

Abstract

The thesis deals with the topic of waste management, with a specific focus on instruments and their application in selected EU Member States. The thesis builds on the theory of policy convergence. The aim of the thesis was to analyse selected waste management instruments in specific EU Member States with the assumption of possible convergence. The research method of the thesis was a comparison of the application of the three instruments between the countries. These were the instruments of prohibition, taxation and pay-as-you-throw. The initial assumption for the research was that countries having similar performance on the three levels of the waste management hierarchy would converge on waste management tools. The research timeframe was from 2008, when the EU Waste Framework Directive was issued, defining targets for recycling rate levels by 2025, to 2022, when the EEA summary reports on the waste management of all EU Member States were issued. The research question that this paper addressed and sought to answer was whether the Member States with the best performance with respect to the EU waste hierarchy and targets introduced the same selected instruments to achieve these targets between 2008 and 2022. The resulting findings stated that there was no introduction of banning and taxing instruments between 2008 and 2022 among the selected countries. In the case of PAYT, it is possible to say that convergence has occurred in three states, but this conclusion has its limitations, which are discussed in more detail in the conclusion. Thus, convergence could not be observed and the answer to the research question was negative.