

Abstract

After the Eastern enlargement in the year 2004 and 2007 the European Union is on the threshold of another expansion. Turkey and Croatia are the first countries that received the official candidate status. Turkey is the longest waiting contender for the adoption into the European Union structures; Croatia is the most anticipated candidate to receive the membership and should become a member on July 1st, 2013. The thesis „Comparison of preparedness of economies of Turkey and Croatia to join the European Union“ aims to compare the economic readiness of these two countries for European Union full membership, detects the cons and pros of possible integration and also explores the un-economical aspects that are (or where) the obstacles in the integration process of both countries. The goal of this thesis is to answer the question whether it is the theory of neo-realism or the theory of neo-functionalism that explains the current accession process of Turkey and Croatia to the European Union.

In the past the European integration has overcome many obstacles, has achieved many substantial results and due to its effectiveness has managed to extend the territory of peace, stability and prosperity across the continent. The coming sixth wave of enlargement has a difficult goal but it is also a great challenge that can change again the map of European Union and extend its operation and influence into Asia Minor and the western Balkans.