

HAZARDOUS WASTE ISSUES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC - NATIONAL REPORT

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NATIONAL PROFILE

Geography

Area:	78 864 km ²
Population:	10.3 mill inhabitants (1992)
Density of population per 1 km ²	131
max. (Capital Prague)	2 453
min. (distr. Český Krumlov, Tachov)	36

Economics and Industry

The Czech Republic is currently undergoing a very complicated transformation process of the whole national economy. According to the published data the Czech economy excelled in the past years in the fulfilment of stabilization aims, namely in the relatively low inflation rate, a stable currency and well-balanced payments as well as a good balance of the state budget. Since the end of 1991 the gross domestic product is stagnating. The revival tendencies were interrupted due to separation of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic. This was followed by a monetary currency separation. Unfavorable effects had also lasting economic recession in Western Europe. In the following text of the report it is very important to differentiate the data in Czechoslovak Crowns (CSK) and those in Czech Crowns (CK).

More detailed data concerning the transformation process can be found in the Statistic Year-Book of the Czech Republic published by the Czech Statistic Authority in 1994. The influence of the overall transformation on the waste management is especially remarkable due to the presence of following factors:

- market shifts in the shares of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of economy in creation of the gross domestic product. This process is still far from its stabilization and its aim is to reach gradual reduction of the oversized industry and by that to reduce step by step production of waste. Currently the index of industrial production compared with the year 1990 is roughly reduced to 0.75;
- the production programs both in the establishments and in a structure of branches are not yet clear and stabilized;
- a very significant factor is an entry of foreign capital into all spheres including waste management.

According to calculations of the World Bank the Czech economic power was on the 50th place when measured in relation to the Czech gross domestic product in the year 1993 (31.5 thousand million USD). According to economic activity and under similar above mentioned conditions the Czech Republic occupies the 34th place with 3 029 USD per inhabitant in the year 1993.

Some more detailed data concerning the economy of the Czech Republic are presented in Table 1.

Administration

Waste management in the Czech Republic is directed according to the law mainly by the following central administration bodies:

- Ministry of the Environment (a central authority of the government administration for waste management);
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce (secondary raw material);
- Ministry of Economy (governmental policy on raw material);
- Ministry of Health (protection of human health);
- further central authorities of the state administration within the range of their competencies.

Law No. 311/1991 S.B. on jurisdiction in waste management divides specific waste management activities among:

- Ministry of the Environment,
- Czech Environmental Inspection,
- District authorities (75 in all),
- Municipal authorities.

At present preparations for formation of administrative areas and a reform of administrative activities are in progress. Delimitation of competences including the waste management sector has not been terminated yet.

Technical Services

Just like the whole economy also the whole sector of services, research and designing is undergoing a complicated complex process of transformation. Waste management has been included in the educational programs of secondary technical and economic schools and universities. There are gradually founded private institutions assisting the entrepreneur sector as well as the municipalities in solving current problems of waste management. Within the competence of the Ministry of the Environment problems of waste management are dealt with namely by the Czech Environmental Institute. There is gradual increase in the capacity of foreign companies active in that sector throughout the territory of the Czech Republic. A whole range of decisive waste management enterprises is associated in several voluntary syndicates. However, this process has not been rounded off successfully yet.

Estimation of Environmental Sensitivity

Selected indicators of the state of the environment in the Czech Republic are summarized namely in a publication which is issued periodically by the Ministry of the Environment in collaboration with the Czech Environmental Institute utilizing data from the Czech Office of Statistics, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other authorities and organizations. The latest yearbook is available for the participants of this workshop.

INDUSTRY PROFILE

The industry of the Czech Republic has well developed extraction and manufacturing branches. Within the transformation of the industry a significant transfer from central directive planning to market economy has been achieved step by step. The privatisation process is not yet finished.