

<b>Project partners:</b>	<p><b>Legal Think Tanks and Government – Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Country Report. Czech Republic</b></p> <p><b>Authors</b>  <b>Romana BŘEZOVSKÁ</b>  <b>Veronika LAPŠANSKÁ</b>  <b>Viktoria LICHÁ</b>  <b>Aneta VONDROVÁ</b></p>
<b>POLAND</b>	
	
<b>HUNGARY</b>	
	
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	
	
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	
	
<b>UKRAINE</b>	
	
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	
	

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## Part One. Country questions

### Introduction – summary

*Summary (max. two pages, 4000 characters), to be prepared when the country report is drafted.*

- *Please summarize your report and state of interaction, collaboration between legal Think Tanks and the government in your country.*
- *What is most important? What is characteristic?*
- *What are most important findings and recommendations from your report?*

After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, the Czech Republic's political transition from a Communist country to a liberal democracy created space for various NGOs, including think-tanks. The history of think-tanks being quite short, the term “(legal) think-tank” is not widely used in the Czech context with these institutions falling under the umbrella category of NGOs. Nevertheless, the number of think-tanks in the Czech Republic is on the rise, their actions are becoming more visible and this corresponds to their bigger impact on public administration. Especially with the country's accession to the European Union in 2004, think-tanks have more opportunities to cooperate and adopt a more professional approach.

Legal think-tanks in the Czech Republic focus mainly on foreign policy, human rights, and inclusive transparent institutions - topics of interest since 1989. Human rights, democracy and strong liberal institutions are themes closely linked to the legacy of Václav Havel, the Czech Republic's first president (1993-2003) and an important figure in international relations. His emphasis on human rights and freedom accorded the Czech Republic a tradition related to the protection of individuals' liberties both at home and abroad.

Today, legal think-tanks (and NGOs in general) face problems related to their funding. Mostly, they are unable to pay adequate salaries to experts needed not only to monitor legislative procedures, negotiate changes, but also to present their outcomes or initiatives in an understandable and catchy

manner to the public. Think-tanks often have resources to organize a conference or a workshop, but not enough to employ an expert for a longer period of time. Thus, the sustainability and quality of think-tanks' work is hindered.<sup>1</sup>Also, the public as well as the Government still do not consider think-tanks as relevant partners capable of providing quality analyses without having a hidden agenda. However, this approach is expected to slowly change reflecting the fact that citizens are being more active in the civic society than before.

This paper aims to map legal think-tanks across the Czech Republic. As the proposed terminology does not fit the Czech context, NGOs had to be considered based on a different related definition. We had approached many organizations, however, just a few of them showed interest in being interviewed. Namely, we cooperated with the Association for International Affairs (AMO), European Values, In Justitia, League of Human Rights, and the Otakar Motejl Fund. Each of these think-tanks cover different aspects of the Czech society and use different tools to achieve their goals (for example, strategic litigation, cooperation with policy makers and stakeholders, or issuing of policy papers). Therefore, it was very difficult to find similar aspects of their work and make general comments.

Nevertheless, the think-tanks agreed on several points. First, they monitor the Czech legislative process that concerns their activities and try to influence decision-makers. Think-tanks experts belong to Government's various working groups and participate in related seminars, workshops. However, it was also concluded that other lobby groups (with business interests) had stronger negotiation positions thus often amended laws towards their interests. Secondly, it was found that personal contacts with influential Members of the Parliament or Government Officials is a very effective tool to reaching goals. Also, the communication aspect is becoming more and more crucial. Infographics can carry a message a long way, yet the saturation of media with information demands skilled experts to present a key (and too often a complex) matter in an attractive way. This is further complicated by the spread of misleading information about societally sensitive issues (the Romani communities or immigrants in the Czech Republic, for instance). Lastly, think-

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<sup>1</sup> Karásek, T. (2010): Think tanky v Česku: Kde nic, tu nic? Available from: <https://amo.blog.ihned.cz/c1-48281820-think-tanky-v-cesku-kde-nic-tu-nic>

tanks value cooperation with academia and see international cooperation as very helpful not only in obtaining funding, but also in being inspired.

Based on research, recommendations to the Government include the demand to approach think-tanks as expert bodies capable of providing high-quality outcomes. However, communication between these actors needs to improve. The Government needs to clarify its expectations and needs while think-tanks should declare their abilities. Think-tanks would thus welcome being regarded as natural and empowered partners to the State. The Czech Republic had also been advised to implement laws concerning conflict of interests and regulations clarifying interlinkages among political powers, business interests, media influence, personal gains, and overall the communication with lobbyists. Another challenge presented in the form of widespread prejudice especially against minorities demands, for instance, better awareness raising campaigns and improvements in the educational system. Inclusive education and courses focused on critical thinking, mass media, and civil engagement should be supported.

Due to the history of the Czech Republic, we see the situation of Czech think-tanks as specific and on its way to further development. Observing societal changes, the professionalization of think-tanks is expected to deliver impactful actions.

## Short country information

*(max. two pages, 4000 characters)*

- *Please provide short information about your country including (please do not go into details, this is to draw a general picture of current situation, trends and challenges):*
  - *its name,*
  - *population and ethnic origin if important,*
  - *size,*
  - *basics of political system,*
  - *most important information regarding current political situation.*
- *What are current biggest challenges, political and social trends in your country?*

- *What are biggest problems, challenges in the legal field (system of justice, legal profession, legislative process and similar).*
- *Are there any major recent social and political changes that influence the activities of Think Tanks? For instance trends that are being described as the rise of illiberal democracy? How this influence the work of Think Tanks?*

The Czech Republic, since 2016 also officially recognized as Czechia, is a landlocked Central European country covering an area of 78 866 km<sup>2</sup>. It borders with Slovakia to the east, Poland to the northeast, Germany to the west and Austria to the south. Based on latest statistical data from 2011, out of its population of 10.6 million people<sup>2</sup>, only 1.4% belong to its largest Slovak minority, 0.5% to the Ukrainian minority, 0.4% to the Polish minority and 0.3% to the Vietnamese minority. Other minorities are German, Russian, Hungarian and Roma. With none of the latter mentioned minorities surpassing the 0.2% margin, the Czech Republic's population is considered homogenous.<sup>3</sup>

Concerning its political system, the Czech Republic is a unitary parliamentary constitutional democracy. Its bicameral legislature consists of the Senate (upper chamber with 81 members) and the Chamber of Deputies (lower chamber with 200 members) forming together the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The executive power is shared between the Czech President and the Government of the Czech Republic. At the time of writing, the current Czech President is Miloš Zeman (since 8 March 2013) who was elected by popular vote as the first Czech president since the creation of the Czech Republic in 1993. The current Prime Minister is Bohuslav Sobotka with the Government consisting of the Czech Social Democratic Party, ANO 2011, and the Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party.

In October 2017, the Czech parliamentary election led to the overwhelming victory of the center-right ANO 2011 party. Falling short of a majority in parliament, it is not known yet which parties will become part of the ruling government as negotiations among ANO and other eight party leaders are currently taking place. Nevertheless, the Czech politics have become yet

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<sup>2</sup>Population. (2018). Population [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from [https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/obyvatelstvo\\_lide](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/obyvatelstvo_lide)

<sup>3</sup>Český statistický úřad. (2014). Národnostní struktura obyvatel. Praha: ČSÚ. Retrieved from <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/20551765/170223-14.pdf>

another display of traditional parties receding into the background while new, so called “*anti-establishment*”, populist parties have gained wide public support. The ANO won 29.6 percent in the vote, leaving the runner-up center-right Civic Democrats with nearly three times less votes.

The results of the election are closely linked to the challenges that the Czech society faces. Firstly, ANO 2011’s leader Andrej Babiš, a billionaire businessman, controls Czech’s two popular newspapers and “*the mix of business, media and political power, plus his domineering style and which to simplify parliamentary procedures*<sup>4</sup>” have sparked concerns about the country’s state of democracy. Due to alleged fraud related to European Union subsidies and links to the secret police from the Communist era, Andrej Babiš is under investigation yet he denies any wrongdoings or conflict of interests. Further themes that resonated throughout the whole election campaigns included Eurosceptic topics such as anti-European sentiment, opposition to the adoption of the euro currency and other disadvantages resulting from deeper European integration. The party Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD), ending fourth in the elections, has also called itself “*anti-systemic*”. It mobilized its voters using anti-Islamic, anti-immigration rhetoric and called for an increased use of referendums and other constitutional changes supposedly bringing power closer to the people.

Within the legal field, perhaps the most relevant issue concerns the voting rights of disadvantaged groups (e.g. Roma, people with disabilities). In February 2017, the Supreme Court unified diverging legal interpretations and decided that people with disabilities may be stripped of their legal capacity to vote. Although legal cases have to be examined on an individual basis, many human rights organizations view the Courts’ decision as a way of facilitating the denial of basic rights and further excluding already marginalized group from the majority of the society.<sup>5</sup> In relation to recent elections, the SPD party<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Lopatka, J. (2017). Czech election winner Babis warms to minority government [Online]. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-czech-politics/czech-election-winner-babis-warms-to-minority-government-idUSKBN1CW1R3>

<sup>5</sup>Soudymohou omezi volební právo postižených. „Zklamání,“ říká ředitelka organizace. (2017). Soudymohou omezi volební právo postižených. „Zklamání,“ říká ředitelka organizace [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <http://www.rozhlas.cz/plus/kratce/zprava/1699031> and NS: Soudymohou v řízení o svéprávnosti omezi volební právo. (2017). NS: Soudymohou v řízení o svéprávnosti omezi volební právo [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from

and Pirates<sup>7</sup> proposed in their party programs changes to revocability of judges and more judicial accountability. However, in practice, starting from 2018 judges will need to pass a stricter selection procedure.<sup>8</sup> Overall, think-tanks try to reflect the current political landscape, yet their voice is of interest only to limited groups of people. This is caused by the fact that think-tanks are a relatively new phenomenon in the Czech society, their legitimacy is left unrecognized and, predominantly, their participation in the public sphere is too often overshadowed by other actors. For instance, the Czech president as well as Andrej Babiš support communication channels that are favorable to their stances. Their rhetoric thus labels think-tanks as just another type of non-profit organizations pushing for a narrow cause and not being representative enough. The think-tanks' financial background also creates space for skepticism as the relative lack of transparency in this manner leaves the public guessing about their neutrality. However, on the basis of a recent amendment on the association of parties, many think-tanks are expected to formally declare their affiliation to political parties. The aim of the amendment is to financially support institutions that help strengthen the democratic political system. The activities of these think-tanks are to be slightly restricted, yet their transformation into a political institute should provide them with significant funding – a problem experienced by most think-tanks.<sup>9</sup>

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<http://www.ceska-justice.cz/2017/02/ns-soudy-mohou-v-rizeni-o-svepravnosti-omezit-volebni-pravo/>

<sup>6</sup>Politický program SPD. (2017). Politický program SPD [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from

<http://www.spd.cz/program?type=join&title=Přidejte+se+k+nám&sm=1&do=openModal>

<sup>7</sup>Spravedlnost. (2017). Spravedlnost [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from

<https://www.pirati.cz/program/psp2017/spravedlnost/>

<sup>8</sup>Ministr Pelikán navrhl jmenování 28 nových soudců, nejvíce jich má jít do Brna. (2017). Ministr Pelikán navrhl jmenování 28 nových soudců, nejvíce jich má jít do Brna. Retrieved from <http://www.ceska-justice.cz/2017/08/ministr-pelikan-navrhl-jmenovani-28-novych-soudcu-nejvice-jich-ma-jit-brna/>

<sup>9</sup>Šopfová, K. (2017). Stát pošle miliony think-tankům. [Online]. *Hospodářské Noviny*. Retrieved from <https://archiv.ihned.cz/c1-65849780-stat-posle-miliony-stranickym-think-tankum>

## The map of Think Tanks in the country

- *The scope of the project is broad; we can name various ways of interaction between Legal Think Tanks and Government. We are also interested in various thematic fields of Think Tanks activities. The question is – what is the best method to collect valuable comparative information from all 6 countries?*
- *We propose to start with the thematic approach. And in each field of action to point out to the experience of Think Tanks (if there is any) – activities undertaken, best practises, challenges etc. Therefore we propose to follow the same pattern for each thematic field asking authors of the country report to choose what is the most important and should be mentioned.*
- When answering the questions regarding particular thematic fields, please bear in mind the list of possible Think Tanks methods of action:*
  - analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the comparison of the alternatives,
  - monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,
  - conducting empirical surveys,
  - collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,
  - analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,
  - taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,
  - creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,
  - participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,
  - drafting standards and best practices,
  - more activist actions (amicus curiae brief, strategic litigation, public statements of political character).
- Please make sure you do not limit your comments to your own Think Tank but refer to wide scope of Think Tanks.*

The term “*think-tank*” is not widely used in the Czech Republic and this linguistic challenge presents an obstacle to creating an exhaustive list of these institutions in the Czech context. Other terms such as non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations or public-benefit societies are used more

commonly. However, to limit the number of these institutions to the most relevant for this document, it is helpful to apply a definition of think-tanks. Drawing on think-tank studies, we will use the definition of McGann (2016: 9)<sup>10</sup> as used by Ondřej Císař and Milan Hrubeš (2016)<sup>11</sup> in their recent work mapping the landscape of Czech think-tanks. Thus, think-tanks or public policy research, analysis and engagement institutions are defined as “*organizations that generate policy oriented research, analysis, and advice on domestic and international issues that enable policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy issues*”.

Registers including think-tanks (as falling under the above definition) are available from both the public and private sector (state register is at [www.isnno.cz](http://www.isnno.cz); private register at [www.neziskovky.cz](http://www.neziskovky.cz)). However, due to the fragmentation of these organizations a single list of all think-tanks located in the Czech Republic does not exist. Generally, authors of studies focused on Czech think-tanks work with no more than 20 organizations. These include the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Culture (CDK), Liberal Institute, Civic Institute, CEVRO – Liberal Conservative Academy, Center for Economics and Politics (CEP), Institute for Democracy and Economic Analysis (IDEA), Václav Havel Library, Aspen Institute, Centre for Social Market Economy and Open Democracy (CESTA), Masaryk Democratic Academy, Institute of International Relations (IIR), Association for International Affairs (AMO), Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), European Values, EUROPEAM, and Glopolis. Such lists are presented in works mapping Czech think-tanks<sup>12</sup> or think-tanks in Visegrad countries<sup>13</sup>.

Regarding legal think-tanks, there are such organizations in the Czech Republic that are either interested in legal issues (such as legislation, judiciary,

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<sup>10</sup>McGann, J. G. (2017). *2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report* [Online]. Retrieved from [http://repository.upenn.edu/think\\_tanks/12/](http://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/12/)

<sup>11</sup>Císař, O., & Hrubeš, M. (2016). Think Tanks and Policy Discourses in the Czech Republic. In A. Veselý, M. Nekola, & E. M. Hejzlarová, *Policy Analysis in the Czech Republic* (pp. 273-290). Bristol: The Policy Press. ISBN 978-1-4473-1814-9.

<sup>12</sup>Císař, O., & Hrubeš, M. (2016). Think Tanks and Policy Discourses in the Czech Republic. In A. Veselý, M. Nekola, & E. M. Hejzlarová, *Policy Analysis in the Czech Republic* (pp. 273-290). Bristol: The Policy Press. ISBN 978-1-4473-1814-9.

<sup>13</sup>Schneider, J. (2002). Think-tanks in Visegrad Countries. Budapest: Central European University. Retrieved from <http://www.policy.hu/schneider/RPFinal.pdf>

etc.) or use legal instruments to help solve public or social affairs. For instance, Association for International Affairs (AMO), European Values, In Justitia, League of Human Rights, OtakarMotejl Foundation or Oživení share these characteristics. However, each of these think-tanks has a different focus (such as on human rights, anti-corruption and transparency measures, international politics, etc.) and use different legal tools to achieve their goals (strategic litigation, cooperation with policy-makers and other stakeholders, issuing of policy papers among others). Therefore, it is not an easy task to identify common aspects of their work and make general comments about their activities.

Overall, the new Civil Code<sup>14</sup> (applicable from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014) provides the most basic legal-formal conditions for creating think-tanks in the Czech Republic. Think-tanks are created as legal entities once information about their date of establishment, name, address and object of activity are published in the public register. Also, contact information as well as the legal structure of the entity should be made openly public. Since 2014, most think-tanks have the legal form of a “*spolek*” which is translated into English as a voluntary group/common interest association/association/society or they are public-benefit societies. The form of “*spolek*” is applicable if at least three people share a common interest to establish an institution with a certain object of non-profit activity. Detailed information about the requirements to create, sustain or dissolve this legal entity can be found in parts § 214 - §302 of the Civil Code. Under the term “*fundace*”, think-tanks can also be established as foundations or funds (as opposites to corporations). The Civil Code covers this legal entity in its parts § 303- §401.

The obligation of think-tanks registered under “*spolek*” includes the publishing of information about its activities and other relevant documents in the public registry. This registry is the public administration’s online information system. Since 2016, there is also the obligation to publish entity’s final accounts or its overview of assets and liabilities. In case the legal body fails to

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<sup>14</sup>Novýobčanskýzákoník 2014-2017. (2017). Novýobčanskýzákoník 2014-2017 [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <http://www.pracepropravniky.cz/zakony/novy-obcansky-zakonik-2014-uplne-zneni>

publish the requested documents, it can receive a fine up to CZK 100 000 (cca EUR 3900).<sup>15</sup>

Since 2017 it is also possible for political parties and movements to establish or become members of a political institute. In this context, the political institute is defined as a legal entity that has among its main subject activities related to research, publishing, education or culture. These activities must further belong to a domain focused on the development of democracy, rule of law, pluralism, protection of fundamental human rights; development of civic society and civic cohesiveness; support of active participation of citizens in public space; improvement of the quality of political culture and public debate, or contribute to international understanding and cooperation. All details about political institutes and their legal basis are anchored in the Act of Law 424/1991 Coll., on association in political parties and political movements. In practice, political institutes will be able to obtain significant financial contribution from the State once certain conditions are met.

Although the legal environment for think-tanks is evolving, the general climate for creating and running these institutions is not problematic. Due to the establishment of political institutes only recently, only time will tell whether the purpose of this institutional change was successfully achieved.

Research on Czech non-governmental organizations is limited with the number of studies decreasing as Czech think-tanks or even Czech legal think-tanks become the focal subjects analyzed. In fact, no research focused on Czech legal think-tanks was found. Concerning think-tanks as such, most researchers analyzed the economic status and motivation of donors, and methods of fundraising. In this context, quite a significant book called *Transparency of Civil Society Organizations* by Pavel Bachmann was published in 2012. This publication analyses current state of transparency in non-profit organizations and summarizes the basic ethical norms and standards of transparency that should be widely accepted by organizations in the non-profit sector. In 2007 the Czech Donors Forum published an Analysis of participation of NGOs in the legislative process in the Czech Republic<sup>16</sup> –

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<sup>15</sup>For more information see <http://www.neziskovky.cz/clanek/2173/602/zpravodajstvi-home/poradna-sveta-neziskovek-jak-je-to-se-zverejnovaci-povinnosti-spolku/>.

<sup>16</sup>Czech Donors Forum. (2007). *Analýza participace neziskových organizací na legislativním procesu v České republice*. Prague. Retrieved from [http://aa.ecn.cz/img\\_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza\\_participace\\_NO\\_CR.pdf](http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza_participace_NO_CR.pdf)

the closest research on (legal) think-tanks there perhaps is. This research analyses cooperation of NGOs with the government, legislative process monitoring, availability of information about the legislative process and outcomes of cooperation with government. The final part of this research contains rather commonplace recommendations for the NGOs, politicians and governments (for example, it is recommended to monitor the legislative process twice a week, cooperate with other think-tanks, etc.). More recently, a study from 2016 by Ondřej Čísař and Milan Hrubeš called Think tanks and Policy Discourses in the Czech Republic can be regarded as a crucial stepping stone for further – and more detailed- analyses of Czech (legal) think tanks.

## Think Tanks activities – Government interactions

*–The scope of the project is broad; we can name various ways of interaction between Legal Think Tanks and Government. We are also interested in various thematic fields of Think Tanks activities. The question is – what is the best method to collect valuable comparative information from all 6 countries?*

*–We propose to start with the thematic approach. And in each field of action to point out to the experience of Think Tanks (if there is any) – activities undertaken, best practises, challenges etc. Therefore we propose to follow the same pattern for each thematic field asking authors of the country report to choose what is the most important and should be mentioned.*

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- monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- conducting empirical surveys,*
- collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*

- taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,
  - creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,
  - participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,
  - drafting standards and best practices,
  - more activist actions (amicus curiae brief, strategic litigation, public statements of political character).
- Please make sure you do not limit your comments to your own Think Tank but refer to wide scope of Think Tanks.*

Each of the think-tanks mentioned in this project is actively interacting with the Czech government, however, the interactions are specific proving that there are several ways in which think-tanks and the governmental bodies can cooperate. The type of interaction is influenced by three elements. Firstly, it is important to recognize the topic in which the think-tanks are interested in. Secondly, it is key to understand the modus operandi of individual think-tanks. Lastly, it is necessary to identify the phases of the legislative process that the think-tanks find the most crucial and where they wish to interfere.

Based on interviews with representatives of Czech think-tanks, we have noticed several different approaches via which think-tanks try to influence the legislative process. Some think-tanks, such as Otakar Motejl Fund (Open Society Fund) or League of Human Rights, are interested in creating new laws and actively participate in this process. Other think-tanks, including AMO or Center for Democracy and Human Rights, collect data about laws that already exist, analyze the situation and further cooperate with interest groups, lobby groups or academia. These think-tanks simply map or monitor the present state of affairs and do not view their direct cooperation with the government as vital to their existence. The third group of think-tanks we have encountered comment on draft legislation and strategic documents. Think-tanks such as EUROPEUM or European Values belong to this group. Attachment no. 3 is such an example where European Values comment on the strategy of the Czech Republic in European institutions.

As there are not so many think-tanks in the Czech Republic, they rarely use the same approach to reach the same target in the same matter. Nevertheless, it was learned that think-tanks' establishment was usually domestic-driven to help fill gaps in the legislative system. It was also

confirmed, as mentioned in Attachment No.2, that among their diverse activities (including advocacy, education, communication, etc.) most think-tanks understand research and analysis as their most important tasks to accomplish.

## Legislative process

*Legislative process as such, as a procedure. We are not interested here in any particular legislative process on given draft law. We are interested in procedure(s).*

*Are Think Tanks engaged in the research and debate on the shape of the legislative process, and*

*What opportunities there are for Think Tanks to take part in the legislative process as an actor?*

- *Does the government have adequately formulated policy on creating draft laws and regulations?*
- *Is there an (obligatory?) schedule/calendar for future regulation and reform?*
- *Does the government cooperate with legal Think Tanks in developing legislation and policies?*
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
- *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
- *Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.*
- *Please provide examples of particular activities of particular Think Tanks (you may refer to the Think Tank Cards and Project Cards included below).*
- *What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?*
- *What are main challenges?*
- *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two*

*elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*

*Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*

- on country level?*
- on regional level?*

The legislative process in the Czech Republic is one of the most important phases in the development of national law. Specifically, “*in a narrow sense of the word, it is the process of preparation, working-out of a legal rule, as well as its discussing and approving by the government, Parliament and by the President. The process is finished by publication of a law in the Collection of Laws.*”<sup>17</sup> The legislative process is briefly described below:

In the Czech Republic, the right to create and approve laws belongs solely to the Parliament. However, laws can be put forward by Members of the Parliament, Senators, the Government, a single deputy, a group of deputies or regional councils. The Government can also issue a by-law (usually in the form of decrees) needed for proper law implementation. Most laws are put forward or at least commented on by the Government and it also holds the important right to discuss all law proposals. In sum, there are three phases of the legislative process – the initializing phase (includes explanation why a new law is needed), the approval phase (includes debates and voting) and the publication of law in the Collection of Laws.

Once the law and its objective are defined, the process being overlooked by the Government Legislative Council, the proposal moves into a comment procedure to which other actors, including think-tanks and NGOs in general, are invited to. After several procedures and a final successful voting, the proposal moves to the Chamber of Parliament. Here, the proposed legislation must go through a first, second and third reading. Relevant bodies (ministries, other central bodies of the state administration, regions, the Office of the President, the Office of the Chamber of Deputies, the Office of the Senate, etc.) have the option to provide an opinion on the draft.<sup>18</sup> The best

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<sup>17</sup>Government Information Centre of the CR: *What is a legislative process?* [online]. [cit. 2017-03-07]. Available at: <http://icv.vlada.cz/en/cotoje/what-is-a-legislative-process--61107/tmplid-676/>

<sup>18</sup>Government Information Centre of the CR: *What is a legislative process?* [online]. [cit. 2017-03-07]. Available at: <http://icv.vlada.cz/en/cotoje/what-is-a-legislative-process--61107/tmplid-676/>



capitalize on or too often use measures radical in their character (such as complaints, medialization, manifestations or direct or legal proceeding). On the contrary, think-tanks often comment on certain documents being prepared or published by the public administration and maintain a dialogue with actors involved in decision-making processes (in the form of seminars, conferences, public hearings, personal meetings, etc.). However, the most efficient way is to be involved directly in the decision-making procedures. In this way think-tank representatives become members of expert committees, working groups and other advisory teams. Direct involvement brings not only the opportunity to gain first-hand information or data, lobby more effectively, but also meet officials in person and potentially use these contacts for future cases.<sup>22</sup>

Kopečný (2009: 8) emphasizes several requirements that think-tanks need to fulfill to be successful in the legislative processes. Overall, effective advocacy or lobbying requires “a good knowledge of decision-making procedures, decision-makers and their influence, and of basic tools which can be used for lobbying.”<sup>23</sup> Besides official mechanisms and procedures it is also vital to learn in time about decisions born in and among party secretariats. Thus, knowledge about polity (structural form or system of government) and politics (political processes) is key to assess what political phase on what level, how and when, to enter. To save resources, it is also important to distinguish between political and technical problems that think-tanks want to focus on as each demands a different approach. In simplicity, there are three ways how think-tanks can influence the decision-making process: via measures directed (or organized) at the Government (being present or active in governmental discussions, expert meetings, etc.), the Parliament (including writing letters to MPs, interpellation of ministers, being present at discussions of Committees, seminars, etc.) and, most effectively, to be in (personal) touch with individual party leaders or ministers who define political questions for the public administration.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>Kopečný, O. (2008). Jak ovlivnit politiku v České republice a Evropské unii? (P. Lebeda, Ed.). Prague. Retrieved from <http://glopolis.org/wp-content/uploads/soubory/Glopolis-jak-ovlivnit-politiku.pdf>

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

<sup>24</sup>Kopečný, O. (2008). Jak ovlivnit politiku v České republice a Evropské unii? (P. Lebeda, Ed.). Prague. Retrieved from <http://glopolis.org/wp-content/uploads/soubory/Glopolis-jak-ovlivnit-politiku.pdf>

As learned from interviews conducted, it is especially key for think-tanks to have experts involved due to the general lack of system transparency and system complexity.<sup>25</sup> Thus, successful think-tanks also need to be highly engaged in monitoring activities. To further ensure or facilitate even better results, resources need to be pooled and experts need to cooperate.<sup>26</sup>

Although the legislative process is often presented as the entering gate for think-tanks, there is still a vast number of think-tanks that are not successful enough in their field of interest. The fact that the Czech political representation as well as the general public do not consider think-tanks to be natural or equal partners<sup>27</sup> reflects in think-tanks' weak political participation. As Kopečný (2009) notes, due to experience from the Second World War, the Communist era, and the attempts in the 90's to quickly create a legislative environment friendly towards businesses, the civil society has been long regarded as elements hindering economic development. The narrative imposed by the Communist regime led people to mistrust public institutions and made them believe that being active in the public sphere is not something to be proud of as one should mainly take care of his or her private business. Also, being active in public is still too often connected in the minds of Czechs to the assumption that "activists" only want to gain something for themselves alone and have a corrupt hidden agenda. Other challenges that think-tanks face due experience with nondemocratic regimes and roaring 90's include certain indolence and passivity, distrust towards public institutions and NGOs established before 1989, and the medialized portrayal of NGOs as charities only.

Nevertheless, the Czech society is slowly changing and there are several options how think-tanks can participate in the legislative process.

- 1) During the initial phase of the legislative process, think-tanks can ask their Members of Parliaments to open a discussion on new law proposals. Cooperation with a deputy holds the biggest potential, cooperation with a Senator can prove to be less efficient.

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

- 2) Once a proposal is being discussed in the Chamber of Deputies, think-tanks can enter the debate as experts on the certain issue or provide analysis of the subject. Experts can participate in debates organized by Chamber of Deputies' specialized Committees or in Senate's public hearings (again less efficient as participation is more formal than conceptual, yet still important).
- 3) In case the Government is the initiator of the proposal, individual relevant ministries are often open and seek consultations with experts from non-governmental areas. In this case, think-tanks can work with inter-resort commissions and committees, for instance. There is also the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, a permanent consultative, initiative and coordination body of the Government of the Czech Republic. The Council's tasks include "the creation of a suitable environment for their existence and activities" and it mainly focuses on cooperation, data exchange and legal and administrative relations between the non-governmental sector and public administration. Strategic material concerning specialized fields is not part of the Council's main agenda.<sup>28</sup> However, other specialized entities such as Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs, Government Council for Human Rights, Government Council for National Minorities exist under the Office of the Government. Other advisory and working bodies under Ministries include, for instance, the Government Council for Sustainable Development.<sup>29</sup> NGO representatives often work for the specialized Councils thus have their voices heard on a number of issues.

For instance, think-tank In Iustitia's representatives are part of Ministry of Justice's working group preparing the Law on Victims. Specifically, they strive to bring expertise and attention to the needs of victims of hate violence, including the need for access to unpaid legal help. Also, they are members of

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<sup>28</sup>Kopečný, O. (2008). Jak ovlivnit politiku v České republice a Evropské unii? (P. Lebeda, Ed.). Prague. Retrieved from <http://glopolis.org/wp-content/uploads/soubory/Glopolis-jak-ovlivnit-politiku.pdf>

<sup>29</sup>Government of the Czech Republic. (2017). Government of the Czech Republic [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <https://www.vlada.cz/en/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/>

the Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Communities' working team where they propose safety solutions for areas of social exclusion.

Concerning recommendations, it is essential for think-tanks to employ experts and monitor legal procedures with higher frequency thus supplying themselves with updated information and potentially creating an opportunity for delivering their feedback. Also, think-tanks should create information networks (on national or regional level) via which they can, for instance, reach experts, monitor riders, discuss preparation of legislative drafts or reach new influential actors officially involved in the legislative process (politicians, administrative officers, etc.). Think-tanks could also create platforms even if their subjects of interests do not overlap. This cooperation can be fruitful and help spark a public debate and highlight causalities or linkages that would have otherwise either slipped through the cracks or were left presented only one-sidedly.<sup>30</sup> Today, the crux of the matter can also be hardly tackled without proper public communication via media of all sorts. Should think-tanks act as bridges between public and politicians, they need to adjust their communication style to offer legitimacy, accountability and credibility.

The main recommendation for political representatives and civil servants includes their change of approach. These actors need to regard think-tanks as full-fledged partners armored with sufficient qualification and alternative views essential to help solve societal problems via legislative changes. Legislative process simplification, provision of easier access to key information and publishing of data or documents are further suggestions.<sup>31</sup> Also, as no official statistics on the quality, quantity or impact of public consultations with NGO representatives exist, it is difficult to analyze this matter in more detail. Last but not least, there are no unified rules for public to engage in the creation of strategic documents or a Code of Conduct for legislators to honor. However, it

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<sup>30</sup>Czech Donors Forum. (2007). Analýza participace neziskových organizací na legislativním procesu v České republice. Prague. Retrieved from [http://aa.ecn.cz/img\\_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza\\_participace\\_NO\\_CR.pdf](http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza_participace_NO_CR.pdf)

<sup>31</sup>Czech Donors Forum. (2007). Analýza participace neziskových organizací na legislativním procesu v České republice. Prague. Retrieved from [http://aa.ecn.cz/img\\_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza\\_participace\\_NO\\_CR.pdf](http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/65636e2e6e6e6f2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e2e/Analyza_participace_NO_CR.pdf)

is expected that a law on lobbying should be prepared soon by the new government as the elected parties claim to prioritize this issue. Should the matters mentioned above be addressed, the legislative process could become a more transparent and a level playing field.

## System of justice, judiciary

- *Judiciary, and its qualities: independence, competence, accountability, and efficiency, management of the judiciary, IT in the judiciary.*
  - *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
  - *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
  - *Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.*
  - *Please provide examples of particular activities of particular Think Tanks (you may refer to the Think Tank Cards and Project Cards included below).*
  - *What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?*
  - *What are main challenges?*
  - *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

In the Czech Republic, no independent think-tanks engage in this field. Judiciary itself is managed by the Union of Judges, which sees itself as an independent apolitical association. Their main objectives include the protection and promotion of independent judges, provision of professional education to judges and judges-to-be, promotion of a democratic rule of law, cooperation with similar unions from abroad, and others. Strong cooperation with the Czech government is not mentioned due to the neutral character of judiciary in

the country. The Union has adopted a code of conduct for judges summarizing the ethical principles that should guide the judiciary.

Building partly on the preceding chapter, the topics of corruption and law enforcement activities are gaining more and more attention even in the context of the Czech judicial system. Again, current challenges are closely linked to the absence of any lobbying regulations, rules for interaction between members of parliament and third parties, or codes of conduct. These issues are highly topical as many (past and current) politicians are linked to corruption affairs or are accused of conflict of interest.

According to a report published in 2016 by GRECO (Group of States against Corruption: 3), the Czech *“legal regulation on judge’s recruitment and career advancement is clearly insufficient”*.<sup>32</sup> It is recommended that legislative steps should be taken *“to provide for uniform, transparent procedures and to ensure that decisions are based on pre-established objective criteria, notably merit; and that any decisions in those procedures are reasoned and can be appealed to a court”*. It is also recommended to strengthen *“the independence of the prosecution service from political influence”*, increase *“transparency in internal relations”*, *“reduce the possibility to covert interference in dealing with specific matters”* and to *“strengthen the accountability of individual prosecutors for the outcome of the cases”*. More information on the legal profession, the challenges it faces and connected recommendations are presented in the following chapter dedicated to this area.

Also, based on a report of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Czech Republic is criticized for high costs and lengthy legal proceedings. Specifically, it is mentioned that the *“considerable length of proceedings is suggested to be de-motivating for victims of discrimination, the*

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<sup>32</sup>GRECO. (2016). Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors. Strasbourg: GRECO. Retrieved from <http://www.korupce.cz/assets/zahranicni-spoluprace/greco/Fourth-Evaluation-Round--Corruption-prevention-in-respect-of-members-of-parliament--judges-and-prosecutors.pdf>

*average duration of civil proceedings can take several years in one region, yet only a few months in another.” (p.41) <sup>33</sup>*

In relation to the think-tank League of Human Rights, it is necessary to note that one of its projects is called “*Fair Judiciary*”. In strategic cases, the League defends the victim in national and international courts and provides him/her with free legal advice. Also, the organization comments on law proposals concerning the judiciary, organizes seminars for judges and publishes expert analyses on current topics.

As the think-tanks we have interviewed do not deal with issues directly connected to judiciary, this section will not be discussed in more detail. Potential for future cooperation between think-tanks and the Judges’ Union has been identified, however, so far think-tanks do not work with the Union.

## Legal profession

- *Regulation of legal profession, access to legal profession, legal ethics and discipline, etc.*
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
- *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
- *Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.*
- *Please provide examples of particular activities of particular Think Tanks (you may refer to the Think Tank Cards and Project Cards included below).*
- *What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?*
- *What are main challenges?*
- *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two*

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<sup>33</sup>FRA. (2011). Access to justice in Europe: an overview of challenges and opportunities. Wien. Retrieved from <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2011/access-justice-europe-overview-challenges-and-opportunities>

*elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*

*Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*

- on country level?*
- on regional level?*

As noted in the questions above, concerning Czech think-tanks, they do not share an interest in the field of legal profession.

For a brief overview, it is important to note that the legal profession comprise judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, and bailiffs. Regarding public prosecutors' offices, they are "*public bodies that represent the state to protect the public interest in clearly defined matters.*" They handle cases "*that fall within the competence of the public prosecution service. No other bodies or persons may encroach on their field of activity or replace or represent them in performing their duties.*"<sup>34</sup> The prosecutors' system of services mirrors the court system having direct, regional, and supreme levels. The head of the service is the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office in Brno which oversees the prosecution service. The Supreme Public Prosecutor is appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice for an unlimited period but can also be dismissed by decision of the Minister of Justice. The Czech Union of Public Prosecutors represents the interests of public prosecutors, promotes the rule of law in decision-making and plays a role in training prosecutors and trainee prosecutors. All public prosecutors have to respect the Code of Professional Ethics for Public Prosecutors. Similarly to judges, prosecutors may not engage in any other form of paid activity except certain professions such as managing their own assets or teaching.

All lawyers must be members of the Czech Bar Association, "*the central self-governing non-governmental organization responsible for the profession*"<sup>35</sup>. There is only one type of lawyer without any kind of distinction

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<sup>34</sup>Legal professions - Czech Republic. (2017). Legal professions - Czech Republic [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_legal\\_professions-29-cz-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_legal_professions-29-cz-en.do)

<sup>35</sup>Legalprofessions - Czech Republic. (2017). Legalprofessions - Czech Republic [Online]. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_legal\\_professions-29-cz-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_legal_professions-29-cz-en.do)

and only in the course of practice they individually become specialized in one of the fields of law. Restrictions to possible parallel work exist, too, allowing lawyers to become university teachers but restricting them from any activity incompatible with that of a lawyer. Usually, when the Government demands cooperation in the legal field, the Czech Bar Association becomes their respected partner.

In relations to public prosecutors, steps that are to be taken to make the system more transparent and efficient include *“the strengthening of independence of the prosecution service from political influence, increasing transparency in internal relations, reducing the possibility of covert interference in dealing with specific matters and strengthening the accountability of individual prosecutors”*. (p.3)<sup>36</sup> Decisions on the appointment of the Supreme Public Prosecutor and other chief public prosecutors need to be based on more transparent selection procedures, their recall has to be possible only in the context of disciplinary proceedings and, copying the Judges, the recruitment and promotion of public prosecutors needs to be regulated in more detail. Further, the option for judges and public prosecutors *“to challenge disciplinary decisions before a court needs to be introduced”*. Also, it is recommended that the Parliament, the judiciary and the prosecution service adopt codes of conduct which would provide guidance in matters such as conflict of interest and that these steps are further complemented by practical measures (dedicated training, counselling, awareness-raising, etc.)

## Access to justice

- *Legal services, legal aid, legal empowerment*
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*

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[cz-en.do](http://www.korupce.cz/assets/zahranicni-spoluprace/greco/Fourth-Evaluation-Round---Corruption-prevention-in-respect-of-members-of-parliament--judges-and-prosecutors.pdf)

<sup>36</sup>GRECO. (2016). Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors. Strasbourg: GRECO. Retrieved from <http://www.korupce.cz/assets/zahranicni-spoluprace/greco/Fourth-Evaluation-Round---Corruption-prevention-in-respect-of-members-of-parliament--judges-and-prosecutors.pdf>

- Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.
  - Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.
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  - Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?
- on country level?
  - on regional level?

Concerning access to justice, the think-tank In IUSTITIA is one of the few institutions that provides legal assistance to specific individuals exposed to hate violence. It focuses on improving the individuals' access to justice and is oriented toward the area of criminal, administrative and civil law. In IUSTITIA also pays significant attention to damages incurred as a result of hate violence and tries to facilitate to the victims the appropriate tools for restorative justice. Also, the organization Oživení striving to reduce the occurrence of corruption, conflict of interest, clientelism and other forms of abuse of public power to private gain, helps provide victims of corruption with a range of services including legal counselling. Besides its offices and a hot line, Oživení has also created a mobile legal counselling office. Calling it the "Corruption Less Tour", Oživení's lawyers travel twice per year to cities and municipalities around the Czech Republic and discuss not only anti-corruption cases, but also organize debates and solve specific legal problems. Last but not least, the League of Human Rights tries to empower individuals (especially from disadvantaged Roma communities), by helping them access justice in case of need. However,

rather than providing themselves the legal aid, the League follows individual cases where human rights were violated and pushes for systemic change via legislative change.

## Legal education

- *Legal education for lawyers (legal studies, future lawyers training systems, continuing professional education)*
  - *Legal education for non-lawyers (civic education)*
  - *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
  - *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
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- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

Some NGOs see legal education as an important topic. They tend to be very active in further educating their (future) lawyers but also non-lawyers (doctors, journalists, etc.) working. Often, their aim is to improve the quality of legal understanding among the public or lawyers and judges specializing in certain fields. Diverse activities are organized and as these works have been

developing for usually more than ten years, more and more topics have been successfully covered.

So called “*law clinics*” are very popular among students. One of the experienced benefits is the attraction to these clinics by students from different backgrounds. Students have the opportunity to discuss thematic topics transgressing their core fields of study (e.g. doctors with lawyers can discuss responsibility in hospitals). What more, clinics often cooperate with universities as these institutions welcome the chance to offer their students a hands-on experience. Current labor markets preferring somewhat already experienced graduates, this cooperation is expected to develop even further with universities opening more and more practical courses.

Also, some of the think-tanks support legal knowledge and skills through organized workshops and conferences. These workshops are targeted on current law students as well as on experienced practitioners (e.g. Conference of Chief Justice of the Supreme Courts of Central & Eastern Europe). This is, naturally, a very good interaction where judges (and others) can share good practice and discuss relevant issues.

Challenges in this area include the still resonating problematic reputation of certain law faculties which allowed several students (well known politicians) to complete their studies in a very fast and non-transparent way. Courses on law faculties are also quite rigid thus law clinics are not yet considered to be standard parts of curriculums but exceptions. Finally, the offer of seminars and workshops is so rich, that it is often problematic to attract participants.

### Language of the law (quality, communication)

- *Efforts to make law more comprehensible and accessible,*
- *Advancement of new tools for communication about the law (visualisation of the law, legal info-graphics, apps etc.).*
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*

- Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.
  - Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.
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  - Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?
- on country level?
  - on regional level?

From its nature, the language of law is not easily comprehended and Czech think-tanks feel the need to adjust their communication style on important legal events to 21<sup>st</sup> media channels. Info graphics are quite a popular way of spreading information especially when they concern specific topics (e.g. legal guardianship) or current law amendments; for instance, the League of Human Rights used info graphics to inform about the Amendment of School law in September 2016 that they supported (under certain conditions). Short spots published on YouTube is also a common strategy.

As mentioned above, think-tanks are active in monitoring but especially in advocating for or against some amendments or new laws. At this point we can see an interesting twist taking place. Some ten years ago it was widespread for think-tanks to be against new laws coming from the Government. Today, think-tanks are being more supportive of the changing legislation. Of course, the support also reflects individual governments, yet the tendency to be more supportive seems to exist.

Concerning challenges, a number of them could be mentioned. Firstly, there is the risk of communicating a complex issue in an understandable manner while not losing the main message. A related risk concerns the option

of misunderstandings being transmitted to a large audience then potentially creating an (un)informed opinion on inaccurate facts. However, to tackle this issue, the think-tank In IUSTITIA “seeks to increase the attention and sensitivity of the journalists” working on subjects related to hate incidents. Lastly, information and data can be carried a long way on social media. However, for this tool to be filled, the info graphics (or other forms of communication) need to be made by individuals who are able to create catchy, factual contents. Also, these messages could stay forgotten unless opinion-leaders share them among their followers.

Recommendations directed towards Governments include the application of their knowledge and capacities to present laws or amendments in an easy and understandable way. The mentioned info graphics could then be more easily shared by think-tanks. Subsequently, think-tanks should be in touch with opinion leaders or influential individuals who are willing to share the wanted messages. Organizing a training or workshop on the issue or how sensitive issues should be communicated is also a plus. Lastly, in times of “fake-news” creative forms of communication should be supported even if this relates to increased spending on communication activities. On an international scale, it is useful to create a platform for befriended organizations who can carry the certain message across.

## Internationalisation of law

- Processes of integration, harmonisation of the law.
- International bodies (reporting and shadow reporting).
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
- *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
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- *What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?*
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- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

Internationalization of law is not a field where many NGOs would be active. Mostly academic researchers who work in NGOs are interested in this topic and thus they include analyses of relevant topics in their research activities (e.g. how well is the European law transposed into the Czech law in the area of public procurements). Qualitative methods are used mainly. Nevertheless, most think-tanks monitor the European legal scene and compare best practices.

Specifically, the League of Human Rights published in 2015 an analysis on the protection of children's rights in conflicts; the document was targeted mainly at lawyers but it expected to be useful for other experts such as youth curators/guardians and probation officers. Some think-tanks (Oživení, Glopolis) send letters or call for legislative changes via the European Commission, or the European Parliament. Others (e.g. AMO) analyses international law in the context of the Visegrad group.

One of the main challenges is the uniqueness of political systems including the institutions and their memory. This leads to situations where international best practice examples may be inspiring but not applicable. Solutions may be found in informing about a wider scope of practices in the hope that some would be a backbone for change. This could be achieved by investing more into research by think-tanks. Also, it is not easy for individual think tanks to register all news or achieve its targets just by themselves. It is recommended that the interested parties create a platform where resources could be pooled and the chances of delivering an impactful message to a EU institution heightened.

## Human rights, equality, discrimination

- Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.
  - Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.
  - Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.
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- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?
- on country level?
  - on regional level?

Human rights have been now for a long term one of the topics think tanks in the Czech Republic are most engaged in. This tendency has been linked to the legacy of Václav Havel, the first president of Czechoslovakia after the fall of the iron curtain in 1989 and the first president of the independent Czech Republic in 1993.

Topical human rights' issues tend to change in the course of time. Initially, think-tanks dealt with issues related to police violence or public sector malpractices. This was underpinned by the change in political systems and reflected the transition period from Communism to a liberal democracy system. Currently, the issues are more specific, concern more individual liberty

rights(e.g. free will at childbirth) or respond to globally dealt with topics (e.g. undermining the right to develop caused by tax evasion in developing countries as analyzed by Glopolis, spread of alternative facts and hindering of democratic values by European Value). Legalizing same-sex marriage is also part of the current agenda.<sup>37</sup> It is important to note, though, that while some measures are still supported, more and more educational activities are organized. Based on a 2016 Human Rights report, the following problematic fields were mentioned: societal discrimination against the Romani population in education, housing, and employment (also health service), domestic political opposition to resettlement of refugees, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment. Other human rights problems identified were prison overcrowding, police corruption, indebtedness, anti-Semitism, inflammatory speech by politicians and public figures, exploitation of migrant workers etc.<sup>38</sup>

Tools used by think tanks have not changed significantly in the long term. Strategic litigation, specific human rights education, awareness raising, specialized workshops and publication (or commenting) of materials are used to help target groups potentially affected by the violation of their rights. Also, it is specifically in this area that think-tanks cooperate with the Government as it was the signer to relevant international agreements (e.g. CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) – and thus is being closely monitored whether it is fulfilling its obligations. Think tanks often point to malpractices and advocate for situation’s improvement.

Concerning challenges, it is important to mention high levels of prejudice in the Czech Republic towards minorities. A false negative message can spread very fast, while a positive message is regarded by mainstream media as an artificially constructed approach by non-critical idealists. Further, sensitive topics, such as inclusive education, is presented in misleading contexts by mainstream media. The inter linkage between media and political power can thus easily produce articles that protect or advocate for certain political interests. Last but not least, it can be often heard that due to the

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<sup>37</sup>Dittrich, B. (2017). Door Opens to Achieving Marriage Equality in Czech Republic. Human Rights Watch. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/08/15/door-opens-achieving-marriage-equality-czech-republic>

<sup>38</sup>US Department of State. (2017). CZECH REPUBLIC 2016 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265624.pdf>

current presidents' worldview the Czech Republic is losing its internationally recognized place as the protector of human rights.

Recommendations include analyses and work related to battling racism and xenophobia and segregation of Roma children at school, and supporting positive changes including inclusive education. Also, think-tanks need to reflect more on state's practices and aim to improve (at least) situations with small political costs. Campaigns focused on debunking myths and misleading information have also gained popularity. Lastly, it is key to raise awareness on individuals' human rights – such as their right to information. A more demanding approach is needed to overall increase the quality of education and thus invest into the prevention of societal problems.

### Information society and the legal system and administration

- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
  - *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
  - *Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.*
  - *Please provide examples of particular activities of particular Think Tanks (you may refer to the Think Tank Cards and Project Cards included below).*
  - *What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?*
  - *What are main challenges?*
  - *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

Information society alone is not of interest to think-tanks, yet they acknowledge that a society with access to factual and non-biased information is key to positive change. The think-tank Otakar Motejl Fund contributes largely to transforming public administration into an effective and transparent service. It funds other non-governmental organizations and small local initiatives. Its major activities include the push for access to open data in municipalities, the creation of Corrupt Tour (realized by Oživení) and also related online platforms ([www.nasstat.cz](http://www.nasstat.cz) and [www.hodnocenikraju.cz](http://www.hodnocenikraju.cz)) These initiatives serve not only to provide citizens with information about the quality of their local administrations, but also provide data on taxes, offer webinars and offer options to control or monitor their elected leaders.

Challenges include the spread of false information via social media, insufficient ICT skills and critical thinking as its not part of standard curriculums at schools, and lack of knowledge or interest of citizens about awareness raising initiatives related to transparency or public administration.

To further support an information society, it is recommended that governments speed up the digitalization of public services and provide a reliable e-government system. As digitalization is one of the EU priorities, it is believed that more and more citizens will come in contact to online documents/initiatives and learn how to make decisions based on an informed opinion. It is also recommended for the national administration to prevent any cyber-related failures that would make citizens lose confidence in digitalization and the provision of online services, especially if sensitive data is involved.

### Other thematic fields

- *If there are different thematic fields of activities of legal Think Tanks, which do not fit into any of above categories, please provide information on them here.*
- *Please provide general information whether in your country Think Tanks are engaging in this particular field.*
- *Please formulate (if possible, two, three) most important challenges in this field (milestones) that Think Tanks are focused on, that Think Tanks are monitoring, advocating for or against, in the past (10 years) or nowadays.*
- *Within this thematic field please describe types of Think Tanks activities and interaction of Think Tanks with Government.*

- Please provide examples of particular activities of particular Think Tanks (you may refer to the Think Tank Cards and Project Cards included below).
  - What are the best practices regarding legislative process in the context of Think Tanks worth sharing?
  - What are main challenges?
  - Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?
- on country level?
  - on regional level?

Not applicable to the Czech Republic.

## Think Tanks – opportunities and challenges

- *We are formulating here some additional questions to be answered based on the research done by authors of the country report.*
- *We have also proposed (see below) the list of questions that might/should be used in the interviews and focus groups. In the following sections please summarise both information collected as well as your opinion and answers you received (we mark separately questions repeated from the **Questionnaire** for interviews).*

The think-tanks interviewed provided suggestions especially related to their better cooperation with the Czech government. Specifically, they would welcome a certain “division of tasks”. This means that the Government should identify tasks it wanted to accomplish (or research) in specific areas, and coordinate with the think-tanks their tasks that would support this activity. Thus, Governments should use think-tanks not only as platforms for discussion but also approach them as policy-making bodies.

Also, think-tanks see an opportunity in further developing their cooperation with universities that provide useful data for research. This partnership is seen to be beneficial to both sides. The think-tanks could use the gained data in practice while universities could be supported in research leading to outcomes implemented in public policies or other relevant fields reflecting the country’s societal reality (e.g. how are women with disabilities given pills in institutions without their prior knowledge).

Think-tanks’ cooperation with the Government and universities could create a link between these two institutions. As a result, academia can try to solve pressing problems and the Government can obtain first-hand data and analyses (such as on inclusive education and its enforcement in schools).

## Think Tanks and government

- *What are the best methods for Think Tanks to influence decision-makers?*
- Questionnaire**
- *How should the government draw knowledge from the Think Tanks sector?*
  - *How the cooperation between the Government and Think Tanks should be structured? What needs change?*

- *Should the government build its own research structures or commission analysis from outside institutions? Why?*
- *Where should the government draw knowledge for determining regulatory policies? What are the mechanisms for government's interaction with non-governmental research structures? What should be the shape of this relation?*

The think-tanks in the Czech Republic concluded that the Czech government is rather open to expertise from outside, however, think-tanks often do not know or are not aware what analyses or other outputs are needed from them to be useful. Thus, the Government should be able to clearly state what it needs from the non-profit sector and, on the other hand, the non-profit sector should be clear on what is in their capacity to provide for the state.

For instance, roundtables and working groups are used by the Government as a tool to connect experts on a certain topic from the public, private and third sector. Think-tanks' experts are often invited to join them. These meetings mainly concern the preparation of specific laws or whole policies. One of such examples is the round table organized by the Minister of Human Rights on the revision of the Constitution of the Czech Republic. There is the working group called the Committee against Torture and Other Inhuman, Cruel and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. However, even though this practice should be an efficient tool in theory, in practice it works quite differently.

Although the think-tanks participate in the institutionalized manner described above, they feel they are only seen as platforms for discussions and not as providers of real expertise. The problem lies in the negotiations and discussions taking place behind closed doors – think-tanks are outweighed by (other) lobbying groups. For example, there are cases (concerning the compensation law for women who have been involuntarily sterilized) when think-tanks and NGOs were creating a legislation within a working group, yet the proposal was later declined due to lack of political will and subject sensitivity.

All our respondents stated that the most efficient communication channel is direct contact with someone from inside the institution. The insider usually works for the Government and is somehow influential in higher political

circles where decision-making is influenced by political will. Think-tanks try to identify these influential individuals who can advocate for better laws as this approach leads to efficient lobbying (from the think-tanks).

### Think Tanks and Academia, scientific circles

- *Does the government cooperate with the academia in developing its policies? To what extent?*
- *Do legal sciences currently deal with issues important practically?*
- *In which areas there is a lack of legal research, including empirical surveys?*
- *Do Think Tanks cooperate with academia? How? If not, why?*

#### **Questionnaire**

- *Should Think Tanks seek involvement with academia? Should they look for involvement not only as regards research but also teaching?*
- *How should the academia structure its relation with Think Tanks? Is it competition or opportunity for cooperation? How can the academia benefit from operation of Think Tanks?*
- *Do you know any examples of good cooperation of Think Tanks and academia. What?*

We can identify several ways how academia cooperates with think-tanks. In the Czech environment, it is usually research activities or joint organization of thematic roundtables (e.g. on constitutional law, health laws) that provide the opportunity to cooperate. The partnership is believed to work in general. For instance, a key element includes think-tanks' offers of unpaid internships to students. The academic and think-tank membership often overlaps as some think-tank researchers also work at universities and vice versa. Lastly, think-tanks and academia also cooperate on research activities, which, as previously mentioned, could be used as data for think-tanks' advocacy activities.

However, there are also some cases of unsuccessful cooperation. For instance, think-tanks interested in foreign policy have the experience that academia did not want to cooperate with them at all.

On the other hand, there are also think-tanks which have totally opposite experiences. One of them is Otakar Motejl Fund that focuses on opening data

collected by the Government or its bodies, and stands against corruption. The Fund has very good relations with academia. Closer analysis points to several factors. First, their main subjects of interest is based on common/academic interests. Academia usually supports projects where the focus concerns obtaining more data for research activities. Otakar Motejl's Fund supports initiatives and NGOs that try to (by diverse means) "open the data". Quite often data is collected but it is impossible to reach them and work with them (such as data from health care, during child birth, or from governmental bodies or the Government alone. Also, one of the think-tanks' board woman is a political scientist – Vladimíra Dvořáková.

As the cooperation of other think tanks is usually based on limited projects, long-term cooperation with academia is not frequent.

## Think Tanks and their limits

### Questionnaire

- *What is the interaction between the activity of Think Tanks and lobbying? How should this relation be shaped?*
- *What is the interaction between the activity of Think Tanks and activism? How should this relation be shaped? Should Think Tanks get involved in social activism?*
- *Should Think Tanks look for opportunities to influence important judicial decisions (e.g. file amicus curiae briefs)?*
- *Does independence of Think Tanks matter? If yes, what are the principles for economic and political independence of research think-tanks? Where is the threshold that a think loses its independence? What is the relation between independence and transparency?*
- *Should Think Tanks operate as business entities that provide research services for remuneration?*
- *What should be avoided in the activity of a think-tanks? Please name examples of bad practice.*

Social activism presents itself differently in each of the think-tanks. Their lobbying and advocacy activities usually aim to develop better societies or

support broad public discussions. Generally speaking, they are trying to shape the reality according to their standards (e.g. human rights).

Some of the think-tanks are already using the options they have available. For example, they are present in front of the European Court of Human Rights (filing *amicus curiae*). Their stances within the society is not always welcome and their views can be seen as radical.

Every think-tank we conducted an interview with has a Code of Ethics. (list them in part 6) Think-tanks try to cooperate with interested groups, however, they keep an eye on their independence and transparent procedures. Cooperation in the form of personal consultations, writing drafts of law, inviting to seminars and talks etc. is a standard if the relationship helps enforce think-tanks' interest and if the behavior is not against the Code of Ethics.

Some think-tanks' experience with other lobbying groups or interest groups was not positive. Often, data is taken from the think-tank but used for the other groups' benefit without acknowledging the original authors. The data are also presented in a different narrative than originally intended in order to support the other groups' message. For instance, AMO and In Iustitia have had this experience.

Independence of think tanks is very important if the think tank wants to be influential and recognized. Usually, this is approached by the think-tanks' transparent activities. Also, all economic incomes should be transparently declared. For think tanks it is also very important to be trustworthy and to be influential, they strive to be independent. Cooperation with political parties is not completely off the table, however, each think-think has to reconsider whether the connections are appropriate and be aware of the need to be transparent and clear about the possible cooperation.

Think-tanks can work as business entities and provide services for remuneration if it is not in conflict with their interests and if executed transparently. However, business partners often expect think-tanks to deliver analyses or research outcomes with certain results that will fill their goals. Desiring a certain result, they are blind to problematic practices (related to methodology or other inconsistencies) that need to be avoided should think-tanks wish to act as trustworthy partners for the Government, media, and other think-tanks.

## Interdisciplinary approach to the law

*- Do Think Tanks promote interdisciplinary approach to the law and system of justice?*

*Do Think Tanks promote collaboration of lawyers with economists, psychologists, sociologists, IT experts, HR experts etc.?*

We found out that interdisciplinary approach is applied in every think-tank we interviewed. Think-tanks' approaches differ as it depends on their individual activities- some fields need experts from different disciplines, some less so.

Mostly, the interdisciplinary approach is achieved through discussions among lawyers, social workers, psychologists, political scientists, sociologists and economists. In specific cases, think-tanks contact experts who share their viewpoints (for instance, doctors or psychiatrists are contacted for their advice on healthcare law).

## Think Tanks – identifying problems

### **Questionnaire**

*- What are the best methods for Think Tanks to identify problems and issues requiring their policy work?*

*- What type of legal Think Tank activity is lacking in your country? What are the important areas of law that are neglected by Think Tanks?*

Methods of problem identification vary and each think-tank has its own procedure. Some use steep analysis, analysis of target audiences etc. and some create benchmarks to be reached in a certain time range. Others leave problem identification to team leaders who look for burning issues or questions insufficiently covered. Usually the group of leaders is composed of like-minded individuals who agree on a certain societal problem on the local or national level and wish to solve it.

If we look for a concrete example, in one of the think-tanks a strategic planning takes places every three years. Here topics that need to be covered and goals that need to be achieved are chosen and set. This helps the think-tank to stay focused without being distracted by other topics. Within the strategic planning new topics can be brought up and some topics can be dismissed - it is usually a consensual decision of the whole think-tank.

As there is not enough think-tanks in general in the Czech Republic, respondents often thought that nearly every area could be covered more by new think tanks.

### TT and access to data

- *Do Think Tanks face any problems with access to data needed for their analyses?*
- *Is the public system of collecting statistical data adequate and accessible?*

In general, there is a problem of accessing data and many think-tanks pointed out that the data they need have not been even collected, are thus inaccessible, and in some cases, need to be collected by the think-tank. This can be seen in the case of data on sterilization of women with disabilities (there needs to be a court decision). Since this issue is very sensitive and relates to public malpractice (overuse of sterilization), is it important to collect such data. And since the state does not want to collect this information, the task is left for think-tanks. However, in many cases data cannot be collected (for example data related to healthcare) or the collector must pass multiple bureaucratic obstacles. Think-tanks are often denied obtaining data regarded as sensitive, but think-tanks claim they are not interested in names or health records of individual patients. In fact, they want to work with statistics and are thus interested in large datasets.

Many think-tanks must collect data themselves due to lack of databases. Therefore, they must conduct field research and often access to data is complicated. Afterwards, think-tanks provide the collected data to the state, if the Government asks for it.

## Think Tanks and innovations

### **Questionnaire**

- What is the role of technology and innovation in the business of Think Tanks as regards:
  - issue spotting,
  - enhancement of research quality,
  - earning influence?

We are not aware of these activities in the Czech Republic, but we are expecting further development, especially in some specific areas concerning technical issues.

## Think Tanks – success stories

### **Questionnaire**

- *What are the examples that you recommend to follow in the activity of think-tanks? What is the formula for operating an efficient and influential think-tank?*
- *Please name examples of particularly effective/successful methods or projects in this respect.*
- *Please provide, if possible, concrete examples of successful interaction of the Think Tank and Government. What determined the success in that case?*
- *Are there policy areas in which think-tanks prove to be particularly useful and effective?*
- *What should be the products of a think-tank?*

We consider the choice of topic as very important to the think-tanks' influence and efficiency. If the think-tank selects a topic which is also of interest to the Government, chances of becoming successful in their activities dramatically increase. Besides governmental support, another key part of success for think-tanks is public relations, good marketing and running campaigns. For example, open data is a topic which is coherent with state and

governmental interests making related campaigns and initiatives attractive and successful.

## Think Tanks – communications and media

- *What are the methods of formulating the results of think-tanks work, ways of communicating with the public?*
- *Are there in your country any best practises in relation of Think Tanks and media contacts?*

### **Questionnaire**

- *How should the Think Tanks structure their relation with the media? Are there specific products, ideas, or methods of presentation that Think Tanks should address to media?*
- *What do the media need from Think Tanks?*
- *Why would media consider a Think Tank reliable and why unreliable?*
- *Should Think Tanks run their own social media projects?*

The think-tanks we interviewed usually have good experience with media as some of them are very interested in think-tanks' activities. The problematic issue lies in the condition that media need to provide absorbing stories and not just offer facts. Thus, it is sometimes difficult to catch media's attention.

Think-tanks agreed that it is crucial for them to run their own websites/Facebook pages as nowadays its more and more important. Relying only on "traditional" media is no longer enough. Through a Facebook profile think-tanks can show their identity, involve more people, communicate their vision and mission attractively, find new donors and new supporters, and inform about updates. However, it was learned that knowing how to manage accounts on social media demands certain skills as information and project outcomes need to be presented to the public in a light and approachable manner. Many interviewees highlighted the usefulness of hiring an expert from the communication and marketing field.

## Cooperation of legal Think Tanks

- *Do Think Tanks cooperate with each other. Are there any country networks, coalitions, and umbrella organizations? Please elaborate and describe particular projects if relevant.*
  - *Do Think Tanks cooperate with Think Tanks from abroad? On what kind of project?*
  - *If there is cooperation – what added value it brings.*
  - *What are the best practices regarding cooperation between Think Tanks worth sharing?*
  - *What are main challenges?*
  - *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

First, we would like to note that the regional level in the Czech Republic is not a very essential category due to the country's small size. There is no special cooperation among think-tanks on this level as most think-tanks – in fact, all the think-tanks interviewed – are based in Prague and their activities often extend across the whole Czech Republic, not to certain regions only. Thus, the country level and regional level separation was not considered during interviews as it was found irrelevant.

Cooperation among think-tanks varies from theme to theme with some subjects being culturally or regionally conditioned and some being international. Overall, cooperation is seen as important not only because it broadens knowledge about a certain issue, but also because it helps the think-tanks' visibility towards the Government or public. Different campaigns of befriended think-tanks can also serve as an inspiration and an encouragement to proceed with a certain cause. In some topical contexts, umbrella organizations facilitate a more straightforward way to achieve goals more

easily. However, experts from AMO, for instance, experienced unprofessional behavior of certain actors who presented their work as originals when, in fact, they plagiarized their outcomes. Further, AMO experts also issued reports that reacted to another think-tanks' materials that were seen to be biased and misleading.

Lastly, International think-tank cooperation is important for obtaining international funding and support. Although think-tanks addressing the same topic are often in competition for donors, contracts, etc., their goals are similar and in case of synergy, highly impactful results may be achieved. Interviewed think-tanks thus prefer cooperation to competition.

## Financing of legal Think Tanks activities

- *What are the sources of funding for Think Tanks?*
  - *Are there any special funds for Think Tanks?*
  - *Are there public funding sources available? On what basis (grant competition, individual contract, other)?*
  - *Are there private funding sources available? What are those sources (foundations, business, other)? On what basis (grant competition, individual contract, other)?*
  - *Are there international funding sources available? On what basis (grant competition, individual contract, other)?*
  - *Is crow funding used by Think Tanks (the practice of funding a project by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet)? What is the experience with this?*
  - *Are there any other sources of funding available for Think Tanks?*
  - *What are the best practices regarding funding worth sharing?*
  - *What are main challenges?*
  - *Recommendations – based on your desk research, your assessment of the situation as well as interviews (focus groups) what would you recommend in this context for the future. Recommendation should at least include two elements: who, and what shall perform, accomplish, take into consideration etc.*
- Can you formulate any recommendations for the future?*
- *on country level?*
  - *on regional level?*

### **Questionnaire**

*- What should be the guidelines for donors: government, NGOs and businesses which support Think Tanks? How should the donors evaluate whether their money is put for good use?*

Information on funding and think-tanks' partners and donors is presented in a transparent manner on the think-tanks' websites. It has become a standard for related NGOs to have a transparent financial bank account. Typically, funding comes from grants from the European Union or from individual fundraising conducted by think-tanks themselves. There are also some international foundations supporting Czech think-tanks. These include, for example, the EEA grants, ESF, US embassy support, International Visegrad Fond, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Hanss-Seidel-Stiftung, Heinrich BöllStiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, OBSE, Open Society Foundations, or The Kellner Family Foundation.

## Part Two – Legal Think Tank Cards

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION (THINK TANK)

**Name of the organization: Evropské Hodnoty (European Values, EV)**

**Year of establishment: 2005**

**CEO: Radko Hokovský**

**Contact information:**

[www.evropskehodnoty.cz](http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz)

[www.facebook.com/Evropskehodnoty/](https://www.facebook.com/Evropskehodnoty/)

[www.twitter.com/evropskehodnoty](https://www.twitter.com/evropskehodnoty)

#### **Mission**

The think-tank **European Values** is a non-governmental professional institution defending liberal democracy. The think tank's vision corresponds to a free, secure and prosperous Czech Republic and Central Europe which are an integral part of the West.

#### **Key areas of activity and expertise**

Foreign policy, Security policy, Policy of European Union, Migration policy.

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

*Please indicate (in the bullet points) most important activities and projects of the Think Tanks related to the legal issues – legal system, legislation process, judiciary, legal profession, human rights, access to justice, legal education and similar.*

- legislation process a policy-making monitoring,
- legal education in policy making - education of public in field of law in terms of better understanding policy-making processes
- education of public in the context of understanding disinformation spreading (this is related to the support of democracy and human rights)
- mapping of websites that spread disinformation and undermine democratic values

*Please focus on following issues: what is the project about (objectives), what kind of interaction with the Government takes place, what are the outcomes of the project and deliverables of the project (reports, publications).*

Kremlin watch - a strategic project of the think-tank European values

It consists of weekly monitoring of pro-Kremlin dis-informative websites. EVpublish studies and policy papers on this topic and cooperate closely with the Department of Security Policy of the Ministry of Interior. The aim of the program is to systematically and on a daily basis map and uncover online

entities that are organized by the Russian Federation and spread disinformation undermining liberal democracies' values. The programs outcomes are published on their website <http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/kremlinwatch/> and <http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/fungovani-ceskych-dezinformacnich-webu/fungovani-ceskych-dezinformacnich-webu-2/>.

After EV's recommendations concerning the audit of national security, during which they acted as official consultants to authors of a publication (specifically in relation to the chapter "The Effect of Foreign Powers on Czech Territory"), the Czech government established the Ministry of Interior's specialized center against terrorism and hybrid threats.

As a second activity, European Values writes policy papers concerning security policy, migration policy and other issues connected with their key areas related to the protection of liberal democracy.

EV publishes reports and studies such as the policy paper "The Selected Measures and Interests in the Field of Foreign Security Policy". This document offers recommendations for policy-makers shaping foreign security policy. The paper contains analysis, lessons learned and recommendations for future policy-makers. Other documents include "HOMEAFFAIRS 2015 – An Analytical Report" (on the Islamic State), "Refugees and Illegal Migrants in the EU and the Czech Republic – Questions and Answers" or the mapping the activities of Czech Members of the European Parliament in the past few years.

*Below we list examples of Think Tanks interaction and collaboration with Government:*

- analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the comparison of the alternatives,*
- monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- conducting empirical surveys,*
- collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*
- taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,*
- creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,*
- participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,*
- drafting standards and best practices.*

*The above list is of course not exhaustive and therefore if there are any other types of Think Tanks activities please include them in this section.*

As mentioned before, European Values are mostly interested in analyzing the current state of law and providing recommendations for the future. They do not specify how exactly the Government should implement different proposals (e.g. specific drafts of law) as they only formulate recommendations on the basis of current laws.

## BEST PRACTISES

*The specific (resulting from the organization's experience) examples of good practices of interaction, collaboration between Think Tank and the Government.*

Round tables, National Convention on European Union.

The National Convention on the European Union is the Czech Government's project which provides a platform for discussion on European Issues in the Czech Republic. It brings together representatives of the Government, state administration, both chambers of Parliament, NGOs and other stakeholders. The aim is to formulate recommendations based on EU topics resonating in the Czech Government and the Czech society.<sup>39</sup>

EV are especially proud of their participation at this National Convention - round tables are organized on specific issues and Governmental bodies (especially ministries) discuss their positions towards the issues. EV thus has an opportunity to influence policy-making procedures.

## PROBLEMS AND BARRIERS

*Challenges and difficult experiences of your Think Tank in its relations with the Government. What do you see as specific problems? Whether and what are the barriers to collaboration and communication?*

According to EV, think-tanks are perceived by policy makers as a platform for discussion and rarely as a platform for policy development.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.narodnikonvent.eu/in-english/>

## RESOURCES OF ORGANIZATION, POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION

*The key resources of the organization (eg. staff, experts, proven work methods, tools, partnerships).*

*Any specific cooperation possibilities?*

Staff/experts of European Values are often connected to academia and use their knowledge in both areas of their work. The think-tank also offers unpaid internships.

## OTHER INFORMATION

*Please provide any other information that do not fit into above categories and is important.*

*Please provide also any other materials that you think might be of interest.*

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION (THINK TANK)

**Name of the organization: Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky (Association for International Affairs, AMO)**

**Year of establishment: 1997**

**CEO: Vlad'ka Votavová**

**Contact information:**

[www.amo.cz](http://www.amo.cz)

[www.facebook.com/amo.cz](https://www.facebook.com/amo.cz)

[www.twitter.com/amo\\_cz](https://www.twitter.com/amo_cz)

[www.youtube.com/c/amoassociationforinternationalaffairs](https://www.youtube.com/c/amoassociationforinternationalaffairs)

### **Mission**

The mission of AMO is to promote research and education in the field of international relations. AMO facilitates expression and realization of ideas, thoughts and projects to increase education, mutual understanding and tolerance among the people.

### **Key areas of activity and expertise**

International relations, Foreign policy, Education in Foreign policy.

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

*Please indicate (in the bullet points) most important activities and projects of the Think Tanks related to the legal issues – legal system, legislation process, judiciary, legal profession, human rights, access to justice, legal education and similar.*

Legislation Process and Policy making – monitoring, participation in committees, communication through mass media, collecting data, connecting with people involved in legislative process

Legal education – education in the area of Foreign and European Policy

AMO is mostly oriented towards Foreign Policy and its connections to Czech policies.

*Please focus on following issues: what is the project about (objectives), what kind of interaction with the Government takes place, what are the outcomes of the project and deliverables of the project (reports, publications).*

The Agenda for Czech Foreign policy- an annual publication on foreign policy of the Czech Republic that critically assesses the conduct of the Czech Republic on the international stage in a given year and then offers policy recommendations for the years to come. The Agenda is a subject of interest to officials of several Czech ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.), political parties' members and foreign diplomatic services in the Czech Republic.

*Below we list examples of Think Tanks interaction and collaboration with Government:*

*- analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the*

*comparison of the alternatives,*

- monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- conducting empirical surveys,*
- collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*
- taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,*
- creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,*
- participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,*
- drafting standards and best practices.*

*The above list is of course not exhaustive and therefore if there are any other types of Think Tanks activities please include them in this section.*

Within its field of interest, AMO conducts different kinds of research on Foreign policy strategy, European policy strategy and most importantly publishes a concept note on human rights and transition assistance. AMO tries to advocate for specific legal frameworks supporting the development of human rights not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. In the Concept note on human rights and transition, AMO worked under the umbrella organization DEMAS and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tried to develop a coherent strategy with specific goals. Their research activities also aim at the better understanding of policy makers in security policy.

## **BEST PRACTISES**

*The specific (resulting from the organization's experience) examples of good practices of interaction, collaboration between Think Tank and the Government.*

Working groups, Round Tables, Group of External Consultants –AMO experts are invited as experts on foreign affairs. AMO is also part of the National Convention on EU which is described in brief in the European Values card.

## **PROBLEMS AND BARIERS**

*Challenges and difficult experiences of your Think Tank in its relations with the Government. What do you see as specific problems? Whether and what are the barriers to collaboration and communication?*

AMO believes that the State and Government should be more open to third sector expertise, understand what can be provided from the third sector and clearly define what is expected from the third sector.

## **RESOURCES OF ORGANIZATION, POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION**

*The key resources of the organization (eg. staff, experts, proven work methods, tools, partnerships).*

*Any specific cooperation possibilities?*

AMO is consisting of experts in their fields, mostly they also work in academia where they broaden their knowledge about foreign policy. Stronger cooperation with the State in the area of foreign affairs is supported.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

*Please provide any other information that do not fit into above categories and is important.*

*Please provide also any other materials that you think might be of interest.*

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION (THINK TANK)

**Name of the organization:** In Iustitia

**Year of establishment:** 2009

**CEO:** Klára Kalibová

**Contact information:**

[www.in-ius.cz](http://www.in-ius.cz)

### Mission

The aim of the organization is to explain the topic of hate crime to public and to facilitate discussions around it. The organization also actively helps victims and witnesses of hate crime, which includes legal help. In Iustitia cooperates with other organizations that focus on the same topic. The mission of the organization is to provide social care, legal information and free representation in the court. They also help vulnerable people and women without shelter and protect equality, dignity and human rights of all.

### Key areas of activity and expertise

Hate crime, social care, free representation in court, racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia, homophobia, gender-based violence, violence for reasons of age, health status

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

*Please indicate (in the bullet points) most important activities and projects of the Think Tanks related to the legal issues – legal system, legislation process, judiciary, legal profession, human rights, access to justice, legal education and similar.*

*Please focus on following issues: what is the project about (objectives), what kind of interaction with the Government takes place, what are the outcomes of the project and deliverables of the project (reports, publications).*

- Project “Hate crime in the Czech Republic – analysis and monitoring”. The aim of the project is to raise awareness about hate crime in the Czech Republic through monitoring of hateful incident and analysis. These data will be published in a report on hate violence. The second aim is to support vulnerable communities and inform about human rights.

- Project “Consulting Justýna MHMP” (2016) - these activities are conceived as a service of legal and social consulting. These activities follow up on program Prevention of crime from the year 2015. Project’s objectives are: to strengthen legal awareness of threatened communities, to search for victims of hate crime, to create cooperation and provide social care to victims of hate crime according to the legal base of the Czech Republic. The organization In Iustitia is interested in the topic in general, but it focuses on areas where the laws, although in place, are not implemented properly. The organization proposes changes based on their field research findings. They elaborate analyses of the current state of law and monitor the implementation of law. The think-tank also takes part in consultations of new legislation and creates legislation amendments to existing regulations.

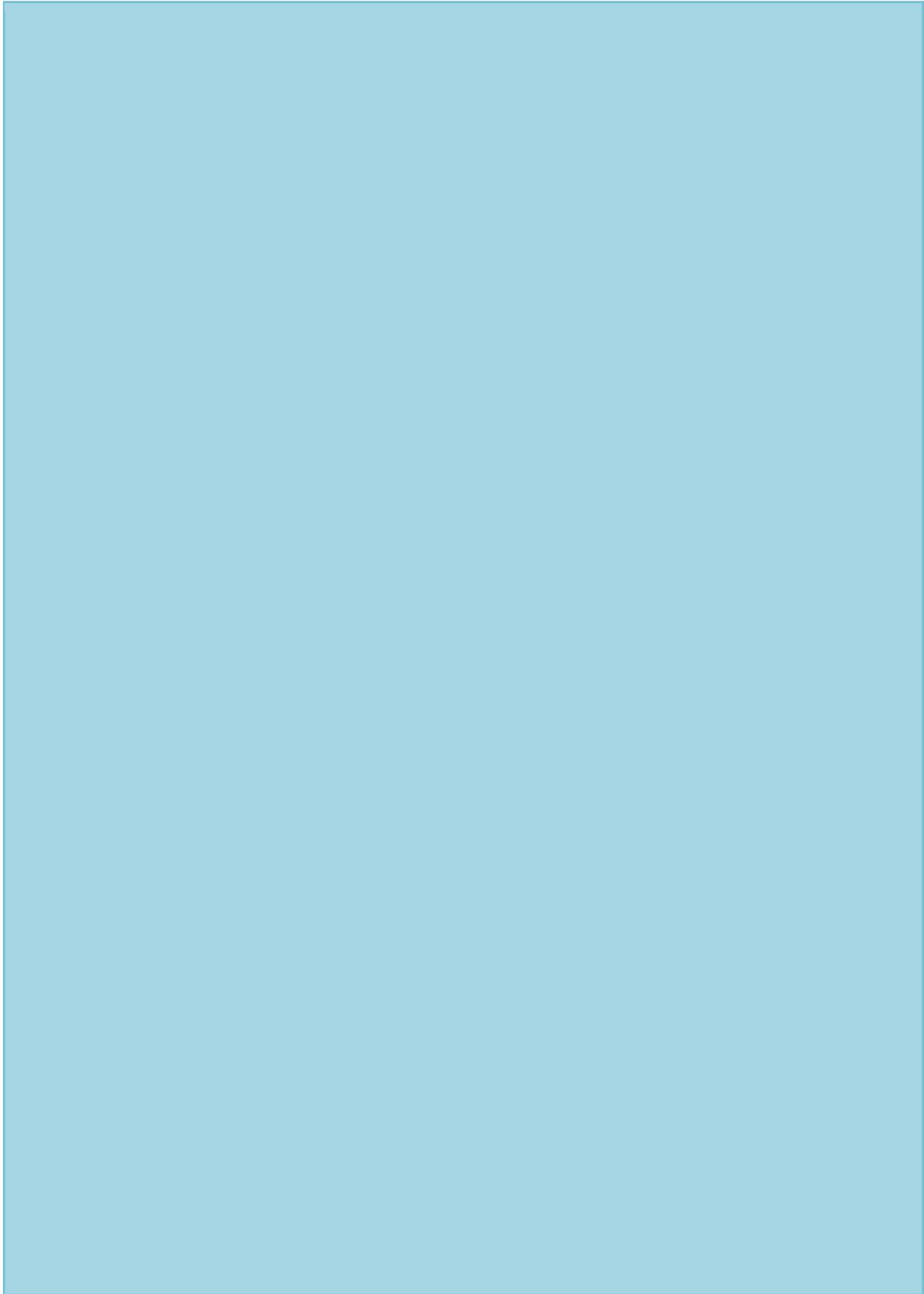
*Below we list examples of Think Tanks interaction and collaboration with*

*Government:*

- *analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the comparison of the alternatives,*
- *monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- *conducting empirical surveys,*
- *collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- *analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*
- *taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,*
- *creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,*
- *participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,*
- *drafting standards and best practices.*

*The above list is of course not exhaustive and therefore if there are any other types of Think Tanks activities please include them in this section.*

In Iustitia monitors and cooperates with the Government in the field of implementing law on hateful speech/hate crime. They also participate in a working group organized by the Ministry of Interior and in a governmental body called the Agency for Social Inclusion. In both groups the think-tank tries to develop best practices and draft legislation which would help hate crimes and hate speech history.



## BEST PRACTISES

*The specific (resulting from the organization's experience) examples of good practices of interaction, collaboration between Think Tank and the Government.*

The organization has a very strong position in the Czech Republic. The organization is a strategic partner to the government. Think-tank's employees are experts in hate crime. Also, it is almost the only stable organization working in this field. In such cases, the cooperation with government is very common and strong.

## PROBLEMS AND BARRIERS

*Challenges and difficult experiences of your Think Tank in its relations with the Government. What do you see as specific problems? Whether and what are the barriers to collaboration and communication?*

The researches which have been published by the organization are sometimes very controversial and the government does not want to take the results or conclusions into full account. This is due to the fact that the Governments' position could be undermined and it would complicate its relations at the national and international level.

## **RESOURCES OF ORGANIZATION, POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION**

*The key resources of the organization (eg. staff, experts, proven work methods, tools, partnerships).*

*Any specific cooperation possibilities?*

The organization has been for a long time educating on hate crime. They have been educating not only professionals (e.g. social workers) but also teachers and children. Specifically, they show how to recognize hate crime/hate speech and how to work with it.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

*Please provide any other information that do not fit into above categories and is important.*

*Please provide also any other materials that you think might be of interest.*

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION (THINK TANK)

**Name of the organization:** Open Society Fund – The Otakar Motejl Fund

**Year of establishment:** 1992

**CEO:** Robert Basch

**Contact information:**

*Website, Facebook, twitter, etc.*

www.osf.cz

### **Mission**

Opening data of public service, facilitation of citizens' access to information about the state, ratings of transparency of regions and their services.

### **Key areas of activity and expertise**

The Fund surveys activities of public service, connects citizens to public services, supports anti-corruption measures and provides free access to information.

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

*Please indicate (in the bullet points) most important activities and projects of the Think Tanks related to the legal issues – legal system, legislation process, judiciary, legal profession, human rights, access to justice, legal education and similar.*

- Monitoring of law implementation and relevant consultations with the Government.

The already existing law concerning open data is sufficient therefore the organization is now only concerned about the implementation of the law and about the practical usage of open data. The activities are related to analysis and comments of the current situation and cooperation with important subjects.

- Support of initiatives concerned with transparent public services and the usage of open data

*Please focus on following issues: what is the project about (objectives), what kind of interaction with the Government takes place, what are the outcomes of the project and deliverables of the project (reports, publications).*

This organization is interested in legal process. Basically, they finance projects which focus on the development of legal state, democracy and limit corruption. They help other organizations and small NGOs/organized activists to achieve improvement in our legal system and strengthen law in the state. The most widespread activity is the support of using open data in regions – based on law, cities and regions should provide free data in a certain form. There is also a forum for open data, which is an expert program and focuses on education in universities. Specifically, the project aims at methodology and shows how open data can be used and outcomes implemented. In the case of this project

we can talk about active cooperation with the Government.

*Below we list examples of Think Tanks interaction and collaboration with Government:*

- analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the comparison of the alternatives,*
- monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- conducting empirical surveys,*
- collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*
- taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,*
- creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,*
- participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,*
- drafting standards and best practices.*

*The above list is of course not exhaustive and therefore if there are any other types of Think Tanks activities please include them in this section.*

## **BEST PRACTISES**

*The specific (resulting from the organization's experience) examples of good practices of interaction, collaboration between Think Tank and the Government.*

I would say that the example of best practices is the cooperation with the Government. There is very successful and functional cooperation between the Government and the organization. Reasons for this partnership is easy to identify as open data are very important for the governmental sector. This means that to the governmental sector the think-tank is a helping hand.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION (THINK TANK)**

**Name of the organization: League of Human Rights**

**Year of establishment: 2000**

**CEO: Dan Petrucha**

**Contact information:**

<http://llp.cz/>

### **Mission**

The League defends rights and freedom of citizens in the Czech Republic. It helps people know their rights and supports systematic changes which improve human rights, especially in the field of healthcare, education, judiciary and police. The League envisions a society where human rights are respected and where every person can claim justice in case of rights violation.

### **Key areas of activity and expertise**

Human rights, education system, welfare and social system, judiciary and police.

### **ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

*Please indicate (in the bullet points) most important activities and projects of the Think Tanks related to the legal issues – legal system, legislation process, judiciary, legal profession, human rights, access to justice, legal education and similar.*

League of Human Rights is active in several topics which focuses on legal issues. In general, the key topic is human rights and legal education. The organization concentrates on strategic litigation in specific health care cases, cases of people with disabilities and police violence. In those areas, the League also educates law students as well as broad public.

*Please focus on following issues: what is the project about (objectives), what kind of interaction with the Government takes place, what are the outcomes of the project and deliverables of the project (reports, publications).*

*Below we list examples of Think Tanks interaction and collaboration with Government:*

*- analysis of the state of the law in the field, in particular through the*

*comparison of the alternatives,*

- monitoring of the operation of the legislation, judiciary and government agencies,*
- conducting empirical surveys,*
- collection, aggregation, analysis, presentation of available statistical data,*
- analysis and comments on draft legislation, strategic documents, etc.,*
- taking part in the consultation of legislation, taking part in developing Regulatory Impact Assessment,*
- creating legislation amendments of existing regulations,*
- participation in committees, advisory boards and other structures functioning at the parliamentary level or government,*
- drafting standards and best practices.*

*The above list is of course not exhaustive and therefore if there are any other types of Think Tanks activities please include them in this section.*

The League of Human Rights is interested in legal system and its changes and legal remedies. There are not just few individual projects the League works on, but many public areas are touched as the League strives for a systemic change. One of the League's projects focuses on the healthcare system and it is called the "Fair Hospital". This project aims to explain the topic of health care to the broad public. Health care law is a very complicated area in the Czech Republic and people often do not know what is their doctor allowed to do/not to do. Also, the League educates students of law in health care law. Lastly, the organization supports freedom of choice in vaccination and obstetrics – especially through strategic litigation (sometimes free legal assistance is granted).

The League of Human Rights also supports a better and faster judiciary system, especially the formation of new independent control body for police behavior.

### **BEST PRACTISES**

*The specific (resulting from the organization's experience) examples of good practices of interaction, collaboration between Think Tank and the Government.*

Some of the best practices concern cases won in front of the European Court of Human Rights. One of the latest examples is a case from October 2016, when the ECtHR ruled that the Czech Republic was responsible for malpractice in relocating people with disabilities into residential homes without their consent (Červenková v. Czech Republic). Some cases were also won in front of Czech courts and these decisions have also the potential to change practices - e.g. such as in the case of mandatory vaccination.

## Part Three – Legal Think Tank Projects Cards

**PROJECT TITLE:** Férovánemocnice/Fair Hospital

**TYPE OF THE PROJECT:** *(for instance empirical research or legal analyses etc.)*

It is a long-term project focused on health care system in the Czech Republic. This project consists of legal education of broad public and future lawyers, strategic litigation, developing analysis and manuals for patients .

**NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT**

*Contact information, www, person responsible*

*The author of the project is League of Human Rights  
<http://llp.cz/temata/zdravotnictvi/ferova-nemocnice/>*

*Zuzana Candigliota, Matěj Strítěský*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** *(please be concise, but max 3000 characters)*

- *the essence of the project – a description in a few sentences (strategic objective) - other relevant information*

- *objectives of the project*

There are two strategic objectives this project aims to deliver. One of them is to support patients in the understanding of their rights, the other one is to defend the freedom of choice of all patients in the health care system - especially in two topics - vaccination and obstetrics.

- *elements/phases of the project (in chronological order)*

The project is financed by individual fundraising and, therefore, it is not a typical project with a specific start and finish date.

Activities of the project consist of several aspects:

- answering questions of patients in health care
- strategic litigation of health care cases – especially related to obstetrics and mandatory vaccination
- analysis and manuals for broad public
- education of (non)-lawyers and future doctors

- *methods/tools used*

Methods used in this project respect the above-mentioned activities – it is strategic litigation, cooperation with other NGOs, legal assistance etc.

- *type of interaction with the government*

*- outcomes of the project - separately conclusions, recommendations and/or changes/ reforms that took place after the project. This section should not contain the detailed content of the report, but presentation of results in a nutshell*

The current state of the project is still evolving as every year students participate in the educational part of the project and questions of patients are answered through different means (e.g. through radio). Some cases are in front of courts - especially those related to vaccination.

*- the project compared to other activities (was it a continuation or a part of a bigger project?)*

This project has a long-term history in the League of Human Rights. The project is not meant to be a short activity, but an evolving subject reflecting current circumstances.

## **REPORT – PUBLICATION – POLICY PAPER?**

*The report, if published, or Policy Paper: information about the report/policy paper, a few words about what is in the publication, the main elements of the report/policy paper (or frame contents, but no detailed table of contents, eventually scan of the report cover)*

*Address URL, if it is published online.*

*The name and contact of the project coordinator/ the author of the final report, if known (in terms of person who can give you more information about the project).*

Analysis, manuals and contacts for legal assistance (usually done through

answering questions by patients) is available (only in Czech):

[www.ferovanemocnice.cz](http://www.ferovanemocnice.cz)

The coordinator is Matěj Stříteský

## OTHER INFORMATION

**PROJECT TITLE:** Kremlin Watch

**TYPE OF THE PROJECT:** (for instance empirical research or legal analyses etc.) Research of pro Kremel disinformation channels

**NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT**

Contact information, www, person responsible

Think tank European values, Lenka Víchová,

[lenka.vichova@evropskehodnoty.cz](mailto:lenka.vichova@evropskehodnoty.cz),

<http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/kremlinwatch/kw1/>

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION (please be concise, but max 3000 characters)**

*-the essence of the project – a description in a few sentences (strategic objective)*

*- objectives of the project*

*- elements/phases of the project (in chronological order)*

- *methods/tools used*
- *type of interaction with the government*
- *outcomes of the project – separately conclusions, recommendations and/or changes/ reforms that took place after the project. This section should not contain the detailed content of the report, but presentation of results in a nutshell*
- *the project compared to other activities (was it a continuation or a part of a bigger project?)*
- *other relevant information*

Kremlin watch is strategic project of the think-tank European Values. It consists of weekly monitoring of pro Kremlin dis-informative websites. The think-tank produces studies and policy paper concerning this topic and closely cooperates with the Department of Security Policy of the Ministry of Interior. After the think-tank included its recommendations in the audit of national security, in which the experts acted as official consultants to editors of certain chapters, such as to one called The Effect of Foreign Powers on Czech Territory, the Czech government established, under the Ministry of Interior, a specialized center against terrorism and hybrid threats.

#### **REPORT – PUBLICATION – POLICY PAPER?**

*The report, if published, or Policy Paper: information about the report/policy paper, a few words about what is in the publication, the main elements of the report/policy paper (or frame contents, but no detailed table of contents, eventually scan of the report cover)*

*Address URL, if it is published online.*

*The name and contact of the project coordinator/ the author of the final report, if known (in terms of person who can give you more information about the project).*

Analyses are available in Czech language at

<http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/kremlinwatch/nase-texty/>

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

**PROJECT TITLE: PRAGUE SUMMIT**

**TYPE OF THE PROJECT: *Educational activity***

**NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT**

*Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky, [www.amo.cz](http://www.amo.cz)*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** *(please be concise, but max 3000 characters)*

- *the essence of the project – a description in a few sentences (strategic objective)*

- *objectives of the project*

The aim of the project is to give young people the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of international affairs and human rights. Further on, accent is put on economic, cultural and environmental issues.

- *elements/phases of the project (in chronological order)*

As an educational method, a simulation is used to achieve the goals of the project. Every year students represent specific countries and their interest in international organizations (EU, UN, etc.). Participants have the possibility to understand diverse topics in respective countries and obtain a deeper knowledge of human rights' issues around the world.

Students also deal with situations that real organizations encounter. They try to push for policies or negotiation outcomes as if they were the ambassadors of their state.

Throughout the activities, students are supported by experts working in the field and famous Czech personalities.

- *methods/tools used*

As a method, simulation of work of international organizations is used.

- *type of interaction with the government*

There is no special interaction with the Government. Ministers of the Government and other officials (especially from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

participate in the project as guests.

*- outcomes of the project – separately conclusions, recommendations and/or changes/ reforms that took place after the project. This section should not contain the detailed content of the report, but presentation of results in a nutshell*

The project has a long-term tradition in the work of AMO. Usually, legal education of high school and university students in the area of human rights and international politics is achieved.

*- the project compared to other activities (was it a continuation or a part of a bigger project?)*

The project is part of bigger picture – it is linked to other AMO activities.

*- other relevant information*

The project is organized by unpaid interns who are an important source of aid to the successful realization of the Prague Student Summit.

## **REPORT – PUBLICATION – POLICY PAPER?**

*The report, if published, or Policy Paper: information about the report/policy paper, a few words about what is in the publication, the main elements of the report/policy paper (or frame contents, but no detailed table of contents, eventually scan of the report cover)*

*Address URL, if it is published online.*

*The name and contact of the project coordinator/ the author of the final report, if known (in terms of person who can give you more information about the*

*project).*

<http://www.amo.cz/en/prague-student-summit/s/15648-about/>

## **OTHER INFORMATION**



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## Part Five. Additional material

*Please provide a list of any additional material that might be of interest to us in this project and you will submit to us (like for instance copy of interesting paper on legal Think Tanks, or standards on collaboration of government with Think Tanks, if developed, or any other source of information that you think is important and will help us to reach our objectives etc.).*

*Please summarise briefly the most interesting documents, like for instance the research done on Think Tanks.*

### People interviewed

In Iustitia – Mgr. Klára Kalibová

OSF – Mgr. Michal Tošovský

League of Human Rights - Mgr. Kateřina Červená, Mgr. Veronika Lapšanská

European values – Bc. Jakub Janda

AMO – Mgr. Vít Dostál

Masaryk University, Centrum pro lidská práva a demokracii – Mgr. Hubert Smekal, Ph.D.

### Attachments

#### Attachment No. 1

Císař, O., Hrubeš, M.: *Think tanks and Policy Discourses in Czech Republic*. 2016 In: *Policy Analysis in the Czech Republic*, eds. A. Veselý, M. Nekola, and E. M. Hejzlarová. Bristol: The Policy Press.

#### Attachment No. 2

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**Attachment No. 3**

Kovář, J., Tichý, L., Kovář, K. *Strategy of the Czech Republic Activity in the EU: Not a Single Step Forward*. 2013 European Values. Available from: <http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2-9-2013-Political-Commentary.pdf> (2017-08-15).

**Attachment No. 4**

Schneider, J. *Think tanks in Visegrad Countries*. 2002. Center for Policy Studies. Available from: <http://www.policy.hu/schneider/RPFinal.pdf> (2017-08-15)