

CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of International Studies

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Reviewer)

Name of the student: Louis Minchin Mézard

Title: Does the EU affect the resolution of the issue of national identity in contested and divided European countries? Comparative Study of the EU peacebuilding initiatives in Cyprus and Kosovo

Reviewer: Mgr. Shpresonë Grulaj

1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective):

The thesis focuses on the role of EU and its peacebuilding initiatives/missions in Cyprus and Kosovo, examining their interrelation with the national identity issue in both countries, as well as their impact on resolving the issue.

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.):

The thesis was thoroughly enjoyable to read. It focuses on a particularly important and original topic, addressing a significant gap in current scholarship regarding national identity in both Kosovo and Cyprus. The structure of the thesis is generally strong. Louis presents detailed chapters on the theoretical and methodological framework, which make the text clear and precise. Despite the complexity of the subject, the author successfully employs, analyses, and justifies different theoretical frameworks, providing sufficient background on the topic and the actors involved.

3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects etc.):

The quality of the language is nearly perfect. Although there are occasional minor errors, and some paragraphs are repetitive with reintroduced information, the overall style and language remain strong. A few sentences are written in a somewhat unorthodox manner, making them difficult to understand at first; these appear to be errors. The citation style is consistent throughout.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin/URKUND/Theses anti-plagiarism software which confirmed the originality of the text.

5. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):

Overall, the thesis presents an original idea effectively and given the available resources, provides sufficient information to build its argument. A key strength of the thesis is the author's evident knowledge of various theoretical concepts and their introduction/application in the thesis. However, the research question might have been more solidly argued and answered if the author had engaged with local inhabitants through interviews or surveys and considered the citizens' perspectives. Nonetheless, the author appropriately acknowledges this limitation in the thesis.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEFENCE:

I would be interested to know if you have encountered examples from other geographical or historical settings where peacebuilding initiatives successfully addressed national identity issues. If yes, what lessons from those cases might be relevant to EU initiatives, and to the situation in Cyprus and Kosovo?

7. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

(on A-F scale)

Yes- A

Date: 03.09.2024

Signature: