

POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT REFORMS IN CEE COUNTRIES

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Abstract: *After forty years of the Soviet Russian empire the 1980's closed with a number of significant events in Central and Eastern Europe, in particular, the end of totalitarian or authoritarian rule and, perhaps, an even greater accomplishment: the end of the military control of nations based largely on ideological grounds. These events opened new opportunities for the countries of the region: to find new paths to Europe, to move into a shared "European house", or into the European Union and to emulate the other European occupants.*

Public policy institutions pervade people's day-to-day lives. These institutions regulate and control their lives in the working place and in the neighbourhood. Indeed, public agencies have a profound impact on our lives from the moment of birth to the instant of death, in our childhood through our old age. The intervention of public policy institutions has had an increasingly positive and directive character in the 20th century. The scope of their intervention has broadened and nowadays encompasses areas of economic activities that have traditionally been considered private. Today, public policy institutions make policies in a great variety of areas including education, health, labour, welfare, transportation, defence, economy, and many others.

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