

Youth Empowerment Project

For the Institute for Go-Governance, Vienna

www.go-governance.com

Czech Republic

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1. List of Abbreviations

ANO - ANO 2011 (YES 2011)

ČSSD - Česká strana sociálně demokratická (Czech Social Democratic Party)

KDU - ČSL - Křesťanská a demokratická unie – Československá strana lidová (Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party)

KSČM - Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy (Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia)

KSM - Komunistický svaz mládeže (The Communist Youth Union)

ODS - Občanská demokratická strana (Civic Democratic Party)

Úsvit - Úsvit přímé demokracie (Dawn of Direct Democracy)

VV - Věci veřejné (Public Affairs)

2. Introduction

Youth and the participation of young people in politics has often been discussed not only within academic circles but also in the public sphere. Many of these discussions are enriching and based on a deep analysis of the problem, nevertheless the sources for such an analysis are in many cases incomplete or outdated. Therefore one of the aims of this research paper is to fill the gap, with a case study - The Czech Republic. This complements a previous work on the Slovak Republic.¹ For this purpose we have collected and disaggregated relevant statistical data covering the main aspects of youth participation in the sphere of politics - participation of youth in representative bodies and in elections, participation of youth in present and past governments and youth political organizations. However quantitative data alone, although important, would only make a small contribution to the whole discussion. The figures enable us to show and examine long-term tendencies (in this study the period reviewed covers the time after independence of the Czech Republic until 2015). The trends are highlighted in several graphs which follow each subheading. The logical next step in this research would be detailed explanation of the figures and specific trends. However such an explanation would require a wider sociological, political, psychological and economic analysis and therefore would go far beyond the scope and the ambitions of this study.

The necessary precondition for the examination of youth participation is to define what exactly we mean by this term. Definitions of youth vary among the regions, international organizations as well as academic disciplines. According to the UN, "Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. That's why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups."² The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. For activities at the national level, for example when implementing a local community youth programme, "youth" may be understood in a more flexible manner.³ The definition given in the African Youth Charter sees "youth" as "every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years".⁴ Such definitions are without any doubt

¹ See details <http://www.go-governance.com/projects/youth.html> Institute for Go-Governance.

² United Nations. Youth Definition. Accessed: 15.2.2015. Available online: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>.

³ UNESCO. Youth Definition. Accessed: 15.2.2015. Available online: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/youth-definition>

⁴ African Youth Charter. Accessed: 15.2.2015. Available online: http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AFRICAN_YOUTH_CHARTER.pdf

important and relevant for international and interdisciplinary application; the relative narrow focus of this research paper allows us to set our own age criteria to define youth. For the purpose of this project we chose the definition of young people as all those in the population under 30 (in the case of government members we decided to increase this limit to 35, as only one member of the government since 1993 was younger than 30). This decision was influenced by the characteristics of the region, by the legislative framework as well as by the source of our figures. All the youth political organizations in the Czech Republic admit members between 15 and 35 years of age (for more information see chapter 7). As all of the statistics provided by the Czech Statistical Office take the limit of 30 years of age, we decided to apply this age as an upper limit in this study. The lower age limit is restricted only by the legislative framework related to particular type of the elections.

3. General information about political system of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy, with separate legislative, executive and judicial powers. The Parliament consists of two chambers - the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. It passes all bills valid in the territory of the Czech Republic and expresses approval of important international treaties.⁵ The Chamber of Deputies has 200 members elected for a four-year term through a proportional representation election system. The Senate is the Upper Chamber of the Parliament and comprises 81 senators, each elected for a six-year term. The election system provides for one-third of the senators to be re-elected every two years.⁶ The president is since 2012 elected directly by the citizens. Presidential power is limited; the most important is the right to veto any bill which has already been passed by Parliament, with the exception of constitutional bills. This power is void in times of constitutional or other political crises.⁷ The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, based on parliamentary election results. The age limit for voting in any type of election in the Czech Republic is 18; the second condition for the franchise is Czech citizenship (except elections to the European Parliament). Every type of election is held over two days, on Friday and Saturday.

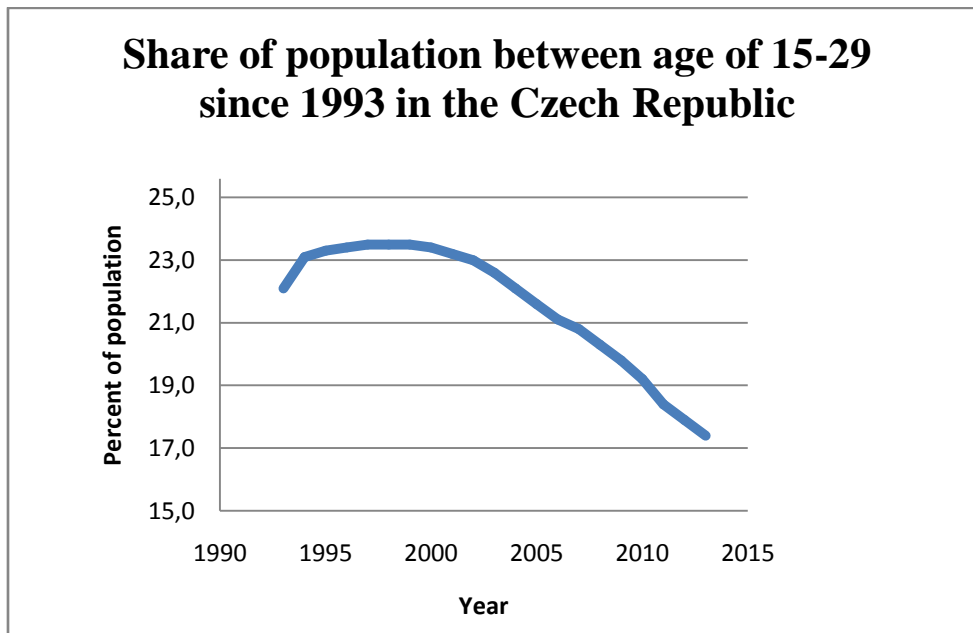
⁵ Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sofia. About the Czech Republic. Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online http://www.mzv.cz/sofia/en/about_the_czech_republic/political_system_of_the_czech_republic/index.html

⁶ businessinfo.cz Political system and foreign relations. Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online <http://www.businessinfo.cz/en/about-the-czech-republic/basic-data/political-system-and-foreign-relations.html>

⁷ Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sofia. About the Czech Republic. Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online http://www.mzv.cz/sofia/en/about_the_czech_republic/political_system_of_the_czech_republic/index.html

4. Main features of age structure development

For this study, the age structure of the population of the Czech Republic, as well as other EU countries, is extremely important. In 2011 there were in the Czech Republic 1 933 800 inhabitants aged between 15 and 30 years out of 10 504 800 , that is 18.4% of the total population. In comparison, the equivalent share in the same age category was 22.9% in 1993.⁸



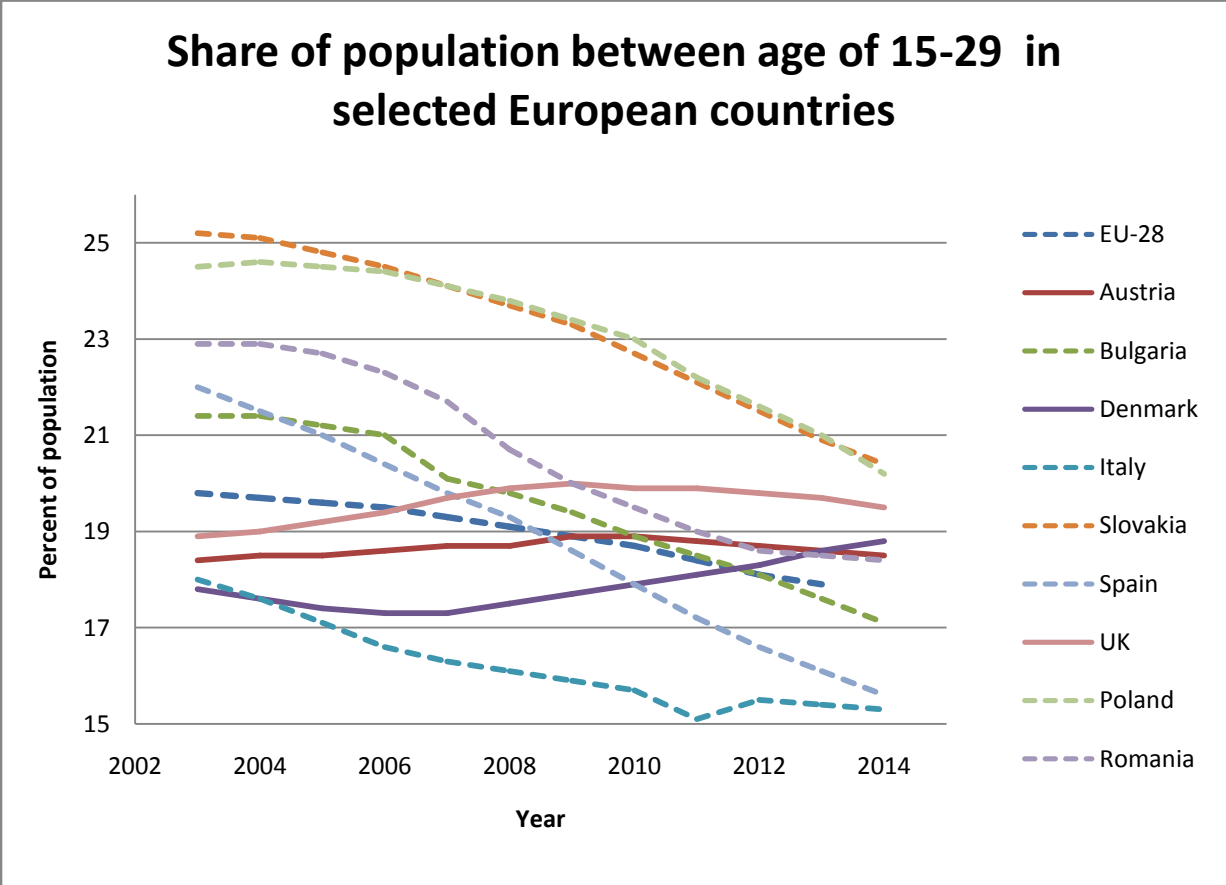
Source: Czech Statistical Office. Age distribution of population of the Czech Republic. Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online: http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/vekova_skladba_obyvательства_cr

This dramatic decline in past years, is occurring not only in the Czech Republic, but also in many other European countries. In 20 out of 28 European member states the ratio of young people in the total population (i.e. people from 15 to 29 years) decreased in the past ten years. The most dramatic decline occurred in countries of the former Eastern bloc - in all of these countries, members of the EU now, the share of young people fell by 3-4% since 2003 (for instance in Bulgaria from 21.4% to 17.1%, in Estonia from 21.6% to 18.6%, in Hungary from 22% to 18%)⁹ Austria, Belgium, Germany and United Kingdom remained approximately the same during the past ten years. Luxembourg, Netherlands and Sweden experienced slight change (around 0.5%). The only country with more significant positive

⁸ Czech Statistical Office. Age distribution of population of the Czech Republic. Accessed: 27 November 2014. Available online http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/vekova_skladba_obyvательства_cr

⁹ For exact number for all of the EU countries see: Eurostat. Ratio of young people in the total population on 1 January by sex and age. Accessed: 2. March 2015. Available online <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

growth remains Denmark, where the ratio increased from 17.3% in 2007 to 18.8% in 2014.¹⁰ These trends are highlighted in the graph below, where countries with negative growth are displayed by an interrupted line and countries with stable numbers or with positive growth are displayed by a normal line.



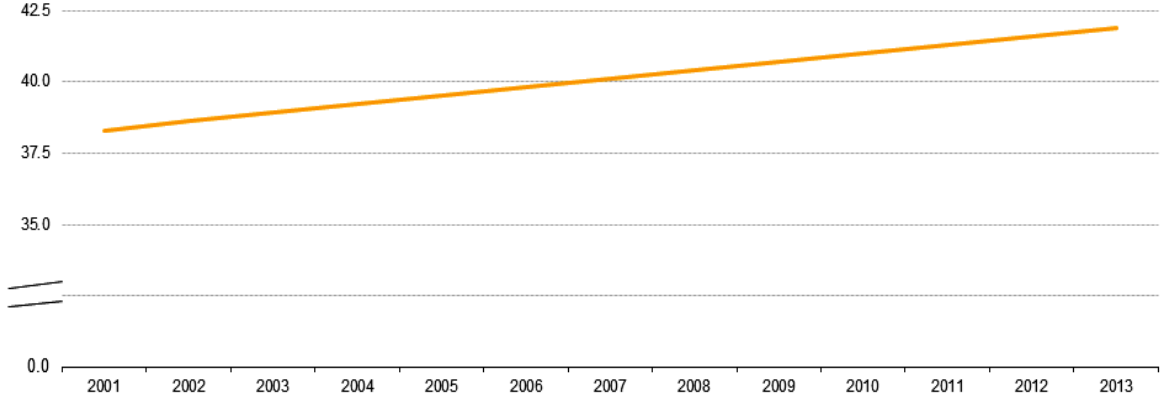
Source: Eurostat. Ratio of young people in the total population on 1 January by sex and age. Accessed: 2 March 2015. Available online: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

The ageing of population in European countries, including the Czech Republic, can be demonstrated also by growth of median age. Median age is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. It is a single index that summarizes the age distribution of a population. Currently,

¹⁰ Ibid.

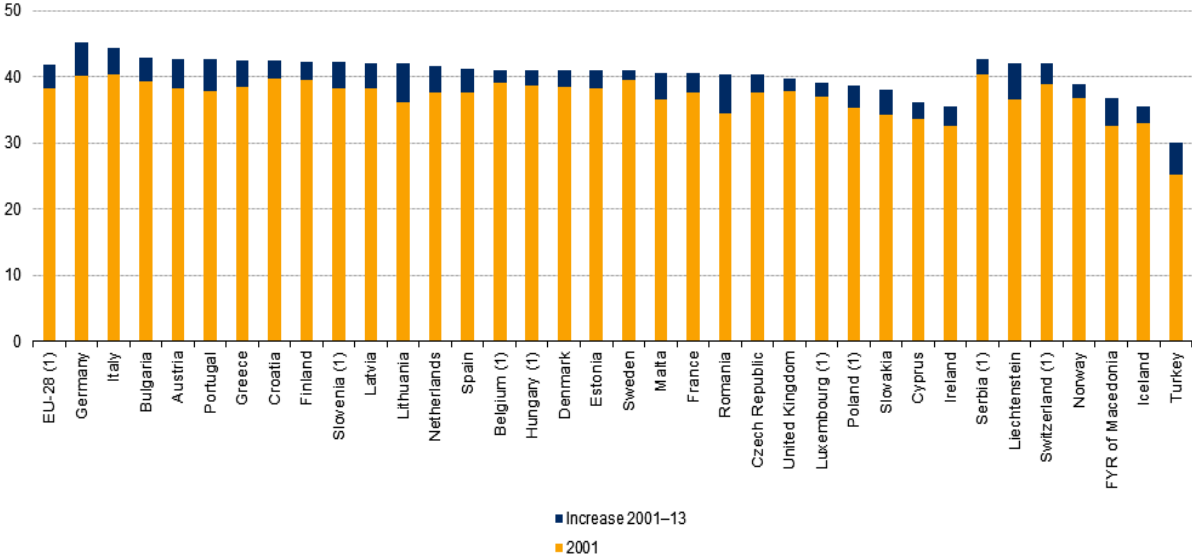
the median age in the world ranges from a low of about 15 in Uganda and Gaza Strip to 40 or more in several European countries and Japan.¹¹

Median age of population, EU-28, 2001-2013



Source: Eurostat. Population structure and ageing. Accessed 2 March 2015. Available online: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Median_age_of_population,_EU-28,_2001%E2%80%9313_\(1\)_years\)_YB14.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Median_age_of_population,_EU-28,_2001%E2%80%9313_(1)_years)_YB14.png)

Median age of population, 2001-2013



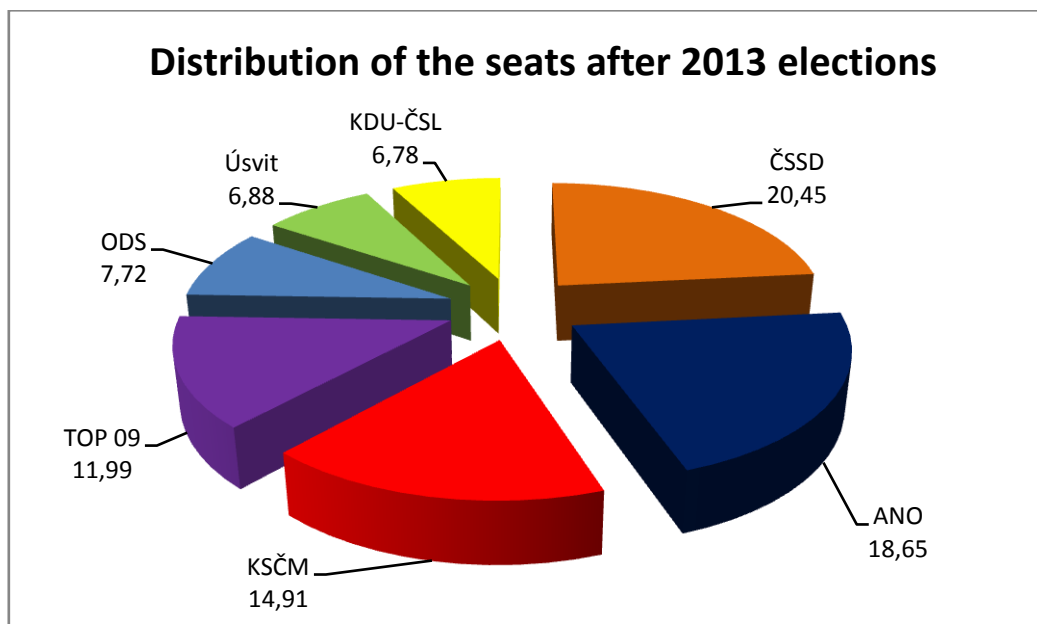
Source: Eurostat. Population structure and ageing. Accessed 2 March 2015. Available online: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Median_age_of_population,_2001%E2%80%9313_\(years\)_YB14.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Median_age_of_population,_2001%E2%80%9313_(years)_YB14.png)

¹¹ CIA. The World Factbook. Accessed: 2. March 2015. Available online: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2177.html>

5. Age structure of representative bodies

5.1 The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

According to the Act No. 247/1995 on Elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, article 25, the candidate must be by the second day of the elections at least 21 years old.¹²



Source: Czech Statistical Office, Accessed 20 January 2015. Available online: <http://www.volby.cz/pls/ps2013/ps?xjazyk=EN>

There are four parliament members under 30 in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic following the elections in 2013. The youngest is 27, elected as a candidate of the biggest party in the Czech parliament – the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD).

In the following tables we can see the age distribution of candidates and of elected MPs in all elections to The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic since 1996. In

¹² Zákon o volbách do Parlamentu České republiky a o změně a doplnění některých dalších zákonů (czech only) Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online: <http://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1995-247> and Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Act of Law 247/1995 Coll., on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Accessed: 27.11.2014. Available online: <http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1995/247.html>

the most recent elections (e.g. in 2010 and in 2013) we also give the distribution of candidates and elected MPs according to their party affiliation. At the end we point out the long-term trend in graphic charts.

1996 elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	4 492	100.00	3 584	79.79	908	20.21
Under 29	270	6.01	216	4.81	54	1.20
30-49	2 305	51.31	1 839	40.94	466	10.37
50 and more	1 917	42.68	1 529	34.04	388	8.64
Average age	47.62		47.59		47.72	

Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	170	85.00	30	15.00
Under 29	18	9.00	14	7.00	4	2.00
30-49	119	59.50	103	51.50	16	8.00
50 and more	63	31.50	53	26.50	10	5.00
Average age	43.84		43.95		43.20	

1998 elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	3 631	100.00	2 875	79.19	756	20.81
Under 29	292	8.04	233	6.42	59	1.62
30-49	1 761	48.50	1 400	38.56	361	9.94
50 and more	1 578	43.46	1 242	34.21	336	9.25
Average age	47.09		47.08		47.14	

Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	170	85.00	30	15.00
Under 29	10	5.00	8	4.00	2	1.00
30-49	119	59.50	99	49.50	20	10.00
50 and more	71	35.50	63	31.50	8	4.00
Average age	45.20		45.45		43.80	

2002 elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	6 068	100.00	4 472	73.69	1 596	26.31
Under 29	906	14.93	615	10.13	291	4.80
30-49	2 734	45.06	2 004	33.03	730	12.03
50 and more	2 428	40.01	1 853	30.53	575	9.48
Average age	45.11		45.70		43.48	

Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	166	83.00	34	17.00
Under 29	5	2.50	4	2.00	1	0.50
30-49	114	57.00	95	47.50	19	9.50
50 and more	81	40.50	67	33.50	14	7.00
Average age	46.87		47.02		46.12	

2006 elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	4 985	100.00	3 602	72.26	1 383	27.74
Under 29	606	12.16	424	8.51	182	3.65
30-49	2 276	45.66	1 572	31.53	704	14.12
50 and more	2 103	42.19	1 606	32.22	497	9.97
Average age	46.00		46.60		44.44	

Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	169	84.50	31	15.50
Under 29	7	3.50	6	3.00	1	0.50
30-49	105	52.50	87	43.50	18	9.00
50 and more	88	44.00	76	38.00	12	6.00
Average age	47.90		48.08		46.90	

2010 Elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	5 022	100.00	3 658	72.84	1 364	27.16
Under 29	589	11.73	408	8.12	181	3.60
30-49	2 345	46.69	1 677	33.39	668	13.30
50 and more	2 088	41.58	1 573	31.32	515	10.25
Average age	45.99		46.38		44.97	

Age structure of candidates according to their party affiliation

Political Party	Number of Candidates	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and more	Average age
VV	337	54	88	85	77	33	43.22
KSČM	342	24	42	62	153	61	50.55
ČSSD	340	12	61	95	113	59	48.74
TOP 09	342	12	63	110	119	38	47.80
ODS	342	15	85	128	88	26	45.42
Others	3 319	472	711	815	779	532	-
Total	5 022	589	1 050	1 295	1 339	749	45.99

Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	156	78.00	44	22.00
Under 29	12	6.00	7	3.50	5	2.50
30-49	102	51.00	81	40.50	21	10.50
50 and more	86	43.00	68	34.00	18	9.00
Average age	47.21		47.68		45.55	

Age structure of elected MPs according to their party affiliation

Political Party	Number of MPs	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and more	Average age
VV	24	5	9	5	4	1	40.08
KSČM	26	3	1	6	14	2	50.23
ČSSD	56	2	10	15	18	11	49.36
ODS	53	1	13	26	11	2	44.60
TOP 09	41	1	6	11	16	7	49.90
Total	200	12	39	63	63	23	47.21

2013 Elections

Age structure of candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	5 899	100.00	4 311	73.08	1 588	26.92
Under 29	642	10.88	466	7.90	176	2.98
30-49	2 974	50.42	2 178	36.92	796	13.49
50 and more	2 283	38.70	1 667	28.26	616	10.44
Average age	45.63		45.68		45.50	

Age structure of candidates according to their party affiliation

Political Party	Number of Candidates	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and more	Average age
ANO	341	19	69	103	105	45	47.28
ČSSD	343	6	68	90	110	69	49.75
KSČM	343	23	70	59	112	79	49.09
KDU-ČSL	343	18	58	114	100	53	47.90
ODS	343	17	72	111	93	50	47.19
TOP 09	343	12	69	121	113	28	46.79
ÚSVIT	342	35	92	85	70	60	45.49
Others	3 501	512	887	906	699	497	-
Total	5 899	642	1 385	1 589	1 402	881	45.63

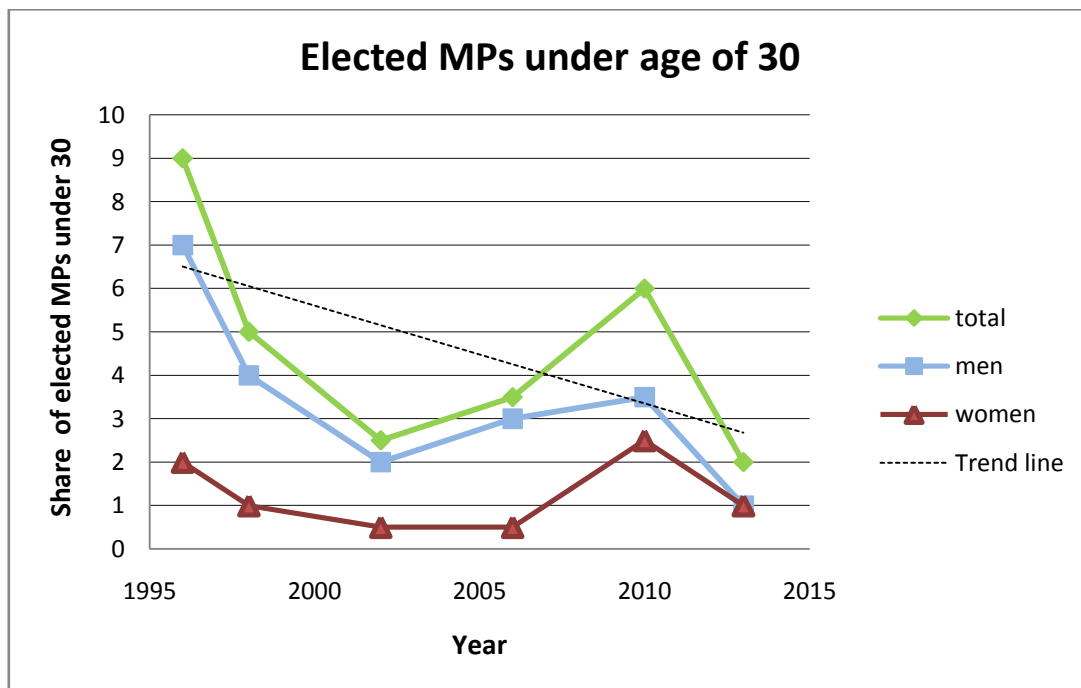
Age structure of elected MPs

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	200	100.00	161	80.50	39	19.50
Under 29	4	2.00	2	1.00	2	1.00
30-49	90	45.00	71	35.50	19	9.50
50 and more	106	53.00	88	44.00	18	9.00
Average age	49.95		50.27		48.59	

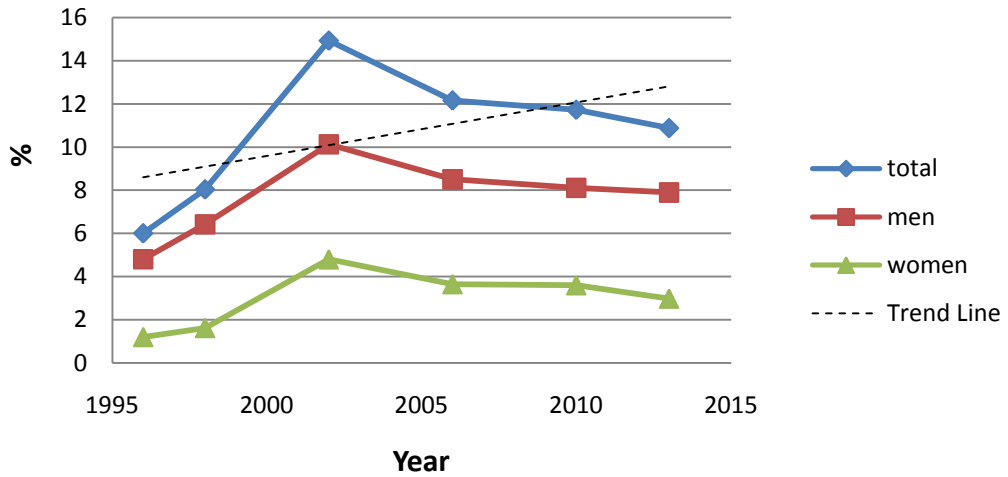
Age structure of elected MPs according to their party affiliation

Political Party	Number of MPs	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and more	Average age
ANO 2011	47	1	4	13	20	9	51.38
ČSSD	50	1	10	15	18	6	49.12
KSČM	30	1	6	6	10	10	50.73
KDU-ČSL	14	-	4	5	4	1	44.21
ODS	16	-	2	8	3	3	49.50
TOP 09	26	1	5	5	10	5	50.58
ÚSVIT	14	-	3	4	2	5	51.29
Total	200	4	34	56	67	39	49.95

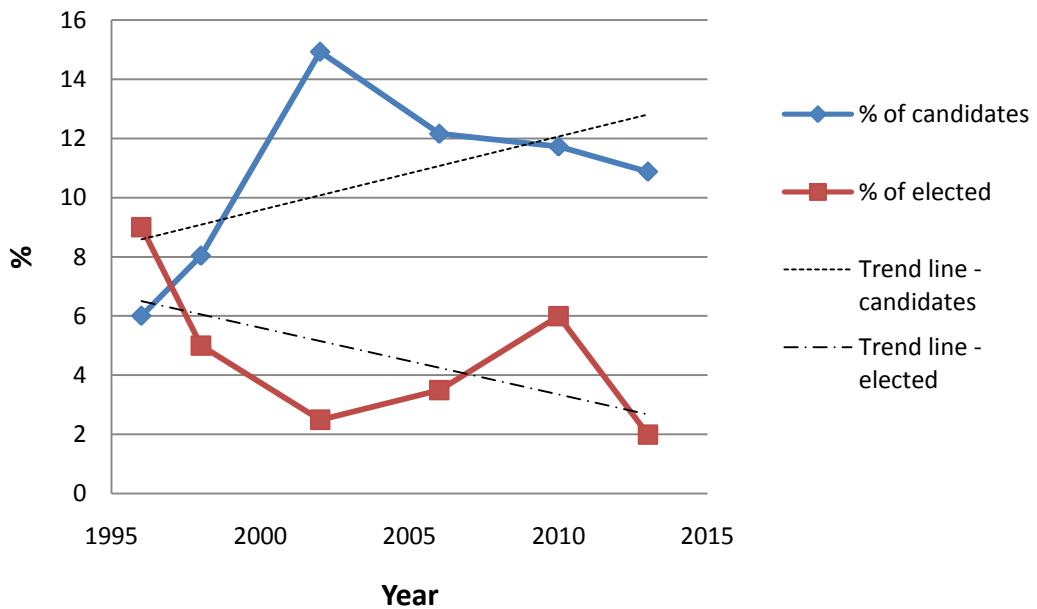
Source: Czech Statistical Office, Accessed 23 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.volby.cz>

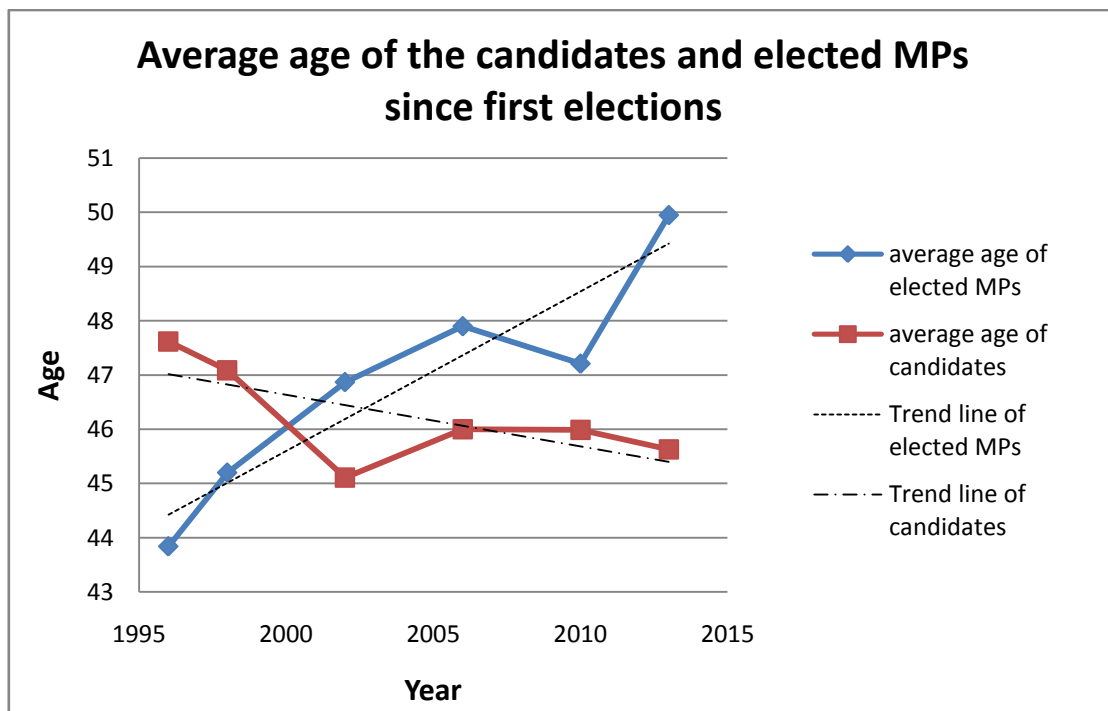


Share of the candidates under age of 30 since first elections



Share of the candidates and elected MPs under age of 30 since first elections





5.2 Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

According to the Act No 247/1995 on Elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, article 54, the candidate must be by the second day of the elections at least 40 years old.¹³ Due to this fact, we decided not to incorporate any statistics or further information on this type of institution into the paper concerned only with participation of youth in politics.

5.3 Municipal Councils

According to the Act No 491/2001 on Elections to the Municipal Councils, article 4 and 5, the candidate as well as the voter must be on the day of the elections (or on the second day of elections in case the elections are held on two days) at least 18 years old and at the same time have a permanent residence in the local municipality.¹⁴

¹³ Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Act of Law 247/1995 Coll., on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Accessed 26 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1995/247.html>

¹⁴ Zákon o volbách do zastupitelstev obcí a o změně některých zákonů (czech only), Accessed 26 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2001-491>

Because of the high number of political parties and others with just a few candidates and elected candidates in this type of election, we decided to provide the main points in the following tables and statistics.

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 1994 elections

	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	9.37	7.32	2.05	7.43	6.21	1.21
30-49	57.69	44.35	13.34	64.02	51.54	12.48
50 and more	32.94	25.94	7.00	28.55	24.39	4.17
Total in %	100.00	77.61	22.39	100.00	82.14	17.86
Average age	44.93	45.04	44.55	44.09	44.34	42.96

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 1998 elections

	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	10.73	8.00	2.73	7.27	5.92	1.35
30-49	52.58	38.55	14.03	58.80	45.58	13.22
50 and more	36.69	27.69	9.00	33.93	27.97	5.96
Total in %	100.00	74.24	25.76	100.00	79.47	20.53
Average age	45.28	45.44	44.82	44.88	45.16	43.81

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 2002 elections

	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	11.56	8.40	3.15	7.56	6.00	1.56
30-49	50.07	35.42	14.66	55.60	41.82	13.78
50 and more	38.37	28.49	9.88	36.84	29.52	7.32
Total in %	100.00	72.31	27.69	100.00	77.34	22.66
Average age	45.31	45.54	44.73	45.33	45.56	44.54

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 2006 elections

	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	10.51	7.39	3.12	6.09	4.59	1.50
30-49	50.73	35.02	15.71	55.16	40.30	14.86
50 and more	38.76	28.21	10.55	38.75	30.19	8.56
Total in %	100.00	70.62	29.38	100.00	75.08	24.92
Average age	45.30	45.58	44.64	45.79	46.05	45.02

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 2010 elections

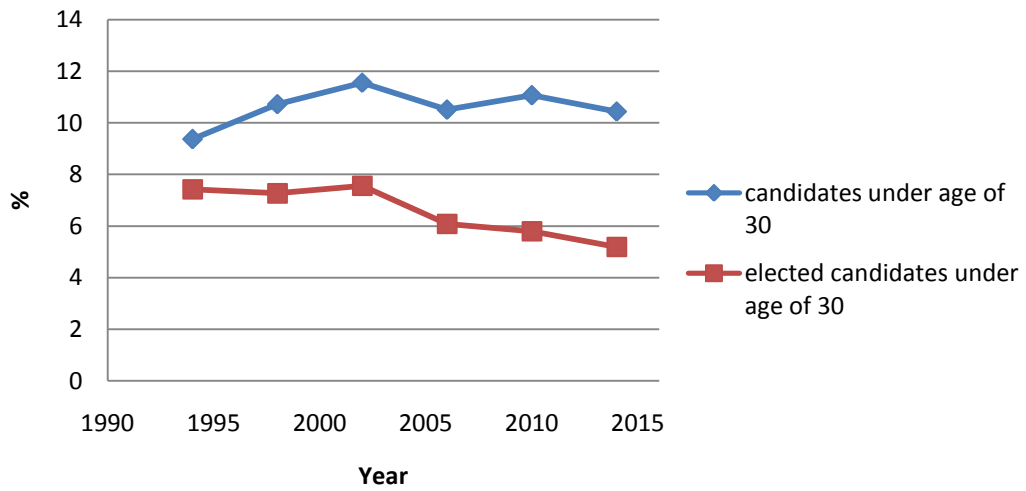
	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	11.07	7.54	3.53	5.80	4.17	1.63
30-49	52.02	35.31	16.71	56.22	40.83	15.39
50 and more	36.91	25.98	10.93	37.98	28.71	9.27
Total in %	100.00	68.83	31.17	100.00	73.71	26.29
Average age	45.09	45.32	44.61	45.93	46.15	45.32

Age structure of candidates and elected officials in 2014 elections

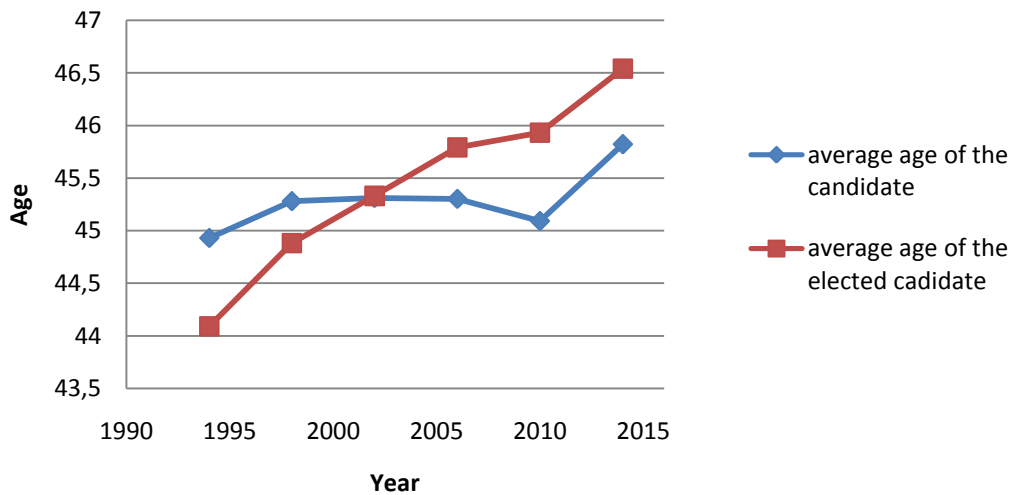
	Candidates			Elected officials		
	Total in %	Men	Women	Total in %	Men	Women
Under 29	10.44	6.94	3.50	5.19	3.74	1.45
30-49	51.65	34.65	17.00	55.56	40.29	15.27
50 and more	37.91	26.19	11.72	39.25	28.90	10.35
Total in %	100.00	67.78	32.22	100.00	72.93	27.07
Average age	45.82	46.06	45.33	46.54	56.69	46.16

Source: Czech Statistical Office, Accessed 25 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.volby.cz>

Share of the candidates and elected candidates in municipal elections under 30 in %



Average age of the candidates and elected candidates since first elections



5.4 Regional Councils

According to the Act No. 130/2000 on Elections to the Regional Councils, articles 4 and 5, the candidate as well as voter must be by the second day of the elections at least 18 years old and at the same time have a permanent residence in the municipality which belongs to the area in the respective region.¹⁵

2000 Elections

Age structure of the candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	7 725	100.00	6 041	78.20	1 684	21.80
Under 29	766	9.92	561	7.27	205	2.65
30-49	3 502	45.33	2 731	35.35	771	9.98
50 and more	3 457	44.75	2 749	35.58	708	9.17
Average age	46.90		47.06		46.29	

Age structure of the elected candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	675	100.00	578	85.62	97	14.38
Under 29	19	2.81	18	2.66	1	0.15
30-49	381	56.44	314	46.51	67	9.93
50 and more	275	40.74	246	36.44	29	4.30
Average age	47.11		47.27		46.14	

2004 Elections

Age structure of the candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	8 309	100.00	6 148	74.00	2 161	26.00
Under 29	947	11.40	626	7.54	321	3.86
30-49	3 744	45.06	2 745	33.04	999	12.02
50 and more	3 618	43.54	2 777	33.42	841	10.12
Average age	46.21		46.69		44.84	

¹⁵ Zákon o volbách do zastupitelstev krajů a o změně některých zákonů (czech only). Accessed 9 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2000-130>

Age structure of the elected candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	675	100.00	573	84.89	102	15.11
Under 29	17	2.52	17	2.52	0	0.00
30-49	318	47.11	266	39.41	52	7.70
50 and more	340	50.37	290	42.96	50	7.41
Average age	48.69		48.68		48.73	

2008 Elections

Age structure of the candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	8 206	100.00	5 812	70.83	2 394	29.17
Under 29	868	10.58	570	6.95	298	3.63
30-49	3 641	44.37	2 553	31.11	1088	13.26
50 and more	3 697	45.05	2 689	32.77	1008	12.28
Average age	46.77		47.10		45.96	

Age structure of the elected candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	675	100.00	556	82.38	119	17.62
Under 29	17	2.52	13	1.93	4	0.59
30-49	303	44.89	245	36.30	58	8.59
50 and more	355	52.59	298	44.15	57	8.44
Average age	48.86		49.15		47.51	

2012 Elections

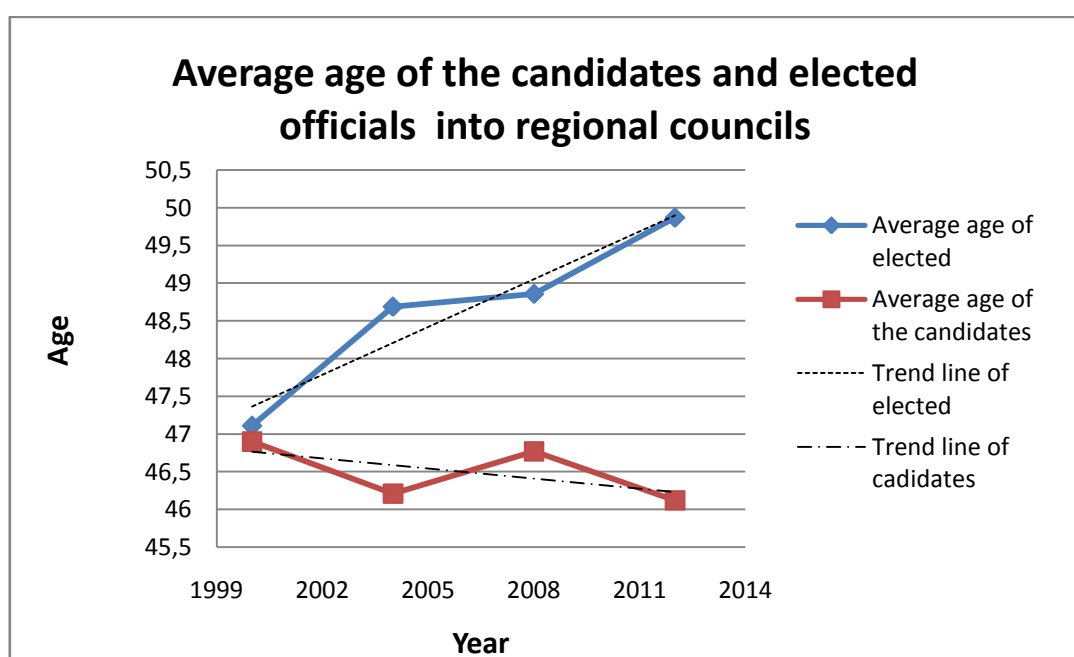
Age structure of the elected candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	11 304	100.00	8 185	72.40	3 119	27.60
Under 29	1334	11.80	958	8.47	376	3.33
30-49	5 290	46.80	3 754	33.21	1536	13.59
50 and more	4 680	41.40	3 473	30.72	1207	10.68
Average age	46.12		46.42		45.36	

Age structure of the elected candidates

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	675	100.00	541	80.15	134	19.85
Under 29	13	1.93	9	1.34	4	0.59
30-49	290	42.96	234	34.66	56	8.30
50 and more	372	55.11	298	44.15	74	10.96
Average age	49.87		50.03		49.25	

Source: Czech Statistical Office, Accessed 26 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.volby.cz>



5.5 European Parliament

According to the Act No. 62/2003 on European Parliament Elections, article 6, any citizen of the Czech Republic and any citizen of another member state with permanent or temporary residence in the Czech Republic for at least 45 days as of the second day of the elections, and at least 21 years old on the second day of the elections, not legally disqualified and – if he/she is a citizen of another member state – not deprived of his/her right to be elected to the European Parliament in the state of which he/she is a citizen may be elected to the European Parliament.¹⁶

¹⁶ Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Act of Law No. 62/2003 Coll. of February 18th, 2003, on Elections to the European Parliament and on Change of Selected Acts of Law. Accessed 29 December 2014 Available online: <http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/2003/62.html>

Since the Czech Republic became a member of the EU in 2004 three elections have been held. In none of these elections was a candidate under 30 years elected. Due to this, we decided to include only tables showing the share of the candidates for the office younger than 30 and exclude tables with the age distribution of elected officials.

Age distribution of candidates in 2014 elections

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	849	100.00	622	73.26	227	26.74
Under 29	89	10.48	57	6.71	32	3.77
30-49	395	46.53	290	34.16	105	12.37
50 and more	365	42.99	275	32.39	90	10.60
Average age	46.82		47.63		44.62	

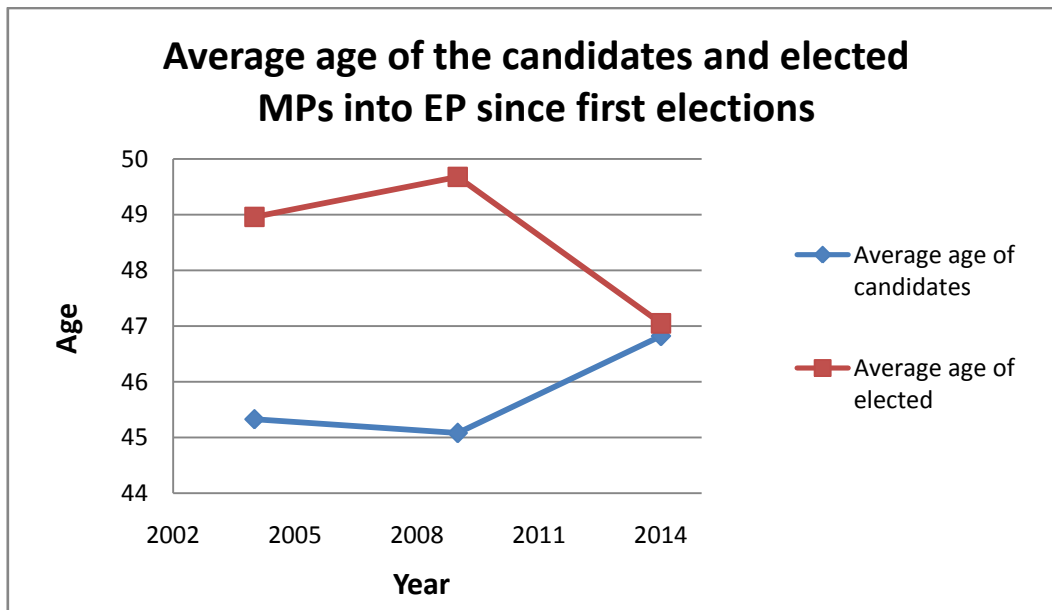
Age distribution of candidates in 2009 elections

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	708	100.00	509	71.89	199	28.11
Under 29	103	14.55	55	7.77	48	6.78
30-49	325	45.90	235	33.19	90	12.71
50 and more	280	39.55	219	30.93	61	8.62
Average age	45.08		46.27		42.03	

Age distribution of candidates in 2004 elections

	Total		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number	806	100.00	603	74.81	203	25.19
Under 29	116	14.39	72	8.93	44	5.46
30-49	352	43.67	257	31.89	95	11.79
50 and more	338	41.94	274	34.00	64	7.94
Average age	45.33		46.53		41.74	

Source: Czech Statistical Office, Accessed 30 December 2014. Available online: <http://www.volby.cz>



5.6 President of the Czech Republic

Until 2012 the president was elected indirectly, by members of Senate. According to the new law passed in 2012 there is a direct election of the president (law number 275/2012 Sb.). Any person having right of suffrage and right to be elected as a member of Senate can be elected as a president (i.e. candidate must be at least 40 years old).¹⁷ Since then, one direct election for the presidency was held in 2013. In the second round of this election Miloš Zeman received the majority of the votes and became the president of the Czech republic. He was 68 at the time of the election.¹⁸ The youngest candidate was Jiří Dientsbier, 43 years old at the time of the election.¹⁹

¹⁷ Election of the president is regulated by two document: by law number 275/2012 and by Constitution of the Czech Republic. Whilst there is no restriction regarding the age of the candidate in law number 2075/2012, the age-limit is regulated by article 57 of the constitution, which says: "*Prezidentem republiky může být zvolen občan, který je volitelný do Senátu.*" (Only citizen having the right to be elected as a member of Senate may be elected as a president of the Republic). Zákon o volbě prezidenta republiky a o změně některých zákonů (law number 275/2012 - czech only). Accessed 7 January 2015. Available online:

<http://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2012-275#cast1> and Constitution of the Czech Republic. Accessed 7 January 2015. Available online: <http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/1.html>

For more information about elections of the presidents in the other EU states see also <http://www.governance.com/blog/161-heads-of-state-in-eu-member-countries.html>

¹⁸ Czech Statistical Office. Election of the President of the Czech Republic held on 11 – 12 January 2013.

Accessed 7 January 2015. Available online: <http://volby.cz/pls/prez2013/pe?xjazyk=EN>

¹⁹ Ibid.

6.Participation of youth in present and past governments

Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka is 43 years old and the youngest minister is Marian Jurečka, 33 years old. He is responsible for the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and is the only official member of government under 35. The youngest minister in the history of independent Czech Republic was Karel Březina - when he was appointed as a minister without portfolio in the year 2000, he was 27 years old.²⁰ He belonged to Czech Social Democratic Party.

Government members and their age in 2015²¹

Prime Minister of the Czech Republic - Bohuslav Sobotka - born in 1971 (43 years old)

The First Deputy Prime Minister for the Economics, Minister of Finance - Andrej Babiš - born in 1954 (60 years old)

Deputy Prime Minister for the Science, Research and Innovation, Chairman of the Research, Development and Innovation Council - Pavel Bělobrádek - born in 1976 (38 years old)

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Lubomír Zaorálek - born in 1956 (58 years old)

Minister of Defence - Martin Stropnický - born in 1956 (58 years old)

Minister of the Interior - Milan Chovanec - born in 1970 (45 years old)

Minister of Trade and Industry - Ján Mládek- born in 1960 (54 years old)

Minister of Justice - Helena Válková- born in 1951 (43 years old)

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs - Michaela Marksová-Tominová - born in 1969 (45 years old)

Minister of Transport - Dan Ťok - born in 1959 (55 years old)

Minister of Agriculture - Marian Jurečka - born in 1981 (33 years old)

Minister of Health - Svatopluk Němeček - born in 1972 (43 years old)

Minister of Education, Youth and Sport - Marcel Chládek - born in 1968 (46 years old)

Minister of the Environment - Richard Brabec - born in 1966 (48 years old)

²⁰ Zajímavosti o vládě: Nečas je druhým nejmladším premiérem. Parlamentní listy. (czech only). Accessed 12 January 2015. Available online:<http://www.parlamentnilisty.cz/politika/vlada/Zajimavosti-o-vlade-Necas-je-druhym-nejmladsim-premierem-169904>

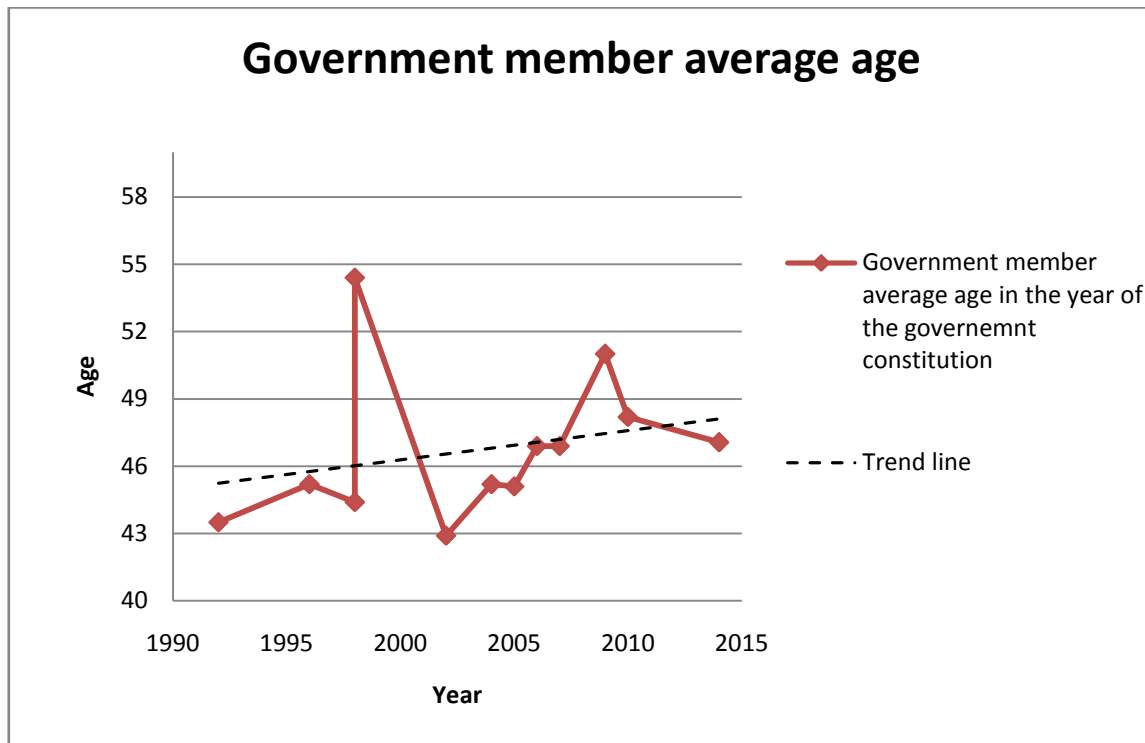
²¹ Government of the Czech Republic. Accessed 12 January 2015. Available online: <http://www.vlada.cz/en/vlada/>

Minister of Culture - Daniel Herman - born in 1963 (51 years old)

Minister of the Czech Republic's Government for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation - Jiří Dienstbier - born in 1969 (45 years old)

Minister of Regional Development - Karla Šlechtová - born in 1977 (37 years old)

Average age of the member of government (in 2015): 47.06



7. Youth political organizations in the Czech Republic

The Young Social Democrats is the youth wing of the left political party "Czech Social Democratic Party". Any EU citizen older than 15 and younger than 35 who supports social democratic ideas of freedom, democracy, solidarity, social justice and ecological ethic can become a member. The association is trying to offer an alternative solution of current problems to young people. It aims to address them with a vision of new, more righteous and prosperous society based on traditional European values, individual freedom and participation of citizens in political affairs. The association shares the basic ideas of the Czech Social Democratic Party, such as direct democracy, stronger social state, direct taxation, regulation of free market, environmental protection, support of EU and others. The Young Social Democrats are members of International Union of Socialist Youth and Young European Socialists associations.²²

The Young Conservatives is the youth wing of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), a centre right political party and shares that party's conservative and economically liberal ideology, as well as eurosceptic ideas. They emphasise freedom of individuals, free competition of political parties, bicameralism, free trade, low taxation etc. According to the charter of this association, its main objective is education a professional development of their members. They organize a number of lectures, conferences and discussions on current political or economic affairs. Besides these events, they also organize other social and sport activities, including sport competitions with other youth political associations (Young Social Democrats and Young Christian Democrats). As a practical example of their activities we can state here a project "Voličský průkaz", which aimed to improve awareness of inhabitants about the opportunity to vote outside of their permanent residence address. The Young Conservatives are also a member of other international associations, such as European Democrat Students, European young conservatives or Democratic Youth Community of Europe.²³

The Young Christian Democrats is the youth wing of centre conservative political party "Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party". The general objective of this association is advocacy of Christian and conservative values both in politics and in society. The main part of its activities consists of educational activities and promotion

²² Mladí sociální demokraté. Accessed 8 March 2015. Available online (czech only): <http://www.mladi.cz/>

²³ Mladí Konzervativci. Accessed 8 March 2015. Available online (czech only): <http://www.konzervativci.cz/>

of active political participation. The Young Christian Democrats organize a number of lectures, conferences and discussions on current affairs. They are trying to focus on young people and students. According to their programme, their main objectives in politics are:

1. to support traditional education, including Christian schools and homeschooling;
2. to fight against euthanasia, abortions, civil partnerships and adoption of children by same sex couples;
3. to fight against crime and drugs, including cannabis;
4. to fight against mass immigration and radical Islam;
5. to support the traditional family.²⁴

The Young Democrats is the youth wing of centre right political party TOP 09. Two main objectives of this association are:

1. to share liberal and conservative ideas such as democracy, human right, freedom and right of state to adjust economy;
2. to support education, qualification, initiative of young people and their interest in local and European policy

The main part of its activities consists of educational activities, like conferences, lectures and discussions with politicians, political scientists, economists or other experts on current affairs. Members of the association also help with political campaigns of selected candidates by spreading their ideas and distributing promotional materials. At the beginning of 2014 the young democrats organized an educational competition for high school students. This competition aimed to foster political awareness of youth and at the end 35 of these students took part in simulation of a municipality parliament session. The association is also publishing a journal INSIGHT. Anyone who is interested can become a member until he or she reaches the age of 35.²⁵

The Communist Youth Union (KSM) is the youth wing of left political party "Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia". It is an independent and voluntary organisation building on the theoretical work of Marx, Engels, Lenin and other thinkers of the communist movement, and carrying on a tradition of the Czechoslovak and global youth movement. The KSM endeavours to make its contribution to the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism by

²⁴ Mladí křesťanští demokraté. Accessed 8 March 2015. Available online (czech only): <http://www.mladikd.cz/vize.php>

²⁵ Mladí demokraté. Accessed 8 March 2015. Available online: <http://www.mladidemokrate.cz/?lang=en>

establishing the economic and social conditions needed for the construction of socialism, as a first step towards building a communist society, whose full realisation is the final goal. This effort is expressed in the name of the organization, purporting to understand the concept of communism as marking a vision of the future, a well-organised, classless society, where the power held over people is replaced with a free administration and control of manufacturing processes, and where the basis of freedom in development for all starts with that of each individual. KSM also devotes time to political education, handing out printed and published materials (namely the journal 'Mladá Pravda'), and also organising cultural, sports, and other leisure time activities.²⁶

Young Greens, an independent civic association, was founded in 2002. This association focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, human rights, globalization and solidarity. The Young Greens want the concept of sustainable development to become a common criterion for decisions of politicians, businesses, entrepreneurs and all citizens. They see the protection of the environment and the biodiversity as essential for the future. This association is a member of the Federation of Young European Greens. It organizes seminars, round tables, screenings of documents and international exchange events which are focused on these issues. Anyone who is interested in green ideas can become their member until he or she reaches the age of 30. Then they can stay a member until the age of 35.²⁷

²⁶ Komunistický svaz mládeže. Accessed 1 March 2015. Available online: http://www.ksm.cz/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3331&Itemid=103

²⁷ Mladí Zelení. Accessed 1 March 2015. Available online : <http://www.mladizeleni.cz/about-us/>

8. Conclusion

Our study has shown several unexpected results in youth participation in Czech representative bodies. On both state as well as regional level the share of youth candidates rose constantly since independence of the Czech republic. Also the average age of the candidates fell, therefore the growing interest of youth in politics is clearly visible. After reading this information we would assume that participation of youth population in representative bodies would rise proportionally, but our study has shown the exact opposite. The share of parliament members under 30 fell from 9% in 1995 to only 2% in 2013 (i.e. only 4 MPs out of 200 were younger 30 years of age). Also the average age of a parliament member rose dramatically in last decade. Whilst in 1995 the average of MP was below 44, after the last elections in 2013 the average age rose to 50. A less dramatic, but still significant process occurred also on the regional level.

Naturally, these findings must be also understood in relation to demographic changes occurring in the Czech Republic and in other European countries. As we have shown in chapter 3, the share of youth population has declined since the beginning of the century and the median age of the population in the EU is rising. However the simple ageing of the population cannot be the sole explanation of the abovementioned development in youth political participation. If demographic explanation would be correct, we should observe growing age of the candidates, but this was not the case here. Therefore the search for the other explanations with an interdisciplinary approach involving the other social sciences is needed, as well as more case studies covering other European countries.