

## **Abstract**

The bachelor's thesis “A Comparison of the European Steel and Coal Community and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation: The beginning of European integration from a neo-realist perspective“, analyses in the beginnings of European integration after the Second World War. The main focus is on the European Steel and Coal Community and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. Post-war development of European integration had become precondition to its future development into its contemporary form. This bachelor's thesis use comparison method to explain, why has today's European Union has foundations in the European Steel and Coal Community and not in the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. This analysis answers the question on the basis of theory of neo-realism that is based on anarchic conception of international relations, importance of national interest and balance of power. Research itself consists of two parts. At first, it focuses on national interests of chosen countries in post-war Europe and on politics of afore mentioned organizations towards European integration. Afterwards, it concentrates on economical impact of both organizations and on economical interests of chosen states. The thesis concludes that European integration and success of the European Steel and Coal Community in integration does not originate from its economic results, but from complementary national interests and political circumstances caused by the beginnings of the Cold War and the recovery of Western Germany.