

Abstract

This Bachelor thesis is concerning with the evolution of stances of four main British political parties, namely the Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, and the United Kingdom Independence Party, towards the issue of free movement of people between the years 2010 and 2016. The thesis aims to analyse on the basis of chosen documents, mainly manifestos or speeches of the parties' leaders, how and why did the stance of each political party towards the freedom of movement changed over the chosen period and how the stances differed among the parties. Mostly two documents are analysed for every chosen milestone of the time period between the years 2010 and 2016. These milestones are general elections in the years 2010 and 2015, the end of the transitional period for Bulgaria and Romania at the turn of the year 2014 and the European Parliament elections in the year 2014. For showing a possible shift in the stances of individual parties towards the issue of free movement of people are their statements characterised on a six-level scale negative to positive, whereas the sixth level means the issue was not mentioned in the statement. Apart from that also the level of prominence of the issue of freedom of movement is characterised at each milestone, showing how important a role this issue played in the parties' statement. The thesis then compares the attitudes among the chosen political parties based on the identified dominant thematic frames of their statements.