De-Politicizing the Public Administration

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Tenure of Civil Servants and Public-Administration Efficiency

Tenure of civil servants: Quality of Government Indicators, University of Gothenburg, 2015 (“once one is recruited as a public sector employee one remains as a public sector employee for the rest of one’s career”). Public-administration efficiency: Governance Indicators, World Bank, 2015 (Government Effectiveness Index). OECD countries.
Political Control and Public-Administration Efficiency

Political control: Quality of Government Indicators, University of Gothenburg, 2015 (“the top political leadership hires and fires senior public officials”). Public-administration efficiency: Governance Indicators, World Bank, 2015 (Government Effectiveness Index). OECD countries.
Political Control and Control of Corruption

Political control: Quality of Government Indicators, University of Gothenburg, 2015 (“the top political leadership hires and fires senior public officials”). Control of corruption: Governance Indicators, World Bank, 2015 (Government Effectiveness Index). OECD countries.
Political Control and Reform Capacity

Political control: Quality of Government Indicators, University of Gothenburg, 2015 (“the top political leadership hires and fires senior public officials”). Performance-based pay: Quality of Government Indicators, University of Gothenburg, 2015 (“the salaries of public-sector employees are linked to appraisals about their performance”). OECD countries.
Channels of Political Control in the Greek Public Administration

• General secretaries in ministries.
  • Political appointments, changing with political party in power changes.
  • Fixed 5-year term instituted recently. Yet, significant fraction of new appointments have been political.
• Detachments (μετακλητοί).
  • High-level consultants/assistants to ministers and other government officials, during their tenure.
  • Typically party members or sympathizers. About 2500 currently.
Building a More Independent Public Administration

• Keep current system of appointing general secretaries but improve its bad parts.
  • More powers to ΑΣΕΠ. Draft job descriptions, not rubber stamp them.
  • Eventually, appointments should rely on more input from within the (independent) public administration.

• Legislate that senior civil servants should not be involved in politics.
• Legislate a sharp reduction of detachments (μετακλητοί).