

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2016/2017**

Master Thesis Topic: **Political and Economic Consequences of the European Migration Crisis for Germany**

Author's name: **Simon Gierlinger**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Petr Vymětal, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Aleš Lisa, Ph.D.**

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

Comments and Questions:

The Master's thesis focuses on the current topic of migration, which strongly resonates in the contemporary society. Although migration is not a new phenomenon, and there is a great deal of theoretical work on this subject, current developments bring many new questions, which are often partly or totally lacking in answers.

The presented work aims to map some of the (economic, political and social) impacts of the latest wave of migration in Europe to Germany, which has been significantly influenced by the weight of the current migration wave, and to formulate recommendations for relevant decision makers. However, this ambitious goal, formulated only indirectly through research questions, has only been partially achieved.

While the author brings a number of relevant data providing a fairly complex view of the subject, their connection with the theoretical background is not consistent enough. One reason is the fragmentary nature of the theoretical grasp of migration issues in the first part of the thesis (which is a typical feature of contemporary methodology), and limited effort of the author to overcome this barrier. Thus while a good portion of the resulting recommendations seems to be applicable, others sounds to be more ethical statements or long-time measures outside current political reality (provide legal and safe ways of transfer to countries of destination; avoid multicultural policies; significantly improve life conditions in home countries of immigrants).

Second, the authors brings a pretty good deal of (political) statements which validity for the studied issue have/could not been proved – the fact that (as the UN documents state) "well-managed migration brings important benefits..." can be valid under some circumstances but not under different ones. Only future development can show if these are valid for the particular studied case or not. Thus the authors should work more carefully with a such material

As a result the descriptive part of the thesis is much stronger than the analytical one. However, this does not change anything on the fact that well formulated recommendations can help to reach this status – and while some of those which the authors suggest might be pretty much challenged, others sound reasonable and represent a good base for related discussions and measures adoption.

In terms of formal requirements, language and stylistic the thesis meet expected level.

I recommend the thesis for defense; suggested grade: **VERY GOOD**.

Questions:

1) Bring arguments supporting the suggestion to avoid multicultural policies, and suggest realistic ways how to do it. Which arguments might oppose this recommendation? What would work in their favor?

2) Which major barriers/obstacles has been Germany facing in current effort to make valid the statement that "well-managed migration brings important benefits to countries of origin and destinations, as well as to migrants and their families"? What would you recommend to do to overcome these obstacles?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 25/05/2017

Ing. Aleš Lisa, Ph.D.

Opponent