

# **Replies to the questionnaire for OHCHR report on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective**

## **Czech Republic**

1. In the past 10 years a percentage of women and men using the Internet rapidly increased in the Czech Republic. In 2005 about 29% of women were using the Internet (have had used the Internet in the past three months), when 35% of men were. In 2016 it was 75% of women and 78% of men. In the age group of 16 to 64 the percentage of men and women using the Internet is about the same. The biggest differences can be found between eldest population group 75+, where only 8% of women are using the Internet in 2016 as against 21% of men.

We do not suppose there are any specific barriers for women to access the Internet in the Czech Republic. The difference in the eldest population is probably caused by social and cultural factors and differences in education level. Men (who have higher education in this age group) are more likely to stay in touch with modern technologies.

2. In the Czech Republic the Internet usage data can be found in the statistical annual Focus on women and on men, published by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in cooperation (available at <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/zaostreno-na-zeny-a-muze>). This annual has a very detailed information about internet users by gender, age groups, completed education and economical status. For example there can be found the information about usage of the Internet for selected communication activities, using social networking sites, individuals making phone calls over the Internet, usage of the Internet for searching (related to travelling, accommodation, health), for selected entertainment activities (reading online news, newspapers, magazines, listening to web radios, online shopping, e-banking) always disaggregated by gender and age. There are also other sources of data about Internet population, for example data from SPIR (Association for Internet Development – available at <http://www.spir.cz/>), or data from different research agencies (Median, STEM/MARK and so on).

Links to studies:

[https://www.czso.cz/csu/xb/pocitace\\_a\\_internet\\_v\\_domacnostech\\_2013](https://www.czso.cz/csu/xb/pocitace_a_internet_v_domacnostech_2013),  
[https://medialnistudia.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/ms\\_2013\\_3\\_web\\_lupac.pdf](https://medialnistudia.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/ms_2013_3_web_lupac.pdf),  
<http://www.studiespir.cz/download/studie-spir.pdf>

3. The available data shows no evidence that women in the Czech Republic have limited access to the Internet. So far the Government of the Czech Republic has not adopted any special measure aiming specifically at facilitating the access of women to the Internet.

4. The data mentioned above suggests that there are no significant gaps between the access of women and men to the Internet. In recent years FreeWiFi hotspots are widespread in the public space. Free Wi-Fi access is often provided by libraries, theatres, town halls, hospitals, cafes, bars or restaurants, some trams, buses, trains, universities and many other places.

The list of free Wi-Fi networks around the Czech Republic can be found under the following link <http://www.free-wifi.cz/>

5. The Strategy of Digital Literacy of the Czech Republic for the period 2015-2020 was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in July 2015. The Strategy aims at facilitating digital literacy of the Czech population in order to develop its potential to use digital technologies for their lifelong personal development and quality of life improvement. The Strategy includes some gender aspects as well. One of its specific targets is for example to increase the ability of families to take advantage of opportunities and eliminate risks related to digital technologies in the family or at school.

6. From the available data we can suggest that the greatest differences in digital literacy correspond to the level of education. Gender differences in digital literacy (DI) are minimal and occur only in some dimensions of DI. The Strategy of digital literacy of the Czech Republic for the period 2015-2020 aims at facilitating the access to digital technologies of all individuals taking into account specific positions of some disadvantaged groups.

7. In February 2015 the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for the years 2015 to 2018 was approved by the Czech Government. One of the aims of the Action plan is to prevent cyberbullying and other forms of gender-based violence in the cyberspace. On the basis of this Action Plan on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 the conference on the theme Tolerated dangers: Violence and sexism in the media and cyberspace was organized by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.