

Evaluation of the Master's Thesis	
International Economic and Political Studies, IEPS	
Faculty of Social Sciences	
Charles University, Prague	
Name of student	Ann Katrin Hilleren
Title of the thesis	The EU as an External Factor on Democratic Consolidation in the Czech Republic and Slovakia
Date of evaluation	June 18 th 2007
Opponent	PhDr. Malvína Hladká

Democratic consolidation is very interesting topics within the analysis of the relations and influences of European Union (EU) and Central European countries – Slovakia and Czech Republic. Apart from the general dilemmas of democratization, many political scientist, from well known research centers, focus on differences in conditionality and transformative impact of the EU towards the chosen region. The effort of student Ann Katrin Hilleren, in this context, seems very beneficial and up to date. And this is the reason why presented thesis fulfills the basic criteria – the proper relevancy for the research - from methodological, theoretical and political perspectives.

Technical structure of the text is transparent: it starts with three theoretical introductory parts, where student prove her attempts to in-depth description and theoretical analysis of the topic and present the methodology and structure that will be used. Topic itself is divided into two core chapters – chapters n.5 and n.6. The division in chapters is logical – arranges the temporal lines and describes the case study countries and their progress from the year 1989 (Velvet revolutions) through independence process till the integration of both into the European structures.

All the chapters are divided into paragraphs in a correct manner (just the right-hand margin should have justification). The argumentation is structured correctly and really easy to follow, so the thesis fulfills all the criteria set to M.A. program according to the standards of the Institute of Political Science. Profitable supplements of the text could be figures and tables that would better demonstrate the analyzed data. Anyway, I have to mention some parts that are paraphrasing the only one author (source) in long paragraphs – for example - pages 26-32, pages 14-18.

Ann Katrin Hilleren has formulated the research questions clearly and they were analyzed well and critically. She has demonstrated knowledge of the research field and the conclusions of her thesis have showed author's ability to work with all kind of informative sources and literature but mainly her proficiency in this topic. Therefore, I propose to evaluate the thesis as **excellent**.

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