

Abstract

The main goal of this thesis is to discover what paths lead young people to political participation, what political activities the respondents took part in, how they perceive the influence of influencers on political participation and how they experience the current political climate in the Czech Republic. In the theoretical part, I focus on the definition of political participation and its types, factors influencing political participation, findings regarding the political participation of young people and existing knowledge regarding the influence of influencers on political participation. In the practical part, I conduct my own research. The research uses a qualitative approach, because the goal of this work is to enrich the existing knowledge with a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. The method of data collection is in-depth semi-structured interviews and the diary method. A total of fourteen respondents participated in the research, who were obtained through the convenience sampling method and the snow-ball method. The only selection criterion was the age of the respondents, which ranged from 20-27 years due to the necessary experience with political participation. The method of data analysis was thematic analysis and open coding. Within the data analysis, a typology of pathways to political participation was created consisting of pathways through political socialization, life stages, civic duty, and membership in a civic group. The analysis maps the political activities that respondents have engaged in. The analysis demonstrates the perceived influence of influencers on the political participation of respondents. Finally, the analysis concludes by presenting how respondents experience the current political climate.