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Bakalářská práce: Možnosti ovlivňování rozhodovacího procesu zastupitelstev
měst ze strany starostů

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Abstract

This thesis studies the informal powers and sources of influence possessed by mayors of mid-size Czech cities. Informal mayoral powers in the Czech Republic are not well-studied even though informal powers and institutions can have great impact on local politics. As far as their formal powers go, mayors are not significantly stronger than regular council members. In practice, however, their position is far more prominent and important than that of their colleagues. This thesis utilizes qualitative research via multiple-case study. 8 interviews with council members from cities with 3000 to 10 000 citizens were carried out for this thesis. Based on an analysis of their answers, an overview of the most important informal powers and sources of influence possessed by the mayors of studied cities was created, including charisma, informational asymmetry, contacts and connections and the visibility of their office. Furthermore, an ad hoc typology of “open“ and “closed“ city councils was created to categorize the political culture of these cities. Adherence to one of these categories was greatly impactful to what informal powers the mayors of the given cities used.