



Czech Republic



- Location: Central Europe, southeast of Germany
- Area: Total - 78,866sq km; Land - 77,276 sq km; Water - 1,590 sq km
- Natural Resources: hard coal, soft coal, kaolin, clay, timber
- Population: 10,220,911 (July 2008)
- Languages: Czech 94.9%, Slovak 2%, other 2.3%, unidentified 0.8%
- Government Type: Parliamentary democracy
- Legal System: Civil Law System
- Executive Branch: Chief of State—President Vaclav Klaus, Head of Government: Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek
- Political parties: Czech Social Democrat Party (CSSD), Civic Democratic Party (ODS), Freedom Union (US-DEU), Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), Christian Democratic Union/Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU/CSL)

Challenges:

- Corruption and the abuse of office are persistent in the Czech Republic. According to Transparency International, the most affected areas include public procurement, administrative and tax proceedings, and the distribution of subsidiaries within the public administration.
- Russian organized crime groups use coverage companies to penetrate their way into the Czech Republic. The Ministry of the Interior acknowledges that Russian organized crime groups have a lot of funds at their disposal, which are mainly invested into real estate in the Czech Republic.
- Negotiations with the United States over a possible missile defense plan, along with proposed fiscal reforms, have led to severe clashes between the government and opposition parties. On April 30 the ODS led government barely managed to survive a no confidence vote that was forwarded by the opposition party CSSD.

Challenges: Medium

HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW

Actions:

- CIN screens business partners and investigates any hidden ownership structures to ensure that there are no criminal organizations involved, which can damage your business credibility and reputation.