

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Drugs
Country	Czech Republic
Year	2018

1. Overview of the field

Definition

There is no national definition.

Assessment of trends and developments

Cannabis and methamphetamine are the most common illegal substances. The volume of production and distribution remains high. In last 10 years, 52% of individuals detained for drug-related crime were detained in relation to methamphetamine and 39% in relation to cannabis. Activities of mostly Vietnamese organized criminal groups (OCGs) covering the demand for cannabis and methamphetamine in neighboring countries influence significantly relations of the Czech Republic with its neighbors.

OCGs often operate in border areas, where most of methamphetamine labs have been detected and volumes of drugs confiscated by the Customs Administration increase. In the last two years, production has been shifting to the whole Czech territory and in some cases also to Poland and other European areas (especially Scandinavia). Production and distribution of methamphetamine is usually community-based, in smaller home labs. 264 labs were discovered in 2017. 85% of the offenders were Czech nationals.

305 indoor cannabis grow houses were discovered in 2017 by the Police and the Custom Administration. 56% of the grow houses were the so called small home grow houses (less than 50 plants). The share of small home grow houses has been rising since 2011 while grow houses of more than 500 plants are on the decline (27% in 2011 and 9% in 2017).

Growing international trade with chemical substances, precursors, new synthetic drugs, using postal services for drug smuggling and abuse of psychoactive medicaments and chemical substances traded mainly in cyberspace remain significant threat. The Czech Republic remains an important source of methamphetamine for neighboring countries, especially for Germany.

Number of prosecuted persons increases. The highest concentration of drug crime is in large municipal agglomerations in Central and Northwest Bohemia and in North Moravia. 10% of drug crime offenders are normally foreigners. Hazardous waste from drug laboratories threatens the environment and contaminates groundwater. Medicaments containing pseudoephedrine / ephedrine are massively illegally imported in the Czech Republic although legal measures limiting access to these precursors have been taken in Poland.

Illicit drug use is primarily concentrated among young adults aged 15-34 years and among males. The most recent data from 2016 indicate that almost one in five young adults had used cannabis in the last year, which is slightly below the levels reported in studies from 2013-14. The use of other illicit substances was significantly less common than that of cannabis. MDMA/ecstasy was the most common stimulant used among the general population and its use was also concentrated primarily among young adults. Use of methamphetamine (known locally as 'pervitin') is less common among the general population but is the main substance linked to problem drug use in the Czech Republic. The latest study indicates that 1 in 100 adults have ever tried new psychoactive substances (NPS). As for other substances, the use of NPS is higher among males and young adults aged 15-34 years. Prevalence of drug use is higher among subgroups of young people (e.g. in nightlife settings). The most recent data on drug use among students are reported by the 2015 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drug (ESPAD). Drug use prevalence among Czech students was similar to the European average in the case of lifetime use of illicit drugs other than cannabis and lifetime use of inhalants, while average lifetime NPS use was higher. For all remaining substances, the Czech results were well above the ESPAD average. Most notable is the fact that lifetime use of cannabis and lifetime use of tranquillisers or sedatives without prescription were more than twice as high as the European average (37 % versus 16 % and 16 % versus 6 %, respectively). In addition, last-30-day alcohol use and heavy episodic drinking were clearly above average, as was last-30-day cigarette use. The long-term analysis found a decline in cannabis use from its peak in 2007 and a reduction in alcohol consumption between 2011 and 2015. (Czech Republic Drug Report 2018)

High-risk drug use and trends

Studies reporting estimates of high-risk drug use can help to identify the extent of the more entrenched drug use problems, while data on first-time entrants to specialised drug treatment services, when considered alongside other indicators, can inform an understanding of the nature of and trends in high-risk drug use. In the Czech Republic, high-risk drug use is mainly linked to the use of home-made methamphetamine (pervitin), which is predominantly injected. It is estimated that there are 34 300 primary methamphetamine users and approximately 12 500 primary users of heroin or other opioids. Although buprenorphine remains the main drug of choice among high-risk opioid users, in recent years concerns have been raised about the increased misuse of opioid-based pain medications among problem drug users. In 2016, an estimated number of around 43 000 people injected their drug of choice. Based on the most recent survey in 2016, around 2 in 10 adult cannabis users exhibit a high-risk cannabis use pattern. Data from specialised treatment centers are available up to 2014. They indicate that amphetamines (mainly methamphetamine) were the most commonly reported primary substance for new clients entering treatment during 2014, followed by cannabis. Methamphetamine is often used in the context of polydrug use with opioids. The data from clients entering treatment also confirm that injecting remains the primary mode of drug use, in particular among those clients who report methamphetamine or opioids as their primary drug. The long-term trend indicates an increase in the age of drug treatment clients. (Czech Republic Drug Report 2018)

Recent overview of statistics and research

Year	Registered crimes	Drug crimes	Share of drug crimes	Number of drug-related crimes, rate per 100 000
------	-------------------	-------------	----------------------	---

				population, age 15–64
2002	372 341	4 330	1,16	60,2
2003	357 740	3 760	1,05	52,0
2004	351 629	3 086	0,88	42,5
2005	344 060	2 915	0,85	40,0
2006	336 446	2 922	0,87	39,9
2007	357 391	2 865	0,80	38,8
2008	343 799	3 041	0,88	40,9
2009	332 829	3 069	0,92	41,4
2010	313 387	3 179	1,01	43,1
2011	317 177	3 834	1,21	52,8
2012	304 528	4 032	1,32	56,1
2013	325 366	5 117	1,57	72,0
2014	288 660	5 597	1,94	79,3
2015	247 628	5 549	2,24	79,3
2016	218 162	5 567	2,55	80,2
2017	202 303	5 599	2,77	81,2

Source: Police of the Czech Republic

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2016 to 2020

The Crime Prevention Strategy does not address the areas which are closely related to crime prevention, but are governed by separate Government strategies and concepts or are embedded in this Strategy only marginally. That is also the case of prevention of drug-related crimes. Drug-related crime is concerned in the Strategy as part of activities focusing on work with offenders and victims, children and the youth and crime prevention in social excluded areas. The Strategy defines the strategic objective: “Czech Republic: adopts a comprehensive approach to detection and investigation of crime at locations, where its increased incidence is due to deep deprivation and numerous problems (typically socially excluded locations).” As part of this objective, it defines a specific objective: “To concentrate on the fight against usury and illegal gambling in the socially excluded locations as well as activities of scrappy yards and pawnshops to determine the origin of scrap materials and traded goods. Fight against the drug crime in all its forms (production, distribution, sale to the end customer) shall become one of the key priorities.”

National Drug Policy Strategy 2010-2018

In the Czech Republic, the National Drug Policy Strategy originally focused solely on illicit drugs, but was revised in 2014 and 2016 to address alcohol and tobacco use and gambling. The implementation of the strategy is supported by a series of consecutive three-year action plans for each area. (Czech Republic Drug Report 2018)

The strategy is comprehensive and has four pillars:

- Primary prevention
- Treatment and social reintegration
- Harm reduction
- Drug supply reduction

In the area of illicit drugs, the strategy defines four key objectives:

1. To reduce the level of experimental and occasional drug use
2. To reduce the level of problem and intensive drug use
3. To reduce potential drug-related risks to individuals and society
4. To reduce drug availability, particularly to young people

Drug-related crime prevention is related to the drug supply reduction area. The National Drug Policy Strategy defines four objectives as part of the drug supply reduction pillar. Particularly on the basis of the more efficient use of the existing legislative and institutional instruments, law enforcement interventions focus on:

1. Reduction of the availability of legal and illegal drugs, particularly in relation to children and young people.
2. Regulation and control of the market in narcotic and psychotropic substances, preparations, and drug precursors.
3. Combating crime related to the unauthorized production, supply, and other handling of drugs, particularly with regard to its organized and international forms.
4. Protection of the health and safety of individuals and society and protection of property from crime related to the production of and trafficking in drugs and from its consequences in a way which minimizes the harm sustained by individuals and society.

Concept of Development of the Police of the Czech Republic until 2020

The Concept defines eight objectives in the area of drugs:

1. Increase number of detected primary drug crimes
2. Reduction of illegal drugs availability
3. Reduction of related crimes
4. Coverage of new forms in drug-related crime
5. Sufficient capacity to cover all drug-related crime forms, especially those committed in public space, street and club distribution
6. Active approach in case of new synthetic drugs and chemical substances in cyberspace and international trade with precursors, chemical substances and medicaments used for drug production
7. Improvement of cooperation with international partners (especially with law enforcement agencies)
8. Focus on new forms in drug-related crime in cyberspace, especially the illegal markets "DarkNet" and "Tor"

In order to fulfill these objectives, the Concept proposes 8 measures:

1. Appropriate dimensioning of local police departments' personnel for the drug area
2. To establish anti-drug teams in cities
3. Increase the number of the National Anti-Drug Headquarters employees and establish new regional branches
4. Strengthen police service departments
5. Improve recruitment of officers from ethnic minorities
6. Specializing courses for police experts in drug-related crime
7. Endeavor updating and amending of relevant legislation, e.g. list of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, adjuvants and precursors
8. Recruit experts in information and communication technologies to deal with drug-

related crime, with specific economic reward

Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

For role of prevention of drug-related crimes in the national Crime Prevention Strategy see 2. - Objectives of the crime strategy. Regions and cities create their own regional and municipal security strategies and some of them deal with prevention of drug-related crime. There is no analysis available about the role of prevention of drug-related crimes through regional and municipal crime prevention strategies.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides methodological guidance and coordinates prevention activities in the school system. The local actors in regional, district and school prevention specialists play increasingly important roles in these activities. Since 2012, each region has established its own prevention plan, outlining the main priorities, the network of services and the coordination and funding of activities. Non-governmental organisations are widely involved in prevention activities and receive project-based funding to carry out additional prevention activities in schools and in the out-of-school environment; this comes from subsidy proceedings at the national level, through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination. (Czech Republic Drug Report 2018)

Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

The development and enforcement of the national drug policy is the responsibility of the Government of the Czech Republic.

The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination (GCDPC), presided over by the prime minister, is responsible at the political level for the overall implementation of the National Drug Policy Strategy. It is the main government coordination body on drug issues. Its scope was expanded following the revision of the National Drug Policy Strategy and it now addresses alcohol, tobacco and gambling issues, as well as illicit drugs. The GCDPC includes all ministries involved in the delivery of the national drug policy and representatives of other significant stakeholders, including representatives of non-governmental organisations and professional associations. The Secretariat of the GCDPC, located in the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, which also includes the Czech National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, manages the day-to-day implementation of the strategy and the coordination of the ministries' activities. A network of 14 regional drug coordinators based in regional municipalities manages drug related activities, including the implementation of the national drug policy, at the regional and local levels. (Czech Republic Drug Report 2018)

The Action Plans for the Implementation of the National Drug Policy Strategy for the period 2010 to 2018 ("Action Plans") provide a more thorough coverage of the actions planned to be carried out in order to meet the objectives of the 2010-2018 National Strategy, as well as defining measures to be pursued in the supporting technical and organisational domains. Three action plans were drawn up during the operation of the Strategy. They covered the periods 2010-2012, 2013-2015, and 2016-2018.

In addition to being an integral part of the 2010-2018 National Strategy, the Action Plans function as:

- the Strategy's implementation tools for the given area – they set out specific activities and deliverables, the distribution of responsibilities, the deadlines for completion, and the estimated sources needed to carry out the activities;
- the Strategy's implementation control instruments – they define the indicators of achieving the objectives as set and the indicators of taking action as planned, and identify the necessary sources of information for each indicator;
- regulatory documents in relation to the implementation of the drug policy by different entities active in the given sphere – they define the drug policy's priorities for the period of time covered by the respective action plan.

Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination (GCDP)

GCDP is an advisory, coordinating, and initiating body of the Government of the Czech Republic as far as drug policy-related issues are concerned. It creates a platform for continuous communication with ministries, other segments of the public administration, and other entities involved in the implementation of the drug policy (including non-governmental non-profit organisations and professional associations). The Council submits proposals for measures and activities pertaining to the drug policy to the Government, coordinates and evaluates their implementation, and checks whether, and to what extent, the tasks ensuing from the National Strategy and the Action Plans are fulfilled at all levels. The Council makes recommendations for the funding of drug policy programmes delivered at both the central and local levels. The Council also guarantees the system assuring the quality of programmes featuring drug use prevention and harm reduction and the treatment and social reintegration of drug users and people dependent on addictive substances. In addition, the Council coordinates the Czech Republic's involvement in international and European activities concerning drug issues.

In addition, the Council coordinates the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on drug use, its effects, and the drug policy measures taken. These activities are performed by means of the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (the National Focal Point), an organisational unit of the Secretariat of the GCDPC. The National Focal Point provides coordination and methodological support for the activities carried out by the government departments and other entities involved in the collection of sub data concerning the indicators under scrutiny; the relevant planning and coordination activities are governed by the National Plan on Drug Information System approved by the GCDPC. In order to coordinate mutual communication, the National Focal Point also appoints working groups comprising representatives of ministries and other entities. Finally, the National Focal Point is the Czech national partner of the decentralised agency of the European Union for the monitoring of drugs – the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction - and the Czech partner of the REITOX network, established and supported by national governments and the European Union for the purpose of the monitoring of the situation concerning psychotropic substances.

National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addictions

National Anti-Drug Headquarters - Police of the Czech Republic

National Crime Prevention Committee

Regional and local drug coordinators

The network of regional and local drug coordinators and regional and municipal drug commissions plays a significant role in the communication of tasks and knowledge from the

central level to the local ones and vice versa. These entities assess the actions taken and their impact on the developments in drug use in the territory of the respective regions and participate in the review of drug policy interventions that have been carried out in the light of the needs identified in cooperation with the central institutions.

Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

Cooperation with the Europol National Unit continued successfully in 2017. The Custom Liaison Officer operates in Europol since 1. 8. 2017. The National Drug Headquarters as well as Ministry of the Interior take part in the EU Policy Cycle.

Joint efforts have been developed in cooperation with Slovakia in the area of methamphetamine, accessibility and consumption of red phosphorus, accessibility of medicaments containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and their abuse in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Representatives of the Czech Republic participate on preparation of Commission on narcotic drugs sessions through Horizontal drug Group.

Representatives of the Czech republic are also members active in cooperation with OSCE, COSI, EMCDDA, UNODC and INCB.

Ministry of the Interior is member of Salzburg forum, where drug related crime issues are also discussed.

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

Revolution Train

Revolution Train is a drug-prevention project based on an interactive experience involving all the human senses. The project is a unique tool, which adds to current methods and approaches to primary drug prevention. It is a specially-equipped functioning train which introduces a novel approach to primary prevention in the form of interactive hands-on education for specific target groups — mainly children and youth between 12 - 17 years of age. The goal is to influence the visitor by involving all the human senses in order to effectively change his understanding of both legal and illegal drugs. The main station is Praha-Dejvice, from where the train regularly goes on tours into the regions — the destinations change depending on the current demand of schools and towns. A part of the project is the collection of anonymous data, which the towns can then use in forming their conception of drug prevention programmes. (<http://www.revolutiontrain.cz/en/index.php>)

The project, however, has its critics in the Czech Republic, for example the Ministry of education youth and sports.

Unplugged programme

The Unplugged programme, a model of non-specific primary prevention within the EUDAP-2

„Implementation of European Drug Addiction Prevention“ project, is implemented in Czech elementary schools. The Unplugged programme is provided by the school prevention workers as part of the school curriculum (12 lessons per school year).

<http://mapavarenapestiren.cz/> - **Map of labs and grow houses**

The map displays all methamphetamine labs and cannabis grow houses discovered since 2016.

Drug prevention in Schools by the Police of the Czech Republic in the form of legal awareness raising, e.g. “To je zákon, kámo” (That’s the law, my friend) project where students participate in a simulation of drug-related crime investigations.