

Abstract:

Although the representation of women in terms of the Czech local politics is higher than on regional and state level, still their total number does not reach the participation of men by far. In addition, women are more present on lower decision-making positions of local politics. It is possible to say that women are disadvantaged by the current political and social environment.

The qualitative research used in the present paper focuses itself on the reflections of male and female politicians regarding their participation in local politics, whereas their consensus and differences in opinions are monitored especially in regards to such topics as mandatory gender quotas, position of men and women in the local politics, discrimination, and distribution of political agenda as per gender. It has been demonstrated that „the second shift“ is the most important factor in the eyes of both male and female politicians, making the involvement of women in the local politics much more difficult. Stereotyped statements of politicians of both genders illustrate the image of the local politics as a significantly male dominated environment, where a woman can prove herself only after winning the imaginary battle with the whole system (and after overcoming the intra-party barriers) and for the price of a demanding combining of career or political life and her „female role“ in the household and family, which is not questioned nor by male, nor female politicians. Precisely the socialization of male and female roles has caused that this „feminine role“ is accepted by both genders, being explicitly defended by men for its natural character. In terms of the present research, the communication partners have even proved to be worried about their privileged position. When opening topics connected with support of women entering into politics and increasing their participating options, negative emotions or lack of interest in these topics have been expressed.

Key words:

local politics, male politician, female politician, masculine environment, gender stereotypes, gender disadvantage