



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Petra Šufliarská

Title: Pandering to Pan-Slavism: How Russian  
Influence Thrives in Europeanised Slovakia

Programme/year: IEPS/2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Aliaksei Kazharski

| Criteria              | Definition                                     | Maximum    | Points |
|-----------------------|--|------------|--------|
| <b>Major Criteria</b> |  |            |        |
|                       | Research question,<br>definition of objectives | <b>10</b>  | 10     |
|                       | Theoretical/conceptual<br>framework            | <b>30</b>  | 30     |
|                       | Methodology, analysis,<br>argument             | <b>40</b>  | 33     |
| <i>Total</i>          |  | <b>80</b>  | 73     |
| <b>Minor Criteria</b> |  |            |        |
|                       | Sources  | <b>10</b>  | 10     |
|                       | Style  | <b>5</b>   | 5      |
|                       | Formal requirements                            | <b>5</b>   | 5      |
| <i>Total</i>          |  | <b>20</b>  | 20     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          |  | <b>100</b> | 93     |



## Evaluation

**Major criteria:**

**Minor criteria:**

**Assessment of plagiarism:**

14% overlap according to the protocol in SIS. No plagiarism found.

**Overall evaluation:**

The thesis scrutinizes the recent dynamics in pro-Kremlin narratives in Slovakia following the 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The topic is an extremely relevant one considering both the ongoing war in Europe and the upcoming Slovak parliamentary elections which promise to become a watershed. The author analyzes the pro-Kremlin narratives by situating them in the historical context of Slovak nation-building and identity formation. This helps us better understand why these narratives gain so much traction in Slovakia and how some countries remain more vulnerable to Moscow's hybrid and disinformation operations because their identity structures are more conducive of Russian influence in comparison to those of their neighbors. The author relies on secondary sources to unpack this historical context before she proceeds to the data she collected independently. The research design is a solid one and the analyzed sample is well justified. The empirical findings are an important contribution that highlights new, indirect discursive tactics of pro-Kremlin actors post February 2022. Perhaps more could be done to explain the connection between these findings and the pan-Slavist legacies discussed in other parts of the thesis.

**Suggested grade: A (93)**

**Signature:**



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