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NEWGOV New Modes of Governance

Integrated Project
Priority 7 – Citizens and Governance in the Knowledge-based Society

Report on the Final Seminar of the project: Delegation of public tasks to independent agencies in EU member states: Poland and Lithuania
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Institute of Public Affairs. Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Jacek Kucharczyk, Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Summary

The seminar took place on 29 August 2007 at the Foundation Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. This seminar was devoted to presenting results of the two last projects: one concerned the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture in Poland and the second concerned the National Paying Agency in Lithuania. In the perspective of the international conference planned for the end of October 2007 it was suggested that the two reports should be merged into one presentation, which would be structured around similarities and differences between the two studied cases.

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I. Report of Final Seminar's course

The seminar took place on 29 August 2007 in the conference room of the Foundation Institute of Public Affairs. At the beginning of seminar, Prof. Lena Kolarska-Bobińska presented briefly the general overview of the entire New Modes of Governance project managed by EUI, cluster of projects no. 3 and the concept and assumptions of its part realized by IPA (Project 17 Democratization, Capture of the State and New Forms of Governance in CEE countries).

This seminar was devoted to presenting results of the two last projects: one concerned the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture in Poland and the second concerned the National Paying Agency in Lithuania. It was explained that the executive agency was chosen for the studies as a particular type of a new mode of governance. This type of NMG was studied with the initial general hypotheses of the NEWGOV project in mind:

1. CEE countries are not ready for NMG, they need first to finish implementing old modes of governance; hence implementation of NMG in CEE could increase some pathologies of the current system.
2. There can be a qualitative leap; CEE can move faster to NMG by bypassing some of the old modes because creation of traditional administrative structures was not completed.

The following presentation of the report “Case Study of an Executive Agency in Poland: Between Political Culture, Europeanization and Modernization Challenges” conducted by Dr. Grosse opened a discussion on the conceptual framework of this research. One of the most debated issues was the use of the concept ‘Europeanization’. Prof. Niznik pointed out that this concept was used in a very vague and unclear way in the report and suggested that it should be clearly defined at the beginning of the report. Dr Jacek Kucharczyk pointed at an ambiguous connotation of this concept, which is both normative and descriptive. He suggested that a clear choice of either of these would make the assumptions of the report more explicit. It was explained by Dr. Grosse that the new modes of governance are a part of a broader process of Europeanization and for this reason this concept was applied. However, the discussion ended with a conclusion that the use of the concept in the given report will be revised.

The ‘agency capture’ was another disputed concept. Dagmir Długosz indicated that it is mainly used to describe a process of capturing an institution by an interest group, whereas Dr. Grosse applied it particularly to the political parties. In response to this remark, Dr. Grosse pointed out that there are several types of the agency capture process. By the agency capture from below an interest group is usually the unit of analysis. However, when the process takes place from above, it is usually conducted by a political party.

There were also some other suggestions for improving the analysis. One of them concerned the need for a separate study of the processes of politicisation, agency capture and gate keeper phenomenon for the central and local units of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture. The other remark indicated a need for posing a question, whether a greater hierarchical dependency of the agency from the central administration (the Ministry of Agriculture) brings along a greater potential for exerting control over the agency by a given Ministry.

The following presentation by Rita Stafejeva “Case Study: The National Paying Agency in Lithuania” was closed by some final organizational conclusions. In the perspective of the international conference planned for the end of October it was suggested that the two reports should be merged into one presentation, which would be structured around similarities and differences between the two studied cases.

II. Programme

10.00 – 13.15 Session

Opening of the seminar, Prof. Lena Kolarska–Bobińska

Delegation of public tasks to independent agencies. The Polish case, Dr. Tomasz Grosse

General discussion

Delegation of public tasks to independent agencies. The Lithuanian case, Rita Stafejeva

General discussion

13.15 Lunch

III. List of Participants

1. Prof. Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, leader of the Project 17
2. Dr Jacek Kucharczyk
3. Dr Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse
4. Ewelina Skwarczyńska
5. Rita Stafejeva
6. Piotr Maciej Kaczyński
7. Dagmir Długosz
8. Olga Napiontek
9. Prof. Józef Niżnik
10. Dr Michał Sitek
11. Karolina Sobiecka
12. Marianna Zieleńska
13. Barbara Wieliczko
14. Jarosław Zbieranek
15. Jan Grzymski
16. Aleksandra Lis