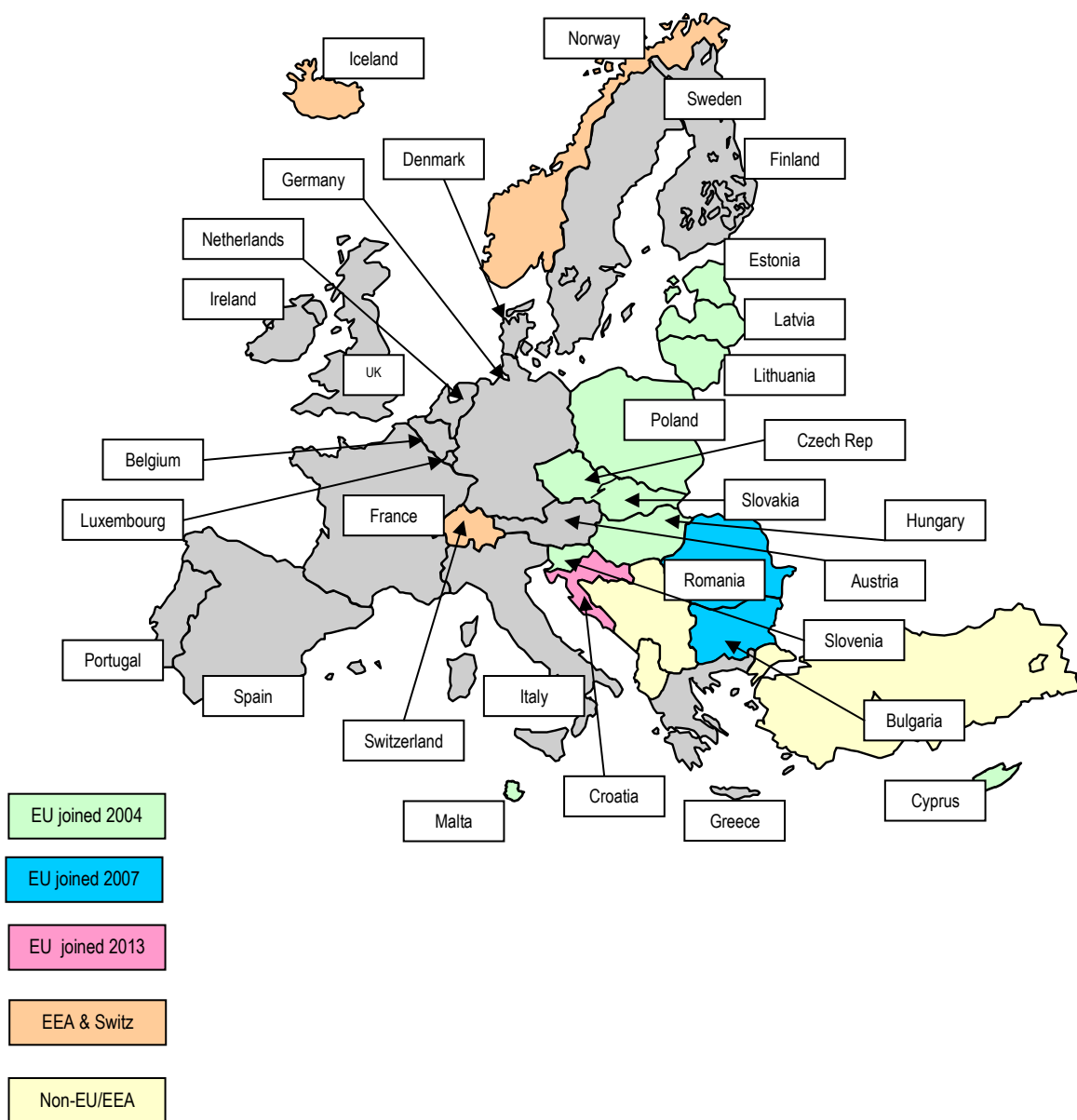


Council of European Dentists

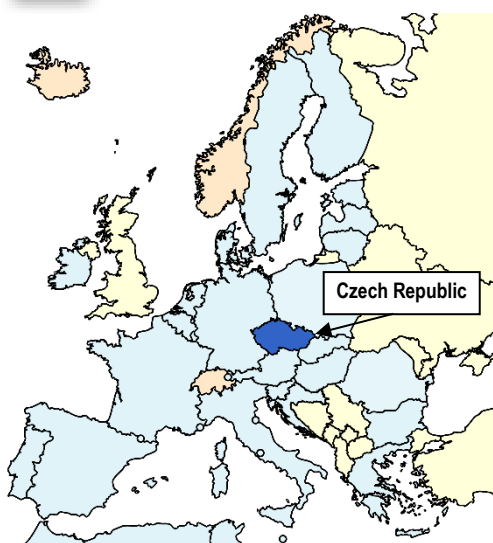
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

The Czech Republic





The Czech Republic



In the EU/EEA since	2004
Population (2024)	10 900 555
GDP PPP per capita (2024)	36 243
Currency	Czech Crown (CZK)
Official language(s)	Czech

Healthcare in the Czech Republic is provided through a mandatory health insurance system. National healthcare services are provided by 7 state-approved health insurance funds. The Ministry of Health is the central body for the planning and delivery of the healthcare system, with 14 administrative regions responsible for registering and coordinating regional health facilities. Approximately 42% of dental health care costs were covered by public funding in 2021. Around 6% of the public healthcare budget is spent on dentistry.

Number of dentists (active)	8 609 (2025)
(Active) dentist to population ration (per 100 000 inhab)	79
Members of Dental Association	100%

Seven dental specialities are recognised in the Czech Republic, namely Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Oral Maxillo-Facial Surgery (OMFS), Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontology, Oral Medicine, Implantology. Continuing professional development is mandatory for all dentists since 2020.

Date of last revision: 02 February 2025

Government and healthcare in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a small country in terms of population and land area coverage (78,864 sq km).

The Czech Republic is a sovereign, united and democratic parliamentary republic. Its government is divided into three branches - the legislative, represented by Parliament, the executive, represented mainly by the President and the government, and the judicial branch, represented by courts at various levels. The country is administered as 14 regions, including Praha, the capital, also carrying regional status.

Czech healthcare is founded on the principles of solidarity ("spreading the risk"), a high level of autonomy, multi-source financing and public health insurance, free patient choice in the choice of the practitioner, health care facility and insurance, as well as equal accessibility to services provided for all insured.

The healthcare system is administered by the Ministry of Health.

Healthcare is provided predominantly through obligatory public statutory health insurance (SHI). The public health insurance system is provided by 7 state-approved health insurance funds (HIFs). The health insurance funds (sick funds) therefore endorse a central role in financing SHI, provide a legally prescribed standard package of healthcare, as well as contract a network of compliant healthcare providers. Contractual health insurance is only of a supplementary nature.

Membership to one of the HIFs is mandatory for all Czech citizens, self-employed, permanent and most foreign residents.

Persons benefiting from public insurance are required to pay contributions regularly. Public health insurance payers are various and include employees, employers, self-employed individuals and the State. Defined groups remain exempt from contributions, covered by the State. These include children not

otherwise provided for (up to 18 years or up to 26 years old with student status), pensioners (under the Czech pension insurance scheme), mothers on maternity leave, those who take full-time care of at least one child of up to 7 years old or two children of up to 15 years old, military soldiers, persons in custody or serving their sentence, and others.

Voluntary health insurance remains low in the Czech Republic, accounting for 1% of total health spending in 2021, due to the broad range of services included in the public benefits package.

Out-of-pocket payments are mainly comprised of co-payments for pharmaceuticals, out-patient medical care and non-covered dental care. Out-of-pocket payment accounted for 12.7% of health spending in 2021, with 21% attributable to dental care.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	8.4	2024	WHO
% of this spent by government	85	2024	European Observatory on Health Systems and Initiatives
% of dental care covered by the government	42%	2021	OECD Health Statistics

Dental care is mainly provided by private dental practitioners, with a minor portion of care delivered by public hospitals. The current aging of a large share of active dentists in the Czech Republic is important, with one fourth of active dentists being over 60 years old.

Health benefits under the public healthcare scheme includes routine and preventative oral healthcare, some essential curative oral healthcare and some advanced curative treatments.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter dental school students must successfully finish high school, with a school-leaving certificate. They must successfully pass a theoretical entrance examination. No other vocational entry is needed.

Year of data	2024
Number of schools	6
Student intake	305
Number of graduates a year (total English and Czech programmes)	300
Gender balance (% of female students)	90
Duration of studies	5

Dental schools are known as *Stomatologická klinika Lékařské fakulty*, of a university (Stomatological Clinic of the Faculty of Medicine of the University). The Czech Republic hosts 6 dental schools located in the cities of Prague, Pilsen, Hradec Králové, Brno, Olomouc and Ostrava.

Dental study programmes are offered both in Czech and English languages. According to the Czech Dental Chamber, an average of 220 students graduate from dental undergraduate courses taught in Czech language every year. Approximately 60 to 80 students, composed of Czech, EU and third-country nationals, graduate from English-taught courses every year.

Dental studies remain free of charge for all Czech students for courses delivered in the Czech language.

Dental courses delivered in English require a tuition fees, which may range from €11 000 to 14 000 per year.

The responsibility for quality assurance in the faculties is by the Ministry of Education, the Chancellor of the University and the Dean of the Faculty.

Upon completion of their undergraduate studies, students receive the title of Doctor of Dental Medicine (*Medicinae Dentium Doctor* (DDDr.)).

Vocational Training (VT)

There is no post qualification vocational training. MDDr graduates are able to work in the Czech Republic and in other EU countries immediately upon qualification.

Registration

Dentists must register with the Czech Dental Chamber (*Česká stomatologická komora*, CSK) to obtain the delivery of a license and authorisation to practice. Dentists must pay an initial registration fee of 1000 Czech Crowns (CzK).

All private dental practices must also be registered under the appropriate Regional Authority. There are a total of 15 Regional Authorities in Czechia.

To register, a dentist must have a recognised qualification, permission for permanent residence in the Czech Republic, a work permit, and knowledge of Czech language upon completion of a test.

A yearly membership fee of 7000 CzK also has to be paid to the Chamber.

For the registration of foreign dentists (non-Czech), the recognition of dental diplomas goes through a process, free of charge, under the Ministry of Health. They must also register separately with the Czech Dental Chamber.

Requirements for foreigners to practice dentistry:

1. Recognition of a university diploma under the authority of the Ministry of Health
 2. Adequate knowledge of the Czech language – successful completion of a test of qualification in the Czech language
 3. Permission for long-term or permanent residence
 4. The qualification achieved in any EU country is accepted. Authorisation for the practice of dentistry on the territory of the Czech Republic is under the authority of the Ministry of Health and is necessary for the dentists from non-EU countries. It consists of a professional written and oral examination
 5. Proficiency in the Czech dental language, assessed through a mandatory test.
 6. Membership in the Czech Dental Chamber (CSK).
The CSK registers all who:
- have duly completed studies at a school of medicine at a Czech or foreign university and successfully completed a final examination in dentistry
- are authorised to practice dentistry on the territory of the Czech Republic.
- A licence to practice is therefore issued at the completion of the above requirements.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Participation in continuing education is mandatory since 2020. The system is delivered mainly by CSK, but also other providers can take part in the system. There are organised theoretical and practical lectures.

Certificates of Proficiency, issued by the CSK, are issued at the completion of courses included under the postgraduate educational cycle. Various Certificates delivered include:

- Dental Practitioner with Certificate of Proficiency
- Dental Practitioner with a Certificate of Proficiency in Periodontology
- Dental Practitioner with a Certificate of Proficiency in Oral Surgery
- Dental Practitioner with a Certificate of Proficiency in Paediatric dentistry
- Dentist holding a Certificate of Proficiency in Orthodontics

The Certificate of Proficiency is evidence of the education of the dentist, for patients. The attendance of dentists on recommended practice-oriented courses or theoretical lectures is evaluated by credits. The Certificate is delivered every 3 years after obtaining the number of required credits through continuing professional development courses.

Dental Practitioners holding a CPD Certificate receive a higher settlement (reimbursement rates) for some dental treatments from the public health insurance (SHI) (about 10% higher). The patient is not required to pay more.

Certificates of Proficiency	2023
Pedodontics.	32
Periodontics.	602
Oral Surgery.	541
Orthodontics.	367

The cost of CPD courses is born by either the self-employed or salaried dental practitioner, or the employer.

Specialist training

Seven dental specialities are recognised in the Czech Republic, namely Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Oral Maxillo-Facial Surgery (OMFS), Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontology, Oral Medicine, Implantology. To enter specialist training a dentist must have completed 36 months in general dental practice (or, for oral surgery, medical practice is acceptable). Specialist training last between 2 (for periodontology) and 6 years (for OMFS) depending on the speciality and is completed through examinations.

All specialist training is carried out in university clinics by accredited university teachers.

The responsibility for registration of specialists lies with the Czech Dental Chamber (CSK). The dentists in specialist training are usually salaried employees (or part-time employees) of the universities where the training is held.

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data	2024
Total Registered	11 200
In active practice	8 609
(Active) dentist to pop ration (per 100 000 inhab)	79
Percentage female	70%
Qualified overseas	770
*Active dentists only	

According to the Czech Dental Chamber, the increasing ageing of the Czech population is leading to a current shortage in the number of active dental professionals in the country. This shortage of dentists is particularly affecting rural areas and smaller towns in the Czech Republic. This trend can be explained by emigration of new graduates to other European countries to practice, where the salaries for general practitioners remain higher than in the Czech Republic.

In parallel, the attractiveness for foreign students coming to study dentistry in the Czech Republic has however been on the rise the past few years. The capacity to retain this dental workforce remains low, with many foreign students returning to their home country to practice after graduation.

In an attempt to respond to the current shortage of dentists, the Czech Senate adopted in May 2024 regulations facilitating and expediting the recognition and certification process of third-country dental diplomas, with the intent to attract and retain non-EU dentists.

Movement of dentists across borders

According to the Czech Dental Chamber, there is a marginal number of Czech-trained dentists practising abroad.

No precise data is available on the annual movement of dental practitioners to and from the Czech Republic. However, according to the Chamber, an approximate and fluctuating number of 770 foreign-trained dentists are currently in practice in the Czech Republic.

Specialists

Year of data:	2022
Oral Surgeons	700
Orthodontists	380
OMFS	90
Paediatric Dentistry	60
Periodontology	700
Implantology	
Oral Medicine	0

Additionally, about 75% of dentists hold a Certificate of Proficiency, which entitles them to apply to the Health insurance company for higher fees – see previous section. This includes practitioners with a General Dental proficiency.

Whilst a referral by a generalist to a specialist is the norm, patients are not precluded from making direct access to specialists (or dentists with the certificates of proficiency).

Auxiliaries

There are three types of recognised clinical auxiliaries, dental hygienists, dental technicians and dental chairside assistants (dental nurses).

Year of data	2024
Hygienists (non-registered)	1 679
Dental chairside assistants	9300
Dental clinical technicians (non registered)	2 603

There is no obligatory registration of dental hygienists, dental technicians and dental assistants in the Czech Republic.

Dental Hygienists

Hygienists are permitted to work in the Czech Republic, provided they have a diploma (DiS). They train in a special higher school specifically for dental hygienists (3 years), following 4 years in any high school. Since 2008 there has been a bachelor's degree (BSc) available, following study of 3 years, for dental hygienists. Both methods of qualification of dental hygienists are acceptable in the Czech Republic.

Hygienists work under the supervision of a dentist only, and their duties include scaling, cleaning and polishing, removal of excess filling material, local application of fluoride agents, the insertion of preventive sealants. Oral health education and prevention can be performed independently.

Dental Technicians

There are different ways of training for dental technicians: 4 years study in a high school specifically for dental technicians (assistant of the dental technician, he/she can work as employee only), or study in a higher school specifically for dental technicians (3 years of study following 4 years in any high school) – those with a higher degree of education also receive a DiS. In 2008 a bachelor's degree study (BSc) for 3 years for dental technicians was also started.

Dental technicians construct prostheses for insertion by dentists. They normally work independently in commercial laboratories, only a few are employees of dentists or of clinics. They do not directly practice in dental clinics. Technicians can be owners of the laboratory and then they are self-employed, or they are normally salaried (the employees).

Dental Chairside Assistants (Nurses)

Dental assistants must have an appropriate education:

- accredited specialised course for dental assistants
- or 2 years of study at the school for dental assistants
- or dental assistants can be general nurses with training by the dentist. They are educated in high school for nurses, for 4 years, with a leaving examination.

They work under supervision of a dentist and may work independently.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

Dental associations and information centre	
The Czech Dental Chamber	Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (Ústav zdravotnických informací a statistiky ČR)
<p>Ceska Stomatologická Komora Slavojova 22, Praha 2 128 00 Czech Republic Tel: +420 234 709 610 Fax: +420 234 709 616 E-mail: csk@dent.cz Website: www.dent.cz</p>	<p>Tel: +420 224 971 111 E-mail: sekretariat@uzis.cz Website: www.uzis.cz</p>

Competent authorities and Insurance Companies

Ministry of Health (Ministerstvo zdravotnictví ČR)	Kooperativa pojišťovna, a.s. (Insurance company)
<p>Palackého nam. 4, 128 01, Praha Tel: +42 022 497 1111 E-mail: mzcr@mzcr.cz Website: www.mzcr.cz</p>	<p>Tel: +420 800 105 105 E-mail: info@koop.cz Website: www.koop.cz</p>
Česká pojišťovna, a.s. (Insurance Company)	
<p>Tel: +420 800 133 666 E-mail: info@cpoj.cz Website: www.cpoj.cz</p>	

Dental Schools:

Plzeň – Karlova University	Prague – Karlova University
<p>Name of University: Lékařská fakulta Karlovy univerzity v Plzni Tel: +420 377 593 400 E-mail: marie.kleckova@lf1.cuni.cz Website: www.lf1.cuni.cz Dentists graduating each year: cca 50-60 Number of students: 330</p>	<p>Charles University Ovocný trh 560/5 Prague 1, 116 36 Czech Republic Tel: +420 224 961 111 E-mail: info@lf1.cuni.cz Website: www.lf1.cuni.cz Dentists graduating each year: cca 50-60 Number of students: 240-290</p>
Hradec Králové	Olomouc - University Palackého Olomouc

Hradec Králové Name of University: Lékařská fakulta Karlovy university v Hradci Králové Tel: +420 495 816 111 E-mail: dekanats@lfhk.cuni.cz Website: www.lfhk.cuni.cz Dentists graduating each year: 40 Number of students: 260	Name of University: Lékařská fakulta univerzity Palackého Tel: +420 585 632 010 E-mail: jiri.pridal@upol.cz Website: www.upol.cz Dentists graduating each year: 80 - 90 Number of students: 460
Brno – Masarykova University Name of University: Lékařská fakulta Masarykova university Tel: +420 542 126 111 E-mail: dekan@med.muni.cz Website: www.muni.cz Dentists graduating each year: cca 40 Number of students: cca 250	Ostrava – University of Ostrava, Faculty of Medicine Department of Dentistry Faculty of Medicine University of Ostrava Syllabova 19 703 00 Ostrava – Vítkovice Czech Republic Tel: +420 553 46 3501 E-mail: info.lf@osu.cz <u>Head of Department:</u> Email: martin.starosta@osu.cz <u>Secretariat:</u> Email: gabriela.sedlackova@osu.cz Phone: +420 553 46 1727 Website: www.lf.osu.cz <i>This university opened in 2023. The first dentists will graduate in 2026.</i>

