

Annual Report 2007

**Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Center for Social and Economic Strategies**



Our Mission

The Center for Social and Economic Strategies is an interdisciplinary research and teaching unit developing the theory, methodology and practice of exploring possible futures and applying forecasts to practical management policies. For these purposes CESES:

- ⇒ identifies key issues and development priorities for the Czech Republic in the context of globalization and European integration;
- ⇒ produces particular and comprehensive analyses, scenarios, visions and strategies of the social, economic, environmental and political development of the Czech Republic in a global context;
- ⇒ creates cognitive and methodological prerequisites for improving the strategic management of the country;
- ⇒ promotes dialogue with specialists, politicians, public administration officials, representatives of public sector, and individual citizens.

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From the Head of CESES



Dear Friends of Good Future,

The task of the Center for Social and Economic Strategies of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague has been from its inception in 2000 to systematically explore the possible futures of our country, to identify looming threats and developmental possibilities, and to outline visions, strategies and scenarios of its further development.

In 2007 we presented experts and the general public with more food for thought and development of conceptual and productive public policies. A summary of relevant information will be found in this report, and details can be obtained by visiting our website, <http://ceses.cuni.cz>.

One of our publications released last year dealt with the subject of strategic governance. We offered a theoretical explanation of this particular concept and attempted a thorough analysis of the "current shape" of strategic governance in various fields in the Czech Republic and in international comparison. We concluded that the working title, "Strategic Governance in the Czech Republic", did not reflect reality and opted for a more realistic title, "Strategic Governance and the Czech Republic".

We launched an ambitious program of discussion meetings on selected topics, intended for a broader scientific and public community, members of parliament, and politicians. We hosted Professor Richard Rose, a leading authority from the University of Aberdeen Centre for the Study of Public Policy; Professor Philippe S. Schmitter from the European University Institute in Florence, founder of contemporary corporatism studies; U.S. financier and philanthropist George Soros; Professor Richard Scheffler of the University of California, Berkeley (who specializes in health economics and health policy); Professor A. M. Migranyan, globalist and political scientist from the Russian Academy of Sciences; and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, former Danish prime minister currently serving as president of the Party of European Socialists.

I am pleased to note the arrival, in CESES, of several talented young researchers, in addition to Professor František Ochrana, a leading expert on public finances and programs.

Good news for the advancement of our field is the arrival of a new periodical, The Central European Journal of Public Policy, established by my colleagues in CESES.

I believe our Annual Report will help you to find out what's on offer from the Center for Social and Economic Strategies at Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences for you, your institutions, and the nation at large. We always appreciate any comments and suggestions on how to improve our output. You can send them to ceses@fsv.cuni.cz or share them at one of our many meetings.

Prof. Martin Potůček, PhD.

National Research Projects

Visions and Strategies of the Development of Czech Society within the EU

A particular project developed within the framework of a joint research intention of Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophical Faculty (reg. no. MSM0021620841). The objective is to identify a set of relevant visions for modernizing the Czech Republic, to ascertain the parameters of existing potentials and moving implementation forces, and to develop possible strategies of implementing these visions within the Czech Republic as well as in the integration of the Czech Republic in the EU and the global division of labour. The aim is also to promote the conceptual and methodological basis for the forecasting and shaping of public policy.

The project is divided into five theme subprojects :

Visions and strategies of Czech Society's development in the EU: Criteria, coordination and communication

This is an umbrella project coordinating other staff projects and fostering communication in public space as a pre-requisite of creation and practical implementation of visions and strategies. It spurs the development of an overall concept of formulating comprehensive visions and strategies as well as a criteria bloc of quality and sustainability of life; special attention is paid to the relationships between social cohesion and economic competitiveness.

Project Manager: Martin Potůček

Strategic governance

The project chiefly aims to produce theoretical concepts of research in strategic governance and provides a survey of empirical findings about strategic governance processes (or their absence) on various levels, including international and transnational institutions, notably the EU. Also offered is comparison of approaches to strategic governance in other selected countries.

Project manager: František Ochrana

Modernization and its actors

This project identifies existing potentials and moving forces responsible for modernization including an analysis of the abilities of leading social actors – bearers of visions and development strategies; ways of their prospective thinking, their priority orientations, mutual conflicts, tensions and problems the solution of which is an essential condition of achieving specific visions through specific strategies. This research is based on the interpretation of sizable data sets from international and national surveys of popular opinions on the relevant issues of modernization.

Project Manager: Pavol Frič

Security

The project builds upon a wider approach to security and develops its theoretical and applied levels; identifies key factors influencing the security of the Czech Republic and the European Union; and formulates forecasts concerning the future development of security situations at large, in Europe and the Czech Republic. Members of the project team share in expert discussions on the formulation of a new Security Strategy of the Czech Republic and other key documents.

Project Manager: Miloš Balabán

Methodology of analysing and formulating public policies and strategies

This is the methodological “coping stone” of the whole master project. Its aim is to foster the theory and methodology of comprehensive forecasting studies and to generalize experience with practical forecasting and public policy.

Project Manager: Arnošt Veselý

Project Homepage: <http://www.ceses.cuni.cz/CESES-15.html>

Social and cultural cohesion of a differentiated society

CESES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague;

Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague;

Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic;

Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno.

CESES is the coordinator of a project based on sweeping nationwide questionnaire probes, comparative analysis relying on international databases, institutional analysis, data analysis of internal peripherals of the Czech Republic, and in-depth and group interviews of selected population categories in the Czech Republic.

Project Manager: Jiří Musil

Project Homepage: <http://www.ceses.cuni.cz/CESES-17.html>

Shared values and behavioral standards as a source of strengthening social cohesion and overcoming adverse impacts of social differentiation in the Czech Republic

National Research Program II, Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Education (reg. no. 2D06014)

The goal of the research project spread over 2006-2010 is to analyze changes in the social structure and obtain background material to identify social cohesion-enhancing factors in the Czech Republic. Analysis of new social differentiation processes and their associations with the Czech society's value, belief and standard structure will produce methods to assist secondary socialization which would help strengthen social cohesion. Analysis of new social differentiation processes and their associations with the Czech society's value, belief and standard structure will produce methods to assist secondary socialization which would help strengthen social cohesion.

Project Manager: Libor Prudký

Research of new principles and methods of public protection, crisis management and increasing alertness to potential effects of chemical, radioactive and nuclear weapons and other hazardous substances; Ministry of the Interior, General Directorate of Czech Fire Rescue Service, Public Protection Institute of Lázně Bohdaneč

This is a joint project of the Czech Ministry of the Interior and General Directorate of the Czech Fire Rescue Service – Public Protection Institute of Lázně Bohdaneč. The goal of the 2006-2010 research project is to predict future changes in the security environment and their impact on the security policy of the Czech Republic.

Project Manager: Miloš Balabán

Analysis of structural compliance of Prague's secondary schools and colleges with Prague regional specifics

Study commissioned by the Education Department of the Prague City Council

The study provided an analysis of compliance or noncompliance of the structure of Prague's secondary schools and colleges with regional specifics of the Capital City of Prague, viewed especially from the angle of graduates' prospects on the labor market and within the economic structure of Prague.

Project Manager: Arnošt Veselý

International Research Projects

Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe – The making of European Citizenship – Network of Excellence (CINEFOGO – Contract no. 513350)

Within this project under the 6th EU Framework Program (Contract no. 5133050), CESES has joined a consortium of more than 40 universities and research centers. The purpose of this network is to generate and disseminate findings about the development of citizenship values and overlapping identities as well as to overcome civic apathies and social exclusions in Europe. Denmark's Roskilde University is the chief project coordinator. CESES is the network's main coordinator for the effective transfer of scientific findings and best practices on to many target groups at various European Community levels; it is also the national coordinator within the Czech Republic.

Project Manager: Martin Potůček

The Role of Organized Civil Society for the Governance of Transition in the Czech Republic

This has been a project under the 6th EU Framework Program, approved by the European Commission in the framework of the Marie Curie Chair Program (Contract no. MEXC-CT-2005-02449). CESES and the Department of Public and Social Policy of the Charles University Faculty of Social Sciences have played host to Dr. Jürgen Grote of Konstanz Universität (Germany), who analyzes interdependences and strategic behavior of public and private sector organizations.

Project Manager: Jürgen Grote

Monitoring Quality of Life in Europe

CESES is an institutional contributor to international comparative research of quality of life in the EU Member States and Candidate Countries, conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin, Ireland) and the Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung (Berlin, Germany).

Project Manager: Martin Potůček

Finance and Delivery of Mental Health Services in Central Europe

The objective of the joint project of CESES at the Charles University Faculty of Social Sciences with The School of Public Health at the University of California (Berkeley, U.S.A.) is to introduce high-level interdisciplinary studies in the U.S.A. for economists, sociologists, psychologists, physicians and/or post-doctoral students of other social or political sciences from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

Project Manager: Martin Potůček

EUSECON – A New Agenda for European Security Economics


Under the 7th EU Framework Program, CESES has participated, since the spring of 2007, in the preparation, and since March 2008 in the implementation, of the "EUSECON – A New Agenda for European Security Economics" project. This falls under Theme 7 – Security. The project is coordinated by DIW Berlin with a consortium of 14 partners. Its goal is to outline a research framework in the field of "security economics" and to study economic aspects of specific security problems and policies.

Project Manager: Libor Stejskal

Significant Events

Seminars, conferences, roundtables and research outcome presentations are important components of the CESES activities. They serve as tools in fulfilling our mission of promoting dialog with experts, political leaders, public administration officials, representatives of the public sector, and citizens. All events listed below took place in Prague.

Name of conference/seminar	Description	Date
Iran: Current situation and prospects	Discussion panel with: B. Tureček, Právo Staff Writer; C. Bumbálek, expert from the Association for International Problems; L. Cimburek, Defense Expert on Provisional Iraq Administration at the Iraqi Ministry of Defense (2003); C. Munter, U.S. Embassy in Prague; M. Balabán, CESES	13.2.
Changing Forms of State Intervention in Social Protection – their Effects on Social Citizenship Rights	International conference in conjunction with CINEFOGO Network was addressed by experts from 11 European countries and the U.S.	16. - 17.2.
Does Europe need to speak one language to talk public matters?	Lecture by Prof. R. Rose (University of Aberdeen, Centre for the Study of Public Policy). Organized by: CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	15.3.
Citizens and Public Policy	Lecture by Prof. R. Rose (University of Aberdeen, Centre for the Study of Public Policy). Organized by: CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	16.3.
European integration impacts on "homespun" democracies in EU Member States	Lecture by Prof. P.C. Schmitter . (European University Institute in Florence, Department of Political and Social Sciences). Organized by: CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	29.3.
History of corporatist theories and recognizing modern European societies	Lecture by Prof. P.C. Schmitter . Organized by: CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	30.3.
Launching "A Safe Czech Republic in a Safe Europe"	Book launch sponsored by Czech Agriculture Minister P. Gandalovič; J. Borovec, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of ČEZ; F. Bublan, Chairman of the Security Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of	3.4.

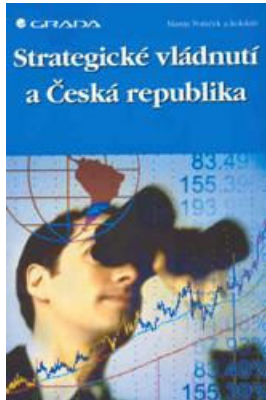
	Czech Parliament; Prof. J. Havel of IES FSV UK; B. Týřová from the Department of Information on European Affairs; and M. Potůček, head of CESES FSV UK	
Debate on the upcoming Czech release of his book "The Age of Fallibility: The Consequences of the War on Terror"	Discussion with George Soros ahead of the release of the Czech version of his book. Organized by CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	27.4.
		
Afghanistan: Current situation and prospects	Discussion panel with S. Füle, Czech Ambassador to NATO; S. Horák, IMS FSV UK; V. Kuchyňová Šmigolová, Head of Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; L. Kudláček, Coordinator of Afghanistan Projects at People in Need; L. Rouček, First Deputy Chairman of the European Parliament Foreign Committee; A. Sporyš - Senior Information Analyst/Deputy Chief of Staff; UN Mission in Afghanistan; Major General J. Prokš, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Czech Army and Director of Ministry of Defense Joint Operations Center; M. Balabán – CESES	18.5.
Finance and Delivery of Mental Health Services in Central Europe	International research training conference to set up a regional research network on mental health in Central and Eastern Europe held in conjunction with the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.	20. - 23.5.
Social Capital, Economy and Health: New findings	Lecture by Prof. R. Scheffler (University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.). Organized by CESES, ISS FSVK UK Chair of Public and Social Policies, Czech Association of the Club of Rome, MUTUA – Association for the Cultivation of Public Space, Media Partner EKONOM	23.5.
Russian view of global politics; problems, challenges and approaches	Topical issues discussed with Prof. A.M. Migranyan , (Russian Academy of Political Sciences, member of Russian Federation Foreign and Defense Policy, Vice Chairman of Commission on Globalization and National Strategies of the Russian Federation Societal Chamber)	13.6.

TRANSAACT Pilot Training	Pilot course on sharing outcomes with the press, politicians and general public, organized within the CINEFOGO Spread of Excellence Project	23. - 27.9.
Hotbeds of World Tension	Debate and presentation of book. Panelists: M. Šlachta – book author; J. Prokš – representative of the General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic; K. Kohout – member of four missions; K. Rožánek, Czech Public TV reporter; M. Broža, head of IC UN; M. Balabán - CESES	25.9.
Position of China in the contemporary world	Focused discussion with H.E. HUO YUZHEN, PhD, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Czech Republic	22.10.
Future Security of the EU and the Czech Republic: How We Are Prepared	International conference organized within "Visions and Strategies of Czech Society's Development in the EU" project; team project "Security" (CESES FSV UK), co-organized by Public Protection Institute of Lázně Bohdaneč and European Commission Office in the Czech Republic. The conference was sponsored by (in alphabetical order): MUDr. Pavel Bém , Lord Mayor of Prague; Mgr. František Bublan , Chairman of the Security Committee of the House of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic; Mgr. Petr Gandalovič , Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic; Prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl, DrSc. , Rector of Charles University in Prague; Dr. Libor Rouček , First Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the European Parliament; and Maj.-Gen. Miroslav Štěpán , General Director of the Fire Rescue Corps of the Czech Republic	23.11.
New Social Europe: A Turn in the Program Orientation of the European Left?	International conference. The keynote speaker was Poul Nyrup Rasmussen (President of the Party of European Socialists [PES] and former Danish prime minister. Event organizers: CESES and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Czech Republic	7.12.

Principal Outputs of the Year

Publications

Strategic Governance and the Czech Republic



M. Potůček *et al.*
Prague, Grada, 2007

The book delineates theoretical approaches to and indicators of strategic governance. The role of transnational and international organizations is compared with the role of national institutions in strategic governance in various EU Member States. A summary of findings about attempts to apply strategic governance to the Czech Republic after 1989 is provided. Other chapters focus on the analysis of the role of elites, public, political parties, media and public budgets in strategic governance. In conclusion the book quotes several case studies on strategic documents at the national, regional and local level. The target group comprises top management workers in corporate executive structures as well as public administration, personnel processing strategic documents, employees of consulting agencies, scientists and researchers, and students in this field.

A Safe Czech Republic in a Safe Europe



Various Authors, Libor Stejskal (ed.),
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, 2007
Publication of the project "A Safe Czech Republic in a Safe Europe" (2006).

Four theme areas – "Strategic Framework for European Security", EU as a Global and Regional Security Actor", "Strengthening Internal Security of the EU" and "EU Energy

Safety: A key issue of security policy" – present a multilayer mosaic of EU and Czech security policies through official documents, expert studies and main outputs communicated in public during the project.

The publication quotes two key documents that describe and outline the EU's basic attitude to European and global security and appear for the first time in a Czech translation: **European Security Strategy** and the **Doctrine of Human Security for Europe**.

Czech Republic in the European Union: Transformations and Inspirations



Collection of papers from CESES FSV UK conference
Prague
2-3 November 2006
Praha, AVAS, s.r.o., 2007

This book brings you a collection of papers presented at the conference "Czech Republic in the European Union: Transformations and Inspirations". The conference was held on 2-3 November 2006 in Prague in conjunction with the Foundation for the Development of Civic Society and its Čerych Fund. Its media partners were Ekonom weekly and Czech information portal EurActiv.cz.

CESES Papers

A CESES series of professional papers by Staff Members and other fellow researchers

Comparison of two aspects of social cohesion in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Finland and Greece

Šmídová M.,
Rákoczyová M.

Value Portrait of European Countries. Comparative analysis based on the approach of Shalom Schwartz

Vávra M.

Approaches to sociological research of culture and stratification

Bayer I., Šafr J.,
Vojtíšková K

Prague Social Science Studies (PSSS)

Prague Social Science Studies provides a platform for coordinated joint publication of working papers produced by the research plan teams similarly to the other research projects executed by the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague. The PSSS mission is to enhance the interdisciplinary character of scientific research endeavors.

These studies are available at <http://www.ceses.cuni.cz/CESES-113.html>

On the origins of entrepreneurship in transition countries : the case of Czechoslovak entrepreneurial elite	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 36 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-022. ISSN 1801-5999.	Benáček V.
Welfare state transformations in Central and Eastern Europe	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 46 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-023. ISSN 1801-5999.	Potůček M.
Czech national action plan on social inclusion: did it matter?	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 24 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-024. ISSN 1801-5999.	Potůček M.
Transformations of welfare state in Central and Eastern Europe	Praha: FSV UK, 2007. 40 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-025. ISSN 1801-5999. [in Czech]	Potůček M.
Problem delimitation in public policy	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 22 s. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-026. ISSN 1801-5999.	Veselý A.
Deployment of missile defense base as a strategic decision process and public interest	Praha: FSV UK, 2007. 25 s. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-027. ISSN 1801-5999. [in Czech]	Rašek A.
The extended concept of security and the Czech security practice	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 35 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-028. ISSN 1801-5999.	Balabán M., Rašek A., Stejskal L.
Contemporary religion as one of the reasons of European identity	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 28 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-029. ISSN 1801-5999.	Prudký L..
Conceptual framework for the analysis of educational policy	Prague: FSV UK, 2007. 35 p. Prague social science studies. Public policy and forward studies, PPF-30. ISSN 1801-5999. [in Czech]	Veselý A.

ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY POPULAR PRESS

Direct participation is not a mistake	Rašek A.	Právo	4.1.
Unintended consequences of the Iraq war	Balabán M.	Právo	11.1.
Topodalík strategy prevails	Rašek A.	HN	16.1.
Not only radar at stake	Balabán M.	Právo	23.1.
Do we really need the base?	Rašek A.	HN	8.2.
Disgracing the cops	Rašek A.	Právo	10.2.
...no, Koreans and Iranians will not dare to attack us	Rašek A.	MF Dnes	15.2.
Don't wait for U.S. presidential election	Balabán M.	Právo	19.2.
A dangerous experiment	Potůček M.	Právo	14.4.
What's on Nicolas Sarkozy's mind	Balabán, Rašek	HN	31.5.
Why the radar is a strategic choice	Rašek A.	MF Dnes	2.6.
Threatening the return of conscription is uncouth	Rašek A.	MF Dnes	7.6.
Uneasy role for Vlasta Parkanová	Rašek A.	Právo	11.6.
History AD 2020	Balabán, Rašek	MF Dnes	16.6.
General strike need not be a dream	Rašek A.	Právo	22.6.
What about civil disobedience?	Rašek A.	Právo	7.7.
Duel: Carrot and stick	Potůček M.	MF Dnes	9.7.
Langer's carrot and stick approach ineffective as yet	Rašek A.	MF Dnes	4.8.
Do clans have a say in court?	Rašek A.	Právo	13.8.
Behold, ye citizens	Rašek A.	Právo	7.9.
Proč se „žabákuje“ v policii	Rašek A.	Právo	17.9.
Geopolitics and our Afghan mission	Balabán M.	Právo	21.9.
Should rescue corps be scrapped?	Balabán, Rašek	iHNed.cz	26.9.
Blackout, Czech way	Balabán, Rašek	MF Dnes	12.10.
Presence of the present-less	Musil J.	Lidové noviny	13.10.
The radar dozen	Rašek A.	Právo	10.12.
American lesson	Balabán M.	Právo	12.12.
Call it political responsibility	Rašek A.	Právo	18.12.

INTERACTING WITH PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION

ČRo6	Discussion program on U.S. missile defense base	Rašek A.	30.1.
ČRo6	Czech value system in time and tide	Prudký L., Šmídová M.	3.4.
ČT24	Before Midnight – Alexander Mitrofanov interviews Miloš Balabán on European security policy issues	Balabán M.	11.5.
ČRo6	European integration and globalization (Can the EU help the welfare state to catch up with globalizing capitalism? If so, how?)	Musil J., Potůček M., Benáček V., Šmídová M.	17.5.
ČT24	Panel discussion on a topical theme joined by Š. Füle, Czech Ambassador to NATO; S. Horák, IMS FSV UK; V. Kuchyňová Šmigolová, Head of Security Policy Section of Czech MFA; L. Kudláček, coordinator of Afghan projects for People in Need foundation; L. Rouček, First Deputy Chairman of European Parliament Foreign Relations Committee; A. Sporyš, Senior Information Analyst/Deputy Chief of SMFF, UN Mission in Afghanistan; Maj.-Gen. J. Prokš, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Army of the Czech Republic and Director of MOD Joint Center of Operations	Live broadcast	18.5.
24cz	Russian view of global politics: Questions, challenges and approaches	Recording	13.6.
ČT2	Beautiful Olympic Prague, documentary	Stejskal L.	4.7.
ČT2	Farewell to Arms. Program in the series Phenomenon Today	Rašek A.	20.9
ČT24	Focused debate on publication attended by M. Šlachta, author; J. Prokš, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Army of the Czech Republic; K. Kout, veteran of four missions; K. Rožánek, ČT reporter; M. Broža, head of IC UN; and M. Balabán, CESES FSV UK Prague	Live broadcast	25.9.
ČT24	International conference on security future of EU and Czech Republic, and how we are prepared	Live broadcast of part of conference	23.11.

Central European Journal of Public Policy



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The first issue of the Central European Journal of Public Policy (CEJPP) saw light in 2007, and its aim is to provide academic scholars and professionals in different policy fields with the latest theoretical and methodological advancements in public policy, supported by sound empirical research.

The CEJPP is a peer-reviewed scientific journal, published in English and addressing all topics of public policy including civil society, social services and healthcare, environmental protection, education, labour market, immigration, security, public financing and budgeting, administrative reform, performance measurements, governance etc. It is a multi-disciplinary oriented journal which attempts to find a balance between description, explanation and evaluation of public policies and that encourages a wide range of social science approaches, both qualitative and quantitative.

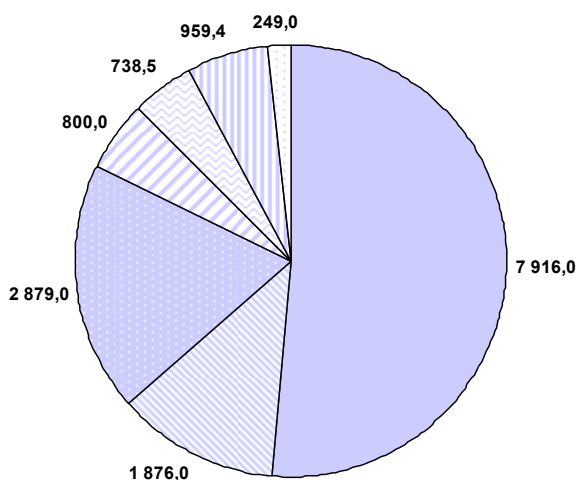
The idea to start this journal was slow to come. As researchers of public policy we were painfully aware of the impossibility of advancing and perfecting our field without a periodical of our own. It may not be accidental to decide to start the journal in the atmosphere in which Martin Potůček, in his analysis of the development of public policies in the Czech Republic, described this field, in the first issue of the journal, as something only just coming of age. However, there is doubtless reason enough why we should want to devote our time and effort to the tricky business of publishing a journal. We believe that the specific historical development of Central Europe requires a specific approach to the analysis and formulation of public policies, and it is not possible to unconditionally

accept and readily apply the approaches, methods and findings of Western (i.e. chiefly American) policy analysis. We are led by our experience gathered during our own research and analytical efforts, by feedback from people in the field, and the instruction provided to master and doctoral students. We would like to contribute at least a modest share to establishing public policy as a unique scientific discipline in our region. Seen from this vantage point, our journal should be, above all, a common platform to spur open discussion concerning material topics as well as theoretical and methodological themes.

Yet public policy is miles away from academic issues. We would like to offer practical professionals in the field of public policy analyses of specific material fields and policies that would be based on the latest theoretical findings and empirical data. It is precisely the shortage of well-grounded, methodologically robust and empirically supported analyses that we see as one of the gravest problems of practical public policy in the Czech Republic and probably also throughout the Central European region. This situation must be ascribed to insufficient demand among political leaders and public administration officials, the lack of tradition of this particular field in the post-socialist countries, as well as the problems associated with publishing analyses that often border on several scientific disciplines and policies in field-specific scientific journals.

We aim to provide a platform for articles of this type as we believe that in the long run this will introduce new qualities to our field and stimulate demand among decision-makers at all levels of public administration.

Our thanks go to all our editorial colleagues, for this journal would have not seen light if it had not been for their enthusiasm and support. We would like to thank also our international colleagues, especially Professor Ľudmila Malíková from Slovakia's Institute for Public Policy and Professor László Vass of the Budapest College of Communication and Business, for their personal and institutional support and cooperation within the CINEFOGO international network.



- Research Intention of Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophical Faculty, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (reg. no. MSM0021620841)
- Shared Values and Behavioral Standards as a Source of Strengthening Social Cohesion and Overcoming Adverse Impacts of Social Differentiation in the Czech Republic, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (reg. no. 2D06014)
- Social and Cultural Cohesion in a Differentiated Society, Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (reg. no. 1J 028/04-DP2)
- Research of New Principles and Methods of Civil Defense, Crisis Management and Boosting the Preparedness of the Integrated Rescue System to Fight Potential Effects of Chemical, Radioactive and Nuclear Weapons and Other Hazardous Substances, Ministry of In
- Civil society and new forms of governance in Europe - The making of European citizenship, Network of Excellence - CINEFOGO, 6. RP EU (contract no. 513350)
- Finance and Mental Health Services Training in Czech Republic/Central Europe, University of California (Subaward no. SA5602-11401) - změnit název!!!!!!
- Other Sources

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