



# Lawyers training systems in the EU

## Czech Republic

Information provided by: Czech Bar Association (Česká advokátní komora / ČAK)

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in the Czech Republic

#### 1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration with the Bar (Candidate profiles are assessed by the Bar Advisory Committee for Review of Legal Education in case the degree has been acquired abroad – “The Committee”. Members of the committee are lawyers who hold high academic positions, Deans of Faculties and Vice-Rectors of Universities)</li> <li>• Traineeship of a legal trainee – This term describes the induction period (<b>3 years</b>) during which all legal trainees have to do their professional training by a lawyer or Company or Foreign Company. The purpose of the traineeship is to work under the supervision of an experienced practising lawyer in order to obtain the necessary knowledge and experience for practising law.</li> <li>• Examination (<b>organised by the Czech Bar Association</b>)</li> <li>• Trustworthiness</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative routes to the profession:</b> The following examinations are considered as equivalent to the Bar examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional judicial examination;</li> <li>• judiciary examination;</li> </ul>	

- unified judiciary examination;
- unified judiciary and Bar examination;
- Qualifying exam for Prosecutors;
  - final examination for prosecuting attorneys (**státní zastupitelství**);
- arbitration examination;
- notarial examinations;
- [licensed executors'](#) examination (court bailiff)

## 2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	<b>Legal basis:</b> According to the Section 5 (1) (c) of the <a href="#">ACT No. 85/1996 Sb. of 13<sup>th</sup> March 1996 on the Legal Profession</a> , as amended, “the Bar shall admit to the Bar by entering his name in the Register of Lawyers upon a written application, any person who, inter alia, has participated in professional training as a legal trainee for a <b>minimum of three years</b> ”.
Compulsory	YES	<b>Set length:</b> <b>Minimum 3 years</b>
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar Association: the Bar Association organises the compulsory training courses for legal trainees</li> <li>• Professional training in a law office or a company or a foreign company in order to obtain knowledge and experience on the legal profession (under the supervision of a lawyer)</li> </ul>	
Form of induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice; and</li> <li>• Training on non-legal professional skills; and</li> <li>• Training on legal professional skills</li> </ul>	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check / Verification of diploma</li> <li>• Evaluation of a written application</li> <li>• Interview (for applicants to law firms)</li> </ul> <p>Upon evaluation, candidates enter the <b>Register of Legal Trainees</b> of the Bar.</p>
Set curriculum during induction period	No set curriculum	There are courses organised by the Bar. The content and quality of training mainly depends on the training supervisor (a lawyer) as well as on his legal expertise.

		<p><b>Access training (mandatory seminars during the induction period)</b></p> <p>Topics and mandatory seminars organised by the Bar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 half-day seminars in Private law</li> <li>• 6 half-day seminars in Public law</li> <li>• 6 half-day seminars in Criminal law</li> <li>• 2 half-day seminars in legal consultancy, contracts and in lawyer's skills which are necessary for practising law.)</li> </ul> <p>12 half-day seminars – optional seminars with facultative topics</p>
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	NO	<p>EU law training depends on the expertise of the training supervisor.</p> <p>The mandatory seminars organised by the Bar normally include EU law aspects and Czech law is heavily influenced by EU law.</p> <p>There are also many optional EU law seminars offered.</p>
Induction period divided into different stages	NO	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through written exams</li> <li>• Through oral exams</li> </ul>
<b>3. Continuous training system</b>		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO	<p>There is no continuous/specialisation training system</p>
Obligations regarding continuous training	NO	<p>Continuous training is not mentioned either by state law or internal regulations.</p> <p>The onus is on the individual lawyer to undertake training in order to specialise in a specific field and to choose the most suitable training for his field of practice.</p> <p>A lawyer may be admitted in the Bar registry as a “general practitioner” but there is also a list of 61 specialisations published by the Bar.</p>
Obligations regarding specialization training	NO	<p>Specialisation training is not mentioned either by the state law or internal regulations</p>

Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligations	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialisation training	No obligations	
<b>4. Accreditation systems and training providers</b>		
Possibility for accreditation	N/A	
Number of training providers offering accredited continuous training activities	N/A There are no available official figures from the Czech Bar Association	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	<p>There is no accreditation system for training providers.</p> <p>However, training is offered by the Czech Bar Association, Universities, judges and legal professionals invited to deliver training, and other private training providers (e.g. the <a href="#">Agency BOVA</a>: this Agency operates in the area of education of adults since 1991. The BOVA agency entirely cooperate with top experts from the fields of business, procedural, criminal, construction, labour and Administration law and with specialists of other qualifications.</p> <p>The Agency BOVA is accredited by the International Education Society, London and participants may obtain the <a href="#">international certificate IES</a>)</p> <p>Czech lawyers may voluntarily choose continuous training activities organised by various training providers.</p>	
<b>Activities and methods</b>		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous training	N/A	<p><b>Participation in training activities in other Member States:</b></p> <p>As there are not continuous training obligations, there is no specific system for assessing the participation in training activities taking place in other Member States. Lawyers can freely choose to take part in such activities</p>

**5. Supervision of training activities**

Organisations involved in supervising continuous training activities	There is no supervision system in the Czech Republic However, the <b>Czech Bar Association</b> , as a main training provider of voluntary continuous training, evaluates its own training activities, for example, the participating lawyers, analysis of the intended lawyers' needs, gaps in the existing offer etc.
Supervision process	N/A

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 2 – Study on the state of play of lawyers training in EU law*", carried out by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)