

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to interpret how the European Union was constructed in discourse of Slovak political parties from 2002 to 2012. The thesis departs from the social constructivist assumption of mutual constitutiveness of structures and agents. Focusing on the role of ideas in European integration, a concept of polity ideas or normative ideas about the legitimate political order, as defined by Markus Jachtenfuchs, is applied. Applying discursive analysis to political programmes, political parties' utterances about European integration, in particular about democracy, rights and internal security, foreign policy and security, welfare and identity are assigned to four ideal types: *Federal state*, *Intergovernmental cooperation*, *Economic community and Network*. For the research purposes political programmes of three Slovak political parties are analysed: Christian Democratic Movement, Direction – Social Democracy and The Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party. The analysis of the political programmes showed that the Slovak political parties do not have a consistent vision of the future of European integration. A high number of descriptive utterances was found in the programmes. Moreover, beliefs about democracy, rights and internal security, foreign policy and security, welfare and identity were not interpreted in terms of a single ideal type.