

Flavia Jurje
PhD Candidate, 2nd year
Political Science Department
Central European University

Title of the paper: The Romanian Decision Making Process: an Inquiry

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to explore the decision making process in Romania, looking primarily at the institutions and national actors' relations in the policy making process. While there is an extensive body of literature on the importance of different phases of the decision making process in Western countries, in Romania there is only scarce research on this topic and drawing mostly on legal approaches. In addition, the existing studies point towards a poor policy making process or as Ionita (2004) puts it "governing by default". Therefore, the purpose of this research is to analyze in-depth the public policy making process in Romania. More specifically, it will identify the formal and informal stages of a policy process and investigate the administrative-legislative relationships in the legislative process. The paper will answer certain questions such as what are the most important phases of a policy process (e.g. the administrative/pre-Parliamentary stage or the Parliamentary stages), what are the formal and informal access points of social partners in a policy process, and how does various executive agencies interfere in decision making. Data collection was done based on semi-structured, face-to-face interviews with Romanian policy-makers and members of the civil society. Findings point to the fact that on one hand, the pre-Parliamentary phases are the most important decisional arenas, and on the other, that executive bodies are reinforced at the expense of legislative policy making units. In nowadays politics, these trends are likely to be present also in other western and eastern democracies.