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Press Release:

The number of women representatives in regions will increase after the elections but solely thanks to the left-wing parties

After the poll of the weekend election it is already clear how the representation of women in the regions is going to change. According to our predictions number of regional women representatives is going to slightly increase, namely by approximately 2.5 %. This increase is even a bit higher than we predicted which is related to the surprisingly overwhelming victory of ČSSD. **In total 119 women were elected, their percentage increased from 15 to 17.6 %.** The average age of the newly elected women representatives is 47.5. This improvement is undoubtedly a good news, however, we have to add that the number of women politicians in the regional politics is still very low.

What is the situation like in each region? The best result was achieved in Pardubický region. They were given 22 % of the mandates which is double in comparison with last electoral term. The region has swung from the last to the leading place on an imaginary scale. Second place was reached by Středočeský region with 21.5 % where women representatives have improved their position a lot: by 6.5 %. Women were given the total of 20 % of mandates in four other regions. On the contrary the worst results were recorded in Královéhradecký region where 11 % of elected women politicians put them to the last place again. The below chart shows results in all regions.

Regional women representatives elected in Regional Elections in 2008 and 2004 – according to the regions

Region	Number of women representatives – election 2008	Percentage of women representatives – election 2008	Number of women representatives – election 2004	Percentage of women representatives – election 2004
Středočeský	14 (out of 65)	21,5 %	10 (out of 65)	15 %
Jihočeský	11 (out of 55)	20 %	10 (out of 55)	18 %
Plzeňský	9 (out of 45)	20 %	9 (out of 45)	20 %
Karlovarský	6 (out of 45)	13,3 %	7 (out of 45)	16 %
Ústecký	8 (out of 55)	14,5 %	9 (out of 55)	16 %
Liberecký	7 (out of 45)	15,6 %	8 (out of 45)	18 %
Královéhradecký	5 (out of 45)	11,1 %	5 (out of 45)	11 %
Pardubický	10 (out of 45)	22,2 %	4 (out of 45)	9 %
Vysočina	6 (out of 45)	13,3 %	6 (out of 45)	13 %
Jihomoravský	11 (out of 65)	16,9 %	12 (out of 65)	19 %
Olomoucký	10 (out of 55)	18,2 %	7 (out of 55)	13 %
Zlínský	9 (out of 45)	20 %	5 (out of 45)	11 %
Moravskoslezský	13 (out of 65)	20 %	10 (out of 65)	15 %
total	119 (out of 675)	17,6 %	102 (out of 675)	15 %

o.s. Fórum 50 %
 Plzeňská 846/66, 150 00 Praha 5
 IČ: 26668181
 Tel.: 257 216 170
 e-mail: info@padesatprocent.cz
 web: www.padesatprocent.cz



Let us have a look at the women politicians' achievements within each political party. If we compare 4 most successful subjects, ie ČSSD, ODS, KSČM and KDU-ČSL (candidating in more than a half of the regions within coalitions) the difference is inspectional. The women communists succeeded the most; they were given 28 mandates out of 114 and their percentage is 24.6 %. ČSSD women candidates were doing well, they were given 55 out of the total 280 mandates which is 19.7 %. Women politicians from these two parties significantly improved their status in comparison with last elections. The reason of this improvement was better placing on the lists of candidates. Good result is not a coincidence but the parties' aim to increase women representation. Both apply a recommendation for composing the lists of candidates aiming at obtaining eligible places for women. Despite the fact that these recommendations are not obligatory, it is evident that they have big influence on the shape of the lists of candidates and they are quite effective.

On the contrary ODS and KDU-ČSL suffered very low results. Female Civic Democrats were given 21 mandates from the total of 180, they percentage is 11.7 %. People party's women politicians scored even less, they were given 7 mandates from 62 which is 11.3 %. Representation of rightist women politicians in regional politics has decreased in comparison with last electoral term; in the case of ODS by 4 %. The below chart captures the comparison of four assessed parties.

Regional women representatives elected in Regional Elections in 2008 and 2004 – according to the political party

Region	Number of women representatives – election 2008	Percentage of women representatives – election 2008	Number of women representatives – election 2004	Percentage of women representatives – election 2004	Difference (in %)
ODS	21 (out of 180)	11,7 %	46 (z 291)	16 %	- 4,3 %
KDU-ČSL*	7 (out of 62)	11,3 %	11 (z 90)	12 %	- 0,7 %
ČSSD	55 (out of 280)	19,7 %	13 (z 105)	12,4 %	+ 7,3 %
KSČM	28 (out of 114)	24,6 %	28 (z 157)	18 %	+ 6,6 %

In election 2008 the party stood as a candidate in six regions independently, in six regions within coalition and in one on a list of candidates of another party. In election 2004 the party ran for election in ten regions independently and in three within a coalition.

I would like to mention some positive examples and interesting facts. In two regions women were given majority of mandates within their party. In Královéhradecký region two out of three SNK-ED mandates were given to women thus forming 66.7 %. Communist women politicians achieved similar results in Plzeňský region, they obtained five out of nine mandates, which is 55.6 %. Mandates were shared equally between women and men KSČM politicians in Liberecký region, party reached parity of votes. It is necessary to point out that the Czech Republic will have a woman commissioner for the first time in its history. The head of the Plzeňský region will most likely be ČSSD candidate Milada Emmerová.

The election results from the point of view of women participation can be summed up briefly: percentage of women candidates in election will increase but solely thanks to leftist parties. It is a pity that rightist parties do not reflect the fact that representation of women in politics is an important issue in the whole political spectrum. Maybe in next election?

Author: Jana Smiggels Kavková, kavkova@padesatprocent.cz