

POSUDOK ZÁVEREČNEJ PRÁCE

Téma: Význam bolonského procesu pre euro-maghrebskú integráciu

Typ záverečnej práce: Habilitačná práca

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P.č.	Kritériá hodnotenia záverečnej práce
1.	<p>Aktuálnosť témy</p> <p>The European Union's neighbourhood constitutes challenges for its current and future development undoubtedly. The nature of these challenges is not only about areas or states that can potentially become members of this organisation, but also about states that basically have no chance to do so, but are trying to get closer to the Union. The latter refers to the Maghreb countries especially. A significant challenge to the EU's neighborhood is also the process of mass irregular migration from African countries to Europe noticeable particularly strong since 2015. This form of migration to the EU will have recurrent character. It is also impossible not to mention the Arab Spring events affecting the EU.</p> <p>Therefore, it is good that the author has taken up the current issue, looking at it from a slightly different perspective, which is looking at the implementation of the Bologna Process and its relevance for the EU-Maghreb countries relationship. In this case, we can talk about the use of a kind of soft power by the EU in order to positively affect its neighbours. The topic of dissertation under assessment is therefore unquestionably timely and relevant.</p>
2.	<p>Formálna stránka práce</p> <p>From the editorial point of view, the dissertation submitted for review does not contain any errors or shortcomings. It certainly meets all relevant requirements in this regard.</p> <p>The lead assumes the three chapters structure. The subsequent chapters, in turn, have been divided into numerous, shorter subsections, which undoubtedly makes the whole dissertation clear and comprehensive. The author applies numerous abbreviations that have been properly explained and are used transparently. She also correctly uses conceptual vocabulary resulting from the theory of international relations and political science.</p> <p>I consider the language of the work easy to understand, which is important because scientific works should not be addressed only to experts from the "world of science".</p>
3.	<p>Obsahová stránka práce</p> <p>The aim of this dissertation, according to the author, was to look at the transformation of relationship between the EU and the Maghreb countries and, in this context, to pay special attention to the area of higher education seen as the one through which cooperation may be advanced mutually.</p> <p>I have no doubt that this goal has been achieved. I also consider the presented hypotheses of the dissertation under assessment to be properly outlined and justified by the reasoning provided. In other words, the purpose and hypotheses of this research dissertation are reasonably and logically reflected in its structure. The length of each and subsequent chapter is balanced and proportional, which indicates that each of the key research problems is dealt with in a similar way.</p> <p>In terms of theoretical approach applied, the author could have referred to Joseph Nye's theory of soft power, which in my opinion corresponds perfectly with the subject matter discussed in this dissertation. The influence that the EU exercises on its neighborhood through the education sector is a classic element of the concept of soft power.</p>
4.	<p>Použitá metodológia</p> <p>The author uses specific research methods, however she does not specify them (more on this below). Undoubtedly, the final conclusions result from the critical analysis of the documents and publications used. I believe that this approach is correct. Also, to a lesser extent, the</p>

	<p>historical and comparative methods were used. Summing up, I consider the applied research methods to be relevant.</p> <p>A certain weakness of the whole, however, is the lack of a description of the research methods used. This should have taken a form of either a reference in the introduction or in one of the subsections. In this respect, the author could have included an insight on the usefulness of the research methods used most frequently in similar context.</p>
5.	<p>Posúdenie prínosu záverečnej práce a jej použiteľnosť</p> <p>I have no doubts that the presented dissertation holds relevance for both political and social life.</p> <p>Policy-makers should be made familiar with it, both at the EU level and at the national level (eg in Central Europe), which would probably expand their knowledge of the "soft impact" of the European Union on its neighborhood by influencing higher education.</p> <p>Also from the point of view of European societies, it could be disseminated - in order to learn about what EU initiatives have a real impact on the EU's partners. There is no doubt that higher education in general and the Bologna Process in particular – largely depoliticised process which has been taking place for over 20 years – indicate that it is possible to work effectively for the mutual benefit. The author demonstrated it in an extremely clear and logical way, essentially accomplishing major the goal of this research.</p>
6.	<p>Odporúčanie autorovi práce</p> <p>It seems reasonable to constantly encourage the author to continue research on this issue, because it can be considered innovative in my opinion. At this point, the presented dissertation should be published in the form of a monograph.</p> <p>Probably this region of the world will play a significant role in the neighborhood of the European Union. One can even speak about this region to hold a strategic importance. Thus this region should be carefully studied with regard to the many factors influencing contacts with the EU including the area of higher education.</p>
7.	<p>Otázka oponenta</p> <p>Regarding such a broad issue, I formulate the following two questions / problems to be answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the assessment of the participation of Slovakia or (more broadly) Central European countries in the process of EU cooperation with the Maghreb countries under the so-called Mediterranean cooperation? 2. Have the goals and the impact of European higher education programmes on neighbouring countries been fully reached or is further action expected and required in other areas in this respect? What kind of countries could they be addressed at?
8.	<p>Celkové hodnotenie práce</p> <p>The dissertation meets the required formal criteria. It is a kind of wrap-up of the author's research interests, which resulted in scientific publications and participation in international scientific projects (conferences, research grants).</p> <p>I am in favour of accepting Ms Maria Rošteková's habilitation thesis and, on the basis of her positive defense, I am definitely in favour of awarding her the title of "associate professor".</p>

Záverečnú prácu hodnotím:

Banská Bystrica 29.03.2021

Podpis: _____