

According to the Competence Act No. 2/1969 Coll. (on the Establishment of Ministries and Other Central Authorities of the State Administration of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “MZCR”) is responsible for health-related research and development activities.

In accordance with Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on the Amendment of Certain Related Acts (the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation), hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 130/2002 Coll.”, the MZCR is the provider of two types of support from the state budget for health-related applied research, namely:

1. institutional support for the long-term conceptual development of research organisations;
2. targeted support for programme projects of applied health research, which are financially supported on the basis of the results of public tenders in research, development and innovation announced within individual departmental programmes.

MZCR established the Czech Health Research Council (hereinafter referred to as “AZVCR”) with the primary purpose of supporting applied research in healthcare in accordance with Act No. 130/2002 Coll. AZVCR functions as a professional advisory body to MZCR and cooperates closely with it. For the expert evaluation of project proposals, AZVCR has set up 10 specialised evaluation panels and a Scientific Council, whose members are leading experts in the field of health-related applied research.

Another key institution involved in the health sector is the central government, which played the main authority in managing the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was supported by the COVID-19 Central Management Team (an advisory group in charge of implementing the COVID-19 response) and the Central Crisis Staff (a crisis management body chaired by the Minister of the Interior during the crisis). Notwithstanding this predominantly central coordination, regional governments were tasked with implementing the adopted strategies (from State of Health in the EU – Czechia – Country Health Profile 2021 [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021\\_chp\\_cs\\_english.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_cs_english.pdf)).

## Other key crisis structures

**Central Crisis Staff (ÚKŠ)** – established by the government under the Crisis Act No. 240/2000 Coll., activated in case of a threat to the state, a pandemic, or another extraordinary situation. It is chaired by the Minister of the Interior.

**MZCR – Crisis Staff** – the ministerial crisis body, activated in case of health threats and coordinating subordinate organisations (e.g., National Institute of Public Health, Regional Public Health Authorities).

**Chief Public Health Officer of the Czech Republic** – the central professional authority in the field of public health protection, empowered to issue extraordinary measures in the event of epidemic threats.

**Regional Public Health Authorities (KHS)** – key regional actors responsible for investigations, contact tracing, issuing measures, and ensuring communication with the population at the local level.

**State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL)** – in the case of a pandemic, important for the approval and supervision of the availability of medicines, vaccines, and medical devices.

**Integrated Rescue System (IZS)** – the Police of the Czech Republic, the Fire Rescue Service, and the Emergency Medical Services, activated in response to extraordinary events.

To reduce the risks of other public health threats: Czechia was working on its preparedness to antimicrobial resistance. The Czech government launched the National Antibiotic Programme in 2009, aiming to ensure long-term availability, effectiveness and safety of antibiotic treatment for patients with infectious diseases. The latest Action Plan for 2019-22 targets AMR surveillance and responsible use of antibiotics, and promotes research support and health literacy (SZÚ, 2018). The National Institute of Public Health focuses on AMR prevention, and runs information campaigns for physicians and the general public, supported by funds from the EEA and Norway. These campaigns have been successful in increasing literacy on responsible use of antibiotics (SZÚ, 2023) (from State of Health in the EU - Czechia - Country Health Profile 2021 [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021\\_chp\\_cs\\_english.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_cs_english.pdf) )

## R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Country has a dedicated strategy for Research and innovation related to pandemic threat? Yes [https://www.azvcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Applied-Health-Research-Support-Program\\_docx.pdf](https://www.azvcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Applied-Health-Research-Support-Program_docx.pdf)

R&I strategy URL <https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=782681&ad=1&attid=782726Health-Research-Concept-to-2030.pdf>

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? Yes  
R&I portal <https://openaccess.cz/en/open-access-in-the-czech-republic/>

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

| Name                                    | URL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AMR                                     | <a href="https://nivb.cz/en/">https://nivb.cz/en/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COVID-19                                | <a href="https://onemocneni-aktualne.mzcr.cz/covid-19">https://onemocneni-aktualne.mzcr.cz/covid-19</a>                                                                                                                                                   |
| COVID-19 (MZCR)                         | <a href="https://data.gov.cz/dataset?iri=https%3A%2F%2Fdata.gov.cz%2Fzdroj%2Fdatov%C3%A9-sady%2F00024341%2Face1d8dc310e2c437ed">https://data.gov.cz/dataset?iri=https%3A%2F%2Fdata.gov.cz%2Fzdroj%2Fdatov%C3%A9-sady%2F00024341%2Face1d8dc310e2c437ed</a> |
| COVID-19 (MZCR)                         | <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9022808/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9022808/</a>                                                                                                                                 |
| COVID-19 (National Library of Medicine) | <a href="https://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/czechia-covid-19-open-data-sets-2020-2022">https://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/czechia-covid-19-open-data-sets-2020-2022</a>                                                                                   |

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? Yes

Coordinating structures URL [Health 2020 – National Strategy for Health Protection and Promotion and Disease Prevention.pdf](https://www.mzcr.cz/Health_2020_National_Strategy_for_Health_Protection_and_Promotion_and_Disease_Prevention.pdf)  
[Zdraví 2030](https://www.mzcr.cz/Zdravi_2030)

## R&I Infrastructures, Initiatives and Clinical Trials

The initiatives are listed in alphabetical order, are not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction

| Name Infrastructure | Type Infrastructure | URL                                                                       | Max Capacity | Available for | Open to |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| BBMRI-CZ            |                     | <a href="https://www.bbmri.cz/">https://www.bbmri.cz/</a>                 |              |               |         |
| CZECRIN             |                     | <a href="https://czecrin.cz/en/home/">https://czecrin.cz/en/home/</a>     |              |               |         |
| CZ-OPENSREEN        |                     | <a href="https://openscreen.cz/en/home">https://openscreen.cz/en/home</a> |              |               |         |
| EATRIS CZ           |                     | <a href="https://eatris.cz/">https://eatris.cz/</a>                       |              |               |         |
| ELIXIR-CZ           |                     | <a href="https://www.elixir-czech.cz/">https://www.elixir-czech.cz/</a>   |              |               |         |

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases

BBMRI BBMRI CZ <https://www.bbmri.cz/> ; ECRIN EATRIS -CZ <https://eatris.cz/> ; ELIXIR-CZ <https://www.elixir-czech.cz/> ; EUP  
OH AMR, ERA4Health

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

<https://eu-response.eu/>  
<https://ecrin.org/>  
<https://czecrin.cz/en/home/>  
<https://vaccelerate.eu/>  
[COMBACTE-CARE](https://www.combacte-care.eu/) | [IHI Innovative Health Initiative](https://www.ihl-innovative-health.eu/)

**Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources** *The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.*

**Basic Research**

url <https://gacr.cz/en/> Czech Science Foundation  
<https://mzd.gov.cz/>The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic applied research or a combination basic and applied research, clinical studies

**Applied Research**

url <https://www.tacr.cz/en/>  
[AZV ČR – Czech Health Research Agency](#) / [https://www.azvcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Applied-Health-Research-Support-Program\\_docx.pdf](https://www.azvcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Applied-Health-Research-Support-Program_docx.pdf)  
<https://mzd.gov.cz/>

funding for applied research accessible for industry? Yes  
source of funding Public (research) agencies; Private industries

**Translational Research**

url <https://mzd.gov.cz/>  
[AZV ČR – Czech Health Research Agency](#)  
<https://www.tacr.cz/en/>

**Clinical Research (in general and in pandemic phase)**

url <https://mzd.gov.cz/>  
[AZV ČR – Czech Health Research Agency](#)

flexible regional funding during emergency : YES  
<https://portal.gov.cz/en/sluzby-vs/immediate-emergency-assistance-S453>

**R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat** *The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.*

ministries involved in case of an outbreak; (existing) national or regional structures that advise governments on R&I during emergencies

| Name                                                                                                                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | url                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (API)                                                                          | API supports business projects in the areas of research, development and innovation. It is rather a marginal actor; it is not directly activated in case of health threats, its role is supportive (e.g., support for innovation).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="https://apiagentura.gov.cz/en/">https://apiagentura.gov.cz/en/</a>                                 |
| Central Administrative Office Responsible for Research and Development within Ministry of Education, Youth & Sport (MEYS) | MEYS is the central administrative office responsible for research and development in the Czech Republic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <a href="https://www.msmt.cz/research-and-development-1">https://www.msmt.cz/research-and-development-1</a> |
| Czech Health Research Council (AZVCR)                                                                                     | AZVCR is an organizational unit of the state directly under the jurisdiction of MZCR managed by the Ministry of Health. Its primary purpose is to support health research with public funds. It organizes activities and public tenders in health research, evaluates projects submitted to these competitions, prepares documents for the provision of funding to selected projects and then evaluates the progress of the objectives of these projects. Funding for projects is provided from the Ministry of Health through grants. | <a href="https://www.azvcr.cz/en/">https://www.azvcr.cz/en/</a>                                             |

|                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Czech Science Foundation (GACR)                                         | GACR is an independent public organisation supporting basic research throughout all scientific fields from public funds. GACR is the only institution in the Czech Republic, which provides public funding exclusively for basic research projects. GACR plays an important role in research but it is not active body in the direct crisis response. It is advisable to keep GACR in the section on financing and research infrastructure, not necessarily among the “activated processes”.                       | <a href="https://gacr.cz/en/">https://gacr.cz/en/</a>                                                     |
| Ministry of Health (MZCR)                                               | MZCR is a central authority of the state administration for the health care, public health protection, health research activities, directly controlled health facilities, handling with drugs, preparations, and other agents, search, protection and use natural health resources, natural spas and mineral water resources, medicaments and technical equipment for prevention, diagnostics and treatment of people. Last but not least, MZCR is responsible for health insurance and health information system. | <a href="https://mzd.gov.cz/en/the-ministry-of-health/">https://mzd.gov.cz/en/the-ministry-of-health/</a> |
| Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO)                                    | MPO is responsible for innovation policy, industrial research, engineering and technology development in Czechia. MPO is important in the area of strategic raw materials and industrial production (e.g. PPE), but not directly involved in operational crisis management; it would be more appropriate to list it as a “supporting actor”.                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="https://mpo.gov.cz/en/">https://mpo.gov.cz/en/</a>                                               |
| National Institute of Public Health -<br>Státní Zdravotní ústav - (SZU) | SZU is a health care establishment for basic preventive disciplines – hygiene, epidemiology, microbiology and occupational medicine. Its main tasks are health promotion and protection, disease prevention and follow-up of environmental impact on the health status of the population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="https://szu.cz/en/">https://szu.cz/en/</a>                                                       |
| National Institute of Virology and<br>Bacteriology (NIVB)               | NIVB facilitates discoveries in infectious diseases with the goal of improving human health. Their efforts are focused on the development of safe and effective therapies that counteract viruses and bacteria with pandemic potential. NIVB focuses on cutting-edge research in 3 key areas:<br>- the interactions between pathogens and hosts.<br>- strengthening immunity against viruses and bacteria.                                                                                                         | <a href="https://nivb.cz/en/">https://nivb.cz/en/</a>                                                     |
| Regional Public Health Authorities                                      | key regional actors responsible for investigations, contact tracing, issuing measures, and ensuring communication with the population at the local level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |
| Research, Development and<br>Innovation Council (R&D&I Council)         | R&D&I Council is a professional and consultancy body of the Government of the Czech Republic in the field of research, experimental development and innovation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="https://vyzkum.gov.cz/Default.aspx?lang=en">https://vyzkum.gov.cz/Default.aspx?lang=en</a>       |

Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR)

TACR is an organisational component of the state, which was established <https://www.tacr.cz/en/> in 2009 by Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on the support of research, experimental development and innovation. The establishment of TACR was one of the important implementation steps of the Research, Development and Innovation System Reform. The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic centralizes state support for applied research and development, which until then was fragmented. TACR plays an important role in research but it is not active body in the direct crisis response. It is advisable to keep TACR in the section on financing and research infrastructure, not necessarily among the “activated processes”.

Crisis Act No. 240/2000 Coll. – the legal framework for the activation of crisis management bodies.

Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on the Protection of Public Health – empowers the Chief Public Health Officer and Regional Public Health Authorities (KHS) to issue extraordinary measures.

Pandemic Plan of the Czech Republic – a strategic document coordinating the response to pandemics.

National Action Plan for AMR, vaccination strategies, infectious disease surveillance systems (EPIDAT, ISIN) – specific processes activated in the event of health threats.

#### Strengthening the role of public health

Public health protection (National Institute of Public Health, Regional Public Health Authorities, Chief Public Health Officer) is the fundamental pillar of the response. Scientific and research institutions (e.g., NIVB, university departments) play a supporting role, but the decisive processes fall within the competence of state administration and the public health service.

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BE READY is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-06 “Building a European partnership for pandemic preparedness” under grant agreement 101057795. Starting date: 01.06.2022. | End Date 31.05.2025

BE READY PLUS is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-17 “Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining and enhancing the preparatory work for a co-funded European partnership for pandemic” under grant agreement 101195079. Starting date: 01.01.2025. | End Date 31.12.2025

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