

Abstract

The Master thesis “The Impact of Europeanization on Social Systems of the EU Member States: The Case of the Swedish Labour Market” elaborates on the potential influence of the EU on the social policy of its members. Although the social policy has formally been left in the competences of national states, there are certain possible ways whereby the EU can affect it. The instruments of Europeanization in the social area are identified and then tested on the case of the Swedish labour market. On the one hand, there are direct instruments of Europeanization in the social policy represented by the Open method of coordination (OMC) which is an unbinding EU legislation, and on the other hand, there are indirect mechanisms proceeding by the application of the rules of the internal EU market. Concerning specifically the Swedish labour market, it could have been affected by the Swedish participation on the European Employment Strategy (EES) that is based on the OMC, or through the ECJ decision in the Laval case which dealt with the freedom to provide services. In this respect, the specific Swedish model of labour market has played an important role. It is characterised by traditionally strong position of social partners and collective agreements as well as by the highly developed active labour market policy. The aim of this paper is to find out whether there have been some implications of the EU on the Swedish labour market. Having analyzed the both types of instruments, the paper comes to the conclusion that the EES has had not any significant impact on the Swedish labour market, while the ECJ decision in Laval case has made Sweden to slightly change the legal base of its model.