

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International Business - Central European Business Realities**

Academic year: **2014/2015**

Master Thesis Topic: **Position of Kazakhstan in International Trade and Business**

Author's name: **Bc. Yekaterina Batyrkhanova**

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Opponent: **Ing. Mgr. PhDr. David Müller, 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	2
8.	Language and stylistics	2

Comments and Questions:

The purpose of the submitted the thesis is to examine, as stated in introduction “macroeconomics, international markets, and competitiveness. The focus will be on the country’s macroeconomic trends, economic reforms, and an analysis of the country’s economic position through an analysis of various sectors such as agriculture, natural resources, FDI, as well as industrialization.” (p. 4). Unfortunately, the part of the introduction devoted to the aims, focus and methods used in the thesis is rather modest, as it includes only one paragraph. Introduction is the most questionable part of the thesis – beyond the last paragraph, it is sort of collection of quotations describing situation of Kazakhstan, without any elaborated inner coherence and logic – several times “multiple policies and practices”, “strategic measures” etc. are mentioned without any further explanation. For instance, can author explain the meaning of following statements: “The oil sector has contributed a lot towards the transformation of the macroeconomic management progress, especially in terms of structural reforms.”; “The increase in domestic consumption has contributed towards the growth of the oil sector.” (p. 3); “As a result of various diversification measures, the economy has been stabilized as a result of multiple policies and practices.” (p. 4)? The following analysis of the economic position and policies of Kazakhstan is generally acceptable, with some shortcomings, i. e. the chapter 1.4. provides the analysis of economy by sector – why are services completely omitted and industrial goods sub-chapters covers mainly mining industries? Similar inconsistencies can be found in FDI chapter (1.5), which surprisingly covers export and import partners alike (covered elsewhere in appropriate chapter of the thesis as well). There are some minor incorrect claims, e.g. statement that Kazakhstan is in South Asia (p. 47), but they do not significantly affect the general quality of the thesis. Summing up, the thesis provides general overview of Kazakhstan position in terms of economy and international trade, with shortcomings and deficiencies mentioned above. The paper itself is rather descriptive, abandoning ambitions for thorough analysis. The source and information base is satisfactory, however author relies mainly on the secondary sources and the exploitation of primary data is quite limited. In case of satisfactory oral presentation and defence, grade 2 would be appropriate.

Questions for discussion: 1. Why is Netherlands main source of investment? 2. Can author explain in details and provide further evidence to the claim that “Kazakhstan serves – and will continue serving – as the main transit point in the region. Almost all goods passing from East and the South will continue going through it.”? 3. What is author perception of the compatibility of the membership in the Customs union and WTO?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 29. 05. 2015

Ing. Mgr. PhDr. David Müller, Ph.D.
Opponent