

Name of the student:	Olha Kovalska
Title of the thesis:	Determinants of Individual Support for European Integration: The Case of Ukraine
Reviewer:	Karel Svoboda

### 1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The thesis deals with an important, yet so far neglected, question of foundations of the European Union among young Ukrainians. Based on preliminary analysis, the authoress built three hypotheses, which she then tested.

One of my remarks goes to the claim that the views of Ukrainians on the EU perspectives of their country is unexplored. I would appreciate more extensive work with Ukrainian sources, especially sociological data (Democratic initiative- <https://dif.org.ua/uploads/pdf/10142240265de83de6e63725.77628189.pdf> ). Although they do not cover directly the They are often publicly available and they could make the hypotheses more solid.

### 2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The methodology used for this thesis is appropriate. The authoress used her own questionnaire through a Facebook platform. This is well explained (according to the authoress, youth people use social networks). On the other hand, there might be a question of VK use in Ukraine, where mostly the pro-Russian audience may be concentrated.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The thesis made several conclusion concerning the views of the youth population in Ukraine and its views on European perspective of the country. The data mining and its elaboration is appropriate to the aims the authoress outlined. Nevertheless, I would suggest deeper discussion of the conclusion, especially about the regional dimension of the topic (Intuitively, youths tend to prefer opportunities represented by the European Union rather than paternalism represented by Russia.)

### 4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The language, to the extent I am able to judge, is appropriate to the purpose of the thesis. I would also suggest starting the paper not with a literature review in the first sentence, but at least a paragraph introducing to the problem.

The authoress obviously loves the word “oftentimes”, but it is the only point I have. In general, it is well-written with the text flowing, so I have no remarks. The same may be said about other points, such as academic standards or citation style. (although some of the claims should be supported by a reference - “Majority of Ukrainians favours the country’s EU integration and as a result, Ukraine has the highest public support for the EU membership when compared to other EaP countries.” (page 4)

### 5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

In general, the thesis is very well written with some extremely interesting insights (relatively low importance of the region, where the interviewee lives etc.), with clear methodology and sound conclusions. My remarks go mostly to the work with Ukrainian sources, which could have been deeper and more extensive.

<b>Grade (A-F):</b>	B
Date:	Signature:
12 July 2020	

Questions for oral defence:

1. Proximity to somebody who works in the EU, has a negative effect on the individual's support to the EU integration. This goes in contradiction with short-term tourist visits, which have an opposite effect. May this be explained by relatively low skill jobs Ukrainians occupy in the EU or are there other explanations?