

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to examine the attitude of the European Union to the non-citizen issue in Latvia during the accession talks and its impact on legislative changes in Latvia in this area. The thesis asks such questions as whether Latvia has fulfilled all formal and informal criteria of the accession to the European Union concerning non-citizens and whether the recommendations that were part of the European Commission's regular reports were effective. Further I would like to answer the question how important the other two international bodies were, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe, and to what extent the European Union was dependent on their recommendations. Using primary and secondary sources, I will try to show that the main aim of the reports was to improve the situation of non-citizens in Latvia, bringing in the standards of the European Union. Becoming a member of the European Union, Latvia has theoretically fulfilled the required conditions; the question is what the situation has been like in practice.