

Abstract

In the past few years, European integration has often encountered resistance from individual countries when deepening cooperation in specific European policies. The different sociocultural, political and historical backgrounds of the individual member states prove to be potentially problematic, and it appears there is also great diversity in the attitudes of European public opinion. The presented work deals with the issue of the perception of European integration in EU countries, with the aim of evaluating to what extent the current attitude of public opinion towards European integration can be explained by the cultural-political dimension of attitudes. Factor and regression analysis were used to examine the relationships and measure the significance of the impacts. The cultural-political dimension – represented by factors such as political assessment, immigration assessment, religion and traditionalism, and emotional attachment – explains, based on the results of the regression analysis, on average 22 % of the overall attitude towards European integration. However, the values differ significantly in the conditions of individual countries. The results also questioned the attachment to the national country or the importance of religiosity and traditionalism, as important predictors in rejecting further European integration. On the other hand, results pointed to the great importance of immigration and political assessment. Finally, the study also further analyses the diversity between the individual member states of the Union and focuses its attention more closely on three countries - Italy, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Key words

European integration, European Union, Euroscepticism, Cultural-political dimension of attitudes, public opinion