

## **Abstract**

There is a constant trend in the European Union for heightened pride, desire of extended autonomy and even national independence of regions. The master thesis intends to investigate the relations of selected regions in the EU member states with the European policy level. The general research question to answer is *“Which regions are more successful in representing their interests vis-à-vis the European policy level?”* The investigation is undertaken in a form of a comparative case study combining qualitative and quantitative research; the examined regions are – following the research hypotheses and intention to provide a multi-perspective analysis of the problem – Scotland (United Kingdom), Hessen (Germany), Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol (Italy) and Středočeský kraj (Czech Republic). Based on the comparative analysis the thesis concludes that *“regions with wide scope of powers on the national level (usually coming from federal or regionalized member states) with strong economic background are generally more successful in representing their interests vis-à-vis the European policy level.”*