

Summary

According to the theorists of gender and according to numerous surveys women have a different approach to politics and conduct themselves differently to men. Moreover there are some external factors, which influence the rate of women's political representation in politics. I am using the theory of the specific approach of women to politics and these external factors to find out why there is a higher representation of women on a local level than on a national level in Czech politics. In the first part of this Bachelor's Thesis I explained the forming of gender approach, which is nowadays a respected field of science used for explaining differences between men and women. In the next chapter I found some specific character traits for women's behavior in politics, in women's approach to politics and women's priorities in politics. After that I introduced some results from foreign surveys and foreign theoretical literature about the influence of external factors on women's political participation. The third chapter is an analysis of the contemporary situation of women in politics in the Czech Republic, with particular focus on local politics. Amongst others I mentioned the attitude to the concept of gender in Czech society, the attitudes of Czech society to women in politics and the socio-economical background of Czech women. In this chapter, I also brought some basic facts about Czech local politics, like its responsibilities, tasks, the party system and the voting system. The last chapter is my own research among mainly female politicians from different levels of Czech politics. The analysis of foreign literature, of the contemporary situation of women in the Czech Republic and the realisation of my own research provides a few hypotheses giving possible reasons of higher political representation of women in Czech local politics. Women usually prefer tangible work where they can see immediate results over long discussions with no visible result. That is why they like local politics, where the tasks are mainly concrete and immediate. Most Czech women are not interested in national politics. Some of them are even disgusted by some of the affairs that take place on a national level. That is why they say that they don't want to be a part of it. Women are also very critical of themselves and they think they don't fulfil the national requirements to take part in national politics. Therefore they want to start on a local level and gain some more experience. Many of them don't even want to start a political career, but they are popular in the community and they are persuaded to enter politics. The fact of knowing each other in the community is an advantage in motivating women to enter politics. Most women don't like to fight and in local politics they can use their willingness to compromise, not only with other politicians, but also with citizens. The background of local politicians, mainly in smaller municipalities, is

rather independent. The big political parties on a national levels only have a small influence. This independent kind of politics is popular among women, who don't like party ideologies and party meetings. Local politics is based mainly on the personality of the politician and on his or her popularity in the community, which is an advantage for women who are teachers or doctors and can therefore get preferential votes from voters. They don't need contacts in the private sector or from people with some kind of influence. Women in the Czech republic earn less money than men and that is why local politics is much more accessible. In smaller municipalities the campaign is very affordable with nearly no costs. Women in the Czech republic are less likely to be in managing positions and are more likely to be unemployed. Some men resign from political activities on a local level because of their job or they are not interested in these political positions, which are often poorly paid. That is why women have better chance to enter local politics. It is also better for them than national politics, because they don't have to commute and can spend more time with their family. Women sometimes have problems competing with men in the fight for the better positions on candidate lists. In national politics and also in bigger cities their chance to get lots of preferential votes from voters and to move up to electable positions is rather low. But in smaller municipalities (according to my short survey) many women had the opportunity to enter local politics because of the preferential votes.