

ICT in the Czech Republic (in 2006) - Some (Critical) Comments

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Paradoxes

The Czech Republic has seen during the year 2006:

- relatively **successful economics**
(growth, foreign trade, strong currency, ...)
- “unhappy” after-election “deadlock” ...



Paradoxes ...

Unfortunately even more striking in the area of
the ICT ...



ICT Paradoxes

1. The *Ministry of Informatics*
(rather of “state” Information Systems’ ...)
 - Has/d not *any spectacular results*,
 - and its *aims* were from the very beginning more or less very *unclear/questioned*, etc.,
 - the new government proposed its **cancellation**
...



ICT Paradoxes

2. The *active* role of the Czech government in the field of the CT can be reduced to the *privatization* of the *Czech Telecom* ...



ICT Paradoxes

3. No political (-ly influential) personality on the Czech scene

- (*Czech president's* position towards research - in general -, ICT, etc. are well-know ...,
- *ministers* are “pure politicians”,
- very similar situation is in the *Senate* and
- *Parliament*)



ICT Paradoxes

“defends”

the

spiritual/educational/research/technological

progress/etc.

values ...



ICT Paradoxes ...

Nevertheless:

□ *The top most estimated professions are*

1. Physician
2. *Professor*
3. *Researcher*

(! Does not mean: **well paid** ! ...)

(... the last: **Politician**)



ICT Paradoxes ...

- The **ICT** continues to – successfully - *penetrate* the Czech society ...



Paradoxes II

□ Education

- **missing teachers** - mainly men ...
 - leaving the sector (in general) for **better salaries in private sector ...**
 - “ICT oriented” naturally much more easily ...
- *unfinished (& unfinished ...)*
education reform(s)



Paradoxes II

□ Research

■ *Governmental Research Council*

was “shifted” to the Ministry (of Education)

□ which has (historically) a very **bad** ‘reputation’ regarding the research ...

- constantly changing “staff”,
- “rules”
- strategy, etc



Paradoxes II

□ ICT

■ None (or no clear ...)

- *State*
- *Governmental*
- Ministerial

“vision” of the *ICT strategic aims, plans, etc*



Paradoxes II

□ **Corruption**

- Czech Republic was ranked **very “high”** with respect to corruption ...



Paradoxes II

Nevertheless

- The “computerization” of the Czech society *rises*.

Czech republic has **good**

- *students*
- *researchers*
 - even in ICT



Paradoxes II

- Czech republic attracts *foreign investements*
 - even in ICT



(Possible) Explanation(s)

- The influence of the “politics” on this sector is *very low*
 - If there is one (*positive*), it is usually through “implementation” of EU politics

- **Human resources**
 - (*fortunately*) **not all** *bright women and men* moved to *private sector, banking, etc.*



ICT R & D

□ The *interested*

- persons / bodies

(*societies/organizations/establishments/institutions*)

miss

- a *serious partner* on the “state” side ...

- *policy makers*

to *discuss* and *quickly improve* the *actuale state* ...