

The Paradox of Czech Crusaders: Will They Ever Learn the Corruption Lesson?* **(Corruption and Anticorruption in the Czech Republic)**

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Abstract:

Corruption has a negative impact on society and economy. The transition process in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) uncovered dormant possibilities for corruption and necessity for appropriate steps to be taken. We document the state of corruption in the Czech Republic and the measures introduced to fight it. We cover sectors of society and economy according to their importance of a consequential corruption hazard. We also described the government's program of anticorruption and its achievements and failures. The state of corruption in the country, measured by the Corruption Perception Index, presents a serious problem since the index does not improve as the transition process advances. Numerous comparative studies, however, suggest that corruption is more prominent feature in a number of other transition countries. We believe that the substantial change of approach to the institutional framework is necessary in order to prevent and fight corruption successfully.

Abstrakt:

Korupce má negativní dopad jak na ekonomiku tak společnost. Transformace ve střední a východní Evropě odhalila latentní možnosti korupce a nutnost odpovídajících protiopatření. V článku popisujeme současný stav korupce v ČR a přijaté kroky. Popisujeme jednotlivé oblasti rozdělené dle důležitosti korupčních důsledků a vládní protikorupční program s jeho úspěchy i neúspěchy. Stav ve společnosti se s postupující transformací nelepší neboť index míry korupce má soustavně negativní trend. Mnoho srovnávacích studií však uvádí, že korupce je větším problémem v řadě jiných transformujících se zemích. Změna v celkovém přístupu a ve výstavbě legislativního rámce je nezbytná, aby byl boj proti korupci úspěšný.

Keywords: corruption, institutions, transition, hidden economy, state administration

JEL Classification: H50, I20, K42, O17, P27, Z13

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* In the late middle ages the Czech Kingdom was at war with most of Europe since it was unsatisfied with the status of the Church, namely its corrupt policy of selling indulgences. The crusaders were not able to defeat the Czechs for a long time. Nowadays it is the opposite: the Czech Republic is heading for the EU and the EU is afraid of the possible corruption entering it along with the candidate countries.