

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Digital Transition & Smart City

### General Socio-economic Profile

The South Bohemia Region abounds in natural resources such as forests, lakes, protected natural areas, and river sources. Regional industries consist mainly of automotive engineering, woodworking, textile and food processing. Science, research, innovation and education are important to the region. There are several higher education institutions and research organisations that focus on biology research. Local industrial development also places more attention on technological education, research and innovation. The diversified manufacturing industry, the growing high-quality research and innovation institutions, and the top-ranking international science teams and tertiary education are the biggest strengths of the region. Agriculture and tourism also account for a large share of the regional economy, and are included in regional strategies. The agricultural sector adopts innovative approaches and smart solutions for more sustainable and eco-friendly development. The region prepares and regularly updates the Concept of Tourism Development in the South Bohemia Region, which indicates the latest trends in the tourism industry, states the inclination towards sustainable, and low-carbon tourism (such as hiking, cycling, horse-riding and canoeing), and helps prepare tourism packages for visitors.

# South Bohemia



644,083



10,056.79 km<sup>2</sup>



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### Good Practices

The South Bohemia Region relies on smart specialisation in the long term. It has, in line with the OECD definition, combined industrial, educational and innovation policies to prioritise areas for knowledge-based investments, and to focus on the strengths and advantages of the regional economy, including digital management of food supplies, smart agriculture and top research projects. Smart processes have been implemented in precision farming schemes to support regional food products and brands.

### Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Sustainable Agriculture: The primary sector (agriculture, forestry and fishery) plays an important role in the region.
- Tourism & Culture: The South Bohemia Region is the third most visited region in the country, and presents a unique combination of tourist attractions, from natural gems such as the National Park Šumava and numerous protected natural areas, countless hiking paths also for cycling and horse-riding, to spa resorts and wellness facilities. However, it is important that the tourism sector offers high-quality services and convenient infrastructure for sustainable growth. All these aspects have been taken into accounts in the regional tourism strategy. There are certainly good practice examples in China that can be transferred to South Bohemia and vice versa.
- The region is promoting the concept of Smart Accelerator, which is designed to generate smart ideas and interventions in the long term, and to propose activities with high added value. The Smart Accelerator builds upon the strengths of the region and further develops them. It covers activities such as automated and digital agriculture, autonomous crop care (harvest, fertilisation, watering), and automated fish production (feeding, monitoring). Smart solutions are also used in the tourism industry to help better serve visitors and conduct targeted promotional campaigns according to the requirements of the destination management offices.