entrepreneurship and healthier living of the population

- / To regenerate public areas, buildings and brownfields hindering the development of the territory in settlements

Economically and socially vulnerable areas

E

Vulnerable areas generally suffer from poorer living conditions and have fewer opportunities to participate in the development and growth of the Czech Republic. The Strategy focuses primarily on increasing their economic performance.

Social vulnerability

In certain areas, the social fabric is aggravating, the population is aging and the younger generation is leaving for education in larger towns. This is especially true for the territory of the former Sudetenland. Then a problem arises with the availability of quality public services and with public facilities. That trend can lead to social exclusion.

Tourism and entrepreneurial development

On the other hand, people in these mostly rural areas can take advantage of the clean environment that creates good opportunities for tourism development. Here, farming and forestry greatly influence the condition of the landscape, its components and ecosystem functions. In many areas, life is complicated by the unavailability of high-speed internet.



MOBILITY 

To ensure good transport accessibility within the region, and linkage to agglomerations and metropolises

/ To ensure good transport service



Reconstruction of the line Tahvald -
Liberec
Photo: Antonín Kapaň



Goat farm and cheese factory,
Merboltice
Photo: Michal Novotný

COMPETITIVENESS

To diversify the economy and create local jobs

- / To develop micro businesses and SMEs
- / To strengthen local employment as part of public investment
- / To encourage external investment

COHESION

To effectively prevent social exclusion and energy poverty. To support community life in municipalities and ensure their sufficient public facilities

- / To address problems related to socially excluded localities and prevent their emergence
- / To develop community life and ensure public facilities
- / To reduce the dropout rate in primary and secondary schools and to provide support to early school leavers

Quality planning of regional development

The development of cities, regions and municipalities requires careful coordination and planning. The planning involves a large number of stakeholders with many very divergent views that must be prioritized in order for the activities to have a real impact.

Administrative burden on municipalities

Municipalities often do not have sufficient administrative capacity to provide public services in their hinterlands. This applies in particular to smaller municipalities with extended powers.

Administrative burden on the development of entrepreneurship

The administrative burdens are an obstacle to the existence/development of sole traders or micro-enterprises in particular and have potentially the greatest impact in rural areas, all the more in the regions that are economically and socially vulnerable. In such territories, the role of small enterprises is crucial, both in terms of employment and the provision of basic commercial services.



SMART SOLUTIONS BUILT ON DATA

- / To improve planning based on population forecasts
- / To monitor the concentration of social exclusion as a prerequisite for targeted interventions
- / To create a central catalogue of public administration services
- / To use smart solutions in both urban and rural areas



Information container of the Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR Prague). The container serves mainly as a place where people can learn about Prague's development projects.

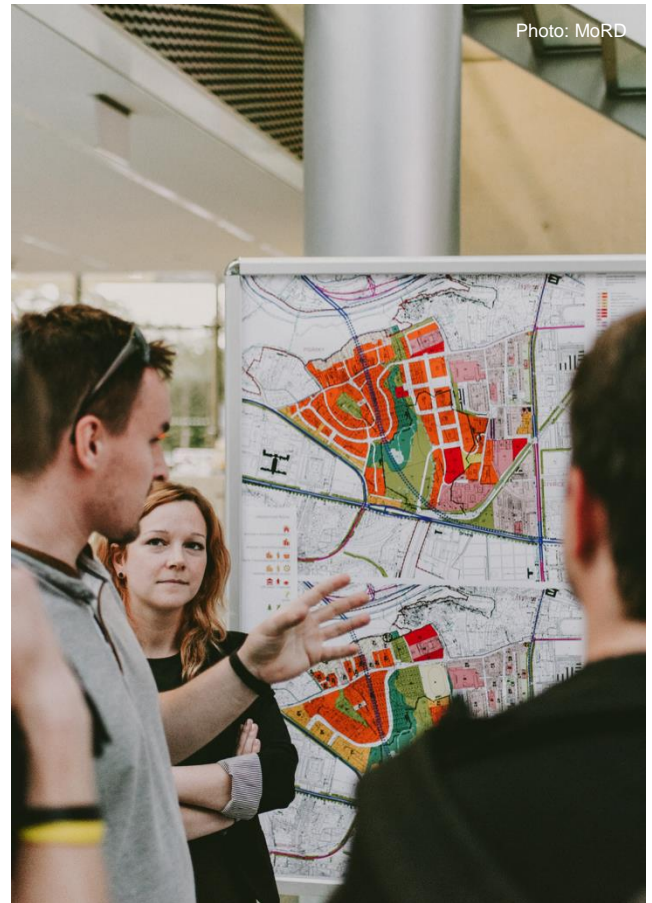


Photo: MoRD

CONCEPTUAL PLANNING



- / To create a methodology for coordinating strategic and spatial planning
- / To encourage participation in collective strategic planning
- / To develop cooperation among municipalities in the performance of public administration

SPATIAL PLANNING



- / To address specific needs of public administration in metropolitan areas and agglomerations
- / To establish and develop a regional system of support for sustainable development
- / To clarify the system of national subsidy schemes
- / To use the territorial impact assessment tool at both policy and project level

The implementation of RDS 21+

The support provided through RDS 21+ and its action plans can take different forms. The most common form of assistance will be financial aid from the European funds and national subsidy schemes. Regions and municipalities can also use methodological support, for example in strategic planning or in designing a smart city/ region/ village concept.


Each strategic objective is evaluated using a number of indicators:

Action plan requirements

- Description and justification
- Indicators
- Links
- Holders (expert supervisor)
- Implementers
- Form of financing

EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS

- / Persons working in research and development
- / Quality of motorway and rail connection to other agglomerations and European metropolises
- / Total expenditure on research and development
- / Availability of primary medical care
- / Availability of social services
- / Gross rate of total population increase
- / Disposable income of households
- / Number of enterprising individuals with employees
- / Long-term unemployment rate



An important financial source for the RDS 21+ implementation will be EU funds through operational programmes.

EU FINANCING

- / The territorial dimension integrated in operational programmes
- / Separate calls of the managing authorities for specific types of territory
- / Bonus points for projects in a certain type of territory
- / An allocation earmarked for implementing ITI and CLLD and RAPs

National funding will be provided through the following instruments:

NATIONAL FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

- / Separate calls for specific types of territory
- / Bonus points for projects in a certain type of territory
- / Higher co-financing rates for specific types of territory
- / State co-financing of projects in calls announced by Regions
- / Joint calls of a Region and the State

RDS 21+ through the eyes of partners involved in its design

RDS 21+ gives municipalities and cities an exceptional opportunity to assert their requirements in a strategic document which should also serve as a guide for the allocation of European finance. The funding is undoubtedly motivating but in the long run, it is the development of the territory, public administration and the provision of public services for our citizens, both in urban or rural environments, that are much more important.

FRANTIŠEK LUKL

Chairman of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic

We appreciate the highly partnership approach of the MoRD in developing the Regional Development Strategy. We firmly believe that this Strategy will not end in a drawer and that the huge energy and time invested by all actors in its discussion will translate into a real impact of the RDS 21+ on the ground. Only that way can we stop the persistent widening of the gap, achieve convergence of the different regions and enable them to approximate the Western European average.

RADIM SRŠEŇ

Vice-Chairman of the Association of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic

We implement the integrated instrument LEADER and so we hope that RDS 21+ will help to better interconnect the activities in various areas of regional development. Moreover, we believe that also thanks to RDS 21+, the disparities in quality of life between urban centres and peripheral areas, especially in the Sudetenland will cease to widen.

JIŘÍ KRIST

Chairman of the National Network of Local Action Groups Czech Republic

Being involved in drafting the new Regional Development Strategy 2021+ is invaluable experience for us.

It gave us not only the opportunity to influence its design, but also to work closely with all the partners involved. I strongly believe that together we all will succeed in delivering this well-prepared strategy and in improving the conditions for a better life for all inhabitants in the Czech Republic.

PAVEL HEČKO

Member of the Council for Regional Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs under the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic



SRR21+
Strategie regionálního rozvoje 2021+

www.srr21.cz
www.prolepsiregiony.cz

A portal where you can find a comprehensive view of the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+.

The ambition of the Strategy is to define the main objectives of the state's regional policy in the period 2021-2027, promoting a dynamic, balanced and sustainable development of the territory.



**MINISTERSTVO
PRO MÍSTNÍ
ROZVOJ ČR**

www.uzemnidimenze.cz

The aim of this website is to inform the general public about activities in regional policy of the Czech Republic, the so-called territorial dimension.

Here you will find a summary of the principles of territorial dimension in the various ESI Fund programmes, including information on its implementation.

OBCEPRO
PROGRAM ROZVOJE OBCE

www.obcepro.cz

A web application that helps in drafting the Municipality Development Plans

The application guides the user through the structure of the document and offers useful tools such as working with statistical data, templates and samples of supporting documents or e-learning. The application was created and is operated by the Ministry of Regional Development.



www.dotaceeu.cz

The umbrella portal of the European Structural and Investment Funds in the Czech Republic

The European funds are transforming the regions of the Czech Republic for the better. See for yourself and get to know the projects in your area.



RIS
Regionální
informační
servis

www.risy.cz

Regional information service

Information from regions, districts and municipalities focusing on economic, social, environmental data, administrative division, public administration and self-government, subsidies, etc.



<http://mapy.mmr.cz>

Map portal of MoRD and ISD

Website of the map portal of the Ministry of Regional Development and the Institute for Spatial Development. Here you will find several useful map applications as well as territorial analysis materials.



The Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+ can be downloaded from the website www.srr21.cz.

Prepared by: Regional Policy Department,
Ministry of Regional Development, December
2019