



Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

Masaryk University

Faculty

Procedure field

Applicant

**Applicant's home unit,
institution**

Habilitation thesis

Reviewer

**Reviewer's home unit,
institution**

Faculty of Social Studies

Politology

Mgr. Jan Osička, Ph.D.

Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

The Challenges of Achieving Energy Security through
Cooperation: The Case of the Visegrad 4 Natural Gas Market
Integration

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Prof. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mareš, Ph.D.

Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

The habilitation thesis written by Jan Osička deals with a topical and relevant issue. The author analyses cooperation of the V4 in the field of natural gas market integration within the research framework of energy security. His thesis is based on long term Osička's research, including publications in leading journals of this scientific sub-discipline.

Specific fields of cooperation in the V4 group are still an underdeveloped part of political scientific research. Due to this fact this particular study is a significant contribution to the knowledge of mechanism of regional cooperation in East Central Europe.

Osička describes precisely the multidimensional conceptualization and this part of the thesis seems to be very useful also for research of similar regional issues of energy security. I agree with his choice of case studies. From my point of view, relations of the V4 countries with Germany are underestimated in this thesis, however, it does not seem to be a significant problem. Data and their analysis are the most valuable part of the thesis and I can appreciate the author's methodology as well as his findings and the conclusion. The author uses of a comprehensive spectrum of sources. Graphics is a strong point of Osička's work and it demonstrates his academic capabilities (for example, figure 15 "network of codes" on p 88 or figures 21-28 related to stakeholders on pp 103-114). In general, this thesis moves forward knowledge in the field of energy security in East Central Europe.

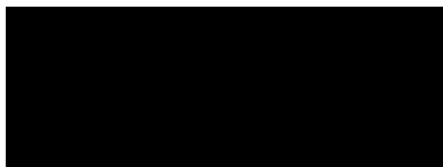
Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

1. Could you explain the value of your thesis and your findings not only from the point of view of energy security, but also from the point of view of regional cooperation in East Central Europe and regional security in general?
2. How strong is the impact of individual relations of the V4 countries with Germany on the gas market integration within the V4 group?

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled “The Challenges of Achieving Energy Security through Cooperation: The Case of the Visegrad 4 Natural Gas Market Integration” by Jan Osíčka *fulfils* requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Politology.

In...Brno. On 2nd August 2018



signature