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CZECH CIVIL SOCIETY REPUTATION IN TURBULENT TIMES

International Conference

„Building and protecting the credibility of
non-profit organizations“

24. May 2019

CSOs´ REPUTATION IS DECREASING!

„Usual view: blame the refugees“

Is it true?

What is going on in Civil Sector?

CZECH CIVIL SECTOR TRENDS

CSOs' income from public budgets

grows

Number of CSOs

grows

Employment in CSOs

grows

Number of volunteers in CSOs

stagnates

Number of CSOs givers

Number of CSOs members

decreases

Public trust to CSOs

decreases

decreases

1990

2019

CIVIL SECTOR TRENDS IN NUMBERS

The Share of CSOs **Members** in the Czech Adult Population

	1990	1999	2000	2002	2005	2008	2009
%	76	59	52	47	35	42	38

Source: Roller and others CDS1 1990 (N=1003), CDS2 2000 (N=2004), EVS 1999 (N=1908), CESES 2002 (N=2500), 2005 (N=2300), 2008 (N=2353), Frič, Pospíšilová VHD 2009 (N=3811)

The Share of **Givers** to CSOs (in the last moth)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
%	31	29	27	22	21	20

Source: WGI, Gallup's World View World Poll, N=1000 per country.

The Share of **Volunteers** in CSOs on the Czech Adult Population

	1991	1999	2005	2008	2009
%	29	33	27	29	30

Source: EVS 1991, 1999, 2008, CESES 2005, Frič, Pospíšilová VHD 2009..

THE STRATEGY OF PROFESSIONALISM

The pursuit of CSOs sustainability

Ideal: employment professionalization

➤ The Ideology of professionalism

versus

➤ Romantic ideal of CSOs = the base for CSOs' critics argumentation

- populists and extremists

SEGMENTS OF CSOs PROFESIONALIZATION

Has your organization paid employees?

% of adult population	yes	no	Total
Leisure Time CSOs	26	74	100
Service / Charity CSOs	71	29	100
Unions/Professional CSOs	51	49	100
Advocacy CSOs	51	49	100
Churches / Related CSOs	67	33	100

THE IMPACT OF „EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALISM“

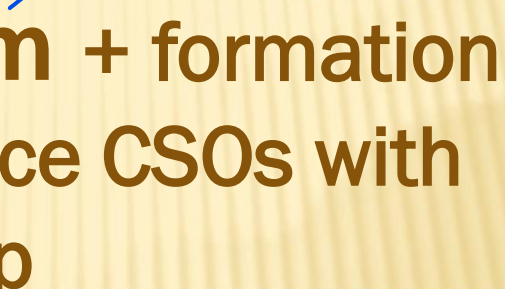
Formation of the group of “expert
citizens“ = CS avant-garde

Domestication of CSOs in the public
policy institutions

Commercialization of CSOs

THE PROFESIONALISM STRATEGY IMPACT

**Transactional activism + formation
professionalized service CSOs with
minimum membership**



Decline of:

- **empathy**
- **enthusiasm**
- **public mobilization competences**

..events triggered by small advocacy organisations that are characterised by a small membership and are therefore unable to mobilise large numbers of supporters. However, they do generate a significant number of such events and are able to work well with similar and network with them. Unlike the old participatory activism, which focused on the economic interests of its members, the new transactional activism focuses on the post-materialist claims...

Two-speed CS: „turbo a mañana CSOs“

THE PROFESSIONALIZED CSOs and GENERAL PUBLIC

- The fall of membership importance = citizen's uprooting from the CSOs
- Bureaucratization and specialization for the needs of donors
- Loss of sectoral identity = CSOs are viewed as extended hand of state or donors

CSOs AND DEMOCRACY DECLINE

Alexis de Tocqueville: Associations / CSOs are schools of democracy:

- Citizenship education
- Socialization into the role of citizens
- Without CSOs the modern democracy is impossible

THE PROBLEM: The fall of membership = loss of pupils!!!

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CZECH SOCIETY

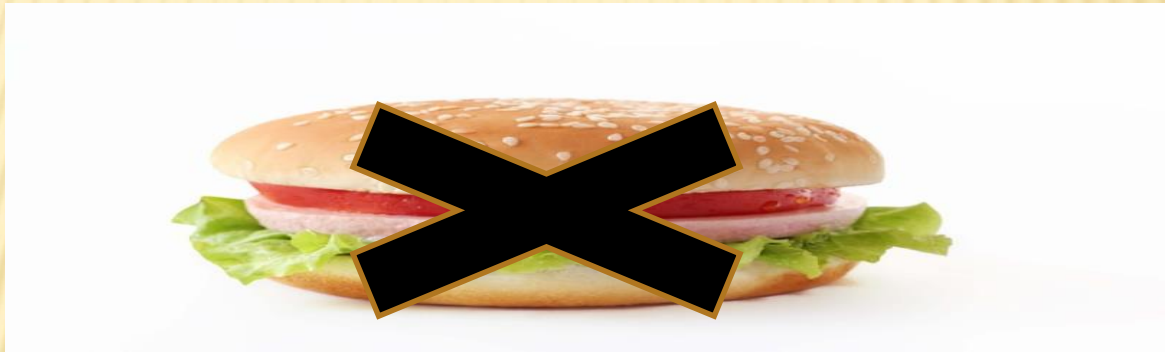
The Onset of Populism!

- Illiberal Turn in the Czech Politics
- Society Division on the two camps:
 1. **anti-elitists** (leader democracy)
 2. **anti-populists** (liberal democracy)

POPULISM AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Populists refuse partnership and mediating role of CSOs in society = negative image!

Power Sandwich?



Populists define the power structure by the relationship between the leader and his followers!

The attribute of populism is anti-elitism!

And CSOs representatives are part of cultural elite!

THE IMPACT ON CIVIL SOCIETY

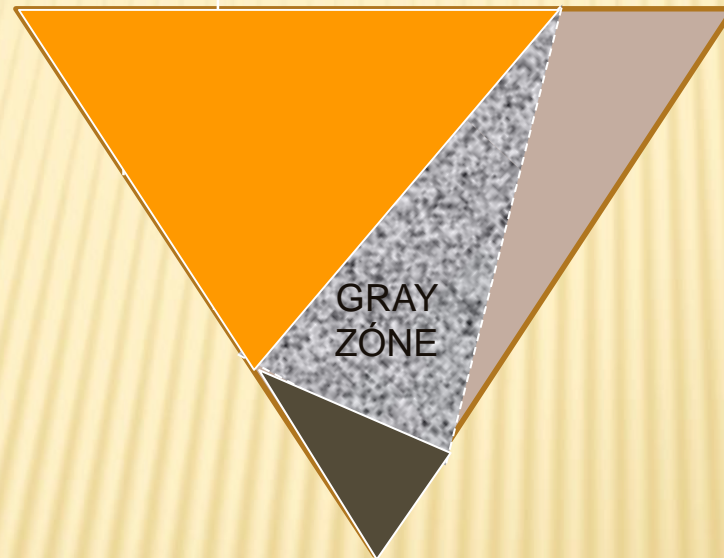
The changes in civil society structure:

- I. **LIBERAL („TRUE“) CS** = transparent, pro-democratic, service and advocacy CSOs
- II. **UN-CIVIL CS** = populist, nationalistic and extremist political movements
- III. **PARASITIC CS** = hidden informal networks, clientelistic or corrupt character

CIVIL SOCIETY CONFIGURATION IN LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

I. Liberal CS

II. Un-Civil CS

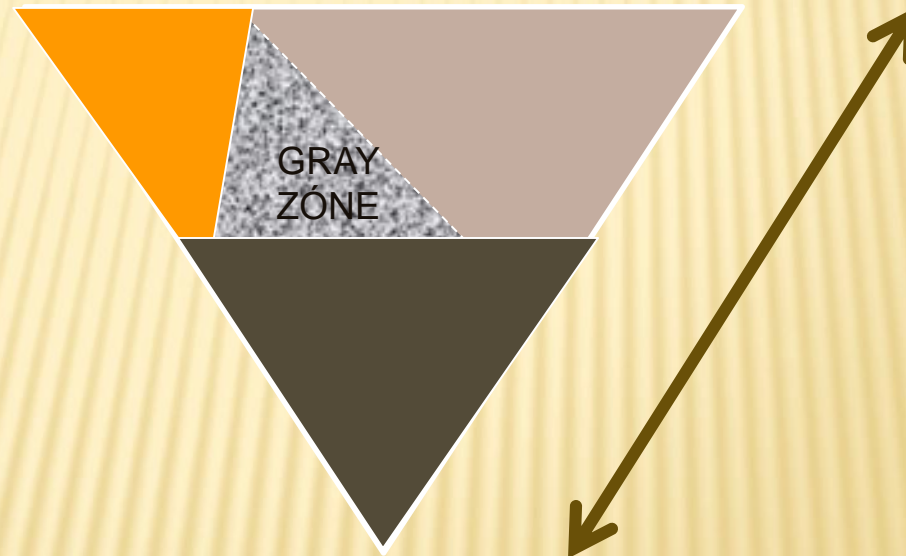


III. Parasitic CS

ACTUAL CIVIL SOCIETY CONFIGURATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I. Liberal CS

II. Un-Civil CS



III. Parasitic CS

PROFESSIONALISM IN CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE WEAKENING OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

„CSOs members are less prone to vote for populist parties.“ (Boeri 2019)

-*A. de Tocqueville* was right, when he told that civil society is the key defender of liberal democracy!

SPLENDID ISOLATION?

**Professionalized service / charity
CSOs are not affected?**

**Are they need not be schools of
democracy?**

Have they only offer their services?

**And to whom the Czech populists
shorten the state subsidies?**

**Populists fight against CSOs on
principle!!!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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