

Annual Technical Report

Reporting the activities defined
in our strategic plans, and the
functions defined for Cochrane
Czech Republic



Activities of the Cochrane Czech Republic in 2023

Priority 1:

Support the production of high quality, relevant, up-to-date systematic reviews, and other synthesized research evidence to inform health decision-making mainly in the selected field of Medicine and Public Health.

Priority 2:

Advocating for evidence in the Czech Republic to inform health decision-making, build greater recognition of our work and become a leading advocate for evidence-informed health care in the Czech Republic.

Priority 3:

Education of medical students and graduate medical doctors about Cochrane collaboration mission, vision, activities, and methods.

Priority 4:

Training of key stakeholders in evidence synthesis and the use of best evidence in decision-making in the Czech healthcare.

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Priority 1

Support the production of high quality, relevant, up-to-date systematic reviews and other synthesized research evidence to inform health decision-making mainly in the selected field of Medicine and Public Health.

For our priority one, we are delighted that Cochrane Czech Republic was newly established at the National Institute of Healthcare Quality and Excellence, which is under the auspices of an Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic and of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic.

The official establishment took place in October at the first-ever NIKEZ conference, where the international centers at the NIKEZ methodological center were inaugurated. These centers were Cochrane Czech Republic, Czech Republic: A JBI Center of Excellence and Czech GRADE Network at NIKEZ.

"The NIKEZ Methodological Center closely cooperates with world leaders in the field of creating systematic reviews, recommended procedures and operative recommendations, which is necessary to fulfill the role of methodological support for the creation of quality recommended procedures and operative recommendations," said Miloslav Klugar, head of the NIKEZ Methodological Center.



International centers of NIKEZ methodological center at NIKEZ conference.

From left: Zoe Jordan, Emma Persad, Jitka Klugarová, Ladislav Dušek, Miloslav Klugar, Vladimíra Těšitelová and Holger J. Schünemann

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In april Cochrane Czech Republic welcomed Cochrane CEO Katherine Spencer. NIKEZ was also very honored, that Catherine Spencer became also a member of NIKEZ International Advisory Board in august.

As part of her visit to the Czech Republic, Catherine Spencer met the director of the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, Ladislav Dušek at the Ministry of Health in Prague, where he and Miloslav Klugar discussed the important role of Cochrane parties in supporting the creation of national guidelines and rapid recommendations. Catherine Spencer did not hide her enthusiasm for the activity of the Czech center, which methodically supports the creation of guidelines and rapid recommendations in the Czech Republic. According to her, this is an exemplary model of how the center should cooperate with health policy. She also expressed her support for the prospective publication of rapid reviews, which would serve as a basis for rapid recommendations in the prestigious Cochrane library.

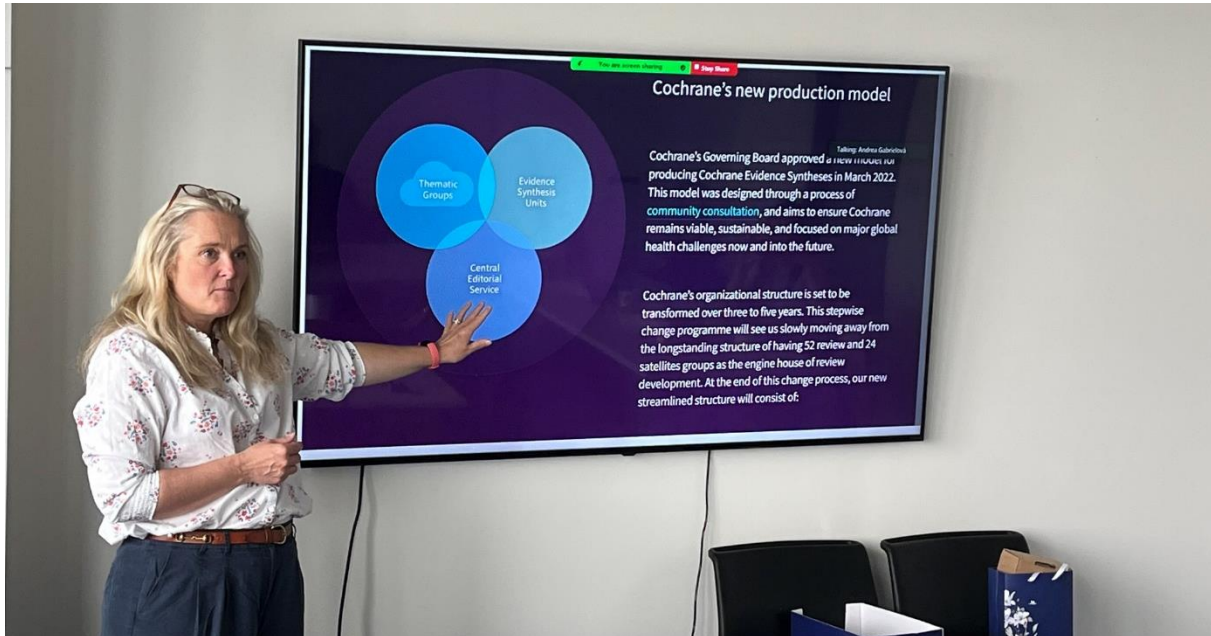
Another topic of the conversation was the consideration of the use of the conclusions of robust, independent and high-quality Cochrane systematic reviews, which are always published together with so-called Plain Language Summaries, which are approximately 700 words long and summarize all the essential outputs review. All meeting participants agreed that this unique form of Cochrane review output could be a suitable resource for National health information portal.



*Meeting with Catherine Spencer.
From left: Andrea Pokorná, Miloslav Klugar, Catherine Spencer and Sabrina Khamissa.*

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The meeting was planned for the purpose of deepening Cochrane cooperation, primarily in the area of creating national recommended procedures and the creation of Cochrane systematic reviews, but also for the purpose of consolidating and further expanding activities within the Cochrane methodological groups, where members of the Czech Cochrane Center are engaged. Miloslav Klugar presented the activities of the Czech Cochrane Center since its foundation, and Cathrine Spencer presented the new Cochrane development strategy.



Catherine Spencer presentation during her visit in Prague

A very good mutual finding was the fact that Cochrane Czech Republic is already successfully implementing most of the activities within the framework of the new Cochrane strategy. Furthermore, there was a very constructive discussion about mutual expectations and the support of the Central Cochrane Team to the activities of the domestic Cochrane Center in the Czech Republic. The most important activity of Cochrane Czech Republic in the field of "knowledge translation" in the Czech Republic, but also in Central Europe, is undoubtedly the Global Evidence Summit.

In the end of the year Dr. Klugar provided guidance and support to Prof. Zachary Munn, who applied with his team for Cochrane Evidence Synthesis Unit. Dr. Klugar is senior member of this ESU.

Priority 2

Advocating for evidence in the Czech Republic to inform health decision-making, build greater recognition of our work, and become a leading advocate for evidence-informed health care in the Czech Republic

The Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic and the NIKEZ methodological center are also very pleased to host **the Global Evidence Summit** in 2024. After event being postponed due to the pandemic, with the support of many national and international collaborators, including Cochrane, we were thrilled to begin the preparations for this global event in 2023. All relevant and important stakeholders from the field of healthcare, research, and education were contacted to support us in this bid, and we are proud and humble to achieve their trust. This event will be a great place to represent and promote Cochrane's work and collaboration with a large international audience.



Director and his deputy directors of Cochrane Czech Republic represented and promoted Cochrane in several workshops and conferences during the year of 2023 to advocating for Evidence-Based Medicine and to inform health decision-making.



Members of GES 2024 Global Organising Committee after the meeting at Cochrane Colloquium
From left: Sabrina Khamissa, Amir Qaseem, Bianca Pilla, Jitka Klugarová, Miloslav Klugar, Zoe Jordan, Catherine Spencer, Will Moy, Gavin Adams and Klára Bouzková

Jitka Klugarová and Miloslav Klugar were looking forward to presenting their abstracts at **the 30th Cochrane Colloquium in London**. Jitka Klugarová presented one of the National guidelines in her **Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.**

presentation “Breastfeeding support and avoiding inappropriate breastmilk substitutes marketing in a neonatal ward in the Czech Republic: Best Practice Implementation Project” and Miloslav Klugar introduced ways of educating healthcare professionals, academics and students in Evidence-Based Research in presentation named “The Evidence Based Research Training School”. They both also attended Global Organizing Committee meeting. Cochrane Colloquium was also great opportunity to promote Global Evidence Summit. Member of NIKEZ and Global organizing committee Klára Bouzková was available to visitors and answered their questions about the upcoming summit.

Our team also had the opportunity to present Global evidence summit in Edinburgh at **GIN 2023 Hybrid Conference**, in Adelaide at **JB I IGNITE conference** and in Ottawa at **What Works Global Summit 2023** organized by Campbell Collaboration.

Our members promoted Global Evidence Summit also nationally, especially at the first-ever **NIKEZ conference**, where the Cochrane Czech Republic was newly established. And many other local conferences, where dr. Klugar and his team members were invited as speakers or were on the program.

At the NIKEZ conference on behalf of Cochrane spoke Emma Persad, member of Cochrane executive board, who is also involved in the production of Cochrane Reviews, with research and outreach for the Rapid Reviews Methods Group.

To disseminate information and news from Cochrane and promote Cochrane activities locally we have translated some of the Cochrane newsletters, important Cochrane news. We distributed them among our members, and they distributed them among their colleagues in the workplaces, hospitals, and universities.

Social media are also applied to propagate Cochrane reviews and news locally.

Miloslav Klugar and Jitka Klugarová are members of GRADE Working Group (GRADE Adolopment, GRADE for Public Health, GRADE for Evidence to Decision Framework, Actualization and Adaptation of guidelines, Rapid guidelines, etc.). Cochrane is applying to their reviews GRADE thus they indirectly contributed to the development of the methodology focus on the certainty of evidence that is used in Cochrane reviews.



Emma Persad at the NIKEZ conference

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Priority 3

Education of medical students and also graduates medical doctors about Cochrane collaboration its mission, vision, activities, and methods.

Up until June, there was an Erasmus+ project **Evidence Implementation in Clinical Practice**. This project was focused on strengthening partnership between German, Czech, Polish and Croatian healthcare institution in Evidence Implementation and Translation approaches. The partners were from Cochrane Czech Republic, Cochrane Croatia, Cochrane Poland and Germany. Priority was to increase knowledge and skills in the best Evidence-Based approaches in implementation science between project partners. Universities involved in this project were a combination of universities that are focused on Evidence based health care: Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Medical University of Brandenburg and University of Split.



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

All members of Cochrane Czech Republic, including new members were trained in EBHC, Cochrane reviews and GRADE methods.

Dr. Klugar was lecturing about EBHC and Cochrane reviews and methods within two PhD programs at Palacký University Olomouc (Health Sciences and Education).



Members of NIKEZ methodological team.

From left: Miloslav Klugar, Klára Bouzková, Andrea Pavlíková, Tereza Vrbová, Jitka Klugarová, Pavla Drapáčová, Daniel Šárovec, Dagmar Tučková, Lucia Kantorová, Dana Vigašová and Ladislav Dušek

In the second half of the year 2023, we employed two new information specialists Jana Kopečná and Daniel Šárovec, who were intensively trained for this position. During a few months, they were able to work independently and showed a big interest in this field.

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Ongoing result of the efforts from the last years is a follow-up master's studies program: **Public Health**, which received the accreditation of this program for 7 years in 2020 at the Faculty of Medicine at Masaryk University. The key area of this study program includes the Evidence-Based Healthcare, and thanks to this, students will learn how to create, interpret and use the systematic reviews, and clinical practice guidelines, they will learn how to implement assessments to the highest standards of health technology assessment. Students of this program will be trained in the development of Cochrane reviews.

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Priority 4

Training of key stakeholders in evidence synthesis and the use of best evidence in decision-making in the Czech healthcare

There were several aspects of fulfilling our last, but not least, priority. Our methodological team underwent series of courses and training. For Czech healthcare professionals there were lectures, talks and workshop at the first NIKEZ conference.

Education of our methodological team was conducted on multiple occasions. Every workshop lasted multiple days and included several topics.

One of the workshops was related to conducting of systematic review. Team members were educated very thoroughly on topics such as

- main principals of conducting systematic review,
- methodology and eligibility criteria
- creating a well build clinical question,
- formats of clinical questions (PICO, PIRD, PEO, PICO),
- study designs and their appropriate use,
- creating a search strategy,
- screening of the recovered studies,
- critical appraisal of the recovered studies,
- reading of a meta-analysis and conducting one.

Separate workshop was created regarding GRADE approach.

The next training covered creating a guideline or rapid recommendation. Main topics were

- formal requirements – registering the protocol, determining all stakeholders and panel of experts, filling in a conflict of interest etc.,
- methodology,
- determining clinical questions,
- different ways of creating a guideline or rapid recommendation – adolpment, adaptation, adoption or creation de novo,
- health equity and implementation.

Education and training of other key stakeholders was covered also at NIKEZ conference. Topics that resonated the most were widely discussed topic of newly established Central registry of guidelines and rapid recommendations, which is Czech equivalent to Cochrane´s protocols and methodological aspects of creating guidelines and rapid recommendations.

At the conference, there was also workshop available after registration. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. presentation on the individual steps during preparations of guidelines and rapid recommendations
2. presentation on registration of guidelines and rapid recommendations in the Central Registry and registration of protocols
3. analysis of the new methodological approach GRADE-adolpment on specific recommendations

There were also introduced basics of GRADEpro software. Everything presented was also shown on examples and workshop included practical exercises.

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Cochrane Czech Republic is preparing at the moment strategic grant proposal together with postgraduate institutions in the Czech Republic for systematic training of healthcare professionals in EHBC and Cochrane methods.

Papers published in 2023 by members of Cochrane Czech Republic:

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<https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.28771>
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<https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1613>
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21(S1), S1-S8. <https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000387>

Impact Factor 2,3

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<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjebm-2022-111962>

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9. ELLIOTT, Sarah A.; SCOTT, Shannon D.; CHARIDE, Rana; PATTERSON-STALLWOOD, Lisa; SAYFI, Shahab; MOTILALL, Ashley; BABA, Ami; LOTFI, Tamara; ŠUVADA, Jozef; KLUGAR, Miloslav; KREDO, Tamara; MATHEW, Joseph L.; RICHARDS, Dawn P.; BUTCHER, Nancy J.; OFFRINGA, Martin; POTTIE, Kevin; SCHUNEMANN, Holger J.; HARTLING, Lisa. (2023). A multimethods randomized trial found that plain language versions improved parents' understanding of health recommendations. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 161, 8-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2023.06.018>

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<https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000381>

Impact Factor 2,3

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2023.04.018>

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<https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000400>

Impact Factor 2,3

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BUTCHER, Nancy J.; OFFRINGA, Martin; ELLIOTT, Sarah; RICHARDS, Dawn P.; MATHEW, Joseph L.; AKL, Elie A.; KREDO, Tamara; MBUAGBAW, Lawrence; MOTILLAL, Ashley; BABA, Ami; PREBEG, Matthew; RELIHAN, Jacqueline; SCOTT, Shannon D.; ŠUVADA, Jozef; FALAVIGNA, Maicon; KLUGAR, Miloslav; LOTFI, Tamara; STEVENS, Adrienne; POTTIE, Kevin; SCHUNEMANN, Holger J. (2023). Knowledge mobilization activities to support decision-making by youth, parents, and adults using a systematic and living map of evidence and recommendations on COVID-19: protocol for three randomized controlled trials and qualitative user-experience studies. *Trials*, 24(1), 1-13.
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20. LAFARGA-MOLINA, Laura; ALBORNOS-MUÑOZ, Laura; GONZÁLEZ-MARÍA, Esther; VRBOVÁ, Tereza; MORENO-CASBAS, María Teresa; KLUGAR, Miloslav; KLUGAROVÁ, Jitka (2023). Delirium risk screening and assessment among older patients in general wards and the emergency department: a best practice implementation project. *JBI Evidence Implementation*, 21(S1), S9-S18. <https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000393>
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Impact Factor 4,8

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<https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines11081368>
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