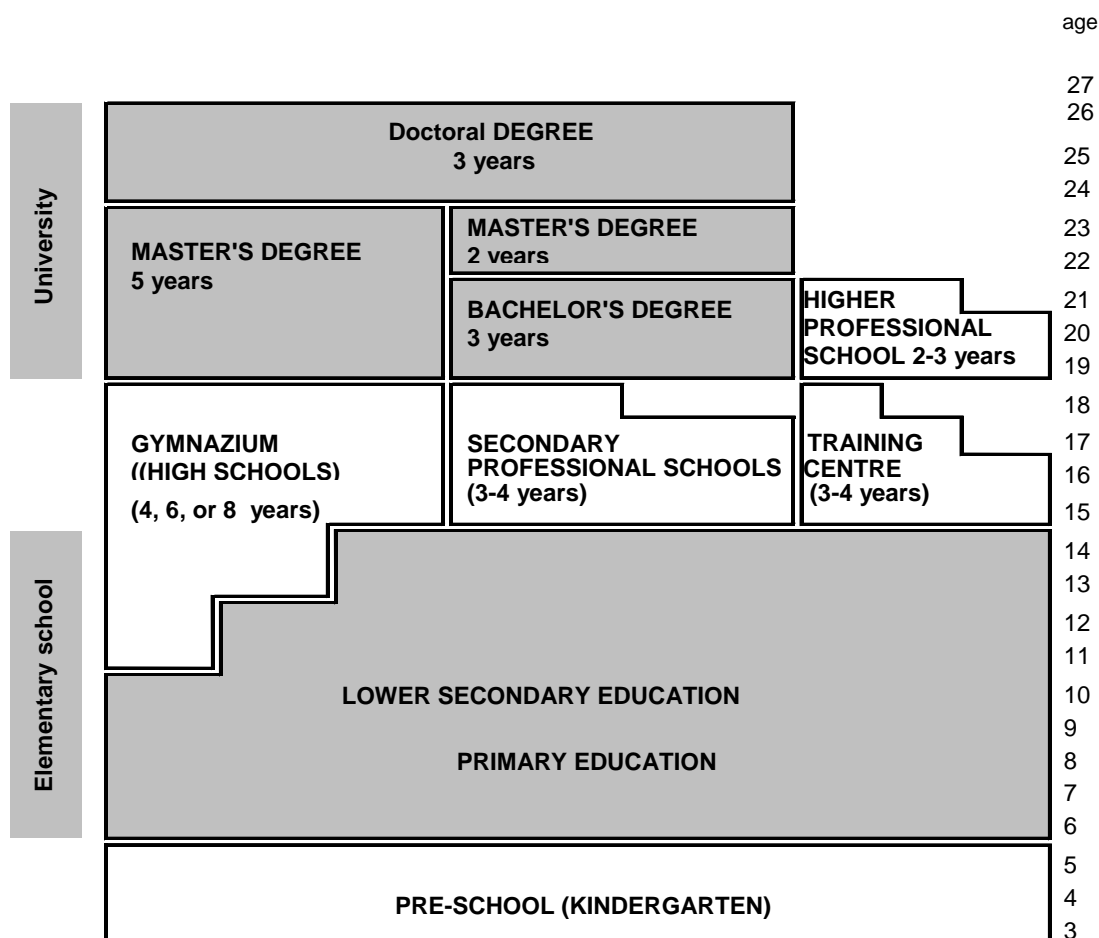


## 10. Education System

The Czech Republic combines an outstanding level of general education with strong science and engineering disciplines. For generations the Czech education system has generated high-level, technical problem-solving skills in environments where standard solutions are inadequate.

### EDUCATION SYSTEM – BASIC STRUCTURE

School attendance is compulsory from ages 6 to 15 (elementary and lower secondary school). After nine years, students may continue at three basic types of upper secondary school: vocational training centres, secondary schools and *gymnazium* (high schools). Undergraduate and graduate studies are offered by colleges (offering three to four-year bachelor programmes) and universities, which also offer master and doctoral programmes.



### How the education system meets the needs of a competitive economy

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Czech Republic	5.36	5.64	6.05	4.77	5.26	6.12	4.67	5.06
Hungary	6.55	6.67	6.12	5.42	5.86	4.83	5.13	4.32
Poland	3.98	3.64	3.82	4.79	3.82	3.47	3.67	4.49
Slovakia	5.85	6.23	5.76	5.73	5.04	3.73	3.67	3.60

**Source:** IMD, 2008

**Note:** Executive Opinion Survey based on a scale of 0 to 10

**Explanation:** The rankings were obtained from the average value for each country. The data were converted from a scale of 1 to 6 (from which the survey respondents chose the most appropriate answer) to a scale of 0 to 10. The standard deviation values were then calculated for the responses to determine the rankings.

The Czech education system has a very strong position in upper secondary education, which serves as the foundation for advanced learning and training opportunities, as well as preparation for direct entry into the labour market. In 2005 the percentage of the adult population that had completed at least secondary education in the Czech Republic was the highest in all OECD countries. Ninety percent of the Czech population aged 24-64 had completed at least upper secondary education, compared to an OECD average of 68 %. (Source: Education at a Glance 2007, OECD).

Vocational education and training are thoroughly integrated into both secondary and higher education institutions, and enrolment in vocational education is exceptionally high by OECD standards. The Czech Republic also has a very good position in tertiary education. There has been an increase in university-level skills in the adult population, as measured by levels of educational attainment.

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Public universities offer programmes ranging from ICT and electronics to life sciences and humanities, while a number of private institutions offer mainly business administration or economics studies. University education is generally focused to meet the needs of a competitive economy and the cooperation between universities and corporate sector has been expanding in recent years.

### How university education meets the needs of a competitive economy

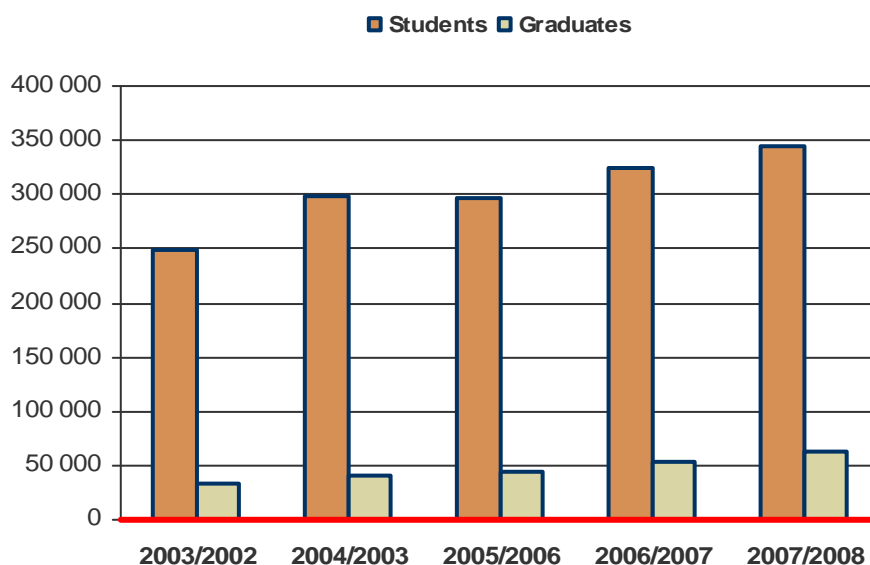
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Czech Republic	5.36	6.03	6.33	5.13	5.70	6.12	4.87	5.64
Hungary	6.97	6.96	6.67	6.06	6.37	5.47	5.74	5.04
Poland	4.44	3.94	4.71	5.33	4.26	4.77	4.59	5.13
Slovak Republic	6.15	6.43	5.86	5.73	5.22	4.04	4.13	3.85

**Source:** IMD, 2008

**Note:** Executive Opinion Survey based on a scale of 0 to 10

**Explanation:** The rankings were obtained from the average value for each country. The data were converted from a scale of 1 to 6 (from which the survey respondents chose the most appropriate answer) to a scale of 0 to 10. The standard deviation values were then calculated for the responses to determine the rankings.

## STUDENTS AND GRADUATES OF CZECH UNIVERSITIES



**Source:** Institute for Information on Education, 2008

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Czech Republic offers a large number of skilled technical workers. An abundant supply of university graduates assures continuous enrichment of the country's available labour pool. The Czech Republic has traditionally been very strong in technical fields and approximately one-third of all university graduates have a technical degree. For more information, see the Fact Sheet on Technical Education.

<b>Technical Education (2007/2008)</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
Vocational training centres	86,930	23,075
Secondary professional schools	64,434	14,863
Higher professional schools	3,528	893
Universities	73,402	13,680

**Source:** Institute for Information on Education, 2008; CzechInvest, 2008

## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE EDUCATION

While public universities offer programmes ranging from economics, statistics and public administration to finance, accounting, international relations and marketing, a number of private institutions specialize in business administration courses. Several institutions are affiliated with foreign universities and colleges.

<b>Economics and Finance (2007/2008)</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
Vocational training centres	46,945	13,240
Secondary professional schools	45,897	10,728
Higher professional schools	9,419	2,093
Universities	77,410	14,361

**Source:** Institute for Information on Education, 2008; CzechInvest, 2008

## LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATION

Universities in the Czech Republic pursue research activities as well as education in bachelor, master and doctoral programmes in fields such as technical chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacy and food and biochemical technologies. The country also has a well-established network of research institutes; at the end of 2007, the Czech Republic had 308 biotechnology research entities, based mainly in the Prague and South Moravia regions.

<b>Life Sciences (2007/2008)</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
Vocational training centres	7,954	2,395
Secondary professional schools	21,059	6,437
Higher professional schools	6,137	957
Universities	26,492	5,811

**Source:** Institute for Information on Education, 2008; CzechInvest, 2008

## ICT EDUCATION

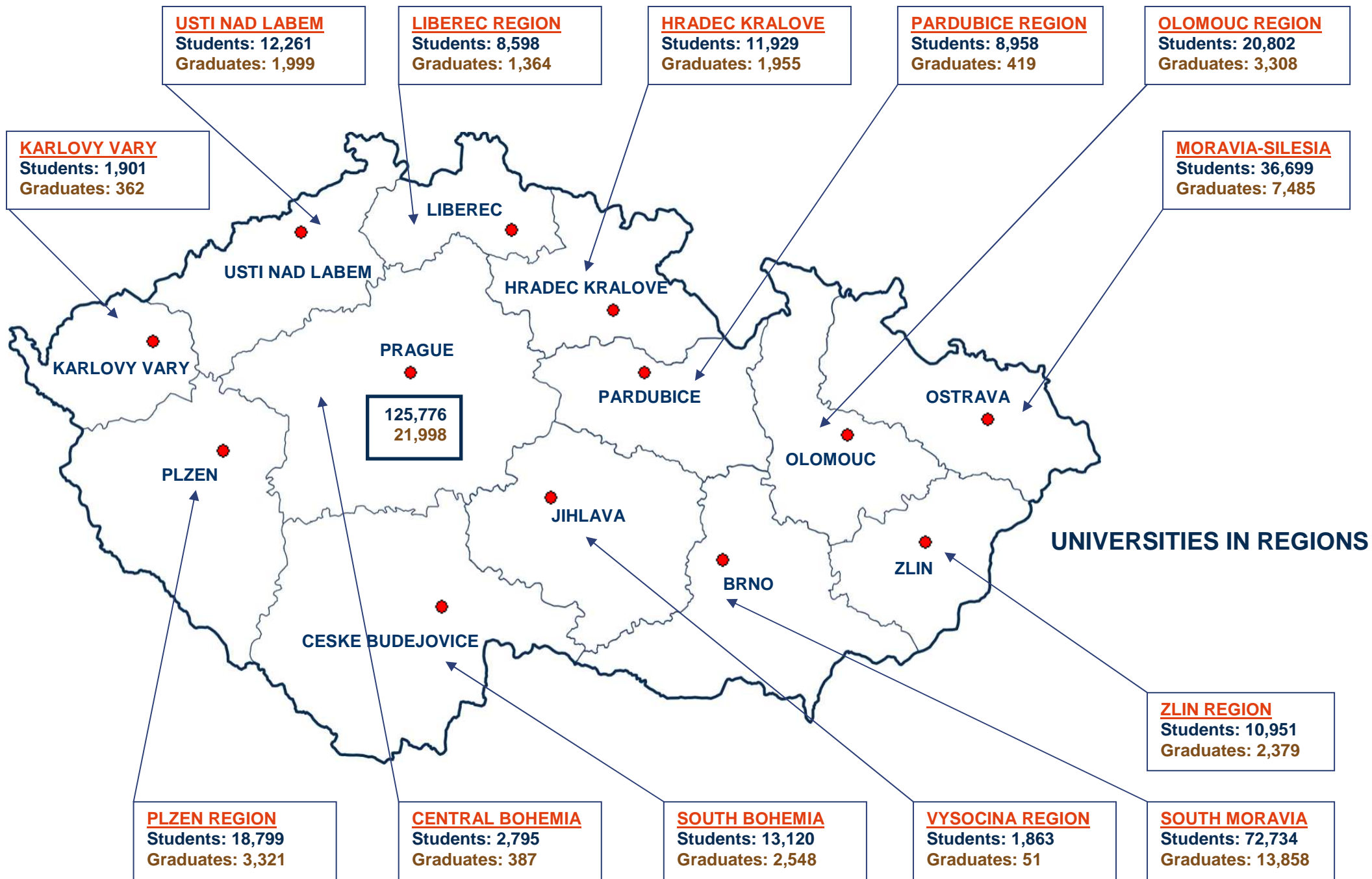
There is a wide range of universities with ICT education programmes and the number of ICT students is constantly growing. Students at Czech universities are engaged in research and development of various cutting-edge technologies. This allows students to gain hands-on experience with these technologies and contributes to the quality of local graduates.

<b>ICT (2007/2008)</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
Vocational training centres	18,978	5,437
Secondary professional schools	21,997	4,931
Higher professional schools	1,412	396
Universities	36,721	7,117

**Source:** Institute for Information on Education, 2008; CzechInvest, 2008

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Czech Republic offers free and flexible choices in continuing education. Private training providers and non-profit organisations coexist with and complement secondary schools and universities. According to recent research, the most frequently taught courses include computer skills, accounting, finance, marketing and foreign languages. Several institutions and universities also offer high-quality MBA programmes.



Source: Institute for Information on Education, 2008