

Abstract

The restoration of independence of the three Baltic States occurred in 1991. However the previous period of Soviet occupation brought dire, and to a large extent, permanent changes in the ethnic composition of the population. The changes were the primary reason why both countries had fairly restrictive conditions in the revival of civil status - citizenship was given to pre-war citizens and their direct descendants. This thesis by comparative analysis tries to find out the main differences and similarities in the dynamics of naturalization process in Latvia and Estonia. The dynamics will be analyzed from 1995 to 2005. Latvian naturalization process began in 1995. The year 2005 is characterized by a dramatic changes in preferences of non- citizens, which probably occurred after the accession to the European Union. The first part presents the important concepts of the work and presentment of the two countries at the beginning of the 1990s. Then the comparative analysis follows itself. Naturalization is analyzed according to the characters, which, I believe, had the most important influence on the dynamics of the process - Citizenship Act (and its amendments), Language Act, the accession of both countries to the EU and other economical reasons.

Keywords

The Soviet Union, Latvia, Estonia, naturalization, citizenship, non-citizen