

How Green are the Recovery Plans?

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Short overview of the Recovery Plan

Status of the Plan

- No updated version is publicly available since October.
- The updated version is expected to be published by the end of March.

Public consultation

- Nor the Czech CSOs, nor the professional associations and even all ministries were officially invited to participate in the process.
- CDE participated in October on comments submitted on behalf of the platform Zmena k lepsimu and Zeleny kruh.



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

- Participative round tables in December.
- Without clear rules of who can participate and what procedure will take place with the comments.
- CDE sent out letters / calls for addition to the relevant Czech ministries and EC.
- Meeting with the EC, not the Czech authorities.
- As of today, there is no official feedback on the comments.

Overall: The comments of the public and non-governmental organisations were not taken into account during the preparations of the document. Ministry of Agriculture and other responsible bodies did not prepared any open arena, where the proposals could be submitted and discussed in detail.



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

Comments on measures/investments in the transport, buildings and agriculture sectors

Czech National Recovery Plan (Národní plán obnovy):

- 6 principal categories
 - 33 particular components
 - Total budget of 215 billion CZK (approx.. 8,2 billion EUR)
 - About 20% allocated for category “Digital Transformation”, 43% for “Physical Infrastructure And Green Transition”, 23% for “Education And The Labour Market” and remaining 14% for “Institutions, Regulation And Education Support In Response To Covid”, “Research, Development, Innovation”, “Public Health And Resilience”.
- Illusion of the strategic document that highlights sustainability and meets its need. In reality, significantly less than a third of a total budget can be considered pro-environmental and measures supporting biodiversity are below 7% of the total allocation.



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

Transportation, buildings and agriculture

- Approx EUR 1.8 billion for transportation
- EUR 1 billion for buildings
- Small part of EUR 600 million dedicated for investments in landscape will be directly allocated to agriculture

- No direct investments in a fossil fuels-based projects with an exception to CNG/LNG for transportation (filling stations and vehicles for public transportation) and investments in gas/biomass efficient boilers.

- In regards to DNSH principle, Czech NRP disregards the question of biodiversity.



Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Transport:

There are *several consistencies* such as:

1. Strong support for sustainable urban transportation systems
2. Strong support for electrified railroad
3. Optimization of transportation
4. Support for public transportation
5. Support for alternative fuels
 - a. Electricity, natural gas and biofuels (which is one of the common products of Agrofert, company indirectly owned by Czech prime minister).

Several *add-ons* in NRP:

1. Investments in security infrastructure



Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Buildings:

- 1.7 Digitization and acceleration of construction proceedings, 2.2 Energy efficiency, 2.5 Renovation of buildings and air protection (approx EUR 1 billion).
- Continual replacement of solid fuel boilers with gas boilers.
- The amount of energy savings required in NECP (8.4PJ per year, 462PJ from 2021 to 2030) is significantly higher than it is planned in NRP.
- Investments are supposed to be covered by different programmes.
- Use of gas in highly efficient condensing gas boilers, which must meet strict Ecodesign criteria (Directive 2009/125 / EU).



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Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Agriculture:

- Poorly addressed (Component 2.6 - Nature Protection and Adaptation to Climate Change)
- Approx EUR 600 million
- Watercourses and reservoirs, flood control measures (barriers construction instead of meadows restoration) and irrigation systems.
- Biodiversity issues
- Possible investments in roads etc.

Several *inconsistencies* such as:

1. Missing support for biogas stations and agricultural biowaste in NRP
2. Missing support for organic agriculture in NRP

Several *add-ons* in NRP such as:

1. Strong support for irrigation systems



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Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Commitments to Policy Reforms – Use of fiscal instruments

- Fiscal instruments such as green taxation and carbon tax are not part of the Czech NRP.
- Czech government tried to patch the holes in the state budget with the EU money. This proposal was, however, rejected by the EC.

Final recommendations

- Stand up for (y)our rights and the rights of nature



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Thank you

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