

This bachelor thesis focuses on the Optimum Currency Areas theory (OCA) and applies its findings on evaluating the economic progress in chosen countries: Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain in comparison with the "Core" of EMU. Consequently the thesis investigates the endogeneity hypothesis of the OCA criterion of structural similarity. The first section of the thesis contains an introduction to the OCA theory, the second section evaluates the progress of chosen macroeconomic and structural indices of the chosen countries, the third section investigates the endogeneity hypothesis with an empirical model and the last section contains final assessments, conclusions and remarks.