

Abstract

The thesis deals with bilateral relation of Slovakia and Hungary in terms of collective identities. Partial objective of the thesis is to explain Slovak-Hungarian relations from the perspective of constructivist theories and identity perspective. As a consequence both actors perceive historical development of the Central European area and common history differently. The main aim of the thesis is to research the nature of policy of Slovak government towards Hungarian minority living in Slovakia, as well as how this policy affects Slovak – Hungarian bilateral relations. Regarding the hypotheses, we believe that the Slovakia-Hungarian relations are strongly influenced by the structure of Slovak and Hungarian identity and the perception of other side as "the other" (another, foreign, enemy), resulting in a different understanding of the historical development of the Central European area and common history. Currently it expresses itself mostly in different attitudes and opinions on the issue of territory, respectively the border between Slovak republic and Hungary, and the status and rights of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia. As for the main hypothesis, the policy of the Slovak government against Hungarian minority living in Slovakia is affected by the identity of the Slovaks. This applies in varying degrees to the legislature of the Slovak republic, as well as attitudes of government (political parties, politicians and statesmen) that cause disputes between Hungary and the Slovak republic and contribute to conflictual nature of bilateral relations.