

Recent developments: Czech Republic

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2016 Drug Situation Annual Report

- in last 30 days 71.1% of Czech residents (81.4% of men and 61.5% of women) reported alcohol use,
- > 13.1% men and 6.6% women reported having engaged in binge drinking (5 or more glasses on one occasion) at least once a week,
- > 788 deaths were identified as related to alcohol 148 directly (overdoses) and 640 indirectly (in a state of intoxication),
- > the number of alcohol-related deaths is higher than those associated with all the other illicit drugs in the aggregate by the order of ten.

ESPAD 2015

- alcohol have been easily available to minors in the Czech Republic
- alcohol had been used at least once during their lifetime by 95.8% of the respondents,
- the regular consumption of beer (at least once per week or more often) was reported by 15% of the respondents,
- with 8% and 4% being regular drinkers of spirits and wine respectively
- approximately 42.5% can be considered repeated drinkers (more than 20 occasions in their life)

Legislation

- The principles which the Czech drug policy had pursued since the early 1990s were subsequently stipulated in Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on the protection of health against the harmful effects of addictive substances
- > The new legislation has been in force since 31 May 2017

Integrated drug policy

- > between 2014-2016 the drug policy of the Government of the Czech Republic has been extended to include the issues of alcohol, tobacco, and gambling
- major change towards coordinated national measures to prevent and respond to the negative consequences of substance use and gambling
- links together the issues of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and gambling, associated dependency disorders and other health and social impacts and consequences

Strategic Documents

- currently, the main political framework and document guiding the drug policy in Czech Republic is the National Drug Policy Strategy for 2010-18
- > the Strategy involves four action plans:
- > 2016–2018 Action Plan for Illegal Drugs
- > 2015–2018 Action Plan for Gambling
- > 2015–2018 Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm in the Czech Republic
- > 2015–2018 Tobacco Control Action Plan

Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm in the Czech Republic

- intended to be used as a tool facilitating the implementation of the 2010–2018 National Drug Policy Strategy and Health 2020
- > covers shorter periods of time, define objectives and specific tasks, deadlines for their fulfilment, and the agencies responsible for carrying them out
- > prepared by the Minister of Health of the Czech Republic
- monitored and evaluated

Interdepartmental Working Group for Alcohol-related Harm

- working group of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination (GCDPC)
- coordinates the cooperation of governmental agencies and other organisations in implementing measures aimed at reducing alcohol related harm
- this group is within the remit of the Ministry of Health as a member of the GCDPC
- recently established sub-working group for alcohol beverage labeling and advertisements

Action of the GCDPC/GCDPC Secretariat to reduce alcohol related harm

- regularly communicates with the public and experts from state sector and NGOs
- prepares informational reports and publications
- promote and support health objectives described in Health 2020, National Drug Strategy and the Action Plan
- discusses and contribute to the Action Plan for its implementation
- allowing NGOs to realize their project via own grant procedure
- raising awareness (annual conference and press briefings etc.)



Thank you

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