



Ethics in Public and Civil Service: Lessons from Central and Eastern European Countries

Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences (room 124a)
Jilská 1, Prague 1, Czech Republic

Monday, September 23, 2019, 9:30 – 18:00

9:30 – 10:00
Welcome & Coffee

Slot 1
**Public Service Ethics and Integrity in Estonia: A meaningful Duties for
Professionals**

Aive Pevkur: Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn
(Chair: Petr Urban)

10:00 – 10:30
Presentation

10:30 – 11:00
Discussion

Abstract: Estonia is one of the success stories in Central and Eastern Europe by establishing rule of law and fair government. In 2018 Estonia was on 18th position out of 180 countries according to the TI CPI index. Processes which took place in public sector, more specifically in civil service and public ethics since 1991 played a significant part in positive changes. In my presentation I will try to follow three paths. 1. To give an overview of civil service compliance and integrity systems in Estonia; 2. To give a reason how ethics management system can support shaping a professional body of civil servants; 3. To justify how using Socratic method in ethics trainings can help to rise professionalism and meaningfulness of professional activities in civil service.

11:00 – 11:30
Coffee Break

Slot 2
**Strengthening Civil Service Ethics in Slovenia – Integrity Plan: What Is It and How
It Works**

Vita Habjan Barborič: Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, Ljubljana / GRECO
(Chair: Alice Koubová)

11:30 – 12:00
Presentation

12:00 – 12:30
Discussion

Abstract: Slovenia has introduced an integrity plan as a corruption and integrity risk management tool that every public sector institution should draw up and adopt. The integrity plan should contain an assessment of the institution's overall exposure to corruption as well as a description of the areas and manner of decision-making with the assessment of exposure to corruption risks and proposals for integrity improvements. The main premise on which the idea of introducing the integrity plan is based is that every institution should be able to identify and manage all risks pertaining to its functioning, including those related to corruption and/or integrity in order to ensure lawful and transparent functioning of the institution. Similar to compliance function in private sectors around the world where a great emphasis is put on risk management in order to protect business processes public sector institutions should be able to prevent corruption by strengthening integrity of their employees and office-holders as well as institutions as such. The integrity plan guides them in doing so.

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch Break

Slot 3

Ethics and Integrity in the Public Administration – A Hungarian Perspective

Péter Klotz: National University of Public Service, Budapest

(Chair: Juraj Hvorecký)

14:00 – 14:30

Presentation

14:30 – 15:00

Discussion

Abstract: Ethics is a cornerstone of good governance however it is a constant challenge for public administration scholars and professionals to define ethical requirements and implement them into the legal framework of public administration. The presentation provides a general overview on ethics management of the Hungarian public administration focusing mostly to the last decades and presents how the integrity approach – which can be defined as a balanced application of ethical values and norms into the daily life – was implemented step by step in different branches of the Hungarian public administration. Finally, it presents the developing integrity management system of the Hungarian public administration, the lessons learned and the current challenges in this field.

Slot 4

Ethics in Civil Service in Slovakia – Tools, Trends and Experience

Zuzana Šabová & Daniela Zemanovičová: Civil Service Council, Bratislava

(Chair: Juraj Hvorecký)

15:00 – 15:30

Presentation

15:30 – 16:00

Discussion

Abstract: In 2017, based on the new Act on Civil Service, Civil Service Council was established as an independent authority entrusted i.a. with drafting the Code of Ethics and surveillance over ethics in civil service. In the presentation, we describe the current state of ethics in civil service in Slovakia. We summarize the outcomes of a survey on ethics conducted among civil servants in 2018. It was aimed mainly on ethical awareness, ethical problems and risky areas, motivation, ethical leadership and perception of ethics. We also present the draft Code of Ethics, which contains ethical values (political neutrality, impartiality, public interest, respect for people and professionalism) as well as pillars of the ethical infrastructure necessary for its implementation. Finally, based on the gained experience we share the lessons learned - what is necessary for a proper functioning of ethics in civil service, who are the key stakeholders and what activities of the Civil Service Council are important for promotion and progress in ethics in civil service.

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee Break

Slot 5

Civil Service Ethics in the Czech Republic: Recent Developments and Challenges

Petr Urban & Alice Koubová & Juraj Hvorecký: Institute of Philosophy, CAS, Prague

16:30 – 17:00

Presentation

17:00 – 17:30

Discussion

Abstract: The aim of this presentation is to discuss the possibilities and challenges in building an ‘ethics infrastructure’ in Czech civil service. First, we will describe the recent history and current state of civil service ethics in the Czech republic and zoom in on several ongoing reforms, such as the revision of the Code of Ethics for Czech Civil Servants. Then we will focus on the methods and preliminary results of our research project on developing an ethical culture at the Ministry of Transport. We will highlight what we have learnt from our hands-on experience about the prospects and challenges of the ongoing initiatives and suggest some conclusions that we consider as most important with regard to further directions of the development of Czech civil service ethics.

17:30 – 18:00

Coffee & Closing Remarks

18:30

Dinner

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