The year 2022 brought forth a full range of unexpected situations and challenges. Alongside the world’s other continents, Europe was forced to deal with economic, energy and geopolitical transformations. The war in Ukraine impacted the global economy and, in combination with the energy crisis and rising inflation and interest rates, ushered in a new era of uncertainty. In spite of all of this, however, CzechInvest continued to fulfil its role.

CzechInvest’s purpose is to support businesses and investors in Czechia by responding as quickly as possible to their needs and developing their value added. The result of this is not only development of the given companies themselves, but also of the quality of life enjoyed by the inhabitants of our country. In 2022, we focused on support for investments in promising fields of innovation, research and development. We launched Technology Incubation, which is the largest project in the agency’s history and, at the same time, the largest Czech project aimed at supporting startups, and issued its first call, in which dozens of promising startups registered. We also celebrated CzechInvest’s 30th anniversary at the planetarium in Prague. Thanks to professional events, technology missions, programmes, consultations and international conferences, we further developed cooperation with the business, public and science-and-development spheres. A number of our services and events retained the online flexibility gained during the pandemic.

We supported investors who bring investments with high value added and know-how in the form of innovations to Czechia.

We put representatives of cities and town in contact with businesses.

A significant part of our work comprised support for large, medium-sized and small enterprises, startups and individuals with good ideas. Because it always starts with a good idea.
call of the Technology Incubation project
The largest project in the agency’s history issued its first call focused on startups in four key areas.

specialised events in Czechia and abroad
The most common event formats included consultation days, i.e. consulting for small and medium-sized enterprises focusing on both financial and non-financial state aid. Most of the events were held online.

CzechInvest employees
59% women, 41% men, average age: 38

billion CZK in pledged investments

On the occasion of CzechInvest’s 30th anniversary, we launched a subpage with clearly arranged data reflecting the agency’s three decades in operation.
In the media and on social networks

158 published articles and press releases

270+ tweets

13 podcasts
CzechInvest Startup Backstage gave listeners a behind-the-scenes tour of the startup community. In each episode, they could look forward to interesting guests from the ranks of startup entrepreneurs, investors and other experts.

160+ Facebook posts
The most popular posts were those about the startup CardioID and about the signed memorandum between CzechInvest and the Czech Technical University regarding the transformation of Strahov Stadium into a technology hub.

5 152 followers on Twitter
growth of 14.16%

7 788 followers on Facebook
growth of 13.69%
In the media and on social networks

**200+ responses to journalists’ enquiries**

We most frequently responded to questions pertaining to investments, particularly with respect to the possible construction of a gigafactory in Líně. We emphasised that, for us, this primarily involves high value added and that we are focusing on research and development, new technologies and innovations.

**16465 followers on LinkedIn**

growth of 34.68%

**130+ posts on Instagram**

**160+ posts on LinkedIn**

The interview with CEO Petr Očko and the article about BMW’s newly constructed circuit in Sokolov received the strongest response.

**3333 media outputs**
In our activities and services, we focus primarily on four target groups:

7–13  **Startups**

14–15  **Small and medium-sized enterprises**

16–17  **Investors with higher value added**

18–21  **Municipalities**
Support for startups

We accompany startups on the path to doing business from the very beginning through the introduction of initial prototypes to the market, formulation of a correct business strategy and addressing domestic and foreign partners, customers and investors to establishment of branches and presentation at top technology conferences around the world. Innovative companies are also assisted by our foreign representatives, who are in contact with the local business community, chambers of commerce and diplomatic missions.

A supported startup is a startup that has used our services and has concluded a contract or other agreement with us. The startups that we helped in 2022, whether through incubation, mentoring or assistance with acceleration abroad, were part of our concluding Startup Support programme (2016–2022), incubation within ESA BIC Czech Republic (2021–2026) and the first edition of the Investment Academy (November 2022).

We held 41 events and educational activities for startups in Czechia and four abroad. These involved acceleration programmes, networking sessions, conferences, meetups, educational podcasts, ESA BIC Czech Republic workshops and the Investment Academy.

253 supported startups and innovative SMEs in in the territories where CzechInvest has foreign representation

74 supported startups

45 startup and educational activities

4 570 hours of mentoring, consulting and sharing of experience in connection with startup programmes and educational activities
Support for startups

5 workshops of the Investment Academy for startups

In each workshop, startups had the opportunity not only to gain practical experience with the given issue, but also to have a look under the hood and learn how the lecturer considered the given venture-capital fund, what the key metrics for it are and how to communicate with it. The purpose of the workshops was to prepare startups to formulate their own investment strategies and to familiarise them with the whole course of the investment process.

28 participants

The total number of accepted startups that participated in the Investment Academy. Of the 28 startups, twelve came from regions other than Prague. The focus of the startups was very diverse, ranging from artificial intelligence and web applications to crypto and blockchain.

1 conference

The Investment Academy culminated with a conference featuring expert panel discussions that brought together more than 160 startups, investors and representatives of the public administration and the Czech and foreign startup ecosystems. The four panel discussions addressed issues such as funding for startups, support for talent and the involvement of corporations.

420 new connections

In connection with the Investment Academy and conference, startups had the opportunity to personally meet and connect with investment funds, corporate investors, representatives of embassies, attorneys and other creators of the startup ecosystem.
Support for startups

4

Startup support programmes supported with funding from the European Union

The CzechStarter programme helped Czech innovative startups in the early stages of their development. The seven-month programme was based on intensive mentoring and consulting in the maximum value of CZK 800,000 per startup. The best of the participating startups took part in a two-week programme in Silicon Valley. CzechDemo arranged the participation and presentations of startups less than seven years old and with an innovative product at renowned events and technology conferences abroad, such as CES Las Vegas, Web Summit Lisbon and TechCrunch Disrupt San Francisco, with financial support in the amount of roughly CZK 150,000 per startup. With the three-month CzechAccelerator programme, we helped startups to assert themselves on foreign markets. Startups had the opportunity to gain facilities, mentoring and inputs at networking events in Silicon Valley, New York, Singapore and London. The one-week CzechMatch programme prepared innovative startups for negotiations with investors and business partners in Silicon Valley, New York, Singapore and London. The participating startups tested whether the given market was suitable for their expansion and whether their products and services would have a chance to succeed on the given market.

1

ESA BIC Czech Republic space incubator

ESA BIC Czech Republic, with branches in Prague and Brno, is under CzechInvest’s management. It is intended for incubation and development of technologically progressive startups that use space technologies, materials or systems in their products or services. In 2022, we prepared 16 events and workshops for the 46 startups incubated in ESA BIC Czech Republic.

1

CzechLink StartUp project

This matchmaking platform is intended for innovative Czech startups that are seeking a strategic or investment partner. Its purpose is to facilitate contact between Czech startups and foreign investors, as well as to boost the launch of their business in terms of capital and to increase the inflow of foreign investments to Czechia. To date, 185 startups and 22 investors have registered in the project.
Support for startups

Come to us for startup news:

1 website about the Czech startup scene czechstartups.org
nearly 3,500 visits per month

1 new podcast CzechInvest Startup Backstage

Space2Business

The Czech Space Team composed of representatives of CzechInvest, ESA BIC Czech Republic, the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic and Planeta (Prague planetarium) held the fifth edition of the biggest festival of space activities in Czechia – Czech Space Week – from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The team prepared lectures, scientific debates, conferences and an industry day for domestic and foreign fans of space technologies, established companies, startups, student and the expert public, as well as a programme for children and schools.

The main event of the festival was the two-day Space2Business conference, which was attended by 500 participants from 33 countries around the world, including Czech ESA reserve astronaut Aleš Svooboda. The conference also featured the traditional Space4Women talk show and 22 other ancillary presentations and panel discussions.
Support for startups

Creative Business Cup

CzechInvest organised the Czech final of the global Creative Business Cup competition for the sixth time. The event to determine the most creative Czech startup took place on 10 March 2022 in Ostrava. The winner was the startup Sensio with its 3D-printed cello. Sensio then represented Czechia in the international final in Copenhagen, where it succeeded in taking third place.
Technology Incubation is the most ambitious programme of systematic support for startup companies in Czechia. Its objective is to seek out and assist projects that are exceptionally innovative, feasible and scalable. Technology Incubation is aimed at startups in seven strategic areas: mobility, artificial intelligence, eco-tech, the creative industries, space technology, tech4life and advance technologies and materials. The first four of the above-mentioned areas of incubation were launched in 2022.

Technology Incubation call issued
1
415
117
37
registered startups
official applications in the first call
startups approved for incubation in the value of CZK 98 million
Applicants vs. approved projects in the first call of the Technology Incubation programme

Applicants by sector

- AI: 39 (34%)
- Creative: 18 (16%)
- Eco: 22 (19%)
- Mobility: 35 (30%)
- Other: 22 (19%)

Total applicants: 116

Approved projects by sector

- AI: 13 (35%)
- Creative: 6 (16%)
- Eco: 7 (19%)
- Mobility: 11 (30%)

Total approved projects: 37

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of approved projects</th>
<th>Allocation (CZK)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prague</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56 364 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Moravia</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23 596 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bohemia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 157 590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberec</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 700 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moravia-Silesia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 054 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olomouc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 595 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plzeň</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 600 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Bohemia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 590 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zlín</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 600 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>98 258 090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development of small and medium-sized enterprises’ potential

Our regional offices daily provide support to small and medium-sized enterprises in the form of consultations on financial and non-financial aid from the state and by organising specialised seminars. Their uniqueness consists in detailed knowledge of the regional business environment and its investment opportunities, as well as professional representation in every regional capital. In addition to consultations, the regional offices also offer tailored workshops and consulting on formulation of strategic plans. The vast majority of events and consultations are held in person.

13 regional offices

Marketing events in the regions

The events with the highest attendance rates were those focused on support for the digitalisation of SMEs, consultation days and fairs involving aid opportunities.

171 7 500 event participants

ESA Ambassador – project in the space sector

The role of ESA Ambassador is to assist small and medium-sized enterprises, connect companies with other partners and to increase the potential of the Czech space sector through the involvement of new non-space companies by presenting the opportunities that the space sector offers. ESA Ambassador is a project that logically complements the ESA BIC space incubator.
Development of small and medium-sized enterprises’ potential

Industry 4.0 conference
In cooperation with the National Industry 4.0 Centre, CzechInvest organised the second edition of the nationwide conference aimed at raising awareness of Industry 4.0. The conference featured case studies, sharing of experience and specialised lectures on important topics associated with the introduction of automation, roboticisation and digitalisation, which were again the areas that we focused on last year. How to approach this issue and where to look for solutions? Answers to this question were provided in the lectures and practical workshops conducted by more than 30 experts from Czech and foreign companies and universities. The programme also included excursions to specialised facilities at universities and companies. These events have long enjoyed a high level of interest, especially from manufacturing companies, and it is possible to view all of them in our video library.

Systemic support implementation and management of the National RIS3
The aim of this project is to create conditions for long-term transparent, systematic and supraregional identification of areas of specialisation and trends of focused and applied research, experimental development and innovation through the National RIS3 strategy. The subject of CzechInvest’s activity is primarily to improve the consultation, coordination and executive functions of regional RIS3 structures (mobilisation of the innovation potential of regions and connecting the national and regional RIS3 levels, including the conceptual mechanism of regional domains of specialisation in the National RIS3 system) in the target group of regional RIS3 managers and other regional personnel (e.g. implementers of Smart Accelerators in individual regions). The benchmarking of innovation infrastructures and the benchmarking of Czech clusters were carried out in 2022. A methodology for the development of innovation infrastructures, a methodology for cooperation with clusters and a methodology for marketing and communication strategies were also developed. The project was successfully completed at the end of 2022.

Marketplace
CzechInvest brings companies and municipalities together with the aim of jointly addressing the issue of innovations in a full range of areas, from the environment to transport. The Marketplace online platform, which CzechInvest administers, offers a space for everyone offering or needing such solutions. The offer currently contains nearly 50 innovative solutions for municipalities. The Marketplace project was established at CzechInvest’s initiative in response to municipalities that are dealing with innovations in the areas of environmental protection, public administration, energy, transport and mobility, among other fields. The platform is managed by a network of representatives of CzechInvest’s regional offices, who help participating companies and municipalities to find partners even outside of the Marketplace platform.
Development of investments

In the context of investment development, the quality and sustainability of investments are of crucial importance to us. We offer investors comprehensive service, from information on the Czech business environment and consultations focused on financial support to assistance with localisation of investments. We also provide our clients with visa support and put them in contact with suitable suppliers, strategic partners and research institutes. Suggestions from our investors help us to improve the investment environment through cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and other relevant departments.

Together with foreign investors with established operations in Czechia, we are actively developing the issue of attracting and retaining foreign talent and increasing the commercialisation of Czech research.

In 2022, we focused on support for investments in the strategic areas of renewable energy sources, electromobility, the circular economy, artificial intelligence and advanced materials.

new partnerships in the area of addressing the shortage of tech talent in Czechia

2 foreign investors have expressed interest in investing in Czechia

252 specialised seminars
Focused on visa support, HR issues and sustainability.

17 negotiated investment projects
66% comprised expansions

24 billion CZK in pledged foreign investments
Development of investments

- 56 companies registered in government visa programmes
- 551 significant companies supported by the AfterCare team
- 23 applications for investment incentives
- 78 marketing events held abroad
- 3,664 companies in the supplier database
- 116 marketscreens of Czech suppliers
- 128 articles promoting Czechia in the foreign press or on social networks
- 15 foreign business delegations to Czechia
- 19 scientific institutions supported in the territories of the foreign offices
Development of the regional investment and business environment

The primary aim of cooperation with municipalities consists in defining the potential and needs of individual regions, learning from examples of good practice in the strategic development of municipalities, better targeting of foreign investments and expansions of Czech companies and improvement of the innovation infrastructure. We base our cooperation on the sharing of data and experience, openness and mutual development.
Development of the regional investment and business environment

70 consulted public projects in the Regeneration of Brownfields for Business Use programme
35 projects registered, of which 21 received aid from the Ministry of Industry and Trade via the National Recovery Plan

674 brownfield sites registered in one region
namely the Moravia-Silesia region

576 locations registered in the database of business properties
Development of the regional investment and business environment

812 sites newly registered in the National Brownfields Database

A total of 373 brownfield sites were registered by their owners, of which 183 for subsidy purposes or for another form of state aid. Another motivating factor was the possibility to offer a given site to potential investors in the public part of the database on the website. CzechInvest employees succeeded in registering 439 sites thanks to active mapping of the brownfield environment in the regions and systematic updating of the database. Many of these sites required consultation regarding preparation of a regeneration project or recommendation of appropriate methods of financing.

Brownfields Conference 2022

CzechInvest has traditionally played a role in the organisation of the Brownfields Conference, whose purpose is to bring together a broad range of experts who are striving to transform unused sites. The event took place in June in Lower Vitkovice in Ostrava and its main topic was industrial development in the era of sustainability. The most interesting contributions and outputs from the event can be found in the compendium of the conference.

4,377 sites in the National Brownfields Database with a total area of 13,351 ha

average size of brownfields in Czechia registered in the National Brownfields Database

3,1 ha

174 sites deactivated from the National Brownfields Database due to sale or successful regeneration

279 ha

Total area of deactivated sites
Development of the regional investment and business environment

Potential of the Local Economy

The fourth edition of the Potential of the Local Economy conference was focused on the future of public projects. The topics of discussion comprised a number of current issues that are presently having an impact on the planning and preparation of municipalities’ investment projects, such as sustainability, energy efficiency and, of course, financing. The conference was held on 6 December at HubHub Palác ARA in Prague and was attended by more than 100 guests. A video recording of the conference and the speakers’ presentations can be viewed here.
CzechInvest’s activities are financed from multiple sources. Contributions for operations from the state budget, including projects under OPRDI, OPE, OPJT, brownfield regeneration and the Plzeň-Líně Industrial Zone development programme, are provided by the founding entity, which is the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. Other sources include European Union funds, partnership projects, revenues derived from exchange-rate profits and sales of services, and other revenues.

In 2022, the agency’s economic result amounted to CZK 9,973,155.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Data in CZK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues from the main activity</td>
<td>261,134,802.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of the main activity</td>
<td>251,161,647.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic result</td>
<td>9,973,155.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Costs by individual sources of financing (in CZK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of financing</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>development of costs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to activity + drawing from the reserve fund</td>
<td>213,395,401.92</td>
<td>202,431,980.56</td>
<td>-10,963,421.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>– of which operations</td>
<td>204,480,030.75</td>
<td>188,880,482.53</td>
<td>-15,599,548.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>– of which Supervision</td>
<td>-60,491.06</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60,491.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>– of which Regeneration and Business Use of Brownfields</td>
<td>428,977.89</td>
<td>1,732,785.00</td>
<td>1,303,807.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>– of which OPE CIA – Czech part</td>
<td>306,809.84</td>
<td>710,309.85</td>
<td>403,500.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– of which OPE CIA – EU part</td>
<td>1,296,418.65</td>
<td>2,291,179.90</td>
<td>994,761.25</td>
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<td>– of which OPRDE RIS3 – Czech part</td>
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<td>424,671.16</td>
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<td>112,517.46</td>
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<td>459,622.72</td>
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<td>3,436,900.62</td>
<td>876,756.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEIC Startup Support internal project</td>
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<td>ESA BIC Prague</td>
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<td>OPJT</td>
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<td>1,539,564.90</td>
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<td>Technology Incubation (TI)</td>
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<td>14,872,832.16</td>
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<td>CASSINI hackathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTROPRENEURS</td>
<td>102,015.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot verification of TI in the Ústí region</td>
<td>916,653.97</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-916,653.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>261,576,790.39</td>
<td>251,161,647.79</td>
<td>-10,415,142.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And how are we innovating ourselves?

**Microsoft Power BI**

CzechInvest has been using the PowerBI visualisation and analytical tool since 2020 and is gradually expanding its data reports, which, among other things, it presents not only in Czech but also in English within the „Česko v datech“ (Czechia in Data) platform on the agency’s website. Thanks to this tool, CzechInvest is able to present the business environment of Czechia in an attractive and interactive way and present the results of its activities. In 2022, the CzechInvest website included, among other things, statistics on investment incentives, an overview of CzechInvest’s 30th anniversary, data on support for startups and brownfield revitalisation, and an overview of subsidies, loans and guarantees. CzechInvest is thus continuously improving and streamlining its work with data.

**Renovation of Czech House**

We are continuing to prepare the renovation of our headquarters at Štěpánská 15, which we have shared with the CzechTrade and CzechTourism agencies under the Czech House brand since summer 2021. We are preparing a major renovation of the courtyard’s outer terrace, where it will be possible to hold the agencies’ social events and informal meetings of investors while ensuring safe operation and enabling the installation of natural greenery and other ecological elements.
CzechInvest celebrated 30 years in operation and is now preparing a new strategy based on innovations, investments and startups. Our objective is to place Czechia among the technology and innovation leaders of Europe.

Further calls of the Technology Incubation project will be supplemented with support for foreign acceleration of startups within the Internationalisation project. We are planning to continue with the Investment Academy for startups and, at the same time, implement a pilot Investment Academy for corporate investors. In connection with the National Recovery Plan, we will also launch the Certification and Entrepreneurship Support programmes in addition to Internationalisation.

In connection with the renovation of the building at Štěpánská 15, in 2023 we will commence the modification of the underground garage in response to the current development of the European legislation regulating emission limits, which will enable trouble-free rapid charging of electric vehicles directly in our building with sufficient power capacity for charging multiple vehicles simultaneously.