Gorilla at the Corrupt Tour

Martin Ehl, Hospodářské noviny

English column: www.tol.cz
Czech blog: ehl.blog.ihned.cz
Twitter: @MartinCZV4EU
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- What do you understand as corruption?

- **Synonyms**: decay, baseness, meanness, depravity, degradation, infamy, sinfulness, criminality, guilt

- **Antonyms**: cleanness, purity, virtue, chastity, innocence, integrity, soudness, morality
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- What do you understand as corruption?
- Corruption as SYMBOL of all flaws postcommunism has
- Popular political and media TOPIC
- Part of a SYSTEM
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- When did you meet corruption last time?
  - Daily petty deals
  - Deals on important personal life issues like permit to new house
  - Deals on important business issues like getting new contract
  - Public procurement as source of giant systemic corruption
Corruption and postcommunism: Is there any special relation?

- Destruction of morality during communism
- No systemic faith in justice (systems)
- Modus operandi for survival in daily, business and political life
- Corruption has became a part of life
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- Corruption as part of political system

- Public procurement as source of illegal finance for individuals as well as parties and political cronies

- Majority of politicians feel that corruption is a natural part of their business – look back on how you understand corruption
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- Fight against corruption as part of political propaganda or programme
- In CZ, HU, SK, PL there are examples of new populist political parties gaining votes on the anticorruption programme
- Public Affairs in CZ example on how empty/populist such promises are
- Whole CZ gov is now
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- Which postcommunist countries has put their top politicians (prime ministers) on trial for corruption?

- Justice systems and police are usually weak, dependent on political class and in many cases corrupted.
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- Croatia
- Romania

- What happened in these two countries?
- Under immense pressure of EU they were forced to act
- Once you are EU member, your drive to reform (whatever) weakens dramatically
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- **Gorilla (SK)**
  - Secret service document on deals between business and politicians, after it emerged on web, protests in the streets

- **The Corrupt Tour (CZ)**
  - Travel agency organising tours on places, houses, companies tied with famous corruption cases

- **Symptoms of disease in Slovakia and The Czech Republic**
  - Both cases are examples of internal pressure, which is not considered by political elites as significant
Gorilla (SK)

- scandal about things which many people suspect
- Slovakia has some institutional tools: special court and law about all public sphere purchases being published on web

The Corrupt Tour (CZ)

- Czech irony of important problem
- Many suspected cases published: important role of media, but police and state prosecution still under political influence
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The common SK+ CZ denominator:

People hear and read about more and more cases in media, but there are no real big fish prosecuted → anger of public, higher perception of corruption in society → public pressure on politicians → growing popularity of populists offering quick and easy solutions, hard to find systemic, longterm solutions
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- Perception of corruption in V4 countries (Index of Transparency International)
  - PL up
  - All others down
    - CZ: 41. → 57.
    - SK: 49. → 66.
    - HU: 39. → 54.

Effect of crisis? More interest of public (media) in where all the money from public budgets goes plus more open media and public discussions?
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- What is missing?
- In case of corruption political system, there is lack of FEAR among politicians to be punished for wrongdoings
- Weak POLICE and not independent JUDICIARY: recent struggle over director of public prosecutions in CZ as example

Symbols:
- politician (without fear) caught with money and (too) independent prosecutor
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- What might be solution?
- In case of corruption political system, to change the way how political parties are financed (positive Polish example)
- Radical overhaul of police and judiciary
- Public support NOT for the populists
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- What might be solution II.?
- More active and independent media (which is hard in crisis)
- Morality (values) as category in politics and everyday life – only now we recognise how deep destruction of values during socialism and numerous occupations went + other global factors like material society
What is recent politics in the V4 about?

Corruption in the broader sense as main destructive element. At stake there is future nature of state, judiciary, sense of justice among citizens - young ones not influenced by socialism directly, but accepting old flaws as reality
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Thank you!

martin.ehl@economia.cz