



## OUTCAN Info Sheet 2020

### Vyskov, Czech Republic

#### LOCATION

**Country:** Czech Republic

**Town:** Vyskov

**Entry/Exit requirements:**

- Blue; Green Passport, NATO Travel orders (NTO). SOFA Stamp.
- Will require a Resident Permit.

**Other info to Consider:**

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa** (Schengen Area)
- Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) in Vyskov.
- Security within the JCBRN COE is tight. Members must undergo ID check at the gate and are required to utilize swipe card to gain access to the buildings. Once inside should display their pass at all times

#### POPULATION

**Size:** The town of Vyskov, with 21,000 inhabitants. Approximately 30km from Brno, second largest city after Prague.

**Ethnicity:** Mostly Czech nationals.

#### LANGUAGE(S)

**Official language:** Czech, spoken by 96% of the population. Other languages spoken by local inhabitants are Slovak, Polish and Russian.

**Prevalence of French or English speaking:** Very limited. Foreign visitors can make themselves understood in English in Brno City, not necessarily in Vyskov.

#### COST OF LIVING

**Exchange rate to consider:** Czech Republic is the Czech Koruna (CZK)

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

**Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:**

- Heavy rains are frequent in summer and sometimes resulting in local flooding. Exercise caution, monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities.

**Laws and Culture:**

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive in the Czech Republic.
- You must carry an international driving permit.
- The use of cellular telephones while driving is prohibited, unless they are fitted with a hands-free device.
- A road usage permit is required to travel on all major highways.
- There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and penalties are severe. Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines or jail sentences.
- A child weighing less than 36 kg or whose height does not exceed 150 cm must be placed in a specialized child's safety-seat with full retaining system.
- All cyclists up to 18 years of age must use protective helmets. A driver must indicate a change of lanes when overtaking a bicycle, even if he does not change lanes.
- Pedestrians have the right of the way at crossings, with the exception of trams. Trams have the right of way. A pedestrian must not step into a crosswalk in front of a tram with the expectation that the tram will stop.
- All season or winter tires are required Nov 1 – Mar 31, as well as when the temperature is lower than 4 degrees C.

- Required equipment in the vehicle: First Aid kit, Warning triangle, Reflective vest, Replacement headlight bulbs, replacement headlight fuses.
- The driver is obliged to show a driver's license, a vehicle registration certificate, and a document proving statutory motor third party insurance. The driver can be also requested to show proof of identity through a citizen's ID card or a passport.

#### **Safety and Security:**

- Violent crime is low. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, is common, particularly in Prague.
- There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks have occurred in a number of European cities and there is a potential for other violent incidents.

#### **Level of isolation:**

- This post is considered remote, and has very limited access to French, English; risk of feeling isolated is high

## **HOUSING**

- JCBRN does not have a housing section. However, the unit (POC is WO Ilona Dvorackova) will provide a sponsor to the member on HHT who will guide members through the accommodation finding processes.
- The recommended areas of living are Brno, Vyškov, Olomouk and the smaller cities in-between. The recommended locations can be reached within 15 - 60 mins commute one way, depending on the location and on the traffic situation.
- The Czech rental law allows the property owner to request his house back should the property owner wish to move back into his accommodation. Therefore, property owner's intention for occupancy of his house within the next three years is very important to avoid a local move during a three-year posting.
- Lease agreement will be drafted by the agent in Czech and English and has to be provided to +CFSUEHousing@forces.gc.ca for review and further discussion of the lease conditions.
- Property owner do often not allow pets in their apartments. If at all, only very small pets will be tolerated

## **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Are there employment opportunities for spouses?**

- Limited, language barrier.
- Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment on the economy is not a realistic option.
- There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS so families should plan to be single income for the duration of the posting.

## **HEALTH CARE**

#### **Access:**

- The Czech Republic as a whole has some of the best health indicators worldwide; however, equity and access to care varies depending on location. In larger cities such as Prague and Brno, healthcare meets Canadian standards, but the infrastructure of the facilities are not what one is used to in Canada
- The recommended emergency rooms for Canadians to access is Vojenská nemocnice Brno (The Military Hospital) in Brno. The military hospital is a public hospital that offers 24/7 emergency services. The JCBRN Defence COE has signed a Technical Arrangement with this facility. This hospital offers an array of specialist services with the exception of gynecology and pediatrics. Services are provided to both military and civilian and priority of care is based on patient's health condition. When accessing care from this facility, be prepared to pay for services. They claim that all their doctors speak English.
- In Czech Rep., over-the-counter drugs are only available in a pharmacy and they will only fill prescriptions provided by local doctors.
- When accessing services from a pharmacy there are typically two lines: "bez receptu" means you have a prescription from a doctor and "na recept" means you are looking for an over-the-counter drug and will be expected to pay cash.
- English and French services are very limited
- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen (1,000km) is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe, and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP

#### **Special needs:**

- Extremely limited in English or French
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting.

**Consideration for pregnancy / birth:** Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy.

**Dental:** Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses

## SCHOOLING

- Schooling is typically at the International School of Brno for grades K-8, 36 km away from the Garrison.
- No compatible education options at post beyond grade 8

### Things to Consider:

- Transport to and from school is the parent's responsibility. Most parents drop off and pick up students however; there are city bus stops right outside the school.
- It is highly recommended that parents visit the school during HHT in order to view the facilities and introduce themselves to the staff.
- So that their children can be properly placed, parents must consult the school website in order to comply with registration requirement.
- There is no specific admissions deadline, however enrollment must be done as soon as possible

### Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- (ISB) is based on the Cambridge International Education (CIE) and the Council of British International Schools (COBIS). ISB is a World School as well as a member of the Council of International Schools
- The curriculum varies depending on choice of school.
- None of them offers Canadian history or geography at the elementary level.

### Resources for special need children:

- Access to special needs services is depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed, it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and school prior to any commitments.

## CHILDCARE

### Things to Consider:

- Service can easily be found in a private environment in Vyškov.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Things to Consider:** International airports near Vyškov 32 km: Brno, CZ (BRQ / LKTB) Brno-Turany Airport The airport is easily accessible from the city centre by bus line 76, departing from the Central station, or by night bus line 98, and also by cab available 24 hours. It takes 20 minutes.

- Domestic airports near Vyškov 119 km: Ostrava, CZ (OSR / LKMT) Leoš Janáček Airport Ostrava
- Local airports near Vyškov 40 km: Olomouc, CZ (OLO) Olomouc Airport 45 km: Prerov, CZ (PRV) Prerov Airport 56 km: Gottwaldov, CZ (GTW) Holesov.
- Use public transport, train or bus, commuting by train and direct bus from Vyškov bus station to COE is a comfortable option.
- Brno has a great public transport system. Everything runs on time and even late-night buses, where everyone is clearly tipsy, are very orderly. Otherwise, transport is plagued by congestion. It can take up an hour from Brno to JCBRN COE during rush hour.
- The municipal public transport company (DPMB), with arranged and interconnected tram, bus trolleybus, and train lines, provides public transport within the town of Brno.
- Czech railway stations offer a full range of facilities even between small towns. It is even the case between Brno and Vyškov.

## RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

### Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No, under MFSE Riga & Remote

### Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFSE SW for dependants only, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for member and family are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Italy.

### Communications (e.g. Quality of Internet connection):

- Quality of internet connection is depending on location and can vary. Reasonably priced.

## ACTIVITIES

### Access to sports or other leisure activities:

- There are gym facilities (e.g. weight room, gym floor, exercise equipment) located at the garrison at no cost to members.
- In Vyškov, there are plenty of recreational activities and venues available in this area for the whole family. The Aqua park is the most important sport facility with lots of attractions – indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpool bath, swimming lessons for kids, etc. Modern fitness centre avail.

**Availability of playgrounds:** Yes

## RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

### Are common law relationships recognized?

- Yes, a registered partnership offers many of the same rights as marriage except in the areas of taxation and adoption.

### Are same sex couples recognized?

- The only formal relationship legally regulated for same-sex couples in the Czech Republic is civil union (registered partnership), adopted in 2006.

### Medications that are illegal in the country:

- use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal
- Cannabis is illegal in Germany.

### Other Considerations:

- The pharmacy in GK stocks a variety of medications and may be able to provide assistance with obtaining prescription drugs that are not available in Czech Rep.

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **European Commission Country Reports (2019)**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en)
- **Canadian Travel Advisories**  
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- **CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from US)**  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pl.html>
- **Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)**  
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/help-british-nationals-overseas/europe>
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**  
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B55>

## For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below:

- MFS(E) Social Worker : [Chebat.Myriam@cfmws.com](mailto:Chebat.Myriam@cfmws.com) or [Myriam.Chebat@Forces.gc.ca](mailto:Myriam.Chebat@Forces.gc.ca)
- CAF Social Worker: [Martin.Laferrieresimard@formces.gc.ca](mailto:Martin.Laferrieresimard@formces.gc.ca)
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