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KEY MESSAGES

Environmental education and public awareness (EEA) is an important preventive instrument of the State Environmental Policy. It provides knowledge and develops attitudes important to the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment at the regional, national and global levels.

In the Czech Republic, EEA is legislatively provided for in resolutions by the Government and regional authorities and in strategic government documents.

In the Czech Republic, EEA is administered by the Ministry of the Environment in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Environmental education is topical part of framework educational programmes at kindergartens, basic schools, secondary grammar schools and secondary technical schools. During the 2006/2007 academic year, environmental issues became one of themes for the development of key competencies.

In the Czech Republic, EEA has been long-term financed from national and regional resources. Since 2004, systematic support from EU structural funds can be used to finance EEA.

EEA is implemented not only by schools, but also by NGOs, the administration of national parks and protected areas, zoological and botanical gardens and other cultural organisations and facilities.

REFERENCES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Ministry of the Environment (MoE) – <http://www.mzp.cz>
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) – <http://www.msmt.cz>
- CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency – <http://www.cenia.cz/evvo>
- The national network of environmental education and public awareness – <http://www.narodnisit.cz>
- State Environmental Fund (SEF) – <http://www.sfzp.cz>
- The network of environmental information and consultation centres in the Czech Republic – <http://www.ekoporadny.cz>
- Environmental education centres in the Czech Republic – <http://www.ekopobyty.cz>
- A catalogue of environmental education aids and publications – <http://www.ekokatalog.cz>
- Envigogika magazine – dedicated to EEA published by the Charles University Environment Centre in Prague – <http://www.envigogika.cuni.cz>
- An Internet encyclopaedia dedicated to environmental education – <http://www.enviwiki.cz>



THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Education



THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
FUND OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC





THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONCEPT OF EEA

Basic environmental education and public awareness (EEA) development became more significant after 1989. The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) created an open system by adopting the Comprehensive Concept of the Ministry for Public Enlightenment, Education and Information about the Environment (it was part of the preparation for the Czech Republic's accession to the EU). In 1998, Act No. 123/1998 Sb., on the right to information about the environment was passed.

Since 1998, the system has been developed by an intersectoral working group at the MoE including NGOs representatives. The State Programme of Environmental Education and Public Awareness of the Czech Republic was presented and approved by Government Resolution No. 1048/2000. The programme gave rise to regional EEA concepts. In 2000, the intersectoral working group became a permanent advisory body to the Minister of the Environment.

Today, EEA is defined and legislatively entrenched in a number of strategic documents of the Czech government and is also included in the existing education and financial structures. Schools actively participate in developing their educational programmes that compulsorily include environmental education as one of cross-section topics. Organisations cooperating in EEA establish networks both at the regional and national levels.

THE SYSTEMIC AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EEA

EEA is jointly coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS). Financial resources are provided from several national, regional and European sources. Both ministries regularly announce (MoE since 1990 and MEYS since 2001) grant procedures to support NGOs that provide EEA to different target groups. Since 2001, the MoE has also announced tenders for the selection of both investment and non-investment financing of EEA from the resources of the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic. Since 2007, the MEYS has announced specialised development programmes for schools and a supportive programme for NGOs implementing projects suitable for schools.

Since 2004, EEA has also been systematically supported from the European Structural Funds. The grant scheme of the MoE entitled "The network of environmental information and consultation centres" (that uses resources from the European Social Fund) supported the establishment and merging of centres into regional networks that cover most of the Czech Republic today. Schools mainly use the resources to support comprehensive incorporation of EEA into education and projects of school associations oriented towards environmental education. Since 2007, infrastructure such as the construction and renovation of consultation centres can be supported under the Operational Programme Environment (that uses resources from the European Regional Development Fund).

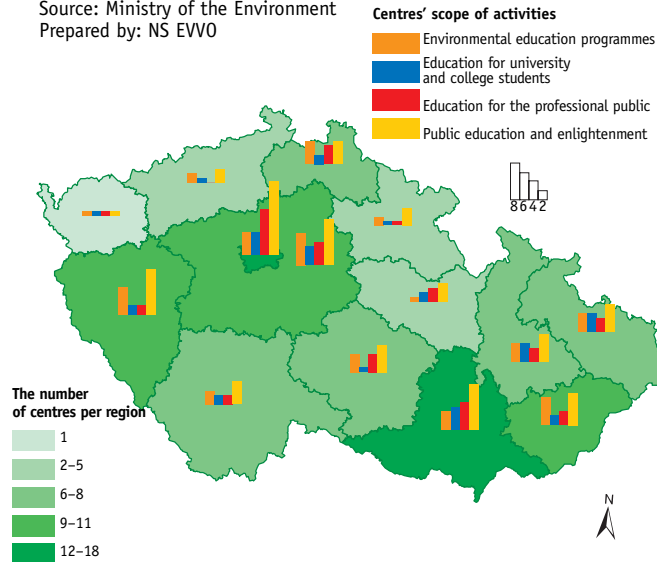
Since 2003, regional EEA development has also been financed from regional and local subsidy programmes.

THE NATIONAL EEA NETWORK

Based on the initiative of NGOs that were first individually engaged in environmental education in their structures, an open network of cooperating entities was established. Using the financial support from the MoE aimed at stabilising the development of existing and initiating the formation of new environmental education centres, the official National EEA Network was created over ten years (1999–2008). Since 2008, the programme has also been reciprocally financed by the MEYS. Today, the network includes about 100 member organisations and it also establishes international relationships.

◉ The national EEA network, 2007

Source: Ministry of the Environment
Prepared by: NS EVVO

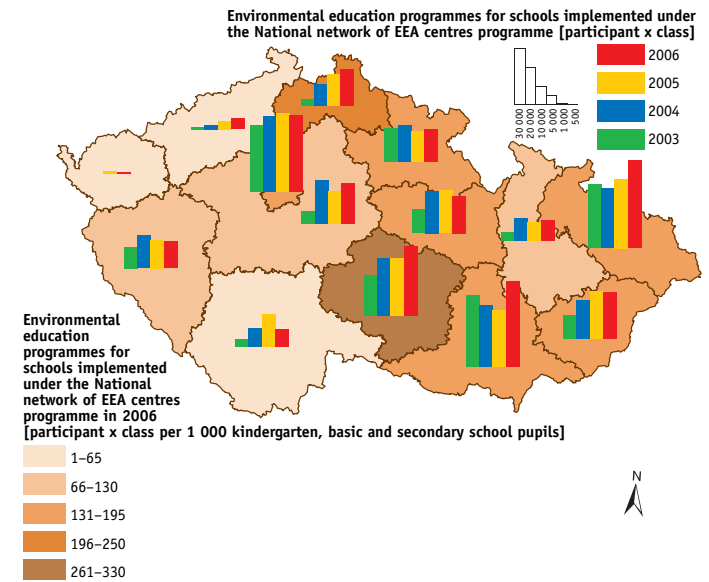


SELECTED PROJECTS

- ◉ The National EEA Network (<http://www.narodnisit.cz>) – a grant programme existing since 1999; since 2001, it has ensured the fulfilment of some tasks of the State Programme of Environmental Education and Public Awareness by NGOs.
- ◉ The GLOBE programme (<http://www.globe.gov>) – an international schools programme designed to promote and deepen the knowledge of natural sciences and technology.
- ◉ Eco-Schools (<http://ekoskola.cz>) – an international programme aimed at interconnecting environmental education with specific practical steps that lead to a "green" school.
- ◉ Schools for Sustainable Life (<http://www.skolaprozivot.cz>) – a common grant and assistance programme designed for kindergartens and secondary schools in selected regions of the Czech Republic.
- ◉ Sustainable Development Schools (<http://www.kev.ecn.cz>) – a project that awards schools that adopt a comprehensive approach to environmental education.
- ◉ The Multi-Media Environmental Yearbook – Environmental Education for Basic and Secondary Schools (<http://vitejenazemi.cenia.cz>) – a teaching aid for better understanding relationships in the environment for basic and secondary school pupils and teachers.
- ◉ Eco-literary to Schools (<http://kev.ecn.cz/esf>) – a long-term project dedicated to gradually increasing the preparedness of teachers for sustainable development education.
- ◉ M.R.K.E.V. (http://www.pavucina-sev.cz/m_r_k_e_v_.htm) – a programme for the development of both curricular and extra-curricular activities in EEA and support for the development and implementation of school programmes.
- ◉ Mrkvicka (<http://www.pavucina-sev.cz/mrkvicka1.htm>) – a project supporting environmental education in kindergartens.
- ◉ Eco-days Olomouc (<http://www.slunakov.cz/edo.php>) – a major enlightenment event designed for the general public promoting nature protection.
- ◉ Ekofilm (<http://www.ekofilm.eu>) – an international film festival about the environment, natural and cultural heritage.

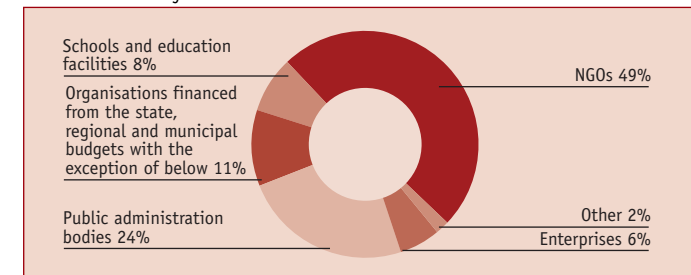
◉ Indicators for the evaluation of EEA regional systems

Source: Ministry of the Environment, Czech Statistical Office
Prepared by: SSEV Pavučina



◉ The proportion of entities implementing EEA within the MoE's grant scheme "The network of environmental information and consultation centres" (Operational Programme Human Resources Development) in the Czech Republic, 2007

Source: Ministry of the Environment



THE MOST IMPORTANT EEA DOCUMENTS

- ◉ Section 13 of Act No. 123/1998 Sb., on the right to information about the environment
- ◉ The Education Act, i.e. Act No. 561/2004 Sb., on pre-school, basic, secondary, tertiary professional and other education
- ◉ An intersectoral agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on EEA signed since 1999 for specific years
- ◉ The State Programme of Environmental Education and Public Awareness of the Czech Republic (2000)
- ◉ The Sustainable Development Strategy of the Czech Republic (2008–2015)
- ◉ The Aarhus Convention, ratified by the Czech Republic (July 2004), effective as of 4 October 2004