



Master Degree Thesis title: **EU-Mexico's Cooperation in Education Projects for Indigenous Children**

Author: **Maria Emilia Escobedo Resano**

Maria Emilia Escobedo Resano states that she is concerned with the situation of impoverished population in Mexico, therefore she decided to focus on the topic of the EU-Mexico cooperation on education projects for indigenous children. (p. 5)

The author claims to “base her research” on “legal framework”, meaning “the European Union-Mexico Cooperation Agreement and the Democratic Clause, using this as an international cooperation tool for development and aid.” (pp. 5-6). She adds: “The projects I will analyze fall under two categories, the first one is cooperation (of Mexico?) with the EU (through the European Commission), and the other one is bilateral cooperation with a member state (namely Germany).” The author finishes: “Using these two categories (?) I will try to find strengths and weaknesses for the whole process of implementation, action and results with special focus on the evaluation process in order to come up with recommendations and conclusions.” (p. 6).

The author plans to prove the following hypothesis: “International cooperation on indigenous childrens' education between the EU and Mexico is a very important compliment to the domestic actions on the subject; however the lack of official assessment during and after the project implementation is a major impediment to evaluate the impact of this aid. Without assessment the EU-Mexico's action on indigenous education can't be measured and it remains as a resource allocation without a clear goal.” (p. 6). There is, however, a problem with this so called hypothesis; its first part is in a certain contradiction with the rest of the statement: Is international cooperation (...) “a very important compliment (complement?) to the domestic actions” or is this cooperation hard to be measured? One is confused what part is supposed to form the hypothesis.

As for the goal(s), the author states her main goal as following: “The main aim of this work is to present the importance of empowering all of these communities and people, the spill-over effects, the positive externalities it brings into other communities and NGOs, and the follow-up needed. All of the latter, in order for the international cooperation between EU and Mexico to be better exploited and fruitful in future times.” (p. 9)

Unfortunately, it is obvious that the work suffers from lack of a clear goal and clear methodology. The author should explain it during her defence. Nevertheless, the text includes some good points where Mrs. Escobedo Resano proves her knowledge (and enthusiasm) about the topic (see chapter 4).

Questions that could be answered during the defence: Could the author comment on results of educational project in other Latin American countries? Is there a cooperation between the EU and other LA countries in this field? Do evaluations/assessments of similar projects exist? To what extent Mexico cooperates on this issue with its neighbors?

Even though all chapters could be focused more precisely and questions about the theoretical part of the work remain, Mrs. Escobedo Resano submitted an acceptable Thesis. I suggest to evaluate her work as *good (3)* – with regard to the Thesis defense.

Markéta Žídková
Prague, June 14 2011