

Abstract

The phenomenon of corruption has recently become a hot discussion topic of all political parties. Separate chapters, focused specifically on the fight with corruption, are implemented into the parties' political programmes. However, despite the demonstrated endeavour to fight corruption, it seems that solutions of this major issue keep failing. Theorists, who specialize in corruption issues, agree that in the Czech Republic, corruption has already become a systemic issue. That means that it is no more just a pathological behaviour of individuals within the official norms. Vice versa, corruption has already progressed into the stage, where it creates its own norms. Moreover, these newly created norms are stronger than the official norms, and, this way, it is the incorrupt behaviour, which is now perceived as pathological. Fighting systemic corruption obviously requires different tools than fighting individual corruption. Being collective players, political parties use framing to depict the problem so that the solution they offer seems to be the only and the best. This bachelor's thesis illustrates how two major political parties in the Czech Republic – Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) – look on the phenomenon of corruption and how they reflect it in their anti-corruption strategies within the period between 1997 and 2013. In terms of theoretical framework, the thesis utilizes the theory of individual and systemic corruption and three major thought movements, which describe how to fight corruption. It turns out that, in the strategies of both parties, there can be seen a substantial increase in attention and space dedicated to the topic of corruption over this period. The problem is, however, that anti-corruption tools that are being created to fight against corruption are only capable of fighting its individual form. Therefore, the systemic corruption remains unresolved.