

Formation of regional level of self-government in the process of transformation in Slovakia

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In Slovakia the reform of local government put into practise immediately after the revolution and since 1990 in every town and village citizens could freely elected municipal authorities. The local Government has undergone a difficult period, during the privatization process to clarify ownership of towns and villages; the State has looking for the optimal forms of financing, local authorities have gain knowledge to manage development. The regional self-government has emerged under pressure from the European Union substantially later, up to 1. January 2002. EU supports regionalization as well as provides funds for the development of the regions. During the preparation of the legislation were discussed about the size and number of regions. Representative of the Government has proposed a 12 or even 16 regions, the National Council of the Slovak Republic, however, after tumultuous negotiations finally approved the 8 self-government regions. There were created co called higher territorial units (VÚC) with their residence on the territory of which lives around 800 000 citizens; they were elected chairmen and members of the regional parliaments. Gradually realised redistribution of competencies between the State, the regional authorities and the local government, it was developed methods of financing of the regions by state. Responsibilities have been distributed between the Central, regional and local administration across all spheres of social life, for example education, health, communication, etc. The existence of the 8 counties, however, didn't prove useful, so evidenced by the lack of interest of citizens, the small turnout of voters in elections to the regional government, as well as the fact that the differences between the most developed and least developed regions of Slovakia did not get diminished. Part of the authors justify the lack of interest of citizens that the VÚC did not emerged on the territory of the natural regions and therefore they proposed to increase the number of the VÚC to 12 or even 16 subjects. The second part of the theorists argues that there is a lot districts and we should go back to the model of 3 districts. There are only traditional regions In Slovakia which emerged in 18. - 19. Century, but the modern regions are missed, as industrialization took place during the socialism. The structure of the economy which emerged could not be held to follow up after the revolution. The old structure of the economy has fallen apart and began to shape the new not only in industry but also in agriculture.

Therefore, the starting point would be to reduce the number of regional authorities and review their competence in connection with the local government. The model of transversal division of competences has not proved. Another problem lies in the fact that the number of local authorities has not changed, unable to connect the villages to the larger units, in order to more effectively use their options, as we see in the Nordic countries.