

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**Institute of International Studies**

**PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT**  
**(Supervisor)**

Name of the student: Akime Shagivaleeva

Title: EU Soft Power in the Eastern Partnership Countries: the Case of Ukraine

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Reviewer (external reviewers including the address and position): Eliška Tomalová, Ph.D.

*1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective):*

In her Master thesis, Akime Shagivaleeva focuses on soft power instruments European Union has been using to deepen and stabilize the partnership with Eastern European countries. The main goal of the master thesis is to evaluate the effectiveness of such instruments in Ukraine after 2009. The author seeks to answer the research question: “whether the EU soft power is a relevant approach and an effective foreign policy tool to persuade Eastern Partnership countries for integration with the EU to guarantee the stability of its borders?” (p. 4).

*2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.):*

From a methodological perspective, the Master thesis represents a case study of EU soft power toolkit in Ukraine. The structure of the thesis is logical, the author presents first the concepts, definition and historical background of soft power potential and instruments, then, in the second chapter, she draws the historical and contextual lines of Eastern Partnership in the context of EU soft power strategy. Chapter three is devoted to the analysis of the Ukrainian case.

Akime Shagivaleeva’s work is based on both relevant primary and secondary sources.

*3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects etc.):*

Formally and linguistically, the thesis is correct, with minor problems with language and style

*4. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):*

Strong points of the thesis:

- use of primary data that bring a deeper insight into the topic
- choice of the topic giving the possibility to look at the relationship from a broader perspective combining both hard and soft power elements

Weak points of the thesis:

- lower level of interconnection between theory and the case
- insufficient theoretical and analytical framework applied to the study of effectiveness of soft power instruments (although the author acknowledges the problems with measurement and quantitative assessment – p. 4).

*5. COOPERATION WITH SUPERVISOR (communication with the supervisor, ability to reflect comments, shift from the original idea etc.)*

The author communicated on a regular basis- not only with the supervisor. She was partially able to reflect comments.

*6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEFENCE (one to three):*

I suggest that the author answers during the defence the following questions:

Are there any specificities of Russian factor effects in Ukraine compared to other Eastern Partnership countries? Could you give specific examples/counterexamples that show the effectiveness of the soft power instruments EU has been using in Ukraine?

7. *(NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE (A,B,C,D,E,F):*

I recommend Akime Shagivaleeva's Master thesis for defence and I suggest that this thesis is graded **B**.

Date: 8/6/2019

Signature: Eliška Tomalová, Ph.D.