

IEPS MASTER THESIS ADVISOR REVIEW FORM

STUDENT NAME: Angela Sirbu

THESIS TITLE: Effect of Reform on Media Sector in Moldova

ADVISOR NAME: prof. PhDr Jan Jiráček, Ph.D.

ADVISOR GRADE: 1

REVIEW

(Please fill your critique in here in about 2 pages, regarding the suitability of the student's work, the structure of the thesis, methodology, resources used and overall grade for the thesis)

Ms Angela Sirbu decided to analyze the media situation in Moldova as a topic of her thesis. She focused on the transformation (or transition) of media system in 1990s and its consequences for contemporary media system in Moldova and its performance.

During the months of advising her work, I found out that Ms Sirbu is deeply interested in the role of media and media status in Moldova. At the beginning, her approach was some kind of an obstacle. She feels more as media freedom fighter (blaming Moldovan establishment for breaking rules of state-media relations) than a detached observer. But within a short period of time, she adopted quite a rational academic approach, analyzed the situation in Moldova within standard frameworks of media studies, read a good deal of literature on media change and media-politics relations, and collected and interpreted a lot of interesting data and observations.

The result of her work is a well done analysis of Moldovan media system, incl. media organizations and their production, media law and media ownership

structure. Ms Sirbu put together a representative list of literature related to post-communist transformation of media in various countries and succeeded to characterize the media and public communication situation in Moldova properly. She enrooted her explanation in diachronic perspective and offered a short but well done overview of the historical development of Moldovan media. Then she focused on the process of transition and transformation of media during the last years of Soviet period and in post-Soviet situation. She analyzed the relations between politics, media, industry and the public with close attention paid to media law.

Ms Sirbu used a normative approach defined by liberal normative theory as developed in the tradition of Western democracies. It means that she focused on “watch-dog role” of the media, its “fourth estate” status in society and “safeguard of democracy”. From this point of view, her interpretation of successful media transformation is a development in this direction, and delays on the way or changes of direction are understood as failures. We can argue that the development in many countries showed that such a normative approach cannot work (because of cultural and historical circumstances) but to use normative theory as a framework is a legitimate method and Ms Sirbu proved that she can use it properly.

I would like to confirm that thesis written by Ms Angela Sirbu seems to be quite an original academic text which meets all the necessary requirements of an academic writing, incl. bibliography, sources, etc. I recommend her theses as a subject of final exam procedure and grade it as excellent (1).