

## **Abstract**

The thesis deals with the phenomenon of human smuggling into the European Union and the subsequent ethical reflection on such behaviour. Human smuggling is an illegal activity, the eradication of which has become one of the main objectives of European policy to curb irregular migration in recent years. However, this has been done without reflecting on the specific acts of smuggling, which has resulted in the criminalisation of actions that are morally right and even necessary, as they help to fulfil the fundamental human rights of migrants. This thesis presents people smuggling into the EU in its entirety, provides the socio-historical context from which the phenomenon emerges, and outlines an approach to how people smuggling can be ethically evaluated in specific situations so as to avoid condemning humanitarian acts.

## **Key words**

Human smuggling, human rights, state sovereignty, irregular migration, ethics