

The Advisory Bodies of the Central Government – a case study of the Czech Republic

Abstract

The government advisory bodies or expert groups are relatively frequent in the Czech Republic. Their formation was almost always - with the assistance of selected professionals from different backgrounds - motivated by an effort to find new solutions and pathways to public sector reforms and submit them for consideration to the central government. It is very challenging to measure the achievements of these advisory bodies or committees, as they have often been limited by both the purposefulness and political will judging their presented proposals. Using the historical method, this paper assesses all established advisory bodies during the last 15 years, their composition, activities, proposals, and reports to assess the justification of their establishment and real operation. Preliminary results demonstrate that the activities of these bodies are more half-done, rather rhetorical, and focused on creating documents and reports than have a real impact on the implementation of major public sector reforms. It seems that other factors like the specific political situation or suggestions from outside (e.g. EU regulations) play a more significant role when implementing reforms.