

Abstract

The diploma thesis “Anti-corruption activism of the commercial sector from the point of view of political opportunity structure theory” was devoted to the structure of political opportunities in 1998 to 2012 in relation to manifestations of corruption in the Czech Republic and the role of the commercial sector in terms of anti-corruption involvement. This thesis aimed to find out what is the structure of the opportunities, that participants of the commercial sector can be use in order to influence anti-corruption public politics.

Two periods were found from the period of time which the thesis focuses on, during which more fundamental manifestations of the commercial sector occurred. The first period was linked to accession of the Czech Republic to the EU, when presentation of the commercial sector most frequently took place via special-interest associations and tools of Commercial ethics and the concept of CSR supported by activities of the European Union. Years of accession talks showed themselves to be an opportunity, above all for international companies operating in the Czech Republic with a dominance of use of political and institutional opportunities. The second period, and from the point of view of individual outputs more significant in terms of value, was the phase between 2010 and 2012, when the commercial sphere took action against corruption practices in the period from the elections to the Chamber of Deputies in 2010 and subsequently during discussion of the new form of the Public Procurement Act until February 2012. The greater openness of the political system and greater ability of companies to find allies for their activities had a significant impact on growth in anti-corruption involvement by the commercial sector. The second high point was an opportunity for a greater number of companies, including the Czech commercial sphere represented also by companies of a medium and smaller size. Media and institutional opportunities were most used. This period still cannot be indicated as closed at the time this diploma thesis was elaborated.

Monitoring of openness of political system for entrance of commercial sector into creation of a political process generally showed increasing number of possibilities how companies can take action. Also number of activities leading to involvement of commercial sector participants into a political process and increasing volume of common processes increased. Anti-corruption suggestion of the commercial sector for example by amendment of the Law on public procurement increased too.