Abstract

The main theme of the work is finding an answer to the question why in the past years Czech Parliament has failed to enforce measures improving the quality of life of lone-parent families, and what could be done for these measures to be adopted. Theoretical support for answering both questions is provided by a) frame analysis (Schön and Rein), which works with the idea of conflicting frames and bridging conflicts through reframing, and b) the theory of social construction of target groups (Schneider and Ingram). Based on an analysis of stenographic minutes from proceedings dealing with the issue of non-payment of child support (in particular with proposals for the state to pay child support first and then to receive it from the obligor) and the arrangements connected to child custody (in particular the proposal to strengthen alternating custody), conflicting frames are reconstructed (in the case of non-payment, there are three conflicting frames, in the case of child custody two). These conflicting frames, or rather the fact that they are insufficiently addressed, may be the cause of the incapacity of Czech political representation to address the above agenda. An "efficient penalizing of the debtor" is described as a possible reframing of the problem in the field of non-payment of child support. Based on the theory of social construction of target groups, the proposal for reframing is supplemented by an appeal to emphasize children as the sole target group of the policy (in contrast to parents from lone-parent families, it is difficult to connote children negatively: therefore, there is a greater chance of enforcing a policy improving the situation of this target group). In the case of debates on alternating custody, reframing the problem as "low quality formulation of the interest of the child" is suggested. This would turn attention to the conditions under which decision-making on child custody takes place. A sub-theme of the work is an examination of the rules related to raising the visibility of perspectives of so-called Invisible stakeholders (in our case the mothers from lone-parent families) and a comparison of these perspectives with the views held by established stakeholders. In contrast to political representation, the female respondents which took part in the research did not restrict their answers to the area of child support and child custody only (a new topic that appeared was psychological stress) and their frame was less unambiguous. At the same time, to a large extent they took over the views held by political representation.