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The Long Shadow of Corporatism: Scope and Limits of Think Tank Activities in Austria

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The article examines to what extent the partial retreat of corporatist actors from the policy-making process offers opportunities for think tanks to fill the gap that has emerged. In a European perspective Austria has an above-average number of think tanks and think-tank-like institutes, albeit many of them rather small. It is argued that corporatism has lost ground, yet not necessarily at the benefit of alternative patterns; in many cases, the new providers meet demands that did not exist before, thereby not competing with the established institutions. In particular in their genuine core businesses economic policy and social policy the social partners are still undisputed agenda setters and providers of policy advice.

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