Abstract

The scope of this thesis is to analyse how the conceptualisation of the EU's power is evolving and whether there has been a shift in the concept of power expressed by the European Union in the course of the last institutional cycle (2014-2019). This historical period has been chosen because it was characterised by the migration crisis, which challenged the EU from many points of view, especially from an ideological one. The in-depth analysis of the policies initiated to respond to this perceived crisis is going to be useful in proving the claimed shift in the concept of power of the European Union. The policies and the official EU documents are going to be counter analysed with examples provided by the literature and presented in the course of the third chapter, to show that it is possible to find a correlation between what the policies actuated and the elements defining the abovementioned shift. The first chapter of this thesis is going to provide examples of other types of power that cannot fully describe the European Union, whereas the second chapter is going to present the types of power that have been associated with the EU during the decades. Those are going to serve as starting point for the empirical findings of the third and fourth chapters. By following this path, this thesis is going to show the evolution of the conceptualisation of the EU's power and to see if this has changed.