

**Title of the Project:**

Study of sociotechnical transition of the agrarian sector in the Czech Republic focused on higher sustainability

**Project duration:**

January 2017 – December 2019

**Provider:**

GA ČR

**Project Team:**

Main researcher: Doc. Mgr. Ing. Lukáš Zagata Ph.D.

Co-researchers: Doc., PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D., Mgr. Jiří Hrabák, Ph.D.

**Aims of the Project:**

The general objective of the project is to investigate the sociotechnical transition of Czech agriculture towards its higher sustainability and to explain the emergence, expansion and current success of organic farming and organic food production in the Czech Republic.

**Abstract:**

The research project observes the transformation of the Czech agrarian sector from 1989 to the present date. From a sociological point of view, it analyses the transitional processes that shift agricultural farming and food production towards higher sustainability, against the background of reflexive modernisation. The main focus is on organic farming, which is based on the tradition and ideas of the organic movement. It has historically evolved in the Czech Republic without any link to this social movement. The conceptual framework of the study consists of the theory of transition and what is called the MLP model (multi-level perspective). It examines the interaction between the dominant regime of conventional industrial farming and the innovative initiative in the form of organic farming. Part of the study is an extensive empirical survey to explain the origin of organic farming in the Czech Republic, the specific trajectory of its development, and the conditions under which it uses its transformative potential (i.e. the ability to transform the system of production and consumption into a more sustainable form).