

Name of the student:	Mariam Bochoidze
Title of the thesis:	From Cybersecurity Laggard to Normative Leader. EU becoming a digital regulatory power. Magister (MA) Thesis
Reviewer:	Błażej Sajduk, PhD

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The thesis addresses a highly relevant and contemporary research question: How is the EU's role shaping the development of global cybersecurity norms? The research objective is clear and significant, as it explores the EU's transformation from a cybersecurity laggard to a normative leader. The thesis successfully bridges a gap in existing literature by providing a detailed analysis of the EU's influence on ASEAN cybersecurity policies.

The literature review is comprehensive, referencing key works by prominent scholars in cybersecurity and international relations, such as Joseph Nye and Nazli Choucri. The review effectively situates the research within the broader context of EU cybersecurity policy development, providing a solid foundation for the analysis. The author has successfully maintained a balance between referencing documents and building the substantive added value of the argument.

The structure of the thesis is logical. The author guides the reader through various topics, each assigned to a separate chapter. The discussion includes issues related to the politicization of cyberspace, including its impact on the international sphere. Subsequently, the author expertly navigates the reader through key legal acts and strategies adopted by the EU (including GDPR, DORA, the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, The NIS and NIS 2 Directives). The third chapter discusses the regulation of cyberspace by ASEAN member states. It is noteworthy that the author accurately pointed out the differences among ASEAN countries regarding the issue of building coherence in the area of cybersecurity, which is the result of addressing this topic later than in the EU, as well as differing economic potentials and the different scope of authority held by ASEAN. The fourth chapter describes the evolution of EU-ASEAN relations, which have expanded from economic topics to include cyber issues. The discussion concludes with the fifth chapter, crucial from the perspective of the thesis's objective – the author demonstrates the impact of the EU's legislative achievements on individual ASEAN countries (mainly in terms of ensuring compliance with GDPR standards).

Overall, the thesis is a significant contribution to the field of European studies and cybersecurity, offering valuable insights into the EU's role as a global digital regulatory power. Future research could expand on this work by exploring other regions influenced by the EU's cybersecurity norms.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The methodology is well-chosen, employing document analysis, content analysis, and case studies. The argument is coherent and theoretically backed by the agenda-setting theory, which is aptly applied to explore the EU's influence on ASEAN cybersecurity policies. The work with sources is appropriate, leveraging both primary documents from the EU and ASEAN and secondary literature. The comparative case study approach is particularly strong, offering detailed insights into the similarities and differences between EU and ASEAN cyber strategies.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions are persuasive and well-linked to the data presented. The thesis convincingly demonstrates how the EU has used its internal market power, regulatory expertise, and diplomatic networks to influence global cybersecurity norms, particularly in ASEAN. The achievement of the research objectives is clear, as the study provides a nuanced understanding of the EU's evolving role

in global cybersecurity governance. The link between data and conclusions is robust, supported by thorough analysis and detailed examples.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The language is appropriate for an academic thesis, adhering to high academic standards. The citation style is consistent and correctly applied, enhancing the credibility of the research. The layout is logical and facilitates a clear understanding of the research progression. The inclusion of tables, such as those summarizing national capabilities and cybersecurity legislation across ASEAN, effectively supports the narrative.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis addresses a timely and relevant research question with clear significance in the field of cybersecurity.
Comprehensive literature review and solid theoretical framework.
Effective use of comparative case studies to draw nuanced conclusions.
Robust methodology with appropriate and well-analyzed sources.

Grade (A-F):	A
Date:	Signature:
10 07 2024	Błażej Sajduk

GRADE CONVERSION MA EPS

Percentile	Prague	Krakow	Leiden	Barcelona
A (91-100)	91-100 %	4,51-5,00	8.0-10	9-10
B (81-90)	81-90 %	4,21-4,50	7.5-7.9	8-8,9
C (71-80)	71-80 %	3,71-4,20	7-7.4	7-7,9
D (61-70)	61-70 %	3,21-3,7	6.5-6.9	6-6,9
E (51-60)	51-60 %	3,00-3,20	6-6.4	5-5,9

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';
Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';
Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';
Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';
Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';
Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.