

## **Abstract**

The following thesis deals with two primary matters. The first being the effort of Estonian politicians to change how Estonia's regional belonging is viewed by other countries before the admission into the European Union. These efforts can be illustrated by political actions whose aim was to create the image of Estonia as a Nordic country. These efforts slightly diminished after the admission into the European Union although on some levels they can be still observed. Despite close cooperation Estonia isn't adequate member of Nordic countries to this day. This thesis aspires to explain reasons for these action of Estonian politicians and why they were left off after the admission into EU.

The second matter being the region of Nordic countries. Collective Nordic identity helped establish transnational cooperation among involved nations which represents one of the essential characteristics of a Nordic country. The emphasis is on historical context of Nordic identity and the development of Nordic cooperation from its initiation until current state. First the thesis introduces a theoretical insight into the region matters. Consequently it deals with the first matter, the efforts to redefine Estonia as a Nordic country, which is followed by analysis of the concept of a Nordic country and Nordic cooperation in terms of historical discourse and analysis of present state. The next chapter is a comparative analysis, which compares Estonia with six specified factors of Nordic country. In conclusion Estonia more or less doesn't correspond with these factors and therefore it wouldn't be correct to consider it a Nordic country. The conclusion of the thesis seeks to confirm hypothesis, that temporally limited political efforts weren't aiming to redefine Estonian regional identity. The goal is seen in the need to find alternative argument for the admission into the European Union.