

## **Opponent's report on a thesis**

**Name: The development of the Women Rights' local groups, the proFem case, during the Czech Republic's process of ascension to the EU**

**Author: Alexia Klie Tojal de Almeida**

The topic of the thesis were the impacts of the Czech Republic's process of ascension to the EU on the local women's activist groups through the proFem case. Although there already exist several works that deal with this phenomenon, the author's focus on the discursive dimension is original and innovative what is even reinforced by the author's detailed justification of the topic based on existing theoretical and empirical discussions. Specifically, the author set as her goal to explore how the Czech Republic's joining to the EU has influenced the women's organization perception regarding its goals/mission and women's question in Czech society. For that purpose the author chose appropriate theoretical framework, namely Radaelli's conceptualization of Europeanization, that take into consideration not only objectively measurable impacts such as resource access and institutional opportunities but also the so called soft impacts of the process, it means paradigms, styles, and shared beliefs.

Regarding methodology, the chosen procedures are clearly and transparently explained by the author. The data were collected in a systematic way. The author decided to analyze the annual reports of the organization what enabled her to observe the evolution of the discourse in time and compare its character between the periods before, during and after the ascension to the EU based on the same criteria and type of the document. However, although this focus provided the analysis with standardized corpus of data, it deprived the thesis of more profound insight into the discursive strategies of the organization. The annual reports are usually generic, mechanical, short and repetitive and as such can omit often important and controversial topics that were discussed in a meantime. Protest event data or media pronouncements could provide the work with additional information and make the author's conclusions more valid. It is not a reproach but rather recommendation that for the next time the analysis could be extended and thus necessarily deepened by incorporating other types of data (for example interviews with the activists).

Overall, the theses surpassed the expectations regarding bachelor's work. The structure is logic and coherent, the interpretation of the data by the author takes into account the political

context of the time and the arguments formulated are clear and based on empirical data analysis.

On the base of the above mentioned reasons I recommend the thesis for the defense.

Barbora Vališková

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