

PROGRAM STAN 2021

GIVING THE STATE BACK TO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

*„We can take care of our municipalities,
we will take good care of our state as well.“*

PREAMBLE

The state is us

We present our program to those, who are ready to participate in public affairs, those who want to shape their future and the future of their children and want to influence the form and decision-making of public authorities.

We present it to citizens, who value their personal freedom and dignity and are ready to defend their civil liberties. It is meant for those, who acknowledge democracy not as a masterpiece of human effort, but as a best possible form of government. We present it to people, who do not see politics only as filthy and corrupt way to satisfy personal needs, but as a civil service for the greater good.

It is certain, that Czech Republic still needs to improve, and in some fields, it is in a need for a reform. Our state is in a situation where partial changes will not either save or improve the system, as many previous governments tried to persuade us. Our country is in a great need of a complex political reform followed by minor alterations in individual policy areas.

Our goal is simple, yet not easy to achieve: we want to see our country as a good place to live. To do so, we need a real reform of our democracy, to restore the belief in democracy as a right form of government and administration, to restore the belief, that free and fair elections can bring a real change, and to give the state back to its responsible citizens.

Table of contents

Strategic plan	4
Public administration – decision-making brought closer to citizens	6
Constitution and laws – anchor of the state.....	10
Rule of law – pillar of democracy	13
Education and science – key to the future	16
Economy – road to prosperity.....	19
Industry – foundation of Czech economy	22
Energetics – power source of our country	25
Transportation – the end of a black hole in the heart of Europe.....	27
Defense – the end of illusions.....	31
Health – the key to a happy life	33
Sport – road to harmonious personality development	35
Social policy – targeted help for the ones in need.....	37
Countryside and agriculture – food production and landscape cultivation	40
Foreign policy – conditions of state security	42
Culture – nation's identity foundation	45
People and the landscape – environmental policy.....	48

Strategic plan

The movement Starostové a nezávislí is based on the assumption, that the foundation of human cohabitation is family, circle of close ones and then municipality.

According to our understanding the state is not supposed to “think for” the citizens or “raise” them. We think of a state as a service organization.

Strong but svelte state

STAN promotes “strong state, strong municipalities” in terms of strengthening the state in areas where it is irreplaceable, such as **defense, foreign policy, internal security and justice system**. In these areas the central administration has undisputed justification. In these areas state needs to remain strong

STAN will especially push for simplification of the legal order – gradual abolition of unnecessary agendas and laws – adopting new laws, which will be comprehensible to the general public – we reject the opinion that the rule of law is supposed to be comprehensible only to the experts.

We understand **Parliament** not as a factory to produce laws, but as a forum for a society-wide discussion. Our goal is to slow down and improve the process of adopting and assessment of new laws.

We perceive **foreign policy** as an instrument how to improve external state security as well as an instrument how to anchor our state in international structures. STAN declares that the **Czech Republic is a Western country, and it is one of the countries associated in the European Union. In terms of defense, it is a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization and it should remain as one**. The ambition to weaken the position of the Czech Republic within these organizations or direct attempt to disintegrate these structures as such is a hazard with our future.

Strong municipalities - decision-making brought closer to citizens

The state must give up its jurisdiction in areas where family, township, city or region have more effective instruments to evaluate and deal with their issues. Townships and cities must become administration centers in areas that the state cannot reach.

The perfect example would be the system of **granting social benefits**, where the knowledge of local environment can help to direct the resources to those who need them the most. We want to increase the role of municipality in the social system.

The social system should serve as a “safety net” for time of crisis, not as a lifestyle. We want to invest in education, not social benefits.

The foundation would be these following alterations

Transfer of competencies and revision of agendas

We will support the transfer of competencies from the center to municipalities, regions, townships and cities.

STAN will work to ensure that as many matters of public interest as possible are dealt with by municipalities and regions first and only then by central state authorities (law making, nation-wide concepts). The result of subsidiarity principle (“decision-making closest to citizens and issues as possible”) is downsizing of ministries and bigger accountability of each person for their own life and the lives of their close ones. We are convinced that central state administration institutions do not always have to be situated in Prague, but they can be relocated to other regions.

We want to create **working team for public agenda revision**. This team will consist of political party representatives across the political spectrum, employers, employees, and public administrations experts, in order, to revise (and reduce) public agenda. Following this reduction, we intend to decrease the number of clerks within the public administration by 10% (8 000 clerical positions).

Public administration reform

The starting point must be the concept “public administration is here for the citizens not the other way around”.

We will carry through the true creation of electronic public administration with remote access for each citizen (“digital key”), sharing data will ensure that there will be no need to send the same data multiple times to every institution of public administration. This applies to individuals and municipalities. At the same time, we respect the right of citizens to communicate with institutions of public administration the way they prefer most (personal visit, mail).

We will further support simplification of the current model of administration. We will push for elimination of redundant or inefficient public agendas and for the reduction of administration and bureaucracy in general.

Constitutional, electoral and legislative changes

We will push for a reduction in the number of elections and at the same time strengthening the position of the voters and their influence. We will support the electronic election pilot test (for example in one constituency in senate elections). If this test is successful, we would like all elections to be in electronic form.

We want the legislation to stop spewing new laws and at the same time we will work to abolish the unnecessary ones.

Priorities

- **No tax revolutions.** In the first phase we intend to keep the tax rates without bigger changes. We want to optimize the tax system so there is almost nothing tying up the economy and its driving forces.
- **Reducing the workload.** Following social and health reform, there should be a reduction in labor costs, i.e. reduce health and social insurance contributions.
- **Stop the outflow of dividends from the Czech Republic.** The solution is to introduce a reduced or even zero tax on that part of the profit which the corporation reinvests on Czech territory. These resources can also be used to raise the salaries of employees working in corporation's Czech branches (acceleration of depreciation).
- **Complete the central transport network.** The priority in this case must be to finish building highways in the southern direction (České Budějovice to Austria) and western direction (Karlovy Vary to Germany). When thinking of rail transport, the main focus must be on high-speed tracks.
- **Better connection between schools and employers.** We will push for connecting education system with the employers from private and public sector. There should be more clear structure to individual fields, so the graduates have a better chance to succeed on the labor market.
- **Healthcare** must ensure a standard of care at a high and financially acceptable level. The priority must be system regulation (from ministry of health and insurance companies), elimination of inequalities between care providers and increasing the salaries of medical staff.
- **Pension reform.** We need to prepare a proper pension reform, different from the incomplete attempts of previous governments. This step is necessary due to large deficits in pension insurance budget. The team working on this task must have a strict time limit.
- **Support of medium and small farmers.** Agricultural subsidies should be directed primarily at smaller food producers. We also need to take into account family farms, (especially animal production). Together with the farmers we also need to focus on the current issue of drought.
- **Defense policy** must take into account threats such as cyber attacks, hybrid wars etc. The population must be better prepared to face the state of crisis then it is now. The police must not be burdened by unnecessary administration.
- Return of **water supplies ownership** to the hands of cities and municipalities.

Public administration – decision making brought closer to citizens

Current state

The public administration reform of 1990 has not been finished yet – only two phases were completed (renewal of basic territorial self-government – municipalities and creation of higher territorial self-governing units - regions).

There was supposed to be a third phase completed – decentralization of competences of central government (ministries) and their reform (downsizing). That has not happened yet.

Currently we are witnessing opposite tendencies – centralization. The government is gradually taking administrative agendas away from the municipalities of II. degree (e.g. building authorities). In some areas it is already happening.

Some ministries are already announcing fundamental changes in powers of certain authorities. These authorities will now fall under organizational structure of individual ministries and they will help the centralization of power within the state. As a new phenomenon we can consider the tendency to create new independent “super authorities” working alongside the ministries.

STAN suggestions:

Decision making as close to citizens as possible: transfer of competencies towards local governments.

- Digital public administration
- Transparent and open management

Urgent measures (1st year in government)

- There will be a **team assembled** from across the political spectrum (so there is no dramatic policy shift after the governments change) and from municipality representatives. **This team will propose the revision of public agendas as it will set the tempo and direction of public administration reform:** transfer of competencies downwards, transfer of central authorities to the regions, downsizing of central authorities (reducing the number of clerks). At the same time strengthening competencies of the authorities in areas where they are irreplaceable (“strong state”). Gradual abolition of unnecessary agendas (according to the team’s proposal - see the chapter Constitution and Laws - anchor of the state)

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Electronic public administration

- **Digital key for each citizen.** We want to gradually interconnect all registers and systems, so the individual institutions of public administration can properly share data. In other words, so a citizen, company or a municipality submits the required data only once. This ends duplications, when one specific report is sent by the municipality up to three times during the year to different institutions.
- When using “the digital key” (remote access) in the future the citizen should be able to **communicate with the authorities, pay taxes, enter the land registry, population register, trade register, to establish a company remotely.**

The electronic election pilot project

- We want to test the (remote access) electronic elections on one constituency during the senate elections. We will evaluate its efficiency and the possibility to illegally influence the election. Only then after a thorough analysis we will consider promoting the electronic elections on the state level.

Downsizing the bureaucracy

- We will insist on downsizing of bureaucracy, simplifying the current system and abolishing unnecessary and not effective agendas. Following the revision of public agendas there will be a reduction in number of clerical positions (by the end of the 4-year term, we expect to abolish 10%, that is 8.000 positions). This reduction also includes the central government.
- When filling out different forms the citizen will not have to fill in the same data multiple times, the institutions of public administration will share the needed data amongst themselves.
- We will push for effective operation of state-owned companies offering public services (Czech Post or Czech Railways). These companies should provide their services as close to citizens as possible both in the city and in the countryside.

Decision making as close to citizens as possible

- The competencies that can be managed better by local and regional governments than central authorities should be transferred to regions, municipalities or unions of municipalities. We will initiate a reform of an outdated system of municipalities with extended powers (ORP). This newly reformed system might shelter the cooperation of municipalities in the catchment regions in future and might be an informal link between local and regional governments.
- We are also thinking about municipalities co-deciding the granting of social benefits, because the knowledge of the local environment is crucial, for example while judging possible system abuse or when we are considering clients individual needs. The statement of the municipality will serve as a key aspect for the public authorities (in granting housing allowance it will be binding). The system needs to be equipped with a safety mechanism – possibility of an appeal – so the applicant is not dependent on arbitrariness. After proving this new systems effectivity, the agenda of granting of social benefits can be transferred to municipalities.
- **The law of domestic citizenship** will ensure voluntary anchoring of the citizens in their community. Accepting this status will ensure priority approach of the municipality, when the citizen is applying for aid in the moment of crisis, preferential placement of children in kindergarten or school or possibility to obtain social housing in case of temporary emergency. The municipality thus becomes the safety net for its citizens (besides their own family).
- **Funds for senior care to municipalities.** We will modify the tax allocation so the state will relocate resources not only for children in kindergartens and schools, but also to seniors with affiliation to municipalities. Municipalities will be more motivated to provide free-time activities for seniors.

Transparency, openness and accountability of public administration

- Democracy as a form of government needs to have its citizens well informed. Publication of contracts concluded by the institutions of public administration must happen not only because the law demands it (Register of contracts), but also as a common practice of any townhall and regional office. We will not allow restrictions on the Register of contracts within public administration.
- We will introduce a principle of accountability for clerks and politicians within the public administration, for the damage they caused to citizens and companies.
- We will not allow the closing down of Czech Post branches in smaller towns and villages. On the contrary, we intend to increase quality of their services and make the branches to offer better services.

The right to information

- We will push for greater enforcement of the right to information (e.g. repeated denial of information by the Office of the President of the Republic).

- We will extend the competence of the Office for Personal Data Protection to the protection of information freedoms.
- We will increase the number of options for the rejection of information request and introduce sanctions for violating the information law. On the other hand, we will also improve the protection of entities against apparently quarreling inquiries.
- Following the ruling of the Constitutional Court, we will clarify the definition of commercial companies owned by the state and municipalities (e.g. transport companies, technical services).
- We will improve access to public databases and state-generated data sources, such as on health, hospitals, transport, weather, water, economy, statistics.

Looking beyond the horizon

The long-term stability of public administration without rapid alterations

The decision on how to organize the state administration should always be strategic or at least conceptual and thoroughly discussed in advance. The necessary strategic changes across the political spectrum will be discussed in advance.

Target state

- Electronic public administration enables the citizens to apply for their personal documents, set up a company, look through their medical records and pay taxes on-line from their computer.
- Duplicate inquiries of public administration towards the citizen have ended. Individual institutions of public administration share data safely with each other. Citizens also have wide access to information from public administration.
- By introducing the electronic election to all levels, the comfort of the citizen is now much higher, and it corresponds with 21st century standards.
- The decentralization of number of administrative agendas has brought the decision-making closer to citizens.
- Self-governments and municipalities get to arbitrate the agendas, where they possess better knowledge of the local conditions (granting social benefits).
- Slimmed down government and central offices. Redundant administration and bureaucracy have been abolished. Many authorities were transferred from Prague to the regions.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS - ANCHOR OF THE STATE

Current state

Our country is a parliamentary democracy where the source of all power belongs to citizens, who rule through their elected parliamentary officials.

Starostové a nezávislí profess the principle that no human being is naturally superior to another and that everyone is equal in the eyes of the law.

At the same time, STAN is convinced that 24 years of the functioning of the Constitution of the Czech Republic have sufficiently shown its strengths, but also its weaknesses.

For example, the **direct presidential election** did not bring about an increase in the powers of the head of the state, but in fact strengthened the tendency towards procedures on the edge of the codified Constitution. In our opinion, clarifying the rules would not be detrimental. The legal system literally suffers from the spewing of new laws and their amendments, which creates a system in which even lawyers find it difficult to find their way around.

At the same time, it turns out, that more elections, does not mean more democracy. 11 consecutive election years create a disproportionate burden on voters. The government and other political bodies make decisions under the pressure of permanent electoral competition.

STAN suggestions

- Clearly clarify the Constitution of the Czech Republic on several points, without fundamentally changing it.
- Slow down the adoption of laws and extend the deadlines for their assessment.
- Reduce the number of elections or at least merge the dates of some of them.

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **We will create a commission (convention) for proposing amendments to the Constitution.** It is essential for constitutional changes that they are well thought out, not revolutionary, and that there is an agreement across the political spectrum. Therefore, the composition of the commission (convention) should reflect not only political but also civic segments in society.
- **We will launch a nationwide debate on the system of elections to each of the chambers of Parliament.** The starting point must be an explanatory campaign about the role of both chambers and the system of elections to each of them. As a result, we should get an answer to a question, if we should keep the current election system or if we are supposed to modify it.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Clarification of the Constitution

Procedure when President appoints the Government

- We will propose to swap the first and second attempts to appoint a new prime minister - the first attempt would belong to the President of the Czech Republic, but the second to the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The third again to the president; only in the event of its failure could the president call for new elections. The president could not implement any tactics knowing that the next attempt is also his. We also believe that it is unthinkable for the government to rule the country without the approval of the Chamber of Deputies for many months. It is also impossible for the government to derive its power only from being appointed by president.

Clarification of Senate powers

- We consider it necessary to extend the deadline for the assessment of laws, which will be forwarded to the Senate by the Chamber of Deputies, to at least 60 days compared to the current 30.
- At the same time, we will propose areas in which the Chamber of Deputies will not be able to outvote the Senate in the case of laws interfering with the position of self-governments, so as to make it more difficult for the state to disrupt the functionality of municipalities, cities and regions.
- We will propose the Slovak model that Parliament (only the Senate can be considered) gains the power by a 3/5 majority of all its members to annul the declared amnesty or individual pardon for a fundamental conflict with the rule of law (e.g. Klaus's amnesty, which also stopped criminal prosecution for serious economic crimes with a significant impact on the injured party could thus be abolished).

Less elections, more responsibility

- After careful examination, we will try to reduce the number of six general elections and push for electoral laws in both chambers of parliament.
- We propose to merge the election dates into different representative bodies ("election day" following the example of the USA).

Repeal of unnecessary laws

- With the abundance of laws comes an increase in bureaucracy. We will therefore conduct **a review of public agendas**, as proposed by a team composed across the political spectrum, from tripartite representatives and public administration experts.
- We will propose **the repeal of laws** that this team considers unnecessary.
- For each new law, we will consistently demand an assessment of the implications for the growth of bureaucracy because of the new law. At the same time, we will consistently insist on the principle of "for every new law, one public agenda abolished"

Quality law preparation

- We will involve more public institutions in the creation and preparation of laws, not only as commentators, but as representatives in the Legislative Council of the Government of the Czech Republic (Association of Regions, Union of Towns and Municipalities, Association of Local Authorities, trade unions, etc.)
- The center of the law assessment will be parliamentary committees - strengthening their powers.

Looking beyond the horizon

Election system discussion

At the end of the government's term, the outcome of a nationwide debate on the electoral system should be known, and we should be able to answer the following questions:

- Leave the current election system how it is, or modify it?
- Strengthen the majority in the Chamber of Deputies with a "winner bonus" and thus strengthen the government's position?
- Change the character of the Senate to a "chamber of regions" so that the senator's mandate is linked to regional elections?

Carrying through the recommendations that would emerge from public discussion would be up to the next government.

Target state

- The number of newly passed laws has dropped significantly.
- The Constitution specified the procedure for the top politicians in key moments, such as the appointment of the prime minister, the entire government and individual ministers.
- Number of elections decreased to a tolerable level (reduction by at least 2 electoral acts).

THE RULE OF LAW - A PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY

Current state

We consider it an irrefutable fact that the judiciary has emerged from the grip of the executive in recent years. However, STAN perceives that the judiciary faces the opposite risk: irresponsibility and lack of judicial management. The judges are in fact appointed for life, but there is a lack of independent evaluation of their activities. The judiciary cannot get rid of those who fail to perform. We also lack a link, between the disciplinary and property liability of judges. In the 25 years of existence of independent Czech Republic, the damage caused was recovered by the Ministry of Justice in not even 20 cases.

STAN suggestions

- Establish a Supreme Judicial Council, to evaluate the work of judges.
- Speed up court proceedings by not returning cases unnecessarily to lower courts.
- Introduce property liability for judges, public prosecutors and officials - if there was a damage that the state had to pay for, it must be recovered from the person responsible.

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **Act on Property Liability of officials, public prosecutors and judges.** We will push for adopting the already prepared law on property liability (up to the limits set by law). We cannot accept the state, where the only one responsible, is a taxpayer.
- **Supreme Council of Justice.** The Council will be composed of nominees from several constitutional bodies and judges themselves. It will evaluate the state of the judiciary, including financial issues and it will determine career progression. It will also have an impact on determining property liability of judges during disciplinary proceedings.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

The end of judiciary “ping-pong”

- We want the courts of appeal to judge the submitted cases more often on their merits in both civil and criminal proceedings. The current legal possibilities are not used effectively by the courts of appeal. We will give the same possibilities for decisions to the Supreme courts. It will only be possible to refer a case back to the court of first instance in exceptional cases.
- This will shorten the lengthy court proceedings and decrease the number of the cases brought back to a lower level.

Experts

- The fundamental problem of the Czech judiciary lies in outdated regulations regulating the activities of experts. It is necessary to re-adjust the accountability of experts for the prepared expert opinion in case of its dubious quality. We also need to change to rules remunerating experts. In four years, we will completely reform the expert activity to standards valid in other European countries.

Three-tier justice system

- We will introduce a three-tier court system, as four levels of court are an unnecessary luxury for the unitary state.
- High courts should be abolished.
- In selected district courts we want to establish specialized court chambers for serious crime and a legally complex branch of private law (bill of exchange proceedings, intellectual property, etc.).

New procedural regulations, independent investigation

- The court proceedings should be flexible, efficient and in the sense of fair play.
- Therefore, instead of the archaic Civil Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, we will propose new rules, including much-needed delivery rules.
- We will invest in modern technologies and increase the salaries of non-judicial employees.
- Following the completion of the procedural reform of the judiciary, we will propose a new law on the Public Prosecutor's Office, which will follow up to the Criminal Code and provide guarantees of independent investigation under the supervision of the judiciary. We will strengthen the position of victims in situations, where public prosecutors will be responsible for enforcing compensation for damage that the offender has to pay to the injured party according to the criminal judgment.

The right on the side of the decent and honest

- Not only for petty thefts, but also for other offenses (e.g. offenses against civil cohabitation), we will enforce the principle of "three times and enough!" - a third identical offense at a certain time would be considered a criminal offense by the court.

Debt traps

- We refuse to recklessly eliminate/pardon the debts (over 300,000 people live in captivity to their debts).
- We cannot accept exorbitant interest on loans provided already with the knowledge that the borrowers find themselves in trouble. We therefore want to transfer partial responsibility for uncollectible debts to lenders by agreeing to the debt relief of borrowers.
- We want to reform the execution procedure by strengthening the rights of the participants so that unauthorized executions can be stopped. We also want to strengthen the state control over the activities of executors by introducing the principle of territoriality. At the same time, we want to reduce the debt collecting business, execution costs should not be disproportionate to the sum borrowed and the executor's work.
- We want to tighten the rules of insolvency proceedings so that it is possible to prevent the so-called insolvency mafias from controlling these proceedings. We also want to strengthen the supervision of public prosecutor's office over the legality of insolvency proceedings.

Publication of anonymized court judgments

- Anonymized court rulings should be publicly available. This will improve judicial decision-making, strengthen confidence in the judiciary and make judiciary more transparent.

Looking beyond the horizon

Gradual modifying of the judicial system

The term of one government can only kick-start reforms. It will take several years to modify the judicial system and the methods of investigation.

Therefore, at each stage, it will be necessary to agree as widely as possible. There should be an agreement across the political spectrum so that the new government does not make strict policy shift.

Target state

- The court proceedings have been speeded up, one can get the results in a matter of months or a maximum of a few years.
- The number of excesses of non-standard investigation cases has decreased.
- Judges, prosecutors, experts, officials and politicians have a clear accountability for their decisions.

Education and science – key to the future

Current state

At the moment, we are not capable to agree, where the education system should head. In comparison to international standards our education system is failing. We are well aware, that quality education is in the Czech Republic's best interest - and that is a contradiction in its very essence.

The number of graduates does not correspond with the market needs. This state cannot be achieved 100%, but it is possible to optimize the structure to meet demand. Without this, the costs of the so-called "first employer" are necessary, in order for the graduate to be able to adapt to the place where he was hired. In the worst case, the graduate will not find a job at all and becomes dependent on social support.

We live in the times of rapid changes and everything has tendencies to speed up. The relatively conservative education system does not correspond to this.

These are long-term goals - so there is a need for consensus across the political spectrum.

STAN suggestions

- Interconnect the system of schools with employers (private and public sector)
- Improve and stabilize the teacher situation - in the first phase by increasing wages
- Launch a society-wide discussion on the direction the education should take
- Establish a national commission for education, which will link schools, their founders, employers, sociologists and economists

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- The state budget for the following year will already include higher salaries for teachers. They should be around 45,000, CZK per month.
- We will change (not just rename) the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to the Ministry of Education and Science.
- We will audit agendas and significantly reduce the bureaucracy required of school facilities.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Interconnect schools with employers

- The key to success is strengthening bonds between schools of all levels and employers - companies, but also the public sector. We will focus especially on technical fields.
- Coordination of content i.e. the curricula will be the key aspect of cooperation between schools. The goal is also to open fields of study which will be perspective in medium-term outlook.

- We will support a larger share of internships. At universities we will also support research and a larger number of interns, internships and corporate scholarships.

Prestigious pedagogical faculties

- We will push for more quality education on pedagogical faculties. We will create programs (financial, non-financial), so the graduates do not leave the field of education on such scale.

We will create a National Council for Education

- Strategic priority must be the start of society-wide debate on education. This debate must be joined by multiple experts and the outcome should be accepted by all of political subjects across the spectrum.
- Prime minister should moderate this debate.

Experts to secondary schools

- We will make possible for experts to teach at secondary schools even without forcing them to complete their pedagogical education.

“Education for Democracy”

- In the social sciences we will push for bigger emphasis to be put on “education for democracy” (following the example of Germany in the 1950s). The curriculum will not only be limited to technical aspects of democracy (election etc.), but also to the essence of democracy as the administration of public affairs. The emphasis should be put on student discussions, including the issues of rights and freedoms.

Course contents: Curricula

In the curricula, we want to emphasize the following fields and skills:

- language teaching
- communication skills: spoken and written
- ability to discuss, argue - including listening to others
- mastering information and communication technologies
- knowledge of civil rights and the basics of ethics
- critical thinking
- ability to sort facts
- creativity
- perseverance, self-discipline, adaptability

School funding

- We will support the foundation of new corporate schools.
- We will significantly strengthen the financing of education while maintaining the subsidy per class, not per pupil.

De-bureaucratization of education

- After a thorough audit, we will set up the system so that schools are free of unnecessary bureaucracy, reports, tables and summaries.

- Teaching must clearly take precedence.
- The basis must be a better selection of school principals.

Lifelong and community education

- We will support other lifelong learning programs because we know that education does not end with the school diploma and that without it, it is going to be increasingly difficult to enter the labor market.
- We will also support community centers as natural institutions for lifelong learning in rural areas.

Science and research

- At the moment, the world finds itself at a crossroad. Even our country needs research a development so its people can better cope with rapidly changing world around them. It is necessary to stabilize the evaluation system of science, research, innovation and their support.
- **We plan to objectively sort out science institutions by the level of their excellent, good or mediocre results and support them accordingly.** We will decrease the support for the institutions with bellow the average results.
- **We want the cooperation between the business community and research institutions to continue.** We want to increase state support if there will be raise of investments in the private sector. Strengthening the cooperation with innovative companies and start-ups is also in order.
- We are aware of risk of discontinuity in research, when there is a systematic participation in grant tenders. **There should be more stable and continuous support for science and research.** We want to focus public (national and European) resources for competitiveness projects.
- **We will support young researchers (doctoral students) international internships on the condition** that they continue to work in Czech institutions. It is crucial to increase the support for doctoral students and their facilities according to their work results.

Target state

- Education has become a societal priority of the Czech Republic.
- The teacher status has improved - not only thanks to the financial evaluation, but also thanks to its greater prestige.
- The goal of education is not the "production of a quality workforce", but the all-round development of the personality and its ability to constantly learn. The school thus prepares students for professional growth and at the same time helps them to develop abilities and skills that enable them to orient themselves in increasingly complex relationships in society.
- Education seeks to balance the approach between free personal development and the need for self-discipline. The road without obstacles does not prepare one for life.

Economy

– road to prosperity

Current state

Education is crucial for the future development. In the Czech Republic the number of graduates does not correspond with the market needs. Without significant changes there are serious problems ahead.

Business - Small and medium-sized businesses nowadays face bureaucratic issues when they establish a company (especially business companies), while they operate and when they terminate their business activities. The state completely gave up on health and pension reforms and the need to tame the financial balance.

Research, development and innovations do not often reflect the needs of the economy.

The tax system is complicated. From the perspective of a taxpayer the cost of tax records and obligations are one of the highest in the world. The workload (in the form of ancillary wage costs) is one of the barriers to competitiveness of Czech economy.

STAN suggestions

- Rapidly introduce the computerization of all official agendas and create a single source of coordination and open data sources also for business
- Connect schools of all levels with employers (companies and the public sector)
- Prepare health and pension reform
- Prepare a concept of a new tax system that will not tie up the economy

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- We will create a single place for an electronic official agenda. We will interconnect the registers and eliminate the repetition of the same official acts at different offices. In the second sequence, we will simplify the establishment and operation of business activities.
- We will set up commissions for health and pension reform. Their goal will not be years of research, but relatively quick design of practical solutions for the third decade of the 21st century.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Education

- We understand education as the key to the future.
- We will interconnect schools and employers - including the public sector.
- We will coordinate the content, the curriculum and we will open new perspective fields of study.
- We will work for a higher share of internships in teaching, systematic internships and corporate scholarships.

Business

- Apart from digitalization we want to achieve stable and predictable business environment. To do so, we need to moderate the legislature, so there are often no drastic system alterations.
- For EET (electronic sales records), we postpone the 3rd and 4th phases. We will evaluate and analyze the results and then we will decide who else (and whether at all) will be covered by EET. We will connect EET with confirmation of the financial administration on the turnover income for simple creation of the tax return.

Macroeconomic stability

- The aim of budgetary policy will be to reduce deficits.
- We will stabilize finances in healthcare (health care reform).
- We will propose a comprehensive concept of pension reform, in order to create a system that will last several decades without deficits. We will discuss the final form of the reform with the opposition - the situation must not be repeated. The new government cannot completely change the rules of the game.
- We will entrust the coordination of all these activities to the newly established Ministry of Economy instead of Ministries of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Transport.

Tax system

- By the middle of the office term, we will propose the optimization of the tax system, which will prefer indirect taxes (VAT) to direct taxes (income). The resulting mix will aim not to undermine the competitiveness of the Czech economy and to avoid experiments with sector taxes.
- We will change the functioning of tax authorities. Nowadays they sometimes punish formal misconduct and leave factual tax evasion unnoticed.
- We will reduce the tax burden on labor (wage costs) – but only when following the completed pension reform.
- We want to continue the project of a single collection spot.
- We will push for one public administration inspection for a given business entity per year (with the exception of justified random inspections). We will not allow bullying of entrepreneurs.
- We will unify the bases of health and social insurance for the purposes of tax payments.

Stopping the outflow of dividends from the Czech Republic

- The annual outflow of dividends from subsidiaries of foreign corporations outside the Czech economy amounts to hundreds of billions of crowns. Therefore, we will enable corporations to reinvest their profits in the Czech Republic through accelerated depreciation (we want, among other things, to support an increase in salaries for employees of Czech branches and subsidiaries).

Science, research, innovation

- We will establish a single central spot for the implementation of a comprehensive research policy - the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.
- The state will say which direction of research, development and innovation it will support.

EU funds

- We believe that EU funds must be seen as limited in time, but at the same time used as much as possible.
- We will urgently create a single authoritative competence center, which will ensure the best possible use of the allocated funds (especially in the new EU budget period after 2020) for truly meaningful projects.

Export

- We will support small and medium-sized businesses which are able to supply final products to foreign markets and not just components. This support will be focused also on domestic businesses so there are comparable conditions to invest in the Czech Republic as in foreign countries.
- We will create a system of investment support that will not only attract foreign investors, but it will also support Czech companies capable to expand to foreign perspective markets.

Infrastructure

- We will set a clear timetable for the completion of the transport infrastructure (see transport policy).
- We will prepare a long-term energetic strategy with the knowledge that energy is a key element of stability in our society.
- We will prepare a strategy to support the digital economy, which we consider to be the most important component for the future.

Tourism

- We will support the creation of long time missing, permanent a predictable system of cooperation of municipalities, cities, regions, entrepreneurs, and the state. They will work together on multiple projects, products and most importantly on modern tourism marketing.
- The participation in the system will be voluntary, but it will give the participants a chance to create unions especially in tourist regions.
- We understand tourism as a potential and perspective employer for many regions and their inhabitants, because it offers them possibilities they do not normally have, due to their location or character. The resources tourism produces significantly strengthen public funds.

Target state

- State policy will be set as “non-invasive”, “missionary”.
- We raise questions such as “What do we want?”, “Where are we heading?”, “What is the goal of our efforts?”
- In accordance with the principle of free enterprise, we will leave free space for the activities of entrepreneurial individuals and companies, who will follow basic rules.

Industry – foundation of Czech economy

Current state

The Czech Republic is the most industrial country in the EU – industry generates almost 40 % GDP, more than anywhere else in Europe. Future competitiveness of Czech economy is directly connected to the state of local industry.

Industry is the backbone of our economy, it needs to be modernized and internationalized, so it can maintain its key position. If this does not happen, it can drag the economy down. At the moment, Czech economy is the most dependent economy on foreign capital in Central and Eastern Europe.

Our economy is dependent on export (more than 80 % GDP). We export mostly to EU countries (84 % of all export). Our economy needs a diversification.

First of all, it is necessary to get out of the trap of the “cheap economy”, i.e. to get out of the position of subcontractors with minimal margins to the position of producers of final products and services. Then we will have higher margins, as well as more room to offer our products. Secondly, Czech capital needs to be strengthened so that profits remain at home and are reinvested here.

STAN suggestions

- Not to increase the tax burden
- Flexible labor market
- Reform the education system
- Attract top experts from abroad
- Make prepares for Industry 4.0, with an emphasis on research and innovation

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

We will change the system of investment incentives

- This instrument from the 1990s needs to be reconsidered: there is no need to emphasize the number of positions and favor any investor.
- We will also provide incentives for domestic small and medium-sized businesses.
- From foreign investors we should choose only those who bring production with high added value, as well as innovation or cooperation with universities.

Research, development and innovations

- We will support joint research of research organizations and industrial companies. We will prepare new law focusing on research innovation support. We will ensure sufficient financing of applied sciences. We will introduce the method of evaluating research organizations and programs with emphasis on cooperation between research organizations and companies (see chapter Education and science - the key to the future).

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Labor market

- **We will innovate the retraining system**, so it enables job seekers to complete an individual training plan according to their needs and the needs of the labor market.
- **We will take systemic measures in the field of employment of foreigners from third countries.** We will try to reduce administrative barriers and speed up the process of recruiting foreigners **to cover the so-called scarce professions.** This applies to top experts, but also to professions that are not of interest among Czech applicants.
- We will propose a transparent statutory **method of regulating the minimum wage**, to ensure its predictable development (e.g. linking to 40% of the average wage).
- In the area of health insurance, **we will develop a systemic solution for the provision of sickness benefits.** This method will help people in the event of long-term incapacity for work not like the so-called waiting period of the first 3 days of illness.
- When reviewing **social systems**, we will respect the following basic criteria: targetedness, purposefulness, efficiency of drawing social benefits and not increasing labor costs for employers.
- In the area of **pension reform**, we will take into **account the conditions for earlier retirement of employees.** This will happen with financial participation of employers, **especially in the case of strenuous or risky professions.**

Education

- We will renew polytechnic education at primary schools. We will also renew technical classes in cooperation with vocational schools and employers.
- We will promote the practical education of secondary school pupils at workplaces (in more detail in the chapter on education).
- At universities, we will support the creation of professionally oriented and multidisciplinary programs based on the principles of Industry 4.0.

Digital economy

- As part of the overall digitization plan, we will present a plan for the development of the Czech digital economy and eGovernment.
- The state will provide support to companies in implementing new rules for data protection and cyber security.
- We will actively support the creation of a unified digital market and the free flow of data within the EU. We will do the same in the framework of international trade agreements. We will also support the fight against protectionist measures, e.g. data localization.

Industry 4.0

- We will push for effective implementation of industry 4.0 (which comes hand in hand with digitalization and will bring changes to the labor market) by individual ministries. We will need to create the specific conditions for the implementation, especially in the fields of research and development, ICT infrastructure, legislature, labor market, standardization and cyber security.

Support of export

- We will support Czech companies on foreign markets (accompanying business missions, economic diplomacy, expansion of the foreign economic diplomat network and representation of Czech Trade - especially in countries outside the EU) and bigger diversification of our export, without weakening the inner EU market.

- We will reform the institutions which secure the financial support of our exporters (ČEB, EGAP a ČMZRB). We will improve the access of companies to export financing and thus support the competitiveness of Czech exporters.

Support of PPP projects

- The combination of public and private resources - under transparent control – we consider the so-called PPP projects a suitable tool for financing major constructions.

Construction legislation

- We fundamentally amend construction law and all permitting processes (for example, changes to the Competence law) - on the principle of “one authority, one procedure and one decision”.
- We will simplify the legislation, but with an emphasis on landscape protection.
- We will take into account the specifics of constructions, which will significantly simplify and speed up the permitting procedure. It will also increase the attractiveness of the Czech Republic for a wide range of domestic and foreign investors. It will also ensure conditions for key transport constructions in all transport modes without delay.

Law making

- When drafting laws or amending existing ones, we will follow and respect legislative deadlines, so it is realistic to prepare for upcoming changes.
- When implementing European law, we will assess whether the proposed law does not contain provisions that go beyond the obligations set by the EU. If so, request justification and impact of assessments.

Moving towards the euro

- We will set the conditions under which the Czech Republic will issue a final political decision on a specific date for entry into ERM II and subsequently into the Euro Zone. We do not question our international obligations.
- The government will prepare a schedule of steps to reduce entry risks and will continuously evaluate their implementation.

Target state

- The industry is digitizing and focusing on final products with added value.
- Export continues to go mostly to EU countries, but to a greater extent also to other parts of the world.
- The labor market is more flexible, minimum wage better reflects the wage situation and the wage situation is no longer dependent on the government's will.

Energetics

– power source of our country

Current state

In today's volatile world, energy sources are becoming part of the country's security - we are talking about so-called energy security. Outages can have far-reaching consequences in today's developed and highly energy-dependent society.

The Czech Republic needs a sufficient and stable supply of energy, which is a prerequisite for prosperity and for necessary standard of living of the population. With the development of new and existing technologies, electromobility, the expansion of the conditioning usage, etc., a gradual increase in energy consumption can be expected despite some optimization.

In terms of energy sources, we are so far self-sufficient in the field of electricity generation. However, we are almost entirely dependent on gas and oil imports, and these supplies are only to some extent diversified. As a result of a not very sensible environmental policy, there has been a distortion of energy prices and charges, especially subsidies for renewable sources. This includes the mandatory addition of biofuels to fuels, which is reflected by the "yellow land" (rapeseed fields) in the spring.

Despite the relatively good security of energy supply, we face the following potential problems:

The transmission system is working at its limits.

Payments for renewable sources (especially photovoltaics) place a significant burden on the budget and all customers.

There is hardly any investments in new sources of electricity, and the existing ones are almost depleted.

The stability of the network is negatively affected by fluctuations of renewable sources.

Burdensome are various redundant obligations arising from legislation in recent years, such as energy labels for buildings, energy audits, boiler inspections, etc.

STAN suggestions

- Prepare a plan to replace old energy sources and strengthen the transmission system
- Review existing energy legislation on the promotion of renewables or biofuels; those who are unable to ensure a stable supply of electricity must share the costs of the transmission network
- Examine the effectiveness of new obligations (energy labels, audits, reports, etc.), abolish or simplify them where it is appropriate.
- Support the development of electricity storage technologies
- Support the supply of gas (liquefied gas) from other sources

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **Modify legislation.** Abolish those obligations that only generate profits for some companies, but in practice they do not bring the originally intended effect and only increase costs.
- **Start a discussion on how to secure new energy sources.** It is necessary to find a social consensus on what resources - with efficient and stable supply - to develop, build and support. It needs to be at the best possible price conditions, so that the Czech Republic remains competitive and energy costs do not become a burden. The government will prepare a system to support local energy sources as a fundamental diversification of security threats.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Electricity

- After the revision of legislation in the field of renewable sources, we will set such conditions, so we do not reduce the competitiveness of industry and minimally burdens the households.
- We will introduce a clear rule: anyone who is unable to supply electricity stably and reliably must share the costs of transmitting and distributing electricity.
- Renewable sources should be equipped with storage to avoid network instability.
- We will prepare a plan for the construction of new energy sources. **Their construction goes beyond the election period but must begin as soon as possible.**
- We will consider the possibility of “progressive VAT” on energy – 0% up to a certain “basic” consumption, then higher rates in stages. That will mean the exemption of “basic consumption” from VAT (for households or small businesses).

Gas and coal

- We will support further diversification of gas sources and enhance the possibilities of its storage in the Czech Republic.
- We will reconsider the method of taxation and the amount of VAT set for households and small businesses. There is the possibility of introducing “progressive VAT” as is the case with electricity.
- Subject to evaluation, we will consider the possibility of simplifying and reducing fixed payments.
- We will not exceed the coal mining limits, unless necessary due to geopolitical developments.

Local resources, “smart homes”

- We will reduce support for the addition of rapeseed products to fuels.
- We will positively support local production of energy (electrical, thermal) from renewable sources, used or accumulated at the place of production (individual or municipal sources).
- We will support investments in research of new technologies for the transmission and storage of electricity.
- We will support “smart homes” that manage and optimize energy consumption.

Looking beyond the horizon

- The legislation can be cleaned during one election period, so that it is stable, without constant changes and without favoring only certain groups or areas.
- This will be followed by the implementation of a clear concept of the direction in which the country's energy sector will go, what resources the state will secure and support.

Target state

- The Czech Republic has ensured the maximum possible self-sufficiency in energy supply.
- In the area of energy raw materials that must be imported, the supply is diversified so that we are not dependent on the will of one supplier.
- The price paid by households and businesses for energy is based on necessary costs and a adequate profit. Energy taxation is not used as an easy money source to glue state budget expenditures.
- Renewable resources are used wisely in such a way that they do not endanger the competitiveness of domestic industry and do not burden households with unnecessary expenses.
- Legislation is clear, predictable, does not add unnecessary obligations.
- The mineral wealth of the country is used for the benefit of the population and is exported abroad with the highest possible added value (e.g. lithium after processing as a battery).

Transportation – the end of a black hole in the heart of Europe

Current state

The Czech Republic partially reminds of a “black hole” in the middle of Europe:

The basic network of motorways is still not completed.

Quality connection with the EU railways is missing (high-speed lines). The technical state of the railways is not good.

The inadequate construction speed of town and village bypasses burdened by truck traffic is a major issue according to STAN.

Due to this situation, the Czech Republic might become a periphery in the middle of the continent.

- The international airport is not connected to railway network.
- The Czech Republic has fallen behind in building terminals for the multimodal transport of the future, where not wagon consignments (e.g. in the form of containers) but trucks are transported by trains for a part of their journey. The economy's success is hugely dependent on the transport infrastructure. For example, one kilometer of motorway can bring somewhere from 100 000 CZK to 160 000 CZK into the regional budget a year.

We can talk about a direct relationship:

EXPANSION OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE -> GROWTH OF PUBLIC CAPITAL -> GROWTH OF STATE GDP

STAN suggestions

- Ensure long-term financing of the construction and transport maintenance infrastructure
- Complete the primary motorway network
- Promptly prepare the construction of high-speed railways
- Support the construction of terminals and logistic centers for modern (modes) kinds of transport

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

Action plan for investment in transport infrastructure

We want to guarantee on the government level, that the priority constructions will be financed from national resources, if the financing from EU funds is not possible (Transport Operational Program II).

We set priorities according to:

- strategic assessment of the needs of regions according to state development plans
- the process of drawing money from European funds
- preparation of transport construction projects
- conditions of land purchasing
- the possibility of using PPP projects (connecting the state and private capital)

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Roads and Highways

There is an acute demand on completion of central network.

These are the most issued highway connections:

- Prague-České Budějovice-Austria
- Pardubice-Oloumouc
- Hradec Králové-Jaroměř and subsequently to the state border with Poland
- Brno - Vienna
- completion of D1 sections
- completion of the Prague bypass
- Prague - Karlovy Vary
- increasing the capacity of the Ostrava - Třinec - state border with Slovakia road (Mosty u Jablunkova) and other priorities of individual regions.

We will prefer "smart highways" and intelligent traffic management systems. We will ensure the preparation of infrastructure for autonomous transport systems (both freight and passenger).

We will set up a system for long-term sustainable infrastructure quality - the Road Management System.

We will push for maintaining of quality of the existing infrastructure (road/rail), acquiring the finances for the maintenance of lower tributary roads (II and III and side roads) from regional budgets (or municipal budgets) and ability to finance (co-finance) such constructions with money from the State Transport Infrastructure Fund.

We will focus on the use of new technologies - such as low-noise asphalts - used mainly in cities and suburban agglomerations.

Together with the motorway network, we will support bypasses around towns and villages.

Railway

It is necessary to complete the primary railway network corridors:

- connection to vital trans-European directions (Plzeň-Česká Kubice)
- interconnection of all regions (Brno-Přerov, connection of Liberec region)
- improve track equipment in "bottlenecks" (Beroun-Prague, Říčany-Prague, entrance to Brno, Ostrava)
- connect Václav Havel Airport in Prague to the railway network as well as to the high-speed railway network
- We will set up a long-term financing plan for reparation of station buildings in bad shape (such as the shameful state of the railway station in Brno).
- We will finish the railway transport liberalization.

High speed railways

Their construction goes beyond the election period but must begin as soon as possible.

In the first phase, it is necessary to connect the Czech Republic to the pan-European network of high-speed lines / RS via the Dresden-Lovosice-Prague.

Furthermore, we need to quickly start an expert discussion on the new route Prague-Brno-Vienna (best designed as high-speed line).

City transport

We will accelerate the development of integrated transport systems.

We will consider the possibility of a reduction of VAT or **zero level VAT on public transport**.

We will support the development of transport telematics ("intelligent transport systems" using digital technologies).

Bicycle transport has a considerable potential – it is inexpensive and environmentally friendly.

Multimodal terminals

We are aware of the future trend in transport - a gradual shift from wagon consignments to the transport of units ("trucks by rail").

We will support the construction of terminals for these modes of transport and their connection to logistic centers.

Aerospace industry

It is necessary to support the expansion of the traditional Czech aviation industry and its close cooperation with the aerospace industry, which creates high added value products and new technologies. These technologies are connected to most industrial sectors such as innovative development of electric cars and engineering. It is necessary to use the full potential of Czech membership in European Space Agency ESA and of the fact that the European Satellite Navigation Agency is based in Prague.

We will support:

- long-term strategic projects that include technological development, testing, production and repairs and maintenance (such as the European Ariane 6 rocket).
- expansion of regional airports using modern technologies (e.g. satellite LPV approach)
- setting rules for the use and development of UAV systems (so - called drones)

Electromobility and alternatives

In accordance with trends in the Western world we will work to develop a distribution network of charging stations for electric vehicles.

Ship transport

Completion of the construction of the Elbe waterway (Děčín and Přelouč waterways)

Looking beyond the horizon

Projects can be prepared but not completed during one election period - completion of the motorway network, high-speed lines, modernization of urban systems.

Clear priorities need to be set. Determinate the future direction of state transport policy.

We need to set up long-term financing guarantee from "our own" national resources. (not to change priorities every year according to state budget). We also need to set up effective management through the "Transformation of the Directorate of Roads and Motorways like the Austrian ASFINAG" and the associated necessary legislative changes (e.g. transfer of toll revenues from the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure directly to the transformed ŘSD). Speed up the infrastructure project preparation, permitting procedures and purchases of land (e.g. creation of such an environment that the solutions are evaluated on the multicriteria parameters).

Emphasis on smart transport systems:

Cooperative systems and systems for autonomous vehicles

Predictive and smart traffic flow management and traffic signs - with an emphasis on reducing congestion. We will work to reduce the outsourcing influence (supplier connections) on the registers. The goal is to guarantee proper, economical and lawful flow of the systems under the state institution surveillance.

Target state

- The highway network interconnected all the regions and connected the Czech Republic to all neighbor states. The highway systems are equipped with telematics not only for road taxation but also for extending the comfort and safety.
- The "bottlenecks" are no longer present within the modernized railway network. The Czech Republic is connected to European high speed track network.
- The regional capitals are interconnected with electrified corridors. The regulation of transporting conditions guarantees equal conditions for railway transport providers.
- The completion of transport infrastructure has brought greater prosperity to the regions and thus new jobs.
- The environment improved for residents living around frequented roads (noise, exhalation)

Support and be active in EU, GSA and ESA projects.

Defense – the end of illusions

Current state

The Czech Republic is directly threatened by hostiles – disinformation campaigns or cyber-attacks by hostile regimes on our territory are very probable to happen. There is a rising threat of so-called hybrid attacks. There will be even a bigger pressure on Europe due to migration crisis caused by the powers struggles in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

The Czech Army is thoroughly understaffed. The expenses on defense are only half of what was originally promised when the Czech Republic entered NATO.

The situation is not critical yet, there is time for reparation.

STAN suggestions

- Increase defense budgets and prepare crisis management plans
- Introduce “crisis preparedness” courses
- Create strong specialized units for cyber combat
- Adapt secondary and higher military education to new threats and societal needs

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **We will start strengthening of the army.** We will introduce an amendment on remuneration of soldiers according to their abilities and merit. We will improve the recruitment system, so the number of soldiers is replenished.
- **We will prepare political party agreement on long-term financing.** All key political representatives across the spectrum must agree on raising the expenses for defense. By 2021, the Czech Republic should achieve expenditures of 2% of GDP as promised when entering NATO.
- **We will push crisis plan preparation.** Group of experts will work on possible threat scenarios as well as on re-equipping the army depending on current and future threats. Only after that – army budget can be raised. Before that the money will go to armaments fund.
- **He will be subordinate directly to the Prime Minister** and he will manage the expert level of the State Security Council.
- **We will immediately start military education reform.**

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Crisis preparedness courses

- Knowing, that defense of our country is in the hands of relatively small army as well as whole society, ministries will introduce crisis preparedness courses.
- The course will take 2-3 months and will follow up high school graduation or becoming 18 years old.
- The courses target will be to prepare students for state of crisis, not to train new soldiers. Although the course will serve as a basis to a possible future military training.
- The course will be under the responsibility of the armed forces and the Integrated Rescue System.
- To organize these courses, we will use the existing capacity of secondary schools during the summer holidays.

Modernization of the armed forces

- The army will present its demands for new technology, which is necessary to counter current threats: defense of the country not only from regular hostiles but also from hybrid attacks.
- Considering the threats, the army will start to provide its own IT services without outsourcing them to private companies.

Special cyber forces

- The army will create special unit (units) to fight cybernetic threats.
- These units will work to prevent hacker attacks, to gather information, prevent cyber attacks on infrastructure and tackling disinformation campaigns.
- The army will try to attract IT specialist and specialists on disinformation campaigns (journalists) by creating more attractive work conditions.

Active reserves

- Currently active reserves are almost symbolic - the numbers of soldiers will increase, even at the cost of reducing the requirements for entry.
- The Army will prepare and implement a plan for multi-level reserves with its own command.

Armed forces training

- Tests of the armed forces preparedness will be based on simulation of real events.
- There will be no more exercises announced in advance.
- Not only army, but public administration including the ministers will be part of military exercises.

Internal security

- We do not want to increase the numbers of police officers. We will reduce the numbers of agendas and administrative task of police force. Therefore, police will have more time for its main purpose, guaranteeing internal security.

Looking beyond the horizon

Military education, research and development

- There will be a revision of military education administered by Ministry of defense and the Army.
- The military university will open new fields – IT, Medicine, Engineering. Talented people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, for whom access to education is still limited, can also study here, thanks to the university funding, if they promise to join the service afterwards.
- We will consider opening up new military universities to cover state security needs.

Target state

- The Czech Army recruited more members and equipped new technology due to current and future threats.
- The Czech Army has become one of NATO's leading armies, is well equipped against cyber threats and is becoming a leader in this field.
- The defense of the state does not depend only on the military. Active reserves and prepared civilian population provide a guarantee that there will be no panic and chaos in the event of a crisis.

Health – the key to a happy life

Current state

Health care expenses are now a more serious problem for the government than ever before. In many countries, the share of health expenditure in the state budget is higher than in the past and health care costs are growing faster than GDP. There are multiple reasons: research and development of new expensive methods and technologies, increasing demands for quality health care and health risks protection.

This widens the gap between the expenditure on health care and the possible cost of the most modern medical treatments.

The Czech Republic is falling behind most of the developed countries as its health care expenses are only 7,5 % of GDP.

Only a fraction of the health budget goes to health promotion and disease prevention.

STAN suggestions

- Tame finances - i.e. improve regulatory activities of the state and health insurance companies so there is no reduction of availability and quality of health care
- Revitalize some forms of health care - including home and long-term care
- Accelerate the introduction of medical records digitalization
- Set clear standards of provided health care

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **The priority is to stabilize health care** – trough fairly remunerated medical personal, so we can stop its outflow to other countries.
- **Finance institutions of the same type equally.** This regulation must be carried out by the Ministry of health care together with health insurance companies.
- **Create transparent financing system of sports for all age groups.**

Plan for full government term (4 years)

We will support:

- centers with super-specialized care
- regional or university hospitals
- various types of medical centres
- centers with follow-up care (specialized workplaces in the key regional hospitals)
- hospitals with follow-up and rehabilitation care

- hospices as places of palliative care
- we will change the financing of home care

We will strengthen the role of general practitioners

- We will fortify the powers of general practitioners for adults, children, adolescents and pediatric dentists. We will strengthen their involvement in diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive processes.
- We will financially support fields that may be less accessible in future - practical medicine, pediatric dentistry, psychiatry, emergency medicine, lung medicine.
- We will financially, organizationally and personally strengthen localities with a shortage of doctors and nurses will be financially, organizationally and personally supported.

We will accelerate the digitization of medical processes

- Electronization will enable the secure transmission of medical records, including requests for specialized examinations.
- Sharing data will make the whole system running cheaper and faster, eliminating duplications (same examinations for one patient).
- Different healthcare providers can now securely share digital personal profiles with medical records, lists of medication, and other clinical data between each other.
- Every patient must have access to their medical records.

Creating balanced relationships between patients and healthcare professionals

- The patient is a client and a partner. This approach does not require additional costs, but the doctors and other health professionals must pay better attention to this matter while studying for their profession.

Increasing expenses on health prevention

- We will focus on programs monitoring the most important disease groups - cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, oncological diseases, psychiatric diseases.
- We will promote the possibility to pay extra for above-standard care.

Looking beyond the horizon

People will need to start to understand the importance of investing in their health and strengthening their role in the health care system (thinking of themselves as a doctor's client and partner). Co-responsibility for health will be a necessity.

Target state

- The state has managed to maintain and gradually increase the quality standard of health care, with regard, to the development of population health indicators and the development of medicine. We must maintain these standards and apply the knowledge of modern medicine.
- Healthcare systems cover the clients (patients) needs at a high level.
- Healthcare is able to adapt to the changing population demographics in individual regions.
- Support for sport has improved fitness across the population and at least partially helped to reduce expenditure on treatment esp. of so-called civilization diseases.

Sport – road to harmonious personality development

Current state

There cannot be a healthy lifestyle without sports and physical education. Although the physical activity of the population and especially young people is decreasing, the state handles sport chaotically and without any concept. We are not talking just about the professional sport support, but amateur sport for wide masses.

Sport needs to have a stable funding, which will not be harmed by event such as collapse of Sazka a.s. or a subsidy affair of the Ministry of Education. Current sport financing crisis happened, because for a long time, sport and sport agendas played second fiddle and were hugely underestimated.

STAN suggestions

- Support the sport activities of children and youth in their place of residence, i.e. in the municipality
- Complete the project of the Sports Grounds Register and set priorities which sports grounds to reconstruct and where to build new ones
- Complete the Athlete Register project and decide on direct support for children, young people and their coaches
- Name several traditional sports that will receive a significant share of public budgets.
- Stop funding private commercial projects from public budgets

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **Create clear state aid rules.** Develop a system of transparent financing of sports and physical activities not only for young people, but for all age groups. Complete athlete and sport venue registers and analyze the data.
- Prepare a **concept to support the sport** of children and young people in their place of residence.
- **Launch a system of multi-source sport center financing.** Start supporting only projects identified by to government as a priority and meaningful, where can the incoming public funding be easily monitored.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Physical education and sport

- State support will ensure the development of physical education even at lowest level. The state will try to raise the number of PE classes in schools as well as to spark up the interest for sports through various sport competitions and activities. It will consider a return to "sports classes" in primary schools and support sport oriented secondary schools.
- We will try to connect local sport clubs with educational institutions up to university level.
- Based on the analyzed data we will point out which regions will receive priority financial aid to fix or rebuild their sport infrastructure.

- As a part of our strategy, we will support regionally and locally rooted sports (in the mountains winter sports, rowing or canoeing in areas with large lakes and rivers).

Financing

- We will ensure the supply of funds to the basic club level.
- The state must prevent financing professional competitions financing from public funds. However, it cannot prevent local governments from doing so. The aim is to differentiate professional and amateur sports.

Presentation of Czech sport

- We will make a revision of sport representation support. We need to state which sport have the biggest tradition and international impact, so it is meaningful to support them.
- We set clear criteria to support major sporting events

Support for seniors

- Local sports facilities financed entirely or largely from state funds will have to create special sports programs for seniors. These will be either free or really affordable.

Target state

- Support for sport has improved fitness across the population and at least partially helped to reduce expenditure on treatment esp. of so-called civilization diseases.
- The system of sports for children and youth has enabled new sport stars to rise and succeed on international level.
- The sports industry operates on common principles and is independent of public finances.

Social policy

– targeted help for the ones in need

Current state

Demographics and socio-economic development suggest, that in the next 30 years there will be a massive stagnation in the population, there will be less people in productive age and the number of people over 65 will rise significantly. "Aging of population" will influence all areas of society. The social aid must be focused mainly on socially weak – seniors, mentally and physically handicapped, the inhabitants of the so-called excluded areas.

We understand social aid as an assistance and not as a lifestyle.

STAN suggestions

- Focus social services on citizens aged 65+
- Distribute state subsidies regardless of the authority
- Support start-up flats for young families, social flats and sheltered flats for the disabled
- Focus on counseling services for socially vulnerable groups in dealing with difficult life situations (usury, etc.)
- Invest in education, not social benefits. We intend to distribute social benefits in a targeted manner also thanks to municipalities.

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- We will introduce the distribution of subsidies regardless of the authority. The state will distribute the subsidy according to the actual quality of the provided.
- Preparation of a long-term plan for the elderly care development. Knowing that everyone will need help once, we will develop activities and system of care for the elderly.
- Social housing plan. We will map diverse regional needs for the construction and operation of social and sheltered housing. In the coming years, construction must begin in precisely targeted areas.
- Senior - partner of the municipality - partner of the state. Leisure and day activities of seniors will also be supported by municipalities (the tax allocation will also include the share of funds that the state will start sending to municipalities for seniors).

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Taking care of the elderly

- We will support **assistant services and field workers** for those, who want to stay at their homes, instead of huge social facilities.
- For retirement homes we will support construction or remodeling of smaller buildings.
- We will support **targeted daily activity programs for seniors** who live with their families. These socially sensitive

models are widely popular amongst families with seniors live (e.g. universities of the third age, other similar courses and educational and leisure activities).

- Seniors will become partners of their municipality and the state. It is necessary to create residences for seniors with a special regime (e.g. for clients with Alzheimer's disease).

Starter, social and sheltered flats

- Municipalities, cities and regions, not the central government, should determine how many social houses are needed in a given area.
- We will support start-up flat subsidies for young families.
- We will support housing loans for people under the age of 35 - by renewing the system of support provided by the State Housing Development Fund.
- We will support the construction of sheltered housing for people with mental and combined disabilities, together with aftercare and social rehabilitation services. The aim must be the social integration of handicapped and people, who deserve fair share of the social benefits and our respect.

Granting of social benefits

- Decisions on social benefits granting will be transferred to municipalities or city districts of larger cities. There is a much better chance that they will decide with knowledge whether the person or family in question are eligible recipients of social assistance.
- It is unacceptable for social assistance to be considered a lifestyle.

Social prevention and counseling

- We will focus on counseling services for socially vulnerable groups in resolving difficult life situations: unemployment prevention, defense against usury, free legal advice.
- We will strengthen financial literacy programs and a network of counseling services in the event of a fall into the debt trap (the spiral of loans must be resolved by the justice system).

Socially excluded localities

- We will avoid creating more.
- In the existing excluded localities, with the help of field workers we will support a counseling network. However, the help must be adapted to the specific location.
- We want to combine prevention with repression in a balanced way, gradually prevent the emergence of new socially excluded localities through comprehensive interventions.

Financing of social services

- It is clear that social assistance will require more resources for various reasons. That is why we will promote financing from several sources: from EU funds, the state budget, from private sources.
- Funding must also be multi-annual and therefore predictable.
- Really important is also a consistent and substantive control (not of formal shortcomings). Services that do not meet quality standards will not receive state subsidies.

Looking beyond the horizon

- Creation of a real functional system of elderly care, construction of flats for young families, creation of a social and sheltered flats network exceeds the horizon of one election period. At the same time, the public administration must be able to respond to fluctuations and to the demands of the population.

Target state

- The majority of elderly care has shifted from large "retirement homes" to field assistance at home (where the senior's health and mental condition allows) or to smaller housing complexes.
- The society provided more activities for seniors (day care programs) financed thanks to the tax allocation based on number of seniors in each municipality.
- With the state assistance municipalities have set up the necessary housing fund for the socially disadvantaged, sheltered housing for the disabled and subsequent rehabilitation services, but also support for leisure day senior activities.
- The network of counseling centers made life easier for the unemployed, people in debt or residents of socially excluded localities. This does not mean solving a problem that is largely about individual activity, but at least mitigating it.
- Social benefits are distributed with knowledge of local conditions. The new system generates savings, which will be used as an investment in education and in structurally disadvantaged regions (municipalities).

Countryside and agriculture – food production and landscape cultivation

Current state

The Czech Republic is a member of EU. It is fully integrated in EU's Common Agricultural Policy. The agriculture is politically coordinated at EU level. Czech Republic can influence common policy after agreeing with other member states. At a national level it can interfere with agricultural policies in a limited way.

Land ownership is very fragmented, the average area of agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic is the highest in the EU and the numbers of "family farms" have been growing in recent years. The primary focus of agriculture is food production and land cultivation. Nowadays we face issues due to field sizes, ratio of cultivated crops and a one-sided focus on intensity of farming. The consequences are wind and water erosion, loss of the biological "fitness" of the soil and lack of water in the soil. The implementation of complex land adjustments (despite significant financial support from the state) is slowed down by administrative and legislative problems and, more recently, due to a lack of land in the public ownership (state and municipalities).

The sums of money the state is currently giving to **fight the drought or floods are hugely inadequate**. This statement can be proved by either the damage costs caused by these elements, or studies that call for much larger investments.

In supporting the so-called regional development and rural development, the state uses almost exclusively the tools of the so-called direct support. The center decides on supporting distant local projects. Realization of these projects is very often under political influence and economic lobbying. The creation of local economies to support local development must be further supported, by the use, of municipal public budgets. In the past there were so-called municipal enterprises, which took care of public lighting, water and sewerage or waste management in municipalities. Many of such enterprises have disappeared in the "market struggle". Today, many local public resources are transferred from municipalities and cities to large, often even multinational companies and do not remain in place.

STAN suggestions

- We want the landscape for people, not just for economic use.
- Temporarily suspend the sale and transfer of state land.
- Simplify the conditions for processing own production and for sale from the yard.
- In the future do not expand the cultivation of crops for energy use (biofuels, biogas plants).
- Support landscape and anti-erosion measures, including forest protection.
- Support measures regulating the water regime in the landscape, including the regulation of forest management.
- Support the establishment or renewal of so-called municipal enterprises (public lighting, water management, waste management).
- Support medium and small farmers - especially family farms

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **We will temporarily suspend the sale and transfer of state land.** This is an administrative decision of the Minister / Government. The offer can be renewed after the completion of the principles of such sales. Part of the state's obligation in dealing with real estate should be the immediate and one-off transfer of state-owned real estate to municipal ownership where the municipality so requests.

- We will simplify the conditions of sale **“from the yard”** and the primary producers production processing.
- **We will introduce degressive payments.** This will turn all area subsidies in favor of small and medium-sized farms on their own land by changing the national targeting of the EU’s Common Agricultural policy.
- **We will put emphasis on Community-led local development (so-called CLLD).** We want to extend community-oriented projects as a mandatory part to all European structural and investment funds. In the national departmental budgets, we will include a mandatory chapter “endogenous RR tools”, i.e. decided locally.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

- **Landscape and water are public goods.** We will tighten the rules of land removal from the category of agricultural land. We will propose to unify and administratively simplify related laws (the Act on the Protection of Agricultural Land, the Building Act, the Act on the State Land Office). Into the laws we will incorporate the principles of support on how to provide water in the landscape by reducing the size of cultivated fields and creating barriers between them.
- We will start with **adapting the landscape** to climate change, which means preparing for heavy rains, protecting against floods, etc. Dealing with water as a vital and strategic raw material must no longer be focused on profit.
- **We will support smaller regional farmers and family farms.** We will introduce so-called “farm systems” to support family farms. We will mitigate the impact of the Public Procurement Act by allowing in-house exemptions for the placement of “small” contracts to small and medium-sized regional entrepreneurs.
- **We will propose a simplification of the laws.** We will significantly simplify the endogenous instruments of regional development legislation, local financing and also decision-making on projects. We will propose a law on public utility, which should unify the conditions for all those who finance regional development from their own sources.

Looking beyond the horizon

- **Significantly support the principles of the “Smart Landscape” with existing and new investments.** We need to create a functional system of a large number of small and medium-sized water reservoirs, from dry polders, through ponds with a retention spaces to storages or irrigation tanks. These tanks must be able to catch water and protect the area below them in the event of torrential rain.
- **Support local agricultural economies.** We will involve farmers in local rural economies by supporting so-called short chains (local production and consumption) and we will support community-based partnerships of public and private sector. We will also prioritize animal production over crop production and thus support local diversified agricultural production.
- **Assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture in micro-regions.** We will significantly support small and medium-sized enterprises and as well as the development of micro-regions through the tools of endogenous RR and through preferential municipal business zones implementation.

Target state

- **The disproportion in support between “large” and “small” food producers has ended.** The situation where the small and medium-sized farmers are only verbally supported is over.
- The public began to perceive that water sufficiency is not granted; it is something that needs to be taken care of.
- Soil erosion has been reduced. Soil care and water regime respects biological natural processes.
- Local food production and sales chains began to prosper, which kick-started the prosperity of individual regions and towns/villages.

Foreign policy – conditions of state security

Current state

The main purpose of foreign policy is to guarantee external stability and protection of the Czech Republic. STAN considers the Czech Republic to be a Western country, fully integrated into European space, which is vital for economic, political and security reasons. Stability of European space is essential to secure states existence and safe development. All this is amplified by integration of Czech economy into EU's internal market.

The goal of our politics is strengthening of EU's internal market, considering Czech economy, creation of a safe space, border protection and lawful and just conditions for EU citizens, but not a multi-speed Europe, that has a tendency rather to divide and not connect.

In the current phase of globalization, all processes of redistribution of power are accelerating, and the role of non-state actors is increasing. Competition is intensifying in the fight not only for influence and resources, but also for markets. This may be a manifestation of a growing awareness of limited resources.

The result is the current pressure on both integration and decentralization, where regions play an important role at the expense of the state. Rising number of violent conflicts in some parts of the world, including countries around Europe can be a signal of destabilization of political situation. Coping with these processes requires linking the various levels of governance and recognizing the motto "Think Global, Act Local".

STAN suggestions

- Clearly formulate the position of the Czech Republic, both internally, towards the citizens, and outwardly
- Declare the orientation to the West not only verbally, but by deeds: by fulfilling commitments within the EU and NATO
- To play a much more active role at EU summits and diplomatic negotiations within European structures - according to the principle of "actively influencing EU decision-making, not making excuses for it at home"
- Simplify the use of European resources on meaningful projects and ensure rigorous control
- Support human rights and democracy around the world
- To professionalize Czech diplomacy

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **As a first step Ministry of foreign affairs, Presidents Office, the government and other ministries need to clarify their priorities and competencies in foreign policy and their relationship with the EU**, in other words to specify the relations between Czech diplomacy and newly created diplomacy of the EU (European External Action Service). The solution would be the government formulating foreign policy.
- **We will push for the organizational structure reform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and we will put emphasis on competence complexity within individual departments.
- We want **to professionalize Czech diplomacy by attracting top professionals at the expense of political friends** and political party members and by thoroughly educating all Czech foreign policy actors.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Stabilization of the European area

- We will focus on NATO-EU cooperation in ensuring European security.
- We will stress the necessity to increase defense capabilities with the equal contribution of all allies.
- We want to emphasize the principle of multilevel governance combining local, regional, national, European and global levels, because we know that solving problems at the lowest possible level of governance contributes to its effectiveness and legitimacy. We will focus on creating above-standard relations with neighboring states and the Visegrad Four states.

European Union

- The advancing European integration process, the promotion of compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, decision-making as close as possible to the people will be important to us.
- We are aware of the needed EU institutional reform, which would strengthen the democratic principles and legitimacy of the EU and would bring the Union closer to the citizen. The solution to the current crisis of the integration process is not a multi-speed Europe, which would in essence divide the European Union rather than unite it, but a consensus based on deepening the EU's internal market.

Drawing money from European funds

- We will push for a reduction in the number of operational programs for the period 2021-2027. We want to simplify the rules for drawing resources in line with modern EU trends and use such tools as simplified or lump sum payments.
- We want to set up a clear non-repetitive control and to establish a system based on trust and partnership between applicants and managing authorities.
- We will promote clear predictability for potential applicants and equal absorption of EU funds throughout the whole election period. It is inadmissible for us to follow the political cycle of election periods in the Czech Republic when approving projects and drawing money.
- Our goal is to create an objective and uniform project selection system. Quite simply: you need to choose the most desirable and the best. In the project planning and selecting system we will want to involve regional partners, interest organizations and unions and the non-profit sector. EU support should target in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the non-profit sector. We want to emphasize local integrated strategies discussed in a community-based way.

Cooperation outside the EU

- The Czech Republic should become a mediator and bridge between the European Union and socio-culturally related Eastern neighbors. The Czech foreign policy should be targeted towards **Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova and the Balkan countries**.
- The respect for human rights and democratic principles in the world will be the starting point of Czech foreign policy.
- The importance of economic diplomacy is growing, in the context of the deepening globalization process. We should use the potential of Czech producers and ties to traditional markets while maintaining a balanced position and moral integrity.

Migration crisis

- We understand migration as a consequence, not the cause of international instability. The countries of Euro-Atlantic area are key partners of the Czech Republic, because they share the same values.
- We will emphasize the conflict prevention by effectively targeting development aid and foreign policy cooperation. In the

event of escalating crisis, it is necessary to use all available crisis management tools (peacekeeping missions, etc.) with comprehensive post-conflict reconstruction. Early migration prevention is more effective and cheaper than dealing with the consequences.

- At the same time, we wish for better and more coordinated protection of the EU's external borders.

Looking beyond horizon

We will push for a discussion on the EU's and UN's institutional structure reform.

We want to strive for better cooperation between municipalities and regions in Europe, for professionalism and competence of negotiators (politicians and officials), their better coordination and for formal and informal networking of EU's and other international institutions and organizations.

Target state

- Czech diplomacy is mostly composed of top experts (not political "friends") who are able to promote Czech interests through diplomacy effectively and with nobility.
- There is no doubt about the foreign orientation of the Czech Republic. It is formulated by a government backed by a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The position of the Czech Republic is firmly anchored politically and economically in the EU, militarily in NATO and in terms of values in the West.
- The Czech Republic draws money from European funds for really meaningful projects that benefit the regions economically. The standard of these regions is rising as well as the coherence with developed European regions. The check-ups come clear but not repeating different results.

Culture

– nation's identity foundation

Current state

We understand culture broadly - as the culture of the nation and society, as the culture of man in the personal, social, moral, economic, aesthetic, philosophical, spiritual and legal dimensions. We value its cultivation and educational functions.

A free and creative citizen is the basis of an independent democratic society, clearly oriented to the values of Western civilization. Our identity in today's world is defined mainly by Czech culture and its history.

Regardless of the latest progression, Czech cultural sector has been underfinanced and not only in wages of cultural institutions operated by state or municipalities, but also in direct support of independent art.

There is no systematic distribution of responsibility for cultural activities between the state, regions and municipalities.

STAN suggestions

- Develop a strategy to support culture, including setting priorities, goals and specific tools to achieve them
- Achieve a share of 1% of the state budget for direct support of culture, i.e. without counting funds for churches
- Achieve transparent and fair cooperative financing of live culture on the axis "state - regions - municipalities"
- Submit a new law on historic preservation, increase funding for the Association of Historic Settlements of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia programs for the renewal and maintenance of urban monument zones and reservations
- Submit a new law on public institutions
- Transform the State Fund for Culture to a basic tool for financing culture at the state level
- Create an investment program to support the revitalization of cultural houses, public gymnasiums and traditional association houses in smaller towns and villages
- Initiate the construction of a new National Library building

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

Clear state aid rules. The Minister of Culture will present a concept for the development and financing of culture, including specific measures, such as cooperative state-region-municipality financing. Functional foreign models (Slovakia, Great Britain) will be taken into account while creating this strategy.

Multi-source cultural institutions financing. The Minister of Culture will propose a law that will enable the establishment of public cultural institutions with extended possibilities and multiple source financing. This law will make it possible to transform existing state-funded theaters, galleries and other cultural facilities into a more modern and effective legal form.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Culture being supported

- In its strategy, the Department of Culture sets out **clear criteria which sectors and which cultural actions to support**. State support for selected cultural activities is necessary. Cultural policy is based on social consensus. We are sup-

porting those institutions and activities that we consider to be paramount in terms of quality, institutions that promote Czech culture and are necessary for the free cultural development of citizens.

- The strategy will be presented by the Minister within one year with five-year and ten-year strategy models. Specific measures will be put into practice within three years.
- The government will support local traditions.
- the government reserves the right to decide, which activities will be financially supported, and which will not, while respecting the artist's freedom
- We will kick-start the construction a **new National Library**.

Financing

- We will increase the budget of the Ministry of Culture to the level of 1% of the state budget (excluding funds to support churches) in order to maintain this share and, ideally increase it. This will increase the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture by at least CZK 3.5 billion.
- We will provide new sources of support for culture, including the use of gambling-tax revenues.
- We will set up new relations between municipalities, regions and the state on one side and private patrons on the other, which will facilitate the support of culture - we will consider adjusting the possibilities of tax depreciation.
- We will update investment programs and negotiate support from European funds.

Support for the presentation of Czech culture

- We will prepare a program to support and present Czech culture in culturally and economically developed countries, where there is a high potential of tourists heading to the Czech Republic. We will also use big anniversaries for presentation of Czech culture (100 years of the founding of Czechoslovakia, 30th anniversary of the canonization of Agnes of Bohemia, 600 years since the birth of George of Podebrady, etc.)

Support for the revitalization of local cultural and sports facilities

- The Ministry of Culture will prepare an investment program for the revitalization of public gymnasiums, association or cultural houses (including investment in modern technologies) so that these facilities can be used more effectively for the organization of cultural events and socialization of citizens within municipalities.

Public service media - Czech Television and Czech Radio

- The government perceives Czech Television and Czech Radio as a guarantee of free access to information and its public support (expressed by the payment of concession fees) as a guarantee of the public service media independence.
- The Government will submit a new law on ČT and ČRo, which stipulates the meaning and obligations of public service media. This will change the member selection process of ČT Council and ČRo Council so that there can be no political or other influence on public service media.
- In the long term the law will set up the system of financing of public service media.

Historic preservation

- We consider the protection of historical monuments a priority. Historic preservation must lead to preservation of historical-cultural significance, but not to the permanent preservation of the monuments current state.
- The government will present a completely new law on historic preservation, which clearly defines the rights and obligations of monument owners and the rights and obligations of the state towards monument owners.

Target state

- Czech culture is respected in the European and global context.
- The state has a functional and effective system to support both national cultural institutions and important regional cultural institutions, as well as independent arts, on the axis "state - region - municipality - citizen".
- The budget of the Ministry of Culture has been at 1% of the state budget (excluding funds for churches) and can support top performing acts, preservation and memory institutions, as well as the development of contemporary cultural infrastructure.
- The state purposefully raises awareness of Czech culture abroad.
- Czech culture uses new technologies and uses technically suitable cultural infrastructure (buildings, halls, technical equipment).
- Important historical anniversaries and significant events are regularly used to raise awareness of one's own cultural identity. The construction of the new National Library building is underway.
- The public service media - Czech Radio and Czech Television - are strong and independent of political influence, they guarantee free access to information as well as liberal democratic development in our country.

People and the landscape – environmental policy

Current state

We are witnessing frequent and often unnecessarily heightened conflicts between economic interests and nature preservation intentions. We cannot retain water, fertile soil in the landscape and stop the decline of groundwater supplies.

The state rather supports large-scale agricultural production and large-scale measures instead of small, diverse intelligent solutions.

We believe that environmental, economic and social problems have only common solutions - and any attempt to solve them separately necessarily leads to failure. We promote the idea of sustainable development and we strive to ensure that our children and grandchildren can also enjoy a relatively healthy environment.

STAN suggestions

- Accelerated measures to retain water in landscape
- Prevent further erosion and soil degradation
- Deciding on changes as close as possible to landscape and people
- Discussion instead of directive decision making
- Improve air quality and reduce noise levels

Urgent measures (1st year of government)

- **Water as a strategic raw material.** Immediate initiation of steps to retain water in landscape proves necessary. We will focus on retaining groundwater supplies and preventing wasting of water. We will support the restoration of natural watercourses.
- Drought and flood protection.

Plan for full government term (4 years)

Clear laws

- We will prepare concise and comprehensible law on environmental protection, which will set out the basic principles and guidelines in accordance with the Constitution.
- It will be followed by several laws regulating practice in individual fields of environmental care.
- It will be based on a principle that irreversible damage and threats to ecological stability are unacceptable.

Deciding on changes as close as possible to landscape and people

- Significant interventions in the landscape should be decided by local people, if it is possible

- We will push for (even by law) discussions on specific intentions to begin before they develop into mediated disputes.
- There must be clear rules to assessment of environmental impact - it must proceed smoothly but it cannot be indefinitely extended.

Landscape care, water and soil protection

- Small and medium-sized interventions and measures in individual river basins will be preferred to the construction of larger water bodies.
- We will support small and medium-sized farmers and sustainable agriculture.
- We will support the return of small landscape elements – groves, alleys - also as features working against the continuing erosion of the soil.
- Annexation and development of land must have clear rules - the protection of agricultural land will be a priority.
- We will support more environmentally friendly forestry, the return of the original tree varieties to the landscape and greater supervision over logging.
- We will support the protection of drinking water sources.

Protection of organisms

- We prefer the protection of the environment and habitats over the protection of individual organisms.
- We will provide adequate care for protected areas.

Urban development

- We will support the expansion of green areas in new projects (requirement for greenery as part of building projects - including green roofs).
- We will promote an alternative to individual and road transport using fossil fuels, where possible

Waste

- We see the problem of waste management as a complex process from the extraction of raw materials to waste management.
- We focus on the beginning and the end of this process, e.g. waste prevention and closed production cycles.
- We will financially support ideas that lead to a reduction in the amount of waste.

Target state

- Consensual decision-making methods have cultivated not only an environmental debate, but a public debate in general.
- Nature does not form scattered islands in a human-altered landscape, but settlements and cultivated areas are set in a natural framework.