

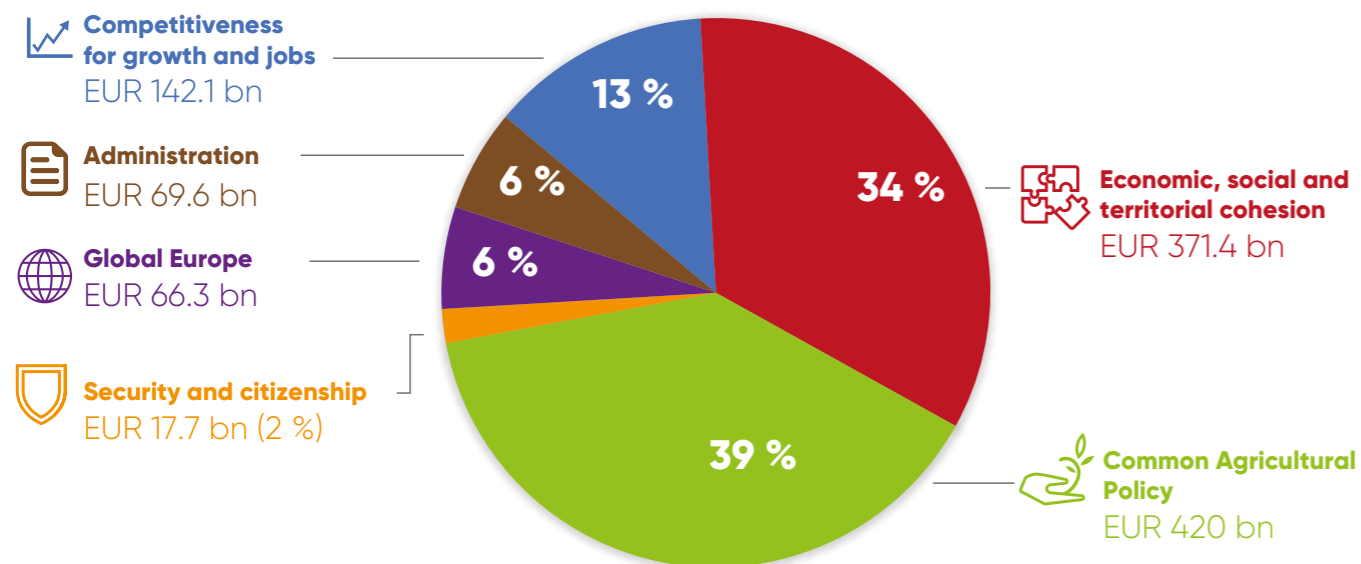


EUROPEAN UNION and Cohesion policy

COHESION POLICY in the Czech Republic

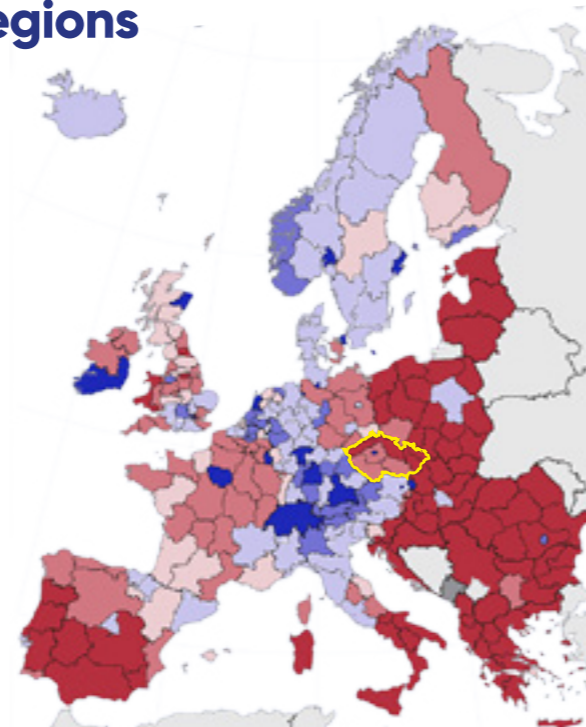


The structure of the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period More than a third of EUR 1,087 billion is directed at Cohesion policy.



Development level of European regions

- The amount of resources for each country varies according to the development level of its regions. **The highest level of support is provided to regions with the lowest GDP** compared to the EU average (in red on the map).
- That way, **stronger links** between the states are built and the **European identity** is strengthened. Furthermore, the European funds contribute to **improving the functioning of the single market and EU competitiveness**.
- The benefits are **mutual**. For example, every euro invested from Cohesion policy in the Visegrad Group countries generates 80 cents in the economies of the first 15 EU states. That is because, thanks to their economic growth, V4 states trade more with the other countries. Some projects are also implemented with the assistance of companies from other countries.



What is Cohesion policy?

Cohesion policy seeks to even out the disparities between developed and less developed regions of the EU.

How does Cohesion policy work?

European funds are targeted at the development needs of EU regions in seven-year programming periods, the 2014-2020 period is now underway.

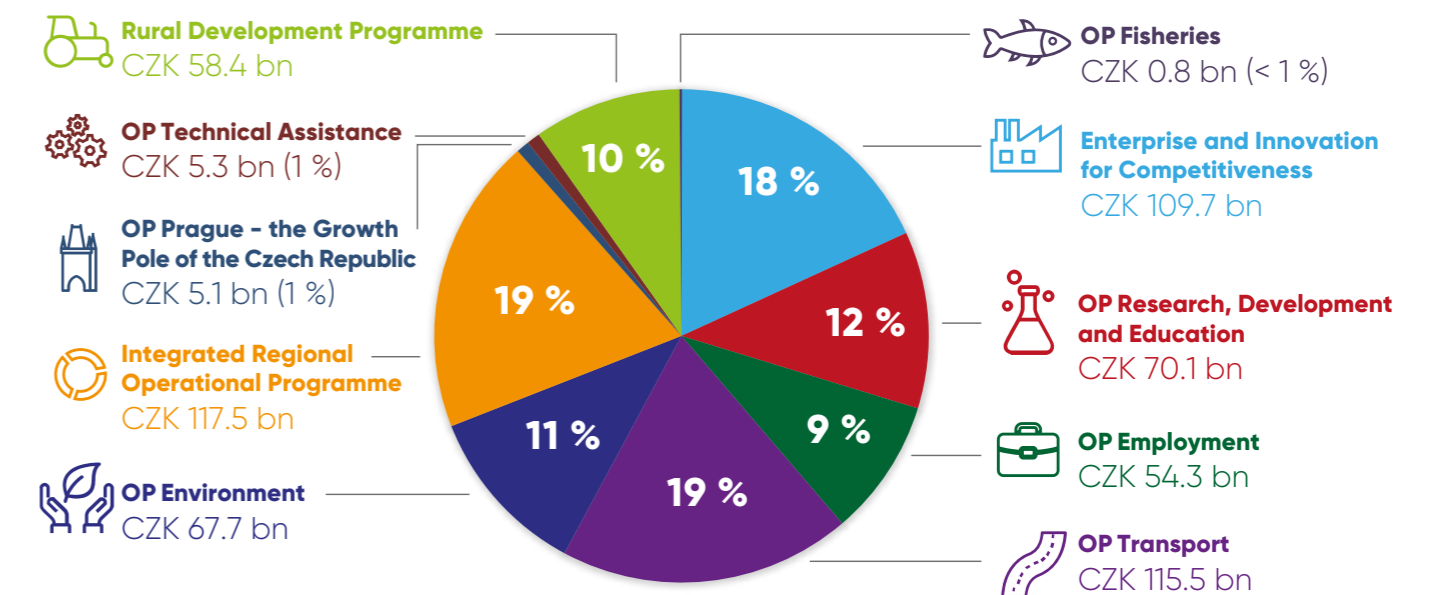
Where is the European funds support directed to?

European funds support a wide range of areas such as:

- the environment
- entrepreneurship and employment
- research and education
- transport



Distribution of funds among 10 operational programmes



What have we achieved with European funds?

In the 2007-2013 period, more than 70,000 projects worth CZK 676 billion were implemented.

Environment

European funds contribute to improving the quality of life by reducing the impact of human activity on the environment. Thanks to them, we breathe cleaner air, new sewer systems have been built and water is cleaner in rivers. In the Vltava river basin alone, water pollution has decreased in some treatment plants by tens of percent, even where the pollution was measured at a distance of several kilometres from the treatment plant.

 **159** new, reconstructed and intensified waste water treatment plants

 **684** newly acquired environmentally friendly vehicles in public transport

 **180** hectares of removed old environmental burden

Entrepreneurship and Employment

The funding aimed at business and employment helped the Czech Republic to overcome the economic crisis by creating jobs and supporting enterprises. Thanks to them, new products are marketed and production capacity is growing. Out of the enterprises supported, 61% managed to gain a competitive advantage and 91% marketed a new product.

 **8 454** projects to support small and medium-sized enterprises


 **4 520** innovations in manufacturing, organizational structure and marketing


 **99 929** new jobs

Education and research

Projects in education and research improve the competitiveness of scientific inquiry by attracting experts from abroad and by investing in specialized equipment. The support is also aimed at developing the competences of students. In the previous programming period, support from European funds was provided to over 90% of primary and 75% of secondary schools.

 **6 001** newly created jobs in research and development

 **6 619** students made use of the infrastructure or participated in the activities of the centre

 **8** newly built research centres of international importance

Transport

Due to its location in the centre of Europe, the Czech Republic needs significant investment in building infrastructure networks. Apart from building new roads and motorways, railway and bus stations, transfer terminals and cycle paths were also built. New vehicles were purchased for public transport.

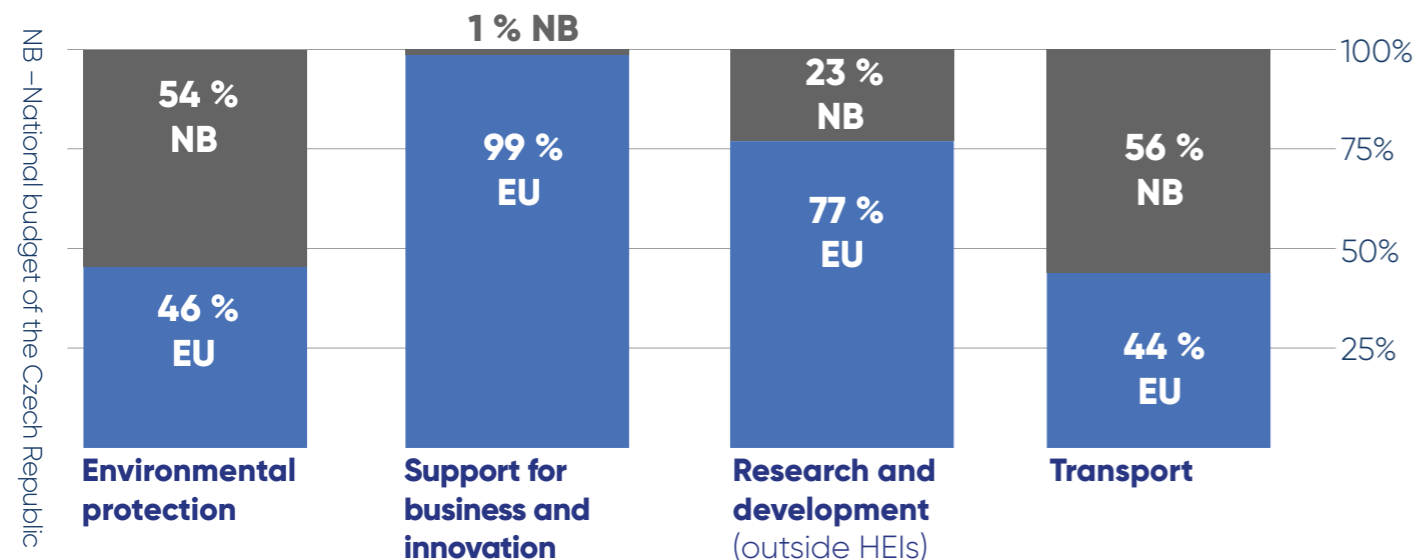
 **107** km of new motorways, expressways and class I roads - TEN-T

 **675** km of reconstructed railway lines

 **5,9** km of a new metro line

The share of EU funds in selected areas of public investment 2007-2015

Some areas of public investment are dependent on the European funds. Therefore, it is necessary to consider what will replace those funds after their appropriation for the Czech Republic will be reduced.



The Cohesion policy setting after 2020

Goals of the Czech Republic for negotiation

Seeking consensus among countries is not easy. The Czech Republic actively advocates the following priorities.

- maintaining the volume of funds
- reducing the number of areas of support
- greater flexibility in the use of the funds
- simplifying the implementation
- harmonizing the rules
- support for all regions

Challenges for the EU

The current issues play an important role in the negotiations about the next programming period..

- migration issues
- EU security and defence
- strengthening the euro area
- the UK withdrawal and the cut in funds

Areas of support in the Czech Republic

The appropriation for the Czech Republic will be reduced - so we have to carefully select which issues need to be addressed.

- digital economy
- technological changes
- ecosystem support
- needs of the aging population
- infrastructure building