

Education Policy

Sources

The Education System of the Czech Republic

<http://www.msmt.cz/areas-of-work/skolstvi-v-cr/educational-system>

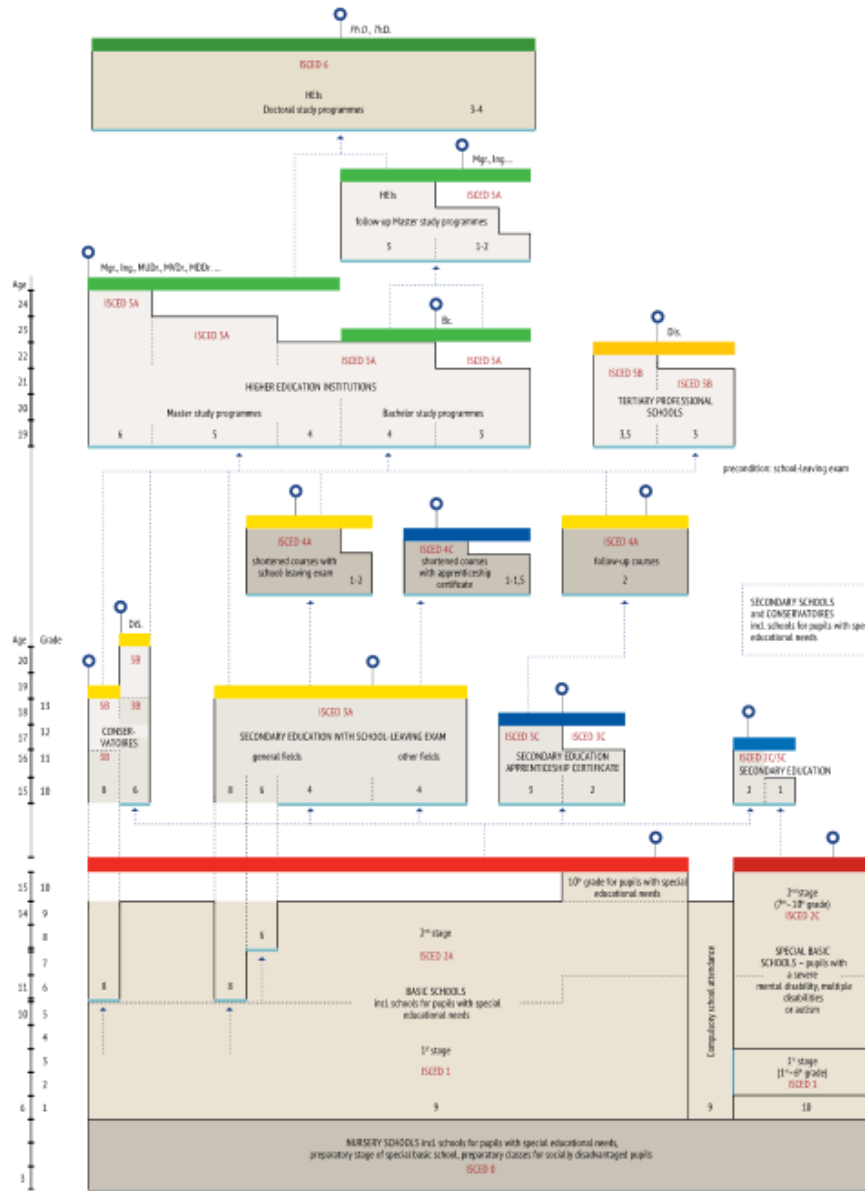
Short version:

<http://www.msmt.cz/file/27043/download/>

Historical milestones for Czech Education

- 1348 – Charles IV established a university in Prague – first institution of higher education north of the Alps
- 1592 – John Amos Comenius – often considered the founder of modern education – was born in Moravia
- 1774 – Empress Maria Theresa introduced mandatory primary education in the Habsburg Monarchy

Organisation of the Education System in the Czech Republic



Source: *The Education System in the Czech Republic*

Key Facts about Education in the Czech Republic

Compulsory education

- for all children at the age from 6 to 15 years
- in 2010 the number of children of compulsory school age was 834 000, i.e. 7 % of population
- the official language of instruction is Czech
- only the Polish minority has its own school teaching in Polish

Number of schools and pupils/students (2011/2012)

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of pupils/students
Nursery schools	4,931	342,521
Primary schools (for primary and lower secondary education)	4,111	794,642
Secondary schools (upper secondary education, incl. VET)	1,393	501,220
Conservatoires	18	3,557
Post-secondary colleges	180	29,335

Higher education (2011)

- 73 Higher Education Institutions divided as follows:
 - 28 universities (26 public, 2 state)
 - 45 private institutions
- 392,429 students

Source: *The Education System in the Czech Republic*

Structure and Responsibilities within the System of Education

- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
 - is primarily responsible for the conception, state and development of the education system;
 - content of education, state financing policy in education, school register, training of teachers
- The municipalities are responsible for ensuring conditions for the compulsory attendance, thus they establish and administer **basic schools**. Usually, they are also organizing bodies of **nursery schools** which are not compulsory.

Legislation

Two main:

- Education Act on Pre-primary, Basic, Secondary and Tertiary Professional Education (No. 472/2011)
- **The Higher Education Act** (No. 111/1998)

Others (e.g. – The act on Providing Subsidies to Private Schools and Pre-school and School Establishments etc.)

Advisory and consultative bodies in education area

- Council of Economic and Social Agreement (tripartite: government, employers – unions)
- The Czech School Inspectorate
- The National Institute of Education
- The Centre for Evaluation of Educational Achievements
- The National Institute for Further Education
- Centre for Higher Education Studies

Education Policy of the Czech Republic

- Framework Educational Programmes
- Bologna process (European higher education area) - **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)**
- Strategy of Lifelong Learning
- National qualification framework

Ongoing reforms

- Improving the quality and availability of pre-school education (nursery school) - **why, what and how?**
- Systematic improvements in the quality of education and reform of education system (basic and secondary schools) – **why, what and how?**
- Higher education reform – discussion about fees, standards, curricula

Main Problems

- demographic situation x number of schools
- private x state schools (fees)
- curricula (theory x practice)
- „state“ school graduating exam
- quality in education