



FAKULTA SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚD  
*Univerzita Karlova v Praze*

## Workshop

# ***Different Aspects of Policy Expertise in and for Political Parties***

**Friday, February 13, 2015,  
Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Institute of Political Studies  
Institute of Sociological studies  
Smetanovo nábř. 6, 110 01 Praha 1,  
room H212**

Political parties play a key role in the policy-making process in the European liberal democracies. In comparison to other policy actors, political parties have a privileged institutional position, based primarily on their right to nominate candidates or elected and appointed officials to public office. Thus, political parties have great influence on the policy process and specific policy content, not only in the stage of agenda-setting and evaluation phase, but also in the process of policy formulation, policy decision and policy implementation. However, political parties are somehow omitted actor in policy process literature.

With the transformation of welfare state's role began to grow the volume and the quality of policy-related expertise. Performance of politics were in need of an increasingly larger volume of specialized policy information - whether associated with new policies in the frame of the rise of the welfare state model, whether related to the transformation of this model - and along with appropriately qualified policy personnel and cadres. Politics became more expert-based.

On the one hand, with regard to the institutional position of political parties in the policy-making process, the pressure of policy expertisation weights especially on them. As organizations in the political sphere political parties, especially in the first half of the 20th century, have fulfilled the representation function – they define social problems from the point of view of their own ideological bases, they aggregate interests, and represent them in the political realm. Along with the rise of the welfare state model there has increasingly started an expectation of their ability to produce - either alone or with the help of other resources - policy solutions to given problems and to ensure their implementation by competent policy managers / officials in public office. On the other hand, the form of policies and managerial skills gradually became the core of party competition.

If the differences in this area have become a key criterion for demarcation between the parties, it had to be emphasized that policy-related expertise should be linked from the very beginning with the nature of science - the value anchoring, the connection with certain shared criteria of validity, the situation of partisanship in a wide sense. In terms of policy there is simply a difference between expertise and "expertise", between the expert and the "expert". What's more, expertisness, as a source of legitimacy of a solution, has started to compete with representativeness. This trend is called the politicization of expertise.



The workshop aims to explore different aspects of policy expertise related to political parties and their capacity to influence policy-making process. Political parties are here considered as a central pole (unifying subject of the research) that encompasses various issues and approaches to study policy expertise, policy capacity, and organisation of political parties. The panel is intended to joint two sorts of political scholarship. On the one hand, political scientists who deal with organisation of political parties and find interesting the aspect of policy expertise within political parties. On the other hand, policy scholars who focus on different issues of policy expertise and consider political parties as an interesting and omitted field of policy process research.

This workshop is organized within the frame of the research project “**Policy-Related Expertise in Czech Political Parties**” financed by the Czech Science Foundation (**GAČR 13-20962S**).

This workshop is held under the auspice of the IPSA Research Committee 32 - Public Policy and Administration.

### Programme outline

#### **Session 1, 10.00-12.30,**

**Chair:** Vilém Novotný (Charles University in Prague)

**Papers:**

Martin Polášek and Michel Perottino (Charles University in Prague): *Theoretical Foundations of Policy-Related Expertise in Czech Political Parties*

Xavier Carpentier-Tanguy (University of Luxembourg): *From Ideas to the European Top? Think Tanks, Parties and the 2014 European Elections*

Attila Bartha (Hungarian Academy of Sciences): *Expertisation of Politics and Politicisation of Public Policy: Crisis-induced Policy Reforms in European Societies*

#### **Session 2, 14.00-17.00,**

**Chair:** Michel Perottino (Charles University in Prague)

**Papers:**

Vilém Novotný (Charles University in Prague): *Capable of Influencing the Policy Process? Significant Aspects of Policy Advisory Systems on the Case of Czech Political Parties*

Steven Van Hecke and Valérie Pattyn (Catholic University of Leuven): *Belgian Political Parties and their Study Centres*

Bernadette Connaughton (University of Limerick): *Shaping the Policy Agenda? Partisan Appointees and the Politics of Policy Making in Irish Coalition Government*