

Review of M.A. Dissertation  
Sustainable Governance of the Visegrad Countries

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Proposed dissertation studies the policy of sustainable development in the Visegrád countries with the use of data collected by the Bertelsmann Foundation in 2009 and 2011. After a short introduction dealing with history, theory and praxis of sustainable development the author explains the relationship between sustainable development and an efficient governance showing the examples of countries (UK) which have successfully implemented both elements in their home policy and she also summarizes the role of some additional factors like the EU, international organizations etc.

The main focus is on the analysis of data collected in the two main containers – one called Status Index (SI) and the other one Management Index (MI). First set of data measures the level of a success of already implemented policies of sustainable development, while the other one measures a reform potential of each of the analyzed countries. Each of the two containers is divided into the system of “subitems” and their cumulative impact enables us to see the moving line between past and future, which means that measuring the past we can somehow see the chances for the future. Since this work in details threatens to sink the author in numerous data, Olena has reasonably decided to conclude each of the subchapters by provisional summaries and then to build final concluding passages.

In the first line Olena analyzes criteria inside the SI and MI and then summarizes the position of each of the Visegrad countries within these criteria which gives her a chance to see changes and stable lines of development. Already in this part it is possible to see the regional dynamics of the V-4, especially which are the strong and weak points in the sustainable development agenda of each of the V-4 countries.

Having done this exhaustive work Olena came to the concluding part of her dissertation to show the cross-regional developments as a background of the summarizing portrait of the region. This summary is expressing the divide of the V-4 area to the spheres where the group is pretty strong (basically implementation of the SD itself) and where we can see problems – there are several significant points like the unbalanced distribution of the SD

agendas or low political will to improve this situation showing first the absence of a long-term strategy and second the lack of institutional tools promoting this strategy on national as well as V-4 level. The result is that the whole region is stable, but falling short of the OECD demands. This slightly curious situation is caused by the fact that stability is produced by a sort of a zero-level game: Czech Republic and Poland drive the group forward, but achieved progress has been reduced by decline of Hungary and Slovakia.

In connection with this situation I propose to discuss first - what the all-regional portrait says about the potentials of the Management Index (future reform capacity), second – how much each of the V-4 countries is taking lessons from the SGI, and third – can this situation be improved by stronger institutionalization of the V-4 or rather by individual efforts of each of the V-4 countries?

The proposed dissertation meets all demands for an M.A. dissertation and the proposed grade is **v ý b o r n ě (1)**.

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