

Abstract

Industry 4.0 is a new generation of manufacturing based on robotics, automation and new trends in ICT. It was for the first time introduced at the Hannover Fair in 2011 and has been part of the European, German and Czech discourse since then. This Master thesis deals with the topic of Industry 4.0 in the Czech Republic and assesses to what extent the concept is coming to the Czech Republic as a result of a top-down (EU) or horizontal (Germany) Europeanization. The thesis came to the conclusion that there are two perceptions of Industry 4.0. One is narrow and deals with the industrial policy and the other is broad and deals with society wide implications of the fourth industrial revolution. The debate about Industry 4.0 in the Czech Republic is mainly a result of a horizontal Europeanization based on bilateral agreements and close cooperation between Germany and the Czech Republic in the area of R&D, innovations and business. However, the top-down Europeanization cannot be neglected as the EU provides much broader context where Industry 4.0 is taking place. Moreover, Industry 4.0 gave a new impetus to the digital economy and society in the Czech Republic. It turned into agenda 4.0 and moved forward the debate about digital skills.