

Abstract

This Master's thesis analysed integration process of national energy markets through non-legislative and legislative EU documents. The aim was to study integration of national energy markets and aspects that had influence on the integration process through interpretative content analysis. Additionally, the definition of internal energy market was augmented. The internal energy market requires not only competitiveness, market-based approach, customer orientation and flexibility, but it is also necessary to ensure security of supplies, diversification of suppliers, sustainability, and transparency. Four aspects were analysed. It was partially proven, that several initiatives and proposals made by the European Commission were implemented by the member states in binding EU legislation (energy packages) in the period from 2000 to 2019. The initiatives presented by the European Commission were far more ambitious. However, as it was pointed out several times in Commission's publications that progress was rather slow in transposition of EU legislation into national laws by the member states which significantly prolonged integration process. Main problems were deregulation of gas prices for end users, ownership unbundling and independence of national regulatory authorities. Next, geopolitics within the EU is a significant problem in formation of unified EU energy policy which was identified during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2014. Even though the EC promoted building infrastructural projects for diversification and to enhance security of supply in CEE countries after gas shortages due to the conflict in Ukraine, political conflict in the EU neighbourhood was not found as an accelerator for further integration of national energy policies.