



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Michaela Dvořáková

Title: Tackling Cybersecurity Threats to the EU Space Programme: Regional and International Cooperation

Programme/year: BS 2023

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	22
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	33
<i>Total</i>		80	63
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	83



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis represents a commendable effort in examining the evolving cyber threats and their impact on the EU space programme. The dissertation encompasses several notable strengths, contributing to the overall quality of the research.

One of the dissertation's strengths lies in its competent structure, which effectively provides the necessary contextual information on cyber threats and space security. The introduction effectively establishes the rationale for the study by highlighting the increasing frequency of cyber-attacks across sectors, including the EU space programme, and their implications for the EU's functioning and competitiveness. This sets the stage for understanding the significance of maintaining the security and availability of EU space.

The inclusion of interviews with experts in EU space programme cybersecurity is another strong aspect of the dissertation. The author demonstrates a well-prepared approach to conducting the interviews, which is further reinforced by obtaining ethical committee approval. By gathering insights from insiders, the dissertation adds credibility and depth to the research, enriching the understanding of the current situation and offering valuable perspectives on cooperation possibilities.

However, the dissertation does have a few significant weaknesses that diminish its quality and impact. One such weakness is the loose connection between the theoretical framework and the analysis section. While the theoretical framework highlights the importance of collective identity as an effect of collective threat perception, this concept is not adequately explored in the subsequent analysis.

Furthermore, the analytical part of the dissertation appears to be primarily a digest of the interviews, providing a brief summary without offering substantial added value to the information collected. To address this weakness, the author could employ a more rigorous analytical approach, such as identifying key themes or patterns in the interviews and drawing more insightful conclusions. This would enhance the analytical depth and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the cybersecurity challenges faced by the EU space programme.

Minor criteria: ok

Assessment of plagiarism:

The antiplagiarism check does not reveal any evidence of plagiarism. All sources are properly cited and referenced.



Overall evaluation:

Michaela Dvořáková's text represents a commendable master's thesis that investigates the evolving cyber threats and the measures taken to address them within the EU. The competent structure and inclusion of expert interviews provide a solid foundation for further research in the field of space cybersecurity. However, its weaknesses, particularly the loose connection between the theoretical framework and analysis and the insufficient analytical depth, negatively affects the overall assessment. Overall, the dissertation presents a competent attempt to understanding and addressing the cybersecurity challenges faced by the EU space programme.

Suggested grade: B (83)

Signature: