

CZECHIA

Decision-Making

Stakeholders: The National Immunisation Commission (NIKO) (a form of the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and public health insurance companies. NIKO representatives are from the MoH, scientific societies and public health insurance companies.

Introducing a new vaccine: The NIKO advises the MoH to implement a vaccination recommendation. The MoH issues a proposal for a legislation change to parliament, which takes the final decision on funding. Members of the Parliament may propose legislative changes regarding immunisation as well. The price for mandatory vaccinations is set through a national price contest managed by General Health Insurance Company and is valid for four years. The Health Technology Assessment agency set a maximum price for voluntary vaccination based on the average of the three lowest-cost vaccines.

Critical Financing Challenges: The Czech healthcare system relies heavily on public finances, posing risks during economic downturns and demographic shifts.

Financing

Primary Funding Sources: Public health insurance fund built from regular contributions from employers, self-employed and state payments for state-insured persons (prisoners, unemployed, retired, children, pregnant people). The state budget covers special and emergency vaccinations. Private sick funds sometimes cover the costs of non-reimbursed vaccinations.

Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability: Immunisation program funding is secured through legislation, covered partly by the state budget and partly by public health insurance.

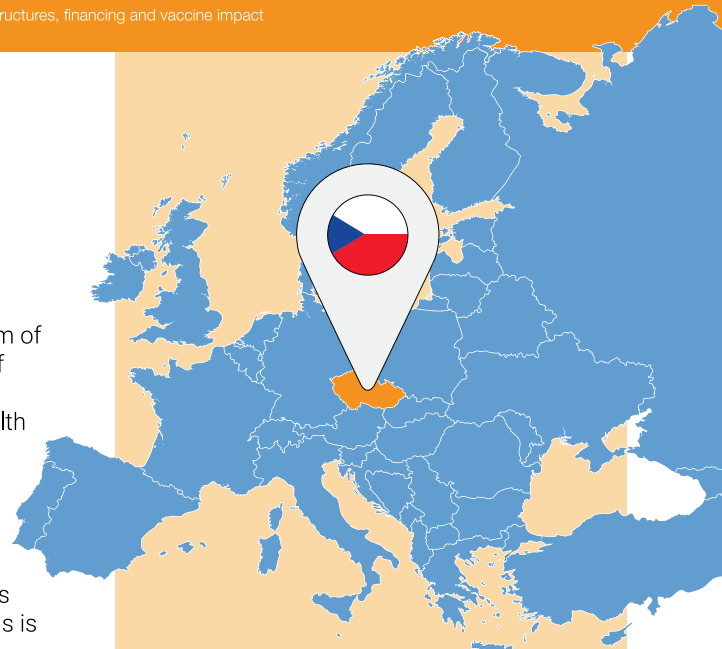
	Yes	No
Ministry of Finance Involvement		✓
Ringfencing (Specific to vaccination)	✓	
Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability	✓	
External Funding Sources		✓
Influence of Public-Private Partnerships		✓

Landscape

History: The current financing system has been stable for years. The government has not funded any large-scale campaigns. Campaigns are often funded and delivered by pharmaceutical companies.

Future: The reimbursement process for voluntary vaccination is expected to change from January 2025 due to a change in Health Technology Assessments, which will consider the socio-economic value of immunisation in decision-making.

Politicians know the changes necessary because of the ageing population but are concerned about this political decision. In the spring of 2024, Czechia experienced a wave of pertussis, leading to media support for pertussis vaccination and schools being proactive in checking pertussis vaccination status and recommending vaccination. The tuberculosis burden is expected to increase due to a high influx of refugees in 2023 and 2024.



Centralised Health System



7.8%

of GDP spent on healthcare



8%

of healthcare budget is spent on prevention



25%

Over-65 influenza vaccination coverage (2021)

Adult vaccination (18+) recommendation against 14 diseases:

COVID-19*
Tetanus**
Pertussis
Haemophilus influenzae type B
Hepatitis B**
Pneumococcal disease
Measles**
Varicella
HPV
Influenza*
Herpes Zoster
Hepatitis A
Tick-borne encephalitis
Rabies

*6/14 are government funded

** Indicates mandatory vaccination

