Category: **Obligation to Make Environmental Information Public**

Sub-Category: Annual Domestic Environmental Reports

Name of Good Practice: Annual Report on the Environment and the Statistical Environmental Yearbook of the Czech Republic

Key Words: Access to Information, Technology, Internet

Implementing Actors: National Ministry: Ministry of the Environment (MŽP), Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA)

Location: Czech Republic

Description: The Czech Ministry of the Environment (MŽP) has been publishing an Annual Report on the Environment since 1994, and starting in 2005, the Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA) has gathered the information that informs the content of the report. The completed report is submitted for approval to the Government of the Czech Republic and subsequently submitted to the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The report is published in electronic form on MŽP and CENIA’s websites, and it is distributed upon request on USB flash drive, together with the Statistical Yearbook of the Environment of the Czech Republic.

According to MŽP, the report “is a comprehensive evaluation document assessing the state of the environment in the Czech Republic.” Moreover, MŽP explains that the report “is based on authorised data that are obtained from monitoring systems administered by organisations both from within and outside the environmental sector.” The report evaluates the state of the environment based on 36 indicators that are selected using a set of criteria, such as relevance to current environmental problems; relevance to the current environmental policy, strategies and international obligations under implementation; and availability of high-quality and reliable data over a long period of time. Indicators fall under broad categories, including air and climate, water management, forests, industry and energy sector, waste, transport, and financing. For example, under air and climate, indicators include: air quality in terms of human health protection, air quality in terms of the protection of ecosystems and vegetation; greenhouse gas emissions; and emissions of acidifying substances.

MŽP publishes the Statistical Environmental Yearbook simultaneously with the report. The Yearbook provides a simplified version of the report’s methodology and main findings for the public. According to MŽP, “in the yearbook, the reader may find concrete data and information on the driving forces and pressures for environmental changes, some impacts of these changes and tools used for implementation and control of the environmental policy.”

Further Information: English versions of the report are available on the MŽP’s web page, <http://www.mzp.cz/en/state_of_the_environment_reports_documents>; English versions of the yearbook are also available on MŽP’s web page: <http://www.mzp.cz/en/statistical_environmental_yearbooks_documents>.