

The Czech Republic

(iii) Expedited patent examination mechanisms at the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (the IPO CZ)

The Czech Republic is making a continuous effort to increase the patent activity of Czech applicants in foreign countries.

In case of the first filing of the patent application in the Czech Republic, the IPO CZ has introduced an effective specific assistance in providing search reports in Czech and English, and in a structure corresponding to the standards of the European system.

These search reports are provided to patent applications filed **together** with the requests for substantive examination. In practice, it means that such a search report is issued within 7 months from filing an application provided the above-mentioned conditions are met.

The search reports are available well in advance before the expiration of the 12-month priority period for filing abroad. Thus, applicants can decide in a more qualified way whether to file an application for the technical solution also abroad as well as they can more realistically estimate the outcomes of foreign patent proceedings, based on the search results.

The submission of a search report and approved patent claims can expedite the patent proceedings before foreign patent offices with which the Czech IP Office has agreed on the respective PPH cooperation.