

Chapter 65

Local Public Service Delivery Arrangements in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Juraj Nemec

Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Jana Soukopova

Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Beata Mikusova Merickova

Matej Bel University, Slovakia

ABSTRACT

This chapter discusses the issue of efficiency of the different modes of the provision of local public services in two selected new EU member states – the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic and Slovakia have a long common history and it is feasible to include both of them in the analysis. The first main part of the chapter analyses the history, transformation and the current local public delivery arrangements in the Czech Republic and Slovakia with the focus on the efficiency of the different modes of production. The final part tries to explain the main purposes behind the fact that externalisation does not deliver visible improvements.

INTRODUCTION

Public administration reforms in Czech Republic and Slovakia started almost immediately after the ‘Velvet Revolution’ in 1989. From the beginning, decentralization was used as an important reform tool to achieve better performance from the system, bringing positive but also negative results at the same time. The municipal and regional governments are currently responsible for a comprehensive set of public services: local public services, part of the sport, leisure and tourist provisions, children’s homes, some health services, basic social services, primary and secondary education or cultural establishments. Probably the most important remaining problem, limiting the success of decentralization processes in

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-9860-2.ch065

Local Public Service Delivery Arrangements in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

the Czech Republic and Slovakia is significant territorial fragmentation and lacking the financial and managerial capacity to successfully adopt the NPM instruments in public service delivery.

During the socialist period, the local communal public services were part of the so called ‘local economy’. The structure and size of the ‘local economy’ are characterized by Figure 1 and Table 1. Local services were delivered by national committees in accordance with uniform rules as defined by the law and financed partly from the state budget and partly from consumer fees (local enterprises, recycling bodies and housing bodies were self-financing institutions).

Figure 1.

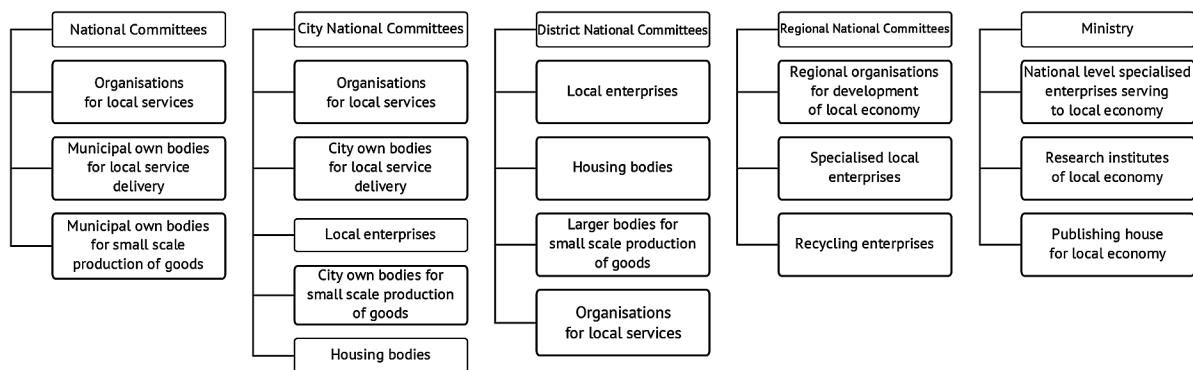


Table 1. The scale of the local economy in Czechoslovakia

| Indicator and Location (Czech=CSR, Slovakia=SSR) | | Years | | | |
|--|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1987 |
| Local enterprises (legal bodies) | CSR | 382 | 229 | 224 | 219 |
| | SSR | 152 | 106 | 101 | 99 |
| In it: Local enterprises (service delivery bodies) | CSR | 19,435 | 17,482 | 17,233 | 17,484 |
| | SSR | 7,181 | 7,328 | 8,146 | 8,050 |
| Recycling enterprises (purchasing paper, metals, etc.) | CSR | 1,650 | 1,692 | 1,887 | 1,866 |
| | SSR | 324 | 315 | 463 | 440 |
| Housing bodies | CSR | 443 | 160 | 156 | 160 |
| | SSR | 115 | 59 | 56 | 61 |
| Organisations for local services | CSR | 234 | 213 | 222 | 245 |
| | SSR | 114 | 136 | 118 | 117 |
| Municipal own bodies for local service delivery | CSR | 2,013 | 1,725 | 1,618 | - |
| | SSR | 253 | 288 | 307 | - |
| Municipal own bodies for small scale production of goods | CSR | 1,689 | 1,407 | 1,665 | 1,769 |
| | SSR | 1,047 | 886 | 1,050 | 1,139 |
| Self-employed citizens delivering services | CSR | 21,265 | 13,159 | 27,423 | 31,487 |
| | SSR | 5,022 | 3,303 | 5,641 | 5,902 |

(Kontra et al., 1989)

17 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/chapter/local-public-service-delivery-arrangements-in-the-czech-republic-and-slovakia/235237

Related Content

Assessing the Prevalence, Cause and Consequences of Corruption in Dagmawi Minilk Sub-City, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Endalsasa Belay Abitew (2020). *International Journal of Political Activism and Engagement* (pp. 54-63).
www.irma-international.org/article/assessing-the-prevalence-cause-and-consequences-of-corruption-in-dagmawi-minilk-sub-city-bahir-dar-ethiopia/246352

Adult Learners: Emerging Activists of the Modern Campus

David Deggs (2019). *Exploring the Technological, Societal, and Institutional Dimensions of College Student Activism* (pp. 114-132).
www.irma-international.org/chapter/adult-learners/217122

Future-Proof Transformational School Design for the New Era

Mara Simmons and Mary Wiltshire (2022). *Cases on Academic Program Redesign for Greater Racial and Social Justice* (pp. 303-320).
www.irma-international.org/chapter/future-proof-transformational-school-design-for-the-new-era/293038

Governance Evolution and Impact on Economic Growth: A South Asian Perspective

A. Subramanyam Raju, Nagarajan Balasubramaniam and Rajamanickam Srinivasan (2020). *Open Government: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 2111-2139).
www.irma-international.org/chapter/governance-evolution-and-impact-on-economic-growth/235270

The Contributions and Challenges of Government-Organized Non-Governmental Organizations to Community Development: Lesson from Amhara Development Association

Degwale Gebeyehu Belay (2019). *International Journal of Political Activism and Engagement* (pp. 14-29).
www.irma-international.org/article/the-contributions-and-challenges-of-government-organized-non-governmental-organizations-to-community-development/235391