

Abstract

The present thesis analyzes possible determinants shaping attitudes of selected relevant political parties from the EU27 Member States to the potential Turkish accession to the European Union. Bilateral relationships between the EU and the Turkish Republic have been evolving multifariously and long-windedly. However, the question of the direct Turkish participation in the EU's project remains unresolved, and still resonates across all stakeholders. The phenomenon of the eventual Turkish joining is a very topical issue. In particular, the views of the political parties on this particular problem are studied, since these subjects operate with an exclusive position in representative democracies. They symbolize the necessary interconnection between the state and society. Moreover, in the context of the eventual EU enlargement to Turkey, they will likely discuss its confirmation in parliamentary procedures, or they will mobilize voters and form their attitudes in the case of ratification referenda. The present thesis distinguishes between two main groups of explanatory variables. In regarding to the accepted theoretical framework, these are supposed to explicate the views of the selected political parties on the eventual Turkish enlargement qualifiedly. Particularly, the ideological and (general) objective factors are considered. The first group differentiates between the parties respecting their ideological profiles; the second category collects political entities in diverse families according to clearly defined (objective) criteria in order to verify concordances or divergences across these classes. As a result, the portfolio of various significant explanatory variables has been identified and discussed in detail. It plausibly explicates the attitudes of the political parties to this enlargement.

Keywords

EU, EU27, GAL/TAN, political parties, EU enlargement, Turkish accession, Turkey