

Annex 1 – Template Dissertation Report EPS



Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Ana Puljiz
Title of the thesis:	Democratization of the Western Balkans through EU's enlargement strategy: from success to failure?
Reviewer:	Jiří Kocián

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Ana Puljiz chose a topic which gained even more relevance after the recent Russian invasion to Ukraine. Her research objective, to examine causes of different succes rate of EU enlargement process was well backed by the specific knowledge relevant to the cases examined and theoretical literature. She formulated a solid research question which correlated well with the presented research design.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The comparative analysis framework was well built, with clearly defined aspects stemming for relevant theoretical literature on the topic serving as points of comparison. Selection of expert interviews in combination with secondary sources was an excellent choice, bringing forth some previously unknown facets of the problem in focus.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions follow a well-built research design and thus naturally present persuasive answer to the research question, where the link between theoretical framing and empirical findings plays very well together. However, the diachronic nature of the comparison might open some points for discussion in terms of the cases` comaparability in all of the aspects of the selected framework.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

There were no issues in the formal or linguistic aspects of thesis, it was very carefully prepared.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The author carried out an original research which helped her answering the research question in a very straightforward manner. I very much welcome the overall balance of the text, where especially the theoretical considerations represent just the perfect portion of the thesis to be satisfying and functional. There are no major weaknesses, though a little bit more consideration on the diachronic nature of the comparison and the implications it bears for the analytical framework would be welcome.

Grade (A-F)	A (CUNI) 9 (Barcelona)
Date	Signature
27.6.2022	