

EuPI Fact Sheet, July 2009

### **Cabinets in New EU Member States: Duration, lifespan and the date of accession as a turning point<sup>i</sup>**

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#### **Part I: Minority governments in CEE New EU members**

Overall assessment – from the early transition (or independent statehood) to 2009

- There were 41 minority governments since the start of transition in the region;
- The minority governments constituted 38% of all governments – or 41 out of 109 in total;
- 411 days is the average duration of a minority government in CEE;
- The minority governments in CEE stayed for 45% of their expected terms in office;
- 12 out of 41 minority governments were single party governments and the rest were minority coalition governments.
- This means that less than one third (29%) of the minority governments were single party minority governments;
- 387 days was the average duration of a single minority government in CEE new members;
- The single minority governments stayed for 38% of their expected term in office;
- The reasons for the end of single party minority governments are:
  - legislative elections – 5 cases
  - change of party composition – 3 cases
  - no confidence vote – 2 cases
  - failure of investiture vote – 1 case
  - resignation of prime minister – 1 case
  - resignation of the cabinet – 1 case

After the EU accession 2004 and 2007

- 302 days is the average lifespan of a minority government after the date of EU accession (2004 and for Romania 2007);
- After the accession date, the minority governments in CEE have a lifespan of 40% of their expected terms in office;
- 18 of the 43 governments on power during and after accession were minority governments;
- of these minority governments 4 were single party and 14 were minority coalitions;

- the single party minority governments during and after the accession have a lifespan of 14% of the expected term in office and 52 average lifespan;

## Part II: The cabinets at the date of accession

<b>"Survival" of cabinets in office at the date of accession</b>					
<b>Country</b>	<i>Cabinet change after accession - in days</i>	<i>Lifespan in % (actual days vs expected stay on power)</i>	<i>Extraordinary reasons (regular elections vs political crisis)</i>	<i>Type of government</i>	<i>Name of cabinet/PM</i>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	934	98%	no	Surplus majority	Sergey Stanishev
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minimal coalition	Vladimir Spidla
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minimal coalition	Juhan Parts
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minimal coalition	Peter Megdyessy
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minority coalition	Indulis Emnis
<b>Lithuania</b>	177	100%	no	Minimal coalition	Algirdas Brazauskas
<b>Poland</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minority coalition	Leszek Miller
<b>Romania</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minority coalition	Calin Popescu-Tariceanu
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>yes</b>	Minority coalition	Mikulas Dzurinda
<b>Slovenia</b>	156	98%	no	Minority coalition	Anton Pop
<b>Average</b>	<b>247.4</b>	<b>61%</b>	<i>3 regular elections; 7 political crisis</i>	<i>1 surplus majority; 4 minimal coalitions; 5 minority coalitions</i>	
<b>"Cabinets in crisis"</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>31%</b>			

- In **seven out of ten countries** in CEE, the governments in office at the date of EU accession were **left office before the end of the term**. In three cases, they were changed at regular elections;
- The governments, which were in office at the date of accession had **an average lifespan of 61%** (actual vs. expected stay in office);
- The new member governments **"survived" at average 247 days after the date of accession**;
- The duration of **cabinets, which left office** for extraordinary reasons (political crisis) is at **average 120 days**;
- The average **lifespan of such cabinets** changed for extraordinary reasons (political crisis) is only **31% of the expected stay in office**;

### Part III: Cabinets during and after the date of accession by type

<b>Types of cabinets at the time and after the date of accession</b>					
	single party minority	minority coalition	minimal coalition	surplus coalition	single party majority
Total number of governments - 36	4	16	13	3	0
Lifespan (actual vs expected) in %	14%	52%	57%	65%	n.a.
Duration in days	63	662	840	232	n.a.

- **499 days is the average duration in office** of the governments at the date and after the date of accession;
- The governments at the date and after accession **served at average 49% of their terms** in office, measured as actual vs expected time in office.
- Of the 36 cabinets after accession the most common type were **minority coalitions** (16), followed by minimal coalition (13), single party minority governments (4) and surplus coalitions (3); there were no single party majority cabinets;
- The most "durable" were the **surplus coalitions**, which served 65% of their terms and 232 days of average duration;
- **Minimal coalitions** were the second most durable and served 57% of their terms with longer average duration of 840 days;
- **Minority coalitions** had 52% average lifespan and 662 days in office;
- **Single party minority cabinets** served 14% of their terms and were in office on average of 63 days;

### Part IV: Cabinets prior to accession

<b>Lifespan of cabinets in the pre-accession period</b>			
<i>Country and pre-accession period</i>	<i>No of cabinets</i>	<i>Average days in office</i>	<i>Average lifespan % (actual vs expected)</i>
<b>Bulgaria 1991-2005</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Czech Republic 1993 - 2004</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Estonia 1992 - 2003</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Hungary 1990 - 2002</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Latvia 1993 - 2002</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Lithuania 1993 - 2001</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>54%</b>

<b>Poland 1991 - 2001</b>			
	<b>8</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Romania 1992 - 2006</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Slovakia 1993 - 2002</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Slovenia 1993 - 2002</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Total average</b>		<b>646</b>	<b>57%</b>
		Average days in office	Average lifespan % (actual vs expected)

- **646 days is the average duration in office** of the governments prior to accession vs 499 days during and after accession date;
- The CEE governments prior accession **served at average 57% of their expected terms** in office, measured as actual vs expected time in office. In comparison the cabinets during and after the date of accession served 49% of their expected terms in office;
- In fact, longevity would be even greater if the fact that some PMs headed several different cabinets. The champion is Janoz Drnovsek in Slovenia with 5 out of 6 cabinets in the period and 96% of the actual time served by Slovenian cabinets. He is by Meciar in Slovakia with 4 out of 6 cabinets in the period and 42% of the actual time served by Slovak cabinets in the period in focus.

#### **Notes:**

There were 109 surveyed governments since the start of transition. The new cabinets still in office are not taken into account as they are yet to finish their terms. Only regularly appointed governments were included in the calculations (no caretaker governments and intermediary periods).

A single party minority government is a minority government composed of only one party.

A minority coalition is a minority government composed of a coalition of parties.

The post-accession assessment includes governments that have been in office during and after the accession date (in 2004 and 2007 respectively)

Investiture vote is a vote - survey in parliament before the PM is appointed by the President.

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