

2018 Country Report for Czech Republic

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Level of employment approaching 80 % and an unemployment rate of 2.5 % (unemployment rate is the lowest recorded in any EU Member State since 2002).
- Labour market participation for low-skilled and disabled people remains low (only 43 % against an EU average of 47.4 %).
- The labour market is strong, yet the low participation in employment of women with small children and of vulnerable groups remains a challenge.
- Women's labour market potential is underused, as reflected in the high employment and gender pay gap.
- The Czech Republic has a very low-income inequality.

II. Education Policy

- Education performance continues to be strongly affected by the socioeconomic background of students.
- Inclusive education measures still need to be fully implemented.
- The low early school leaving rate has risen, contrary to the EU trend.
- The tertiary education attainment continues to increase.
- The reform introduced in September 2016 helps the inclusion of pupils with special needs (including socioeconomically disadvantaged children) in mainstream education with the support of the ESF.
- Since September 2017, the last year of preschool education has been compulsory to include more disadvantaged children.

III. Social Policy

- The Czech Republic is among the European countries with the lowest proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.
- There is a rising trend of social exclusion for people with disabilities.



IV. Anything else?

- Gender inequalities in terms of pay and employment remain high despite recent measures that have made parental leave more flexible and increased the number of childcare facilities.
- The lack of affordable childcare is a major constraint on female labour participation in the Czech Republic.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for the [Czech Republic](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

For more information, please contact

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