

Role of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Modernization of Critical Raw Materials Sector in the Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY AND TRADE

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History of Geology

- ➔ First modern university for education in geology was established in Příbram in 1849. It became famous by the Professor František Pošepný.
- ➔ Czech territory started to be mapped step by step in the scale 1:75.000 in nineties of 19th century.
- ➔ Complete territory of the Czechoslovakia has been geologically mapped in the scale 1:50.000 until the year of 1965 and result was released in the scale 1:200.000. Later were added specialized maps like hydrogeology, geophysical, landslide risks, etc. in the same scale.
- ➔ Today continues the mapping in the scale of 1:25.000. Of course, deposits under mining are much more detailed geologically prospected.



Recent state of RM in the Czech Republic

- ➔ Czech Republic belongs to EU countries with relatively good position of mining sector.
- ➔ Continues mining of brown coal, industrial minerals and construction materials. Hard coal is final stage that started two year ago due to its low prices on global market.
- ➔ Starts geological exploration for modern minerals like lithium and other searching in the section of EU critical minerals. Due to long time mining history, we suppose that we would have those minerals not only in original deposits, but also on pit heaps and tailing ponds.
- ➔ Geological companies continues to work partially abroad and keep know-how of prospecting in green-fields. They are experienced all around the world from Greenland through Jamaica, Mali, Mongolia till Vietnam.



Historical and recent needs of industry

- ➔ Czech Republic is well explored for classical minerals like copper, lead, zinc, iron, silica sand, kaolin, etc.
- ➔ Modern minerals like lithium, beryllium, REE and others that are needed by modern technologies were taken for undesirable foreign matters in classical minerals in the past. We have scarce information about their appearance only.
- ➔ Czech Republic is relatively rich on the lithium. We know it from the past, because on some mineral deposits of classical minerals compose lithium part of undesirable ingredients that are concentrated in tailing ponds. Detailed geological prospecting of first lithium deposit started three years ago.



Role of the Ministry – New RM Policy

- ➔ Create conditions for assurance of RM for domestic use.
- ➔ Strengthen national RM security.
- ➔ Assure consistent protection of strategic RM deposits.
- ➔ Keep sustainable mining in conditions of strong protection of environment.
- ➔ Create conditions for new phase of national RM diplomacy, which has long tradition in the Czech Republic.
- ➔ Support of material-saving technologies as a starting point for the circular economy.



Role of the Ministry – Practical Targets

- ➔ Enforce new State Raw Materials Policy.
- ➔ Use EU projects like EIP RM, Horizon 2020, Interreg, KIC, etc. for supporting RM sector in the Czech Republic.
- ➔ Prepare conditions for R&D projects supported by Ministry and by European Commission too in the field of Raw Materials exploration, mining and processing.
- ➔ Continue the Raw Materials Diplomacy on bilateral or multilateral base. That diplomacy has very long tradition in our country.
- ➔ Support Czech companies in link-up contacts and cooperation with foreign partners.



Role of the Ministry – Circular Economy

- ➔ State Policy on Secondary Raw Materials was approved in 2014.
- ➔ Involvement of the Ministry into working groups of European Commission and other organizations in the field of secondary raw materials and circular economy.
- ➔ Support of material-saving technologies as a starting point for the circular economy.
- ➔ Support projects for R&D projects in waste managements and circular economy financed or co-financed by the Ministry or by European Commission.



Thank you for your attention

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