

Abstract

Regional parties in the political system of the Czech Republic are a relatively new phenomenon. There are not many authors and experts dealing with this issue. Moreover, there is no generally accepted definition according to which these political entities can be identified. This thesis is based primarily on the definition of regional parties by Maxmilian Strmiska. As the research method, a multi-case study based on seven selected regional parties was used. The focus of the research lies in the empirical-analytical approach of selected monographs, websites of the regional parties themselves, and most of the information contains semi-structured interviews with selected representatives of the regional parties. The theoretical part presents several definitions and divisions of regional parties not only from Czech but also from foreign experts and authors. The main part focuses on selected regional parties themselves, their membership base, internal structure and functioning or results in the last three regional elections. This thesis shows a high diversity among examined regional parties. Some managed to be electorally successful throughout the period under study, others began to be electorally successful only recently or vice versa at the beginning and gradually lost their position. The regional party “Starostove pro Liberecky kraj“ can be considered the most successful regional party examined, and the regional party “Moravane” can be considered the least successful party. Most of the examined regional parties managed to successfully establish themselves in the political system of the Czech Republic and the future will show whether these parties can politically survive.