Object of the research is immigration political rhetoric and policy implementation in Finland between 1998 and 2004. The time period was fruitful for such research, since during this time the first steps toward common European migration policy were taken, implementation of national integration legislation begun, and discrimination legislation was reformed. At the same time begun a public and administrative discussion about ageing of the population and need for both “replacement migration” as well as skilled labour from EU member states and third countries. A separate debate about asylum seekers' protection of law has been going on for several years in the public media, as well as between the State of Finland and the United Nations.

The aim of the study is to evaluate the concept of "proactive" immigration policy, represented by the outlines of common EU immigration policy, and evaluate how the developments in Finnish immigration policy between 1998 and 2004 corresponded to the objectives of "proactive" premises.

Research methods include argumentation analysis and analysis of policy implementation (outspoken goals / evaluation of effects). Theoretical context was social constructionism and so-called new rhetoric.

The results include a Finnish language definition of the concept of proactive immigration policy, and a contradictory concept called reactive immigration policy. Proactivity seeks to prepare in advance to changes that happen in the object of policy and is connected to trans-national approach to international migration and to comprehensive management of immigration (reflective policy). Reactivity is connected to nation-state-based administration, in which immigration as such is seen as a threat since its definitions are connected to security discourses and to a Westfalenian judicial tradition (reflexive policy).

Data that was used in the research, include administrative documents, Finnish and EU policy papers, evaluation reports, discussion papers, national and community legislation, official communication between the State of Finland and the United Nations and Council of Europe, press releases, newspaper articles and existing research literature.

Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords
immigration policy
rhetorics
Finland
European Union
law
international agreements
human rights

Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-Where deposited

Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information