

Title of the thesis:

„The relations of the European Union with the
Pacific Alliance”

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- **The main goal of the thesis:**

- ✓ To investigate if the Pacific Alliance (PA), which is a new regional integration in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region encompassing the countries of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, could be the European Union (EU) partner in political and economic issues.

- **Justification of the topic:**

- ✓ Interest in Spain and Latinamerica international relations
- ✓ The Pacific Alliane as an increasingly important regional actor who is worth to analyse.

- **Research methods:**

- ✓ PESTLE and SWOT analyses of the four countries constituting the Pacific Alliance
- ✓ Examination of official documents and statistical data

- **Table of contents:**

CHAPTER I - The European Union external relations

1. Regional actorship - explanation of the concept on the example of the EU.
2. The European Union – Complex Interregionalism
3. Five functions of interregional forums
4. The role of the EU internal institutions in shaping external policy
5. The impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on European Union external policy

CHAPTER II - Analysis of the Pacific Alliance member states

1. PESTLE Analyses of the Pacific Alliance member states according to the following criteria (own idea):
 - **Political** - short presentation of the former president, State Legislature, Perceived corruption.
 - **Economic** - GDP indicator, inflation, unemployment rate, trade policy, FDI.
 - **Social** - number of population, education, levels of crime, drug traffic, migration data.
 - **Technological** - innovation profile, telecommunication sector.
 - **Legal** - barriers and enablers for doing business, tax policy.
 - **Environmental** - geographical location, natural resources, environmental threats.
 - + Presentation and short analyses of the presidents elects and their plan of foreign and domestic policies.
2. SWOT analyses of the Pacific Alliance Member States based on PESTLE analyses.

CHAPTER III - European Union relations with the members of the Pacific Alliance

1. Trade agreement and its impact.
2. Political relations and cooperation.

Chapter IV– The Pacific as a regional actor

1. Background - Regional integration in Latin America.
2. The Pacific Alliance - analysis with the use of regional actorship framework.
3. Challenges and risks for the Pacific Alliance.
4. Overview of the to date relations between the Pacific Alliance and the European Union.

• Main conclusions:

- ✓ All four members of the Pacific Alliance are characterized by relatively open and rapidly growing economies. On the other hand all four of them still face serious structural problems (e.g. corruption) that hamper their growth.
- ✓ EU trade relations with the Pacific Alliance Member States represents a small gain for their economies. Nevertheless, FTAs created a variety of positive indirect effects.
- ✓ The Pacific Alliance has shown that its integration model differs markedly from the EU integration model. It has weak internal cohesion (e.g. low level of interregional trade) which in turn is compensated for by presence and effectively organised actorness.
- ✓ It is worth for the EU to deepen its relations with the PA. The synergies that could be obtained in a group are greater. The Pacific Alliance could appear as a bridge between the different sub regional integration systems, encourage greater cohesion among them and by that support economic and political goals of the EU in Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region.

- **Regional actorship - discussion of the issue**

Definition: Analytical framework used to analyse the transformation of a region from being an object to become a subject with certain actor capacity in external relations. It is built around three interacting components, together constituting actorship, which is a region's ability to influence the external world.

3 components:

- **Regionness:** the process of regionalisation. Includes internal (objective) integration and (subjective) identity-formation. Five levels of regionness: Regional social space -> Regional social system -> Regional international society -> Regional community -> Regional institutionalized polity.
- **International presence:** in terms of size, economic strength, military power, etc.
- **Actorness:** the capacity to act purposively to shape outcomes in the external world. Four requirements for actorness: Shared commitment to a set of overarching values, domestic legitimation of decision processes and priorities relating to external policy, the ability to identify priorities and formulate policies, availability of policy instruments.

Why regional actorship is important?

- For two regions to establish a functioning relationship, it is essential that both have achieved a certain degree of actorship. These components, varying in importance, can compensate for each others' weaknesses. A weak presence can for instance be compensated for by stronger internal cohesion (regionness), or a more effectively organised actorness.