

Diploma thesis „Ten years of the Welsh National Assembly: closer to the Scottish model? (1999-2009)“ deals with changes that took place in the last ten years in Welsh devolution settlement. The thesis works with the concepts of Scottish and Welsh models of devolution that arose as a consequence of asymmetric devolution settlements that the Labour government established in the both regions in 1999. The asymmetry derived from historical, political and practical reasons. Meanwhile the Scottish Parliament has been established as a parliamentary institution with separate legislative and executive, the Welsh Assembly took form as a elected institution with a corporative structure. At the same time, the Scottish Parliament obtained general primary legislative powers compared to the limited executive powers of the Welsh Assembly. From the beginning of its existence the Welsh Assembly sought to change its devolution settlement to match the Scottish model of devolution. The Welsh coalition of Labour party and Liberal Democrats established the Commission on the Assembly's Powers and Electoral Arrangements under the leadership of lord Richard, which was active from 2002 to 2004. The Richard Commission recommended radical changes to the settlement in line with the Scottish model. Consequently, the British Government put into effect the Government of Wales Act 2006. The new devolution law established the Welsh Assembly as a parliamentary institution with separate legislation and execution and enables step-by-step move towards primary legislative powers following the positive referendum result of the Welsh electorate in 2010.