

Summary

The book *Europeanization of the Czech State Administration: Four Institutions, Four Models* examines the influence of the European Union on the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS).

The book demonstrates that while none of the institutions examined were immune to Europeanization, their transformation provides a heterogeneous picture different from the typical Europeanization process. While typical Europeanized ministry responds to a relatively clearly defined expansion of EU-related responsibilities by adding another, European, layer to already existing national activities, the Europeanization of institutions examined in this book was significantly influenced by the ambiguity of the borders of their EU agenda (Government Office, MFA), the specifics of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (MFA, MoD) or by the agenda almost lacking binding rules at the EU level (MEYS).

Europeanization of the Office of the Government demonstrates the transformation of an institution whose EU agenda lacks an intuitive sectoral definition and is therefore fundamentally dependent on the prime minister's political decision and his (in)ability to assert his views within a coalition government. In practice, the European section of the Office of the Government was formed mainly in conflicts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Prime Minister's efforts to manage the EU dimension of economic governance in the Czech Republic. Ultimately, the political "gravity power" of the Office of the Government prevailed, and the Czech Republic has developed into one of the countries with the most centralized system of managing the EU agenda, coordinated by the prime minister and his apparatus.

Europeanization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic shows the weakening of the central coordinating role of an institution after the state's accession to the European Union. While in the pre-accession period and in the first years of the Czech Republic's membership in the EU, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was at the centre of coordination structures, it gradually lost its influence in favour of the Office of the Government. Consequently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on the area of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Unlike ordinary sectoral ministries, however, the MFA also instinctively tends to comment on other EU policies, arguing in particular by its understanding of the international context, privileged communication with the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels and its coordinating role in representing the Czech Republic in disputes before the Court of Justice of the EU.

The Ministry of Defence provides an example of an institution where its internationalization, triggered by the Czech accession to NATO, preceded (in time) and, by its significance, still exceeds its Europeanization. Therefore, more than anywhere else in the state administration, structures for EU and international cooperation overlap here.

The last of the ministries examined in this book, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, provides a mix of several forms of Europeanization within a single institution. The Europeanization of the MEYS included concentrating the agenda with a weaker EU influence in a relatively small European affairs department, creating a special large-scale section, spatially separated from the MEYS institutional core, for allocating a segment of EU funds and externalizing of management of EU funds for academic mobility to a special agency (the House of International Services). Therefore, the Europeanization of the MYES permits to be evaluated as very intensive (due to the large number of people dealing with the EU agenda) as well as completely marginal (due to the small direct influence of the EU on domestic decision-making concerning the education policy).

