

AmCham Membership Report 2022-23

The Community of Next

Why do we want to be the community of next?

Business thrives on momentary advantages created by talent, opportunity and technology. One of us moves the economy forward by doing something new, and the rest of us respond. That is the way national wealth is created. A step forward, and then many steps following to make many steps forward.

AmCham is a collection of companies and members. We would like that community to inspire each other, inform each other, and to provide the ambition and courage each of us needs to try new things.

That is why in November we began drafting a Letter on Innovation. We drew on the experiences and insights of many members to inform the government and the wider business community of the new policies that would enable the country to take advantage of the tremendous change toward a sustainable economy. Since then, we have met with national, regional and local governments, with universities, and with other associations to explain those proposals. We believe we will see significant steps in the next twelve months in all three main areas— focusing public research investment on big bets, shifting immigration toward STEM qualified workforce, and reforming the land use process.

Then, in May, we held our second Digitization of Czechia session. Digitization is a tool that can deliver innovation. We would like to see the cloud link hospitals with data that improve patient care, and provides the hard numbers on which efficient innovation is forged. We would like to see more data collected and shared between ministries, and more economic planning and investment based on, for instance, a tourism scorecard that assesses the real impact of international tourists on all sectors of the economy. or the forecasting of traffic flows and public infrastructure needs based on a digital model of land use. Finally, as a tangible symbol of the freedom necessary to innovate, we would like to see the government unshackle people from a designated workspace, and allow them to work from anywhere they want.

What we most need to make this, and many other innovative steps possible, is you. Our community is as strong as our willingness to cooperate. Please join the rest of the many leaders within our AmCham to make 2023-24 another year of progress toward Czechia becoming the most innovative economy in Europe!

President
Milan Slapak
RSBC



Executive Director
Weston Stacey



The + Club

We would like to thank the following members for their exceptional efforts on behalf of the business community in the past year.

Jakub Adam of Taylor Wessing (land use reform)

Sandor Bodnar of Hays (workforce intel)

Veronika Kinclova of Clifford Chance (working from anywhere)

Tereza Kavan Klimesova of Deloitte (immigration)

Michal Klimes of HPe (innovation, university-company cooperation)

Ondrej Krajicek of Y Soft Corporation (r&d, innovation, university cooperation)

Michal Kupec of Parker Hannifin (energy transition)

Katerina Anna Magnna of Microsoft (Digitization of Czechia)

Filip Marak of VISA (Tourism Scorecard)

Mirek Mejtsky of Petyovsky & Partners (immigration)

David Rejhon of Prague Marriott Hotel/The Artisan (Thanksgiving Dinner)

Jaroslava Rezlerova of ManpowerGroup (immigration)

Jaromir Sindel of Citibank (macroeconomics)

Jaroslav Skvrna of Deloitte (innovation)

Pavel Sovicka of Panattoni (land use reform)

Tomas Szaszi of Honeywell (innovation, immigration)

Marketa Topinkova of Squire Patton Boggs (land use reform)

The Wisdom in Crowds (of Experts)

Equality and Fairness in the Workplace

Objective:

Share best practice in building a diverse team and examining how the government policies such as parental leave can be implemented to increase equality and fairness to all employees.

How often:

- As needed.

Outcomes:

- *Equality and Fairness in the Workplace Report (due 3Q2023).*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

The Modern Office

Objective:

Exchange of data and practice on how companies are using the office space, including both facilities and organizing work.

How often:

- Once annually.

Outcomes:

- *The Modern Office Report.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Innovative Workforce

Objective:

Case studies in developing innovative teams and practices.

How often:

- Regular sessions.

Outcomes:

- *Session Reports.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

The Changing Tastes of Czech Consumers

Objective:

Sharing data and survey information on consumer practices and opinions.

How often:

- Once annually. (with possible related events)

Outcomes:

- *Changing Taste of Consumer Reports.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Modern Manufacturing and Logistics

Objective:

Sharing case studies on digitization, energy conversion, and people management in manufacturing and logistics.

How often:

- Regular online sessions.

Outcomes:

- *Session Reports.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Surviving and Thriving in Social Media

Objective:

Discussing trends and case studies in utilizing social media.

How often:

- Once annually. (unless more are needed)

Outcomes:

- *Social Media Report.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Mixing Numbers with Market Experience

Macroeconomic

Objective:

Meeting of executives with macroeconomic experts from CNB and financial sector to assess the primary drivers of growth, inflation and exchange rates.

How often:

- Twice annually. (unless more are needed)

Outcomes:

- *Macroeconomic Intel Report.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Energy

Objective:

Meeting of executives with public and private sector energy experts to discuss energy supply, transition and economic policy related to climate change.

How often:

- Once annually.

Outcomes:

- *Energy Intel Report.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Workforce

Objective:

Meeting of executives with HR experts to discuss availability and wage trends.

How often:

- Twice annually. (unless more are needed)

Outcomes:

- *Workforce Reports.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Security

Objective:

Meeting with National Security Advisor to review major security threats to the economy.

How often:

- Once annually. (unless more are needed)

Outcomes:

- *Economic Security Intel Report.*

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Innovation and Digitization

Building the Sustainable Technology Base

Objective:

To increase private sector investment into the research and development of sustainable advanced technologies.

Measurable outcomes:

- Increase private sector r&d expenditure per person to more than EU average by 2027.
- Increase percentage of high value-added export to more than 27% of total exports by 2027.

Advocacy Issues:

- Focus government research expenditures more on “Big Bet” investments as defined in Letter on Innovation.
- Increase university and company cooperation on the research of high value-added sustainable technologies.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Improving Land Use Policy

Objective:

Through the digitization of the entire process, increase the government’s ability to model development, the clarity of the zoning process, and the efficiency and predictability of the permit process.

Measurable outcomes:

- To introduce a digital process for land use permitting that meets or exceeds the international BIM and IFC standard.
- To introduce any further legislative reform that would enable quicker development of digital modelling of land use, and consolidates decision-making for economic investments.

Advocacy Issues:

- Ensure that the digitization meets or exceeds standards set in Finland and other EU countries.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Expanding the Innovative Workforce

Objective:

To increase the number of STEM qualified immigrant workforce and to increase the number of STEM graduates and post-graduates.

Measurable outcomes:

- To eliminate immigration quotas on STEM qualified workforce.
- To increase the percentage of university students studying science, engineering and math to over 30% by 2027.

Advocacy Issues:

- Change the immigration quota policy to permit more STEM qualified workforce.
- Digitize and streamline the immigration process.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Quality in Public Procurement

Objective:

Review legislative and practice obstacles to efficient public procurement of quality goods and services.

Measurable outcomes:

- To ensure no law or regulation prevents selecting goods and services according to declared quality criteria.
- To introduce best practices that will eliminate behaviors contradictory to the effective procurement of quality goods and services.

Advocacy Issues:

- Review of laws and regulations concerning public procurement and possible recommendations of reform.
- Composing a best practices manual of procurement.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Innovation and Digitization

Digitizing Health Care

Objective:

To identify digital projects that will 1) improve patient outcomes in major disease areas, 2) increase the effectiveness of prevention and care, and 3) increase efficiency of the health care system.

Measurable outcomes:

- To implement EHDS effectively.
- To find and utilize data more effectively for innovation and improving performance.
- To track progress on the national e-health plan.
- To review how quality measures impact DRG.

Advocacy Issues:

- Quality measures in DRG.
- Best practices in EHDS.
- Action plan for utilizing employers to increase prevention outcomes.
- EU Pharmaceutical Legislation.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Tourism Scorecard

Objective:

To introduce a data-driven scorecard that 1) estimates tourism's economic impact, 2) identifies and measures the impact of government policy on tourism's economic contribution, 3) benchmarks the country and Prague against regional competitors, and 4) helps coordinate public and private investment into tourism infrastructure and promotion.

Measurable outcomes:

- To establish a benchmark of revenue per international tourist with Berlin, Budapest, Warsaw and Vienna.
- To compare revenue per tourist for periods of major cultural events.
- To establish a measure for tracking the number of Prague visitors who spend a day or more outside of the city during their visit.

Advocacy Issues:

- Develop a more accurate measurement for assessing tourism economic impact.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Working from Anywhere

Objective:

Create regulation that enables employees to achieve their desired aim of working from where they chose to work.

Measurable outcomes:

- Legislation should allow employer and employee to agree on where the employee can work, as long as the employer provides a designated workplace for the contracted amount of employment.
- Employers should be liable only for activities at designated workplaces.

Advocacy Issues:

- Passage of an amendment to the Labor Code.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

AmCham Membership
Board of Directors

President
Milan Slapak
RSBC



Priorities:
Innovation.

Vice-President
Ondrej Krajcicek
Y Soft Corporation



Priorities:
Innovation, Brno.

Vice-President
Jaroslava Rezlerova
ManpowerGroup



Priorities:
Workforce, Immigration.

Vice-President
Vaclav Novotny
Aspironix



Priorities:
Health Care.

Vice-President
Martin Skrehota
Carrier Refrigeration



Priorities:
Macroeconomics.

Director
Hesham Elamroussy
ExxonMobil



Priorities:
Macroeconomics/Energy.

Director
Martina Kneiflova
EY



Priorities:
Immigration.

Director
Violeta Luca
Microsoft



Priorities:
Digitization.

Director
Michala Malat
Johnson & Johnson



Priorities:
Health Care.

Director
Munir Nanji
Citibank



Priorities:
Macroeconomics.

Director
Michal Pechoucek
Gen Digital



Priorities:
Digitization. Innovation.

Director
Pavel Sovicka
Panattoni



Priorities:
Land Use Reform.

Director
Jaroslav Skvrna
Deloitte



Priorities:
Innovation.

Director
Sanjiv Suri
Zatisi Group



Priorities:
Tourism.

Director
Michal Zavisek
Honeywell



Priorities:
Technology.

Director
Pavel Kliment
KPMG



Priorities:
Real Estate.

Real Estate Council

Priorities:

Land-Use Planning, Zoning and Permitting Reform, including Digitization.

Activities:

Best practice on office design and use, market updates on commercial and industrial development, advocacy meetings with government officials.

Board rep: Pavel Sovicka, Panattoni.

Council lead: Bert Hesselink, CTP.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

Digital Council

Priorities:

Digitization of government, regulation of digital technology.

Activities:

Best practice on digitizing business, advocacy meetings with government officials, leadership sessions on digital disruption.

Board reps: Violeta Luca, Microsoft; Ondrej Krajicek, Y Soft.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

Technology Council

Priorities:

Sustainable energy transition, digitizing manufacturing process, research and development of high value-added technology.

Activities:

Advocacy and best practice on transition to onsite, sustainable energy, best practice on digital processes, advocacy of big bet research projects.

Board rep: Martin Skrehota, Carrier Refrigeration; Michal Zavisek, Honeywell; Ondrej Krajicek, Y Soft.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Health Care Council

Priorities:

Digitizing health care, implementing EHDS and Pharmaceutical Legislation. Medical Device Regulation, prevention of major diseases.

Activities:

Advocacy meetings with government officials.

Board rep: Vaclav Novotny, Aspironix; Michala Malat, Johnson & Johnson.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

Tourism Council

Priorities:

Scorecard for measuring tourism's economic impact, revenue per tourist, and spread of international tourism outside of Prague.

Activities:

Advocacy meetings with government officials.

Board rep: Sanjiv Suri, Zatisi Group.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

Prague and Brno Council

Priorities:

Land-Use Planning, Zoning and Permitting Reform, including digitization, Affordable housing, tourism & hospitality, Labor Market, Big Bet research projects.

Activities:

Wage and Availability sessions, market updates on commercial development, advocacy meetings with government officials.

Board rep: Michal Klimes, HPe.

Staff contact: Katarina Bendikova, kbendikova@amcham.cz

AmCham Membership

Councils and Committees

Priorities and Activities

Human Resource Committee

Priorities:

Digital Skills, Immigration, Working from Anywhere, Equality and Fairness in the Workplace.

Activities:

Best practice, advocacy meetings, annual workforce reports.

Board rep: Martina Kneiflova, EY; Jaroslava Rezlerova, ManpowerGroup.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Marketing Committee

Priorities:

Social media, consumer/customer trends.

Activities:

Best practice on social media. Market trends.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

Finance/Macroeconomic Committee

Priorities:

Inflation and pricing, taxation, economic forecasting.

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Activities:

Market Intel reports and events.

Board rep: Martin Skrehota, Carrier Refrigeration.

Staff contact: Weston Stacey, wstacey@amcham.cz

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