

Name of the student:	Lika Khutsiberidze
Title of the thesis:	Changing patterns in CSDP in the aftermath of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022
Reviewer:	Dr hab. Magdalena Góra, prof. UJ

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

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

The topic of the thesis is relevant and tackles the policy response at the EU level to growing security threats in international relations. Lika selected CSDP as her case study and focused on how selected EU leaders (from member states) responded to Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and what reforms were suggested. In that sense the topic of thesis is timely and relates to pertinent issues of European defence. However, the execution of the thesis goals demonstrates significant limitations.

In pursuing her goals Lika presented a rather limited literature overview. The literature review covers correct academic works but it is descriptive – presenting a book or article one after another and does not present the literature in a concise and synthetic way. The students proves she know sthe subject but it is not sufficiently analysed and remains only a reporting on facts and literature rather than own analysis. The background chapter on development of CSDP is also rather descriptive and lacks in synthetic literature review.

The research question is adequate and relevant however both the theoretical basis and the empirical material only partially allows for answering it. The theoretical frame developed for the thesis relies on discursive institutionalism. However, the theoretical chapter is very descriptive and the operationalisation for analysis of the empirical data provided in methodology chapter does not clearly correspond with the theoretical frames. Therefore, the research questions and analysis are descriptive and unoriginal.

2. ANALYSIS

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

The student proposed an ambitious methodological approach gathering and translating the official statements of leaders of three selected member states – France, Germany and Poland – related to CSDP and its reforms. Overall, more than one hundred statements were gathered ana analysed. In addition, the codebook was developed in a deductive and inductive manner to capture the key analysed aspects. The problem with the codebook was that some of the elements are not clearly linked to theoretical frames. The part on how discourse analysis was designed, based on which approach and how was it conducted is also very limited.

The empirical part is – despite the rich empirical basis – rather descriptive. Lika reports in a descriptive manner the coding book categories rather than engage in more nuanced and synthetic analysis of how threat perceptions and reform proposals intertwine in analysed material and most importantly what explains certain detected shifts in EUMS positions. In parts of analysis is basically describing what was said in the statements. There is a limited analytical value to the parts of analysis as the drivers of change are not explained. It is quite clear that the results were written under a time pressure and that the full potential of the empirical material was not used by the students due to hasty approach.

3. CONCLUSIONS

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

The conclusions are very limited and only summarise the way research was conducted with some findings restated. They are repetitive and does not engage in any meaningful way with the research question stated in the research design part of the thesis. Lika also is not returning to the issue of CSDP reform which was a key researched issue to discuss how the selected member states engagement (of lack of thereof) impacts the overall institutional change.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

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

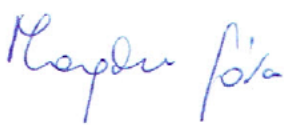
The language of the thesis is correct and at the proper register. The layout of the thesis is proper and clear. Citations, use of sources and bibliography is correctly applied.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

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

This thesis is properly researched, developed and empirically substantiated. However, the literature review is very descriptive, the author is using very limited theoretical basis and not very clearly linked to the CSDP reforms. The conceptualisation offered and operationalisation developed in a codebook are not logically linked to the theoretical reflection.

The research design and presentation of empirical material is correct but due to visible time pressure not fully utilised. The analysis is superficial and very descriptive. The conclusions are only reporting the findings and there is no engagement with how the limited study explains the change in CSDP

Grade:	3,5 (dostateczny plus) in Polish system;
Date:	
	Signature:
18/07/2024	Magdalena Góra

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10	5,5 %
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

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'.