

# TOWARDS QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF DOCTORAL TRAINING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
YOUTH AND SPORTS

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JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

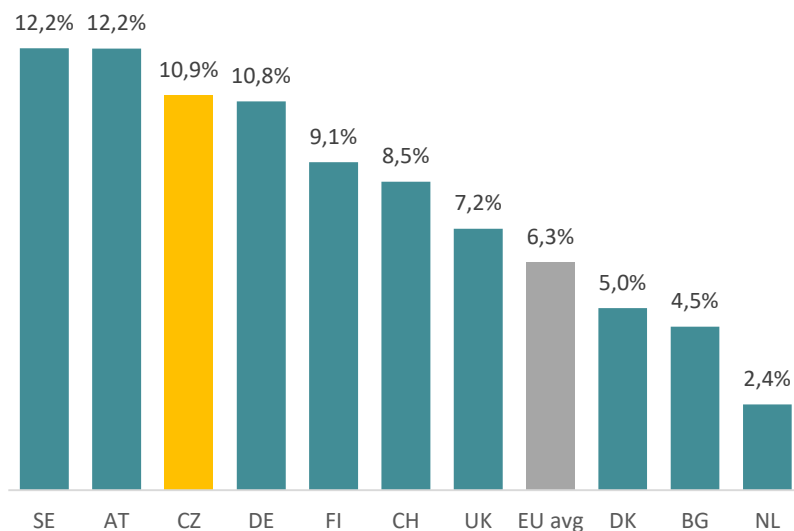
# VISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021+

- **Doctoral degree programmes** prepare graduates who are able to successfully pursue careers in research and in highly qualified positions in the Czech Republic and abroad. Students in full-time doctoral degree programmes have access to tangible and intangible support, which allows them to devote an appropriate amount of time to their studies and dissertation research, and most will complete their studies successfully. In each calendar year, the number of graduates of doctoral degree programmes never drops below 2 000.

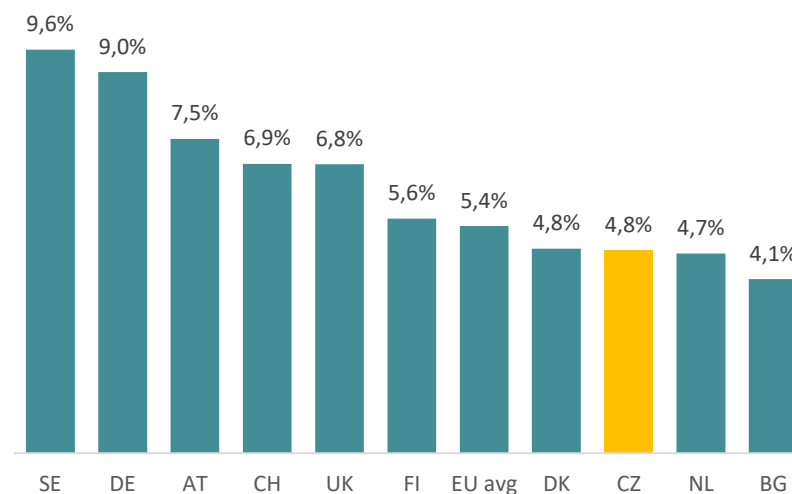
# CURRENT ISSUES IN PHD TRAINING #1

**Low selectivity:** CZ has a high share of PhD candidates in the system, which does not translate into a comparably high production of PhD graduates

Ratio of PhD to undergraduate students



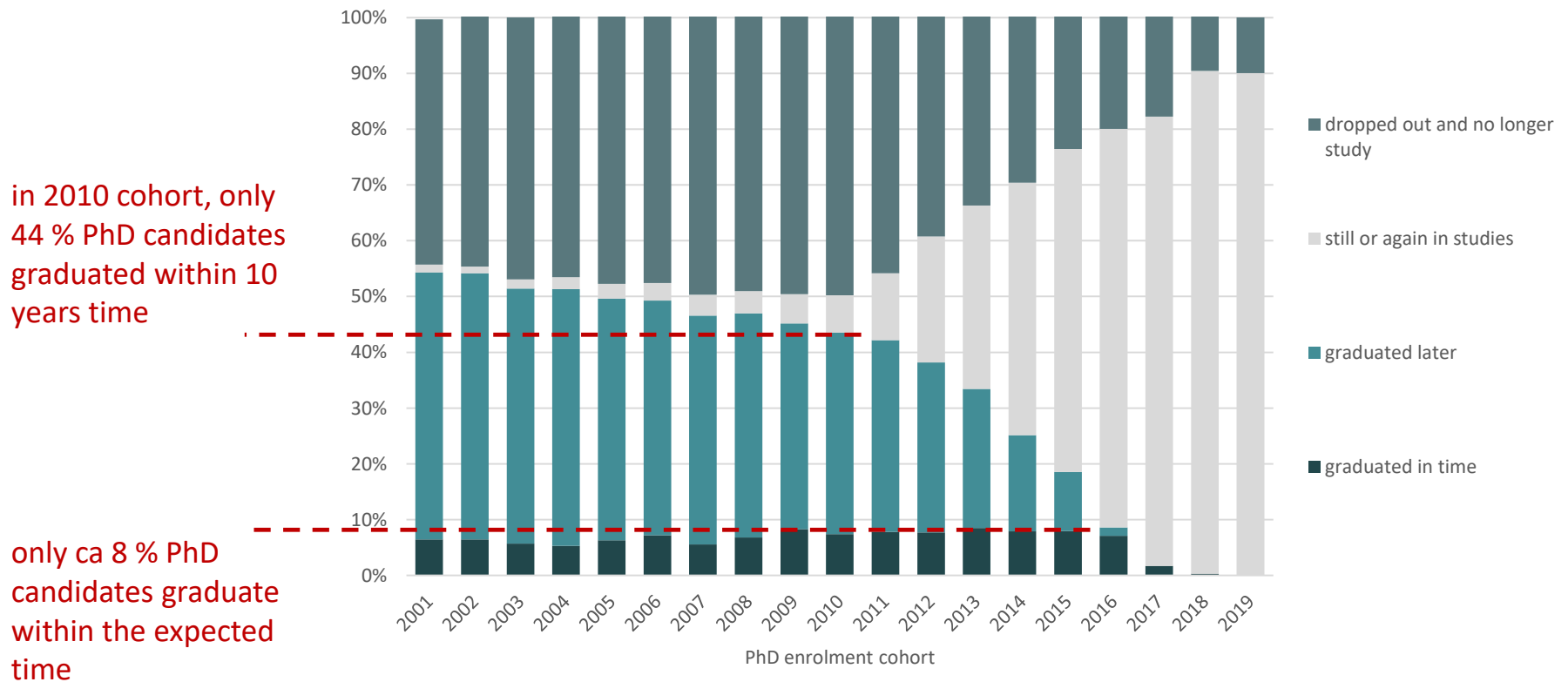
Ratio of PhD to undergraduate degrees



Source: Eurostat, 2016 data

## CURRENT ISSUES IN PHD TRAINING #2

**Low productivity:** most PhD candidates never graduate and if they do, they exceed the standard duration of studies substantially

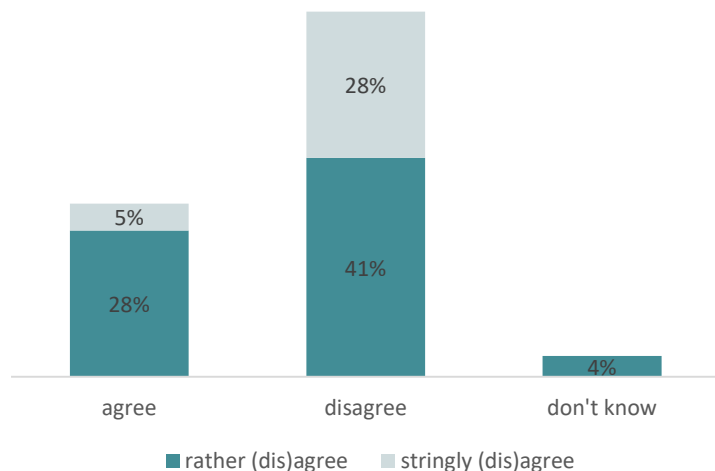


Source: CZ national student database, 2020 data

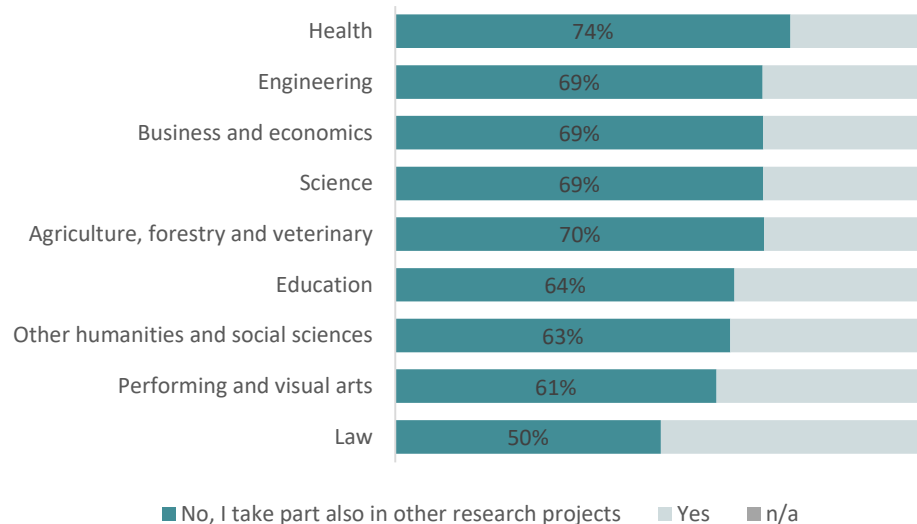
## CURRENT ISSUES IN PHD TRAINING #3

**Low focus:** most PhD candidates say they don't have enough time to work on their dissertation research, while the majority takes part in unrelated research activities

Do you have enough time to work on your thesis, considering other obligations?

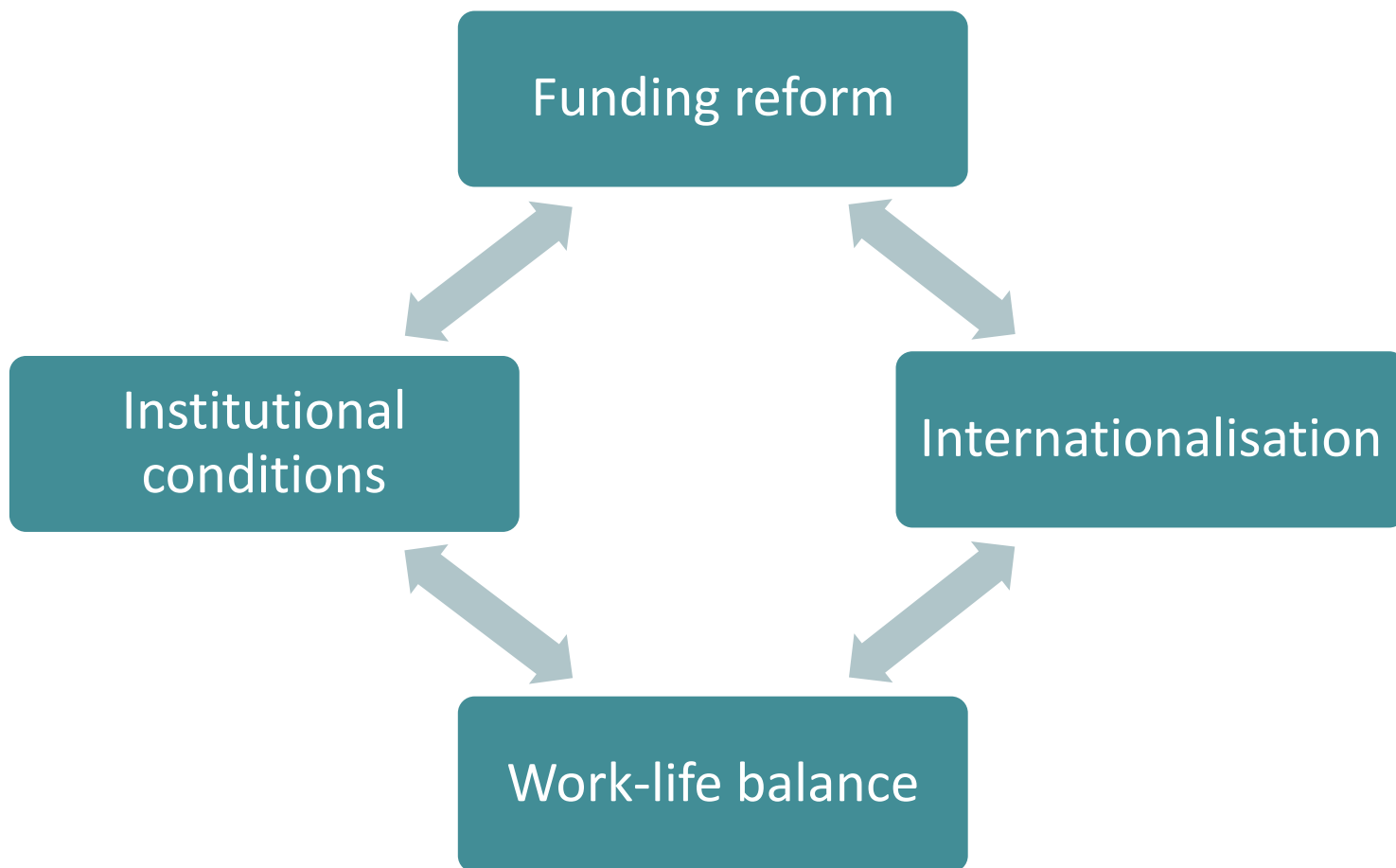


Is your research activity focused solely on your dissertation project?



Source: CZ national PhD students survey, 2014 data

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2021+



Source: <https://www.msmt.cz/areas-of-work/tertiary-education/strategic-plan-of-the-ministry-for-higher-education-for-the>

## FUNDING REFORM: KEY PRINCIPLES

minimum scholarship for full-time PhD candidates is guaranteed

- more transparency, students have their essential expenses covered

expected workload for full-time PhD candidates is set

- candidates dedicate certain amount of time to their studies and research

resources for scholarship are included in the core institutional funding

- institutions are motivated to allocate the funds efficiently

PhD graduation rates are reflected on in HEI budget allocation

- institutions are rewarded for effective support

selective entry, higher graduation rates, stable amount of PhD graduates

- fewer dropouts, stable income

## TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE NEED TO:

### Amend the HE Act

- to create a legal basis for the reform

### Adopt a new ministry regulation

- to guarantee the minimum scholarship levels and main features of full-time

### Amend the Standards for programme accreditation

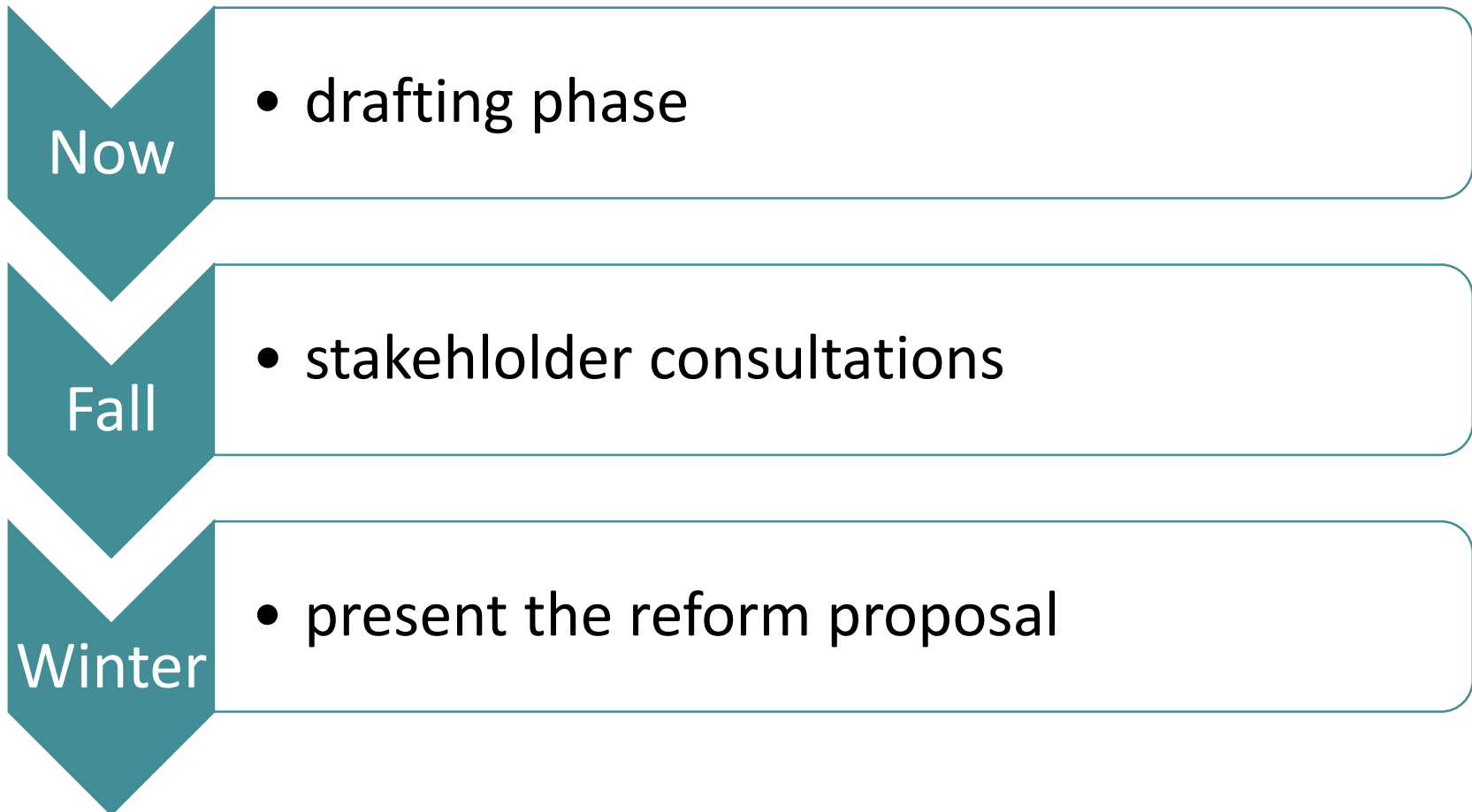
- to specify students' workload and push for greater student support and quality

### Amend the budgeting rules for HEIs

- to implement the reform goals into the indicator structure for core institutional funding



## INDICATIVE TIMELINE



## OTHER MEASURES

- defining the **supervisor's standard** including his/her tasks, the scope of responsibilities and compliance
- creating **doctoral schools**
- launching **ombudsman** for doctoral studies
- defining requirements for the **international mobility**
- strengthen external and **international elements in the evaluation** of learning outcomes and research
- support **childcare services**
- moderation the transition of PhD graduates to subsequent careers

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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