Elected representatives in municipal elections (case study of Kolín district)

Abstract

This thesis deals with the theme of municipal elections, specifically analysing the final positions of candidates and the elected mayors emerged from the vote in the municipal elections in 2014 according to the size of the groups of municipalities, using the district of Kolín as an example. Author focuses particularly on the candidature to the municipal councils and related electoral participation. The characteristics of elected representatives were also examined. Two hypotheses were proposed – H1: the competitiveness of elections increases with the increasing size of the municipality and H2: voter turnout is related to interest in the candidacy (number of candidates for the mandate). The thesis uses data available from the Czech Statistical Office and BISNODE company. The results show that the mayors were usually found on top of the candidate list and came from the winning party. Compared with the national average, larger amount of mayors upheld their position. Furthermore, it was found that voter turnout is not related so much to the number of candidates for a number of mandates, rather it is related to the number of candidates for a council to the number of inhabitants. The hypothesis that the competitiveness of elections increases with increasing size of the municipality was confirmed. However, the voter turnout is not related significantly to the number of candidates for the mandate. The number of candidates to the municipal council to the mandate is higher for larger municipalities. On the other hand, the number of candidates to the number of inhabitants is higher in smaller communities.

Keywords: mayors, political elities, local government, municipal elections, electoral system, municipal council