

Strategies promoting the political participation of women in the Czech republic: the case study of the NGO Fórum 50 %

The political participation and representation of women is an important indicator of democracy. In the Czech republic, the underrepresentation of women in decision-making is considerable. Moreover, the Czech political representation is not favourable for active promotion of women in politics. The only organization engaged in this issue is Fórum 50 %. It promotes women participation and representation in all decision-making positions. This case study explores this NGO. Based on the examination of documents on six interviews with its members it presents the basic information on the organizational structure, on its goals, activities and strategies. Further, the study identifies barriers like gender blindness of political parties, gender stereotypes, financial dependency of the organization restraining its activities. It presents how Fórum 50 % is legitimizing its existence as well as the whole issue of the political participation of women within the antifeminist atmosphere of the Czech political arena. Finally, the study presents how Fórum 50 % advances the public discourse about the issue and how it succeeds to a certain degree in „breaking“ the conservative attitude of some politicians.

Keywords: political participation of women, political representation of women, NGO, women's activism, feminist organization