

Major Donors and the Development of Philanthropy

Petra Krystiánová, Senior Fellow, International Fellows Program ~ 2013

Abstract

Until World War II, Czech society relied upon a longstanding tradition of individual philanthropy. Wartime disruption and the Communist regime that followed dealt a heavy blow to the country's philanthropic environment, making it difficult to promote a culture of giving or develop civil society. Petra Krystiánová highlights the need for a revival of the Czech Republic's prewar philanthropic practices, emphasizing shifts in the legal environment that promote the growth of individual philanthropy. However, as Ms. Krystiánová posits, this process is hindered by a lack of available information regarding local non-governmental organizations and a perception that existing foundations are ineffective or untrustworthy. This paper draws parallels between the environment of philanthropy in the Czech Republic and the model provided by the United States in order to posit strategies for encouraging donor contributions. Examples of US philanthropic organizations offer a wealth of information regarding best practices and implementation that can aid in reinvigorating Czech individual philanthropy and increase donor support for local organizations. Ultimately, Ms. Krystiánová argues, all necessary indicators demonstrate the present as an excellent time to begin developing local philanthropy.

For the full version of the paper, please click [here](#).

