

Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

CZECH REPUBLIC



CZECH REPUBLIC



Status of sexuality education

Sexuality education in the Czech Republic is legally supported and is mandatory both in primary and secondary schools. The schools have a fair degree of autonomy in deciding what content to teach. In 2016–2017, work on a national standard for sexuality education was ongoing. A draft of this standard has a comprehensive character, but it is uncertain whether it will become the final standard.





Laws and policies

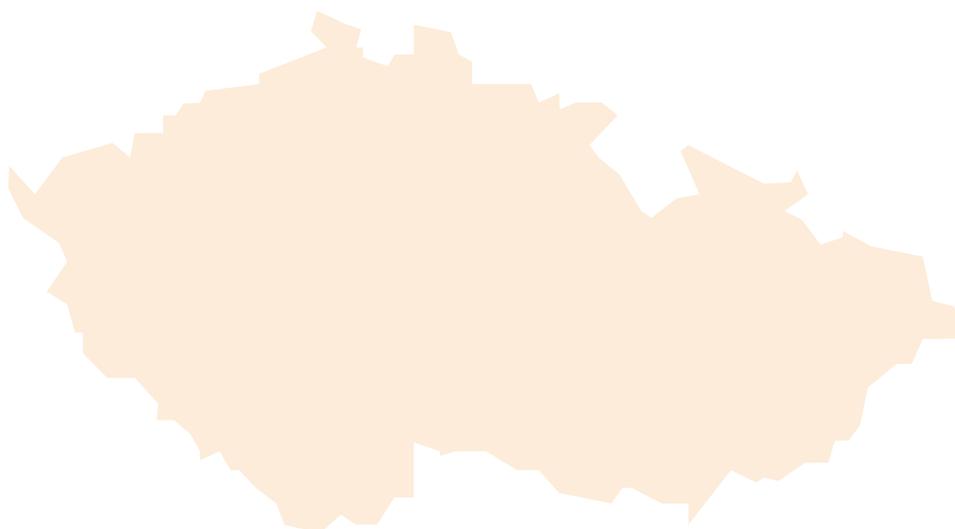
Sexuality education in the Czech Republic is included in the 2004 general law on school education – Act No. 561/2004 Collection of Law on Preschool, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (Education Act).¹ The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports determines the content of framework educational programmes (FEP) for different levels of education. Schools are responsible for transforming the FEP into specific curricula.

Recently, representatives of various groups, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), teachers and healthcare specialists, formed an expert working group led by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the development of national standards for sexuality education. The *Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe* (2010)² are being used for curriculum development and adaptation.

Implementation of sexuality education

Sexuality education is included in the educational field 'Člověk a Jeho Svět' (Human and the World) at the first level of primary school and in the field of health education at the second level of primary school and in secondary schools. The number of teaching hours for sexuality-education topics cannot be specified; rather, school administrators and teachers decide how to address sexuality education and what information to include.

Parents do not participate directly in sexuality education in schools, though they have to be informed about it. They can communicate with the school about the topics they prefer to teach their children themselves. Schools also can invite experts from NGOs to give lectures or undertake other activities. The Czech School Inspectorate is appointed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to monitor the quality of delivery of subjects in which sexuality education is included. It is unknown exactly how much attention is given to sexuality education, because of its close integration into broader subjects.





Training of teachers on sexuality education

Teachers are usually specially trained in a one-day training course to provide sexuality education as required. Specialists and educators develop educational materials and guidelines that have a comprehensive character.

Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

Sexuality education outside the regular school setting is provided through youth centres and via radio/TV and other channels. Some NGOs have programmes for underserved groups of youth. NGOs such as the Red Cross, 'Polečnost pro Plánování Rodiny a Sexuální Výchovu' (SPRSV, IPPF member association) and others implement educational activities for out-of-school youth on HIV prevention and contraception. 'Netopeer', a peer-education programme, is one example of these activities.

Challenges

There is some opposition to sexuality education in the Czech Republic, mostly from religious families and from conservative opposition such as the Committee for the Defence of Parental Rights (VORP). Their main argument is that sexuality education is not the task of schools.

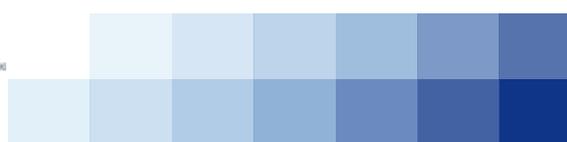
Country facts



Czech Republic

Total population ³	10 539 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) ³	463 000 (4.4 %)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) ⁴	4.3
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) ⁵	13
Gender Inequality Index rating ⁶	0.129
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years ⁷	10
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse ⁸	boys: 23 % girls: 24 %
Average age of mother at birth of first child ⁹	28.1

For references go to last page



References / Definitions

- 1 Collection of Law on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (Education Act) (Act No. 561/2004) (<http://www.msmt.cz/documents-1/act-no-561-2004-collection-of-law-on-pre-school-basic-secondary-tertiary-professional-and-other-education-the-education-act-as-amended?lang=2>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 2 Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe. Cologne: WHO Regional Office for Europe/BZgA; 2010.
- 3 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 4 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Government expenditure on education:** current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5.
- 5 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Youth unemployment rate:** percentage of the labour force population aged 15–24 years that is not in paid employment or self-employed, but is available for work and has taken steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.
- 6 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Gender Inequality Index:** a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. It varies between zero (when women and men fare equally) and one (when men or women fare poorly compared with the other in all dimensions).
- 7 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 8 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 9 Women in the EU gave birth to their first child at almost 29 years of age on average. Luxembourg: Eurostat; 2015 [2013 data] (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6829228/3-13052015-CP-EN.pdf/f7e9007fb-3ca9-445f-96eb-fd75d6792965>, accessed 25 March 2017).