



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

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Title: Impact of COVID-19 on Security Policies of States in the Area of Cyber Security

Programme/year: 2020/21

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): D. Erkomaishvili

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	62
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	2
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	14
TOTAL		100	76



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The work's research question provides clear direction for the research carried out later in the dissertation. It also balances concepts with the theoretical framework. At times there is a confusion on the side of the structure of the work. This might be caused by an attempt to add more information (and various methods) to an overall limited by size work.

Minor criteria:

The work provides an overall good overview of sources and demonstrates good practice in using primary and secondary ones in the course of a research. What might be required is further work with language and additional editing. At times it is difficult to follow the text and the development of work's key ideas.

Overall style needs work too. All key requirements are adhered to, nevertheless from the formal perspective, there is a need to focus on clean-up of the overall style (e.g. text justification throughout the work).

Similarity percentage is 19%, report is available here:
<https://secure.urkund.com/view/118582264-369747-801437>

Overall evaluation:

It is a thorough research. Research direction is interesting and timely. The take on it might be a bit hectic and unclear. On the side of research objectives, there are more of them than could potentially be fit in the work of this size. Thus, the work would benefit from cutting on the scope. Overall editing of content would be useful.

Theoretically and empirically the work has offered a good dive into the issues exposed by the Covid pandemic. When it comes to cyber security, there are little disagreements that criminal activities were ones on the benefiting side. The work has succeeded in highlighting this and providing enough evidence to demonstrate this fact.



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Issues in the dissertation are related to mostly structural factors. More accuracy in work with sources would be helpful. Consistency is another weaker spot. For instance, research question on page 11 which is clear and on point is detached from research aims: not off focus, but rather sharp question is not linked to broader aims.

Excellent literature review which highlights a lot of important sources for the field of cyber security succeeds in providing a backbone for the research that is carried out. Conceptually, the work offers excellent discussion on typologies of cyber crime. In doing so, it positions the conceptual part to address Covid-specific issues which is in line with the work's focus. A combination of very well-designed parts with a broader scope of the work and at time confusing parts prevents the work from achieving a clear structure.

Suggested grade:

Between B and C.

Signature: Dr David Erkomaishvili