

# ergo

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## The Czech Republic in FP7: participation rate and collaborative excellence

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The Framework Programmes for research and technological development (FPs) are very important instruments fostering the growth of the European Union's potential needed to achieve breakthrough solutions to urgent and difficult problems that are unlikely to be properly tackled at the level of individual national research and development systems. The FPs mainly support projects with considerable "European added value" that stem from transnational collaboration in research, development, and innovation. However, attempts to measure the collaboration are still rather rare and usually based on analysing project results. This article confirms the low participation of Czech teams in FP7, which was discussed in many previous studies. However, we want to argue that the participating Czech teams collaborate with teams from premier European institutions more intensively than teams from many other member countries.

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## R&D collaboration of EU countries with partners beyond the EU group

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International collaboration is an important factor stimulating the advancement of national research and development. In this paper we use bibliometric analysis for the evaluation of the extent and the intensity of collaboration of EU countries with partners beyond the EU group. The main partner of the EU is the USA whose authors participate on nearly one tenth of European scientific publications. Within the 6th and 7th Framework Programme, measured by the number of R&D teams, Russia dominates. Former socialist countries exhibit a broader orientation towards Russia and other countries of the former USSR than the EU-15 countries. The number of US R&D teams involved in collaboration with Czech entities is only about one third of the Russian ones.

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## Emerging R&D centres supported by EU Structural Funds in the Czech Republic and their sustainability

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Availability of top infrastructure forms an important prerequisite of internationally competitive research and development (R&D) and contributes to its attractiveness to the application sector. Research infrastructures represent one of the main topics of member-state collaboration on building the European Research Area and they are an important factor influencing worker mobility. One of the possibilities for supporting the development of R&D infrastructures is offered by the current operational programmes. However, success of new centres also depends on them being staffed by top research teams. Are the Czech Republic and its regions capable of making full use of the opportunity offered, do they have sufficient human resources to staff the created positions, and will regional economies benefit from the presence of R&D centres?