

Research on Czech Political Parties Conducted Among Experts (2013)

Welcome to the Website of the Questionnaire

Thank you for agreeing to fill out our questionnaire designed to assess the political positions of Czech parties. Following the instructions, you will be asked to place the main political parties along 20 dimensions, evaluating both their location and the degree of importance that in your opinion the party assigns to the issue in question.

This research is the work of political scientists from the Department of Political Science, Masaryk University, Brno and the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Science, Prague. If you have any questions, you can contact any member of the team.

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

PhDr. Roman Chytilék, Ph.D. (chytilek@fss.muni.cz)

Mgr. Otto Eibl, Ph.D. (eibl@fss.muni.cz)

Mgr. Vlastimil Havlík, Ph.D. (havlik@fss.muni.cz)

Department of Sociology of Politics, Institute of Sociology AS CR, vvi

PhDr. Lukáš Linek, Ph.D. (Lukas.linek@soc.cas.cz)

Pat Lyons, BA, MA, Ph.D. (pat.lyons@soc.cas.cz)

Completing the entire survey should take approximately 20 to 25 minutes. This survey is completely anonymous and your responses will be treated as strictly confidential.

Data from this research on the policy positions Czech political parties will be available to the public as soon as the data collection phase is completed. We will inform you how to obtain these data at a future date.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this project.

Instructions:

For the issue position scales please locate each party on the scale from 1 to 20. For the issue importance dimensions, also measured with 1 to 20 point scales, please indicate how important you think each issue is for all of the parties examined.**

To assign scores, simply click on the point that you think corresponds to the position of the party. Please try to assign a rating for all parties.

You can move between pages using the “DALŠÍ” [Next] and “PŘEDCHÁZEJÍCÍ” [Back] buttons. You may leave the questionnaire at any time by pressing the “POKRAČOVAT POZDĚJI” [Continue later] button located on the bottom left. By clicking on the same link that you used to open this page, you can resume the survey at a later time.

Please note that these instructions appeared for every position and importance scale (i.e. on every web page) in the survey.

** Parties Examined:

1. Social Democratic Party (ČSSD): centre-left
2. Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM): leftist
3. Tradition Responsibility Prosperity (TOP 09): centre-right, fiscally conservative
4. Civic Democrats (ODS): right, liberal, Eurosceptic/eurorealist
5. Yes 2011 (ANO 2011): right, liberal, populist
6. Tomio Okamura's Dawn of Direct Democracy (Usvít): right, populist
7. Christian Democrats (KDU-ČSL): right, social conservative
8. Green Party (SZ): ecology, social liberal

Scales indicated with a star (*) in the following pages are the same as those in Laver and Benoit (2006: Appendix A, pp. 168-175). Additional, Czech specific scales were also included in this expert survey.

Laver, M. and K. Benoit. 2006. Party Policies in Modern Democracies. London: Routledge.

Please also note that the ‘master’ version of this survey is the Czech language document. Although many of the scales are translations of the ‘standard’ Laver and Benoit (2006) items, a small number of policy scales have a functional rather than literal translation in order ensure more effective responses within the Czech political context.

(1) Economic policy: (Taxes vs Spending) – POSITION*

1 - Promotes raising taxes to increase public services

20 - Promotes cutting public services to cut taxes

(2) Economic policy: (Taxes vs Spending) – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Not important for the party

20 - Very important for the party

(3) Social policy: (Social Liberalism) – POSITION*

1 - Favours liberal policies on matters such as abortion, homosexuality, and euthanasia

20 - Opposes liberal policies on matters such as abortion, homosexuality, and euthanasia

(4) Social policy: (Social Liberalism) – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Not important for the party

20 - Very important for the party

(5) Economic policy (Privatization) – POSITION*

1 - Promotes maximum state ownership of business and industry

20 - Opposes all state ownership of business and industry

(6) Economic policy (Privatization) – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Not important for the party

20 - Very important for the party

(7) Environment – POSITION*

1 - Supports protection of the environment, even at the cost of economic growth

20 - Supports economic growth, even at the cost of damage to the environment

(8) Environment – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Not important for the party

20 - Very important for the party

(9) Decentralisation – POSITION*

1 - Promotes decentralization of all administration and decision making

20 - Opposes any decentralization of administration and decision making

(10) Decentralization – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Absolutely unimportant for the party

20 - It is very important for the party

(11) Market regulation – POSITION*

1 - Favours high levels of state regulation and control of the market

20 - Favours deregulation of markets at every opportunity

(12) Market regulation – IMPORTANCE*

1 - Not important for the party

20 - Very important for the party

(13) Support of business - POSITION

- 1 - Favours policies to ensure most control of business in the Czech Republic
- 20 - Favours policies to facilitate business in the Czech Republic

(14) Support of business - IMPORTANCE

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(15) EU: Authority – POSITION*

- 1 - Favours increasing the range of areas in which the EU can set policy
- 20 - Favours reducing the range of areas in which the EU can set policy

(16) EU: Authority – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(17) Media freedom – POSITION*

- 1 - The mass media should be completely free to publish any material they see fit
- 20 - The content of mass media should be regulated by the state in the public interest

(18) Media freedom – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(19) EU: Strengthening – POSITION*

- 1 - Favours a more powerful and centralized EU
- 20 - Opposes a more powerful and centralized EU

(20) EU: Strengthening – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(21) Tax system - POSITION

- 1 - Favours a highly progressive tax system
- 20 - Favours a flat tax system

(22) Tax system - IMPORTANCE

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(23) Euro - POSITION

- 1 - Favours adoption of the euro as the domestic currency
- 20 - Opposes adoption of the euro as the domestic currency

(24) Euro - IMPORTANCE

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(25) Civil liberties – POSITION*

- 1 - Promotes protection of civil liberties, even when this hampers efforts to fight crime and promote law and order
- 20 - Supports tough measures to fight crime and promote law and order, even when this means curtailing civil liberties

(26) Civil liberties – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(27) Immigration – POSITION*

- 1 Favours policies designed to help asylum seekers and immigrants integrate into Czech society
- 20 - Favours policies designed to help asylum seekers and immigrants return to their country of origin

(28) Immigration – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(29) Healthcare – POSITION*

- 1 - Advocates that the government should provide universal free health care
- 20 - Advocates that medical expenses should be paid by individuals and private insurance plans

(30) Healthcare – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(31) Benefits of EU membership - POSITION

- 1 - Advocates that EU membership is beneficial for the Czech Republic
- 20 - Advocates that EU membership is not beneficial for the Czech Republic

(32) Benefits of EU membership - IMPORTANCE

- 1 – Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(33) Former communists – POSITION*

- 1 - Former communist party officials should have the same rights and opportunities as other citizens to participate in public life
- 20 - Former communist party officials should be kept out of public life as far as possible

(34) Former communists – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 – Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(35) Nationalism – POSITION*

- 1 - Strongly promotes a cosmopolitan rather than a Czech national consciousness, history, and culture
- 20 - Strongly promotes a Czech national rather than a cosmopolitan consciousness, history, and culture

(36) Nationalism – IMPORTANCE*

- 1 - Not important for the party
- 20 - Very important for the party

(37) The general left–right dimension – POSITION*

Please locate each party on a general left-right dimension, taking all aspects of party policy into account.

- 1 - Left
- 20 - Right

(38) Respondent sympathy/closeness to party – POSITION*

Taking all aspects of party policy into account, please score each party in terms of how close it is to your own personal views.

- 1 - Same as the respondent
- 20 - Farthest from respondent

Congratulations, you have just completed the questionnaire!

Thank you for completing the questionnaire on the policy positions of Czech political parties.
We are very grateful for your time and for your contribution to this research.

Data from research on the policy positions of Czech political parties will be available to the public as soon as the data collection phase has been completed.

We will inform you about obtaining the data.

Exit by closing this window.