

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the Irish referendum of 2018 about repealing the constitutional amendment that forbids artificially made abortion. It is a case study that examines on this particular referendum positive and negative aspects of using this element of direct democracy. The thesis examines direct democracy theoretically and historically, describes Irish political system and the role of referendum within. Furthermore, the thesis characterizes historical milestones and important events of abortion policy in Ireland before 2018, the situation before the referendum, initiation of the referendum until its official announcement. The thesis also deals with the position of relevant political parties and the Catholic Church on the subject of the referendum, it also examines the main campaigns – both in support of the repeal of the constitutional amendment and the campaigns that oppose it. Thesis also includes election surveys, the results of the referendum itself and their consequences. At the end of the thesis, this referendum is analysed and evaluated, whether the positive or negative aspects of the use of the referendum prevail. The main research questions identified are not confirmed or rejected. In the case of the question about positive aspects of the referendum – 3 of the 6 statements are confirmed. In regard to the second question about negative aspects of referendum – 2 arguments out of 4 were confirmed.