

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

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Supervisor)

Name of the student: Leticie Outhierová

Title: Euroregions and INTERREG V-a: A comparative analysis of projects at the Czech-Polish border

Supervisor: Mitchell Young

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

The thesis deals with multi-level governance in the European Union, particularly the linkage between the supranational European level and the subnational regional level. These linkages, which bypass the national level, are critical for developing a complex understanding of multi-level governance as something more than simply a nested hierarchy. In particular, the thesis examines the way Euroregion membership affects the cross-regional projects that are undertaken and funded and the influence that being a 'Euroregion' has on the characteristics of those projects.

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

Euroregions and the way they relate to and affect the working of multi-level governance is understudied, making them a good choice for a thesis project. The thesis takes a sophisticated and original approach and builds on a tradition of examining multi-level governance through funding. The literature review and theoretical part on multi-level governance are comprehensive and well done. The thesis is well written and structured. It approaches the argument through a set of four hypotheses, which are logical and grounded in the expectations of the literature. The thesis selection of four regions for comparison is logical and appropriate, as these are the all of a similar type and represent all of the purely bi-national Czech-Polish regions. The comparative work is mainly done through a quantitative comparison of data on a range of characteristics of the projects within those regions. The data is presented in an extensive set of charts and tables, which are clear and nicely formatted. The author displays skill in working with a range of sources, both literary and quantitative.

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

The thesis is clearly written and demonstrates strong language competence. The citation style and formal aspects are all adequate, though it is not necessary to include dates of access for articles. The graphic elements, charts are tables, are clear and well labelled and formatted.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin/URKUND/Theses anti-plagiarism software and is original.

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

Overall this is an excellent thesis. Euroregions are not heavily studied, and the thesis provides valuable data and insights into them. Multi-level governance can be a tricky theory to work with and can be one which is simply fallen-back on in situations where a student isn't sure what to do – this is not the case in this thesis. The design of the study is ideally suited to explore what is the most interesting aspect of multi-level governance, and that is how the European level can directly interact with and affect the subnational level – in this case the regions.

Ms. Outhierová has done significant work collecting and analyzing the data, which is extensive. There are lots of intriguing insights and is unfortunate that the author doesn't have much space to explore these in a more qualitative way, which could reveal more about why some of her hypotheses were not confirmed. She does recognize that this would be an appropriate next step for the data.

The research objective, however, was reached. The data sufficiently allow the author to address the validity of each of her four hypotheses.

6. COOPERATION WITH THE SUPERVISOR (communication with the supervisor, ability to reflect comments, shift from the original intention, etc.)

The cooperation with me as the supervisor was excellent. Ms. Outhierová and I spoke regularly throughout the thesis writing process and she was open to reflecting on my comments and adjusted the thesis accordingly. The design and original intention shifted as she determined what data was available and how it could be used to address the topic she wanted to – in this way she showed the skills needed to conduct research effectively.

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

What are the advantages and disadvantages of there not being a set standard for what makes a Euroregion?

Why do you think the member projects in your data have such a low emphasis on education? Why did the Praded region have such a low focus on tourism, when it was so prominent in the other regions?

8. ~~(NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:~~

YES – A

Date: 29.8.2022

Signature: