

## **Geography of recent migration wave – from where, where to and why do refugees come?**

### **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis aims to find out what factors affect refugees when selecting an asylum destination country during the recent refugee and migrant wave. Potentially important factors are first selected on the basis of literature studies, and consequently their significance is quantitatively tested on the most important refugee flows. For clarity, individual factors are divided into four groups: cultural, economic, geographical and political factors. The analyzed set consists of paired data for the 20 most important source countries from different world regions and 31 destination countries that are members of the European Union, or the European Free Trade Association. The results confirmed the importance of colonial ties and of the same language, but some policy factors, such as social benefits in destination country, have also been shown to be important. The impact of economic factors was not confirmed as expected, but it was found neither for geographic factors, nor for migrant networks.

**Keywords:** asylum destination choice; asylum seekers; international migration; refugee and migrant wave; refugees