
Origins of Public Policy in Prague

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Ten Years of Public Policy Studies in the
Czech Republic. Current State, Perspectives
and European Aspirations

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Early Traces

- Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk:
 - idea of humanity, broad concept of democracy
- Ferdinand Peroutka:
 - fabric of the new state (Czechoslovakia)
- Karel Čapek:
 - public issues, man as a *zoon politikon*

Beginning of the XX. century

The Prague Spring

- Zdeněk Mlynář et al.
reform of the political system of communism
- Ota Šik et al.
concept of socialist market economy
- Pavel Machonin et al.
social structure scrutinized empirically
- Radovan Richta et al.
civilization at a crossroad – role of education,
research and development, innovation

1963-1969

Dying Communism

- State Program of Economic Research

patchwork of research projects in the hands of liberal technocrats organized loosely across institutions; themes as structural problems of socialist economy; role of science, education, sport, culture, health care and social welfare in society; development and utilization of human potential; steering of economy and society *etc.*

1980s

1989 and after

- Program Committee of the Civic Forum and other programmatic civic initiatives

Opportunity window: deep motivation to improve human conditions. Many ideas and inspirations from within Czech society and from abroad; missing skills and links to Western science, non-existent training capacities

Pars pro toto - Josef Vavroušek

multiple systems, sustainable development, human values

Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

- Established in Spring 1990
 - Department of Social Policy in 1991
 - Institute of Sociological Studies in 1992
 - M.Sc. in Public and Social Policy since 1993
 - PhD. in Public and Social Policy since 1996
 - Complex Research of Public Policy Formation and Implementation in the Czech Republic led by Miroslav Purkrábek (1993-1999)
 - Center for Social and Economic Strategies in 2000
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Training in Public and Social Policy

- Euro/Atlantic split: Social/Public Policy
- Sociology as a core discipline
- Other disciplinary pillars: Public Administration, Public Economics, Law, Political Science
- Internships in public or nonprofit institutions
- Instruction in methods of policy analysis and design by team projects
- Broad selection of optional subjects

Hundreds of graduates employed in public, nonprofit and commercial sector in the Czech Republic and abroad (1995-2005)

Research in Public Policy

- Center for Social and Economic Strategies:
 - develops theory, methodology and practice of futures research
 - identifies and analyzes key issues, developmental barriers and opportunities of the Czech Republic
 - (Refer to the contribution *Czech Experience with the Development of Holistic Approach in Future Studies*)
 - Institute of Health Policy and Economics:
 - studies health status of the population
 - analyses the system of health care in the Czech Republic
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Thank you for your attention.
