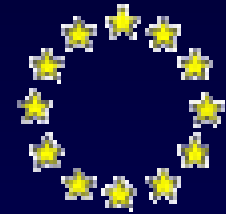


LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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CZECH REPUBLIC

- Joined European Union as of May 1, 2004
- Adopted European Union law
- EU Directive 98/5 implemented

Some useful links:

www.cak.cz (Czech Bar Association)

www.chambersandpartners.com

(useful info about Czech legal market)

www.czech.cz

(more practical info about the Czech Republic)



PERSONS ENTITLED TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

1) Attorneys

- any person registered on the **List of Attorneys** maintained by the Czech Bar Association
- foreign lawyers (i.e., lawyers from countries other than EU member states) might be registered on the List of Attorneys, however, they are entitled to provide legal services only in the area of international law and the law of the country in which they are qualified

2) European lawyers

- any person who is a national of an EU member state and who is authorized to pursue his professional activities under professional title of such member state
- must register with the Czech Bar Association

ATTORNEYS (1)

Czech Bar will register on the **List of Attorneys** following persons:

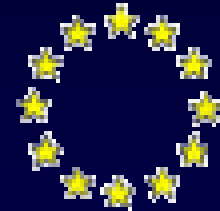
- **“Czech” lawyers**
 - master’s degree in law from the Czech university (law degree from foreign university might be recognized)
 - 3 years of legal training in the Czech Republic (other legal experience might be recognized)
 - Czech bar exam (other similar legal exam might be recognized)
- **Foreign lawyers**
 - must certify qualification to provide legal services in foreign country
 - must pass “recognition exam” – requirements: basic knowledge of Czech law, Czech rules of professional conduct, possible to take the exam in foreign language
 - and again...foreign lawyers are entitled to provide legal services only in the area of international law and law of the country in which they are qualified

ATTORNEYS (2)

Czech Bar will register on the **List of Attorneys** the following persons:

- **European lawyers**
 - European lawyers settled in the Czech Republic
 - must certify that they provided legal services in the Czech Republic for 3 years in the area of Czech law
 - if lawyer cannot certify that he provided legal services in the area of Czech law, then he is interviewed by the commission of the Czech Bar Association (if he shows that his knowledge of Czech law, rules of professional conduct and his experience is sufficient he might be registered)
 - European lawyers who have not practiced in the Czech Republic yet
 - must certify they are qualified in an EU member state
 - must pass “qualification exam”, requirements: knowledge of Czech law, rules of professional conduct, exam must be taken in Czech or Slovak language

EUROPEAN LAWYERS



- **European lawyers** (not registered on the List of Attorneys)
 - implemented EU Directive 98/5
 - can settle in the Czech Republic and provide legal services there
 - must register with the Czech Bar Association before commencement of practice – registered on the List of European Attorneys (no exam, must provide certificate attesting to his registration with the competent authority of his home EU member state)
 - can advise in the area of Czech law – in certain issues (e.g., criminal procedure) must appoint consultant in the area of Czech law

CZECH LEGAL MARKET (1)

- Relatively new market
- Established in early 1990's
- Still forming
- Privatization "Gold Times" finished
- Players:
 - International firms – US, UK, German
 - high profile deals, western standards, western fees
 - Major local firms
 - their power seems to grow, very good quality, lower fees
 - Small local firms and sole practitioners
 - good for litigation, administrative proceedings and local projects (well connected)



CZECH LEGAL MARKET (2)

Prospective areas:

- Public Private Partnerships (PPP), Project Finance
- European Union Law
- M&A – increased activity of private equity funds
- Banking & Finance, Capital Markets



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

