Abstract

The thesis examines the evolution of the perception of the state space sector in EU countries. It focuses on the transition from safety-oriented to security-oriented approaches. The thesis uses a comparative multi-case study of EU member states. Aim of this thesis is to analyse the main factors influencing this shift. The research is based on Professor Nayef Al-Rodhan's meta-geopolitical framework, enriched with new criteria related to the rise of New Space. The thesis evaluates the results of the criteria through a three-stage comparison study. The study analyses trends between 2014 and 2023, and identifies key factors influencing changes in perceptions. The analysis uses a scoring system based on static and dynamic criteria (expenditure, legislative reforms, etc.). The results show how technological advances, economic growth and geopolitics are influencing this shift. Thus, countries with higher economic and technological capacity undergo the transition to a security approach earlier. Conversely, states with lower levels of resources maintain a more traditional approach to the sector and orient their interests more towards a security or balanced approach.