

The MA thesis explores the patterns of changes in the Common Security and Defence Policy and their main drivers after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Considering the recent geopolitical developments, the topic is especially relevant. The literature revealed gaps in the academic literature, not least due to the topic being relatively new, but Poland was also usually disregarded when analysing several member states' role in the CSDP. The study employs quantitative and qualitative research methods to analyse the statements of French, German and Polish officials after the European Council and Council of the EU meetings regarding security and defence matters. The thesis is based on collected, coded and analysed 103 statements. The research examined threat perceptions and security policy preferences of the selected member states to provide an answer to the research question – what factors caused the changes in the CSDP in the aftermath of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022? The thorough analysis identified that before and after the war, there were shifts in threat perception and, subsequently in security policy preferences of the selected member states. This was reflected in the communicative discourse. This, in turn, resulted in France, Germany and Poland initiating changes in the CSDP after Russia launched a full-scale war in Ukraine. By employing Discursive Institutionalism as an analytical framework, the research concluded that the shifts in the selected member states' threat perceptions and preferences contributed to the changes in the CSDP.