Institutional Set-Up and Career Paths in the Executive Triangle in Bulgaria

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Abstract: This paper presents continuous research based on COST Action 22150 - Comparative Research on the Executive Triangle in Europe (CoREx). The projects aims to examine the different dimensions of politicization by examining the relationships of executive politicians, top civil servants, and ministerial advisers ('the executive triangle'). To do that the project maps the institutional set-up of the civil service, career backgrounds, roles and interactions in policymaking, and accountability and transparency of the executive triangle across regions and over time. The paper presents data and preliminary results on the institutional set up and career paths of members of the executive triangle. We note important differences in the career paths and backgrounds of bureaucrats vs ministers and political advisors. Given the lack of transparency and data availability in the Bulgarian context, this research offers unique insights into the structural and power dynamics of the executive triangle, allowing us to improve our understanding of levels of politicization, meritocracy and policy impact.