

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2017/2018**

Master Thesis Topic: **Euroscepticism and the Functioning of the Visegrad Group**

Author's name: **Tomáš Tabiš**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Mgr. Jan Němec, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **doc. PhDr. Karel Müller, Ph.D.**

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

Comments and Questions:

The topic of Mr. Tabiš's Master Thesis is up-to-date and highly relevant for theoretical studies and practical purposes of policy-making. The focus on Euroscepticism within the Visegrad Group is adequate to the recent development of its member states. Given the fact that after Brexit the Eurosceptic voice will search for its new "stronghold," it is very probable that this stronghold will be located in Central Europe. Thus, the analysis provided in the submitted thesis contributes to the knowledge needed for international cooperation in the above-mentioned region.

According to the author, the thesis aims to "identify the level of Euroscepticism in the Visegrad Group and its members (...). (...) to find the reasons behind it." The research question is formulated as follows: "Why did the Visegrad Group become one of the most Eurosceptic entities in the European Union during past few years and how is this Euroscepticism being reflected?"

The structure of the writing is logic; the author departs from the conceptualization of the Euroscepticism, proceeds to the introduction into the context of roots of Euroscepticism, and finally enters his comparative case studies. The thesis is constructed upon a solid and numerous base of sources; however, it suffers from excessive descriptiveness with less analytical insight. The most serious shortcoming is that the author does not dedicate much space to the consequences of rising Euroscepticism on the functioning of the Visegrad Group as an international organization. In fact, this part of the research outline was supposed to be the most innovative; the information which is mostly presented in the thesis is in a big part already covered in other academic writings.

As a whole I consider the submitted Master Thesis to be a good piece of academic writing with a genuine effort of the author. For this reason, I do not hesitate to recommend it for defense.

My additional questions would be these:

1. From your point of view and based on your analysis, do you think that the Visegrad Groups has still reasons to exist?
2. The typology created by Kopecky and Mudde was designed for the Central European countries. Which of the political parties that you analyze in your thesis were already covered by their analysis? How would you explain the very counter-intuitive euro-pragmatist type?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 25/05/2018

Ing. Mgr. Jan Němec, Ph.D.
Academic Consultant