

Abstract

The main subject of this bachelor thesis is to compare integration policies in Belgium and the Netherlands, focusing in particular to Muslim immigrants. The values of liberal democracy shared by both countries are underlying their approach to this issue. Research of historical background described in first part of the thesis, was crucial for understanding the way of integration policies course.

Rapid economic growth after Second World War was the main reason for arrival of the first Muslim immigrants in the sixties. Wage workers from Turkey and Morocco were hired for the jobs for which local residents showed no interest. First thesis pronouncing the need for a consistent approach to this issue, were formulated almost twenty years later in both countries. After the first oil crisis in the early seventies, the fact that Muslim immigrants want to stay in the countries, despite of lack of work for them, became clear. At the beginning of the eighties both countries are taking the first steps to set up necessary changes. At this point, yet simile policies of examined countries begin to differentiate.

The comparative method is used especially in the third part deals with different approaches of Belgium and the Netherlands to this topic. Belgium policy is under the pressure of the tensions between Flemings and Walloons, the Netherlands has to deal with consequences of the violent attacks that causes uncertainty of the native citizens and local success of extreme right-wing parties. Different approaches are also explained on the basis of historical specifics.