ASSESSMENT of Master Thesis submitted by Alina ISAKOVA (IEPS)

Knowledge for Inclusion: Strategies and Implementation of Social and Structural Integration of Refugees in the European Union through Multifaceted Orientation, Education, and Training Programmes

(Opponent Review)

Prague June 21, 2012

The integration, either of refugees or all immigrants in general, is hot and pressing topic, particularly in many European countries. It is discussed and analysed extensively from lots of different points of view. Nowadays, the final thesis at our Faculty are also frequently focused on this issue. So the first fundamental step for all students is to specify the matter, they have to select from broad variety of approaches, meaningfully narrow the topic and of course, give the reasons for their decisions. That's what Alina also tried to do at the beginning of her research – she defined the target group – the refugees in the EU, the specific level of integration (structural and social) as well as the tools of integration (orientation, education and training programs). Although I think that the topic of Alina's thesis is still too extensive (and it certainly makes her work more complicated), I appreciate the consistent and comprehensible outlines and the highlighting the link between some theoretical concepts and real-time practice. To the contrary, I lack the clear arguments for her choice. I would also recommend her to add some suitable attachments (such as the statics or graphs) to support her hypothesis.

Maybe Alina could explain her method in more details during her defence. She can answer at least some of the following questions: Is there any difference between the integration of refugees and the integration of major group of economic migrants with long/permanent residence status? Do the integration policies (e.g. specifically OETPs) still vary between European countries and due to what reasons? Or what exactly are the relevant ,common EU values and structures in which migrants should be integrated?

Due to the reasons mentioned briefly above I suggest to grade the thesis as VERY GOOD (2).

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