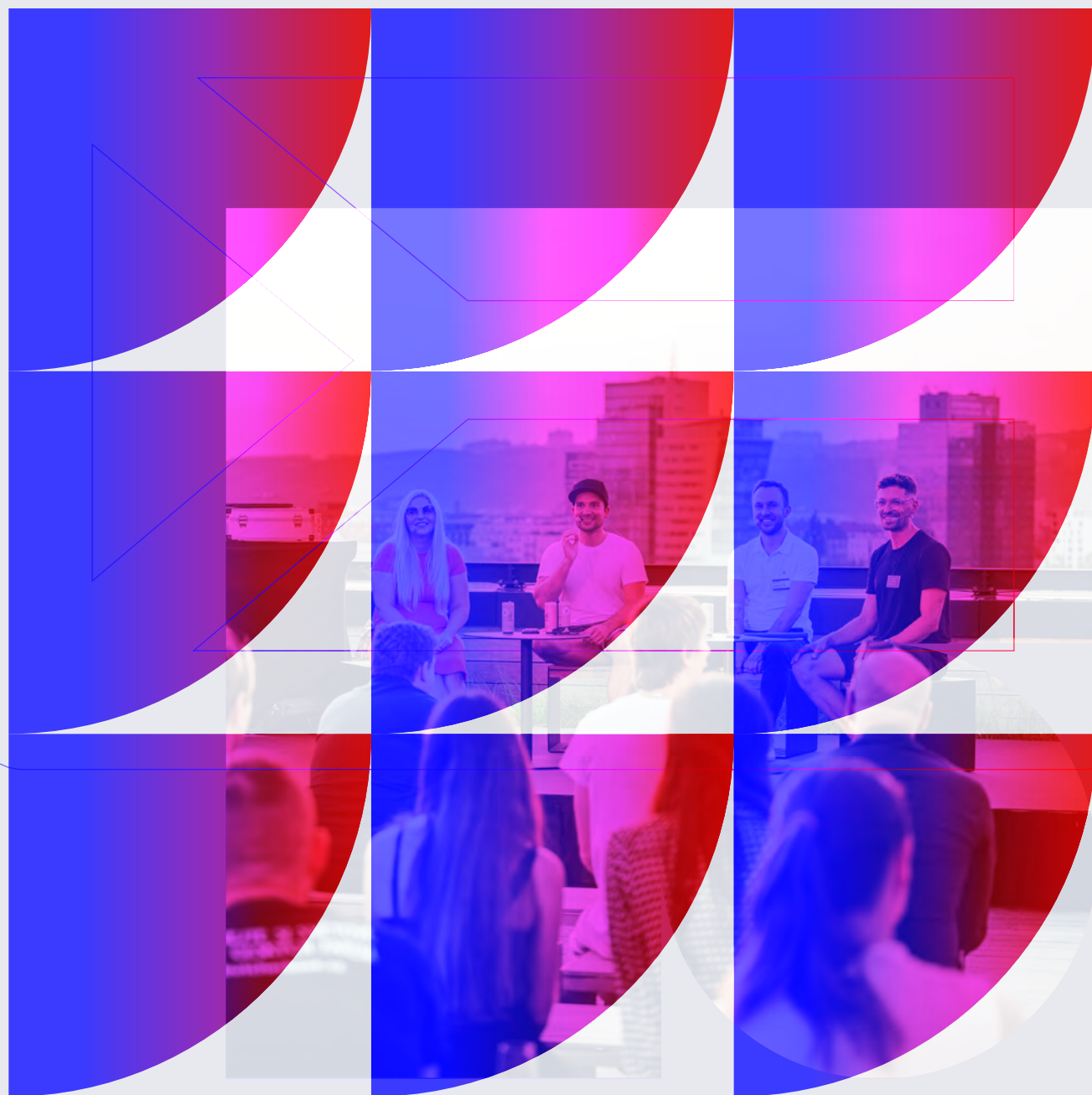


IMPACT REPORT 2023



Friends, fellow founders, and startup supporters,

The year 2023 has prompted us at Czech Founders to reflect on our purpose and future direction. When David and I started five years ago, we aimed to build a community where startup founders could support and grow alongside each other. Today, I'm proud to say that we've become the leading voice for the startup community in Czechia, growing from the ground up to include 600 founders and over 300 supporters in our vibrant network.

2023 marked a pivotal moment for us. We recognized the need to extend our influence, articulate, shape, and amplify the needs of founders to a wider circle of stakeholders to effect systemic changes. In global innovation rankings, Czechia is either average or lagging behind. Regions like the American Silicon Valley, Brainport in the Netherlands, London for fintech, and Estonia have thrived due to the mutual cooperation between the business community, government, and educational institutions.

In Czechia, why can't we have an ambition to become one of Europe's leading startup ecosystem hubs? We have an excellent location in the heart of Europe; Czechia ranks 12th as one of the most peaceful countries¹ and 13th

as the most popular destination among people working abroad². According to the 2023 European Commission's Innovation Scorecard, Czechia has become one of the fastest innovators in the past 8 years yet still reaching only a moderate innovator ranks with below-average job mobility in science and technology indicators³. The engineering talent graduating from universities is global, yet we seem to undervalue ourselves, and our ambitions are modest. At Czech Founders, we want to see the number of startups quintuple to 10,000 in the next 10 years because, as our and other national data shows, we have the potential. At Czech Founders, we empower future and present entrepreneurs to unlock and grow their potential through the power of community. With small yet crucial public policy tweaks, Czechia can become a strong player on the startup map of Europe. Czech Founders is dedicated to helping to make it happen.

Enjoy reading,



Vit Horky
Founder
Czech Founders

¹ Global Peace Index 2023, Institute for Economics and Peace
² Working Abroad Index 2023, Internations
³ European Innovation Scoreboard 2023, European Commission



KEY 2023 FIGURES

€210,194,886

total capital attracted (86 % annual decrease)⁴

94

fundraising rounds with the average size of €2.5 mil

40%

more capital raised than in pre-covid 2019

11

exits (16 in 2022)

4

unicorns in total (0 new in 2023)*

*Mews is Czech-founded with HQ in the Netherlands and became a unicorn in February 2024. Source: Dealroom.co



All data above come from Funding and Exits Database, Czech Founders.



Czech Founders in Numbers

971

members (48% annual increase, 15% women)

12

events organized

30

media appearances and international participations

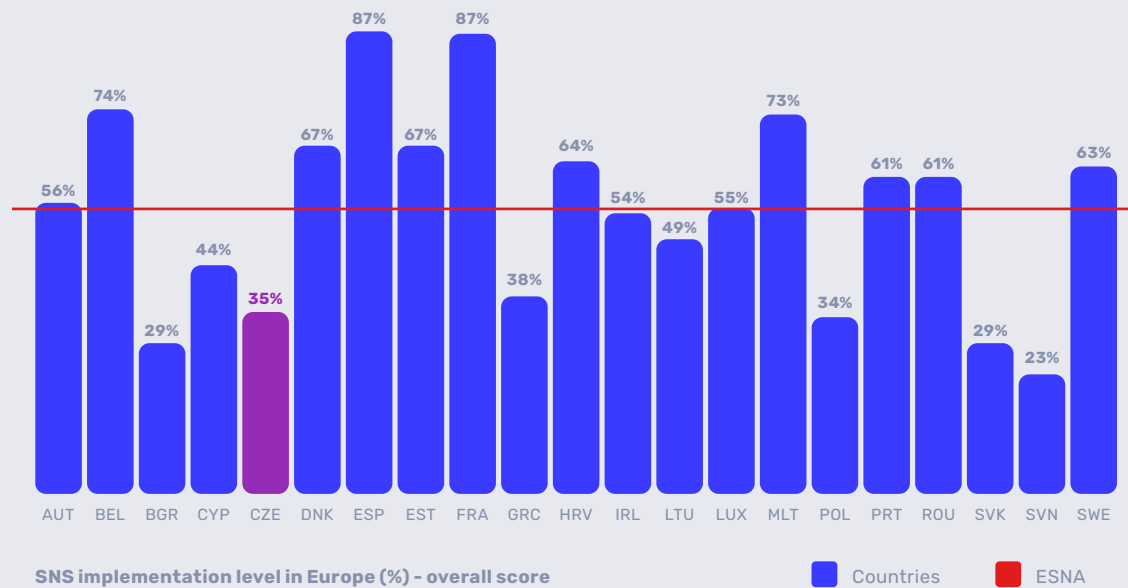


CZECHIA AND STARTUP NATIONS STANDARDS



In 2022, the Czech government has signed up to implement 8 Startup Nations Standards (SNS). Those are sets of best practices for public policy for fostering a growth-friendly environment essential for transitioning to a sustainable, resilient, and digital economy. Since November 2023, our founder, **Vit Horky**, has been a member of the Advisory Board of the

European Startup Nations Alliance (ESNA). ESNA executes the evaluation of the SNS implementation and subsequently publishes the results in **annual reports**⁵. How has Czechia been doing since 2021? Not so well. Czechia lags behind in 7 out of 8 standards with an overall score of 35% while the ESNA average is 55%. Let's take a closer look at our performance:



Standard #1:
Fast Startup Creation,
Smooth Market Entry

Czechia Status:
34% (19th)

Setting up a company may take up to four weeks in Czechia, while in the leading countries, it takes one day. Furthermore, Czechia achieved 0% in utilizing legal documents from other EU countries for startups within the single market.

Standard #2:
Attracting
and Retaining Talent

Czechia Status:
61% (7th)

Czechia can process startup visas for third-country founders with trusted partners within one month. However, Czechia does not perform well in attracting tech talent in comparison with other countries. Along with other member states, Czechia needs to work on attracting talent.

Standard #3:
Stock Options

Czechia Status:
33% (13-18th)

Czechia adopted new legislation regarding ESOPs in 2024. However, the legal framework still does not comply with recommendations such as no tax before cash and capital gains tax for employees in the program. Moreover, enabling companies to issue stock options with non-voting rights is also a key SNS recommendation that has not been applied.

Standard #4:
Innovation
in Regulation

Czechia Status:
0% (17th - 21st)

According to SNS, small and medium enterprises should be the benchmark when setting up regulations, which is the so-called 'Think Small First' principle. Further, the SNS advocates for setting up confirmed and in-place exemptions—or alternative ways of achieving compliance—for startups in areas such as impact assessment. The existence of regulatory sandboxes is still non-existent in Czechia.

Standard #5:
Innovation
in Procurement

Czechia Status:
51% (16-17th)

Participation of startups and scaleups in public procurement remains challenging. Czechia does not pose any obstacles for startups to participate in the public procurement processes but does not encourage it. The existence of tech transfer policies in Czechia is viewed as positive, yet the transfer reform that has been debated is recognized in the SNS Report.

Standard #6:
Access to Finance

Czechia Status:
54% (11th)

Czechia offers targeted public grants for startups and uses funds from the European Investment Bank to enhance VC access to startups.

Standard #7:
Social Inclusion,
Diversity
and Protecting
Democratic Values

Czechia Status:
0% (17.-21st)

Czechia offers no systemic incentives for diversity hiring, no support for underprivileged founders, no social inclusion mobilization initiatives, and no national awards and policies for startup role models.

Standard #8:
Digital-First

Czechia Status:
45% (17th)

Czechia lies exactly at the ESNA country average regarding the index of digital public services for businesses (84%) and shows evidence of the implementation of a national digitalization strategy, with 85% of areas covered by digital public services currently available. There are no established practices for proactive engagement in digital knowledge sharing.



WHAT WE DO

Our vision is for Czechia to become a beacon of innovation and a trendsetter in standards for starting and scaling businesses in Europe.

MISSION #1 Shape the Ecosystem

We help Czechia nurture the most supportive environment for the startup growth and scaling with the best global talent. Czech Founders is a voice for the Czech founder ecosystem. We amplify their needs and challenges to help them unlock their potential and growth.

How we do it

1. Articulating the needs of the startup ecosystem to the public and private sector.
2. Collaborating with the government, private and public sector, and education institutions via focused programs (expert working groups, entrepreneurship education in schools, etc.).
3. Bringing the real founder stories closer to the decision-makers.



MISSION #2 Empower Founders & Unlock Their Potential

We are dedicated to fostering a network of founders, business leaders, advocates, and experts across the startup community to drive growth toward collective prosperity. We aim to ensure founders receive support essential for unlocking their full potential.

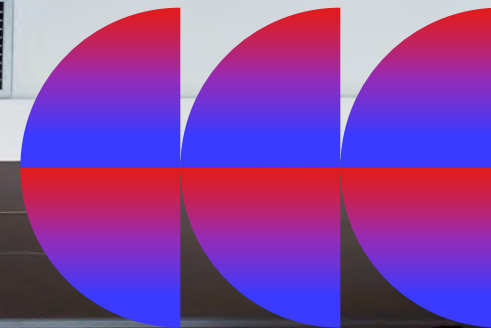
How we do it

1. Facilitating connections between founders and their business and government counterparts.
2. Organising themed, as well as open and closed-door events for founders.
3. Providing templated resources for starting and expanding a business.
4. Helping with access to financing by connecting entrepreneurs to credible funding opportunities and established partners.

MISSION #3 Bring Data

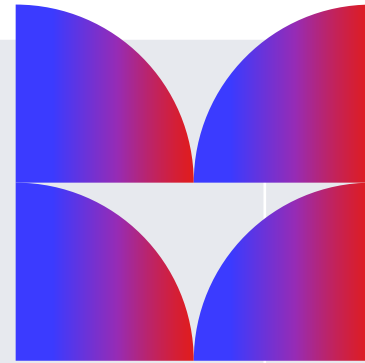
We are deeply committed to serving the heart of innovation within Czechia by providing evidence-based and open data to governmental and business stakeholders. By converting the lived experiences and needs of founders into actionable insights, we are aiming at:

1. Compiling and analyzing data regarding the startup ecosystem in Czechia, including the Fundings and Exits database.
2. Highlighting the socio-economic impact of the dynamic startup sector on political leaders and engaging the public to learn and get inspired to support the startup ecosystem.
3. Advocating for fulfilling founders' needs by backing our actions with solid data.





OUR WORK IN 2023



Empowering the community

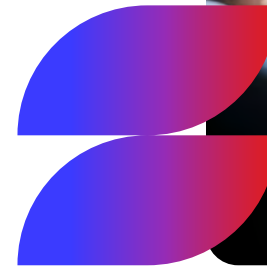
Slack Forum

In January 2023, we **launched an online communication channel** for our members only on Slack. It creates a safe space for founders to discuss their experiences and obstacles and get quick feedback from the community. It now has over **230 members**. Join us!

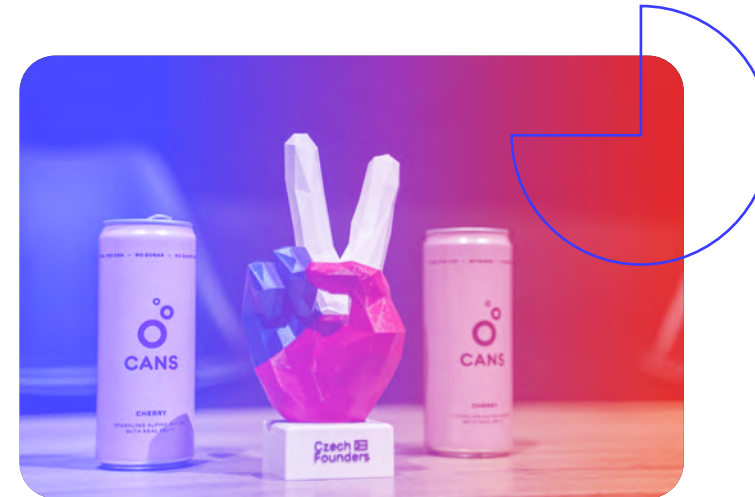
CoEX > Connect & Expand List

To support our members' expansion plans, we created the **Connect & Expand list**. The database of seasoned entrepreneurs, experts, and internationally established government and global business advisors is a launchpad for entrepreneurs to scale their businesses abroad. The database today has over **60+ mentors**. We succeeded in delivering **15 meaningful connections** to the founders to help them solve specific issues. Founders connect to mentors having always defined a clear-cut problem or topic. We plan to double down on the initiative in 2024, as expansion is one of the core themes for our members. The database was launched in collaboration with **Ment2Grow, Fazole Ventures, J&T Ventures, and Purple Ventures**.

Learn more about CoEx [here](#) →.



"Dan was very helpful and advised us on expansion and investment plans in the US. We also met with Jan Beranek (U+) and learned how to incorporate AI into our product. Exactly those types of meetings help our business to move forward." - Radim, CEO of ArtMaster



Fundings & Exits

Czechia lacked a central database on the ecosystem's inputs and outputs until recently. With Adam Kurzok (the founder of Expando Global, Lunchtime) and his team, we maintain a simple overview of market developments in the startup ecosystem. **The database** is open to the public and is used by the Czech government agency CzechInvest data site www.czechstartups.org.

Czech Founders Abroad

2023 has been productive in making connections with our international partners and stakeholders. Vit has traveled the continent to discover and explore the opportunities where we can join forces with our European counterparts.

CEE & Baltics Advisory Board (Europe): We initiated an informal startup Advisory Board of CEE and Baltics founders, startup ecosystem supporters, and cultivators. The group meets informally and shares experiences in ecosystem building and public policy (competition, EU regulations, ESOPs, etc.).

Founders Pledge Dinner (Czechia): In November, Czech Founders hosted David Goldberg, CEO of The Founders Pledge, to speak with Czech founders about the importance of regularly giving back to the community.

Founders Kite Club (Spain): Vit had a chance to attend a Spanish founders' offsite event in Tarifa

Moonshot Young Leaders Camp (USA): Vit immersed in mentoring a group of future global leaders via the Czech-originated Moonshot Platform

Slovak Founders Meetup (Slovakia): We organized a learn & meet event with Slovakia-based founders.

Europe Startup Nation Alliance (ESNA): Vit was nominated to become a member of the ESNA Advisory Board, which represents the voice of the Czech startup community and ecosystem. He contributes with his years of proven experience and unique point of view, proactively commenting on policy measures to advance the ecosystem.

Ecosystem partnership meetings (Berlin/ Munich, Germany)

“Super organization and perfectly composed program.”



Events Spotlight



The Founders Unplugged stands out as our top founder-focused event. It is a networking event where our community members are eager to share and learn from each other and seasoned entrepreneurs. Having successfully hosted two events in 2023, Unplugged has drawn in over **200 attendees**.

The spring edition speakers were **Zdenek Cendra (CDN77)** and **Tomas Havryluk (Alza.cz)**. Zdenek is also one of our Patrons, and his visionary and persistent desire to find solutions to any problem plugs in any audience. Tomas Havryluk pioneered Czech e-commerce and has insightful views on the intricacies of scaling ventures and discovering novel interests. At the event, we announced the results of the first batch of Bootcamp, which resulted in the first investment of 20 million CZK (800k EUR) received by CRUXXO.

In October, we welcomed **Klara Losert**, the co-founder of **Talkbase** and **Marek “Slush” Palatinus**, the co-founder of **Satoshi Labs Group** and **Trezor**.



“Very nice event and great organization. Too bad I couldn't split myself – I would love to attend both stages!”

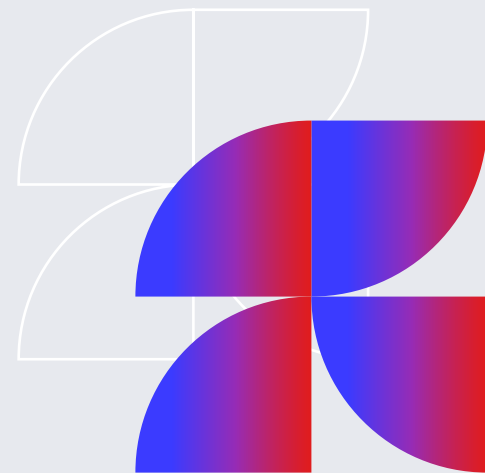


The Czech Founders Festival is an educational program focused on events where founders come to gain practical skills in building their companies.

In 2023, we organized two editions with an NPS 9 out of 10. Our partners-led workshops from **Husta Communication**, **Mavericks**, **J&T Ventures**, and **Havel & Partners** covered the basic challenges pre-seed founders face. At the same time, speakers such as **Paris Childress (Google)** and **Paolo Lacche** dived deeper into scaling the product. In November, we ventured out to the afterparty at a Berlin-style club, **Bajkazył**, headlining the evening with a fireside chat with **Betterstack** founder **Juraj Masár** and **David Pavlik (Nano Energies, Shipmonk)**, moderated by **Pavčina Louženská (TrendBrews)**.



WHAT FOUNDERS SAY ANNUAL FOUNDERS SURVEY



The why

The annual survey we conduct at Czech Founders is our yearly probe into the state of the startup community, its founders, and their businesses. Keeping up with founders' feedback has been our core value since the beginning. Similarly to previous years, we asked our members to share their business development in 2023, plans for 2024, the added value Czech Founders brought them, and the needs and challenges they currently see as pressing in the Czech startup ecosystem.

The how

The main research instrument was an online written survey comprised of a battery of questions divided into three topic sections with the option of adding an open-ended response/commentary to each section. We used convenience sampling of respondents, and the survey was distributed via email to all the founder and investor contacts in our community database, which included exactly 713 people. 155 of those completed the survey.

The data was then analyzed in two ways. First, from the point of view of relevance for the Czech Founders community only, and second, we attempted a limited generalization of our results to the whole startup community in the country via confidence interval analysis. To mitigate the fact we had a convenience sampling, we first cleaned the data. Then, we used weighting techniques that helped us reduce the sampling error to a minimum, allowing us to draw generalized conclusions. Weights were derived from a broader research Startup Report 2020 by Keiretsu Forum Prague. Whenever the analysis identifies the data presented as generalizable with 95% reliability, we mark them by ●. The weighted analysis intervals can be found [here](#) →.



The who

The 155 respondents represent (ex)founders and investors of the Czech startup ecosystem who are also members of the Czech Founders community and, therefore, have varying levels of experience with the activities we organized in 2023. Some basic demographic data include:



The what

The following section presents the results in two subsections mirroring the structure of the survey (the third subsection was the respondent demography). We want to share only a subset of the most relevant and striking data here. At the end of this section, you can find the link to a comprehensive overview of the whole dataset.

Founders' 2023 evaluation and 2024 forecast

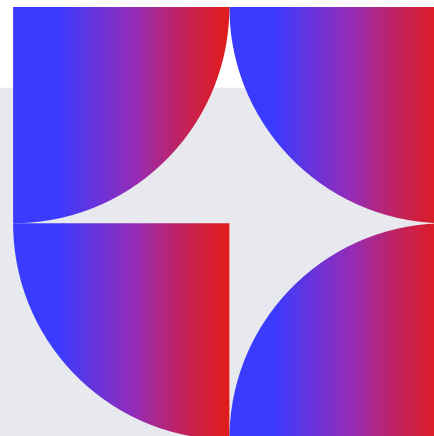
	Not successful	Rather not successful	In between	Rather successful	Successful	No opinion
2023 overall evaluation ●	2.6%	12.3%	20%	36.8%	27.7%	0.6%

64.5% of founders see 2023 as rather successful or better. ●

Other key areas of success for the community founders in 2023 were:

- **Hiring talents** (63.2% rather successful or better)
- **Keeping talents** (85.2% rather successful or better) ●
- **Managing competition** (53.6% rather successful or better)
- **Fulfilling goals and expectations** (52.2% rather successful or better)

Fundraising was still considered a challenge in 2023, with 31% of respondents/founders evaluating it as rather unsuccessful or worse.



	Worse than 2023	Somehow worse than 2023	Same	Somehow better than 2023	Better than 2024	No opinion
2024 overall forecast ●	0.6%	3.9%	10.3%	36.1%	48.4%	0.6%

For next year, founders stay overwhelmingly positive, forecasting that 2024 will be at least somehow better than 2023 in 84.5% of cases. ●

They expect improvement particularly in:

- **Fundraising** (58.7% at least somehow better)
- **Fulfilling goals and expectations** (78.1% at least somehow better) ●
- **Revenue** (86.8%, at least somehow better) ●

57.4% of founders expect 2024 to be the same or worse regarding their business competition.

Founders were invited to evaluate the state of the startup ecosystem in Czechia by evaluating the importance of 8 startup standards derived from the Startup Nations Standards - a set of practices designed to foster entrepreneurship in the European Union (see more on Startup Nation Standards at the beginning of this report). The scoring results were as follows:

Standard	Score
Establishing a business entity within 24 hours	3
Easier visa for non-EU talents	3.7 ●
ESOP & taxation after payout	4.5 ●
Startup-friendly policy and administrative regulations	4 ●
Startup-friendly public procurement	3.7 ●
Access to financial capital	4.1 ●
Policy support for diversity in startups	2.6
Support of state and business digitalization	4 ●

(Score 1-5, the higher the score = the more important the standard.)

87.7% of respondents think having a usable and effective Employee Stock Option Programs (ESOP) legal framework should be a top priority for stakeholders to help the startup environment flourish. ●

76.7% of respondents see access to capital as a key to boosting the ecosystem. ●

Community & activity

While collecting data about our founders, their businesses, and their endeavors is a crucial part of our focus, we also want to ensure our activities best support them. In this section, we want to share with you how we did.

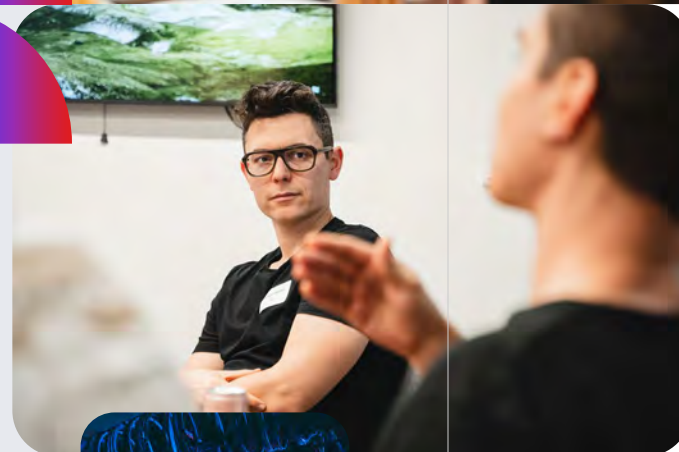
What our founders value the most:

- 79.3% contacts & network ●
- 75.5% peer-to-peer learning ●
- 69% no-bull**it & real feedback ●
- 74.8% giving back to the community ●

What should Czech Founders do better? Work even harder on our reach, having a clear message, and awareness-raising about what we do. Do you want to tell us how? Get in touch!

Support founders want in 2024:

- 82.6% would appreciate regular small-scale closed meetings for networking and sharing with similar-level founders. ●
- 83.2% need help with global expansion and warmed-up introductions. ●
- 70.9% want fundraising consultations, pitch-deck feedback, and relevant VC connections. ●



Members' Testimonials

"Thank you for doing this."

Jan Čurn, Apify

"You brought me extreme value in the network. Today, I do business with professionals I met via the community. It's great."

Michal Ziacik, Golem Trading

"Continue developing the community. Without it, we will never become Estonia. I really hope that we will see more Czech unicorns soon."

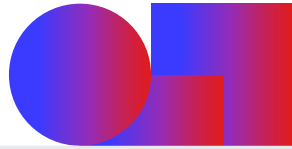
Radek Novotný, Superface

"Thank you for trying to contribute to the Czech business environment; it has great value and meaning. I will also be happy to contribute in the future."

Peter Hajduček, Footshop

With all the new data in mind, for 2024, we are streamlining our events to dedicate more effort to identifying and addressing policy-related issues where our work can make a structural impact. Czech Founders of 2024 will engage in key public policy areas such as advancing the ESOPs (Employee Stock Ownership Plans), recognizing venture capital as a catalyst for economic growth, and creating educational resources to foster and nurture entrepreneurialism in schools.





2024 Czech Founders

I'm Bára Werdmölder, and it's an honor to lead our efforts to amplify the voices of Czechia's tech and innovation founders. I'm thrilled to embark on this new journey with Czech Founders and want to thank all the amazing founders, advocates, and partners dedicated to enhancing our entrepreneurial landscape. Let's make waves together!

Having studied and worked abroad, I often share international examples with my peers. Now, it's time for us to set benchmarks in entrepreneurship and education here in Czechia. Our country is rich in engineering talent, and our entrepreneurs focus on

delivering solutions. The next step is creating conditions that allow them to scale globally and reinvest their experiences and capital locally. As seen with Skype, Uber or Paypal - one founder can shape the future of the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem, and we aim to showcase the stories of successful founders to inspire the next generation.



With nearly 1000 members, Czech Founders is embarking on an ambitious journey. **Our updated agenda, based on our annual survey, focuses on key public policy issues:**



Shaping the System: ESOPs

The legislation enacted in 2023 has not yielded the desired transparency and efficiency needed to incentivize companies to adopt ESOPs. Czech Founders is actively engaged in advocating for improvements in ESOPs legislation. We believe in adhering to the standards set forth by the Startup Nations Standards framework, advocating for stock options to be subject to capital gains tax upon cash receipt rather than beforehand. Additionally, we advocate for simplifying corporate governance by enabling companies to issue stock options with non-voting rights.

Unlocking the Potential: Founders for founders by founders

Sharing knowledge, experiences, opportunities, and failures has been integral to our DNA. Empowering founders through physical and online events tailored better to reflect the diverse needs of various founder categories will be a key aspect of our strategy moving forward. You can anticipate invite-only themed dinners and the annual continuation of formats such as Unplugged and the Founders Festival.

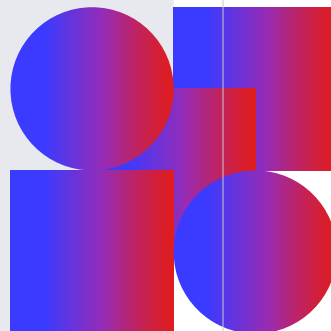


Unlocking the Potential: Access to capital

Venture capital investing in pension systems has been a significant contributor to the growth of retirement funds and providing opportunities for diversification in the U.S., U.K., and The Netherlands. In Czechia, exposing the topic of VCs being part of pension portfolios is an opportunity to highlight the startup ecosystem's impact and offer ways to mitigate traditional asset risks.

Unlocking the Potential: Promoting the entrepreneurial mindset

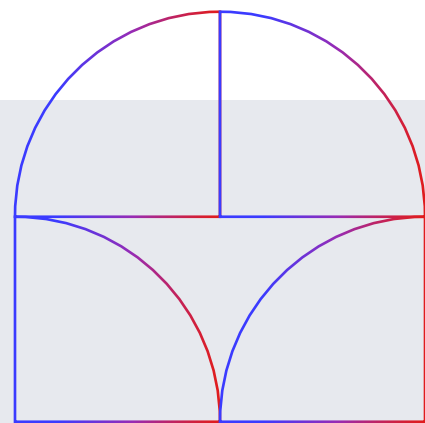
Being creative, finding ways to solve problems, and making independent decisions are all characteristics that are not connected to genetics but can be trained and acquired throughout the career. In 2024, Czech Founders plan on identifying the opportunities where, in the educational system, we can make an impact through our community of founders.



Realizing our aspirations necessitates resources and support. We plan to secure **2,500,000 CZK** annually, avoiding public and corporate grants to maintain our independence. **Join us** in transforming Czech Founders into a strong representative of the Czech startup community.



PATRONS



Lucie Brešová is a seasoned and admired operator. Scaling a travel disruptor, Kiwi.com, from 10 to 2000+ people globally while setting the financial systems to sustain growth from 0 to 1bn€ in turnover in 4 years was only the start of Lucie's stellar career. Today, Lucie is a VP of Operations at Groupon, and she actively cheers for the startup founders through investing and mentoring.



Zdeněk Cendra founded the technology companies CDN77, SH.cz, and Peering.cz. Zdeněk is a staunch problem solver, and his unconventional thinking has made him one of the richest people in Czechia. Zdeněk is an example of great persistence and a focused approach to building his company with care for employees from the ground up.



David Čaněk is the founder of Memsorce, a global translation management system that supports 500+ languages and 50+ file types and is used by thousands of global customers, including leading brands such as Uber, Fujifilm, Supercell, Shopify, and Zendesk. In 2021, Memsorce joined forces with Phrase. David's role as a patron has been crucial as he helped us identify our focus's building blocks.



Ondřej Fryc is the founder of Mall.cz and Reflex Capital. Ondřej advocates for the fail-forward approach to business and cares about nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset from early years in education. Ondřej has been one of the godfathers of the internet economy in Czechia and serves as a great example of giving back to the community.



Martin Hájek is the man behind Livesport, a technology company that provides instant sports information to over 100 million people worldwide. He's also been an investor in the transport startup Liftago and stands behind Dramox, referred to as Netflix for theaters. Martin is a keen supporter of several civil society activities.



Tomáš Krátký is the founder of Manta, an end-to-end enterprise data lineage platform. Tomáš is a visionary leader and his persistence and drive to build a challenging business idea for Manta into a global business is unparalleled. We are proud to have him among our long-time supporters.



Adam Kurzok is a seasoned founder of successful companies such as Lunchtime and Expando Global. Adam's interest in shaping the startup ecosystem resulted in the launch of the Funding & Exits Database, which we co-maintain together.



Karel Obluk founded the Czech Business Angel Association and Evolution Equity Partners. He was the chief technology officer of software antivirus company AVG and was behind its successful IPO. Karel is our great supporter, and we value his wealth of experience and insights.



Štefan Šurina is a founder of Eldison, the largest platform to maintain employee stock programs in Czechia. Štefan has been crucial in bringing his expertise to the ESOP debate in the past year.

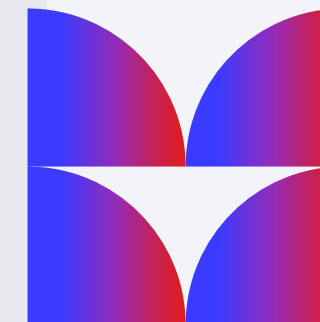
Special thanks go to the founders and key operators who joined our newly established group of Patrons and decided to prioritize giving back to the community and committed to investing their time and financial resources to help Czech Founders, z.ú. support and develop the startup ecosystem in the Czech Republic.



Want to help make a founder's voice stronger?













BECOME OUR PATRON!

Reach out at barbora@czechfounders.org.



PARTNERS

Thank you for your continuous support with your financial and material resources. As always you made it possible for us to strive to get Czechia on the global map of startups and we dearly appreciate it.

FINANCIALS

In 2023, Czech Founders z.ú., a non-profit organization registered in the Czech Republic, generated over 2M CZK in revenues and philanthropic donations. The same amount was spent on operational management and expenses related to organized events.

FINANCIALS	2023
I. COSTS	2,640,119 Kč
1.1 Variable	302,719 Kč
Event space rent	99,995 Kč
Other event production costs	202,724 Kč
1.2 Fixed	2,337,400 Kč
Contractors	1,813,117 Kč
Tools	18,121 Kč
Rent	99,725 Kč
Graphic design	54,733 Kč
Minor expenses	190,826 Kč
Merchandise	160,878 Kč
II. INCOME	2,668,986 Kč
2.1 From members	672,790 Kč
Attendee fees	348,394 Kč
Membership fees	301,000 Kč
Merchandise	23,396 Kč
2.2 From partners & donors	1,996,196 Kč
Donations	720,000 Kč
Partnerships	891,810 Kč
Patrons	335,908 Kč
VAT return	18,478 Kč
TOTAL	
COSTS	2,640,119 Kč
INCOME	2,668,986 Kč
Profit / Loss	-1,133 Kč

This is an unaudited financial overview as of December 31, 2023 (subject to change). The organization is not a VAT payer.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

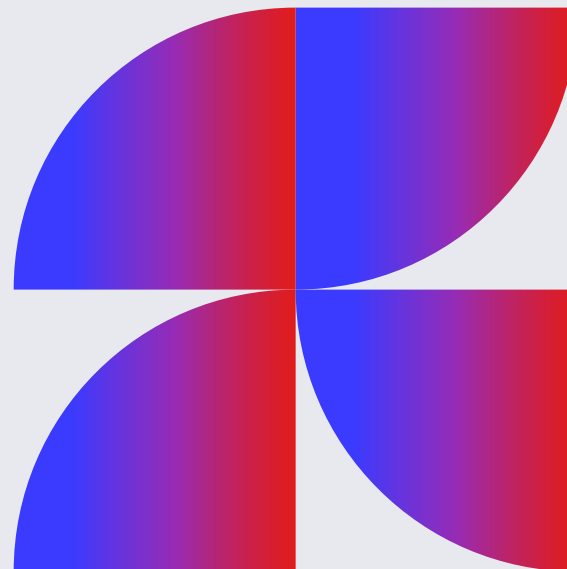
On a breezy evening in March 2019, a bunch of friends, fellow startup founders, met for a dinner back in the Hong Kong restaurant, in Karlín, “the Silicon Valley of Czechia”. They shared their struggles growing their businesses and discussed ways forward and their own experiences.

After the first dinner, more followed that year and the following year. Every time, more founders wanted to come. First, one large table at a restaurant was reserved, then a whole section of a restaurant, then a whole joint spanning two floors.

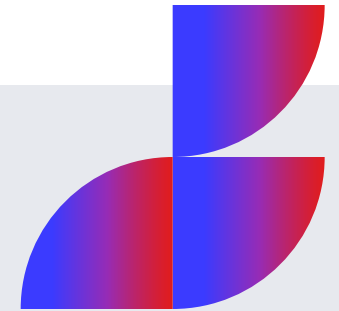
In 2021, the community was formalized into a non-profit organization, Czech Founders. The team grew, and activities expanded. True to its original mission, events, surveys, and initiatives were launched with the founders’ feedback and needs in mind. Being community-driven remains the key principle of Czech Founders going forward.

Since that very first dinner back in 2019, Czech Founders have:

- grown to **900+ members**,
- organized over **30 events** for more than **2,000 founders**,
- launched education programs for **200 founders**,
- built an investment firm, **Czech Founders VC**, backed up by successful founders who decided to invest by giving a part of their financial resources and time back to the community to help **solve the problem of low pre-seed activity in Czech and Slovak markets**.



OUR TEAM



Czech Founders, z.ú.



Vít Horký

A proud co-founder of Czech Founders and general partner in Czech Founders VC, philanthropist, and impact investor in NGOs and business ventures.



David Šiška

Former CEO Bonami, VC investor and co-founder of Czech Founders.



Barbora Werdmölder

Global operator and managing partner of Czech Founders.



Jiřina Dunková

An OG organization freak that makes sure things happen as they should.

Czech Founders VC Team

The Czech Founders VC team is operationally and legally separate. Yet, the team members help the non-profit in specific topics such as connecting to relevant stakeholders in the ecosystem, legal analysis and events organization. The VC originated from the need for pre-seed capital community we identified in 2022. The Czech Founders VC gives back 5% of profits to the non-profit Czech Founders.



Ondřej Smýkal

Analysing investment opportunities and supporting founders.



David Přerovský

Analysing investments and working with founders.



Adam Bočev

VC operations and working with founders.



Vašek Pavlečka

VC investor, leading investments at Czech Founders VC.



Ivan Kristel

VC investor, supporting portfolio startups.

A big thank you to our alumni team member **Lucie Jurystová** who was the heartbeat of the events we organized in the past two years.

BECOME A MEMBER

Apply for
membership:



Apply for
investment:



BECOME A PARTNER

Get exposure to Czech startup founders by sponsoring
our events and initiatives.

Contact us for more info:

Barbora Wermölder, barbora@czechfounders.org

SUPPORT US



Donate to our transparent account to help
us with our ongoing operations costs.

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Owner: Czech Founders z.ú.

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