

# Bathing water results 2007 – Czech Republic

## 1. Introduction

People throughout Europe show a great interest in the water quality of seas, coasts, rivers and lakes. Good bathing water quality may be an important factor in their choice of a holiday or weekend destination. Also for the tourist industry, clean and safe water is an important argument to attract visitors to an area. The Bathing Water Directive sets binding standards for bathing water in the European Union.

This report gives a general overview of the bathing water quality in the Czech Republic during the 2007 bathing season. The parameters to be checked are microbiological (total coliforms and faecal coli forms) and physico-chemical (mineral oils, surface-active substances and phenols). The bathing waters are classified in the following categories:

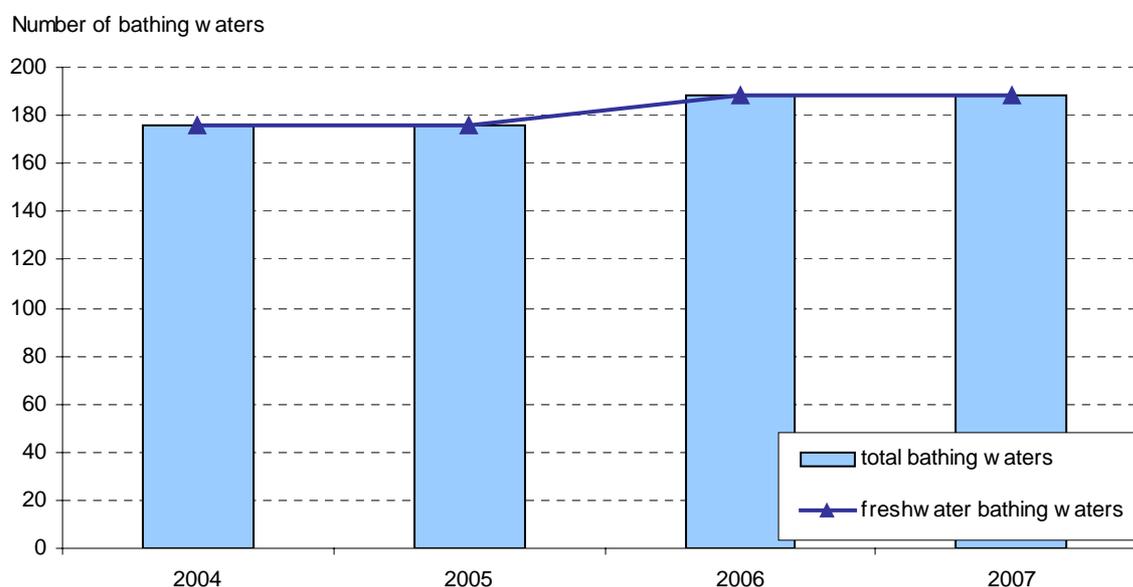
- Compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the 5 parameters
- Compliant with more stringent guide values of the Directive for the 5 parameters
- Not compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the 5 parameters
- Prohibited throughout the bathing season

## 2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

Most bathing waters in the Czech Republic open in May or June and close in August or September.

A total of 188 bathing waters were monitored in the Czech Republic during the 2007 bathing season. All of these bathing waters are freshwater bathing waters. With 188 bathing waters the Czech Republic accounts for about 0.9% of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

**Graph 1: Total number of bathing waters reported by the Czech authorities since 2004**



Graph 1 shows the evolution of the reported number of bathing waters since monitoring of the water quality started according the Directive. The number of freshwater bathing waters increased since the start of the reporting from 176 freshwater bathing waters in 2004 to 188 in 2007. In 2007 the same number of bathing waters were monitored compared to the previous year.

### 3. Results of bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in the Czech Republic during the bathing season of 2007 are presented in graph 2.

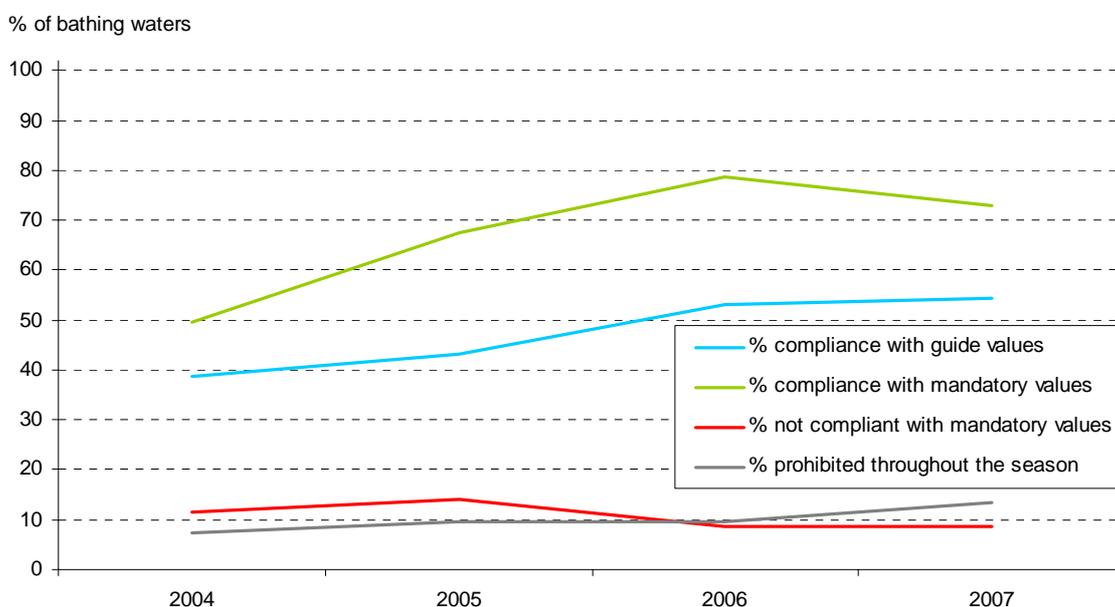
The graph shows, for freshwater bathing waters:

- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the guide values of the Directive (blue line),
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the mandatory values of the Directive (green line)
- The percentage of bathing waters that do not comply with the mandatory values of the Directive (red line)
- The percentage of bathing waters that are prohibited throughout the bathing season (grey line)

The table in Annex 1 shows the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages.

The map shows the location of the reported bathing waters in the Czech Republic. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Czech authorities.

**Graph 2: Results of bathing water quality in the Czech Republic from 2004 to 2007**



### 4. Development of bathing water quality

72.9% of the freshwater bathing waters in the Czech Republic met the mandatory values in 2007. This is a decrease compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values, however, increased slightly to 54.3%. The number of non-compliant bathing waters (8.5%) was the same as in 2006. The number of prohibited bathing waters increased to 25 (13.3%).

Overall there was no major change in the situation for the freshwater bathing water quality in the Czech Republic.

### 5. General information as provided by the Czech Republic authorities

#### Communication to the public

Central web pages (<http://www.szu.cz/chzp/koupani/>, <http://www.mzcr.cz/>; so far only in Czech) were created to keep the public informed about water quality, offering general information focused mostly on potential health risks of bathing in natural water bodies, as well as recommendations on how to limit those risks. The pages also contain links to web pages of the relevant regional Public Health

Authorities where information about the current quality of water on particular sites is published. Moreover, current information about water quality of bathing places is displayed at the map server of the Portal of the Public Administration (<http://geoportal.cenia.cz>).

A set of symbols was designed for simple and clear communication with the public. Information concerning water quality is also published in press (mostly regional) and occasionally in other media (mostly radio and TV stations), and in the summer bathing season, were sent in regular week intervals by the Ministry of Health to the Czech Press Agency a summary of actual water quality report for every bathing place.

### **Water quality**

Water quality problems were most frequently related to mass proliferation of cyanobacteria. The WHO recommendation was adopted for the limit value of the “cyanobacteria” indicator, i.e. a three-level water quality assessment with the ban imposed if a visual inspection reveals the presence of water bloom. In the 2007 bathing season there were 25 bathing bans (mostly due to cyanobacteria).

### **Corrective measures**

Unsatisfactory water quality was identified on certain bathing sites and during certain part of the bathing season. This was mostly due to cyanobacteria. Measures to reduce eutrophication of waters in the Czech Republic, including bathing waters, are adopted under the programmes implementing the Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment and the Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. On the basis of the previous bathing seasons, fifteen bathing sites have been included into the operational monitoring program in the year 2008. Corrective measures will be adopted, in the frame of management plan of the concerned river basin, after collecting of the data and their evaluation.

## **6. Infringement procedures**

There are currently no infringement procedures against the Czech Republic under this Directive.

## **7. More information on bathing water quality in the European Union**

More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the reports for 27 Member States and the EU summary report, can be found on the bathing water quality website ([http://ec.europa.eu/water/water-bathing/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/water/water-bathing/index_en.html)).

By 2015, Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in the new Bathing Water Directive<sup>1</sup>. This new Directive requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information. More information on the new Directive can be found on the bathing water quality website and on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>. Luxembourg already started since 2007 reporting according to these more stringent new requirements.

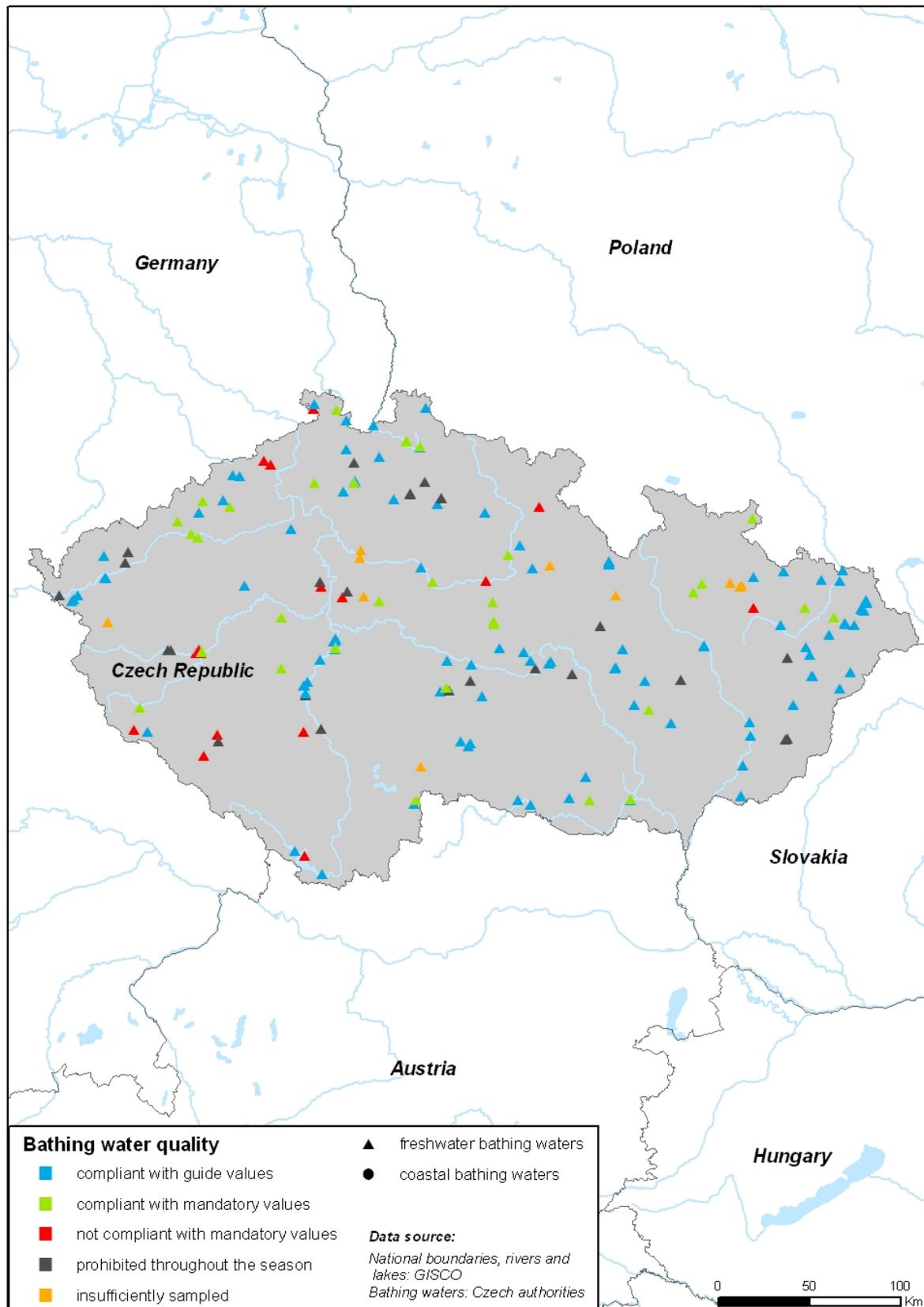
A newly established Water Information System for Europe ([www.water.europa.eu](http://www.water.europa.eu)) is a gateway to all water-related information. Among other water-related data, information on individual bathing water quality can be found in the WISE viewer (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/wise-viewer>) through interactive maps.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2006/7/EC

## Annex 1

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2007 bathing season in the Czech Republic



## Results of bathing water quality in the Czech Republic from 2004 to 2007

	Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Prohibited throughout the season		
		number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	
Freshwater bathing waters	2004	176	68	38.6	87	49.4	20	11.4	13	7.4
	2005	176	76	43.2	119	67.6	25	14.2	17	9.7
	2006	188	100	53.2	148	78.7	16	8.5	18	9.6
	2007	188	102	54.3	137	72.9	16	8.5	25	13.3

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive were not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the different categories will not be equal to the total number of bathing waters.