

**The Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences 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 of the CAS (TC) is an independent non-profit association of legal entities – five institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Technology Management, s. r. o. which celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment in 2014.

The TC is a significant national institution for research and innovation infrastructure and 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 took part in operating the Innovation Centre and Business Incubator in the years 2008–2014. In 2015 TC has started its own acceleration programme BusinessRunway.

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 Research, Development and Innovation (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, Development and Innovation 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 CAS Structure

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

## National Information Centre for European Research

NICER is a well-respected national information, consultation and training workplace for the issues of EU Framework Programmes for Research and Development (FP). Activities are organised by a team of thematically-oriented trained national contact points (NCP) in all priorities and specific activities of the FP. They offer a comprehensive advice and support in the preparation and FP projects solution, and through the international network of NCP, they have instruments to search for partners in international research consortia. They inform about legal, financial and administrative aspects in the FP, provide regular analyses and monitoring of the Czech participation in the FP for the needs of State administration and advisory Governmental bodies. Department members are active in several European Commission expert groups, as well.

### 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 more than 60 countries of the world, is to support growth, development, internationalization and competitiveness of European businesses, fostering innovations

and integration into the international marketplace. 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 worldwide.
- › 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 provides professional, analytical and conceptual materials for strategic decision-making in the area of R&D and innovation at national and regional level. Conceptual materials are provided largely for public administration responsible for the R&D&I policy. The department members systematically develop methodologies of strategic studies and use the most up-to-date knowledge in this field. This includes e.g. methods for the evaluation of programmes and results of research, development and innovations, foresight methods used, for example, to determine thematic and system priorities as well as methods of evaluation of impacts of technology (technology assessment). The main partners and users of the results on national level include the MEYS, the Government Office and its Research, Development and Innovation Council and the Prague City Hall. At international level, the department cooperates with foreign partners in the preparation of studies, particularly for the European Commission and the European Parliament.

### 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.
- › Publishing the Ergo journal focusing on analyses and trends in research, technologies and innovations

## Czech Liaison Office for Research, Development and Innovation

Thanks to its strategic position in Brussels, the CZELO provides direct contact of the Czech research with European institutions, especially with the European Commission and the European Parliament. It provides free services to all research institutions in the Czech Republic and cooperates with offices representing Czech regions and other subjects in Brussels. Services offered by the Office include providing up-to-date information about potential participation in research programmes and projects and about the European R&D&I policy, organising presentation and promotion of Czech research, arranging consultations with EC officials or participating at relevant events held in Brussels.

### Core activities:

- › Providing up-to-date information about the European research.
- › 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.
- › Cooperation with other countries and research entities.

## Business Incubation

The acceleration program called **BusinessRunway**, which TC has launched in autumn 2015, is a continuation of many TC activities in supporting start-ups in the Capital City of Prague, and as well the current response to existing demand of incubated teams. In addition to the basic premises and shared associated services we primarily offer business advice and expertise, when the incubated company gains a significant assistance in professional capacities such as intellectual property issues, knowledge transfer, business model setting, project management etc. The program focuses on a rapid and intense development of limited number of „start-up“ companies for 1–2 years. BusinessRunway is an indirect successor project of ICPI (Innovation Centre and Business Incubator), which TC successfully led with businesses of CKD group, called TIC CKD Praha, in the years 2008–2014. The incubator hosted 120 innovative companies, of which over 90% survived the start-up phase.

## 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 Research, Development and Innovation** CZELO (2005–2020) – Czech research direct contact with major European institutions.
- › **Innovation Centre and Business Incubator** ICBI (2006–2014) – 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)** (2008–2020) – 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 terminal Metro A Dejvická to the „Nadrazi Podbaba“ stop, or on two tram lines from the Vítězné náměstí stop to the final stop „Nadrazi Podbaba“.

### GPS:

50°6'40.599"N, 14°23'42.175"E

### Address and contact:

Ve Struhách 27, 160 00 Prague 6  
phone: +420 234 006 100  
fax: +420 234 006 251  
e-mail: tc@tc.cz

[www.tc.cz](http://www.tc.cz)

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