



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Cristian Contro

Title: The EU Intelligence community: elements of a EU intelligence culture

Programme/year: SECINTEL / 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Jan Ludvik

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	30
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	57
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	3
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	74



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

Minor criteria:

Overall evaluation:

This dissertation argues that the European Union has developed a specific intelligence culture and describes what specific elements of the European Union's intelligence culture are. The argument stands in contrast with conventional wisdom among rather skeptical experts and practitioners, some of them would even doubt the existence of anything close to the EU intelligence. The central argument is a good one, except for the fact that the reader has to infer the argument indirectly from the dissertation. Too much is unsaid but only subtly implied in the text. Even the research question is rather hidden in the introductory paragraph. I think it is a bit unfortunate. The reader should not be left to imply the arguments from the empirical data himself. Being more explicit about the dissertation's central argument would not only improve the clarity. It would also guide the dissertation and help remove unnecessary paragraph with a loose contextual connection to the central question whether there is European Union's intelligence culture.

At least two other points could be improved to enhance the clarity of the text. First, it would be beneficial to specify what intelligence culture is early in the text. The author argues that there is no agreed definition, but then it would be helpful if he could provide one, which he uses to identify what is intelligence culture and what are its elements. Second, it is a bit unclear what the role of theory in the text is? What role does the neo-functionalism serve in explaining EU's intelligence culture? It is often unclear to the reader, whether neo-functionalism serves as an explanatory theory which helps us understand the process of European integration, or whether neo-functionalism is a policy which dominated the development of the European community.

Having said that, I still think the dissertation is a good one. It deals with a challenging topic of intelligence, where the secrecy usually prevents researchers from accessing vital data. The dissertation develops, albeit too implicitly, an original argument. The author also demonstrates a very good understanding of the topic and has thoroughly studied the relevant literature. While certain aspects of the text remain in need of further improvement, the overall impression is a positive one.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: