



PORTOS

Strategic
Legal Advisory

2023 Yearbook

Preface and a Look Back at 2023	4
Milestones in 2023	5
Summary Data for 2023	8
Corporate Social Responsibility	14
Service and Product Portfolio	18
PORTOS, Strategic Legal Advisory	28
Contact Details	31

Contents



Ladies and Gentlemen,

On Sunday 19 May 2024, we were all deeply saddened by news of the death of Pavel Smutný, a founding partner of PORTOS, a passionate art lover, and my long-standing friend. He succumbed to cancer, which he fought valiantly until the end. His legacy and the sheer body of work he left behind, not only within the legal profession, but also across a wealth of projects aimed at developing culture, business and society, remain with us. Pavel wrote the foreword to our Yearbook the last few years. This year was to be no different. Out of respect for him and to honour his memory, we have decided to keep to the original plan and publish the text he authored for the preface unaltered.

**Jaromír Císař,
on behalf of the firm's owners**

Dear Friends, Clients, Partners, and Colleagues,

Everything you read on the pages that follow describes what 2023 was like for us. And what a productive year it turned out to be.

Figures and statistics are considered a measure of success and, indeed, we will present them to you here. But before we get to them, let's first peer behind the scenes and take a look at what can't be put into numbers. At what those numbers mean to us.

The past year was dominated by plans, discussions, decisions, and preparations for big changes. After more than 30 years in business, our firm embarked on a significant rebranding journey. After much thought and a lot of creativity, we landed on a new name and, since 1 March 2024, we have been known as PORTOS.

The change of name is part of a transformation that symbolises a new chapter for our company, one that we have been working towards for a long time. It has been a fair while since we moved beyond the confines of legal services to embrace international strategic legal advice for management. The new name has added substance and clarity to our efforts to modify and refine our services. The growing demand from clients for strategic legal advice has helped to forge the PORTOS brand and will continue to build and shape it into a more comprehensive solution.

As in the past 31 years, we want to be a safe haven where you can drop anchor with confidence. PORTOS stands for the continuum that began with Professor Češka, bridging generations with enduring values. It is a place where a dynamic approach to new challenges blends with years of tradition, because

our integrity is constant. The name change also reflects a changing of the generational guard, with a number of our talents making their voices heard and claiming their rightful place in the firm's leadership.

In 2023, we recorded our highest ever revenue of CZK 528.4 million. A plethora of awards, including Law Firm of the Year in Corporate Law and PRO BONO & CSR, attest to our success. In the 2023 Top Employers poll, our firm ranked fourth in the Employer of the Year category. For us, looking after and training our employees is of paramount importance. We are committed to their long-term development and career growth. Our aim is to create a sturdy, quality base for them.

Other key areas threading down through the firm's 31-year history are sustainability and cultural impact. We provide strategic ESG preparation for our clients and concentrate on the sustainability of their projects. We have long been supportive of culture and the arts. Our firm takes great pride in reaching beyond the boundaries of the legal profession. The Bohemian Heritage Fund, founded by the firm's owners in the belief that culture enriches and cultivates society, has been supporting the arts for 15 years now. At the Prague Chamber of Commerce, we are engaged in issues that are pivotal for our capital city, be it transport or infrastructure.

As we look back, we want to have a history of experiences that make us better, a scrapbook of beautiful, quality memories; as we look forward, we are embarking on a new and exciting phase with you.

Pavel Smutný



The page features several thin, solid red lines of varying lengths and orientations scattered across the light beige background. These lines are positioned in the upper and middle sections of the page, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern.

Milestones in 2023

For our company, 2023 was a year of remarkable accomplishments and compelling moments that served as a reminder of the power of collaboration and resilience. The following chapter charts the seminal events that shaped our journey. On the way, it takes in the award naming us a Top Employer of the Year in January, the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of our founding in March, and the November benefit concert in support of the completion of the organ in Saint Vitus' Cathedral.

January

Partner Markéta Flanderková was recognised as one of the leading women in the Czech legal profession.

Our office was ranked fourth in the Top Employer of the Year rankings.

March

Our firm celebrated its 30th anniversary on 1 March 2023.

Milan Kučera was named a new partner.

May

Our firm was named the 2022/2023 Law Firm of the Year in the Pro Bono category.

Owner Petr Michal joined the board of directors of the Czech Chamber of Commerce.

February

Owner Pavel Smutný became the first Czech ever to receive the prestigious Jerusalem Award.

Owner Petr Michal was re-elected as the chair of the board of directors of the Prague Chamber of Commerce.

April

To mark the firm's 30th anniversary, we organised a Blues Brothers concert for students of the Faculty of Law at Charles University.

June

Owner Jaromír Císař's book *Moc a síla prezidentů Francouzské republiky* (The Power and Strength of the Presidents of the French Republic) was launched at Municipal House.

The Czech Club was officially opened at Municipal House.

The celebrations of our firm's anniversary climaxed at the Divadlo v Dlouhé Theatre and the arcade next door.

September

A new legal team, headed by senior lawyer Barbora Vlachová, was set up to specialise in cybersecurity and IT law.

Following the precedent of the firm's concert in Prague, we organised another one, this time for students of the Faculty of Law at Palacký University in Olomouc.

November

Our firm topped two categories in the 2023 Law Firm of the Year competition.

We defended our primacy in the Pro Bono category for the tenth time and won the Corporate Law category for the first time.

The fourth benefit concert in support of the completion of the organ in Saint Vitus' Cathedral was held. The live broadcast on Czech Television and Czech Radio had an audience of over a hundred thousand and raised more than 1.2 million crowns.

October

The commentary on the Whistleblower Protection Act, written by partners Kateřina Šveřepová and Markéta Flanderková, the senior lawyer Barbora Vlachová, and Matěj Dědina, was published.

December

Partner Kateřina Šveřepová was elected president of the Czech Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Partner Markéta Flanderková and senior lawyer Barbora Vlachová were included in the prestigious list of the Top 100 Women in the Czech Legal Industry for 2023 (Markéta in the M&A, Corporate Law & Private Equity category and Barbora in the Telecommunications, Media, IT & IP category).

We held our traditional Christmas concert at the Rudolfinum, where we unveiled the PORTOS rebranding plan to our clients and friends.



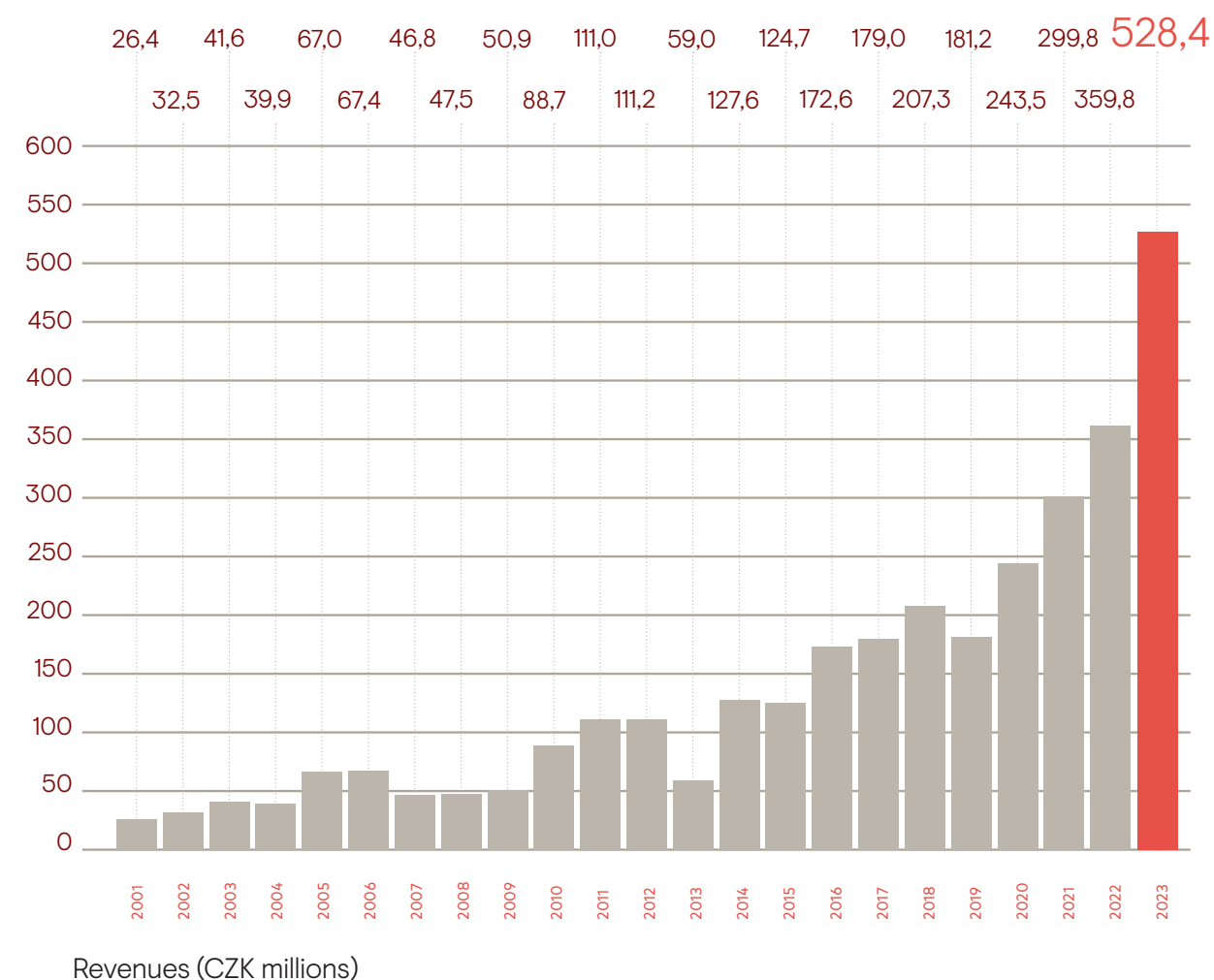
The firm's 30th anniversary. Divadlo v Dlouhé Theatre. Dance Centre Prague.

Summary Data for 2023

As our clients grow, so do we

Our company has long kept to an upward trajectory in many economic and other indicators. This trend continued in the past year, when, for the first time, our revenues surpassed half a billion crowns, an increase of almost half compared to the previous year. The resultant figure was equal to the sum of the firm's revenues from 2001 to 2010.

This strong performance was made possible, in part, by continued and systematic increases in the headcount, which allowed us to create new specialised legal teams, broaden our range of services, and thereby expand our client base. As a result, in the last year we were able to produce more than 1,100 legal analyses, oversee the closing of deals worth more than three quarters of a trillion crowns, and manage client wealth of more than half a billion euros in trust and endowment funds.



Work for clients

We're a strategic partner on the road to success

Our long-term growth is driven by the enduring trust of the clients who seek our services. Our client base increased by more than half year on year, accompanied by a rise in the case-load by approximately 34% on 2022, climbing from 618 to 830. Both indicators were reflected in the number of hours worked, which went up by roughly a third. Our clients are now served by more than 140 colleagues. This is a guarantee of a high standard of service and an individual approach to each client.

233 clients

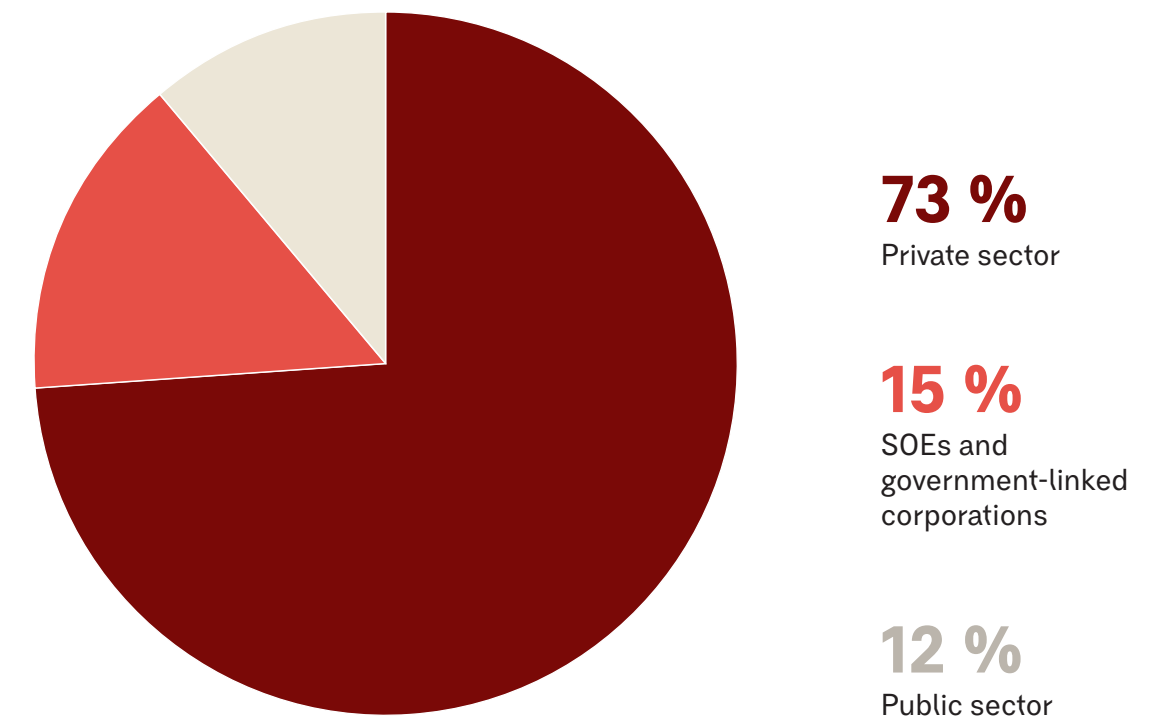
830 cases

175,848 hours worked

Who our clients are

Our legal services and specialist advice are underpinned by high standards. Whether they are dealing with the private or public sector, our lawyers are always able to bring all their expertise and knowledge of the law to bear in a way that is tailored to the specific client. And that includes an international dimension, because in today's globalised world everything is interconnected, compelling us to keep expanding our know-how and horizons.

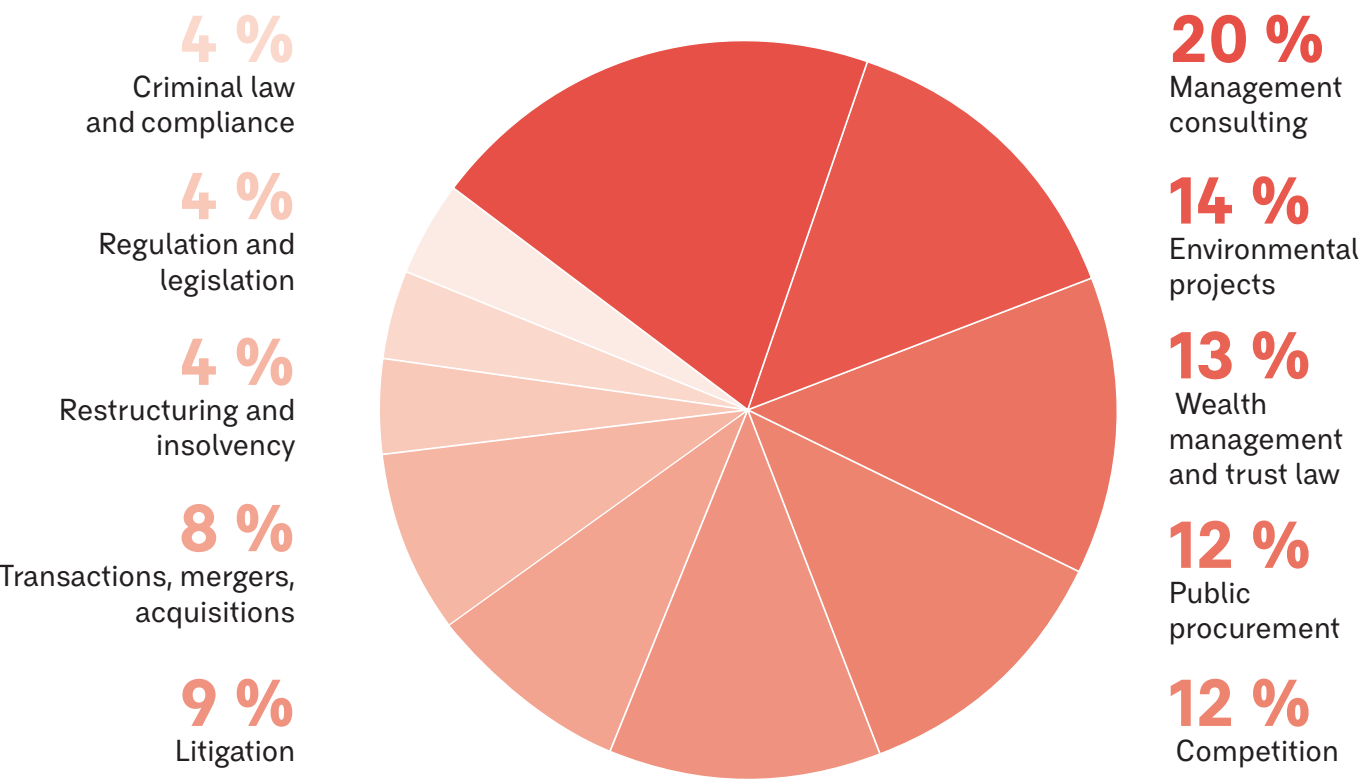
Last year, in keeping with tradition, we provided the largest volume of our legal services to corporations, which accounted for 88% of the total. The vast majority of them were major private companies, including some of the Czech Republic's top 10 players.



Areas of legal services

Strategy first

Our practice is built on a solid foundation of strategic project consulting, which now makes up one fifth of our services. We take a 360-degree approach to our clients’ needs, reaching beyond traditional legal services to place an emphasis on wealth management and trust law. Today, these areas no longer focus solely on the transfer of wealth from one generation to the next, but are increasingly also geared towards wealth protection and risk prevention. Environmental projects are another important pillar of our activities, as they are closely aligned with our ESG strategy. These are issues that we have long been addressing because we believe they are critical to our clients and, because of this, our work translates into tangible results.



Proportional breakdown of work spent on each segment in 2023

We are expanding our scope of activities

In recent years, we have been systematically branching out into other fields. In 2023, we set up new teams dedicated to cybersecurity, energy, investment projects, and public procurement. In this way, we are carrying on our established trend of consistently echoing our clients’ areas of specialisation and applying the latest practices so that we can remain ahead of the curve. We also remain strong in our more traditional sectors, such as industry, technology, transport, and asset and wealth management, while tracking trends that resonate in today’s society. We are growing ever stronger in terms of enhancing our legal services through technical advancements, including artificial intelligence.



Proportional breakdown of work done according to the industries in which our clients operate

Litigation

CZK **3.7** billion

the total value of litigation cases completed in 2023, in which we had a success rate of over 90% in representing our clients

CZK **7** billion

the total value of 129 pending disputes in which we represented our clients in 2023

Public procurement

88

the number of key public contracts on which we advised our clients in 2023

CZK **170** billion

the aggregate value of those public contracts

Contracts

717

the number of contracts we drafted for our clients in 2023

CZK **771** billion

the total deliverables under those contracts

Legal analyses

1147

the number of legal analyses drawn up for our clients in 2023

Trust and endowment funds

EUR **550** million

the value of assets that we arranged to be placed in trust and endowment funds for our clients

Our People

We value stability, we invest in the younger generation

In 2023, we again expanded our management, this time by one partner, and added three more legal teams. This reflects how our workforce of more than 140 team members has been growing over the long term. We provide a high level of comfort to our employees and associate lawyers. We plan to keep expanding our offices, both on the top floors of Prague's City Tower and into other Czech and Slovak cities.

31 lawyers

13 associated experts

27 legal trainees

42 paralegals

Benefit concert for the cathedral organ. Saint Vitus' Cathedral.
Dance ensemble of Jaroslav Kocian Art School in Ústí nad Orlicí
and Bedřich Smetana Art School in Litomyšl.



Several thin red lines of varying lengths and orientations are scattered across the upper and middle portions of the page, creating a modern, abstract background.

Corporate Social Responsibility

We have spent more than 30 years grounding our work in CSR values. We contribute to strategic projects that will ensure the future prosperity of our country, while taking into account the principles of a responsible and sustainable approach to business that we help our clients to pursue. We ourselves try to lead by example. This is why socially beneficial activities, which often transcend law and business, have become integral to our agenda. Our company has been systematically involved in the development of culture and education for many years. Besides providing legal services to cultural organisations and institutions, we actively contribute to the realisation of artistically meaningful and exceptional projects. We spread awareness and try to motivate those around us to do the same, because we believe that culture and law share common values.

Bohemian Heritage Fund

Bohemian
Heritage
Fund

We live for art

The Bohemian Heritage Fund, the first and only Czech private philanthropic fund, provides overarching backing for art, art projects, and related activities. It aims to support specific high-art projects that showcase national cultural heritage to the fullest extent possible. Over almost 15 years of consistent work, it has helped to bolster and cultivate the Czech national identity at home and abroad. We offer a platform of patrons and bring together people who share similar interests and values. We engage major institutions and companies. We also seek to raise awareness of the importance of donorship in general.

The Fund helps to make projects of exceptional artistic value happen. In 2023, we partnered with the projects listed below.

- Production of a recording of *Breath of Eternity*, an original Czech oratorio about Saint Ludmila by the composer and poet Jan Zástěra
- Benefit concert at Saint Vitus' Cathedral in support of the new organ, broadcast live on Czech Television and Czech Radio
- Recording of Tomáš Ondřej Pilař's opera *Messiah* at the Revolving Auditorium of the South Bohemian Theatre in Český Krumlov
- Announcement of the results of the third year of the Giving Culture the Green Light project with the ŠKODA AUTO Foundation – in support of culture in the Mladá Boleslav, Rychnov, and Vrchlabí regions
- Fourth year of Plan B, the open-air exhibition of contemporary Czech art, as part of Smetana's Creative Litomyšl
- Partner of the Czech Philharmonic
- Smetana's Litomyšl National Music Festival
- Znojmo Music Festival
- 22nd annual Lípa Musica Festival, which straddles the Czech and German border regions
- Publication of *Heritage*, the cultural magazine reporting on the art scene
- General sponsor of the Janáček Brno Festival

Český národní symfonický orchestr



Playing first fiddle

The firm is a long-standing partner of the Czech National Symphony Orchestra and the Prague Proms Festival.

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1993 by the trumpeter Jan Hasenöhrl and the conductor Zdeněk Košler. It regularly performs subscription concerts and tours abroad. Since 2019, its principal conductor has been Steven Mercurio. Since the 2007/2008 season, the orchestra has performed in the Smetana Hall of Municipal House in Prague. In 2016, it recorded Ennio Morricone's score for Tarantino's film *The Hateful Eight* at Abbey Road in London. Morricone's music subsequently won a Golden Globe and an Oscar in 2016.

Prague Proms, an international music festival, has been held since 2005. Over the years, it has attracted tens of thousands of people to listen to an astonishing number of top artists from the domestic and international music scene. Visitors have also had the opportunity to hear stars of classical music, jazz, and crossover, including Vince Mendoza, Danny Elfman, Edita Gruberová, Vladimír Cosma, Ennio Morricone, and Natalie Cole.

We start with ourselves

Another area where we want to inspire our clients is in taking a responsible and sustainable approach to business. We are therefore delivering on our ESG objectives as fully as possible and remain committed to improving our rating, which is already A+.

Corporate

Sustainability

Index

OSVĚDČENÍ O UDRŽITELNOSTI

Název společnosti

PORTOS, advokátní kancelář s.r.o.

IČO

481 18 753

DIČ

CZ 481 18 753

Posuzované období (od – do)

01. 01. 2023 – 31. 12. 2023

Výchozí rok

2023

Posuzovaná oblast podnikání

Výkon advokacie

Celková uhlíková stopa společnosti

4 4 3 , 7 8 7 t CO₂e

Emise produkované přímo společností (Scope 1 & 2)

2 0 9 , 2 3 4 6 t CO₂e

Trend

NEHODNOCENO

Výsledek v jednotlivých kategoriích ESG

Environment

Změna klimatu

Znečišťování vody a půdy

Vodní zdroje

Biodiverzita a ekosystémy

Cirkulární ekonomika a využívání zdrojů

E

A

Social

Rovná práva a příležitosti

Pracovní podmínky a dodržování lidských práv

Pracovníci v dodavatelsko-odběratelském řetězci

Ovlivněné komunity

Koncoví zákazníci

S

A+

Governance

Způsob řízení firmy včetně posouzení rizik a kontrolního systému

Organizační struktura firmy a principy zodpovědného podnikání

G

A+

Celkové hodnocení společnosti

A+

93 bodů

Více než 100 bodů

A++

90-100 bodů

A+

80-89 bodů

A

70-79 bodů

B+

60-69 bodů

B

50-59 bodů

C

Méně než 49 bodů

D

Toto osvědčení je dokladem, že udržitelnosti společnosti byla posouzena v souladu s níže uvedenými standardy:

I. Stanovení emisí GHG podle normy ČSN ISO 14064 – Skleníkové plyny a mezinárodního standardu GHG Protocol

II. Uhlíková stopa produktů podle normy ISO 14067

III. Posouzení životního cyklu (LCA) podle normy ČSN ISO 14040

IV. Posouzení udržitelnosti hospodářských činností podle nařízení EU 2020/852 (EU Taxonomie)

V. Posouzení společenské odpovědnosti (Social, CSR) a správy a řízení společnosti (Corporate Governance) podle směrnice EU 2022/2464 (CSRD) a mezinárodních standardů GRI

Specifické informace k metodice a hodnocení jsou uvedeny v doprovodné zprávě k tomuto osvědčení.

Vyhotoveno dne | 02. 05. 2024

Posuzovaný rok | 2023

Číslo osvědčení | CZ_2024_2142

Vydavatel osvědčení | CSI Provider s.r.o.

Kontakt | certifikace@csindex.cz

Podpis

Mgr. Iva Kubíková, Ph.D.

Odborný garant

Certified by

CSI Provider s.r.o.

2024.05.02 18:25:52 +02'00'

16



Czech Christmas Mass. Rudolfinum.
Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

Several thin red lines of varying lengths and orientations are scattered across the upper half of the page, creating a dynamic, abstract background.

Service and Product Portfolio

Over the years, the services and products our firm offers have spread across a wide range of areas that go far beyond the boundaries of lawyering. We are more than lawyers; we are strategic advisers and partners to our clients in wealth management, sustainability, energy, transport, and the technological challenges of today's world. While legal services form a solid foundation for our practice, we cater to our clients' high demands by delivering tailored, end-to-end solutions. We have affiliates, partners, and colleagues at home and abroad to help us do this.

Sustainability and non-financial reporting

A comprehensive tool for dealing with sustainability challenges.

In 2022, our company launched ESG Solution+ on the Czech market. This is a unique product that comprehensively covers corporate sustainability. We set up rules and procedures for companies so that they can properly manage their activities and projects while complying with regulations.

The product includes the preparation of a sustainability report, the drafting of a long-term strategy, its subsequent deployment in the company's daily operations, and regular follow-up reporting in accordance with European legislation. Many clients also have us take care of the regulation of the carbon tariff (CBAM), the introduction of an in-house system to assess how sustainable individual projects are, and the implementation of various internal policies, ranging from a code of conduct to a supplier selection system.

Rather than offering abstract concepts and insipid advice, we come up with a perfectly understandable and tangible framework for comprehensive sustainability services.

In partnership with **ESG solution⁺**

Certification tailored to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The CSI is a standardised tool that can indicate how sustainable a company is, enabling it to benchmark its performance from year to year and to share these results with its customers and contracting authorities.

The CSI aims to make sustainability certification accessible to SMEs that do not have the luxury of embarking on lengthy and demanding reports and follow-up audits. In this way, Czech companies can gain preferential access to bank financing, become eligible for public contracts and subsidies, and obtain a competitive edge on the market.

In partnership with  **Corporate Sustainability Index**

Wealth management

By the end of 2023, we had structured client wealth worth EUR 550 million.

CCS Premium Trust offers its clients comprehensive wealth management services, particularly in the form of trust funds, foundations, and endowment funds. CCS Premium Trust prides itself on the many years' experience built up by its experts. They have vast expertise in the provision of wealth management services, including international reach into the jurisdictions on which the Czech legislature drew in 2014 when introducing domestic legislation on trust funds. In 2023, CCS Premium Trust worked in tandem with our company to serve clients with portfolios running to hundreds of millions of euros.



European policies

We work with experts with hands-on experience from Brussels.

Our company has always focused on serving national and European business interests. As part of the great European community of nations, we have adopted entirely new rules, laws, values, and policies that were collectively shaped in Europe throughout the second half of the 20th century. We not only embrace these values, but also help to create them.

Through an exclusive partnership with Schuman Associates, we provide consultancy in the Czech Republic, with a team of experts who have direct experience from Brussels. Not only do we provide our clients with insights into legislation currently in the pipeline at EU level, but we also give them the opportunity to actively engage in the process and voice their needs and concerns via all the tools and platforms that Brussels has to offer. Our mission is to help our clients to harness their business potential, to interlock their visions and needs with European Commission policies currently on the table, to ensure full alignment with them, and to clear the way not only for comprehensive project financing, but also for internal readiness for the dynamically evolving obligations arising from EU legislation.



Restructuring and insolvency administration

In 2023, we passed the milestone of 8,500 insolvency proceedings under our supervision.

From the moment the Insolvency Act took effect, our company has been guiding and leading the way in the field of insolvency law. This is an important manifestation of an individual's social accountability with respect to their debts. Insolvency law offers a playing field for the collective settlement of debtor-creditor relations. The role of the insolvency practitioner is of central importance in this process.

Administrace insolventí CCS builds on the more than a decade-long experience gained by its predecessor, Administrace insolventí City Tower, in the field of insolvency administration. We are involved in the administration of major insolvency proceedings, which often have profound implications for specific economic areas. We formulate and reinforce principles that provide investors with the certainty of a return on their investment.



We cover absolutely all your interests and needs

Support for public administration

- Configuration of the structure and processes of public bodies
- Corporate governance consulting
- Public investment and procurement consulting
- Support for responsible bodies' decision-making processes

Cybersecurity and digital transformation

- Preparation for new European regulations
- Optimisation of internal systems and security processes
- Assessment of security risks and human resources
- Supplier relationship review

Acquisitions and transaction consulting

- Consulting on the selection of entities for acquisition
- Acquisition consulting to achieve the best terms
- Due diligence (legal, economic, tax, technical)
- Preparation of transaction documentation and transaction completion

Corporate governance and compliance

- Internal-management structuring and control mechanisms
- Third-party and public relations
- Business risk management consulting
- Regulatory compliance, including specific areas such as competition

Comprehensive dispute resolution and litigation

- Representation in litigation with respect for the bigger picture
- Effective assessment of litigation strategy
- Comprehensive dispute prevention consulting
- Consulting on the negotiation of dispute resolution deals

Management consulting and investment management

- Management consulting on performance enhancement
- Preparation and management of a company's strategic projects
- Project management
- Implementation and management of foreign investments and business models

Regulation and legislation

- Preparation for adaptation to new regulation and legislation
- Comprehensive consulting and arrangements for active participation in the legislative process
- Production of legislative impact assessments
- Methodological application of specific regulatory principles

Our activities

We play an active role in many expert and advisory bodies, ministerial working groups, and a wide range of associations, platforms and initiatives. We then put the know-how we have acquired to use for the benefit of our clients.

Czech BCSD

We support and spread the sustainable development agenda.

The Czech Business Council for Sustainable Development is a regional chapter of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (World BCSD). This organisation brings together high-profile global business leaders who are committed to translating sustainability ideas into the day-to-day operations of companies. The Czech BCSD is part of the Government Council for Sustainable Development, a standing advisory, initiatory and coordinating body of the government in the fields of sustainable development, strategic governance and long-term priorities of the state.



Prague Chamber of Commerce

We provide professional assistance to the business community.

The Prague Chamber of Commerce has the goal of supporting SMEs. Its mission is to defend their interests and provide them with all forms of assistance, not only in Prague, but throughout the Czech Republic. The Chamber organises regular meetings with politicians, professionals, and representatives of the business community. In 2023, it held expert seminars on transport that resonated with the public and the media. As of September 2021, it has been chaired by one of our firm's owners, Petr Michal, who also sits on the board of directors of the Czech Chamber of Commerce.



Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce

We support trade, we unite nations, we create values.

The Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce has long been deepening relations between the two countries and helps to foster unique conditions for entrepreneurs and companies over here and over there. The Chamber also awards the traditional Arnošt Lustig Prize as a reward for those who fulfil these values: Courage and Bravery, Humanity and Justice. Despite the dramatic circumstances of last year, the Chamber was not abandoned by its membership base. It currently has 139 members.



Active involvement in domestic and international associations



Czech Bar Association



Czech Creditors Association



Czech Association of Consulting Engineers



Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce



Business Council for Sustainable Development



Prague Chamber of Commerce



Cambridge Forums



Czech Chamber of Commerce



Young Presidents' Organization



Public Procurement Association



AFCEA

It's not just clients who recognise the value of our work



Law Firm of the Year
in the categories of Corporate Law and Pro Bono & CSR

Highly Recommended Firm

Competition Law

Mergers and Acquisitions

Restructuring and Insolvency

Dispute Resolution and Arbitration

Public Procurement

Corporate Compliance

Energy and Energy Projects

Logistics and Transport Infrastructure

Medical Law

Environmental Law

Wealth Management

Recommended Firm

Banking and Finance

IT Law

Criminal Law



Corporate INTL Global Awards 2024

Public Procurement Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic

Commercial Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic



Global Law Experts 2024

Public Procurement Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic – 2024

Commercial Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic – 2024



Top Employer of the Year

4th place among law firms



Law Firm of the Year 2022/2023

in the Pro Bono category

Czech Christmas Mass. Rudolfinum.
Anna Novotná Pešková.



A series of approximately ten thin, solid red lines of varying lengths and orientations are scattered across the left half of the page, creating a dynamic, abstract background element.

2023 in review

Last year was a record-breaker for us in many respects. The professional growth of our team members enabled us to take on our largest ever number of complex cases and new clients, and we helped to implement billion-dollar investment projects, making us the second largest all-Czech law firm.

Our main successes in 2023 were in the transport, energy, and banking sectors. We made active contributions to preparations for the introduction of new European legislation into the domestic legal system.

Activities related to wealth management and trust funds also expanded in 2023. Besides growing our domestic client portfolio, we also enjoyed success in Slovakia, where our clients are particularly interested in our secure solution for the creation of wealth structures, which is only made possible by our in-depth knowledge of, and ability to apply, multiple European legal systems. Moreover, the quality of our services was officially validated by our Law Firm of the Year award in the Corporate Law category.

During the last year, we also appointed a new partner to the firm. We again expanded our number of dedicated teams. Their development enabled us to consolidate our position in management consulting, which has long been a mainstay of our strategic legal advisory services. In order to improve the comfort enjoyed by staff in their work and to facilitate further growth, we launched the long-awaited refurbishment of our offices in Pankrác, Prague, and at the end of the year we officially announced that we were changing our name, symbolising the beginning of a new chapter for our company.

The background is a solid dark red color. It is decorated with several thin, light red lines of varying lengths and orientations, scattered across the frame. A single, larger red circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

**What
next?**



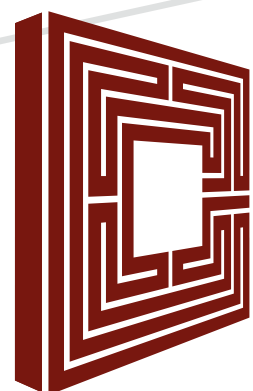
As Císař, Češka, Smutný, we built a solid presence and cemented our place in the market, but we are constantly evolving. In our 31 years of existence, we have gone from a small practice to one of the largest and most distinguished Czech law firms. Our services have long since moved beyond simple legal advisory and continue to become more all-rounded. The original name no longer reflected the size of our service portfolio, the scope of our activities and, most importantly, the depth and breadth of the team of people who make our firm what it is.

The decision to retire Císař, Češka, Smutný was not an easy one for the firm to take. It encapsulates years of work, achievements, and major milestones. However, the values underpinning our work have remained with us. And now, more than ever, we're ready to take our firm's story to the next level.

The name change was a lengthy and carefully considered process for our firm, during which we collectively defined our ideas, values, and strategic direction for the future.

We symbolically bid farewell to the Císař, Češka, Smutný brand during a gala evening at our traditional Christmas concert at the Rudolfinum, where we officially presented our plans to our clients and friends.





CÍSAŘ
ČEŠKA
SMUTNÝ

PORTOS

STRATEGIC LEGAL ADVISORY

The name is changing, but our values remain the same.

PORTOS

1 March 2024

In recent years, our range of services has extended well beyond the usual confines of a law firm. This reality has naturally permeated our work and daily agenda. Because the existing name of Císař, Česka, Smutný did not fully convey this change, since 1 March 2024 we have been operating under a new name, which opens up a new chapter of the company's history after 31 years of existence.

The PORTOS vision

is to transform the company from a conventional Czech law firm into an international strategic legal adviser of the future and a legal industry leader. We intend to innovate the legal environment by leveraging state-of-the-art technology and human potential.

The PORTOS mission

is to provide clients with legal services and strategic consulting fully tailored to their specific needs. We are meticulous and see our projects through to the end.

The meaning of PORTOS

for us is freedom. We are free to form our own opinions and stand up for them. It is a safe haven for our clients and a place where business interests and cultures meet. It is a gateway to the world and symbolises openness. And, ultimately, PORTOS is like Porthos, one of Dumas' musketeers, who embodies courage and loyalty, the values of our firm.



What lies ahead in 2024

For us, 2024 will be challenging in several regards. We will be looking to uphold last year's record breaking under the new PORTOS brand name, not only in legal services, but in the wider consulting industry. All this necessarily presupposes that high-quality legal service is a fundamental pillar for our other services, and for leveraging our clients' business potential in the context of their industry or setting. We will continue to place an emphasis on the diversity and interconnectivity of our portfolio. Only by pooling information from different sectors and disciplines can we provide advisory services in a broader context, so that our clients have the conditions they need to make critical management decisions.

Our firm's well-rounded perspective on projects is exactly what gives us the reach we need. It will also be important for us to expand our operations beyond Prague. The opening of our new offices in Brno will enable us to be nearer to clients across the country, while also reinforcing our workforce with new colleagues.

In order to deliver services of the highest quality, we also plan to expand our ranks to include tax advisers specialising in wealth structuring.

In 2024, PORTOS will continue to actively consolidate its international presence, not only in neighbouring Slovakia, where we will build on last year's expansion, but also in Brussels, where we are successfully managing compliance with many European policies and regulations for a growing number of clients. Knowledge of the international landscape is one of the core strengths of PORTOS members. They guide our clients smoothly through sophisticated transactions at home and abroad and are constantly expanding our network of qualified partners around the world.

We also aim to be at the vanguard of legal-service technology innovation in 2024. We are actively interested in exploiting artificial intelligence in the legal profession and think of ourselves as trendsetters in this area. Technology is already transforming our industry and will soon change it beyond recognition. We have played a part in that and will continue to do so. We expect this change to be profound, perhaps more radical than anything we have witnessed in the past three decades.



Contact Details

PORTOS, advokátní kancelář s.r.o.

CITY TOWER, Hvězdova 1716/2b,
140 00, Praha 4 – Pankrác
e-mail: info@portos.cz
tel.: +420 224 827 884
portos.cz

© PORTOS, advokátní kancelář s.r.o.
Design: studio Label Up
Photography: archives
The company's financial statements are published regularly
in accordance with the law.
Date of publication: June 2024

