



Missions as a part of the Czech Research, Development and Innovation ecosystem

MISSION OVERVIEW

Czech National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) 2021-2027 aims to direct support to selected priority areas that have high potential to create a long-term competitive advantage based on knowledge exploitation and innovation. One dimension of this broader strategy is RIS3 missions, an ecosystem-based mission approach that aims to direct research, development and innovation towards solutions for societal challenges. Missions aim to mobilize capacities across several ministries and regional/municipal organizations to achieve goals related to societal challenges.

Currently, two RIS3 Missions are being implemented in the Czech Republic:

- M01: Improving the material, energy and emissions efficiency of the economy**
- M02: Strengthening society's resilience to security threats**



Start date	Average annual budget (in euros):	Number of missions
2021	Between 2021-2025, €2,626 billion in 1517 projects in operational and national programmes was invested in total in both missions.	2

Scaling up, Competitiveness and Societal Change

How is your mission scaling up solutions to maximise societal and economic impact?

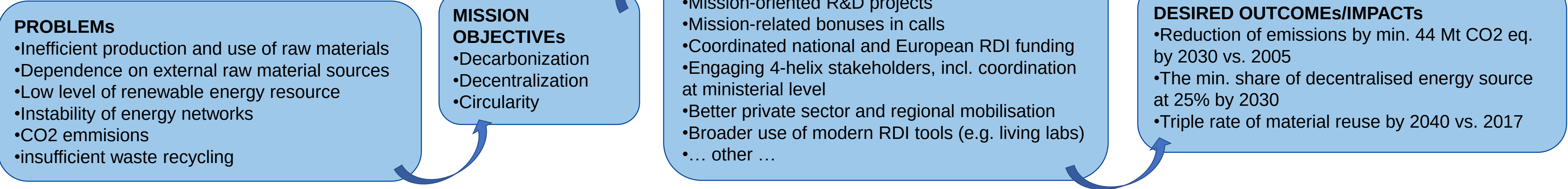
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Mission approach is designed to scale up solutions by connecting research, innovation and public policy with the needs of society and the economy. A key element is the **cross-governmental coordination** of activities addressing a common mission objective. The approach also strengthens the link between **innovation and real-world demand**. Regional initiatives (the South Moravian Climate Action Plan) provide additional pathways.
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The main barriers are **limited private-sector mobilisation, insufficient financial resources specifically dedicated to the missions, and a still-developing portfolio-management approach**. Overcoming these barriers requires **stronger government-level oversight to enhance cross-ministerial coordination**, greater involvement of businesses, and better alignment of RDI support with the needs and investment priorities of both the public and private sectors.
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To effectively scale the Missions, establishing a **specifically dedicated mission budget** is essential. Concurrently, the Missions must be embedded within the wider Czech RDI ecosystem, connecting research with market deployment, public procurement, and strategic investments. Strategic oversight by the **Research, Development and Innovation Council (RVVI)** provides a robust foundation for this coordination, driving a systematic transition toward a whole-of-ecosystem approach.

Example: Theory of Change



Learning from Missions

What are the high value spillovers of missions and how are they anchored beyond the mission governance?

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Missions generate high-value spillovers—most notably new knowledge, enhanced cross-ministerial collaboration, and innovative monitoring and evaluation tools. To anchor these agile governance practices and tools beyond immediate mission governance, successful outcomes must be systematically integrated into national policies like the **National Policy on Research, Development, and Innovation** and the **National RIS3 Strategy**.
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The main barriers to capturing higher spillovers are communication and responsibility silos between ministries ("**resortismus**"), which block the horizontal collaboration. This is further compounded by a **lack of specifically dedicated mission budgets** and an over-reliance on traditional, fragmented RDI funding. These barriers can limit the transfer of knowledge and good practices beyond individual programmes, organisations and missions themselves.
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Learning could be strengthened through systematic **cross-mission knowledge-sharing mechanism**, regular peer-learning between national and regional RIS3 structures, and systematic documentation of successful approaches and lessons learned. Stronger links between RVVI, the National RIS3 Team, regional structures and European partners would also help.

Evaluation Frameworks

What are you evaluating and what are the processes?

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Currently, we evaluate the implementation of the Missions primarily through **output, result and impact indicators**. In parallel, we seek to engage and mobilise as broad a range of **stakeholders as possible**. This stakeholder engagement helps us identify relevant needs, barriers and opportunities for further development of the Missions.
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The main challenge is **measuring** systemic societal and economic **change and attributing it to mission** interventions rather than to individual projects. Czechia also needs more appropriate **indicators for systemic change**, while fragmented data, different programme-level indicators and limited coordination across ministries makes comprehensive assessment difficult.
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The framework could be strengthened by shifting the evaluation approach toward a **system-oriented, learning-based assessment**. Rather than focusing solely on measurable outputs and impacts, this approach would utilize a Theory of Change to evaluate the Mission's contribution to systemic change. Furthermore, it would track the **adoption and scaling of solutions alongside the mobilization of the wider Czech RDI ecosystem**.

Achievements

- The majority of RDI **grant providers** has **implemented missions' objectives in their calls** and in the assessment of research grant applications.
- The **integration of MOIP into the National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)**, subject to government approval, represents a significant success and holds great promise for the future development of missions.
- Continuous discussion and **awareness-raising** among a wider stakeholder audience (including regional actors) are already yielding positive results and should be developed further.

Words of wisdom

- **Strategic Integration:** Incorporating the missions into the National Policy for Research, Development, and Innovation (NP VaVaI) with dedicated financial resources and clearly defined objectives would significantly drive interest in their nationwide implementation.
- **Elevated Governance:** Shifting governance to the Council for Research, Development, and Innovation (RVVI)—where individual transformation missions are defined and approved in advance—will strengthen the top-down approach and bolster essential political support.
- **International Benchmarking:** Drawing on foreign best practices regarding implementation, scaling, and evaluation is essential to inspire and guide the further development of missions in Czechia.