ABSTRACT

WHY IS THERE NO STRONG WOMEN’S MOVEMENT IN LATVIA?
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The paper deals with the question “Why is there no strong women’s movement in Latvia?” Why there is no women’s or feminist movement in Eastern Europe? – it has been inquired by several researchers. Different answers have been given, most of them in hope that a wider mobilization of women will appear, whether under the name of feminism or not. However, I agree with those who have detected the beginnings of the women’s movement in the region, although it is weak. Trying to answer the question “Why is there no strong women’s movement in Latvia?” – first, the definition is sought what the characteristics of a movement are, to determine what can be considered a strong or weak movement. Second, the situation in Latvia is assessed (whether there is a women’s movement and whether it is strong or weak). Third, after determining that the movement is weak the possible reasons of it are examined in the context of Latvia. In this respect, different intertwining reasons – cultural, political and economic ones are addressed. The role of political culture, repertoires of action and the international organizations are analyzed in order to reach the answer to the main question of the paper.