



**Czech Republic**

**Action Plan of the Czech Republic  
Open Government Partnership  
for 2023 to 2024**

Submitted by: Minister of Justice

Prague, 2023

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# 1 Introduction

Open government is based on the values of transparency, accountability for one's actions and public involvement in decision-making and policy-setting processes, and last but not least, providing meaningful feedback. The mission of the international *Open Government Partnership* ("OGP") initiative is then to promote open government in its member states. The OGP initiative officially began its operation on 20 September 2011 at the UN General Assembly in New York with 8 founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the USA). The OGP has gradually grown dynamically, and in 2022 the initiative already has 77 members at national level and 106 members at regional level (states, regions, cities).

The Czech Republic, ever since its accession to the OGP initiative, which was decided by the Government of the Czech Republic by its Resolution No. 691 of 14 September 2011, has been using its OGP action plans and their commitments to embed the principles of open government more broadly within the framework of the creation and implementation of its policies, strategic documents, and individual measures where appropriate and expedient. The development and adoption of the specific OGP action plans and the commitments contained therein in the conditions of the Czech Republic compared to some other OGP member states do not represent the main tool for implementing public administration reforms and making it more open to civil society, but rather a supplementary tool that appropriately complements and is related in substance to other comprehensive reform strategic documents. This is the case, for example, of the Client-Oriented Public Administration 2030 concept or the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030. As in previous periods, as part of the interconnection of its national OGP action plans and implementation of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Czech Republic monitors the fulfilment of goal "16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels", in particular the tasks "16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms", "16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels" and "16.7 Ensure responsible, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels". One of the OGP themes having been emphasized by the Czech Republic in the long term in its OGP action plans is the fight against corruption. Government activities within the OGP are thus closely connected to the fulfilment of measures of the Government's anti-corruption strategic documents.

The sixth submitted Action Plan of the Czech Republic – Open Government Partnership for 2023 to 2024 (the "Sixth Action Plan") fulfils all four OGP values – access to information, public participation, responsibility, technology, and innovation. These include, for example, commitments to improve the status of whistleblowers, to open data on education and the education system. The Sixth Action Plan thus largely continues, builds on and further develops and refines activities initiated in previous periods, also in response to previous developments and experience. The commitments of the Sixth Action Plan, as in previous periods, aim to ensure that all resources are spent efficiently and economically and that the scope for possible corruption is significantly

reduced in cooperation with civil society. It is also an integral prerequisite and one of the sub-goals of the Sixth Action Plan to make as much usable data as possible available to the general public.

## 2 Current efforts towards open government in the Czech Republic

As already mentioned in the introduction, since the Czech Republic joined the international Open Government Partnership initiative in 2011, five action plans have been approved and subsequently implemented by the Government. The first **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership** (the "First Action Plan") contained commitments falling into two thematic areas. The first concerned the professionalisation, depoliticization and stabilisation of public administration through the Civil Service Act, the second free access to information and open data. From the outset and without exception, the commitments of the Action Plans responded to the government-approved anti-corruption strategic documents and their priorities, as well as to the demands of non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs). The contents of the First Action Plan were thoroughly consulted in terms of civil society involvement and its initiatives played an important role in terms of content.

The second **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2014 to 2016** ("the Second Action Plan") did not undergo a further consultation process open to the general public when it was drawn up, because it retained the original commitments of the First Action Plan; it only took into account the recommendations of the **OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism** ("IRM") and updated the commitments in line with the policy statement of the new government.

The third **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2016 to 2018** (the "Third Action Plan") thematically followed the commitments of the Second Action Plan and included, for example, a successful and with its implications relatively significant commitment to develop an open data ecosystem in the Czech Republic and to create the National Catalogue of Open Data. This commitment was also nominated for the Czech Republic in the competition of successful commitments for the period up to 2018, which took place in 2021. The Third Action Plan also focused on the access to scientific information, support for volunteering and strengthening security at local (community) level. The Third Action Plan reinstated a more prominent role for civil society in its creation and successful proposals for commitments from civil society appeared again.

The Fourth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2018 to 2020** (the "Fourth Action Plan") continued to focus on the functioning of the civil service as well and, in the field of open data and access to information, focused on the area of justice and the publication of court decisions and, furthermore, the educational system. In addition to initiating efforts to publish court decisions of lower courts and raising awareness of the issue of whistleblowers, other important commitments of the Fourth Action Plan included the opening of data contained in the information system of the Czech School Inspectorate, when related commitments were successfully completed despite procedural difficulties. During the cycle of this Action Plan, representatives of civil society began to play a more significant role in the ongoing quarterly evaluation of the implementation of commitments, thus they had the opportunity to continuously monitor them and comment on their fulfilment in dialogue with their implementing agencies.

The creation and implementation of the fifth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2020 to 2022** (the "Fifth Action Plan") was significantly affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which, for example, required a number of activities to be carried out on-line or postponed. Even so, it was possible to successfully complete, for example, the already mentioned important obligation to publish the decisions of lower courts. Consultations were also held on the possibility of creating an open-data database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles. Even in the Fifth Action Plan, work continued towards commitments dedicated to opening data on education and the educational system and the issue of whistleblowers. In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, the end of the 8th parliamentary term of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic also affected the fulfilment of commitments, when submitted laws whose discussion was not completed must be submitted to the legislative process again. This also happened in the case of the draft law on the protection of whistleblowers, the adoption of which was one of the milestones of the related commitment. The first part of the commitment activities focused on the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes also took place, where the recommending Methodology for the participation of non-profit non-governmental organisations in advisory and working bodies and in the drafting of state administration documents was developed in a participatory manner together with representatives of non-governmental non-profit organisations. In terms of the role of civil society representatives, despite the already mentioned complications caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, their involvement in the monitoring process of implementation was maintained and, in addition, within the framework of fulfilling the above-mentioned commitment concerning the participation methodology, the reach of the targeted communication on open government topics was expanded to the members of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations.

### 3 Process of Development of the Action Plan

[The Government Anti-Corruption Council Chair's Working Commission for Open Government and State Administration Transparency](#) (the "Working Commission"), which brings together representatives of both the government and non-governmental sector, and is a so-called multi-stakeholder forum within the processes and rules of the OGP, thus fulfilling the minimum requirements of the [OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards](#) No. 1.1 and 5.1., actively participated in the planning and in all steps of the process of co-creating the Sixth Action Plan. The Sixth Action Plan has been drawn up based on the above mentioned OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards, as amended by the OGP Steering Committee Decision of 24 November 2021, as opposed to the practice of previous Action Plans, for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

At its meeting held by videoconference on 1 March 2022, the Working Commission discussed and approved the [schedule for the development of the Sixth Action Plan](#). The schedule was published on the website [korupce.cz](#) on 2 March 2022, 16 days before the start of the co-creation process of the Sixth Action Plan, and thus in accordance with the minimum requirement of the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No. 3.1. The website [korupce.cz](#) and its [part dedicated to the Open Government Partnership](#) at the same time meet the minimum requirements of the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No. 2.1, 2.2 and, through the usually quarterly published evaluation of current commitments, also the minimum requirement No. 5.1. Subsequently, on 18 March 2022, the Ministry of Justice announced public consultations in accordance with the minimum requirements of the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No. 3.2 and 3.3, when the [invitation](#) was published on the website [korupce.cz](#), on the website of the Ministry of Justice, on the social networks of the Ministry of Justice, and within partnership also under the News of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Information on the launch of the consultations was also sent out via e-mail, shared by the members of the Working Commission and by the Secretariat Department of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. A more detailed [supporting document](#) was also published as part of the announcement of the consultation process. 5 April 2022 was set as the deadline for the submission of written commitments. The proposed commitments could also be subsequently presented, either in person or on-line at a public workshop held on 11 April 2022 at the premises of the Ministry of Justice and via Skype for Business video conferencing platform. A total of 29 more or less concretely formulated commitment proposals were received during the public consultations.

The commitments received and their clarifications were presented to the Working Commission at the meeting on 29 April 2022. At its meeting, the Working Commission also discussed the received proposals with the participation of certain proposers and, based on the discussion that took place, recommended or did not recommend their further discussion with their potential managers. In its discussion of the proposed commitments, the Working Commission also took into account the recommendations of the [Base for co-creation in 2022](#) (Co-Creation Brief 2022) of March 2022. From a procedural point of view, it was primarily an effort to involve new implementing agencies



and departments in the creation of the Sixth Action Plan, which was achieved within the commitments of the Ministry for Regional Development, incorporated at the last moment. Thematically, the IRM recommendation to continue efforts to improve the status of whistleblowers was taken into account. In accordance with the minimum requirement of the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards No. 4.1 for the provision of feedback, the reasons for the recommendations of the Working Commission regarding the received proposed commitments are included in the relevant minutes of the Working Commission meeting. The minutes of the Working Committee meetings are continuously published on the website [korupce.cz](http://korupce.cz), thus accessible not only to the proposers of the relevant proposals but also to the general public.

Following the consultation of the proposers and the potential implementing agencies/managers for the proposals, a further meeting of the Working Commission was held on 2 June 2022, where the Working Commission was informed of the results of the consultation with the implementing agencies to date. Originally scheduled for 30 May 2022, the date of the Working Commission meeting was postponed for organizational reasons and a corresponding [update of the schedule](#) was published on the website [korupce.cz](http://korupce.cz). Based on the information received, the Working Commission directly recommended the inclusion of three commitments in the Sixth Action Plan, contained therein as commitments No. 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. The Working Commission only took note of the information on the state of discussion of other commitments, which have the potential to be additionally proposed by their implementing agencies during the interdepartmental comment procedure. The conclusions of the Working Commission and their justification are part of the relevant minutes of the meeting.

In June 2022, the draft Sixth Action Plan was sent for the interdepartmental comment procedure and to the members of the Working Commission for their comments. At the same time, public consultations were again announced for the duration of 10 working days, with a request for comments from the general public. In accordance with the Government's Rules of Procedure, the material was submitted to the interdepartmental comment procedure on 16 June 2022, the deadline for submitting comments was set by 30 June 2022 (10 working days). Fundamental comments were made by 7 commenting points. Recommending comments were made by 3 commenting points. Part of the settlement of comments on the material was also the settlement of relevant comments received from the OGP Secretariat as part of open consultations, which took place concurrently with the interdepartmental comment procedure. Based on the results of the interdepartmental procedure, two more commitments, No. 4.4 and 4.5, were added to the Sixth Action Plan with comments from their implementing agencies. The proposals to include these commitments were received at the very beginning of creating the Sixth Action Plan, however, their final version was developed and agreed upon only during the interdepartmental comment procedure. The Working Commission recommended adding new commitments No. 4.4. and 4.5 as part of correspondence discussion, which took place from 18 to 25 July 2022. The draft Sixth Action Plan was submitted on 18 August 2022 for the purposes of government deliberations. The Working Committee subsequently recommended the approval of the Sixth Action Plan as a whole using correspondence vote, which took place from 18 to 25 August 2022. However, the draft Sixth Action Plan was withdrawn from the Government meeting at the request of the Minister for

Legislation and the Chairman of the Government's Legislative Council. The Minister for Legislation and the Chairman of the Government's Legislative Council, who is from 27 October 2022 also the Chairman of the Government Anti-Corruption Council under whose authority the Working Commission falls, decided to put the draft Sixth Action Plan on the agenda of meeting of the Government Anti-Corruption Council with the aim to incorporate selected more ambitious commitments that are based on the wording of the Government Programme Policy Statement. The newly included agenda item was first discussed by the Working Commission on 10 November 2022, and subsequently by the Government Anti-Corruption Council at meetings on 15 November 2022 and 12 December 2022. Based on the negotiations held, commitments No. 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8 were included in the Sixth Action Plan. In terms of OGP standards, the Government Anti-Corruption Council can also be considered a body fulfilling the requirements of a multi-stakeholder forum. Even the additional supplementing of commitments took place in a participatory manner.

## 4 Commitments

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.1 Pilot implementation of the Methodology for the Participation of Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations in advisory and working bodies and in the drafting of state administration documents</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	It is a follow-up to the Fifth Action Plan commitment, the content of which is a pilot implementation of the methodology already developed in the participatory processes of ministries and other central administrative authorities.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Department of the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs)		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
	Ministry of Justice and other central administrative authorities	NGOs represented in the Government Council for NGOs and in its working bodies	
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024		

### Problem Definition

#### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

In the course of creating the [Strategy for the Cooperation of Public Administration with Non-Profit Non-Government Organisations for 2021 to 2030](#), a strategic document of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations ("GCNGO"), inconsistency was identified in the way ministries and other central state administration bodies ensure the participation of representatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations ("NGOs") within processes leading to participation in decision-making, specifically in the creation and functioning of advisory and working bodies ("AWB") and in preparing or changing key documents and public policies (draft laws, subordinate legislation, strategies, methodologies, analyses, etc.).

The absence of a uniform methodology has not contributed to sufficient and effective communication between the government sector and organised civil society and could lead to non-

transparency and thus potentially to a reduction in the credibility of the results achieved and participatory processes themselves.

At present, the risk of certain "monopolisation" of participation in participatory processes remains unaddressed, when ministries or other central administration bodies are allowed to repeatedly select only a narrow group of entities with which they have previously cooperated and with which they have good experience. This practice may pose the risk of not utilizing the full potential of participatory processes or of creating unjustified barriers to access for those entities that do not normally engage in participatory processes.

Last but not least, the absence of an understandable methodology could have been the reason for the use of participatory processes to a much more limited extent, when a certain degree of public consultations is mandatory or for their absence, when the voluntary use of participatory processes would be beneficial.

As stated in the [Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability](#) (pp. 161-166) and the 2nd implementation plan of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 (for 2022–2025), in which at the time of drafting the Sixth Action Plan, the interdepartmental comment procedure was being settled, the involvement of NGOs and other entities in policy-making is still rather formal without significant systemic (political, methodological and instrumental) support.

The long-term low representation of women in working and advisory bodies of the Government is also a problem. Studies show that a more balanced share of women and men in decision-making positions allows for a more differentiated approach to problem solving, enabling the use of a wider spectrum of talents and life experience. Mixed teams work more efficiently, effectively, and innovatively than homogeneous collectives, where only one group is significantly represented, because they can better deal with complex phenomena in society. Therefore, the Gender Equality Strategy for 2021 – 2030 calls for considering a balanced representation of women and men in the AWBs of the Government of the Czech Republic in the Decision-making chapter through measure No. 1.3.8.

## **2. What are the causes of the problem?**

A number of AWBs are being set up at the state administration level. A comprehensive list of them is not available, so it is difficult to determine their exact number. AWBs are governed by the relevant statutes and rules of procedure. The composition of the advisory body is listed in the statute either without specifying the entity, e.g., according to the [Statute of the Government Council for Gender Equality](#) it is stated that the membership is also of 10 representatives of the public from non-governmental non-profit organisations active in the field of gender equality, or specifically with the names of the entities/NGOs, e.g., the [Statute of the Government Council for Sustainable Development](#) for example, mentions 1 representative of the Czech Women's Lobby as a member. However, neither the Statutes nor other accompanying documents specify how and based on what criteria the members representing civil society are selected. Absence of information about the recruitment mechanism, or the absence of a uniform methodological

environment (and appropriate tools, e.g., a uniform web portal for information) thus represents one of the causes of the current situation.

Regarding the second area of the problem, i.e., the participation of NGOs in the creation of the document, the [Report on the Quality of Life and its Sustainability](#) (pp. 161–166) states that public administrations generally have little idea how to ensure public participation and, more importantly, how to use it most effectively. Although a public consultation manual has existed since 2010, it has not been used or actively promoted by the Ministry of the Interior. The lack of knowledge of methods, standards, and recommendations regarding participatory processes is thus another cause of the problem.

## Commitment Description

### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Partial methodologies related to citizen participation were developed in the past. In 2009, the Ministry of the Interior developed the [Methodology for public involvement in the preparation of government documents](#). It presents the theoretical principles of public involvement and is specified only for public involvement in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process. Subsequently, in 2010, the Ministry of the Interior produced [Guidelines for public involvement in the preparation of government documents](#), which namely lists and describes public involvement methods and techniques. However, both documents have not been actively promoted, and their application evaluated (although they are merely advisory in nature). Considering the time of their creation, they lack information about new and innovative tools.

More up-to-date (from 2019) is the [Methodology for preparation of public strategies](#) prepared by the Ministry for Regional Development, which, however, is extensively devoted only to the creation of strategic documents. The current strategic material of the Ministry of the Interior, the Concept of [Client-Oriented Public Administration 2030](#) deals with improving communication and educating the public about the possibilities of citizen participation in public affairs (outcomes not yet available). The focus of the material is thus different from the methodology of NGOs participation, however both materials can complement each other. So far, no methodological material has been devoted to the use of participatory processes in AWB.

To address this problem, the [Methodology for the Participation of Non-profit Non-governmental Organisations in Advisory and Working Bodies and in the Drafting of State Administration Documents](#) was developed. Its development was part of the previous Fifth Action Plan. The methodology focuses on increasing the level and effectiveness of the participation of NGOs representatives, their umbrella organisations, and networks in governance at central level, i.e., at the level of ministries and other central administrative offices, and contains recommendations aimed at ensuring adequate conditions and means meaningful participation for both the state and NGOs.

The finalisation, approval, and follow-up implementation of the methodology were postponed compared to the original plan. The reasons for the change in the schedule were partly outlined in the periodically published partial updates of the implementation status of the Fifth Action Plan commitment<sup>1</sup>. Other reasons for the postponement included change of government, handover of the agenda to the new management of the Office of the Government, impossibility to convene the GCNGO meeting because of a planned revision of the status of advisory bodies and inappropriate overlap of activities planned for the second half of 2022 with the presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU.

## 2. What solution do you propose?

After the new aforementioned methodology is approved, the preparatory phase for its practical implementation will begin. Negotiations will be held with ministries on their involvement in the pilot testing of the methodology in practice and identification of their planned activities (e.g., re-nomination of members to the AWB, revision of documents) where the methodology could be verified. Meetings with departments and NGOs will be held, where participants will be introduced to the methodology and opportunities for cooperation on pilot testing and the results of a questionnaire survey will be presented to map and evaluate the cooperation of central state administration bodies with umbrella organisations and NGOs networks. The designation of departments for pilot implementation will follow. In contrast to the original plan, which envisaged a pilot testing in only one department, it is of interest to pilot verify the methodology in several departments (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment have given their preliminary consent to the involvement, the pilot verification is also planned within the activity of the Department of the GCNPO Secretariat).

In accordance with the recommendation of the Working Group for the development of the methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes, an external expert will be involved, who will act as methodological support during the pilot implementation. In contrast to the methodologies developed in the past, this methodology will be actively promoted, and its implementation evaluated (although it will be of a purely advisory nature). The long-term ambition is to implement the methodology across the state administration.

The methodology, as its name implies, focuses only on a subset of participatory processes, deals with the participation of NGOs, their umbrella organisations and networks and covers only the central level of government. Its effect will thus be only partial and will contribute to the cultivation of the environment and the solution of the problem only to a limited extent, but not insignificantly. However, a systemic shift in the overall participation (transparent participation of all stakeholders and the public) also requires political support to encourage inclusive governance and participation systematically and actively in public policy-making.

<sup>1</sup> <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plany-nap/paty-akcni-plan-2020-2022/faze-implementace/zavazek-4-4-zpracovani-metodiky-pro-ucast-zastupcu-obcanske-spolecnosti-v-participativnich-procesech/>

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The main outcome of the commitment will be a pilot-tested methodology for NGOs participation in advisory and working bodies and in the development of state administration documents. The implementation of the methodology will take place in more than one ministry. In cooperation with the entities involved, the pilot implementation of the methodology will be evaluated and follow-up recommendations on participation will be formulated.

The aim of the Commitment is to contribute to the establishment of a functioning methodological environment for participatory processes and to the efficiency of the use of participatory processes in the context of public policy-making and in the functioning of NGOs.

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	As a result of the implementation of the methodology, civil society, represented in this case by NGOs, their umbrella organisations and networks, should have better access to proactively published and appropriately structured information on participatory processes, their schedules, and the opportunities for effective engagement. Similarly, information on the functioning of NGOs, whose statutes and rules of procedure will incorporate participatory principles, and on the results of the development and subsequent completion of participatory documents should be better available.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	More frequent and better involvement of NGOs in AWB activities and development of documents will facilitate their access to information on policy and documentation development progress and will be better able to participate in the transparent monitoring and evaluation of the measures taken.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	Improving the participation of citizens in the development, implementation, and monitoring of adopted solutions is the main goal of the commitment. The commitment is specifically aimed at improving citizens' participation indirectly through increasing and improving the involvement of NGOs, their umbrella organisations and networks within their involvement in AWB and in the development of documents.



Commitment Planning				
Milestones	Foreseen outputs	Estimated date of completion	Persons concerned	
Preparatory phase for the pilot implementation of the methodology into practice	<p>1-2 meetings with ministries and other central administrative authorities and NGOs</p> <p>1 external expert involved</p> <p>2-3 central state administration bodies identified for pilot implementation</p>	30 June 2023	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Department of the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs)</p>	
			<p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p>	
			<p><b>Governmental sector</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice and other central administrative authorities</p>
			<p><b>NGOs</b></p>	<p>NGOs represented in the GCNPO and in its working bodies</p>
			<p><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></p>	<p>-</p>
Implementation phase – putting the methodology into practice within the participatory processes of ministries and other central administrative authorities	<p>2-3 central administrative authorities involved in the pilot implementation</p>	30 June 2024	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Department of the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs)</p>	
			<p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p>	
			<p><b>Governmental sector</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice and other central administrative authorities</p>
			<p><b>NGOs</b></p>	<p>NGOs represented in the GCNPO and in its working bodies</p>
			<p><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></p>	<p>-</p>



Final phase – in cooperation with central administrative authorities, evaluating the pilot testing of the methodology in practice and formulating follow-up recommendations in the field of participation.	1 evaluation of the pilot testing in practice, including the formulation of follow-up recommendations in the field of participation	31 December 2024	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Department of the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs)	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Justice and other central administrative authorities
			<b>NGOs</b>	NGOs represented in the GCNPO and in its working bodies
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.2 Improving the status of whistleblowers, including raising awareness of whistleblowing</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The commitment consists in legislative, educational, and awareness-raising activities, the aim of which is to improve the legal and social status of whistleblowers, including increasing public awareness of whistleblowing as such.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry of Justice		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
		Whistleblowing Working Commission	Parliament of the Czech Republic (within the normal course of the legislative process)
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 September 2022 – 31 December 2023		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The Czech Republic does not yet have a comprehensive legal framework for whistleblowing. Potential whistleblowers (persons who report their knowledge on any wrongdoing) are currently not sufficiently protected against the retaliatory measures that often fall upon them after they reported the wrongdoing. At the same time, confidential and trustworthy reporting channels for whistleblowing are not set up by law, except for service authorities. There is also a distorted (negative) perception of whistleblowers in society that does not reflect their personal courage and real contribution to the detection of unlawful behaviour and the prevention or correction of infringements. On the contrary, whistleblowers are often subject to social condemnation and misunderstanding.

This situation results in a reduced incentive for potential whistleblowers to report wrongdoing, the suppression of which is in the public interest. At the same time, the early detection of criminal or other unlawful activities based on the submitted reports is one of the necessary elements, which can bring about savings of public funds, averting a common threat or protecting people's lives and health.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The reasons for the above stigmatisation of whistleblowers can be seen both in the lack of legislation and in the societal attitude towards whistleblowers. The absence of legally enshrined secure reporting channels guaranteeing potential whistleblowers the protection of their identity, apart from Act No. 234/2014 Coll., on the Civil Service, and the relevant implementing provisions, is only one of the problems. Whistleblowers are not protected from retaliation, namely from employers, which may have a major impact on their professional and personal lives. Insufficient legal protection also sends a signal to society that the protection of whistleblowers is not a priority, which is further worsening their position.

The negative perception of whistleblowers by a significant part of society is the result of a combination of factors. The historical experience in the Czech Republic with informers during totalitarian regimes during the 20th century is obvious. The change in public perception of whistleblowers has been very slow since 1989. This is, among other things, due to a lack of awareness, which is largely addressed only by the non-profit sector.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

There is no specific provision for the protection of whistleblowers enshrined in Czech legislation, except for the protection of whistleblowers from the ranks of civil servants according to Government Regulation No. 145/2015 Coll., on Measures Related to the Reporting of Suspected Infringements in a Public Office. Whistleblowers are protected in criminal matters by general institutes of legal regulations against unlawful retaliation by the persons against whom the report was directed or by other persons who suffered damage as a result of the report.

A whistleblower is protected from certain retaliatory measures within the framework of the employment or service relationship, namely by the contents of the regulations governing the relevant legal relationship. All these legal regulations contain legislation in the field of employment or service relationship that significantly limits the discretion of the employer and protects the employee. However, the measures mentioned above do not provide whistleblowers with sufficiently credible, confidential, and accessible channels through which the report can be made to the employer or an external authority, nor do they provide specialised advisory or legal support that a whistleblower often needs prior to submitting a report.

As part of the fulfilment of the previous commitment enshrined in the Fifth Action Plan, the draft law on the protection of whistleblowers and the related amending law, aimed at implementing Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (the "Directive"), was prepared by the Ministry of Justice, approved by the Government and debated at first reading by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. However, with the end of the parliamentary

term, the debate on the draft laws was not completed and the draft laws will have to go through the legislative process again.

As of 17 December 2021, the Ministry of Justice, in relation to the direct vertical effect of the Directive not yet transposed, established an external reporting channel and a website containing relevant information on whistleblower protection under the Directive at its request at the address [oznamovatel.justice.cz](https://oznamovatel.justice.cz). The Ministry of Justice is also carrying out intensive methodological work, producing background material and actively communicating with entities at both the state and local level in relation to their obligation under the Directive to implement an internal reporting system.

At the time the Sixth Action Plan was being drawn up and discussed, the interdepartmental comment procedure was conducting on the draft laws re-submitted by the Ministry of Justice and only partially modified, and afterwards, the settlement of the submitted comments. In cooperation with a media expert consultant, documents were also prepared for the tender documentation for the public procurement relating to ensure a media campaign and the necessary public contracts were administered under the project "Intensification of the fight against corruption by raising awareness of the public sector with a focus on judges, law enforcement authorities, and public administration". Details of the fulfilment of the previous commitment of the Fifth Action Plan have been published quarterly on the Commitment Card at <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plany-nap/paty-akcni-plan-2020-2022/faze-implementace/zavazek-4-2-zvyseni-povedomi-o-problematice-oznamovatelu-protipravniho-jednani/>.

## 2. What solution do you propose?

The adoption of the Act on the Protection of Whistleblowers will, in addition to the implementation of the Directive, lead to the adoption of the first comprehensive legal regulation of the rules for reporting, the protection of whistleblowers, and the obligations of entities in the public and private sectors in the Czech Republic. The fact that the legislation on the protection of whistleblowers is based on the Directive will then send a clear signal to society that whistleblower protection is a priority at European Union level as well. The adoption of whistleblower protection rules emphasises their societal importance and, conversely, affects behaviour which is prejudicial to them as a result of reporting.

In relation to awareness-raising, the draft law under consideration sets assignments, inter alia, for the Ministry of Justice to collect and publish data on whistleblowing issues or to provide expert advice in this area. The Ministry of Justice will also continuously raise awareness of the status and social contribution of whistleblowers as part of its work.

The discussion and adoption of the proposed legislation will be synergistically accompanied by the implementation of the project  *"Intensifying the fight against corruption by raising public sector awareness with focus on judges, law enforcement agencies and public administration"*, which is part of the Good Governance Programme. The project includes the following range of

activities of an educational and informative nature aimed mainly at improving the social perception of whistleblowers:

a) creation of a comparative study to share good practice abroad, publication of this study on the website [korupce.cz](http://korupce.cz), b) media campaign aimed at promoting whistleblowing, c) international conference on whistleblower protection, d) a series of workshops and trainings for justice and public administration workers focused on the issue of whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers, creation of an e-learning course, e) ongoing publicity includes, among other things, informing about partial outputs of the project in the form of press releases and publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice ([justice.cz](http://justice.cz), [korupce.cz](http://korupce.cz)), f) statistical monitoring of reporting cases raised by whistleblowers, publication of statistics.

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

As a result of the introduction of comprehensive legislative protection for whistleblowers and the establishment of reporting channels, an increase in the number of credible reports of criminal offences or other unlawful activity is expected. This should result in a reduction of proceeds from corruption or other illegal activities that have been detected as a result of whistleblowing. The adoption of comprehensive legislation will then lead to an improvement in the status of whistleblowers in judicial or administrative proceedings, but also an improvement in the status of ex ante whistleblowers.

An essential part of the Ministry of Justice's activities will be the raising awareness of society on the topic of whistleblowing, which, together with the adoption of the draft law and the Directive itself, represents a fundamental step towards improving the perception of whistleblowers in the Czech society. A change in the perception of whistleblowers as denunciators by the public, but also by potential whistleblowers themselves, is crucial to the success of the proposed regulation. In this sense, the Ministry of Justice will provide whistleblowers with comprehensible information regarding the reporting procedure itself, present model situations, familiarize whistleblowers with information on protecting their identity and, last but not least, clearly inform the public about what retaliation measures are and how to defend against them and point out their undesirable nature.

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	Entities in both the public and private sectors will be required to inform potential whistleblowers about the possibility to raise a report and about the rules for protection against retaliation. In addition, the Ministry of Justice will also be required to publish information on combating unlawful activities (on the website <a href="http://korupce.cz">korupce.cz</a> ) and provide methodical and professional assistance in the whistleblower protection agenda.

2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Improving awareness of whistleblowing aims, inter alia, to increase the level of combating unlawful behaviour by public officials, to strengthen public control, including internal (in-house) preventive and control mechanisms. Corruption practices with a negative impact on society as a whole should thus be more easily detected and prosecuted.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	Increasing the initiative of whistleblowers through the adoption of the Whistleblower Protection Act and improving public awareness of their status and usefulness aims to increase the level of civic participation in public affairs. Whistleblowers will be more motivated to detect wrongdoings of their employers and will be entitled to publish information about the infringement if the conditions set by law are met.

<b>Commitment Planning</b>									
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Foreseen outputs</b>	<b>Estimated date of completion</b>	<b>Persons concerned</b>						
The adoption of the law on the protection of whistleblowers	Act on the Protection of Whistleblowers promulgated in the Collection of Laws and effective	1 July 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Justice <u><b>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</b></u> <table border="1" data-bbox="1057 1186 1448 1486"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1186 1224 1255"><b>Governmental sector</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1186 1448 1255">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1255 1224 1354"><b>NGOs</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1255 1448 1354">Whistleblowing Working Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1354 1224 1486"><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1354 1448 1486">Parliament of the Czech Republic</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governmental sector</b>	-	<b>NGOs</b>	Whistleblowing Working Commission	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	Parliament of the Czech Republic
<b>Governmental sector</b>	-								
<b>NGOs</b>	Whistleblowing Working Commission								
<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	Parliament of the Czech Republic								
Implementation of the project "Intensifying the fight against corruption by raising public sector awareness with focus on judges, law enforcement agencies and public administration"	a) creation of a comparative study to share good practice abroad, publication of this study on the	31 December 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Justice <u><b>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</b></u> <table border="1" data-bbox="1057 1648 1448 1894"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1648 1224 1717"><b>Governmental sector</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1648 1448 1717">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1717 1224 1759"><b>NGOs</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1717 1448 1759">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 1759 1224 1894"><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></td> <td data-bbox="1224 1759 1448 1894">-</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governmental sector</b>	-	<b>NGOs</b>	-	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-
<b>Governmental sector</b>	-								
<b>NGOs</b>	-								
<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-								



	<p>website <a href="http://korupce.cz">korupce.cz</a>,</p> <p>b) media campaign aimed at promoting whistleblowing,</p> <p>c) international conference on whistleblower protection,</p> <p>d) series of workshops and trainings for judiciary and public administration staff focused on the issue of whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers, creation of an e-learning course,</p> <p>e) ongoing publicity includes, among other things, informing about partial outputs of the project in the form of press releases and publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice (<a href="http://justice.cz">justice.cz</a>, <a href="http://korupce.cz">korupce.cz</a>),</p> <p>f) statistical monitoring of reporting cases raised by whistleblowers,</p>			
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	publication of statistics.			
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<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>4.3 Open data on education and the educational system</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	This is a follow-up commitment to the Fifth-Action-Plan commitment having the aim to expand the set of open data based on data in the administration of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on education and the educational system through the creation of a unified Information System in Education (EIS).		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
		professional public	The Czech School Inspectorate (CSI), the Centre for Education Results Recognition (CERR), the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic (NPI CR), regions, municipalities and other entities that are the founders of schools and educational facilities
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025		

### Problem Definition

#### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on its own, or via its subordinate organizations, combine data on education and the education system. At the same time, the Ministry will hold several public registers, in particular the core Register of Schools and School Facilities, the Register of Legal Persons and the Register of Universities and Accredited Programmes of Study. These data, which are primarily used to parametrize education policy or to finance the entire education system, currently represent a significant information potential for professionals and the

wider public. Although the data in aggregated form are largely publicly accessible, or rather provided in individual form by the ministry on public request, they are not, with exceptions, published as open data, or there is not enough metadata describing these datasets, which frequently causes a great administrative burden both to the applicant and to the data controller (provider) and, as a result, more difficult access to some data on education and the education system.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

Lack of human and financial capacities, problems with the implementation of public contracts in the field of development of information systems, legislative obstacles, and ambiguous interpretation of legislation.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Until now, individual solutions within individual institutions have been available, and data have been published without adequate metadata. The necessary scope of data required by law has been published.

In the framework of the Fifth Action Plan, a previous commitment to set up the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Departmental Information System (MEYS DIS) was incorporated. In view of the cancellation of the public contract for development of the MEYS DIS, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the dependence of the project on funding from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) when this project could not have been further extended, the MEYS subsequently decided to terminate the MEYS DIS project and to replace it with a successor project of the Education Information System (EIS), which will be fully financed from the state budget from the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Chapter 333).

Details of the fulfilment of the previous commitment of the Fifth Action Plan have been published quarterly on the Commitment Card at: <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plan-ny-paty-akcni-plan-2020-2022/faze-implementace/zavazek-4-3-otevrena-data-o-vzdelavani-a-vzdelavaci-soustave/>

#### 2. What solution do you propose?

The creation of the Education Information System (EIS), which, in contrast to the MEYS DIS, will be implemented in individual stages, the output of which will be specific functional units – **eEdu-I, eEdu-II and eEdu-III**.

The main objectives pursued by the establishment of an EIS (composed of eEdu functional units):

- Automation of support activities in agendas
- Availability of (public) departmental information from a single reference point
- Continued implementation of the eGovernment and Smart Administration principles, in particular:
  - o use of the services of Basic Public Administration Registers

- support of the shared public administration database - publication on eGON Service Bus
- support for full electronic submission
- support for Open Data publication
- Optimisation and consolidation of data in the department
- Agenda performance support
- Providing support functions to users (single login, securing access, and data based on defined authorisation)
- Centralisation of data publication within the EIS
- Process and methodological optimisation
- User-friendliness and customizability of EIS
- Data mining, working with data, sharing data, creating reports and compilation

In this regard, the EIS architecture will thus provide suitable mechanisms and functionalities for the processes of easier (automated) data publication, which are not optimal now (within the existing/replaced systems). Open data will be available both on the EIS's own portal and also published in the National Open Data Catalogue. At the same time, relevant data will be made available in ISSS/eGSB (Information Shared Service System / eGovernment Service Bus (eGSB),) for automated sharing of use within public (state) administration.

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The volume of published data on education and the educational system provided in the form of open data will increase. Data will be broken down by gender and other more detailed characteristics, where the data source allows. Within the data publication, the usability of the provided data by individual target groups, including the general public, will also be considered in accordance with the possibilities of the MEYS.

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The commitment ensures the expansion of the set of published open data and thereby increases the accessibility of public information collected by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, thus making a significant contribution to the use of this data by professionals and the general public and, as a result, improving the quality of the information published, promoting civic participation and, last but not least, transparency of public (state) administration.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	N/A
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development,	N/A

implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	
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<b>Commitment Planning</b>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Foreseen outputs</b>	<b>Estimated date of completion</b>	<b>Persons concerned</b>
Processing of <b>eEdu-I</b> input analyses	input analysis	31 July 2022	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			Governmental sector -
			NGOs -
Preparation of a detailed proposal for the implementation of <b>eEdu-I</b>	proposal for the implementation of <b>eEdu-I</b>	31 July 2022	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			Governmental sector -
			NGOs -
Creation of a functional <b>eEdu-I</b> environment and new computerisation of selected agendas	functional <b>eEdu-I</b> environment	31 March 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			Governmental sector -
			NGOs -
Preparation of public contract for <b>eEdu-II</b>	tender documentation of the public contract for <b>eEdu-II</b>	31 March 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>

			Governmental sector	-
			NGOs	-
			Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-
Implementation of <b>eEdu-II</b> public contract	Contract with <b>eEdu-II</b> supplier	31 December 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			Governmental sector	-
			NGOs	-
			Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-
Implementation, testing, pilot operation of <b>eEdu-I</b>	evaluation of <b>eEdu-I</b> pilot operation	31 July 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			Governmental sector	-
			NGOs	-
			Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-
Full acceptance of <b>eEdu-I</b>	final version of <b>eEdu-I</b> accepted by MEYS	31 August 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			Governmental sector	-
			NGOs	-
			Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-

<p>Implementation of <b>eEdu-II</b></p>	<p>Functions of <b>eEdu-II</b> are incorporated into <b>eEdu-I</b></p>	<p>30 June 2025</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS</p> <p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1052 352 1453 588"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 352 1222 420">Governmental sector</td> <td data-bbox="1222 352 1453 420">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 420 1222 457">NGOs</td> <td data-bbox="1222 420 1453 457">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 457 1222 588">Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</td> <td data-bbox="1222 457 1453 588">-</td> </tr> </table>		Governmental sector	-	NGOs	-	Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-
Governmental sector	-									
NGOs	-									
Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-									
<p>Preparation of public contract for <b>eEdu-III</b> <i>Alternatively, the option of incorporating the agendas for <b>eEdu-III</b> stage already into <b>eEdu-II</b> stage is being considered. This would implement the EIS concept to the extent originally intended already in <b>eEdu-II</b>.</i></p>	<p>tender documentation of the public contract for <b>eEdu-III</b> (if it is needed)</p>	<p>31 August 2024</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> MEYS</p> <p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1052 749 1453 1171"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 749 1222 819">Governmental sector</td> <td data-bbox="1222 749 1453 819">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 819 1222 856">NGOs</td> <td data-bbox="1222 819 1453 856">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1052 856 1222 1171">Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</td> <td data-bbox="1222 856 1453 1171">-</td> </tr> </table>		Governmental sector	-	NGOs	-	Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-
Governmental sector	-									
NGOs	-									
Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)	-									

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.4 Expanding and making available data in the Strategy Database system</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	Access to strategy document data in the Strategy Database throughout the strategic cycle. It is important to ensure connection to the project base, to modify the environment for different types of users and to improve the quality of work with data presentation.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry for Regional Development		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
	Members of the Strategy Database Working Group (SDWG)	National Healthy Cities Network of the Czech Republic (NHCN), professional public	relevant platforms at national level dealing with strategic work, data, or analytics.
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The commitment addresses the dissemination of and making available data and information on strategic documents at the level of the public administration of the Czech Republic, the link to projects or plans and other relevant systems, the adaptation of the Strategy Database environment to an extended role and focusing the presentation of data and information on a wide range of their different recipients. The commitment relates mainly to the public administration apparatus dealing with strategic management and planning, namely (1) the need to maximise the supply of relevant data and information to the Strategy Database and (2) the opportunity of drawing on and using these information resources in various forms to improve its activities.

The Ministry for Regional Development is the manager/implementing agency of strategic management and planning in public administration and as such oversees, among other things, the Strategy Database system ("Database"), which is a tool for work with documents of a strategic nature and their library. The database is filled with a range of information and data that are

available on the Database website or in its internal environment but are not published in the form of so-called Open Data, nor are they linked to other relevant systems. At the same time, there is no authority to require the introduction of information on strategic documents into the system, which results in large differences in the approach of individual institutions to the work with the Database itself.

Efforts to link strategic and project planning also exist, but so far only in certain areas/topics. However, a more complex interconnection between strategic documents on the one hand and projects or project plans on the other is not available. This interconnection is thus one of the important points of the commitment. It is also necessary to adapt the database environment to new roles and to improve the form in which data or information are presented to their different recipients (public, professionals, managers, political level, etc.).

## **2. What are the causes of the problem?**

There is an increasing need to work with data within strategic planning and management and to interconnect it to other relevant systems; the current situation has also been caused by a period of lower political support for strategic management and planning/strategic thinking; the extreme number of strategic documents compared to other European countries; lack of human and financial capacity; some legal and technical obstacles.

Based on EC or OECD surveys, the Czech Republic has been considered average or slightly below average in strategic management and planning in recent years. The Ministry for Regional Development seeks to strengthen this position, inter alia, by further developing the Strategy Database, the existence of which, on the other hand, has been appreciated by many EU states.

## **Commitment Description**

### **1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

The Strategy Database was created in 2012 and since then has been continuously filled with strategic documents and further developed (in one-year steps, using small amounts of funding). The system as such is administrated by the National Healthy Cities Network (NHCCN), the implementing agency is the Ministry for Regional Development. At the same time, a working group has been set up to fill in and develop the database, to which representatives from individual departments and regions have been nominated.

The cooperation works at the working group level, with ministries and regions but the absence of powers to require specific activity from individual institutions divides them into more active and less active ones, resulting in incomplete information in the system (even so, the database contains many strategic documents, for which the representatives of these institutions are to be thanked). Several years ago, there was an increased government interest in improving strategic planning and management, with guidance from the management of the institutions to work with the Strategy Database. Unfortunately, in recent years, the interest of the institutions in working with the database has declined, nevertheless, the commitment aims to increase the interest dynamically.



**2. What solution do you propose?**

Gradually transform the Strategy Database towards a system that serves as a reference register for the area of strategic work in the public administration of the Czech Republic. This means, in particular, making available data and information on strategic documents at the level of the public administration of the Czech Republic, the link to projects or plans and other relevant systems, the adaptation of the Database environment to an extended role and focusing the presentation of data and information on a wide range of their different recipients and other. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure maximum filling of the system with data and information - there are more means to ensure this, from better communication with relevant partners, through political support, to preferred imposition of obligations (according to levels). Only a system with a high percentage of documents in place can be adequately further linked and widely used for strategic work in public administration.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

There will be an increase in the volume of published data on strategy documents in the public administration of the Czech Republic in general and those that will be provided in the form of open data.

Apart from this commitment, the Ministry for Regional Development will deal with a number of other activities that are listed in the specific objective 3.4 "Increasing the importance and quality of implementation of the strategic management" in the concept of Client-oriented Public Administration 2030 of the Czech Republic and that by 2030 should contribute to the fact that in the Czech public administration (and not only there), our vision will be achieved, i.e., 1) PEOPLE = there are quality strategists who can think and reflect strategically and manage and implement strategies well, 2) SKILLS = strategists possess knowledge and know-how, use available relevant strategic tools, methods and approaches, 3) QUALITY = there are high-quality, understandable, and implementable strategies and, above all, the will to manage strategically and pursue the planned change.

**Analysis of the commitment**

Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The Commitment ensures an increase in the volume of published general information and open data in the field of strategic management and planning, thereby increasing the availability of public information compiled by the Ministry for Regional Development. This will allow the data to be used by professionals and the general public. In general, it improves the quality of published information, supports citizen participation and, last but not least, the transparency of public (state) administration.

<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>Any improvement in strategic management and planning is a shift in the accountability of public institutions towards the public. This specific case involves a clearer cycle of strategic documents, a link to specific projects or plans, the possibility of planning the use of financial resources, increased transparency of activities, fewer duplicative activities, achieving greater synergies and complementarities, etc. At the same time, there is an interest for the public to know the current basic status of the preparation or implementation of individual documents.</p>
<p>3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?</p>	<p>If the author/implementer of the strategic document is interested, the public will also be able to participate in selected processes through the Strategy Database.</p>

Commitment Planning				
Milestones	Foreseen outputs	Estimated date of completion	Persons concerned	
<p>Analytical preparation of the Strategy Database system transformation</p>	<p>analysis of the environment (findings that will result in specific requirements for the technicalities of the Strategy Database transformation solution, beyond the scope of existing knowledge)</p>	<p>31 March 2023</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development</p>	
			<p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p>	
			<p><b>Governmental sector</b></p>	<p>SDWG members</p>
			<p><b>NGOs</b></p>	<p>National Healthy Cities Network (NHCN)</p>
<p><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></p>	<p>relevant platforms, output provider</p>			

Preparation of substantive and technical solutions for the transformation of the Strategy Database	Material containing substantive and technical solutions to the transformation of the Strategy database	31 July 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	SDWG members
			<b>NGOs</b>	National Healthy Cities Network (NHCN)
	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>		relevant platforms, output provider	
Signing a contract with a technical solution supplier	a contract signed with the supplier of the technical solution based on the public contract implemented	31 December 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	-
			<b>NGOs</b>	-
	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>		-	
Transformation of the Strategy Database	transformed Strategy Database system	31 December 2025	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	SDWG members
			<b>NGOs</b>	National Healthy Cities Network (NHCN)
	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>		relevant platforms, technical solution provider	

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.5 Involvement of the public in the monitoring of public procurement</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The involvement of an independent participating observer in the procurement procedure and the implementation of the contract strengthens the anti-corruption resilience of public procurement. One of the tools is the Integrity Pacts <sup>2</sup> , whose wider use is hampered by low awareness of the tool among contracting authorities and the public.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry for Regional Development		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Transparency International Česká republika, o.p.s.	
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	2023–2024		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Public procurement is subject to a substantial risk of corruption in view of the volume of transactions and financial interests of the parties concerned, the complexity of the process or the number of entities involved in the awarding of public contracts. Traditionally, public procurement has been associated with a high percentage of bribery offences. As a result of corruption, the contracting authority may not achieve the highest quality of performance in relation to the resources spent. The impacts can thus be seen in the wasteful, inefficient, and ineffective use of public funds, both from the point of view of the public budgets themselves and from the point of view of individuals or the wider society. This can be prevented by greater involvement of the civil society in the control over procurement procedures and the implementation of the public contracts. However, this civil control is currently insufficient. At the same time, the public may

<sup>2</sup> Read more on <https://www.transparency.cz/projekty/pakty-integrity/>.

feel mistrust of the procurement procedure. Public involvement can help build confidence in the effectiveness of procurement procedures and how public funds are spent in this way.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

On average, 14% of GDP is spent on public contracts in the European Union. This is a significant amount of public funds, for which some persons involved may be interested in their non-transparent distribution. Factors such as conflict of interest, various agreements of participants in procurement procedures to influence the outcome of the procurement (e.g., *bid rigging*), insufficient accountability of persons involved, systemic corruption, etc. might play a role here.

At the same time, the involvement of civil control in the procurement and the implementation of public contracts appears to be insufficient. This may be due to the complexity of the procurement legislation, amendments, and fulfilment of public procurement commitments, or the lack of support for civil control by contracting authorities.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Public involvement in the public procurement takes place regularly through the participation of representatives of the civil society in evaluation committees. More or less systematic monitoring of public procurement is carried out by some non-profit organisations, either based on their own activities or an external initiative. Transparency International Česká republika has been or is involved in the external monitoring of several public contracts directly through the Integrity Pact tool.

#### 2. What solution do you propose?

It is necessary to seek new and effective methods to control the awarding of public contracts and their implementation, including through the support of public participation in this control. Integrity Pacts can also be a monitoring tool as a tool of public control and prevention of corruption, which is increasingly used in Europe.

Integrity pacts can serve a preventive function in the sense of preventing corrupt behaviour, but also, to a certain extent, a redressal function by alerting to wrongdoing after it has been detected (whistleblowing). Wider involvement of civil society in the awarding and implementation of public contracts can also lead to greater confidence in the effective management of public administration and public administration as a whole.

#### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Through systematic raising awareness of the public, training, or other educational and promotional activities, the general public will be informed about the possibilities, meaning, and purpose of involvement in the awarding and implementation of public contracts, thereby motivating the public to participate.

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	Increased involvement of the civil society in decision-making processes on the allocation of public funds undoubtedly increases transparency in the management of public assets and relevant decision-making processes.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	In addition to the ex-post control by the public authorities, civil control over the course of procurement procedures, and the subsequent implementation of public contracts is important. This will reinforce the accountability of the persons representing the contracting authority, in particular, where they are elected representatives.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	The commitment aims directly at the participation of citizens in decision-making processes by monitoring the progress and implementation of public procurement.

Commitment Planning				
Milestones	Foreseen outputs	Estimated date of completion	Persons concerned	
Basic information about the involvement of the public in procurement procedures for the public.	A document detailing the possibilities of involving the public as an independent participant observer in procurement procedures aimed at the public.	1 June 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):
			<b>NGOs</b>	TI ČR
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-

<p>Basic information about the involvement of the public in procurement procedures for contracting authorities.</p>	<p>A document detailing the possibilities of involving the public as an independent participant observer in procurement procedures aimed at contracting authorities.</p>	<p>1 June 2023</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development</p> <p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1044 394 1446 657"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 394 1206 489"><b>Governmental sector</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 394 1446 489">Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 499 1206 531">NGOs</td> <td data-bbox="1214 499 1446 531">TI ČR</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 541 1206 657"><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 541 1446 657">-</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):	NGOs	TI ČR	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-
<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):								
NGOs	TI ČR								
<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-								
<p>Informing contracting authorities about practical experience with Integrity Pacts.</p>	<p>Participation of the TI of the Czech Republic in a conference aimed at a wider spectrum of contracting authorities with a contribution on Integrity Pacts.</p>	<p>31 December 2023</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs</p> <p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1044 867 1446 1129"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 867 1206 961"><b>Governmental sector</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 867 1446 961">Ministry for Regional Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 972 1206 1003">NGOs</td> <td data-bbox="1214 972 1446 1003">TI ČR</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 1014 1206 1129"><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 1014 1446 1129"></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry for Regional Development	NGOs	TI ČR	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	
<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry for Regional Development								
NGOs	TI ČR								
<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>									
<p>Education in the field of public involvement in procurement procedures and other activities</p>	<p>Conduct workshops on Integrity Pacts and public participation in procurement procedures for various target groups.</p>	<p>31 December 2024</p>	<p><b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development</p> <p><b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1044 1360 1446 1644"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 1360 1206 1455"><b>Governmental sector</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 1360 1446 1455">Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 1465 1206 1497">NGOs</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1465 1446 1497">TI ČR</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1044 1507 1206 1644"><b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 1507 1446 1644">-</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):	NGOs	TI ČR	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-
<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA):								
NGOs	TI ČR								
<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	-								

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.6 Increasing transparency and methodical support for the awarding of small-scale public contracts</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The goal is to find agreement on the key principles in the awarding of small-scale public contracts so that key data serving, among other things, for public control over the awarding of public contracts is available.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry for Regional Development		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
		Transparency International Česká republika, o.p.s. Oživení, z.s.	Datlab s.r.o.
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	2023		

Problem Definition
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Several hundred billion crowns are invested annually through small-scale public contracts (i.e., public contracts worth CZK 2 million without VAT in the case of services and supplies, or CZK 6 million in construction works). However, such a significant impact of public funds is not subject to clearly defined rules, and the supervision of processes is rather complex. On the other hand, in terms of administrative efficiency in spending resources in the order of, for example, only tens/hundreds of thousands of crowns, it is obvious that the system cannot be burdened by complex rules. It is therefore necessary to find a balance between both views.</p>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>Small-scale public contracts (SSPC) are not clearly regulated – as is the case with other higher-value public procurement, for example. In terms of the effectiveness of the process/administration of the expenditure of resources under the SSPC, this would not be a problem if there were no high probability of corrupt or non-transparent behaviour and if the State had and evaluated accurate data in this area. The limitation of the data is also related to the limitation of civil control, but also possible mistrust of potential suppliers.</p>



Commitment Description
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p> <p>The key is the functioning of the Register of Contracts, where control can take place for all transactions with a value of over CZK 50,000. Furthermore, the practice is relatively fragmented – it often depends on the strictness of internal rules. There are similar rules at ministerial level, which have historically been influenced by the rules for public procurement on electronic marketplaces. The situation at local government level is very different.</p>
<p><b>2. What solution do you propose?</b></p> <p>It is necessary to provide key data concerning the awarding of small-scale public contracts. That is, how structured is the market in this area, what are the approaches of contracting authorities, how does their behaviour differ at the level of SSPC/sub-limit public contracts.</p> <p>Furthermore, agreement must be found on the basic rules of operation – i.e., where is the balance between the effectiveness of the administration and the added value in terms of transparency. The consensus that needs to be found among the key actors in this field, however, needs to be found on the basis of accurate data.</p>
<p><b>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b></p> <p>In general, improving the work with data in the case of SSPC, thereby increasing transparency, finding key rules for the process of awarding SSPC, and thus also setting a balance in the approach to SSPC.</p>

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	Increased data transparency and enhanced methodological support undoubtedly increase the transparency of public asset management.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Increased transparency and methodological support will lead to a better understanding of the processes and data in SSPC, and thereby also to increased accountability of the persons representing the contracting authority, where they are elected representatives.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	The commitment ensures a better overview of SSPC and possibly citizens' understanding of decision-making processes.

Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Foreseen outputs	Estimated date of completion	Persons concerned
Obtaining more accurate data about SSPC for further decision-making	Analysis of key data related to the awarding of SSPC and sub-limit public contracts by the structure of contracting authorities.	1 March 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			<b>Governmental sector</b>   -
			<b>NGOs</b>   Oživení / TI ČR
Establishment of working group (s) to address issues of SSPC transparency and SSPC limits	The functioning of working groups with a clear content and goals of the work, which will allow finding a consensus between the public and NGOs sectors	1 August 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			<b>Governmental sector</b>   -
			<b>NGOs</b>   TI ČR, Oživení
Developing key negotiation outputs and their reflection in contract practice	Ensuring that the work outputs of the individual WGs are incorporated into the contract practice, in particular with regard to training processes and methodological support	31 December 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry for Regional Development
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			<b>Governmental sector</b>   -
			<b>NGOs</b>   TI ČR, Oživení
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>   Datlab
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>   -

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.7 Transparency of grants provided by the state</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	This is a follow-up to the Fifth Action Plan commitment to ensure transparency of grants provided by the state in a structured form for the public.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry of Finance		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
	other administrative authorities	central Government Anti-Corruption and in its working bodies	
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024		

Problem Definition
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unavailability of all information on grants in one place in a user-friendly form. There is no possibility to display the grant to a consolidation unit, for example a corporate group.</li> <li>● Grant providers sometimes do not know about each other that they are granting the same entity. They lack a tool for this (for example, a recent case <a href="#">here</a>).</li> <li>● Insufficient public control – active citizens and organisations often still must request some information on grants under Act 106/1999 Coll.</li> <li>● High administrative costs due to the large number of systems and formats for publishing grant information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disclosure of information on grants in many places and in different forms and to different extents. For example, grants provided by the State Agricultural Intervention Fund are not included in the ReD system.</li> <li>● Establishment of user-opaque systems that contained information on grants only for specific grant providers.</li> </ul>

- Failure to comply with the schedule: Mrs. Dostálová, a former Minister, announced in September 2019 on "Václav Moravec's Questions" that the central grant register is being completed and will be launched in 2020.

## Commitment Description

### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- A central IS ReD grant system has been established at the Ministry of Finance.
- Some older systems (such as DotInfo) have stopped working.
- As part of the Fifth Action Plan, consultations were carried out regarding the further development of grant transparency (commitment "4.5 Consultation on the possibility of creating a comprehensive publicly accessible open-data aggregated database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles" under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice):
  - two public consultations were held to which the stakeholders concerned were invited;
  - The first consultation took place on 21 June 2021 and was attended by representatives of the state administration (MI, MH, MF, MC, SAIF), local government (UTM CR) and the non-profit sector (Frank Bold, Hlídač státu, Transparency International CR). here: <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2021-06-21-Zaznam-z-verejnych-konzultaci-k-zavazku-OGP-c.-4.5.pdf>;
  - the second consultation took place on 30 September 2021, and in addition to the participants of the first consultation, it was attended by other representatives of the state administration (Ministry for Regional Development, MH, MEYS, MFA, MIT), local government (Association of Local Governments of the Czech Republic, Association of Regions of the Czech Republic), the non-profit sector (Oživení) and other concerned entities ( GA CR, Czech Academy of Sciences, TA CR), the record is available here: <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2021-09-30-Zaznam-z-verejnych-konzultaci-k-zavazku-OGP-c.-4.5.pdf>;
  - the output of the consultations was the final report, subsequently drawn up and published, now available here <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Zaverecna-zprava-zavazek-4.5-OGP.pdf>;
  - during the consultations, current information systems were discussed and two main possible paths to solve the problem were identified:
    - creation of a new grant system;
    - creating an open formal standard for subsidies and defining a common minimum set of data to be provided;
  - in case of creation of a new grant system:
    - a completely new information system would have to be created;
    - the option appears to be uneconomical and inexpedient in the context of existing functioning systems created by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Regional Development and Ministry of Interior, which export data in open formats;
  - in the case of an open formal standard for subsidies:

- it would be an adaptation of existing systems to publish data in a uniform format, i.e., to create a single open formal standard;
- on the basis of which all grant systems would provide the same information, or the same sets of information;
- the definition of an open formal standard from 2015 (from the effective date of amendment No. 222/2015 Coll.) is set by Section 3(9) of Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on free access to information, as amended;
- As part of this consultation, it was opted for an open formal standard for grants over the creation of a completely new information system;
- part of the final report was also a proposal for further action:
  - approval of a common minimum range of data standardised by an open formal grant standard;
  - identification of the necessary technical modifications of the information systems and registers used;
  - defining an open formal grant standard;
  - publication of data in a uniform format – decentralized, catalogued in the National Open Data Catalogue;
  - discussion on the establishment of a grants portal ("signpost") combining unified exported data.

## 2. What solution do you propose?

- Decision regarding further direction for disclosure of grants.
- Development of the Register of Subsidies at the Ministry of Finance, which currently serves as a record-keeping system in which data on subsidies, repayable financial assistance and other similar transfers provided from the state budget, state funds, state financial assets or the National Fund are processed. Their providers are obliged to record data on them and their beneficiaries in the central register of grants, or to transmit these data to the register from other registers, if they contain specified data (Section 75(b) of Act No. 218/2000 Coll. "Budgetary Rules"). The content and scope of the data recorded or transmitted to the central register of subsidies and the procedures and deadlines that providers comply with during this recording and transmission are determined by Decree No. 286/2007 Coll.
- Carrying out a technical and legal analysis and, based thereon, implementing further IS development in the following areas:
  - Information on all European and national grants paid by the Czech Republic (so far without funds from territorial self-governing units) - including all subsidies granted from state funds and provided by controlled or controlling organizations, (note that some of these data have already been sent to the system according to Section 75(b) of the Act on Budgetary Rules by obliged entities).
  - It will contain a sufficient overview of the individual grants - not only the aid amount, but also information about the grant title, decision or public law contract based on which the grant is provided (note that some of these data are already listed in the system according to Section 75(b) of the Act on Budgetary Rules).
  - The IS will be modernized to be intuitive and user-friendly.

- It will be publicly available in a format for further use.
- The possibility of automated consolidation of grants (concerns) will be examined and a suitable solution chosen. If necessary, a proposal to supplement the obligation for the parent company of the group to file data contained in the corporate governance report in a machine-readable format so that data on grants can be consolidated, will be considered.
- The IS will enable other public sector entities to be connected. The possibility of their involvement in the IS as grant providers will be discussed with local self-government bodies.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

- Public control, thanks to which we will achieve a high level of transparency in the allocation of grants.
- Reduction of administrative burden in the publishing of information on grants.
- Verifiable data on the total amount of grants for consolidation units in public-interest entities.
- Assistance to grant providers who lack mutual sharing information between themselves for optimal and effective achievement of grant policy objectives.

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer (If not applicable, answer N/A.)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	In a very fundamental way, because information on grants provided by the state will be clearly published in one place.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Grant providers will have better information for awarding grants.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	This is essential because the access by citizens will allow for better public control over the use of public money.

<b>Commitment Planning</b>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Foreseen outputs</b>	<b>Estimated date of completion</b>	<b>Persons concerned</b>
Decision on the technical implementation method and on how to take into account consolidation	Supplementing the methodology. Where appropriate, consideration in draft legislation.	1 April 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Finance
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			<b>Governmental sector</b>   Ministry for Regional Development, state funds
			<b>NGOs</b>   Organizations represented in the Government Anti-Corruption
Implementation of a version of the information system with complete information on grants provided by the state and its organizations	An information system that is intuitive to use and consistent with the methodology.	31 December 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Finance
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>
			<b>Governmental sector</b>   Ministry for Regional Development
			<b>NGOs</b>   Organizations represented in the Government Anti-Corruption Council
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>   -

<b>Country</b>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		
<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<i>4.8 Improving the quality of beneficial ownership records data - analysis and proposal of measures</i>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	To analyse the effectiveness and possible shortcomings of the functioning of the beneficial ownership register and to propose possible changes and measures to improve the quality of data in the beneficial ownership register.		
<b>Implementing Agency of the Commitment</b>	Ministry of Justice		
<b>Supporting Participants / Co-Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>For the Government Sector</b>	<b>For Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>
	other administrative authorities	central Government Anti-Corruption Council and in its working bodies	Parliament
<b>Commitment Implementation Period</b>	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- The Register of Beneficial Owners (RBO) is intended to be a reliable and up-to-date source of information, a service for a wide range of users. However, in view of the volume of data recorded, the records may in many cases contain inaccurate and outdated data or may be missing altogether.
- The potential high error rate and possible unreliability of the data in the register reduce its usability. Therefore, its potential to streamline several processes in which the beneficial owner is examined (awarding grants, conclusion of public contracts, application of international sanctions, client control under the AML Act, etc.) is not fulfilled.
- It is not clear to what extent the records are reliable. According to the Ministry of Justice, approximately 10% of entities failed to comply with their registration obligation (as of November 2022). Data from non-governmental organizations point to, for example, the error rate in the registrations of entities with ties to Russia. However, a comprehensive assessment of the quality and up-to-dateness of the data is lacking.



## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

- The Register of Beneficial Owners is a relatively new information system and the beneficial owner's institute has only been used to a greater extent (outside the AML area) in recent years. The reasons for potentially poor-quality data in the register and its unreliability may be multiple. It should be added that a comprehensive quantification of the problem, i.e., an assessment of the degree to which the records are unreliable or reliable, has not yet been carried out.
- The causes of the problem and their severity have not yet been clearly identified and analysed. However, it is tentatively considered that, when examining the main causes, attention should be paid to:
  - possible inadequate analytical work with the data in the register, lack of connection with other state administration systems or inadequate use of information technology capabilities in the management of the register (use of automated functions, calls, checks, etc.),
  - insufficient or inconsistent verification of information (including ownership structures) submitted for registration,
  - limited knowledge and tools of persons making entries and persons addressing discrepancies in the records, respectively the complexity of the issue of determining the real owners, which requires considerable erudition,
  - setting-up a system of sanctions with regard to efficiency, proportionality, administrative burden, and dissuasive effects,
  - rate of inactive or non-contact registering persons.

## Commitment Description

### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- The beneficial ownership registration in its current form was introduced on 1 June 2021 and its functioning and use have not yet been evaluated. The information system underwent partial changes following the amendment of the Act on the Register of Beneficial Owners (amending the definition of beneficial owner). Training of senior court officials and notaries in matters of determining beneficial ownership is underway. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Financial Analytical Office, has prepared and published an extensive information material, guide to registering beneficial owners.

The Government approved in their Programme Statement:

- We will enforce rules for transparent evidence of the beneficial ownership of companies that receive subsidies, investment incentives, and obtain public contracts.
- We are going to pass more laws to enhance transparency in public administration and prevent and punish corruption. We will also take other measures for this purpose, namely by establishing a single public register of grants and linking the data managed there with the beneficial ownership register, so that information on the recipients of public funds, including

<p>their beneficial owners, is freely available to the public in a transparent and remotely accessible form.</p>
<p><b>2. What solution do you propose?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First, it is necessary to confirm the existence of foreseeable problems and identify their extent. Subsequently, it is necessary to analyse the individual possible causes of the described problems. In the light of the identified causes, possible solutions, whether legislative or non-legislative, should be analysed and proposed. The analysis should address the evaluation of the benefits and options, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ changes to the sanctions system,</li> <li>○ changes in the handling of irregularities (unification of procedures, increased expertise, charging for the change in registration by the court in irregularity proceedings)</li> <li>○ the introduction of automated mechanisms in the information system (with focus on reducing the administrative burden)</li> <li>○ changes in the evaluation of proposals and registration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the most reliable, accurate and up-to-date information about beneficial owners in RBO.</li> </ul>

Analysis of the commitment	
Questions	Answer <i>(If not applicable, answer N/A.)</i>
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The higher quality of data in the register significantly enhances transparency and confidence in legal entities and legal arrangements.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Fundamentally. With a functional RBO, contracting authorities and grant providers will work with credible data. A higher quality of the data in the register will make the processes of public contracting authorities and granting bodies more efficient and stronger.
3. How will this commitment improve citizens' participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of solutions adopted?	N/A

<b>Commitment Planning</b>				
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Foreseen outputs</b>	<b>Estimated date of completion</b>	<b>Persons concerned</b>	
Report on the state of progress of the analysis work and, where appropriate, summary of findings to date	Progress report on the completion of the milestone	1 June 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Justice	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Finance
			<b>NGOs</b>	State reconstruction, TI ČR, Datlab
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	Competent courts, Notarial Chamber of the Czech Republic
Analytical material to improve the quality of data in the register of beneficial owners (including proposals for possible measures)	Analytical material	31 August 2023	<b>Implementing agency:</b> Ministry of Justice	
			<b><u>Supporting participants / co-implementing agencies</u></b>	
			<b>Governmental sector</b>	Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Finance
			<b>NGOs</b>	State reconstruction, TI ČR, Datlab
			<b>Other (Parliament, private sector, etc.)</b>	Competent courts, Notarial Chamber of the Czech Republic

## 5 List of abbreviations

<b>AR CR</b>	Association of Regions of the Czech Republic
<b>AML</b>	measures against the legalisation of proceeds from criminal activity, <i>anti-money laundering</i>
<b>AV CR</b>	Czech Academy of Sciences
<b>Covid-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CERR</b>	Centre for Education Results Recognition
<b>CR</b>	Czech Republic
<b>CSI</b>	Czech School Inspectorate
<b>RBO</b>	Register of Beneficial Owners
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GA CR</b>	Grant Agency of the Czech Republic
<b>IRM</b>	Independent Review Mechanism
<b>IROP</b>	Integrated Regional Operational Programme
<b>IS ReD</b>	Register of grants from the budget/Central Register of Grants
<b>IS</b>	Information System
<b>EIS</b>	Education Information System
<b>MF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MC</b>	Ministry of Culture
<b>MMR</b>	Ministry for Regional Development
<b>MIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>MLSA</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
<b>MJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MEYS</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
<b>MI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>MH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>N/A</b>	Not Applicable .
<b>NC CR</b>	Notarial Chamber of the Czech Republic
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental non-profit organization
<b>NPI CR</b>	National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic
<b>NHCN</b>	National Healthy Cities Network of the Czech Republic
<b>OGP</b>	Open Government Partnership
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>OVM</b>	Václav Moravec's Questions
<b>AWB</b>	Advisory and working bodies
<b>SDWG</b>	Strategy Database Working Group
<b>RIA</b>	Regulatory Impact Assessment .
<b>DIS</b>	Departmental Information System
<b>GCNGO</b>	Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations
<b>UTM CR</b>	Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic
<b>ALG CR</b>	Association of Local Governments of the Czech Republic

**SAIF** State Agricultural Intervention Fund  
**TA CR** Technology Agency of the Czech Republic  
**TI CR** Transparency International Česká republika, o.p.s.  
**USA** United States of America  
**OG CR** Office of the Government of the Czech Republic  
**SSPC** Small-scale public contracts