

# Structural politicization: does rule adjustment on appointments effect turnover?

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**Abstract:** The paper builds upon the theory of patronage appointments and politicization as a lens of studying these practices on agency level in Slovakia, one of the most politicized CEE countries. Politicization is analyzed through bureaucratic turnover, focusing on the impact of government changes and legislative amendments that influence the recruitment and dismissal processes of the examined civil servants. The formal legislative change from political to meritocratic appointment took place repeatedly several times during the studied period. Therefore, the research with its unique dataset has the potential to contribute to the debate on patronage and politicization on agency level between different forms of recruitment.