

Abstract

The thesis “Reform of the Canadian immigration system 2008–2014: permanent economic migration” analyses the reasons which, in the period of 2008–2014, led the Canadian federal government to abandon the points based system Canada used for choosing high-skilled immigrants and establish a new hybrid system called *Express Entry*. First, the thesis examines the individual steps in the reform, the changes made in selection criteria and the way the government implemented new measures. The second part focuses on the ideology of the ruling Conservative Party of Canada and its influence over the reforms, then it explores the government’s concept of ideal immigration system and its intended outcomes, and finally it spells out the main problems present in the existing points based system. The main focus is on content analysis of documents produced by the conservative party and the federal government, supplemented by evidence from secondary literature. In conclusion, the broader impact of the changes in Canadian economic immigration system is briefly discussed.