

Political parties are usually described as political actors. In this approach, their power struggle and conflict of ideas and ideologies are stressed. However, political parties are also part of policy making process. They have an impact on appointment of executive and legislative offices which are essential for policy making. Moreover, constituents expect elected representatives to be able to solve policy issues. This thesis aims to understand how Czech political parties gather expertise knowledge for policy making. Sources of expertise of political parties are viewed through the lens of policy network analysis. Therefore, the main focus is on who is involved in development of party programs; what the role of different actors is; and what the linkages among them are. The thesis is designed as a case study focused on the Civic Democratic Party (ODS). Specifically, it is focused on development of a part of its medium-term political program Vize 2020 related to the issue of ageing society. In the examined case, the key actors are political guarantors of the respective parts of the program. Their role decides who else and how is involved.