

1) Advocacy: Incentives for Research Investment

Aim: Increase company investment into research to 2 times the amount of other types of investment into research.

Using package of incentives recently enacted in Belgium, work with relevant government ministries to prepare package of incentives focused on the hiring of commercial researchers. Develop proposal that ties up to 10% of public research investment to current high value-added exporters with significant operations in the Czech Republic.

2) Advocacy: Immigration for Skilled Workforce and University students

Aim:

- **Improve recruitment of EU nationals from targeted countries (East Germany, Spain, Italy).**
- **Develop systemic program for recruiting STEM students from other Central European countries.**
- **Develop systemic policy for increasing non-EU qualified workforce and accelerating permit process.**

The labor market is the most critical factor inhibiting economic growth. Manufacturing, IT, and urban businesses (headquarters, hospitality, and shared service centers) all face shortages which are creating high volatility in wages and, increasingly, inability to find certain skills on the market. The only short-term solution is the import of labor. The government does not have a comprehensive policy addressing this, and some parties, particularly ODS and CSSD, seem to be opposed to the introduction of more foreigners into the country. This is a political issue, and there needs to be a debate and consensus decision.

3) Advocacy: Measurable Objective for Healthcare

Aim:

- **To introduce performance-related drivers for health care to replace the current process and price-related ones.**
- **To establish a policy-oriented, systemic approach to health care legislation, in order to reduce the political influence.**
- **To align policy approach with the demographic reality.**

Health care is primarily driven by two ideological (political) arguments- free health care for all and market-drive health care. The second influence is political- the private gain motivation of many public sector decisionmakers in collusion with private sector players (for example, the recent decision to give more market power to major re-exporters of pharmaceuticals. Those favoring innovation in medicine- which depends on a clear measurement of quality improvements- have very little chance of successfully advocating policies until the decision-making environment focuses more on system outcomes than ideological or personal gain driven motivations. Our goal is to develop a model of measuring performance outcomes that translate Healthy Life Years into a series of statistical indicators which can measure daily performance of health care providers.

4) Advocacy: Commuter infrastructure for Prague and Brno

Aim:

- **To address labor demand of cities through better access to regions.**

Work with cities and Ministry of Transport to assess whether a denser network of public transit would increase labor pool sufficiently to justify investment cost.

5) Promotion: Labor Costs

Aim:

- **To organize a fact-based discussion on whether the current system for funding the social security system results in the optimal fairness and effectiveness.**

One of the principal arguments against investing or increasing employment in the Czech Republic is high labor costs. Some of questioned the disparities between employer and employee costs (all paid ultimately by the employer) or between employment and self-employment. It would benefit the country to have a fact-based debate on whether the current system of mandatory contributions results in the maximum revenue and whether the systems creates a distortion in the market through different levels of contributions according to types of employment.

6) Promotion: Key Development Projects for Prague and Brno

Aim:

- **To push the government to support certain development projects that would result in wide economic benefit for the country.**

Amcham would identify public and private projects that would have a wide economic impact, and promote their accelerated development. The Real Estate Council recommends the following projects for Prague:

- 1) **Research-based institutions around CVUT.** Developing zoning plans and assisting with the financing to expand the number of research institution and spin-off industries affiliated with CVUT.
- 2) **Affordable housing.** Finding solutions to make housing affordable for purchase or rent of people entering the workforce in order to facilitate migration of people from low employment regions to Prague.
- 3) **Prague Congress Center.** Complete the restoration of the Prague Congress Center.
- 4) **Connect the Prague Airport to Prague.** Rapid expansion of the Prague transport network so that the airport is connected to the city by more than one bus line.
- 5) **Complete Inner Ring Road and Outer Ring Road.** To improve the flow of logistics around Prague, and the flow of citizens within Prague.
- 6) **Park & Ride Facilities.** To assist with the expansion of labor market for Prague, develop more facilities around outlying metro stations.
- 7) **D Line for Metro.** To improve flow of citizens within Prague.

Recommendation for Brno to be made in summer.