

Abstract

In the past, the Czech social democratic party was one of the most successful political formations in the Czech Republic, however, since 2013 the party is dealing with a loss of electoral support and will face the challenge of staying in the Chamber of Deputies in the upcoming years. This diploma thesis is focused on the course of events in the party during the years 2013-2018 and examines the causes of why did a party, which used to get 30% of votes and used to dominate the regional political level, got into both electoral and intra-party crisis. The first chapter of the thesis describes four main theoretical concepts, which are used for analysis of the party processes. Subsequently, the thesis is divided into two analytical chapters. The first one concerns the events, which the party went through during the selected five year period. Its content is a factual description, which is accompanied by a closer look on intra-party disputes and on the development of party electoral support. Intra-party disputes are analyzed from a media point of view with an emphasis on how the media reflected them, and the development of party electoral support is analyzed within the framework of selected time periods with regard to the impact of intra-party disputes. The second analytical chapter addresses selected intra-party problems. For instance, the inner structure of the party is described as well as the issue of party heterogeneity. The theoretical concepts are then applied.