

Czech Republic
National Reporting for CSD-18/19
Thematic profile: The Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable
Consumption and Production Patterns

a) Generic issues relating to the inclusion of SCP in national policies:

The priorities of the Czech Republic in the area of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) were set in the Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Czech Republic, which was approved by the Government Council for Sustainable Development on 14th of June 2005.

Furthermore, SCP is reflected in most strategies such as National Programme of Reforms, Economic Growth Strategy or Czech Environmental Technology Action Plan. Sustainable spatial development is embedded in the Spatial Development Policy.

SCP is to be one of the priorities of the updated Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development that should be adopted by the Czech Government by the end of November 2009 and the issue of the sustainable consumption and production will be also reflected in the Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development.

To actively promote the SCP issues within the European region, the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the European Commission organised the European Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Prague on 30 – 31 October 2008. The aim of the meeting was to contribute to implementing the Johannesburg commitments on sustainable consumption and production, to formulate European regional contributions to the Ten Year Framework of Programmes, to discuss the EU Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan and to share information and best practices in the area of SCP.

b) Green public procurement policies, laws and regulations

Green public procurement (GPP) in the Czech Republic is integral part of strategic documents, e.g. "Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Czech Republic" or "National Environment Technology Action Plan". GPP is currently supported by *the Government resolution No. 720/2000 for prioritising green products*, which recommends to the central administration and other bodies of the state administration to consider environmental criteria in tenders (e.g. purchasing of ecolabel products).

Main legislative act for public procurement - *the Public Procurement Act No. 137/2006 Coll.*, allows purchasers to require environmental criteria in public tenders.

All central authorities are required to send to the Ministry of the Environment an annual report, where they indicate their purchases including ration of green tenders in the previous year. Reports are analysed by the Ministry of the Environment and then transmitted as an information material to the Government. Results prove that the level of green tenders (for products) vary between 35 to 50 % on average in the last four years. Although this figure seems to be quite high, it represents only a small part of all public tenders (e.g. 7.3 mil € in 2008) in the Czech Republic. Tenders for services for local authorities are not included.

Therefore, the Ministry of the Environment is currently preparing a revision of *the Government resolution No. 720/2000*. The European Commission's toolkits for GPP will be implemented in the revision. The aim of this revision is to make GPP measures mandatory for the central authorities and recommends the same for local ones. A new methodology of data collection about green tenders will be also introduced.

c) Instruments for sustainable consumption

The Czech Republic is experiencing a boom in consumerism and the society has a tendency to become increasingly uniform as a consequence of commercial pressures. Expenditures for the Czech households' consumption are continuously increasing (e.g. the number of various electronic appliances in the Czech households and consumption of clothing have increased substantially in recent years). There has been also an increase in the amount of imported and packaged food products, with negative impacts on the environment. Water and energy consumption are one of the few areas, where consumption of the Czech households has decreased. More information about the Czech households' consumption trends can be found in the publication – *The Czechs in a Consumer Paradise!?* (http://www.mzp.cz/en/czech_in_consumer_paradise), which was edited by the Ministry of the Environment at the end of June 2009 to increase the public awareness in the area of SCP.

The Ministry of the Environment developed in cooperation with the CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency, a new educational toolkit on sustainable consumption and production for elementary and secondary school children. The main aim of the toolkit is to present practical implications of sustainable consumption. The toolkit addresses various topics such as interesting facts about consumption, sustainable use of resources in households (such as water, energy, materials), shopping habits and customer choices, product labelling, sustainable housing, product life cycles and ecological footprint. Total number of 1 000 pieces is being distributed to schools.

Furthermore a Czech version of YOUTHXCHANGE guide (UNEP and UNESCO) on sustainable consumption and sustainable lifestyles designed for young people is being finalised at the present time.

Regarding its economy, the Czech Republic can be still characterized by high-energy intensity, and high share of solid fuels in primary energy supply. For example, material and energy intensity of the Czech economy has significantly decreased between 1995-2006; however, the domestic material consumption and energy intensity of GDP is still high compared to the other EU member states. For more detailed information, see *Progress Report on the Czech Republic Sustainable Development Strategy 2009* (<http://www.mzp.cz/osv/edice.nsf/6d13b004071d0140c12569e700154acb/ac7b747d2291ed5bc1257577004fd5a6?OpenDocument>).

In the Czech Republic, there are many awareness-raising activities linked to the specific topics of SCP such as energy efficiency, use of renewable resources, waste management and recycling etc.

A promotion campaign for the programme called *Green Light for Savings* is underway to raise awareness of its requirements for potential applicants for grant-in aid. This programme is financed from the Green Investment Scheme and supports investments in energy saving measures in residential buildings and use of renewable energy sources at the household level. The programme's financial support shall result in annual reduction of CO₂ emissions by 1.1 Mt by 2012. The programme shall also help to establish or enlarge markets for energy efficient or energy saving products and renewable energy sources. In 2009 the total financial costs reached 3,700,000 EUR. The campaign target group includes all potential applicants - citizens of the Czech Republic, municipalities, businesses, housing associations or communities of housing units' owners. Information about this grant programme can be found for example on advertising elements along roads, TV, fairs and exhibitions, newspapers, internet, leaflets, brochures and other promotion articles.

There are many awareness-raising campaigns and projects in the field of waste management in the Czech Republic. The taking-back system for Waste Electric and Electronic Equipments (WEEE) and for portable accumulators is promoted through voluntary agreement since 2001. For example, Asekol Ltd. runs the "Šrotonátor" project consisting of awareness raising campaigns in regional cities. The project "Recyklohraní" motivates schools to collect small WEEE and portable accumulators. Ecobat Ltd. in cooperation with Asekol Ltd. runs a programme that teaches pupils about the significance

of collecting, sorting and recycling portable accumulators. Ekolamp Ltd. organises various events for broad public such as a competition "We Light Your Christmas", information campaigns or a pilot project focused on taking-back system for lamps or luminaries. REMA Inc. has projects "Green Enterprise" and "Green Household", which propose companies or municipalities an ecological disposal of WEEE or old mobile phones. Elektrowin Inc. prepares competitions and educational programmes for schools in different towns. Eko-kom Inc. runs a massive information campaign since 2003 to encourage inhabitants in sorting waste.

At the present time the issues of SCP are not included separately in formal education programmes but it will be reflected in the Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development, which is being prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment.

d) SCP in national priority areas

As already mentioned above, SCP is reflected in a number of strategies.

Following regulatory instruments are applied in the area of energy efficiency and renewable resources:

- The Act No. 180/2005 Coll. of 31 March 2005 on promotion of electricity production from renewable energy sources and amending certain acts
- Preparation of the Act on the Promotion of Heat Production from Renewable Energy Sources
- ČSN EN ISO 13790 (National Regulation) – Building Thermal Performance, Calculation of Energy Needs for Heating
- ČSN EN 832 (National Regulation) – Building Thermal Performance, Calculation of Thermal Needs for Heating
- The Amendment of the Regulation No. 148/2007 Coll. on the Energy Demands of Buildings, on the Assessment of the Energy Demands of Buildings
- The Regulation No. 213/2001 Coll. on the Details of the Energy Audit
- The Regulation No. 193/2007 Coll. on the Details of the Use of Energy for Heating and Cooling
- The Amendment of Regulation No. 150/2001 Coll. on the Efficiency of the Electricity and Heat Production

The Act No. 183/2006 Coll., on land-use planning and the Construction Code (the Construction Act) implies an obligation to assess impacts on sustainable spatial development. The main aim of spatial planning is to create premises for construction and sustainable spatial development. Sustainable spatial development is also embedded in the Spatial Development Policy.

Recently, on the basis of the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1592 of 16th December 2008 on the Programme of Replacement of Public Administration Fleet for 'Ecologically Friendly' Vehicles, Minister of the Environment has specified in his *Order No. 7/2009 of 25th March 2009 on Purchase, Eventually Rental of 'Ecologically Friendly' Vehicles of the Ministry of the Environment* the exact limits of CO₂ emissions that the Ministry fleet should meet. The vehicles are obliged to satisfy EURO 5 emission limits or the higher ones, as given in the Order.

With the aim to improve the environmental impact of products, the Ministry of the Environment established a National Programme of Eco-labelling in 1994. The Czech Republic is also a member of Global Eco-labelling Network and is actively involved in the European Eco-labelling Programme "The Flower". The Ministry and the competent body have created criteria for more than 60 product groups. Further goals and priorities are to closely cooperate with other eco-labelling schemes, to bring more products to market and also to explain advantages of eco-labelled products to consumer.

The life-cycle approach (LCA) is applied as a general rule in environmental labelling, particularly in development of EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) and in the process of setting criteria for eco-label. Apart from the environmental labelling, there is

not an integrated (or government-driven) approach how to apply LCA. However, several LCA studies have been carried out both by private companies and as a result of R&D projects. These studies focused, for instance, on waste management, transport, buildings and various kinds of products (e.g. tyres, vacuum cleaner, sewing machine).

At the governmental level the SCP is being addressed particularly within the Working Group for Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was set up in October 2003 as one of the Government Council for Sustainable Development working groups, with the aim to prepare, with linkage to the Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development, a framework of programmes in support of sustainable consumption and production in the Czech Republic. The members of the group are representatives of the key Ministries (trade and industry, agriculture, transport, education and regional development), NGOs and professional associations.

In addition, there are many institutions private companies, NGOs being involved in various SCP awareness raising campaigns in the Czech Republic but the total number of active subjects is hard to estimate.

In the projects "Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production" and "Partnership for Sustainable Production and Services" (for details see Good Practices), there were twenty subjects involved, representing manufacturing concerns, municipalities, high-tech companies, medical care and educational institutions and public administration bodies.

In 2004-2005 there were two Research & Development projects "Research of Support for Sustainable Consumption and Production" carried out by the Institute for Environmental Policy and by ENVIROS Ltd. The main aim of the projects was to prepare a proposal of programmes to support utilization of voluntary instruments in promoting sustainable consumption and production and changing the current consumption patterns in the Czech population.

The Ministry of the Environment is trying to make tourism in environmentally sensitive areas more sustainable. An interdisciplinary strategic approach is applied, with an intention to use the economic, technical, methodical, voluntary and educational tools. The objectives are to improve quality of life of local people and to reduce environmental impacts of spontaneous tourist consumption of the valuable nature and landscape.

Various research projects are focused on developing methods of monitoring tourism impacts and systemic approach that should help reduce the intensity and tempo of the tourismification process and to educate general and expert public about values destroyed by this. An international GEF project was conducted in Sumava Biosphere Reserve (also in Aggtelek BR in Hungary and Baia Gora BR in Poland) to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the development and implementation of sustainable tourism practices in these participating Biosphere Reserves. A close cooperation with the Ministry for Regional Development is supposed in the frame of the Integrated Operation Project Convergence with the subtitle "Systems of Sustainable Tourism Models".

The Ministry of the Environment is seeking solution for urban sprawl applying an interdisciplinary strategic approach with an intention to use the economic, legal, methodical, voluntary and educational tools. The main objectives are quality of life and protection of land against spontaneous urbanisation on the settlements periphery and in the surrounding landscape. A large research project is conducted to help with an analytical background and future concepts and policies feasibility assessment. Another research project is focused on developing methods of the Ecosystem Services Assessment that should help reduce the intensity and tempo of the urban sprawl process and to educate general and expert public about values destroyed by this.

There is a subsidy for a project on the Integrated Waste Management from the Operating Fund for Environment (OPŽP). It means for example for: Regional system for utilization of bio-waste or biological treatment of the municipal waste; Special facilities for utilization modified fuel from regional system for mechanical and biological treatment of

the municipal waste; Scrap yard, transfer area and depot of the municipal waste; Preparation plant; Facilities for energetic use of medical waste; Compost and biogas stations, Facilities for treatment of hazardous waste; Recultivation of old dumps etc.

Good practices

Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CENIA, CZ.04.1.4.2.16.4/0018) and Partnership for Sustainable Production and Services (ENVIROS, CZ.04.3.07/4.2.01.1/0044)

Organization type: Governmental institution and private company

Name of Ministry/Agency:

Country: Czech Republic

Initiative Title: Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production and Partnership for Sustainable Production and Services

Internet links: <http://www.cenia.cz/usv> and http://www.enviros.cz/novinky/2006/projekty/2006-07-01_RLZ_Partnerstvi_pro_udrzitelnou_vyrobu_a_sluzby.html

Status: Finished

Timeframe: 2006 - 2008

Lead Institution: CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency; ENVIROS, s.r.o.

Stakeholders/Partners: SITA CZ a.s.; National Network of Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic; Středočeský vysokoškolský institut, s.r.o.; The Prague Economic Chamber; ENESA, a.s.

Relevant issues: Sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency

Objectives/Challenges: The projects focused on promotion of sustainable consumption and production and also on practical case studies in companies and institutions. Case studies applied innovative methodology which puts emphasis on voluntary instruments such as *Cleaner Production Assessment, Eco-labelling, Environmental Management Systems, Life Cycle Management, Social Responsibility, Eco-design*, etc. The projects were financed by the European Social Fund and the Czech Republic.

Lessons Learned: Projects focused on development and implementation of a new methodology of integrated assessment for sustainable consumption and production (SCP) innovations and opportunities in 20 companies representing manufacturing concerns, municipalities, high-tech companies, medical care and educational institutions and public administration bodies. Projects applied innovative methodology which puts emphasis on voluntary instruments such as *Cleaner Production Assessment, Ecolabelling, Environmental Management Systems, Life Cycle Management, Social Responsibility, Eco-design*, etc. The methodology is based on a procedure when all levels of an enterprise's management pyramid are throughout assessed in a systematic way for SCP opportunities for improvements, which would enhance enterprise's value. The methodology is implemented at four basic levels: products, processes, systems and stakeholders, proposing the most effective SCP innovations and projects for the given company to be implemented. The main benefit of this new methodology is the holistic approach. The new integrated diagnosis enables to find the most significant problems and subsequently appropriate solutions.

Main outputs

- Development of a new methodology „Initial Assessment for SCP Innovations“
- Application of the new methodology in 20 pilot case studies
- Certification of 52 managers for SCP
- Publications
- Total case studies proposal cost of investments: 9,346,939 EUR
- Total case studies proposal annual savings: 1,428,571 EUR
- Average case studies proposal pay-off period: 6.6 years
- Environmental effect: reduction of 3,800 t CO₂/year

- Social effects: improved working environment, education and awareness raising

Summary: In the projects we applied the new methodology of initial assessment in 20 companies representing manufacturing concerns, municipalities, high-tech companies, medical care and educational institutions and public administration bodies. Almost in all cases significant potential for SCP innovations was found and subsequently project proposals were submitted to companies' representatives. Feasibility of innovation and increasing of business (organization) value were mainly proved in the fields of material and energy flows, pollution reduction and social responsibility.

Educational toolkit on sustainable consumption for schools

Organization type: Government

Name of Ministry/Agency:

Country: Czech Republic

Initiative Title: Educational toolkit '(Ne)kup to!' [= (Don't) buy it!]

Internet links:

<http://www.mzp.cz/cz/search?query=v%C3%BDukov%C3%BD+program>

Publication: 2008

Lead Institution: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Relevant issues: Sustainable consumption, awareness raising and education

Objectives/Challenges: The main aim of the toolkit is to present practical implications of sustainable consumption to elementary and secondary school children.

Summary: The toolkit addresses various topics, for example interesting facts about consumption, sustainable use of resources (such as water, energy, materials), shopping, product labelling, sustainable housing, product life cycles and ecological footprint. Total number of 1 000 pieces is being distributed to schools with environmental education.

The toolkit consists of:

- **Test** – activity introducing basic facts and data in the field of sustainable consumption and simple actions in the everyday life to promote more sustainable lifestyle
- **Card game 'Kvarteto'** [=Quartet]– modified card game introducing the most important product logos (Eco-label, Fair Trade, FSC, Organic products, Energy Star, Energy label)
- **Board game 'Člověče (Ne) kup to!'** [= (Don't) buy it, man!] – modified board game focused on shopping and positive and negative choices we can make while shopping
- **Game 'Chytrá domácnost'** [=A clever household]– activity dealing with environmentally friendly alternatives in household equipment
- **Blank Life Cycle Scheme** of an alcohol-based marker – activity presenting an example of a product life cycle
- **Individual Ecological Footprint Calculator** – activity enabling children to calculate their individual ecological footprint

| A. SECTORS AND ISSUES | Current Government Priority | Expected Future Priority |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Solid waste management | | |
| - Waste disposal | X | X |
| - Reuse and recycling | X | X |
| - Waste reduction, | X | X |
| - Others | | |
| Transport | | |
| - Clean fuels and vehicles | X | X |
| - Public and alternative transportation | | X |
| - Urban and regional transportation planning | | |
| - Others | | |
| Cleaner production | | |
| - Resource efficiency | X | X |
| - Pollution prevention | X | X |
| - Technology strategies | | X |
| - Others | | |
| Energy efficiency and renewable energy | | |
| - Industrial energy efficiency | X | X |
| - Household energy efficiency | X | X |
| - Renewable energy markets | X | X |
| - Others | | |
| Housing and construction | | |
| - Energy efficiency | X | X |
| - Building materials | | |
| - Construction standards | | |
| - Building operations | | |
| - Others | | |
| Food and clothing | | |
| - Organic products | | |
| Chemical management | X | X |
| Hazardous waste | X | X |

| B. POLICY INSTRUMENTS | Current Government Activities | Expected Future Priorities |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General policy instruments | | |
| - Taxes, subsidies | X | X |
| - Preferential tariffs and trade policies | | |
| - Economic instruments | X | X |
| - Tax reform | X | X |
| - Consumer protection policies | X | X |
| - Polluter-pays principle | X | X |
| - Integrated product policies | | X |
| Changing consumer behaviour | | |
| - Education and public information | X | X |

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|--|---|---|
| - Consumer information | X | X |
| - Labeling, eco-labels | X | X |
| - Consumer organizations | X | |
| - Public procurement policies | X | X |
| - Others | | |
| Changing production patterns | | |
| - Regulation of emissions and effluents | X | X |
| - Charges or incentives for cleaner production | | |
| - Product standards (e.g. energy efficiency) | X | X |
| - Cleaner production programmes (R&D, training, technical assistance) | X | |
| - Pollutant reporting and registers | X | X |
| - Strategic industrial and technology planning | X | X |
| - Investment incentives | X | X |
| - Voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct | X | |
| - Corporate social/environmental responsibility | X | X |
| - Improved management accounting | X | |
| - Investment analysis | | X |
| - Others | | |
| Analytical tools | | |
| - Life-cycle analysis | | X |
| - Indicators of sustainability | X | X |
| - Technology impact assessment | | X |
| - Policy impact assessment | X | X |
| - Impacts of globalization and urbanization | | X |
| - Impacts of changes in international markets | | X |
| - Others | | |