



Report on Master's Thesis

Name of Student:	Lidija Milinkovic
Title of the Mater Thesis:	Aspects of Europeanization through Implementation of Policies on Child Poverty Eradication: In the Case of the Republic of Serbia
Name of the reviewer:	Rokia Aidahis Aberra
Type of review:	Opponent's review
Study Program:	Public and Social Policy

The master's thesis presented by Lidija Milinkovic looks at the issue of child poverty in the Republic of Serbia. The thesis is divided into five main parts. The first part introduces the issue and defines the problem. The second part deals with the goals and research questions. Document analysis, framing theory and comparative research are explained as the methods of the study on the third part. The fourth part elaborates the theoretical concepts that are used in the thesis. Then the last part reveals the findings of the research and finally makes conclusion.

The main goal of the thesis is to find out if Europeanization aspect can be identified in applying new instruments to the reduction of poverty in the Republic of Serbia. The research questions are derived from the main goal and the sub goals of the study. They are put under each goal and are somehow vague and general. They would have been more clear if they were formulated from the research problem instead of the research goals; and I also suggest to put them as a separate sub section of their own.

To answer the research questions, the study states it employed document analysis, framing theory and comparative research methods. Statistical data from EUROSTAT 2017 and Republic of Serbia (RZS 2017) are used in the study. The variation in measurement of child poverty between the EU and Serbia has been acknowledged as a limitation. The student has overlooked the variation by stating that 'it would suffice for the purpose of the study' without giving any justification as how it does so. Furthermore, the statistical findings of EUROSTAT 2016 are put on the thesis as they are on the original report of the EU. The results and discussion need to show adequately



your own comparative analysis and the application of the framing theory method that the thesis stated it applied.

The thesis covered in great depth explaining the theoretical concepts (such as poverty, child poverty, welfare states, and Europeanization) that are related to the topic. In addition to explaining the theoretical concepts, the thesis could have been more easy to follow if the theoretical framework that guides the study have been identified and applied. It lacked to indicate the thesis's theoretical framework that the whole study is founded and guided by. This makes the arguments of the thesis difficult to follow. What is/are the theory/theories used to frame the study as a whole and to explain the analysis of the results?

In general, the student's effort to look at all the strategy documents and policies has been visible throughout the thesis. The study would have benefited more from additional review of empirical literature that could show current state of knowledge regarding the topic. This would also help the student to adequately demonstrate the thesis's particular contribution to the existing knowledge.

Finally, the thesis needs proof reading to eliminate some typing errors, incorrect word use and to do proper reference citation (especially be cautious of all the citations throughout the thesis that are put after the full-stop).

With the above comments, **I recommend the master's thesis for defence and I suggest grading it 'C'.**

June 12, 2018

Date

Rokia Aidahis Aberra

Signature