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# Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic

Update 2022

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OF REGIONAL  
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# Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic

Update 2022

Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic  
Institute for Spatial Development

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Dear readers,

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Update 2022 currently brought to your attention, was developed by the Ministry of Regional Development CZ in close cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development. The Czech Chamber of Architects, the Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction and the Association for Urbanism and Spatial Planning of the Czech Republic also took a major share in the project providing key suggestions and actively participating in its development. Universities, in particular, the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague, non-governmental and non-profit organisations, such as the Proměny Foundation or Architekti ve škole as well as the public had their share in its preparation.

The first Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was approved by the Government at the beginning of 2015. After the subsequent six years, the policy was evaluated, including the implementation of the measures set out by it. Resulting of this evaluation, the government assigned an update to be developed by the end of 2022, resulting from the cooperation of a large working group. Parts of the text were amended; the objectives were adapted and a lot of the measures already achieved were replaced by new ones. Moreover, new topics were included, such as the response to climate change and the relationship to tourism.

The purpose of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is not to authorise building construction or to propose specific projects. It aims to create the preconditions for the quality of the buildings being built. However, the document both puts emphasis on the quality of individual structures and promotes the need for a holistic perception of the environment, i.e. the interaction of buildings, their relationship to existing architectural and urban values together with their impact on the landscape. The measures set out are focused on the spatial layout, improving the accessibility of public infrastructure or setting out a long-term urban design concept. The quality of the environment in settlements is significantly influenced by public spaces, reason why measures are also imposed to improve their planning, implementation and maintenance. The quality of architectural and urban design represents another major issue. The final result is influenced both by the design and the implementation company and the contractor being legal and natural persons. Therefore, the document also focuses on raising awareness among the general public of the importance of the quality of buildings and the spaces they help to create. This Update puts more emphasis on the involvement of public administration at the level of regions and municipalities, so the document should be more helpful to local authorities.

I expect the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic to contribute to the improvement of the environment we live in and at the same time to stimulate the interest in creating pleasant cities and municipalities.

PhDr. Ivan Bartoš, Ph.D.  
Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development

## I BASIC INFORMATION

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic (hereinafter also referred to as "PASK CR") is a strategic document with national scope approved by the Government of the Czech Republic. Its development was imposed by the government resolution of 2011 by which it approved the Housing Policy Concept of the Czech Republic till 2020. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was approved by Government Resolution No. 22 on 14 January 2015. In 2021, based on the evaluation of the first version of the document, the Government imposed the development of an Update of the document by the end of 2022.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic sets out a vision and basic objectives in the medium to long-term horizons, broken down by themes. It proposes measures for the achievement of the set objectives, including the determination of responsible and cooperating institutions and deadlines for the implementation of the measures. The structure of the document is based on the "Methodology for Policy Development, Drafting and Monitoring of Strategic Planning Documents".

Basic information in the table form:

Name:	Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Update 2022
Category:	Policy – a strategic document setting out a vision and basic objectives in the medium to long-term horizons
Procurer:	Government of the Czech Republic
Gestor:	Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Coordinator:	Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Cooperation:	Institute for Spatial Development
Users:	Public administration, entities involved in the construction process, public
Year of preparation:	2022
Approval date:	4 January 2023
Approval form:	Resolution No. 6 of the Government of the Czech Republic
Implementation period:	2023–2028 and further
Issue addressed:	Promotion of architecture and building culture development as a principle for increasing the quality of the built environment

## II PURPOSE AND USERS

### Purpose

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic addresses the promotion of architecture and building culture development as a principle of increasing the built environment quality. The purpose is to improve people's life quality by increasing the quality of the environment they live in. Buildings and their surroundings, public spaces and the landscape create a fundamental part of this environment.

### Users

People play a major role in shaping the quality of the built environment. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is therefore aimed at all those who participate in or are influenced by construction in some way, i.e. virtually all inhabitants of the Czech Republic.

Central government bodies are responsible for most of the proposed measures. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic concerns mainly the Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of the Environment. Cooperation on some measures should be provided by organisations managed by the ministries, namely the National Pedagogical Institute and the National Heritage Institute. Cooperation is also required from central government bodies, namely the Office for the Protection of Competition and the Czech Statistical Office. The organisational units of the state should also be involved - the Institute for Spatial Development, the Office for Government Representation in Property Affairs, the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and the Czech Science Foundation.

Public administration, both at the regional and municipal levels, play a major role in the implementation of some of the measures and thus in the success of the implementation of the measures defined by the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.

Achieving the defined objectives is not possible without direct cooperation with both professional chambers, i.e. the Czech Chamber of Architects and Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction. Expert and professional associations and societies should cooperate in the implementation of the selected measures, in particular the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic, the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, the Union of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, the Union of Regions of the Czech Republic, the Czech Chamber of Commerce, SIA CR - Council of Construction, the Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic or the Association for the Establishment and Maintenance of Greenery, but also, for example, galleries and citizens.

One of the key prerequisites for the promotion of building culture is teaching and education in this field in schools. It is necessary to promote education and training in primary and secondary schools and to raise the status of vocational schools to raise general awareness of the importance of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture. Universities play a crucial role in training professionals in close cooperation with research institutions. As universities in the context of cooperating organizations are understood for example The Czech Technical University in Prague - Faculty of Architecture including special purpose departments (Research Centre for Industrial Heritage and Research Centre of Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague) and Faculty of Civil Engineering including UCEEB - University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings, Brno University of Technology - Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Civil Engineering including the research centre AdMaS (Advanced Materials, Structures and Technologies), Technical University of Liberec - Faculty of Arts and Architecture, Technical University of Ostrava - Faculty of Civil Engineering, Academy of Arts Architecture & Design in Prague, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, ARCHIP (Architectural Institute in Prague), Mendel University in Brno - Faculty of Horticulture, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, and other faculties and universities.

## Purpose and Users

The role of non-governmental and non-profit organisations, public benefit societies and registered associations is integral in cooperating in the implementation of certain measures, promoting architecture and building culture and especially in working with the public. The term "non-profit organisations" is used hereafter to refer to e.g. the Petr Parléř Society, the ABF Foundation, the Czech Architecture Foundation, the Centre for Central European Architecture CCEA, the Czech Landscape and Garden Society, the Kruh (Circle) Civic Association, the Partnerství Foundation, the Proměny Foundation, Architekti ve škole, Agora CE, Auto\*Mat, the ReSITE platform, CB Architecture, the Platform of Urban Architects, the "Pěstuj prostor" and "Člověk a prostor" associations and many others.



Fig. 1 – Na Kozině House. Main Prize of the Czech Architecture Award 2022. Trhové Sviny. Author: Atelier 111 architects. Ing. arch. Jiří Weinzettl, Ing. arch. Barbora Weinzettlová. Photo: Alex Shoots Buildings. Remarkable is the creation of an atmosphere stemming from the combination of several original historic houses and the integration of the yards into one functional unit. The sophisticated interior is underlined by the symbiosis of original and contemporary materials.

## III ANALYSIS

### European context

The debate on the importance of a quality built environment began to develop purposefully in the European institutions in 1999 under the Finnish presidency of the European Union, when the European Meeting on Architecture brought together for the first time representatives of all the Member States of the then 15 and Norway to formulate main objectives in the field of architecture, in particular the need to ensure the right of citizens to quality architecture and the environment, to promote the dissemination of architectural culture, to create a European advisory body for cooperation between Member States in the field of architecture, and to guarantee the incorporation of quality architecture into European policies in other areas.

In 2000, the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) became the European advisory body on architecture. EFAP represented an international European network of experts that encouraged discussion, exchange of best practices and promotion of architecture and building culture policy through national policies of architecture. However, it effectively ceased to exist in 2016. EFAP was followed by conferences on architecture policies organised by the Presidency state of the Council of the EU, known as the European Conference on Architectural Policies - ECAP. The Czech Republic within its Presidency of the Council of the EU organized a Conference on Architecture and Building Culture Policies in October 2022 as well.

Informal meetings of European Directors for Architectural Policies, hosted by the country holding the Presidency of the Council of Europe are regularly organized organising follow-up European Conferences on Architecture Policies.

The significance of the topic also resonates at the European Union level. It set up an Open Method of Coordination (OMC) expert working group, consisting of experts from EU Member States operating in 2020 and 2021. It dealt with the issue of high-quality architecture and the built environment for everyone as a priority. The group presented an evaluation report resulting from its activities - Towards a shared culture of architecture. Investing in a high-quality living environment for everyone: report of the OMC (Open Method of Coordination) group of EU Member State experts, 2021, which also makes use of the Davos Quality System for Building Culture.

In particular, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), a non-profit organisation established in Treviso, Italy on 11 May 1990 by the merger of the former Liaison Committee of the Architects of the United Europe (CLAEU) and the former Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), has been dedicated to the promotion of the profession of architects. The working structure of ACE is designed to maintain and promote a high level of effectiveness of European policy of both architecture and professions. It consists of 43 member organisations, which are the national regulatory and professional representative bodies in the EU Member States, accession countries, Switzerland and Norway. ACE, through its portfolio of members, promotes the interests of more than 600,000 architects from 30 European countries. ACE's objectives are mainly to promote architecture in Europe, to advance the architectural quality of the built environment, to promote sustainable development of the built environment, to promote high standards of qualification for architects, to foster quality in architectural practice, to encourage cross-border cooperation and to facilitate European practice. ACE stands for a unified voice of architects in Europe.

A number of architecture policies or similar materials have been developed in the European Union countries over the last 20 years, some of which are regularly updated. In some countries, policies are not issued as a strategic material, however, reports on the state of building culture are prepared. The way to promote quality architecture by law is not common. The absence of architectural policies is more common in southern European countries. Some policies of countries outside the European Union can also be inspiring. Switzerland issued a Building Culture Strategy in early 2020, which is similar in structure to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Norway published a similar material named Architecture.now in 2009, and Iceland published the Icelandic Government Policy on Architecture in 2007.



Country	Has a similar document	Name	Year
<b>Belgium</b>	Partially	Multiannual Programme 2017–2020 (Flanders), Note d'orientation (Brussels), Guide de l'Architect (Wallonia)	2017, 2015, 2016
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No		
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes	Architecture and Building Culture Policy	2022
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes	Danish Architectural Policy. Putting People First	2014
<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	The Architectural Policy of Estonia	2002
<b>Finland</b>	Yes	Suomen Arkkitehtuuripolitiikka	2022
<b>France</b>	Yes	Strategie Nationale pour l'Architecture	2015
<b>Croatia</b>	Yes *	Apolitika. Architectural Policies of the Republic of Croatia	2012
<b>Ireland</b>	Yes	Places for People: National Policy on Architecture	2022
<b>Italy</b>	Law, not policy	Legge-Quadro Sulla Qualità Architettonica	2009
<b>Cyprus</b>	No	Only a sectoral document Development Control Design Policy, Guidance and Standards	2015
<b>Latvia</b>	Partially	Governmental Resolution on the Inventory of Guidelines for Lithuanian Architecture	2005
<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	Architecture Policy Guidelines 2009–2015	2009
<b>Luxemburg</b>	Yes	Pour une Politique architecturale	2004
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes	Nemzeti Építészetpolitika. National Architecture Policy	2015
<b>Malta</b>	No		
<b>Germany</b>	Partially**	Regularly published Baukultur Report	2014–2017
<b>Netherlands</b>	Yes	Building on the strength of design	2016
<b>Poland</b>	Yes	Polska Polityka Architektoniczna	2018
<b>Portugal</b>	Yes	Política Nacional de Arquitectura e Paisagem	2015
<b>Austria</b>	Yes	Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture + Regularly published Austrian building culture report	2017
<b>Romania</b>	Under preparation		
<b>Greece</b>	No		
<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes	Architecture Policy of Slovakia	2018
<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes	Architecture for the People. The Architectural Policy of Slovenia	2017
<b>Spain</b>	Law, not policy	Ley de Calidad de la Arquitectura	2022
<b>Sweden</b>	Yes	Policy for Designed Living Environment	2018

\* Croatia is in the process of policy update preparation.

\*\* Germany is in the process of Guidelines for Baukultur preparation.

Table 1 – Overview of currently effective architecture and building culture policies and similar materials in European Union countries. Source: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic.

## The situation in the Czech Republic

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic fully connects priorities, objectives and tasks in relation to the built environment, which has already been incorporated into the strategies and concepts of individual ministries. In addition, the document also takes into account global trends, ideas and priorities related to the issues of buildings, settlements and landscapes.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic aims to approach the issue of the built environment comprehensively, from a wide range of perspectives.

During the preparatory work on the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, the document "Improving Quality of Building Culture - European Forum for Architectural Policies" from March 2011 assessed architecture policies and similar documents of selected European countries (Finland, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden) as well as the requirements resulting from EU documents.

The materials developed by the Czech Chamber of Architects, the Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction and the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic also formed part of the background documents for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. The Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic developed a background material on the structure and spatial arrangement of settlements. The Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction

and the Czech Chamber of Architects developed a background report on the quality of buildings. These background materials included a reasoned proposal for possible measures to address the identified problems, particularly in the activities of public administration.

The next preparatory step was the development of the "Analysis of Building Culture" in the Czech Republic. The subject of the Analysis was to search for the most significant problems in this field and identify their degree of urgency. The basic thematic fields were identified and divided into sections devoted to the naming and characterization of the thematic fields and the analysis of the identified problem. The assessment of the existing concepts of the ministries, their measures and subsidy titles also represented an important part of the Analysis.

Following further consultations and discussions, the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was approved on 14 January 2015 by Government Resolution No. 22.

The implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was continuously assessed, while a comprehensive assessment was carried out till 2017 and till 2020. The assessment of the implementation showed that after six years of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic's existence, an update would be appropriate. Several materials were developed within the framework of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update, on which its Update is based, and which contains a number of analyses. These materials are described in more detail in Appendix 1: Authors and the Process of Development.



*Fig. 2 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Analysis of Foreign Materials and Recommendations*

*Fig. 3 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Analysis of Recommendations of Professional Organisations for the Updating Purposes*

*Fig. 4 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Update Suggestions*

*Fig. 5 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic – Results of the Overall Analysis of Outputs for the Policy Updating*

Research of analytical materials in relation to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic resulted, for example, in the necessary of:

- Providing permanent coordination and management of the implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy CR, including interdepartmental cooperation;
- Establishment of a working group or a platform for meetings and sharing of good practices;
- Involvement of organisations that deal with the topics related to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, however, has not taken part in cooperation yet;
- Support for its implementation in regions and municipalities;
- Support for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy related activities publicity at different levels;
- Linking construction quality assessment to subsidy programmes;
- Preserving the regional character of the environment, including regional architecture;
- Sustainability and resilience of buildings and the environment, including their energy efficiency;
- Adaptation to climate change within landscape, settlements, public spaces and buildings;
- Support for the preparatory phases of individual projects;
- Data collection on the preparation and operation of buildings;
- Promotion of good practices, particularly of high-quality public buildings as models for private developers;
- Strengthening the role of architecture as a tourist destination;



- Promotion of Czech architecture abroad;
- Support for local and regional architecture policies;
- Promotion of the role of municipal, regional and state architects and architecture centres;
- Facilitating the understanding of the principles of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic to the general public.



Fig. 6 – The Guard Patrol at Stráž – Horník. Finalist of the Czech Architecture Award 2022. Rokytnice nad Jizerou. Author: Mjölík architects. Ing. arch. Jan Mach, Ing. arch. Jan Vondrák. Photo: BoysPlayNice. A series of abstract observation structures invite visitors to look down into the valley. The well-thought-out design uses materials that guarantee long-term durability.

## IV VISION

The vision of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is to improve people's lives by enhancing the quality of the environment they live in. Its basic aim is therefore to support the development of architecture and building culture and thus the quality of the built environment.

The fulfilment of the individual objectives will lead to:

- High-quality architecture,
- Cost-efficient buildings well incorporated into their surroundings,
- Welcoming public spaces,
- Harmonious cities and countryside, including the surrounding landscape,
- Respect for the local specificities of individual areas in the Czech Republic,
- Perception of architecture as an existing or future part of our cultural heritage,
- Adaptation of settlements and landscapes to climate change and their greater resilience and self-sufficiency.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic also:

- Supports the education of both the professional and general public,
- Contributes to stimulating people's interest in the quality of the environment they live in,
- Increases local pride and personal responsibility of citizens in relation to the built environment,
- Increases the international recognition of Czech architecture.

It is necessary to promote and emphasize the necessity of a comprehensive perception of the built environment as a basic principle, i.e. not only individual buildings but also their interaction and urban layout, their relationship to existing architectural and urban values and their influence on the landscape. A comprehensive perception of the environment must be reflected in the overall concept, the concepts of the individual components of the environment, through to the urban, architectural and artistic detail.

An integrated approach to problem-solving, balancing and linking the requirements of individual departments and fields of human activity must be applied. Architecture, urban design and spatial planning should have an integrating role in the process of sustainable development.

It should be continuously emphasised that the environment should be user-friendly, comfortable, well-maintained, functional, safe, with character and beautiful for humans. A quality and aesthetic environment influence and cultivates society as well as each person's behaviour. Cultivation is manifested in the way how a society cares for its environment.

Architecture should be perceived as a complex field of creative industry, a tool for innovation linking technical disciplines and humanities via specific methods and knowledge having a creative and experimental character.

Quality planning of settlements and landscapes triggers investments and improves the performance of our economy while raising cultural standards and protecting natural and historic assets. In the long-term horizon, the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic will contribute to greater sustainability and efficiency of publicly funded buildings, which will also become a model for the private sector. Measures directed towards education, raising awareness and supporting research will strengthen knowledge in planning and construction being in line with the focus on innovation and the development of a knowledge-based economy. The development of architecture and engineering activities will have a positive impact on the Czech economy, both directly and indirectly, through the supply of related services. A quality built environment will support the development of other fields such as tourism.

## V VISION FULFILMENT

The objectives for each theme have been identified and are described in detail on the following pages. Their fulfilment will contribute to improving the quality of the built environment. The themes are ordered firstly by scale, from the basic spatial framework to the buildings, and they have been further complemented by specific themes related to education and awareness raising. Due to the complexity of the whole issue, measures often have an impact on several themes. To simplify the text, they have always been listed under the earliest topic not to repeat them several times.

This chapter also defines **the measures** that should lead to their fulfilment. For each measure, it identifies

- responsibility - the supervisor who is responsible for the implementation of the measure;
- cooperation - the institutions involved together in the implementation of the measure;
- deadline - the year by the end of which the measure is to be implemented.

The implementation of the measures determined by the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic will be managed by the supervisors of individual measures. The supervisors are mainly public administration bodies, and the role of local governments at the regional and municipal levels is irreplaceable. In addition to the implementation of the individual measures for which their role is defined, public administration should use the document for its strategic planning and everyday decision-making process in the built environment.

The implementation of the measures is expected to take place between 2022 and 2028. For some of the measures, the deadline is set on a continuous basis, which means starting implementation immediately and continuing in its implementation.

The implementation of the measures will be continuously monitored and assessed in cooperation with the concerned ministries and institutions. Reports on the ongoing implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic will be carried out and published on the websites of the Ministry of Regional Development and the Institute for Spatial Development to provide public supervision of the document implementation. A report on the evaluation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic implementation will be developed and submitted to the Government by the end of 2028.

The measures have an impact on public budgets. Some of the measures will be implemented within the framework of activities carried out by individual ministries without increased demands on funding sources (e.g. development of guidelines). The second large group are activities that would have to be carried out even without the adopted Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, however, the material will have an impact on improving the quality of the results of these activities (e.g. development of spatial analytical documents and spatial planning documentation). Some of the measures also assume the use of instruments that have already been allocated budgetary resources and therefore do not imply new demands on public budgets. The implementation of the measures by the universities will be carried out according to their capacities and the financial resources allocated for the activities of the universities related to the implementation of the measures and will be provided outside the budget chapter of the Ministry of Education.

The anticipated budgetary requirements must be financed by the central government authorities within the scope of their respective competencies, always from the expenditure of the given chapter within the approved limit.



Fig. 7 – Pavlov archaeopark. Main Prize of the Czech Architecture Award 2017. Pavlov. Author: Ing. arch. Radko Květ, Ing. arch. Pavel Pijáček. Photo: Ales Jungmann. The incorporation of contemporary architecture into the landscape of the site with a profound connection to the natural, cultural and historical heritage and value of the Pálava and its surrounding landscape deserves special attention.

# Objectives and Measures

## Theme 1 – Landscape and Settlements Arrangement

The landscape, settlement structure and spatial arrangement of settlements determine the basic conditions for a quality built environment. A long-term concept is crucial for the sustainable development of both the settlements and the landscape. The basic conceptual framework for the development of settlements and the open countryside landscape is determined by spatial planning, which should work closely together with strategic planning. The specific characteristics of the settlement structure in the Czech Republic and its areas, including preserved architectural and urban values, must be consistently taken into account in analyses and proposals. The preservation of public amenities, natural and cultural values and ecosystem services and, last but not least, the existing and predicted demographic development must be taken into account.

The landscape represents the basic environment that determines both the possibilities of building and the habitability of settlements (available and quality freshwater sources, suitable local climate, safety, etc.). The level of climatic risks (water scarcity, overheating, risk of flooding, forest fires, landslides, etc.) is determined by the planning and subsequently, above all, the use of the open landscape. Therefore, quality planning of the open landscape fundamentally determines the quality of settlements and should be given due importance.

European landscape and cultural heritage are irreplaceable. Both the cities and urban areas and peripheral and rural areas need to be interconnected.<sup>1</sup> It is essential to encourage the protection, management and planning of the landscape including public participation.<sup>2</sup> Villages, towns, cities and urban areas must be organised in such a way that all their inhabitants have sufficient access to all types of public infrastructure, i.e. transport and technical infrastructure, green infrastructure, amenities, public spaces and the surrounding landscape. The principle of sufficient equality in accessibility to all types of infrastructure for all citizens of the European Union is embedded in the European Spatial Development Perspective (1999). The accessibility of infrastructure for inhabitants has, among other things, a dimension related to the cohesion of the resident community of the territory.

The spatial layout of settlements and their agglomerations has significant implications for the economic sustainability of these settlements and agglomerations, as it profoundly affects the transport costs and time lost due to transport as well as the operating and maintenance costs of technical infrastructure networks. Primarily, the development of towns and rural communities should be located within the built-up area, through the transformation of no longer used sites, in particular the targeted revitalisation of abandoned and neglected areas. At the same time, the values of the undeveloped area should be protected and developed, thus providing the protection and development of the landscape as a whole. It is also important when planning settlements to take into account the unique characteristics of each area, to create conditions for mixed land use for housing, shops and services rather than creating large, segregated mono-functional areas that generate disproportionate traffic demands.<sup>3</sup>

Housing represents an important function in settlements.<sup>4</sup> The development of settlements should support the development of high-quality, affordable, healthy, safe and well-designed housing. Housing must respond to the different needs of different groups in society and promote socially mixed neighbourhoods with a vibrant atmosphere.<sup>5</sup>

Plans addressing the spatial arrangement of territory must be developed in coordinated cooperation of individual professions, including architects and urban planners, landscape architects, specialists in transport and technical infrastructure, demographers, sociologists, economists and other professions.

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<sup>1</sup> **Davos Declaration** adopted on 22 January 2018 at the Conference of European Ministers of Culture on Quality Building Culture.

<sup>2</sup> **Report No. 13/2005 Coll.** on the negotiation of the European Landscape Convention.

<sup>3</sup> **Davos Declaration**, in particular Article 11.

<sup>4</sup> **Housing Concept of the Czech Republic 2021+.**

<sup>5</sup> **The New Leipzig Charter and the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic**, Article 38(b).

## Objective 1.1

**Positively influence the development of the settlement structure.**

### Measure 1.1.1

Evaluate the state and development of the settlement structure of the Czech Republic in national spatial analytical documents.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MC, ISD, CCA, AURP, public administration at a regional level, universities

Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 1.2

**Determine, protect and develop a long-term urban planning composition of settlements, including, among others, their functional, areal and spatial arrangement based on the specific characteristics of the territory.**

### Measure 1.2.1

Coordinate strategic and spatial planning documents.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MRD

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.2.2

In individual settlements, especially in cities, establish a long-term valid urban concept in the spatial plan based, among other things, on the role of the settlement in the settlement structure, respect for the values of the surrounding landscape and the importance of the settlement greenery, urban values and the character of the environment, the diversity and variety of the environment, the safety and health of the inhabitants and economic prosperity.

Responsibility: Public administration at a municipal level

Cooperation: MRD, MoE, public administration at a regional level, AURP, CCA, universities

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.2.3

Promote an active land and property policy of municipalities and cities (property management strategies, lease, sale and purchase of new plots of land and buildings), especially through consultancy and sharing of good practices.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MRD, MI, MIT, CCA, AURP, Office for Government Representation in Property Affairs, State Land Office, universities, chief architect

Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 1.3

**Minimize disproportionate and inappropriate expansion of settlements into the surrounding landscape. Provide consistent use of the built-up area through the targeted revitalization of abandoned and neglected built-up areas as well as individual unused buildings.**

### Measure 1.3.1

Use primarily reserves within the built-up area (especially redevelopment areas) when drafting Spatial Plans and limit the expansion of settlements into the landscape and the agricultural land occupation. Apply this measure to both residential, industrial and logistical use while taking local specifics into account.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MRD, MIT, MoA, MoE, MC

Deadline: Continuously

# Objectives and Measures

## Measure 1.3.2

Support the revitalization of abandoned and neglected built-up areas (after the completion of industrial and agricultural production and extraction of raw materials, abandoned military areas, etc.) in order to motivate builders and investors (including municipalities) to restore and reuse them, including any non-building use. Consider the possibility of financial support for these areas.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MF, MoE, MIT, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, Office for Government Representation in Property Affairs  
Deadline: 2025

## Measure 1.3.3

Support projects for the temporary use of unused areas and buildings, especially through the sharing of good practices.

Responsibility: CCA, CCET,  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, AURP, universities, public administration at the regional level and municipal levels  
Deadline: 2025

## Objective 1.4

**Provide adequate availability of high-quality, sustainable and appropriately located public infrastructure, including appropriate parameters in the settlements.**

### Measure 1.4.1

Analyse the accessibility of public infrastructure facilities in spatial analytical documents. Apply the knowledge about the unsatisfactory accessibility in the determination of the problems to be solved in the relevant spatial planning documents and take into account the spatial planning documentation. Take into account the cooperation of settlements in the use of civic amenities.

Responsibility: Public administration at a municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MoA, MIT, MT  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.4.2

Promote multifunctional use of urban centres in spatial planning documentation.<sup>6</sup>

Responsibility: Public administration at a municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MT, MIT  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.4.3

Coordinate the development of service centres of supra-local importance from the regional level.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, MT, MIT, public administration at a municipal level  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.4.4

Promote high-quality and comprehensively prepared investments in green infrastructure in settlements including its maintenance.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, MT, MIT, MoE, MC, MoA  
Deadline: Continuously

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<sup>6</sup> Davos Declaration.

## Objective 1.5

**Strengthen planning in the field of landscape renovation and creation, especially the consistent use of spatial planning documentation, spatial planning documents and land consolidation.**

### Measure 1.5.1

Consistently coordinate spatial planning documentation and land consolidation.

Responsibility: MoA

Cooperation: MRD, MoE, MC, State Land Office, public administration at a municipal level

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 1.5.2

Develop methodological guidelines for the concept of landscape layout in the spatial plan.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MOE, MC, ISD, CCA, CKET, AURP, universities, non-profit organisations

Deadline: 2024

### Measure 1.5.3

When creating spatial planning documentation and spatial planning studies at all administrative levels, consistently address the landscape, including the relation to the determination of new development areas.

Responsibility: MRD, Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MoE, MoA, CCA, UTM CR, ULA CR

Deadline: Continuously



Fig. 8 – Revitalisation of Kostnické náměstí. Finalist of the Czech Architecture Award 2021. Prague. Author: Ing. arch. Hana Špalková, Ing. Radmila Fingerová. Photo: Aleš Motejl. The selection and combination of materials with minimal, however, precise design in contrast with modest layout emphasizing the decorative features of historical elements and surrounding houses deserves attention.

## Theme 2 – Public Spaces

Public spaces form an inseparable part of the built environment quality. Their continuous character provides the interconnection of urban units and the permeability of the city as well as the continuity with the open landscape. The provision of attractive, easily accessible and safe public spaces is one of the vital prerequisites for the successful functioning of urban and rural communities. One of the conditions for easy accessibility is the barrier-free accessibility of public spaces.

Public spaces allow people to meet and communicate with each other, which is a condition for community cohesion. They create space for social, cultural, recreational and economic activities and, through their layout, form and aesthetic impact, determine the frequency and culture of interpersonal contact. In addition to streets, squares, arcades and other publicly accessible areas, public spaces include parks, public greenery and publicly accessible gardens. Both city-wide significant spaces (e.g., squares, parks, commercial streets, waterfronts), which influence huge numbers of visitors, and small community spaces (e.g., town squares, village squares, parklets, etc.), where there is a stronger connection between the user and "his" space, are important in the hierarchy of the public space system.

Public spaces influence people's lives and their view of contemporary building culture through their appearance and design both positively and negatively through everyday contact with people. The design proposals of public spaces and the way they are implemented represent a powerful tool for the public sector. Residents' participation in the planning and implementation of public space improvements can make a significant contribution to their identification with the area and to strengthening community ties. Involving the public in projects promotes the formation of a relationship with the environment, prevents vandalism and fosters the long-term interest, protection and sustainability of the projects implemented.

It is necessary to provide such designs for public spaces that are based on the needs of their users and that also take into account demographic development, social changes, technological development, natural conditions and climate change. Public spaces should also serve as a space for green infrastructure and enable its development.

Attention should not be focused only on the creation of public spaces in development sites. The key aspect is to focus on the improvement and maintenance of existing public spaces and to create new public spaces in built-up areas and redevelopment areas.

A comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach must be taken into account when planning public spaces similar to spatial planning and the design of individual buildings. The whole spectrum of professions must work together on the final design with the aim to balance and harmonize the requirements and interests of various participants in the public space design process to achieve overall synergy. The design of the public space must be based on a holistic approach, from the concept of the space layout to the individual details, including the material design, the choice of greenery, water features, artwork, etc.

### Objective 2.1

**Provide sufficient availability of suitable public spaces within the area, their easy accessibility and interconnection.**

#### Measure 2.1.1

Identify the values, use, functionality and accessibility of public spaces in spatial analytical documents. Reflect the conclusions of the public space assessment in the spatial analytical documents into the assignment and design of spatial planning documentation.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, ISD, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 2.1.2

Structure and hierarchise the system of public spaces and green infrastructure areas in settlements when developing spatial plans or spatial planning studies

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, ISD, CCA, CCET, AURP, public authorities at the regional level, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

# Objectives and Measures

## Measure 2.1.3

Use spatial planning studies to examine public space systems, urban greenery systems, and their specific design.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, public authorities at the regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 2.1.4

Use regulatory plans to stabilise the design of the developable area parcelling with the determination of public spaces. Promote adequate use and scale of buildings surrounding public spaces while respecting the character of the site.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, CCA, AURP, public authorities at the regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 2.1.5

The buildable areas parcelling should be addressed on the basis of a comprehensive proposal with the determination of public spaces, do not allow their use in parts without the overall concept of the design.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 2.1.6

Prevent the creation of clusters of buildings that prevent the permeability of the area using spatial planning tools

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, public authorities at the regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 2.2

**Design public spaces holistically.**

### Measure 2.2.1

Launch architectural and urban design competitions for important public spaces funded by public budgets.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, public authorities at the regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 2.2.2

Encourage quality art implementation in public spaces resulting from art or architectural competitions.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MC, MRD, CCA, public authorities at the regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 2.2.3

Provide a holistic approach when designing public spaces, including transport, technical and green infrastructure. Promote multidisciplinary design teams (architect, landscape architect, traffic engineer, water engineer, conservationist, artist, etc.).

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, MT, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP, public authorities at the regional level, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 2.2.4

Improve the care of existing public spaces, promote their improvement and cultivation involving the public, including children and youth.

Responsibility: Public authorities at the municipal level  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP, public authorities at the regional level, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 2.2.5

Develop a national concept to promote public spaces suitable for various activities, play and recreation, taking into account all age groups.

Responsibility: MEYS

Cooperation: MLSA, MC, public authorities at the regional and municipal levels, universities, non-profit organisations

Deadline: 2025

## Measure 2.2.6

Promote public spaces suitable for all age groups, especially children, young people and the elderly. Promote the integration of play and places for play as an integral part of public spaces. Promote the integration of relaxation and exercise elements. Promote the use of school grounds outside school hours.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MEYS, MRD, non-profit organisations

Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 2.2.7

Promote the sustainability of modifications to existing playgrounds or fit them with new play elements in subsidy programmes. Prevent granting subsidies for health hazardous materials.

Responsibility: MEYS, MRD

Cooperation: CCET, non-profit organisations

Deadline: 2026

## Measure 2.2.8

Promote the regulation of advertising (visual smog)<sup>7</sup> and light sources<sup>8</sup> in public spaces.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, non-profit organisations

Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 2.3

**Intensify the care of public spaces as a major aspect influencing the overall quality of the environment.**

### Measure 2.3.1

Check the need for adapting the regulations for the path construction that are mainly used by pedestrians and cyclists within public spaces.

Responsibility: MT

Cooperation: MRD, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP

Deadline: 2026

### Measure 2.3.2

Check how to remove bureaucratic barriers to the temporary placement of artworks in public spaces.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MC, Prague City Gallery, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Pardubice City Gallery, Pěstuj Prostor Association

Deadline: 2026

### Measure 2.3.3

Take into account green infrastructure in the standard on protection of technical infrastructure corridors and areas.

Responsibility: MIT

Cooperation: MRD, MoE, CCA, CCET, AURP, Czech Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, Czech Standardization Agency, public administration at a regional level

Deadline: 2026

<sup>7</sup> E.g. [https://www.obcepro.cz/data/doporuceni\\_pro\\_obce\\_v\\_omezeni\\_reklamniho\\_smogu.pdf](https://www.obcepro.cz/data/doporuceni_pro_obce_v_omezeni_reklamniho_smogu.pdf); <https://kultivovana.praha.eu/>.

<sup>8</sup> E.g. [https://www.mzp.cz/cz/news\\_20210511-MZP-vydava-osvetlovaci-prirucku-pro-obce-projektanty-i-obcany](https://www.mzp.cz/cz/news_20210511-MZP-vydava-osvetlovaci-prirucku-pro-obce-projektanty-i-obcany).



Fig. 9 – Top residence Šárecké údolí. Candidate for the Czech Architecture Award 2020. Prague 6.  
Author: Ing. arch. Oldřich Hájek, prof. Ing. arch. Jaroslav Šafer. Photo: Filip Šlapal  
Particularly interesting is the preservation of elements of the original development and the creation of a common space between the houses.

## Theme 3 – Integration of Buildings into the Environment

The sensitive integration of the buildings into the surrounding environment results from the respect for spatial relationships, the atmosphere of the site and the structure of the existing buildings as well as the relationship to the cultural and natural heritage. The relation to the cultural context, the urban values and the original natural features of the site, including the integration of the building into the landscape and the appropriate landscaping of the whole addressed area respecting the environment is important for the continuity of the character of the environment and the social acceptability of the buildings. Adequate spatial planning tools, including their distinct details, should be used in their full variety in order to promote the local character and cost-effectiveness of the design.

The interaction of investor organisations and state special-purpose funds with local governments is important. The interaction should concern the search for integrated solutions and the use of local knowledge of the area.

The existing housing stock is an asset that needs to be protected and developed. It is therefore necessary to respect and cultivate the existing environment and build on its values. Prioritise the reuse, revitalization, life-span extension and conversion of existing buildings over the construction of new buildings wherever practical.<sup>9</sup> The basic objective is to promote continuity of the character of the environment, the structure of the built environment, the configuration of the terrain, the effect of settlement and landscape landmarks and their compositional relations, to revitalise cultural and religious monuments including minor religious buildings and to develop the identity of the site appropriately. It represents one of the basic qualities of the environment, enables the inhabitants to identify themselves with the place they live in, and can become a significant competitive advantage of a given settlement. Promoting regional identity through architecture leads to greater citizen involvement, their identification with the settlement environment and growth in the economy and tourism. At the same time, new high-quality urban, landscape and architectural interventions that enrich the existing environment and bring new values to it should be encouraged.

### Objective 3.1

**Provide continuity of new buildings with the character and structure of valuable existing buildings, respect and develop cultural and architectural heritage and landscape values.**

#### Measure 3.1.1

Develop a methodology to standardize spatial regulation tools in the spatial and regulatory plan.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: TACR  
Deadline: 2025

#### Measure 3.1.2

Promote the development and use of regulatory plans, including possible subsidy support for their development.

Responsibility: MRD, Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MC, CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 3.1.3

Carry out an analysis of whether and which provisions of legal regulations and standard requirements affecting the parameters of new buildings do not allow their appropriate integration into the existing environment and, if necessary, propose their possible modification.

Responsibility: Capital city of Prague  
Cooperation: MIT, MRD, CCA, CCET  
Deadline: 2025

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<sup>9</sup> New European Bauhaus – Beautiful, Sustainable, Together.

# Objectives and Measures

## Objective 3.2

**Protect and enhance the character of the elements creating local, city-wide or regional identity and promoting the character and uniqueness of the site environment.**

### Measure 3.2.1

Promote, through the sharing of good practice, the preservation of the regional character of the environment, including regional architecture, while promoting the preservation and use of traditional rural buildings, including minor religious buildings.

Responsibility: MRD, Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MC, AURP, universities

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 3.2.2

Promote the use of local building techniques and materials (including materials with a low carbon footprint).<sup>10</sup> Amend relevant standards to allow for innovation<sup>11</sup> (e.g. amend fire regulations for timber buildings).

Responsibility: MIT

Cooperation: MRD, MC, MV, CCA, CCET, Czech Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, Czech Standardization Agency, universities

Deadline: 2028

### Measure 3.2.3

Develop plans for the protection of conservation areas.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MC, public administration at a municipal level

Deadline: Continuously

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<sup>10</sup> New European Bauhaus – Beautiful, Sustainable, Together.

<sup>11</sup> Davos Declaration.



Fig. 10 – The new Prague 7 Town Hall. Nomination for the Czech Architecture Award 2020 Prague 7. Author: Ing. arch. Vojtěch Sosna, Ing. arch. Jakub Straka, Ing. arch. Jáchym Svoboda. Photo: Tomáš Slavík. The distinction of the design of the important public building and the use of archetypal elements (staircase, clock) deserve attention.

# Objectives and Measures

## Theme 4 – Public Procurement and Subsidies

Quality planning documentation and quality building design are essential for a quality built environment. The procurement process significantly influences the overall quality of the buildings and the environment, as it represents the initial stage of project preparation. When tendering for contracts for the preparation of plans and documentation for buildings and when tendering for companies to implement and maintain the construction, the price of work plays the role of the decisive criterion in the tenders in the vast majority of cases. This one-sided orientation often results in inadequately and poorly prepared designs and negatively affects the quality and durability of the implemented buildings. This creates long-term problems and disproportionate costs in the use of both individual buildings and entire settlements. When awarding planning and design contracts affecting building culture, quality should be the main parameter to be observed; price should not be the only criterion, even for small-scale contracts.

When determining the price of a building, it is necessary to assess the life cycle costs of the building, i.e. not only the acquisition costs, but also the costs of operation, maintenance, the costs of replacing certain structures and structural elements and, if necessary, the costs of removing the building. The ability to take into account life cycle costs of the construction should also be taken into account when selecting the designer, including the specialist team.

Architecture and urban design competitions contribute to improving the quality of the built environment.

Publicly funded buildings should become showcase examples of quality construction, i.e. quality and efficient preparation (optimally on the basis of design competition), implementation and subsequent maintenance.

### Objective 4.1

**Pursue the highest possible quality of procurement procedure.**

#### Measure 4.1.1

Ensure that quality becomes the main selection criterion in tenders for planning and design work (including landscaping). Price should not be the only or main criterion for planning and design work, even for small-scale contracts.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 4.1.2

Develop guidelines for the use of the Design and Build system (joint design and build contract) for public procurement in the construction sector, including determination when it is appropriate to use this system.

Responsibility: CCA, CCET  
Cooperation: MRD  
Deadline: 2026

#### Measure 4.1.3

Develop guidelines that would allow determining both the acquisition costs and the operational costs (including energy requirements), maintenance and deconstruction<sup>12</sup> of the building. Develop a draft for a system for obtaining and using basic data on the economics of construction, operation and maintenance of publicly funded buildings.

Responsibility: MIT  
Cooperation: MRD, MT, MoA, MEYS, MoE, CCA, CCET,  
Deadline: 2025

#### Measure 4.1.4

Promote the sharing of experience, the promotion of results and the publication of information on public procurement funded from public budgets.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MIT, CCA, CCET, public administration at a regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

<sup>12</sup> Controlled removal of the structure with maximum level of the recovered material recycling.

## Measure 4.1.5

In tendering procedures, give preference in the assessment to the total life cycle cost of the construction.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MRD, MIT, CCA, CCET

Deadline: Continuously since 2026

## Objective 4.2

**Use architecture and design competitions in the preparation and implementation of publicly funded constructions.**

### Measure 4.2.1

The use of architecture competitions is recommended as a priority in the preparation of major buildings funded by public budgets.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level

Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic

Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 4.3

**Pay attention to the quality of the built environment when awarding subsidies**

### Measure 4.3.1

Relate the assessment of building quality to selected subsidy programmes and include quality among the assessment criteria when developing programme documentation.

Responsibility: MRD, MIT, MoE, MEYS, MoA, MT, MF, MLSA, MD, MC, MJ

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, Public administration at a regional level, non-profit organisations

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 4.3.2

Adapt the built environment subsidy rules to allow for architecture competitions (sufficient timeframe, deductibility of architecture competition costs) and take their use into account in the assessment.

Responsibility: MRD, MIT, MoE, MEYS, MoA, MT, MF, MLSA, MD, MC, MJ

Cooperation: CCA, CCET

Deadline: 2026

### Measure 4.3.3

Regularly issue subsidy programme calls to support architecture and urban design competitions.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA

Deadline: 2023 and then on continuously

## Objective 4.4

**Obtaining feedback from public procurement**

### Measure 4.4.1

Analyse different ways of procurement procedures in the construction industry (for services and work).

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, Public administration at a regional level

Deadline: 2027

### Measure 4.4.2

Incorporate related Public Investment Funds and the built environment quality into vocational training.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MIT, MoE, MEYS, MoA, MT, MF, MLSA, MD, MC, MJ, CCA, CCET

Deadline: 2026

### Measure 4.4.3

Identify which data on public procurement in the construction sector and the resulting constructions would be useful to collect systematically.

Responsibility: CCA

Cooperation: MRD

Deadline: 2026



Fig. 11 – Café Republic in Petřín. Project submitted for the Czech Architecture Award 2021. Prague.  
Author: Ing. arch. Marek Pyszko, Ing. arch. Marek Wojnar, Ing. Michal Sedláček, MSc, Ing. arch. Lukáš Wawrosz.  
Photo: Lukas Legierski.  
Remarkable is the industrial style of the café in a listed building and the complex design approach from the building, through the interior and branding to the napkins on the table.

## Theme 5 – Quality of Buildings

The quality of buildings needs to be monitored at all stages of their life cycle (design, implementation, operation, removal). The basic prerequisite for quality construction is quality specification and quality building design documentation.

The aim of a quality design is construction work with aesthetic value, satisfying all the functions currently needed and required and allowing it to respond to changing user requirements over the years. It is desirable for buildings to meet high standards of functionality and aesthetic visual style, to be in relation with the environment, its cultural and natural values and the landscape, and to respect the principles of sustainability together with changing climatic conditions. Open spaces which should be sensitively designed and maintained are directly related to any building. The built environment, including individual buildings, should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all user groups.

The high-quality built environment meets functional, technical and economic requirements. However, it must also satisfy the aesthetic, social and psychological needs of people. The requirement for high quality must be considered at the same level as economic or technical requirements.<sup>13</sup>

The aesthetic quality of buildings' forms part of their architectural quality; it primarily means the building visual and compositional quality in relation to its symbolic or cultural significance.

However, the quality of buildings does not only include their aesthetic value, but also their integration into the environment, their purposefulness (layout, variability and possibility of redevelopment) in harmony with their form, their social value (contribution to the development of society), their technical design (use of materials and technologies, quality of workmanship, durability) and, last but not least, their easy maintenance and low operational and energy requirements, which have recently become more important than the actual acquisition costs. High operating costs can result from inappropriate technical design or inappropriate operational design at the project design stage, as well as poor quality of construction works or neglected maintenance.

The safety and performance requirements for buildings include mechanical resistance and stability, fire safety, protection of the health of persons and animals, protection of property, healthy living conditions and the environment, protection against noise and light pollution, safety in use, energy efficiency and thermal protection. The designer should consider the possibilities and demandingness of implementation, operation, use, maintenance, lifetime and possible removal of the structure. The impact of new technologies on the preparation (digitalisation, BIM), implementation (robotization) and management of buildings should also be taken into account. In general, buildings should be made more energy efficient, built and renovated in an energy and resource-efficient manner.<sup>14</sup>

The care of the existing building stock is essential for the quality of the environment and life in both urban and rural areas; therefore, attention should be focused on the maintenance of existing buildings and consistent efforts should be made to revitalize or rebuilt existing buildings, sites and areas that have lost their original purpose. When rebuilding completed buildings, care must be taken to prevent their devaluation through unprofessional interventions. The original valuable architectural, structural and technical character of buildings should be preserved and developed during rebuilding.

### Objective 5.1

**Pursue high quality of project processing.**

#### Measure 5.1.1

Provide the application of performance standards (volume of time) in the processing of spatial planning and project documentation. Following the German model, examine the possibility of issuing fee rate scale guidelines as recommended rates for design work.

Responsibility: CCA  
Cooperation: MRD, CCET, Office for the Protection of Competition  
Deadline: 2025

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<sup>13</sup> Davos Declaration.

<sup>14</sup> European Green Deal.

# Objectives and Measures

## Measure 5.1.2

Examine the possibility of using a part of the investment cost of the building to incorporate artwork into publicly funded buildings. Examine the possibility of introducing a system to monitor these costs and artwork.

Responsibility: MC  
Cooperation: Public administration at regional and municipality levels, Skutek Association, Prague Institute of Planning and Development  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 5.1.3

Implement a legal regulation that would make it possible to determine publicly beneficial buildings in the spatial planning documentation, or architecturally or urbanistically significant buildings for which a condition for a decision-making process on changes in the area is holding an architectural competition.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: 2025

## Objective 5.2

**Address energy efficiency, sustainability, climate change impact mitigation and resilience of both buildings and the environment.**

### Measure 5.2.1

Examine and address municipal energy management.

Responsibility: MIT  
Cooperation: MRD, MoA, MoE, MI, CCA, CCET, AURP, public administration at a regional level, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 5.2.2

Pay attention to rainwater management, promote the implementation of greywater management systems and green roofs and facades implementation, and monitor the carbon footprint of buildings in the context of building management.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, MoA, MoE, MIT, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 5.2.3

Take into account and apply the principles of circular economy in the construction sector as far as possible throughout the entire construction life cycle.<sup>15</sup> Develop a technical standard on the deconstruction of buildings and preparation of building material recycling.<sup>16</sup> Address the conflict between standard requirements and the use of recycled building components and materials.

Responsibility: MIT, MRD, MoE, CCET  
Cooperation: MC, CCA, AURP, Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing, Czech Standardization Agency, public administration at a regional level, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 5.2.4

Examine an approach to reducing energy loss in houses with historically valuable facades, including insulation on the inside of facades or setting special requirements for these buildings. Conduct research into this area.

Responsibility: MIT  
Cooperation: MC, CCA, CCET, TACR, universities  
Deadline: 2026

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<sup>15</sup> European Green Deal.

<sup>16</sup> New European Bauhaus – Beautiful, Sustainable, Together.

## **Measure 5.2.5**

Develop awareness-raising and educational materials on the quality of the indoor environment (ventilation, sound insulation).

Responsibility: MIT  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, universities  
Deadline: 2025

## **Objective 5.3**

**Quality technical and transport infrastructure as part of the built environment.**

### **Measure 5.3.1**

Design transport and technical infrastructure constructions in multidisciplinary teams (engineers, architects, landscape architects, etc.). Prepare a model example of such an approach.

Responsibility: MT  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET  
Deadline: 2025

### **Measure 5.3.2**

When preparing investments in transport and technical infrastructure, take into account the quality of the urban, landscape and architectural design and its integration into the environment, even for small-scale construction work. Give priority to making use of architecture competitions for the preparation of significant developments.

Responsibility: MT, MIT, Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET  
Deadline: Continuously



Fig. 12 – Dřevák. Nomination for the Czech Architecture Award 2017. Líbeznice.  
Author: Jan Havlas, Jan Hájek, Pavel Joba. Photo: Petra Hajska.  
The contribution of the building to the local community and its integration into the terrain is worth noticing.

## Theme 6 – Education

The quality of the built environment is the result of a qualified demand on the part of the client (builder, municipality or other public contracting authority) and the quality professional performance of the architect, civil engineer or urban planner and the provider of the work. Another important factor significantly influencing the quality of the built environment is the qualification of public sector representatives, which determines the quality of planning and decision-making processes in the area. The Czech Chamber of Architects and the Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction are in charge of the high level of performance of authorised persons. The theme of education, awareness and research are related to professions engaged in building culture and the built environment, to administrative authorities and the public.

Providing a high level of expertise involves training professionals at all levels of these activities; from experts in architectural, urban and building design, technicians in construction disciplines and craftsmen for implementation (construction and completion) work. This includes both **tertiary education** in the case of designers, **higher secondary education** in the case of technicians and landscape contractors, and training in the construction and landscape professions – **vocational training** (apprenticeships).

Another target group where training needs to be aimed is **public administration officials**. The qualifications needed to achieve better promotion and development of architecture and building culture and the built environment can be characterised as a synthesis of professional knowledge, ethical qualities and independence of authority associated with the exercise of public service.

Considering that **the public** is expected to produce a qualified user demand for quality architectural and urban design and building and landscape production, it is necessary to educate potential clients from an early age to realize the value and quality of the construction work and the built environment. Every citizen should also know his or her rights in the field of spatial planning to feel co-responsible both for the state of the environment in his or her immediate surroundings and be able to contribute to the protection of society's rights. The concepts of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and awareness of environmental quality should be introduced in an appropriate way to primary and secondary school pupils. **Pre-school education** is also essential for the creation of a relationship with place and the formation of the foundations of imagination, spatial and aesthetic perception and creativity.

**Lifelong education**, specifically targeted at individual target groups (designers, public administration, elected bodies especially municipalities, professionals and the general public) is important for maintaining awareness of the value of the environment we live in. Broadening knowledge in the fields of architecture and building culture can provide a significant contribution to the quality and fulfilment of life.

Education in architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and environmental quality must be brought by public administration, professional organisations and educational institutions, and, where appropriate, non-profit organisations, in mutual cooperation.

### Objective 6.1

**Develop lifelong and in-depth training of relevant public administration officials in the fields of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, monument care and in other fields related to construction and in building and related regulations, as well as in the field of participation and communication with the public.**

#### Measure 6.1.1

Broaden the qualifications of public administration officials by means of courses<sup>17</sup> aimed at presenting trends and good practises in the field of architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, conservation, archaeology, real estate investment or land development and other fields related to construction and building culture. Pay attention to the expertise and competence of the public administration in public procurement. Introduce courses on the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic for public administration officials.

<sup>17</sup> Broadening of qualifications in the form of accredited training courses for public servants and senior public servants in accordance with Act No. 312/2002 Coll., on Public Servants.

# Objectives and Measures

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: Institute for Public Administration Prague, CCA, CCET, AURP, ASCR, universities, public administration at a regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

## Measure 6.1.2

Broadening the skills of relevant public officials through courses on public engagement and communication with the public.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: Institute for Public Administration Prague, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 6.2

**Develop a system of lifelong learning for designers and other persons involved in construction activities.**

### Measure 6.2.1

Develop a system of lifelong education for designers and other persons involved in construction, especially in the field of construction law, the use of digitalization and BIM tools, sustainable development, administrative processes including participation, green infrastructure, etc., and use the National Register of Qualifications in this field. Promote international meetings and the transfer of good practice examples.

Responsibility: CCA, CCET  
Cooperation: MRD, MIT, MEYS, AURP, Czech Standardization Agency, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 6.2.2

Broaden the education of designers and other persons working in the construction industry on current trends in building design, individual typologies of buildings, and new materials and technologies. Develop new forms (webinars, e-learning) in addition to traditional forms of further education (seminars, conferences).

Responsibility: CCA, CCET,  
Cooperation: Universities, Union of Employers' Associations of the Czech Republic  
Deadline: 2026

### Measure 6.2.3

Organise courses to broaden the education of planners in the field of environmental protection, including the promotion of biodiversity or the prevention of threats to wildlife.

Responsibility: MoE  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET  
Deadline: 2026

### Measure 6.2.4

Introduce the profession of real estate specialist in the National Register of Qualifications and the National Register of Occupations.

Responsibility: MEYS, MLSA  
Cooperation: National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic, Association for Real Estate Market Development  
Deadline: 2025

## Objective 6.3

**Support and develop education and training in the field of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and quality of the environment at all levels of schools.**

### Measure 6.3.1

Support the creation and functioning of a platform for regular exchange of information, meetings and coordination, dealing with the implementation of education about architecture and building culture in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and the methodology of presenting the topic in a broader context. Identify the responsible persons in each institution who will have the cooperation within the working group on their agenda.



Responsibility: MEYS  
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, NPI, CCA, CCET, AURP, public administration at a regional level, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: 2024

### Measure 6.3.2

Revise the framework curricula to include topics related to architecture and building culture, adapted to the different school levels. Integrate architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, monument care and building culture into the various related educational areas and relevant cross-cutting themes. Focus in particular on the relationship of the individual to his home and the city, including care for the surrounding environment.

Responsibility: MEYS  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, CCA, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: 2024

### Measure 6.3.3

Support the development of methodologies for integrating the teaching and learning of architecture and building culture. Use examples of quality architecture as teaching material. Provide teachers with the necessary teaching materials and professional support to facilitate teaching. Involve methodological centres in education.

Responsibility: MEYS  
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP, NPI, primary and secondary schools and universities, public administration at a regional level, non-profit organisations, methodological centres  
Deadline: 2025

### Measure 6.3.4

Create a database of architects, civil engineers, and non-profit organisations interested in collaborating with teachers and engaging in teacher education as well as the actual teaching of the topic.

Responsibility: CCA, CCET  
Cooperation: MEYS, MRD  
Deadline: 2024

### Measure 6.3.5

Promote vocational schooling and its prestige, cross-border cooperation and related vocational courses for the public.

Responsibility: MEYS  
Cooperation: MRD, NPI, CCA, CCET, AURP, public administration at a regional level, Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, vocational schools, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 6.3.6

Strengthen awareness of the benefits of a quality built environment, including its economic and social importance, in social science schools. Develop education in construction procurement, facility management and development activities at secondary schools and universities and in follow-up programmes, taking into account the school specialisation.

Responsibility: Secondary schools and universities  
Cooperation: MEYS, Association for Real Estate Market Development  
Deadline: Continuously



Fig. 13 – Vo2max physiotherapy. Project submitted for the Czech Architecture Award 2017. Prague 8.  
Author: Marek Deyl, Jan Šesták. Photo: Filip Šlapal.  
Particularly worth noticing is the organic shaping of the interior and its colour combination.

## Theme 7 – Awareness and Media

Education and awareness in the field of architecture and building culture should be aimed both at experts and especially at the general public. Educating potential builders is essential.

The influence of the media plays a key role in achieving a turnover in building culture. In recent times, the media have been quite often devoted to the issue of housing and, to a lesser extent, to the issue of the urban and rural environment. The quality of the approach to this topic varies and usually corresponds to the overall level of the medium in which it is presented.

Examples of good practice must be used to increase the demand for quality building culture. The discussion about building culture and the presentation of sample implementations in the media must be promoted. A key role in the field of education is played by good examples where the implementation of public buildings should be in the first place. Public buildings and public spaces should serve as a representative of society and its culture.

### Objective 7.1

**Promote greater presentation of the topics of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering in public media.**

#### Measure 7.1.1

Guarantee background material processing and subsequently initiate the creation of a larger space in public media devoted to the topics of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MC, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 7.1.2

Promote the cultural environment as a national asset worth being cared for and responsible for.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, MC, CCA, CCET  
Deadline: Continuously

### Objective 7.2

**Promote examples of high-quality implementations, including quality aftercare of the finished constructions.**

#### Measure 7.2.1

Support competitions and exhibitions promoting quality examples of architectural, engineering, landscaping and urban works, such as the Building of the Year, Czech Architecture Award, Award of the Chamber of Engineers, Grand Prix of Architects, Urban Project of the Year, etc.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MIT, CCA, CCET, AURP, public administration at a regional level, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 7.2.2

Promote quality period and contemporary architecture as a tourist destination

Responsibility: CzechTourism  
Cooperation: MRD, non-profit organisations, destination agencies  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 7.2.3

Create thematic routes connecting and promoting quality examples of contemporary architecture.

Responsibility: CzechTourism  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, non-profit organisations, destination agencies  
Deadline: 2028

# Objectives and Measures

## Objective 7.3

**Raise awareness among the professional and lay public about the need for a comprehensive approach to the built environment by and other human activities, including the issue of constructions, urban units, landscape and monument care including their impact on the environment and the man. Support the formation of the relationship of users to the environment they live in.**

### Measure 7.3.1

Support educational activities about the cultural and historical context of settlements (both towns and villages), their development, the importance of individual preserved spaces and buildings, their artistic and historical value and the natural wealth and background of the settlement and its individual parts. Draw attention to the values of the landscape and the need for its permeability. Inform about the importance and problems of monument care and archaeology.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MC, MoE, CCA, CCET, AURP, public administration at a regional level, universities, non-profit organisations, chief architects

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 7.3.2

Make use of examples of good practice to increase the quality of client demand. Promote walks with architects and other experts or guided tours of new buildings.

Responsibility: CCA, non-profit organisations

Cooperation: MRD, CCET, universities, chief architects

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 7.3.3

Make people aware of the suitability of the environment for play and the suitability of individual play elements.

Responsibility: Non-profit organisations

Cooperation: CCA, CCET

Deadline: Continuously

## Objective 7.4

**Promote Czech culture abroad.**

### Measure 7.4.1

Promote Czech architecture and construction abroad and present important construction works and personalities, e.g. through web applications, publications, collections, calendars or diaries.

Responsibility: CCA, CCET

Cooperation: MRD, non-profit organisations, universities

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 7.4.2

Promote the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic abroad. Promote international debate and actively participate in international events related to architecture and building culture including events addressing a possible European Architecture Policy.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, universities

Deadline: Continuously



Fig. 14 – House in an orchard. Nomination for the Czech Architecture Award 2017. Prague, Kyje.  
Author: doc. Ing. akad. arch. Jan Šépka. Photo: Tomáš Malý.  
The organic shaping of the building and the way it is located on a sloping plot deserve attention

# Objectives and Measures

## Theme 8 – Research and Development

Supporting research activities in the fields of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture, and their relation to economics and social sciences should also contribute to the quality of the built environment.

The field lacks a stable, sufficiently equipped research institute that would have the authority to coordinate and evaluate research in the field, formulate and justify trends in the long-term development of the field, evaluate and generalize problems obtained by feedback from common practice and prepare proposals how to address them, provide expert input and documentation from the field to the legislative process, the professional public and others.

The aim is to institutionally strengthen permanent research activities in the field of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture, in particular, to create favourable conditions for the stabilisation and development of teams that will address these issues and subsequently be able to present their findings effectively. Emphasis should be placed on the applicability of the research results in practice and their possible reflection in education in the corresponding field.

### Objective 8.1

**Support and develop research activities focused on architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture fields.**

#### Measure 8.1.1

Support the assignment of projects and grants and meet research needs in the fields of architecture, urban design, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: MRD, The Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Minister of Science  
Cooperation: TACR, ISD, CCA, CCET, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 8.1.2

Register and uniformly present grants issued by various institutions in the Czech Republic especially grants focused on the architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture fields.

Responsibility: Czech Science Foundation  
Cooperation: all ministries, TACR  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 8.1.3

Complement normative and quantitative research with qualitative research in "soft" areas, such as the identification of values, the perception of the area character by the population, the benefits of a quality environment and the degree of sensitivity of the population to its changes in the Central European context. Involve the public in the research in justified cases and to an appropriate extent.

Responsibility: The Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Minister of Science  
Cooperation: MRD, MEYS, MoE, TACR, CSF, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 8.1.4

Support research projects that will initiate research into traditional, new and recycled materials, the way of their processing and their impact on the performance properties of structures, the environment and energy efficiency.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: TACR, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 8.1.5

Initiate the establishment or development of professional research institutes dealing with architecture, urban planning, spatial planning and landscape architecture.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: ISD, CAS, universities  
Deadline: 2024

## Objective 8.2

Use the research and development results in practice.

### Measure 8.2.1

Use the achieved research project results focused on education and awareness in the field of architecture and building culture in practice.

Responsibility: MEYS

Cooperation: MRD, TACR, primary and secondary schools and universities

Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 8.2.2

Support the publication of research results (Czech and foreign), which focus on the impact of environmental quality on humans.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MoE, MEYS, AURP, CCA, CCET, ISD, universities, non-profit organisations

Deadline: Continuously

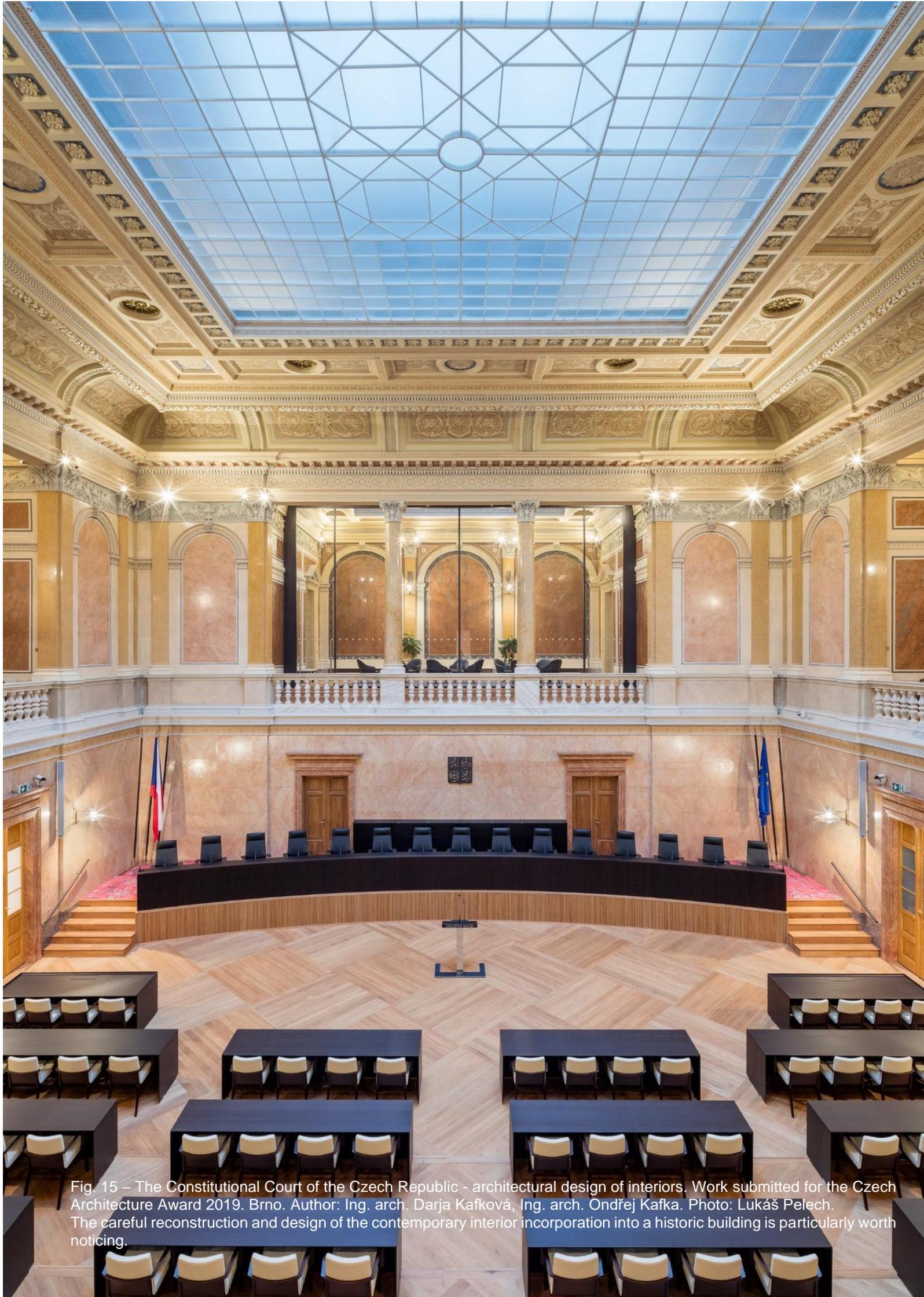


Fig. 15 – The Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic - architectural design of interiors. Work submitted for the Czech Architecture Award 2019. Brno. Author: Ing. arch. Darja Kafková, Ing. arch. Ondřej Kafka. Photo: Lukáš Pelech. The careful reconstruction and design of the contemporary interior incorporation into a historic building is particularly worth noticing.

## Theme 9 – Management, Coordination and Cooperation

Cooperation of a number of institutions and sharing of experience and examples of good practice are essential for the successful implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Therefore, it is necessary to establish permanent platforms for monitoring implementation and supporting the policy implementation at the regional and local levels, in the form of working groups and centres that will systematically take care of the built environment.

The existence of a person or an advisory body responsible for the character and quality of the built environment at the position of the chief municipal or regional architect would become beneficial.

### Objective 9.1

**Coordinate the cooperation of stakeholders and evaluate the implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.**

#### Measure 9.1.1

Establish and run a specific website dedicated to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: ISD, CCA, CCET, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: 2024

#### Measure 9.1.2

Establish an expert platform for updating and monitoring the evaluation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and the implementation of the Davos Declaration.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MT, MF, MC, MI, MEYS, MIT, MoA, MoE, MD, MLSA, Office for the Protection of Competition, Czech Statistical Office, TACR, Czech Science Foundation, NPI, Institute for Public Administration Prague, public administration at a regional level, CCA, CCET, AURP, ISD, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Union of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, universities, non-governmental, non-profit organisations and public benefit organisations  
Deadline: 2023

#### Measure 9.1.3

Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of individual measures and their effectiveness.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: MT, MF, MC, MI, MEYS, MIT, MoA, MoE, MD, MLSA, Office for the Protection of Competition, Czech Statistical Office, TACR, Czech Science Foundation, NPI, Institute for Public Administration Prague, public administration at a regional level, CCA, CCET, AURP, ISD, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Union of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, universities, non-governmental, non-profit organisations and public benefit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

#### Measure 9.1.4

Empower the department for the implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, including its financial support.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: ISD  
Deadline: 2028

#### Measure 9.1.5

Strengthen the role of foundations supporting the objectives of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP, ISD, universities, non-profit organisations, public administration at a regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

# Objectives and Measures

## Measure 9.1.6

Develop a material understandable to the general public, summarising the basic principles of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: ISD, CCA, CCET, universities  
Deadline: 2023

## Objective 9.2

**Implementation in both regions and municipalities.**

### Measure 9.2.1

Encourage and support the development of local and regional architecture and building culture policies.

Responsibility: MRD, chief architects  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, ISD, public administration at a regional level, non-profit organisations, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 9.2.2

Support the establishment of organisations that will support and coordinate the implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic in regions and municipalities in cooperation with an expert platform for updating and monitoring the evaluation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and the implementation of the Davos Declaration - regional or local architecture centres, etc. Make use of experience from abroad, e.g. from Austria. Provide financial resources for them.

Responsibility: MRD, public administration at a regional level, regional architects  
Cooperation: MF, CCA, CCET, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Union of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, universities, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: 2028

## Objective 9.3

**Promote the use of chief architects and civil engineers.**

### Measure 9.3.1

Support a platform for sharing the knowledge and experience of city architects and city landscape architects.

Responsibility: CCA, regional / city architects  
Cooperation: MRD, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 9.3.2

Promote the role of urban architects as implementers of education and awareness-raising activities in the field of architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: CCA  
Cooperation: Public administration at a regional level, non-profit organisations, universities  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 9.3.3

Promote the sharing of city architects within the framework of inter-municipal cooperation following the pattern of shared service centres.

Responsibility: Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Union of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, regional / city architects  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP, ISD, public administration at a regional level  
Deadline: Continuously

### Measure 9.3.4

Define the role of city civil engineers in the development of settlements and their cooperation with city architects.

Responsibility: CCET  
Cooperation: CCA, Public administration at a regional level  
Deadline: 2026

## Measure 9.3.5

Share experience with the function of city art curators and the way of their cooperation with city architects.

Responsibility: Public administration at a municipal level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, Prague City Gallery, Sculpture in Brno  
Deadline: 2026

## Measure 9.3.6

Consider the purposefulness of establishing regional architects (persons or institutions) as coordinators of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, guarantors of promoting the quality of architecture and urban planning in the regions and supporters of the towns and municipalities in the region.

Responsibility: Public administration at a regional level  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP, ISD  
Deadline: 2028

## Measure 9.3.7

Consider the purposefulness of establishing the institute of a state architect (person or institution) and possibly determine the scope of its competencies, including the coordination of regional architects. Share the foreign experience in this area.

Responsibility: MRD  
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP  
Deadline: 2026

## Measure 9.3.8

Enhance training for the position of the city architect as a coordinator of urban design and composition of settlements and a mediator between interest groups. Enhance training for the position of city civil engineer.

Responsibility: Universities  
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, non-profit organisations  
Deadline: 2026



Fig. 16 – Sakura residential project. Project submitted for the Czech Architecture Award 2021. Prague. Author: Jestico + Whiles. Photo: BoysPlayNice. The use of high-quality materials and the use of greenery in the residential complex deserve special attention.



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: AUTHORS AND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE

Development of the draft of the Building Culture (Architecture) Policy was imposed by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 524 of 13 July 2011, which approved the Housing Policy Concept of the Czech Republic till 2020. In Chapter 3.3 Objectives and Priorities of Housing Policy, in Subchapter 3.3.3 Quality – Priorities of the State in the “quality” part of the vision, Quality of Developed Environment specifically in View of Housing, was set the task of “developing a draft for the development of building culture (architecture) policy and submitting it to the Government for approval”.

The material development was stimulated by the call to EU Member States defined in the Council's “Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development. (2008/C 319/05)”.

During the material development, the title was changed to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, which better reflected the content of the material.

The Ministry of Regional Development, in close cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development, was the guarantor, coordinator and at the same time the elaborator of the document.

Prior to the official assignment of the task, preparatory work on the documents was underway based on input from the European Forum for Architectural Policies. In March 2011, the Institute for Spatial Development developed a document "Improving the Building Culture - European Forum for Architectural Policies", which evaluated selected foreign architecture policies and requirements arising from European documents.

In February 2013, the Institute for Spatial Development completed the "Analysis of Building Culture", which was developed by a team led by prof. Ing. arch. Karel Maier, CSc. together with the team of the Institute for Spatial Development.

This document is a follow-up to Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 524 of 13 July 2011, which approved the Housing Policy Concept of the Czech Republic till 2020 and formally assigned the development of the document "Building Culture Development Policy". The analysis was divided into seven thematic areas: Aesthetic quality of buildings; Energy performance of buildings; Life span and sustainability of buildings, and Sustainability of construction work. Acquisition and operating costs; Integration of buildings into the territory - buildings in the context of their environment; Public spaces; Spatial arrangement of settlements, accessibility/connectivity; Promotion of building culture in education, Research and development. These themes overlapped and they appeared to be in some cases causally or hierarchically related to each other. The analysis was then complemented by a sociological survey among selected professionals - architects, urban planners, theoreticians and public administration staff. The results showed that a number of topics related to the subject of building culture and the settlement environment are being discussed in the public space, resulting in both distinctive opinions on the issues and possible solutions.

The material also evaluated the existing concepts of ministries and subsidy titles and was influenced by them to some extent. The European Union's concepts were represented, for example, by the Europe 2020 document, which contained incentives for the development of building culture such as:

- Architecture must be perceived as a manifestation of culture, representing and reflecting past and present ways of life and shared values.
- The aim should be to achieve a satisfactory interaction between the old and the new and the correct protection of values in the landscape.
- The tools for quality social development and spatial planning that facilitate the sustainable development of architecture should be consciously used.
- Building culture and quality architecture should focus on the environment, universal design, and good quality.
- Environmental impact assessment is also important when choosing between preservation, new use or new construction of a building.

# Authors and Development Procedure

Concepts already existing in the Czech Republic such as the "Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic" from 2008 were also reflected. It clearly defined the suggestions for the Building Culture (Architecture) Policy development by setting the following priorities:

- Protect and develop the natural, social and cultural values of the area, including the urban, architectural and archaeological heritage.
- Preserve the character of the unique urban structure of the area, the settlement structure and the unique cultural landscape, which reflect the identity of the territory, its history and tradition.
- Minimise the negative consequences of suburbanisation for the sustainable development of the area.

The document concludes with recommendations for the development of a Building Culture Policy.

As one of the basic resources for the development of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, materials that the Ministry of Regional Development ordered for this purpose from the Czech Chamber of Architects, the Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction and Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic were used.

The material was developed mainly in 2014. In the summer of 2014, consultations on the draft of the document were held with key partners. Following the editing, the material was subjected to an internal comment procedure.

In November 2014, the material was sent out for the inter-ministerial comment procedure. All ministries and other central state administration bodies and state organisational units and organisations managed by ministries affected by cooperation on individual measures participated. The individual regions also took part in the comment procedure. The professional and expert associations and societies concerned, selected universities and non-governmental and non-profit organisations active in this field were also addressed. The material was also published for comments by the general public during the time of the inter-ministerial comment procedure.

After incorporating the comments and discussing their resolutions with individual ministries, the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was submitted to the Government in December 2014. The Government approved it on 14 January 2015 by Resolution No. 22.

Besides the active implementation of the relevant measures, the Ministry of Regional Development continuously monitored the implementation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Therefore, the Ministry, in cooperation with all institutions designated as guarantors or collaborators in the implementation of the measures, developed the "Report on the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Implementation to December 2017". Approximately 15% of the measures were fulfilled and almost 50% were under development. At the end of the report, suggestions to be included in the update of the document were listed. Therefore, the Ministry had already started preparatory work on the update of the document in 2018. This material was subsequently followed by the "Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Implementation Evaluation to 2020". The evaluation concluded that more than 80% of all 71 measures were either fully implemented or made significant progress in their implementation. Only 3 measures were not met. In addition to the evaluation of the implementation of individual measures, the material also described the distribution and media coverage of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and summarises the conferences held on the topics addressed in the Policy. A separate chapter was devoted to the European context and international events related to architecture and building culture policies. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Implementation Evaluation to 2020 was noted by the Government at its meeting on 15 March 2021 by Resolution No. 287.

The Implementation Evaluation showed that after six years of the existence of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, it is time to develop its update. Therefore, the Government charged the Minister of Regional Development with the assignment of the preparation of the update by the end of 2022.

The Ministry of Regional Development, in close cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development, started to develop the documents for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update to 2022. The first background material was the "Analysis of foreign materials and recommendations". This resulted in an overview of the national policies of individual countries and their influence on shaping and improving the quality of the built environment in which people live, work and relax. This material was followed by an "Analysis of recommendations from professional organisations for updating the document". The aim of both materials was to summarize and clarify the



recommendations resulting from the analyses of foreign materials, assigned by the Department for Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Regional Development to expert elaborators, which were the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic, the Czech Chamber of Architects and the Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction.

On 15 March 2021, the Government, by its Resolution No. 287, imposed the development of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update to 2022, taking into account the material "Suggestion for the update". The latter was intended as a base resource for discussion. It contains possible topics that needed to be examined by the update. The suggestions presented in this material were based on the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Implementation Evaluation, on the analysis of foreign materials and on the recommendations of professional organisations for updating the document. The aim of this material was to outline the directions which the updating of the themes, objectives and measures could follow.



Fig. 17 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Report on Fulfilment to December 2017

Fig. 18 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Implementation Evaluation to 2020, in Czech

Fig. 19 – Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Implementation Evaluation to 2020, in English

The last input material was "Results of the summary analysis of outputs for the update of the document". The aim of the material was to summarize and clarify all the existing outputs that formed the basis for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update. In addition, the material summarises the findings and insights for the debate on individual themes, objectives and measures. Based on the assignment of the Department for Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Institute for Spatial Development has selected and sorted the possibilities that the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update may bring. It assessed both the differences and the contrary aspects of the recommendations from the partial documents. The material was created especially for the discussion on the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update. All the recommendations were categorized according to their expected applicability in the update into recommendations that can be used; recommendations which use and possible impact need to be discussed; recommendations that cannot be used or do not fit into the portfolio of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic or those are formulated too generally.

A working group was created in mid-2021 in connection with the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Update to consult the draft. The group was summoned by the Department for Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Regional Development as the guarantor of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. The members of the working group included forty experts from ministries, regional authorities, professional organisations, the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, scholars and foundations dealing with the themes of quality architecture and building culture. However, the working group did not replace the formal discussion of the document update. Meetings of the working group were held on 29 June 2021, 14 December 2021 and 2 May 2022.

# Authors and Development Procedure

In May 2022, the material was distributed for the internal comment procedure. After incorporating the comments from the internal comment procedure and the suggestions of the working group, the material was distributed for the inter-ministerial comment procedure in July 2022. All ministries and other central state administration bodies and state organisational units and organisations managed by ministries affected by cooperation on individual measures participated. The individual regions also took part in the comment procedure. The professional and expert associations and societies concerned, selected universities and non-governmental and non-profit organisations active in this field were also addressed. The material was also published for comments by the general public during the time of the inter-ministerial comment procedure.

Following the incorporation of the comments and discussion on how to approach them with individual ministries, the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic - Update 2022 was submitted to the Government in December 2022. The Government approved it on 4 January 2023 by Resolution No. 6.



Fig. 20 – Palace of Energy Supply Companies – reconstruction and adaptation. Finalist of the Czech Architecture Award 2022. Author: TaK Architects, Ing. arch. Marek Tichý. Photo: KIVA. The reconstruction underlined the importance and potential of the building being an important architectural heritage of the late 1920s. Emphasis was placed on the original materials, lighting concept and original technological design.

## APPENDIX 2: BASIC CONCEPTS

**Architecture**, in its general sense, is the art of building, uniquely combining the artistic, humanities and technical fields of education and practice to create a quality built environment. Its scope ranges from landscape and urban planning to construction, building design and interior architecture. In a narrower sense, architecture is concerned with the design of buildings and their surroundings. Architecture design results in a building conveying an artistic concept or viewpoint. Architecture has to meet social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions and requirements and plays a vital role in efforts to improve the quality of the built environment. Quality architecture contributes to a high quality of life and provides attractive, functional and harmoniously designed buildings and the surrounding environment; it expresses a shared culture and identity as well as the specific character of a site; it encourages the preservation of social values and their development.

**Landscape architecture** is concerned with the planning, design and management of the natural and man-made environment using aesthetic and scientific principles. The aim is to address issues of ecological sustainability, high-quality and healthy landscapes, collective memory, historical heritage, culture and sustainable use of the area. The landscape architect works with the interactions between natural and cultural ecosystems, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem stability, socio-economic progress, community health and quality of life making use of the management and coordination of other disciplines, in order to create places with the potential to establish social and economic balance.

**Urbanism** is a field of human activity whose mission and the aim is to create a harmonious, varied and attractive environment in human settlements and landscapes. It is based on a comprehensive analysis and ecologically conceived synthesis of natural, historical and cultural values, an understanding of social processes, local needs, traditions and customs, and the economic and technical possibilities of society. It is a balanced synthesis of human, natural and technical aspects, supported by cultural aspects and artistic approaches.

**Spatial planning** is a set of rules, methods and tools that provide gradual, often long-term, achievement of agreed urban, landscape and architectural objectives. Spatial planning creates the conditions for construction and for the sustainable development of the territory by comprehensively addressing the purposeful use and spatial layout of the territory.

**Regional planning** is strategic planning. It sets out concepts, guidelines and, where appropriate, projects for the balanced development of the territory. It includes the national, regional and municipal levels. Regional and spatial planning documentation must be consistent.

**The landscape** is, according to the “European Landscape Convention”, defined as the part of a territory, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the activity and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

**Public spaces** form the physical part of the public space. They are squares, courtyards, streets, waterfronts, marketplaces, arcades, passageways, pedestrian and cycle paths, parks, gardens and other spaces accessible to everyone without restriction, i.e. for general use, independent of the ownership of the space or its part. Public spaces form a system that can be structured in function and purpose.

**Green infrastructure** is, according to Act No. 283/2021 Coll., a planned, predominantly continuous system of areas and other vegetation, water and water management elements of natural and semi-natural character, which by their target state enable or significantly support the fulfilment of a wide range of ecosystem services and functions; the green infrastructure also includes the spatial system of ecological stability. Green infrastructure forms part of public infrastructure.

**An architectural design competition** is an effective tool for the implementation of construction projects. An architectural design competition connects the client with professionals who help set the conditions for selecting the best quality project while allowing the client to keep control over the whole process. An undeniable advantage of an architectural design competition is the possibility to compare a large number of designers with each other. A largely independent jury of experts both helps in the selection of the design and collaborates in the setting of the competition conditions, in discussions with the architects and also draws up expert opinions on the submitted competition entries. The architectural design competition can be launched for any type of construction; however, it is particularly recommended for public contracts with higher investment costs or buildings in city centres, protected areas and public buildings such as libraries, schools, theatres, railway stations, squares, etc.

**Building culture** (German: "Baukultur") is the process and result of the development of the environment created by human activity in the field of architecture and construction. It consists of existing buildings, including monuments and other elements of immovable heritage, as well as the design and construction of contemporary buildings, infrastructure, public spaces and landscapes that are embedded in and related to the natural environment. Building culture also refers to planning procedures for construction projects, infrastructure, towns, villages and open landscapes and both traditional and innovative building techniques and methods. There is a broad implicit social understanding of quality, as well as of tools, procedures and practices, resulting in the selective use of the word 'culture' in this term.<sup>18</sup>

Building culture comprises architecture, civil engineering, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, garden architecture, heritage care and, last but not least, the creation of the public space of the built environment from its overall concept to its artistic details. In addition to the utilitarian, artistic and sensual, building culture has a number of social attributes.

The quality of the building culture is directly proportional to the responsibility with which we approach the protection of values such as cultural monuments, urban complexes and architecturally valuable buildings, public spaces or undeveloped land - open landscape. Its value is usually most influenced not by the best of the best (exceptional architectural, technical, landscape works, etc.), but rather by the abandoned or neglected part of the whole, which may, however, in the end, form a large part of the built environment.

**Davos Baukultur Quality System** is a set of tools that enables the determination and assessment of the qualities of built culture in places that encompass and value social, emotional and cultural values, as well as technical and functional aspects, using the following eight criteria: management, functionality, environment, economy, diversity, context, sense of place and beauty.

**The built environment** is understood as the environment outside and inside constructions, immediately and regularly used in connection with these constructions. It is a man-made, man-maintained and man-used environment. This environment includes buildings and complexes of buildings with their plots of land, undeveloped spaces between buildings, open spaces including greenery as part of these spaces, pavements, roads and other transport constructions, all paved areas, gardens, buildings in the landscape and the landscape itself when modified according to architectural principles.

The built environment is a reflection of the development of society, and its material and spiritual levels. The fundamental value of the built environment is its durability, its ability to respond in a responsible way to the current needs and at the same time to transform itself respectfully over time according to the changing needs of society. The built environment should provide a sense of continuity and stability, offer an experience of beauty and well-being and provide a valuable framework for the life of each individual.

**A living environment** is a balanced composition of man-made and natural environments that includes both external and internal spaces.

**A place-based approach** is an approach that focuses on the specific circumstances of a place and involves the community and a wide range of local organisations from different sectors as active participants in their development and implementation.

**State, regional, and municipal teams of architects or individuals**, or similar teams of state-established institutions, are individuals or teams of architects within public administration whose mission is to provide design leadership and strategic advice with the aim to improve the design of public buildings, promote the quality of a given space, and foster a culture of public space development. The material often uses the superior term Chief Architect, which brings together the above-mentioned teams of architects or individuals.

**Local and regional architecture policies** are strategic documents that define priorities for a delimited area, in particular, those for the creation of a quality built environment with respect for local values and determine the tools to achieve the priorities.

**The circular design** is the creation of products and services that no longer have a life cycle with a beginning, middle and end. The purpose is to design products that can be used, reused and recycled, resulting in less resource consumption, less waste production and more added value to the ecosystem. The circular design focuses on creating products and services for the circular economy.

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<sup>18</sup> **Council Conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment** as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative (2021/C 501 I/03) of 13 December 2021.

# Basic Concepts

**Light pollution** is the total accumulation of the adverse effects of artificial lighting, particularly in the areas of human health, the environment, economics, safety and visibility of the night sky. It is mainly caused by directing light into undesirable areas, lighting outside the necessary periods, the use of light sources with too high intensity or inappropriate spectral characteristics.



Fig. 21 – Cultural centre – Domažlice brewery. Partner of the Czech Architecture Award 2022.  
Author: Mepro. Ing. arch. Ivan Březina, Ing. arch. Martin Březina, Ing. arch. Václav Matějka.  
A model reconstruction of a historical building implemented on the basis of an architectural competition.  
The combination of original structures with new components and inspiring details attracts attention.

# APPENDIX 3: RELATED LEGISLATION

## European legislation

The field of architecture and building culture is the subject of many international conventions and agreements. Among the most important are:

- **Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (Statement No. 73/2000 Coll. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic), adopted on 3 October 1985 in Granada. It entered into force for the Czech Republic on 1 August 2000. The main objective of the Convention is to protect monuments, architectural complexes and sites as combined works of man and nature, including the surroundings of the protected assets.
- **Convention Concerning the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe** (revised) (Statement No. 99/2000 Coll. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic), adopted on 16 January 1992 in Valletta. It entered into force for the Czech Republic on 23 September 2000. The aim of this Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of European collective memory and as a tool for historical and scientific study.
- **The European Landscape Convention**, signed in Florence on 20 October 2000, entered into international force on 1 March 2004. The main objective of the Convention is to provide the protection of the different landscapes of Europe. Its significance lies in the obligation to develop and implement landscape policies that are sensitive and sustainable in terms of landscape character, with the participation of the public and local and regional authorities, and to take landscape character into account in the development of spatial development policies, urban planning and other sectoral or intersectoral policies.
- **Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council** of 6 July 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications. This Directive has been amended by Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013. Further amendments by delegated commission decision.

## National legislation

The basic national framework for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is the **Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**, which states in Article 35(1) that "Everyone has the right to a favourable environment". Article 35(3) states that "No one may, in exercising her rights endanger or cause damage to the environment, natural resources, the wealth of natural species, or cultural monuments beyond the extent set by law".

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is based in particular on the following legal regulations, as in force at the date of their drafting:

- Act No. 183/2006 Coll., on Spatial Planning and Building Rules ("Building Act"), as amended
- Act No. 283/2021 Coll., Building Act, as amended by Act No. 195/2022 Coll.
- Decree No. 499/2006 Coll., on Construction Documentation, as amended
- Decree No. 500/2006 Coll., on Spatial Analytical Documents, Spatial Planning Documentation and the Methods of Recording Spatial Planning Activities, as amended
- Decree No. 501/2006 Coll., on General Requirements for Land Use, as amended
- Decree No. 503/2006 Coll., on More Detailed Arrangement of Planning Permission Proceedings, Public Law Contract and Planning Measure, as amended
- Decree No 268/2009 Coll., on the Technical Requirements for Buildings, as amended
- Decree No 398/2009 Coll., on General Technical Requirements to Secure Barrier-free Use of Buildings
- Act No. 360/1992 Coll., on the Professional Practice of Chartered Architects and on the Professional Practice of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction (Authorisation Act), as amended
- Act No. 500/2004 Coll., on Administrative Procedure Code, as amended
- Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on Public Procurement, as amended



## Related Legislation

- Decree No. 168/2016 Coll., on Publication of Forms for the Purposes of the Act on Public Procurement and Requirements for the Contracting Authority Profile
- Decree No. 169/2016 Coll., on Determination of the Extent of the Documentation for Public Works Contracts and an Inventory of Works, Supplies and Services with the Statement of Quantities, as amended by Decree No. 405/2017 Coll.
- Decree No. 170/2016 Coll., on Setting Lump Sum of Proceeding Costs on Overview of the Contracting Authority Acts in Public Procurement Procedure
- Decree No. 260/2016 Coll. on Specification More Detailed Conditions for Electronic Instruments, Electronic Acts in Public Procurement Procedure and the Certificate of Conformity
- Act No. 20/1987 Coll., on State Heritage Care, as amended
- Act No 114/1992 Coll., on Nature and Landscape Protection, as amended
- Act No 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management, as amended
- Decree No 264/2020 Coll., on Energy Performance of Buildings

Professional regulations, such as the regulations of the CCA and CCET, including the Competition Code of the Czech Chamber of Architects are also related to the Architecture and Building Policy Culture of the Czech Republic.

# APPENDIX 4: RELATED DOCUMENTS

## European documents

The basic European documents that stimulated the development of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic are:

- **EU Council Resolution on architectural quality in urban and rural environments (2001/C 73/04)** of 12 February 2001. It put emphasis on the perception of the urban and rural environment, the landscape and cultural heritage. It defines architecture and supports the role of architecture and spatial planning. It encourages improvements in the quality of buildings, particularly in public construction, which should become an example for private developers. The resolution also considers it important to raise awareness of the value of architecture, urban planning and landscape culture.
- **EU Council Conclusions on architecture: culture's contribution to sustainable development (2008/C 319/05)** of 13 December 2008. The document calls for an integrated and creative approach to sustainable urban development in which culture, the economy, social aspects and the environment are given equal importance. It requires special attention to be paid to the quality and diversity of architecture and for quality architectural design to be promoted as a factor in the economic dynamism of cities and their attractiveness for tourism. It promotes architecture to play an integrative and innovative role in the design phase, spatial planning, landscaping and landscape restoration. It promotes the need to make use of existing built-up areas and buildings. It recalls the need to raise public awareness of the role of architecture, urban planning and landscaping and to promote education in these fields. Innovation and experimentation in architecture, urban planning and landscaping should be encouraged. Member States are invited to provide follow-up measures to these conclusions and to report on their implementation. The Czech Republic meets this challenge, among others, by developing the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and its updates are based on the following European documents:

- **Council Conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment** as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative (2021/C 501 I/03) of 13 December 2021.
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **Green Infrastructure (GI) - Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital (COM/2013/0249 final)** of 6 May 2013, which defines green infrastructure, its role in EU policies and its role in protecting, preserving and improving the EU's natural capital. It also identifies the forthcoming steps for the development of green infrastructure.
- The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **The European Green Deal** (COM/2019/640 final) of 11 December 2019, presents the European Green Deal for Europe and its citizens. It reformulates the European Commission's commitment to tackling the challenges caused by climate and environmental change, the defining task of this generation. The aim is to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society with a modern, competitive and resource-efficient economy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 and in which economic growth is separated from resource usage. It is also designed to protect, preserve and enhance the EU's natural capital and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environmental risks and impacts.
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **New European Bauhaus - Beautiful, Sustainable, Together** (COM/2021/573 final) of 15 September 2021, defining the New European Bauhaus. It adds a cultural and creative dimension to the European Green Deal, thereby promoting the sustainability of innovation, technology and the economy as a whole. The aim of this initiative is to provide all citizens with access to circular goods with lower carbon emissions that support the restoration of nature and protect biodiversity.



- **The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)** was adopted in Potsdam by EU ministers in 1999. It sets out common objectives and concepts for the future development of the European Union's territories. With regard to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, they contain a requirement for the preservation and management of natural resources and cultural heritage as well as a warning about the problems associated with the continuing expansion of cities.
- **Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent** (Council of Europe, European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Regional Planning - CEMAT), adopted in Hanover in 2000. They point to the importance of protecting and enhancing the condition and preserving the diversity of cultural heritage. The aim is to promote the integration and spatial coordination of a common European area. This involves, among other things, promoting spatial cohesion, improving urban-rural relations, transport accessibility, developing access to information, protecting natural and cultural heritage, developing energy resources while maintaining their security, tourism, reducing the impact of natural disasters, etc.
- **The Charter of European Planning** ECTP-CEU (European Council of Spatial Planners - Conseil européen des urbanistes), approved on 22 April 2013 in Barcelona, emphasises, in addition to the need for cooperation between cities and regions, the enhancing of place identity, the accessibility of services for all residents and public participation in the planning process.
- **The New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good** was adopted at the informal ministerial meetings on 30 November 2020. The New Leipzig Charter builds on the Leipzig Charter approved in 2007. It focuses on integrated and sustainable urban development in Europe. The document is linked to cohesion policy and its framework for sustainable urban development. Its principles are green, productive and vibrant cities, which can be applied to 5 areas of good governance, taking into account functional areas and available financial and legal tools to enable change and strengthen the capacity of cities to act.
- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** represents a strategic framework for defining the EU's spatial development priorities towards the 2030 horizon. The vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to contribute to an inclusive and sustainable future for all territories and all European citizens. It underlines the importance of and sets the direction for strategic spatial planning and the integration of the spatial dimension into sectoral policies at all levels of public administration. This vision can be achieved if particular emphasis is placed on the diversity of Europe's territory, the potential for the development of the territory and the challenges they face.
- **The Marseille Declaration "The Sustainable and Inclusive City"** - Final Statement of the Ministers of the European Union Member States in charge of urban development, adopted in Marseille on 25 November 2008. The Statement focuses on sustainable and coherent integrated urban development and on addressing climate change in the context of urban development.
- **The Stockholm Declaration** and Call of 2-4 December 2009 urges the European and global governments to contribute in the field of construction to the neutralisation of the carbon impact of new buildings by 2020, to promote compact human settlements, cities and metropolises with a high quality of life, and to encourage investments that address the quality of life of people and their descendants through quality built environments and infrastructure, always taking into account the planet's limited resources and reducing the impact of the built environment on people.
- **The Davos Declaration** was adopted on 22 January 2018 at the Conference of European Ministers of Culture on the topic of high-quality building culture. The Davos Declaration is an expression of the efforts of the Ministers of Culture to achieve a high-quality Baukultur which affects people's lives in a fundamental and multi-layered way. It emphasizes the shared responsibility of States, NGOs and the private sector. The Ministries of Culture of individual countries are committed to disseminating the ideas and principles of the Declaration both within governments and all participants in the planning and construction processes, as well as to the general public. The implementation of the Davos Declaration is called the Davos Process. The Davos Process is built on 3 pillars: Policy and Communication; Concepts and Reflection; National Policies (local and regional). The output is the Davos Baukultur Quality System.

## Related Documents

- **The Davos Baukultur Quality System** is an output of the Davos Process. It is used to assess high-quality architecture and the built environment for everyone. It contains 8 criteria that should be considered when assessing the quality of designs, for which questions and indicators are determined according to which their fulfilment should be assessed. The criteria are Governance, Functionality, Environment, Economy, Diversity, Context, Sense of Place and Beauty.
- **The Nice Declaration of the EU Ministers responsible for Housing and Construction** of 8 March 2022 was adopted at an informal meeting during the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with the theme of providing affordable, sustainable, dignified and resilient housing that provides quality of life. The importance of taking into account the work already done on sustainable and affordable housing, the great diversity of situations in the Member States, particularly between urban and rural areas, however, also between areas with a growing or declining population, the need to involve local authorities and regions in the process, as well as the need to strengthen cooperation between the institutions, Member States and spatial authorities, and, finally, the importance of creating tools for a better understanding of housing-related issues, was emphasized.

## National documents

The basic background for the development of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic at the national level was the **Czech Republic Housing Policy to 2020**, which was approved by the Government by Resolution No. 524 of 13 July 2011. In chapter 3.3.3 Quality, priority "Quality of the built environment, specifically with regard to housing", the Government assigned the task of preparing a draft policy for the development of building culture (architecture) and submitting it to the Government for approval. In 2021, the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic presented a new **The Czech Housing Concept 2021+**, which was approved by the Government by Resolution No 358 of 12 April 2021. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is related to the housing concept, in particular in the areas of creating quality and accessible public space, providing the accessibility of public infrastructure, adequate and sustainable development of settlements, including their residential areas, and quality and accessible interior space of residential buildings, however, it is no longer directly related to the tasks imposed by the housing concept.

The development of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was also based on the **"Methodology for the Preparation of Public Strategies"**, applied according to the Government Resolution No. 318 of 2 May 2013 and its update of 2019.

**The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic** was approved by Government Resolution No. 22 of 14 January 2015, which at the same time imposed the development and submission to the Government of a report on the Policy Implementation Evaluation. In 2021, the Government imposed to develop an update of the document by the end of 2022, based on the Implementation Evaluation of the first version of the Policy.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is consistent with the policies already adopted in the Czech Republic and is understood in a context where they mutually support and amplify each other, in particular with:

- **Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic**, as binding from 1 September 2021 (approved by Government Resolution No. 618 of 12 July 2021). The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic contributes to the fulfilment of the national priorities of the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic 2008, in particular, the following priorities:
- Article 14: For public benefit – protect and develop natural, civilization and cultural values of an area, including urban, architectonic and archaeological heritage. Preserve the character of the unique urban area structure, settlement structure, and unique cultural landscape, which express the area identity, its history and tradition. These areas are very valuable e.g. for tourism. Their preservation should not, however, disable economic usage or hinder it. In some cases targeted preservation of important localities is necessary, in other cases, it seems necessary to protect the landscape units. The landscape is a living unit in time that requires a creative, yet sensible approach to balanced development in order to preserve its principal cultural, natural and utility values. Prevent the decline of the countryside as a consequence of the lack of human intervention.



- Article 28: In order to ensure the life quality of inhabitants to take into account requirements of further area development, require its solution in all necessary long-term aspects, including requirements on public infrastructure. Proposals and protection of quality urban spaces and public infrastructure shall be investigated and solved in cooperation of the public and private sectors with the general public.
- The Czech Republic's policy on Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is also linked to other national priorities, such as those set out in Articles 16, 18 to 21, 23 to 27 and 29.
- **Czech Principles of Urban Policy – Update 2017** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 549 on 24 July 2017). The reason for the update was to reflect recent developments and trends in urban development, including the international context. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is consistent with the following urban policy principles:
  - Principle 1 Strategic and integrated approach to urban development,
  - Principle 2 Polycentric development of the settlement structure,
  - Principle 3 Promoting urban development as poles of development in the territory,
  - Principle 4 Care for the urban environment,
  - Principle 5 Providing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- **Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+** (approved by the Resolution No.775 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 4 November 2019). The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is mainly related to the following strategic and specific objectives and type measures of the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021+:
  - Strategic objective 1: Internationally competitive metropolitan areas adapted to economic, spatial and population growth  

Specific objective 1.3: Provide sufficient and accessible civic amenities in the cores of metropolitan areas, suburbs and the wider neighbourhood and reduce the risk of social polarization and segregated or excluded localities - type measures 8, 10;

Specific objective 1.4: Efficient use of the built-up area, limiting the development of open countryside caused by the growth of metropolitan areas, expanding and connecting green areas and masses in residential areas and improving water and energy management in metropolitan areas - type measures 11, 12;
  - Strategic objective 2: Agglomerations exploiting their growth potential and acting as important regional economic, cultural and academic centres  

Specific objective 2.4: Effectively address environmental problems associated with the concentration of large populations and adapt agglomerations to climate change - type measures 20, 21;
  - Strategic objective 3: Economically stable regional centres represent easily accessible centres of culture, employment and services of the respective functional regions, their rural neighbourhood is well connected to the regional centres by transport, has a sufficient network of services and innovative solutions are applied there  

Specific objective 3.1: To create appropriate conditions for diversification of the economic base of regional centres and their rural neighbourhood and to make use of their potential and to support the networking of business entities in relation to the needs of the labour market - type measures 25, 27;

Specific objective 3.3: Improve the availability of services in regional centres and their rural neighbourhood with an emphasis on cultural heritage, monument care and local specificities and address the problems associated with ageing and the existence or emergence of socially excluded localities - type measure 33;

Specific objective 3.4: Care for the environment of the municipality and stabilise the long-term use of the landscape and prevent its degradation - type measures 34, 35, 37;
  - Strategic Objective 6: Quality regional development planning contributing to the achievement of regional policy objectives  

Specific objective 6.1: Strengthen coordination of strategic and spatial planning - type measure 48;

## Related Documents

Specific objective 6.2: Develop strategic planning on the basis of functional regions and strengthen cooperation of territorial actors - type measures 49-52;

Specific objective 6.3: Take into account the spatial dimension in sectoral policies and develop SMART solutions - type measures 53, 55.

The vision and the objectives contained in the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic are supported by a number of other documents, e.g.:

- **Memorandum on Education and Architecture**, signed by the representatives of the Czech Chamber of Architects and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic at the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) conference in Prague in 2009 during the Czech EU Presidency.
- **Memorandum Architecture in Education**, which was created on the basis of the interdisciplinary meeting "Open Think Tank of Architects – OTTA", held on April 1, 2014, in Pilsen on the topic "Education or Architecture as a part of primary education".
- **Rural Development Programme 2021–2027**  
(Approved by Government Resolution No. 36 of 13 January 2020)
- **Tourism Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021–2030**  
(Approved by Government Resolution No. 640 of 19 July 2021)
- **National Brownfield Regeneration Strategy 2019–2024**  
(Noted by the Government on 8 July 2019)
- **Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) in the Czech Republic
- **Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 292 on 19 April 2017)
- **Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic**, incl. **National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 785 on 13 September 2021)
- **State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2023 with a view to 2050** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 21 on 11 January 2021)
- **Waste Management Plan of the Czech Republic for the period 2015–2024** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 1080 on 22 December 2014).
- **Strategic Framework for the Circular Economy in the Czech Republic 2040** (Approved by Government Resolution No. 1151 on 13/12/2021).



Fig. 22 — The rope shop Újezd. Nomination for the Czech Architecture Award 2022. Prague  
Author: JRA Jaroušek Rochová architects. Ing. arch. Magdalena Rochová, Ing. arch. Radek Jaroušek. Photo: Filip Šlapal  
Model use of the assortment sold to create a shop visual identity. The reconstruction has created a generous space cultivating the street commercial parterre.

# List of Abbreviations

## APPENDIX 5: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Architects' Council of Europe
AURP	Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic
BIM	Building Information Modelling / Management (process and result of digital modelling of buildings with subsequent use of the model in building management)
CCA	Czech Chamber of Architects
CCET	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians Engaged in Construction
COSMT	Czech Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing
CR	Czech Republic
CSA	Czech Standardization Agency
CSF	Czech Science Foundation
CTU	Czech Technical University in Prague
CU	Charles University
EAAE	European Association for Architectural Education
ECAP	European Conference for Architectural Policies
ECI	European Common Indicators
EDAP	European Directors for Architecture
EFAP	European Forum for Architectural Policies
ETA	Programme of Applied Research, Experimental Development and Innovation in Social Sciences and Humanities
EU	European Union
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers
IPR	Prague Institute of Planning and Development
IROP	Integrated Regional Operational Programme
ISD	Institute for Spatial Development
MC	Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
MD	Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of the Czech Republic
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
MF	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
MI	Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
MJ	Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
MoE	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
MRD	Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
MT	Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic
MZ	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic
NCA CR	Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHI	National Heritage Institute of the Czech Republic
NIE	National Institute for Education
NPI	National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic
NTM	National Technical Museum
OMC	Open Method of Coordination
OTTA	Open Think Tank of Architects
PASK CR	Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic
RISWC	Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation
SLO	State Land Office
TACR	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic
UCEEB	University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings Czech Technical University in Prague
UIA	International Union of Architects
UN	United Nations

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