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# CEDMO Trends: What Do Czechs Think about the Czech- US Defence Cooperation Agreement

Coffee Beans



MEDIAN

The Czech Republic is aiming to deepen its cooperation with the USA through the Czech-US Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA), which should facilitate US-Czech military and security cooperation. The decision has sparked a lot of interest and discussion among the population. Longitudinal research CEDMO Trends revealed that the majority of the population supports DCA and is well-informed about the facts and disinformation surrounding it. However, there are still some uncertainties and concerns about the agreement's potential implications.

The survey results suggest that the narrative about limited sovereignty of Czechia due to the ratification of the DCA has the lowest credibility. The credibility is significantly lower among the youngest population under 24 and the college-educated population. On the other hand, voters of SPD and KSČM were significantly more likely to trust the narrative that DCA would result in the limited sovereignty of Czechia. This is in line with the public statements made by both parties. Both SPD and KSČM remain very sceptical about the DCA. Furthermore, 22.9% of all respondents remain unsure about the statement. Some may be worried about losing control over Czech territory or becoming too dependent on the USA. In contrast, others may be concerned about the impact on Czech relations with other countries, such as Russia or China.

The Czech population is also well-informed about the statement that ratification will result in the creation of a military base in the Czech territory with 47% rather or definitely disagreeing with the statement. Nevertheless, almost a third of the Czech population rather agrees or definitely agrees.

Interestingly, the survey found that the most trusted narrative was about the DCA bringing economically beneficial deliveries of U.S. military equipment for the Czech army. Half of the population agrees with the statement, and only 12% rather disagree, and 13% definitely disagree. However, this statement also has the highest level of uncertainty, with 25.5% of respondents unable to assess if it is true. While the potential economic benefits of the DCA might be an important factor in its popularity among the Czech population, there is a lot of hesitancy.

A quarter of the population rather agrees with the statement that after the ratification of the DCA, there will be regular movement of American soldiers on the Czech territory, with an additional 7% definitely agreeing. The potential presence of American soldiers on Czech territory is a sensitive issue for many, and the survey shows these possible reservations or concerns. On the other hand, almost half (46%) disagree with the truth of the statement.

**Overall, the survey results suggest that while there is some uncertainty and misinformation about the potential impact of the DCA, the majority of the Czech population supports the treaty and is well-informed about the facts surrounding it. As the ratification process continues, it will be important for the government to continue engaging with the public, addressing any concerns or questions that may arise, and emphasising the benefits of enhanced defence cooperation with the US.**

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Sample size:** 3 036 respondents aged 16 or older

**Survey date:** March 15-27, 2023

**Survey method:** quota sampling, online panel interview (CAWI)

**Representativity:** the survey is representative of the general population of the Czech Republic aged 16 years and older according to basic socio-demographic variables (gender, age, education, region and size of place of residence), according to employment status and past electoral behaviour (elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 2021, second round of the presidential elections 2023)

**Contracted and carried out by:** the research is carried out by MEDIAN, s.r.o. (member of SIMAR) exclusively for Charles University



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