Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Cameron Nichol

Title: Cybersecurity and national resilience in Estonia

Programme/year: MISS/SECINTEL 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/<u>external assessor</u>):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	35
Total		*80*	68
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	9
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	19
TOTAL		*100*	87

Evaluation

Major criteria:

This is a sound thesis looking at the practical utilisation of resilience in Estonian national security context. The design of the thesis is structured by three very relevant and appropriate questions that allow the author to approximate the abstract debates on resilience with the real national security analysis. As regards the strengths of the thesis I appreciate the way the author connected national resilience and cyber security, even if I must disagree with his statement that such an exercise has not yet been done. The conceptual synthesis worked well and was successfully operationalised providing an analytical framework for empirical investigation. The methodology is also solid and the results convincing. My major critical comments concern two issues. First, there is a substantial amount of critical literature discussing resilience in cyber as well as CIP contexts (f.e. Dunn Cavelty et al.) which would enrich the theoretical debate and potentially question some of the empirical findings. Second, then third research question is only partially addressed also because the civil society is a larger concept than just one pillar of PPP projects. However, it should be stressed that author´s discussion in this context is valuable and original. All in all, this a solid thesis showing strong conceptual as well as empirical foundations.

Minor criteria:

OK

Overall evaluation:

Overall relevant piece of research successfully reflecting one of the currently most popular policy concepts

Suggested grade: B1

Signature: