

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the topic of the role of Latin America in the Spanish presidencies of the European Union. Latin America and Spain have specific relations, and this thesis examines whether these relations are also projected on the European level through the Spanish presidencies. Part of the research is also EU-(CE)LAC summits, given that they took place during all the researched presidencies. The thesis examines what role Latin America played in the Spanish presidencies of the EU in the years 2002, 2010, and 2023 and how the role evolved throughout those years.

The main research method used is comparison. The comparison is based on criteria that emerge from the analysis of the primary sources. These sources are mainly the official documents of the European Union, the programmes of the Spanish presidencies, the declarations of the EU-(CE)LAC summits, and speeches of the Spanish Prime Ministers.

The research found that the programmes of the presidencies and the rhetoric of Spanish Prime ministers proved the gradually increasing importance of Latin America in the Spanish presidencies of the EU. However, the results of the presidencies and the results of the EU-(CE)LAC summits merely indicate this role but do not prove it.

The overall summary of the thesis is that Latin America played a different role in each of the researched presidencies, ranging from a not-very-important one in 2002 to a significant one in 2023. Therefore, it is possible to observe a gradual increase in the significance of the role of Latin America. However, it is important to note that a relevant factor that needs to be taken into account is the context of worldwide events happening during the presidencies.