

June 2008

Analysis of representation of women on the lists of candidates for the Regional Elections 2008

Introduction

The representation of women in the Czech politics is very low. At present the Czech Republic takes the 76th place according to the ranking made by Interparliamentary Union. Most people are convinced that the deficiency of women politician in decision making process concerns supreme political scene only and the situation in municipal and regional politics is more even. This is partially true in the case of local councils: the average representation of women is 25% there. However, it definitely does not apply to the regional political scene when women politicians form only 15% at the moment. This is even by 0.5% lower than in the Chamber of Deputies.

In autumn there will be elections for regional councils held which could bring some changes. The given paper analyses thoroughly representation of women on lists of candidates of the biggest political parties (ODS, KDU-ČSL, SZ, ČSSD a KSČM) as the presentation on ballots is the crucial supposition. The results are unfortunately not very positive; even now we can predict that the situation will hardly change after the elections. There will be most likely a slight improvement but not a significant one. The election results will be very important as the representation of women in each party distinctively differs. However, we cannot expect any radical turn whatever the outcome might be. Let us look closely at each political party individually.

1. Civic Democratic Party (ODS)

ODS were nominating on average 19% of women until last election: they were given 137 places on the ballots in total. What is their placing within the top places, ie within the first ten nominees? Altogether there are 17 women politicians which is 13%. Their presentation on the eligible places is as usual low because majority of women are placed on posterior places on the ballots. There are only men candidates within the first ten nominees in 2 regions - in Zlínský and Ústecký. In most other regions only one woman made it to the first ten. None of the 13 regions has a woman on the leading position. In comparison to the previous elections there has been a slight improvement in the numbers. However, as the party is not likely to repeat its overwhelming victory from last election, the number of women politicians will lower in the regional authorities. In comparison with other parties Civic Democrats are not doing very well: they took last but one place. The situation is described in the below chart:

Women on lists of candidates of ODS in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Region	Total number of women candidates	Percentage of women candidates	Number of women on first 5 positions (ranking)	Number of women on first 10 positions (ranking)
Středočeský	16 (out of 93)	17 %	1 (4.)	1 (4.)
Jihočeský	11 (out of 55)	20 %	0	1 (6.)
Plzeňský	5 (out of 45)	11 %	1 (2.)	1 (2.)
Karlovarský	7 (out of 45)	16 %	0	1 (8.)
Ústecký	15 (out of 55)	27 %	0	0
Liberecký	9 (out of 45)	20 %	1 (2.)	1 (2.)
Královéhradecký	11 (out of 45)	24 %	0	1 (7.)
Pardubický	8 (out of 45)	18 %	3 (3., 4.,5.)	3 (3.,4.,5.)
Vysočina	9 (out of 50)	18 %	1 (2.)	1 (2.)
Jihomoravský	8 (out of 65)	12 %	1 (2.)	3 (2.,6.,8.)

Olomoucký	10 (out of 60)	17 %	0	1 (7.)
Zlínský	9 (out of 45)	20 %	0	0
Moravskoslezský	9 (out of 65)	29 %	1 (4.)	3 (4.,6.,10.)
Total	137 (out of 713)	19 %	9	17

2. Christian and Democratic Union – Czech People's Party (KDU-ČSL)

Christian Democrats nominated the fewest women from all the analyzed parties: there were only 11.5% of women nominees in the first ten places. They did not appear at the top of the ballots in three regions at all: in Zlínský, Středočeský and in Vysočina, in the others they got only one seat. Altogether only 15 women candidates got to the first ten. The situation has gotten worse in comparison to the previous elections; number of women candidates in the top places decreased almost by a half. Therefore we may dare say that the participation of regional women politicians from KDU-ČSL is going to fall after the elections. The fact that all the leaders are men is thus not surprising. The situation is outlined in the below chart:

Women on lists of candidates of KDU - ČSL in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Region	Total number of women candidates	Percentage of women candidates	Number of women on first 5 positions (ranking)	Number of women on first 10 positions (ranking)
Středočeský (coalition with SNK-ED)	14 (out of 70)	20 %	0	0
Jihočeský	9 (out of 55)	16 %	1 (3.)	2 (3.,10.)
Plzeňský (coalition with SNK-ED)	11 (out of 50)	22 %	0	2 (6., 9.)
Karlovarský (coalition with HNHRM)	8 (out of 50)	16 %	1 (3.)	3 (3.,7.,10.)
Ústecký (party candidates on the ballot of Severočeši.cz)	-	-	-	-
Liberecký (coalition with SNK-ED)	7 (out of 50)	14 %	0	1 (8.)
Královéhradecký (coalition with ND)	8 (out of 45)	18 %	0	1 (7.)
Pardubický (coalition with SNK-ED)	12 (out of 50)	24 %	1 (4.)	2 (4.,9.)
Vysočina	9 (out of 50)	18 %	0	0
Jihomoravský	15 (out of 70)	21 %	1 (2.)	1 (2.)
Olomoucký	14 (out of 60)	23 %	1 (2.)	1 (2.)
Zlínský	7 (out of 45)	15,5 %	0	0
Moravskoslezský	16 (out of 70)	23 %	0	1 (9.)
Total	130 (out of 665)	19,5 %	6	15

3. Green Party

The average representation of women on Green Party's ballots is 30% which is the best result of five assessed parties. The situation within the first ten candidates is even slightly more positive: green women politicians were given 30.8% of places. Altogether 40 women got in the first ten. The party even nominated two women in the top of the ballot: Svata Štěrbová in Plzeňský region and Kateřina Dubská in Jihomoravský region. Green Party nominated fewer women than in last elections. See the chart below:

Women on lists of candidates of SZ in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Region	Total number of women candidates	Percentage of women candidates	Number of women on first 5 positions (ranking)	Number of women on first 10 positions (ranking)
Středočeský	20 (out of 67)	30 %	2 (2.,3.)	5 (2.,3.,6.,7.,10.)
Jihočeský	21 (out of 60)	35 %	2 (2.,4.)	3 (2.,4.,10.)
Plzeňský	15 (out of 45)	33 %	2 (1., 4.)	4 (1.,4.,8.,10.)
Karlovarský	22 (out of 50)	44 %	0	1 (7.)
Ústecký	24 (out of 60)	40 %	1 (3.)	3 (3.,7.,9.,)
Liberecký	23 (out of 45)	51 %	2 (2.,4.)	5 (2.,4.,6.,8.,10.)
Královéhradecký	14 (out of 48)	29 %	1 (3.)	2 (3.,8.)
Pardubický	13 (out of 50)	26 %	1 (5.)	2 (5.,9.)
Vysočina	13 (out of 44)	30 %	1 (4.)	3 (4.,6.,9.)
Jihomoravský	20 (out of 65)	31 %	3 (1.,3.,5.)	4 (1.,3.,5.,8.)
Olomoucký	22 (out of 60)	37 %	2 (2.,5.)	4 (2.,5.,7.,9.)
Zlínský	13 (out of 48)	27 %	0	2 (6.,7.)
Moravskoslezský	20 (out of 65)	31 %	2 (3.,5.)	3 (3.,5.,9.)
Total	240 (out of 707)	34 %	19	41

4. Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD)

ČSSD nominated 178 women in total in the regional elections, their percentage forms 26%. In the first ten they nominated 19% of women on average, in total they obtained 25 places. There are only men candidates in the first ten places in Liberecký region. It is an average result in comparison with other parties: ČSSD took imaginary third place. Together with the Green Party they are the only ones that nominated a woman to the top of a ballot. It is Milada Emmerová in Plzeňský region. The situation has improved since last elections (by about 5.6%) so we can expect that the number of Social Democratic women politicians will be higher in the newly elected regional authorities.

Women on lists of candidates of ČSSD SZ in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Region	Total number of women candidates	Percentage of women candidates	Number of women on first 5 positions (ranking)	Number of women on first 10 positions (ranking)
Středočeský	21 (out of 65)	32 %	1 (4.)	1 (4.)
Jihočeský	12 (out of 55)	22 %	2 (2.,4.)	4 (2.,4.,8.,9.)
Plzeňský	16 (out of 45)	36 %	1 (1.)	3 (1.,6.,10.)
Karlovarský	7 (out of 45)	16 %	1 (4.)	1 (4.)
Ústecký	14 (out of 55)	25 %	1 (2.)	2 (2.,6.)
Liberecký	10 (out of 45)	22 %	0	0
Královéhradecký	9 (out of 45)	20 %	0	1 (6.)
Pardubický	13 (out of 45)	29 %	1 (3.)	2 (3.,6.)
Vysočina	12 (out of 45)	27 %	1 (4.)	1 (4.)
Jihomoravský	21 (out of 65)	32 %	0	1 (8.)
Olomoucký	15 (out of 55)	27 %	0	2 (6.,8.)
Zlínský	12 (out of 45)	27 %	1 (3.)	4 (3.,6.,9.,10.)

Moravskoslezský	22 (out of 65)	34 %	1 (5.)	3 (5.,8.,9.)
Total	184 (out of 675)	27 %	10	25

5. Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM)

KSČM nominated 190 women in regional elections; in percentage they form 28%. It's the second best result after the Green Party. The participation of women in the top ten is considerably high as well: 25%. 33 women communists in total obtained leading places. There no ballots without a woman candidate in any of the regions. Women have gained much better status comparing to last election: by 9 % on average. Therefore we can claim that their participation in the newly elected regional authorities is going to be higher. Unfortunately like in other parties there is no woman leader in KSČM. The situation is outlined below:

Women on lists of candidates of KSČM in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Region	Total number of women candidates	Percentage of women candidates	Number of women on first 5 positions (ranking)	Number of women on first 10 positions (ranking)
Středočeský	19 (out of 65)	29 %	1 (3.)	3 (3.,6.,7.)
Jihočeský	17 (out of 55)	30 %	2 (2.,5.)	3 (2.,5.,10.)
Plzeňský	18 (out of 45)	40 %	2 (3.,4.)	5 (3.,4.,6.,7.,8.)
Karlovarský	14 (out of 45)	31 %	1 (4.)	2 (4.,9.)
Ústecký	16 (out of 55)	29 %	0	1 (9.)
Liberecký	14 (out of 45)	31 %	3 (3.,4.,5.)	5 (3.,4.,5.,7.,9.)
Královéhradecký	11 (out of 45)	24 %	1 (2.)	2 (2.,10.)
Pardubický	14 (out of 45)	31 %	1 (3.)	3 (3.,6.,8.)
Vysočina	8 (out of 45)	18 %	0	1 (7.)
Jihomoravský	19 (out of 65)	29 %	0	1 (9.)
Olomoucký	13 (out of 55)	24 %	1 (2.)	3 (2.,8.,10.)
Zlínský	13 (out of 45)	29 %	1 (3.)	2 (3.,10.)
Moravskoslezský	14 (out of 65)	22 %	1 (3.)	2 (3.,10.)
Total	190 (out of 675)	28 %	14	33

Comparison of the assessed parties

As the above analysis shows the situation varies in each party. There are significant differences among the five assessed parties in respect with the representation of women candidates on the lists of candidates in the upcoming regional elections. Traditionally the Green Party nominated most women candidates, on the contrary fewest KDU-ČSL. The difference between them is almost two thirds. KSČM achieved the second best place, ČSSD the third. ODS took next to the last. In summary the left-wing parties nominated more women than the right-wing ones. See below the chart:

Women on lists of candidates of political parties in the elections for Regional Councils 2008

Party	Percentage of women within the first ten nominees	Number of women within the first five nominees	Number of women within the first ten nominees
ODS	13 %	9	17

Party	Percentage of women within the first ten nominees	Number of women within the first five nominees	Number of women within the first ten nominees
KDU-ČSL	11,5 %	6	15
SZ	31,4 %	19	41
ČSSD	19,2 %	10	25
KSČM	25,4 %	14	33

Only two of the assessed parties nominated women in the top places on the ballots. The Green party in Plzeňský region and in Jihomoravský region and Social Democrats also in Plzeňský region. In total three regional women leaders will stand for the elections: Milada Emmerová, Svatava Štěřbová a Kateřina Dubská.

With regard to the lists of candidates we can assume that representation of women in the regional authorities after the elections will slightly increase. This will only happen thanks to the parties that nominated enough women politicians in the leading places of the ballots, ie. KSČM, ČSSD a SZ unlike the other two parties ODS a KDU-ČSL where representation of women in the regional bodies will decrease. Participation of women in the regional politics will remain very low as the expected increase is not likely to reach beyond one or two per cents.

In comparison with last regional elections in 2004 the situation has improved in majority of parties with the Green Party and KDU-ČSL being the exceptions. In case of SZ the downturn in the number of women candidates could be explained so that unlike the previous years the party has chances to obtain mandates and therefore it is more difficult for women to get to the leading places on the ballots. Regardless this downturn the Green Party still nominated the highest number of women candidates out of all assessed parties. It is, however, difficult to find a reason for almost halfway decrease of the women representation in KDU-ČSL lists. How does it come about that a in a party with more than a half women members only 11.5% of places were obtained by women? The following chart shows comparison of lists of candidates from last and upcoming regional elections:

Women on lists of candidates of political parties in the elections for Regional Councils 2004 and 2008

Party	2004 – total number of nominees	2004 – percentage of nominees	2008 – total number of nominees	2008 – percentage of nominees	Difference
ODS	126	17,3 %	137	19 %	+ 1,7 %
KDU-ČSL	110	19,9 %	130	19,5 %	- 0,4 %
SZ	139	36,8 %	240	34 %	- 2,8 %
ČSSD	148	20,4 %	184	27 %	+ 6,6 %
KSČM	138	19 %	190	28 %	+ 9 %

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The analysis was elaborated within the project “Do not be afraid of quotas” supported by Open Society Fund Prague