

State		<b>Czech Republic</b>	
General information	<b>Status EU membership</b>	Member state since 1 May 2004 <sup>i</sup> Party to the Energy Community Treaty <sup>ii</sup>	
	<b>Population</b>	10.7 million (2020) <sup>iii</sup>	
	<b>Land area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	77,200 km <sup>2</sup> (2020) <sup>iv</sup> 78,868 km <sup>2</sup> (2015) <sup>v</sup>	
	<b>Urban population (%)</b>	74 % (2020) <sup>vi</sup>	
	<b>GDP (current US\$ billion)</b>	245.35 (2020) <sup>vii</sup>	
Socio-economic situation	<b>GDP per capita (EURO)</b>	20,120 (2020) <sup>viii</sup>	
	<b>Annual net earnings (Single person without children earning 100% of average earning (EURO))</b>	11,420.10 (2020) <sup>ix</sup>	
	<b>Median hourly earnings (EURO)</b>	Males: 6.65 (2018) Females: 5.67 (2018) <sup>x</sup>	
	<b>World Bank economic classification (2021)</b>	High income country <sup>xi</sup>	
	<b>Unemployment (% of total labor force)</b>	2.9 % (2020) <sup>xii</sup>	
Energy situation in general	<b>Current energy sources</b>	<p><b>Total energy supply (TES) (2020):</b> 40.1 Mtoe (coal 30.3%, oil 21.1%, nuclear 19.5%, natural gas 18.1%, bioenergy and waste 11.9%, solar 0.5%, hydro 0.5%, wind 0.1%, electricity exports -2%).</p> <p><b>Energy production (2020):</b> 23.6 Mtoe (coal 43.1%, nuclear 33.3%, bioenergy and waste 20.5%, solar 0.9%, oil 0.6%, natural gas 0.7%, hydro 0.8%, wind 0.3%, heat 0.3%).</p> <p><b>Total final consumption (TFC) (2019):</b> 27.0 Mtoe (oil 34.1%, natural gas 19.6%, electricity 18.6%, bioenergy and waste 12.3%, coal 7.8%, district heat 7.5%, other renewables 0.1%).<sup>xiii</sup></p> <p><b>Renewables in total final energy consumption (TFEC) (2019):</b> 3.8 Mtoe/15.8% of TFEC (bioenergy 3.5 Mtoe, solar 0.2 Mtoe, hydro 0.1 Mtoe, wind 0.04 Mtoe)<sup>xiv</sup></p> <p><b>Nuclear:</b> 6 power reactors – electricity generation (2020) 30.04 TWh; 19.5% of TES, 37.5% of electricity generation.<sup>xv</sup></p> <p><b>Electricity Generation in 2020</b> consisted of<sup>xvi</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non-renewable sources: 71 172 GWh (87%)</li> <li>○ Renewable sources: 10 345 GWh (13%), of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hydro: 2114 GWh (3%)</li> <li>▪ Solar: 2 287 GWh (3%)</li> <li>▪ Wind: 699 GWh (1%)</li> <li>▪ Bioenergy: 5215 GWh (6%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>25 MW of PV installations installed in the past years (mostly self-consumption projects).<sup>xvii</sup></p>	

<b>Climate protection targets</b>	<p>State Energy Policy (SEP), 2015, is guiding Energy policy. Key targets include: reduction of energy consumption, improvement of energy intensity of the economy and expansion of nuclear power by 2030-35.<sup>xviii</sup></p> <p>The Climate Protection Policy (CPP), 2017, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2018, is the key strategic document focussing on climate change mitigation. An update is foreseen by the end of 2023.</p> <p>The CRR outlines general GHG reduction targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2030 44 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq 30%, compared to 2005</li> <li>● 2040 78 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq 53%</li> <li>● 2050 109 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq 80%, compared to 1990.<sup>xix</sup></li> </ul> <p>The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) was approved in 2020. The share of renewables shall increase to 22% of gross final consumption by 2030, and annual energy savings of 8.4 petajoules (PJ) would need to be achieved by 2023. "The NECP does not set any quantitative targets for reducing emissions in the transport and buildings sectors by 2030."<sup>xx</sup></p>
<b>Renewable energy targets</b>	<p>The NECP defines targets for the development of renewable energies for 2030: 22% in gross final energy consumption, 17% in electricity, 14% in transport, as well as heating and cooling (an annual increase of 1 percentage point).<sup>xxi</sup></p> <p><b>Prague</b> has the plan to produce more than 8% (approximately 2.1 GWh per year) of its total energy consumption from renewable sources by end of 2030, by increasing the installed capacity on all its properties (municipal buildings and city districts, apartment buildings, municipal enterprises, etc.)<sup>xxii</sup></p>
<b>Renewable energy potential</b>	<p>Estimated total potential of rooftop solar is about 11.8 GW.<sup>xxiii</sup></p> <p>Studies estimate a potential of ca. 7 GW of solar photovoltaic capacity by 2030 and 1.6 GW of wind power.<sup>xxiv</sup></p>
<b>Renewable energy support regime</b>	<p>"The promotion of electricity production is based on the following main regulatory instruments: investment support, subsidies, purchase prices in the form of feed-in tariffs (FiT), green premium payment, which is paid on top of the market price, and tax regulation. RES generation is also exempt from real estate tax."<sup>xxv</sup></p> <p>Between 2004 and 2013 Czechia has doubled its RES capacity. In 2013 support for RES was discontinued (with exception of small hydro power plants), hampering development of small-scale RES projects as well as the development of prosumership initiatives. "<b>Since 2014-2015, there is no feed-in tariff support in the Czech Republic.</b>" Conditions for other RES (e.g. biomass, geothermal) are strict and making them unattractive.<sup>xxvi</sup></p> <p>The lack of support mechanisms and an unclear legislative framework constitutes a barrier. Amendments to the legislation are being developed and foreseen to transpose the RED II. Still, a support scheme for PV technology is not planned.</p>

- For small and medium-size installations which include self-consumption, PV technology is supported.
- Furthermore, it is proposed to have larger installations profiting from investment support schemes under EU Modernisation Fund
- However, an energy supplier licence is needed for PV installations with a capacity exceeding 10 kW and the costs for the grid would likely be financially unbearable for citizens.<sup>xxvii</sup>

**Modernisation Fund** is aimed to “advance the transformation of the energy sector in Central European countries, where coal still plays an important role.” The Czech government “plans to allocate significant amounts to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including for the modernisation of heating systems, which is an ongoing and successful policy.”<sup>xxviii</sup> Among relevant support programmes are:

- RES+ New Renewable Energy Sources: supporting new non-fuel renewable energy sources;
- KOMUENERG – Community energy: supporting open energy societies established for the purpose of satisfying their own energy needs (the main purpose is not to generate profit).<sup>xxix</sup>

#### Relevant laws, policies, and plans

- State Energy Policy (SEP) of the Czech Republic (2014, approved 2015)<sup>xxx</sup>
- "The National Energy and Climate Plan of the Czech Republic (Nov. 2019) for the period 2021–2030 with a view to 2050."<sup>xxxi</sup>
- Update to the 2019 National Emission Reduction Programme of the Czech Republic. plays the role of the National Air Pollution Control Programme, a strategic document, required by the EU Directive 2016/2284.<sup>xxxii</sup>
- The Climate Protection Policy of the Czech Republic was adopted by the Government resolution No. 207 of 22nd March 2017.<sup>xxxiii</sup>
- Act on Supported Energy Sources (Act no. 165/2012)<sup>xxxiv</sup>
- Energy Management Act (Act no. 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management as of 25 October 2000)
- Czech Energy Act (Act no. 458/2000 on Business Conditions and on the Exercise of State Administration in the Energy Sectors and on the Amendment to Certain Acts, the Amendment to the Energy Act by Act no. 131/2015 Coll)<sup>xxxv</sup>.

#### Regulatory framework for citizen energy

The regulatory framework is **rather under-developed**. Municipalities are the most active actors in investing and owning RES installations. **No support scheme for PV installations is currently planned**, considered by experts as a major bottleneck for RECs.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Energy-producing companies with an installed capacity higher than 10 kW are required to have a license. Micro-generation units with self-consumption of up to 10 kW do not require a license or permit in case electricity is not fed into the grid.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has been preparing an amendment to Act no. 165/2012 and an amendment to the Energy Act, which **should set new rules for developing RES and anchor energy storage systems in the Czech legislation**<sup>xxxviii</sup>.

## Legal and political framework for citizen energy

The **main driver for consumers to invest in RES is financial gain**, either through the benefit of additional income or through cheaper electricity prices. **Energy poverty in the country is below EU average.**

The complex administrative process for RES deployment, including requirements for different permits and licenses, is a bottleneck for the development of community-owned RES sources.

The current legal framework does not offer enough stability. The Czech NECP has not fully integrated the REDII goals and principles and does not foresee the setup of an effective framework for RECs before 2021.

Despite increasing interest from citizens, wind turbines are not allowed in proximity to military facilities nor villages in certain regions.

The new Czech energy act (Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2020) provides the basic framework for energy communities in the Czech Republic. It also transposes other requirements of the Clean Energy Package such as the concept of the active consumer. The draft legislation foresees a general basic definition that would be common to citizen energy communities and renewable energy communities. The law therefore uses the common term "energy community" for both types of communities.

The common concepts of citizen energy communities and renewable energy communities is that:

- it is a legal entity within the meaning of the Czech Civil Code;
- the main purpose is not to make a profit, but to provide environmental, economic or social benefits to its shareholders or members or to the local areas where they operate;
- participation is based on a voluntary basis.

The law, thereby, adopts a minimum set of definitions in line with both the REDII and the EMD. The new legislation proposes to leave it to the founders, shareholders or members, which specific legal form they adopt. However, not all legal entities in the Czech Republic fulfil the features of an energy community in line with the EU framework.<sup>xxxix</sup>

### Evaluation of the legal framework

#### Constraints include<sup>xi</sup>:

- Retroactive policies and the fluctuating government support
- Lack of knowledge and facts-based dialogue on the topic, as well as dissemination of counter-narratives in the traditional and social media.
- Financial and administrative barriers

\*An updated assessment is available at the REScoop Transposition Tracker, currently stating: *"There is no legislation that touched upon energy communities already published in the Czech Republic. Draft legislation is being developed."*<sup>xii</sup>

## Existing citizen energy projects and/or research

### Citizen energy projects

Community energy in the Czech Republic is limited to a number of municipalities run renewable energy projects, which were mostly developed before support for renewables was cut in 2013. **There are currently no renewable projects governed directly by citizens.**<sup>xlii</sup>

Overall, 130 municipalities own and operate electricity generation plants with a total output of 23.5 MW. Rooftop solar or PV accounts for the largest share of municipal RES. In addition, 34 municipal biomass

## Existing citizen energy projects and/or research initiatives

heating plants and five municipal biogas heating plants operate in the Czech Republic<sup>xliii</sup>.

There are examples of apartment owners in the same building jointly purchasing photovoltaic panels. Since 2023, it has been possible for residents in one residential building to share electricity generated from photovoltaic panels installed on that building. Many flats are owned by the consortium of owners. Energy efficiency projects for such flats might be seen as community power projects.<sup>xliv</sup>

Even very small municipalities in the Czech Republic have full legal status, own land and premises and democratically elect their local representatives – they might thus qualify as community energy organizations.<sup>xlv</sup>

The number of municipal RES projects was stagnating in 2019 for lack of government support.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Prague Renewable Energy Community,<sup>xlvii</sup> a municipal organization, was founded a result of the Horizon 2020 project **SCORE** (Supporting Consumer Ownership in Renewable Energies), see below.

**Kněžice**, a village located in the Central Bohemian region, in the Nymburk District, with less than 500 inhabitants. Kněžice energy technology complex constitutes a complex biogas-and-biomass heating and electricity generating system, based on a combined heat and power (CHP) unit, which:

- Heats nearly all homes and produces more electricity than the village uses
- A biogas plant and a biomass plant sources various forms of local waste and biomass
- Annually saves more than 8.000 tons of CO2
- Is fully operated by the municipality and employs 6 villagers

The biogas station is operated by the municipal ESCo Energetika Kněžice, s.r.o. (Ltd.), which is 100% owned by the municipality and managed by the municipal Energy Service Company.<sup>xlviii</sup>

However, the project faces numerous legislative challenges: Instead of selling electricity directly to inhabitants, the municipality must sell to the grid, and the villagers have to buy it at five times the price the municipality is paid. This hinders other villages from developing similar local energy systems and has also stopped Kněžice from going further.<sup>xlix</sup>

## Existing citizen energy projects and/or research

The village of **Měňany**, located in the Central Bohemian region, around 300 inhabitants.

A municipal hot water biomass heating plant with a heat distribution project for the whole village was initiated in 2003 with participation of most of the community residents and has been in operation since 2008. The ownership and management structures are solely dependent on the municipality<sup>l</sup>

The village of **Hostětín**, located in the White Carpathians in the Zlín region, with approximately 240 inhabitants. It contains: a municipal biomass heating plant, a public lighting system, the Veronica Centre building passive house. Solar thermal collectors are located at the local juice plant and Veronica center building, and several PV systems are installed at the juice plant, next to the biomass plant, and at nine family houses.

The municipal biomass heating plant supplies heat almost to the entire village of Hostětín (83% of the households). The plant is burning wood chips and waste from sawmills and forests. The municipality is the technology complex owner, responsible for operational and management services. The biomass heating plant is community-owned, as well as 1/4 of the PV panels at the heating plant.

Initially only 50% of inhabitants supported these endeavours. Based on a unique partnership of the municipality and the NPO Veronica Hostětín, seminars were organized to raise awareness, information campaigns were conducted, and best practice examples were explained.<sup>ii</sup>

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**Research and capacity building activities**

**DBU-project “Feasibility study: Community energy in the City of Židlochovice, Czech Republic”**

- Partners: Jihomoravská agentura pro veřejné inovace JINAG, spolek
- Aim: prepare and assess a complex community energy concept in the new positive energy district Chytře Lichy and further enabling prosumers to participate by joining the future community energy network in the City of Židlochovice.

**DBU-project “Informationsvermittlung und Qualifizierung zur Bürgerenergie in Deutschland und der Tschechischen Republik”**

- Partners: Bündnis Bürgerenergie, Friends of the Earth Hnutí DUHA und Calla (Verein für die Rettung der Umwelt)
- Aim: Communicate and disseminate conceptual and practical knowledge about the citizen energy model, with a focus on citizen energy cooperatives.<sup>iii</sup>

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enkoc (funding from The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic)

- Comprehensive setting of conditions for the establishment and operation of energy communities in the conditions of the Czech Republic, including pilot projects
  - The main goal of the project is to research the conditions for the establishment and functioning of civic energy communities or communities for renewable resources within local, community and municipal energy
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	<p><b>SCORE (Supporting Consumer Ownership in Renewable Energies)<sup>liii</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Funding from the <a href="#">European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme</a> (784960)</li> <li>● Coordinated by the <a href="#">European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)</a> and backed by the <a href="#">SCORE consortium</a>, e.g. Porsenna (CZ),</li> <li>● "The aim of SCORE is to <b>facilitate co-ownership of RE for consumers</b> first in three pilot regions in Italy, <b>Czech Republic</b> and Poland - and later also in various other follower cities across Europe. SCORE hereby particularly highlights the potential this democratic participation model holds for the inclusion of women and low-income households."<sup>liv</sup></li> <li>● Pilot city: Prague: "In 2021 and 2022, photovoltaic panels with an output of 2-3 MWp will be installed on city properties (mostly on school buildings). Up to 250 households can thus become co-owners and investors in community renewable energy sources. The expected annual energy yield will likely exceed the demand of these households three times."<sup>liv</sup></li> <li>● Follower city: Doubrava<sup>lvi</sup>; city of Orlova</li> </ul>
Relevant actors and stakeholders	<p><b>NGOs</b></p> <p>SEMMO, the Association of Energy Managers of Towns and Municipalities<sup>lvii</sup> - involved in development and translation of the Community Energy handbook from Friends of the Earth, Rescoop.eu and Energy Cities<sup>lviii</sup></p>
	<p>UKEN (Community Energy Union) - national stakeholder coalition fostering the decentralisation and democratisation of the energy sector by promoting the implementation of the community concept to Czech republic.<sup>lix</sup></p>
	<p>JINAG (South Moravian Agency for public innovations) - enabling inovations in public sector, with focus on energy (effectivity and renewables) and climate changes<sup>lx</sup></p>
Relevant actors and stakeholders	<p>SME (Svaz moderní energetiky) - platform that fosters innovation and collaboration among professional associations in modern energy, driving growth in the Czech economy.<sup>lxi</sup></p>
	<p>Friends of the Earth Hnutí DUHA;</p>
	<p>Calla (Verein für die Rettung der Umwelt)</p>
	<p>Porsenna - a non-profit organization that provides services for municipalities, enterprisers and general public in the field of energy management, sustainable construction, renewable energy use, passive houses, energy efficiency and energy consultancy (Involved in SCORE project, see above)<sup>lxii</sup></p>
	<p>NPO Center Veronica Hostětín (ZO ČSOP Veronica)</p>
	<p><b>Governmental bodies</b></p> <p>Energy Regulatory Office (ERO)<sup>lxiii</sup></p> <p>Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Chamber of Renewable Energy Sources</p>

	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>Local governments</b>	<p>City of Prague</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pilot in the SCORE project<sup>lxiv, lxv</sup></li> <li>● Hosted international conference “Energy Communities” in October 2021<sup>lxvi, lxvii</sup></li> <li>● Prague Renewable Energy Community established (<b>contact: Commission of the Council of Prague for sustainable energy and climate</b>)<sup>lxviii</sup></li> <li>● 2021 presentation SCORE final conference “Photovoltaics in Prague”<sup>lxix</sup></li> </ul> <p>Doubrava- a follower city in the SCORE project<sup>lxx</sup></p> <p>City of Orlova - a follower city in the SCORE project</p>
<b>Private actors</b>	
<b>International/ supra-national actors</b>	Bündnis Bürgerenergie
<b>Academia</b>	<p>Czech Technical University in Prague, Czechia</p> <p>Brno University of Technology, Brno, Czechia</p> <p>Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Zlín, Czechia</p>
<b>Others</b>	Czech Community Coalition for promoting RES <sup>lxxi</sup>

## Summarizing evaluation

<b>Fields of Action</b>	<p><i>Recommendations proposed by Pechancová et al. 2022<sup>lxxii</sup>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Central and Eastern European countries, including Czechia, which focus on municipal-led RE projects, have different needs compared to countries with strong grassroots’ RE cooperative bases such as Germany;</li> <li>● The Czech definition of community RE should take the national specifics into account, and digital platforms of communities (private and publicly financed) should be envisaged;</li> <li>● Organizational support provided to municipalities, which need more time to prepare a project, and they do not dispose of risk management expertise developed over the years;</li> <li>● Municipalities often own brownfields and other non-agricultural areas suitable for building renewable electricity generating plants. PV power plants built on these sites could be an important source of finance for the municipal budget (municipal power plants);</li> <li>● A multisectoral partnership might be supported, where the municipal authority could use or rent the area or a roof (e.g., a the school building), and the citizens are offered a project share, such as civil power plants;</li> <li>● Efforts should be made toward CRE awareness-raising with information campaigns.</li> </ul> <p><i>Recommendations mentioned in the SCORE project Background Paper<sup>lxxiii</sup>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● More active support is needed to the deployment of RES;</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stronger targets should be established to break with incoherent national policy-making;</li> <li>● Czech Republic should also focus on countering local decarbonisation narratives that are not supportive of RES opportunities at the national level.</li> </ul>
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### Projects supported by the German Environment Foundation (DBU)

#### **AZ 38301/01-33/2 CommUnion - Community Energy Unions in Czech Republic and Germany**

(Projektdauer: 29.11.2022 - 29.11.2025)

Bewilligungsempfänger: Bündnis Bürgerenergie e.V., Berlin

Kooperationspartner: Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth, Brno, Tschechien

#### **AZ 38614/01-43/0 Feasibility study: Community energy in the City of Zidlochovice, Czech Republic**

(Projektdauer: 30.11.2022 - 30.6.2023)

Bewilligungsempfänger: Jihomoravská agentura pro veřejné inovace JINAG, Brno, Tschechien

Authors of the country profile: Tamara Mitrofanenko, Gesa Geißler, Jan Bárta

<sup>i</sup> [https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/czechia\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/czechia_en)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.energy-community.org/aboutus/whoweare.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?view=chart>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.TOTL.K2?view=chart>

<sup>v</sup> [https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/key-facts-and-figures/life-eu\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/key-facts-and-figures/life-eu_en)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?view=chart>

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<sup>ix</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/earn\\_nt\\_net/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/earn_nt_net/default/table?lang=en)

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<sup>xi</sup> <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS>

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/301b7295-c0aa-4a3e-be6b-2d79aba3680e/CzechRepublic2021.pdf> (p.17)

<sup>xiv</sup> Ibid.(p.77).

<sup>xv</sup> Ibid.(p.127).

<sup>xvi</sup> [https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical\\_Profiles/Europe/Czechia\\_Europe\\_RE\\_SP.pdf](https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Europe/Czechia_Europe_RE_SP.pdf)

<sup>xvii</sup> [https://www.score-h2020.eu/fileadmin/score/documents/D5.2\\_report\\_final\\_clean\\_upload\\_12\\_I\\_2021.pdf](https://www.score-h2020.eu/fileadmin/score/documents/D5.2_report_final_clean_upload_12_I_2021.pdf) (p.26)

<sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.iea.org/countries/czech-republic>

<sup>xix</sup> <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/301b7295-c0aa-4a3e-be6b-2d79aba3680e/CzechRepublic2021.pdf> (p.42)

<sup>xx</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xxi</sup> Ibid (p.77).

<sup>xxii</sup> <https://www.score-h2020.eu/pilots-follower-cities/prague/>

<sup>xxiii</sup> ENACO (2015), Studie potenciál solární energetiky v České Republice (Study of the Potential of Solar Energy in the Czech Republic), in <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/301b7295-c0aa-4a3e-be6b-2d79aba3680e/CzechRepublic2021.pdf> (p.82)

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