

Abstract

This master thesis is dealing with topic of citizen's involvement and civic participation in context of professionalized civil society organizations 's activities. The work is based on theoretical concepts of political and civic participation. Subsequently, civic participation and citizen's involvement is seen in the sense of civic activities carried out within or through civil society organizations and they include various forms in which citizens participate in public life, usually without financial reward. The paper also presents the concepts of professionalization that frame the subsequent reflection on the nature and potential of civic participation and citizen's involvement into activities of professionalized civil society organizations.

The main part is a qualitative research whose aim is to describe and understand, from perspective of professionalized organization's representatives, how and why there is public participation within or through activities of the organization and what are the preferred forms and barriers of involvement and civic participation. Analysis of data obtained through in-depth interviews with representatives of professionalized civil society organizations, are discussed in the conclusion in relation to the research questions and theoretical basis

Key words

Civic participation, professionalization, civil society organization, elitism