



Shaping Czech future by problem-orientated participatory research

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Content



Overall Approach

- Theoretical Starting Points
- Methodological Starting Points
- Conceptual Model of the Development of the Czech Society and its Modernization in the Global Context
- Priority Issues
- Strategic Concepts
- Strategic Moves



Discussion, References





Overall approach

Centre for Social and Economic Strategies, Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague:

- ★ interdisciplinary research and teaching unit (think tank)
- ★ identifies and analyzes key issues, developmental barriers and opportunities of the Czech Republic
- ★ develops theory, methodology and practice of futures research and applies forecasts in public policy design

<http://ceses.cuni.cz>



Overall approach



Understanding	Theories (... many)
Conceptualization	Conceptual Model (1)
Problem identification	Priority issues (77)
Problem solution	Strategic Concepts (30)
Key societal innovation	Strategic Moves (7...)



I. Theoretical Starting Points

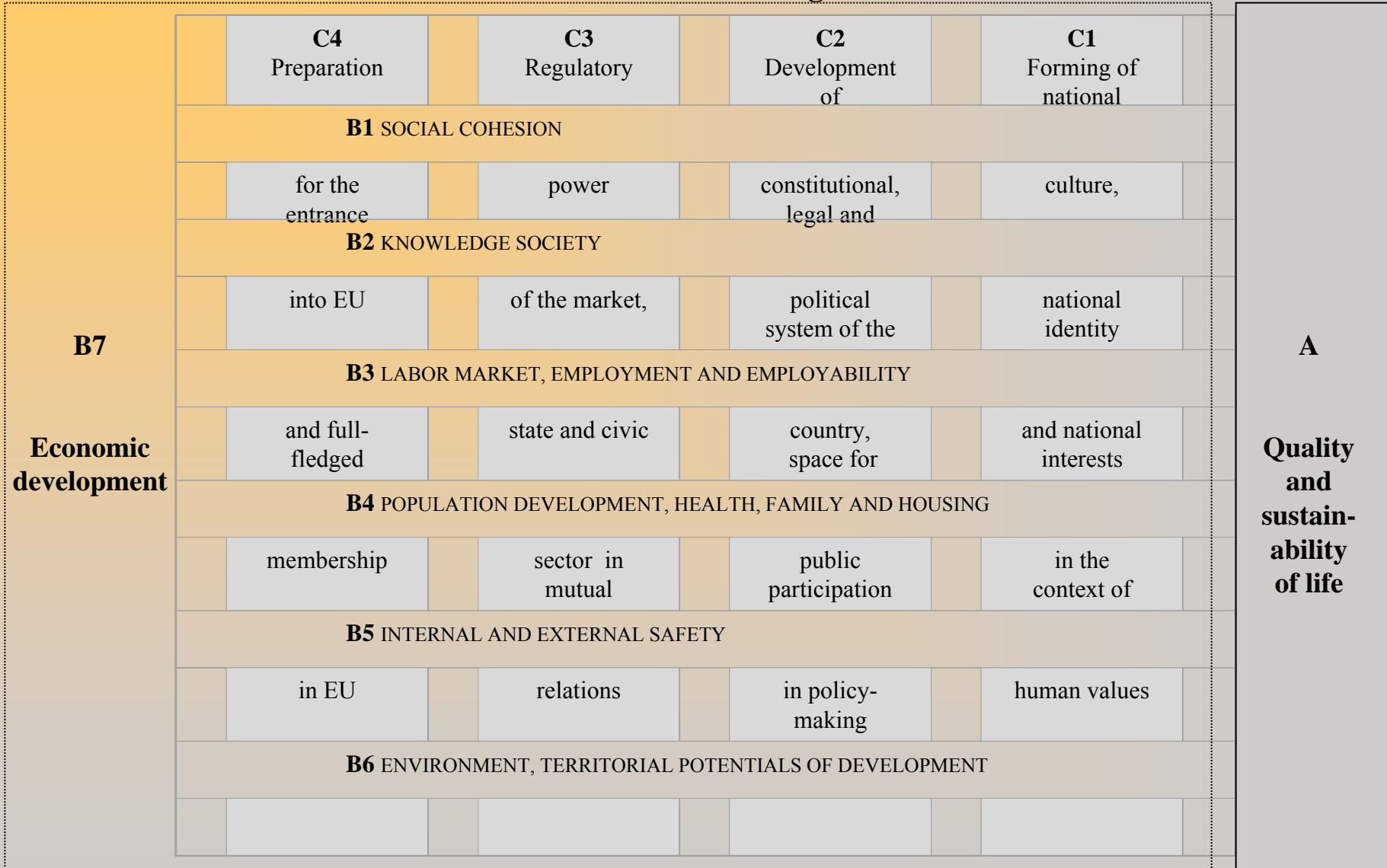
- ★ Traditional explanation of main ideas of the modernization theory and theory of global development, industrial and post-industrial society
- ★ information society and “knowledge society”
- ★ the 2nd modernization transformation
- ★ radical critique and reflexive modernization
- ★ theory of sustainable life, open society, globalization concepts and world system theory



II. Methodological Starting Points

- ★ problem-oriented participatory approach
 - problem identification crucial for the orientation of forecasting activities
 - involvement of experts and the public as a rule
- ★ selection of various methods derived from the general purpose of forecasting activities

III. Conceptual model of the development of the Czech society and its modernization in the global context



A – Criteria block B – Developmental potentials C – Formative regulators





Main Categories of the Model

A. Criteria block

➤ **Quality and sustainability of life**

Quality of life – present conditions of good life

Sustainability of life – development that meets the present needs without jeopardizing the needs of the generations to come

➤ **Economic development**

B. Developmental potentials - areas of societal life that offer the highest potential to improve the quality and sustainability of life in the future

C. Formative regulators - areas of societal life that influence developmental potentials by creating specific conditions of actor's behavior



IV. Priority Issues

- ★ the discrepancy between the present and desirable states of certain conditions of life in society
- ★ the solution which makes way for solving other problems
- ★ 77 priority issues identified by expert survey



Examples of Priority Issues



★ 19. Digital divide

★ 28. Insufficient prevention of unhealthy life-styles



★ 41. Ecological illiteracy of the overwhelming majority of the population

★ 51. High deficit in public finances



★ 60. Low level of public participation in political decision-making



V. Strategic Concepts

- ★ relatively complex action priorities – joint solutions for several issues or entire clusters of priority issues
- ★ include proposals of strategies: their aims, approaches, time horizons and a description of tools and actors involved in their realization
- ★ 30 strategic concepts identified by expert survey



Examples of Strategic Concepts



- ★ 2. Pension reform
- ★ 7. Development of volunteerism and civic labor
- ★ 12. Effective fight against corruption
- ★ 17. Optimum timing for the Euro introduction
- ★ 20. Support of the development of civic and national self-confidence
- ★ 27. Reform of the central state administration



VI. Strategic Moves

- ★ Societal innovations of high order that significantly outreach the common functioning of the state and society
- ★ They include a non-trivial idea with the potential to increase the quality and sustainability of life in the long run
- ★ They are able to incorporate several strategic concepts and thus contribute to the solution of many priority issues
- ★ Their implementation presupposes concentration and coordinated use of considerable resources



Overview of Strategic Moves

Cultivation of knowledge into a key factor of production
System of comprehensive security management in the
Czech Republic

Activation of territorial communities

Ways of development of social solidarity and national and
civic identity

Enhancing the Czech Republic's capacity to communicate
within the EU, and participate in the EU's decision
making

Innovation, adaptability and competitiveness of the Czech
economy in the European and global context

Enhancing good governance



Discussion



Understanding	Theories
Conceptualization	Conceptual Model
Problem identification	Priority Issues
Problem solution	Strategic Concepts
Key societal innovation	Strategic Moves

- ★ Question of complexity
- ★ Question of prioritizing options
- ★ Question of appropriate knowledge processing



Selected References

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