

THE CARGO CULT OF DEMOCRACY IN ROMANIA

And what can local think tanks do to bring about the real thing*

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Abstract

The paper discusses the current limitations of the democratic process in transition countries in general – and in Romania in particular. The lack of good governance, explained with the “missing policies model” and a high degree of rent-seeking in these societies, are identified as the main cause of these limitations. Local think tanks play a crucial role in overcoming these shortcomings, but some conditions are necessary for them to do their job properly: independence, “one-direction orientation”, better communication strategies and a coherent foreign donors help.

Key words: think-thanks, good governance, public policy, morality and politics, corruption

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