

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the transformation of socialist parties in Western Europe – Spain and Portugal. This thesis aims to analyze the electoral programs of socialist parties in the shadow of an economic crisis. This diploma thesis aimed to discover how the socialist parties in Spain and Portugal transformed and how. The greatest attention focuses on the internal part of the transformation of socialist parties. This thesis used qualitative content analysis and manual coding on programs. The results of this interpretative content analysis show, that the parties mostly deal in their programs with economic issues and much less with identity politics, which tested the theory of Berman and Snegovaya (2019), which claims that, if a left-wing party deals with more economic issues in its program, it has a better chance at succeeding in a given political system. The Portuguese Socialist Party and the Spanish Socialist Party are currently relevant political forces within the political system and both managed to be part of the governments as well. They both also have managed to overcome the entry of a higher number of new populist parties. The result of this work is, therefore, the analysis and subsequent comparison of the election programs of both socialist parties, a deeper understanding of their positions, strategies, and party ideology.