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Petr Jüptner is the Director of the Institute of Political Studies, one of the five institutes of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. His research interests include local politics, focusing especially on the issue of direct mayor elections. Petr is a co-editor of 3 monographs and articles and parts of other monographs in Czech and international journals. Petr was the researcher-in-charge of two projects of the Czech Science Foundation (2006-2008 Postdoctoral Grant “Europeanization of Czech Local Politics. Political Science Analysis of European Legislative Trends”, 2010-2012 “Instruments for Amalgamation of Fragmented Local Governments. Analysis of Experiences and Practice across European countries: References for Czech Republic”). Besides his teaching activities in Prague, Petr was teaching at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland and the University of Potsdam, Germany. Petr is a member of the board of the Czech Political Science Association, a leading organization of political scientists in the Czech Republic. Since 2012, he is also a member of OLA, the European Network of Observatory on Local Autonomy.

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Ilona Kruntorádová works as an academic at the Institute of Political Studies, one of the five institutes of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. Her research interests include local politics, particularly on the financing of the municipalities and interest representation. Ilona is an author of forthcoming monograph on the political aspects of the financing of Czech municipalities and articles and parts of other monographs in Czech and international journals. Ilona works on grant financed by Charles University Grant Agency (2014-2017 “Financial Aspects of Municipal Autonomy in the Political System of the Czech Republic”) She is also a member of OLA, the European Network of Observatory on Local Autonomy and Ilona is an economic coordinator and a member and of the Czech Political Science Association.