

Abstract

The thesis was most importantly concerned with the intensity of economic ties between the Czech Republic and Germany from 2004 enlargement, using neofunctionalist approach framework as a theoretical background. Two main hypotheses have been tested and the effects of financial and economic crisis have been also taken into account. We can affirm, based on the observed data and analysis made, that the intensity of economic ties has grown substantially since 2004 as well as the synchronization of the business cycles. Much of these effects could be attributed to the practical working of neofunctionalist premises. This is demonstrated by the fact the EU integration leads to a more significant interconnection in many spheres of economic activity that in turn affect the whole economic development and determination. Economic reciprocity has in general strengthened the political one, which is now being perceived on quite many political levels. However, more or less exogenous effects of the financial and economic crisis of 2008 and 2009 have led to a relatively visible slowdown in further integration and interconnection. From this reason, we can ask ourselves a pertinent question to what extent the integration is about to continue and what will be its impact on political relations of both countries in the future. Nevertheless, this question might be finally much more related to the European sovereign debt crisis than we would have expected before the very crisis burst out. Such driving forces are – needless to mention – completely outside of scope of the Czech German relations themselves. In this regard, neofunctionalist assumptions will be certainly further tested, having to be exposed to some backward momentum.