

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2013/2014**

Master Thesis Topic: **European imbalances and the debt crisis in Europe**

Author's name: **Alexandra Razumnova**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Pavel Hnát, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Josef Bič, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	2
2.	Logical structure	2
3.	Using of literature, citations	2
4.	Adequacy of methods used	3
5.	Depth of analysis	3
6.	Self-reliance of author	3
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	3
8.	Language and stylistics	3

Comments and Questions:

The author chose a very relevant topic, which is now very important in discussions how to solve the economic relations between the EU Member States. The objective has been clearly formulated. However, the effort to achieve it is very limited by several points. Firstly, the author failed to transform the logical structure of the thesis to the factual interdependence of content. Secondly, empirical application of the theoretical basis is very limited. As regards sources the author didn't use only a purely academic literature, but also a range of newspaper and popular journal articles. Although this literature can't be considered as fundamentally bad, it has influence on a nature of methods. The thesis is rather descriptive and corresponding to the time by which it refers. I miss the necessary critical distance of the author in this context. Methods used to show more descriptive approach. Presented knowledge is rather to be shown in width than to be got by a sufficient depth analysis. The work contains significant imperfection in terms of grammar and formal mistakes. These aspects make the work very unprofessional. Overall, I assess the thesis as good with interesting insights and findings. Regardless, it would be better elaborated than it finally was. The contents and formal layout of some parts look to be processed more quickly than trying to be finished accurately.

Questions for the defence:

1) How do you assess the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure as a proper corrective tool among the EU Member States (or rather Euro area)? Is it sufficient change in the EU economic governance in context of existing macroeconomic problems?

2) Is it suitable to reduce positive current account balance of any EU Member States (such as Germany) in order to solve problem of economies with current account deficit?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **3**

Date: 29. 05. 2014

Ing. Josef Bič, Ph.D.
Opponent