MA THESIS EVALUATION FORM

Title of thesis: Trade in Services in Regional Integration Groups: Analysis of the Trans-Pacific Partnershij Agreement.

Written by: Anna Agadzhanyan

			Amount of points, grade			
Merit scale		**Points**	High	Moderate	Low	Poor
Excellent (A)		7.1 – 8.0				
Very good (B)		6.1 – 7.0				
Good (C)		5.1 – 6.0				
Satisfactory (D)		4.5 – 5.0				
Poor (E)		4.0 – 4.4				
Failed (F)		< 4.0				
			0.8-1.0	0.5-0.7	0,3-0.4	0.0 0.2
1.	Relevance of the Paper to the Programme		0.8			
2.	Importance of the Topic/issues addressed in the Thesis		1.0			
3.	Originality and interpretive significance of the Thesis		0.9			
4.	Conceptual Rigor (Treatment of relevant literature, logical reasoning, etc.)		0.9			
5.	Methodological Rigor (Research design, sample, measures, and analysis)		0.9			
6.	Clarity of the objectives		0.8			
7.	Presentation/Implementation of research Goals		0.8			
8.	Readability of the MA Thesis		0.9			
	Total		**7.0**			

Comments and suggestions:

1. More pictures, diagrams and graphs is expected when statistical information is analyzed. It is hard to compare the figures and reveal trends by using text information only.

2. A deeper analysis of other countries' positions, not only in terms of their relations with the United States, should be provided. No doubt, the USA was supposed to be a core of the TPP agreement, but if the circumstances changed, it is reasonable to find new sources for cooperation, if this group is to exist. This would have added relevance to the subject.

3. As far as literature review is concerned, it is important to mention a high level of analysis provided for theoretical aspect of economic integration and related authors. However, the second part of theoretical basis of the paper concerning trade in services could have been done better; more authors and scientific works on the subject should be examined.

4. In the third chapter, dedicated to the economic role of Russia in the region, it is not really clear, how important trade in services for this country is. Instead, the accent is made on its geopolitical position in the Asia-Pacific, which does not fully reveal its economic potential in services sectors.

Conclusion:

Master thesis written by Anna Agadzhanyan touches relevant issues of regional economic integration and, at the same time, analyzes the role of trade in services, thus, revealing two basic trends in modern world economy – increasing share of services in international trade and growing number of free trade agreements. The author's findings are based on the research of the most ambitious, though yet unsuccessful, FTA in history – Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

A.Agadzhanyan has examined a significant number of scientific materials and relevant economic theories, which were then applied to practice. The information in the paper is logically structured and written in the scientific style.

The author has shown a good ability to formulate her own point of view on the problem in question. However, several issues, such as economic role of Russia in the region, countries trade specification and economic interests, that are not connected with the US market, should have been elaborated on a deeper level. That would have made the work more logical and finished.

Master thesis is written completely in accordance with the requirements, is recommended for protection and deserves grade "Very good".

Reviewer   Maria I. Kiseleva
Associate Professor   Alexandra G. Koval

26.05.17