

Abstract

The main goal of this master's thesis is to discover why states are keen on acquiring an agency of the European Union from a perspective of the states' administration's approach towards the agency and its domain after acquiring it. This phenomenon is presented by an interpretative case study of the Czech Republic and the European GNSS Agency (GSA) obtained in 2012 and its expansion to the Agency of the European Union for the Space Programme (EUSPA) in 2021. The thesis verifies how are the three main motivations why a state wants an EU agency – prestige, economic potential, and quality and reputation enhancement of the given area – manifested in practice in the case of the approach of the Czech Republic towards the space sector. The verification is conducted through the operationalization of three scenarios based on the motivations. The data were collected from public sources and from fourteen semi-structured interviews with representatives of different space-related spheres. The research has shown that the approach of the Czech administration towards the space sector has been growing thanks to acquiring the seat of the GSA in 2010, obtaining membership in the European Space Agency in 2008, and appointing the Ministry of Transport as the main coordinator of national space activities in 2011. State space activities are characterized by financial, administrative, or project-related support of Czech entities domestically and globally. Despite deficiency in human resources and the absence of national financial instruments, the administration has been managing to nourish an ecosystem that enables and simplifies the growth of Czech space entities. Hence, this research affirms that the Czech Republic endeavored to acquire GSA and to enlarge it to EUSPA due to the motivation of prestige, economic potential, and quality and reputation enhancement since these motivations are operationalized in practice.