



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Iuliia Poderiagina**

Title: **Environmental migrants in the age of global warming**

Programme/year: **MAIN/2024**

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): **JUDr. Milan Lipovský, Ph.D.**

| Criteria | Definition | Maximum | Points |
|-----------------------|---|------------|--------|
| Major Criteria | | | |
| | Research question, definition of objectives | 10 | 8 |
| | Theoretical/conceptual framework | 30 | 20 |
| | Methodology, analysis, argument | 40 | 15 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 80 | 43 |
| Minor Criteria | | | |
| | Sources | 10 | 6 |
| | Style | 5 | 3 |
| | Formal requirements | 5 | 3 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 20 | 12 |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 55 |



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The topic of protection of climate migrants is gaining on its importance and is widely discussed since the 1990s. The author has thus chosen a topic that is not entirely new, yet remains at the center of attention of the international community and due to lack of effective regulation, it still challenges legal research.

The author has identified main sources of universal and regional international regulation and set the research question to finding out whether the term climate migrants (sometimes incorrectly called climate refugees) fits within the concept of a refugee under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.

After the introduction, the author focuses at the definition of a refugee in international law in chapter 1. It is useful that this chapter introduces terminological clarity by defining “migrant” along with a refugee. It should be added though that a refugee is also a migrant, just a special category. Those terms thus partially overlap. Text of chapter 1 should also be divided by sub-headings and assigned to those sub-headings more carefully. At one point, the author skips from definition of a refugee to rights of refugees without even highlighting the fact in order to get back to the definition. Problems like these have been pointed out by the supervisor already in draft versions of the thesis.

Chapter 2 continues to the specific topic of defining climate migrants and assesses the regulation related to them. Even chapter 2 would benefit from re-reading and re-constructing the text more correctly. Although the author raises relevant topics, the lack of sub-headings combined with skipping from general issues to particular ones makes it difficult to follow. Thus, it would also be more clear whether the non-legal term climate refugee means a migrant, asylum-seeker or truly a refugee in various parts of the text. At the same time, repeating the already stated points with adding new arguments is chaotic.

To conclude, the author has identified relevant legal points and provided a certain degree of analysis on them. Despite the fact that the analysis is sometimes chaotic and usually needs deeper understanding, clarification, or more precision, the general focus is correct.

Minor criteria:

Regarding the used doctrinal sources, the author could have used more and particularly some more recent ones. Also, when referring to sources in footnotes, the author should include the page where the referred to text is located. Not doing so creates problems in identifying context of the referred to text. Last but not least, the amount of



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sources is quite limited (which is particularly visible in certain areas of the thesis) and could/should have certainly been enlarged.

In relation to referring to sources, I would also like to see more claims by the author (factual or general) that are not of general knowledge to be supported by references to sources.

Text of the thesis would benefit from repeated reading before submission and correcting stylistic problems. On the other hand, the issues do not prevent a reader from understanding the text.

Despite the above-pointed issues, the text is logically structured in table of contents and length of the thesis exceeds the minimum requirements of study regulations.

Assessment of plagiarism:

Turnitin assessment report only indicates general phrases and properly quoted parts. In combination with the text itself, there are no signs of plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

As indicated above, the thesis provides analysis of a relevant topic. It starts with general topic and continues to specific. It would benefit however from improved structure, use of more resources and stylistic corrections.

From the law based point of view, the research may have been more precise as well.

Despite all the issues, the thesis is recommended to be defended based on its positive characteristics.

Suggested grade:

Based on the above-stated I recommend the thesis to defense and suggest grade E.

Signature: