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“TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF TURKEY AND SERBIA”

Abstract: During the Middle Ages and until the end of the new century, Turkey and Serbia had very dynamic relations marked by frequent conflicts and wars. In the last hundred years, there have been significant changes in both diplomatic and economic relations. Good diplomatic relations between the two countries continue to improve, primarily through frequent visits by state representatives, but also through the development and investments, primarily Turkish investments in Serbian economy and infrastructure.

The current issue for both Serbia and Turkey is the issue of European integration. Today both countries are far from membership in the EU community, and their paths to it are marked by various processes, the duration of which is certainly a common feature. Historically and to this day, Turkey and Serbia are not only Balkan, but also European countries. Accordingly, the history of the European continent, as well as the EU, today cannot be seen and analysed without these two countries.

This paper will analyse the assessments of similarities and differences, which marked the paths of EU integration of these two countries. Also, through the mentioned analysis, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of current problems, which are reflected primarily in the domain of migration, as well as the perspectives for their solution. These problems largely connect the mentioned actors, but also the EU, which is extremely affected by this problem, primarily in the domain of very important foreign and security policy.

Keywords: EU integration, Turkey, Republic of Serbia, Trends, Assessments, Migration

Short Biography: Nenad Spasojevic completed his master's studies - environmental policy, during September 2020, defending his master's thesis on "Air pollution in the Republic of Serbia as a consequence of energy efficiency." He is currently a doctoral student in the field of political science at the Faculty of Political Sciences. Since November 2020, he has been a demonstrator/associate in the subjects Basics of Methodology of Political Sciences and Methodology of Political Science Research with Statistics. During his scientific engagement at the Faculty, he has the opportunity, in addition to teaching, to conduct public opinion research with students, through which they jointly examine the citizens views on many social and economic problems. He also emphasizes his interest in writing, and in addition to occasional

texts for the daily press, primarily about environmental problems in Serbia, he also writes scientific papers/articles alone or in co-authorship with other authors on various topics. He cites the methodology of political science, European integration, environmental problems and migration as his areas of scientific interest. In addition to science, Nenad is also engaged in the NGO sector, where he is the program director of the Policy and Strategy Creating Center, which deals with everyday environmental and other problems in the Republic of Serbia.