



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Involvement of the Civic Sector in the SDGs Implementation in the Czech Republic and Sharing Experience with SDG Awards

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic will focus on the collaboration of the state administration with the civic sector in the SDGs implementation since 2015. It will summarize all kinds of NGO's involvement in the SDGs implementation and reflect on the experience and lessons learned - before, during, and after Covid-19 crises. Despite the broad scope of the activities of the civil society, the main challenge poses the proper communication linking the particular projects and activities with the global goals.

The SDGs Awards have been given in the Czech Republic since 2017 as the first ever awards for the SDGs implementation in the world. The SDGs Awards themselves embody the collaboration and partnership between non-profit organizations, government and the private sector (public-private partnerships), thus fulfilling the essence of SDG 17.

Google perceives digitization and application of advanced technology as a key catalyst for economic growth and sustainable development. However, the skill set of today's population is not well set up to support the digital transformation. Developing a wide-ranging reskilling strategy, updating youth education for the future and promoting lifelong learning and mid-career training is necessary to build a skill set for the future.

Cesko.Digital and the global network of civic-tech organizations aim at bringing novel approaches to citizen engagement, peer-to-peer networks and collaborative partnership across citizens, communities, non-profit and government organizations. We try to enable civil society to implement SDGs by creating digital platforms that are innovative, ethical, and inclusive.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The main outcome of the presentation of the Ministry of the Environment will be sharing experience with the involvement of the civic society in the SDGs implementation in the Czech Republic. It will honestly reflect and formulate lessons learned in this regard.

Inspirational examples of award-winning projects will be presented with the aim of inspiring other countries to strengthen cooperation between the non-governmental sector and government in the implementation of the SDGs.

Google focuses on contributing to lifelong learning and mid-career training - especially the development of digital and entrepreneurial skills - under the umbrella of Grow with Google program. The program has already impacted over 10M people in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Google is developing it further, in partnership with local institutions throughout the region.

Cesko.digital's mission got accelerated by Covid-19, bringing an urgent need for a massive action to mitigate the pandemic's effects, for society's most vulnerable parts (with a critical area being education). Through Cesko.digital's flagship project "Ucime online", we connected teachers, volunteers, NGOs, etc. to help 2 920 families, 618 schools, and 10 000 teachers.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Contributors: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

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Agenda and Structure

8:30 - 8:40 Opening and introductory remarks

Mr. Alexandr Sporys - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Relations

Ms. Jitka Brodská - Permanent Mission of the CR to the United Nations in Geneva, Deputy Head of Mission

8:40 - 8:50 Involvement of the civic sector in the implementation of SDGs in the Czech Republic

Ms. Anna Pasková - Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Director, Department of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development

8:50 - 9:00 Questions and answers

9:00 - 9:10 Success story of SDG awards in the Czech Republic

Ms. Lucie Madlova - Association of Social Responsibility, Founder and Executive Director

9:10 - 9:20 Role of the global technology company with the SDGs implementation in the Czech Republic

Mr. Petr Smid - Google Czech Republic, Country Marketing Manager CZ/SK, HU, RO

9:20 - 9:30 Role of the civic tech organization in accelerating non-profit projects with an impact on SDGs

Ms. Eva Pavlikova - Cesko.digital, Co-founder & CEO

9:30 - 9:40 Questions and answers

9:40 - 9:45 Closing remarks

Mr. Alexandr Sporys - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Relations

List of Panellists

Mr. Alexandr Sporys - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Department of Multilateral Economic Relations - Director, the moderator (**8:30 - 9:00**)

Ms. Lucie Madlova - Association of Social Responsibility, Founder and Executive Director, the moderator (**9:00 - 9:45**)

Ms. Jitka Brodska - Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in Geneva, Deputy Head of Mission

Ms. Anna Paskova - Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Director, Department of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development

Mr. Petr Smid - Google Czech Republic, Country Marketing Manager CZ/SK, HU, RO

Ms. Eva Pavlikova - Cesko.digital, Co-founder & CEO