

The diploma thesis „The PDS and the political consequences of its government responsibility in Berlin 2001-2006“ deals with the acting of the German political party PDS (Party of democratic socialism, today Die Linke – The Left Party) in the government of the federal city-state Berlin. The matter is interesting because of the PDS’s complicated character – some other parties in the German political landscape see the PDS (Die Linke) nearly as an extremist grouping. Another important fact is that the PDS is in fact the successor-party of the East German communist SED. These are the main reasons why the party’s first entry to the state government in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in 1998 and then – three years later – in Berlin raised a heavy debate in Germany. In the case of Berlin – which I focus on – was the debate more intensive because of Berlin’s specific role (it’s the capital city of the reunited Germany) and history. Moreover, Berlin is notorious for its financial problems. That’s why the new leftist government raised distrust of a broad community. Nevertheless, it needs to be said that involvement of some members of the right-wing CDU in a big financial scandal helped the PDS to reach its up-to-now best election result in the 2001 poll. The coalition of the PDS and the SPD (Social Democratic Party) governed during the whole electoral term 2001-2006 and despite the loss of the PDS in the last state election in 2006, the cooperation of both parties continues up to the present day. Did the PDS manage to face the governmental responsibilities successfully? Did it succeed in remaining its character as „the party of social justice“ and solving the actual problems of Berlin at the same time?