

# Party Patronage in CEE Countries: More politicization, more variance?

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**Abstract:** The paper is a part of a book project on Party Patronage and Politicization. It looks at the New Member States of the European Union: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, although as a region CEE is larger. Although coming from a similar background often denoted as soviet or CEE administrative tradition, the countries vary in the level and form of patronage. We analyze this variance by looking at executive relations: elected politicians, political appointees and top civil servants. In doing so we discuss if and how international trends in politics and administration may affect patronage and politicization in these countries. We review the existing research, specifically with regards to political appointees, bureaucratic appointments and their relations with minister. In conclusion, we discuss the magnitude, form and consequences of politicization in CEE countries.