

CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Social Sciences Institute of International Studies
Supervisor's Review

Student: Jord HOFFSTÄDT

Program: Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies

Title: *The Establishment and Development of Asylum Policies in East Central Europe.*

Reviewed by: Doc. PhDr. Jiří Vykoukal, CSc. (Institute of International Studies)

CONTENT AND AIM OF THE THESIS:

Dissertation studies the development of refugee (asylum) policies in the Visegrad group since its beginnings. The aim is to show and explain changes taking place up to the first decade of the new century when the EU accession and changing migration flows started to modify asylum policies.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Dissertation approaches the topic as divided to legislative (laws and norms), procedural (practical policy and accessibility) and processual dimension (numbers) with the use of UNHCR coherent set of data (1990-2010). Chronological setting is based on periodization reflecting the V-4 development: 1990-1997 (establishment and first „clinical death“ of Visegrad), 1997-2003 (rebirth and pre-accession development), 2004-2010 (EU accession and its consequences).

PRESENTATION AND STYLE:

Both, presentation and style are clear.

COMMENTS:

Dissertation deals with the V-4 group, however, de facto explains approaches of the member states separately and we lack the information on the approach of V-4 as a whole. A little bit more attention could be devoted to more systematic analysis of motifs and reasons behind national asylum policies to avoid sometimes descriptive approach or the feeling that “things happen”.. Except for historical (e.g. Trianon in Hungarian case) and security arguments (home situation) also other parameters could be taken into account like government changes, socio-economic situation etc.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

1. Is (was, has been) there something like a common/joint Visegrad asylum policy (attempted, failed, any?)
2. Is it possible/acceptable to define (make a clear difference between) three separate asylum policy trajectories – national (V-4 members), group (V-4) and super-group (the EU)?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Dissertation definitely meets formal demands for an M.A. dissertation.

Proposed assessment: **very good (2).**

Date: Prague, June 12, 2016

Signature