

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	Supranational and intergovernmental approach to the accession process of Montenegro to the European Union
Author of the thesis:	Marek Kopanicky
Referee (incl. titles):	Martin Riegl

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 400 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The submitted paper is a relatively ambitious when it aims to reveal the nature of the European integration process, particularly whether it can be better understood through the lenses of a supranational (as such driven by supranational bodies such as the European Commission of the European Parliament, and what is the role of these bodies) or intergovernmental school (represented by EU MS, or European Council at the EU level, and whether member states do control the admission process). To answer this very interesting question, Marek has decided to base his research on the analysis of a single case study: accession talks of Montenegro, which may be as Marek explains perceive as a champion (among other Western Balkan countries aspiring for the EU membership) of ongoing talks. Additionally he also aims to investigate whether the accession process of Montenegro shows any typical characteristics.

2) Contribution:

The author provides clear definitions of both theoretical approaches that can be ranked under main clusters theories of regionalism. Discussion foundations, historical circumstance, core features of both schools helps Marek to analyze the selected case studies in a relevant and rock solid theoretical framework. The case study itself is detailed

3) Methods:

Both methodology and hypotheses are clearly defined, however I would expect to find them in the introductory part rather on page 41. Additionally, it's not so common to test hypotheses in a qualitative type of research. Unfortunately limits of the selected approach is obvious, the paper fails to define independent and dependent variables to test a relation between them as presumed by the hypotheses. As author himself explains, the wholly analysis is based on qualitative approach and comparative case study analysis, therefore it would be more suitable to base his analysis on research questions rather than hypotheses.

4) Literature:

Marek has gathered is sufficient number of sources, including theoretical literature as well as empirical data relevant for his case study. However, what I am missing are works of Fawcett, Hettne, or Hurrell who have published relevant works about theory and practice of regionalism

5) Manuscript form:

The thesis meets all formal criteria, the layout, grammar, and language are above standard, also the paper is clearly structured. What I appreciate is a balance between theoretical and empirical chapters, both of them are well researched and written, more importantly the whole paper gives an impression of cohesive and comprehensive analysis of the selected problem. Nevertheless some infographics could be better included in annexes.

In the case of successful defense, I recommend the following grade: “B” (good).

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20 points)</i>	16
<i>Contribution (max. 20 points)</i>	13
<i>Methods (max. 20 points)</i>	14
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	16
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20 points)</i>	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	76
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	C

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 12, 2019

Referee Signature