

## **Abstract**

This paper examines the impact of women's representation in municipal councils in the Czech Republic on municipal budget allocation. The primary objective was to determine whether the level of representation of women in municipal councils across the Czech Republic affects the allocation of municipal budgets across different areas. In particular, the thesis focuses on the relationship between the gender composition of municipal councils and the allocation of budget resources, with the main aim of investigating how the presence of women in municipal councils affects the distribution of funds, with a deeper focus on whether higher representation of women in municipal councils generates changes in the structure of budget allocation, including across different categories of expenditure in favour of traditional women's issues. Using multiple linear regression models and studying the 2018 and 2021 budgets of municipalities in the Czech Republic, it was found that most of the predicted associations between women's representation and budget allocation were not confirmed, and the results were not statistically significant. However, a statistically significant association was found between higher representation of women in councils and an increase in spending on traditionally women's issues. When interpreting the results for each budget category, there was also a positive effect on the environmental protection category. At the same time, when comparing the coefficients of the explanatory variables, regardless of statistical significance, recurring patterns can be observed. For example, as the percentage of women increased, the coefficients related to the individual women's themes (especially the social categories of the budget) tended to be positive. This could indicate a possible relationship between the percentage of women in councils and the way the municipal budget is allocated. The paper concludes that although the evidence is very limited, there are patterns in the data that support the theory of substantive representation in municipal councils.