BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	**Special Laws Implemented by the Italian and Albanian Governments Throughout the Outbreak of Coronavirus**
Student's name:	**Heliza Pobrati**
Referee's name:	**Janusz Salamon, Ph.D.**

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	27	
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	7	
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	7	
Total		*41*	
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	6	
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	2	
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	2	
Total		*10*	
TOTAL		*61*	

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score: No plagiarism detected. I judge the thesis to be an original work of the author.
[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):
Heliza Pobrati wrote a thesis that it is far from perfect, therefore I will point to what I consider to be its main weaknesses, and then I will explain why I nevertheless suggest a pass grade. Firstly, it appears that at the end the work does not have a clear purpose, a clear "thesis" that the author would defend. At first, one is made to expect that the goal of the thesis is a systematic comparison of the COVID policies in Albania and Italy that will identify some clear differences in the processes of policymaking in these two countries (both of which are democracies, and moreover have some cultural and political affinities grounded in centuries long history of mutual interactions). Also, one is made to expect that the analysis of various aspects of the COVID policies in Albania and Italy will shed light on the impact of various local factors (such as a different political culture, a different level of political corruption, or a different level of the civic involvement of the citizenry) on policymaking, thus exploring some

important issues in the theory of public policymaking as such. Indeed, Heliza does, on occasion, highlight interesting differences between the social and political environments of Albania and Italy that she argues had some influences on the COVID policymaking (such as much lower levels of trust of citizenry in the efficiency of the state in Albania when compared to Italy), but it is hard to detect in the thesis a sustained and systematic analysis of the differences in the policymaking in Albania and Italy that would lead to some meaningful generalisations worthy of attention. On the contrary, each time her analysis seems to aim at some conclusion, Heliza highlights the difficulties that prevent her from identifying clearly differences between Albania and Italy, so that nothing definite is ever said. For example, when exploring the economic impact of COVID in Albania and Italy, she stresses that "quantifying all economic consequences is extremely difficult" (p. 36). Despite stressing significantly different outcomes of the policy decisions in various spheres of social life, for example, on education (the situation in Albania being much worse than in Italy), she concludes her thesis with the following phrase: "it is important to note that this study does not reveal which country's approach was the most effective". As a result, the thesis appears to be mostly descriptive, rather than analytic, bringing together available data and reporting events and opinions, without discovering some underlying regularities.

Secondly, the thesis lacks clear theoretical framework. Heliza divides her thesis into two parts: "Theoretical Considerations" and "Practical Considerations" but the methodological character of both parts does not differ much, both containing mostly descriptive or explanatory material (too often simple "encyclopaedic" information about viruses in general, pandemics in general, or Italian state in general, not essential to the flow of the main argument of the thesis).

Having said that, the thesis does contain many fragments were partial analysis (be it unsystematic) of available data is conducted, and some light of understanding is shed on the COVID policies in Albania and Italy. Given the difficulty of the topic, as Heliza has been exploring the contemporary developments in real time, which have not been comprehensively discussed in the scholarly literature, her achievement is sufficient to merit a pass grade.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): D

Suggested questions for the defence are:
(1) What in your opinion are the MAIN FINDINGS of your research?
(2) Is it possible to say (on the basis of your research) that the COVID policies of Albania or Italy were in some sense "better" than in the other country? If not, what was the point of your comparison?
(3) Was your goal to compare only the impact of the government policies on tackling the challenges resulting from COVID, or also the impact of other factors (that perhaps limited the influence of the government policies)?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

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Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure

| 0 – 50 | **F** | = failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence. |