



INEQUALITIES IN CZECH REPUBLIC

INTERSECTING INEQUALITIES DUE TO
LONG-TERM MANIFESTATIONS AND IMPACTS
OF INCOME INEQUALITY, EMBEDDED
STRUCTURAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL
ISSUES AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF
WOMEN AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Income and wealth

The Czech Republic has enjoyed steady economic growth, low inflation and low unemployment in recent years. Income inequality (Gini coefficient 0.25) is the third lowest among OECD countries. In 2018 the proportion of citizens at risk of income poverty (relative poverty - with an income of 60% or less of the national median) were about 10% of the population, while those in absolute poverty ('materially deprived') were 8% of the population. Older citizens (65+ years) are worse off than other age groups. In 2018, 10% of households with children (30% of which were single-adult households - single mother or single father) found themselves in income poverty. Furthermore, the Czech Republic has one of the highest proportions of homeless people in the European Union (0.65 % of the population).

Debt enforcement and its impacts on poverty and deprivation is a particular manifestation of income inequality. It is further a consequence of bad political decisions made by previous governments. Overall, a combination of several factors, in particular the transfer of enforcement of court decisions to private bailiffs and the emergence of completely unregulated non-banking companies has resulted in almost 10% of the Czech population somehow affected by enforcement proceedings. If we include family members, around 2.5 million people – a quarter of the population are affected by these proceedings.

In 2017, 863,000 citizens faced enforcement proceedings (a year-on-year increase of almost 3.5 %), with 493,000 people facing three or more enforcement proceedings. 6,000 children under 18 have been

subject to enforcement proceedings as well as more than 120,000 older persons over 60 leaving receiving minimum income despite the fact that it is stipulated by law they cannot be subject to enforcement.

Researchers have identified 606 socially excluded localities and 700 shelters in 297 cities and municipalities (small areas with a total population ranging from 95,000 and 115,000) with heavy concentrations of unemployment and indebted people. The majority of people living in the excluded localities are Roma, which proves the interlinkages of poverty, social exclusion and indebtedness to ethnic discrimination.

GENDER PAY GAP IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Gender_pay_gap_statistics#Further_Eurostat_information

Gender

Women are worse off than men in almost all aspects of life – with the exception of longevity. Women in the Czech Republic earn on average 21.8% less than men; 64% of women are in paid work, compared to 79% of men. Women take on a disproportionate share of caring responsibilities, accounting for nearly three quarters of persons who are economically inactive because they are caring for someone else. Very few men stay at home to look after children or other family members. In addition, women are more likely than men to be in part-time employment – 11% of employed women work part-time compared to 2% of men. Women have smaller pensions than men – CZK 10,756 compared to CZK 13,076 (82%). Men outnumber women by five to one on the boards of publicly owned companies. There is a slight imbalance in education with 95% of men having completed upper secondary level education compared to 92% of women. Female university graduates find it harder to find work than men – in 2017 85.5% of female graduates were in employment compared to 95.2% of male graduates.

Health

The Czech health-care system, based on compulsory statutory health insurance, provides virtually universal coverage and a broad range of benefits. It does so at 7.7% of GDP (2012) – well below the EU average – of which 85% was publicly funded. Life expectancy at birth has been steadily rising over the past two decades: rates are now 76 years for men and almost 82 years for women. One challenge for the future is the Czech Republic's heavy dependence on coal as it has several negative environmental and health effects such as on air quality.

Development cooperation

Official Development Assistance of the Czech Republic (2016) accounted for around 0.14% of the GDP which is below the target of 0.33% set for European member states that joined after 2002. There are further concerns about the aid quality as well as the lack of a monitoring system for aid effectiveness.

Structural causes

The structural causes of inequalities in the Czech Republic are strongly related to the unequal status of women, ethnic discrimination and the education system and employment in general. The debt enforcement system, with hundreds of unregulated companies providing consumer credit to the public, has contributed significantly to income inequality.

Example of good practice

Rapid Rehousing project of Brno city council provides apartments for homeless people or families previously living in hostels. The project favours Roma families but was recently stopped by the newly elected mayor of Brno.

Recommendations

- Reduce gender inequalities, in particular, unfair remuneration and inequitable old-age retirement pensions.
- Protect marginalised and disadvantaged groups against discrimination and prejudices.
- Introduce legislation to reform debt enforcement proceedings with an emphasis on 'child debtors'.
- Adopt legislation to address social housing needs.
- Reinststate a ministry dealing with human rights and equal opportunities.
- Increase the Czech ODA to at least 0.33% of GDP.



INTRODUCTION

According to the Oxford Living Dictionary, equality is the 'state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.'¹ In this clear-cut analysis, political scientist Stuart White defines five basic types of equality: legal, political, economic, social and moral.² Thus, the state of inequality means disruption of one or more of these aspects of equality. In today's Czech society, the term equality does not have the best ring to it because it is often seen as a manifestation of the desire to return to the pre-1989 political regime.

In this study, we will focus on analysing this phenomenon with an emphasis on *economic* and *social* inequality as we assume that equality of opportunities is significantly affected by e.g. income equality and the system of social services or education. These need to be evenly distributed in order to avoid the creation of excluded or disadvantaged groups.

1. MOST SERIOUS INEQUALITIES IN CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic's GDP grew progressively in the 2016–2018 period. According to OECD data, per capita GDP amounted to USD 35 234 in 2016, while it rose to USD 40 070 in 2018.³ Given that the complete 2018 data for all OECD members are not yet available, in taking 2017 data as a reference it can be said that GDP in Czech Republic was approximately at 85 % of the total GDP of OECD countries.

Hence, it can be concluded that Czech Republic's situation was improving in this respect and that Czech society was going through a phase of economic growth.

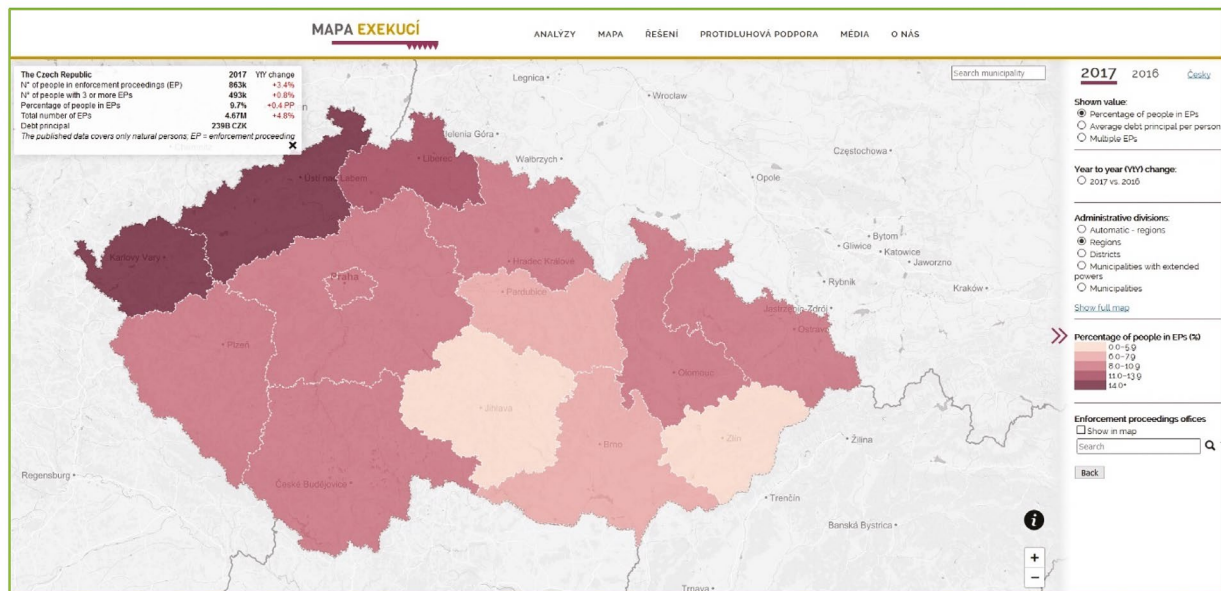
This is further confirmed by other data, such as the unemployment rate, which was at 2.9 % in 2017. The unemployment rate fell by almost a third compared to 2016 (from 4 %). The proportion of long-term unemployment in total unemployment in Czech Republic is 35 %, which is rather low by European comparison (EU average is 45 %).⁴ Nevertheless, the unemployment rate is not evenly distributed: some parts of the country are better off (in particular the capital city of Prague and Central Bohemia where the unemployment rate in 2017 was at around 1.7 % and 2.1 %, respectively), whereas other parts suffer from slightly or clearly above-average unemployment – this is particularly true of Moravia (e.g. the unemployment rate in the Moravian-Silesian region was 4.65 % at the end of 2018⁵) and border regions.⁶

1.1 Income inequality, people at risk of poverty and other inequalities

It seems that, in terms of the economic situation, we are living in good times. However relatively serious forms of inequalities could be identified in Czech society. Income inequality measured by using the Gini coefficient⁷ is at 0.253 in the Czech Republic,⁸ which is the third lowest coefficient within the EU, meaning. According to OECD data, the poverty rate⁹ in Czech Republic is relatively low compared with other EU members: 5.6 %. The numbers for child poverty are worse (aged 0 to 17 years) where the rate is 8.5 %.¹⁰ Furthermore, the top 20 % of the population earn nearly four times as much as the bottom 20 %.¹¹

Between 2014 and 2016, the proportion of persons at risk of income poverty with an income level at 60 % of the national median equivalised to disposable income¹² levelled off to 9.6 % of the population.¹³ At 70 % of the national median equivalised disposable income, the proportion of persons at risk of income poverty is around 17 %. According to data from the Czech Statistical Office, the proportion of materially deprived persons¹⁴ oscillated around 8 % in 2018.¹⁵ Similar to income poverty, the situation of women in terms for material deprivation is generally worse than that of men. Regarding the age structure, people over 65 years are facing higher levels of material deprivation than other age groups.¹⁶ Nevertheless, it is worth noting that 9.6% of households with children, 30 % of which were single-adult households (single mother or single father) were in income poverty (60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income) in 2018.¹⁷

Figure 1:
Debt execution map 2017¹⁸



A specific aspect in the Czech Republic to be mentioned are the long-term manifestations and impacts of income inequality and other structural and developmental issues¹⁹ – such as debt enforcement and its impact on affected households. In 2017, 863 000 citizens faced enforcement proceedings (a year-on-year increase of almost 3.5 %) in the Czech Republic, with 493 000 people facing three or more enforcement proceedings. ‘Enforcement proceedings are even held against 6 000 children under 18 and more than 120 000 senior citizens aged over 60, who are left only with a minimum income stipulated by law that cannot be subject to enforcement.’²⁰ This means that enforcement proceedings were faced by almost 10 % of the population. The number of enforcement proceedings totalled 4.67 million in 2017.²¹ As shown in Figure 1, the geographical distribution of citizens facing enforcement proceedings is uneven, but reflects more or less regional unemployment data as well as other economic indicators: most of the people live in the former Sudetenland area in Northern Bohemia. Based on the data available, it should also be noted that the Czech Republic has one of the highest numbers of homeless persons compared to the EU (0.65 % of the population).²²

Another relevant consequence of the inequalities in the Czech Republic are the so-called socially excluded localities and shelters inhabited by extremely poor and socially excluded persons in cities and rural areas. A research paper analysing this phenomenon was published in 2015.²³ The analysis revealed that, according to the authors’ estimates, 95 000 to 115 000 people live in socially excluded localities.²⁴ 606 socially excluded localities and 700 shelters are located in 297 cities and municipalities.²⁵ The number of people living in these localities has roughly doubled compared with 2006. The Ústí nad Labem and Moravian-Silesian regions experienced the highest increase in the number of excluded persons. The authors also found that the phenomenon of socially excluded localities is no longer solely a problem of *cities* – it is further spreading to smaller municipalities suffering from poor infrastructure. ‘In socially excluded localities, the unemployed makeup on average around 80-85 % of the population. The rate of unemployment is higher in ethnically more homogeneous localities and in rural localities, where there is a lack of jobs.’²⁶ The number of elderly people living in socially excluded localities has been on the rise, although, compared with the majority population, it still represents a lower percentage (7 % compared to 24 % in the population as a whole).²⁷

There has been an enormous increase in the number of people living in shelters. The problem of these localities is the low level of education completed. The issue of socially excluded localities overlaps with the issue of indebtedness. According to local experts, high levels of indebtedness were found in nearly 90 % of socially excluded localities).²⁸ The majority of people living in excluded localities are Roma, which means/suggests/indicates that the issues of poverty, social exclusion (including territorial segregation and symbolic stigmatisation) and indebtedness are interconnected with ethnic discrimination.²⁹ Hence, it can be concluded that the groups at risk of any of the relevant inequalities in the Czech Republic include children (0–17 years), the elderly, single parents with children, households under the threat of execution proceedings (especially those facing multiple proceedings) and residents of socially excluded localities, who are mostly Roma.

1.2 Situation in the Czech Republic from the perspective of SDG 10

In the context of SDG 10, we can especially focus on indicator 10.3 (**Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome**, especially by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard), 10.2 (By 2030, **empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion** of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status) and 10.b, which particularly concerns official development assistance (ODA).³⁰ These indicators were chosen given the period under review (2018) as well as the availability of information and data.

In this context, the position of women compared to men in Czech Republic remains unequal at several levels. As stated in the OECD study, ‘...79 % of men are in paid work, compared to 64 % of women.’³¹ In 2017, women’s median wage was around CZK 24 477,³² whereas men’s median wage reached CZK 29 006.³³

Disabled persons or children are mostly looked after by women. Around 71 % of persons aged 25–49 that are economically inactive due to looking after others are women. The difference is even higher for women with one to three children (two - to three-fold difference).³⁴ The proportion of part-time employees is also gender-based. The proportion of employed women in part-time employment is 10.9 %, while only 2.4 % are men, Around 10 % of these women are in part-time employment involuntarily, for men this proportion is only 6.6 %.³⁵ Men’s and women’s old-age pensions further differ substantially: in 2018 (as of 31 December) men’s average old-age pension was CZK 13 076 and women’s only CZK 10 756.³⁶ In addition, gender inequality manifests itself in the representation of women and men on boards of directors of publicly-owned companies where there is one woman for every five men.³⁷ It can be assumed that the situation in the private sector is similar.

In Czechia the level of education attained is a relatively important indicator for success on the labour market. An employment rate of 89.9 % of recent graduates³⁸ was relatively high in 2017 compared to the EU average of 80.2 %. Nevertheless, the employment rates varied by gender, 95.2 % for men and 85.5 % for women respectively.³⁹ In the Czech Republic, 93 % of adults aged 25–64 have completed upper secondary education... This figure accounts for more men than women, as 95 % of men have successfully completed high-school compared with 92 % of women.⁴⁰

Regarding health, life expectancy rates at birth has been steadily rising over the past two decades: 76 years for men (it was 73.7 years in 2007 and years 70.5 in 1997) and almost 82 years for women (women’s life expectancy was 80 years in 2007 and 77.5 years in 1997).⁴¹ The Czech health-care system is based on compulsory statutory health insurance providing virtually universal coverage and a broad range of benefits, and doing so at 7.7 % of GDP in 2012 – well below the EU average – of which a comparatively high 85 % was publicly funded.⁴² Linking to environmental challenges in the country, it should be noted that the Czech Republic has a very carbon-intensive economy which exposes the population to relatively heavily polluted air.⁴³

In terms of general interest in politics, there has been a slight decrease in interest in politics demonstrated by decreasing voter turnout. Whereas around 96.8 %⁴⁴ in 1990 and 74 % in 1998⁴⁵ of citizens participated in the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, only 60.8 % of eligible voters cast a ballot in the 2017 elections.⁴⁶ The voting turnout for the European elections has always been low and declining over time: 28.3 % in 2004 and only 18.2 % in 2014. At the same time, the level of confidence in key constitutional institutions in the Czech Republic – the Government, the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate – is relatively low. For example, citizens have continuously lacked confidence in the Chamber of Deputies since 1996, possibly hitting an all-time low in 2012 when 87.8 % of respondents expressed their mistrust.⁴⁷

According to a survey of the Public Opinion Research Centre from November 2018, people felt the least fear since 2002. 52 % gave a positive answer to the question whether there was anything they feared. (In this context, it has to be noted that, since 2016, there had been a steady decrease in the fear of migration (In 2016, 31 % of those who answered the preceding question positively, were afraid of migration and refugees, whereas it was only 21 % in 2018), terrorism (from 22 % in 2016 to 10 % in 2018) and crime (from 8 % in 2016 to 2 % in 2018).⁴⁸ ver 60 % of respondents of the survey since 2014, which can also be linked to the former statistics.⁴⁹

These generally positive trends do not apply to citizens affected by debts or enforcement proceedings. This specific segment of the society was the focus of the research and documentary project of the A2Iarm web portal and the Median research agency *Debt execution: Czechia's guilty conscience*.⁵⁰ sociological research conducted as part of the project shows that opinions and attitudes of persons affected by debts and enforcement proceedings changed as expected: e.g. 70 % of the population who experienced enforcement proceedings over the past five years did not trust (tended to distrust or definitely distrusted) the government.⁵¹ According to the Public Opinion Research Centre's data for the entire population, 34 % trust (tend to trust or definitely trust) the government and only 59 % expressed distrust.⁵² The difference is apparent.

Hence, it appears that a lot of national statistics should probably be seen in the context of geographic distribution which, to a certain extent, mirrors social and economic inequalities as well as problems.

2. CZECH REPUBLIC'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR INEQUALITIES

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Official development assistance (ODA) provided by the Czech Republic in 2016 reached almost CZK 6.4 billion, which is around 0.14 % of the GDP. Even though this represents a year-on-year increase by approximately CZK 1.5 billion,⁵³ it remains below the set objective for European member states of 0.33 % of the GDP. According to Concord Aidwatch Report 2018⁵⁴, the ODA provided by the Czech Republic is genuine aid. However, "the Czech ODA's main problem – '...besides quantity, remains its quality". Indeed, in the Czech political context the risk of ODA instrumentalisation is high. Despite ongoing government support, it is still unclear how to measure the development impact of private-sector instruments or the contribution to the EU Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa in Libya, which is on the edge of development–security activities. In general, the Czech Republic does not monitor its development effectiveness. There are no action plans and particular commitments, including the creation of a CSO-enabling environment, as decision-makers consider the declarations on compliance with key principles as sufficient⁵⁵.

According to a 2017 migration report from the Ministry of the Interior,⁵⁶ 1 450 persons applied for asylum (international protection) in the Czech Republic. Around one third were coming from Ukraine. Asylum was granted in 29 cases.⁵⁷ As described in the report, 'a total of 4 738 illegal migrants were detected within the territory of the Czech Republic in 2017, which represents a decrease of 9.9 % compared to 2016.'⁵⁸

This means a reinforcement of the trend noted in the regular ministerial Report on Migration as of 31 December 2016, which claimed that: '*The ongoing migration wave continued to bypass the Czech Republic in the second half of December 2016 – only individuals or small groups of migrants were detected in its territory in connection with the migration crisis.*'⁵⁹ On 14th November 2018, the Czech Republic decided not to join⁶⁰ the UN Global Compact for Migration.⁶¹ In 2018, the country⁶² ranked as low as the 70th position out of 112 countries in the Financial Secrecy Index⁶³ which qualitatively measures selected indicators of financial secrecy. The dimensions measured include the integrity of taxes and financial regulations or public-by-public-reporting (CBCR). The latter examines the completeness of financial information at the global level on the basis of country-by-country reporting published by individual companies, e.g. at stock exchanges.⁶⁴

According to the 2018 *Corruption Perceptions Index*, monitored by Transparency International,⁶⁵ the Czech Republic ranked 38 among the 180 monitored countries. The Czech Republic scored 59 which is a slight increase compared to previous years. It can be considered as rather low in comparison with other countries in Central Europe. Nevertheless, it remains a problematic issue as shown in the ongoing cases surrounding Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, who '...was found guilty of conflict of interest in relation to his media holdings.'⁶⁶

3. STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF INEQUALITIES

The structural causes of inequalities in the Czech Republic are strongly related to the unequal status of women, ethnic discrimination and, more generally, to the education system and employment. The authors of the report from the Czech NGO Social Watch and Stanislava Tomková from Czechia Against Poverty and Inequalities see the problematic transformation of the economy after 1989 as a specific structural source or factor causing inequalities.

The aforementioned gender inequalities, especially highlighted by the gender pay gap, are a serious problem. On average, women in the Czech Republic earn 21.8 % less than men. Besides, the country ranks in the penultimate position within the EU, followed by Estonia.⁶⁷

According to the economist Radek Hábl, an expert on the issue of debts in the Czech Republic, debt enforcement affecting 10% of the Czech population, is a particular manifestation of income inequality. In 2017, 863 000 individuals faced enforcement proceedings which represented an increase of 3.4 percent compared to the previous year.

That means that it affected 2,5 million people in total if family members are included into the calculations.⁶⁸ The way the debtor-creditor relationship is treated by legislation and the definition of enforcement proceedings made it possible for many creditors to profit from insignificant debts. The goal of holding the proceedings was not to recover the owed amount (amounts in the order of tens or hundreds of crowns), but rather to profit from the very lucrative enforcement process. This is an extremely profitable principle also utilised by other companies, such as public transport enterprises or debt collection companies recovering debts, e.g. for hospitals. They can very well turn a thirty-crown fee into a debt of twenty thousand, which is not a practice in other European countries. Moreover, non-banking companies started to profit from enormous penalties incorporated into their loan agreements. These companies were not subject to any regulation – it was a business that could be started only on the basis of a trade licence. This was a rather benevolent approach resulting in hundreds or thousands of companies providing consumer credit to the public.⁶⁹

4. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

The activities of the public rights defender (ombudsman) has long been an example of good practice. The ombudsman's office is currently held by Anna Šabatová. It aims at protecting '...persons from actions of authorities and other institutions if these actions are contrary to the law, do not comply with the principles of democratic rule of law and good governance, [...] it also contributes to promoting the right to equal treatment and protection against discrimination. In addition, it pays systematic attention to the rights of people with disabilities and the exercise of these rights.'⁷⁰ The ombudsman's office received 8 152 complaints and processed 8 115 of them in 2018 (this figure includes complaints from previous years closed in 2018). Deficiencies were discovered in the case of 513 complaints and remedied in 488 cases.⁷¹

Another example of good practice is the *Rapid Re-Housing* project implemented by the Brno city council. The project provides a municipal flat and intensive housing first case management for 50 families who were previously living in private hostels,

shelters or other forms of homelessness (ETHOS). The service provider is the award winning local pro-Roma NGO IQ Roma Servis, trained by pioneers of housing first in Europe, HVO Querido. The impact of the project is measured by a Randomised Control Trial, counterfactual design, which allows it to isolate outside factors by comparing the treatment and control group. In September 2016, the first families moved in and, by May 2017, all 50 families were housed.⁷² Despite the relative success of this pilot project was recently stopped by the newly elected mayor of Brno.⁷³ It received a number of awards, including the 1st prize for the best emergency housing project in the European Union in the 2010–2017 period, it Another example of good practice is the aforementioned cooperation between the A2Iarm web portal and the Median research agency on the journalistic project 'Debt execution: Czechia's guilty conscience'. They also co-organised a seminar on debt enforcement at the Chamber of Deputies held on 11th December 2018 where, among other things, sociologist Daniel Prokop presented the results of this study to members of parliament and senators.⁷⁴

5. REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON THE CZECH GOVERNMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF SDG 10

The government's basic task is to implement and put the *Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 into practice*.⁷⁵ In connection with the framework, the government⁷⁶ sets the following objectives:⁷⁷

- Fulfil specific/strategic objectives 2.2,⁷⁸ 3.1,⁷⁹ 3.2,⁸⁰ 3.4⁸¹ and 4.1⁸² under the *Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030*.
- Adopt effective measures to combat discrimination against the groups at greatest risk (ethnic, national and religious minorities, women and children).
- Take the question of the need for assistance into account in the geographical orientation of foreign development cooperation and increase the share of untied aid.
- Promote sustainable development investment in the least developed African and small-island and inland developing countries.
- Promote engagement of developing countries in decision-making processes of international financial institutions.
- Promote the reduction of the costs of remittance transactions for the private sector.

Our organisation believes that in order to fulfil the SDG 10 objective – *reduction of inequality* – the Czech government should introduce the following measures in the respective areas:

Social area:

- Seek to increase the support (financial, organisational and developmental) for excluded localities and regions;
- Address the legal vacuum with respect to enforcement proceedings with an emphasis on 'child debtors';
- Adopt legislation to address social housing;
- Reinststate a ministry dealing with human rights and equal opportunities;
- Seek to increase the Czech ODA to at least 0.33 % of GDP.

Education and labour:

- Promote labour code amendments that strengthen the position of workers and trade unions;
- expand quality pre-school childcare (nurseries and kindergartens) and ensure equal access to this social service;

Diversity and gender:

- Intensify work on reducing serious forms of gender inequalities, in particular unfair remuneration and uneven old-age retirement pensions;
- Ensure protection of marginalised and disadvantaged groups against discrimination and prejudices.

Economy and taxes:

- Introduce a progressive taxation system;
- Increase the transparency of taxation to prevent tax evasion (with an emphasis on tax havens);
- Introduce a tax on capital gains (as per OECD recommendations).⁸³

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- ¹³ Ibid.
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- ²⁴ A socially excluded locality is a place where more than 20 people living in unsuitable conditions are concentrated (indicated by the number of welfare recipients) and where these people occupy a physically or symbolically defined space.
- ²⁵ Ibid., p. 11.
- ²⁶ Ibid., p. 13.
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- ²⁸ Ibid., p. 76.
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- ³⁰ UN. SDG: 10.1 Reduce inequality within and among countries. See: <https://www.osn.cz/sdg-10-snit-nerovnost-uvnitř-zemi-i-mezi-nimi/> (30 March 2019).
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- ³⁴ Women's employment rate in 2016 according to number of children (1, 2 and 3 children): 38.2 %, 49.5 % and 40.7 % respectively. The same for men: 97.7 %, 98.3 % and 92.7 % respectively. See *ibid.*

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

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⁴² Alexa, J. et al. 'Czech Republic: health system review.' Health Systems in Transition, 2015, vol. 17, no. 1, p. 1.

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⁴⁵ Czech Statistical Office. Volby.cz. 2018. See: <https://volby.cz/> (30 March 2019).

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⁵⁰ Uhlová, S. Systém exekucí podlomil víru zadlužených Čechů ve spravedlnost [The debt execution system has undermined the faith of indebted Czechs in justice]. A2larm. 26 November 2019. See: <https://a2larm.cz/2018/11/system-exekuci-podlomil-viru-zadluzenych-cechu-ve-spravedlnost/> (30 March 2019).

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⁵⁶ Ministry of the Interior. Report on the situation regarding migration and integration of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2017. Praha: Ministry of the Interior, 2018. See: <https://www.mvcr.cz/migrace/clanek/vyrocní-zpravy-o-situaci-v-oblasti-migrace-a-integrace.aspx> (30 March 2019).

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⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵⁹ Ministry of the Interior. Report on the situation regarding migration as of 31 December 2016. Praha: Ministry of the Interior, 2018, p. 1. See: <https://www.mvcr.cz/migrace/clanek/mesicni-zpravy-o-situaci-v-oblasti-migrace.aspx> (30 March 2019).

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- ⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 5.
- ⁶⁹ Fiala, J. Exekuce trhají českou společnost na kusy [Debt enforcement tears Czech society apart]. Rozhovor s Radkem Háblem o mapě exekucí, dluhové pasti a systémovém ždímání lidí [Interview with Radek Hábl about the debt execution map, the debt trap and about how people get systematically gouged]. A2larm. 11 April 2017. See: <https://a2larm.cz/2017/04/exekuce-trhaji-ceskou-spolecnost-na-kusy/> (30 March 2019).
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- ⁷³ 'I am convinced that we should apply a meritocratic principle and that these persons should at least be required to have a job,' said Markéta Vaňková of the Civic Democratic Party on the project. Info.cz. Brno má vládnout žena, která nekompromisně odkopla vítězné ANO [Brno to be ruled by a woman who uncompromisingly kicked the winning ANO out]. Kdo je Markéta Vaňková? [Who is Markéta Vaňková?] 9 October 2018. See: <https://www.info.cz/volby/komunalni-volby-2018/brno-ma-vladnout-zena-ktera-nekompromisne-odkopla-vitezne-ano-kdo-je-marketa-vankova-36969.html> (30 March 2019).
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- ⁷⁶ which transferred this agenda to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
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- ⁷⁹ 'In the long-term perspective, the proportion of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion is decreasing.' Ibid, p. 46.
- ⁸⁰ 'Income inequality is decreasing and emphasis is placed on maintaining a strong middle class.' Ibid, p. 46.
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The European-wide project **Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA)** is coordinated by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and implemented in 15 European countries by 25 partners. It aims to raise citizens', CSOs', and policy-makers' awareness on the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the 193 Member states of the United Nations in 2015. At the core of the project are campaigns and advocacy on inequalities, sustainable agriculture, gender equality, climate change, migration and sustainable consumption and production. This report was produced as part of the **Fighting Inequalities** in Europe campaign of the project, and contributes as well as the global **Faces of Inequality** campaign, which gives social exclusion, poverty and discrimination a face.

#SDGS4All ■ <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org> ■ <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org/fight-inequalities>
<https://gcap.global/faces-of-inequality>

Czech against Poverty and Inequality is the GCAP Czech Republic coalition founded in 2005. Its main focus is Agenda 2030 and SDGs implementation & raising awareness.