

European Rule of Law Mechanism: input from Member States

2026 Rule of Law Report

The written input from Member States is a key source of information for the annual Rule of Law Report, as clearly set out in the Report's methodology. As every year, the Commission would hereby like to invite the national contact points to provide their input to the 2026 Rule of Law Report. Based on this input, further targeted questions may follow, as it was the case in previous years, to ensure that the Commission has all relevant information from Member States for the preparation of the 2026 Rule of Law Report. Such further targeted input will be sought in particular in the context of country visits or bilateral contacts, as well as during the consultation on the draft country chapters prior to the Report's adoption.

The 2026 Rule of Law Report will continue to assess rule of law related developments under the existing four pillars and will follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations to Member States that were issued as part of the 2025 Rule of Law Report. To facilitate the preparation of input by Member States, this year's questionnaire has been adapted. Member States are asked to provide information about:

- (1) developments and measures taken in relation to the recommendations in the 2025 report,
- (2) developments that are relevant for updating and following up on the assessment of the topics covered in the 2025 country chapter, as well as any other new developments related to the rule of law.

The input under these points should cover any developments since the adoption of the 2025 Rule of Law Report. The annex to this request for input sets out a checklist/guidelines on relevant topics falling within the Report's scope to help Member States prepare their input, building on experience from previous years.

Nature of the contribution

The input should preferably be in English and not exceed 30 pages. Relevant legislation or other documents may be referenced with a link (no need to provide the full text). The contributions will be published on the Commission's website upon explicit consent of the Member States. In order to avoid duplication and excessive administrative burden, please include where applicable explicit references to any relevant contribution already provided by your Member State in a different context (including under Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE and UN bodies or procedures) or to the previous Rule of Law Reports. Contributions should focus on significant developments since the last Rule of Law Report both as regards the legal framework and its implementation in practice.

Type of information to be included

A) Legislative developments

- Newly adopted legislation
- legislative drafts currently discussed in Parliament
- legislative plans envisaged by the Government

B) Policy developments

- Implementation and enforcement of legislation
- evaluations, impact assessment, surveys
- white papers/strategies/actions plans/consultation processes
- follow-up to reports/recommendations of Council of Europe bodies or other international organisations
- important administrative measures
- generalised practices

C) Developments related to the judiciary / independent authorities

- important case law by national courts
- important decision/opinions from independent bodies/authorities
- state of play on terms, nominations and expired mandates for high-level positions (e.g. Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Council for the Judiciary, Prosecutor General, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the request for input¹)

D) Any other relevant developments

- National authorities are free to add any further information, which they deem relevant; however, this should be short and to the point.

Please also indicate whether the developments reported are linked to the implementation of reforms and investments under the RRP, where applicable.

Please send us your contribution by **23 January 2026** to the following email address: rule-of-law-network@ec.europa.eu. In case you would have any questions or requests for clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at the same email address.

Template for input

This template for input indicates the type of contribution sought from Member States for the 2026 Rule of Law Report and provides a suggested format of reply. However, Member States are free to decide on the precise format of their contribution, as long as the key points are covered.

(1) Information on developments and measures taken to implement each of the recommendations addressed to your Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law Report

In the below box, please describe relevant developments and the measures taken with a view to implement the recommendations, following the order of the recommendations as they were addressed to your Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law Report.

Take further measures to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases.

The development of the single analytical tool for police investigators continues. In order to improve its agility, system for database management was changed. In February 2026, prototype version 2.0 is expected, to be tested internally by developers.

In 2025, Act No. 270/2025 Coll. was adopted, amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on Criminal Procedure (the Code of Criminal Procedure), as amended, and other related legislation. This Act introduced **a number of changes, inter alia, in the field of criminal procedural law, aimed at ensuring that criminal proceedings are, as far as possible, swift, efficient, and not unnecessarily prolonged.** To this end, the Act, among other things, introduced a new ground for discontinuation of criminal prosecution, so that it is not necessary to bring before the court persons where it is evident that the evidence gathered during the pre-trial proceedings does not provide a sufficient basis for successfully representing the prosecution before the court; modified the criminal proceedings conducted against legal persons, so that it is not necessary to conduct formal proceedings against legal entities that are so-called empty shells, i.e., legal entities without assets that in fact carry out no activity; and established a new type of diversion in proceedings against legal persons, placing emphasis on compensation for damage, its remediation, and, where appropriate, linking this approach to the requirement to adopt and properly implement a compliance programme, including

¹ Such as: media regulatory authorities and bodies, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, ombudsman institutions, supreme audit institutions and, where they exist, transparency authorities.

oversight of its adoption and implementation. Act No. 270/2025 Coll. entered into force in its main part on 1 January 2026, while the introduction of the new type of diversion in criminal proceedings against legal persons will take effect as of 1 July 2026.

Take further measures to strengthen the integrity framework for all members of Parliament, in particular by complementing the existing rules as regards revolving doors.

As regards the rules on lobbying, Act No. 168/2025 Coll., on regulation of lobbying² and Act No. 169/2025 Coll., amending certain laws in connection with the adoption of the law on lobbying³ became applicable since 1 July 2025. The register of lobbying activity (containing the list of lobbyists and lobbied persons) is fully operational and managed by the Ministry of Justice.⁴ The first reports from lobbyists about their activities shall be submitted until the end of January 2026. Persons who are lobbied are obliged to report information about lobbying activity towards them in the legislative footprint.⁵

As regards the **regulation of the revolving doors effect**, at the executive level there is currently a defined research need focused on preparing a study mapping the phenomenon of revolving doors in the Czech Republic. This study will serve as a basis for conceptualizing and drafting effective regulatory measures aimed at limiting the negative consequences of this phenomenon and strengthening transparency and accountability in public administration. The study should include:

- a. Mapping the current situation in selected sectors (occurrence, frequency, structure);
- b. A more detailed analysis of the motivation of employees to move from public administration to the private sector;
- c. An analysis of existing links between state employees and future employers/clients of public administration;
- d. Identification of possible preventive factors (definition, scope, and duration of a cooling-off period, financial compensation);
- e. Identification of significant cases and their practical impacts;
- f. A basis for preparing legislative material (statutory regulation).

The support for this research need has been approved by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, and its implementation will be financed from public funds under the Beta3 program.

Currently, the issue of revolving doors is partly regulated in § 6 of the Conflict of Interest

²

Act no. 168/2025 Sb. Act on the regulation of lobbying. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2025/168/2025-07-01?f=168%2F2025&zalozka=text>

³

Act no. 169/2025 Sb. Act amending certain acts in connection with the adoption of the Act on the Regulation of Lobbying. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2025/169/2025-07-01?f=169%2F2025&zalozka=text>

⁴

Register of lobbying. Accessible on: <https://relob.gov.cz/>

⁵

For more information, see § 12 (4) (5) of Act No. 168/2025 Coll., on regulation of lobbying; § 43 (2) and § 94 (1) of Act No. 90/1995 Coll., on Rules of Proceeding of the Chamber of Deputies; § 95 (1) and § 109 (1) of Act No. 107/1999 Coll., on Rules of Proceeding of the Senate; § 20 letter j) of Act No. 222/2016 Coll., on the Collection of Laws and International Treaties.

Act.

Reinitiate the revision of legislation on conflicts of interest, including as regards beneficial ownership.

Certain changes regarding this issue were enacted by Act No. 253/2023 Coll. Several parts of this Act including those amending the Conflict of Interest Act, were however later cancelled by the Constitutional Court due to failure to fulfil principles of the legislative procedure. Specifically, the Constitutional Court cancelled parts of the act with the reasoning that they were added to the draft of law as amendments without having relation to the aim or the object of the original proposal.⁶ No other act which would tackle this issue was approved since then.

Public officials, however, still cannot function as operators, partners, or controlling persons of companies in the position of publishers of periodical press or operators of radio and television broadcasting. Unlike the annulled legal provision, for the application of this ban it is no longer sufficient for the public official to hold the status of beneficial owner if this status does not arise from the ability to exercise decisive influence over the media company, but rather from the ability to obtain from the operation of such a company an above-limit share of profit or another benefit defined by law.

Progress with further reforms relating to transparency of information on media ownership.

The process of adoption of the European Media Freedom Act into the Czech legislation is still ongoing in the Chamber of Deputies.⁷ The draft, which is currently deliberated in the Chamber of Deputies, proposes the establishment of the database of media ownership which would fulfil requirements in art. 6 of the European Media Freedom Act. The database would be operated by the Ministry of Culture.⁸

Concerning the past recommendation on ensuring the existence of rules or mechanisms “to provide funding for public service media that is appropriate for the realization of its public service remit while guaranteeing its independence”, the Act aiming to secure further funding for public service media by increasing the concession fees was promulgated and is applicable since 1 May 2025.⁹ Policy Statement of the new government envisages debate over new sources of financing of the public service media and possibly Supreme Audit Office control in terms of spending. Further legislative changes would follow based on this analysis.¹⁰

⁶ Pozměňovací návrh představoval neústavní příležitost. Ústavní soud proto vyhověl návrhu na zrušení zákona podaného skupinou poslanců z řad opozice. Accessible on: <https://www.usoud.cz/aktualne/pozmenovaci-navrh-predstavoval-neustavni-prilepek-ustavni-soud-proto-vyhovel-navrhu-na-zruseni-zakona-podaneho-skupinou-poslancu-z-rad-opozice>, PI. ÚS 41/23. Accessible on: https://www.usoud.cz/fileadmin/user_upload/Tiskova_mluvci/Publikovane_nalezy/2024/PI._%C3%9AS_41_23_v_%C4%8D_disentu.pdf

⁷ The draft of law adapting European Media Freedom Act into the Czech legislation was submitted by the Minister of Culture for deliberation. Sněmovní tisk 10. VI. n. z. on the conditions for providing media services – EU. Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/historie.sqw?t=10>

⁸ See proposed § 5 of the draft of act.

⁹ Act no. 119/2025 Sb. Act amending Act No. 483/1991 Coll., on Czech Television, as amended, act no. 484/1991 Sb., on Czech Radio, as amended, and other related acts. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2025/119?zalozka=text>

¹⁰ Programové prohlášení vlády. Accessible on: <https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/vlada/programove-prohlaseni/programove-prohlaseni-vlady-224629/#kultura>; Vláda Andreje Babiše rozhodla o snížení počtu státních úředníků a podpořila návrh na rozšíření pravomocí Nejvyššího kontrolního úřadu. Accessible on: <https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/media-centrum/aktualne/vlada-andreje-babise-rozhodla-o-snizeni-poctu-statnich-uredniku-a-podporila-navrh-na-rozsireni-pravomoci-nejvyssiho-kontrolniho-uradu-224602/>

(2) Information on:

a. **developments that are relevant for updating and following up on the assessment of the topics covered in the respective country chapter of the 2025 Report, including possible clarifications**

- *In the boxes below, describe developments (updates or feedback) related to the topics covered in your country chapter of the 2025 Report (if not already covered under point (1)). You are invited to follow the order of topics as presented in the country chapter and insert direct references to the country chapter text, if convenient; and*

b. **any other new developments not already covered under points (1) and (2)a. that you consider relevant**

- *The list of topics provided in the Annex can provide guidance for this input.*

I. Justice Systems

A. INDEPENDENCE

Career advancement and selection procedures

Concerning the appointment and selection of **judges, prosecutors and court presidents**, the irremovability of judges, the promotion of judges and prosecutors and the allocation of cases in courts, there have been no changes in comparison with the information already provided in the previous report.

The selection procedures for **individual chief prosecutors** continue according to the timetable defined by the progressive achievement of the terms of current office holders, as set out in the amended Act on the Public Prosecutor's Office. The Ministry of Justice is represented in the different selection committees and is not aware of any irregularities or significant issues.

Disciplinary procedure for judges, prosecutors and bailiffs

Since 1 January 2025 there is a **new regulation in effect** concerning disciplinary proceedings in the cases of judges, prosecutors and bailiffs, an amendment to Act No. 7/2002 Coll., on proceedings in the cases of judges, prosecutors and bailiffs, as amended, and other related acts. It is part of the Czech Recovery and Resilience Plan and follows GRECO recommendations. Its goal is to strengthen the legality and efficiency of disciplinary proceedings for judges, prosecutors, and bailiffs.

The biggest change is **an instance review on the basis of an appeal and an increase of the efficiency of the proceedings through several measures**: extension of the circle of disciplinary courts, an appeal review, new composition of disciplinary chambers, establishment of an unifying disciplinary chamber of disciplinary courts of appeal for the purpose of unifying case law, review of reproach by the disciplinary court, the establishment of a procedure for the coordination of disciplinary petitioners, authorization of the Minister of Justice to file remedies in disciplinary proceedings where he was not a party, the disclosure of certain evidence, the extension of the subjective time limit for filing a disciplinary petition from 6 months to 9 months, the proposed effect of certain facts on the running of the time limits for filing a disciplinary petition and for the extinction of disciplinary liability, the limitation of the payment of the salary of a judge or prosecutor who has been temporarily suspended from office, the extension of the range of cases in which a judge or prosecutor may be required to pay recourse under Act No. 82/1998 Coll.

Information provided in the input to the 2025 Rule of Law Report regarding changes in salary

restrictions during suspension, broader recourse liability, and improved court access to public administration data entered into force on 1 January 2025.

Another important change is that the **disciplinary proceedings are no longer single-instance** – the decision of the first court can be appealed. Until 31 December 2024, the Supreme Administrative Court was the only body that decided on disciplinary matters and its decision was final. Since 1 January 2025, a two-tier structure was introduced, high courts (Prague and Olomouc) decide in the first instance of disciplinary proceedings, and the appeal instances are the Supreme Court (NS) and the Supreme Administrative Court (NSS) – depending on who the proceedings concern (jurisprudence e.g. NS on judges, NSS on public prosecutors and bailiffs). This means that judges or public prosecutors have the right to defend themselves against the decision of the disciplinary panel and file an appeal.

A minor amendment can be noted in Act No. 269/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 6/2002 Coll., on Courts, Judges, Lay Judges and the State Administration of Courts and on Amendments to Certain Other Acts (the Courts and Judges Act), as amended, and other related legislation. This amendment **extended the limitation period after which disciplinary liability of a judge or a public prosecutor ceases, from three to five years**. The Act entered into force on 1 January 2026.

Independence and confidentiality

As regards **independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers**, it is also appropriate to refer again to Act No. 270/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on Criminal Procedure (the Code of Criminal Procedure), as amended, and other related legislation. Among other things, this Act strengthened the protection of the confidentiality of communication between a lawyer and a client in criminal proceedings, as one of the essential attributes of the right to a fair trial.

The amendment to Act No. 85/1996 Coll. on advocacy aims to **strengthen the confidentiality of attorney–client communication** as a key element of the right to a fair trial. It introduces remote participation in Czech Bar Association assemblies, allows part-time practice for trainee lawyers, and clarifies rules to protect against unauthorized legal services. The proposal also establishes procedures for official verification of electronic signatures (eLegalization). These changes enhance legal certainty and modernize advocacy practice. The legislation entered into force as Act No. 73/2025 on 1 April 2025, with eLegalization provisions effective from 1 July 2025.

B. QUALITY OF JUSTICE

Accessibility of courts

In 2024, the government filed a draft Act, which aimed to amend the existing Act no. 150/2002 Coll., the **Code on Administrative Justice including the Act on Court Fees**, which among others included proposal to increase fees for filing an action against the decision of the administrative body, motion that the change of statutes regarding political party is without flaws, relaunch of the political party and any other actions filed before the administrative courts. However, this proposal was not adopted, the Chamber of Deputies not accepting it in due time. Given that the new government was established in December 2025, it has not yet decided on whether to file a draft Act to the Parliament again.

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material¹¹), remuneration/bonuses/rewards for judges and prosecutors, including observed changes (significant and targeted increase or decrease over the past year)

As far as the **human resources** are concerned, in comparison with the year 2023, there was no reduction in the total number of either non-judicial staff positions (9511) or judges' positions (3063). No changes were decided regarding the total numbers of public prosecutors and public prosecutor's office staff.

The collection of relevant empirical data on labour intensity of different court activities at selected courts took place in February 2025 under the project entitled "Strengthening the efficiency of the judicial system in the Czech Republic" supported by the Technical Support Instrument of the European Commission and aimed at **determining the staffing needs at individual courts**. However, subsequent discussions with the provider showed significant divergences between the parties as to the scope, depth and timing of the analysis of the data to be provided. As a consequence, it was decided to terminate the project early, with the Ministry of Justice intending to prepare the final analysis in-house thank to its internal analytical unit created in the meantime. The analysis should be prepared and discussed with the courts in the course of 2026.

With respect to financial resources, the **remuneration of judges and prosecutors** is set out by law at a fixed amount. The salary is calculated on the basis of a starting amount (triple of the average salary in the Czech Republic) modified according to the degree of court of prosecutorial office, length of relevant experience and, where applicable, the exercise of a managerial position. The **remuneration of support staff** is determined by reference to the common salary tables of the public sector. During 2025, the Ministry of Justice has taken further efforts to increase the volume of available budgetary resources.

Training of justice professionals

According to Act No. 6/2002 Coll. on judges and courts, judges are required to continuously educate themselves in order to deepen their professional legal and other knowledge. Amendment of the Act on judges and courts, which became effective on 1 January 2026, added the duty of judges to submit an individual education plan to the President of the court.¹²

The Czech Judicial Academy (JACZ) continues to offer **800–900 training events each year**. In 2025, it further strengthened the digitalisation of judicial training by combining instructor-led seminars with continuous access to e-learning materials. Building on the series launched in autumn 2024, JACZ delivered dozens of seminars on *Artificial Intelligence and its Use in the Judiciary*. These covered core AI concepts—types, principles, capabilities and limitations—together with hands-on work with MS Copilot Chat and practical applications of AI in legal practice. The seminars also addressed key ethical and legal aspects of AI, including risk management, recognising AI-generated texts and images, and prompt-writing rules. From September 2025, the programme was expanded to include advanced-level seminars focusing on more complex prompt engineering, additional real-world use cases in the judiciary, and advanced AI features such as reasoning models, custom agents and personalisation.

JACZ also continued to **train judges and prosecutors in the practical use of electronic**

¹¹ Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities. Financial resources include salaries of staff in courts and prosecution offices.

¹² See § 82 and new § 82a added by the law, which changes act no. 6/2002 Sb., on Courts, Judges, Lay Judges, and State Administration of Courts and on Amendments to Certain Other Acts (Act on Courts and Judges), as amended, and other related acts. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2002/6/2026-01-01?f=6%2F2002&zalozka=text>

tools in everyday judicial work, offering guidance on applications such as Word, Apstr, Newton Dictate, Beey, Codexis and ASPI. In cooperation with Masaryk University in Brno, it provided sessions on legal and ethical questions. To support long-term learning, JACZ publishes and maintains a growing set of online resources, including MS Copilot Chat e-learning, the *How to Write Prompts* methodology, *Ten Rules for the Safe Use of AI in the Judiciary*, additional guides (including the use of eTranslation as the EU's official translation tool), and AI/digitalisation training materials of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). In cooperation with the EJTN, JACZ offered around 150 international training events, including the *Judges@Europe Forum*, which gives judges from EU Member States, including the Czech Republic, a confidential space to share insights and challenges. In 2025, nearly 60 judges met to discuss judicial impartiality from various perspectives, including the impact of AI and the media, the adversarial procedure and equality of arms in European case law, mechanisms safeguarding impartiality, and adapting judicial practice to modern realities.

As part of **mandatory management training for court presidents and vice-presidents, chief prosecutors and their deputies**, JACZ systematically develops skills related to responsible, transparent and impartial leadership in courts and public prosecutor's offices. The training emphasises a culture of integrity, personal accountability and respect for constitutional principles. JACZ organises events highlighting rule-of-law values, including the *Ethics in Law* conference (ethical standards, conflicts of interest, public trust), the *Justice and Media* conference (transparent communication, protection of judicial independence, the role of public oversight), and the *Principle of the Lawful Judge* conference, dedicated to fundamental guarantees of a fair trial. By linking professional, ethical and managerial themes, JACZ aims to ensure that its training activities not only strengthen professional competencies but also promote the practical application of rule-of-law principles in the daily functioning of the judiciary.

Digital transformation

An important step forward in 2025 was done in the field of continuous digital transformation of Czech justice. Four projects should be mentioned:

Project “eJustice 2020 – Part eISIR” (Electronic Case File): The project supports the digital transformation of justice by delivering key tools such as the electronic case management system (eSpis) and the “Justice Center” platform with reusable modules for future justice agendas. The first application is for insolvency proceedings, ensuring fair and efficient decision-making and user-friendly communication between participants, the public, and public administration bodies. The contractor is again delayed, and the rollout of the system is now expected during 2026. In the past year, user feedback on the prepared system led to additional requirements that need to be implemented.

Project ELVIZ – Electronic Information Management of the Prosecutor's Office: ELVIZ focuses on digitizing the agendas of the prosecutor's office and implementing an electronic case management system across all levels of prosecution. The project remains in the public procurement phase, with the tender process ongoing. Launch is expected after the contractor is selected.

Data Warehouse (DWH) Project: The Ministry of Justice launched the Data Warehouse in April 2025, creating a central system for efficient data management, analysis, and secure Open Data publication. It streamlines information flows and supports evidence-based decisions. Following its deployment, the first two systems have already been connected – the Register of Offences and the Register of Court appointed Experts and Interpreters.

Beey AI Tool: Czech courts continue to use the Beey application for voice-to-text transcription, reducing time and errors in record-keeping. Further projects are planned to build on this tool and expand its use within the justice system.

Furthermore, in order to establish **electronic communication between courts and cadastral offices**, which administer the cadastre of real estate of the Czech Republic, the Parliament passed an Act no. 269/2025 Coll., which should have come into force on 1 January 2026. This act stipulates that in the case the court issues a decision, which affects data in the cadastre of real estate of the Czech Republic, it has to send the competent cadastral office an excerpt of such decision containing all the relevant information in electronic form. The purpose of such provision is to improve electronic communication between state bodies and also to better protect data from parties of the proceeding. Currently, the court sends a full decision to the cadastral office, which contains not only the holding, but also the reasoning with facts of the case. Such facts could be very delicate especially in cases about the property after the marriage is dissolved and do not have any relevance to the cadastre of real estate of the Czech Republic.

Use of assessment tools and standards

In 2025, there were no systemic changes as far as **case management systems and court statistics** are concerned. However, measures allowing the expansion of the scope of statistical data collected in several domains, e.g. data on victims of crime, were taken during 2025; as a consequence, relevant data shall be collected starting in 2026.

Starting in the second half of 2025, the newly formed in-house analytical unit of the Ministry of Justice is conducting **online surveys among legal professionals**, e.g. judges, mediators or court experts, on a range of specific subjects and policies.

There have been no changes in 2025 concerning **geographical distribution and number of courts** ("judicial map") and their specialisation.

Specialization (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation as regards commercial cases.

Common commercial cases (e.g. unpaid invoices) are dealt with by the civil departments of districts courts, which tend to consist of generalist judges. More specific cases (e.g. company law, unfair competition, intellectual property, trademarks, investments and securities, insolvency and related disputes) are handled by **specialised judges at the regional courts**.

Efficiency of courts

Similar to previous years, **the judicial system in the Czech Republic is efficient**, as shown by the comparative CEPEJ reports and EU Justice Scoreboard, as well as the annual statistical report of the courts published by the Ministry of Justice.¹³ The length of court proceedings in administrative matters has further improved in 2025, and the situation in this domain may now be considered stabilised.

¹³ See <https://justice.cz/web/msp/statisticke-udaje-z-oblasti-justice>.

II. Anti-Corruption Framework

The institutional framework capacity to fight against corruption

In 2025, a new unit was established within the Conflict of Interests and Anti-Corruption Department of the Ministry of Justice and named Whistleblower Protection and Lobbying Regulation Unit. However, creation of the new unit provided only minor additional personal capacities as the new head of the unit was already serving in the Department on a different position in the Anti-Corruption Unit. Also, the remaining 7 positions of the new Unit were only transferred either from the Anti-Corruption Unit or from other units of the Ministry of Justice. Thus, this strengthening of personal capacities was at the expense of other agendas both of the Department and Ministry of Justice as a whole.

On 2 April 2025 the Government was informed on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2023-2024 regarding the year 2024.¹⁴ The information on implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2025-2026 regarding the year 2025 is to be submitted to the Government by the end of March 2026 and is not yet fully available.

Measures to enhance integrity in the public sector in particular as regards high-level officials (including as regards incompatibility rules, revolving doors, codes of conduct, ethics)

On 29 December 2025 a group of deputies submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic a draft law on the legal status of civil servants in ministries and other administrative authorities.¹⁵ The draft law was submitted for opinion to the Government that gave its supportive opinion on its meeting on 5 January 2026.¹⁶ The described aim of the proposal is to respond to the need for a fundamental modernization of the legal regulation of the civil service in the Czech Republic with the aim of strengthening its flexibility and openness and reducing administrative burden, stiffness and persisting bureaucratic procedures. The contents of the draft law constitute a fundamental conceptual change in the legal regulation of civil service and its nature, while respecting the fundamental values and principles of employment in the public sphere, by linking the regulation of the legal status of civil servants in ministries and other administrative authorities to the general regulation of dependent work in the Labor Code, with special provisions for certain aspects where necessary or appropriate.

According to the draft law, the current public-law employment relationship of civil servants is to be replaced by an employment relationship of civil servants. In this context, administrative proceedings will no longer apply to personnel relations in ministries and other administrative authorities, and a legal relationship between the parties respecting their free will is to be introduced. The regulation of the legal status of civil servants in the performance of their work would thus be closer to that of a private law nature with significant public law elements. At the same time, an accompanying draft law amending other laws was proposed by the same group of deputies¹⁷ and discussed and supported by the Government.¹⁸ Given that this is a parliamentary proposal and not the government one, the standard consultation procedure did not take place. The proposal was not also consulted with trade unions.

¹⁴ See <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Zhodnoceni-plneni-opatreni-vedenych-v-Akcni-planu-boje-proti-korupci-na-roky-2023-a-2024-za-rok-2024.pdf>.

¹⁵ See <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/historie.sqw?t=76>.

¹⁶ See <https://odok.gov.cz/portal/veklep/material/ALBBDPVEF33B/>.

¹⁷ See <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/historie.sqw?o=10&T=77>.

¹⁸ See <https://odok.gov.cz/portal/veklep/material/ALBBDPVEP9GE/>.

Measures to enhance general transparency of public decision-making (including rules on lobbying, asset and interest disclosure rules, gifts policy, transparency of political party financing).

The law on the regulation of lobbying and the law amending certain laws in relation to adopting the law on the regulation of lobbying were published in Collection of Laws of the Czech Republic as Law No. 168/2025 Coll. and No. 169/2025 Coll. and entered into force on 12 June 2025. The laws became effective on 1 July 2025. The Register of Lobbying was set up according to the Section 5 of the Law No. 168/2025 Coll. and on 1 July 2025 was already operational and available at: <https://relob.gov.cz/>.

On 31 December 2025, there were 555 lobbyists (155 physical and 400 legal persons), 608 lobbying intermediaries within the meaning of the Section 12 Subsection 1 of the Law No. 168/2025 Coll. and 2 066 lobbied persons registered in the Register of Lobbying. By the end of the 2025, first declarations of lobbying started to appear in the Register. However, the deadline for the registered lobbyists to submit their declarations for the period July 2025 – December 2025 is set to 30 January 2026.

Throughout the second half of the 2025, even before 1 July 2025, the civil servants of the Ministry of Justice either organized or participated in numerous awareness raising, Q&A and training events. The target audience of those events ranged from authorities and ministries through businesses and business associations to civil society organisations. The Ministry of Justice published at the dedicated website <https://msp.gov.cz/en/web/msp/regulace-lobbovani> and at website of the Registry all the necessary information, methodological and user guidelines, FAQ and also provided technical assistance to the registering entities and registered persons.

In 2025, a new unit dedicated to lobbying regulation was established within the Department of Conflict of Interest and Anti-Corruption at the Ministry of Justice.

The clarifying draft amendment to the Security Corps Service Act, which was reported in 2025 (point B.22), has not been passed in time before the October 2025 parliamentary election by the Chamber of Deputies. Therefore, the legislative procedure has been terminated. This is not a major issue, however, because the prohibition to accept gifts in connection with the performance of the service still applies. Only the explicit clarification that gifts may be accepted by members of the corps if they are provided by the security corps themselves is missing, however, there are provisions in law that already regulate such awards and gifts.

As reported in 2024 and 2025, two significant changes were made to electoral law and political party law. The main reason for the change was to simplify and clarify the fragmented rules originally incorporated in several laws into two.

The first law, adopted in 2024 (Act No. 88/2024 Coll.), is the Election Administration Act, which concerns common rules for the administration of all types of elections held in the Czech Republic (to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the president, regions, municipalities, and the European Parliament). It also newly regulates postal voting for citizens living abroad.

The second law is Act No. 234/2025 Coll. on election campaigns and the transparency and targeting of political advertising, which unifies the rules for election campaigns and implements European Regulation (EU) 2024/900. The fragmented legal regulation of election campaigns is thus more clearly introduced in a single standard.

New legislation, which was adopted to consolidate the framework for financing of political

parties, came into effect as of 1 January 2026.

The following are some of the minor changes that have been made compared to the previous situation:

- Explicit inclusion of negative campaigning and a broader definition of monetary value.
- Limitation of the length of the regulated part of the campaign to a maximum of 150 days before the end of the current term of office. Elections are held in the last 30 days of the term of office, so the campaign is effectively shortened to period from 120 to 150 days.
- When labeling campaign funds, emphasis is now placed on their readability.
- Obligations are linked to the actual "start of the campaign," not a fixed period of five days from the day of announcement of the election. Political parties are no longer required to set up a website with information on campaign financing; instead, they report and submit all information to the Office, which publishes it.
- Systematic solution for the concurrence of different types of elections/campaigns.
- Clarification of the handling of unused campaign funds. Parties do not have to transfer them to another account - after the deadline, they can continue to use the existing election account for regular expenses. In the case of coalitions, the settlement of the election account balance between the coalition parties is addressed. For electoral parties that are natural persons, the transfer to public benefit institutions is dealt with in more detail.
- Clarification of the group of persons who cannot be registered as third parties.
- Significant extension of the ban on the use of public resources in campaigns. Previously, the ban applied only to the communication media of local governments, but now it applies to all human, material, and intangible resources of public authorities. Only the use of such resources for remuneration is permitted.
- Electoral parties - natural persons (independent candidates for the Senate and presidential candidates) - have so far been able to accept campaign donations from anyone. They are now subject to the same restrictions on sponsors as political parties.
- Third parties in the campaign do not have to register if the value of their campaign does not exceed CZK 3,000. People who participate in the campaign with the knowledge of the party must now have the party's written consent.
- Clearer definition of responsibility for monitoring financing in coalition groups.

Amendment to the Association in Political Parties and Political Movements Act (no. 424/1991 Coll.), which only made minor changes to two sections:

- tightening of rules for accepting gifts and in-kind donations from legal entities (financial statements for the previous year are missing, the actual owner is a foreign natural person, the legal entity has its registered office abroad), prohibition on accepting donations and in-kind donations from universities and research institutions, from state-owned enterprises and legal entities with state ownership, as well as from legal entities with ownership participation by a local government, and from legal entities in which a local government participates in management and control, including as a controlling entity.

- relaxation of the regime for gifts and in-kind donations up to CZK 1,000 (the donor's date of birth is not required, and the legal entity's ID number is not required),
- further digitization of campaign administration (Office application).

Measures to prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector

As the compliance with obligations under Act on Conflict of Interest is decentralised among number of municipalities the statistics only reflect actions taken by the Ministry of Justice. In 2025 the Ministry of Justice has reported 778 cases (of which 85 cases concerned failure to file the declarations at the beginning of term, 620 involved annual declarations and 73 cases concerned the end term declarations) in which a public official has not fulfilled their obligation to file a declaration, out of which 759 breaches were committed in 2025 (74 cases concerned failure to file the declarations at the beginning of term, 620 involved annual declarations and 65 cases concerned the end term declarations). Offences committed during December 2025 will be forwarded to the relevant administrative authorities during January 2026. It can be assumed that these will be in the units or lower tens of non-submissions declarations. The Ministry of Justice has conducted 42 in depth material reviews of declarations filled by public officials, 23 of which resulted in reporting breaches of the Act on Conflict of Interest to relevant municipalities.

In December 2025, public access to the register of beneficial owners was restricted. This was in response to judgments of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court, which referred to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the joined cases WM and Sovim (C-37/20 and C-601/20). The Court of Justice of the European Union annulled part of Article 30(5)(c) of the so-called 5th AML Directive, which required public access to data on beneficial owners. The CJEU stated that unrestricted public access to data on beneficial owners constitutes a disproportionate interference with the right to privacy and the protection of personal data under Articles 7 and 8 of the EU Charter. Access to the register of beneficial owners is therefore only granted to entities specified by law and persons who can demonstrate a legitimate interest. Nevertheless, it should be added that restriction of the access also had a positive impact, as it reintroduced the possibility of penalizing companies that fail to register their beneficial owners despite being required to do so.

Measures to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption, including their application

In 2025, the Ministry of Justice continued to implement Act No. 171/2023 Coll., on the Protection of Whistleblowers (hereinafter referred to as the "Whistleblower Protection Act"). Again, the Ministry of Justice conducted or participated in a series of advisory, educational, and other awareness-raising activities.¹⁹

The Ministry of Justice received a total of 238 reports through the external whistleblowing system in 2025. From the total amount, 193 reports were investigated. The secure channel for making a report was available to the public on the website <https://app.oznam.to/napsat-oznameni?hash=fj40xhi07clxoj4x1vv1> and in parallel as a backup option still at <https://oznamovatel.justice.cz/chci-podat-oznameni/>. During 2025, the Ministry of Justice also intensively focused on control and follow-up offense activities in the area of whistleblower protection.

More detailed information on the activities of the Ministry of Justice in the area of whistleblower protection is also available to the public in the Annual Report on the Activities

¹⁹ Useful information to support the effective implementation of the Whistleblower Protection Act was also provided to the public via the Ministry of Justice website <https://oznamovatel.justice.cz/>.

of the Ministry of Justice in the Field of Whistleblower Protection in 2024.²⁰ The Annual Report on the Activities of the Ministry of Justice in the Field of Whistleblower Protection in 2025 will be published no later than 31 March 2026.

Specific measures to enhance transparency, integrity and accountability in sectors with high risks of corruption, with a view to monitor and prevent corruption and conflict of interests, and where applicable measures to prevent and address corruption committed by organised crime groups.

Public procurement

As regards the legal regulation of public procurement, the structured set of rules for conflict of interest and its prevention, applicable to all contracting authorities/entities and all public contracts regardless of their regime, is set out in Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on public procurement ("PPA"), and remains unchanged. For details, see the input to the EC Rule of Law Report 2024 and 2025.

A prevention of conflict of interests is given as a default aspect that every contracting authority/entity must consider when awarding a contract (which applies to both above and below threshold contracts). If a conflict of interests is detected, the contract cannot be concluded, the contracting authority/entity must instead take measures to eliminate it (including the exclusion of respective supplier).

Public procurement legislation provides the buyer with several tools to detect conflict of interests:

The winner is obliged to declare its beneficial owners before signing the contract;

- A contract cannot be signed with a "non-transparent" joint-stock company (or similar entity) - shares need to be booked;
- The buyer shall request a written declaration from all committee members, invited experts or persons representing the contracting authority confirming that they have no conflict of interests.
- Public procurement legislation also provides a number of tools intended to facilitate the external surveillance:
- Individual reports on procedures for the award of contracts (see Art 84 of the classical PP Directive) must be published on the contracting authority's electronic profile.
- Contracts with a value exceeding 50 000 CZK must be published in the publicly available registry.
- All bidders must be identified on the contracting authority's e-profile.

Gradual amendments to the PPA are being issued, which aim to clarify some parts of the act and change them according to the practical experience and desirable best practice. One of these amendments, which aims primarily at effective and transparent crisis management, is currently undergoing technical preparation.

The topic of conflict of interest in public procurement has been included as a regular topic in the educational and methodological campaign for contracting authorities and control bodies. National Strategy of Public Procurement of the Czech Republic for the period 2024 - 2028 (approved by the CZ Government) aims, among other things, to increase the predictability, user-friendliness and professionalization of the public procurement

²⁰ See <https://oznamovatel.justice.cz/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Vyrocní-zpráva-o-cinnosti-Ministerstva-spravedlnosti-na-useku-ochrany-oznamovatelů-v-roce-2024.pdf>.

environment.

Long-term residence permit for investment purposes

A long-term residence permit for investment purposes is intended for third-country nationals who are entrepreneurs and wish to reside in the Czech Republic with the intention of carrying out a 'significant investment', or who are senior executives of commercial corporations pursuing such an intention.

The invested funds must amount to at least CZK 75 million. At the same time, the investment must create at least 20 new jobs for European Union citizens or their family members, and these positions must be maintained for at least two years. Up to 60% of the invested funds may be replaced by other tangible or intangible assets, including technological and information resources or know-how. In addition, the intention to carry out a significant investment must be credible and feasible, and the investment is expected to bring benefits to the state, region, or municipality. Moreover, the applicant must have the required financial resources at their disposal and hold them in an account maintained by an authorized institution (e.g. a recognized bank) in a Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area; upon request, the applicant must be able to prove the origin of these funds.

The residence permit is granted for a maximum validity period of two years.

In practice, the Czech Republic records minimal interest in this type of residence permit, with only a small number of applications submitted.

Other:

The [Strategy to Fight Organized Crime until 2030](#) (reported in 2025 at the end of part II.) has been adopted by the Government in June 2025. While it is broader in scope than strategies related to specific crime areas, such as drug trafficking or corruption, it takes these areas into account. It is accompanied by bi-annual [Action Plan](#), which sets out concrete objectives and measures. Some of these measures are directly or indirectly relevant to the fight against corruption, such as further development of "Cobra method" (sharing and joint cooperation in particular between police, customs and tax authorities) against economic crime, development of automated exchange of information on bank accounts, further development of MLA and police cooperation treaties with third countries of interest, new strategy focusing on targeting illicit proceeds and assets, broadening of exchange strategic analysis to encompass not only law enforcement and intelligence services but also financial regulators.

Official data on the number of investigations, prosecutions, final judgments, and the application of sanctions for corruption offences (differentiated by offence if possible).

Police statistics on cases registered and clarified in 2025 will be available later in 2026.

Potential obstacles identified in law or in practice to the investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases.

Lawful access to data for law enforcement continues to be a relevant challenge in combating crime, including in uncovering and documenting corruption schemes.

Data on investigations, prosecutions, final judgments and the application of sanctions for corruption offences

Official data on investigations, prosecutions, final judgments and the application of sanctions for corruption offences remain in the same structure as presented in previous years. The preliminary figures (attached to this document) show that the number of legal persons convicted for bribery exceeds the number of prosecutions recorded in 2025, as courts issued convictions in cases initiated in previous years. All figures are preliminary and will be finalised in February. Publicly available data continue to inform policy-making by enabling the Ministry of Justice and other relevant institutions to monitor trends, assess the effectiveness of enforcement, and identify areas requiring legislative or institutional adjustments.

III. Media Pluralism and Media Freedom

Measures taken to ensure the independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources (financial, human and technical) of media regulatory authorities and bodies.

The main legislative change in media laws is the amendment of the laws on Czech Television, Czech Radio and on radio and television licence fees. This complex amendment was intensely debated within the Parliament, by both chambers in the first months of 2025. After final adoption it came into effect from 1st May 2025. The law has adjusted public service tasks of the Czech Radio and Czech Television with regard to technological reality and secured their financial stability.

The license fee obligation was broadened on the possession of any device to receive audio or audiovisual content, the calculation of fee for legal persons and entrepreneurs was modified as well as the amount of the fee itself (from 45 to 55 CZK monthly for radio reception and 135 to 150 monthly for TV reception). There is newly introduced inflation clause, to adjust the amount of the fee by 6% if the general inflation rate increases above 6% in previous calendar year/years. This legislative change also fulfills the obligation under Art. 5 from European Media Freedom Act. Other aspect of Art. 5 had already been in place.

Further legislative changes to adapt Czech legal framework to EMFA regulation were made in parallel to the above described changes. The proposed new law was prepared to implement art. 4, 6, 7, 17, 22, 24, 25 of EMFA. The law was debated within the Legislative Council during the summer months and later approved by the Government in October last year. Further progress was affected by the parliamentary general election that took place early October. Newly composed Chamber of Deputies has first opportunity to open the debate on the draft of law in January this year. Despite the absence of the law implementing EMFA, the regulatory body can fulfill certain tasks due to the direct legislative nature of the EMFA regulation. The Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting is the regulatory body that acts on behalf of Czechia in relation to EMFA regulation, it is the member of EBMS and provides information on media service providers according to art. 18. The implementing act on EMFA further foresees the Council's new competencies and tasks. It shall exercise the media market evaluation, administer the database of the state advertising and fulfill other obligations stated by EMFA, like cooperating with other NRAs, EBMS and reflecting procedures according to art. 17, and enforcement of directly applicable obligations. Ministry of Culture shall run the database of the ownership of media service providers according to

art. 6/2.

Transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information, including on direct, indirect and beneficial owners

There are no developments regarding the law on the conflict of interests following the ruling of the Constitutional Court in December 2024.

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety, including as regards protection of journalistic sources and communications, referring also, if applicable, to follow-up given to alerts lodged with the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.

The Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists has registered two new alerts since the publication of the latest Rule of Law Report, and the Czech Republic has responded to both. The first alert concerned threats and intimidation directed at a journalist; this case was investigated by the police. The second alert concerned the question of an extradition of a Russian journalist to Russia, the extradition was rejected by the court, which was also the Platform's request.

Law enforcement capacity, including during protests and demonstrations, to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists.

Law enforcement capacity continues to be sufficient. In principle, journalists are protected the same way as other citizens, individual threats are assessed individually and followed by an appropriate action according to the law.

Access to information and public documents by public at large and journalists

The Ministry of the Interior is only responsible for public access to information, not for access by a specific category of journalists. Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "InfA") does not include such a privileged group. Therefore, according to InfA, journalists are in principle in a similar position as ordinary citizens – applicants under the InfA. A more detailed description can be found in previous contributions provided by the Czech Republic in previous years.

No significant amendments to the InfA were adopted in the period concerned.

Although no landmark decision on access to information was issued in the period concerned, the following court decisions are worth mentioning:

1/ Judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of August 6, 2025, No. 7 As 120/2025-27 (Access to information on the performance evaluation of the Chief State Secretary as a civil servant)

The Office of the Government refused access to information concerning the performance evaluation of the Chief State Secretary as a civil servant *in its entirety*, on the basis of, inter alia, Article 8a of the InfA, under which the entity responsible for providing information may disclose information relating to a natural person's personality, personal sphere, private life and personal data only in accordance with the rules governing their protection. The Office of the Government justified its refusal on the grounds that the requested information could affect the private life, education, social behavior, work, and personal contacts of a civil servant and third parties, and that, given that the position of Chief State Secretary's function is held by only one specific person who is widely known, anonymization of these data did not come into question.

According to the court, it is not disputed that this was personal data relating to a *public administration officer*. However, neither the Office of the Government nor the appeal authority analyzed whether the performance evaluation contained information about the

Chief State Secretary's civil service activity.

Significance of the judgment: the court's conclusion can be applied to the evaluation of the performance of senior civil service in general: it is not permissible in principle to refuse to disclose this type of information (to keep it secret *en bloc*), at least the information relevant to their official activities must be provided.

2/ Judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of 29 April 2025, No. 21 As 29/2025 (Access to classified information)

The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic refused to provide information on the amendment to the agreement of June 17, 1994, between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on the settlement of debts of the former USSR and the Russian Federation towards the Czech Republic, referring to Article 7 of InfA, which regulates the protection of classified information.

The court concluded that non-disclosure under the above-mentioned article requires the fulfillment of both the formal and substantive elements of the concept of „classified information“. If the Czech Republic has a binding obligation under the international law to maintain the confidentiality of certain information, the substantive element may consist in the mere fact that its disclosure could lead to a failure to fulfill obligations of the Czech Republic under international law, thereby reducing its credibility in international relations and, in this sense, damaging or disadvantaging the interests of the Czech Republic. However, this does not exclude that, in exceptional cases, a proportionality test must be applied even in the case of the "categorical" ground for not providing information under Section 7 of the InfA and that, therefore, the public interest (interest of the Czech Republic) in keeping the information confidential must be weighed against the individual's right to access information.

Significance of the judgment : In line with the previous national case-law, the proportionality test (i.e. balancing of the opposing interests involved in order to determine whether legal protection of information should be disregarded in the case at hand) must be applied to all legal grounds, i.e. not only to facultative grounds (where, in the terms of the InfA, "the obliged entity *may* restrict the provision of information"), but also to "categorical" grounds for refusal.

3/ Judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of October 9, 2025, No. 1 As 183/2023

Pseudonymised data [Article 4(5) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data] must not be regarded as constituting, in all cases and for every person, personal data, as referred to in Article 4(1) of this Regulation. Whether the data subjects are identifiable – and information relating to them is therefore personal data – is likely to vary depending on person whose identifiability is being assessed (see, by analogy, judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of September 4, 2025, European Data Protection Supervisor v Single Resolution Board, C-413/23 P).

Significance of the judgment: the national court confirmed a new concept of personal data protection (which, incidentally, had already been applied within the InfA, *de facto* for years); the national court thus responded flexibly to developments in the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU in the area of personal data protection.

IV. Other institutional issues related to check and balances

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence-based policy-making, stakeholders/public consultations (including rules and practices on the transparent participation of civil society to policy development and decision-making processes, and transparency and quality of the legislative process in the preparatory, the parliamentary and implementation phase (including guidance on how to implement legislation).

The strengthening of transparency of the legislative process is a process that is still ongoing. The system e-Legislativa should facilitate preparatory works within the legislative process, ensure greater transparency, and offer an overview of the legislative processes currently underway. e-Legislativa is a platform for drafting, commenting, and promulgation of legislation. The e-Legislativa system should have both a publicly open part of the portal and a part of the portal which is accessible only to persons involved in the legislative drafting.²¹ The e-Legislativa system is being put into operation for users in stages over the period 2024-2027.²²

According to the currently applicable schedule, the system is operational and compulsory for the preparation of implementing legislation (such as government decrees and regulations) and international law instruments (mostly international treaties and their changes). The e-Legislativa system was planned to be operational for acts, constitutional acts, rulings of the Constitutional Court, and legal measures of the Senate since 15 January 2026. However, due to technical issues, the schedule was partly changed²³, and the compulsory use of e-Legislativa was postponed for the preparation of amendments of laws and legal measures of the Senate until 15 January 2027. The e-Legislativa shall be used for the preparation or promulgation of rulings of the Constitutional Court and acts, constitutional acts, or legal measures of the Senate that do not amend other acts since 15 January 2026. Additionally, e-Legislativa should not be used for the preparation of acts regulating the state budget and instruments containing a declaration of a state of emergency, a state of threat to the state, or a state of war.

The government continued to take steps to improve inclusiveness in the policy-making process. After the completion of the pilot testing of the *Methodology for the Participation of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations in Advisory and Working Bodies and in the Development of State Administration Documents*, the Government approved the Methodology in 2025 and recommended its use in practice.²⁴ In 2025, another methodological material was elaborated, which is *10 Points – Methodology for Coordinating Partnership Cooperation and Involving Partners from Civil Society Organisations in the Implementation of EU Funds and Other Similar Activities*. It contains ten recommended standards for effective cooperation between state administration and civil society organizations²⁵ in the implementation of European funds and thus contributes to the implementation of the European Partnership Principle. Discussions are currently underway with the Ministry of Regional Development, which is the National Authority for the Coordination of EU Funds, on the implementation of the 10-point Methodology.

In 2025, the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations adopted

²¹ O projektu. Accessible on: <https://zakony.gov.cz/esel/>

²² e-Legislativa. Accessible on: <https://zakony.gov.cz/#elegislativa>

²³ Act No. 583/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 222/2016 Coll., on the Collection of Laws and International Treaties and on the Creation of Legal Regulations Published in the Collection of Laws and International Treaties (Act on the Collection of Laws and International Treaties). Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2025/583/0000-00-00?f=583%2F2025&zalozka=text>; Sněmovní tisk 25/0. 10. Volební období. Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/orig2.sqw?idd=265308>; Novela zákona o Sbírce zákonů a mezinárodních smluv. Accessible on: <https://www.pravniprostor.cz/zmeny-v-legislative/vyslo-ve-sbirce-zakonu/novela-zakona-o-sbirce-zakonu-mezinarodnich-smluv>

²⁴ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/aktuality/vlada-schvalila-metodiku-participace-nno-a-doporucila-zajistit-jeji-plneni-222108/>

²⁵ The term *civil society organization* is used synonymously to refer to *non-governmental non-profit organization*.

a revised definition of an umbrella non-governmental non-profit organization, which aimed to define key partners for systemic cooperation.²⁶ The revised definition has been incorporated into the *Government Guidelines for the Provision of Subsidies from the State Budget of the Czech Republic to Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations by Central Bodies of State Administration*, submitted to the inter-ministerial consultation procedure and the comments are currently being settled. Subsequently, the Guidelines are expected to be submitted to the Government.

Currently, there is a budget interim in the Czech Republic and the total amount of funding for non-governmental non-profit organisations in 2026 is therefore unknown and it is not clear whether it will reach the originally planned amount.²⁷

Rules and use of fast-track procedures and emergency procedures (for example, the percentage of decisions adopted through emergency/urgent procedure compared to the total number of adopted decisions)

In the Czech Republic, there are two basic ways to accelerate the legislative process – by using 1) the procedure of adopting acts in a state of legislative emergency²⁸ (in Czech “stav legislativní nouze”) or 2) the procedure of adopting an act in the first reading (fast track procedure).²⁹

The following table shows the number of acts promulgated in the Collection of Laws as they were approved in different legislative regimes during the calendar year 2025:

Acts promulgated in the collection of Laws in the calendar year 2025	
All acts promulgated in year 2025	99
Acts adopted using the fast track (procedure of adopting acts in the first reading)	27
Acts adopted using the state of legislative emergency	0

In total, 27 acts were approved using the fast track procedure. Here is important to mention that fast track procedure (the procedure of adopting acts in the first reading) is used even when there is no emergency need. This procedure is used even in cases of non-controversial bills having wide support across all political parties. A relatively high number of acts approved using fast track procedure might have been influenced by the approaching end of the legislative term and the election of new members to the Chamber of Deputies.

Rules and application of states of emergency (or analogous regimes), including judicial review and parliamentary oversight.

During the year 2025, the state of emergency (*nouzový stav*) was not declared.

The state of danger (*stav nebezpečí*) was declared in part of the Olomouc region with regard

²⁶ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/aktuality/zasedani-rady-vlady-pro-nestatni-neziskove-organizace-dne-2--rijna-2025-222248/>, direct link to the revised definition:
https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnno/aktuality/Priloha_2_Definice-zastresujicich-NNO-a-dalsich-typu-NNO-2_.pdf.

²⁷ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/dokumenty/hlavni-oblasti-statni-dotacni-politiky-vuci-nestatnim-neziskovym-organizacim-pro-rok-2026-220232/>.

²⁸ For more information, see § 99 of Act No. 90/1995 Coll. on the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies, § 118 of Act No. 107/1999 Coll. on Rules of Procedure of Senate and § 17 of Government's Legislative Rules.

²⁹ See sec. 90 (2 – 7) of the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies, as amended.

to the freight train accident in February 2025, when a significant amount of benzene leaked into the soil. The government recommended to the hejtman of the region (president of the region) to declare a state of danger.³⁰ Consequently, the state of danger was declared by the hejtman on 28 March 2025 for the area surrounding the accident³¹, and the state of danger was later prolonged several times.³²

Both the state of danger and the state of emergency are types of crisis management regimes regulated by the Czech law. However, compared to the state of emergency, the state of danger is used when the intensity of danger is of a smaller scale.³³ Concerning the state of danger, neither the Chamber of Deputies nor the Senate have any special oversight competence.

Regime for constitutional review of laws

Act No. 182/1993 Coll., on the Constitutional Court was amended in 2025 by one amendment which did not change the current regulation of reviews of laws.

Independence, resources, capacity and powers (including effective access to relevant data) of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

The National Human Rights Institution was established by enacting Act No. 77/2025 Coll., amending the act on the Public Defender of Rights, which became applicable since 1 July 2025.³⁴ The amendment to the Public Defender of Rights Act established the NHRI and the Children's ombudsman institution within the Office of the Public Defender of Rights. The Chamber of Deputies, through its Petition committee, regularly receives reports about activities of the Office of the Public Defender of Rights. The Petition committee also monitored the implementation of NHRI and the Children's ombudsman institution. The Office of the Public Defender of Rights reported that organizational preparation of the office and preparation for incorporating these agendas into the functioning of the office are in progress.³⁵ However, the last report for the Petition committee about this issue from April 2025 highlighted the need for the allocation of further financial resources.³⁶ The proposal of the state budget prepared in September 2025 by the former government proposed the rise of the budget of the Office of the Public Defender of Rights.³⁷ However, the state budget for the current year 2026 still has not been approved. Moreover, the Chamber of Deputies has to set new rules concerning the selection of the Children's ombudsman and the

³⁰ Vláda přijala usnesení doporučující hejtmanovi Olomouckého kraje vyhlásit stav nebezpečí. Důvodem je únik benzenu do životního prostředí. Accessible on: <https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/media-centrum/aktualne/vlada-prijala-usneseni-doporucujici-hejtmanovi-olomouckeho-kraje-vyhlasi-stav-nebezpeci--duvodem-je-unik-benzenu-do-zivotniho-prostredi-219016/>

³¹ ROZHODNUTÍ hejtmána Olomouckého kraje ze dne 28. 3. 2025 číslo 1/2025 o vyhlášení stavu nebezpečí. Accessible on: <https://www.olkraj.cz/get-file/133697>

³² Hejtman opět prodloužil stav nebezpečí u Hustopečí nad Bečvou. Accessible on: <https://www.olkraj.cz/aktuality/hejtman-opet-prodlouzil-stav-nebezpeci-u-hustopeci-nad-becvou>

³³ Act No. 240/2000 Coll. on Crisis Management. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2000/240/2024-01-01?f=240%2F2000&zalozka=text>

³⁴ Zákon č. 77/2025 Sb. Zákon, kterým se mění zákon č. 349/1999 Sb., o Veřejném ochránci práv, ve znění pozdějších předpisů, a další související zákony. Accessible on: <https://www.e-sbirka.cz/sb/2025/77?zalozka=text>

³⁵ Petiční výbor. Zápis z jednání č. 45 (4. února 2025). Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=251354>

³⁶ Petiční výbor. Zápis z jednání č. 49 (29. dubna 2025). Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=254848>

³⁷ Vláda schválila návrh státního rozpočtu na rok 2026. Accessible on: <https://www.mfcr.cz/cs/ministerstvo/media/tiskove-zpravy/2025/vlada-schvalila-navrh-statniho-rozpocetna-rok-2026-61433>

ombudsman.³⁸

The accreditation process for the NHRI, driven by the Ombudsperson themselves in line with the Paris principles, will start subsequently in the coming months.

The Ombudsperson has already been working in numerous areas of human rights protection, and the necessary changes have been therefore rather minimal in scope. The Ombudsperson will now deal with human rights under a dedicated mandate covering all human rights areas and topics and be able to work on any human rights issue comprehensively and systematically via dedicated research, situational analysis and recommendations for improvement. The Act also mentions promotional activities of the Ombudsperson like education and awareness raising. The amendment also improved the selection process for the Ombudsperson by introducing a new expert committee which will assess the proposed candidates and their competencies for the Chamber of Deputies who will elect the Ombudsperson. Also, an advisory body comprising scientific, academic, and religious experts, civil society, national minorities and other social groups has been established to advise the Ombudsperson in their work as the national human rights institution and strengthen the plurality and participation.

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and respect of the good administration principle (including the obligation of the administration to give reasons for decisions)

One major change represents the option to file petition against a negative binding opinion which prevents the issuance of a permit, typically a building permit. This opinion will be newly considered an administrative decision; therefore, it can be reviewed by court. This provision reacts to what has already been gradually established by the case law.

This amendment aims to simplify building permit procedure and reduce the administrative burden on both courts and administrative authorities. It is further expected that, in the area of construction law, the amendment will save time and financial resources for builders, building authorities and administrative courts.

Another area of amendments introduces changes in the form of participants' procedural steps in administrative court procedures. Written submissions filed by attorneys and other professionals including legal persons who had their data box established by the state will now require electronic form. The option to submit a physical document to the administrative court remains available only if it is not possible to submit in electronic form, typically when a physical object needs to be attached to the submission.

With regard to transparency of administrative decisions, we recommend the Czech Republic's input 2022 (page 36-38).

Changes to administrative justice

In 2024, the government filed another draft Act, which aimed to amend the existing Act no. 150/2002 Coll., the Code of Administrative Justice and included many changes to administrative justice.³⁹ As mentioned above, this proposal was not adopted, the Chamber of Deputies not accepting it in due time. Given that the new government was established in December 2025, it has not yet decided on whether to file a draft Act to the Parliament again.

However, an Act no. 314/2025 Coll., amending the Act concerning Asylum Law⁴⁰ includes several provisions included in the draft revised Act no. 150/2002 such as changes to specifications of the submissions to the court and changes to the definition of the person participating in the proceedings, who did not file the action nor is the defendant but was

³⁸ Petiční výbor. Zápis z jednání č. 47 (18. března 2025). Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=252893>, Petiční výbor. Zápis z jednání č. 52 (24. června 2025). Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=257108>

³⁹ [Sněmovní tisk 777](#)

⁴⁰ [Sněmovní tisk 931](#)

directly affected in his/her rights.

Implementation of final judgments by the public administration and State institutions and follow-up given to supranational judgments, including decisions from the European Court of Human Rights, as well as available remedies in case of non-implementation

As of December 2025, there are still 9 leading judgments of the European Court of Human Rights with implementation pending⁴¹, however, there has been new development regarding the oldest leading judgement No. 57325/00, D.H. AND OTHERS v. the Czech Republic (discrimination against the applicants in the exercise of their right to education).

On October 17, 2025, the Czech authorities submitted the Action plan to support the participation of Roma and socially disadvantaged children in preschool education, identifying the barriers in access to pre-school education of Roma and socially disadvantaged children; and presenting measures to support their timely enrolment in the preschool education; regular attendance; and the quality of preschool education, the implementation of which has been scheduled in the period 2026-2027.

In relation to four other fundamental judgements, the Czech authorities submitted certain measures and action plans to enhance their implementation as follows:

Judgement No. 13968/22, SPISAK v. the Czech Republic: The Action plan was delivered on March 19, 2025. The just satisfaction awarded was paid to the applicant. The applicant may request reopening of proceedings before the Constitutional Court. Furthermore, the state authorities foresee an amendment to the Juvenile Justice Act which will not be submitted sooner than 2026 due to the end of term of the Chamber of Deputies in October 2025. In the meantime, the judgment has been included in training programs for judges and prosecutors.

Judgement No. 37782/21, Z v. the Czech Republic: The report on the execution of the judgment was delivered on September 5, 2025. The just satisfaction awarded to the applicant was paid to the applicant. The applicant requested reopening of the proceedings before the Constitutional Court, which then found a violation of the applicant's human rights by the respective decisions of police and prosecution, quashed those decisions, and referred the case back for a new investigation (as of July 2025).

Judgement No. 51409/19, MACHARIK v. the Czech Republic: The action plan submitted on November 13, 2025. The just satisfaction awarded was paid to the applicant. The judgment was translated and widely distributed among the relevant authorities, namely the District Court in Prague 3, the Prague Municipal Court, the High Court in Prague, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Prosecutor's Office and the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice. The translation of the judgment and its summary were included in the internal database of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office.

Judgement No. 26074/18, V v. the Czech Republic: The Committee of Ministers examined the execution of this case during its 1545th DH meeting (2-4 December 2025). As regards training for the police in dealing with persons with mental disorders, in April 2025, the Czech Psychiatric Society issued guidelines to police officers on how to identify persons with obvious signs of mental disorder or of being intoxicated and how to deal with them during police interventions. As regards the psychiatric hospital concerned in this case (in Olomouc), its acute care unit has been renovated to increase security of patients and personnel. The number of employees has increased since 2015 and regular trainings for

⁴¹ <https://www.einnetwork.org/czech-republic-echr>

the staff on prevention and management of risky patient behaviour is organised. The hospital adopted and implemented guidelines on how to proceed in case of agitated patients. As regards the needs of psychiatric hospitals in general, in May 2027, the Institute of Health Information and Statistics will collect statistics on how often psychiatric hospitals request the police assistance to deal with aggressive patients in order to identify trends and determine which facilities need additional staff or financial resources.

Oversight, including by courts, of the use of intrusive surveillance software by national authorities

Criminal Procedure Code (law 141/1961 Coll.) requires in Section 158d paragraph 3 prior judicial approval with regard to these forms of surveillance that infringe on privacy of dwelling (and other relevant premises), of communication or of privately held data. This includes technical surveillance, which encompasses also surveillance software. Ex-post judicial approval is not possible in these cases (Section 158d paragraph 5) and the maximum period is 6 months, renewable.

Security Information Service must ask by a reasoned written request for prior written authorization by a judge when using intelligence technology, including intrusive surveillance software. In particular, the law stipulates period of use not exceeding 4 months. Judge may require any information necessary to determine if the reasons for deployment are still valid. (Equivalent rules apply to Military Intelligence.)

Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

Law enforcement capacity continues to be sufficient. Representatives of civil society organizations and human rights defenders are protected the same way as other citizens, individually assessing each threat and measures to be taken. (In this regard, it may be worth mentioning that an offender has been convicted in 2024 of dangerous pursuit and disorderly conduct for 19 months imprisonment. This offender has committed these offences by repeatedly trying to force contact both with Chair of Medical Chamber and with a scientist active in media because of different views about measures against Covid-19.) See above for the update on the methodology enabling more systemic inclusion of civil society (organizations) to the consultation proceedings.

Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

The topic of the rule of law was mentioned within the debate of the Parliament plenary session several times.⁴² Several events held on the premises of the Parliament were connected to topics covered by the rule of law report (i. a. foreign interference, financial criminality etc.) Moreover, the Chamber of Deputies provided its premises, specifically a small cinema, for the screening of movies about human rights issues for the general public within the Festival One World in March 2025. Furthermore, the seminar on the topic of "Why democracy is losing ground and declining around the world" took place in the Chamber of Deputies. The seminar targeted on seeking of possible causes of this crisis, possibilities of a regeneration of democracy, and conditions that are necessary for its long-term viability in the changing world.⁴³

In accordance with its membership in Open Government Partnership, the Czech Republic in 2025 began implementing its 7th Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2025 to 2026. The Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2025 to 2026 was approved by the Government Resolution from 8 January

⁴² For instance, during the plenary session on 26 November 2025, there was a discussion about the participation of MPs in the interparliamentary meeting on the topic of "the rule of law in the European Union." (see <https://www.psp.cz/eknih/2025ps/stenprot/003schuz/s003037.htm>).

⁴³ Seminář s názvem "Proč demokracie ve světě ztrácí a upadá". Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/zprava/20516>

2025 No. 15 and contains the following commitments:

- 4.1. Analysis and design of a national competence center focused on consultation, participation and deliberative processes
- 4.2. Preparation of pilot implementation of modern deliberative mechanisms at the central level in the Czech Republic
- 4.3. Capacity building within Government to strengthen cooperation between Government and civil society organizations
- 4.4. Promoting participatory methods in promoting social inclusion at the local level
- 4.5. An environment for efficient and transparent public procurement
- 4.6. Strengthening transparency in small-scale public procurement
- 4.7. Reform of the Office for the Protection of Competition (OPC) regarding the review of public procurement

More on implementation of the Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2025 to 2026 can be found at the following website where the information is updated on a quarterly basis: <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plan-1ap/sedmy-akcni-plan-2025-2026/faze-implementace/>.

Cross-pillar elements: cross-border rule of law issues related to the Single Market

If you are aware of any significant challenges concerning the Single Market faced by businesses or citizens from your Member State in a cross-border context relating to any of the four pillars of the report, including for example issues with market access and the conditions for economic activities, please highlight them in the box below.⁴⁴

Specialisation (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases.

In 2025, JACZ continued to provide targeted training for judges in commercial law. The programme covered both substantive and procedural aspects of commercial adjudication and reflected current legislation, recent case law, and practical challenges. Key topics included company law – particularly interpretation of the Business Corporations Act, public registers, and corporate governance – as well as obligations, consumer protection, negotiable instruments, and liability for damages.

Training plan also offered seminars on the enforcement of judgments and on the interaction between enforcement and insolvency proceedings. Cross-border commercial issues remained an essential part of the curriculum. Training focused on international jurisdiction, applicable law, and the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, with emphasis on the Brussels I bis Regulation and the Rome I and Rome II Regulations. It also included relevant case law of the Court of Justice of the EU and practical aspects of cross-border service of documents and evidence-taking.

The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen judges' expertise in commercial law and to support consistent, effective decision-making at both national and cross-border

⁴⁴ Given the cross-cutting nature of this question, it is included as a separate section in the questionnaire. Information collected under this question will however be integrated under the relevant existing pillar(s) of the Report.

levels.⁴⁵

Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation

The Czech Republic continued to strengthen its mediation framework in 2025, building on progress from previous years. Under the oversight of the Ministry of Justice, which supervises registered mediators, the country pursued a systematic, data-driven approach focused on legislative improvements, professional development and greater effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Recent measures—including increased mediator fees and a clearer legal framework governing the first mediation meeting—are expected to enhance both the quality and sustainability of mediation services. Ongoing educational activities further support the continuous professional development of registered mediators and contribute to the overall accessibility and effectiveness of mediation.

Legislative developments

In 2025, two significant legislative changes were adopted to improve the mediation framework:

1. **Act No. 268/2025 Coll. (effective 1 January 2025):** This act amends Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and other related acts, including the Act on Special Court Proceedings. The amendment clarified that “mediation proceedings” in family law cases refers to the “first meeting with a registered mediator” rather than mandatory mediation. This change strengthens the voluntary nature of mediation and ensures that mediation is conducted by certified registered mediators in accordance with the Mediation Act. The clarification addresses previous misunderstandings about the nature of the first meeting and enhances the credibility of mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism.
2. **Decree No. 488/2025 Coll. (effective 1 January 2026):** The fee for registered mediators for the court-ordered first meeting was increased from 400 CZK to 1,000 CZK per hour (a 2.5-fold increase). This adjustment responds to:
 - Cumulative inflation of approximately 58% since the original fee was set in 2012
 - The complexity and administrative burden of organizing and conducting first meetings
 - The need to prevent the outflow of registered mediators (approximately 30 mediators out of 300 left the profession in the last three years, partly due to insufficient remuneration)
 - Comparison with fees for other legal professions (experts, interpreters)

The first meeting has proven highly effective: statistics from 2017-2024 show that 57.27% of cases resulted in settlement and 14.15% in withdrawal of the claim, meaning 71.42% of proceedings were successfully concluded after the first meeting. The impact on the state budget is negligible (approximately 5,000-15,000 CZK annually), as the fee is typically paid by the parties.

Education and professional development

The Ministry of Justice continued its educational activities for registered mediators in 2025:

1. **Pilot training “Difficult behaviour in mediation”:** A new one-day in-person

⁴⁵ A detailed overview of training events can be found on the JACZ website <https://www.jacz.cz/>.

training program was proposed and prepared for implementation in 2026. The training is designed to help registered mediators handle challenging situations.

2. **Seminar on the first meeting with registered mediators (15 October 2025):** As part of the National Mediation Week, a seminar was organized covering both theoretical and practical aspects of the first meeting.
3. **Ongoing development of competency framework:** Work continued on developing a competency framework for registered mediators, which will serve as a basis for revising the written part of the mediator examination and updating study materials.

Data and monitoring

The mediation dashboard⁴⁶ continued to provide transparent access to court-related mediation data.

The Ministry of Justice also conducted a comprehensive survey of registered mediators in 2025, focusing on the first meeting and educational needs, with approximately 100 mediators participating out of roughly 300 active mediators.

Promotion and awareness

1. **National Mediation Day/Week (18 October 2025):** The Ministry of Justice organized various events during the National Mediation Week, including:
 - A design sprint at Charles University Faculty of Law (14 October 2025) bringing together lawyers, mediators, and judges
 - A seminar for registered mediators (15 October 2025)
 - Various other events promoting mediation and ADR
2. **Conference at Charles University Faculty of Law (25 November 2025):** A full-day conference was organized, where the Ministry of Justice presented results from its research on the first meeting with registered mediators.

Professional community building: The Ministry continued to participate in professional events and maintain connections with ADR professionals.

As regards the publication of your written input, please indicate whether you⁴⁷:

☐ Consent

☐ Do not consent

⁴⁶ See <https://mediace.justice.cz/mediacni-dashboard-data-o-vyuzivani-narizeneho-prvniho-setkani-se-zapsanym-mediator-em-srozumitelne/>.

⁴⁷ Should you wish to amend the input submitted ahead of the Report's publication, please simply indicate so to the Commission services which will ensure that the correct version is published.