Economic policy-makers and economic experts in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: ways of interaction

Abstract. Contemporary economic policy is a complex formation, which requires not only managerial priorities consideration, but also the explanation of scientific and technical expertise procedures. Changing socioeconomic situation cause a demand for a well-considered professional approach and systematic monitoring of diverse economic and social information. In this context, the peculiarities of expert recommendations advancement within the economic decision-making environment prescribe careful attention to the multidisciplinary context. The differences between the economic experts’ and decision-makers within the framework of economic policy cause multidisciplinary alignment of positions and decision-making. Therefore, the specifics of the public experts and officials’ communicative interaction inside the framework of state economic policy makes necessary the distinguishing between the areas of responsibility of the expert community and government officials for its results. The development of the adequate economic policy gives significant value to qualitative parameters of experts’ behavior which makes it possible to see the functions of expert activity. An economic view of society’s life increases realism in management processes. Meanwhile, the populist opposition to economic policy in many countries over the world is not only a manifestation of political sympathies and the support to the certain political forces, but also to the certain economic doctrines. The real impact of economic experts on economic policy has to be traced taking into account the general requirements for government actions by economic players and the main consumers of public services.

At the present stage, despite considerable progress in modernizing the economy and European integration, some transit states of Central and Eastern Europe show a step back from the principles of openness and broad discussion of economic strategies. This indicates the domination of political considerations over economic in the processes of economic policy making. Positions of economic policy-makers can also be expressed on the basis of certain statements and their interpretation. At the same time, economic deliberation is an important stage in shaping economic policy not only at the approval stage, but also at the stage of development and corrections introduction. Specifics of interaction of external economic experts with governments of Central and Eastern Europe transitive countries are investigated in this paper.

The assumptions were made that planned achievement indicators in market economy are a fairly relative parameters, so the economic policy results may be technological changes, infrastructure improvements and other aspects that do not have gross indicators or index changes. In this context, the careful consideration of the elaboration of expert proposals is an important factor in the legitimization of economic policy. The main recommendations for the contemporary transition countries governments in the context of cooperation with external experts were given in the paper.

Keywords: Economic Policy; Economic Decision Making; Experts’ Recommendations; Effectiveness; Transitive States

JEL Classification: A11; H1; K3; E6

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1. Introduction

Contemporary economic sciences are conducting an intensive search for the optimization of economic processes in society. Comprehensive study of the world economy is possible if only an expert network that combines academic research centers and structures that carry out applied research exists. The question of the recommendations’ effectiveness in the field of economy is most clearly traced at the level of implementation of the economic policies of individual states. Leaving the political component beyond consideration, economic policy of the transitive states is a combination of measures aimed at achieving the welfare of society. The ability to effectively achieve this goal is determined not only by the ability of economic experts to produce certain ideas and concepts of economic development, but also by the ability of government officials to implement these recommendations in practice.
of the benefits of the national economy in the international labor market.

As part of the economic policy or a specific economic course elaboration one’s attention draws the issue of the information processing and proposals receipt. If expert centers generate reasonable ideas and recommendations, the issue is topical for the question how promptly these recommendations will be applied. Also relevant are intermediate structures that process information and prevent the promotion of relevant proposals.

The effectiveness of the recommendations’ implementation also attracts the interest in connection with the international organizations’ activity, in particular, International Monetary Fund. It places into agenda the methods of the evaluation of the relevant government structures and their analytical and forecasting units.

The regional dimension of cooperation between governments and experts is becoming more and more interesting. In the context of the economic policies implementation, the question is topical which countries are more effective or less effective in implementing the proposed strategies. The specifics of the communicative interaction of public experts and officials who formulate a particular economic strategy and how these links meet the objectives of effective communication are of great interest as well.

In the context of the interaction between the development of economic policies and expert structures, it is important to identify the origin of these principles and the activities of specific expert groups and campaigns, as well as the whole system of economic processes ensuring. To this end, it is expedient to use the structural-functional method. Within the framework of the state economic policy of transitive countries, it is important to identify the specific actors involved in economic policy-making and the allocation of responsibility for its results. Therefore, within the framework of the state economic policy, it is necessary to distinguish between the areas of responsibility of the expert community and government officials for its results. It is also necessary to delineate the very system of making economic decisions. This task can be done by a systematic approach.

The establishment of the effectiveness of economic policies and the effectiveness of expert advice in time of transition can be carried out in a comparative context. The comparison should be done between the levels of economic policy and the various territorial regions. This makes it necessary to apply a comparative method.

2. Brief Literature Review

The interaction between the institution of economic governance and economic experts is one of the most important in modern scientific discourse. Researchers are interested not in such a procedure procedural component of the interaction as in the essential features of the development of economic policy. For instance, E. Nakamura and J. Steinsson’s model implies that information effects play an important role in the overall causal effect of monetary policy shocks on output (Nakamura & Steinsson, 2018). Researchers J. C. Kirabo, J. Rucker and C. Persico link school spending and school finance reform data to detailed, nationally representative data on children born between 1955 and 1985 and followed through 2011 within the study the effects of school finance reform-induced changes in public school spending on long-run adult outcomes (Kirabo, Rucker & Persico, 2016). In return, L. Casaburi and U. Troiano consider that political returns are higher in areas with lower tax evasion tolerance and with higher efficiency of public good provision, implying complementarity among enforcement and underlying tax-quality of the government (Casaburi & Troiano, 2016). Furthermore, F. Boffa, A. Piatello and G. Ponzetto pointed out, that single government in charge of many policies has better incentives than many special-purpose governments splitting its budget and responsibilities (Boffa, Piatello & Ponzetto, 2016). As F. J. Bierbrauer and P. C. Boyer noted economic policy formation processes are asymmetric equilibrium that are surplus-maximizing and, hence, first-best Pareto-efficient (Bierbrauer & Boyer, 2016). Meanwhile Ch. D. Carroll highlighted that while empirical household expectations are not rational in the strict sense, expectations of policymakers are well calibrated by a model in which households’ views derive from news reports of the views of professional forecasters, which in turn may be rational (Carroll, 2003). German scholars M. Beraja, A. Hurst and E. Vavra have suggested that monetary policy-makers should track the regional distribution of equity over time (Beraja, Fuster, Hurst & Vavra, 2019). Using only the variation coming from measurement error, G. Chodorow-Reich, J. Coglianese and L. Karabarbouris established, that benefit extensions have a limited influence on state-level macroeconomic outcomes. Researchers applied their estimates to the increase in the duration of benefits during the Great Recession and found that they increased the unemployment rate by at most 0.3 percentage points (Chodorow-Reich, Coglianese & Karabarbouris, 2016). As D. de la Croix, M. Doepke and J. Mokry rightly argued, medieval European institutions such as guilds, and specific features such as journeymanship, can explain the rise of Europe relative to regions that relied on the transmission of knowledge within closed kinship systems (extended families or clans) (de la Croix, Doepke & Mokry, 2018). At the same time, S. R. Baker, N. Bloom and S. J. Davis developed a new index of economic policy uncertainty (EPU) based on newspaper coverage frequency. They established that several types of evidence - including human readings of 12,000 newspaper articles - indicate our index provides for movements relative to potential output in the US economy (Baker, Bloom & Davis, 2016). At the same time, the peculiarities of the structural institutions that produce economic policy interaction with the economic expert community require further research.

3. The purpose of the article is to establish the peculiarities of the expert structures and system of economic policy formation interconnections in the states with transition economy.

4. Results

The interaction of economic experts and centers of state economic policy-making (governments in transitive states) relates to several models, based on national experience in economic policy developing. The current strategic economic decision making determines the level of involvement of economic experts in the formation of economic policies. These processes are determined by the situation in each individual transitive country. However, modern sources (first of all, the works of the international expert network «Sustainable Governance Indicators» (SGI)) allow establishing a degree of cooperation between governments of transitive states and external economic experts. The functional model of interaction is the model that is being implemented in the modern Czech Republic. According to an international team of experts data, «in the Czech Republic, there are several permanent or temporary advisory bodies and a number of public research institutions that are closely linked to certain ministries and the Government Office and partly depend on state funding. Within the cabinet, there is a unit consisting of consultants and advisers to the prime minister, whose task is to evaluate the substantive content of legislative materials and to prepare a strategic agenda for the government. Under Prime Minister Sobotka, the number of official advisers has more than doubled and prominent academic and think tank economists were added to them. In particular cases, the government tends to follow external expert recommendations» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

Considering the success and stability of expert-government mental relations and economic governance mechanisms, the current expertise of SGI assess the high level of cooperation with academic experts in developing economic policy as a sign of the profound transformations of the whole system of economic governance during the democratic transition. They, in particular, put forward objective criteria for the development of the government-expert cooperation process. «How influential are non-governmental academic experts for governmental decisionmaking?» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).
The levels of cooperation between government officials and external experts determine the level of effectiveness of economic policy. This parameter is estimated by objective indicators that reflect the quality and number of interactions between governments and the expert community. According to international researchers, the Czech model is characterized by the following: «in almost all cases, the Czech government transparently consults with a panel of non-governmental academic experts at an early stage of government decision-making» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

The presence of sporadic contacts between governments and external experts in developing economic policies is only an initial stage in the transformation of the economic regulation system in transitive countries. It shows a departure from the authoritarian (closed) model of economic decision-making, but also indicates that cooperation with experts has not gained stable forms. According to SGI researchers, «in most European countries, the government recently consults with a panel of non-governmental academic experts at an early stage of government decision-making» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

The experience of contemporary Slovakia shows that the development of economic policy requires attention within the framework of implementation of normative acts and specific reforms. The proactive role of external experts in this model is not foreseen. At the same time, it is possible to attract affiliated economic experts close to the current ruling team. Within Slovakia Executive Capacity evaluation, affirmed that «Slovak governments rely on various permanent or temporary advisory committees. The current government has 15 such bodies. Prime ministers have their own advisory body. Prime Minister Fico’s advisers largely come from his circle of associates and include only a few truly independent experts. There are several public research institutions with close linkages to ministries that are largely dependent on state funding and provide their analysis to the government. However, the impact of any of these bodies on decision-making is not really transparent. Prime Minister Fico does not publicly include non-governmental academic experts outside of his circle in government decision-making processes» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

In contemporary Romania, the model of external expert environment is. This, for example, is evidenced by the experience of contemporary Slovenia: «In Slovenia, the Government Office and the ministries have various advisory bodies that include academic experts. Prime Minister Miro Cerar, an academic himself, strongly relied on academic and practitioners’ advice when establishing his party’s platform. While the government is within the framework of liberal market reforms, the current government has regularly sought external advice, it acquires forms of high institutionalization and involves a significant level of formalization of actors in policy-making and their contribution. In the context of Romania Executive Capacity, «cooperation between the Romanian government and non-governmental academic experts traditionally has been only weakly institutionalized. Under the Cioloș government, some progress has been made. Since November 2015, the newly created Ministry of Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue has had the responsibility of facilitating communication between government and non-governmental experts and the greater society for major political projects» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

At the same time, the attraction of civic experts in Romania to economic policy-making processes is tightly linked to the political situation. With the change of government, the approaches to the use of external advisory assistance are often changing. As international analysts say, under the PSD governments, however, the relationship between the government on the one hand and civil society and many academic experts on the other have been strained: «Minister of Education Liviu Pop, for example, has ignored criticisms of his decisions to weaken key oversight bodies and grant agencies (CNATCDU and UEFIDCI) by appointing professors close to the PSD but lacking solid research and innovation records. Since mid-2016, foreign academics have been excluded from these bodies and they are no longer consulted before policy is submitted by government to parliament» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).
an important indicator of the success of economic reforms and a strategic course on democracy. The decisive significance has self-sufficiency of the intellectual function of economic changes during the period of democratic transit. As the example of modern Latvia shows, «the decision-making system is transparent and open to public participation from the point at which policy documents are circulated between ministries in preparation for review by the cabinet. At this stage, experts and NGOs have the opportunity to provide input on their own terms» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

An important factor in the new approaches implementation to the development of economic policies in transit countries is special commissions and institutes established, which carry out cooperation between state and non-state experts. An example of such cooperation is the practice of which carry out cooperation between state and non-state experts. It is stated on the principles of mutual interest and business relations. In contemporary Estonia, «The extent and impact of academic consultation is framed by the overall pattern of government decision-making. Limited strategic capacity in the center and a tendency to pass policy-formulation initiatives to the line ministries makes the overall picture fragmented and uneven. Final reports of the research projects are made publicly available on the websites of the governmental institutions that requested the study. However, 25% of these studies are not made public, and the remaining ones are often found due to the lack of active legislation maintained by the ministries and agencies. The quality of the terms of reference, and as a result the quality of the commissioned studies themselves also varies largely. Even more importantly, the majority of the studies (63%) were commissioned simply to obtain overviews of problems. The use of studies for policy decision-making purposes was clearly proven in the case of 46% of those reviewed» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

Cooperation between governments and non-governmental experts in developing economic policies in certain transitional countries is developing against the backdrop of attempts by ruling political forces to finally subordinate the activities of non-governmental organizations on the basis of conceptual framework of economic policy. According to the Polish sources, «the debate began and ended with a short speech by the PiS President Jarosław Kaczyński. The discussion was divided into issues: general diagnosis of the economic situation, PiS proposals on the tax system as well as solutions regarding the labour market and pro-family policy» (Polskatimes, 2019). At the same time, such meetings are not overlooked by representatives of the highest power establishment. In particular, in Poland, the top political management of the country seeks to demonstrate energetic web architecture maintained by the ministries and agencies. The quality of the terms of reference, and as a result the quality of the commissioned studies themselves also varies largely. Even more importantly, the majority of the studies (63%) were commissioned simply to obtain overviews of problems. The use of studies for policy decision-making purposes was clearly proven in the case of 46% of those reviewed» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

An important factor in the new approaches implementation to the development of economic policies in transit countries is special commissions and institutes establishing, which carry out cooperation between state and non-state experts. In such conditions, the central role of economic policy is the participation of foreign economic experts. As European media point out, «no later than usual quite attentive to the recommendations of the European Commission and other international expert institutions. They are also receptive to involving non-governmental experts in the early stages of government policymaking. The governments led by Andrius Kubilius and Algirdas Butkevičius set up some expert advisory groups (including the so-called Sunset Commission, which involves several independent experts» (Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2018).

One of the leading forms of government-expert cooperation in developing economic policy in transit countries is the holding of conferences, discussions and other public events to consider topical issues of innovations in economic policy. For example, in contemporary Poland «the topic of the European Union has been discussed in various contexts, including railway infrastructure, investment, raising funds, financing and accounting for tasks, current perspectives, past years and the future of the community. The debate is referred to both the global, European, nationwide and local dimensions. The subject of the 15th anniversary in the EU has been raised from the point of view of experts, economists, politicians and residents» (Ciechanów CC, 2019). An important aspect of advancing expert opinion to the environment for the government economic decision-making is the public articulation of necessary changes by experts by their own initiative. In particular, under the conditions of weak cooperation of the current government of contemporary Poland with non-governmental economic experts, the latter form a special informational background, which reflects the most important economic problems of a transformative society: «In order to implement socio-economic reforms and to improve the quality of life of residents, proper taxation is needed, including reducing the so-called tax wedge, as well as clear and legible legislation. Poles were proposed, among others, smaller ZUS, lower PIT, VAT matrix or business constitution» (Polskie Radio 24, 2019).

Institutionalization of public economic debates takes place under the conditions in which academic institutions occupy the leading place, oftentimes providing a place for discussion. As Polish media states, «In a three-and-a-half hour debate, 25 experts took part in the Polish Academy of Sciences headquarters. Invitations were sent to more than 40 economists» (Polskatimes, 2019). At the same time, such meetings are not overlooked by representatives of the highest power establishment. In particular, in Poland, the top political management of the country seeks to demonstrate energetic framework of economic policy. According to the Polish sources, «the debate began and ended with a short speech by the PiS President Jarosław Kaczyński. The discussion was divided into issues: general diagnosis of the economic situation, PiS proposals on the tax system as well as solutions regarding the labour market and pro-family policy» (Polskatimes, 2019).
November, all nongovernmental organizations are to be centrally funded. Currently, funding comes from ministries and local administrations. A new funding body, the National Freedom Institute - Civil Society Development Center, will be attached to the prime minister's office. Prime Minister Beata Szydło (pictured above) is a loyal member of the ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS) (Deutsche Welle, 2019).

Formalization of cooperation between governments and economic experts in certain cases becomes permanent, on the basis of the formation of institutions representing interested parties at the national level. According to the experience of contemporary Hungary, the Creation of the National Economic and Social Council makes it possible to participate directly in the development of economic policy and articulates the positions of the parties with a special attitude towards the development of the national economy. As Hungarian authorities state, «the NESC is a consultative, proposing and advisory body independent from Parliament and the Government. The NESC has 32 members, representing the Hungarian civil society, creating the following sides: 1. Side of Representatives of Economy: advocacy groups and organizations of employers, national business chambers. 2. Side of Employees: advocacy groups and organizations of employees. 3. Side of NGOs: NGOs active in the field of national policy. 4. Side of Representatives of Sciences: Hungarian representatives of academies. 5. Side of Churches» (NGTT, 2019).

Thus, the representation of the independent economic experts opinion in the processes of developing economic policy at the national level has different forms, dynamics and effectiveness. The given data show that liberalization and economic growth during socio-political transformations are determined by the most complete consideration of existing economic alternatives and expert positions in the development of government economic policy. At the present stage, despite considerable progress in modernizing the economy and European integration, some transit states of Central and Eastern Europe show a step back from the principles of openness and broad discussion of economic strategies. This indicates the domination of political considerations over economic in the processes of economic policy-making. The products of the external economic experts are to be centrally funded. Currently, funding comes from ministries and local administrations. Exactly such products serve as a criterion for the third sector and to involve it in governance processes at the national level. According to the Non-Governmental Organizations, 2019, the main partner of cooperation for non-profit sector entities were public institutions: 80.4% of organizations declared their cooperation with the government, local government or subordinate units (Statistics Poland, 2018).

The results of the expert analytical structures activity in the transitive states of Central and Eastern Europe are a comprehensive analysis of the economic situation on the basis of scientific approaches. The profile of expert economic structures is formed on the basis of the declaration of their professional approach to the study of economic phenomena (EBRD, 2019).

The main task of experts who are not part of the institutes of transitive countries' state economic management, is to provide extraordinary approaches to solving the tasks of transitive economic policy. The products of the external experts activity are economic ideas, which enable to implement plans for economic growth, the introduction of European business practices, and the self-regulation of economic processes (Markusen & Trofimenko, 2009). In this case, the information approach to solving such tasks is important. Among them the most important are the universality of the recommendation, the possibility of integrating the analysis into all known facts of economic development of each particular country, the ability of academic and public experts to be within the mainstream trends of economic development. This ability is provided by the experience of their participation in specific business projects, which allow realizing profit growth, increase of business competitive advantages, providing useful consultations for management and marketing departments. Exactly such products serve as a criterion for advancing economic experts to work with governments in developing economic governance strategies (Markusen & Trofimenko, 2009). The possibility of correction of economic policy based on the products of the activity of economic experts arises if dynamic planning and coordination of the actions of the authorities are carried out in situations of uncertainty or requires attention to the risks accompanying the decision-making. In such circumstances, specific anti-crisis strategies, developmental projects that can reduce the degree of uncertainty, and strengthen the validity of economic policies by governments and institutions are important. At the same time, cooperation with public governance institutions in transitive states encounters significant obstacles. Their overcoming involves the dissemination of information, the provision of advisory assistance, networking partnerships of public actors. As Polish sources state, most often, in partner relations with public institutions, the examined

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Tab. 1: Specifics of interaction of external economic experts with governments of Central and Eastern Europe transitive countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Interaction Model</th>
<th>Consequences for Economic Policy</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Tight, continuous</td>
<td>Transparency increasing, growth of scientific validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Limited, dependent</td>
<td>Non-transparent, controlled by the ruling party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Flaccid, open to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Normative</td>
<td>Related to legal procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Selective, Affiliated</td>
<td>Fixing of Sporadic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Tight, continuous</td>
<td>Increasing of transparency, scientific validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Formalized</td>
<td>Related to legal procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Selective, Affiliated</td>
<td>Opaque, controlled by the ruling party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Scientific, academic</td>
<td>Increase of transparency, scientific validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Transparent, public</td>
<td>Increase of transparency, scientific validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Institutionalized</td>
<td>Increased transparency, scientific validity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by the authors based on Sustainable Governance Indicators by the International Research Agency, available at [http://www.sgi-network.org](http://www.sgi-network.org)
organizations were disturbed by bad, unclear regulations and legal procedures, about which 13.4% of cooperating units complained. The percentage of entities accusing them of the lack of partner relations and the instrumental treatment by the public partner was slightly smaller (11.1%). The lack of knowledge on the part of the partner about cooperation was less common (6.9%). This problem in turn dominated in relations with enterprises - it was indicated by 11.7% of cooperating organizations, and the lack of partner relations, instrumental treatment in cooperation with partners from the commercial sector were burdensome for 5.9%. Within the framework of intra-sector cooperation, the lack of knowledge on the part of the partner about cooperation mentioned 7% of cooperating organizations and the conflict of interest, indicated by 6.7% of organizations, were most visible (Statistics Poland, 2018).

The problem of expert economic structures financing is quite acute for the economies of the EU member states and partner countries. Due to the lack of interest of economic entities in financing research and expertise, some non-governmental expert centers are actively using foreign support. In addition, international experts are actively disseminating their network in transition countries. On the example of the modern Czech Republic it can be seen, that the mechanisms of strategic macroeconomic assistance can contribute to the establishment of government-expert cooperation. According to EEA Financial Mechanism newsletters, the overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States. The total amount of the financial contribution is EUR 1548.1 million in annual tranches of EUR 221.16 million over the period running from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2021 (EEA and Norway Grants, 2019).

Foreign financing of non-governmental economic expert and advisory organizations in transitive states creates, on the one hand, the special environment and professional discourse on economic problems. On the other hand, focusing on global centers of global economic policy-making allows experts to consider innovative approaches to managing market economy, enable technological change to be promoted from the global to national level (Tassey, 2017). The economic expert structures financing by international organizations takes place on the basis of competitive procedures, which increases the validity of the recommendations (Mervar & Nestia, 2000). Comparison of efficiency of government economic policy and the participation of experts with regard to the purpose of the project, the source of its financing and the expected results are presented in Table 2.

The experience of modern transitive states of Central and Eastern Europe in the sphere of government-expert cooperation enables to build the optimal stages of economic policy development (Figure 1).

Thus, the main recommendations for the contemporary transition countries governments in the context of cooperation with external experts should be:

- the development of an institutional model, inherent both for the expert environment, and for officials directly responsible for the development of economic policy;
- the measure of current interest is the rating of credibility or the ability of expert centers to relate the validity of their information and recommendations;
- the significant importance has the dialogue or multilateral contacts establishing with the expert community for the exchange of opinions and proposals;
- it has to be find contacts with organizations that represent significant actors or reputable international organizations to provide strategic cooperation.

5. Conclusions

The interactions of public experts and government officials who are responsible for the development and implementation of economic policy, forms perspective opportunities that enable, first of all, the economic situation unbiased analysis, secondly, putting forward creative and non-standard ideas, and, thirdly, developing economic policies in accordance with the latest achievements of economic science.

Challenges in this is include increasing the diversity of economic actors, multi-vectoring concepts, different levels of training and expert experience. In this regard, it is difficult for government officials to select the group’s priority experts or to follow certain conceptual or methodological approaches when developing their economic policies.

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**Fig. 1: Stages of economic policy development with expert participation**

Source: Compiled by the authors based on materials by the Government of the Republic of Croatia (2019)

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**Tab. 2: Efficiency of government economic policy and the participation of experts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Objective of economic policy</th>
<th>Form of participation of experts</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>System of economic reforms</td>
<td>Provide ongoing consultations with state agencies</td>
<td>Ensuring economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Improvement of economic development mechanisms</td>
<td>Execution by EU-funded grant projects</td>
<td>Experts ensuring institutional capacity of the state within the framework of Eurointegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>System of economic reforms</td>
<td>Promoting economic reforms to the political agenda</td>
<td>Transition from economic stabilization to economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Improvement of economic development mechanisms</td>
<td>Adjustment of conditions for entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Stabilization of economic growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Performance criteria are also a cause for concern, since the economic policy is formally contained in certain normative regulations (see Hirschman & Berman, 2015). Its results often differ from those declared in the market economy conditions. The planned indicators achievement in the market economy is a fairly relative phenomenon, so the results may be technological changes, infrastructure improvements and other aspects that do not have gross indicators or index changes. In this context, the careful consideration of the elaboration of expert proposals is an important factor in the legitimization of economic policy.

International expert structures and national realities are a special factor in public-civil partnership in economic policy-making. The interaction of national government structures and international expert institutions adds new dynamics to the processes of economic policy development. Most countries of the contemporary world somehow interact with international expert structures and provide recommendations. In this aspect, elements of leadership, efforts' concentration aspects and professional knowledge for the chosen purpose are important.

References


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