

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to evaluate the influence that the Ukrainian crises in 2006 and 2009 had on the use of the Visegrad Group as a tool for promoting the interests in the sphere of natural gas. This research is based on institutional theory that provides an explanation of the importance of regional cooperation. The impact of both crises on cooperation is then presented on two Member States – the Czech republic and Poland, which provides a framework for an overall assessment. The upholding of interests in the gas area during the years is reflected in the strengthening of the Visegrad Group. The work follows the development of the pre-crisis period to the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group in 2012. Thus, it observes the initial efforts to coordinate gas politics, the influence of the European Union on the development of gas agenda within the Visegrad Group and its contribution to the energy security of monitored countries. The thesis evaluates the dynamic development of the Visegrad Group and individual results in reducing dependence on Russian gas. Moreover, there are also noted the remaining limits in the functioning of this group which may block the enforcement of national and Central European interests.