

## ABSTRACT

This paper studies the dynamics of the EU external migration policy by applying the external governance theory on the Global approach to migration (GAM) while exploring the nature of migration relations between the Union and the third countries. The Global approach to migration is based on the integration of migration issues (based on four thematic dimensions) in the EU external relations and on strengthening cooperation and dialogue with partner countries. The aim of the thesis is to clarify by the theory of external governance the relations between the EU and partner countries with which the EU cooperates in the management of migration flows. More specifically, the thesis focuses on mutual relations, which are reflected in cooperation on migration issues and answers the question whether GAM raised a qualitative change in relations between the EU and partner countries. Further, the text aspires on the reflection of the international role of the EU in its external relations of migration.

The thesis identifies 10 major platforms of cooperation between the EU and third countries: (1) The European Neighbourhood Policy, (2) The Euro-African Process on Migration and Development, (3) The EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment, (4) The Union for Mediterranean, (5) Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration, (6) The Eastern Partnership, (7) The Prague process, (8) The Budapest process, (9) The EU- LAC dialogue on migration, and (10) The EU-ACP dialogue on migration. These platforms are analysed through the three analytical dimensions of the external governance theory: (1) institutional level, (2) negotiation level, and (3) tools of governance. The modes of external governance can reach from tightly interconnected, legalized and institutional relations between the EU and third countries with elements of hierarchy and legal obligations to network governance based on informal, consultative processes with weaker structures. The thesis revolves around three research objectives: (1) to conceptualise external migration policy and analytical framework of external governance so as to capture processes in the external governance of EU migration in the most comprehensive form; (2) to analyze in the relations between the EU and partner countries in the area of migration through the prism of the theory of external governance specific forms of external governance which were associated with GAM in the years 2005-2012; (3) to infer from the analysis of the EU external governance migration general characteristics of the EU as an international migration actor.

**Key words:** European Union, external governance, migration, Global approach to migration, External migration policy, third countries