
FACT SHEET

Overseas Duty Visit Panel on Development

Spatial planning and urban renewal in Prague

Table 1 – Basic information on Prague

Basic facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prague, spanning an area of 496 km² and housing a population of over 1.2 million, is the capital and the largest city of the Czech Republic. Situated on the River Vltava in central Bohemia, Prague has been the political, cultural, and economic centre of the Czech state for over 1 100 years.• Prague is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and is among the most visited cities on the continent. Since 1992, the historic centre of Prague has been included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage sites.• Prague is governed by the Prague City Council, with its members being elected by universal suffrage. The Council is led by the Executive, which is chaired by the elected Mayor. For administrative purpose, Prague is divided into 22 districts which possess individual district councils.
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Table 2 – Spatial planning in Prague

Responsible authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Development Authority of Prague.
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial Planning Act.
Major policy paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan for Prague.
Spatial planning policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategic Plan for Prague was formulated in 2001, providing a vision of what Prague plans to achieve in spatial planning in the next 10 years. Although Prague has a master plan which guides the development of Prague, it does not determine what will be built, but rather what can be built. The basic strategic aim in spatial planning of Prague is the change-over from a monocentric to a polycentric city. In particular, Prague emphasizes the need to alleviate the demand for city centre and make more balanced use of all its territory. Some of the guiding principles of the spatial planning policy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) regulate the use of land and building; (b) regulate the proportion between built-up and green areas to avoid the spilling over of construction into green areas; (c) avoid intensive building work on slopes or valleys, cultivate green areas and gradually integrate them into the surrounding environment; (d) require that new construction projects meet high architectonic standards which are important to the city's development; (e) conduct public consultation before implementing any large construction projects; and (f) encourage the use of public places.

Table 3 – Urban renewal in Prague

Responsible authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Development Authority of Prague.
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan for Prague.
Urban renewal policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the guiding principles of the urban renewal policy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The city government plays a key role in formulating the urban renewal policy. Commercial enterprises, professional associations and citizens are consulted to determine the best urban renewal option. In many cases, the city government co-works with the private sector to implement large urban redevelopment projects. (b) The city government may sell the land to foreign developers for redevelopment purpose. (c) The city government develops good transport infrastructures and regenerates green spaces to improve the living environment. (d) The city government employs world-class architecture firms to carry out large urban redevelopment projects.

Table 4 – Possible sites for the visit

Western City (spatial planning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a municipal district with a total area of over 1 300 hectares and more than 50 000 residents. About 680 hectares of land are zoned for residential development, and more than 9 000 dwellings have been built. In addition, there are schools, shopping centres and a park.
Kampus Park (spatial planning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampus Park is located at district 11 in the southern part of the city, 20 minutes from the city centre. New modern detached houses, office buildings, shopping centres, hotels, leisure premises, restaurants, a public park and a cultural centre have been built.
Cycle paths (spatial planning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 185 km cycle paths in Prague. Approximately 63 km of those cycle paths are reserved for cyclists in parks, orchards and newly constructed roads. The Prague government plans to extend the cycle paths to 450 km.
Žižkov (urban renewal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Žižkov is currently undergoing urban renewal work, with many older dilapidated buildings being reconstructed and restored. Due to its unique historical background, Žižkov is now the Bohemian part of Prague, with many artists living and performing there.
Wenceslas Square (urban renewal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prague government started redeveloping the Wenceslas Square in the 1980s. The Wenceslas Square has become the centre of the business and cultural communities in the New Town of Prague, housing many hotels, offices, retail stores, restaurants and currency exchange booths.
Smíchov (urban renewal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smíchov is located at the left bank of the river Vltava. In the 1990s, the Prague government began co-working with private companies to demolish old industrial buildings and build a hypermarket, two multiplex cinemas, two hotels and several commercial premises.

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