

Abstract

In 2017, nine political parties were elected into the Czech Parliament, which is the greatest number in the history of the country. This thesis analyses the voter turnout and results of particular parties, using aggregated data on the municipal level. The goal is to find a spectrum of variables that would uncover connections between the population characteristics of voters and their decisions to vote and to choose a political party. The method of weighted least squares is used for estimation and the results are tested for the presence of spatial autocorrelation. Subsequently, a spatial error model is used for the same analysis in order to observe spatial effects in the voting results and provide a comparison between the methods. There is found a significant negative connection between the voter turnout and the share of people facing distrains, unemployment, and the share of people with no education. Concerning the election results, the parties ANO, SPD, and KSCM receive greater support in municipalities with greater unemployment and lower shares of businessmen and people with university education. On the other hand, the parties ODS, Pirati, and TOP 09 evince exactly the opposite trends in these explanatory variables.

JEL Classification H70, I21, I30, J10, J11

Keywords voting behaviour, voter turnout, spatial analysis, parliamentary elections, weighted least squares, spatial error model, Czech Republic

Title Population Characteristics of Voters: Evidence from the Czech Parliamentary Election

Author's e-mail jakub3456@seznam.cz

Supervisor's e-mail petr.jansky@fsv.cuni.cz