

Abstract

Gender equality has long been declared as one of the European Union's (EU) core values and priorities, and its importance is still emphasised today. EU Member States are expected to participate in and take action to promote gender equality. This thesis focuses on the analysis of the process of Europeanisation of gender equality agenda in two Central and Eastern European (CEE) member states, namely Slovenia and Slovakia. Slovenia has long been at the top of surveys on the state of gender equality. Slovenia is more active and successful in promoting and supporting gender equality compared to other EU Member States in the region, while Slovakia is at the other end of the ranking, facing stagnation and lack of progress in this area. The theoretical framework of the thesis is based on the new institutionalism, which allows to analyse the impact of institutions and institutional changes at the national level on the process of Europeanisation of gender policy. At the analytical level, the thesis applies a three-level framework of polity, politics, and policy, which examines institutional arrangements, political parties and their approach to gender equality, and legislative changes related to gender equality in both countries. The aim of the thesis is to identify factors that positively or negatively influence the process of Europeanisation of gender equality approach in Slovakia and Slovenia. The thesis also takes into account the perspectives of female respondents who have been working in the field of gender equality in both countries for a long time, which contributes to a more detailed understanding of the situation at the local level.

Key words

Gender equality, europeanization, Slovenia, Slovakia, institutionalism, polity, politics, policy, EU