

Abstract

The main claim of my thesis is that demand of higher representation of women in politics and calling for quotas are legitimate. This claim is based on theoretical framework of descriptive and group representation. Essentialism is rejected in the line of reasoning in favour of more women in politics. Instead, current disadvantage of women and social and institutional barriers are pointed out. Although there are no common women's interests, equality issues are predominantly placed on the political agenda by female politicians. Besides gender stereotypes the biggest obstacle for women in politics are their own political parties because they nominate few women and they do not place them at the top of candidate lists. Civic Democratic Party before election to Chamber of Deputies in 2013 was an example of the concept glass cliff when women get to leadership positions in the context of crisis. Quotas are based on mistrust of gradual development. Efficiency of quotas depends on how many political parties use them and in which position in parliament these parties are. The order of candidates on the ballots is also important. Nowadays there is a proposal of legislative quotas which would be obligatory for all political parties.