

## Czech Republic is preparing a new Strategy for Education Policy

In January 2019, a team of eight experts commenced their work on the preparation of the *Strategy for Education Policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+* (Strategy 2030+), which seeks to set directions for the development of Czech education after 2030. This document is expected to be finalised by spring 2020.

The task of the expert team is to prepare, by September 2019, an initial document *Guidelines for Education Policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+*, which will constitute the part of the Strategy defining the vision, priorities and goals for education policy and education system in the subsequent period.

At the end of February 2019, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic organised a conference entitled “Strategy for Education Policy of the Czech Republic 2030+: Challenges and Visions for the Czech Education System”, which opened a discussion on the objectives, content and outcomes of education and on the process of revisions of key curricular documents (the so-called framework educational programmes). Particularly the revision process, which triggered a strong national debate, needs to be better aligned with the Strategy 2030.

Preparation of the Strategy 2030+ builds on maximum transparency and openness. It comprises a series of expert and public consultations and roundtables on the visions and objectives of education policy and its implementation. These events shall involve the widest possible range of key actors whose individual accountability should be at the same time strengthened.

In mid-2017, an external evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy 2020 was carried out. It showed that three key priorities set out by the Strategy 2020 (reducing inequality in education, supporting high-quality teaching and teachers as a prerequisite for such teaching, governing the system in a responsible and efficient manner) as well as most specific objectives and measures proposed remain highly relevant and topical. Nevertheless, the elaboration of sub-targets has not always been supported by an assessment of the potential impacts of the measure, not sufficient data is available on the impacts of particular measures and changes often cannot be evaluated. It also pinpointed the need to better inter-link the strategic documents produced.

For the post-2020 period the evaluation identified a need to adjust the strategic management of the system in order to allow for more flexible responses to shifts in society. Furthermore, it is paramount to create platforms to involve the teaching public in the consultation process and implementation of the Strategy. It is necessary to strengthen research and to review data collection and its evaluation. A higher level of support should be provided to both teachers and head-teachers. Responsibilities of key actors within the system should be defined more accurately and the measurability of individual objectives of the strategies should be improved.

All that needs to be reflected in the Strategy 2030+, which should be at the same time aligned with the national strategic document *Czech Republic 2030*. This document constitutes a long-

term framework for strategic planning within the state administration and will enable to communicate in a transparent manner the long-term objectives of the state administration to the professional and general public. It does not seek to replace individual sectoral documents. It was shaped in co-operation with the ministries to serve as a basis and point direction when strategic and conceptual documents are being elaborated. Currently, the Czech Republic has about 150 strategic and conceptual documents.