

II. TEN YEARS OF POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

II.1 Constitutional System

The constitutional system of the Czech Republic consists of the Parliament and the President. The Parliament of the Czech Republic has two chambers: the Lower House (*Poslanecká sněmovna*) and the Upper House (*Senát*). The president is elected by both Houses of Parliament for five year terms and has restricted and mostly representative responsibilities. He appoints the Prime Minister and the members of the Government, Governor of the Central Bank, ambassadors and the Chief of Staff of the army and signs laws. He can return laws to the Lower House, but his veto can be overridden by the Lower House.

The Lower House is the most important legislative body. It has the power to pass laws by a simple majority of the members present during any given session (providing the

quorum is met), to cast a no confidence vote against the government, and to override a veto of the President and of the Upper House.

According to stipulations in the constitution the Upper House has limited legislative action. The Upper House has three options when faced with bills approved by the Lower House and must act within 30 days: accept by default (take no action); reject with a suspensive veto; or suggest amendments (in both cases by a simple majority). In the latter two instances, the Lower House can vote to either accept or reject the Upper House action by an absolute majority of all members of the Lower House. The Upper House can also initiate legislation. If the Lower House is dissolved, the Upper House assumes its functions until new elections are held.

State Representatives in 2001

Václav Havel (1936), dramatist, leader of the dissident movement in 1970's and 1980's, founder of Civic Forum in 1989 (a broad democratic coalition of political movements and parties), president of federal Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992, first president of the Czech Republic from 1993, reelected in January 1998.

Václav Klaus (1941), economist, founder and chairman of the Civic Democratic Party from 1991, minister of finance of the federal government (1990–1992), first prime minister of the Czech government from 1992. Resigned in November 1997. In July 1998 elected chairman of the Lower House.

Miloš Zeman (1944), economist, one of the founders of Civic Forum in 1989, leader of the Czech Social Democratic Party. From 1996 to 1998 chairman of the Lower House, from August 1998 prime minister.

Petr Pithart (1941), a jurist, political scientist, author and a former active dissident. Prime minister from 1991 to 1992. From 1999 a member of KDU-ČSL. In 1998 elected a vice chairman, from 2000 a chairman of the Upper House.

II.2 Electoral System

The Lower House of Parliament has 200 members elected for four-year terms. A proportional electoral system is used for the Lower House which discriminates against small parties and political formations: to enter the parliament a party has to attain at least 5 % of the total number of valid votes cast nationally. Similarly, a coalition of two parties has to attain at least 7 % of valid votes, a coalition of three parties has to attain 9 % of valid votes, and a coalition of more than three parties has to attain at least 11 % of valid votes in order to enter the Lower House.

The country is divided into 14 voting districts and each party nominates an ordered list of candidates for the Lower House in each voting district. The party (or coalition) has to deposit 200,000 CZK in advance in order to register in each district. The number of seats distributed in each district is proportional to the total number of valid votes in the district. If a party (or coalition) does not receive the minimum required share at the national level, then those votes are redistributed among the remaining parties approximately proportionally to the votes received in each corresponding electoral district. Within each political party, candidates receive the seats allocated to the party according to the predetermined order in which their names are listed on the ballot. However, if at least one tenth of all voters casting a valid vote for a party in the electoral district use the right to a preference vote, the candidates who receive preference votes from at least 10 % of those voters are moved to the top of the list. A voter is allowed to express his/her preference for candidates by indicating a

maximum of four candidates listed on the ballot. First, seats are distributed to parties at the district level using a full quota allocation system. The quota is defined as the total number of valid votes in a district received by parties (or coalitions) which received the minimum required share of votes to enter the Lower House divided by the number of seats to be allocated in this district plus one. The total number of votes received by the party (or coalition) is divided by the quota, and the party receives the number of seats equal to the integer part of this ratio. The remaining seats are allocated on the national level.

The majority system (plurality run-off) with one representative for each constituency is used in electing the 81 members of the Upper House of Parliament. The Upper House members are elected for six years. To achieve a periodic replacement schedule in which 27 members are elected every two years. Each political party can nominate one candidate in each of the 81 constituencies. Also, independent candidates can participate providing they submit a statement of support signed by at least 1,000 eligible voters from the relevant electoral constituency. Before registration each candidate has to deposit 20,000 CZK. This deposit is returned to the candidates who received at least 6 % of valid votes in the constituency. A candidate is elected on the first ballot if he/she receives a simple majority of valid votes (at least 50 % plus one vote). If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, then the two candidates who receive the most votes from the first ballot rerun on the second ballot, and the majority winner on the second ballot is elected.

Major Political Parties in 2001

Shortly after the 1989 revolution, 66 different political parties and movements emerged on the Czech political landscape, some of them with rather obscure political orientation. The major political parties in 2001 are listed below and ordered according to their positions on the traditional “left-right” ideological spectrum.

Czech and Moravian Communist Party (Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy, KSČM) – a leftist unreformed post communist party; opposes Czech membership in NATO; successor to the former Communist party of Czechoslovakia, which was founded in 1921.

Czech Social Democratic Party (Česká strana sociálně demokratická, ČSSD) – a left centrist pro-reform party of standard European social-democratic orientation; strongly advocates the Czech entry into the EU; successor to the former Czechoslovak social democratic party which was founded in 1878 and forced to merge with the Communist party in 1948; restored in March 1990; established the minority government in 1998.

Civic Democratic Party (Občanská demokratická strana, ODS) – a right-wing conservative party; a dominating member of government coalitions in 1992–1997; the driving force of economic and political transition during the first years; holds a “Euro-skeptic” attitude toward the EU; founded in April 1991.

So-called **4-Coalition** will become 3-coalition and consists of:

Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party (Křesťanská a demokratická unie-Československá strana lidová, KDU-ČSL) – a pro-reform centrist party of Christian-democratic orientation represented in government from 1990 to 1998; advocate of a “social market economy;” supports Czech membership in the EU; reformed successor of the former Czechoslovak People's Party which was founded in 1918; member of the National Front (communist dominated government formation) during the communist regime.

Union of Freedom (Unie svobody, US) – a newly created liberal right-center party; established in January 1998 by former members of the Civic Democratic Party who left the party after the governmental crisis in 1997; advocate of radical economic transition with an appropriate legislative framework and of the regional self-administration, along with Czech membership in the EU; represented in the government during the first half of 1998.

Civic Democratic Alliance (Občanská demokratická aliance, ODA) – a right-wing liberal party; supports Czech membership in NATO and in the EU; represented in governments from 1992 to 1998; founded in December 1989; lost a significant amount of its influence in 1998.

Democratic Union (Demokratická unie, DEU) – a small right-wing conservative party; supports Czech membership in the EU; founded in 1993. In 2001 made an agreement with US to merge together on 31. 12. 2001.

The so-called 4-coalition would then become 3-coalition.

II.3 New Electoral History of the Czech Republic

The last general parliamentary election in federal Czechoslovakia was held on June 5–6, 1992. At this time the Federal Parliament, the Czech National Council and the Slovak National Council were elected. In December 1992, the country split and the Federal Parliament as the supreme parliamentary representative of the federal state was dissolved. The new Czech constitution defined the Parliament of the Czech Republic as consisting of two chambers: the Lower House and the Upper House. The Czech National Council elected in June 1992 was transformed into the Lower House on January 1, 1993. The representatives elected

in 1992 served for a full four-year term. Until November 1996 the Lower House temporarily performed the duties of the Upper House as well.

The first parliamentary election of the Lower House took place on May 31–June 1, 1996. The first election to the Upper House took place during November 15–23, 1996. After the political and economic crises in 1997 a premature election for Lower House representatives was called on June 19–20, 1998. One third of the members of the Upper House were re-elected in November 1998. The third election to the Upper House was held in November 2000.

Composition of the Lower House

Party	1996				1998			
	votes	%	seats	%	votes	%	seats	%
KSČM	626,136	10.3	22	11.0	658,650	11.0	24	12.0
DŽJ	187,455	3.1			182,900	3.1		
ČSSD	1,602,250	26.4	61	30.5	1,928,660	32.3	74	37.0
KDU-ČSL	489,349	8.1	18	9.0	537,013	9.0	20	10.0
US					513,596	8.6	19	9.5
ODS	1,794,560	29.6	68	34.0	1,656,011	27.7	63	31.5
ODA	385,369	6.4	13	6.5				
DEU	169,796	2.8			86,431	1.5		
SPR-RSČ	485,072	8.0	18	9.0	232,965	3.9		
Others	319,228	5.3			262,989	2.9		
Total of Valid Votes	6,059,215				5,969,505			
Eligible Voters	7,990,770				8,116,836			
Participation	6,096,404				6,008,926			
Not Valid Votes	37,189				39,421			

Composition of the Upper House

Party	1996		1998		1999		2000	
	Seats	%	Seats	%	Seats	%	Seats	%
KSČM	2	2.5	4	4.9	4	4.9	3	3.7
ČSSD	26	32.1	23	28.4	23	28.4	14	17.3
KDU-ČSL	14	17.3	17	21.0	17	21.0	18	22.2
ODS	32	39.5	26	32.1	25	30.9	21	25.9
ODA (+US)	7	8.6	11	13.6	11	13.6	12	14.8
Independent	0	0	0	0	1	1.2	13	16.0
Total	81	100.0	81	100.0	81	98.8	81	100.0

Government Coalitions

Since 1992 the government coalition has consisted of four right-centrist parties: the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the Christian Democratic Party (KDS), the Christian-Democratic Union (KDU-ČSL) and the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA). After the 1996 parliamentary election these three parties formed a minority coalition government, controlling 99 of 200 seats in the Lower House and 53 of 81 seats in the Upper House. The minority coalition was tolerated by the Social Democrats that abstained in the confidence vote. Out of 16 government offices, eight were held by the ODS, four by the KDU-ČSL and four by the ODA.

In 1997 the distribution of votes in the Lower House of Parliament slightly changed in favor of the government coalition. Three members of Parliament left the Czech Social Democratic Party for different reasons; one of them joined the Civic Democratic Party while the other two remained independent. One of these two independent members consistently voted with the opposition. The other voted independently, despite often siding with the government coalition. Therefore, important decisions were frequently dependent on this representative's vote. In July 1997, the government coalition won the confidence vote by one vote which was cast by this independent member.

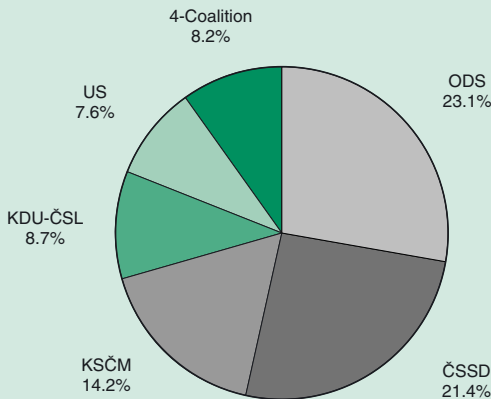
Electoral preferences for political parties significantly changed during 1997 as growing criticism of the internal political and social development, and of the economic problems that were for a long time neglected by the ruling coalition. Restrictive fiscal and monetary policies introduced in the spring of 1997 were accompanied only by cosmetic personnel changes in the government. Economic recession, a decrease in real incomes, the exchange rate crisis, and the crisis in the banking sector dashed false expectations raised by overly optimistic government propaganda.

In November 1997 the culmination of these problems led to the dissolution of the government coalition. During the Prime Minister's absence from the country, two

smaller parties, the ODA and KDU-ČSL, withdrew from the coalition, and after President Havel's intervention the government resigned on November 30th. While the immediate reason for the government crisis was related to the unclear financing of the Civic Democratic Party, indicating possible corruption during privatization, the November collapse of the government reflected the general instability of the Czech political environment. Feelings of dissatisfaction held by a substantial portion of the population regarding recent economic development, disapproval of the leading coalition party's political style, friction among coalition parties, and power struggles among different segments of the Czech political establishment contributed to the fall of the government.

Observing growing animosity among politicians and the inability of political parties to agree on the composition of a viable government, President Havel appointed Mr. Josef Tošovský, the generally respected Governor of the Czech National Bank with no party affiliation, as the new Prime Minister on December 17, 1997. The new government, not based on the parliamentary power of political parties, but supported by two small former coalition partners of the Civic Democratic Party (The Christian Democratic Union and Civic Democratic Alliance), was appointed by the President on December 30, 1997. After complicated negotiations and an explicit commitment by the government to hold premature parliamentary elections in the spring of 1998, the government received the support of the Lower House on January 28, 1998, despite the opposition of the Civic Democratic Party, but with the unanimous approval of the Social Democrats.

Major Party's Support (November 2001)



Source: STEM

Note: US and KDU-ČSL are members of 4-Coalition but the respondents named these parties separately.

In January 1998 the Civic Democratic Party and its parliamentary faction split. The members who opposed Chairman Klaus's interpretation of the political crisis as a coup against the party and against him personally left the party and established a new party called the Union of Freedom. Economic decline continued in 1998. With a limited mandate the "provisional government" of Mr. Tošovský, while praised in public opinion polls, did not have the authority to initiate significant changes in economic policies.

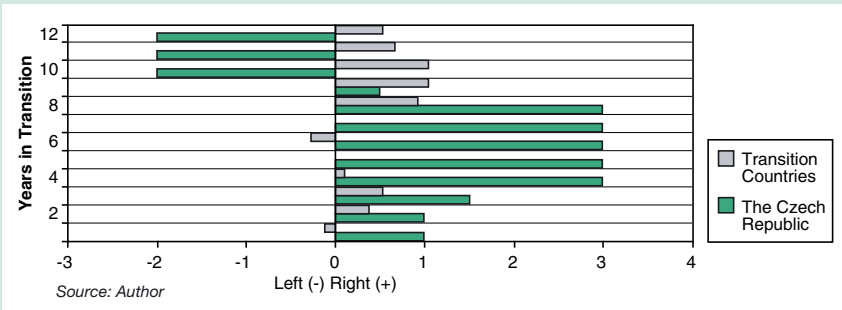
In June 1998 a premature election of the Lower House was held. While the Czech Social Democratic Party achieved historical success as the party with the strongest popular support (almost one third of the voters cast their votes for the ČSSD), the Civic Democratic Party ranked as the second strongest party, losing only 2 % of electoral support compared to the 1996 election. Shortly after the election President Havel authorized the chairman of the winning Social Democrats, Mr. Zeman, to negotiate the composition of the new government. The Freedom Union, however, rejected any coalition with Social Democrats. On the other hand, personal animosity among the leaders of the former coalition partners, the Civic Democratic Party, the Christian and Democratic Union and the Union of Freedom, proved to be an obstacle to establishing right center majority coalition. A grand coalition of the ČSSD and ODS was explicitly excluded by the electoral programs of both parties. A resolution to the deadlock was found in the so-called "opposition agreement" between the ČSSD and ODS. The ODS committed itself to tolerating a minority one-party government of ČSSD in exchange for a dominating role in the Lower and Upper Houses and participation in preliminary consultations on important issues between the ČSSD and ODS. Having together a qualified majority in the both Houses of Parliament, the ČSSD and ODS declared their intention to work together to stabilize the Czech political environment and to change the constitution and electoral law "to strengthen majority elements in proportional electoral system." The abstention of the ODS in the confidence vote allowed the one-party minority government of ČSSD to receive the support of the Lower House in August 1998.

A general dissatisfaction in the Czech public with minority government, "opposition agreement" and economic and social development increased public support for the Czech and Moravian Communist Party (KSČM). By the end of 1999, ten years after the velvet revolution, the party ranked as the second most popular.

Political Orientation

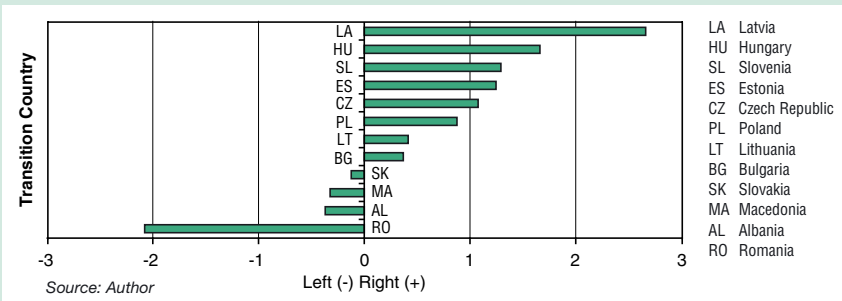
When investigating the left wing versus right wing orientation of governments, we conclude that most Czech government coalitions are right wing oriented. We consider left wing versus right wing orientation of parties and consequently of governments according to their own perception. In the first nine years of transition, early transition governments in the Czech Republic were moderately right wing, while in middle transition the governments consisted of strongly right wing oriented parties. After the last election (June 1998) the right wing orientation of the country changed. Left wing Social Democrats came to power and they have remained in office since.

Left-right Governments



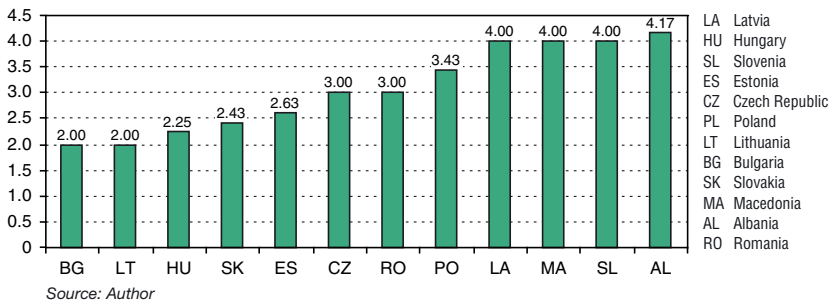
A comparison of the political landscape in the Czech Republic to other transition countries reveals that the right wing government era in the Czech Republic is associated with tight domination of left wing governments in other transition countries, whereas in the last four years right wing parties except for those in the Czech Republic strengthened their positions and overturned the left-right balance.

Left-right Governments – Averages in Transition Period



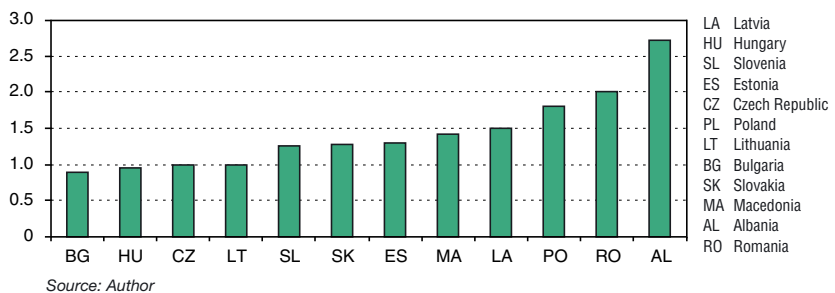
The average left-right orientation in all relevant transition countries is interesting. Standard deviation of right/left orientation measures the stability of governments. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine are excluded because their cabinets are not generally lined up by partisan arrangements but by presidential decision. Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro are excluded because of nonstandard political conditions.

The Number of Parties in Governments – Averages



In four countries, Latvia, Hungary, Slovenia and Estonia, the right wing parties dominated even more than in the Czech Republic. The strongest position of right wing parties among all transition parties was in Latvia. On the other hand left wing parties had by far the strongest position in Romania. Standard deviation of the right/left orientation measures the stability of governments. The dominance of right wing coalitions in Latvia is related to the lowest standard deviation. Romania experienced certain periods with right wing governments, increasing standard deviation. The turnover in the last election in the Czech Republic accounts for a relatively high standard deviation. Only Poland and Lithuania exhibit higher standard deviations.

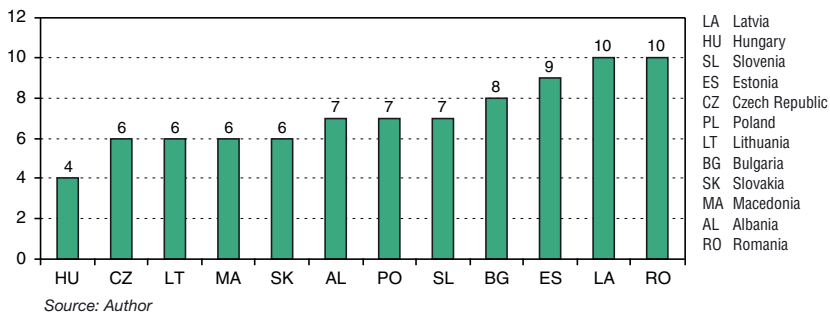
The Number of Parties in Governments – St. Deviations



The stability of governments can be approximated by the number of new governments; governments being defined as new when different parties create a government coalition. The Czech Republic belongs to the most stable countries. Only Hungary has a lower number of different governments. Note that both Latvia and Romania, countries with a very right wing and left wing oriented political arena, are countries with the largest number of different governments.

The average number of parties in governments suggests the level of partition of the political arena. In the Czech Republic governments consist of three parties on average, which is about average among other transition countries.

The Number of Different Governments in Transition Period



II.4 Regional Administration

The process of democratization that took place after 1989 affected all administrative layers of Czech society, not only at the national level but also at local and regional levels. In fact, territorial decentralization, including the establishment of a democratic territorial government, was one of the cornerstones of the post-November political transformation. In the first parliamentary election in 1990, decentralization was included in the programs of all-important political parties.

Decentralization was approached at two levels: on the local level (rural and urban municipalities), and on the regional level

(lands and provinces). But the results have been rather different. While, at the local level decentralization has proceeded fairly well and can be considered successful (which does not imply that all problems of local governments have already been solved), only during the last year has some progress been made at the regional level.

Territorial structure of the country: Four territorial levels can be distinguished in the Czech Republic:

- The local level: municipalities (villages, towns and statutory cities; 6258 in 2001), so-called NUTS 5 level in EU statistics (*NUTS*=

Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques.)

- The lower intermediate level: districts (77 in 1999), so-called NUTS 4 level.
- The upper intermediate level: regions/provinces (there were 8 regions until 1990, at which point they were abolished as units of government; 14 new regions were formally established in 1997), corresponding to so-called NUTS 3 level.
- From January 1, 2000, eight regions corresponding to the NUTS 2 level were introduced for the purposes of European statistics.

Districts and municipalities: Until now the intermediate administrative level in the Czech Republic is the district (*okres*). The country is divided into 77 districts plus the capital Prague. A district has about 120,000 inhabitants and covers about 1,000 square kilometers. District offices are responsible for state administration and their heads are appointed by the central government. The districts have no role in self-government.

Statutory Cities in the Czech Republic

City	Population
Praha*	1,178,576
Brno	388,899
Ostrava	324,813
Plzeň	171,249
Olomouc	104,845
Liberec	100,604
Hradec Králové	100,528
České Budějovice	99,708
Ústí nad Labem	97,164
Pardubice	93,777
Havířov	87,863
Zlín	83,026
Opava	62,468
Karlovy Vary	55,298

Source: CSO
* 2001 Census

The district office is an appellate body to the municipal authorities, and it supervises the activities of municipal offices. A district assembly is elected by municipal councils in each respective district to oversee the activities of the district office, to approve its annual budgets, and also to decide on the distribution of state grants among municipalities. The municipalities' representation in the assembly is proportional to the size of their population.

Below the district level there are 6,258 rural and urban municipalities, some 6% of which have the status of towns or cities. Thirteen major cities have the administrative status of "statutory cities." The extraordinary position of Prague is reflected in the fact that the internal territorial organization and administration of the capital is regulated by a separate legislative act.

A municipality is an independent legal entity that acts in its own name in juridical relations and bears full responsibility resulting for its activities. The law distinguishes between the independent competence and the transferred competence of municipalities. Independent competence expresses the fact that the municipality is an independent

Municipalities by Population Size

Population size	Number	%
1 – 499	3,700	59.7
500 – 1999	1,889	30.4
2000 – 4999	345	5.6
5000 – 9999	129	2.1
10000 – 19999	68	1.1
20000 – 49999	41	0.7
50000 – 99999	17	0.3
100000 –	7	0.1
Total	6,196	100

Source: M. Illner, *Local and Regional Government in the Czech Republic*, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of CR, Prague, 1996

subject and that in exercising its functions it is bound only by acts and the legal regulations issued to exercise them. Transferred competence represents the local actions of state administration, which fall within the boundaries defined by a special law.

Shortly after the fall of the communist regime, a new municipal system was introduced inspired by the West European local government system as well as by the pre-war system of local authorities in the Czechoslovak Republic. The general legal framework of the reform was laid down by a Federal Constitutional Law of July 1990; an additional constitutional foundation was provided by the Constitution of the Czech Republic, which was adopted in December 1992. The main aim of the reform was to break away from the Soviet-type system of territorial administration (National Councils on local, district and province levels, formally elected in a “no choice electoral system” and operating under the supervision of Communist Party regional organs) and to establish democratic local government.

Local Governments: The first local elections were held in November 1990, in then the Federal Czechoslovakia; then again in 1994 and 1998. The major elements of the specific proportional electoral system used in municipal elections are outlined as follows. Parties and other political formations present their lists of candidates. Each voter can either choose one party’s list or select the required number of candidates for a given municipal council from different lists. The term of the municipal councils is four years.

In the November 1998 municipal elections, the citizens elected members of 6,184 local rural and urban councils and 134 city councils, city district councils and city district councils of the capital Prague and

13 statutory cities. Altogether 149 distinct groupings – parties, local coalitions and associations of citizens – participated in the elections. While in large cities electoral campaign platforms remained close to those of major parties, municipal elections in smaller places were less ideological and focused on local problems. Consequently, pre- and post-election coalitions, which would be unthinkable at the national level, were sometimes created at the local level.

The results of municipal elections provide a ranking of parties that significantly differs from the results of the parliamentary elections. The number of votes cast for a political party, coalition or association is given by the number of votes cast for their candidates to the multi-member councils; each voter is allowed a number of votes equal to the number of members of the council in his/her municipality. Due to the different sizes of municipalities and the relatively small differences in the sizes of the councils, the aggregated number of seats in the elected councils is not proportional to the total number of votes cast for the different political parties.

Results of Municipal Elections

Party	1994		1998	
	% of Votes	% of Seats	% of Votes	% of Seats
KSČM	13.40	9.20	13.58	9.19
ČSSD	8.10	2.40	17.54	6.80
KDU-ČSL	7.50	12.40	10.64	11.40
US			5.50	1.13
ODS	28.70	11.00	24.27	9.15
ODA	6.50	1.00		
Independents	1.46	13.17	1.00	10.60
Others	34.34	50.83	27.47	51.73
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: CSO

The New Regional System

The new regional system, although introduced in the Czech Republic, is not yet functioning. Only the first step has been done for local governments – regional corporations. However, their competencies are not well specified and they have almost no money to work with. Out of about 60 bln. CZK, which should go through regional budgets according to estimates for the year 2002, only 1/6 remains for local government determination. All the rest are direct subsidies with predefined recipients. (These are mostly subsidies for education). Hence at present regional corporations act more as go-betweens for government and lower levels (schools, municipalities) than as independent bodies.

Regional financing is certainly a difficult problem. Those involved agree that local governments should be given money according to their devolved authority, function, competence, and responsibility. The current bill presumes that regions will control secondary education and care about social issues and the transportation network (except highways and major roads). Regions should also be motivated to boost economic activity. On the other hand, legislators want to ensure a standard level for certain services (especially social and educational) everywhere without large differences among regions. The latter naturally leads to higher central allocation. As a result, the current form of suggested regional financing is a

complicated mechanism, which is still highly centralized and leaves little space to corporations for development.

Government behavior is significantly influenced by the failure of the ČSSD in regional elections last fall. It is natural that the leading party is unwilling to continue in decentralization when local corporations are mostly in the hands of its opponents, the ODS and the 4-Coalition. An additional portion of uncertainty comes from the parliamentary elections due next year. If we also take into account the fact that the influence of the ČSSD in district authorities is higher, we can easily understand the government's reluctance to the second step in regional reform – the dissolution of districts and the introduction of delegated municipalities of the third level.

Although the implementation of the new regional system started in a similar way as in the case of the Senate – it seemed that no one needs it and it is founded only because of the Constitution, which presumes its existence – this situation appears to change over time. Notably, regional corporations are closer to people and this makes more interesting and important one additional right that local governments have legislative power. It has already been used as one of the regional corporations moved a bill of money allocation for regional financing. Thus the new regional system may become another pillar of democracy in the Czech Republic.

Regional Councils

The new regional corporations elected regional councils (executive bodies) and their heads (Hejtman) at their first session in spring 2001. ODS acquired the most influence, closely followed by 4-Coalition (ODS has members in all regional councils). The Council has 9 members in 7 out of 13 regions and 11 members in 6 other regions and the capital Prague. The number of Deputy Chairs varies from 1 to 4.

Political Structure of Regional Councils

		ODS	4-Coalition	ČSSD	Others (Independent)	
Hejtman	Chair	9	4			
Zástupce	Deputy Chair	14	15	9	2	
Členové	Members	39	25	7	7	
Council total		62	44	16	9	131
Number of regions where party has its deputies in the regional council		13	10	6	6	

Political Structure of Regional Councils (Excl. Prague)

		ODS	4-Coalition	ČSSD	Others (Independent)	
Hejtman	Chair	8	4			
Zástupce	Deputy Chair	12	15	7	2	
Členové	Members	35	25	5	7	
Council total		55	44	12	9	120
Number of regions where party has its deputies in the regional council		12	10	5	6	

Source: Web pages of regional councils.

Data for 13 regions including capital Prague.

Data not available: Zlínský kraj