

# 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: **Economic diplomacy of the Czech Republic**

Author's name: **Marek Pyszko**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **doc. Ing. Mgr. Štěpánka Zemanová, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Jana Peterková, 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	1
5.	Depth of analysis	2
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	3
8.	Language and stylistics	2

## Comments and Questions:

The thesis deals with the topical issue of economic diplomacy and its institutional arrangements. It is highly relevant for the current Czech foreign policy as the matter has been subject to disputes between the central ministries for several years.

The research draws on a substantial literature review and is contributive in two aspects: Firstly, the author provides the reader with an overview and comparison of the existing patterns of economic diplomacy institutional architecture, which are schematically organised in the original "country cards". Secondly, the critical assessment of both the patterns applied abroad, and the Czech one results in a proposal of possible improvements to the current Czech model. Moreover, the assessment of the Czech model is based on the semistructured interviews with representatives of the Czech institutions involved, which has to be appreciated. To this stance, the text has an excellent potential to be an above average master thesis.

However, especially during the last weeks of his studies, the author worked under a substantial time pressure, which is, unfortunately, also evident from the text. The country analyses remain quite brief and do not offer an insight into the functioning of the economic diplomacy national systems broad enough to understand all their specifics and nuances. I am obliged that a smaller number of cases and more in-depth analyses would have been a better option. The lack of time for final revisions is also apparent from the layout of the text (and, especially, the appendices), style and the mistakes in the references (e.g., capitalisation in Czech titles). For those reasons, I propose the assessment "very good" in case of successful defence.

As topics for discussion during the defence I recommend the following:

1. What are the current prospects for further institutional reforms of the Czech economic diplomacy? Do you find them to be probable when two different political parties control the key ministries?
2. How do you assess the current situation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior being managed by the same person? Is it harmful to the Czech economic diplomacy in any aspect?

**Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.**

Suggested Grade:     **2**

Date: 27/08/2018

**doc. Ing. Mgr. Štěpánka Zemanová, Ph.D.**  
Academic Consultant