

Abstract

The presented thesis deals with the development of the programmes of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) in the area of family policy in the long term 1949 - 2009. During this period there was a significant transformation of the Christian-democratic image of the family and the whole concept of family policy toward the Scandinavian model, which supports the reconciliation of family and professional life. As a long-time ruling party the CDU fundamentally formed the (West) German family policy. The aim of the thesis is to analyse the transformation of the image of the family and the family policy programmes in that period. The main chapter examines the four phases of development of the programmes in this area in the context of social and demographic changes and the development of the party as such. The thesis shows on the basis of various sources, mainly of three long-time and several thematic party programmes of the CDU that its image of family gradually extended from the classical model of a married couple with their own children with the traditional division of male and female roles to all forms of cohabitation with children. The party emphasizes on partnership, equality and free choice of parents but also the constitutional protection of marriage and family. The thesis presents this process of change and its causes, including the impact of twofold turning of the party into opposition and changes in society during the second demographic transition.