



How Czech Citizens Reimagine the Role of the Media in Democratic Societies

A MeDeMAP Project

WHAT IS A CITIZEN PARLIAMENT?

A forum where citizens deliberate on public issues and generate actionable policy recommendations.

- Organized as part of the EU MeDeMAP Project
- 20 ordinary citizens from across the Czech Republic volunteered
- 4 meetings held in Prague, Brno, and Olomouc (March–May 2025)
- Focused on three key areas: media systems, media representation, and media participation
- Combined expert inputs and facilitated group discussions, concluded by voting resolutions
- 31 resolutions, addressing the media's role in strengthening Czech democracy, were accepted
- Resolutions include a focus on pluralism, inclusivity, support for community media, and better conditions for journalists

HOW DID THE CZECH CITIZEN PARLIAMENT ON MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY WORK?

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

THE MOMENT

- Comes at a critical time amid declining trust in media and rising threats to media freedom.

THE PROCESS

- Demonstrates citizens' ability to tackle complex issues on media and democracy with thoughtful, wise outcomes.
- Proves that ordinary citizens are active, informed, constructive and extraordinary—not passive or disinterested.
- Showcases respectful dialogue and collaboration despite diverse views.
- Brings citizen perspectives into media policymaking

THE FUTURE

- Presents a bold, values-driven vision with a roadmap for strengthening media's democratic roles
- Pioneers a new model of citizen participation for Czech democratic life, perfectly compatible with parliamentary democracy.

6 KEY AREAS & 31 RESOLUTIONS

Diversity & Inclusion

Have media represent all voices in Czech society

- Provide journalist training in dealing with diversity (MP-R2)
- Appoint public service outreach officer to ensure the representation of underrepresented groups (MR-R1)
- Create grant programmes to support employment of staff from minority groups (MR-R3b) and media projects from regions, minority groups and people with insufficient representation in the media (MR-R4)
- Enhance diversity in public service media production teams (MR-R5)
- Finance media to provide training for representatives of diverse social groups to become external media contributors (MP-R3)
- Promote diverse expert voices to ensure opinion diversity (MR-R2)
- Balance airtime between experts and representatives of different social groups (MR-R7)
- Create scholarship programme for media students from minority groups (MR-R3a)



- Subsidize citizen participation in the media (MP-R5)
- Establish an open and deliberative feedback forum on media content (MR-R6)
- Fund grants for media education and training (MR-R8)
- Strengthen media education and its evaluation in schools (MR-R9)

Citizen Participation & Media Education
Empower citizens to engage with and shape media

- Establish a legal framework for financing independent, regional & community media (MS-R3) and provide subsidies for local, regional & community media (MP-R4)
- Create a fund for independent regional media (MS-R11)
- Prevent the use of advertising by local/regional government media to protect independent local media (MP-R6)
- Avoid political misuse of local/regional government media (MS-R12)
- Facilitate professional knowledge sharing in regional and community media (MP-R1)

Local, Regional, and Community Media Support
Amplify local voices empower community media



Strengthen Journalism

- Create an independent journalist support body (MS-R7)
- Enact legislation to fast-track the handling of SLAPP cases against journalists (MS-R6)



- Implement measures against oligopolies and monopolies (MS-R2)
- Limit media ownership concentration by having multiple company shareholders (MS-R1)
- Regulate digital content creators more (MS-R14)
- Index license fee to inflation (MS-R8)
- Protect the license fee as the public media's main funding source (MS-R9)
- Guarantee constitutional protection for the license fee mechanism (MS-R10)

Funding Public Media & Regulating Market Media
Generate an equal playing field for mainstream media actors

Ethics & Accountability

Toward an ethical and transparent public sphere

- Disclose information about media council nominees (MS-R4)
- Have media experts elect council members to depoliticize their election process (MS-R5)
- Establish a media ethics oversight body fully disconnected from media organizations (MS-R13)
- Prevent delays in public information access (MS-R15)
- Cap fees charged for public information requests (MS-R16)

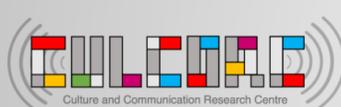
Each code refers to one of the three focus areas of the Citizen Parliament: Media Systems (MS), Media Representation (MR), and Media Participation (MP). The number after each code (Rx) indicates the specific resolution within that area. The resolutions here are summarised — full versions can be accessed via the QR code below.

COMMUNICATION AND DISCUSSION Resolutions presented at Czech Senate on June 5, 2025. Outcomes will continue informing future policymaking and academic research in the Czech Republic, EU, and beyond.



Read the full Resolutions Report

Read more about the Horizon Europe MeDeMAP project



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