

**Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**

**Faculty of Economics and Management**

**Department of Humanities**



**Bachelor Thesis**

**Attitude towards globalization: Case study –  
Czech Republic**

**Vinogradov Dmitrii**

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# CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

Faculty of Economics and Management

## BACHELOR THESIS ASSIGNMENT

Dmitrii Vinogradov

Business Administration

Thesis title

**Attitudes Towards Globalization in Czech Republic**

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### **Objectives of thesis**

The thesis considers attitudes towards and public understandings of globalisation in the Czech Republic. Globalisation is a term with multiple and contested meanings, but is broadly used to describe the increasing interconnectedness and integration of individuals, business and governments across the world, especially in the economic sphere. Because of this, globalisation has often been closely associated with free trade, free movement of people, and the transition to market economy. In recent years, it has become common to talk of a 'backlash' against globalisation, and it has been criticised from both right and left.

The aim of the thesis is to explore investigate public attitudes towards globalisation in the Czech Republic. It aims to: 1. Identify the meanings and interpretations of globalisation in Czech public debates. 2. Identify attitudes towards globalisation and the values that underly those attitudes. 3. Compare these attitudes with those of other countries.

### **Methodology**

The thesis will:

- Develop a literature review covering a) the key historical and contemporary interpretations of globalisation, with a special emphasis on the Czech Republic and other post-Communist Central and Eastern European Societies and b) selected existing research on attitudes to globalisation.
- Investigate public attitudes towards globalisation in the Czech Republic using qualitative analysis of media and political debates and quantitative analysis of survey data.

**The proposed extent of the thesis**

30-40 pages

**Keywords**

Globalisation, Public Attitudes, Economic Transition

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**Recommended information sources**

CISÁŘ, Ondřej. (2017). Czech Republic: From Post-Communist Idealism to Economic Populism. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

<https://prag.fes.de/e/czech-republic-from-post-communist-idealism-to-economic-populism>

DILGER, Clara. (2023) 'Divided over globalisation. Measuring the ideological divide between cosmopolitans and communitarians in Europe using a classification approach'. Social Science Research. Vol. 109, 102776. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2022.102776>

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STEGER, Manfred B. (2023). Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (6th Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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## **Declaration**

I declare that I have worked on my bachelor thesis titled " Attitude towards globalization: Case study – Czech Republic " by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis. As the author of the bachelor thesis, I declare that the thesis does not break copyrights of any their person.

In Prague on 15.03.2024

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### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Dr. Daniel Swain Ph.D and all other persons, for their advice and support during my work on this thesis.

# **Attitude towards globalization: Case study – Czech Republic**

## **Abstract**

The thesis examines Czech attitudes towards the process of globalisation, different points of view on this process, and the factors influencing the formation of positive and negative views on globalisation and its related consequences.

The aim of the work is to study the Czech society's attitude towards globalisation and understanding of this process. The object of the work is the Czech national economy, politics and social sphere. The subject of the work is the impact of globalisation on the national economy, political life and social policy of the country.

The study pays attention to the interpretation of the term "globalisation" and the evaluation of this process, a literature review was conducted. The European Union was taken as an example of global processes. In order to address the aim and objectives of the thesis, a survey of respondents was conducted and a comparative analysis of attitudes towards globalisation in the Czech Republic and Austria was given, and attention was paid to political debates. It is concluded that Czech society has a positive attitude towards globalisation and integration and the factors that influenced this choice are identified.

**Keywords:** Globalisation, Public Attitudes, Economic Transition

# Postoj ke globalizaci: případová studie – Česká republika

## Abstrakt

Práce zkoumá postoje Čechů k procesu globalizace, různé úhly pohledu na tento proces a faktory ovlivňující utváření pozitivních a negativních názorů na globalizaci a s ní spojené důsledky.

Cílem práce je prozkoumat postoje české společnosti ke globalizaci a chápání tohoto procesu. Předmětem práce je české národní hospodářství, politika a sociální sféra. Předmětem práce je vliv globalizace na národní hospodářství, politický život a sociální politiku země.

Studie věnuje pozornost výkladu pojmu "globalizace" a hodnocení tohoto procesu, byl proveden přehled literatury. Jako příklad globálních procesů byla vzata Evropská unie. K naplnění cíle a úkolů práce bylo provedeno dotazníkové šetření mezi respondenty a provedena komparativní analýza postojů ke globalizaci v České republice a v Rakousku, pozornost byla věnována i politickým debatám. Dochází se k závěru, že česká společnost má pozitivní postoj ke globalizaci a integraci, a jsou identifikovány faktory, které tuto volbu ovlivnily.

**Klíčová slova:** Globalizace, Postoje veřejnosti, Ekonomická transformace

## Table of content

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2. Objectives and Methodology .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Objectives.....	10
2.2 Methodology .....	10
<b>3. Literature Review.....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Meaning and interpretation of the term "Globalization" .....	12
3.1.1 Interpretation of the term by proponents of globalization .....	12
3.1.2 Interpretation of the term by opponents of globalization.....	13
3.1.3 Definition of globalization by scholars and researchers . .....	13
3.2 The European Union as an indicator of the development of globalization in the world	16
3.2.1 The main directions of the EU's activities in the global world. Achievements and challenges.....	16
3.2.2 Views on globalization in Czech society .....	17
3.2.3 V. Havel's Viewpoint on Globalization. ....	18
3.2.4 V. Klaus viewpoint on globalization.....	18
3.2.5 The theme of national identity in public discussions.....	18
<b>4. Practical Part .....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Questionnaire survey of respondents. ....	20
4.1.1 Questionnaire answers .....	20
<b>5. Results and Discussion .....</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1 Comparative analysis on attitudes towards globalization in different European countries .....	28
<b>6. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>7. References .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8. List of Figure.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>9. Appendix .....</b>	<b>39</b>



# 1. Introduction

The term "Globalization" gained prominence in the mid-80s and quickly became part of everyday discourse. However, as globalization accelerated, questions arose about its consequences, both positive and negative. Today, globalization entails individuals, companies, and businesses navigating the global market and economy. While it fosters opportunities for personal development, the process also poses challenges to traditional values and institutions across economic, political, and cultural realms. This raises concerns about the effectiveness of conventional structures in addressing the impact of globalization on national culture and identity, particularly for smaller communities and states. Moreover, the unregulated circulation of projects, ideas, finances, services, and cultural values complicates governance for nation-states, making it challenging to manage the influx of globalization processes and information flows.

Examining the Czech Republic's perspective on globalization offers insights into societal attitudes, diverse viewpoints, and the factors shaping perceptions of its consequences.

Globalization significantly influences international development and regional dynamics, impacting cultural diversity and leading to civilizational losses. As noted by O.N. Astafieva in her article "Globalization as a socio-cultural process," individuals are particularly sensitive to socio-cultural transformations accompanying globalization. In Europe and worldwide, states and their populations strive to preserve their identity and national uniqueness within the framework of democracy, humanism, and individual respect.

However, it's essential to frame globalization and integration not as a means for dominant states to assimilate smaller ones or undermine their uniqueness, but rather as processes that respect the rights of minorities and uphold the identity of individuals and states. Failure to do so could jeopardize the integrity of European states, especially smaller ones. As Tamarchina N.A. asserts, "The identity of people and states must remain the decisive and unchanging element and meaning of integration, while respecting the rights of minorities." (Tamarchina N.A. 2002).

## **2. Objectives and Methodology**

### **2.1 Objectives**

The aim of the thesis to examine the attitudes of different segments of society towards globalization in the Czech Republic after its accession to the European Union.

Thesis objectives:

1. To identify the meaning and interpretations of the term "globalization" in Czech and world public debates.
2. Identify attitudes towards globalization in the Czech Republic and identify the values that determine these attitudes.
3. Compare attitudes towards globalization in the Czech Republic with attitudes towards it in other countries.

The object of the work is the national economy, politics and social sphere of the Czech Republic.

The subject of the work is the impact of globalization on the national economy, political life and social policy of the country.

### **2.2 Methodology**

In writing this thesis were studied the works of researchers from different countries, devoted to the analysis of the state of development of the modern system of international relations, and the changes occurring in the world under the influence of globalization. The collapse of the socialist bloc, "Velvet Revolutions" in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe became the object of research of many scientists, among which the works of , Brzezinski Zbigniew., Brucan Silviu, Huntington Samuel stand out. Their study allowed to show the place and role of the Czech Republic in this system and identify its main foreign policy preferences. In addition, the works of Russian and Czech specialists, which reveal the peculiarities of political and economic development of the Czech Republic. It appears it's necessary to pay attention to the development of the European Union, which is an important indicator of globalization processes, and the Czech Republic, which considered the EU as a "cornucopia" was oriented towards these processes, striving to pass all the stages of unification, and to achieve national well-being. That is why the Czech Republic's attitude to

globalization should be viewed through the prism of the development of these processes in the European Union.

The analysis of the available scientific literature allowed to determine the range of problems that are the most relevant from both scientific and practical points of view, and accordingly allowed to formulate the purpose and objectives of the work, to identify its object and subject.

In this thesis, political science research methods were applied: document analysis, event analysis method as well as questionnaire survey of respondents, which made it possible to identify attitudes towards globalization in the Czech Republic and to determine the values and factors underlying these attitudes.

The results of the research and their scientific novelty lie in the fact that the thesis not only summarizes the documentary material on the problems of globalization of the Czech Republic on the example of its inclusion in European politics, but also reveals the factors influencing the attitude of Czech society to this process:

- Values and factors influencing the attitude of Czech society to globalization are identified on the basis of the study of the opinions of different segments of the population;
- Analysed the peculiarities of the Czech Republic's integration process by comparing it with Austria and defined the role of the Czech Republic in modern Europe.

### **3. Literature Review**

#### **3.1 Meaning and interpretation of the term "Globalization"**

The interest and timeliness of the issues under discussion have led to the fact that the topic of globalization has become perhaps one of the most discussed topics among scholars and researchers today. At the moment there is already a rather large list of literature, scientific articles and different opinions on what globalization is, what role it plays in global processes and what are the possibilities and trends of development of human civilization, international community under the influence of globalization.

At the same time, the term "Globalization" itself has many definitions and, like other popular, frequently used words, is used in different contexts: it is just that each person using these words puts their own special meaning into them, characterizes the term from a certain point of view. (Sokolov K.B. Globalization: History, Modernity and Art : 5).

Very often the concept of "Globalization" is used in contemporary literature and in everyday life only to simply describe the processes taking place in the modern world. Another common approach to defining globalization seems to be simply comparing it to such modern technical elements as the Internet and global television.

The rational study of globalization problems is hindered by the presence of ardent supporters of globalization and equally uncompromising opponents of this process.

##### **3.1.1 Interpretation of the term by proponents of globalization**

Proponents of globalization differently disclose the meaning of the term. Globalization includes various processes: the world information space is formed, the world market is formed, new security mechanisms are introduced. Supporters of globalization, based on this, give different interpretations of the term and the process associated with it. First, they believe that globalization from an economic point of view is an independent and objective process and cannot be influenced.

Second, globalization from a political point of view is aimed at the unification and uniqueness of the development of states. (UNDP. Human Development Report. N. Y., 1997 P. 82)

Thirdly, from the cultural point of view, it is standardization and blurring of cultures. At the same time, it entails the expansion of information and communication space.

According to A. I. Utkin "only two characteristics of globalization are not controversial: it cannot be stopped, and it creates new huge spaces, enriching mankind" (Utkin A.I. World Order of the XXI century, 2002)

### **3.1.2 Interpretation of the term by opponents of globalization**

Opponents of globalization interpret the term in a different way. First, they give a negative assessment of the scale of the process, its global nature. Globalization has reached the remotest corners of the world, and it poses a threat to national identity, cultural and ethnic identity. Imposing standards of production and consumption, homogeneous mass culture, life under the dictates of large transnational corporations - all this anti-globalizationists call in one word - "globalization".

Supporters and defenders of globalization believe that it benefits underdeveloped countries by introducing new technologies, increasing education and health care.

Opponents of globalization argue that it only brings harm to underdeveloped countries. The location of hazardous and harmful industries, low wages, unresolved social problems increase the gap between rich and poor countries.

“And what happens? Both the first and the second turn out to be true. Globalization is an objective phenomenon with its pros and cons, and it's impossible to give a one-sided assessment to this process. “ (Burikova I. What is globalization? Opinions of scientists)

### **3.1.3 Definition of globalization by scholars and researchers .**

There are many interpretations of the term "globalization" in the world science: "Globalization (from Latin Globus - ball, French Global - universal) is an objective process of formation, organization, functioning and development of a new world, global system on the basis of deepening interconnection and interdependence in all spheres of the international community. Currently, all countries of the world are covered by the process of globalization" (Astafieva. O.N. N. 2 /2009. 14-23).

"Globalization is the process of worldwide economic, political, cultural and religious integration and unification.

Globalization is a characteristic feature of the processes of changing the structure of the world economy, understood as a set of national economies, linked to each other by the system of international division of labour, economic and political relations, through inclusion in the world market and close intertwining of the economy on the basis of

transnationalization and regionalization" (Kaluzhsky M. L. System of Social Globalization 2003).

"Globalization is the process of avalanche-like formation of a single global financial and information space on the basis of new, mainly computer technologies" (The Practice of Globalization: Games and Rules of the New Era / Delyagin. M., 2000)

Each definition focuses on a particular sphere of human life - politics, economics, culture - emphasizing the scope of globalization.

A number of specialists also define the content and essence of globalization in different ways, considering different sides and aspects.

A.I. Utkin in his book "World Order of the XXI century" gives such a definition of this phenomenon that has covered all spheres of social life. "Globalization is the merger of national economies into a single, worldwide system based on the new ease of capital movement, on the new information openness of the world, on the technological revolution, on the commitment of developed industrial countries to liberalize the movement of goods and capital, on the basis of communication convergence, planetary scientific revolution, interethnic social movements, new types of transport, implementation of telecommunication technologies, international education." (Utkin F.I World Order of the XXI century, 2002). He focuses on the economic and technological side of globalization.

Globalization, according to the researcher Kozlov S.D., is understood as "unification of national cultures, unification of national economies into a single world structure, increasing the dependence of national states on global processes. Modern globalization has a neoliberal character" (Kozlov S. D. Globalization and regionalization. D. Globalization and regionalization, localization and glocalization: some issues of research methodology and teaching processes, 2018).

Professor A. Hudashtian describes globalization "mainly as the 'homogenization' (ensuring homogeneity) of different parts of the world, facilitating the convergence of different countries" (Hudashtian A. Globalization: A Brief Study, 2001). He emphasizes the similarity, sameness, and homogeneity of the world.

The term is interpreted differently by S.Huntington who emphasizes that "globalization creates a rather "heterogeneous" cultural and political world system" (Huntington S. Clash of Civilizations, 1994). He emphasizes the social basis of the process, "globalization is the process of articulation of the various components of humanity in the

course of its evolution as opposed to the process of differentiation of humanity. Globalization is the process of forming a global human community".

In all these approaches there is something common and important, namely the allocation of a sufficiently high level of technological and informational development of society, which makes it possible to freely move information, capital, goods and services without hindrance overcoming national-state borders. Today, might look that it does not take into account national interests, prioritizing global, transnational goals and objectives.

Globalization is based on technological, informational and economic factors. But the human factor - people's feelings and moods, values, incentives, and motives - is fundamental to all other processes.

At the present stage, many researchers consider globalization to be a contradictory process.

The contradiction of globalization lies in the fact that on the one hand, the world market is strengthening and expanding, there is an active process of specialization and international division of labor, consumption needs are being adjusted, the influence of democratic institutions is expanding, access to information has become wider, new forms of communication are being mastered; social indicators are improving in many regions of the world according to Human Development Index (life expectancy is increasing, literacy rates are rising, living standards are rising); communication and understanding between different cultures is improving. All this opens new opportunities for improving the lives of humanity. On the other hand, the global economy becomes more unstable, interdependent, and unable to resist market challenges; the gap in economic and social development between rich and poor countries is widening; the interaction between the state and civil society institutions is becoming more complex. All this is happening against the backdrop of an environmental crisis.

Assumably, globalization, understood as the desire of mankind to achieve civilizational unity while preserving a multitude of peoples and cultures, cannot be realized without a qualitative change in the system of cultural values. As noted by researcher Zhabina V.V., "globalization has a positive effect. Thanks to it, throughout all historical time of its conscious development, humanity has the opportunity to reconsider the significance of values in substantiating the meaning of its existence" (Zhabina V.V. *The Fate of National Values in the Context of Globalization*, 2010).

The problem of globalization today is discussed by specialists of different directions. They argue about the unification of economies, about environmental problems, about standardization and unification of people's lifestyles, about the end of confrontation between different economic and political systems, about increasing interdependence of states and reducing their sovereignty.

### **3.2 The European Union as an indicator of the development of globalization in the world**

The process of unification of European countries took place simultaneously with the globalization of the world community. That is why the European Union is an instance of globalization processes, particularly on the European continent. Initially, the EU was created as an economic union, but over time its activities covered more and more spheres of life. The transformation took place gradually. In 1951, the European Coal and Steel Association was created, which included 6 countries - Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

In 1957, this association grew into the European Economic Community which was joined by many European countries. In 1992, the European Community became the European Union, completing the formation of the economic union and initiating new integration processes. "Many economists and political scientists say that the creation of the European Union launched global processes around the world" (Nikitskaya A.E. Economic development of the EU: national, European and global aspects 2021). To date, the European Union plays an important role in the world economy, in international relations, in the transmission of cultural values, is an example of the implementation of globalization, having led this process in the world.

#### **3.2.1 The main directions of the EU's activities in the global world. Achievements and challenges**

Having firmly taken one of the leading positions in the world, the European Union has become actively involved in global issues. Its interests include the international division of labor, digitalization, setting standards in economy, politics and culture, foreign policy and security issues. Moreover, the EU is trying to extend its influence not only to the countries that are members of the association, but also to the countries that only want to join the alliance, as well as to the countries that are partners of the European Union. "Giving preference to innovation, sustainable development and strategic independence, the EU seeks



to position itself as a sustainable and adaptable global player" (Hasanov D.G. Problems and prospects of the European Union: economic aspects, 2023). Under the influence of globalization, the European Union has become one of the key actors in the global economy and world politics.

By expanding its living space, including more and more countries in the integration process, the EU aims not only to secure its markets, but also to strengthen its geopolitical and economic positions in relations with countries outside the union, but influencing global processes. In addition, the EU wants to use the opportunities of globalization to strengthen its international positions and increase its influence on the world order..(Global Europe: Instrument for Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation)

Since globalization is a contradictory process, it also affects the European Union. There are successes, but there are also problems. On the one hand, there is a common economic policy, the institution of European citizenship has emerged, the competitiveness of European enterprises and firms in the world has increased, and the European Union has gained integration experience that helps it cope with emerging problems and difficulties. On the other hand, there is a migration crisis, economic inequality within the EU leading to social unrest and political instability, and disregard for national interests. All of this creates divisions in relations between European states and leads to ambiguous attitudes of the populations of these countries towards processes of integration and globalization. Through the example of the EU, one can see how people's opinions towards the idea of a global world are changing, with debates and disputes about globalization becoming more active.

### **3.2.2 Views on globalization in Czech society**

In the Czech Republic itself, back in the late twentieth century, after the country gained independence, adherents of different views on the country's accession to the EU launched a discussion on globalization. The question was how globalization and integration could affect the consciousness of the country's citizens, their mentality and identification. Residents of the country saw great advantages in the association with Europe, were optimistic about living together in a large European family. “”The mood that existed in society in the first years after the Velvet Revolution was best expressed in the slogan "Back to Europe!", which received wide public support. However, the European enthusiasm in Czech society was soon replaced by rhetoric highlighting possible threats to national

sovereignty”” ( Y.A. Shcherbakova, The Problem of European Values and the Nation-State in the Czech Debate on European Integration, 2014)

### **3.2.3 V. Havel's Viewpoint on Globalization.**

The country's political leaders had different views on the Czech Republic's participation in globalization processes.

"In 2003, in a referendum in which 55% of the country's population participated, 77% voted in favor of the Czech Republic's accession to the EU. However, just a few months after that, 65% of Czechs felt that EU activities were not in the Czech national interest. Currently, people with such views are more than 70%." (Ďurd'ovič Martin Hodnocení evropské integrace - duben 2013 (16 Květen 2013)

The accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union has always been in the focus of President Václav Havel's support for globalization processes. He has repeatedly raised these issues in his speeches, supported unification and cooperation with the West, using various national and foreign platforms for this purpose. In 1998 Vaclav Havel wrote: "It does not matter how many states - 20, 30 or 50 - make up Europe, it does not matter whether these states are divided or united. What matters is the values on which they are based..." (Havel V. Projev prezidenta republiky před poslanci Evropského parlamentu Štrasburk, 16. února 2000).

### **3.2.4 V. Klaus viewpoint on globalization**

Václav Klaus had a different point of view, who saw globalization and integration as a threat to national sovereignty and mentality. Advocating for the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union, he pursued an independent and autonomous policy, unafraid to go against the prevailing opinion. He was always in favor of preserving the Czech national identity and mentality, and had a negative attitude to migrants and the EU migration policy. He believed that only a strong nation state would be the basis for the development of democracy and a free market in the Czech Republic.

### **3.2.5 The theme of national identity in public discussions.**

The debate about national identity continues today, stirring up Czech society. Many researchers have written about it, trying to find out the reasons for the controversial upsurge.

Collective identity is becoming increasingly important in society. After all, the contemporary Czech society is ethnically homogeneous, and Czechs take great pride in this

J. Weigl- journalist, Chancellor of the President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus. attributes the discussion activity to the fact that Czechs are trying to learn the lessons of history and not to repeat their mistakes. "Czechs in the past had a great negative experience of illusory hopes and false promises, which are very easily given but never fulfilled," writes J. Weigl. (Weigl J. Evropa a národní identita z české perspektivy 2010 ). Communism was just such a great and tragic illusion. J. Weigel concludes "that European integration cannot be accelerated using the tools of social engineering. The condition for the realization of the European project is the formation of a European identity, which would be the basis for a European political nation and the guarantee of the long-term existence of a Europe without barriers, a Europe of free exchange of goods, capital, people and values, not a borderless, ever-expanding and irresponsible, Brussels center".

Petr Robejšek analyzes the correlation between Czech national interests and European integration. In his opinion, "the key national interests are only security and welfare. At the same time, their existence is determined by time and conditioned by the specific national characteristics of this or that country" (Robejšek P. České národní zájmy dnes března 2012).

Being ethnically homogeneous today, with its own traditions, customs, and culture, and situated in the heart of Europe, Czechs consider themselves part of Western society. The Czech people's path to their modern statehood and sovereignty was very complex and contradictory

## **4. Practical Part**

### **4.1 Questionnaire survey of respondents.**

The Czech Republic has been a member of the European Union for twenty years, but the attitude of the population towards the integration process remains controversial and uncertain. In 2003, during the referendum on EU membership, accession was supported by 77% of the population. In 2019, 30% of the Czech population came out in favor of European integration with turnover 55%

(Nejméně populární volby aneb 21 europoslanců, Marcela Kondratova, Jakub Kondratov 2019:2)

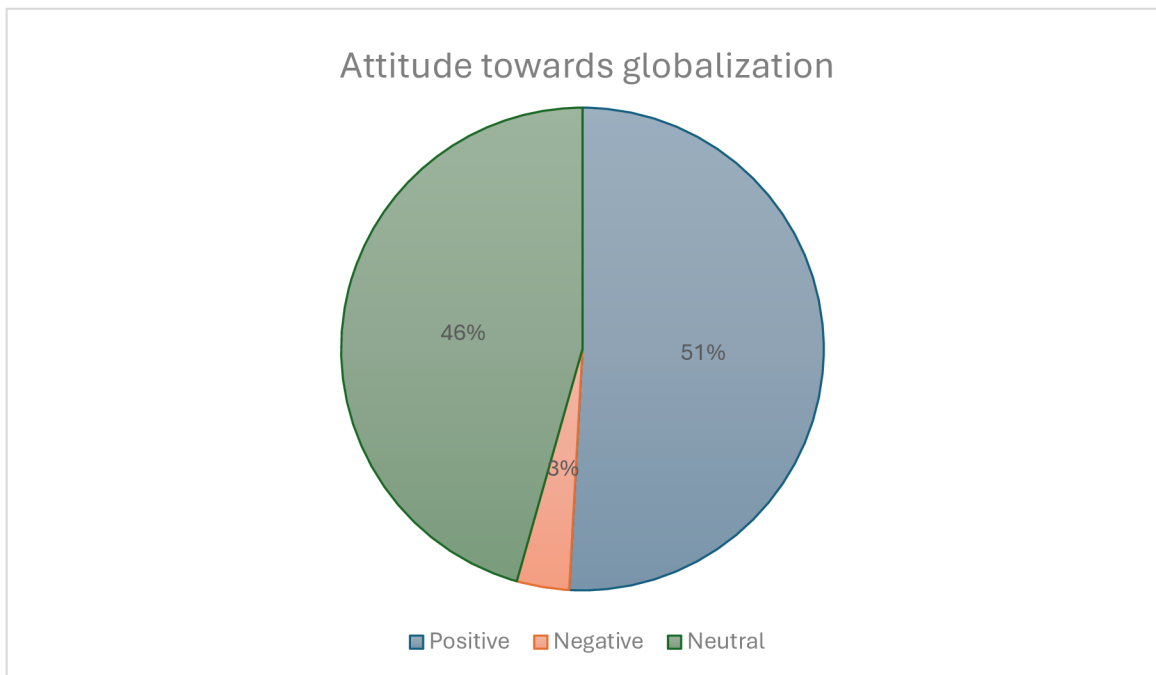
Did the Czech people's attitude towards globalization change, what factors influenced it?

To answer these questions, a survey was conducted on the attitudes of Czech citizens towards globalization and the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union. During the sociological survey 100 respondents (50 men and 50 women) were interviewed. The respondents were divided into four groups according to their age and level of education.

#### **4.1.1 Questionnaire answers**

To understand the attitude to global processes respondents were asked the question - "What is your attitude towards globalization?". Out of 100 respondents: answered "positively" - 51%, "neutral" - 46%, "negatively" - 3%

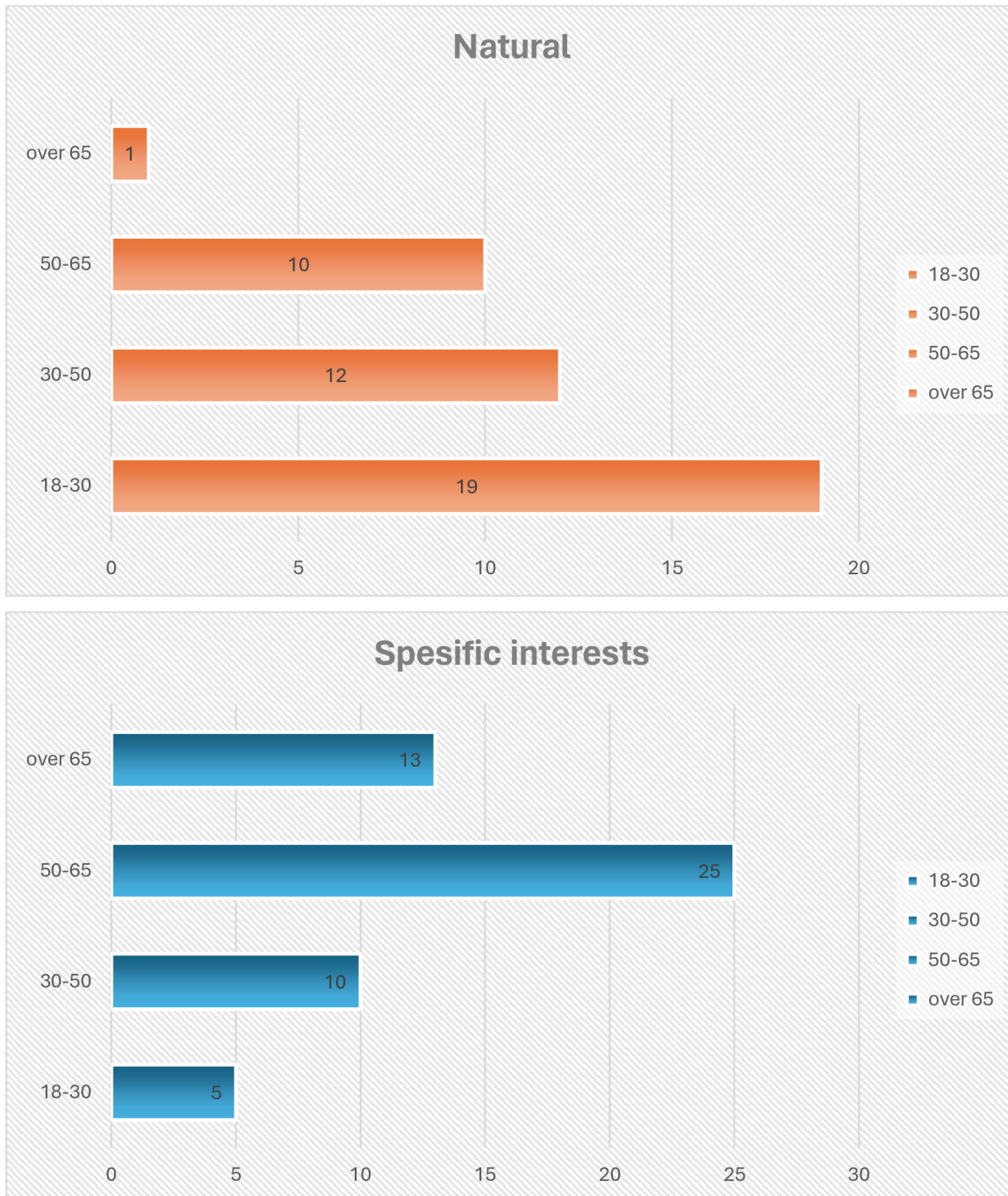
Figure 1: Attitude towards globalization



Source: Own.

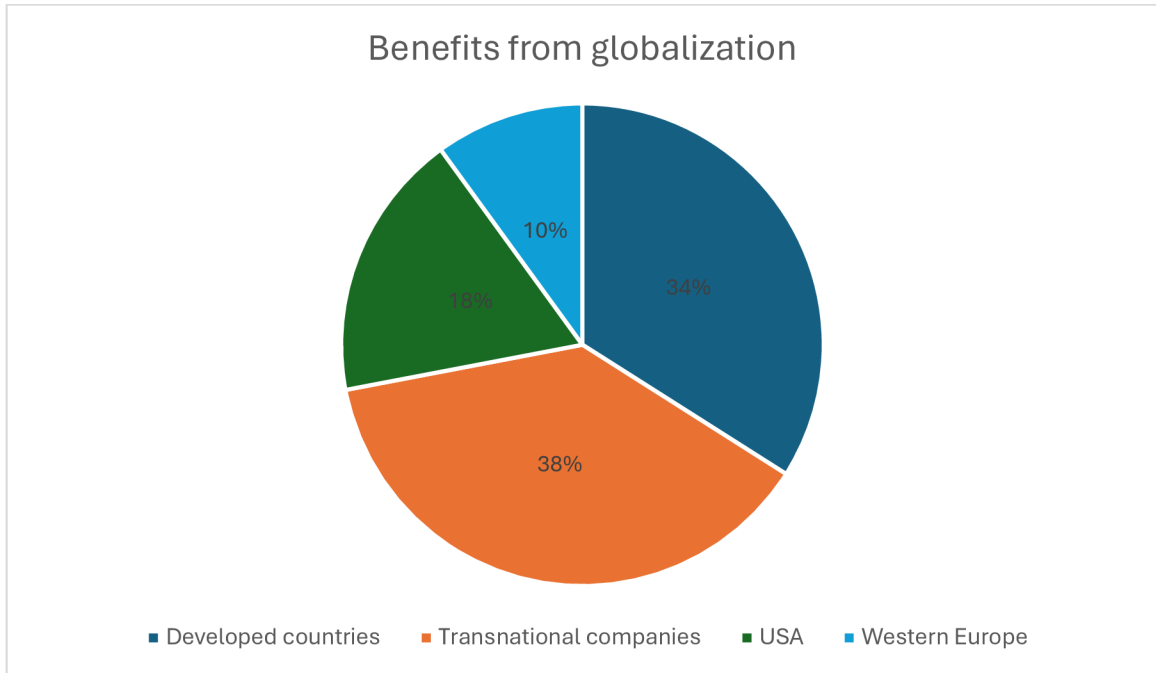
In order to understand the nature of globalization in the eyes of citizen as a process, respondents were asked to answer the question - "Is globalization a natural process independent of anyone's will?". 53% (mostly respondents over 50 years old and people of the older generation 65+) stated that globalization is carried out by specific forces in their own interests, 42% (age group from 18 to 30 and from 30 to 50 years old.) defined it as a natural and natural process independent of mankind, 5% found it difficult to give an answer, which indicates that there is no unambiguous understanding of the essence of globalization. Interpreting answers suggests that older generation does might in fact see globalization as a threat and doesn't believe it works in the faith of population and potentially it's only interest it's increasment of their own welth. With rapidly changing economic factors it's easy to dislike its nature.

Figure 2: Is globalization a natural process independent of anyone's will?



When choosing an answer to the question "Who benefits most from globalization?", the interviewees could choose several options for the answer and the respondents' opinions differed slightly. The majority of respondents (72%) favored developed countries and transnational companies. Only 18% chose the answer "USA", and 10% favored Western Europe.

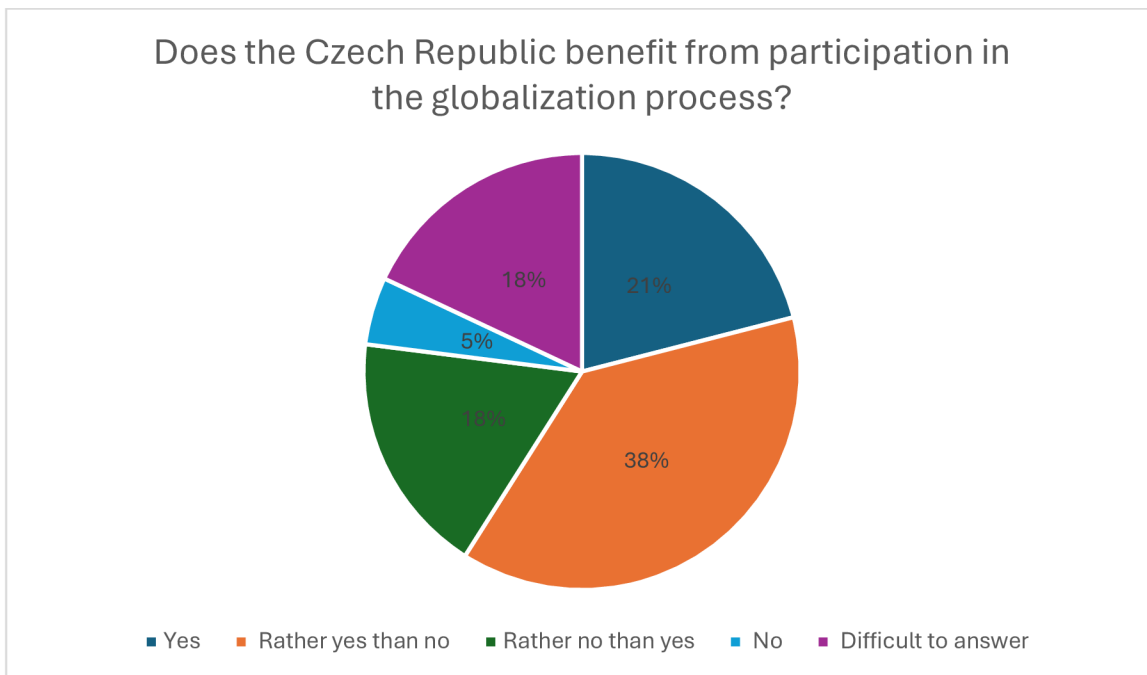
Figure 3: Who benefits the most from globalization



Source: Own.

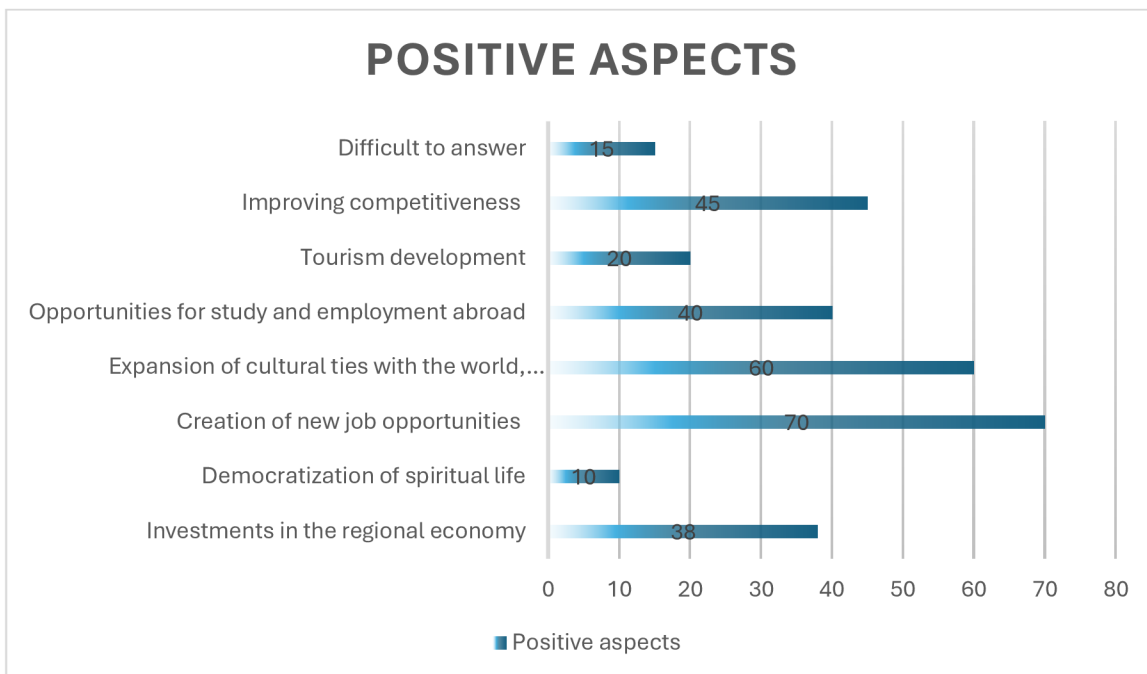
Respondents' opinions were significantly divided on the benefits of globalization for the Czech Republic. The results of the answer to the question "Does the Czech Republic benefit from participation in the globalization process?": 5% of respondents state that the Czech Republic is not benefitting, 38% say yes rather than no, 18% inclined to believe that CZ is in nonbeneficial situation than gaining, 21% choosing "yes", and 18% find it difficult to give an answer. Thus, it concludes that the majority of respondents follow globalization and integration processes and try to understand their pros and cons.

Figure 4: Does the Czech Republic benefit from participation in globalisation



Source: Own.

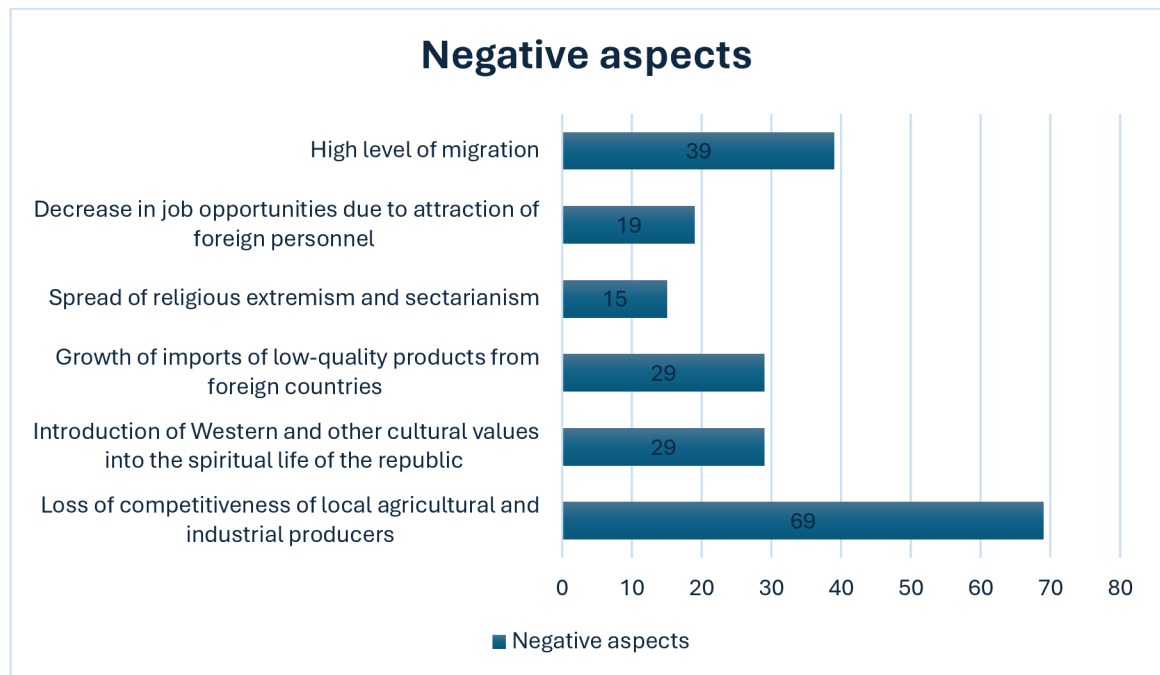
Figure 5: Positive aspects of globalization



Source: Own.



Figure 6: Negative aspects of globalization



Source: Own.

Analyzing the respondents' answers about positive and negative consequences of globalization, looking at wide range of opinions. Respondents were able to choose multiple answer options.

So what were the pros that people saw in globalization:

Investments in the regional economy - 13%

Democratization of spiritual life - 3%

Creation of new job opportunities - 24%

Expansion of cultural ties with the world, development of new technologies - 20%

Study and employment opportunities abroad - 13%

Tourism development – 7%

Improving competitiveness – 15%

Difficult to answer – 5%

The following results were obtained in determining adverse effects:

Loss of competitiveness of local agricultural and industrial producers -34%

Introduction of Western and other cultural values into the spiritual life of the republic - 14%

Growth of imports of low-quality products from foreign countries - 14%

Spread of religious extremism and sectarianism - 8%

Decrease in job opportunities due to attraction of foreign personnel - 10%

High level of migration - 20%

A number of questions to the respondents were aimed at finding out their attitudes towards the European Union. Most of the respondents who showed their main concerns of high migration, intervention of Western ideology and values in spiritual life were men and women of 50 and 65+ age range. Which shows difference between modern and older generation, their main concerns and priorities.

Data from a survey on Czechs' attitudes towards the European Union suggest that the country is still undecided; there are doubters, cautious about integration processes.

Survey respondents' attitudes towards the European Union (EU) yielded the following results:

When asked "How do you perceive the Czech Republic's membership in the EU?" the responses were as follows:

- Positive - 32% of respondents.
- Neutral - 47%.
- Negative - 17%.
- Difficult to answer - 4%.

The youngest age group of respondents, aged 18 to 30, had the most positive perception of EU membership. Individuals over the age of 65 had the most negative opinion about EU membership. Most from the age group from 30 to 50 years old had a neutral attitude towards the EU, acknowledging both positive and negative aspects of globalization and integration processes.

Responding to the question "Are you satisfied with the Czech Republic's membership in the EU?" 38% answered positively ("yes"), 17% answered negatively ("no"), and 45% were unsure. The responses to this question closely mirrored those of the previous question.

Respondents were also asked to evaluate the EU's influence on various aspects of their lives:

- 67% viewed the opportunity to travel abroad positively (respondents of various ages and education levels).
- 66% approved of the opportunity to study and work abroad.( responders 18 to 30 years old with secondary and higher education)
- 57% had a positive attitude towards investments in industry and agriculture (respondents aged 30 to 50 with higher and incomplete higher education).
- 44% perceived a decline in their social status (respondents aged 30 and older with secondary and incomplete secondary education).
- 61% were concerned about financial problems (respondents aged 30 and older with incomplete higher and secondary education).

If the European Union were to dissolve, young people under the age of 30 would be the most regretful, regardless of their level of education.

## **5. Results and Discussion**

Based on the survey results, the following conclusions can be drawn: the majority of respondents have their own opinions on globalization processes and understand the significance of the term, as the percentage of those who had difficulty answering the survey questions did not exceed 12%. The majority of respondents, when evaluating the consequences of globalization, see both advantages and disadvantages of this process. Moreover, when giving positive and negative responses, people projected globalization processes onto their own country. The majority of people, primarily those aged 18 to 50 with higher and incomplete higher education, compared globalizing the world as a whole to integrating the Czech Republic into the European Union. Respondents consciously selected factors influencing their attitudes towards globalization.

Overall, the majority of respondents have a positive attitude towards globalization (51%), a smaller portion are neutral or cautious (46%), and only 3% have a negative attitude towards the process. 41% of respondents expressed concerns about the loss of national sovereignty, but despite this, 58% of Czechs (aged 18 to 50 with higher and incomplete higher education) do not want the Czech Republic to leave the European Union; 29% (aged 50 and older) of the population would support the Czech Republic's exit from the European Union, while 13% (aged 30 to 50 with secondary education) are unsure which option would be more beneficial for the Czech Republic. It can be concluded that the younger generation is in favour of further globalization and integration, while the older generation is against it or uncertain

### **5.1 Comparative analysis on attitudes towards globalization in different European countries**

How different are the attitudes towards globalization in the Czech Republic from the attitudes towards this process in other countries. It's interesting to give a comparative analysis of the perception of globalization and integration processes in small European countries on the example of the Czech Republic's neighbors and Austria.

The Czech Republic and Austria are neighbors, similar in many ways, small in area, almost the same population, similar climate, close historical ties. Both countries are members of the European Union. This is where the similarities end.

The external and internal differences are visible to the naked eye.

This was due to the fact that these countries belonged to different economic and political systems during the Cold War and had different levels of economic development. Austria since the 1990s looked down on Czech Republic, emphasizing its higher status. The Czech Republic tried to look up to its affluent neighbor, dreaming of achieving the same standard of living. Many young Czechs still prefer to study and work in Austria, considering the standard of living and education in this country to be higher than in their home country. And these differences have left their mark on the attitudes of Czechs and Austrians towards globalization.

Both states are committed to democratic principles, observe human rights, care about the environment, and respond competently to external threats. But the Czech leadership responds to the challenges of globalization. The Austrians, on the other hand, lead the process.

The Czech Republic has identified the main directions of its activities, but it does not set itself the task of actively influencing global problems.

"Limited human and financial resources lead to the need to set a limited number of... priorities..." ( Czech Foreign Policy Concept, 2019 ) [https://www.amo.cz/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/amocz\\_agenda2015\\_en.pdf](https://www.amo.cz/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/amocz_agenda2015_en.pdf)

Austria seeks to actively influence global issues by emphasizing its autonomy. It has clearly defined its goals:

"Strengthening Austria's role as a mediator in international conflicts;...Austria is an international leader in the protection of human rights and in peace policy issues;...Confronting climate change" ( Beyond Responsibility for Austria (Government Program 2020-2024 ) ).

The Czech Republic is a member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO), which is considered the main guarantor of Czech security. Austria is not a member of NATO. Therefore, the Austrians consider the European Union to be the guarantor of their security. In both countries there are political forces in favor of deeper European integration and globalization and forces that criticize these processes.

But Austrian supporters of unification clearly express their positions, do not compromise, and welcome projects of further EU enlargement. Czech globalists tend to doubt the correctness of the chosen path, are sceptical about the admission of new countries into the European family.

To summarize, both states vote for globalization, but the Czech Republic does so cautiously, given its limited resources. Austria has staked on its autonomy and independence in conducting its national policy.

In general, Austrians are more prepared for changes on a planetary scale and are confident about the future. The Czech Republic is still only trying on the role of a leading player in the European space.

## **6. Conclusion**

The thesis examines the attitudes of different social strata towards globalization in the Czech Republic after its accession to the European Union.

The study identifies the values and factors that influence the Czech population's attitude towards global processes. Based on this, the following conclusions can be drawn.

Today, the majority in the Czech Republic have a positive attitude towards globalization, despite the fact that there are problems with global processes in the country, and they have to be solved taking into account not only their own interests, but also looking at Brussels and European legislation.

Falling living standards, unemployment and the migration crisis are the realities of today. There are still concerns that the enlargement of the European Union will lead to an influx of new cheap labor from the East, there is a fear of losing national sovereignty due to the uncontrollability of the Brussels bureaucracy, and the unresolved problem of refugees and economic pressure from the EU causes negative emotions.

Globalization and the integration of the Czech Republic into the EU cannot be perceived unambiguously. There have been successes, but there have also been problems.

Taking this into account, Czech society does not always have an unambiguous attitude towards the processes of globalization and integration. There are certain doubts among many citizens about the correctness of the chosen path and the prospects of economic, political, social and cultural development. Czechs have a negative attitude towards migration processes. The study revealed the fact of his perception of globalization.

Guided by the experience of their successful neighbors – Germany and Austria, the Czechs associated their main expectations from joining the European family with the growth of their prosperity, bringing it to the level of these developed European countries; they hoped for an improvement in the quality of life, the development of national production, the expansion of the tourist attractiveness of the regions and the growth of the country's prestige in the world. However, the fears of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic concerning membership in the EU are not related to politics, but to social and spiritual life.

The generation that grew up during the existence of the socialist bloc and remembers the time of active intervention of the USSR in the internal and external politics of the country, the not very high standard of living compared to the western neighbors, is worried about the possible repetition of the scenario of losing Czech sovereignty and imposing a certain model

of behavior on the state. The older generation is worried about the rapid growth of prices in stores, the destruction of traditional Czech production and the loss of Czech identity.

Czech society has realized that the interests of the European Union and the interests of the national state do not always coincide. Therefore, both Czech society and the Czech authorities are very cautious in their relations with Brussels.

In addition to everything else, criticism of globalization and integration policies is met with dissatisfaction by Czech youth. According to the survey results, the younger generation of Czechs is more inclined towards globalization and welcomes unification processes. Therefore, an interesting situation has developed in the Czech Republic: on the one hand, everyone understands the negative consequences of joining the EU, on the other hand, they strive to maintain their membership in the European Union.

People believe in a better European future, therefore, when conducting surveys on the problems of globalization, integration, and EU membership, they always emphasized the positive changes in their lives in such areas as economy, healthcare and science.

The main conclusion of the work is that Czech society is choosing the path of global development, and political forces and the young generation, who see the potential in this choice, play a major role in this.



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## 8. List of Figure

Figure 1: Attitude towards globalization .....	21
Figure 2: Is globalization a natural process independent of anyone's will? .....	22
Figure 3: Who benefits the most from globalization .....	23
Figure 4: Does the Czech Republic benefit from participation in globalisation.....	24
Figure 6: Positive aspects of globalization .....	24
Figure 7: Negative aspects of globalization .....	25

## 9. Appendix

1. Please, indicate your gender:

- a) Male;
- b) Female.

2. Please, Indicate your age:

- a) 18-30 years old;
- b) 30-50 years;
- b) 50-65;
- d) over 65 years of age.

3. What is your level of education?

- a) incomplete secondary education;
- b) secondary education;
- c) incomplete higher education;
- d) higher education.

4. What is your attitude towards globalization?

- a) Positive
- b) Neutral
- c) Negative

5. Is globalization a natural process independent of anyone's will?

- a) Globalization is being pursued by specific forces in their own interests
- b) It is a natural process
- c) Difficult to answer

6. Who benefits most from globalization?

- a) United States
- b) Western Europe
- c) Highly developed countries
- d) Transnational companies (e.g. Apple, McDonald's, Google, etc.)
- e) Developing countries

7. Does the Czech Republic benefit from participation in the globalization process?

- a) Yes
- b) Rather yes than no
- c) Rather no than yes
- d) No
- e) Difficult to answer

8. In your opinion , is there positive aspects of globalization? Tick the box next to the chosen answer (more than one option is allowed).

- a) Investments in the regional economy
- b) Democratization of spiritual life
- c) Creation of new jobs
- d) Expansion of cultural ties with the world, development of new technologies
- e) Opportunities for study and employment abroad

- f) Tourism development
- g) Improving competitiveness
- h) Difficult to answer

9. In your opinion, are there negative impacts of globalization? Tick the box next to the chosen answer (more than one option is allowed).

- a) Loss of competitiveness of local agricultural and industrial producers
- b) Introduction of Western and other cultural values into the spiritual life of the republic
- c) Growth of imports of low-quality products from foreign countries
- d) Spread of religious extremism and sectarianism
- e) Decrease in jobs due to attraction of foreign personnel
- f) High level of migration
- h) Difficult to answer

10. How do you perceive the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union?

- a) positively
- b) negatively
- c) neutrally
- d) Difficult to answer

11. Are you satisfied with the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union?

- a) Yes
- b) no
- c) Difficult to answer

12. How do you assess the influence of the EU on various spheres of Czech society?

- a) Ability to travel abroad
- b) the opportunity to study and work abroad
- c) Improving living standards and social security
- d) low accountability of the government's fiscal policy
- e) negative social situation
- e) Financial instability
- g) The low level of laws enacted
- h) high level of migrants

13. Do you want the Czech Republic to leave the European Union?

- a) Yes
- b) no
- c) Difficult to answer