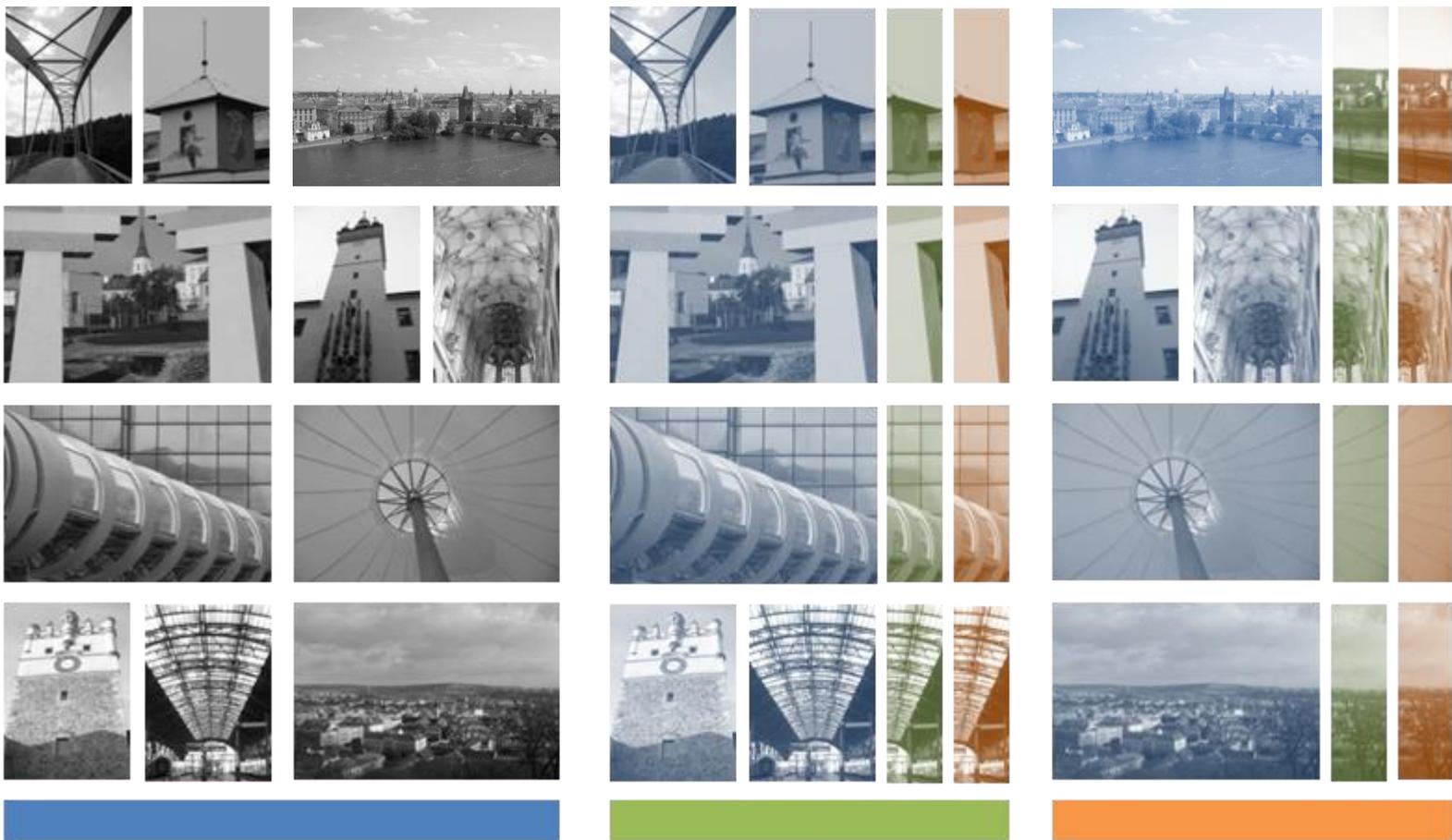




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Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic

Ministry of Regional Development

Institute for Spatial Development

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GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



RESOLUTION

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
of 14 January 2015 No. 22

on the
Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic

The Government

I. hereby **approves** the **Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic**, as attached in Part III of the file Ref. No. 1587/14 (hereinafter the "Policy");

II. and **instructs**

1. members of the government and heads of other central administration bodies

a) to reflect the Policy in preparing conceptual documents falling within the competences of their Ministries and offices,

b) to perform tasks defined by the Policy,

2. the Minister of Regional Development

a) to ensure

aa) publication of the Policy in the manner enabling remote access thereto,

ab) publish this resolution in the Government Bulletin for Regional and Municipal bodies,

b) to prepare and submit to the Government, by 31 December 2020, a Report evaluating the fulfilment of the Policy, including proposal for its update for the subsequent period if needed.

To be carried out by:

members of the government,
heads of other central administration bodies

To the attention of:

Hetmans,
Mayor of the Capital City of Prague

Prime Minister
Mgr. Bohuslav Sobotka, in his own hand

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Dear readers:

You are reading the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic (the “Policy”), in the form approved by the government resolution on 14 January 2015 under No. 22/2015. This Policy has been prepared by the Ministry of Regional Development in close cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development. Another valuable contributors included the Czech Chamber of Architects, Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction and Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic, which all contributed key themes and actively participated in drafting this Policy. Additional input was kindly provided by the Faculty of Architecture, Czech Technical University in Prague, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, such as Proměny Foundation or Architects at School, as well as the general public. I am very pleased about the general interest shown in connection with the preparation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic which confirms its broad utility.

The need for an initiatory document in the area of architecture and building culture has been evident for long time. After 1990 there has been a tremendous focus on the environment and on documents associated with this area. On the other hand, the issues related to the environment created by urban development had been somewhat neglected for a long periods of time regardless of the fact that it has a very direct impact on the quality of our lives. By adopting the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic we have thus partially paid the debt with respect to the environment that we create and develop around us. By taking this step we have also joined the advanced European countries, which have had similar documents for some time.

The purpose of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is not to authorize construction or propose specific projects. Its objective is to create conditions allowing construction of high-quality buildings. The Policy does not emphasize quality of individual buildings or projects but emphasizes the need for a complex perception of the environment, the mutual interaction between buildings, their relation to the existing architectonic and urbanistic values and their impact on landscape. Measures proposed herein are directed toward territorial organization, formulate objectives improving access to public infrastructure and determine long-term urban concepts. The quality of environment in urban areas is significantly affected by public spaces and to this end the Policy formulates measures facilitating their better planning, implementation and maintenance. Another big theme is quality of architectonic and urbanistic projects. The design is influenced not only by the architect and the contractor but also by the client, whether a legal entity or natural person. The Policy therefore focuses also on improving public awareness about the significance of good architecture and spaces created.

I expect that the Policy will contribute to improving our environment and strengthen interest in creation pleasant cities and municipalities. The Policy will operate in concert with other strategic documents in this area, especially with the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic, Principles of Urban Policy and Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2014-2020. I would like to thank all those who were involved in producing this Policy.

Ing. Karla Šlechtová
Minister of Regional Development

I. BASIC INFORMATION

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is a strategic document of national impact approved by the Government of the Czech Republic. The Government of the Czech Republic commissioned its preparation in 2011 by its resolution approving the Concept for Residential Housing of the Czech Republic 2020. The impetus for its creation was also provided by the call defined in the “Council conclusions on architecture: culture’s contribution to sustainable development (2008/C 319/05)”.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic defines the vision and fundamental objectives in the medium and long term horizon in a structure divided by individual themes. The Policy proposes measure to achieve these objectives, including definition of the responsible and cooperating institutions and timeframes for completing these measures. The Policy’s structure is based on the “Methodology for preparation of public strategies”.

Basic information in the form of a table:

Title:	The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic
Category:	Policy – strategic document defining vision and fundamental objectives in the medium and long term horizon
Commissioned by:	The Government of the Czech Republic
Guarantor:	Ministry of Regional Development
Coordinator:	Ministry of Regional Development
Cooperation:	Institute for Spatial Development
Users:	Public administration bodies, entities involved in development and construction, general public
Date of issue:	2014
Approved on:	14 January 2015
Approval form:	Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 22
Timeframe:	2015–2020 and beyond
Topic solved:	Support to the development of architecture and building culture as a principle improving the quality of built environment

II. PURPOSE AND USERS

II.1 Purpose

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic addresses support to be provided toward the development of architecture and building culture as a principle improving the quality of environment created by urban development and construction. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life for people by improving the quality of the environment in which they live. Buildings and their vicinity, public spaces and landscape are the fundamental building blocks of this environment.

II.2 Users

Humans have the lion's share of the responsibility for the formation of good quality environment created by urban development. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is intended for all those who are in any way involved in such development or who are influenced by it; this makes majority of the Czech population its target group. For this reason it has been formulated in a manner, which makes it accessible to the general public.

Most the measures proposed in this Policy will fall within the competence of central public administration bodies. Specifically, the Policy will be executed by the Ministries of Regional Development, Transport, Finance, Culture, Industry and Trade, Education, Youth and Sports, Interior, Agriculture and Environment. Cooperation will be required from institutions that are run by these Ministries, especially from the National Institute of Education, the National Institute for Further Education and the National Heritage Institute. Cooperation will be also requested from central administration bodies, namely the Office for the Protection of Economic Competition and the Czech Statistical Office. Additional contributors to the execution shall include the Institute for Spatial Development, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) and the Czech Science Foundation (GACR).

Local governments, whether on regional or municipal level, will be also heavily involved in implementation of this Policy and its measures and thus on its successful execution.

The achievement of the defined objectives is unthinkable without direct cooperation with both professional associations, i.e. Czech Chamber of Architects and Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction.

Certain measures will also need to be supported by other professional associations such as the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic and the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, the Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic or the Landscaping and Park Maintenance Association.

One of the key prerequisites for improving the building culture is education in schools. In order to enlarge general awareness about the significance of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscaping and building culture we will need to strengthen education and schooling in grammar and high schools and increase the prestige of vocational schools. The chief role in education of professional falls to universities, which should work closely with research institutions. Universities, in their role as cooperating organizations, include primarily the Czech Technical University in Prague - Faculty of Architecture and their branches (Research Centre for Industrial Heritage and Research Centre of the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University) and Faculty of Civil Engineering, Technical University in Brno - Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Civil Engineering, Technical University in Liberec - Faculty of Arts and Architecture, University of Mining - Technical University in Ostrava - Faculty of Civil Engineering, Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, ARCHIP (Architectural Institute in Prague), Mendel University in Brno – Faculty of Landscape Design, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague - Faculty of Agro-biology, Food and Natural Resources, Faculty of Environment, and other faculties and universities.

Purpose and Users

Non-governmental and non-profit organizations and publicly beneficial corporations also play a key role in many aspects, whether in implementing certain measures, promoting architecture and building culture and especially in their work with the public. These non-profit organizations include for instance Petr Parlář Society, ABF Foundation, NCA Foundation, Centre for Central European Architecture CCEA, Czech Landscape and Garden Society, Civic Association KRUH (Circle), Partnership Foundation, Proměny Foundation, Architects at School, Agora CE, Auto*Mat, reSITE, Arcus Foundation Fund associated with Czech Chamber of Architects and many others.

III. BASIC TERMS

Architecture is in general terms art of construction. It stretches from urbanism and landscape design to construction of buildings and down to design and interior architecture. In the narrower sense, architecture is concerned with building design and design of its surrounding, and as a result architecture produces a building bearing an artistic approach or opinion. Architecture needs to fulfil social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions and requirements and plays a fundamental role in efforts to improve the quality of environment shaped by development. Good architecture contributes to high quality of life and provides attractive, functional and harmonically designed buildings and environs; it expresses the common culture and identity and simultaneously emphasizes the specifics of its location; architecture stimulates preservation and development of social values.

Urbanism is an area of human activity whose mission is to create a harmonic, diverse and attractive environment in urban settings as well as within landscape. Urbanism is based on complex analysis and ecologically conceived synthesis of natural, historical and cultural values, reflection of social processes, local needs, traditions and customs as well as economic and technical resources. Urbanism represents a balanced synthesis of humanitarian, natural and technical perspectives, strengthened by cultural aspects and artistic approaches.

Spatial planning represents a set of rules, methods and tools, which ensure gradual and long-term fulfilment of agreed objectives in urbanistic, landscape and architectonic creation. Planning creates prerequisites for development and construction and for sustainable use of territory by providing complex solutions for usage and spatial arrangement of land.

Regional planning represents strategic planning. It defines concepts, directions and, as the case may be, projects for a balanced development of territory. Regional planning involves state, regional and municipal levels. It is important that spatial planning and regional planning documents conform to each other.

Building culture is a process and result of development created by human activity in the area of architecture and civil engineering. It covers planning, design and preparation of buildings, their urbanistic contextualization, actual construction, eventual reconstructions and finally use of erected buildings and their maintenance. It is a part of general culture and values, which are common to individuals and the entire society, and which are shared, respected, developed, protected and promoted.

Building culture encompasses architecture, civil engineering, urbanism, spatial planning, regional planning, landscape architecture, garden architecture, heritage preservation and last, but definitely not least creation of public spaces within the built up areas, starting with overall concept for the development thereof and ending with artistic detail. Besides usage, artistic concerns and sensations, building culture also has a number of social attributes.

Quality of building culture is directly proportional to the responsibility with which we approach preservation of values, such as cultural heritage sites and monuments, urbanistically valuable complexes and architectonically valuable buildings and sites, public spaces or undeveloped land - open country. Its value is mostly influenced not by the highest quality elements (i.e. by exceptional architectural or technical works, or landscaping), but by the omitted or neglected parts of the whole, which eventually may constitute a large part of the built environment.

Built environment is understood as the environment outside and inside buildings which is directly and regularly used in relation to them. This environment is created, used and maintained by man. Built environment includes buildings and their larger complexes, empty lots between buildings, open spaces including vegetation, pavements, paths, roads and other traffic infrastructure elements, all surfaced areas, gardens, buildings in landscape and the landscape itself, if it has been modified according to architectural principles.

Built environment reflects development of society as a whole as well as its material and spiritual standards. The fundamental value of such environment lies in its continuity and ability to responsibly react to the needs of life today and ability to change with grace according to changing needs of the society. Built environment needs to provide a sense of continuity and stability, facilitate experience of beauty and comfort and provide a rewarding framework for life of each man, woman and child.

Landscape has been defined by the European Landscape Convention as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

IV. RELATED LEGAL REGULATION

IV.1 European regulation

Architecture and building culture has become the focus of many international treaties and conventions lately. Among the most important belong the following:

- **Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 73/2000 Coll.) adopted in Granada on 3 October 1985. It entered in force in the Czech Republic on 1 August 2000. The chief objective of this convention is to protect and preserve architectural heritage in the form of monuments, groups of buildings and sites as the combined works of man and nature, including the environs of the protected sites.
- **European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage** (Revised) (communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 99/2000 Coll.), adopted on 16 January 1992 in Valletta. It entered in force in the Czech Republic on 23 September 2000. The objective of this convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.
- **European Landscape Convention**, signed on 20 October 2000 in Florence, became valid internationally on 1 March 2004. Its chief aim is to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. Its significance lies in establishing obligation to establish and implement considerate and sustainable landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, with the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities and to reflect the character of the landscape in formulating regional and spatial planning policies, urban planning and other sector-specific and cross-sector 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council 2013/55/EU on 20 November 2013.

IV.2 National legislation

The fundamental national regulatory framework for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is the **Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**, which in its Article 35 section 1 stipulates that “Everyone has the right to a favourable environment.” The same Article, Section 3 further specified 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 a law.”

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is based primarily on the following laws, valid as of the date hereof:

- Act No. 183/2006 Coll., on town and country planning and building code (Building Act)
- Regulation No. 499/2006 Coll., on building documentation
- Regulation No. 500/2006 Coll., on planning analytical materials, planning documentation, and planning activity evidence
- Regulation No. 501/2006 Coll., on general land use requirements
- Regulation No. 503/2006 Coll., on more detailed arrangement of planning proceedings, public law contract and planning measure
- Regulation No. 268/2009 Coll., on technical requirements applicable to buildings
- Regulation No. 398/2009 Coll., on general technical requirements for barrier-free use of buildings
- Act No. 360/1992 Coll., on execution of duties for authorized architects and authorized engineers and technicians active in construction sector
- Act No. 500/2004 Coll., Rules of Administrative Procedure
- Act No. 137/2006 Coll., on Public Procurement
- Regulation No. 230/2012 Coll., defining subject matter of public tenders for construction work and the extent of a list of construction works, supplies and services with bill of quantities



- Regulation No. 231/2012 Coll., defining business terms and conditions for public tenders for construction works
- Regulation No. 232/2012 Coll., on details and extent of justification of purposefulness for a public tender
- Act No. 20/1987 Coll., on national heritage preservation
- Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on protection of landscape and nature
- Act No. 406/2000 Coll., on energy management
- Regulation No. 78/2013 Coll., on energy efficiency of buildings

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is also related to professional regulation, for instance the Competition Procedure of the Czech Chamber of Architects.

V. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

V.1 European documents

The chief European documents, which instigated creation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic include:

- **Council resolution on architectural quality in urban and rural environments (2001/C 73/04)** dated 12 February 2001, which emphasizes perception of quality of urban and rural environments, landscape and cultural heritage. It defines architecture and promotes architecture and spatial planning. It further promotes architectural quality by means of exemplary public buildings, which should act as an example for private investors and developers. It also stresses the need to raise public awareness of architectural and urban values with due respect for cultural diversity and landscape culture.
- **Council conclusions on architecture: culture's contribution to sustainable development (2008/C 319/05)** dated 13 December 2008. This document requires that in order to achieve sustainable urban development we need to adopt an integrated and creative approach within the framework of which the same emphasis shall be placed on culture, economy, social aspects and the environment. It demands that particular attention is paid to architectural quality and diversity as aspects of cultural diversity and economic dynamics of towns and their attractiveness for tourism. It further calls to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning, landscaping and rehabilitation projects. It emphasizes the need to use existing built up land and buildings. It reminds of the need to raise awareness and promote education in architecture, urbanism and landscaping and it encourages innovation and experimentation in those fields. Member states are called onto to adopt measures relating to these conclusions and report on their implementation. Czech Republic complies with this call by, among other, adopting this Architecture and Building Culture Policy.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is also based on the following European documents:

- **European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)**, adopted in Potsdam in 1999 by the ministers of EU member states, which defines common objectives and concepts for the future development of the territory of the European Union. In relation to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic this document demands that natural resources and cultural heritage are conserved and reasonably managed and stresses problems relating to 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 Hannover in 2000. These principles refer, among other, to the significance of protecting and improving conditions and maintaining diversity of cultural heritage.
- **Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities**, adopted during an informal session of ministers on the theme of urban development and territorial cohesion in Leipzig on 24 and 25 May 2007, sets up basics for the following statement.
- **Marseille Statement on “Sustainable and Open City”** – this statement by the ministers in charge of urban development made in Marseille on 25 November 2008 focuses on sustainable and cohesive integrated urban development and climate change measures related to urban development.
- **Stockholm declaration** and call of 2–4 December 2009 requests that governments of European and other countries contribute, in the area of civil engineering, toward neutralizing the impact of carbon in new buildings by 2020, support compact human dwellings, cities and metropolitan areas with high quality of life and stimulate investment in improvement of quality of life by creating high quality environments created by construction and infrastructure, while recognizing the limited resources of the planet and emphasizing reduction of impact of civil engineering on the human environment.



- **The Charter of European Planning** ECTP-CEU (European Council of Spatial Planners - Conseil européen des urbanistes), approved on 22 April 2013 in Barcelona, which emphasizes, besides the need for cooperation of cities and regions, the need to strengthen identities of places, availability of services for all inhabitants or public participation in planning processes.
- COM (2013) 249: **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Green Infrastructure - Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital** of 6 May 2013, which defines what is a green infrastructure, its role in EU policies and in protection, preservation and improvement of the EU natural capital. It also defined further steps to be taken in order to develop green infrastructure.

V.2 National documents

The groundwork document for the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic on the national level is the **State Housing Policy Concept until 2020**, which had been approved by the government by its resolution No. 524 dated 13 July 2011. In its Chapter 3.3.3. Quality, priority "Quality of built environment, specifically in housing" the government defined a task to design draft policy for the development of building culture (architecture) and submit it to the government for approval.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic also reflects the "**Guidelines for preparation of Public Strategies**" as approved by the government on 2 May 2013. These Guidelines define the process for strategic document preparation and its general contents and structure.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic complies with the already approved Czech policies and shall be understood in those contexts, which mutually supports it and augment each especially in relation to:

- **Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic 2008** (approved by the government by its resolution No. 929 on 20 July 2009). The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic contributes to the fulfilment of the national priorities defined within the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic 2008, specifically to 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 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 be linked to the needs of economic, social and sustainable development. In some cases a targeted preservation of important localities is necessary; in other cases it is necessary to protect or renew whole parts of landscape. Landscape is a living unit in time that requires creative, yet sensible approach to balanced development in order to preserve its principal cultural, natural and utility values. Prevent decline of countryside as a consequence of lack of human intervention.

Article 28: In order to ensure 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 public and private sectors with general public.

The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic has links also to other national priorities, for instance those defined in Articles 16, 18 to 21, 23 to 27, 29 and 32.

- **Principles of Urban Policy** (approved by the government by its resolution No. 342 on 10 May 2010). The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic complies with the following principles defined in the Principles of Urban Policy:
 - Principle 1 The regional nature of urban policy,
 - Principle 2 Polycentric development of the settlement structure,
 - Principle 3 Strategic and integrated approach to urban development,
 - Principle 4 Promotion of the development of towns as development poles in a territory,
 - Principle 5 Care for the urban environment,
 - Principle 6 The deepening of cooperation, the creation of partnerships, and the exchange of experience in sustainable urban development.

Relevant Documents

- **Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2014–2020** (approved by the government by its resolution No. 344 on 15 May 2013). The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic has links primarily to the following priorities and measures defined in the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2014–2020:
 - Priority 1 Using the potential of development areas: measures 1.2, 1.4,
 - Priority 3 Improving quality of social environment in development areas: measures 3.1, 3.2,
 - Priority 4 Balanced development of stabilized territories: measures 4.1, 4.2,
 - Priority 5 Renewal of peripheral territories: measure 5.3,
 - Priority 6 Protection and sustainable use of natural resources in regions: measures 6.1, 6.5,
 - Priority 7 Protection of nature and landscape, prevention of natural disasters and resolution of their impact: measures 7.1, 7.2,
 - Priority 9 Supporting cooperation on local and regional level: measure 9.2.The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic respects these priorities and principles and works on them as shown in the text below.

The visions and objectives defined in the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic are supported by a number of other documents, such as:

- **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 Architecture Policies conference (EFAP) in Prague, which took place in 2009 during the Czech EU Presidency.
- **Architecture in Education Memorandum**, which came to being at the cross-sectoral meeting “Open architect’s think tank - OTTA“, which took place on 1 April 2014 in Pilsen and dealt with the theme “Architecture in primary education“.
- **National Action Plan supporting positive ageing 2013 - 2017** (approved by the government by its resolution No. 108 on 13 February 2013), which emphasizes, among other, significance of lifelong education. One of its visions focuses on quality environment and corresponding infrastructure, sufficient housing and public facilities allowing active involvement of senior citizens in community life.

VI. ANALYSIS

VI.1 European context

The debate on the significance of good quality built environment on the level of European institutions begun with clear aim in 1999 during the Finnish presidency of the EU when 15 Member State representatives and Norway met for the first time in an all-European meeting about architecture in order to formulate the fundamental objectives in the area of architecture, especially to define the need to ensure the right of the people to high-quality architecture and environment, the need to raise awareness about architectonic culture, to create a European consultation body for cooperation of Member States in architecture and finally, to ensure that good quality architecture is duly reflected in relevant European policies in other sectors.

The European consultation body for cooperation of Member States in architecture was established in 2000 in the form of the European Forum for Architectural Policies – EFAP. EFAP is an international network of professionals which encourages discussion, using instrument of the national architecture policies, sharing of expertise and promotes good architecture policies and culture of built environment. EFAP's main tasks include maintaining close cooperation between European Union Member States in the area of architecture and develop initiatives leading to support of architecture, landscaping and spatial planning within the framework of all European institutions. The Czech Chamber of Architects, and since 2010 also the Ministry of Regional Development, have become members of EFAP. Adoption of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic represents a completion of our membership in this institution. By preparing and adopting this document, Czech Republic finally joins the club of countries, whose governments have explicitly accepted their responsibility for the quality of urban environment and declared that they attach a corresponding importance to the creation of good quality urban and rural environment while respecting the national and local specifics of individual regions.

VI.2 Current status

The perception of building culture has become more and more intensive in all key documents on the European, national and regional level. We anticipate that the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic will adequately interconnect priorities, objectives and tasks relating to the built environment, which have so far been defined in strategies and concepts prepared by individual departments of state. Besides that, this document should also reflect global trends, ideas and priorities, which deal with buildings, urban settlements and the landscape.

Before now, the attention paid to the built environment as a whole has been inadequate. Previously, the practice focused on support of individual activities which lead to improvement of only individual parts of the built environment, such as improvement in housing estate conditions, panel-block buildings, rural ecclesiastic monuments, selected historical monuments, some transportation infrastructure or development proposed within the framework of complex land consolidation etc. The Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic attempts to address this area in a complex manner, from a broad spectre of perspectives.

VI.3 Results of previous analyses

Prior to drafting the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and within the framework of the document entitled "Improving quality of the building culture - European Forum for Architectural Policies" from March 2011 we have reviewed architecture policies and similar documents from selected European countries (Finland, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) as well as those requirements arising from other European Union documents.

Another step in preparation was completion of the “Analysis of Building Culture in the Czech Republic.” This analysis was based on a study concerning built environments and reflected relevant European documents and experience. The subject of the Analysis was to search for the most significant problems in this area according to the degree of their exigency. The basic thematic areas have been defined and divided onto parts on the basis of their definition and nature of problem and its analysis. The important part of the Analysis was evaluation of the prior conceptual approaches, related measures and grants adopted by various departments of state (please refer to Chapter 4 of the document “Analysis of Building Culture in the Czech Republic” and Annex 3 thereto – Analysis of conceptual approaches and subsidy titles).

The Analysis of Building Culture in the Czech Republic defined besides others the following problematic areas:

1. Accessibility to basic civic facilities is insufficiently observed, there are no defined standards, which would confirm, when met, that the availability and accessibility to such facilities is sufficient.
2. Linkages to broader urban environment are sometimes omitted or public spaces are not sufficiently defined when delineating new parcels. Parcels generally outlive individual buildings.
3. Public spaces are often not perceived as one interlinked whole and system.
4. Public spaces are physically fragmented by transport infrastructure.
5. Buildings do not sufficiently respect the context of their environment.
6. Identification and assessment of significance of urban and architectonic values is often missing.
7. Aesthetic qualities cannot be achieved from the outside, by regulatory instruments (as opposed to issues relating to integration of buildings into their environment).
8. The practice of public tenders for design and construction of buildings as well as for spatial planning focuses predominantly on lowest price without offering any guarantees, that the good quality of the planning or designing process or construction will be at all achieved.
9. The continuing expansions into countryside has a negative influence on energy efficiency of settlements as well as reducing acreage of high quality arable land (1st and 2nd category of protection within the agricultural land fund), which has a chief influence on ensuring and maintaining competitiveness of the Czech agriculture in comparison with developed EU countries.
10. High operational costs of buildings results from inappropriate technical solutions of buildings and their operational aspects, as well as poor quality construction and insufficient maintenance.
11. Energy efficiency of buildings is perceived mostly as an operational and technical issue, without considering energy efficiency during construction, or during complex reconstructions or demolition.
12. Lifelong education in areas relating to building culture and quality of built environment focuses merely on professionals.
13. Education in primary and secondary schools should expound on themes such as aesthetics of applied arts, architecture, functioning of urban environment or building culture.
14. There is no specialized research organization in the Czech Republic that would focus on architecture and spatial planning.

The Analysis of Building Culture in the Czech Republic also identified the following measures, which need to be elaborated in the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic:

- a. Support protection of soil and water, implement land consolidation and related investment into landscape, which may have also a significant impact on stopping floods and soil erosion.
- b. Support use of abandoned buildings and complexes, motivate investors and developers by well-aimed incentives (lower taxation, subsidies) especially in reconstructions and renovations.
- c. Prepare planning studies in order to formulate positive land development visions and verify alternative solutions for land subject to transformation.
- d. Use planning documentation to ensure access to public spaces, delimit new public spaces, ensure functional relation between public spaces and buildings in vicinity, ensure appropriate density of population and coordination of a system of open public spaces.
- e. Use planning analytical materials of municipalities to collect and evaluate relevant data regarding public spaces.
- f. Take into consideration the scale of public spaces.
- g. Determine the standard for good architecture using high-quality public buildings, also with regard to quality of construction and urbanistic integration.



- h. Consider restoration or introduction of independent professional institutions (departments) – chief architects for metropolitan and city regions, or for certain selected municipalities with extended administrative powers.
- i. Use architectonic and urbanistic competitions to a larger degree.
- j. Professionalize contracting of public tenders in formal, legal, content and professional areas.
- k. Support education of the public, along with the primary and secondary schools, and influence public opinion through media, which is a fundamental aspect for creation of qualified demand.
- l. Besides education, use examples of good practice for the purposes of raising awareness and enlightenment.
- m. Award recognition and praise to high quality and economic building projects having excellent energy, construction or architectonic value.
- n. Support research focusing on appreciation of good architecture and high quality urban environment.

The Analysis of Building Culture also included a parallel quality-oriented survey in the form of structured interviews with selected expert representing the chief professions involved in building culture and built environments. These interviews involved architects, urbanists, architecture scientists and art historians, landscape designers, traffic engineers, media representatives, municipal officers and elected representatives and civic society representatives (see Analysis of Building Culture, Annex 2 Evaluation of importance and pressing themes by respondents of a sociological survey). The respondents considered the theme of buildings' integration into their environment and context as the most important one, along with creation of public spaces. The theme of spatial arrangement of urban areas has been assessed as a key theme; education and promotion of the domain has been pronounced very important. Aesthetic quality of building was ranked as significant, nevertheless not among the pressing problems. Theme of energy efficiency was assessed as an important part of building culture, but not considered a theme of priority importance.

The Analysis of Building Culture is available for download at the Ministry of Regional Development website in Czech version only.

Additional materials serving as a base for drafting the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic also included documentation prepared by the Czech Chamber of Architects, by the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction and by the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic. Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic prepared materials for the theme "Structure and spatial arrangement of urban settlements". Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction and Czech Chamber of Architects prepared a document dealing with quality of buildings. These materials include justification for potential measures ensuring resolution of identified problems, especially in terms of public administration activities. These documents were used as a basis for formulating the below specified text, objectives and measures.

Themes relating to education were prepared using the cross-sectoral meeting within the framework of Open architect's think-tank taking place in Pilsen on 1 April 2014 and the Architecture in Education Memorandum.

VII. VISION

The underlying vision of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic is to facilitate improvement of people's lives by improving the quality of environment in which they live. Its fundamental objective is to support architecture and building culture and thus the quality of built environments.

Fulfilment of individual objectives will lead to:

- Better architecture,
- Economic buildings suitably integrated in its environs,
- Hospitable public space,
- Harmonical cities and rural settlements, including surrounding landscape,
- Respect for local specificities in Czech regions,
- Perception of architecture as a current and future part of our cultural heritage.

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

- Support education for professional and lay public,
- Contribute to stimulating interest of inhabitants in the quality of environment in which they live.

The chief principle is to emphasize and promote the need to perceive build environment as a complex issue, i.e. not only with respect to individual buildings but with respect to their mutual interplay and spatial arrangement, to relation between existing architectonic and urbanistic value and to the influence on the landscape. This complex perception of the environment will then need to be projected into the development concept as a whole, concept of the individual components of the environment and to the urbanistic, architectonic and artistic detail.

Integrated approach must be applied to solve problems, and this approach shall balance and interconnect requirements as defined by individual bodies and professions. Architecture, urbanism and spatial planning must have an integrating role in the entire process of sustainable development.

It needs to be emphasized that the environment needs to be user friendly, comfortable for man, well maintained, functional, safe, diverse and beautiful. Good quality and aesthetic environment influences and cultivates everyone and their behaviour. Culture demonstrates itself also by how society looks after its environment.

Good planning of urban areas, settlements and landscape brings investment and increases economic growth, while simultaneously improving our cultural standards. In the long term horizon the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic will contribute to reduced cost of building financed from public budgets while these buildings should also act as examples of good practice for the private sector. Measures directed at education and awareness-raising or research will strengthen knowledge that is applicable to planning and building and which will comply with the requirement for innovation and further expansion of knowledge economy. Development of architecture and civil engineering will have positive effect on Czech economy as well as indirect effect in connection with related services. High quality built environment will support development of other areas, such as tourism.



VIII. THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

In order to efficiently resolve issues relating to problematic themes in architecture, building culture and built environment it is desirable to adopt an approach which deals with all groups of objectives relating to institutional environment, availability of high quality professional work and demand for quality thus offered. The entire issue therefore involves a number of public administration bodies and professions: besides regional development it involves also education, culture, environment, industry, agriculture and transport.

The following pages define, for each theme (themes are grouped into three areas), the necessary objectives whose implementation will lead to improvement in the quality of environment created by building and other human activities. Proposed measures ensuring achievement of these objectives, including identification of responsible and cooperating institutions and related timeframes are defined in the implementation plan of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic in Chapter IX.



Landscape and settlements

Theme 1 – Landscape and settlements arrangement

Landscape, settlement structure and spatial arrangement of settlements determine the primary conditions for good quality built environment. Long term concept is the key for sustainable development of settlements and landscape. Specific nature of settlement structure in the Czech Republic and in its individual regions, including the existing architectonic and urbanistic values, must be consistently reflected in analyses and proposals.

Villages, small towns, cities and metropolitan areas must be arranged so as to ensure that all its inhabitants have reasonable access to all kinds of public infrastructure, i.e. to public facilities, sports and recreational areas, transport and technical infrastructure, public spaces and the adjoining countryside. The principle of adequate parity of access to all kinds of infrastructure for all citizen of the European Union is enshrined in the European Spatial Development Perspective (1999). Access to infrastructure for citizens is related, among other, to the cohesion of inhabitants.

Spatial arrangement of settlements and agglomerations has significant consequences for their economic sustainability, because it considerably influences cost of travel and time lost in transit as well as operational and maintenance costs of technical infrastructure networks. Primarily, development of cities and rural municipalities should be promoted within the built up areas, by transforming unused sites, and by focused revitalization of abandoned and neglected areas. At the same time, values of undeveloped areas as well as landscape as a whole should be protected. In planning urbanised settlements it is important, bearing in mind the unique nature of each and every site, to create conditions for mixed use of the territory for housing, commerce and services instead of large mono-functional areas which generate inadequate demand for transportation.

Plans addressing spatial arrangement of territories must be created in coordinated cooperation of all involved professions, including architects and urbanists, landscape designers, specialists dealing with technical and transport infrastructure, demographers, sociologists, economist and other professions.

Objective 1.1

Positively influence development of settlement structure.

Objective 1.2

Define, protect and develop long term urban concept of settlements including, among other, their functional, areal and spatial disposition.

Objective 1.3

Minimize disproportional and inappropriate expansion of settlements into adjoining landscape. Ensure consistent use of built up areas by focused revitalization of abandoned and neglected built up sites and unused buildings.

Objective 1.4

Ensure adequate access to public infrastructure in all settlements.

Objective 1.5

Strengthen planning, particularly consistently use the planning documentation and materials as well as land consolidation, in reclamation and creation of landscapes.



Theme 2 – Public spaces

Public spaces inherently affect the quality of built environment. Availability of attractive, easily accessible and safe public spaces is one of the prerequisites for successful functioning of urban and rural communities. One of the necessary conditions of easy accessibility is barrier-free accessibility of public spaces.

Public spaces allow people to meet and communicate with each other and create a prerequisite for cohesion of the community. Public spaces provide forum for social, cultural, leisure time and economic activities and their layout, form and aesthetic appeal determine the frequency and culture of interpersonal contact. Public areas include, in addition to streets, squares, passages and other publicly accessible areas as well parks, public vegetation and publicly accessible gardens. In the hierarchy of public spaces, both major city spaces (such as squares, parks, shopping streets, waterfronts) that affect a huge number of visitors, as well as small community spaces (e.g. small squares, commons, small parks, etc.), where there exists a stronger link between the user and "his" space, are important.

Through daily contact with people, public spaces and their appearance and form adversely or positively affect the lives of people and their outlook on the current building culture. Public sector has a powerful tool in terms of its plans for public spaces and the manner in which it executes their implementation. Participation of citizens in planning and implementation of public spaces can significantly contribute to the identification with the area as well as strengthen the links within the community. Public participation in the projects supports forming of relationships to the environment and prevents vandalism while ensuring long-term interests, protection and sustainability of buildings and public spaces.

It is necessary to provide such solutions for public spaces, which are based on the needs of their users while taking into account demographics, social changes, technological development, natural conditions and climate change.

Attention should not be focused solely on creating public spaces in the development areas. The key is to address improvement and maintenance of existing public spaces and create new public spaces within built-up areas and in transformation areas.

Similar to planning and designing the buildings, planning of public spaces must be implemented in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated manner. Proposed solutions must involve a whole range of professions with the goal to balance and reconcile the needs and interests of individual participants in the design process of the public space and to achieve synergy. Public space solutions must be created on the basis of a comprehensive conceptual design.

Objective 2.1

Ensure sufficient availability of public spaces within the settlement, easy access to such spaces and their mutual interconnection.

Objective 2.2

Ensure good quality of public spaces using integrated and complex solutions.

Theme 3 – Integration of buildings in their environs

Sensitive integration of buildings in their environs is a result of respect shown to spatial relations, the atmosphere of the site and the structure of the existing buildings as well as to related cultural and natural heritage. Linkage to the existing cultural context, urban values and initial natural conditions of the site, including integration of the building into the landscape and appropriate landscaping respecting the environment is an important aspect for the continuity of the nature and character of the area as well as for social acceptability of buildings.

Cooperation between the public investor and local authorities is crucial. Synergies should be drawn from finding integrated solutions and use of local knowledge of the area.

The existing buildings form wealth that must be protected and developed. Therefore, new construction must respect and cultivate the existing environment and be based on its original values. The basic objective is to uphold continuity of the character of the site, urban fabric, terrain configuration, interplay between the settlement and landscape dominants and their compositional relationships and to appropriately develop the identity of the place. Identity forms one of the primary qualities of built environment and allows residents to identify with the place where they live, and may become a significant competitive advantage of the area.

Existence of a person or an advisory body, in the position of the chief architect of the city or region, who is responsible for the character and quality of the built environment, is of great benefit.

Objective 3.1

Ensure linkage of new buildings to the character and structure of valuable existing urban fabric, respect and develop cultural and building heritage and landscape values.

Objective 3.2

Protect and strengthen character of elements creating local, city-wide or regional identity and support the character and uniqueness of the area.

Objective 3.3

Assess and strengthen the role of chief (city / regional) architects.



BUILDINGS

Theme 4 – Tenders

Quality of the project is essential for good built environment. In the last several years the contract price has been the main criterion for selecting firms in tenders to draft urban plans and building projects and to provide construction and maintenance work. This one-sided orientation has often resulted in inadequate and poorly prepared plans and projects and adversely affected the quality and durability of structures thus built. This creates problems of long-term nature and imposes disproportionate costs on use of individual buildings and entire settlements. When selecting contractors in tenders for planning and project documentation that may affect building culture the main parameter should be quality and price cannot be the sole driving criterion.

When determining the price of a building it is necessary to evaluate the life cycle cost of the building, not only the building costs but also costs to be spent on its operation, maintenance and replacement costs of certain structures and structural elements, and possibly cost of removal of the building. The ability to take into account the life cycle cost of a building should be taken into account when selecting the architect, designer and their teams of specialists.

Architectural and urban competitions and design competition contribute to the increase in the quality of the built environment.

Buildings financed from public funds should become examples of architectural and building quality, i.e. examples of quality and efficient preparation, efficient implementation and subsequent maintenance.

Objective 4.1

Demand the highest quality in tenders for public works.

Objective 4.2

Use architectural competitions and design contests in preparation and implementation of buildings financed from public budgets.

Theme 5 – Design, construction, life cycle and sustainability of buildings

The aim of a good quality project is, on one hand, an aesthetically valuable work and, on the other hand, a building that will physically and morally satisfy, both today and over the years, the changing needs of its users. It is therefore desirable that buildings meet high demand with regard to their functionality and aesthetic appearance as well as have a good relationship to their environs, its cultural and natural values and the surrounding landscape while respecting principles of sustainability. Open areas are directly related to built environment and these open areas must also be sensitively created and maintained.

Aesthetic quality of a building forms a part of its architectural quality and represents mainly the visual and compositional quality of the building in relation to its symbolic and cultural importance. Evaluation of an aesthetic quality of a building is always influenced by feelings of pleasure or displeasure of each individual and is therefore subject to individual experience and associated with individual perception. Aesthetic evaluation is also subject to cultural and temporal context in which individual evaluators exist. It is therefore possible in most cases to reach a certain degree of social consensus about the aesthetic value or lack thereof in buildings.

Another aspect related to the quality of buildings, besides their aesthetic value, is their integration into the environment, their efficiency (internal layout, variability and possibility of conversion) in harmony with the form, its social value (benefit for community development), technical solution (use of materials and technologies, quality of workmanship, durability) and last but not least their easy maintenance and low operating costs and energy demands, which have recently become more important than the actual building cost. The high cost of operating the building may be the result of inappropriate technical solution or improper proposal for its operations at the design stage, as well as poor building construction or neglect of maintenance.

Mechanical resistance and stability, fire safety, protection of human and animal health, healthy living and environmental conditions, noise protection, safety in use and barrier-free solution all belong among the primary technical requirements for today's buildings. Designers must consider alternatives and demands of construction, operation, use, maintenance, service life and possible removal of the building in their work.

For the quality of environment and life in urban and rural areas it is crucial to care for the existing buildings and therefore it is necessary to focus on maintenance of the already existing buildings, and consistently try to revitalize or convert existing buildings, sites and areas that have lost their original use. When reconstructing buildings it is necessary to pay attention to preventing degradation by improper interference. During construction work one should seek to preserve and develop the valuable original architectural, structural and technical elements of buildings.

Objective 5.1

Ensure project documentation in the highest possible quality.

Objective 5.2

Pay increased attention to the economy of construction, operation and maintenance of buildings.



EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND RESEARCH

Theme 6 – Education

The quality of buildings and creation of built environment is a result of qualified demand on the part of the client (builder, investor, municipality or other public entity involved in urban development) and a high-quality professional performance on the part of an architect, civil engineer or urban planner and general contractor. Another major factor significantly affecting the quality of the built environment is the qualified public sector officers who determine the quality of planning and decision-making in this area. Czech Chamber of Architects and Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction are tasked with maintaining a high level of professionalism of authorized persons. Theme of education, awareness and research applies to professions related to building culture and built environment and to the authorities and the public.

In order to ensure a high degree of expertise, professionals involved at all levels must be properly prepared for their job; from experts in architecture, urban and building design, civil engineering technicians to craftsmen involved in implementation (construction and assembly) work. This means a university degree for designers and architects and secondary education in case of technicians and landscape gardeners and vocational training in construction and landscape work professions (apprenticeships).

Another target group, where education should be focused are public officials. Here, the qualifications needed to achieve a better architecture and building culture and built environment may be described as a synthesis of expertise, ethical qualities and independence of authority associated with the exercise of services in the public interest.

In order for the public to start demanding high-quality architectural and urban design and built environment, as well as garden and landscape work, we must make every effort to educate them in these areas from early age so that they are able to recognize the value and quality of the work, built environments and well-performed construction. Every citizen should be also aware of their rights in relation to spatial planning in order to feel co-responsible not only for the state of the environment in their immediate surroundings, but also in order to be able to contribute to the protection of the rights of society. Architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, building culture and awareness of the quality of the built environment are all topics that need to be taught in a reasonable extent already at primary and secondary schools. Preschool education is essential for forging a relationship to a place and to form a basis for imagination, spatial and aesthetic perception and creativity.

Lifelong education is very important to maintain awareness of the value of the environment in which we live, specifically aimed at different target groups (planners, designers, public administrators, elected bodies in towns and villages, professional and general public). Advancement of knowledge in fields of architecture and building culture can be an important contribution to quality of life and feeling of fulfilment.

Government, professional organizations and educational institutions and even non-profit organizations need to participate in concert in training focused on architecture, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and quality of the built environment.

Objective 6.1

Expand continuous and lifelong education of public officers in architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and in other fields relating to construction as well as in building and related regulation and in the area of participation and communication with the public.

Objective 6.2

Expand the system of further education of planners and designers and other persons involved in construction sector.

Objective 6.3

Support and develop education and awareness-raising in architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and good quality environment at all schooling levels.

Theme 7 – Awareness and media

Awareness in architecture and building culture should be focused not only on professionals, but especially on the general public. Awareness-building is crucial for potential builders.

Media play a major role in achieving a turning point in the building culture. The media have recently devoted quite some room to problems related to housing, and to a lesser extent, to problems related to urban environment and landscape. The quality of this theme is different and usually corresponds to the overall level of the medium in which it is presented.

Examples of good practice need to be used in the media in order to increase demand for quality of building culture. It is necessary to promote discussion on building culture and present examples of well-implemented projects in the media to this effect.

Objective 7.1

Emphasize wider presentation of topics of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering in public media.

Objective 7.2

Promote examples of good practice of building including high-quality subsequent maintenance of the completed work.

Objective 7.3

Raise awareness among the professional and lay public about the need to apply a complex approach to the environment created by construction and other human activities involving buildings, urban environment and landscape, including their impact on environment and humans. Support forging bonds between people and the environment in which they live.



Theme 8 – Research and development

Development of the field and thus the quality of the built environment will improve if research activities focused on the fields of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture, and their links with social sciences are supported.

Architecture, engineering activities and related technical consultancy play an important role in research and development and employ large numbers of professionals. Large sums are spent on research and development in this area.

The objective is to strengthen permanent institutional research activities in the field of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture, namely creation of favourable conditions for stabilization and development of teams, which will focus on these fields and issues and consequently will be able to effectively present their findings. It should be emphasized that the research results must be applicable in practice and could be translated into education in these areas.

The latest animation, simulation, imaging, digitization, information and communication technologies should be utilized in research and development to achieve maximum effect.

Objective 8.1

Support and develop research activities focusing on architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Objective 8.2

Utilize research and development results in practice.

IX. IMPLEMENTATION

Following onto the visions and strategic objectives set in the preceding chapters, this chapter defines **measures**, which should lead to their fulfilment. For each measure this chapter determines

- Responsibility – a guarantor, who is responsible for execution of the measure;
- Cooperation – institutions which need to act in concert to fulfil the measure;
- Timeframe – year by which end the measure should be effectively in operation.

For better orientation we have assigned the defined measures to individual objectives repeated from the previous chapter.

Fulfilment of measures defined within this Policy shall be responsibility of the guarantors assigned for each measure. The guarantors are exclusively public authorities.

Measures will be executed between 2015 and 2020. For some measures the timeframe has been defined as “continuous”, meaning that they should start without delay and should be fulfilled continuously.

Fulfilment of proposed measures will be continuously monitored and evaluated. Regular bi-annual reports shall be prepared in cooperation with the involved ministries and institutions to provide evaluation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. If required, the interim performance reports may be submitted to the government; reports will always be published on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development, in order to ensure public scrutiny of performance defined here. As stated in the last proposed measure, the Ministry of Regional Development will by the end of 2020 prepare and submit to the Government a report on the evaluation of the performance achieved under the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, including a possible proposal for updates of the document for the future.

The proposed measures will have an impact on public budgets. Some measure will be implemented within the framework of activities that are carried out by the individual ministries without increased demands for funding (i.e. creation of methodologies). The second large group consists of activities that would be performed even in absence of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic; this Policy will however have an essential impact on improving the results in those activities (i.e. procurement of planning documents). Some measures also contain proposals for use of tools that already have committed expenditure in the budget and therefore will not trigger new demands on public budgets.

For several measures it is not yet possible to estimate the costs of their implementation. These will depend on the extent in which measure will be applied and at what intensity. Specifically, this concerns measures 2.1.5, 2.1.6 and 2.1.7, which require planning studies, regulatory plans and agreements on land subdivision to stabilize allotment of built-up areas. For similar reasons, costs of measures 2.2.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.1 and 5.1.1 cannot be specified.

The following table provides an estimate of apparent increased funding demands on the state budget. Of the total amount of 6.1 million CZK between 2015 and 2020, CZK 3.0 million will be provided to the Ministry of Regional Development, 2.1 million CZK to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, CZK 0.5 million to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and CZK 0.5 million to organizational units of the state bodies.

That total of CZK 6.1 million, broken down by individual chapters, includes CZK 0.5 million for the campaign under measure 5.2.1, CZK 2.1 million to the increased costs of training for teachers and the necessary teaching materials and teaching support under measures 6.3.4 and 6.3.5, CZK 2.5 million to support cost of competitions according to measure 7.2.1 and CZK 1.0 million toward the cost of implementing the system of uniform presentation of grants and support for the publication of research results according to measure 8.1.2 and 8.2.3.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Demands	1.0 million CZK	0.5 million CZK	1.0 million CZK	1.2 million CZK	1.2 million CZK	1.2 million CZK	6.1 million CZK

Projected budgetary requirements must be funded by central government authorities within the scope of their competences from chapters of expenditure within the approved limit.

LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENTS

Theme 1 – Landscape and settlements arrangement

Objective 1.1

Positively influence development of settlement structure.

Measure 1.1.1

Prepare an analysis of trends in the development of structure of cities and municipalities in CR since 1989. Identify positive and negative trends arising, for example, as a consequence of investment in the territory, and the potential to influence these trends by effective spatial planning.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: TACR, IfSD
Timeframe: 2016

Measure 1.1.2

Prepare an analysis on influence of new technologies to settlement structure and their cooperation in the settlement structure.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: TACR
Timeframe: 2016

Measure 1.1.3

Based on results of Measure 1.1.1 and Measure 1.1.2 prepare guidelines determining method how to positively influence development of structure of cities and municipalities in CR, structure of individual settlements and their potential cooperation in the settlement structure. Consider diversity of settlements in the regional planning and define suitable approaches accordingly on regional and alternatively on national level. Emphasize cooperation of the core cities and adjoining territories in planning metropolitan development areas.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, universities
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 1.1.4

Project the results achieved in Measure 1.1.1, Measure 1.1.2 and Measure 1.1.3 into the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic and into strategic plans and spatial planning documentations.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Timeframe: 2020

Measure 1.1.5

Assess the status and development of settlement structure in CR within the framework of national planning analytic materials.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, AURP, Public administration authorities in regions, universities
Timeframe: continuously since 2017

Measure 1.1.6

Determine and apply requirements for adaptation of settlements and arrangement of landscape arising from the “Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in CR” and “Strategy for Protection against Negative Impacts of Flooding and Erosion in the Czech Republic using Natural Methods.”

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MoE, MoA, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, universities

Timeframe: 2020

Objective 1.2

Define, protect and develop long term urban concept of settlements including, among other, their functional, areal and spatial disposition.

Measure 1.2.1

Define, for individual settlements and especially for the cities, a long term urban concept within the spatial planning documentation, that reflects, among other, the role of the settlement in the wider settlement structure, respects values of the surrounding landscape, urbanistic values and the character of the settlement, diversity and variety of the environs as well as safety and health of its inhabitants and economic prosperity.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities

Cooperation: MRD, Public administration authorities in regions, AURP, universities

Timeframe: continuously

Measure 1.2.2

Assess impact on the defined urban concept for all initiations and proposals to change the local plan.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities

Cooperation: MRD

Timeframe: continuously

Measure 1.2.3

Prepare and publish easily readable methodology describing urbanistic principles, which will present good examples of basic urbanistic composition principles within the spatial planning documentation.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: IfSD, AURP, universities

Timeframe: 2016

Objective 1.3

Minimize disproportional and inappropriate expansion of settlements into adjoining landscape. Ensure consistent use of built up areas by focused revitalization of abandoned and neglected built up sites and unused buildings.

Measure 1.3.1

Use primarily the reserves within existing built-up areas (especially areas that can be transformed) when drafting urban plans. Limit expansion of settlement into countryside and limit related seizing of farm land, especially land that enjoys the highest protection status within the agriculture land fund. This measure should be applied while reflecting local specifics and used both for residential and industrial / logistics buildings.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities

Cooperation: MRD, MIT, MoA, MoE

Timeframe: continuously

Measure 1.3.2

Verify the possibilities of support provided toward revitalization of abandoned and neglected built-up areas (abandoned industrial and agricultural complexes, mines, abandoned military complexes etc.) with the aim of motivating investors to restore them and use for different purposes. Consider potential tax breaks for such areas.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MF, MoE, MIT, MC, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities

Timeframe: 2018

Objective 1.4

Ensure adequate access to public infrastructure in all settlements.

Measure 1.4.1

Create standards for accessibility and capacities of public facilities (especially for education, social services, family care, healthcare, culture, physical education and sports, public administration, security of the population) while reflecting demographic change in the society. Use already existing documents and materials, such as "Scenario of the Strategy for Public Services." Coordinate these standards with the "Regional Development Strategy of the CR 2014-2020."

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, AURP, universities
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 1.4.2

Within the planning analytical materials analyse accessibility of public infrastructure from housing areas. Findings relating to insufficient accessibility thereto reflect within non-statutory planning materials in definition of problems to be solved and further solve in spatial planning documentation. Reflect cooperation of settlements in utilization of public facilities.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, MoA, MIT, MT
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 1.4.3

Push for poly-functional use of town and city centers in the spatial planning documentation. Coordinate development of service centers of wider significance at regional level.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, MT, MIT
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 1.5

Strengthen planning, particularly consistently use the planning documentation and materials as well as land consolidation, in reclamation and creation of landscapes.

Measure 1.5.1

Consistently coordinate planning documentation and land consolidation.

Responsibility: MoA
Cooperation: MRD, MoE
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 1.5.2

Prepare a methodology for delimiting green infrastructure (including vegetation systems, water courses and lakes, permeability of landscape and public spaces) within the framework of spatial planning documentation.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MoE, MoA, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, CCA, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: 2018

Measure 1.5.3

Prepare a methodology for the concept of landscape arrangement.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MoE, IfSD, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: 2016

Theme 2 – Public spaces

Objective 2.1

Ensure sufficient availability of public spaces within the settlement, easy access to such spaces and their mutual interconnection.

Measure 2.1.1

Create standards for accessibility to public spaces.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, AURP, universities
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 2.1.2

Identify values, uses, functionality and accessibility to public spaces in planning analytical materials.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, IfSD, CCA, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.1.3

Project the conclusions from evaluation of public spaces in the planning analytical materials into drafting spatial planning documentation.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.1.4

Structure and hierarchize the system of public spaces in settlements in local plans or planning studies.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, IfSD, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.1.5

Use planning studies to verify systems of public spaces, including public vegetation systems and their specific design.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.1.6

Use regulatory plans to stabilize proposed parcelling of buildable areas while defining public spaces.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.1.7

Parcelling of buildable areas solve on the basis of a complex proposal including determination of public spaces. Not allow partial use of such areas without a complex solution of the entire area. After approval of the complex proposal, use of parcelling agreements is recommended.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP
Timeframe: continuously



Measure 2.1.8

Submit an amendment of the Building Act relating to parcelling agreements, which will not require approval of all land owners and which will introduce tools for swapping land. Utilize experience from complex land consolidation projects.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, AURP
Timeframe: 2015

Measure 2.1.9

Use planning tools to stop building complexes which negate permeability of the territory.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 2.2

Ensure good quality of public spaces using integrated and complex solutions.

Measure 2.2.1

Use architectonic and urbanistic competitions for major public spaces whose modification or creation will be financed from public budgets.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.2.2

Public spaces shall be solved in a complex manner, including related transport and technical infrastructure, vegetation and its linkage to landscape and the manner of drainage of precipitation and drainage of surfaced areas.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.2.3

Use planning tools to push for adequate use and volume of buildings surrounding public spaces. Maintain genius loci of the given area.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, MC, CCA, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.2.4

Prepare modifications of public spaces with the participation of the public.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 2.2.5

Improve maintenance of the existing public spaces and their cultivation, involve the public in these processes.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Theme 3 – Integration of buildings in their environs

Objective 3.1

Ensure linkage of new buildings to the character and structure of valuable existing urban fabric, respect and develop cultural and building heritage and landscape values.

Measure 3.1.1

Prepare methodology focusing on the character and structure of built areas in local plans.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MC, NHI, IfSD, AURP, universities
Timeframe: 2018

Measure 3.1.2

Define character and structure of existing and proposed built areas in local plans.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities
Cooperation: MRD
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 3.2

Protect and strengthen character of elements creating local, city-wide or regional identity and support the character and uniqueness of the area.

Measure 3.2.1

Verify the possibility to amend regulation No. 500/2006 Coll. in order to reflect phenomena relating to identification of buildings, places, natural elements or public spaces, which create local, city-wide or regional identity.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MoE, MC, NHI, IfSD, AURP, universities
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 3.2.2

Prepare methodology for analyses of urban or architectonic character of important locations within the built environment in the planning analytical materials.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MC, NHI, AURP, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, universities
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 3.2.3

Analyse urban and alternatively architectonic character of important locations within the built environment in planning analytical materials.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Cooperation: MRD
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 3.2.4

Prepare methodology for analyses of composition relations in planning analytical materials.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MC, NHI, IfSD, AURP, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, universities
Timeframe: 2016

Measure 3.2.5

Analyse composition relations in built areas and in landscape within planning analytical materials.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, MC, NHI, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously



Objective 3.3

Assess and strengthen the role of chief (city / regional) architects.

Measure 3.3.1

Verify position and powers of chief (city / regional) architects, their competences and responsibilities.
Verify the need for potential legislative solution.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MoI, CCA, CCET, AURP, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, non-profit organizations

Timeframe: 2016



BUILDINGS

Theme 4 – Tenders

Objective 4.1

Demand the highest quality in tenders for public works.

Measure 4.1.1

Ensure that tenders for spatial planning documentation and building projects (including landscaping) prioritize quality. Price of the spatial planning documentation or building project shall not be the sole criterion for selection.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 4.1.2

Prepare methodology allowing definition, beside the building cost, of operational costs of buildings (including energy efficiency) as well as maintenance cost and cost of potential demolition of buildings.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MIT, CCA, CCET, universities
Timeframe: 2018

Objective 4.2

Use architectural competitions and design contests in preparation and implementation of buildings financed from public budgets.

Measure 4.2.1

Architectonic competitions and design contests should be primarily used in commissioning major buildings funded from public budgets.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 4.2.2

Continue in methodological endeavours and verify expediency of a methodology for tendering buildings in the form of design contest (also for small-scale tenders).

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: CCA, CCET
Timeframe: 2016



Theme 5 – Design, construction, life cycle and sustainability of buildings

Objective 5.1

Ensure project documentation in the highest possible quality.

Measure 5.1.1

Push for application of performance standards (time needed) in preparing spatial planning documentation and project documentations. Use fee systems; utilize foreign expertise with their application. Obtain legislative support for fee systems.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, Office for Protection of Economic Competition, professional associations

Timeframe: 2018

Measure 5.1.2

Prepare and implement information campaign on the importance and need for preparing documentation to perform construction works.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA, CCET

Timeframe: 2016

Objective 5.2

Pay increased attention to the economy of construction, operation and maintenance of buildings.

Measure 5.2.1

Prepare and implement information campaign on the importance and need for revisions of technical equipment in buildings.

Responsibility: MIT

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, universities

Timeframe: 2017

Measure 5.2.2

Prepare a proposal for a system for obtaining primary data on the economics of implementation, operation and maintenance of buildings financed from public budgets.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MIT, Czech Statistical Office, CCA, CCET, universities

Timeframe: 2019

EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND RESEARCH

Theme 6 – Education

Objective 6.1

Expand continuous and lifelong education of public officers in architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and in other fields relating to construction as well as in building and related regulation and in the area of participation and communication with the public.

Measure 6.1.1

Increase qualification of public officers in the form of courses focusing on presenting trends and examples of good practice in architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture, and professions relating to construction and building culture. Focus on professionalism and competence of public administration in relation to tenders.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MEYS, Public Administration Institute in Prague, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities

Timeframe: continuously

Measure 6.1.2

Increase qualification of public officers in the form of courses focusing on participation, involvement of the public and on communication with the public.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: Public Administration Institute in Prague, universities

Timeframe: continuously

Objective 6.2

Expand the system of further education of planners and designers and other persons involved in construction sector.

Measure 6.2.1

Expand a system of further education for architects and civil engineers and other persons involved in construction, especially in relation to construction law.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MEYS, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities

Timeframe: continuously

Objective 6.3

Support and develop education and awareness-raising in architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture, building culture and good quality environment at all schooling levels.

Measure 6.3.1

Create a working group involved in implementation of education focussing on architecture and building culture in primary and secondary schools and prepare methodology for presentation of this topic in broader contexts.

Responsibility: MEYS

Cooperation: MRD, MoE, NIE, CCA, CCET, AURP, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, universities, non-profit organizations

Timeframe: 2015



Measure 6.3.2

Utilize results of the “Research of suitable tools improving the building culture”.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MEYS, TACR
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 6.3.3

Prepare a document, in the form of background material for amendment of framework education programmes, defining nature, concepts, objectives, texts and outcomes for education in the field of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscaping and building culture at all school levels. This material should also include education about fundamental legal principles in these areas, about the impact of spatial planning on the society and its development and on the importance of heritage preservation and related issues.

Responsibility: MEYS and MRD
Cooperation: MC, NHI, NIE, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: 2017

Measure 6.3.4

Revise framework education programmes so that they include topics of architecture and building culture in the manner appropriate for individual school levels. Include architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscaping and building culture into individual related education areas and relevant cross-section themes. Focus on the relation of an individual to his home and town, including care for the environment in which he lives. Use examples of good practice during teaching and examples of good architecture as a teaching material. Include practical activities in teaching that lead to improvement of the built environment. Provide teachers with the necessary teaching materials and professional support.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, CCA, CCET, AURP, NIE, primary and secondary schools and universities, Public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: according to the timeframe of revisions of framework education programmes

Measure 6.3.5

Include preparation of teachers teaching topics related to architecture and building culture at primary and secondary schools into the system of further education of teachers.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, NIE, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: 2018

Measure 6.3.6

Support vocational schooling and its prestige within the framework of improving the overall building culture.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, NIE, CCA, CCET, AURP, Public administration authorities in regions, Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, vocational schools, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 6.3.7

Strengthen education for the position of the chief architect as a coordinator of urbanistic concept and composition of settlements and as mediator between various interest groups.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, CCA, CCET, AURP, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, non-profit organizations, universities
Timeframe: 2018

Theme 7 – Awareness and Media

Objective 7.1

Emphasize wider presentation of topics of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering in public media.

Measure 7.1.1

Ensure preparation of background materials and initiate in public media more room for topics dealing with architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscaping and building culture.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 7.2

Promote examples of good practice of building including high-quality subsequent maintenance of the completed work.

Measure 7.2.1

Support competitions promoting good examples of architectonic and urbanistic works, such as MRD Award, Building of the Year, Project of the Year, Architects' Grand Prix, Building Efficiency Awards etc.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MIT, CCA, CCET, AURP, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 7.2.2

Use permanent electronic platforms for identification, sharing and promotion of examples of best practice in architecture and building culture (including heritage preservation and landscaping).

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 7.3

Raise awareness among the professional and lay public about the need to apply a complex approach to the environment created by construction and other human activities involving buildings, urban environment and landscape, including their impact on environment and humans. Support forging bonds between people and the environment in which they live.

Measure 7.3.1

Support awareness-raising activities in cultural and historical contexts of settlements (both towns and villages), their development, awareness about the importance of individual preserved places and buildings, their artistic and historical value, about the importance of natural capital and the background of settlements and their parts. Promote landscape values and the need to maintain permeability of landscape. Inform about the importance and issues of heritage preservation.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MEYS, MC, MoE, NHI, CCA, CCET, AURP, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 7.3.2

Use examples of good practice to increase the quality of demand on the part of clients. Support tours with architects or commented tours of new buildings.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: CCA, CCET, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously



Measure 7.3.3

Involve the public (adults, children and especially schools) in projects influencing public space.

Responsibility: Public administration authorities in municipalities

Cooperation: MRD, MEYS, CCA, CCET, universities, non-profit organizations

Timeframe: continuously

Theme 8 – Research and development

Objective 8.1

Support and develop research activities focussing on architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Measure 8.1.1

Fulfil research needs in the fields of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: TACR, universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 8.1.2

Maintain records and uniformly present grants offered by various institutions in the Czech Republic, especially grants focusing on architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, landscape architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: Czech Science Foundation (GACR)
Cooperation: all ministries, TACR
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 8.1.3

Commission additional qualitative research, besides the normative and quantitative research, in “soft” areas such as identification of values, perception of the character of the area by its inhabitants and degree of inhabitants’ sensitivity to change in the Central European context. In justified cases and in appropriate extent involve the public in research.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, MoE, TACR, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously

Objective 8.2

Utilize research and development results in practice.

Measure 8.2.1

Utilize in practice research project results achieved within the Beta Programme (TACR) focussing on education and awareness in relation to architecture and building culture.

Responsibility: MEYS
Cooperation: MRD, TACR, primary and secondary schools and universities
Timeframe: continuously

Measure 8.2.2

Elaborate on the results of TACR research projects in the form of methodologies.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: IfSD, universities
Timeframe: 2018

Measure 8.2.3

Support publication of research projects results (Czech and foreign), which focus on the influence of environment quality on the man.

Responsibility: MRD
Cooperation: MoE, MEYS, AURP, CCA, CCET, IfSD, universities, non-profit organizations
Timeframe: continuously



FINAL MEASURES

Measure 9.1

Strengthen the role of foundations supporting architecture a building architecture.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: CCA, CCET, AURP, IfSD, universities, non-profit organizations

Timeframe: 2018

Measure 9.2

Regularly monitor and evaluate fulfilment of individual measures and their effect. Prepare a report on the fulfilment of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic and submit this report to the Government by 31 December 2020, including a potential proposal for update of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic for the future period.

Responsibility: MRD

Cooperation: MT, MF, MC, Mol, MEYS, MIT, MoA, MoE, Office for Protection of Economic Competition, Czech Statistical Office, TACR, Czech Science Foundation (GACR), NHI, NIE, National Institute for Further Education, Public Administration Institute in Prague, public administration authorities in regions and municipalities, CCA, CCET, AURP, IfSD, Union of Towns and Municipalities, Association of Entrepreneurs in Construction, universities, NGOs, non-profit organizations and publicly beneficial corporations.

Timeframe: 2020

X. AUTHORS AND PREPARATION PROCESS

Preparation of the Building Culture (Architecture) Development Policy was commissioned by the Government by its Resolution No. 524 dated 13 July 2011, which approved the “Concept of Residential Housing of the Czech Republic until 2020”. This Concept, in its Chapter 3.3. “Objectives and Priorities of Residential Housing”, in subchapter 3.3.3. “Quality”, in State Priority “Quality of built environment, specifically in housing”, defined a task “to draft a policy for the development of building culture (architecture) and submit it to the Government for approval”. The Ministry of Regional Development was charged with completion of this material along with the Czech Chamber of Architects and the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction and the State Fund for Development of Residential Housing.

The impulse for preparation of this Policy was also the call on Member States defined in the “Council conclusions on architecture: culture's contribution to sustainable development (2008/C 319/05)”.

During preparation of the document its title was changed to the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic, which better reflects its contents.

The guarantor, coordinator and compiler of this document is the Ministry of Regional Development in close cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development.

Before the Ministry was officially charged with the work on this document, preparatory materials have already been produced within the framework of the European Forum for Architectural Policies. The Institute for Spatial Development prepared in March 2011 a document entitled “Improving Building Culture - European Forum for Architectural Policies,” which evaluated selected foreign architecture policies and requirements based on European documents.

In February 2013, the Institute for Spatial Development completed an “Analysis of Building Culture,” which was authored by a team lead by prof. Karel Maier in cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Development (see chapter on Analysis).

Materials which the Ministry of Regional Development ordered from the Czech Chamber of Architects, the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction and the Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic were sourced as primary materials for the formulation of the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic.

The Policy took shape mainly in 2014. In the summer of 2014 consultations on the working version of this document with all key partners were undertaken. After revisions, the Policy was subject to internal review procedure within the Ministry of Regional Development.

The Policy was distributed in November 2014 for external review procedure. All involved ministries and other central bodies of state administration and their subordinate organizations, which will be implementing individual measures, participated in this procedure. The review procedure also involved regional bodies and professional chambers, associations and unions, selected universities and non-governmental organizations that are active in this field. The policy was also published during this external review procedure for comments of the general public.

After the suggested comments and revisions were duly incorporated, the Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic was submitted in December 2014 to the Czech Government. The Government approved it on 14 January 2015 by its Resolution No. 22.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AURP	Association for Urban and Regional Planning of the Czech Republic
CCA	Czech Chamber of Architects
CCET	Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians Active in Construction
CR	Czech Republic
EFAP	European Forum for Architectural Policies
ESDP	European Spatial Development Perspective
EU	European Union
GACR	Czech Science Foundation
IfSD	Institute for Spatial Development
MC	Ministry of Culture
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MF	Ministry of Finance
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MRD	Ministry of Regional Development
MT	Ministry of Transport
NHI	National Heritage Institute
NIE	National Institute for Education
TACR	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

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