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**Referee Report on Master Thesis**

**ALEXANDRA JACHANOVÁ DOLEŽELOVÁ:**

*European Union as the Factor of the Advancement of Gender Equality in the Czech Republic.*

The study on factors of gender equality promotion can be considered a well-needed contribution to academic research, since the subject has not been covered from this point of view in our academic writing so far.

The thesis of Alexandra Jachanová Doleželová provides for a reliable review of facts, official and legal documents, summaries, and commentaries on the particular issues. It is based on an impressive and sufficiently representative heuristic base consisting of both primary and secondary sources, added by interviews with prominent gender equality experts. These interviews enhance the analysis with an empiric touch. Out of existing sources, I only slightly miss monothematical Volume VII, Number 2, 1999 issue of the Czech Sociological Review which offers an interesting background for comparing several aspects of gender equality situation in the Czech Republic during the EU accession process.

There are no arguments against the use of the comparative method, it ultimately was appropriate. However, I would like the author to explain what were the reasons why she chose Great Britain and France as the two model states in chapter 2.6. Were they practical reasons such as accessibility of sources, specific characteristics of the two distinctive societies, desirable and/or successful measures that the two above-mentioned states have adopted (and that the CR should follow), or further considerations behind her option? Also, there is no definition of the crucial terms – gender equality and equal opportunities – in the

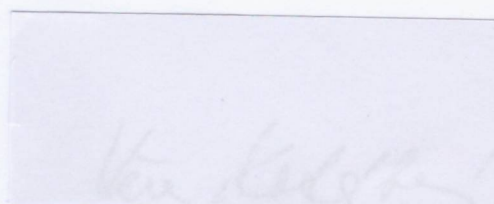
text. I understand that the author might have considered it too trivial or was afraid that the attempt for a definition might have called for a single new study but I still believe it might have been useful if the author marked their boundaries and explained the choice of the four respective areas where she had followed them.

The text is logically structured and proportional. It deserves appreciation that the author followed the chosen structure with discipline and did not allow herself to get lost in the descriptive jungle of legislative documents.

As for the conclusion, I would be slightly skeptical towards the statement that the EU played the most important role in the advancement of equal opportunities. Clearly, the legislative measures are vital and inevitable, I fully agree with that. However, women have to seek them, use them, and thus overcome the prevailing stereotypes in the society, labor market, and families. In my opinion, legislation works best if accompanied by shared personal experience and personal examples (sometimes well mediated by corporate culture). It is an ultimate privilege of the author to make her own priorities, though.

The study is well-written (the rare mistakes, such as *intuitional* instead of *institutional* on page 79 are probably typing errors rather), informative, and original. The author has proved her ability at academic writing and understanding the subject. She has met all requirements necessary for a master thesis. Therefore I recommend it for defending on the occasion of M.A. final exam, and suggest to evaluate it „A“.

Želivec, February 5, 2006



PhDr. Věra Kotábová