

From Recipient to Donor Country - Experience from Central Europe

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Abstract

For more than two decades the Czech Republic (CR) has been both a recipient and a donor of foreign assistance. Since 1989, the Czech Republic has received considerable income in the form of foreign assistance, mainly from EU institutions, but also from the EFTA countries, the World Bank and other international organizations. The Czech Republic has so far paid around 411 bn CZK (cca 15.2 bn EUR) to the EU budget since it joined in May 2004 and has in return received from the EU budget 948 bn CZK (cca 35.1 bn EUR). Thus the CR has been a net recipient of 537 bn CZK (cca 19.9 bn EUR). Former communist Czechoslovakia was very active with respect to selected developing countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, especially those trying to follow the path of so-called non-capitalist development and had friendly relations with the Soviet bloc. The system and priorities of Czech development cooperation underwent a substantial transformation after 1989. A substantial transformation of the system of Czech development cooperation took place in 2010. It included major legislative, institutional and organizational changes. A very important step was the adoption of the Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, which became effective from 1st July 2010. The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017 was also adopted. Although the CR is one of the most important donors of development assistance among the post-communist countries, both in absolute and in relative terms, it spends much less than the recommended 0.7% of GNI on development cooperation. In 2014 the Czech ODA amounted to 210.21 mil. USD (cca 4.36 bn USD), which was 0.111% GNI. One of the reasons why a significant increase of spending on development cooperation is not one of the priorities of the Czech political parties is that many Czechs consider themselves to be poor compared to the citizens of Western European countries and this strongly influences public opinion.

Key words: recipient of foreign assistance, donor of development aid, development cooperation, developing countries, official development assistance

Introduction

The present situation in the Czech Republic with respect to foreign assistance is rather special in comparison with highly developed Western European countries, because it is at the same time a recipient and a donor of substantial amounts of money both coming to the country and leaving the country.

Taking into account the expression “Third World“ used for the first time by French demographer Alfred Sauvy, communist Czechoslovakia before 1989 was part of the „Second World“. At that time, many of its social and demographic indicators such as literacy rate, life expectancy, infant mortality, etc. were on a similar level to highly developed countries. However, a number of economic indicators such as hourly wages and gross national income per capita corresponded more to the level of middle income developing countries.

Since 1990, Czechoslovakia and later the Czech Republic, has undergone a process of radical political, economic and social transformation. In the political sphere, the country abolished the leading role of the Communist Party and introduced a system of parliamentary democracy and free elections. In the economic sphere, it has experienced a transition from a centrally planned to a market economy. The main components of this process have been the liberalization of prices, the introduction of currency convertibility, privatization and tax reform. One of the important negative effects of the social transition has been an increase in income inequality, unemployment and poverty among some social groups¹. The country has also transformed its system of development cooperation and has significantly changed its attitude towards developing countries.

The aim of the paper

The aim of this paper is not only to provide an overview of the evolution of the Czech Republic from recipient to donor over the last quarter century, but also to compare the volume of financial resources which have been flowing into the CR in the form of assistance from outside, mainly from EU funds, with the volume of financial resources that have been flowing from the CR in the form of development assistance to developing countries and countries in transition. The comparison of these flows may be considered as the main added value of the paper. The main method applied has been to compare the available statistical data and try to assess the results in a wider context.

It has not been my ambition in this paper to deal with the issue of the quality of Czech development assistance, but the emphasis is mainly on the quantitative aspects of these flows, both in absolute and in relative terms. Nevertheless, I have dedicated a small part of the paper to showing the latest results for the Czech Republic from the point of view of the Commitment to Development Index for 2015. I have also tried to present the main facts about the evolution of the whole system of Czech development cooperation in the period 1990-2015. Finally, I ask three main questions: Is the Czech Republic spending enough on development cooperation? Could the CR afford to spend more for this purpose? How does the CR compare on an international scale? Again by means of selected relevant statistical data and their assessment, I have tried to provide at least partial answers to these questions.

Czech Republic as a recipient of foreign assistance

Since the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, Czechoslovakia, after 1993 the Czech Republic, received some form of assistance from various international organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, EBRD, OECD, etc. Much of it was in the form of consultations, analyses and technical assistance. However, by far the greatest volume of aid has flowed into the Czech Republic from the European Union.

The main instrument of pre-accession support between 1990 and 1999 was the PHARE Programme².

It was launched in 1989 in order to help Poland and Hungary, and later other Central and Eastern European candidate countries, to reform their political and economic systems.

Pre-accession support after 2000 consisted mainly of pre-structural funds. Starting from the year 2000, EU financial support for the candidate countries was considerably reinforced in accordance with the new programming period of the EC budget 2000-2006. The PHARE programme was strengthened and modified, and two new financial instruments were launched – ISPA³ and SAPARD⁴.

ISPA was launched in order to support large investment projects (over 5 million EUR) in the field of the environment (mostly water and air pollution, waste management) and transport infrastructure (creation of trans-European networks). The aim of the SAPARD programme was to help candidate countries implement EU legislation in matters related to the Common Agricultural Policy, and to support structural reforms in agriculture and rural development.

After 2000, EU financial assistance to the CR significantly increased. While the allocation for the period 1995-1999 amounted to about 345 mil. EUR (9.7 bn CZK), the total allocation for the CR envisaged for the period 2000-2002 amounted to 237 mil. EUR (7.2 bn CZK).

The pre-structural funds were not conceived ad hoc, but with a clear thought of continuity between the pre- and post-accession support. At the moment of accession, pre-accession aid under PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD was replaced by the standard structural support provided for EU member states under the Structural Funds⁵ and Cohesion Fund. One of the main problems connected with EU post-accession regional assistance has been the CR's inability to spend a large amount of the allocated money, often because of the unpreparedness of projects, a lack of transparency, and corruption.

According to a recent estimate⁶, the Czech Republic has so far paid around 411 bn CZK (cca 15.2 bn EUR) to the EU budget since it joined the EU in May 2004. The CR has in return received from the EU budget 948 bn CZK (cca 35.1 bn EUR). Thus the CR has been a net recipient of 537 bn CZK (cca 19.9 bn EUR).

Last but not least, assistance from the EFTA⁷ countries should also not be forgotten. The CR has been receiving assistance from the so-called Norwegian Funds since its entry into the EU. Since 2004, these funds have supported projects in the CR with more than 6 bn CZK (cca 222 mil. EUR). The major provider of support from these funds is Norway (97%). Two other providers are Iceland and Liechtenstein (members of the EEA⁸ but non-members of the EU). The CR has also been receiving assistance from the Programme of Swiss-Czech Co-operation.

Czechoslovak development aid before 1989

Before 1989, “socialist“ (communist) Czechoslovakia was strongly engaged in the so-called Third World. However, this engagement was under the control of the Soviet Union and was coordinated by the Politburo of the Communist Party of the USSR. The influence of the “Cold War“ situation was omnipresent.

According to some estimates, the volume of Czechoslovak development aid was somewhere between 0.7% and 0.9% of GDP in the 1980s⁹. However, it was difficult to distinguish standard development assistance from military aid and support to various “national liberation movements“, which were often terrorist groups. Moreover, it was difficult to estimate the size of the GDP, because the marxist methodology for the calculation of the national income was very different from the standard system of national accounts. At the same time, there was also a problem with defining the correct exchange rate, given the system of multiple exchange rates under the communist regime¹⁰. As far as territorial priorities before 1989 are concerned, developing countries could be divided into the following three groups:

- “non-European socialist countries“: Cuba, North Korea, North Vietnam (after reunification in 1976 the whole Socialist Republic of Vietnam), later also Laos and Cambodia;
- “countries of priority interest“: e.g. Ghana, Guinea and Mali in the 1960s; Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, South Yemen and Nicaragua in the 1980s;
- “countries of Czechoslovak interest from the point of view of development of long-term political and economic relations“: e.g. Syria, Algeria, Libya, Iraq, India, Congo¹¹, and Benin in the 1980s.

Czechoslovak and Czech development cooperation from the Velvet Revolution in November 1989 until EU accession

The distrust of Czech citizens concerning the steps undertaken by the communist regime in the field of international relations, especially in the area of international solidarity, and the shift of attention towards domestic political and economic transformation, brought a halt to almost all kinds of development assistance for several years. Thus the volume of Czechoslovak development aid was negligible in the first half of the 1990s. It is almost impossible to find any aggregate data concerning the period 1990-1992 for Czechoslovakia and 1993-2001 for the Czech Republic, because the agenda for development assistance was scattered among different ministries. There was a certain restart to the program of development assistance in 1995 in connection with the entry of the CR into the OECD¹². In 2002, the total ODA of the Czech Republic amounted to 1 485.9 mil. CZK (45.39 mil. USD), which was only 0.065% of GNI, and in the years before that it had been even less. However, in 2003, one year before the entry into the EU, the total ODA rose to 2 556.0 mil. CZK (90.55 mil. USD), which was 0.101 % of GNI.

A transformation of the Czech development cooperation system started shortly after 2000. In 2001 the Development Centre of the Institute of International Relations was founded as an UNDP project. It was transformed into the Czech Development Agency on 1st January 2008. In 2003 the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CR was founded. In 2008 the Council on Development Cooperation began its activities.

The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2002-2007 was based on the results of a profound analysis and evaluation of development aid of the CR for the period 1996-2000. The main goal of development aid was declared to be the effort to eradicate poverty in developing countries. The Czech government accepted the MDGs and development assistance was declared an important part of Czech foreign policy. In accordance with this strategy, these 20 priority countries were selected: Afghanistan, Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mali, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Palestine, Salvador, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Czech development cooperation after EU accession in 2004

A substantial transformation of the system of Czech development cooperation took place in 2010. It included major legislative, institutional and organizational changes. A very important step was the adoption of the Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, which became effective from 1st July 2010. The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017 was also adopted.

The Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid clearly defines development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It divides power and authority among various state institutions. It legally defines the Czech Development Agency as the implementation tool for Czech development cooperation. In regard to humanitarian aid, the Act divides responsibilities between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CR and the Ministry of the Interior of the CR, while also harmonizing it with the existing system of integrated emergency management.

The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017 considers changes in the foreign policy and economic contexts, as well as new commitments made by the Czech Republic within the European Union and other multilateral forums. It reflects international recommendations concerning the effectiveness, transparency and coherence of development activities. It also updates key goals of Czech development assistance as well as the rules for its provision, and defines new priority sectors and territories.

The Czech Development Agency is responsible for the implementation of development cooperation, including the identification of suitable projects, the organization of selection procedures (both public tenders and grants), the signing of contracts and project monitoring. Representatives of ministries meet on the Council on Development Cooperation and it

provides for inter-ministerial coordination and coherence on the goals and priorities of development cooperation and on other instruments of government policy.

As far as new territorial priorities are concerned, the number of programme countries has been reduced to five. They are the following: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia. Project countries where bilateral development cooperation will take place are Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Serbia. Finally, four former programme countries which will continue to receive assistance, though of a redefined focus and scope, are Angola, Yemen, Vietnam and Zambia.

Regarding the new priority sectors of Czech development cooperation, they are the following:

- Environment
- Agriculture
- Social development (including education, social and health services)
- Economic development (including energy)
- Democracy, human rights and social transition

In 2014, the share of multilateral assistance was 70% of the whole amount spent on development cooperation and thus the share of bilateral assistance was only 30%. As far as the destination of Czech bilateral assistance by regions is concerned, the share of Sub-Saharan Africa was 11% of the total amount, that of South and Central Asia was 18%, Other Asia and Oceania 9%, Middle East and North Africa 8%, Latin America and the Caribbean 2% and Europe 41%.

Regarding Czech multilateral assistance by channel, in 2014 the share of United Nations agencies (especially the UNDP¹³) was 7%, European Union institutions (including EDF, DCI, IPA, ENPI and EIHDR)¹⁴ 86%, and the World Bank Group (especially the IDA and IBRD)¹⁵ 4%. The involvement of the Czech Republic in multilateral development cooperation includes also OECD, WTO, international financial institutions (besides the World Bank Group, e.g. the GEF and EBRD)¹⁶ and other international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Czech Republic was accepted as a full-fledged member of the OECD-DAC on May 14, 2013. The CR supported the DAC activities with a contribution of 1 mil. CZK in 2013 (cca 37 thousand EUR). A peer review of Czech development cooperation by DAC is planned for 2016.

In 2004, the top ten Czech ODA recipients were the following, starting with the highest, in this order: Iraq, Serbia and Montenegro, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Russia, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2014, they were the following, also from highest to lowest: Ukraine, Afghanistan, Moldova, Ethiopia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Georgia, Mongolia, Kosovo, Syria and Serbia.

The Czech Republic's commitment to development

To measure the quality of development cooperation is a very complex issue and it is certainly not an easy task. Although this paper is not focused on the qualitative aspects of Czech development cooperation, it is at least worth mentioning the Commitment to Development Index (CDI) and showing how the Czech Republic fares in this respect compared to other rich countries. The CDI is published annually by the Center for Global Development, which is a U.S. non-profit think tank based in Washington, D.C. The CDI can be considered as one of the best known attempts to construct a multi-dimensional synthetic indicator of the overall quality of development cooperation of a certain country and it enables the ranking of selected countries according to the score achieved. Every index of this kind has its strengths and weaknesses. As far as the CDI is concerned, the selection of the seven components and the equal weighting of components in the Index are sometimes questioned.

The CDI ranks some of the world's richest countries on their dedication to policies that benefit the five billion people living in poorer nations. All these 27 countries are members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The CDI assesses the national efforts in seven policy areas: aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security and technology. In 2015, the CR was equal 18th in the overall CDI with Hungary and Luxembourg, while Denmark was 1st and Japan 27th. However, when only considering the aid component of the CDI, the CR was 22nd in 2015, while Denmark was once again 1st and South Korea 27th. The aid component of the CDI is composed of a sub-component that assesses the quantity of aid of each donor country and another one that assesses the quality of that aid. Each sub-component includes a number of different indicators.

Is the Czech Republic spending enough on development cooperation?

If we ask whether the Czech Republic is spending enough on development cooperation, the simple answer would clearly be no, it is not. However, the reason why not is much more complex. We can also ask whether the CR could afford to spend more for this purpose. It also makes sense to see how the CR compares internationally.

In the year of EU accession (2004), the Czech Republic received 2.5 times more assistance than it provided for developing countries. In the period from 2004 to the present, the CR received on average from EU funds every year more than 10 times the money it spent on development cooperation.

According to the 2005 European Council decision, the new member countries were supposed to strive to increase their ODA/GNI ratio to 0.17% in 2010 and to 0.33% in 2015. Neither of these goals has been met, nor will they be met by the CR. In 2013, the ODA/GNI ratio was 0.11%, significantly below the DAC average of 0.30%.

The Czech Republic is part of the group of 40 richest countries in the world, so it is only natural to ask whether it could spend more on development cooperation than is the case today.

According to the IMF¹⁷, the CR was, with 19 563 USD of GDP per capita (in exchange rate) ranked 40th out of 184 countries, and with 29 925 USD of GDP per capita (in PPP¹⁸) it was ranked 38th out of 187 countries in 2014. In 2014, the GDP per capita (in PPS¹⁹) was 84% of the EU average. However, in 2011, the average nominal monthly wage in the CR was only 35.6% of the EU average, compared to 132.3 % in Germany²⁰. According to estimates by economic experts from Czech trade unions, in 2014 the Czech hourly wage was 6.85 EUR (cca 185 CZK) compared to the German hourly wage of 24.4 EUR and the Austrian hourly wage of 23.25 EUR. Thus in 2014 the Czech hourly wage only reached 28% of the German and 29% of the Austrian levels. According to the latest estimates, the price level in the CR is only 60% of the EU average. Although the comparative price level increased significantly after 1989, it has been decreasing over the last several years.

According to Eurostat, Prague was, with a GDP per capita in PPS of 173% of the EU-28 average, the 8th richest region in the EU in 2013, ahead of Vienna (159%) and Berlin (113%). However, according to an UBS survey, the hourly wages in Prague, which are by far the highest of all regions in the CR, are still only a fraction of the hourly wages to be found in all Western European cities and are even below the hourly wages in cities from such developing and emerging market countries as São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, Johannesburg, Istanbul and Moscow. In 2014, the Prague net hourly wage was 20.3% of the New York City net hourly wage, while the Berlin net hourly wage was 64.5% of the NYC net hourly wage.

Some of these data may partly explain why many Czechs, even after 25 years of political, economic and social transformation, still feel relatively poor compared to the most developed countries, and are often unwilling to spend more on aid for developing countries. This attitude is also reflected in the present refugee crisis.

Conclusions

The Czech Republic benefited significantly from foreign assistance in the period 1990-2015, mainly from EU institutions and to a much lesser degree from other international organizations such as the World Bank and the EBRD. Since the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, the CR has been a net recipient of 537 bn CZK (cca 19.9 bn EUR) from EU funds. The CR expects to receive from the EU for the programme period 2014-2020, 650 bn CZK (cca 23.8 bn EUR), i.e. almost 93 bn CZK (cca 3.4 bn EUR) per year. If we compare this amount to the Czech ODA of 210.21 mil. USD (cca 4.36 bn USD), which was 0.111% GNI in 2014, we see that the CR is receiving many times more in foreign assistance than it is spending on development cooperation. According to the actual volume of GNI, the ODA calculated at the percentage of 0.33% of GNI, should reach cca 12 bn CZK (cca 493 mil. USD). i.e. three times more than at present.

It would certainly be desirable for the CR to try to reach the goal of 0.33% as soon as possible, and later aim to reach the goal of 0.7% of GNI.

It must be taken into account though that the Czech average wage level is still considerably below the level of all Western European countries. Therefore, it will not be easy for any political party in the CR to push through a significant increase in expenditure in the field of development cooperation or to convince its electorate about the urgency of such a step in the near future. However, a positive change in public opinion in favour of increasing expenditure on development cooperation may come if the present relatively high economic growth continues for several more years and the gap between the wages in the CR and Western Europe narrows significantly. Needless to say, even more important than the amount of money spent on development cooperation, both absolutely and relatively, is the efficiency of these expenditures, but that is already another key topic.

Annex: tables

Table 1. EU finance for the Czech Republic per year (before accession)

	1995-1999 (in mil. EUR)	1995-1999 (in bn CZK)	2000-2002 (in mil. EUR)	2000-2002 (in bn CZK)
PHARE	69	2.5	79.0	2.7
ISPA	-	-	57.2-83.2	1.9-2.7
SAPARD	-	-	22.1	0.7
Total	69	2.5	173.1	5.7

(Samková 2003)

Table 2. Total amount of allocations from EU funds for the CR after accession

period	in bn CZK	in bn EUR
2004-2006	45.7	1.5
2007-2013	704	27.3
2014-2020	650	23.8

(EU News Monthly Journal 2010- 2015)

Table3. Difference between income and payments to the EU budget in 2005-2015

year	in bn CZK	in mil. EUR
2005	2.0	66.6
2006	3.2	112.3
2007	2.1	73.1
2008	26.2	1 096.5
2009	29.0	1 120.1
2010	22.7	883.4
2011	17.4	714.73
2012	6.9	269.1
2013	14.9	574.2
2014	56.4	2 054.6
2015 (1 st half]	126.8	4 654.1

(EU News Monthly Journal 2010-2015)

Table 4. Total funds provided by the Czech Republic in the form of official development assistance in 2004-2010

year	ODA (mil. USD)	ODA (bn CZK)	ODA/GNI (in %)
2004	108.17	2.78	0.11
2005	169.60	3.24	0.11
2006	190.62	3.64	0.12
2007	190.40	3.64	0.11
2008	222.50	4.25	0.12
2009	213.71	4.08	0.12
2010	227.56	4.34	0.13

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2010)

Table 5. Official development assistance of the Czech Republic (mil. USD)

year	2011	2012	2013	2014
ODA Total	250.46 4.43 bn CZK	219.63 4.29 bn CZK	210.88 4.12 bn CZK	210.21 4.36 bn CZK
Bilateral ODA	76.95	66.44	57.04	62.57
Budget support	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.96
Bilateral core contributions & pooled programmes & funds	2.17	2.68	3.92	3.15
Project type interventions	33.88	31.87	26.02	30.42
Experts and other technical assistance	15.47	11.46	6.33	5.45
Scholarships and student costs in donor countries	5.48	4.56	5.44	5.15
Debt relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administration costs not included elsewhere	6.36	4.98	4.56	4.43
Other in-donor expenditures (development awareness, refugees)	13.58	10.88	10.72	13.01
Multilateral ODA	173.51	153.20	153.84	147.64
ODA/GNI	0.125%	0.124%	0.114%	0.111%

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2015)

Table 6. Czech bilateral assistance by region (mil. USD)

region	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.26	7.09	6.66	7.14
South and Central Asia	17.58	18.82	9.96	11.07
Other Asia and Oceania	7.99	6.94	7.11	5.55
Middle East and North Africa	4.74	6.05	6.02	4.88
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.96	1.20	1.44	1.24
Europe	20.02	19.06	18.24	25.59
Unspecified	16.40	7.28	7.61	7.10
Total	76.95	66.44	57.04	62.57

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2015)

Table 7. Czech bilateral assistance by income group (mil. USD)

income group	2011	2012	2013	2014
Least developed countries (LDCs)	21.23	21.33	12.11	14.33
Other low income countries	1.08	0.86	0.37	0.23
Lower middle income countries	22.67	23.97	22.41	27.37
Upper middle income countries	13.59	11.09	11.49	10.73
Unallocated by income	18.38	9.18	10.66	9.91
Total	76.95	66.44	57.04	62.57

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2015)

Table 8. Czech bilateral assistance by sector (mil. USD)

sector	2011	2012	2013	2014
Social infrastructure	38.26	33.11	26.08	27.13
Economic infrastructure	5.65	4.47	3.63	1.76
Production sector	6.56	5.40	5.29	5.57
Multisector	2.57	1.37	1.09	2.68
Humanitarian aid	3.97	4.95	4.79	7.17
Administrative costs of donors	6.36	4.98	4.56	4.43
Refugees in donor countries	11.72	9.52	8.94	11.55
Unspecified	1.86	2.64	2.67	2.27
Total	76.95	66.44	57.04	62.57

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2015)

Table 9. Czech multilateral assistance by channel (mil. USD)

channel	2011	2012	2013	2014
United Nations agencies	8.37	7.84	9.93	9.91
European Union institutions	143.13	117.65	118.23	127.17
World Bank Group	15.65	16.86	8.09	5.94
Regional development banks	5.61	4.72	3.84	0.00
Other agencies	0.75	6.13	13.76	4.62
Total	173.51	153.20	153.84	147.64

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic 2015)

Table 10. European DAC members' net official development assistance in 2012

country	ODA in mil. USD	ODA/GNI (in %)
Austria	1 106	0.28
Belgium	2 315	0.45
Czech Republic	220	0.11
Denmark	2 693	0.85
Finland	1 320	0.55
France	12 028	0.41
Germany	12 939	0.38
Greece	327	0.13
Iceland	26	0.26
Ireland	808	0.45
Italy	2 737	0.16
Luxembourg	399	1.00
Netherlands	5 523	0.71
Norway	4 753	0.93
Poland	421	0.09
Portugal	581	0.28
Slovak Republic	80	0.09
Slovenia	58	0.13
Spain	2 037	0.16
Sweden	5 240	0.47
Switzerland	3 056	0.47
United Kingdom	13 891	0.56

(OECD 2014)

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Notes

¹ Despite these facts, the Czech Republic still has one of the lowest income inequalities in the world (as measured e.g. by the Gini coefficient of concentration, at present it has the second lowest unemployment rate from all EU countries and the smallest share of population below the poverty line of all OECD countries.

² originally PHARE - Pologne-Hongrie Actions pour la Reconversion Economique

³ ISPA - Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession

⁴ SAPARD - Special Accession Programme for Rural Development

⁵ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), European Agricultural and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)

⁶ the Czech Press Agency (ČTK), October 2015

⁷ EFTA - European Free Trade Association

⁸ EEA - European Economic Area

⁹ see e.g. Horký, O. (2010)

¹⁰ Different exchange rates existed for commercial and non-commercial payments, tourist exchange rate, etc., besides a black market exchange rate which perhaps reflected the real situation in the best way.

¹¹ the former French colony Congo with the capital Brazzaville

¹² Czech Republic was the first post-communist country to join the OECD.

¹³ UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

¹⁴ EDF - European Development Fund, DCI - Development Cooperation Instrument, IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, ENPI - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, EIDHR - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

¹⁵ IDA - International Development Association, IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

¹⁶ GEF - Global Environment Facility, EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

¹⁷ IMF - International Monetary Fund

¹⁸ PPP - purchasing power parity

¹⁹ PPS - purchasing power standard

²⁰ EU News Monthly Journal, Česká spořitelna, December 2013