

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the preconditions, the process and the consequences of the so-called Eastern enlargement of the Schengen Area in 2007, with special regard to the Federal Republic of Germany, its role in the process as well as the advantages and disadvantages connected with it. After a short introductory summary of functioning principles and history of the Schengen Area from 1985 to 2011 there is a chapter dedicated to the process of the enlargement by nine new countries. Nevertheless the main attention is paid to Poland and the Czech Republic, two Eastern neighbours of Germany. The third chapter analyzes in detail the consequences of the enlargement, especially its influence on the development of criminality and illegal immigration in Germany or the police co-operation among the countries concerned. Apart from the all-German dimension the thesis focuses on the specific situation in individual federal states on the eastern border – Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Saxony and Bavaria. The last chapter deals with the media reflection of this topic in the Czech press, specifically in the most widely read non-tabloid journal *Mladá fronta DNES*. By means of an analysis of statistics the statements has been refuted that the Schengen enlargement is going to cause a growth of criminality. On the contrary, it has been proven that the compensatory measures introduced within the Schengen co-operation have had positive impact on the security situation in Germany.