

## **NOVOTNY, VLADIMIR ET AL.: VEŘEJNÁ SPRÁVA V ZEMÍCH VIŠEGRÁDSKÉ ČTYŘKY**

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The publication addressing the issues of organization and structure of the public administration system in individual countries of the Visegrad Four Group has been brought to the book market by the Prague publishing company Leges within the Teoretic edition. It is an initiative of four authors each of whom has worked on the issues of one country. Karel Klima from the Metropolitan University in Prague processed the data for the Republic of Poland; Kristína Kralikova from the Police Academy in Bratislava has drawn up the chapter on the Slovak Republic, Ladislav Dudor, also from the Police Academy in Bratislava, created the chapter devoted to Hungary and Vladimir Novotny from the Metropolitan University in Prague mapped the situation in the Czech Republic.

As there is only a minimum of authors dealing with the issue of public administration in the conditions of the Slovak and Czech Republic, it is necessary to appreciate the activity of this author. Not only do we lack quality monographs or scientific papers mapping the structure and functioning of public administration systems in Slovakia or the Czech Republic, nor can we find sufficient outputs in the field of public administration theory. This collective monograph of four colleagues from the university environment is actually the first real attempt to compare public administration in the countries in the heart of Central Europe.

The basic precondition for a quality comparative work is its uniform structure focusing on individual aspects common for all researched subjects. Although the authors have always worked in a pair at one academic workplace, at first sight the structure of the work evokes rather mixed impressions. The Czech Republic is described on 38 pages in seven chapters, Hungary on 53 pages in fourteen chapters, Poland on 31 pages in eight chapters and finally, Slovakia on 40

pages in seven chapters. However, the individual chapters do not have a common structure, even those which were made by the above mentioned twin authors who could have communicated within a common workplace.

The publication is intended for a wider public and university students. In my opinion, the authors who work in the university environment are expected to place greater emphasis on the uniformity of the structure of the presented work and clarity of the individual parts of the monograph. For example, while Slovakia is paid close attention to the historical development, in the chapter about the Czech Republic this context is totally absent. Different approaches are also seen in the views of the executive powers of the individual countries.

Nevertheless, the greatest benefit of the work is the fact that this is the first attempt to bring a comparative view of the public administration system in the countries of the European Union. The authors have collected a relatively large set of data on the researched countries gathered by analysis of various legal documents as well as of domestic literature. It is obvious that, except for Kristina Kralikova, all authors are lawyers and thus their view of individual countries is primarily of legislative character with the emphasis being placed on the state defined by individual legal provisions and regulations, regardless the influence of individual personalities on different posts. That is why in the part about Slovakia more emphasis is placed on realities, whether historical, cultural or personal.

Despite all the reservations against this fairly decent publication it is more than necessary to find its followers who could continue in improving the image of individual V4 countries, and, in particular, in further processing of this theme in other countries, at least within the European Union, that might offer quality university textbooks for the subjects within comparative public administration.

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