

SUMMARY

Title: The role of the referendum in European countries: an instrument of political struggle or a civic tool for creating state policy? Analysis based on veto players theory

The referendum is the main tool of direct democracy that citizens can use in conditions of representative democracy. The topic seems to be important from the perspective of political science research. Therefore, an analysis of European referenda was undertaken, basing the conducted research on the concept of veto players by G. Tsebelis. The results of the research made it possible to answer if referenda are an instrument for political struggle or a civic tool for creating state policy. It was also checked if the concept of veto players is applicable in the context of research on referenda. Selected referendums took place in Portugal, Romania, Malta, Poland, Ireland, Great Britain, Greece and Hungary. The selection of cases was dictated by the geographical location and the subject of the referendum.