

SS01 SPECIAL SESSION GENERAL POOL

3,406 Networking and Recommending in the Public Policy Work: Think Tanks and Policy Makers in Contemporary Russia and USA

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The recent history of policy analysis and decision making demonstrates the developing activities of public sector analytical units and non-governmental think tanks (as expert communities and policy stakeholders) along with some typical forms of policy interrelations between them. We can compare the influence of some non-governmental think tanks assessments and recommendations upon the policy-makers activity in USA (RAND, etc.) and Russia (Center for Strategic Development, etc.) and to find these original forms of the modern cooperation and politico-analytical networking.

In some contemporary cases "non-official" policy participants have exercised a large measure of "team work" and "technocratic guidance." For example, the New York City-Rand Corporation's analysis of factors influencing the response time of city firefighters to reported fires has been credited with unusual success, even though some other Rand efforts have been less effective in shaping decisions. By the same token in the City of Moscow many non-governmental think tanks are working very effectively now as a part of Russian public policy domain in different governmental areas (housing, environment, elections, etc.).

In the beginning of XX1 century this professionalization and growth of public and private units in policy analysis reflects fundamental changes in the nature of contemporary society and its problems, changes which have prompted new forms of specialized policy knowledge and collective action. And as an outcome of this cooperative activity to recommend a particular policy action requires prior information about the future consequences of different policy alternatives. Particular policy-analytic procedures are appropriate for creating this relevant information in particular phases of the policy-making process in USA and Russia.