

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2017/2018**

Master Thesis Topic: **Financing politics in democratic countries: A comparative analysis of funding for political parties and election campaigns in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.**

Author's name: **Maksim Karpovich**

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

Opponent: **Ing. Adéla Dítětová**

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

Comments and Questions:

The topic of the thesis is funding of political parties and election campaigns. The issue of policy funding and political parties together with the definition of its legal status is still a topic of discussion in the professional circles. During the 20th century till now, various legal measures have been adopted in developed countries, which had to regulate the issue of policy funding in the widest sense.

The aim of the thesis is to find the answers to the questions "what constitutes an effective political finance regulatory framework" and "which regulatory practices strengthen the democratic governance and which carry potential risks" (p.1). The author chose for his analysis three Western European countries with a long democratic tradition, but with different forms of governance and different party systems. Interestingly, the timeline for the adoption of the first legal measures in the selected countries was not at the same time, but separately within twenty years. I appreciate the choice of the topic, because the thesis is narrowly and clearly profiled.

Firstly, the author focuses on two theoretical areas: political parties, from their origin to their legislative framework, and political finance, from its regulation to the risk of corruption. Then follows a comparative analysis of legal measures for the selected countries. Finally, the author evaluates these legal measures and points to possible adjustments that would lead to greater efficiency and transparency.

Positive aspects of the thesis are the logical linking of the text with many summary tables and figures that make it easier to navigate the text, then a rich work with literature and high quality citation of resources as well as an excellent level of English.

In some parts of the thesis, the text is too descriptive. In the first chapter, the typology of party systems is overshadowed. Otherwise, I have nothing else to reproach.

I recommend the thesis for defend and I propose the grade "EXCELLENT".

I offer these follow-up questions: 1) Is there also a so-called negative campaign in these countries? If so, are there any measures to eliminate it and how to determinate its originator? 2) Do you think that there is still great difference in the funding of political parties and campaigns between Western European and post-communist countries?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 04/06/2018

Ing. Adéla Dítětová
Opponent