



Czech case study on co-production in the delivery of public good services

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*Konference s mezinárodní účastí, ESF MU Brno,
11. 6. – 12. 6. 2008*



Co-production and co-management in the public good services delivery

Security of person and property - fire safety


Theses:

- *Co-production* is manifested by *co-management* as a type of cooperation in which the third sector has a direct influence on the nature of public services delivery (its *planning, providing, producing, delivering, and financing*).
- The *Voluntary fire-fighting crews* would represent bodies of the third sector in the Czech Republic which produces common good services at local level in cooperation with the state administration *historically and nowadays* .
- An involvement of citizens creates the *service delivery practices* as well as the citizens and their *social capital* is themselves created by the service delivery.



Some questions:

- (1) Are fire-safety and fire-effects maintenance activities recognizable as a **public service**?
- (2) What are the **specific characteristics** of fire-safety service?
- (3) What is the **history and present** of this service delivery?
- (4) Which **actors** play their role here and in which **manners**?
- (5) What is the conclusion?

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- *Fair-fighting and fire-effects overcoming and maintenance* postulate demand of some **solidarity mechanisms** because it is not easy to bear that costs by individuals. The market don't operate it.
 - *Fire prevention* stays traditionally to be municipal and state interest.

Fire-safety and fire-effects maintenance activities are services as a common good



Specific characteristics of fire-safety service

That service is being usually and
traditionally delivered within close
cooperation

- of (associated) citizens with their municipality,
- of voluntary semi-professionals with salaried professionals,
- of the municipality with the state,
- and of various bodies across economical sectors together.

That service is delivered *systematically*.



*Nowadays some data about
the Czech Republic (1.1.2007)*

- About 87 000 fire-fighters serve there
 - including about 9 000 professionals (within the state Fire-fighting and rescue crew)
 - and about 78 000 volunteers (within about 370 voluntary crews in villages and small cities).
- Czech Republic area covers 78 864 square kilometres where about 10,2 million citizens live
 - included about 5 million men and 5,2 million women)
 - which settled in about 6 250 domicile-municipalities



History of the service

- Some **voluntary fire-fighting crew** in Líšňany village was founded in **1871**, another one in Velký Šenov city in **1879**, for example.
- “**Central fire-fighting union**” of the Czech kingdom country was associated in **1879** and “**Fire-fighter’s mutual insurance company**” in **1900**.
- “**Confederation of Czechoslovak voluntary firemen**” was associated **1919**.

The **fire-safety** of city or village was organized by mayor, but the responsibility of **fire-fighting** were held by voluntary crews (machine-man and commander served as a salaried public person sometimes). In some bigger cities, there public fire-fighting crews were served by professional salaried men.



125 years anniversary in the village





The service nowadays

- **1942** there **state Regiment of fire-fighting policy** was settled being administrated by German Gendarmerie.
- **After the War** that system was covered by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Interior and operated via National boards per both voluntary and professional fire-fighting bodies. Firemen were given by magistracy status.
- In **1958** state responsibility of fire-fighting was decentralized down to voluntary “**Czechoslovak fire-fighting alliance**”. Schools for fire-fighters were founded.
- In **1985** new the **Fire-fighting Code** was issued.
- After **1995** the state professional “**Fire-fighting and rescue crew**” was newly established and headed by the Czech Ministry of Interior.
- New system of **Crises Management, Emergency solution and citizen’s security Planning, and Integral System of Rescue** were created
- New collection of relevant Codes came in **2000**.



Integral System of Rescue

ISR is aimed to provide fire-saving citizen's life, health and property (via *fire-prevention and fire-fighting*) and to provide effective helping in occasion of any extraordinary accidents (*natural disaster, traffic accident and other*). Co-management is deep and multilateral here.

- The professional **Fire-fighting and rescue crew of the Czech Republic** is a pillar as well as the **Voluntary fire-fighting crews** are the main actors of the IRS system.
- They co-operate together with the **Police** and **Army** being a partner of **state**, regional and **municipalities**. Another partners of ISR cooperate "*in call or task*" agreement regime (namely **Mountain rescue services, Mine rescue service, Cave rescue service, Health rescue service**, and others, which are some voluntary and some professional bodies).
- **Person** and **firms** co-laborate when necessary.

All the system is operated within the public **Crises Management**.



Structure of Czech fire-fighting system, its actors and network, co-management - FRC

The Fire-fighter and rescue crew of the CR (FRC)

- is authorised by Law to provide: **state's supervision** on fire-security provision; strategic fire-fight and rescue **planning** in coordination it with partners; activity **co-operation and co-ordination** with partners; **publicity and enlightenment; education and training** both professional firemen and voluntary firemen (their machine-men and commander especially); **financial support** to voluntary fire-fighters crew's technique-equipment; other assignments.
- **co-organizes** fighting-power co-ordination exercises and fire-fighter's sport performance with volunteers together.
- **provides central emergency call** both by national No. 150 and European No. 112 (systematically from 2003).

FRC includes 14 regional crew-branches subsidized to regional authority.



Structure of Czech fire-fighting system, its actors and network, co-management - VFC

- **Voluntary fire-fighters crews (VFC)** associate citizens to provide honored common good services on voluntary base. VFC represents *citizen's mutual solidary initiative* which is semi-professional.
- Any crew is relatively **autonomous** under patronage of related municipality.
- VFC involve young people into fire-fighting activities and play serious role *in local culture and sport*.
- Voluntary fire-fighters crews' activity and equipment are **financed** mainly by public finance support and co-financed by member's fee, by philanthropy, by they own activities at the open market and by non-distributed profit of themselves controlled non-for-profit enterprises. They use also voluntary work and mutual self-help.
- Members of voluntary fire-fighting crews are *associated* into three *Associations*.




Voluntary fire-fighting sector network

- Fire-fighter **educational institutions**;
- Granting founds (the **Found for fire-fighting movement supporting**; the **Firemen and policemen found** - supporting children surviving the fire-fighter which perish be on service);
- Fire-fighters **trade unions**,
- **Professional chamber of Fire-fighters** (It is voluntary association of fire-fighter technique-equipment providers which are profit and non-for-profit bodies);
- **Association of fire-fighter officers** (It is voluntary association – a member of European Federation of Fire-fighter Officers Association);
- **Fire-fighter's Mutual Insurance, Co.** (It is non-for-profit body which is founded and controlled by Association of Voluntary Fire-fighter crews. Its profit is non-distributed but proposed for fire-fighting technique improvement of Voluntary fire-fighting crews).
- Others.



Conclusion

- Case study shows providers, procedures, activities and actions which are **co-managed** by both public authorities and private bodies **jointly and systematically**.
- Fire-fighting was any time **common good service** which effective providing needs existence of large coordination and cooperation anybody concerned.
- Furnished by **power**, public authorities functionally collaborate and coordinate strategic and operational appropriate activities with each other and with their partners to catch the common purpose and benefits.
- Furnished by **creative enthusiasm**, citizen's volunteers not only provides common good service but also make their community more strength.



Thank you for your attention

*Příspěvek navazuje na téma přednesené na
mezinárodní konferenci EGPA v Madridu
2007 (co-management – social services)*

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2008