

Implications of Proportional Regional Electoral System to the Internal Democracy of Political Parties

Roland Lami

European University of Tirana

Tirana, ALBANIA

roland.lami@uet.edu.al

Keywords: proportional regional system, leadership, oligarchy, authoritarianism, representation, party structures

Abstract. Heywood (2002), Ostrogorski (2008), Michels (1915) support the thesis that the effects of electoral systems have long-term impact on the parties system, the organization of the ideological spectrum, the nature of competition and internal democracy. This paper will analyze the implications of the electoral system concerning the internal democracy of political parties. As a case study I will refer to the two major parties, Democratic Party and Socialist Party. After modifying the electoral system in 2008, components such as: procedure for selecting the MP candidates, the importance of structures regarding their proposal and approval, the rapport between the electors and the elected, the diversity of positions or opinions within leading forums as well as the role of leadership, have further worsened the level of internal democracy. These variables are examined based on two recent elections, respectively the parliamentary elections of 2009 and local elections of 2011. The methodology used in this study based on primary resource utilization and secondary