

Diploma thesis “Liberalization of mutual trade between the European Union and Sub-Saharan Africa” evaluates the hitherto development of the economic relations between the EEC, or EU, and the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis covers, after a short excursus to the period of the European colonization, the formation of contractual framework which regulated the exchange of goods between both continents. Special attention is given to the way how this trade regime was adjusted to the particular trends and external pressures often emanating from the international financial institutions. The Cotonou Agreement of 2000 is the reaction to the preceding critiques as well as a synthesis of numerous reforming efforts to boost the linkage between trade and palpable economic and political development of the third world countries. Its main measures have however so far been implemented with certain difficulties. The thesis also underscores the fact that the member countries of the EU themselves have diverse interests. After half century of bold initiatives and spectacular proclamations, it is evident that the original declared targets of the business cooperation between the European Union and the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa were not fulfilled. Certain tangible contributions of the cooperation, including the reinforcement of the developing countries’ unity, may be seen rather as side effects. Surprisingly, the result is, above all, a European loss – the economically marginalized, yet more united, Sub-Saharan Africa will seek new trade partners in the 21st century.