

## **Abstract**

This master thesis is focused on understanding the process of politicization of the European Union in Czech media between the years 2003 and 2017. The theoretical framework used to observe the politicization process is based on postfunctionalist theory of European integration which assumes that the governance of the European Union has been become publicly contested, i.e., politicized, which consequently constrained the process of European integration. To analyze the process two politicization indices that considered the visibility, i.e., salience, of the European Union and the divergence of opinions i.e., polarization, were created. The source of data were annual Eurobarometer surveys and 6750 articles from three Czech quality newspapers. The hypothesized drivers of politicization assumed increases of politicization during authority transfer moments such as Czech Republic joining the EU in 2004 or Lisbon treaty adoption in 2009; and during crisis events such as was the Eurozone crisis and refugee crisis. The results revealed that the overall level of politicization was low, and it was only during the hypothesized events of Czech-EU admission, Lisbon treaty and refugee crisis that the politicization level increased significantly.