

Abstract

This thesis deals with Irish motivations for accession to European Community in 1973. Irish historical background and its close relations with United Kingdom influenced Irish situation in 1950s, when the state's economy struggled with difficulties. Based on this context this paper identifies the main Irish motivations, why Ireland decided to join the EEC. They are as follows: the most influential was Irish weak economy and development in relation to the significant Irish dependence on British market. Ireland expected from the membership faster economic growth connected with modernization and diversification of Irish traditional markets. The other two important motivations were Irish sovereignty and its development and the situation in Northern Ireland. Next part of the thesis analyses how the most dominant motivations were realized after the accession. Comparing the criteria – Irish GDP, emigration and trade – before and after the accession shows the development of Irish economic situation. The changes in destinations of Irish export and sources of import reflect decrease in Irish dependence on British market. All criteria and both parts of the motivation are studied in short term after the accession and in a long term.