

Career Patterns of Politicians, Advisors and Top Bureaucrats in Serbia – preliminary research findings

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Abstract: The relationship between executive politicians, advisors and top bureaucrats, so called “executive triangle”, shapes the policy making process in any country. All three groups are continuously involved in all stages of the policy process, although they differ in the scope of their concerns, the specialization of their knowledge and powers to shape the policy choices. The interaction and interplay between these groups may serve as an indicator to which extent the policy process is evidence based or based on political (and often populist) agendas.

The objective of the paper is to present preliminary findings of research of career patterns of persons within the executive triangle in Serbia, including: (1) executive politicians (president, prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers without portfolios, ministers and state secretaries), (2) chiefs of cabinets of politicians and ministerial advisors and (3) top-level bureaucrats of ministries (assistant ministers and general secretaries), who were in these positions on 1st of July 2024. The research will include historical career data of these three categories of staff in order to find out what is a social, economic and political profile of each of these groups and how they differ from one another. The paper shall also try to provide initial hints of the causes and consequences of patterns of top officials’ careers and their influence on the policy process in Serbia.

This research is carried out within the COREX pan European network of researchers studying the relationships of politicians, civil servants and ministerial advisers within Working Group 2 which analyses career patterns of the executive triangle.