



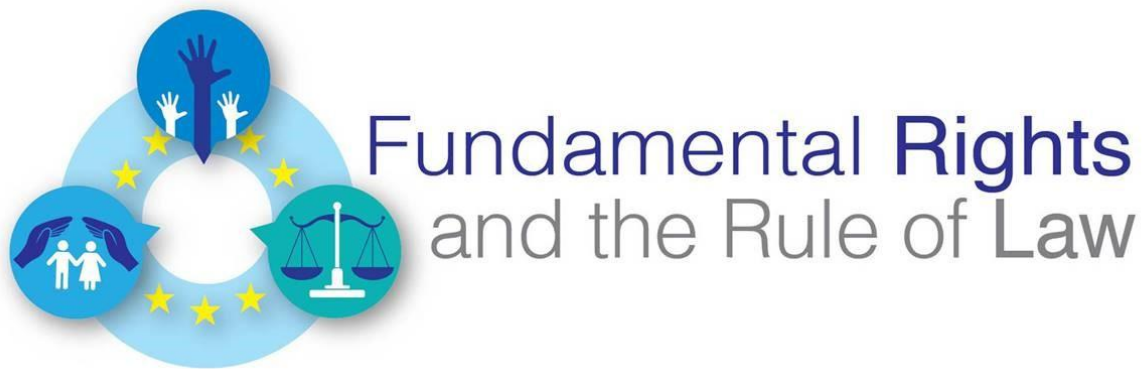
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Report on the visit to Czech Republic & Authorities' observations on the report

5-6 May 2026



European Economic
and Social Committee



Report on the visit to the Czech Republic, 5-6 May 2026

1. Fundamental rights of social partners

Participants acknowledged the existence of a **solid legal framework for the rights of social partners** and social dialogue in Czechia, in line with ILO and other international standards. The status of trade unions and employers' organisations is adequately protected by the Labour Code and related legislation governing social dialogue. Social partners described generally cooperative relations among themselves and with public authorities, which normally refrain from interfering in their internal affairs and involve them in legislative processes through established consultation procedures. This environment was considered conducive to balanced outcomes, including in areas such as migrant employment.

Participants broadly agreed that **tripartite dialogue** is well established and provides formal channels for input in mandatory consultation areas through regular exchanges, notably via working groups within key ministries. Employers stated that issues can be raised directly and that their views are generally taken into account. Trade union representatives, however, described more indirect engagement and greater reliance on digital tools. In some cases, they felt that their input was insufficiently reflected in legislative outcomes, while in others, such as the Public Service Media Bill, they considered that they had not been meaningfully involved.

With regard to **union coverage**, trade unions acknowledged the challenges linked to persistently low membership levels, partly due to historical factors. Foreign-owned companies were described as often more open to trade union engagement, while smaller Czech firms were said to perceive limited added value in such involvement. Isolated cases were reported in which employees were discouraged from joining unions or feared negative consequences, although this was not presented as a widespread practice.

Participants also discussed extensively the **EU dimension of social dialogue**, particularly EU funding and legislative developments. EU structural funds were considered useful in supporting social dialogue in complement to national mechanisms. Employers pointed out that recent EU initiatives strengthening employee rights, including in the areas of wages and transparency, have generated additional obligations and administrative burdens.

Concerning the **adequate minimum wages** directive, employer representatives stressed that implementation is taking place in a context of traditionally low unemployment and skills shortages. While they welcomed the directive's relatively simple design, they criticised the reporting obligations it introduced. Social partners agreed that the requirement to adopt an action plan on collective bargaining represented an opportunity to update the Czech framework dating from 1991, but differed on the appropriate approach. Employers favoured a gradual process based on analysis and sector-specific conditions, noting that collective bargaining coverage remains uneven across sectors, at around 40% overall, with higher coverage in mining, energy and the automotive industry and lower coverage in agriculture and hospitality. While appreciating the simplicity of the directive in its design, they observed that it also had created significant administrative burden in the implementation phase. Trade unions, by contrast, called for more rapid and ambitious measures, criticising the Czech action plan for relying mainly on non-binding instruments and offering limited follow-up through the dedicated working group. They also raised concerns regarding the abolition of the Czech 'guaranteed wage' mechanism in amendments to the Labour Code linked to implementation of the directive, which they considered contrary to the principle that implementation should not reduce existing levels of employee protection. At the conclusion of the visit, Czech authorities noted that collective bargaining coverage, while still below the EU target of 80%, has been increasing. They also underlined that Czechia was among the first Member States to adopt an action plan, approved in August 2025, developed with close involvement of the social partners and aimed at achieving consensus.

Regarding the **pay transparency directive**, employer representatives argued that existing Labour Code provisions already address equal pay and non-discrimination, limiting, in their view, the added value of further measures given their administrative complexity. They suggested that the gender pay gap in Czechia largely reflects sectoral differences rather than unequal pay for the same work. Trade union representatives acknowledged that the Czech legal framework can already be considered relatively strong in this area, but stressed that the main challenge lies in effective implementation of both the existing framework and the directive. In their view, improved data collection could therefore be beneficial.

2. **Freedom of association and freedom of assembly**

With regard to **developments since the previous 2021 visit**, civil society representatives described a clear deterioration. Trends that were already visible in 2021 were said to have become more prominent and widespread. According to participants, civil society has shifted from being perceived as a partner of public authorities in policymaking to a more confrontational position from the side of the new government, alongside increasing attempts by political actors to weaken its position and influence. At the same time, participants also referred to positive developments since 2021, notably in relation to LGBTIQ rights.

Participants nevertheless underlined the **resilience of Czech society and institutions**, which they considered a major asset in addressing pressures on rights and democracy. They highlighted public trust in the judiciary and widespread recognition of its independence. Czech society was also described as capable of strong civic mobilisation when required, including through large-scale demonstrations such as those organised by 'Million Moments for Democracy' against the so-called draft 'foreign agent' law and proposed reforms to public media financing. Participants reported no major systemic

restrictions on freedom of assembly and no recurring excessive use of force by law-enforcement authorities.

At the same time, participants warned that these strong institutions and traditions are increasingly strained by **growing societal polarisation**, linked to what they described as the 'oligarchisation' of political and economic elites. Civil society representatives referred to political narratives questioning the role of civil society, denying climate change or opposing environmental policies, which they said translate into reduced political support and funding. Participants recalled Czechia's long tradition of placing human rights at the centre of public policy, particularly in foreign affairs, but expressed concern that this political identity is weakening. They also highlighted increasing concentration of economic power in sectors such as agriculture and construction, linked to oligarchic structures influencing political decision-making.

According to participants, this climate risks **discouraging public participation**, particularly among younger people. CSOs were described as frequent targets of negative narratives and smear campaigns by the new governing coalition parties portraying them as political, corrupt or part of a supposed 'deep state', narratives that are allegedly reinforced by oligarch-owned media. Participants referred to what they perceived as an informal 'blacklist' of organisations considered unacceptable or overly political, allegedly leading to their gradual exclusion from public funding schemes and consultation processes. Czech authorities, by contrast, pointed to an improvement in relations between government and civil society, grounded in open government principles and a strategic framework replacing a largely top-down approach with one centred on partnership, including measures to involve CSOs more systematically in policymaking and in the implementation of EU funds mainly during the previous government.

Participants nevertheless observed fewer opportunities to contribute to policymaking, including reduced meetings of advisory bodies and less frequent reliance on expert and civil society input, while noting exceptions such as the education sector. They also expressed concern about what they perceived as the growing influence of private interests in lawmaking. Increasing **financial pressure on CSOs** was highlighted, characterised by reduced funding opportunities, greater unpredictability in allocation, shifting priorities and late funding decisions. Participants also referred to broader changes in funding strategies, including the apparent reallocation of EU structural funds from social inclusion towards infrastructure projects. Czech authorities stated that budgetary constraints affect all sectors of public life, not only civil society, while acknowledging the need for more predictable and multi-annual funding mechanisms.

Participants cited the suspended proposal for a **Law on the registration of entities with foreign ties** as emblematic of this climate, describing it as a Russian-style 'foreign agent' initiative. Although the proposal was never formally introduced by the government, this initiative is strongly advocated by some MPs. According to the draft, entities receiving foreign funding would reportedly have been required to register or cease operations, with potential fines of up to CZK 15 million (around EUR 600 000) and significant reporting obligations. Participants stressed that the initiative would have affected not only CSOs but also universities, media and other actors. While the leaked proposal triggered strong criticism and civic mobilisation, participants expressed concern that its suspension might not prevent future attempts to introduce similar legislation.

Finally, concerns were raised regarding the **Act on the Regulation of Lobbying**, adopted in 2025. While participants broadly supported the objective of improved transparency, they warned that this objective could be undermined if the rules were applied unevenly. In particular, they highlighted exemptions granted to social partners, who are therefore not subject to registration requirements for interactions with policymakers. Czech authorities clarified that social partners are exempt from lobbying rules only when participating in government working and advisory bodies (e.g. the Tripartite Council) or in formal consultation procedures for drafting legislation and policy documents, and that, in all other cases, no general exemption applies.

3. **Freedom of expression, including media freedom**

Participants observed that Czechia continues to perform relatively well internationally with regard to **media freedom**, ranking 11th in the Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index, but noted early signs of decline. The recent fall in ranking was described as being driven primarily by changes in the political environment. While the overall legal and institutional framework remains functional, participants warned that current trends could expose Czechia to risks already observed in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

These challenges were reported as occurring within a **generally solid media environment**. The media market was described as open, allowing new actors – including investigative journalists – to emerge. Public service media, namely Czech Television and Czech Radio, were described as widely trusted and central to the media landscape. Participants referred to existing structures monitoring threats against journalists, developed in cooperation with law-enforcement authorities, as well as to fact-checking initiatives aimed at countering disinformation. They also underlined the continued protective role of the judiciary with regard to freedom of expression and highlighted strong civic mobilisation in defence of media freedom. Growing concerns about media independence, together with ongoing discussions on EU initiatives, were said to have encouraged closer cooperation across media sectors that had traditionally operated separately. A call was also made for a more inclusive and transparent law-making process in the media field, with better consultation of stakeholders and stronger justification of proposals. A participant considered that current practices, including limited working group involvement and closed-door drafting, risked undermining the quality and legitimacy of legislation.

Participants reported increasing **public concern about media freedom** linked to several developments. With regard to media pluralism, they highlighted the concentration of major outlets in the hands of oligarchs and the continued political influence over editorial lines. Local media were described as particularly vulnerable, with expanding 'news deserts' increasing the influence of local political actors. Participants also pointed to economic pressures, including limited public support for private media, threats to suspend state advertising to certain outlets and the impact of copyright rules which, while designed to protect online content, have reduced visibility and revenue for some media organisations.

Regarding **political pressure**, participants described growing hostility from political actors linked with the new governing coalition, including aggressive rhetoric, threats and cases in which journalists were excluded from press conferences. They also referred to rising levels of intimidation and violence against journalists, particularly women journalists, as highlighted in recent surveys. One participant

drew attention to the legal and administrative obstacles faced by exiled journalists in Czechia, as well as to the consequences of reduced international funding, notably from USAID, for programmes supporting them. Participants stressed the need for stronger protection and support mechanisms to ensure a safe working environment for media professionals.

In this increasingly polarised context, **public service media** were described as having become a focal point of polarisation, driven more by political considerations than evidence-based debate. Participants welcomed previous reforms aimed at strengthening the autonomy of public service media, including changes to the appointment procedures for supervisory boards and the indexation of licence fees for households to inflation. However, they warned that these safeguards could be threatened in the future through proposals to reduce licence fees and subsequently replace the current funding model with direct financing from the state budget. Participants expressed concern that such changes could undermine editorial independence. Czech authorities indicated that inter-ministerial consultations were under way and that relevant stakeholders would be consulted at a later stage.

On **disinformation**, participants described an evolving ecosystem linked to political actors, including some with openly pro-Russian positions, facilitating the dissemination of certain narratives. They expressed concern about a possible weakening of institutional responses, while stressing that measures against foreign propaganda outlets must remain grounded in law, proportionate and subject to judicial oversight. They recalled measures adopted at the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine which initially lacked such safeguards and ultimately enabled affected outlets to portray themselves as victims. One participant also referred to a case in which a media outlet's accounts were unilaterally suspended by very large online platforms, significantly affecting its reach.

Participants underlined the importance of effective **implementation of EU legislation protecting media actors online**, referring in particular to delays and shortcomings in the implementation of national legislation linked with the Digital Services Act, the European Media Freedom Act and the transposition of the anti-SLAPP directive. Czech authorities explained that implementation of the Digital Services Act had to be restarted due to the previous government's failure to complete the legislative process, although the Czech Telecommunications Office had already been designated as regulator pending adoption of the framework. Authorities also stated that the European Media Freedom Act had encouraged self-regulation and cross-sectoral cooperation, including the development of a framework on editorial transparency and media ownership. Implementation of the anti-SLAPP directive was reported to be imminent.

4. The right to non-discrimination

With regard to **general and institutional aspects**, participants observed that political actors are often more conservative than the general population on issues related to non-discrimination and, at times, disregard court rulings in this field, particularly concerning migrants' rights, for political reasons. The Ombudsperson was described as functioning effectively, with an active investigative role and regular engagement with affected groups, including persons with disabilities. However, participants considered its influence on legislative change to be limited. They also underlined that trust in public institutions varies among different groups, with LGBTIQ persons in particular often reluctant to report discrimination or hate crimes due to fear of revictimisation by law-enforcement authorities.

Concerning **pressure affecting civil society organisations (CSOs) and public narratives**, participants stressed the need for stronger political support and more stable funding for organisations active in the field of non-discrimination. As in the session on freedom of association, they referred to increasingly negative portrayals of civil society in public discourse and online, including by political actors linked with the new governing coalition. Concerns were raised about potential future restrictions targeting so-called 'political' CSOs, including possible limitations on their activities in schools, as well as about the impact of the Lobbying Act and debates on foreign funding. With regard to hate crime and hate speech, Czech authorities pointed to amendments to the Criminal Code adopted in 2025, which broadened the scope of hate crime by adding offences such as vandalism and extending explicit criminalisation of bias like disability or sexual orientation.

Regarding migrants' rights, participants recalled that the arrival of approximately 400 000 **Ukrainian seeking temporary protection** in Czechia led to rapid and substantial changes in law and practice. They highlighted the initially strong response from both public authorities and society, underpinned by widespread public solidarity. However, participants observed that support has gradually declined and that Ukrainian refugees are increasingly exposed to prejudice, including online hate speech and physical attacks, partly reinforced by political narratives. They identified heightened risks for vulnerable migrants who are not economically active and emphasised the lack of clarity regarding long-term solutions once temporary protection expires. In terms of labour market integration, participants highlighted positive developments in access to employment, education and health insurance, which enabled many Ukrainians to enter the labour market. At the same time, they noted that a significant number of persons under temporary protection work below their qualifications and that limited labour inspections increase the risk of exploitation. One participant referred to growing cooperation between trade unions and CSOs on migrant workers' rights, while broader public perceptions of migrants as labour-market competitors persist. Concerns were also raised about low levels of social benefits and insufficient access to psychological support. Civil society representatives also reported that the Ministry of the Interior continues to refuse certain applications for temporary protection despite court rulings and positions taken by the Ombudsperson.

Participants expressed concern about potential future changes in state **policy on migration**, particularly as the current government programme explicitly opposes the EU Migration and Asylum Pact in its current form. While migrants formally benefit from procedural safeguards, including appeal rights, participants stated that these are limited in practice due to reduced access to legal aid. Cuts to EU-funded legal assistance under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) were said to have created a gap, without replacement funding for CSO involvement. Czech authorities stated that legal aid would continue to be publicly funded, but would be delivered primarily through private law firms rather than CSOs. They also announced the establishment of a new committee on the integration of temporary protection holders under the Government Council for Human Rights.

With regard to **Roma rights**, participants reported continued structural discrimination, particularly in education and housing. Civil society representatives highlighted the ongoing existence of approximately 130 segregated schools despite legal prohibitions, with significant long-term consequences for educational and social outcomes. In the housing sector, participants referred to dependence on substandard private accommodation and heightened risks of housing insecurity and homelessness. At the same time, they acknowledged positive initiatives, including EU-funded programmes supporting Roma inclusion and the work of the Government Commissioner for Roma

Minority Affairs. The legal recognition of 'anti-Gypsyism' was also described as progress, although participants stressed the need for concrete follow-up measures. Czech authorities stated that issues such as housing exclusion, school segregation and forced sterilisation are addressed through the Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021-2030, the work of the Government Commissioner and the Housing Support Act. They also confirmed that the deadline for compensation claims relating to forced sterilisation has been extended until 2027, while noting persistent challenges related to administrative capacity and evidentiary requirements.

Concerning **LGBTIQ persons**, participants observed that while public support for marriage equality is relatively high, political support remains limited. They referred to the use of LGBTIQ-related issues in political discourse, including hate speech and disinformation. Although the 2024 law on civil partnerships represented progress, participants underlined that it falls short of full equality, in particular with regard to parental rights and cross-border recognition. Regarding trans persons, participants welcomed a recent court ruling removing the sterilisation requirement, viewing it as an important step in line with human rights standards. However, they expressed concern that this change has not yet been enshrined in legislation and currently relies on a decree of the Ministry of Health, raising questions about legal certainty and long-term stability. Participants also noted broader improvements, such as strengthened criminal penalties for hate crimes, while emphasising that their practical impact remains to be assessed.

With respect to **workplace discrimination affecting LGBTIQ persons**, participants reported ongoing challenges, including high levels of discrimination and systematic under-reporting. They noted that only the general anti-discrimination framework applies to such cases, rather than specific legislation, and that these provisions are rarely used in practice. As a result, litigation against employers remains uncommon. Participants also highlighted differences between large international companies and smaller or public employers, as well as persistent problems in the school environment. Guidelines proposed by CSOs to address workplace inclusion have not yet been taken up by public authorities. Czech authorities stated that in line with EU law, sexual orientation is included among the discrimination grounds in the Antidiscrimination Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment. The ground of gender identity is included in the ground of sex.

Participants further observed that Czechia performs particularly poorly within the EU in relation to **gender equality**, notably due to the low political representation of women and persistent inequalities in the labour market. They stated that public attitudes are often more progressive than political discourse, which at times shifts towards hostile narratives targeting women in public life. Participants noted weakening institutional capacity on gender equality, including the discontinuation of gender focal points in some ministries. They also pointed to the persistence of gender stereotypes within the judiciary and underlined the need for improved training of judges and other legal professionals.

Regarding **gender-based violence**, participants expressed concern about reduced political prioritisation and insufficient or unstable funding. They recalled that Czechia has not ratified the Istanbul Convention and considered that the current government shows limited ambition in implementing relevant EU directives in this area. While recent legal changes, including a revised definition of rape, were acknowledged as positive, participants stressed that victim support services remain underfunded and unevenly available outside Prague. Access to compensation for past abuses,

such as the unlawful sterilisation of Roma women, was described as limited in practice due to demanding evidentiary requirements.

Finally, with regard to **persons with disabilities**, participants identified a persistent gap between generally positive public attitudes and limited practical support. Czechia was described as remaining below the OECD average in public spending in this area. Civil society representatives also reported an apparent reluctance by authorities to fully implement court rulings concerning the calculation of care allowances – which Czech authorities contested, pointing instead to instances of administrative and judicial delays in the proceedings on allowances. Structural shortcomings were highlighted, including continued reliance on institutional care rather than community-based services, and an insufficient number of publicly funded home-care hours to allow independent living. While some positive measures were noted, such as recognition of family carers in the social services legislation, participants concluded that overall support remains inadequate. -

5. The rule of law

Participants described the **rule of law and judicial independence** in Czechia as generally strong, particularly in comparison with other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. They emphasised the capacity of institutions for self-correction and referred to recent reforms, including a 2024 amendment strengthening the position of the Public Prosecutor, as reinforcing judicial independence. Positive developments cited by participants also included the codification of lawyer-client confidentiality and the establishment of a Deputy Ombudsman for the Protection of Children's Rights. At the same time, participants noted that judicial independence remains partly dependent on the personal authority of senior judicial figures and could therefore be affected by future structural reforms, including potential changes to court organisation.

Participants nonetheless identified several **challenges affecting judicial independence in practice**, particularly concerning the implementation of laws and judicial decisions. They referred to initiatives that could weaken hierarchical coherence within the judiciary, notably proposals aimed at extending the binding force of higher courts' legal reasoning on substantive matters. Concerns were also raised about cases in which court decisions were not promptly implemented by the executive branch. Participants suggested that procedural delays are sometimes used tactically, allowing measures to be pursued until they are later annulled by the Constitutional Court. A recent case in which the Chamber of Deputies declined to lift parliamentary immunity of the new Prime Minister and of the new Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies following a request from prosecutors was also cited by some participants as a potential departure from established practice. Overall, participants warned against cumulative, incremental risks to the institutional balance.

With regard to the **efficiency of justice**, participants described a mixed situation. While ordinary cases are generally handled within reasonable timeframes, complex or high-profile cases, particularly those involving corruption or conflicts of interest, tend to be protracted due to repeated appeals and remittals between courts. Participants also pointed to inconsistencies in the publication of judicial decisions, especially at the level of lower courts, which may undermine legal certainty and the consistent application of the law nationwide. Slow progress on judicial digitalisation was also highlighted, despite funding available under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Participants referred to weak

inter-ministerial coordination and noted that court procedures continue to rely heavily on paper-based systems, with digital tools remaining underdeveloped.

Concerning **access to justice**, participants raised serious concerns about insufficient funding for legal aid. They reported that legal aid is treated as a secondary budgetary item within the judicial system, resulting in financial constraints and long delays in the remuneration of lawyers, in some cases exceeding two years after the conclusion of proceedings. According to participants, this situation discourages legal professionals from providing legal aid and risks creating regional disparities in access to justice, including potential 'legal deserts'. Participants also confirmed declining public funding for CSOs providing legal assistance, particularly to migrants, with funding redirected in ways that may affect service quality and organisational independence. Additional concerns were expressed regarding proposals that could undermine the autonomy of the legal profession, including expanded administrative powers under anti-money laundering rules without sufficient procedural safeguards.

In relation to **open government**, participants observed that complex coalition negotiations can reduce transparency and limit stakeholder engagement. They reported increased reliance on accelerated legislative procedures that bypass standard consultation processes. Participants also referred to ongoing debates on restricting access to public information, including through the introduction of fees. With regard to the Lobbying Act, participants acknowledged the legitimacy of regulating lobbying activities but expressed concern that current discussions focus mainly on defining who qualifies as a lobbyist, with some stakeholders seeking exemptions. They opposed amendments to the adopted legislation and supported its consistent and proportionate application to all actors. As a positive aspect, participants highlighted the relatively robust framework governing political party financing and the existence of functioning oversight mechanisms.

Finally, concerning **prison conditions**, participants reported that conditions are generally stable and that facilities are not critically overcrowded. They referred to recent legislative changes aimed at reducing the prison population through reduction of sentences in some areas and expanded use of alternative sentencing. Positive developments in rehabilitation were also mentioned, including the establishment of a probation house. However, participants expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of these initiatives, particularly in light of potential funding constraints.

**Authorities' observations
on the report on the visit to Czech Republic
5-6 May 2026**

Observations from the Czech authorities on the report of the Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law Group on its visit to Czech Republic on 5-6 May 2026

Observations on specific issues:

1. Fundamental rights of social partners

The Czech Republic would like to specify, that the bill on the implementation of the Pay Transparency Directive has been recently approved by the Government and forwarded to the Parliament for adoption. Both the employers and the trade unions have been broadly involved in its preparation.

2. Freedom of association and freedom of assembly

Concerning the Law on the registration of entities with foreign ties, the Czech Republic would like to confirm, that no such proposal has been submitted for consideration in the legislative process.

3. Freedom of expression, including media freedom

The Czech Republic admits to some delays in the adaptation of national law to the new EU legislation like the Digital Services Act and the European Media Freedom Act. However, in both cases, the relevant implementing legislation has been submitted to the Parliament for approval. The same applies for the Anti-SLAPP directive.

4. The right to non-discrimination

The Czech Republic would like to specify its position to the EU Migration and Asylum Pact. At present, new legislation on the entry and stay of foreign nationals in Czech Republic is being debated in the Parliament, which shall be in line with the Pact.

The Czech Republic remains committed to ensuring effective support for persons with disabilities and continuously adopts measures aimed at improving the system of social services and support for independent living. Efforts are ongoing to further develop community-based services and advance the transformation of the care system in line with our international obligations, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the same time, the Czech Republic acknowledges that challenges remain in this area and continues to address them through both legislative and non-legislative measures, including reforms aimed at enhancing the availability, accessibility and quality of support services for persons with disabilities.

5. The rule of law

The Czech Republic is continuously working on the digitalisation of its justice system. The specific implemented projects include the following:

- **Data Warehouse of the Ministry of Justice** – A central data platform for the collection, integration and analytical use of judicial data, including support for

evidence-based decision-making. The project is in the implementation phase, with completion planned for 2026.

- **Justice Portal** – A central public justice portal providing information and digital services for the public and professional users. The project is ongoing with further development continuing in 2026.
- **eJustice 2020 – eSIR and eSpis** – An overarching project aimed at building a central electronic case-file platform (eSpis) and related eJustice modules. The project is in the final phase of implementation and the deployment to the production environment is planned for the second half of 2026.
- **Digitalisation of court agendas (eTrest, eSpráva, ePR)** – A programme for the gradual digitalisation of criminal court proceedings, administrative justice and electronic payment orders, based on the eSpis platform. Feasibility studies have been completed and preparation for implementation is ongoing.
- **Judicial Anonymisation System** – A system used for the anonymisation of court decisions for publication and further use. The baseline solution is in operation and further development using artificial intelligence is under preparation.
- **Beey – automatic speech-to-text transcription** – A tool used by courts to convert spoken language into text during court hearings. The solution is in operation and contributes to more efficient preparation of court records.
- **Videoconferencing in justice** – The development and widespread use of videoconferencing technologies in court proceedings and other judicial activities. The solution is in operation and continues to be technologically expanded.

In addition to the projects listed above, the Ministry of Justice is continuously working on other initiatives like the development of central eJustice services, interoperability of registers, sustainable operation of information systems, and strengthening the digital capacities of justice and their cyber security.

The Czech Republic would also like to specify, that the Act on Access to Information allows to claim the reimbursement of cost for the provision of public information in cases, where the transmission of information requires extra costs copies of documents, data carriers or other relevant costs or in cases of a large research activity needed to collect the requested information. In such cases, the authority must notify the applicant beforehand about the costs and their amount and justify their calculation. The applicant can fill a complaint against their imposition to the superior authority who can modify the imposed amount.



European Economic and Social Committee

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

www.eesc.europa.eu



Printed by the EESC-CoR Printing and Distribution Unit, Belgium

EESC-2026-21-EN

© European Union, 2026

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.
For any use or reproduction of the photos / illustrations,
permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.



Publications Office
of the European Union



Print:
QE-01-26-009-EN-C
ISBN 978-92-830-7057-3
doi:10.2864/5325291
PDF:
QE-01-26-009-EN-N
ISBN 978-92-830-7056-6
doi:10.2864/3853980

EN