

Abstract

The thesis deals with the motivations that are formative for the Danish foreign aid. Denmark is one of the most generous donors and it plays an active role on the field of international development cooperation. An analysis of his motives will help us to better understand which ideological concepts are decisive for the Danish willingness to help other nations and also to identify what interests take part in formulation of Danish development programmes. The identification of the specific dimensions of motivation is based on a broad theoretical framework, which divides motives into seven categories: security, power, wealth, enlightened self-interest, prestige, obligation and humanitarianism. The author of the study maintains that it is possible to discover a wider range of motivations in Danish development assistance. It is a great simplification to assess the Danish foreign aid only in reference to commonly shared values of international solidarity, altruism and moral obligation to help others, which are the most prominent explanations in the literature. An analysis of Danish strategies reveals that the poverty reduction and sustainable growth are the main objectives of the Danish foreign aid. Based on the quantitative analysis of four basic criteria related to the aid performance (total volume, sectoral and geographical allocations, quality), we will probably make a conclusion that humanitarian motives dominate in Danish development policy. However, another two motivations are vital, too. The category of enlightened self-interest is portrayed mainly in aid allocations for the environment protection and the fight against the climate change. The dimension of prestige is reflected in a Danish self presence based on the reputation as a generous donor state.