

Lecture

Changing Values

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Content

- Introduction
- Main characteristics of the Czech political context
- Changing priorities, public choice's failures
Change of values

Basic sources:

- The thematic issue of the Czech Sociological Review,
Spring 2001, Volume 9
dealing with *Czech Values in the 1990s*,
mainly following articles:
 - ⇒ *Editorial*, 4-8.
 - ⇒ Vlachová, K.: „*The Legitimacy of Democracy and Trust in the Political institutions in the CR*“, 13-33.
 - ⇒ Řeháková, B.: „*Who are the Czech Materialists, Post-Materialists, and Those Who Are ,Mixed‘, ...*“, 35-52.
- The server of the **The Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the CR**,
<http://www.soc.cas.cz>

Introduction

- A size and a structure of the public sector is given mainly by prevailing public opinion, ideology, and values
- A political scene (as a designer of Public Policies) more or less *reflects* above-mentioned
- Understanding these aspects is a crucial condition for a rational and correct evaluation of economic roles of government

Main periods in the post-communist transformation process in the CR

- The second half of 1989
- The period between November 1989 and the summer of 1990
- The first half of the „nineties“
- The period between 1996 and the early elections of 1998
- The period from the second half of 1998 to the beginning of 2001
- Recent years

Main characteristics of the Czech political system

- Pluralist democracy
- Multiparty system (not just two main parties)
- Difficulties in reaching majority government

See graphs



Contemporary parliament parties
ranked in order from left to the
right

left

right

KSČM – ČSSD – KDU-ČSL – US-DEU – ODS

Communist
party

‘Socdem’
party

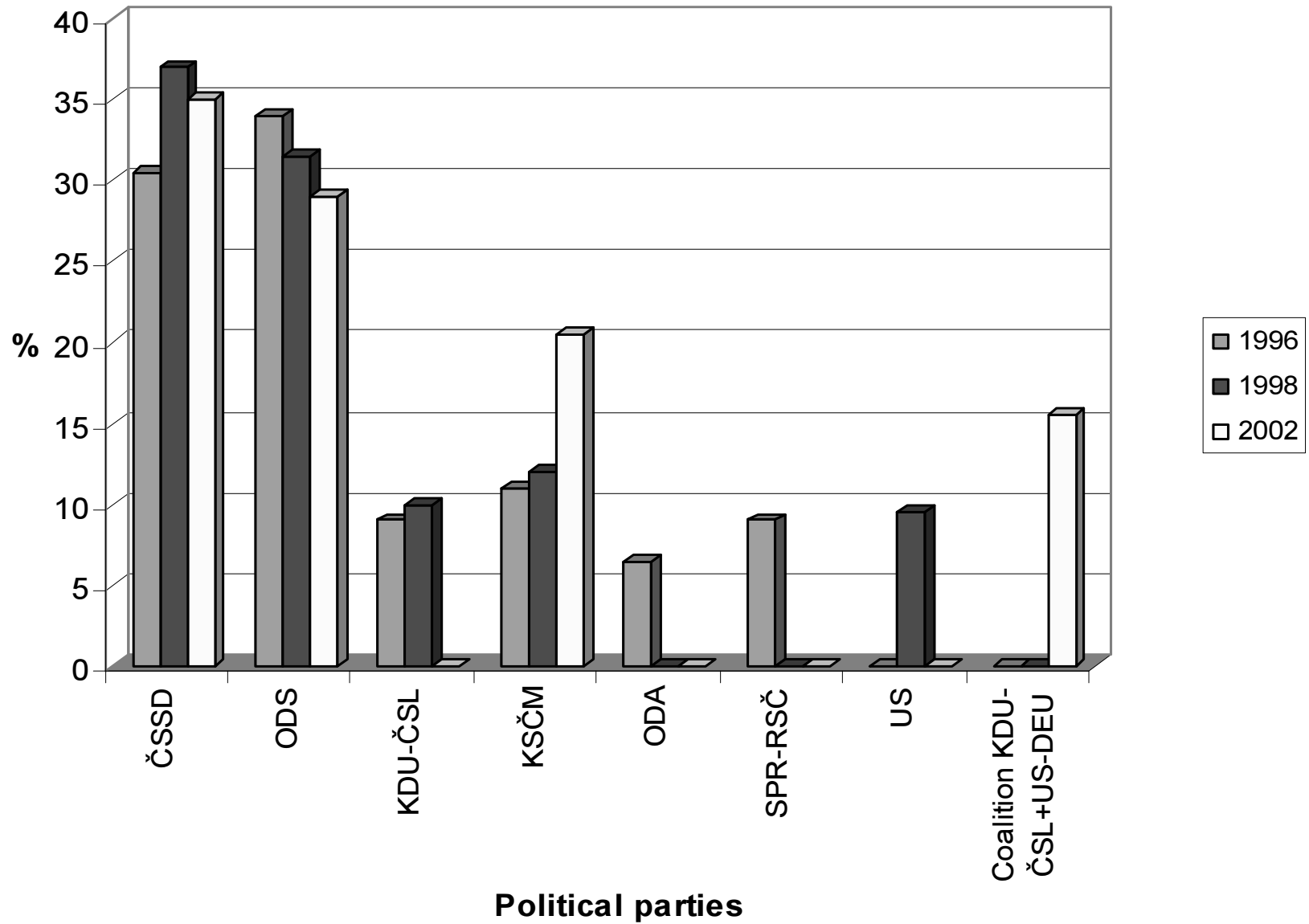
Christian
democratic
union

Union
of freedom

Civil
democratic
party

Chamber of Deputies

Source: Czech Statistical Office



Public Sector Transformation

Results of elections 2002 for the
Chamber of Deputies of the
Parliament of CR:

(poll = 58%)

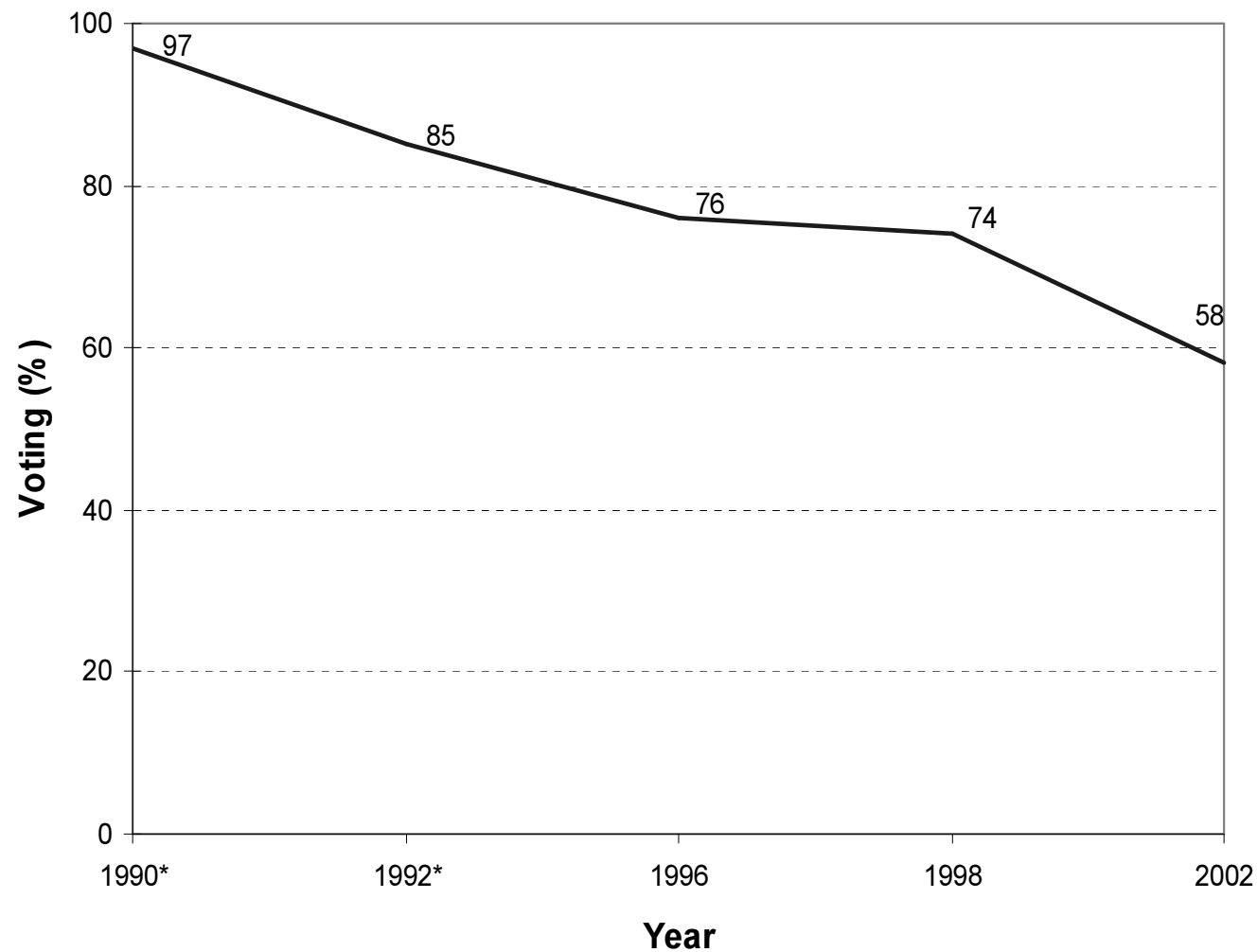
ČSSD (Social Democrats).....30,2 %
ODS (Conservative Party).....24,5 %
KSČM (Communist Party).....18,5 %
Coalition (KDU-ČSL, US-DEU)..14,3 %

the most succesful non-parliament parties:

Sdružení nezávislých.....2,8 %
Strana zelených..... 2,4 %

Source: CZSO's election server

Percentage of Voting Age Population Voting in the Czech Republic



Public Sector Transformation

Election into the Senate of the CR held in

November 2004:

All election districts

poll for 1st round = 29%

2nd round = 18,4%

Party number and name		Number	
		Abs.	in %
53	ODS (Civil Democratic Party)	18	66.67
1	KDU-ČSL (Christian Democratic Union)	3	11.11
5	Strana zelených (Green Party)	1	3.70
47	KSČM (Communist Party)	1	3.70
88	NEZÁVISLÍ (Independent block)	1	3.70
129	SNK sdružení nezávislých (The Independent Candidates' Association)	1	3.70
143	Evropští demokraté (European Democrats)	1	3.70
297	Koalice US-DEU+ODA (Coalition of US-DEU+ODA)	1	3.70

Source: CZSO's election server

Public Sector Transformation

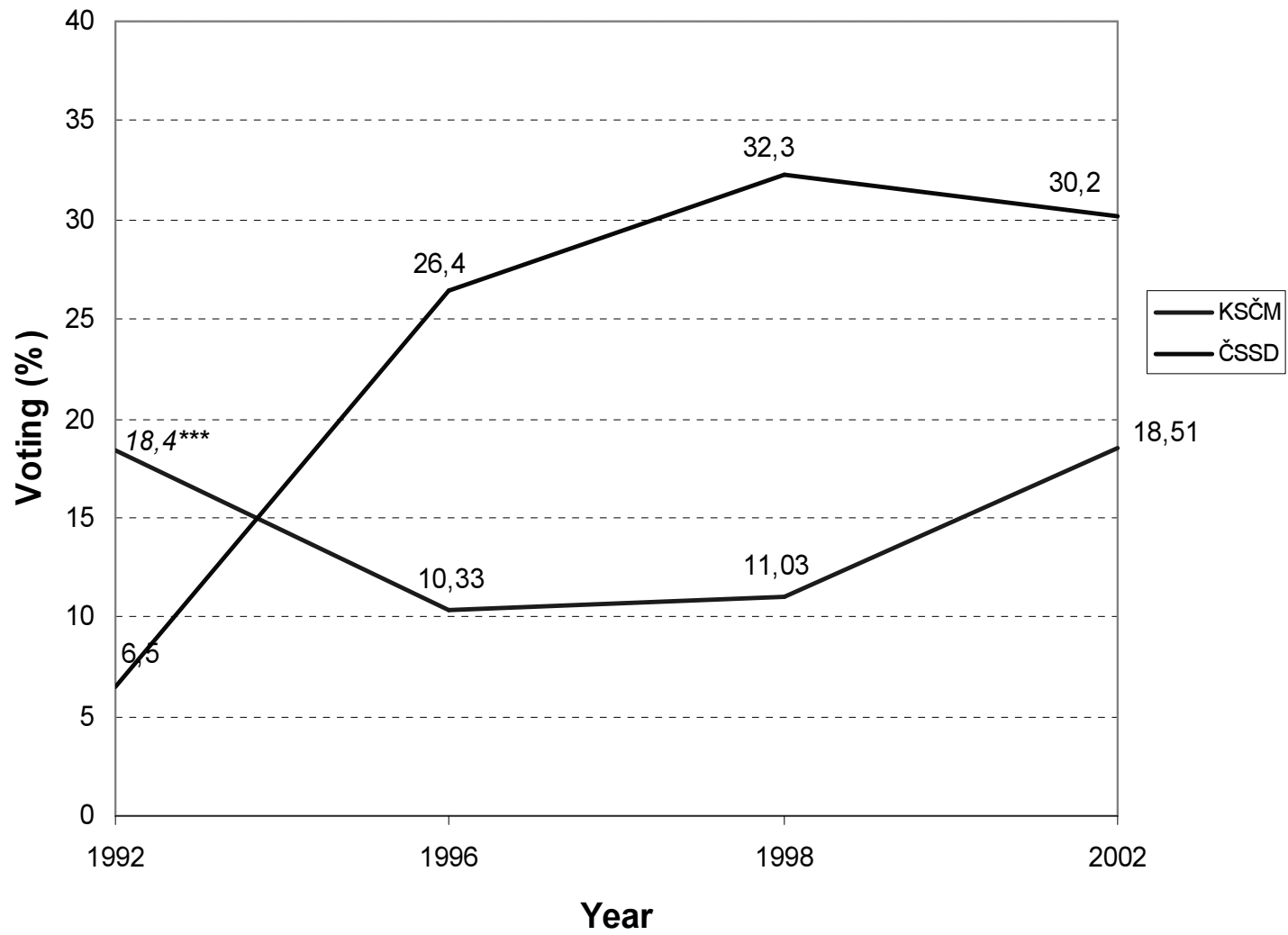
<http://www.volby.cz>

Income inequalities are:

	1991	1995	1999
Too large	30,3	44,4	48,8
Rather large	39,0	37,1	40,1
Accurate	11,7	13,9	9,6
Rather small	15,0	3,9	1,4
Too small	4,0	0,7	0,1

Source: ISSP (1992, 1999), ISJP (1995), in Řeháková, 2000

Public Sector Transformation



Public Sector Transformation

Attitudes towards preferred income inequalities

• *Source: Řeháková, 2000*

- Comparing 1991 and 1999:
 - Inequalities are considered to be higher and less fair
 - Larger support for an opinion, the government should reduce it.
 - Stronger tendency towards egalitarianism within general public

Additional Literature:

Vecernik: Earnings distribution in the Czech Republic.
Survey Evidence of the Past Decade. Praha 2000

Attitude towards Democracy

- Variables:
 - Is democracy (with all its problems) the best possible form of government?
 - Are you satisfied with the development of democracy in our country?

„Democracy may have problems but it's better than any other form of government“ (in %)

	Definitely agree	Agree	Disagree	Definitely disagree
Denmark	71,8	26,8	1,1	0,3
France	61,3	32,0	5,3	1,4
Germany	52,5	42,8	4,1	0,7
NL	48,1	48,2	3,3	0,3
Spain	41,7	52,1	5,1	1,2
Czech R.	40,5	52,2	6,7	0,6
Slovakia	31,9	52,5	12,6	3,0
Lithuania	22,3	66,6	10,2	0,9
Russia	11,9	50,5	31,8	5,8

Are you satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy is developing in our country? (in %)

Source: EVS 1999 in Vlachová, 2001

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
NL	73,5	26,5
Germany	70,8	29,2
Spain	60,5	39,5
France	49,4	50,6
Czech R.	37,7	62,3
Lithuania	30,3	69,7
Slovakia	23,4	76,6
Russia	6,9	93,1

Vlachova's findings:

- In both cases the level of satisfaction and support is lower than in the consolidated democracies of Western Europe.
- The evaluation of the performance of democracy depends most on the values and attitudes – on political culture than on trust in institutions.

Table 1 – The order of chosen areas as prioritized in Czech public opinion

Area	Mean	Share in the order (%)					<i>max. share (order)</i>
		1	1-2	1-3	6-7		
Health care and prevention	2.86	28,6	52,9	68,9	12,1	1.	
Social security	3.28	24,6	43,8	59,2	18,0	1.	
Education	3.74	8,2	25,3	47,3	16,7	3.	
Support of small businesses	4.13	17,7	28,3	40,2	33,1	7.	
Environmental protection	4.47	6,4	16,4	31,0	33,2	4.	
Export and production support	4.55	10,0	20,7	31,7	40,3	7.	
Science, research, technological development	4.75	7,8	16,7	26,4	42,9	7.	

Source: Institute of Sociology, ASCR 1999, in Červenka (2002)

How does the government care for selected groups? (Sirovátka, Rabušic 1998)

	Insufficiently	Don't know
Young families	86	2
Fam with many ch.	75	5
Disabled	66	11
Single mothers	45	19
Unemployed	30	5
Drug depend.	14	17
HIV positive	13	31
Pensioners	12	2
The Roma	6	3

Change of values

- Inglehart's value concept distinguish Materialists, Post-materialists and „Mixed“.
- Some outcomes from comparison 1991-1999 (Řeháková,2001)
- The concept of the post-materialism is described in the main Inglehart's article: „The Silent Revolution in Europe: Intergenerational Change in Post-Industrial Societies.“ *American Political Science Review* 1971, 65:991-1017.

Inglehart's four-item battery

- 4 Questions on „most important goal“ of the country and then „second important one“ from follows:
- A – Maintaining order in the nation,
- B – Increase a participation in important government decisions,
- C – Fighting rising prices,
- D – Protecting freedom of speech

Shift in values

the case of the CR

	1991	1999
Materialists	32%	25%
Mixed	62%	65%
Post-materialists	6%	10%

Public Sector Transformation

- Post-materialistic attitude is certainly present in the Czech population.
- Present especially among younger people and those with higher level of education.
- Connected more to rightwing political parties (different to western countries)
- Less xenophobia, better relationship to environmental protection, more liberal, less paternalistic...