



# Management of Health Care Reforms

**Case Study**

**Roundtable  
for the Future Path of Financing Healthcare  
in the Czech Republic**

**Ing. Ondřej Mátl**  
**[ondrej.matl@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:ondrej.matl@europarl.europa.eu)**

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# Introduction

## Headaches of Health Care Reforms

- Reforms are often undertaken in the environment of **instant partisan cleavages** and political noncooperation
- Reforms usually have **low support of general public**
- Characteristic for the discussions is **low endorsement of knowledge** and evidence based arguments



**Movers vs. Objectors of Health Care Policy Reforms**



# Health Care Roundtable Project (RT)

## Case Study from the Czech Republic

- Set in the Czech **environment of constant political changes** in the Ministry of Health
- Inspired by the Committee for the Preparation of Pension Reform operating in 2005 under Social Democratic Governments
- Initiated as an independent platform by the Czech coalition government with the aim to
  - Promote the creation of cultivated, pragmatic and broadly understandable **discussion** oriented to identifying **long-term problems of our healthcare**
  - Build a background for creation of **solution alternatives** for these problems
  - Help the process of defining of the **consensus** concerning future development of our healthcare system in order to create a long-term and broadly supported scenario.

Petr Lom (01/1993; ODS)  
Luděk Rubáš (06/1993; ODS)  
Jan Stráský (10/1995; ODS)  
Zuzana Roithová (01/1998; KDU-ČSL)  
Ivan David (07/1998; ČSSD)  
Vladimír Špidla (12/1999; ČSSD)  
Bohumil Fišer (02/2000; ČSSD)  
Marie Součková (07/2002; ČSSD)  
Jozef Kubinyi (04/2004; ČSSD)  
Milada Emmerová (04/2004; ČSSD)  
Zdeněk Škromach (10/2005; ČSSD)  
David Rath (11/2005; ČSSD)  
Tomáš Julínek (09/2006; ODS)  
Daniela Filipiová (01/2009; ODS)  
Dana Jurásková ? (05/2009; IND)

**Czech Ministers of Health**



## GOAL 1: Cross-party Cooperation

### Achievement of Dialogue on Expert Level

- Formal and informal invitation to all political parties represented in the Parliament Chamber of Deputies (ODS, KDU-ČSL, Strana Zelených, ČSSD and KSČM)
- Participation of 3 coalition parties and communist party (partially stepped down). Zero tolerance policy by social democrats.
- **Political parties experts**
  - 7 medical doctors and 1 economist
  - MEP, Regional governor, GP, pharmacist, hospital managers, academician, advisor
  - During 17 expert meetings discussed and suggested problems to be solved, presented possible solutions and provided feedback to various reports
- **Parliament parties health care leaders**
  - 2 ministers, deputy minister, 4 MP, 1 former MP
  - During 4 meetings gave their opinion to the outcomes and took part in discussions





## GOAL 2: Involvement of Public Reasonable Interest of Health Care Stakeholders

- **Stakeholders (Health Community)**
  - Systematic cooperation with more than 400 institutions and 600 individuals representing interests of patients, professionals, service providers, insurers, local and regional government, etc.
  - Organization of conferences and seminars, invitation of foreign experts
  - Individual meetings and direct mailing
  - Regular information by Newsletter
  
- **General Public**
  - Communication through media and internet - more than 38,000 visitors on project web pages
  - Internet discussion forums and public opinion polls
  - **174 responses during 20 months**



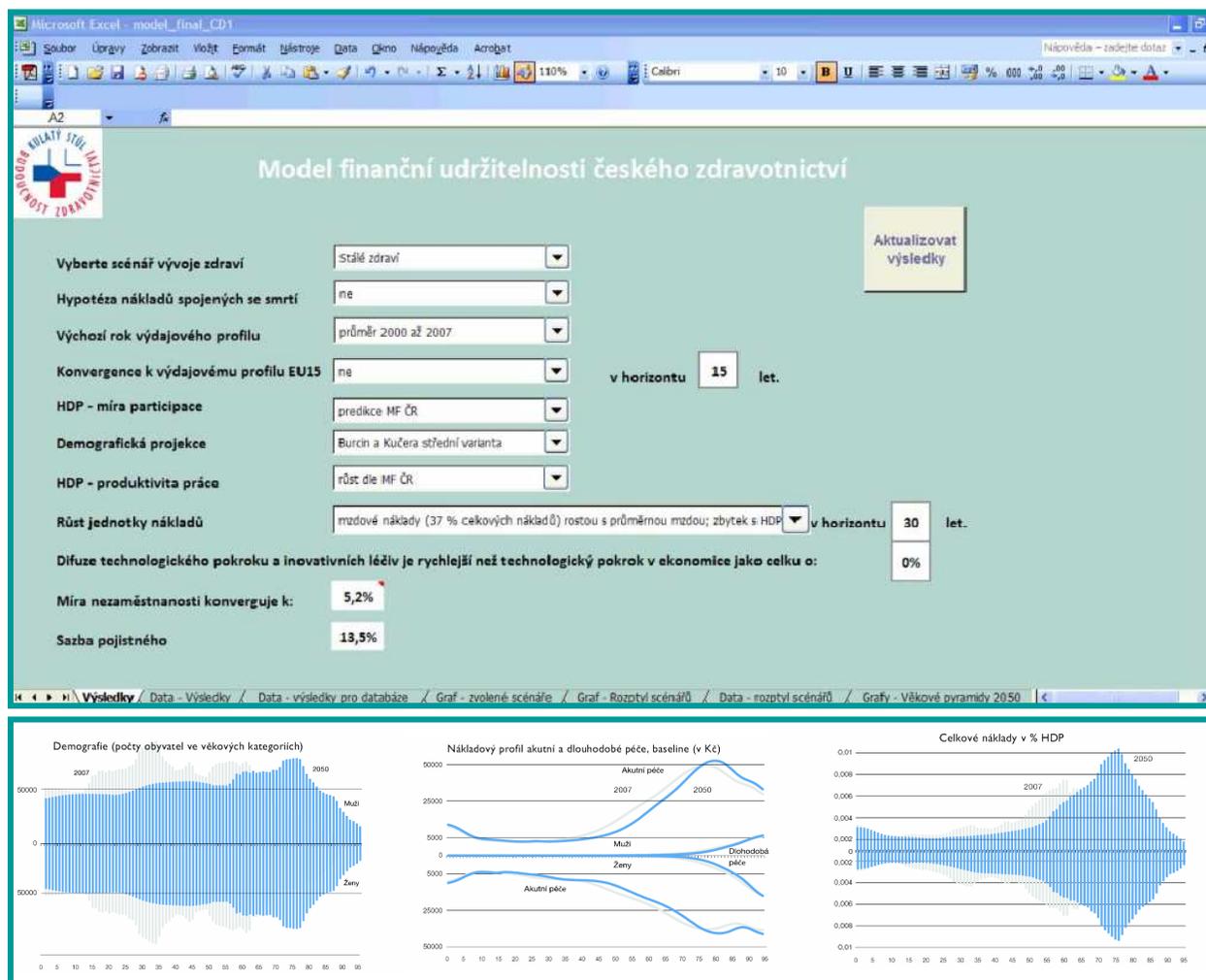
Forum	Téma	Príspevků	Poslední	
k Přehledu koncepčních materiálů	Diskuze k dokumentu Přehled koncepčních materiálů a jeho příspěvkům	7	9	napsal MCH před 1 rok 22 týdny
k Faktům o českém zdravotnictví	Diskuze k dokumentu Fakta o českém zdravotnictví	52	52	napsal MCH před 1 rok 13 týdny
o anketách	Diskuze o anketách	2	7	napsal Hediš před 36 týdnů 14 hod
o zdravotnictví	Diskuze o zdravotnictví pro veřejnost	2	65	napsal Ned Malone před 28 týdnů 4 dny
České zdravotnictví jako časovaná bomba	Diskuze k článku České zdravotnictví jako časovaná bomba	1	16	napsal Kábo před 1 rok 34 týdny
k Zprávě o stavu, vývoji a výhledu zdravotnictví v ČR	Diskuze ke Zprávě o stavu, vývoji a výhledu zdravotnictví v ČR	4	5	napsal MCH před 31 týden 1 den



# GOAL 3: Endorsement of Knowledge and Data

## 4 Comprehensive Analytical Reports

- Creation of **database** of health care indicators
- Development of **interactive model** enabling health care finance projections
- **4 analytical reports**
  - Report on Situation, Development and Outlook of Health Care in the Czech Republic
  - Health Care in 2050
  - Health Care beyond Borders
  - Report on Possible Changes of Health Care in the Czech Republic





# Other Case Studies

## Examples of Health Care Policy Discussions

Consultation of the European Commission's DG SANCO (2006)  
Community action on health services (Cross Border Health Care)  
Published paper with questionnaire

**276 responses** over the course of more than **4 months**

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview)

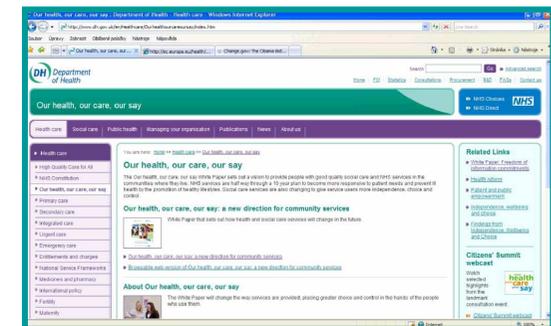


Open Government of the USA President-Elect Obama (2008)  
What worries you most about the healthcare system in our country?

Interactive webpage with video

**3,701 comments** in **2 weeks**

<http://change.gov/page/content/discusshealthcare>



Public Consultation of the UK Department of Health (2005)  
White Paper Your Health, Your Care, Your Say initiative (YHYCYS)  
Deliberative events, questionnaires, magazine advertising,  
phonebus survey,...

**41,000 responses** over the course of the **3 months**

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/>





# Conclusion

## Lessons Learned

### Cross-party Discussions

- There is a low level of debate within and between political parties on health care issues - **facilitation is needed** to involve politicians and overcome personal aversions
- Initiation and assignment of RT project including selection of coordinator by government limited confidence in the independence of RT – **cross-party agreement is needed since the beginning**
- It is difficult to debate long-term solutions in the environment of ongoing reforms – rules to eliminate spillovers of the debate are needed
- **Social networks work** – regular closed door meetings between party experts allow constructive dialogue between political parties

### Involvement of Public

- Issue of representativeness of stakeholders - **health care community needs time** for reaction
- Budgetary considerations need to be taken in account when aiming at general public – **internet can't be the only source**
- Close cooperation with media is needed – negative news are the key

### Endorsement of Data and Knowledge

- There is a limited access to data sources and marginal utilization of existing data (opinions are often based on feelings rather than evidence) - **open access to databases is needed**
- Factual discussions need **credible agenda setter** – Discussions need to be centered around topical analytical documents