

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the phenomenon of municipalities where only single-member candidate lists are running. It describes the way in which this candidacy is made possible under Czech legislation. It briefly maps the current state of political research on these municipalities. Using quantitative methods, it describes the prevalence of such municipalities within the Czech Republic over the last six electoral periods. It shows that more than one-fifth of the municipalities in the Czech Republic have had this type of election in the examined period, with a stable share of around 13% in each election period. The thesis brings the finding that these municipalities are significantly more represented in Bohemia compared to Moravia and Silesia. The specific functioning of these municipalities is then analysed using 6 case studies of municipalities in which semi-structured interviews with local councillors were conducted. Based on the interviews, it's concluded that this system is sustained mainly due to the low competitiveness of the political systems of the municipalities in question, together with the desire to personalize the electoral system. The mechanism for its maintenance is then informal ties within the municipality and the handed-down traditions within the council.