

Higher Education in the Czech Republic



CHARLES
UNIVERSITY



The Czech Republic and HE Overview

- **area:** 78,866 sq km, **population:** 10,5 million
- **EU member state:** since 2004
- **language:** Czech (one of the 16 Slavonic languages)
- **1348:** Charles University in Prague was established (the oldest university in Central Europe)
- currently **61 higher education institutions:** 26 public, 2 state and 31 private
- **303,000 students and 63,800 graduates** at higher education institutions in 2020 (90% at public, 9% at private, 1% at state)
- Including **51,000+ foreign students (17%)**



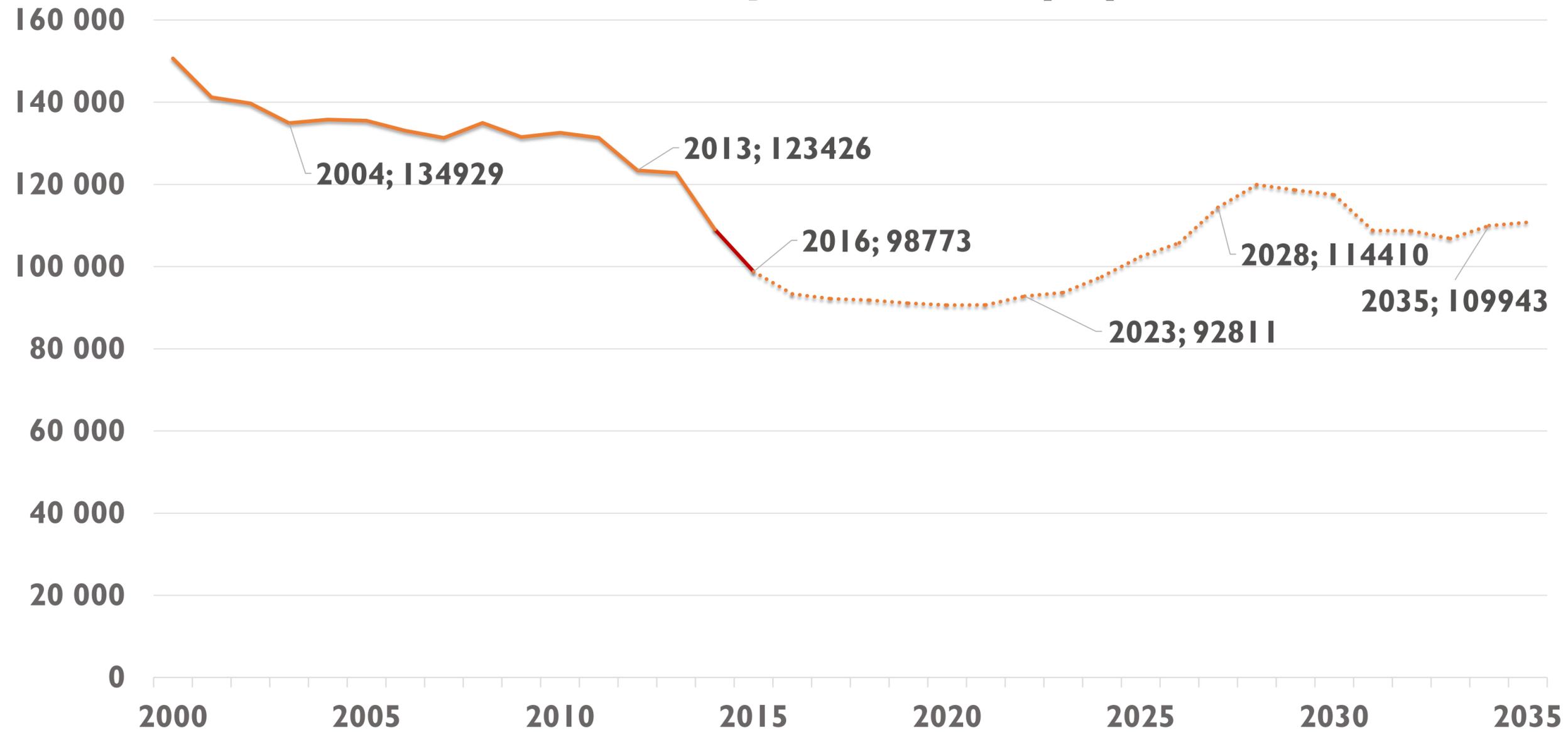
Contemporary Situation

- End of the era of quantitative development.
- HE system is effectively open to the whole cohort of secondary school graduates.
- Decreasing numbers of applicants in recent years.
- Demography drop is at its lower ebb.



Demographic Decline

Number of 19 years old in population 2000-2035



Current System

- 26 Public Higher Education Institutions
- 2 State Higher Education Institutions
- 19 of 31 Private Higher Education Institutions members of the Czech Rectors Conference

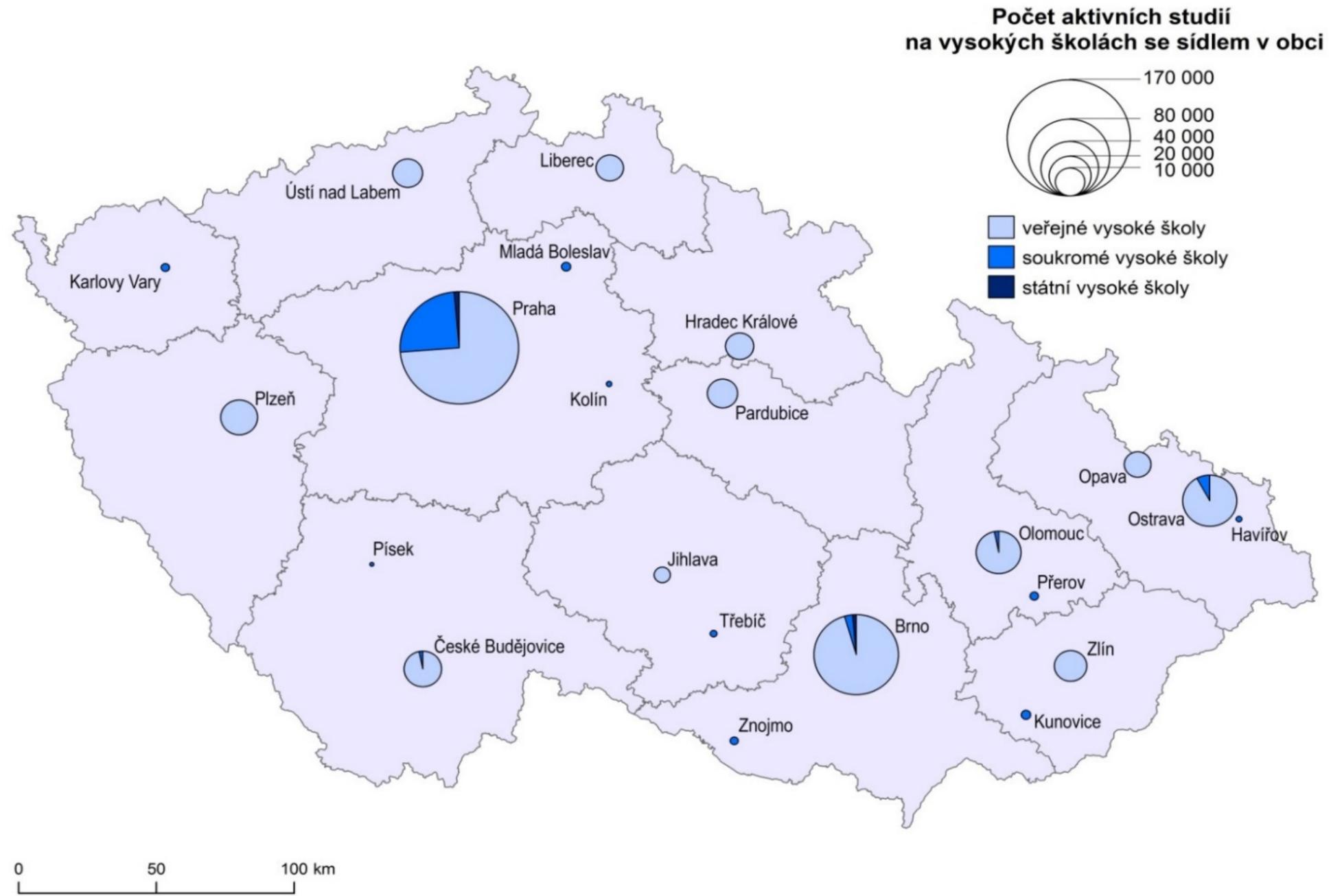


Public and State HEIs

- 24 of 26 public HEIs are universities
 - in traditional centers
 - in regional centers
- 4 of 26 public HEIs are art academies
 - 3 in Prague
- 2 state HEIs
 - the Police Academy of the Czech Republic
 - the University of Defense



Spatial Distribution of HEIs



System of HEIs

- Wide autonomy and self-governance in the form of strong position of academic senates elected from the members of academic community
- Deans and rectors elected by academic senates
- Strong autonomy of faculties (“schools” in anglo-saxon terminology)
- Wide responsibilities of the deans of the faculties
- Autonomous internal financial system



Admission Procedures

- Czech students entering HEIs must have passed the school-leaving examination.
- HEIs in the Czech Republic have a higher degree of autonomy than in many other EU countries, therefore additional admission requirements are often set by the rector of the institution or the dean of the faculty being entered. These may include written, oral or aptitude tests, and such admission examinations are common at most HEIs.

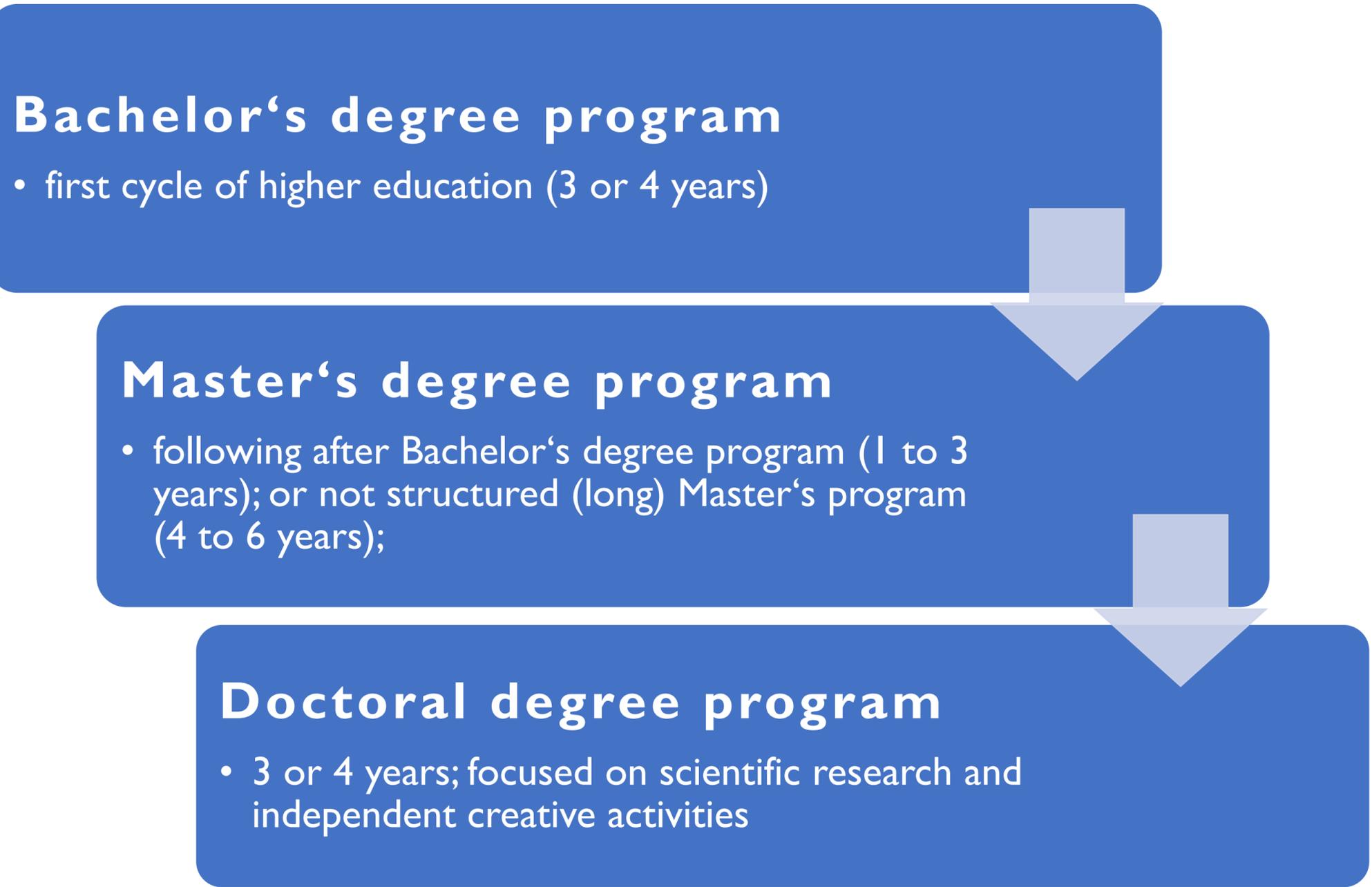


Bologna Process

- The Czech Republic is an active member of the Bologna Process and European Higher Education Area
- Main goals:
 - International mobility, cooperation and recognition
 - Flexible learning paths
 - Competitiveness of European HE
- Main principles have been introduced:
 - European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) – 12 HEIs awarded by ECTS Label
 - Three cycle degree system
 - Diploma supplement (DS) – 34 HEIs awarded by DS Label
 - European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG)



Study Cycles



Study Conditions

- Programmes in the Czech language at public and state universities can be **studied for free** both by EU and non-EU citizens
- **Language of instruction:** besides Czech, an increasing number of courses are offered in English as well as German, French, and Russian

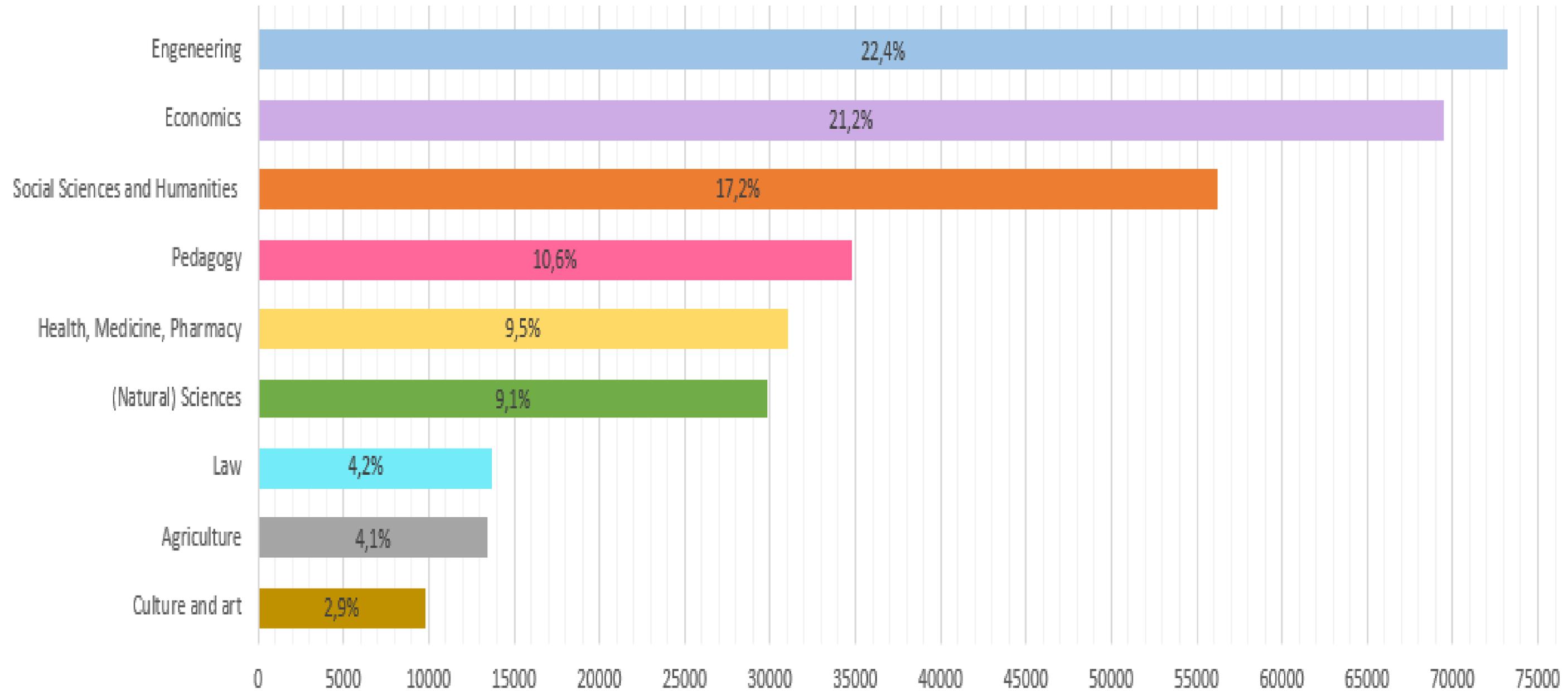


Tuition Fees

- Higher education at public and state institutions is free with the following exceptions:
 - Fees for administration of admission proceedings
 - Fees for extending the duration of study beyond the limit
 - Fees for study in a foreign language



Division of HE students in accordance with fields of study



Financial Resources

- Educational activities at public HEIs are covered 100% from the state budget.
- A significant part of HEIs budgets is formed by science and research subventions. In research universities it makes up to 70 % of the overall sources. Share of research money from private business is growing.
- Special program for development of capital assets of the HEIs.



Financial Resources

- **More than 60%** of HE budget from public sources based on **number of students** (more costly fields of study receive higher funding per student based on the „coefficient of economic demands“)
- **Almost 20%** based on **quality indicators** (unemployment rate of graduates, level of internationalization, research performance)
- **More than 5%** based on **performance agreements** (institutional plans) and **infrastructure** projects
- The rest on scholarships, grants for socially disadvantaged, grants for accommodation, internationalization etc.
- Grants for research-related activities may however constitute **almost one half** of HE budget and are not included in this overview, as well as **EU ESF/ERDF** structural funding.



Changes of the HE System

- Amendment of the Higher Education Act effective since 2016
 - Quality assurance system revision – introduction of Institutional level of accreditation based on HEI's ability to ensure quality of its activities
 - Grants higher autonomy to excellent institutions with robust QA systems
 - Independent QA – National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education
 - Introduction of two study profiles – academic and professional
 - Enhances responsiveness of higher education to the labor market needs
- New methodology of research outputs assessment
- Possibility to take away titles in cases of fraud



Accreditation System

- Independent **National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education** as a successor of Accreditation Commission
- Accreditation:
 - Study program
 - Institutional Accreditation (IA) for HEIs with robust system of QA
- New sets of standards for study program and IA
- Growing importance of the guarantor of the program



Accreditation System

Policy Instruments

In general, there are **three main ways** how the Government can influence the HE:
accreditation,
funding,
specific support

- independent „**National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education**“ as main QA institution; the Ministry can set only general rules,
- **funding formula** reflects also the quality of the education, e.g. via research performance or employability of graduates,
- **specific support** includes e.g. policy recommendations, grants for programme innovation and advisory for HEIs.



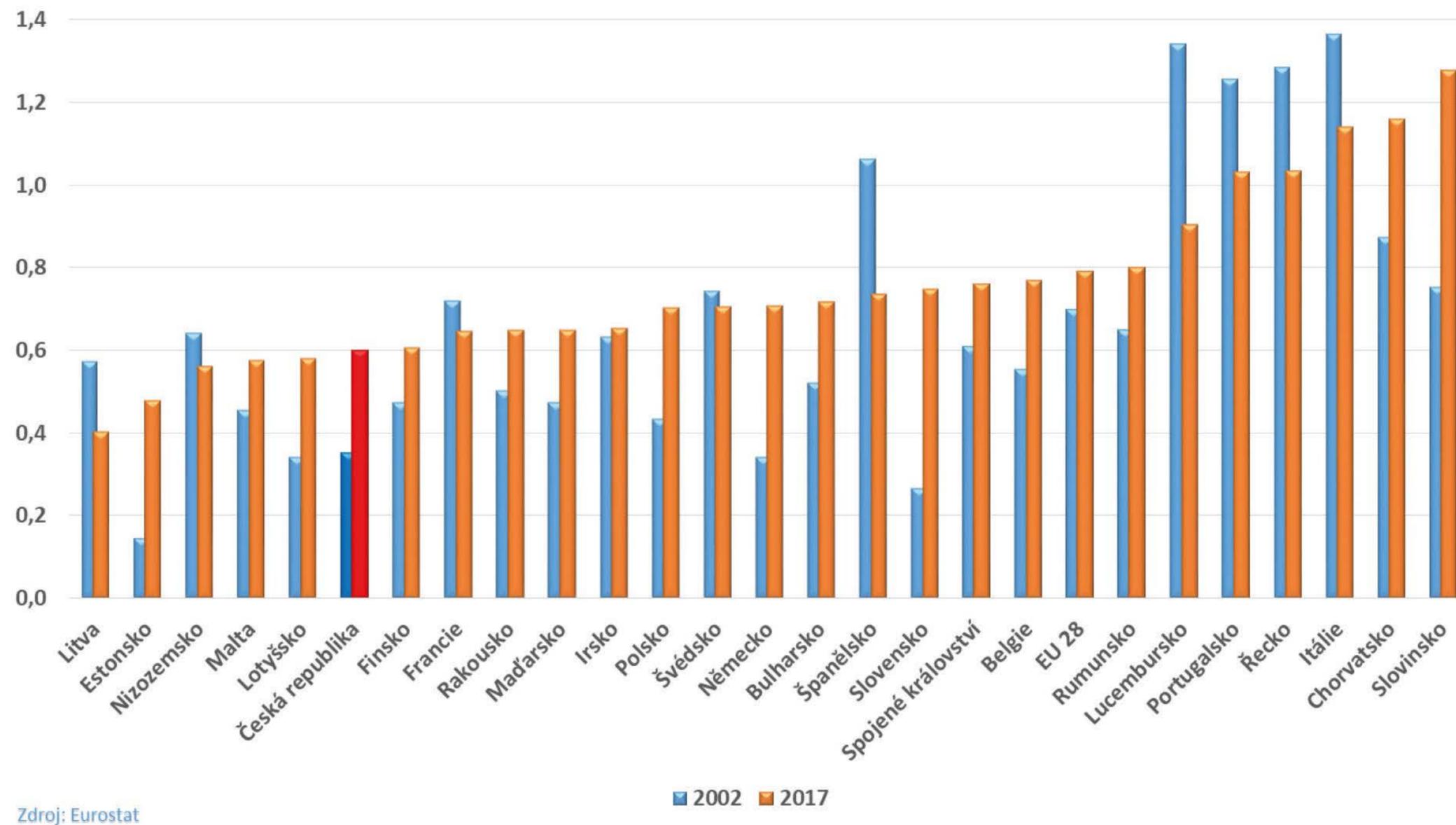
Liabilities

- Growing administration strain for HEIs due to numbers of new laws and regulations
- Sophisticated accreditation system
- Aging of staff due to non existing age limits
- Decreasing preparedness of students from secondary school cycle
- Low level of wages in certain fields (pedagogy, art)



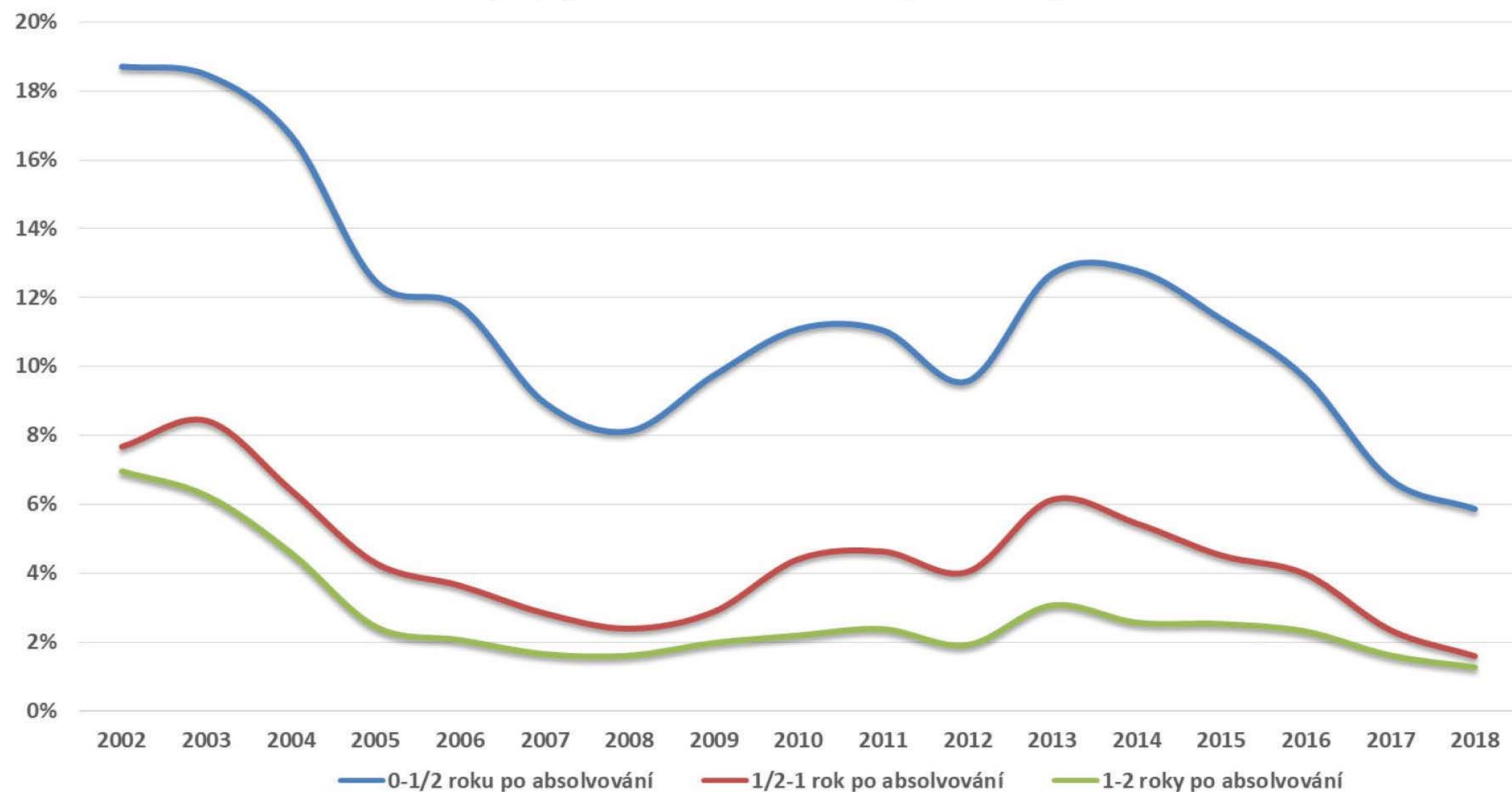
Unemployment Rate of HE Graduates

- HE graduates face in general low unemployment rates and low vertical mismatch („overqualification“)



Unemployment Rate of Fresh Graduates

Unemployment rate of fresh graduates 2 years after graduation (2002 – 2018)



Czech Universities and Rankings

- Charles University in Prague is usually ranked 200th-300th in QS rankings, another 4 HEIs are around 300th-600th in recent years
- Czech universities score best among central and eastern European universities (except Austria and Germany).
- Top 10 universities from Visegrad countries according to QS: **6**



National Evaluation of Research M17+

- New methodology for evaluating research on the national level was approved by the Government in 2017 (→ M17+), implemented for the first time
- The aim was to identify among the Czech universities and HEIs those which carry out reasonable scientific and research work
- Organised in 5 modules:
 - M1 - Quality of Selected Results - peer review of selected outputs
 - M2 - Research Performance - based on bibliometric data
 - Modules M1 and M2 were carried out by an Expert and Advisory Body of the Czech Government
 - M3 - Social Relevance
 - M4 - Viability
 - M5 - Strategy and Policy
 - Modules M3-M5 were secured by an International Evaluation Panel, composed by each university being evaluated



National Evaluation of Research M17+

- The main outcome of modules 3-5 was an **EVALUATION REPORT:**
 - written by the International Evaluation Panel
 - submitted to the Ministry by the end of January 2021
 - quantitative + qualitative assessment, as well as recommendations for future development
 - the quantitative evaluation criteria were defined by the Ministry
- In total:
 - 30 HEIs were evaluated
 - 186 units were evaluated in Module 3
 - 258 evaluators participated (from 37 different countries)
- As the „best“ Czech universities were identified:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Charles University | Czech Technical University in Prague |
| Masaryk University | University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague |
| Palacký University Olomouc | University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice |

Charles University



Czech Universities in European Alliances

- Charles University is a member of 4EU+ Alliance founded in 2018, 4EU+ Alliance was ranked as one of the best Alliances in the first call for proposals in 2019, 4EU+ Alliance covers **6** countries and **6** universities
- Masaryk University is a member of EDUC Alliance (European Digital UniverCity), covering **5** states and **6** universities
- Czech Technical University is a member of EUROTEQ Alliance (EuroTeQ Engineering University), covering **6** states and **6** universities
- Palacký University Olomouc is a member of AURORA Alliance, covering **9** states and **9** universities + associated partners

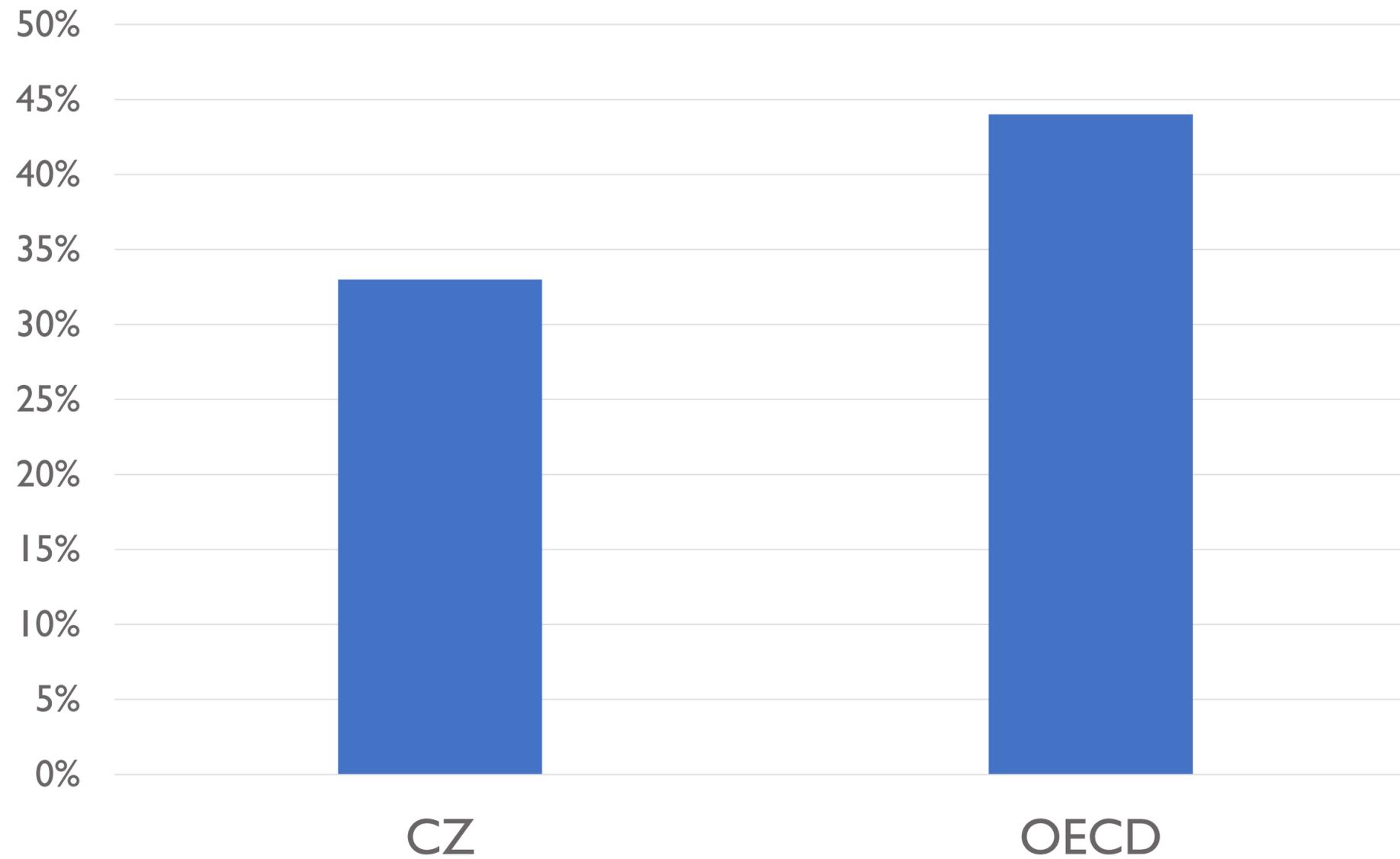


Charles University



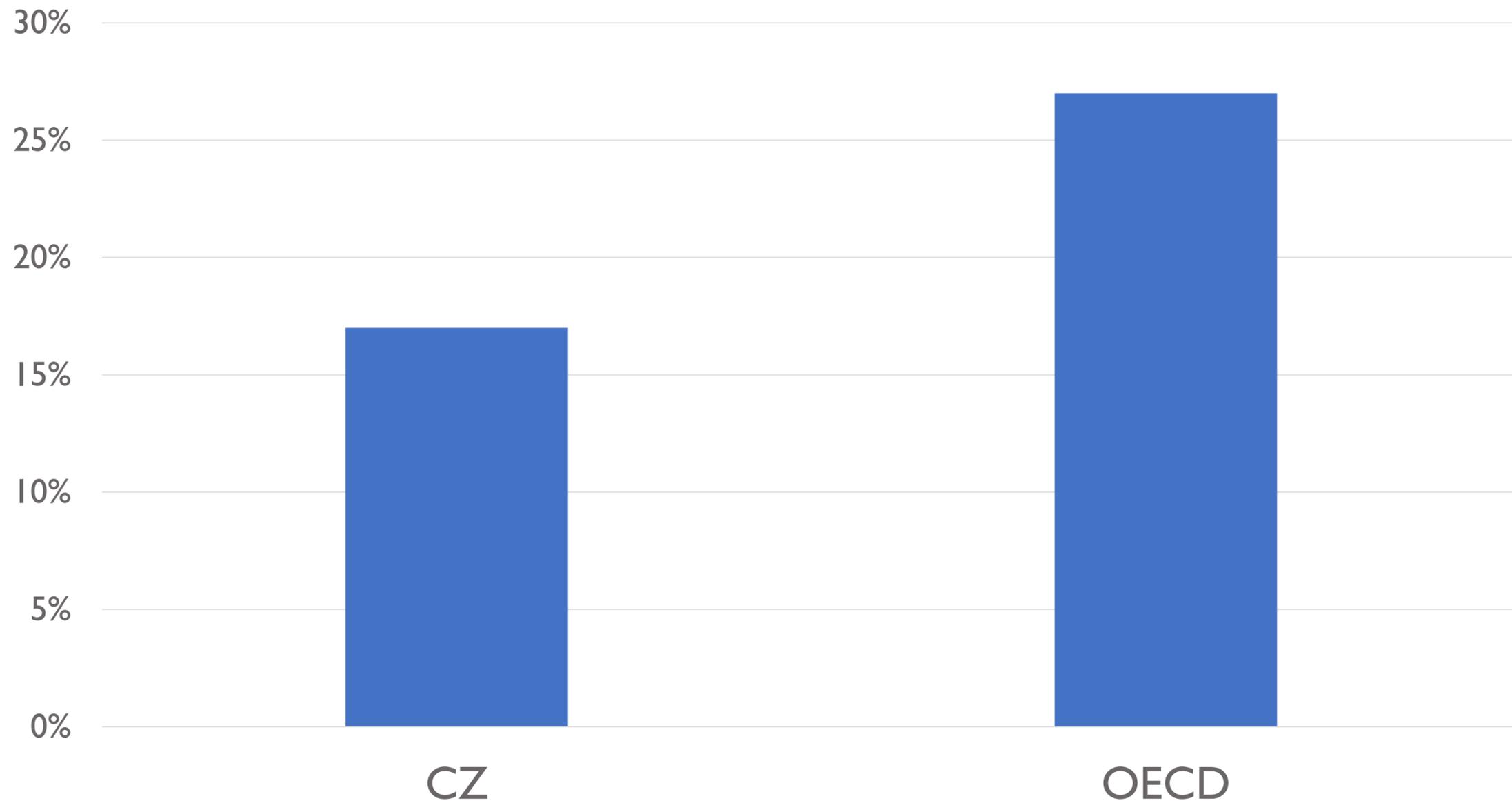
OECD Education at a Glance

Share of HE Graduates in population in productive age (24-34)



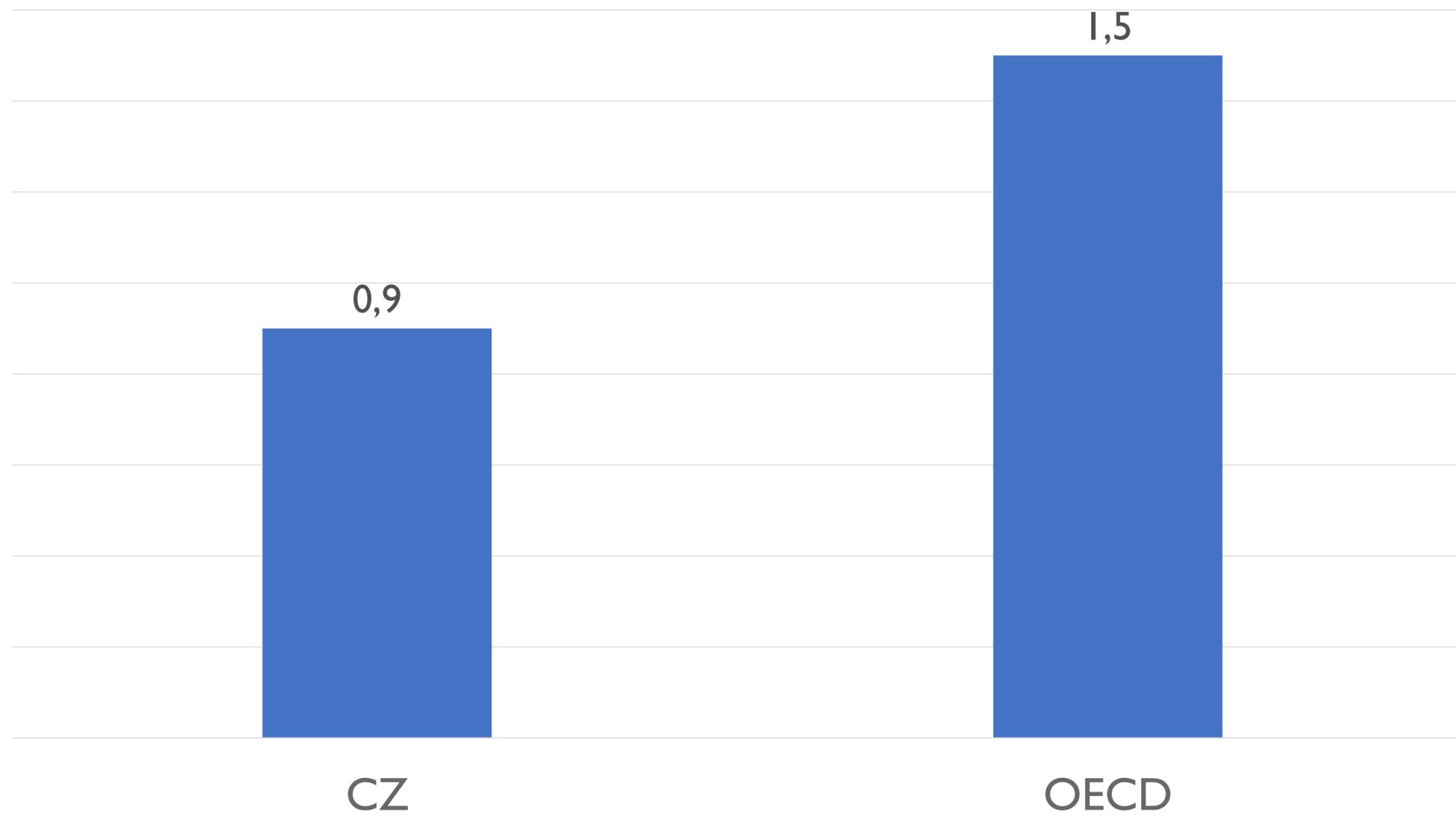
OECD Education at a Glance

Share of HE Graduates in population in productive age
(55-64)



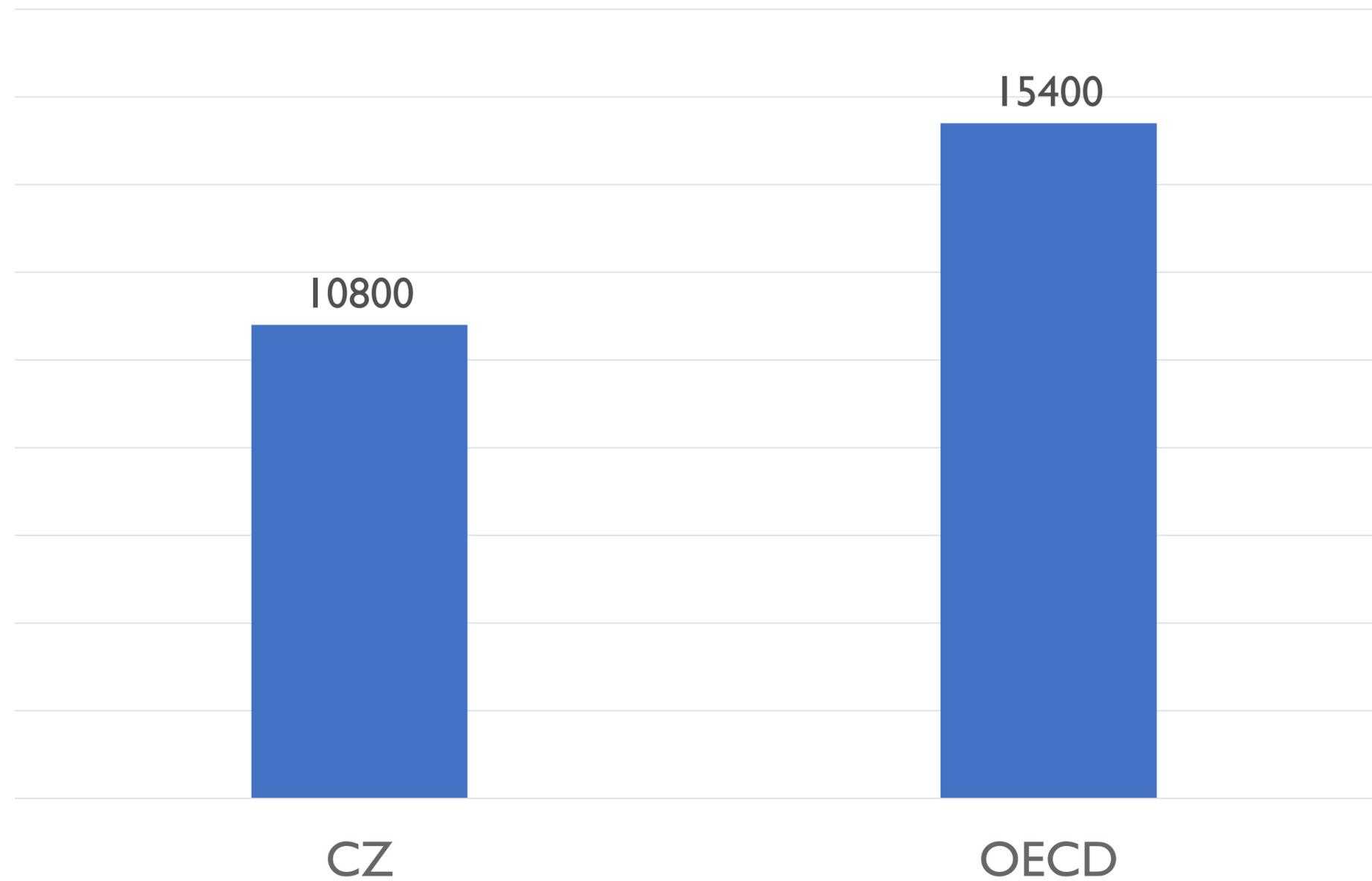
OECD Education at a Glance

Share of HEI expenditures to GDP



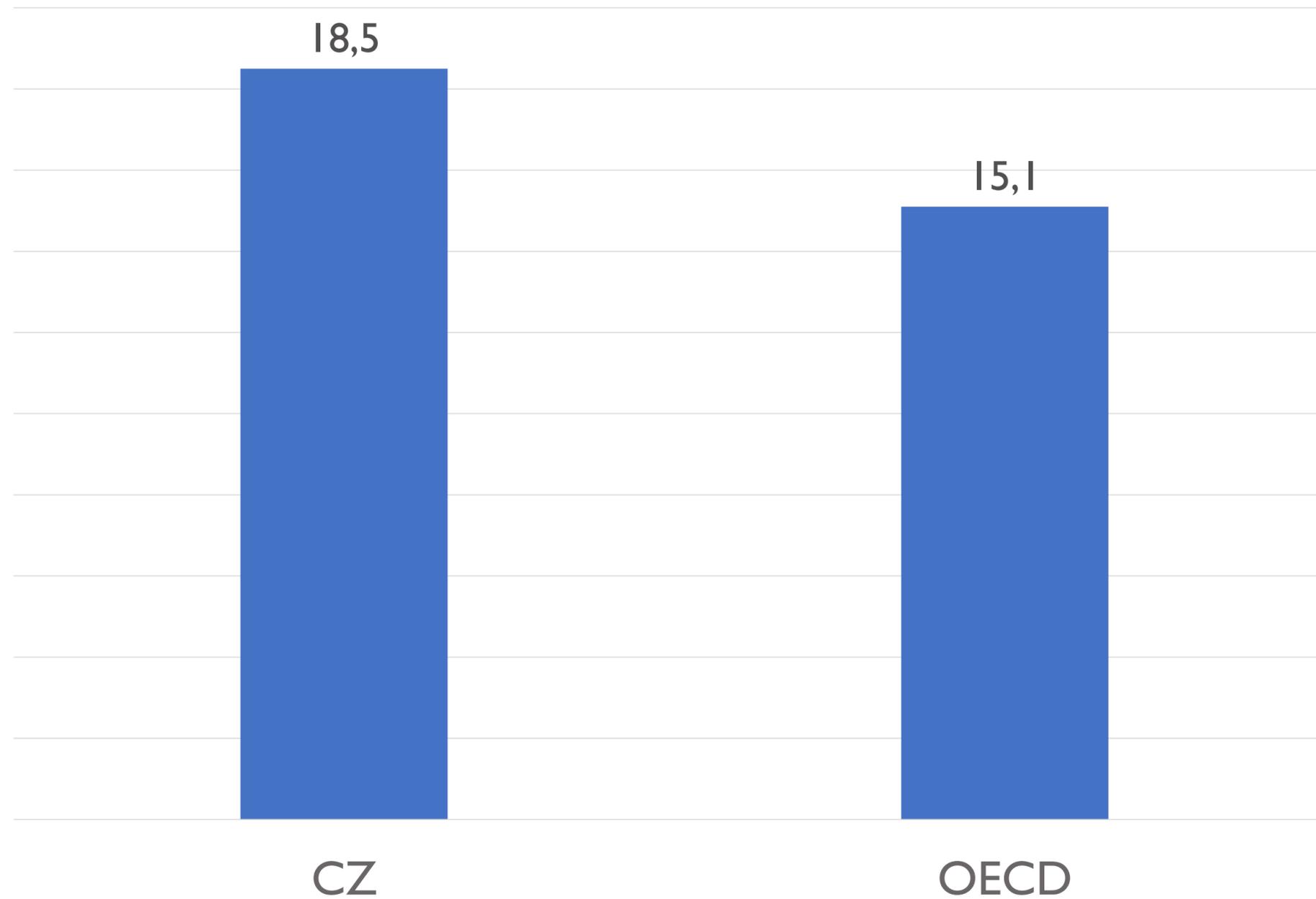
OECD Education at a Glance

Expenditures per HEI student
in USD purchasing power parity

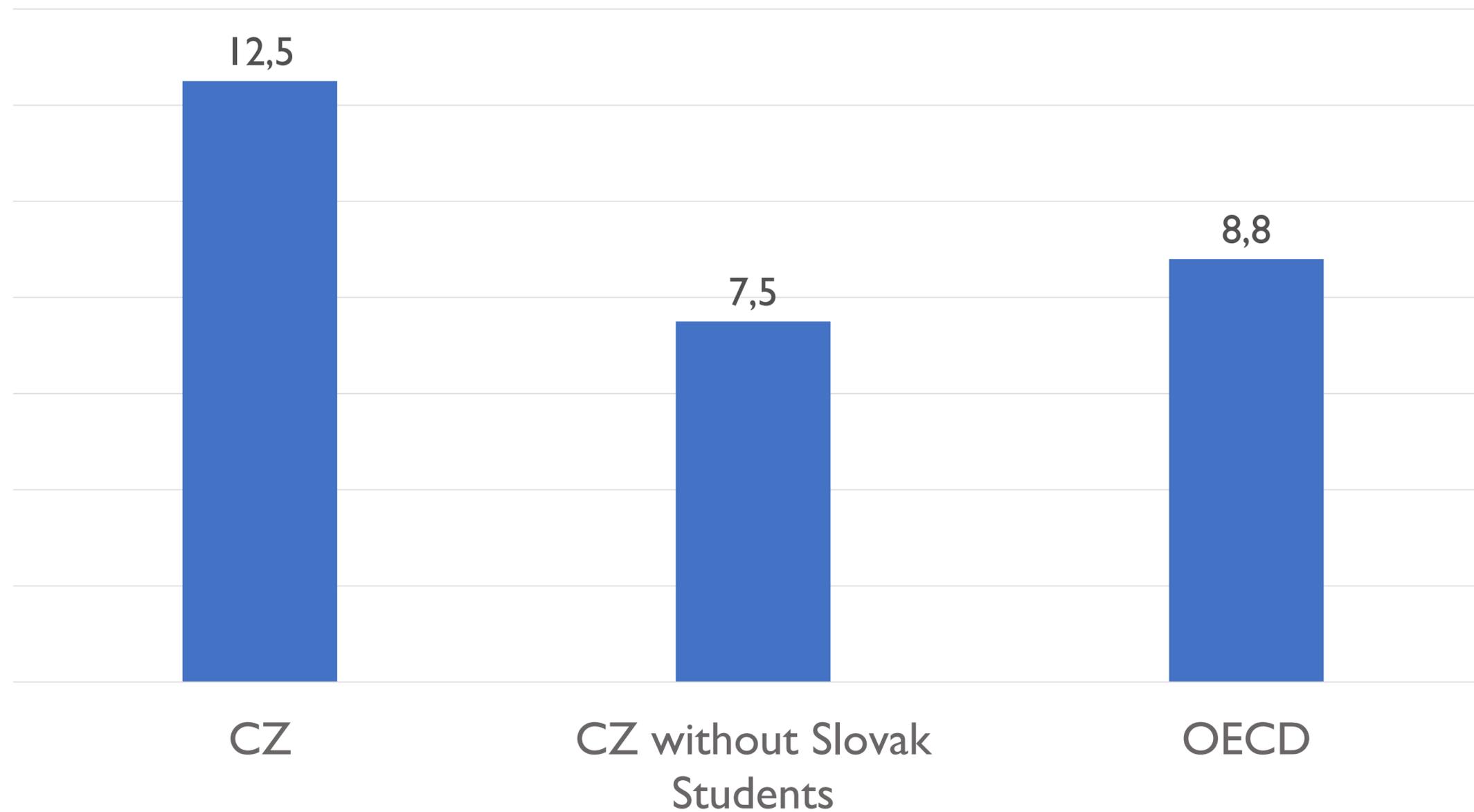


OECD Education at a Glance

Student/teaching staff rate in HEI



Internationalization Share of international students at HEI



Czech Rectors Conference and its activities



About the Czech Rectors Conference

- Founded on 28 January 1993 in Prague
- Defined by the Higher Education Act, not legal personality
- **47** members – **26** rectors of public HEIs, **2** rectors of state HEIs, **19** rectors of private HEIs



About Czech Rectors Conference

- **CRC Plenum** composed of 2 chambers
 - Chamber of rectors of public and state HEIs (28 members)
 - Chamber of rectors of private HEIs (18 members)
- **CRC Presidium** composed of president and 5 vice-presidents
 - For education
 - For creative activities
 - For economic and social affairs
 - For public relations and foreign affairs
 - For legal and organizational affairs
- Presidium elected by secret ballot for 2 years



About Czech Rectors Conference

- **CRC Secretariat**
 - 3-member staff – secretary general, 2 assistants
 - Seat of secretariat at Masaryk University in Brno – historical reason – the middle of the country between Prague and Bratislava before division of the Czechoslovakia into two states
- Plenum meetings 5 times a year
- Presidium meetings 6 or 7 times a year



CRC and EUA

- EUA Membership
 - 1 collective full member – CRC
 - **20** individual full members – 20 public HEIs
- EUA Annual Conferences – 2 times in the Czech Republic
 - **2006** Masaryk University, Brno
 - **2009** Charles University, Prague





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