

Chapter 1

The Czech Republic and Brazil

1.1 Political and diplomatic cooperation

Brazil was the first Latin American country to officially recognise the newly established independent state of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Mutual diplomatic representations were established in 1920 (Czechoslovakia in Rio de Janeiro, at that time the capital of Brazil) and 1921 (Brazil in Prague). However, bilateral relations were minimal, therefore, soon after the opening of the Czechoslovak legation in Rio de Janeiro, the Czechoslovak diplomatic service intended to lower it to the level of a Consulate General. Thanks to the slowly increasing commercial exchange between the two countries, this never happened.¹

Despite its short duration, the period between wars was fundamental for the shaping of mutual relations and cooperation in further decades. Not surprisingly, the trade and economic co-operation were the principal concern of the Brazil–Czechoslovak ties. Several Czechoslovak companies, mostly from the machinery industry, were successful in the Brazilian market of that time.

The diplomatic relations were interrupted in 1939 in consequence of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany in March 1939 and the following creation of the so-called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. However, Brazil never officially recognised neither the “Protectorate” nor the self-declared independent Slovak State, that is, the destruction of Czechoslovakia. It was in 1942, still during World War II, when diplomatic relations were renewed between the Brazilian Government and the Czechoslovak Government exiled in London. Thus, Brazil and Czechoslovakia became war allies and the founding members of the UN in 1945.

¹ Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Příručka o navázání diplomatických styků a diplomatické zastoupení Československa v cizině a cizích zemí v Československu 1918–1985* (Praha: Federální ministerstvo zahraničních věcí, 1987).

The relations during the post-war period were affected by the fact that the two countries appeared on the opposing sides of the Cold War division: Brazil aligned with the USA and Czechoslovakia with the Soviet Union, especially after the Communist takeover of power in 1948. However, even though Brazil declared the local Communist Party illegal in 1947 and soon after severed its diplomatic relations with the USSR, its diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia were never interrupted.² Mutual ties intensified at the beginning of the 1960s, also in consequence of the so-called “New Foreign Policy of Brazil”, through which the Brazilian Government tried to diversify international contacts with strong economic and developmental motivation. In 1960 the diplomatic representations of both Brazil and Czechoslovakia were raised from legations to the level of embassies, and the same year the Brazilian Vice President João Goulart visited Prague.

Due to the Czechoslovak state monopoly on foreign trade until 1989, the desired economic cooperation was significantly linked to the quality of political relations. Thus, despite the occurrence of several diplomatic incidents caused by activities of Czechoslovak foreign intelligence on Brazilian territory, there was mutual interest in the continuations of economic relations.³ Brazil was a valuable source of iron ore and coffee, and Czechoslovakia was a demanded supplier of industrial facilities (like power plants, for instance). It was mainly after 1974, with the new foreign policy doctrine of “ecumenical and responsible pragmatism” of President Geisel’s administration that the political relations were subordinated to the strengthening of economic ties. In 1984, still during the military rule in Brazil, the Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs visited Brazil for the first time.

With the civilian government coming to power in Brazil in 1985 and the process of re-democratisation, the mutual relations got new incentives. Between 1985 and 1986, four Czechoslovak ministers visited Brazil, all of them responsible for economy-related areas (foreign trade, energy, industry and finance); in 1988, the

² For more on the Cold War period relations, we recommend a very nice chapter written by M Pelant, ‘Československo a Brazílie během studené války’, in *Brazílie v souvislostech*, ed. by Š Grausová, A Rudolfová and M Tichý (Praha: Pavel Mervart, 2019) or J Opatrný, M Zourek, L Majlátová and M Pelant, *Las relaciones entre Checoslovaquia y América Latina 1945–1989. En los archivos de la República Checa* (Praha: Carolinum, 2015). None of them is unfortunately available in English.

³ M Pelant, ‘Czechoslovakia and Brazil 1945–1989. Diplomats Businessmen, Spies and Guerrilheiros’. *Central European Journal of International and Security Studies* 7, no 3 (2013), 116–136.

Czechoslovak Prime Minister visited Brazil, and in 1989, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Prague. Several bilateral agreements were signed before the fall of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia in 1989 (on economic, scientific and technological cooperation in 1985; on avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes and income in 1986; and on cultural cooperation in 1989).

The political change in Czechoslovakia after 1989 was accompanied by its opening to multilateral cooperation, on the one hand, and by the strive for its new anchoring in the West European political structures (like the European Communities and the NATO), on the other hand. Lots of effort was put into the transformation from the centrally-planned economy to the free market one, and in consequence of the end of state monopoly in the foreign trade, many formerly promising markets were left behind. In political and economic terms, this period was also turbulent in Brazil. Nevertheless, the first official visit of the Brazilian head of state in Czechoslovakia occurred in 1990 when President Fernando Collor de Mello visited Prague.

In 1992, the Czechoslovak Federation was coming to its end with 1 January 1993 as a starting point of the existence of two new independent states – the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Again, Brazil immediately recognised the new-born Czech Republic. In 1994, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the President-elect, visited Prague, and in 1996 Václav Havel, the President of the Czech Republic, officially visited Brazil. The tradition of mutual visits of the heads of state was later maintained. In 2008, it was the turn of President Lula da Silva to visit the Czech Republic; the following year, the Czech President Václav Klaus visited Brazil. In 2016, President Miloš Zeman headed the official Czech delegation to the opening ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. Zeman, who is a vocal supporter of the economic diplomacy, planned an official visit to several Latin American countries – namely Brazil, Colombia and Mexico – during his first presidential term in the years 2013–2018.⁴ However, due to several factors adverse to the organisation of the trip (including the worsening health condition of the Czech President), it has not happened.

Notwithstanding, the symbolic importance of the highest level of mutual state visits, the centerpiece of bilateral cooperation is the sectorial cooperation with a strong emphasis on commerce, tourism and defence. Ministerial visits

⁴ Lidovky.cz, 'Zeman cestovatel. Vydá se do Jižní Ameriky či Makedonie. A přivítá návštěvu z Číny', November 5, 2015.

are quite frequent, mostly as a part of the Czech economic diplomacy. Two inter-governmental agreements were signed in the last ten years: the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Economic and Industrial Cooperation (2008) and the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Cooperation in Defence Related Matters (2010). Moreover, in 2012, the Czech Ministry for Regional Development and the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of tourism.

Despite the lower intensity of mutual relations compared to other directions of both the Brazilian and the Czech foreign policy, the Czech diplomacy sees Brazil as a leading power of Latin America; this status is underlined also in the most recent “Concept of the Czech Foreign Policy” (adopted in July 2015). This strategic document mentions Brazil four times in the section dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean, always with a note of its increasing global importance – as a member of the G20, BRICS, and due to its status of a strategic partner of the European Union.⁵ The foreign policy concept of the previous right-leaning government from 2011 highlighted the potential of security and military cooperation.⁶ The importance given to the collaboration in defence was confirmed in 2015 when the Czech Republic established an office of Military Attaché to its embassy in Brazil. It is the first and only Czech military attaché in the South American region.

Today, the Czech Republic is represented by its Embassy in the capital Brasília, by the Consulate General in São Paulo, and by ten Honorary Consulates with consular jurisdiction in 11 states of the Brazilian Federation. The number of honorary consulates in Brazil has increased significantly during the last years; however, in 2019, three of them were temporarily closed – Honorary Consulates in Vitória, Curitiba and Blumenau (Consulado Geral da República Tcheca em São Paulo). Brazil is the only Latin American country where the Czech Republic has a Consulate General; also, the number of honorary consulates in Brazil is the highest in the region. São Paulo is also one of seven Latin American cities with an office of the Czech Trade Agency (together with Bogotá, Buenos Aires,

⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, *Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy*, 2015.

⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, *Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy*, 2011.

Mexico City and Santiago de Chile). Since 2005, visa requirements have been abolished for nationals of both states during their tourist stay up to 90 days.⁷

Table 1: List of missions of the Czech Republic in Brazil in 2019

Embassy	Brasília	Federal District
Consulate General	São Paulo	São Paulo
Honorary Consulate	Salvador	Bahía
Honorary Consulate	Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro
Honorary Consulate	Recife	Pernambuco (+ Alagoas, Paraíba)
Honorary Consulate	Porto Alegre	Rio Grande do Sul
Honorary Consulate	Belo Horizonte	Minas Gerais
Honorary Consulate	Vitória	Espírito Santo
Honorary Consulate	Curitiba	Paraná
Honorary Consulate	Blumenau	Santa Catarina
Honorary Consulate	Batayporã	Mato Grosso do Sul
Honorary Consulate	Fortaleza	Ceará

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, *Czech Missions Abroad*, 2019

To sum up, the profile of Brazil in the Czech foreign policy is increasing, especially since 2010. The country is explicitly mentioned in two strategic foreign policy documents adopted by two different governments of the Czech Republic after 2011. The position of Brazil in the Czech foreign policy is determined by the domination of economic interests in mutual relations on both sides. The representatives of the two countries meet in only a few international organisations of a global character. The Czech Republic anchors its foreign policy to the European Union and trans-Atlantic structures, and Brazil has its conception of actuation on the international arena, starting from the regional integration of South/Latin America (like Mercosur, CELAC, or UNASUR) to global ambitions (UN and G20, among others). The common ground for both countries is the effort to diversify its international economic linkages to decrease

⁷ Sbírka mezinárodních smluv, *Dohoda mezi vládou České republiky a vládou Brazílské federativní republiky o částečném zrušení vízové povinnosti* [Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Partial Abolition of Visa Requirements], 2005.

the risk of dependence on just a few destinations for their exports (the EU for the Czech Republic; the USA and the EU for Brazil).

1.2 Economic relations

1.2.1 Trade

The importance of trade and overall economic ties in mutual relations was already mentioned in part above, as were the economic relations in the second half of the 20th century. In this part, we will focus mostly on current economic issues, covering both trade and investments.

Given its size and population, Brazil has always been an essential partner of the Czech Republic (and former Czechoslovakia) in Latin America. Until 2011, Brazil was the number one trade partner in the region, and even though it was surpassed by Mexico since, it remains by far the second-largest trade partner of Czechia in the Latin American region. Brazil currently is, together with the member states of the Pacific Alliance, identified as a key focus of the Czech economic diplomacy in the Latin American region in the Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy issued in 2015.⁸

Mutual trade reached its peak in 2013. The table below clearly shows the impact of the Brazilian economic crisis on it. Starting in 2014, the turnover of the trade declined and only started to rise again in 2017 when the Brazilian economy recovered from the severe economic problems it had faced. Czech exports to Brazil were especially affected as they fell in 2016 to only 61 per cent of the value of 2013.⁹ At the same time, the overall Brazilian imports fell from 239,748 million dollars in 2013 to 137,552 million dollars,¹⁰ which means that the decrease of the Czech exports would copy the proportion of the overall decrease of Brazilian imports. Seemingly, the slow recovery of the Brazilian economy and the continuous economic growth in the Czech Republic enabled further increase in mutual trade, with imports from Brazil surpassing exports from Czechia in 2018.

⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, *Concept*, 2015.

⁹ Businessinfo.cz, 'Brazilie: Obchodní a ekonomická spolupráce s ČR', December 15, 2018.

¹⁰ World Bank, *Brazil Trade Summary 2018*.

Table 1: Mutual trade between Czechia and Brazil between 2013–2018 (thousands of USD)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Exports from Czechia	426,677	382,652	266,224	259,927	281,616	343,899
Imports to Czechia	281,435	303,487	271,384	221,404	240,774	369,610
Turnover	708,112	686,139	537,608	481,331	522,391	713,509
Balance	145,242	79,165	–5,160	38,523	40,842	–25,711

Source: Czech Statistical Bureau, *Data – Počet cizinců*, s. a.

In the table above, one may see that the imports from Brazil to Czechia were more stable than vice versa. That led to a situation of the negative balance of the Czech Republic in 2015, somewhat unusual in mutual trade between the two countries. With the Brazilian economy slowly recovering since 2016, the balance became positive again for Czechia.

As for the trade statistics, it is interesting to compare the data of the Czech Statistical Bureau with the Brazilian counterpart. While the Czech data show 281.6 million USD, the Brazilian ones show 472.1 million of imports of Czech origin, which is 67 per cent more.¹¹ The reason for this difference is the fact that many Czech companies are unable to reach the Brazilian market on their own and often use re-exports through various European countries. For the Czech companies, this situation is also typical in some other Latin American countries, most notably Mexico¹² and is often perceived as negative, as many Czech companies are not able to reach the foreign markets on their own and trade with Latin America through countries like Germany or the Netherlands.

Czech economic interests in Brazil are promoted by the Czech Embassy in Brazil and also by the office of CzechTrade in São Paulo. CzechTrade is the national pro-export agency established to help the Czech companies to open new markets and currently has offices in 40 states around the world.¹³ The Brazilian CzechTrade office was opened in 2004 and was the first such an office in Latin America.

As for the structure of trade between Czechia and Brazil, the Czech exports compose mainly of machinery. Automobile parts, electrical parts and pumps

¹¹ Businessinfo.cz, ‘Brazilie’.

¹² M Hrabálek, ‘Česká republika a Latinská Amerika’, in *Česká zahraniční politika v roce 2016*, ed. by M Kořan (Praha: Ústav mezinárodních vztahů, 2017).

¹³ The web page of CzechTrade can be accessed at www.czechtrade.cz/.

form a large part of mutual trade. Pharmaceuticals are the most important part of the Brazilian exports to Czechia, followed by iron and steel and agricultural products, such as tobacco, coffee, or chicken.¹⁴

One of the critical issues connected to the mutual trade is also the bi-regional trade liberalisation talks between the organisations in which the Czech Republic and Brazil take part – the European Union and Mercosur. Mutual trade liberalisation talks started already in 1999 when the Czech Republic was not part of the European Union. By the time the Czech Republic entered the EU, the talks were stopped and restarted only in 2010.

The Czech Republic belongs to a group of states within the EU that supports the creation of the free trade area between the Union and Mercosur countries. This position is also embraced in the Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy from 2015, where Czechia states it is 'making efforts to move forward negotiations on the FTA'.¹⁵ The deal was made between the European Commission and the Mercosur countries in mid-2019, but its fate remained unclear when this text was being finished. Some of the EU countries – Ireland, Poland, France and Belgium – have sent an open letter to the European Commission quite soon after the announcement of the end of the negotiations, raising concerns against the treaty, mostly on the basis of the vulnerability of agricultural sectors. Some others, such as Austria, criticised the deal later.

Czechia, on the other hand, was a part of a counter-action towards the abovementioned letter. In July 2017 it signed an open letter to the Commission, expressing its support for the deal, together with Germany, Netherlands, Latvia, Sweden, Spain and Portugal.¹⁶ The reason for the governmental support is a strong position of the Czech industry, mostly machinery and automotive. Practically the only criticism of the treaty came from the agricultural circles, where the associations were afraid of the impact of trade liberalisation on the market, mostly in the beef and poultry sector. Brazil was the seventh largest importer of both beef and poultry into the Czech Republic in 2018.¹⁷

¹⁴ Businessinfo.cz, 'Brazílie'.

¹⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, *Concept*, 2015.

¹⁶ Stratfor, 'EU, South America: 7 European Countries Push Brussels to Close Mercosur Trade Deal', June 26, 2019.

¹⁷ B Pánková, 'Zemědělci se bojí levných dovozů z Jižní Ameriky. Cla na hovězí mají být nižší, na drůbeží žádná', *E15.cz*, December 16, 2019.

1.2.2 Foreign direct investments

As for 2019, the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade has not provided the whole amount of the Czech investments in Brazil. Several Czech companies have invested in the country, however. The most important of these are Linet, producer of hospital beds, mmcité, producer of street furniture, SEKO Group, producing steam turbines, or laboratory technique producer Tescan Orsay Holding.

For some of the Czech companies, the Brazilian market proved difficult in the past. One example could be the attempt of a Czech company Česká zbrojovka to invest in the country. The company, as the most significant Czech arms producer, wanted to build a rifle processing plant in the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina as reaching the Brazilian market proved difficult due to the high tariffs on products it produced. Nevertheless, after several years, it decided to stop further attempts, due to the administrative barriers and corruption¹⁸ and also because of the low capacity of its Brazilian counterpart, company RT Trading, to lead the cooperation into the successful building of a mutual assembling plant.¹⁹

So far, the only important Brazilian investment in the Czech Republic is the ownership of Sellier & Bellot, manufacturer of ammunition, by Brazilian ammunition producer Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos. The Czech company became part of the Brazilian one in 2009.²⁰

As for economic cooperation, currently, the most important project is the one between Brazilian aircraft company Embraer and a Czech aircraft company Aero Vodochody. In 2011, they signed a contract on cooperation on KC-390, multi-purpose military transport aircraft of medium size developed mostly by Embraer. Aero mainly supplies rear fuselage sections, crew and parachute doors, emergency doors, hatches and cargo ramps²¹ for the plane that flew for the first time in 2015 as a prototype. The aircraft designed to supply armies or humanitarian missions gained civilian airworthiness certificate in October 2018

¹⁸ Author's interview with the representatives of Česká zbrojovka in June 2016.

¹⁹ J Zatloukal, 'Brazílský projekt České zbrojovky padnul, firma odepsala 17 milionů', *Euro.cz*, January 11, 2016.

²⁰ See more at www.sellier-bellot.cz/spolecnost/.

²¹ A Vondra and Ch Johnstone, 'Aero lands major contract for Brazilian military plane', *Lidovky.cz*, April 14, 2011.

and will go into serial production in the first half of 2019, with tens of planes already been ordered.²²

The low presence of Czech investments in the Brazilian market could be, to a certain degree, explained by the results of an inquiry made by Jiří Kašpar (2016). He interviewed the Czech companies that had experience with the Brazilian market, either as investors or traders. Based on their response, the author lists several problems that make the Brazilian market challenging. Firstly, there are problems of political and economic character, linked to the economic protectionism of the Brazilian governments and the lousy shape of the Brazilian economy in the past years. Secondly, the over-bureaucratisation of the Brazilian public service is extremely time-consuming. Thirdly, the surveyed companies mentioned the cultural specifics and the generally lower reliability of Brazilian partners.²³

The factors mentioned above make the Brazilian market difficult, but several bodies could help Czech companies to overcome them and successfully enter the Brazilian market. Apart from state-led CzechTrade, there is, for example, the Czech–Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, established in 2008. Its main aim is to strengthen economic ties between Czechia and Brazil and gathers several tens of mostly Czech companies.²⁴

1.3 Cultural, educational and scientific cooperation

1.3.1 Czech emigration to Brazil and important Brazilians of Czech origin

Czech compatriots in Brazil form the second-largest Czech compatriotic community in Latin America, just after Argentine. Czech emigration to Brazil started in the early 19th century when Bohemia was a part of the Austro–Hungarian Empire, but a more significant wave of migrants came only in the second half of the 19th century. In 1895, the first Czech compatriotic association in Latin America called Slavia was established in São Paulo and is currently the oldest functioning Czech compatriotic association in Latin America. In July

²² E15.cz, ‘Letoun Embraer KC-390 získal civilní osvědčení, v Aeru se již rozjela sériová výroba’, October 25, 2018.

²³ J Kašpar, *Česko–brazilské obchodní vztahy* (Praha: VŠE, 2016).

²⁴ More about the Chamber can be found at its webpage www.czbrcham.cz/kdo-jsme.aspx.

1915, in cooperation with Slavia, the first printed Czech journal in Latin America called *Slovan* was issued, although it did not last long and probably had only three issues.²⁵ The history of the Czech emigration since the 19th century is nicely covered by the Patriots Museum of Brazilian Emigration, which was established in 2011 in the small village of Náhlov in northern Bohemia by Petr Polakovič.²⁶

Czech migration into Brazil then continued under the “first republic” in Czechoslovakia (1918–1938) and, to a certain extent, during World War II, when Nazi Germany occupied Bohemia and Moravia, the territory corresponding to today’s Czech Republic. According to the Brazilian statistics, 4,795 people came to reside in Brazil between 1922–1937.²⁷

One of the Czechs that fled to Brazil during World War II was Jan Antonín Baťa, younger brother of a successful entrepreneur Tomáš Baťa, who created a world-wide “shoe empire”. Jan Antonín Baťa escaped from Czechoslovakia in 1939 and reached Brazil through the United States. Inspired by the unprecedented growth and development of his hometown Zlín, soon after his arrival, he started to work on his project to build ten new industrial towns in Brazil. However, this intention showed to be too ambitious, since Baťa was able to develop only four of them – Batatuba, Mariápolis, Batayporã, and Bataguassu.²⁸ In post-War Czechoslovakia, Baťa was paradoxically sentenced for collaboration with Nazi Germany in 1947. He allegedly commented on this with the following words: ‘In my homeland, I was sentenced to 15 years of forced labor; so I will serve them in Brazil, and I will contribute to its development.’²⁹ Until his death in 1965, Jan Antonín Baťa lived in Brazil, where he was instrumental to the growth of the local footwear industry.

The most renowned Brazilian of Czech origin by far is President Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira, who ruled the country between 1956–1961 and is renowned for constructing the new Brazilian capital – Brasília. Kubitschek was

²⁵ B Baďura and M Baďurová, ‘Vystěhovalectví z českých zemí do Brazílie před vznikem ČSR’, *Český lid* 82, no 4 (1995), 323–335.

²⁶ The webpage of the museum can be accessed at www.emigrationmuseum.cz/.

²⁷ J Vaculík, *České menšiny v Evropě a ve světě* (Praha: Nakladatelství Libri, 2009), 147.

²⁸ G Capistrano, *As cidades da Companhia Bata (1918–1940) e de Jan Antonin Bata (1940–1965): Relações entre a experiência internacional e a brasileira* (São Carlos: University of São Carlos, 2012); M Čermáková, *Batayporã – Historie*, 2017.

²⁹ iDnes.cz, ‘Před 50 lety zemřel Jan Antonín Baťa. V Brazílii vybudoval imperium’, August 23, 2015.

a grand-grandson of Jan Nepomuk Kubiček³⁰ that came to Brazil from Southern Bohemia in the 1820s of the 19th century.³¹ Kubitschek was born in 1902 in a small city of Diamantina in Minas Gerais, became the Mayor of the city Belo Horizonte and Governor of Minas Gerais state before becoming the President of Brazil in 1956. He would be aware of his Czech heritage and would mention it during several official occasions.³²

The fact that the Kubiček family came from southern Bohemia was the basis for the establishment of a link between Southern Bohemia and Minas Gerais. In 2013, a partnership was signed between the city of Třeboň that is in the heart of the region from which the Kubiček family came and Diamantina, the native town of Juscelino Kubitschek in Brazil.³³

The Czech roots of Juscelino Kubitschek are still subject to the interest of the Brazilian side. In 2013 and 2014, three delegations from Brazil, including parliamentarians from Minas Gerais state, came to the Třeboň region from which his grand-grandfather came. In May 2016, the Brazilian research institute Genomac started a project with the Patriots Museum of Brazilian Emigration and embarked genetical research in the Třeboň region.³⁴

In 2016, the southwestern Bohemian town of Nepomuk and the Brazilian São João Nepomuceno established a partnership (the Brazilian town is named after John of Nepomuk, a Czech saint who was born in Nepomuk in the 14th century). In 2017 and 2018, there was an exchange of delegations composed by representatives of institutions and businesses from the two towns.³⁵

Currently, the most important compatriotic group in Brazil is the Czech–Brazilian Cultural Union (Uniao Cultural Tcheco–Brasileira) based in São Paulo. This organisation is a follow-up organisation of Slavia, founded already at the end of the 19th century, and gathers around 100 members, mostly from the older generation.³⁶

³⁰ The surname Kubitschek is a Germanised version of the Czech form Kubiček.

³¹ I Brož, *Kubitschek. Drama života a záhadné smrti presidenta Brazílie českého původu* (Šternberk: RETI, 2002).

³² iDnes.cz, ‘Prezident Kubitschek postavil Brásílii za tři roky, jeden měsíc a pět dní’, September 9, 2017.

³³ Velvyslanectví České republiky v Brásílii, ‘Třeboň a brazilská Diamantina se staly partnerskými městy’, September 9, 2013.

³⁴ Třeboň City, *Město Třeboň – Ročenka 2016*.

³⁵ São Paulo Consulate, ‘Tradiční oslavy v São João Nepomuceno’, May 31, 2018.

³⁶ Vaculík, *České menšiny*, 252.

The Czech Republic is trying to keep a certain level of interest in the Czech compatriotic community in Brazil. In 2011, three members of the Standing Commission on Compatriots Living Abroad of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic – Tomáš Grulich, Jaromír Jermář and Alena Palečková visited several Czech compatriotic communities in Brazil. In one week, the delegation travelled to Nova Petropolis and Porto Alegre in Rio Grande do Sul, and to Nova Andradina and Batayporá in Mato Grosso do Sul.³⁷

1.3.2 Brazilians in Czechia

The most visible Brazilian footprint in Czechia was the stay of the communist intellectual Jorge Amado in Czechoslovakia between 1949–1952. Amado came to Czechoslovakia after the Brazilian Communist Party (Partido Comunista Brasileiro – PCB) was declared illegal in Brazil in 1947. He resided in the chateau Dobříš in central Bohemia, and during his stay, he had the opportunity to get to know the communist regime in practice. Amado covered his experience with Czechoslovak communism in the book *World of Peace*, published in 1951. However, he distanced himself from this text later and banned its republishing.³⁸ Nevertheless, the stay in Czechoslovakia had an impact on his later views and perception of communism and on his departure from the orthodox communist ideas he previously supported.³⁹

As for 2017, around 800 Brazilians were living in the Czech Republic. Although the number is small overall, there was a fast increase in the last few years. In 2014, there were less than 400 Brazilians in Czechia (Czech Statistical Bureau). The most probable reason for this increase is probably the growth of the Czech economy and the record low unemployment, together with the economic difficulties in Brazil at the same time.

³⁷ São Paulo Consulate, 'Návštěva senátorů u krajanských komunit v Brazílii', November 14, 2011.

³⁸ M Zourek, 'Los viajes de los intelectuales latinoamericanos a Europa Oriental 1947–1956: organización, circuitos de contacto y reflexiones', *Ars & Humanitas* 11, no 2 (2017), 331–347.

³⁹ This shift is nicely covered in the work of M Zourek, *Československo očima latinskoamerických intelektuálů 1947–1959* (Praha: Runa, 2018).

1.3.3 Educational and scientific cooperation

The educational and scientific cooperation between Brazil and the Czech Republic is still strikingly underdeveloped, given the fact that the economic relations have a relatively long tradition. Within the approximation of both countries since the mid-1980s, the governments signed the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (1985) and the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1989); both are still in force and serve as a framework for the cooperation. In 2008, the ministers of education of both countries signed the Arrangement on Cooperation in Higher Education and Science.

Nevertheless, the cooperation between specific institutions is mostly based on bilateral agreements between them. Around half of the 26 public universities in the Czech Republic have a reciprocal agreement with their Brazilian counterparts (mostly in states in the South-East and South of Brazil) on students and academics exchange. Besides, there is a gradually increasing number of Brazilian citizens studying full academic programs at universities in the Czech Republic, half of them as self-funded.

Table 2: Number of Brazilian Citizens studying at Czech Universities, 2008–2018

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Self-funded	2	7	6	12	12	10	14	16	17	20	26
Total	6	15	18	27	27	29	36	36	35	43	60

Source: Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic

In order to promote the academic exchange, the Institute of Czech–Brazilian Academic Cooperation, a private company, was established in 2015 with the support of the Brazilian Ambassador in Prague and the Czech Minister of Education. In 2016, it launched a program of internships for Brazilian students at Czech universities (UNIGOU). The internships last up to two months, and the students are entirely responsible for covering the costs of their stay.

The popular program “Science without Borders” launched by the Brazilian Government in 2011, opened new opportunities for scientific cooperation. Nevertheless, the Czech Republic officially joined the program quite late – in 2014. The program was effectively stopped in 2015 and formally ended in 2017. Thus, the number of Brazilian scholars receiving a scholarship for their research stay in the Czech Republic was quite low compared to other participating countries.

Table 3: Science without Borders: Number of scholars received by Czech institutions

Receiving institution	Doctoral	Post-doctoral	Total
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic	8	0	8
Charles University in Prague	3	1	4
Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague	3	0	3
University of South Bohemia	2	1	3
Palacky University, Olomouc	2	0	2
Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry	0	1	1
Masaryk University	1	0	1
Moravian Museum	0	1	1
Total	19	4	23

Source: www.cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br

In 2019, a new project of Czech–Brazilian cooperation in research and technological development, namely in the area of the so-called Industry 4.0, was launched. Joint call for applied research proposals was open with an allocated budget of up to 3 million USD with the planned start of selected projects’ funding starting with January 2020. On the Czech side, the joint initiative is administered by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TAČR), the public agency for promotion of applied research and cooperation between industry and academia; on the Brazilian side, the Brazilian Company of Research and Industrial Innovation (EMBRAPPI) and the National Service for Industrial Training (SENAI) are part of the initiative.

1.4 Tourism and promotion of cultures

Tourism belongs to those areas of the Czech–Brazilian relations which have a significant potential for further development. Quite surprisingly, the position of tourism in the economies of both countries is alike. According to the World Tourism Organization, the share of receipts from tourism on the total exports of the respective state is below 5 per cent in both cases. Also, the number of arrivals to the country with a purpose other than an activity remunerated from within the country visited was similar (for instance, in 2005, it counted for 6.3 million arrivals in the Czech Republic and 5.3 million in Brazil). However, since 2014 the international tourism measured by arrivals to the Czech Republic has boomed,

reaching 10.1 million in 2017 while the arrivals to Brazil stagnated (6.6 million in 2017). On the other hand, since 2011, Brazil has overcome the Czech Republic in the total number of departures – nationals leaving the country with a purpose other than an activity remunerated from within the country visited.⁴⁰

Thus, despite its small size, the Czech Republic is an internationally attractive tourist destination, and the Brazilian outbound tourism, in general, is growing. The immense diversity of Brazil and its richness in both natural and cultural terms are substantial grounds for its magnetism as a tourist destination. Though, the economic cycle is a decisive factor of tourism dynamics between the two countries. The following table offers data covering the number of visitors in the period of 2012–2017. Notwithstanding the marginal share of visitors from the other state on the total number of international visitors to it (around 1 per cent in case of the Czech Republic and approximately 0.1 per cent in case of Brazil), the most striking feature of the statistics is abrupt ups and downs in the annual change rates. These swings correlate with the economic recession in Brazil in 2015 and 2016 and its unfavourable presentation in the international media (corruption scandals, political instability, economic crisis and increased crime). However, the Brazilian economy slowly recovers, and, at the same time, the Czech economy is experiencing stable growth accompanied by record-low unemployment. Therefore, the effort needs to be put in a bilateral promotion of the countries as a tourist destination.

Table 4: Tourism between the Czech Republic and Brazil (2012–2018)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Brazilian visitors to Czechia	59,782	63,916	68,273	63,312	56,485	63,859	57,685
Annual change (%)	–	6.92	6.82	–7.27	–10.78	13.05	–9.67
Share of total incoming tourism (%)	0.78	0.81	0.84	0.73	0.61	0.63	0.54
Czech visitors to Brazil	7,657	8,066	8,529	8,537	8,346	4,742	5,597
Annual change (%)	–	5.34	5.74	0.09	–2.27	–43.18	18.03
Share of total incoming tourism (%)	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.07	0.08

Source: Statistics from the Czech Statistical Bureau and the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism

On the Czech side, the governmental agency Czech Tourism is in charge of this task. Although its headquarters for Latin America is in Mexico, it has a Public

⁴⁰ World Bank, *6.14 World Development Indicators. Travel and tourism*, 2018.

Relations representative in Brazil (São Paulo). The webpage of the Czech Tourism is also available in the Portuguese language.⁴¹ Together with its counterparts from other Visegrád Group countries, the agency participates in the collective project “Discover Central Europe”, which also targets Latin America. Since the webpage has only a Portuguese version, not a Spanish one,⁴² we can assume that increased attention is given to the Brazilian public. The joint project was re-branded in 2015, and it organises a joint roadshow through various Latin American countries, including Brazil. The target audiences are Latin American buyers and local expert media.⁴³

Another way how to promote the Czech culture in Brazil is to support compatriotic groups and the Czech language courses. Since 2006, a Czech language teacher has been selected by the Czech Ministry of Education to support the compatriotic groups in Brazil with activities including language education, promotion of the Czech culture, and other supportive activities. In 2017, two teachers were active in five municipalities: São Paulo (São Paulo state), Batayporã and Nova Andradina (Mato Grosso do Sul) and Porto Alegre and Nova Petropolis (Rio Grande do Sul).⁴⁴

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⁴¹ The webpage of Czech Tourism can be accessed from www.czechtourism.com.

⁴² The webpage can be accessed from www.discover-ce.eu.

⁴³ Czech Tourism, *Czech Tourism 2017 Annual Report*, 64.

⁴⁴ Dům zahraniční spolupráce, *Program podpory českého kulturního dědictví v zahraničí (krajané, lektori)*, 2017.

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