

# Czech Women's Union

& its role in the civil society  
(1990-2012)

Czech Women's Union & its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

## **Brief timeline (1967 – 1989):**

1967 – Establishment of Czechoslovak Women's Union (CSWU)

1969 - Federalization

- Czech Women's Union (CWU)
- Slovak Women's Union (SWU)

CSWU: part of the National Front (coalition of political parties and social organizations).

*Individual membership (c. 600.000 women).*

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**Structure (1967 – 1989):**

- Czechoslovak Council of Women (central governing body)  
(1969: Czech and Slovak Councils of Women and federal body: Czechoslovak Council of Women) ;
- District organizations (district councils of women);
- Local organizations / local units – individual members (local councils of women).

Individual membership on local level; professional/paid staff on district and national/federal levels.

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**Main mission (1967 – 1989)**

- Public policies (esp.family support policies and legislation, also employment, education, public / political representation, specific needs of women in rural regions);
- Local engagement of women (community work / local governance).
- Publishing house (Mona):
  - Periodical publications / magazines
  - Non-periodical publications

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Czech Women's Union & its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Brief timeline (1990 – 2012)**

### **1990/1992**

March **1990**: Establishment of the Czech Women's Union as an independent entity;

Slovak Women's Union transformed into Democratic Union of Women of Slovakia (after 1997: Union of Women of Slovakia);

April 1990: Czechoslovak Women's Union dissolved, its assets redistributed between successor organizations + selected newly established women's NGOs (1991).

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Czech Women's Union & its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Brief timeline (1990 – 2012)**

### **Early 1990s: Search for new mission(s)/ modes of operation, financing etc.**

1992: Transformation of publisher house Mona & its sale;

1992 Establishment of „family school“ Morava in Brno, later transformed into regular high school

(<http://www.sos-morava.cz/>);

High school in Chomutov; etc.

**1992 – c.1997**: all sorts of entrepreneurial activities, businesses and „commercial“ projects also focused on women / services for women;

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Brief timeline (1990 – 2012)****1998 – 2008/2012:**

- Major reorganization (see Structure below);
- Main financial resources stabilised;
- Mission set, major focus shift on women and employment, work-life balance, anti-discrimination, equal opportunities (see below);
- **Focus on project-based operations** (both smaller and large international / EU co-financed projects implemented in partnership with other organizations and institutions);
- Development of counselling centres for women in selected regions;
- 2000: Establishment of Foundation „Žena“ (Woman)  
[www.nadacezena.cz](http://www.nadacezena.cz) .
- 2000/01: Co-founding of Czech Women's Lobby, joint initiation of establishment of The Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2001)

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Structure (1992 – 1997)**

Maintained complex structure with paid staff in the central office and district organizations and its offices:

- Central office (*Central governing body: „Central Council of Women“*);
- District organizations (*„District Council of Women“*);
- Local organizations / local units comprising of individual members/volunteers (*„Council of Local Organization“*).

*Membership: c. 80.000 women*

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**Mission (1992 – 1997)**

**Central level:**

- Social issues (women / family / senior persons);
- Health issues;
- Women and entrepreneurship;
- Equality issues;
- Women in rural areas;
- Women & public / political life = civic participation, support for women-candidates (elections).
- Publications (periodical, conference/seminar proceedings)

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**Mission (1992 – 1997)**

Development of cooperation with NGOs, municipalities, businesses, unions, selected ministries (Labour, Agriculture, Environment) and their councils; development of ad hoc projects (national and later also European).

**Local level (local organizations)**

- Community work;
- Traditions and cultural heritage;
- Leisure time activities (children, youth, women);
- Training / capacity building for women etc.

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Structure (1998 – 2012)**

- Central office (*Central governing body: „Central Council of Women“*);
- Regional organizations and 14 regional offices with paid staff; (Body: „Regional Council of Women“ - volunteers);
- District organizations (Body. „District Council of Women“) – all volunteers;
- Local organizations / local units comprising of individual members/volunteers („Council of Local Organization“).

*Membership c. 18.000 women*

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Mission (1998 – 2012)****Central level:**

- Equal opportunities – labour market, women in decision making positions;
- Work-life balance (incl. services for families, flexible working);
- Social issues (women / family / senior persons);
- Women in rural areas (incl. entrepreneurship);
- Women & public / political life = civic participation (incl. EU-related awareness raising activities in the pre-accession period), support for women-candidates (elections).
- Publications (periodical for members, proceedings, manuals – mostly projects related).

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**Mission (1998 – 2012)**

Cooperation with NGOs, municipalities, businesses, unions, selected ministries (Labour, Agriculture, Environment) and their councils; development and implementation of national and transnational projects in large partnerships both on national and EU-level.

**Local level (local organizations)**

- Community work;
- Traditions and cultural heritage;
- Leisure time activities (children, youth, women);
- Training / capacity building for women, education – women and health, family finances, pension schemes, reforms etc.);
- Weekends for women.

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## Czech Women's Union &amp; its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**CWU today - Summary**

- Main governing documents: Statutes and Programme
- [Structure](#)
- Members: 18.000 women (mostly rural areas)
- Membership of CWU:
  - The Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and its 3 working groups;
  - Czech Women's Lobby;
  - ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World).

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Czech Women's Union & its role in the civil society (1990-2012)

**CWU today - Summary**

- Cooperation: NGOs, municipalities, regional governments;
- Mission (see pages 12 and 13);
- Funding sources:
  - Core assets;
  - Rentals (immovable property);
  - Grants (public funding incl. EU, cross-border projects);
  - Municipal grants for activities on local level;
  - Private gifts and donations;
  - Membership fees.

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**CWU today - Summary**

- Staff: administrative, part-time only (20);
- Governed entities (CWU as a „mother“ / founding entity):
  - High-school Morava in Brno [www.sos-morava.cz](http://www.sos-morava.cz);
  - Nadace Žena (Woman Foundation) in Pilsen [www.nadacezena.cz](http://www.nadacezena.cz) ;
  - Information and Counseling Centre for Women / Family in Havlíčkův Brod (InPC – Vysočina o.p.s.) [www.inpc.estranky.cz](http://www.inpc.estranky.cz) .

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