

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with the role of Frontex in protecting the EU's external borders during the migration crisis and its attitude towards its activities within the selected bodies of the European Union. In particular, it examines the period since the beginning of the migration crisis in the spring of 2015, until September 2016, when Frontex was reformed and the new European Border Guard and Coast Guard continued to be called Frontex. The aim of the thesis is to find out what attitudes to the role of Frontex were among the groups of the European Parliament.

With regard to Schengen area without internal borders within the EU, an integrated border management system has been created to effectively manage the crossing of external borders and to address migration challenges. For controls at the EU's external borders, various instruments and agencies have been set up, such as Frontex. The theoretical part of the thesis therefore deals in more detail with the Schengen area and the functioning of Frontex, including its specific competences. It also describes the basic facts about the beginning and the course of the migration crisis, especially between 2015 and 2016. The thesis to achieve its objectives first analyzes the profile of the various groups within the European Parliament in order to find out what values and objectives they are holding and how they express themselves about migration. Through the scaling technique, it divides parliamentary groups into pro-European and anti-European, using the theory of cleavages.

Another part of the analysis is the monitoring of attitudes within parliamentary groups, concrete MEPs. The development of migration crisis solutions and attitudes towards Frontex have been evaluated using a liberal-idealistic tradition that helps to better understand international decision-making and the functioning of international relations within the European Union. The work found out from the results that the attitudes to the role of Frontex reflected to a certain extent the national interests of the selected MEPs and thus inclined or rejected the strengthening of the agency's competencies. A new European Border and Coast Guard Agency was created by the joint action of the EU institutions and the agreement between the majority of MEPs.

**Keywords:** Frontex, Schengen Area, migration crisis, European Parliament