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NEEDS ANALYSIS ON YOUTH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**With a focus on youth with
fewer opportunities**



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INDEX



Summary	3
PEST analysis	5
// Political factors	6
// Economic factors	11
// Social factors	15
// Technological factors	19
Youth's needs	23
// Methodology & introduction	24
// Relationship with adults	26
// Interests and leisure activities	27
// Safe place & personal development	29
// Expressing personal opinions	31
// Awareness of one's impact	33
// Summary of the survey results	35
Strategic recommendations	36

SUMMARY



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Understanding Youth Challenges and Project Objectives

This Erasmus+ project addressed the critical challenges faced by young people in Czechia, focusing on inclusion and active citizenship through the professional development of youth workers. At the heart of the initiative was a comprehensive needs analysis, which highlighted the obstacles young people encounter and informed the development of practical tools to support them.

The needs analysis revealed that many young people, particularly in socially excluded areas, lack access to leisure activities due to financial barriers, limited family support, and social exclusion. These gaps leave them with fewer opportunities for personal development, social engagement, and building community ties. While many young people expressed an understanding of how they could positively influence their surroundings, they often felt unsupported in implementing their ideas, pointing to a lack of systemic programs that encourage their participation.



Capacity Building and Implementation Strategies

In response, the project equipped youth workers with strategies to bridge these gaps. Study visits to organizations in the Czech Republic (SKP-CENTRUM and DaR) and Sweden (Fryshuset) allowed participants to observe successful youth inclusion practices firsthand. These experiences were instrumental in creating a digital toolbox—a resource designed to offer practical methods for engaging marginalized youth and promoting their active involvement in community life.

Feedback from youth workers played a key role in refining the tools, ensuring they addressed real-world challenges effectively.

The project emphasized equal access to non-formal education and recreation as vital components of fostering inclusivity and reducing inequality.

Sustainability and Long-term Impact

The initiative concluded with a hybrid dissemination conference, sharing its findings and resources with a wide audience of youth workers, stakeholders, and policymakers. This event underscored the project's commitment to sustainability, ensuring the tools and insights developed continue to benefit communities and professionals long after the project's completion.

By addressing the needs highlighted in the analysis, this Erasmus+ initiative has not only enhanced youth work quality but also laid the groundwork for creating inclusive spaces where young people from all backgrounds can thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

PEST ANALYSIS



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/// Political factors

Fragmented Political Landscape

Czechia is a unitary parliamentary republic, in which the president is the head of state, and the prime minister is the head of government¹.

- ▶ Some of the prominent political parties in Czechia include:
- ▶ ANO 2011 (ANO): ANO, which stands for “Action of Dissatisfied Citizens,” is a centrist political party founded by billionaire businessman Andrej Babiš. It advocates for anti-corruption measures, economic reform, and pro-European Union policies. ANO has been a major player in Czech politics and has held the position of Prime Minister since 2017.
- ▶ Pirate Party (Piráti): The Pirate Party is a relatively new political force in Czechia, advocating for digital rights, direct democracy, and transparency in government. It has gained popularity among younger voters and urban populations, particularly for its focus on civil liberties and internet freedom.
- ▶ Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD): ČSSD is a center-left social-democratic party with a long history in Czech politics. It focuses on social justice, welfare policies, and workers’ rights. ČSSD has been one of the traditional major parties in Czechia and has participated in various coalition governments.
- ▶ Civic Democratic Party (ODS): ODS is a center-right conservative party that advocates for free-market principles, fiscal conservatism, and deregulation. It played

a significant role in Czech politics since the country’s transition to democracy in 1989 and has been part of several government coalitions.

- ▶ Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People’s Party (KDU-ČSL): KDU-ČSL is a Christian-democratic party emphasizing Christian values, social conservatism, and support for families and traditional institutions.

The political landscape is characterized by a diverse range of ideologies and interests. Coalition governments are common in Czechia due to the proportional representation electoral system, which requires parties to negotiate and form alliances to govern effectively. The fragmented political landscape can sometimes make it challenging to form stable and effective governing coalitions, resulting in political deadlock or frequent changes in government.

The last elections in Czechia were the legislative elections held on October 8-9, 2021. These elections determined the composition of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the Parliament of Czechia.

The center-right SPOLU coalition, comprising the Pirate Party (Piráti), Mayors and Independents (STAN), and TOP 09, emerged as the second-largest bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. This coalition positioned itself as a pro-European, liberal-conservative alternative to the ruling ANO 2011 party².

Following the elections, coalition negotiations and discussions over government formation

1 <https://public.psp.cz/en/docs/laws/constitution.html>

2 <https://ejpr.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/2047-8852.12358>

took place, reflecting the complexity of Czech politics and the need for consensus-building among different parties. The process of forming a government and establishing policy priorities continued into the post-election period.

Corruption

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is an annual ranking published by Transparency International, a global non-governmental organization dedicated to combating corruption worldwide. The CPI ranks countries and territories based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, using data from various sources, including surveys and assessments conducted by experts and business professionals.

Czechia scored 57/100 in 2023. 0 indicates high levels of perceived corruption and 100 indicates low levels of perceived corruption³. The number has improved in recent years.

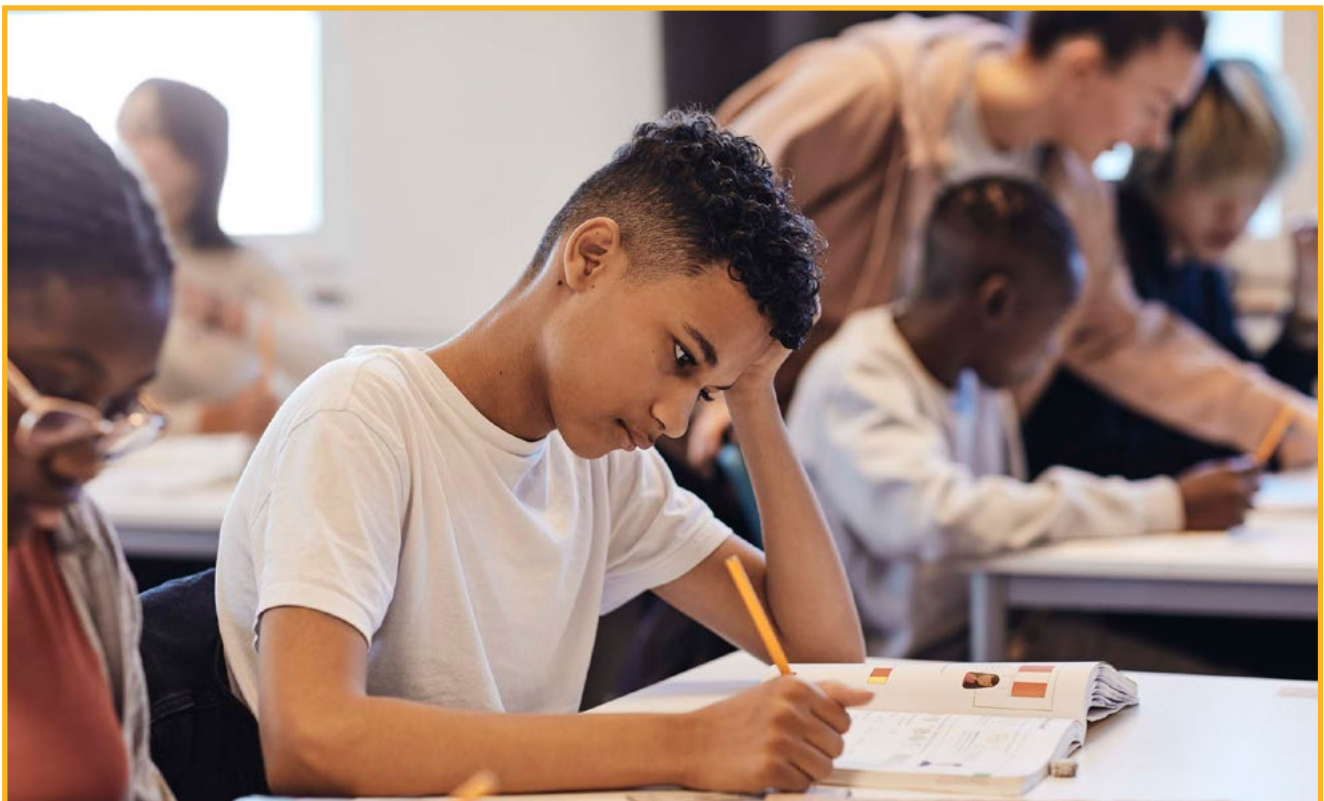
However corruption remains a concern, and Czechia's ranking in the CPI is often lower than some other European Union countries.

Corruption has been a longstanding issue in Czechia, with various reports highlighting challenges related to transparency, accountability, and integrity in both the public and private sectors.

There have been instances of corruption involving public officials, politicians, and government institutions in Czechia. Allegations of bribery, embezzlement, and abuse of power have surfaced, raising questions about the integrity of the political system and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

Corruption risks also exist in the business sector, including issues such as bribery, fraud, and illicit business practices. Companies operating in Czechia may encounter challenges related to corruption when navigating

3 <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023/index/cze>



regulatory processes, securing contracts, or dealing with public procurement.

Czechia has taken steps to combat corruption, including establishing anti-corruption bodies such as the Police Unit for Combating Corruption and Financial Crime (NCOZ), the Supreme Audit Office, and the Office for the Protection of Competition. These institutions play a role in investigating corruption cases, promoting integrity, and enhancing transparency in public administration⁴.

EU Relations and Euroscepticism

Czechia joined the EU in 2004 as part of the “Big Bang” enlargement, which saw ten Central and Eastern European countries become members. EU membership has brought various benefits to Czechia, including access to the EU single market, structural funds for development, and opportunities for cooperation in areas such as security and trade.

In 2022 according to STEM in a hypothetical referendum asking whether citizens want the Czech Republic to remain in the EU, a clear ‘yes’ was shown by 54%⁵.

Although the popularity of the EU in Czechia has been very volatile over the past 18 years, Russia’s aggression in Ukraine has significantly strengthened Czech’s identification with democratic Europe and the West in general⁶.

Several political parties in Czechia are strongly pro-European and advocate for deeper integration within the EU. These parties often

emphasize the benefits of EU membership, such as economic growth, access to EU funds, and opportunities for cross-border cooperation.

Despite broad support for EU membership, there are also Eurosceptic sentiments within Czechia, particularly among certain political parties and segments of the population.

Eurosceptic parties in Czechia often criticize aspects of EU governance, such as perceived bureaucracy, loss of sovereignty, and unequal treatment of member states⁷.

Migration and Refugee Policy

In Czechia, migration and refugee policy have been subjects of debate and controversy, reflecting broader discussions in Europe about immigration, asylum, and border control. Czechia has been a destination for asylum seekers and refugees, particularly during periods of conflict and instability in neighboring regions. However, the country’s approach to asylum and refugee policy has been criticized by some international organizations and human rights advocates for being restrictive and lacking in support for asylum seekers⁸.

As a member of the European Union, Czechia participates in EU-wide migration and asylum policies, including the Common European Asylum System and the EU’s external border control measures. However, Czechia has sometimes taken a skeptical stance toward EU efforts to distribute asylum seekers more

4 <https://en.okri.hu/images/stories/CRITCOR/study.pdf#page=28>

5 https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/evropske-zalezitosti/predsednictvi-cr-v-rade-eu/aktuality/STEM_pro_UV_predsednictvi_EU_IL_final.pdf

6 <https://ecfr.eu/publication/culture-clash-russia-ukraine-and-the-fight-for-the-european-public/>

7 https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yevhehiy-Haydanka/publication/345966729_ELECTORAL_AND_CITIZEN%27S_VIEW_ON_EUROSCEPTICISM_IN_TRANSITIONAL_SOCIETY_THE_CASE_OF_CZECH_REPUBLIC/links/60e560694585156c95e81d19/ELECTORAL-AND-CITIZENS-VIEW-ON-EUROSCEPTICISM-IN-TRANSITIONAL-SOCIETY- THE-CASE-OF-CZECH-REPUBLIC.pdf

8 https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/22440/9780367208431_text.pdf?sequence=1&#page=189

evenly across member states, preferring to maintain greater control over its borders.

Czechia has implemented integration programs aimed at facilitating the integration of refugees and migrants into Czech society. These programs include language courses, vocational training, and support services to help refugees and migrants adjust to their new environment and become self-sufficient⁸.

Czechia has faced criticism for its practice of detaining asylum seekers, including families with children, in detention centers while their asylum claims are being processed. Human rights organizations have raised concerns about the conditions in these detention centers and the impact on the mental and physical well-being of asylum seekers⁹.

Migration and refugee policy are politically sensitive issues in Czechia, with public opinion often divided along ideological and party

lines. Some political parties and segments of the population advocate for stricter border controls and limits on immigration, while others emphasize the importance of humanitarian assistance and solidarity with refugees.

Czechia remains one of the key destination countries for refugees from Ukraine. In total, over 530,000 Ukrainians were granted Temporary Protection status in the country by the end of June 2023¹⁰.

Regional Disparities

Regional disparities in Czechia refer to the economic, social, and developmental gaps between different regions within the country. One of the primary sources of regional disparities in Czechia is the divide between urban and rural areas. Major cities like Prague, Brno, and Ostrava tend to have higher levels of economic development, employment

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- 9 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281199671_Policy_Vs_Practice_The_Effectiveness_of_Refugee_Integration_Policies_in_the_Czech_Republic
- 10 file:///C:/Users/vikto/Downloads/Ukraine%20Situation%20Inter-Agency%20Operational%20Update_Czech%20Republic%20Q2.pdf



opportunities, infrastructure, and access to services compared to rural regions¹¹.

There are significant differences in economic prosperity between regions in Czechia. While urban centers and industrial hubs have higher levels of economic activity and investment, rural areas, particularly in the eastern and northern parts of the country, face challenges such as declining industries, unemployment, and limited access to resources¹².

Infrastructure development, including transportation networks, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions, is often more developed in urban areas compared to rural regions¹¹. This disparity in infrastructure and services contributes to uneven opportunities and quality of life across different parts of the country.

Regional disparities in income and wealth are also evident in Czechia. Residents of urban centers tend to have higher incomes and greater access to wealth accumulation opportunities compared to those in rural areas, where incomes may be lower, and poverty rates higher¹¹.

Addressing regional disparities requires targeted policy interventions aimed at promoting inclusive growth, reducing economic and social inequalities, and enhancing the competitiveness of less-developed regions. Strategies may include investment in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and support for local industries and small businesses.

11 <https://www.oecd.org/economy/czechia-economic-snapshot/>

12 http://prfdec.natur.cuni.cz/~ksgrrsek/acta/2005/AUC_2005_40_1-2_blazek_zapado-vychodni_gradient_a.pdf

/// Economic factors

Low Wage Growth

Low wage growth in Czechia is a significant economic challenge that affects workers, households, and the overall economy.

Despite experiencing steady economic growth in recent years, productivity levels in Czechia have not always translated into significant wage increases for workers. As of March 2024, the minimum wage in Czechia was CZK18,900.00 per month (approximately 750 euros)¹³. It is one of the lowest numbers among the EU countries.

Labor Shortages

The labor shortage in Czechia refers to a situation where there is a mismatch between the demand for labor and the available supply of workers. The country has faced labor shortages in various sectors, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, construction, and healthcare¹⁴.

The emigration of young professionals seeking better opportunities abroad has further contributed to labor shortages in Czechia. Brain drain, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, IT, and engineering, has left vacancies that are difficult to fill domestically¹⁴.

It is also caused by demographic factors, including an aging population and declining birth rates. The aging workforce is leading to retirements and fewer younger workers

entering the labor market, exacerbating the imbalance between labor supply and demand.

There may be a mismatch between the skills demanded by employers and the skills possessed by the available workforce. Rapid technological advancements and changes in the labor market require workers with specialized skills and qualifications¹⁵.

Dependency on Export

Czechia strongly depends on exports, which play a crucial role in the country's economy.

Exports are a significant contributor to Czechia's gross domestic product (GDP) and economic growth. The country's export-oriented economy relies heavily on foreign trade to generate income, create jobs, and drive overall economic activity [16].

Czechia's export sector is primarily driven by its strong industrial base, particularly in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, engineering, machinery, electronics, and chemicals. These industries produce high-value goods that are in demand globally, contributing to Czechia's export competitiveness¹⁶.

Czechia is deeply integrated into global value chains, with many multinational companies operating production facilities in the country. This integration allows Czech manufacturers to participate in global markets and benefit from economies of scale, technological

13 <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/data-catalogue/statutory-minimum-wages-2024>

14 https://eures.europa.eu/living-and-working/labour-market-information/labour-market-information-czechia_en

15 https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Iva-Tomic-2/publication/360241668_Skills_Shortages_in_Post-transition_Economies/links/6440eb2e39aa471a524eada3/Skills-Shortages-in-Post-transition-Economies.pdf#page=65

16 <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/cze>

advancements, and access to international networks.

Czechia's membership in the EU has facilitated trade with other EU member states, providing access to a large and prosperous market. The EU single market allows for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people, further enhancing Czechia's export opportunities.

While export dependency has fueled economic growth, it also exposes Czechia to risks associated with changes in global demand, trade tensions, and external shocks. Economic downturns in key trading partners or disruptions to global supply chains can have adverse effects on Czechia's export-oriented industries¹⁷.

Recognizing the risks associated with export dependency, Czechia has made efforts to diversify its export markets and product offerings. The government and businesses are

exploring opportunities in emerging markets, investing in innovation and technology, and promoting the development of new industries to reduce reliance on traditional export sectors.

Innovation and R&D Investment

Innovation and research and development (R&D) investment are crucial components of Czechia's economic development strategy, aimed at fostering competitiveness, driving growth, and addressing societal challenges¹⁸.

Czechia has been increasing its investment in research and development in recent years. However, R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP still lags behind some other European countries. To enhance innovation and technological advancement, there is a need for further investment in R&D across both public and private sectors.

17 <https://pep.vse.cz/pdfs/pep/2023/02/03.pdf>

18 https://karolinum.cz/data/clanek/11961/Geogr_58_2_0200.pdf



The Czech government provides various incentives and funding programs to support R&D activities, including grants, subsidies, and tax incentives for research-intensive industries. These initiatives aim to stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration between academia and industry, and enhance the country's innovation ecosystem.

Czechia benefits from EU funding programs aimed at promoting research, innovation, and technology development. These programs, such as Horizon Europe and the European Structural and Investment Funds, provide financial support for R&D projects, innovation clusters, and technology transfer initiatives¹⁹.

Housing Affordability

Housing affordability in Czechia has become an increasingly significant issue, particularly in major cities such as Prague and Brno. Housing prices have been increasing steadily in recent years, outpacing income growth and making it more challenging for residents to afford homeownership or rental accommodation. According to the Deloitte Property Index Czechia is the second-most expensive country in Europe overall for purchasing a property²⁰.

There is a mismatch between the demand for housing, driven by factors such as urbanization, population growth, and inward migration, and the supply of housing units²¹. Limited availability of land for development and bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining permits have constrained new construction, exacerbating housing shortages and driving up prices.

While homeownership rates in Czechia are relatively high compared to some other European countries, an increasing number of people, particularly young professionals, and students, are opting to rent rather than buy homes due to high property prices and financial constraints²².

The Czech government has implemented various policies aimed at addressing housing affordability issues, including subsidies for first-time homebuyers, rent controls in certain municipalities, and incentives for affordable housing development²³. However, the effectiveness of these measures in alleviating housing affordability pressures remains a subject of debate.

The provision of social housing for low-income and vulnerable populations is an important aspect of addressing housing affordability in Czechia. While social housing programs exist, they often face funding constraints and are insufficient to meet growing demand, particularly in urban areas.

Transition to a Green Economy

The transition to a green economy in Czechia involves shifting towards sustainable practices, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting environmentally friendly technologies and industries.

Czechia has made significant strides in promoting renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and biomass. The country has set targets for increasing the share of renewable energy in its energy mix, incentivizing

19 <https://digilib.uhk.cz/bitstream/handle/20.500.12603/283/Stec%20aj..pdf?sequence=>

20 <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/at/Documents/presse/at-deloitte-property-index-2023.pdf>

21 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/565306a0-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/565306a0-en>

22 <https://think.ing.com/articles/the-owner-structure-of-housing-in-the-czech-republic/>

23 <https://mmr.gov.cz/en/ministerstvo/bytova-politika>

investment in renewable energy projects, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels²⁴.

Improving energy efficiency in buildings, industry, and transportation is a key focus of Czechia's green economy transition. The government has implemented energy efficiency programs, standards, and regulations to promote energy-saving technologies and practices, reduce energy consumption, and lower greenhouse gas emissions²⁵.

The Czech government has adopted various policies, strategies, and action plans to support the transition to a green economy, including the National Climate and Energy Plan, the National Waste Management Plan, and the National Biodiversity Strategy. These policy frameworks provide a roadmap for achieving environmental objectives and aligning Czechia's economy with sustainability goals.

24 <https://oecdscope.blog/2023/04/14/the-czech-republic-towards-net-zero-emissions/>

25 <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/7/3947>



/// Social factors

Income Inequality

Income inequality in Czechia has been a growing concern in recent years, although it remains relatively low compared to many other European countries. The Gini coefficient, a commonly used measure of income inequality, has been gradually increasing in Czechia over the past few decades. As of 2020, Czechia scored 26,2 (0 represents very high inequality levels and 100 represents perfect equality)²⁶. While still lower than the average, the rising trend indicates a widening gap between high and low-income earners.

There are significant wage disparities in Czechia, with higher wages concentrated in urban areas, particularly in Prague and other major cities. Certain sectors, such as finance, IT, and manufacturing, offer higher salaries compared to others, contributing to income inequality.

Despite efforts to address gender inequality in the workplace, the gender pay gap persists in Czechia, with women earning, on average, less than men for similar work²⁷.

Housing affordability is another factor contributing to income inequality in Czechia. Rising housing costs, particularly in urban areas, disproportionately affect low-income earners, who may struggle to afford adequate housing, leading to financial strain and widening income gaps.

Czechia has social safety nets in place to mitigate the impact of income inequality, including social welfare programs, healthcare

coverage, and unemployment benefits. However, the effectiveness of these measures in addressing income disparities may vary, and there are ongoing debates about the adequacy and fairness of social assistance programs.

Demographic Changes

In Czechia, demographic changes have been notable in recent years, presenting challenges and opportunities for the country.

One significant demographic trend in Czechia is the aging population. Like many other European countries, Czechia has experienced a steady increase in the proportion of elderly citizens due to longer life expectancies and declining birth rates²⁸. This trend has implications for healthcare, pension systems, and the labor market.

Czechia has one of the lowest birth rates in Europe, with fertility rates below the replacement level needed to maintain the population size. Factors contributing to declining birth rates include changing social attitudes, economic factors such as housing affordability and job insecurity, and lifestyle choices among younger generations²⁸.

Another demographic challenge facing Czechia is the emigration of young professionals seeking better opportunities abroad. Brain drain, particularly in fields such as healthcare, IT, and engineering, poses challenges for workforce development and economic competitiveness.

26 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country>

27 <https://borgenproject.org/gender-wage-gap-in-czechia/>

28 [file:///C:/Users/vikto/Downloads/1-2019_Molinski%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/vikto/Downloads/1-2019_Molinski%20(1).pdf)

Czechia has experienced significant urbanization, with a growing proportion of the population residing in urban areas, particularly in the capital city of Prague and other major cities. Urbanization has implications for infrastructure development, housing affordability, and socio-economic disparities between urban and rural areas.

While the emigration of young professionals has been a concern, Czechia has also seen immigration from other countries, including neighboring countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as non-EU countries. Migration patterns have been influenced by factors such as labor market demand, EU freedom of movement, and geopolitical developments.

Integration of Minorities

The integration of minorities in Czechia has been a topic of discussion and policy focus, particularly regarding ethnic minorities, including Roma populations and immigrants. The Roma minority is one of the largest ethnic minority groups in Czechia, and their integration has been a longstanding challenge. Roma communities often face discrimination, social exclusion, and economic marginalization, leading to disparities in education, employment, healthcare, and housing. Efforts to promote Roma integration include programs and initiatives aimed at improving access to education, combating discrimination, promoting employment opportunities, and enhancing social inclusion and cohesion²⁹.

Czechia has seen an increase in immigration in recent years, particularly from other European Union countries, as well as from non-EU countries such as Ukraine, Vietnam, and Russia.

Immigrant integration efforts focus on providing support for language learning, cultural adaptation, employment integration, access to social services, and civic engagement. While immigration policies in Czechia have historically been restrictive, there is growing recognition of the importance of immigrant integration for social cohesion and economic development.

Czechia has legislation in place to promote equality and non-discrimination, including the Anti-Discrimination Act and the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. These laws prohibit discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, or other characteristics and provide mechanisms for addressing discrimination and promoting equal treatment of minorities.

Civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and community groups play a significant role in promoting minority integration in Czechia. These organizations work to raise awareness about minority issues, provide support services to marginalized communities, and advocate for policies and practices that promote inclusion and diversity³⁰.

Despite efforts to promote minority integration, challenges remain, including prejudice, stereotypes, and social barriers that hinder the full participation of minorities in Czech society³¹. Addressing these challenges requires multi-faceted approaches that address inequalities, promote intercultural dialogue, strengthen social cohesion, and foster a sense of belonging for all members of society.

29 <https://socratesonline.org.uk/4/3/bancroft.html>

30 file:///C:/Users/vikto/Downloads/cz_es08.pdf

31 <https://www.problempolitykispolecznej.pl/pdf-159026-88994?filename=Is%20Czechia%20an%20immigration.pdf>

Mental Health

Mental health in Czechia is an important public health issue, with prevalence rates of mental disorders comparable to those in other European countries. Mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and schizophrenia, affect a significant portion of the Czech population. According to surveys, around one-fifth of Czech adults experience mental health issues at some point in their lives³².

Stigma surrounding mental illness remains a significant barrier to seeking help and accessing mental health services in Czechia. Many people hesitate to seek treatment due to fear of discrimination or social ostracism. However, efforts to raise awareness about mental

health issues and reduce stigma have been increasing in recent years³³.

Czechia has a comprehensive mental health care system that includes psychiatric hospitals, outpatient clinics, community-based services, and support organizations³⁴. However, access to mental health services can be limited, particularly in rural areas, and there are disparities in the quality and availability of care across different regions.

The Czech government has implemented various initiatives and policies to improve mental health care and support services. These include the National Mental Health Program, which aims to strengthen mental health care infrastructure, enhance community-based services, and promote mental health awareness and prevention efforts³⁵.

32 <https://cejph.szu.cz/pdfs/cjp/2021/04/04.pdf>

33 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/2E09FC5AEC40D5FCD5DD1032E7CFC8BD/S0924933821022264a.pdf/development-of-public-stigma-toward-people-with-mental-health-problems-in-czechia-2013-2019.pdf>

34 https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Petr-Winkler/publication/334708758_Costs_of_Mental_Health_Services_in_Czechia_Facilitating_an_Evidence-Based_Reform_of_Psychiatric_Care/links/5faa9c74299bf15bae0637a6/Costs-of-Mental-Health-Services-in-Czechia-Facilitating-an-Evidence-Based-Reform-of-Psychiatric-Care.pdf

35 <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/czechia/75-mental-health>



Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is a significant public health concern in Czechia, with alcohol and tobacco being the most abused substances. Czechia has one of the highest rates of alcohol consumption per capita in the world³⁶. Beer is particularly popular in Czech culture, and the country has a long tradition of brewing and consuming beer. Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to various health problems, including liver disease, cardiovascular disease, accidents, and injuries.

Smoking rates in Czechia are among the highest in Europe, although they have been declining in recent years³⁷. Tobacco smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and is associated with numerous health risks, including cancer, respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular diseases.

While alcohol and tobacco are the most prevalent substances of abuse in Czechia, there

are also concerns about illicit drug use, including cannabis, methamphetamine (known locally as “Pervitin”), and opioids.³⁸

Czechia has implemented harm reduction strategies to address substance abuse, including needle exchange programs, opioid substitution therapy, and supervised drug consumption rooms. These programs aim to reduce the negative health and social consequences associated with drug use while promoting access to healthcare and support services for individuals with substance use disorders.

Czechia has regulations in place to control the sale and consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs. Law enforcement agencies work to combat drug trafficking and distribution networks, while also focusing on prevention and harm reduction strategies.

36 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338390994_Alcohol_use_and_its_consequences_in_the_Czech_Republic

37 <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/CZE/czech-republic/smoking-rate-statistics>

38 https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/98225887/15332640.2020.179386620230204-1-bbu0co-libre.pdf?1675522618=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DIllicit_drug_use_and_exposure_in_disadv.pdf&Expires=1711988714&Signature=FmzHhBHt7M5r6Spc5GaTnLC89Kkiba7l9wFFFP2UHL~AasNndhJqqthJ06PJzmtCZ4zH4p49RbRzr-sLiCSCi6nYcS07fBrSjv3dX20AqsekdeIhUOXNZ2nxvYGEwxWuyeRR4aJNrhmOhiVfAVwalswOw37tDgj-M6EAvcV6rqj2BG10Xb9hJrN32s8RQVFRcgyLV2qdoKsrBGRuiL6gKieG8wV8h329msaAoEQHJkrFywUPML55-BNSTgpyUXHesp4FyFM0kVwC5KgpJj3fM9wn1yGkPnobdHZplrMb69McbW6bGOK1ZQm~rQovOAVz~n1nqkRFm7iB8faAQJoe-Q&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA

/// Technological factors

Digital Infrastructure

Czechia has a high level of internet penetration, with most of the population having access to the internet. Broadband internet services are widely available across the country, including in rural areas, contributing to greater connectivity and access to online resources³⁹.

Mobile internet usage is widespread in Czechia, with a high proportion of the population owning smartphones and accessing the internet through mobile devices. Czechia has embraced digitalization across various sectors, including government services, health-care, education, and commerce. Digital government initiatives enable citizens to access public services online, while e-commerce platforms and digital payment systems facilitate online shopping and transactions.

While Czechia has made significant strides in developing its digital infrastructure, challenges remain, including bridging the digital divide, ensuring digital inclusion for all segments of the population, addressing cybersecurity threats, and fostering digital skills development.

Embracing emerging technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence (AI) presents opportunities for further enhancing Czechia's digital infrastructure and competitiveness in the global digital economy.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a significant priority in Czechia, as in many other countries, given the increasing reliance on digital technologies and the growing threat of cyber-attacks. Czechia has developed a National Cybersecurity Strategy to enhance its cybersecurity capabilities and resilience. The strategy outlines objectives and measures to strengthen cybersecurity governance, improve critical infrastructure protection, enhance incident response capabilities, raise cybersecurity awareness, and promote international cooperation⁴⁰.

Czechia has enacted cybersecurity legislation to address cyber threats and protect critical infrastructure. The Cybersecurity Act establishes requirements for operators of essential services and digital service providers to ensure the security of their networks and systems⁴¹. The Act also outlines procedures for reporting and managing cybersecurity incidents.

The National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NCISA) is the primary authority responsible for cybersecurity in Czechia, providing guidance, support, and expertise to public and private sector stakeholders.

Increasing cybersecurity awareness among citizens, businesses, and government entities is a key focus area in Czechia. Educational campaigns, training programs, workshops, and conferences raise awareness about cyber threats, best practices for cybersecurity

39 <https://tradingeconomics.com/czech-republic/level-of-internet-access-eurostat-data.html>

40 https://books.google.se/books?hl=uk&lr=&id=rubYDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT19&dq=cybersecurity+czechia&ots=OCegBQUBkB&sig=dcODJAVX3zV2zGCnQeKQeQ-RlfY&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=

41 <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/insights/publications/2023/08/new-czech-cybersecurity-regulation-what-you-need-to-know>

hygiene, and the importance of protecting personal and sensitive information online.

Digital Skills Gap

The digital skills gap in Czechia refers to the disparity between the demand for digital skills in the workforce and the availability of individuals with the necessary competencies.

With the increasing digitization of the economy and rapid technological advancements, there is a growing demand for digital skills across various industries and sectors in Czechia.

Employers seek workers who are proficient in areas such as data analysis, programming, digital marketing, cybersecurity, and IT support to remain competitive in the digital age.

Despite the demand for digital skills, there is a mismatch between the skills demanded by employers and those possessed by the workforce in Czechia⁴². Many job seekers lack the

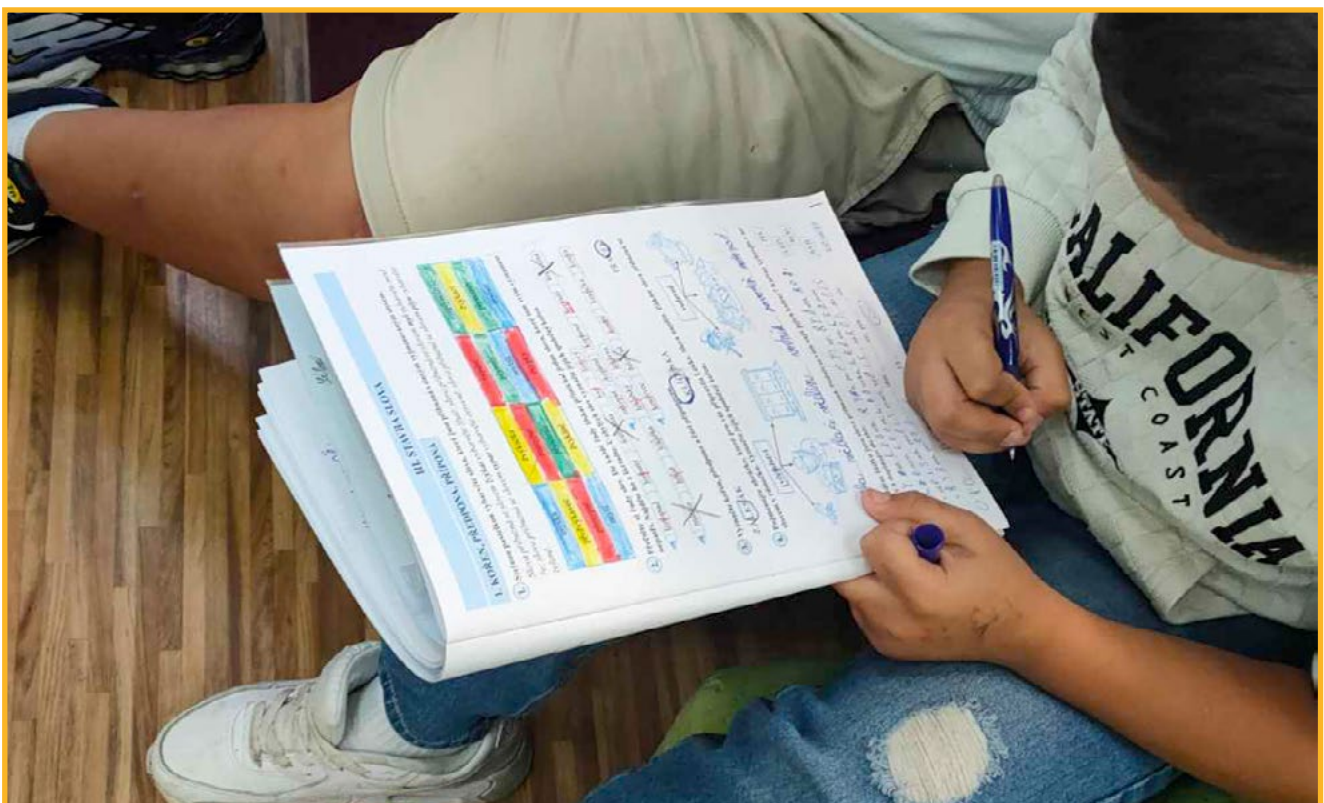
necessary digital competencies, including technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and digital literacy, which hinders their employability and career prospects.

The education system in Czechia plays a crucial role in addressing the digital skills gap by providing students with foundational knowledge in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines and digital literacy skills. However, there is a need to enhance digital skills training and vocational education to meet the evolving needs of the labor market.

The digital skills gap exacerbates existing inequalities and disparities, particularly for marginalized groups, including low-income individuals, older workers, and residents of rural areas⁴³. Bridging the digital divide requires targeted efforts to improve access to digital education, training, and resources for under-served populations.

42 https://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/regstat/2023/2023_04/rs130401.pdf

43 https://digilib.uhk.cz/bitstream/handle/20.500.12603/543/POLOZOVA_Tetiana_Irina_K_OLUPAIEVA_Iryna_SHEIKO.pdf?sequence=1



Promoting digital literacy among citizens of all ages is crucial for empowering individuals to participate fully in the digital economy and society. Digital literacy initiatives, including awareness campaigns, community workshops, and online resources, can help individuals develop essential digital skills and confidence in using digital technologies effectively.

Adoption of Emerging Technologies

The adoption of emerging technologies in Czechia is gaining momentum, driven by various factors such as innovation, digital transformation, and efforts to enhance competitiveness.

Czechia is embracing Industry 4.0 technologies, including automation, robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence (AI), to modernize manufacturing processes, improve productivity, and drive innovation⁴⁴. Manufacturing companies, particularly in sectors such as automotive, engineering, and electronics, are investing in smart factories and digital technologies to remain competitive in global markets.

Digitalization is transforming various sectors of the Czech economy, including finance, healthcare, transportation, and retail. Organizations are leveraging digital technologies such as cloud computing, big data analytics, and digital platforms to streamline operations, enhance customer experiences, and create new business models⁴⁵.

Czechia's cities are adopting smart city initiatives to improve urban infrastructure, promote sustainability, and enhance the quality of life for residents. Smart city projects involve deploying IoT sensors, data analytics,

and smart solutions for energy management, transportation, waste management, and public services to create more efficient and livable urban environments⁴⁶.

The Czech government has launched initiatives to promote the adoption of emerging technologies and support digital innovation. These initiatives include funding programs, innovation hubs, regulatory reforms, and partnerships with industry and academia to drive technology-driven growth and competitiveness.

Data Privacy and Protection

Data privacy and protection are important considerations in Czechia, as in other European Union (EU) member states, governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Czechia adheres to the GDPR, which sets strict rules for the collection, processing, and storage of personal data to protect the privacy rights of individuals. Organizations operating in Czechia must comply with GDPR requirements, including obtaining consent for data processing, implementing security measures to safeguard personal data, and notifying authorities of data breaches⁴⁷.

Individuals in Czechia have various privacy rights under the GDPR, including the right to access their personal data, request corrections or deletions of inaccurate or outdated information, and object to the processing of their data for certain purposes. Organizations must respect these rights and provide individuals with mechanisms to exercise their privacy rights.

44 <file:///C:/Users/vikto/Downloads/10712-Article%20Text-34929-5-10-20200629.pdf>

45 <https://is.muni.cz/publication/2234257/39-07.pdf>

46 <https://is.muni.cz/publication/2234257/39-07.pdf>

47 <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/czechia-data-protection-overview>

The Office for Personal Data Protection (Úřad pro ochranu osobních údajů, or ÚOOÚ) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing data protection laws in Czechia. The ÚOOÚ oversees compliance with the GDPR, investigates complaints regarding data privacy violations, and imposes sanctions on organizations that fail to comply with data protection regulations⁴⁸.

Organizations in Czechia are required to report data breaches to the ÚOOÚ without undue delay and, where feasible, within 72 hours of becoming aware of the breach. Data breach notifications must include details about the nature of the breach, the affected individuals, and the measures taken to mitigate the impact of the breach.

48 <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/personal-data-protection-gdpr>



YOUTH'S NEEDS



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/// Methodology & introduction

Target Group

- ▶ Young people aged 13-29
- ▶ Individuals from both rural and urban (informal settlements) areas

Structure

The purpose of this survey was to gain a general understanding of how young people in the Czech Republic perceive themselves and their surroundings. The organizations behind this survey—Fryshuset from Sweden, and SKP CENTRUM and DaR from the Czech Republic—collaborated to gather valuable insights into the needs and experiences of young people.

The results of this survey were analyzed and compiled into a report that serves as a resource for both our organization and local partners in the Czech Republic. By identifying the needs and challenges faced by young people, the survey aimed to guide the development of youth-centered projects, where young people are not only participants but also active contributors to creating positive change in their communities.

Acronyms explanation

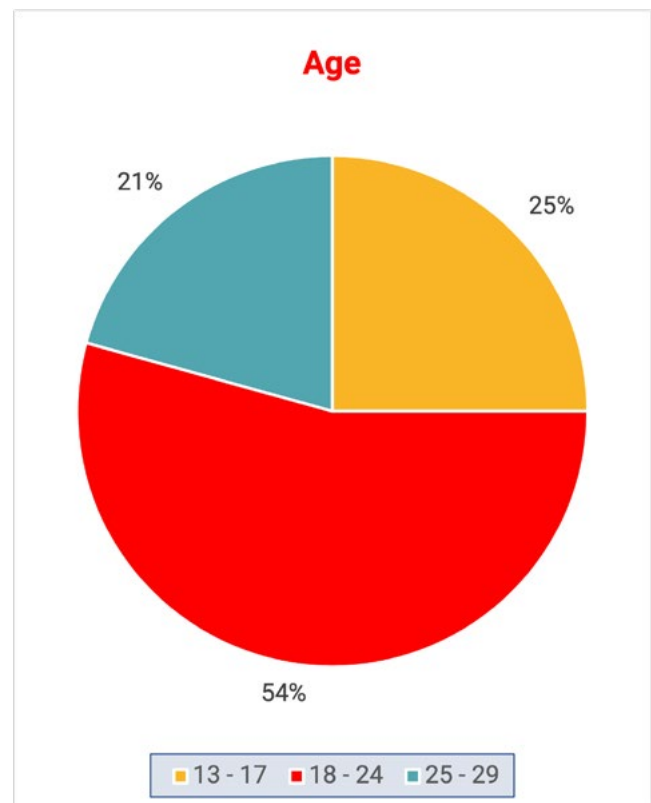
- ▶ NZDM - Low-threshold Facility for Children and Youth
- ▶ DPC – Half way house - Halfway House provides residential social care for young people aged between 18 and 26 years. The service is used primarily by girls and boys who have left institutional or foster care.
- ▶ SAS – Social Activation Services for families with children are a type of social service that provides professional help and

support for families who can be found in an unfavorable social situation due to the hearing disability.

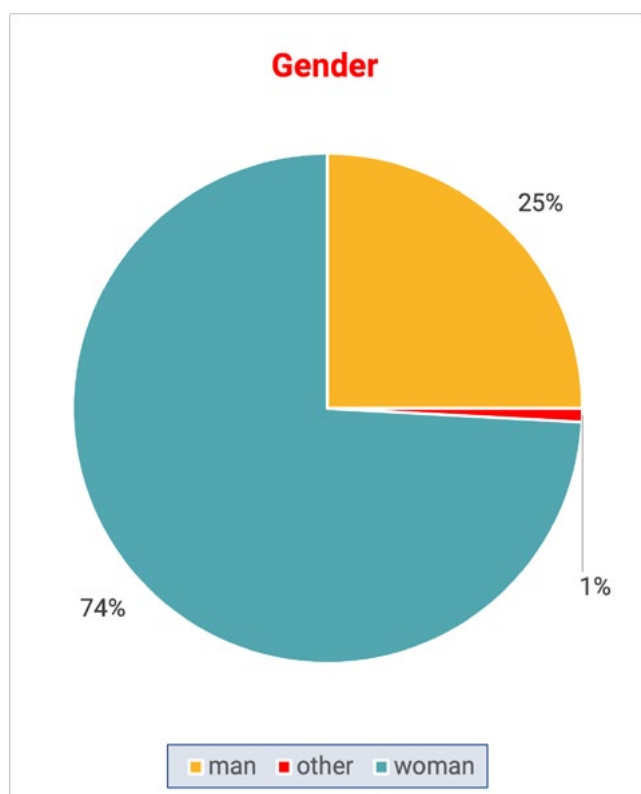
Representation

We received 114 responses to the survey.

Age



Gender



Introductory reflections

A total of 114 responses were collected from individuals aged 13 to 29, with the largest group (54%) being respondents between the ages of 18 and 24, thus young adults. Women make up 75% of the respondents. Given that the data was collected through service workers from the organizations DaR and SKP-Centrum, the respondents are primarily from the Pardubice and Hradec Králové regions. However, some responses are also from other regions or from Prague. A significant percentage is from residents of Vysoké Mýto and Pardubice. Responses from clients of NZDM services in Vysoké Mýto and Pardubice are also noticeable.

Based on the information contained in several responses, it can be assumed that the respondent is a client of the SKP-Centrum or DaR services, whether it be NZDM, SAS, or the Halfway House. This in itself provides valuable feedback for our services and staff.

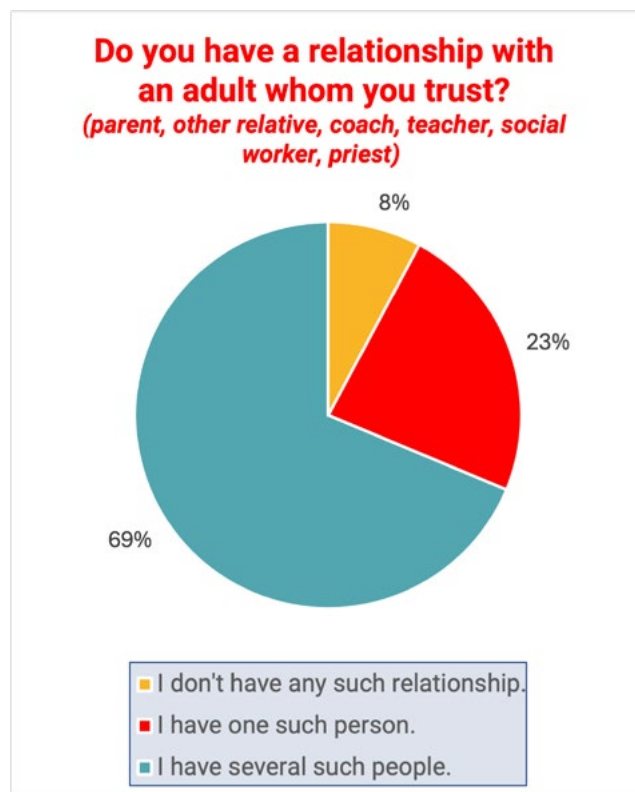
/// Relationship with adults

Of the total responses, 69% of respondents reported having a trusted relationship with an adult, while only 8% mentioned not having any such relationship. Although 8% may appear low, one possible reason for this figure aligns with data from research on emotional bonds and attachment, which indicate a prevalence of 5-10% for disorganized insecure attachment in the population. Support options for this target group often require significant time and financial resources.

These individuals have experienced situations where the caregiver, who was supposed to be a source of safety, was also a source of threat and/or failed to protect them from danger, which continues to affect them throughout their lives. Due to the nature of the questions and the relatively small number of respondents, we cannot equate the 8% of respondents who lack a trusted close person with an attachment disorder.

However, based on our experience and that of social service workers, this may correlate with a substantial portion of our clients (e.g., Halfway House, SAS, as well as NZDM) who live with trauma, which, along with other indicators (e.g., living in marginalized areas), may influence other areas of their responses.

This interconnectedness may be reflected, for instance, in their interests, relationship-building, and their ability to interpret needs in this area, ultimately affecting their active involvement with peers, such as in leisure groups. Of course, several factors could influence this figure.



Among the adults whom respondents trust, family members (especially parents) are the most common. However, other trusted individuals mentioned include colleagues at work, doctors, teachers, family friends, coaches, and professionals like psychologists or social workers, with some specifically identifying staff from SKP-Centrum or DaR.

As positive role models, respondents frequently cite family members, followed by friends, partners, artists, and athletes. Professionals, such as school principals and social workers, are also mentioned. Considering the secular nature of Czech society and the age of the respondents, religious figures or people associated with faith appear only rarely; one response cited Jesus Christ as a role model. Similar responses appear in questions about a life mentor or in answers regarding a safe place, where church and religion are occasionally mentioned.

/// Interests and leisure activities

The range of interests mentioned spans a very broad spectrum. Most responses include specific developmental interests, such as music, dance, gaming (both computer and board games), sports, gardening, history, theater, painting, photography, etc.

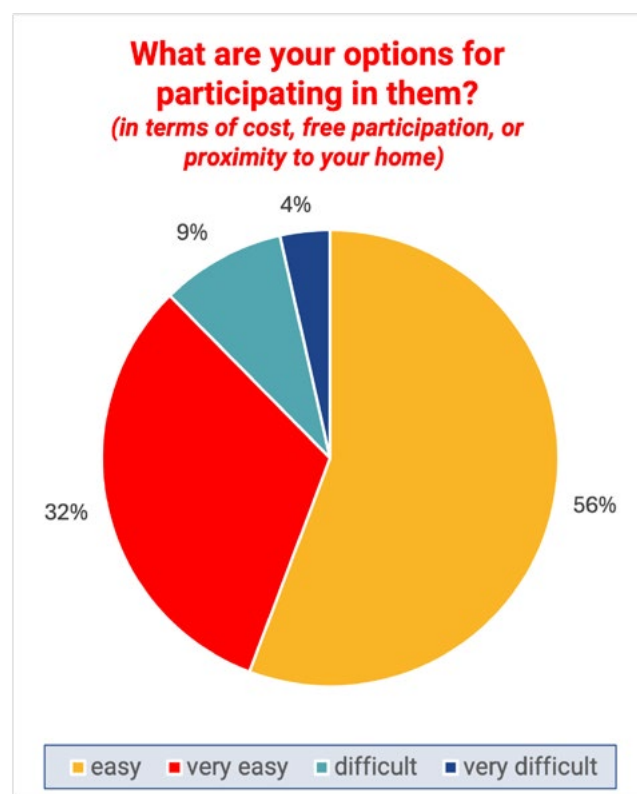
It is evident that respondents come from diverse backgrounds and social strata, which provide varying opportunities. In several questionnaires, especially from Vysoké Mýto—where responses are likely from NZDM clients (also indicated by references to social workers)—there is a noticeable lack of developmental interests. This may be due to an unstimulating environment associated with life in a socially excluded area near the NZDM location or social exclusion in general. Similar responses are evident among assumed NZDM and DPC clients in Pardubice, where this may also stem from the fact that clients of this service have gone through institutional care.

Typical interests in these cases include drinking alcohol, smoking, or responses like “hanging out with friends” and “spending time on the phone.” While these answers are not exclusive to clients of our services, this way of spending free time is typical for large part of them.

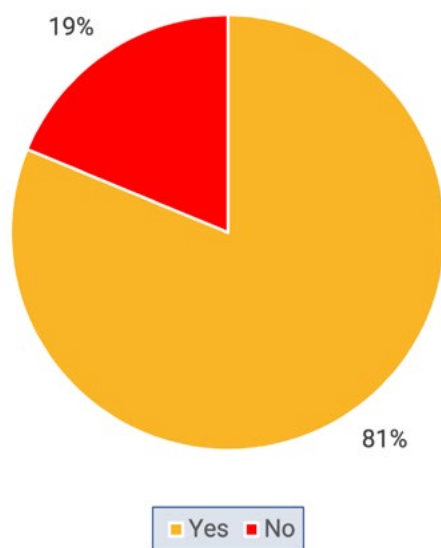
Nearly 88% of respondents have the opportunity to easily or very easily participate in leisure activities and clubs near their homes. There are numerous organizations that young people can join, influenced by whether they live in a city or a village. In previous years, SKP-Centrum implemented a project focused on networking services for at-risk families and children, which found that barriers to children’s participation in these clubs are often due to a

lack of motivation and support from parents or other adults in the children’s surroundings.

There are many organized leisure activities, and there are also several ways to address their financial cost. For example, participation in school-based leisure activities is often free, but for some children and young people, this may be an environment where they are not generally accepted and do not want to spend their free time. Other options include using benefit systems, foundation grants, etc. This again requires family support in organizing access to this assistance, which makes it harder to access these activities. In larger towns, there are, of course, many activities, and responses indicate that young people also engage in leisure activities in rural areas. These are typically represented by participation in organizations such as Sokol, volunteer fire associations, Scouting, or local sports teams (e.g., football).



Are there activities in my surroundings that I can participate in?



Among the activities that young people mention as inaccessible to them are often more financially demanding activities, such as a trip to the sea, ice hockey, or virtual reality. Others are influenced by the local environment, such as trips to the mountains, etc. Some of these activities appear to be fairly easily accessible with certain support from adults, such as in-line skating, yoga, dance, or cooking classes.

In the Czech Republic, there are no systemic programs that successfully and comprehensively integrate young people into leisure activities. Leisure activities, especially sports, are often perceived through the lens of health prevention rather than mental health or social prevention.

In fact, even if some actors within the service network perceive these activities this way, they have limited opportunities to support and engage young people in this direction long-term and systematically. Probably the closest organization to this is the SOKOL (Czech Sokol Organization) with the motto "A healthy mind in a healthy body," which gathers 160,000 members. Sokol runs universal

sports activities, exercises, etc., and is present throughout the Czech Republic. However, even Sokol's activities are fee-based and not always accessible to young people, particularly those from socially excluded areas or living in social exclusion more generally.

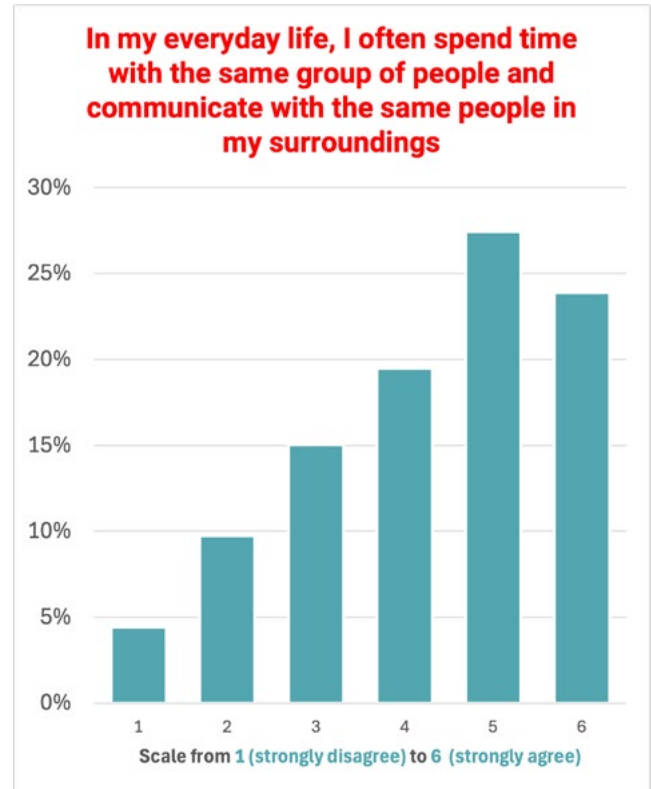
Free activities can be available for at-risk children in NZDM (Low-threshold Day Centers) according to the Social Services Act. However, this is contingent on an unfavorable social situation, so children will not meet other children here, so-called "without problems." Leisure activities are generally just a tool to get children into NZDM, not a tool for their integration. The integration of children into everyday life in the community and engagement in regular leisure activities can be supported by field programs, but they are not specifically focused on this and also have limitations arising from the Social Services Act.

The low level of involvement of children and young adults in organized leisure activities, whether group or individual, is quite typical for clients of NZDM, SAS, or DPC services, which is evident in the responses of respondents who can be assumed to be clients of these services.

/// Safe place & personal development

As for a safe place, most young people identify their home as such, associated with peace and privacy. Other answers are linked to nature, family members, or places like community clubs, etc. Nearly 90% of respondents have at least some safe place.

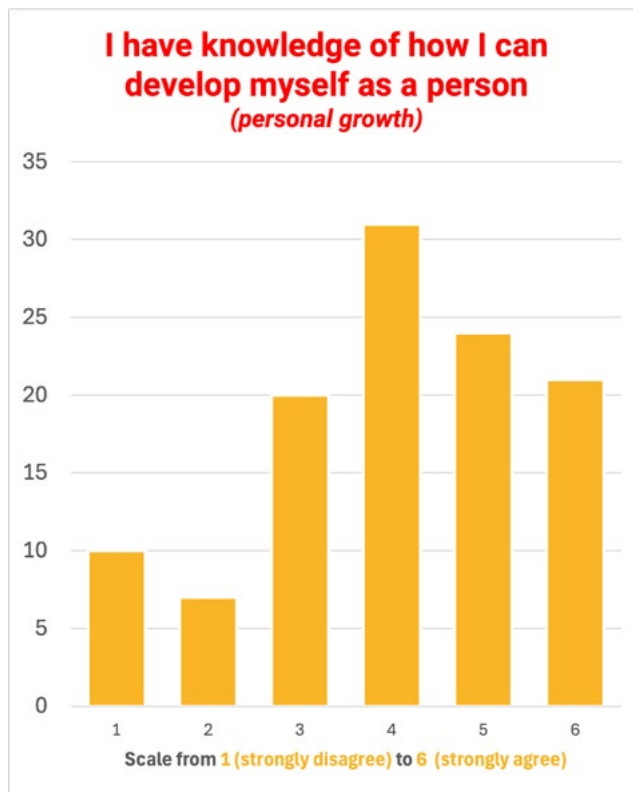
More than 50% of young people communicate with the same people in their everyday lives. The responses indicate that a large number of young people have a “group” of people around them.



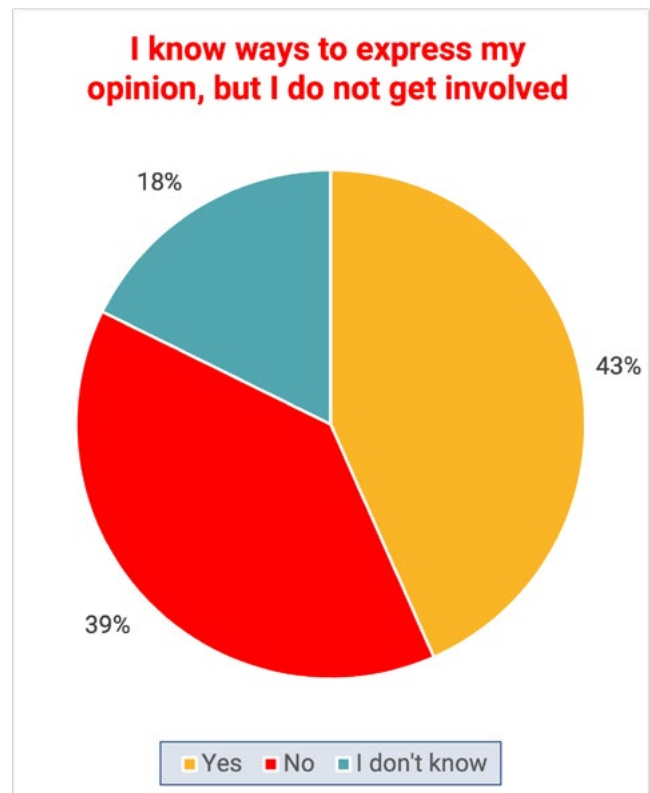
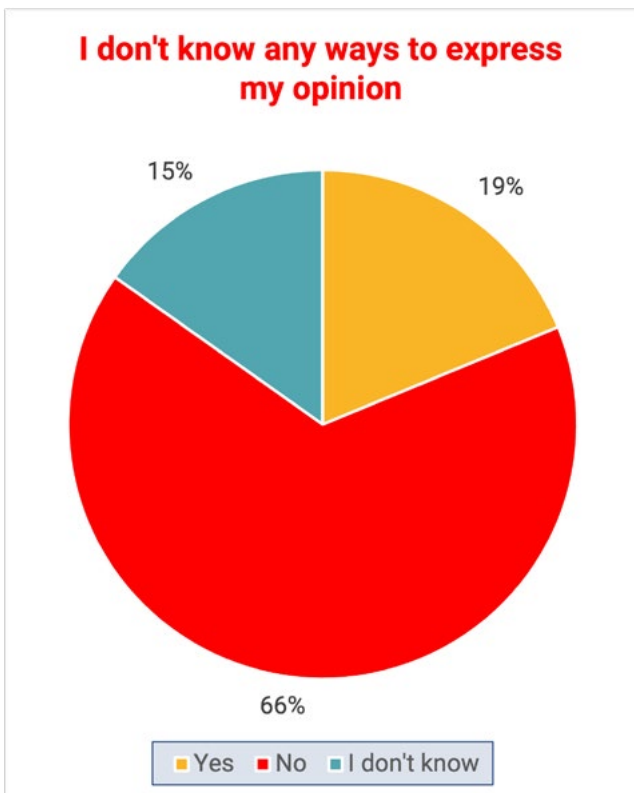
About one-third of respondents indicated that they aim to develop themselves as individuals.

More than 80% of respondents feel that they have the necessary communication skills. Approximately 86% perceive that they have at least a basic or clear understanding of their rights. 9% of young people feel that they lack conflict resolution skills (scoring 1 or 2 on the scale).

When asked if they have ever had the opportunity to develop skills like conflict resolution, communication skills, or knowledge of their rights, respondents most frequently mention school (primary, secondary, or university) as the primary source. Others mention their surroundings, communication with friends, etc., as sources in this area. Some responses refer to participation in Don Bosco Center (an organization supporting children in institutional care), and some mention support from social workers in SKP-Centrum services (DPC, NZDM Emko).

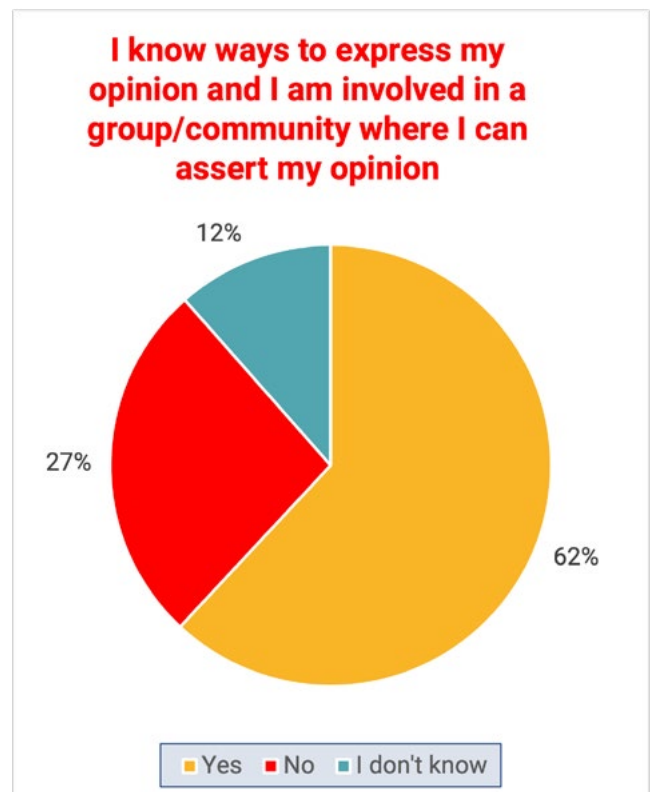


Expressing personal opinions



18% of respondents state that they do not know how to express their opinions. In contrast, nearly 67% report that they know where and how to express their opinions. Of these, 44% indicate that they know how and where to express their opinions but do not participate in these processes, while 60% say they actively engage by sharing their opinions within their community or close group of people, where they feel they can assert their views.

Respondents who report being able to assert their opinions in their immediate surroundings or community most commonly describe this environment as school, a group of friends, family, and sometimes NZDM, a club, Scouts, work, or church.



Approximately 50% of respondents indicate that they have ideas for how to improve the situation in their community. In the Czech context, the term “community” is used with a fairly specific connotation. The most common understanding of “community” refers to a narrowly focused association or group of people with a particular interest or characteristic (e.g., gun owners’ community, mothers with children community).

In the media, the term is often used in connection with the Roma community, which is also how the majority society tends to view it; it can also refer to services for those with substance dependencies (e.g., a community for people dependent on alcohol or drugs).

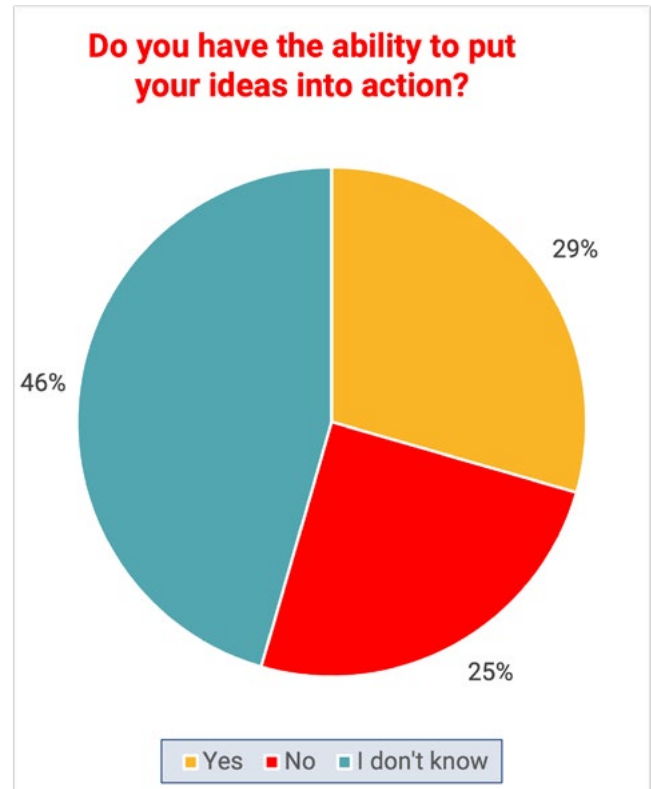
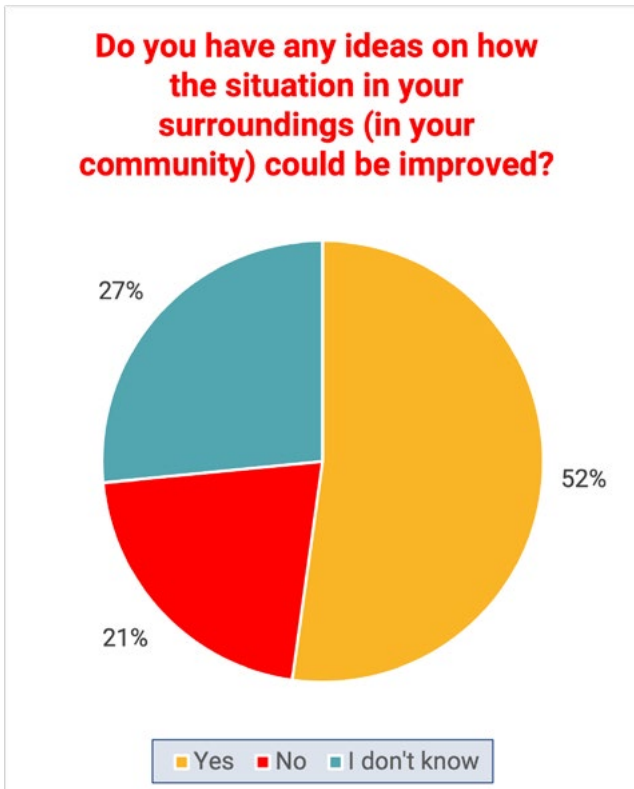
Community clubs do exist, but they often target socially disadvantaged individuals as a form of gathering and support. In cities, people do not generally perceive themselves as a community based on a shared geographic area (e.g., a street or apartment building).

People in villages might perceive themselves more as a community, though they would probably not use the terms “community” or “communal” despite one survey response referencing an “open community in a village.” The word “community” can have various meanings in Czech and is often perceived differently. Therefore, in the questionnaire, we also use terms like “surroundings” or “environment.”

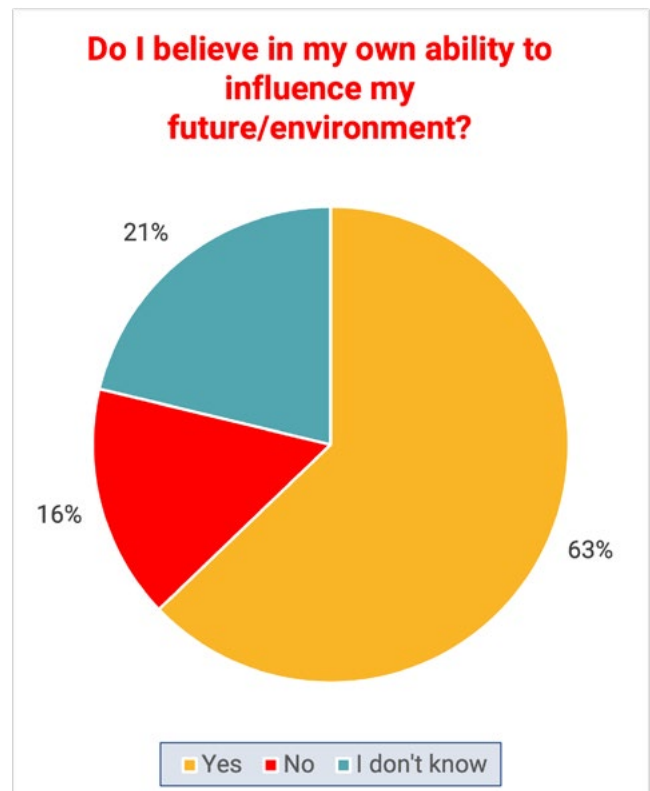
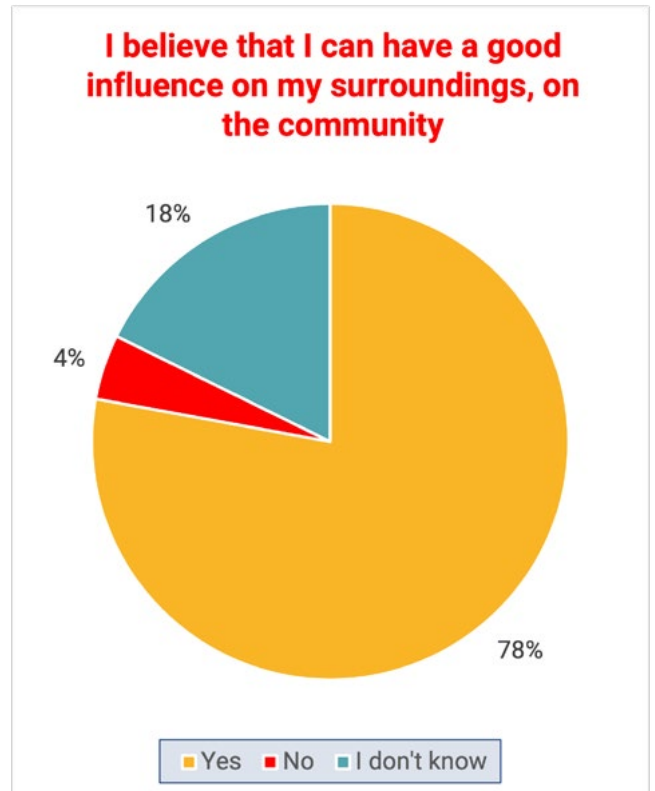
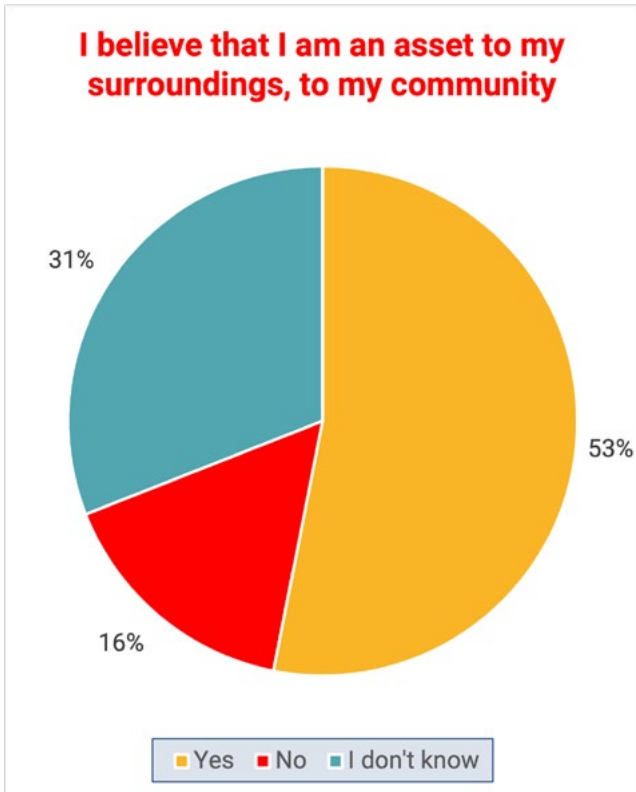
/// Awareness of one's impact

Although respondents are aware of ways they could improve the situation in their surroundings/community, only slightly less than 30% feel that they have the opportunity to apply their ideas and put them into practice.

When they do have the chance to influence their surroundings, respondents mention environments like family, school, work, and the neighborhood.



Nearly 53% of respondents feel that they are a benefit to their surroundings or community. 78% believe they can have a positive influence on their environment or community, and 63% believe they can impact their own future.



Summary of the survey results

The survey was conducted with the assistance of social workers from SKP-CENTRUM o.p.s. and additional respondents were subsequently obtained using the “snow ball” method.

The survey results in particular in two fundamental findings that it would be appropriate to focus on in more detail.

The survey shows that some young people have a reduced opportunity to engage in leisure activities that could act as a preventive measure against potential negative influences affecting their healthy development. Respondents mentioned a large number of activities that they can use, but it is evident from the individual questionnaires that, especially for children and young adults who are at risk of social exclusion or live in a socially excluded locality, the chances of engaging in regular events in the community are reduced.

Lower family support, financial barriers, but also social exclusion based on ethnicity play a role in this. It therefore seems necessary to focus on supporting young people in equalizing opportunities in accessing regular leisure activities in the community so that these young people have the opportunity to engage in these activities in a regular manner with their peers.

At the same time, young people perceive that they can name how they could influence their surroundings and get involved in community events. However, they often feel that they have fewer options to implement their plans. There is often a lack of support in the community that would help young people in this process, guide them and lead them to achieve change. The format of greater participation and the perception by institutions of involving young people in decision-making processes as something necessary has significant reserves in the Czech Republic.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS



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Barriers to Youth Participation and Inclusion

The analysis of youth needs in the Czech Republic reveals critical challenges and opportunities for fostering inclusion, personal development, and community engagement. Many young people, particularly those from marginalized or socially excluded communities, face significant barriers to accessing leisure activities. Financial constraints, limited family support, and social exclusion inhibit their participation, despite the availability of numerous recreational opportunities. This highlights the urgent need for systemic programs that integrate at-risk youth into regular community activities, ensuring equitable access and fostering a sense of belonging.

Youth in the Czech Republic often have ideas for improving their communities but lack the resources, support, and platforms to bring these ideas to fruition. The absence of structured mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes diminishes their agency and ability to influence their surroundings meaningfully. Addressing this gap is essential for empowering young people to contribute positively to their communities and feel valued as active citizens.

Disparities and the Importance of Support Networks

Trusted relationships with adults are a cornerstone for youth development, and while the majority of respondents report having such connections, a minority do not. This lack of support often correlates with trauma or marginalization, underscoring the importance of building stronger networks of mentorship and guidance. Additionally, disparities in opportunities between urban and rural areas remain pronounced. Young people in rural regions face limited access to developmental programs, digital resources, and professional growth opportunities, further widening the

gap between different segments of the youth population.

Mental health is another pressing concern, with many young people experiencing issues but hesitating to seek help due to stigma or limited access to services. Although most youth identify their homes as safe spaces, some lack such environments, particularly those living in precarious conditions or dealing with unresolved trauma. There is also a clear interest among youth in personal development, yet opportunities for acquiring critical skills such as conflict resolution, communication, and self-awareness are unevenly distributed.

Strategies for Inclusion and Youth Empowerment

To address these challenges, several key actions are recommended. First, creating funding mechanisms and subsidies to support participation in leisure activities is vital, especially for youth from marginalized backgrounds. Partnering with organizations like Sokol and local clubs can help design inclusive programs that integrate young people from diverse communities. Additionally, fostering youth participation in community development is essential. Establishing mentorship programs and platforms where young people can implement their ideas will enhance their engagement and sense of agency. Including youth representatives in local decision-making processes can further amplify their voices and promote active citizenship.

Bridging social and regional disparities requires targeted investment in infrastructure and programs for rural and underserved areas. Expanding digital skills training and access to technological resources can reduce inequities and prepare youth for future job markets. Enhancing mental health support through increased funding, awareness campaigns, and

community-based programs will address stigma and ensure that young people have access to the care they need. Building supportive networks, including mentorship and peer support, will provide the trusted relationships many young people lack.

Future Prospects and Continuous Improvement

To promote lifelong learning, non-formal education programs should focus on equipping youth with essential skills like communication, conflict resolution, and leadership. These efforts can be integrated into existing school curricula and extracurricular activities.

Furthermore, leveraging technology through digital platforms can create virtual spaces for youth engagement and collaboration, particularly in regions with limited physical infrastructure. Adopting emerging technologies

such as AI and IoT in vocational training programs can also prepare young people for evolving labor market demands.

Finally, it is crucial to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of youth programs and policies regularly. Gathering feedback from young people and stakeholders will ensure that initiatives remain aligned with their needs and foster a culture of continuous improvement. By addressing these challenges and implementing these recommendations, the Czech Republic can create a more inclusive environment where young people can thrive, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and realize their potential.





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