

INSTITUT PRO DEMOKRACII A EKONOMICKOU ANALÝZU

Think-tank Národohospodářského ústavu AV ČR, v. v. i.

INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Think Tank of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

English Summaries of Recent IDEA Studies

May 2021 – May 2022



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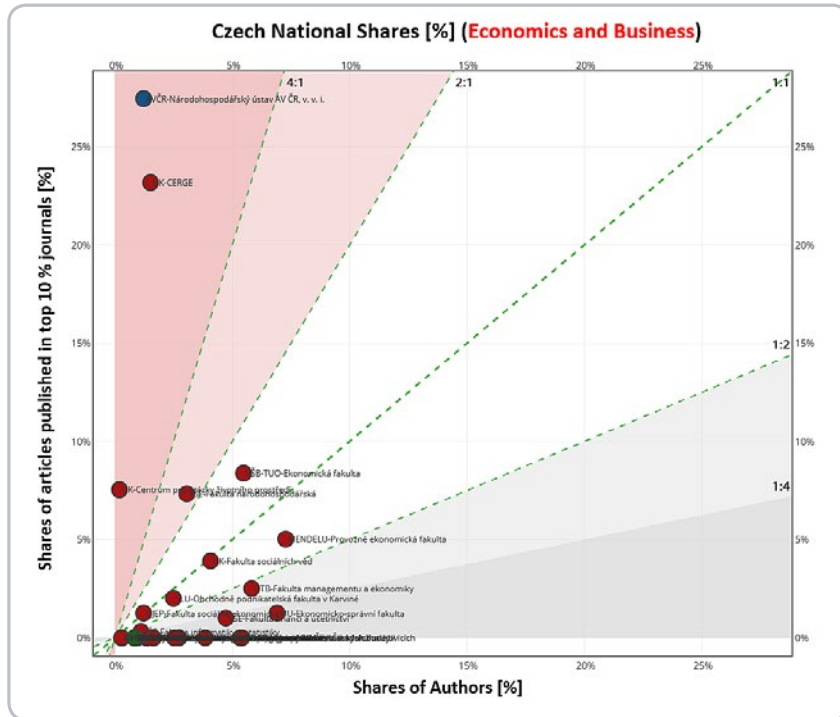
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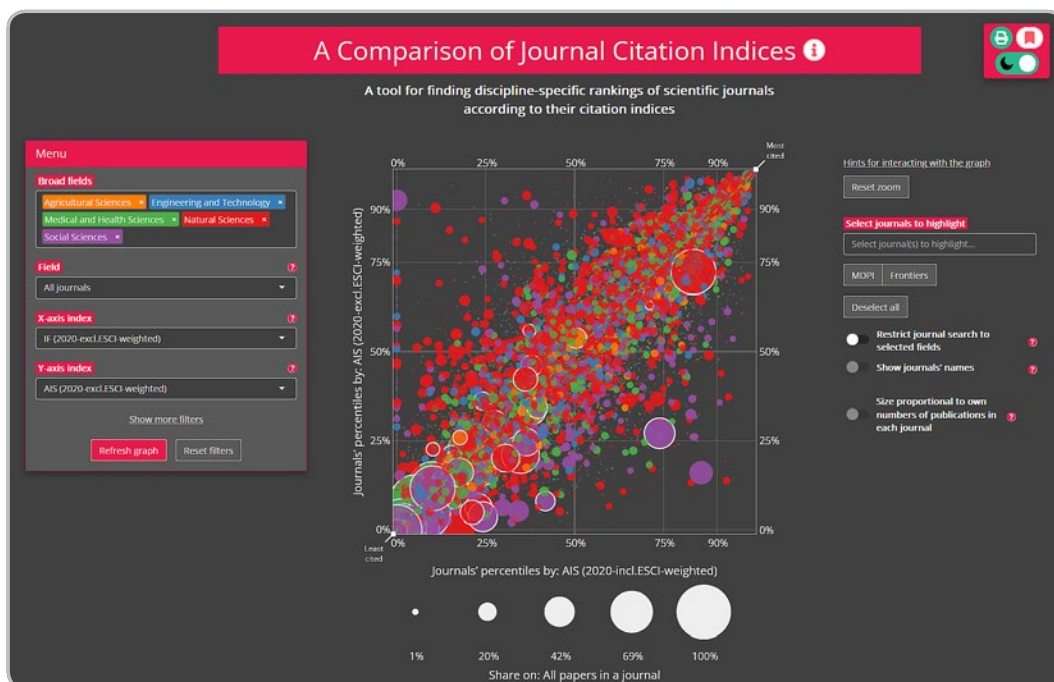
Publication performance and authors of research organizations in the Czech Republic in 2017-2020

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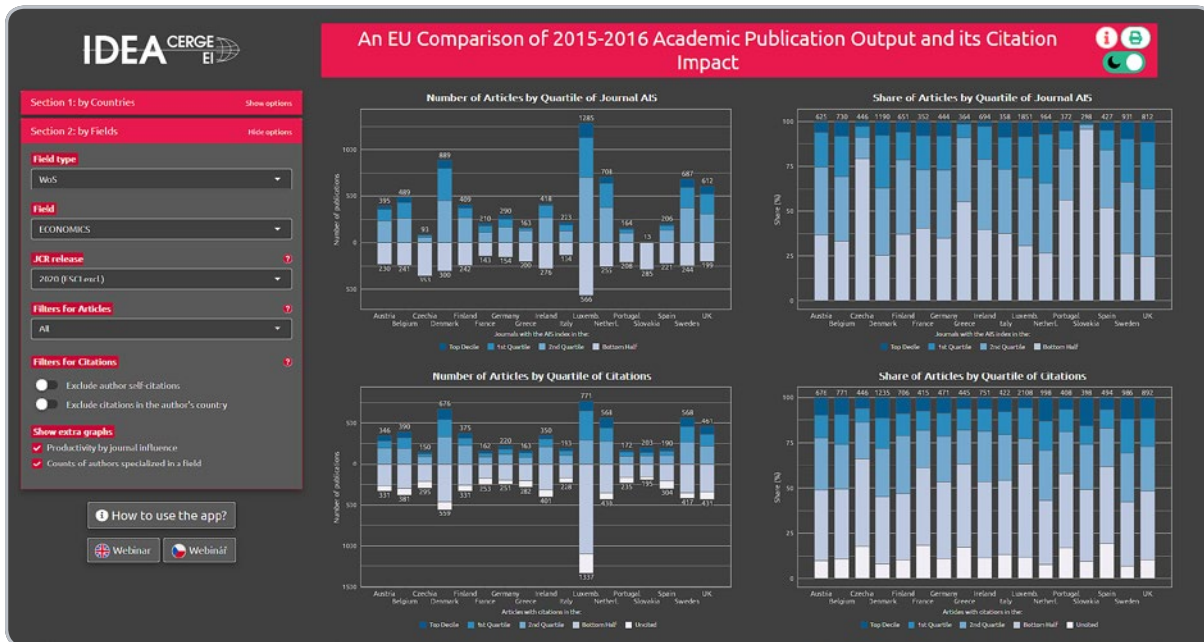
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PROJECT OF THE ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Study 7/2022

The Long-term Legacy of the Liberation of the Sudetenland by the Red and US Armies²

MAY 2022

JAKUB GROSSMANN, ŠTĚPÁN JURAJDA

Summary

- Forced migration results in trauma to the millions of people displaced from their homes, but very little is known about the fate of those who avoided expulsion and became a minority in the new society. This analysis reveals how and to what degree the manner and extent of the post-war expulsion of the German population from the Sudetenland influenced the country's long-term social development.
- Approximately three million Sudeten Germans lived in pre-war Czechoslovakia, amounting to roughly 30% of the population of the Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia). However, the German and Czech ethnic groups were widely divided, not only geographically, but also socially and politically. After the Munich Agreement of 1938, approximately 175,000 ethnic Czechs left the Sudetenland. At the end of the 2nd World War, the situation was reversed, and nearly the entire German population was removed from the Sudetenland. Approximately 200,000 remained, about 6% of the original population. In turn, approximately two million Czechs, Slovaks, and settlers of other nationalities gradually moved into the territory of the former Sudetenland.
- The western part of Czechoslovak territory was liberated by the US army in the spring of 1945, while the eastern part was liberated by the Red army. The line where the two armies met (the so-called demarcation line) had not been agreed in advance, and its final location on the axis Karlovy Vary - Plzeň - České Budějovice was only determined a few days before the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

² This study summarizes the results and main findings of the research article "Forced Migration, Staying Minorities, and New Societies: Evidence from Post-War Czechoslovakia" by Grossmann, Jurajda, and Roesel. The original article was written in the framework of the project "The Rise of Populist Parties in Europe" supported by the VW Foundation. The authors would like to thank Daniel Münich for his valuable comments and advice. This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any inaccuracies or errors are solely the responsibility of the authors. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as a part of the Strategy AV21 program.

- The methods of expulsion differed on each side of the demarcation line. In the first months (May and June 1945) after the liberation, the Americans prevented forced/uncontrolled removal, while the Russian army supported and often participated in forced expulsion. The Red army, unlike the Allied army, did not distinguish between sympathizers with German fascism and anti-fascists. This led to a difference in the total number of remaining Germans on each side of the demarcation line, which could not be compensated in the second phase of the expulsion between February and October 1946.
- The second phase of the expulsion (the so-called organized expulsion) was carried out under the supervision of the new local governments and was managed in a much more humane manner. Some groups of Germans were not subjected to organized removal. Officially recognized German anti-fascists were exempted, as were specialist workers needed for the industries of the time. However, the Red army recruited German antifascists to participate in the establishment of a Communist Party in the Soviet zone of Germany, which further contributed to the significantly lower number of displaced Germans and German antifascists in the American occupation zone than those who remained in the Soviet zone.
- The difference in the numbers of non-displaced Germans on each side of the demarcation line allows us to explore two important questions: did the non-displaced Germans in Czechoslovakia influence long-term societal development in the region, and to what degree did they retain their ethnic identity?
- The non-displaced Germans were not allowed to use their native language in public venues, their movement was limited, and intermarriage with other ethnic groups was conditional on government approval. These restrictions played a significant role in suppressing German identity and led to ethnic assimilation. Eventually, by 1950, only 160,000 Czechoslovak citizens claimed German nationality, and in 2001 there were fewer than 40,000.
- The results of free parliamentary elections after 1993 consistently show higher voter support for the Communist Party in the parts of the Sudetenland liberated by the US army. Today, for every ten non-displaced anti-fascists, there are an additional 3-4 votes for the KSČM. The support of other contemporary parties, including the centre-left ČSSD, does not show a similar effect. From municipal election data between 1994-2018, we find that in parts of the Sudetenland with a higher proportion of anti-fascists, the likelihood of an active KSČM cell in a municipality is 12% greater.
- The 2010 and 2016 LITS (Life in Transition Survey), which examined the political and other values of municipal residents, found that more respondents living in parts of the Sudetenland liberated by the US army were (or had relatives who were) members of the Communist Party before 1989. We observe a greater emphasis on leftist values (support for redistribution, central planning, and support for an authoritarian system) among residents in these municipalities. Leftist sentiment is also confirmed by more strongly developed pro-social infrastructure in municipalities with higher proportions of non-displaced anti-fascists. In the Czech midland, which was only very sparsely populated by Germans, similar effects do not occur.
- The link between voter support for the KSČM and higher proportions of non-displaced anti-fascists is further demonstrated with an analysis of the surnames of candidates for the KSČM in municipal elections. German surnames, which indicate descendants of non-displaced Germans, are about 15% more common for KSČM candidates in the Sudeten areas liberated by the US army.



PROJECT OF THE ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Study 6/2022

Teacher Turnover in Europe²

MARCH 2022

MIROSLAVA FEDERIČOVÁ, FILIP PERTOLD

Summary

This short study summarises the findings of original empirical research on long-term trends in teachers exiting the profession in all European regions, including the Czech Republic. We find similar patterns in some respects across all countries, but there are significant regional differences. For the Czech Republic and countries in the entire Central European region, we find that, during the economic transformation from 1990-2000 more young male teachers left the teaching profession. This is likely due to more lucrative opportunities in alternative professions. The economic transformation significantly contributed to the feminization of the teaching profession.

² This study represents the author's own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). The author would like to thank Daniel Münich, Václav Korbel, and Karel Gargulák for their valuable comments and advice. Any remaining errors are the authors' own. The study was produced with support from the SHARE-CZ+ (CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_013/0001740) and the Czech Academy of Sciences as a part of the Strategy AV21 program *Society in Motion and Public Policies*.



Study 5 / 2022

The intensity of teachers' use of teaching methods and its impact on learning outcomes²

MARCH 2022

VÁCLAV KORBEL

Summary

- One of the two principal aims of the Czech Republic's national *Strategy for Education Policy up to 2030+* is to transform both the content of school curricula and the methods used to teach them. For example, greater emphasis is to be placed on group activities, project-based teaching, the application of knowledge to various contexts and enquiry-based learning. Yet, to date, rather few studies have analysed how different types of teaching methods are used by primary school teachers in the Czech Republic or at the equivalent level abroad and what impacts their use has on learning outcomes.
- This study uses longitudinal data from a representative sample of primary school pupils to analyse what percentage of lessons – in the Czech Republic and abroad – make use of four specific teaching approaches: **1)** lecturing, **2)** appropriation, **3)** comprehension and **4)** testing. We then look into the relationship between these teaching methods and pupils' progress in reading skills and mathematics between the fourth and sixth years of primary school. The data on teaching methods was gathered from fourth year primary school teachers via a questionnaire as part of TIMSS 2011. To estimate the relationship between teaching methods and learning outcomes, we make use of the fact that the pupils were tested in two subjects in both years. This means that we can estimate the difference in progress made when pupils are taught using each method with greater or lesser intensity in the two subjects (*pupil level fixed-effects*).

² This study represents the author's own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education CERGE). The author would like to thank Barbara Pertold-Gebicka, David Greger, Filip Pertold, Daniel Münich, and Jiří Münich for their valuable comments and advice. Any remaining errors are the authors' own. The study was produced also with support from the MPI Czech Republic, and Czech Academy of Sciences as part the of the Strategy AV21 program *Society in Motion and Public Policies*.

- Our results point to three key findings:
 - In the 4th year of primary school (in the Czech Republic), or at the equivalent level abroad, lessons teaching maths or reading in Europe most frequently involve lecturing and methods that lead to comprehension; these are used in approximately 3/4 of lessons. In 2/3 of lessons teachers use methods that lead to appropriation. Pupils are tested in slightly more than 1/3 of lessons. In Western and Northern European countries teachers use all four listed approaches less intensively; they are used most intensively in Romania and Hungary.
 - The Czech Republic is one of the countries in which teachers use these methods with lower intensity. Czech teachers in the lower stage of primary school most often use comprehension methods (in 3/4 of lessons). In more than half of all lessons, teachers lecture and pupils work on subject appropriation (individual work). Tests take place in 30% of lessons. Lecturing and testing are used more frequently in mathematics lessons than in reading lessons. Other teacher and school characteristics are not correlated with the intensity of teaching method use.
 - For Czech pupils, methods leading to comprehension are positively related to progress in reading and mathematics between the 4th and 6th years of primary school, while methods leading to appropriation are negatively related to progress. Lecturing is not significantly associated with the rate of progress in either subject.
- These results suggest that teachers' methodological choices can affect pupils' educational trajectories. Nevertheless, the methodological and data limitations of our analysis mean that further applied pedagogical research is needed in order to establish whether our results are robust, as well as how well suited the various methods are to particular educational situations and particular groups of pupils. Such findings would be of substantial added value for the planned revision of the Framework Education Programmes, and especially for their subsequent effective implementation in the classroom.



PROJECT OF THE ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Study 4 / 2022

We've done the math: Here's what the abolition of super-gross wages, reductions in social security contributions and the introduction of tax holidays will really mean²

JANUARY 2022

KLÁRA KALÍŠKOVÁ, MICHAL ŠOLTÉS

Summary

- In the past year, the Czech Republic has seen plenty of changes in how employment income is taxed. Tax legislation adopted in December 2020 and July 2021 will reduce public revenues in 2022 by about 116 billion CZK. In other words, in 2022 employees will pay less than half the income tax that they would have paid without these tax changes.
- Average tax rates have been reduced for all income groups, although low-income employees will gain a disproportionately small slice of this savings pie. Employees in the lowest income quintile will save 500 CZK per month on average, whereas those in the highest income quintile will save an average of 4,000 CZK each month.
- The newly adopted tax legislation has substantially increased the share of employees who pay zero or negative income tax (i.e. receive what is known as the child tax bonus). There is thus little room for any further income tax reduction, especially for taxpayers who claim tax relief for their children or low-earning spouse.
- Any real impact of the proposed introduction of tax holidays for families who are receiving the parental allowance or who have 3 or more children, as set out in the policy statement issued by the new Czech government led by Petr Fiala, would therefore be extremely limited. Such tax holidays would almost exclusively benefit employees in the highest quintile by income. In the other income groups, the effect of such tax holidays would be negligible or zero. Furthermore, if such tax holidays were limited to within a certain income bracket, as the policy statement implies, then it is highly likely that such a policy would have practically no effect.

² This study was produced with support from the project Ěta No. TLO400032 of the Technological Agency of the Czech Republic. This study represents the author's own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). The authors would like to thank Daniel Munich and Daniel Prokop for their valuable comments and advice. Any remaining errors are the authors' own. The study was produced also with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of the Strategy AV21 program *Society in Motion and Public Policies*.

- Given that the proposed tax holidays are targeted at families who are in receipt of the parental allowance or who have 3 or more children, this policy overlaps almost completely with existing tax support for families (tax relief for children and for a low-earning spouse).
- The second proposal in the government's policy statement, which suggests a reduction of 2 percentage points in the social security rates paid by employers, would – in contrast - have a very substantial impact on employee taxation. This policy would cost about 38 billion CZK in 2022 and would reduce the average tax rate by approximately 1 percentage point for all employees. The average employee in the lowest quintile by income would save approximately 215 CZK per month, while for those in the highest quintile the saving would be 1,350 CZK per month.



Study 3 / 2022

Increase of CZK 395 billion compared to 2019: Where the first draft expenditure in the state budget for 2022 was headed²

JANUARY 2022

DANIEL KOLÁŘ, PETR JANSKÝ

Summary

- The draft state budget (SB) for 2022 submitted at the end of summer 2021 by the outgoing government of Andrej Babiš planned for expenditures of 1,928 billion CZK. That would be 394.5 billion CZK, and 25.7% more than the actual expenditure of the SB in 2019. Such a significant increase in expenditure, unaccompanied by an adequate increase in revenues, would significantly increase the structural deficit of the SB. The new government of Petr Fiala has therefore decided to revise the original draft budget in a new provisional budget.
- In this study, we identify the expenditure items in the original draft of the SB that have changed most significantly from the situation in 2019. We also show to what extent the nominal growth in the SB items takes inflation into account, which was expected to be 10.2% in this period. Comparison with the actual expenditure of 2019 allows us to shield the direct expenditure consequences of the pandemic. In fact, according to the initial proposal of the SR, the assistance programmes for households and employers during the pandemic were already expected to be reduced significantly in 2022.
 - Pensions (including disability or widow's pensions) show an increase of 18% (CZK +84 billion) to a total of CZK 556 billion.
 - Social expenditure, including parental allowance or child benefit, increase by 28% (CZK +36 billion), largely compensating for their long-term nominal stagnation.
 - Contributions to health insurance companies for state insured persons show an increase of 93% (CZK +67 billion).

² We would like to thank IDEA for support and Aleš Bělohradský, Petr Bouchal, Ladislav Frühauf, Jan Pavel and Daniel Münich for their useful comments. Any remaining inaccuracies or errors, as well as all opinions expressed are the authors' own. This study was produced with the support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".

- Expenditure on regional education, especially on teachers' salaries, grew by 35% (CZK +50 billion).
- Investments from national sources in the SB show growth of 23% (CZK +17 billion)
- The Czech Republic's membership in the European Union is associated with an increase in expenditure of CZK 76 billion. Of these, investments covered by revenues from EU budgets show an increase of 97% (CZK +62 billion), while the Czech Republic's contributions to the EU increase by 32% (CZK +14 billion).
- An additional EUR 8 billion CZK represents purchases of additional vaccines against covid-19 in 2022.
- The SB items with a significantly low growth in the volume of expenditure, or even a decrease are as follows:
 - Non-investment transfers to non-profit organisations show a nominal decrease of 13% and a real decrease of as much as 21%. Non-investment transfers to non-profit organizations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which subsidizes the provision of social services, family support or activities of senior organizations, fall nominally by 11% (CZK -0.6 billion).
 - The Department of the Ministry of Education shows a nominal stagnation of transfers to public research institutions and universities. In real terms, this is a decrease of 9% (CZK -4 billion).
- In other current expenditures of significant volume, we did not identify larger deviations from price level growth or a clear potential for savings compared to 2019. This applies, for example, to non-investment subsidies or salaries of civil servants.
- Although the capital expenditure class is increasing significantly by 57% (CZK +80 billion), the growth is mainly due to an increase in EU funds.



Study 2 / 2022

State employees and civil servants: where they work and how much they are paid²

JANUARY 2022

DANIEL BARTUŠEK, PETR BOUCHAL, PETR JANSKÝ

Summary

- Almost one fifth of the Czech Republic's workforce (calculated in full time equivalents) is employed in the public sector. In 2020, almost half (464,000) of these almost one million employees were paid out of the state budget and can be considered state employees.
- More than half (265,000) of the country's state employees are employed in state-funded institutions, in particular schools. The remaining, smaller share of state employees (198,000) work in a wide variety of other public organizations, including the armed forces, the police force, government ministries and job centres.
- Only a small proportion of state employees can be considered to be civil servants. In 2020 there were about 78,000 of these, which is approximately 8% of all public sector workers and 17% of state employees. This number is rather low in both absolute and relative terms, and stands in contrast to the substantial attention frequently paid in public debate to how many civil servants the country has.
- During the past two decades the number of employees in the civil service has fluctuated. Between 2003 and 2010 it grew slightly, by almost 2000 (3%). Between 2010 and 2011 during the economic crisis under Fischer's and Nečas's governments it was reduced by 3000 (5%). Subsequently between 2011 and 2015 under Nečas's, Rusnok's and Sobotka's governments it increased again by 5000 (10%) and from then until 2020 (under Sobotka's and Babiš's government) it did not undergo any substantial further changes.
- Although civil servants' average pay has risen continuously since 2013 both nominally and in real terms, since 2018 its rate of increase has failed to keep pace with the rate of wage increase in the economy as a whole, hence its relative level was substantially lower in 2020 than it had been in 2013 (by between 3 and 6 percentage points, depending on the type of organization).

² We would like IDEA for support and Daniel Münich for his useful comments. Any remaining inaccuracies or errors including all opinions expressed are the authors' own. This study was produced with the support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".



Study 1 / 2022

Sick pay: what impact did the introduction of a waiting period have?²

JANUARY 2022

JAKUB GROSSMANN, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary of key findings

- We analyze the impacts of a waiting period for sick pay introduced in 2008 in the Czech Republic on employment absence, sick leave, and other types of absences from the workplace. The new waiting period meant that employees did not receive any sickness benefits ('sick pay') for the first three days of sick leave. The waiting period was introduced to discourage employees from claiming sick pay unnecessarily and thereby to reduce sickness benefit expenditures. However, the measure also discourages employees from taking sick leave when they are unwell and may potentially increase the risk of contagion in the workplace.
- To identify what impacts the introduction of the waiting period had, we make use of regional differences in the incidence of flu epidemics and data about employee absences from work. We find that among employees exposed to a flu epidemic for one week, the number of days of sick pay claimed decreased after the introduction of the waiting period by 6.7 days on average. Prior to the reform, employees exposed to a flu epidemic for a week claimed 5 days more sick pay than employees without flu exposure, while after the reform they claimed 1.7 days fewer. This reduction was, however, almost entirely compensated for by an increase in the number of days of paid holiday and unpaid leave claimed. The total number of days of absence thus remained practically unchanged after the introduction of the waiting period.

² This study summarises the key findings and conclusions from Grossmann's extensive research thesis "Sick Pay and Absence from Work: Evidence from Flu Exposure", 2021. We are grateful to the examiners of that thesis: Tor Eriksson, Kamil Galuščák, Stefan Pichler, and Štěpán Jurajda, as well as to Filip Pertold and Daniel Münich for their useful comments and observations on this version of the study. Any remaining inaccuracies or errors including all opinions expressed are the authors' own. We also wish to thank the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic for providing data on infectious diseases, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the opportunity to use ISPV data, and Trexima for providing calculations. This study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".

- Despite this reduction in sick leave taken and sick pay claimed, there is no reason to assume that the new waiting period increased flu transmission or increased contagion in the workplace, since the reduction in sick leave was offset by an increase in other types of absences.
- The extent to which sick leave was replaced by paid holiday or unpaid leave varied between employee groups. Mothers took fewer days of sick leave after the introduction of the waiting period, but this was offset by fathers taking more paid and unpaid leave. Employees exposed to a relatively higher risk of infection at the workplace or whose work involved more frequent social interaction replaced sick leave with other types of absence more often than other workers.
- The available data do not enable us to reliably verify whether the waiting period succeeded in reducing abuse of the sickness benefit system, which was one of the reform's main objectives.



Study 9 / 2021

The Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) Standard Grants and the Publication Performance of Scientists: A Counterfactual Analysis of Projects Awarded in Years 2005-2014²

OCTOBER 2021

MATĚJ BAJGAR

Summary

- The Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) is the largest source of project financing for scientists based in the Czech Republic. In recent years, GAČR has distributed grants worth over 4 billion CZK a year. About three quarters of the total funds are allocated to *Standard grants*.
- This study is the first to **econometrically estimate the impact of GAČR Standard Grants on the publication performance of the researchers the grant supports**. We compare the members of Standard Grant research teams (the treatment group) to a control group of researchers who did not participate in a Standard Grant in a given period, but who otherwise resemble the supported researchers. We match the groups based on their primary fields, past publications and grants, academic titles, gender, the type of research institution they are affiliated with, and many other characteristics. Most data comes from the Information System for Research, Development, and Innovation.

² This study represents the author's own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). An earlier draft of this study was presented to the GAČR Presidium on 30th August 2021 and to the GAČR Scientific Council on 21st September 2021. I would like to thank Martin Srholec for invaluable advice and comments throughout the process of preparing the study. I would also like to thank Taras Hrendash, Štěpán Jurajda, Martin Macháček, Dan Münich, Petr Ráb, the staff of GAČR, and members of the GAČR Scientific Council for their help and helpful suggestions. I would like to thank the Czech Science Foundation for providing additional data for this project. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its Center for Research, Development and Innovation Analysis programme (RaDIAC). All remaining omissions and errors are my own.

- We estimate the **impact of GAČR Standard Grants awarded annually from 2005 to 2014 on the numbers of articles that the supported researchers published in influential scientific journals within 5 years of the award of a grant.** The influence of journals indexed in the Web of Science database is measured by their Article Influence Score (AIS) compared to other journals in the same field.
- The results indicate that **GAČR Standard Grants have a positive impact on the publication performance of researchers who receive the grants.** According to the estimates, a member of a research team supported by a Standard Grant publishes **about 1 more article in an influential scientific journal (1st quartile in terms of AIS)** than they would publish in the absence of the grant.
- The results further show that about **70% of additional scientific articles** created thanks to GAČR Standard Grants and published in journals that have an AIS **are published in the 1st or 2nd quartile** of these journals.
- The impact of the Standard Grants has **substantially increased over time**, comparing grants awarded in 2005–2009 to grants awarded in 2010-2014. The increase has been particularly pronounced in the technical and physical sciences.
- The publication performance of the supported researchers **does not significantly differ from that of researchers who obtained other project funding for basic research.** One exception is the agricultural and biological-environmental sciences, where we see a stronger impact of GAČR Standard Grants than that of other types of project funding for basic research.
- The impact of the grants is **greater for more established researchers**, who have previously published more articles in influential scientific journals. The differences in impact are more pronounced in the technical, physical and social sciences.
- In most broad fields, the impact is also **greater for researchers based at the Academy of Sciences.**
- The titles of „professor“ or „associate professor“, the gender, and the interdisciplinarity of a researcher are not systematically related to the impact of the grant.
- In **social sciences, the impact of the grants is substantially smaller** than in other broad fields. The vast majority of additional articles created thanks to the grants in the social sciences are published in low-influence journals. The impact on researchers who have previously published in high-influence journals is, however, similar in social sciences to the impact in other broad fields.
- The impact of the grants on publications in a select group of the **most prestigious journals (Nature, Science...) globally is positive but small.**
- The **accuracy and reliability** of the estimates presented in this study could be further increased by including **data on unsuccessful grant applications** and the **rankings of successful and unsuccessful grant applications** within individual grant panels, if such data were made available for research purposes.



Study 8 / 2021

Financial support for students in higher education in the Czech Republic: a system overhaul is required²

SEPTEMBER 2021

DANIEL MÜNICH AND OTAKAR KOŘÍNEK

Summary

- Financial support for students in higher education in the Czech Republic has not received the attention it deserves over the past decade. Not only has the general public lost little sleep over this matter, but academics and politicians have largely ignored it, too. Information, statistics, and analysis of the targeting and impacts of current student financial support are at best piecemeal and at worst non-existent, which is symptomatic of the little public and policy interest in this matter. As a result, over the past few years there have been only a few minor tweaks made to the existing outdated and underfunded system.
- International comparisons show that the total amount of financial support for students in the Czech Republic is very low. A large share of that support is also provided across-the-board, meaning that support for the most socio-economically needy students and prospective students is very low. The average total monthly support provided both directly and indirectly to students under 26 years of age is between some 5,300 CZK [euro 200] for those from the poorest backgrounds and 2,700 CZK [euro 110] for others. Support for students aged 26 and above is only around 500 CZK [euro 20] per month, regardless of their economic background.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Authors acknowledge partial computations and consultations on taxes and benefits provided by Michal Šoltés, to Taras Hrendash for computations based on EU SILC data, and to Dušan Hrstka for valuable clarifications concerning official statistics. Authors are grateful to Šimon Stibůrek, Michal Šoltés, Kristýna Vltavská, Michaela Šmídová and Vlastimil Růžička for their valuable comments and advice. Maps are used with the permission of the Eurydice. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".

- In European comparison, the support for socio-economically weak students is extremely low. Only a very small proportion of students are eligible for publicly funded social scholarships, which provide only minimal financial support in any case. No data is currently collected on the demographic or social status of scholarship recipients. Similarly, there is no data measuring the extent to which children from poorer backgrounds are deterred from university study by the low level of available support. The amount of funding made available through social scholarships and the breadth of the pool of students eligible for them is not regularly increased in response to inflation or students' rising living costs, but is revised in connection with ad hoc raises made to the minimum wage and living wages.
- Indirect support is provided primarily in the form of tax breaks to the parents of students who are classified as dependent children until their 26th birthdays. Most parents of students under 26 are eligible for tax concessions of between 1,000 and 2,000 CZK [euro 40-80] per month. However, parents whose income is insufficient as a result of long-term unemployment, sick leave, or for other reasons are not eligible. Our estimates suggest that as many as 15% of students' families may fail to qualify for study-related tax concessions.
- Accommodation bursaries are the only form of support that bears any similarity to the universal student grants seen in many other European countries. However, these bursaries are also very low, providing only around 600 CZK [euro 24] per month. Furthermore, students must fulfil several eligibility criteria to receive the support, which is not linked to their or their families' socio-economic situations.
- These key sources of support are accessible only to students who are under 26 years of age. This is one of the lowest age thresholds of its kind in Europe. Despite the fact that a non-negligible share of university students are older than 25, financial support for students over the age of 26 is minimal. This long-established age cut-off is hugely outdated with respect to contemporary developments in higher education and in modern society more generally.
- The highly socio-economically selective nature of the overall Czech education system, which is deeply linked to children's family backgrounds, influences which students have any ambition to continue into higher education. There are four factors specific to the Czech Republic that have so far reduced awareness of the need for greater and more accessible financial support for students: **(i)** the very narrow income distribution in the Czech society; **(ii)** the low unemployment rate (among parents); **(iii)** the absence of tuition fees for study at public universities; and **(iv)** the high level of socio-economic selectivity in the education system, from preschool through to secondary school. This last factor reduces the share of young people from poorer backgrounds who have any inclination or ambition to study at university. As still relatively low socio-economic gaps in Czech society (i.e. among parents) will probably widen in the future, and if the social selectivity of schooling is successfully reduced in the future, the weaknesses of the current system of student support will become more evident.
- There are currently no campaigns by higher education institutions themselves to substantially modernize or strengthen financial support for students. The Ministry of Education is not taking any visible steps towards doing so, either, nor – with a few minor exceptions – is the issue given any emphasis by the more prominent political parties running in 2021 parliamentary elections. There has been little interest in the issue from journalists too. The needs and interests of socio-economically disadvantaged prospective university applicants are, quite naturally, fragmented, uncoordinated, and lacking a strong public voice.



Study 7 / 2021

Teachers' salaries in 2020 and beyond: will the Czech Republic rest on its laurels?²

AUGUST 2021

DANIEL MÜNICH AND VLADIMÍR SMOLKA

Summary

- In relative terms, teachers' pay in the Czech Republic was lower than in most EU and OECD countries until 2017/18. Thanks to an unusually fast pace of growth in the past few years, in 2021, teacher's pay will almost reach the average for OECD countries and the EU, which is around 90% of the average salary for a university-educated employee in the national economy. Andrej Babiš's outgoing government will thus fulfil its Summer 2018 program statement.
- The level of teachers' pay is a factor in attracting interest in teaching as a profession. Raising interest is necessary not only in order to recruit sufficient numbers of teachers, but to allow selectivity into the profession, allowing for more emphasis on the quality of teaching. These are long-term processes that gradually build the overall quality of the country's teaching staff, through continuous arrivals and departures from the profession. Therefore, the impact of the teachers' pay rates on attracting interest in the profession, the quality of teachers' work, and pupils' educational outcomes can only be observed over many years, or even decades.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). We appreciate the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for its approval to use ISPV data collected and managed by f. TREXIMA spol. s r. o. Authors are grateful to Karel Gargulák, Filip Pertold and Jan Koucký & a project "Důvody nedostatku učitelů" <https://pages.pedf.cuni.cz/nedostatekucitelu/> for their valuable comments and advices. We appreciate consultations on salary indicators kindly provided by the department of statistics at the Ministry of Education and Youth, Petr Čech, Hana Hlavínová and Vladimír Hulík. Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the responsibility of the authors. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".

- To maintain the current relative level of teachers' pay in the coming years, the Czech government will have to raise teachers' salaries at the rate of growth of nominal wages in the national economy. During the next few years, it will also be necessary to budget for a much-needed increase in numbers of teachers. The additional funds required for the education budget will further reduce the already low pay of many other pedagogical and non-pedagogical professionals in our schools.
- In 2020, just as in 2019, the greatest growth in relative pay went to the youngest teachers, whose salaries are far more attractive than those of their elder colleagues. Teachers in the middle age category of 30–49 currently have the lowest relative pay. This is because Czech teachers' salaries increase only very slowly with years of experience (even by international comparison), although they increase throughout the whole teaching career. This is evidently a consequence of the continuing absence of career development system and the absence of teaching quality standards in the Czech teaching profession.
- Variability in teachers' pay remained very low in 2020 and does not adequately reflect diversity in the quality of teachers' work. Teachers' pay remains primarily determined by wage grids, i.e., by years of teaching experience. Largely administrative salary setting leads to high quality teaching staff being undervalued and insufficiently motivated, which in turn is connected with a higher risk of their leaving the profession, and with low interest in entering teaching among the younger generations.
- Following on from the increases in 2019, 2020 also saw a substantial increase in above standard wage grid pay for teachers. Indeed, the share of above-standard pay in the teaching profession reached an average of 12–14% in 2020, substantially surpassing the 8–11% among other university-educated employees in the public sector. A non-negligible proportion of the total raise in teachers' pay was thus in the above wage grid pay, as the government originally pledged that it would be.
- When comparing teachers' pay over time or across countries, it is important to consider the details of the methodology of calculations. There are many reasons values may vary for apparently identical indicators, and these are not always sufficiently elucidated in discussions accompanying the methodologies and data sources used. It is crucial to be clear, for example, whether or not the pay includes all components of pay, including end-of-year bonuses, whether the pay includes that of the school principals, whether only teacher's salaries are counted, or if there is a broader range of pedagogical positions included. It is also important to note whether private school data is included, whether the figures are only for primary schools, or if they are for a whole regional education sector including preschools and upper-secondary schools.



Study 6 / 2021

Mom or preschool? How an extension to paid parental leave affects children's future education and employment²

AUGUST 2021

ALENA BIČÁKOVÁ, KLÁRA KALÍŠKOVÁ, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary

- In this study we quantify the impacts of the duration of paid parental leave on the education and future labor market outcomes of affected children when they reach 21-22 years of age. We examine the Czech Republic's 1995 reform of paid parental leave, which extended the duration of parental allowance receipt from 3 to 4 years. This extension was not, however, accompanied by any extension of the job protection period that remained at 3 years. It also prevented the receiving parent to engage more substantially in the labour market, leading to one more year of full-time home child care.
- The reform resulted in an additional 38 % of mothers with three-year-old children staying at home with their children. These mothers' exclusive, full-time care mostly replaced the care their children would otherwise have received in state-subsidised preschools. Majority of the affected children thus started (pre)school education later, by at least one year.
- Our empirical findings show that this additional year of exclusive parental care at home, in place of attendance at preschool, had a negative impact on the children's future educational and labor market outcomes. The children affected by this reform

² This study is based on a 2021 academic paper by Alena Bičáková and Klára Kalíšková on the same research, entitled "Is Longer Maternal Care Always Beneficial? The Impact of a Four-year Paid Parental Leave". We are grateful to Daniel Münich and Filip Pertold for their useful comments and suggestions on the working version of the text. We also thank the Czech Statistical Office for providing the data (VŠPS 2010-2016). Any remaining ambiguities or errors, and all opinions expressed, are the authors' own. This study was produced with financial support from the Czech Science Foundation, grant No. 18-16667S, and as part of the Czech Academy of Sciences' AV21 Strategy programme „Society in Motion and Public Policies“.

are 4 percentage points (p.p.) more likely to be neither studying nor working at the age of 21-22, and are 6 p.p. less likely to study at university. Those whose mothers do not have high-school leaving qualifications and who are living in the same household as their mother at the age of 21-22, are more than 9 p.p. more likely to be neither studying nor working, and are 12 p.p. less likely to go to university. Among girls, there is an increased likelihood that they will not be in paid employment at the age of 21-22 years, but will be taking care of the home instead.

- The children who spent longer at home in full-time family care as a result of the reform would otherwise very likely have attended public preschools, as was the case both before the reform and among families who chose to stop receiving the allowance when their child was three years old. Our estimates thus show the benefits of preschool attendance in comparison to the benefits of full time parental care between the ages of 3 and 4. Our findings are in line with most international research documenting positive impacts of preschool attendance on children's development: most such studies emphasise that the social and intellectual stimuli that preschools provide are crucial for the long-term development of cognitive and non-cognitive skills, in particular for children from socio-economically disadvantaged families.
- Our findings, especially those about outcomes of daughters, could be also explained by a possible shift towards more 'traditional' family values and a related change in mothers' and families' attitudes towards gender roles, which could also have dampened daughters' career ambitions. It is also possible that the longer absence from work had a negative impact on mothers' future earnings and status on the labour market, which might in turn have limited their children's educational and employment opportunities. We have not, however, found anything to indicate the existence of such effects that would confirm these alternative explanations.



Study 5 / 2021

Intervention needed: the impact of future economic development and pandemic measures on social health insurance revenues and expenditures²

JUNE 2021

LUCIE BRYNDOVÁ, LENKA ŠLEGEROVÁ

Summary

- In the Czech Republic, social health insurance (SHI) revenues are connected to the economic situation, particularly the state of the labour market. This study looks at the impacts of the Covid-19 epidemic and its associated restrictive and supportive measures on trends in SHI revenues and the system's overall financial situation in coming years. We find that without major interventions, being it either strengthening its funding sources or limiting its expenditures, the Czech health care system will move towards substantial deficits from 2021 onwards.
- Our model works with various scenarios of macroeconomic development, epidemiological severity, and state job support during the pandemic. Expectations of labour market development used in the predictions are based on forecasts by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Czech National Bank, and the Czech Banking Association released in January and February 2021. The model includes all relevant measures introduced in response to the pandemic up to and including March 2021.

² The authors thank the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic for providing them with data necessary to compile a predictive model of the financial balance of the Czech social health insurance system, the modified form of which was used in this study for the short- and medium-term system revenue outlooks. We would also like to thank Pavel Hroboň of the Advance Healthcare Management Institute and Ladislav Friedrich, president of the Association of Health Insurance Companies of the Czech Republic, for providing data and information support and valuable consultations during the preparation of this study. The Association of Health Insurance Companies of the Czech Republic provided financial support to the authors' workplace, the Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, in 2020 with the aim of supporting research in the area of health and health system economics, of which this study is a part. The conclusions and opinions expressed in this study are entirely the authors' own and do not represent the views of any of the institutes here named. The study was prepared on the basis of available data, information and expert estimates as of 29 March 2021. This study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme Society in Motion and Public Policies. This study represents the authors' own views and not the official standpoint of the Institute of Economics of the CAS nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the responsibility of the authors.

- The total SHI revenues had gradually grown in recent years due to favourable macroeconomic situation. Their growth pace remained similar even in 2020 and would be so probably also in 2021. However, in contrast to previous years, this is only as a result of increased state payments into the SHI budget in response to the pandemic (+20 billion CZK in 2020 and +50 billion CZK in 2021, an overall increase of 74% per a so-called state insuree over these two years), and a re-established requirement for self-employed workers to pay minimum monthly health insurance contributions throughout 2021. We anticipate that revenues from contributions paid by economically active individuals will decline across 2021 and will increase only slightly in 2022.
- Between 2022 and 2024, state payments into the SHI system will not balance out substantially slower growth in collected contributions from economically active individuals, unless the state payments are further increased. In this period, total SHI revenues are expected to grow at only around 3% per year. This translates into the annual increase in SHI revenues of only around 10 billion CZK, including the state payment, in 2022-2024. This is substantially less than the year-on-year growth of 17-20 billion CZK in the years before the pandemic.
- The medium-term outlook predicting a drop in SHI expenditures in the 2021 Health Insurance Budgetary Plans (ZPP2021), stands in contradiction to previous trends and experience with reimbursement negotiations and appears to be underestimated. The health insurers' real expenditures for 2021 will be substantially higher than those planned in the ZPP2021, by at least 33 billion CZK. This is because the expenditures will be inflated by additional costs as a result of the, including vaccination, testing, bonuses for medical staff, and reimbursements for large numbers of Covid-19 patients in hospitals.
- Therefore, the original SHI budgetary plan of only a slight deficit in health care funding in 2021 is not realistic. Though the increased state payment improved the SHI revenue situation, the system will still operate at a substantial loss in 2021, which it will cover from reserves built up in recent years, however. These reserves will very likely be used up during 2021, whereas the SHI system may then run up annual deficits of tens of billions of CZK in the coming years.
- Our predictions also show the importance for the state job support schemes initiated during the pandemic to continue, and the substantial impact the course of the pandemic has had on the SHI revenues. The decision as to whether, and to what extent, to extend supportive job retention measures for the remaining eight months of 2021 could make a difference of up to 10 billion CZK in anticipated revenues to the social health insurance system. Further any worsening of the epidemiological situation could reduce SHI revenues by between 1.5 and 5 billion CZK per year. In such a case, contributions collected from employees and their employers may not even reach their pre-pandemic (2019) levels during 2022.

- The analysis we present demonstrates the necessity of finding additional sources of revenues for the social health insurance system, including launching a discussion on higher health insurance contributions or additional raises in state payments. The alternatives would include expenditure-side measures, including increase in health care providers' productivity, which, however, would have to be implemented in the nearest future. Other unpopular measures to reduce expenditures would lead to limiting the availability of health services, compromising on quality, imposing wage freezes or pay cuts in medical professions, or to the development of secondary insolvency among health care service providers.
- At the time of publishing this study, new predictions of macroeconomic development and the government's preliminary plans regarding the amount of state budget contributions for state insured persons to the SHI, were released. The partial effects of these new facts on the key conclusions of the study are described in the final section of the study.

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2022

The Long-term Legacy of the Liberation of the Sudetenland by the Red and US Armies.
Jakub Grossmann, Štěpán Jurajda, May 2022 [▶](#)

Teacher Turnover in Europe. Authors: Miroslava Federičová, Filip Pertold, March 2022 [▶](#)

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Václav Korbel, March 2022 [▶](#)

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