

Abstract

The Diploma thesis discusses the German political party *Alternative für Deutschland* and its position in the German political system. The thesis deals with Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) since its establishment in 2013 until spring 2017. The aim of the thesis is to analyze the ideological and programmatic transformation of AfD. AfD was formed as an eurosceptic party just few months before the General Election in 2013. AfD has become the first eurosceptic party in Germany which has attracted substantial electoral support in local, national and European elections. The main motivation of the party was the fight against the eurozone crisis and EU criticism. The AfD's criticism is mainly focused on the EU's fiscal and monetary regime. Frauke Petry has become a new party leader in 2015. In the same year the party has turned its focus to immigration and Islam. New leader Petry has managed to take control of a debate on the position of migration and asylum policy. Under her leadership the party has become an anti-immigration party. She was also trying to enforce a party line to extend populism, xenophobia and islamophobia. AfD is focused on criticism of migration and asylum policies in EU and Germany. Leadership of Petry was widely seen as heralding a shift of the party to the right. The thesis deals with the comparison of AfD as a eurosceptic party and as an anti-immigration party. A significant part of this thesis is devoted to the analysis of program documents.