

IMESS dissertation						
Name/code:	Ergys Bruci					
Dissertation title:	The Impact of the EU Accession Process in Shaping Democratization: The case of Albania					
<b>Scale: 5 - excellent, 4 - good, 3 - satisfactory, 2 - poor, 1 - very poor</b>						
	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>ARGUMENT:</b>						
Clearly defined research question			X			No clearly defined research question
Answers research question				X		Does not answer research question
Well structured			X			Badly structured
Shows theoretical awareness				X		Shows no theoretical awareness
Conceptual clarity				X		Conceptual confusion
Empirically appropriate & robust		X				Full of empirical errors
Logical and coherent			X			Illogical and incoherent
Analytical				X		Descriptive
Critical		X				Uncritical
Shows independent thought			X			Does not show independent thought
<b>SOURCES &amp; USAGE:</b>						
Evidence of reading/research		X				No evidence of reading/research
Effective use of sources/data		X				Ineffective use of sources/data
<b>WRITING STYLE:</b>						
Clear			X			Obscure
Good punctuation		X				Poor punctuation
Grammatically correct		X				Grammatically incorrect
<b>PRESENTATION:</b>						
Appropriate length	X					Too long/short
Good referencing		X				Poor/inconsistent referencing
Good spelling			X			Poor spelling
Good bibliography		X				Poor bibliography
Deducted for late submission:		Deducted for faulty referencing:			<b>Mark*:</b> <b>63/C/2</b>	
Charles marker:	Jiří Vykoukal	Signed:			Date: June 18, 2012	

\* Mark: A = 70+; B = 65-69; C = 60-64; D = 55-59; E = 50-54; F = fail, less than 50

**Scheme of award (assessment criteria):**

	Charles University**	IMESS
<b>Excellent</b>	Výborně [1]	A
Very Good	Velmi dobře [2]	B
<b>Good</b>	Velmi dobře [2.5]	C
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Dobře [3]	D
<b>Sufficient</b>	Dobře [3.5]	E
<b>Fail</b>	Neprospěl [4]	F

## CONTINUES OVERLEAF

**NOTE: Please provide substantive and detailed feedback**

Comments (at least 300 words)

Europeanization and democratization are the two main points in explanatory scheme of Ergys Bruci's dissertation. This scheme serves to explain a deep discrepancy between political rhetoric in Albania (expressing a strong commitment to democracy and the EU) and the fact that Albania is unable to reach a substantial progress in both spheres Europeanization and democratization.

In the introduction the author explains approaches to Europeanization and democratization (also pointing out the debate and critical exchange of opinions of various authors would be useful especially in this case) and defines his research question: why application of Europeanization has not resulted in progressive democratization. Unfortunately, lot of methodology stuff is not visible in the following text.

The author defines Europeanization and democratization as two dependent trends (causality), the only problem is that in the case of Albania this causality does not work. Dissertation is then going through a qualified and interesting description of internal political development in Albania showing situations in which the discrepancy between words and deeds is quite visible. These parts of the dissertation are sometimes more descriptive than analytical and, like it was said before, sometimes showing no link to the main research question. In some situations a reader feels quite clearly that there is no causal link not only between Europeanization and democratization, but that this connection itself is out of the facts the author speaks about.

The main focus of this dissertation rests in the way to find an answer why Europeanization has not resulted in democratization and the author tries to find this answer in Albanian political system which is responsible for that business, i.e. to make Europeanization to produce democratization.

From that point of view I see that the chosen explanatory scheme has a limited reach. First, the answer sounds strongly like "the system is not working because it is not working" which might be either a matter (and sometimes is) of a tautological circle, or we can ask "why it is not working", but then we have to move out of the system and try to find other reasons of this dysfunctions. I am sure some comparison would be fine here to get the author from the trap (Montenegro, BaH).

The author refers to two useful things – communism and civil society. I think that communism means a part of a broader and complicated history (I mean that in terms of path dependence communism is not the only cause) and civil society refers to the fact that it is not only a political system which plays a significant role, but also a weak civil society – from that point of view society should have been more in focus to explain the impasse in Albania – in the given form it is just a piece of argument coming from the outside world.

Text should have been edited more carefully!

Specific questions for oral defence (at least 100 words):

1. Is it really correct to speak about causality between Europeanization and democratization?
2. Can we speak really about Europeanization in the case of Albania only because the fact that the EU exports some of its "goods" to Albania?
3. Would not be more useful to aim at the development of civil society instead of supporting politicians? (If they are really committed to democratization, they would not protest).