

Bočáková, Oľga - Kubíčková, Darina – Vavruš, Martin: Sociálna politika vo volebných programoch vybraných politických strán na Slovensku. Brno: Tribun EU, 2016. 199 pages. ISBN 978-80-263-1099-0.

Social policy is the main dimension, which determines the range, extent and quality of social services, social infrastructure and social welfare of the citizen of the state. Funds, redistributed by the state authorities, are necessary for its implementation and development. The collective authorities have the most significant impact on social policy, meaning the highest executive body, which is the Government of SR and highest legislative body - National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR). The composition of these authorities depends on the results of the parliamentary elections, represented in Slovak conditions by the general, secret, equal and direct participation of the citizens – voters to vote their representatives in the aforementioned authorities.

The publication of three authors - Oľga Bočáková, Darina Kubíčková and Martin Vavruš, presents the content of current significant work that offers exclusive compacted information, characterized by a nondisciplinary concept. The publication is devoted to the election program of fourteen political parties in the social sphere. The authors apply knowledge from various disciplines such as social policy, political science, public administration, public policy and management control of social services. Many authors consider different approaches to the perception and solving of the problems and challenges of social policy in individual ideological and political directions to be crucial for the further development and implementation of social policy. Besides completing the monographic vacuum in the concerned scientific-technical field caused by the absenting current publication of its kind, the publication for the civil society offers a wide ranging analysis of the election programs of the fourteen political entities, including all political entities represented in the NC SR and other relevant political forces. On the contrary, the publication also presents an analysis of election programs on the issues of social policy in subjects that were unsuccessful in the election and failed to cross the set threshold of the election quorum.

The publication is structured in four chapters. The first chapter is devoted to social policy in the election programs of the coalition political parties in Slovakia. The authors analyze the election programs of four political entities that have succeeded in the elections and exceeded the 5% election quorum and subsequently formed a government coalition consisting of the following political parties: SMER - SD, SNS, Most - Híd and Siet'. The authors state for each political party its basic value orientation, history, statistical analysis of the election results from previous elections and staffing in key party posts. The team of authors

have not missed the Siet', which shortly after the parliamentary elections passed through re-fragmentation, but its participation in the original election four-coalition was inevitable for securing a majority in the National Council. The publication contains the elaboration of individual partial policies in each Party, if the given political subject dealt with that in their electoral program while we are talking about following areas of social policy in particular: social services, pensions policy, family policy, education policy, health policy, employment, payroll and payroll tax policy, but also the environment and minority policy.

The second chapter concerns the publication of election programs of four parliamentary opposition entities in social policy. These are political entities that have exceeded the 5% election quorum, essential for entrance to the NC SR, yet are not part of the government coalition. In relation with the application of parliamentary mandates, the opposition entities may submit through their Members legislative proposals, amendments to government proposals, conduct professional constructive discussions with the coalition and last but not least to undergo the government coalition of professional criticism. The second chapter also analyzes the programs of the following political entities: SaS, OĽaNO – NOVA, Sme rodina – Boris Kollár and Kotleba – ĽS NS. As in the first chapter, as well as in the second, and then in the third, there is analyzed the same area of social policy as well as there is the same interpretation's structure.

In the third chapter the authors cede space to political entities that have failed in the parliamentary elections. The three largest political parties also undergo an analysis, based on the results of parliamentary elections, which did not get to the NC SR, namely: KDH, SMK and SKOK!. In this chapter space is also given to political entities unique in their specific political orientation, namely the SZS and KSS. In view of several political and electoral successes of the SDKÚ-DS party and its many years of participation in the basic party-political structure in Slovakia, the authors also analyze this political entity. The authors chose the criterion of political relevance on the basis of the election results of the parliamentary elections as the decisive criterion for stating or not of the analysis of the election program of the political entity. All analyzed entities were included among the fifteen most successful political parties, except for TIP political Party of which the authors do not pay attention due their putting into liquidation immediately after the parliamentary elections.

In the fourth chapter the authors present information on the 2016 parliamentary elections in Slovakia. Their detailed results are presented, also supplemented by the results of the opinion polls performed by the most renowned survey agency in Slovakia – the Focus Agency. The polling results illustrate the development and trend of supporting political entities in the post-election period.

In conclusion, the authors are dealing with Government Program Declaration of the Slovak Republic and its complete text given in the Appendix.

The publication creates space for further exploration of social policy as part of the election programs of political parties from the perspective of several scientific disciplines: social policy, political science, sociology of the politics, political marketing and mass media policy. For further consideration, I would let Šanca party to analyze the electoral program which result of election was almost identical to the result of the last mentioned SDKÚ-DS party. The total publication fulfilled my expectations, the names of the individual chapters corresponding to its contents to the maximum extent.

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