

Abstract

The EU-Turkey relations have been accompanied by the complicated accession process with the aim of integrating Turkey into the EU for several decades. The development of this process has been influenced by internal factors at both sides, as well as by external circumstances. Since 2011, due to the Middle East crisis, Turkey has begun to struggle with a growing number of arriving migrants with a major influx between 2013 and 2015. The wave of incoming migrants hit also the EU in the summer of 2015. This paper examines the impact of one of the strongest migration waves since World War II on the EU-Turkey relations. First is analyzed the migration crisis including its consequences for the EU and Turkey. Second is analyzed, how they responded to the crisis individually so that the research could focus on the cooperation of both sides from autumn 2015 to spring 2016. The paper discovers that the impacts of the migration crisis on the EU and Turkey were so significant that neither side was able to handle the difficult situation on its own. Thus, because of the characteristics of the migration wave, a unique window of opportunity opened for revival of the mutual relations. This revival occurred in October 2015 and up until the EU-Turkey refugee deal of March 2016, the EU-Turkey cooperation could be considered as an effective, positive and win-win solution for both sides, at least in a migration crisis context.