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CEEK AGRI POLICY

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the candidate states and the countries of the western balkan**

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**STUDY ON RURAL VITALITY**  
**First report for Czech Republic**  
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## 1. An introduction to the rural areas of Czech Republic

Rural development measures have been included under the SAPARD pre-accession instrument and its programming document "Agriculture and Rural Development Plan of the Czech Republic".

The structure of the villages according to the size category (to 1. 1. 2005) is reported in the next table.

Size category	Number of villages		Area in km <sup>2</sup>		Number of persons	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
To 199	1 633	26,14	9 702	12,30	200 534	1,96
200 – 499	2 012	32,20	18 296	23,20	653 740	6,40
500 – 999	1 293	20,69	17 021	21,58	901 546	8,82
1 000 – 1 499	449	7,19	8 244	10,45	545 888	5,34
1 500 – 1 999	225	3,60	4 765	6,04	387 968	3,80
<b>Total "village"</b>	<b>5 612</b>	<b>89,82</b>	<b>58 027</b>	<b>73,57</b>	<b>2 689 676</b>	<b>26,32</b>
2 000 - 4 999	368	5,89	9 644	12,23	1 122 262	10,98
5 000 - 9 999	137	2,19	4 419	5,60	932 726	9,13
10 000 - 19 999	68	1,09	2 376	3,01	955 227	9,35
20 000 - 49 999	42	0,67	2 077	2,63	1 250 363	12,23
50 000 - 99 999	16	0,26	1 144	1,45	1 157 242	11,32
100 000 and more	4	0,06	686	0,87	942 510	9,22
Prague	1	0,02	496	0,63	1 170 571	11,45
<b>Total "towns"</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>10,18</b>	<b>20 841</b>	<b>26,42</b>	<b>7 530 901</b>	<b>73,68</b>
<b>Total CR</b>	<b>6 248</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>78 869</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>10 220 576</b>	<b>100,00</b>
In which towns	527	8,43	18 905	23,97	7 174 756	70,20
Other villages	5 721	91,57	59 964	76,03	3 045 821	29,80

Source: Czech Statistical Office, calculation

From 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture has been pursuing rural development objectives in the framework of non-production functions of agriculture through Government Decree No. 505/2000 Coll., as amended by Government Decree No. 500/2001 Coll.

The Support and Guarantee Agricultural and Forestry Fund (SGAFF)'s schemes also contribute to rural development. The main activity of the SGFFF is to provide support in the form of interest subsidies and guarantees of a part of the principal of loans for return generating business projects of enterprises falling under the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture. This Decree expired with accession to the EU, but some aid schemes are being phased out. With the Czech Republic's accession to the EU, Government Decree No. 242/2004 Coll., which lays down the conditions for the implementation of measures to support the development of non-production functions of agriculture dealing with the protection of the environment (on the application of agri-environmental measures) came into force. Expenditure is expected to amount to CZK 3 538.1 million in 2004.

Some other resources, for the preservation and development of rural areas, are provided by the Ministry of the Environment. Landscape upkeep schemes focussing on particular actions (planting of small woodlands and hedges, revitalisation of channelised watercourses, etc.) are among the priorities of the Ministry of the Environment.

Finance under the "River Network Revitalisation Programme" was increased from CZK 436.9 million in 2003 to CZK 498.9 million in 2004, while that under the "Landscape Upkeep Programme" was cut from CZK 209 million to CZK 198.6 million.

Programmes of the State Environment Fund of the Czech Republic concentrate on the construction of waste water treatment plants and sewerage systems (CZK 2 678.3 million were provided in 2003) and on air protection (expenditure of CZK 665.4 million in 2003).

Programmes of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry for Regional Development are designed to support small and medium sized enterprises through interest subsidies (the VILLAGE and REGENERATION programmes). The aim of these programmes is to increase the attractiveness of small-scale businesses and employment in small villages and thus to contribute to the economic and social situations in such areas.

The programmes allow the provision, to enterprises operating in villages with not more than 2999 inhabitants, a subsidy amounting to 5 percentage points of the interest rate on a loan designed for a business project (the VILLAGE programme); and a subsidy amounting to 3 percentage points of the interest rate on a loan designed for a business project (the REGENERATION programme). Expenditure for these programmes amounted to CZK 410 million in 2003.

## 2. Annotated bibliography

### Axis 1: Competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sectors

Citation	Blažek, J. (1999c). Local and Regional Development and Policy in the Czech Republic in the 1990s. In: V. Hudák, H. Huitfeldt, and E Meegan, eds. <i>Regional Policy Goes East, The East West Institute, Praha</i> . 44-65. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

Citation	Maskell, P., and Malmberg, A. (1999a): The competitiveness of firms and regions: 'ubiquitification' and the importance of localized learning, <i>European Urban and Regional Studies</i> , 6, 5. 9-25. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

Citation	Porter, M. (1996). Competitive Advantage, Agglomeration Economies, and Regional Policy, <i>International Regional Science Review</i> , 19, N. 1 and 2, 85-94. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

Citation	Terluin, I.J. (2003) Differences in economic development in rural regions of advanced countries: an overview and critical analysis of theories, <i>Journal of Rural Studies</i> , 19, 3, 327-344. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

### Axis 2: Improving the environment and countryside

Citation	Albrechts L., Swyngedouw E. et al., eds. (1989): <i>Regional Policy at the Crossroads</i> , 199. London, Jessica Kingsley. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

Citation	Andrle, A. (1995). Vylidnování venkova vCR 1961 - 91. <i>Státní správa a samospráva, N.1</i> , 28-29. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Depopulation of countryside in CR during 1961-1991.

Citation	Blažek, J. (1993). Regionální vývoj a regionální politika (hlavní přístupy v zemích západní Evropy). In L. Sýkora, ed. <i>Současné trendy v socioekonomické geografii</i> , Praha, PrF UK, 120-146. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Regional development and policy – main approaches in western Europe countries. Today's trends in the socioeconomic geography.

Citation	Blažek, B. (1997). Problémy a výhledy českého venkova. EcoTerra, Škola obnovy venkova, <i>Sprint - tiskárna, Libceves</i> , s, 84. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	The problems and outlooks of the Czech countryside.

Citation	Blažek, B. (1998). Venkov, města, média. 1. vyd. Praha SLON, 632, Tab, pic.. ISBN 80-85850-59-1. Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Countyside, towns, and the media.

Citation	Blažek, J. (1999a). Teorie regionálního vývoje: je na obzoru nové paradigma či jde o pohyb v kruhu? <i>Geografie-Sborník CGS</i> , N. 3/1999, 141-159. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	The theory of regional development: Is it new paradigm on the horizon or the movement in the circle?

Citation	Blažek, J. (1999b). Regional Development and Regional Policy in Central East European Countries in the Perspective of EU Enlargement. In M. Hampl, ed., <i>Geography of Societal Transformation in the Czech Republic</i> , s. 181-207. Prague, Dept. of Soc. Geography and Regional Development, Charles University. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available

Citation	Blažek J., and Uhlír D. (2002). <i>Teorie regionálního rozvoje</i> , Karolinum, Praha (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Theory of regional development)

Citation	Hampl, M. (1988). Teorie strukturální a vývojové organizace geografických systému: principy a problémy, <i>Studia geographica</i> , N, 93, Brno, GGÚ (SAV, 78). (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Structural theory and developmental organizations of geographical system: principles and problems

Citation	Hampl, M. (1998a). <i>Realita, společnost, a geografická organizace: hledání integrálního rádu</i> , Praha, Přírodovědecká fakulta UK, 110. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Reality, society and geographical organizations: looking for the integral rule

Citation	Konzultacní dokument Venkov (1998), Ministerstvo místního rozvoje CR, www.mmr.cz (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Consulting document 'Countryside'

Citation	Ministry of Agriculture {no date} Koncepce agrární politiky MZe na roky 2004-2013, interní materiál, MZe. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Conception of agrarian policy Ministry of Agriculture 2004-2013

Citation	Majerová, V. (2003). . a kol.: Český venkov 2003 (Situace před vstupem do EU), PEF CZU, PEF CZU Praha 2003, 121-138. ISBN 80-213-1121-5. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Czech countryside - situation before the admission to EU

### Axis 3: Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification

Citation	Asheim, B. (1992): Flexible specialization, industrial districts and small firms: A critical appraisal. In: H. Emste, and V. Meier, eds. <i>Regional Development and Contemporary Industrial Response: Extending Flexible Specialization</i> . London, Belhaven Press, 45-63. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available.

Citation	Czech Republic (s.n.) (1999). <i>Plán rozvoje venkova, podklad. dokument pro program SAPARD (1999), MZe a MMR CR, www.mze.cz</i> (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Plan of rural development

Citation	Czech Republic (s.n.) (2003) Horizontální plán rozvoje venkova CR pro období 2004 – 2006 (2003); MZe CR. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Horizontal plan of rural development CR during 2004-2006

Citation	Czech Republic (s.n.). (2003). <i>Operacní program, Rozvoj venkova a multifunkční zemědělství</i> ; MZe CR, 2003. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Operational programme „Rural development and multifunction agriculture“

Citation	Kraftová, I. (2003). Analýza kapitálové síly regionu na základě souhrnných statistických údajů; in <i>Sborník konference „Aktuální otázky rozvoje regionu III“</i> ; PEF CZU, Praha. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Analysis of capital power in the region on the basis summary statistical data

Citation	Kubeš J. {no date}. <i>Problémy stabilizace venkovského osídlení CR, Jihoceská univerzita, České Budejovice str. 133-151</i> . ISBN 807040-385-3. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Problems of the stabilisation rural habitation

Citation	Majerová, V. (1999). Agriculture and Countryside in the Czech books, <i>Eastern European Countryside</i> , 5, pp.107-111. ISSN 1232-8855. (Source: Czech Republic)
Annotation	Not available

### 3. Current availability of statistical data

Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of desegregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source <sup>1</sup>
GDP/capita (EU-25 = 100)	GDP/capita (abs. value)	Republic	1998	2005	Czech Statistical Office
Rate of unemployment (% active population)	Unemployment (abs. number)	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
Rate of female unemployment	Female unemployment (abs. value)	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
Rate of young people (<25 y.o.) unemployment	Young people unemployment (abs. value)	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% of GVA in primary sector	GVA in primary sector (abs. value)				
% employment in primary sector	Employment in primary sector (abs. number)	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
Importance of young people (5-14) %	=	n.a.			
Importance of middle people (15-54 + 54-64) %	=	n.a.			
Importance of age people (>=65) %	=	n.a.			
% employment in Secondary sector	=	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% employment in Third sector	=	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% of self-employed + family workers	=	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% Long-term unemployment	=	n.a.			
Share of population covered by LAG's	Population covered by LAG's (abs. number)				
% farmers with basic and full education attained	Farmers with basic and full education attained (abs. number)	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
Labour productivity in agriculture (EU-25 = 100) - total and by sector.	Labour productivity in agriculture (abs. value) - total and by sector.				
% farmers < 35 years	=	Republic	1995	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% farmers >= 55 years	=	Republic	1995	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
GFCF in agriculture / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in agriculture (abs. value)	n.a.			
Share of GVA in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry (abs. value)				
GVA /employee in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry				
GFCF in food industry / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in food industry (abs. value)	n.a.			

<sup>1</sup> using the Harvard System described above for published sources; or giving the URL reference for on-line sources

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of desegregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source <sup>2</sup>
% farms < 1 ESU	number of farms < 1 ESU	n.a.			
Farm size (ha) average and distribution	=	Republic	1998	2003	FADN
Farm size (ESU) and distribution	=	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of farms	=	Republic	1995	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
Utilized agricultural area (ha)	=	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
Agricultural Work Unit	=	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
GFCF in forestry / area of forest available for wood supply (€/ha)	GFCF in forestry (abs. value)	n.a.			
GVA /employee in forestry	Gross Value Added in forestry				
Employment in forestry sector	=	Republic	2000	2005	Czech Statistical Office
area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS)	=	Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
ownership (% area of FAWS under private ownership)	=	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
average size of holding (of total forest area) by type of ownership (ha)	=	n.a.			
% UAA under Natura 2000	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000 (abs. value)				
% forest area under Natura 2000	Forestry areas under Natura 2000 (abs. number)				
Trends of index of population of farmland birds	=				
% UAA of High Nature Value Farmland areas	High Nature Value farmland areas (abs. number)				
% UAA of extensive agriculture	area of extensive agriculture (abs. number)	Republic	1995	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% UAA with low grazing LU/ha	area of extensive livestock (abs. number)	Republic	1995	2004	Czech Statistical Office
% area LFA (mountainous)	=	Republic	2001	2005	orders in Council 505/00 (500/01), HRDP 2004

<sup>2</sup> using the Harvard System described above for published sources; or giving the URL reference for on-line sources

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of desegregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source <sup>3</sup>
% area LFA (non mountainous)	=	Republic	2001	2005	orders in Council 505/00 (500/01), HRDP 2004
% area Natura 2000	=				
gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha	=				
% UAA designated as nitrate vulnerable zone	=				
% irrigated area	=	Republic	1999	2003	FADN
annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in surface water	=				
annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in ground water	=				
concentrations of pesticides in ground and surface waters	=				
% UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops	UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops (abs. number)				
share of agriculture in total production of renewable energy	total production of renewable energy by agriculture (abs. number)				
share of agriculture in GHG emissions	emissions of GHG by agriculture (abs. number)				
Soil : areas at risk of soil erosion (in risk level)	=				
% UAA under organic farming	UAA under organic farming (abs. number)	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
Protective forests – soil, water and other	=	Republic			
Land use (% land cover agriculture / forestry / nature)	=	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% holders with other gainful activity	holders with other gainful activity (abs. value)	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% employment in non-agricultural sector	Employment in non-agricultural sector	Republic	1997	2004	Czech Statistical Office
Number of micro enterprises / 1000 hab	Number of micro enterprises (abs. value)	n.a.			
% GVA in non-agricultural sector	GVA in non-agricultural sector	n.a.			
Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc) / km <sup>2</sup>	Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc)	Republic	2002	2005	Czech Statistical Office

<sup>3</sup> using the Harvard System described above for published sources; or giving the URL reference for on-line sources

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of desegregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source <sup>4</sup>
% of households having access to internet at home	households having access to internet at home (abs. value)	n.a.			
DSL and cable modem coverage	DSL and cable modem coverage	n.a.			
Share of GVA in services	GVA in services (abs. value)				
Net migration rate	=	Republic	1998	2003	Czech Statistical Office
% of active population of adults participating in life long training	active population of adults participating in life long training (abs. number)	n.a.			
% persons with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	persons (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% females with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	females (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment	Republic	2000	2000	Agrocensus, Czech Statistical Office
% area in rural areas		Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% population in rural areas		Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
density population in rural areas		Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office
% GVA in rural areas					
% employment in rural areas		Republic	1997	2005	Czech Statistical Office

<sup>4</sup> using the Harvard System described above for published sources; or giving the URL reference for on-line sources