

The Technology Centre ASCR supports the participation of the Czech Republic in the European Research Area, prepares analytical and conceptual studies for research and development, performs international technology transfers and supports the creation and development of innovation businesses.

Basic Information

The Technology Centre ASCR (TC) is an independent non-profit association of legal entities – five institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the CR and Technology Management, s. r. o. Since its founding in 1994, the TC has quickly become a prominent national platform facilitating international cooperation in research and development (R&D) within the European Research Area.

The TC is a significant national institution for research and innovation infrastructure. It carries out oriented research in the area of science, technologies, and innovation. It is a source of current information about European R&D and innovation.

Activities of the TC focus strongly also on providing support for the creation and development of small innovation businesses and on the realization of technology transfers. The TC together with the corporate group CKD has taken part in operating the Innovation Centre and Business Incubator since 2008.

The TC has specialized in analytical and conceptual works what led to the formation of the national STRAST (STRategic Studies) think-tank which is engaged in R&D and innovation strategies, in evaluation of R&D programmes, as well as in the identification of research priorities related to the socio-economic needs of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Liaison Office for R&D (CZELO) located in Brussels has been operated by the TC since 2005. It forms a connecting element between Czech research stakeholders and players and the research administration within the EU.

Structure of Key Clients

The main clients of the TC include the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS), the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT), the Research and Development Council, and a number of supranational institutions – the European Commission, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Ever since it was founded, the TC has been cooperating with an entire Czech sector of research and development institutions, prestigious universities, private enterprises and a number of foreign partners.

Technology Centre ASCR Structure

- › National Information Centre for European Research
- › Department of Business Development
- › Department of Strategic Studies
- › Czech Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels
- › Innovation Centre and Business Incubator

National Information Centre for European Research

The main activity of the NICER is to facilitate successful participation of Czech research teams in European R&D cooperation, especially through participation in projects of the Framework Programmes of the EU for R&D (FP). Its activities are funded by the MEYS as a part of the national infrastructure for R&D and innovation (CZERA). These activities are carried out by department employees recruiting from both thematically oriented national contact points and experts in programme committees of FP. Employees of the department are active in several expert groups of the European Commission (EC). The team is a part of the Czech national information network for FP consisting of national, professional, and regional contact organizations and is linked to a European network of similar information infrastructures.

Core activities:

- › Specialised consulting for Czech research institutions in the preparation and management of international research projects.
- › Identification of partners for research projects' consortia.
- › Mass information activities – conferences, seminars, trainings.
- › Monitoring and analysing Czech participation in the FP for the public administration.
- › Publishing electronic and printed information materials.
- › Publishing the Echo journal which specializes in European research and development and operating specialized websites.

Department of Business Development

The department's principal activity is an active and multifaceted support of international research, technological, and business cooperation. The department executes this activity primarily through the international platform of Enterprise Europe Network. The Czech part of this network is coordinated by the TC and financed by the European Commission and the MIT. The mission of the network, which is now represented in 53 countries of the world, is to support growth, development, internationalization and

competitiveness of European businesses and fostering innovations, especially in respect to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Core activities:

- › Partner search for technology, business and research cooperation in EU countries and other countries.
- › Assessment of the innovation potential of companies and support of international technology transfers.
- › Organization of international business missions and cooperation meetings for Czech companies.
- › Facilitating access to an international database of technology supply and demand and research results.
- › Providing information regarding possibilities of a financial support for research, innovation, and business development for Czech businesses.
- › Consultation on intellectual property as well as business and innovation development.

Department of Strategic Studies

The STRAST focuses on preparations of analytical and outlook studies in the area of R&D and innovation. There are systematically developed analytical and evaluation methods used for preparing conceptual background papers for the public administration and its advisory bodies, and for coordinating national and regional projects oriented at proposing research priorities, strategic research directions, or preparation of research and innovation policies and innovation strategies. The main clients on the national level include the MEYS, MIT, R&D Council, and regional public authorities (in the Prague region). On the international level, the TC cooperates with a number of foreign partners on preparing analytical and conceptual studies for the EC and UNIDO. The department publishes the ERGO journal focused on analyses and trends in R&D and innovation.

Core activities:

- › Preparation of outlook and strategic studies, analyses, background papers, and methodologies in the area of R&D and innovation.
- › Evaluation of national and international support programmes for R&D and innovation.
- › Participation in international projects oriented at analysing, monitoring, and formulating recommendations for research and innovation policies.
- › Complex auditing of national innovation systems.

Czech Liaison Office for Research and Development

The CZELO facilitates a direct contact between Czech research and important European institutions, mainly the EC, the European Parliament, and the EU Council. For this purpose the office is located in Brussels. The CZELO also cooperates with Czech regional offices in Brussels. The office, which is funded by the MEYS from the EUPRO programme, provides services to all parties interested in European research cooperation, especially in the Framework Programmes.

Core activities:

- › Provision of up to date and targeted information about opportunities for participation in international research cooperation.
- › Facilitation of consulting or personal meetings with relevant officials from the EC regarding running projects or project proposals.
- › Provision of support infrastructure and assistance for meetings between Czech researchers and (potential) project partners in Brussels.
- › Organization of presentations on Czech R&D for representatives of European institutions, partner offices, and other organizations in Brussels.
- › Systematic promotion of Czech research, achieved results, partner capacities, and concrete cooperation offers.
- › Attendance at relevant events held in Brussels and cooperation with other countries and research entities.

Innovation Centre and Business Incubator

The ICBI project was prepared and implemented by the Technological Innovation Centre ČKD Prague (TIC ČKD Prague) whose members and founders are the corporate group ČKD and the Technology Centre ASCR. The project consisted of the reconstruction of an old industrial building in Prague 9, which represented the first joint revitalisation of a “brownfield” by partners from the commercial and academic sectors in the Czech Republic. The incubator’s opening ceremony was held in 2008. Almost 40 resident firms are offered not only the office and laboratory space for rent but also an extensive package of consulting and administrative services. Evidence of the strong interest in these services is almost 100% rate of occupancy. The aim of the ICBI project is to provide comprehensive support for entrepreneurial activities of new and existing small, innovative firms in the initial stages of their development, to facilitate the creation of new jobs, and to fulfil the role of a centre for advanced technologies and their transfer.

Reference Projects

- › **National Information Centre for European Research** NICER I–III (2002–2012) – comprehensive information and consulting services for R&D.
- › **Czech Republic in the European Research Area** CZERA (2010–2015) – development of infrastructure for the participation of the Czech Republic in international cooperation on R&D and innovation within the European Research Area (ERA).
- › **Research plan Strategic studies for R&D** (2004–2010) – analytical and conceptual studies for research, development and innovation.
- › **Proposals for National research programmes** NPV I (2001), NPV II (2003–2004 and NPV III (2006–2007) – priorities of oriented research for the Czech Republic.
- › **Czech Liaison Office for R&D in Brussels** CZELO (2005–2012) – participation of Czech research in European research cooperation.
- › **Innovation Centre and Business Incubator** ICBI (2006–2008) – building an incubator for supporting the creation and development of innovation firms in cooperation with enterprises of the corporate group ČKD.
- › **BISONet (BusinesS and InnOvation Support Network)** (2008–2014) – support of innovation and business development, and technology transfers. The project fulfils the objectives of the Enterprise Europe Network in the Czech Republic.
- › **Research for Competitiveness** VÝKON (2009–2011) – building a centre for integrated innovation services and a modern conference centre for expert seminars, trainings, and conferences.

How to Reach Us

Public transport:

2 bus-stops on 107, 116, 147, or 160 from the end-of-line Metro A Dejvická station to the Podbaba stop or on tram 2 or 8 from the Vítězné náměstí stop all the way to the end-of-line Podbaba stop.

GPS:

50°6'40.599"N, 14°23'42.175"E

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