GUIDELINES FOR THE ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF PhD THESIS

A doctoral thesis is an independent research work which offers a novel solution to a significant problem in a discipline related to the field of the study programme.

An article-based dissertation is a series of research publications comprehensively dealing with the research topic together with an analytical overview.

The analytical review is required in order to show readers how the published articles relate to each other and contribute to the central theme of the thesis/dissertation. The common theme or problem that the articles address is identified and discussed in an introductory chapter. A final concluding chapter discusses the theme or problem in light of the information contained in the articles and provides an opportunity for the PhD candidate to explore the broader implications of the work.

The content of analytical review should contain:

1. **List of articles** which form the basis of the dissertation, which are referred to in the analytical overview by Roman numerals. If the articles are written with co-autors the clear statement of authors’ contribution should be explained. It is possible to show also other publications in the relevant area published by author but which are not forming the basis of the dissertation. The publications are numbered consecutively according to the first mention of each publication in the thesis.

**2. Abstract** is a brief (up to one page) summary of the thesis. An abstract gives short overview of the background of the research topic/theme, explains the purposes of the thesis and describes main results.

**3. Acknowledgements**

**4. List of abbreviations** (added when applicable)

**5**. **Introduction**

* relates the study to previous research and highlights the contribution of the dissertation to its field of research.
* describes the theoretical and thematic frame for the articles
* provides a general introduction to the problem(s) investigated or analyzed in the articles included in the thesis
* includes prior research and places the thesis in the given field of research.
* puts the entière thesis into context and gives a global objectives of the research to be presented in the thesis (a thesis must have a red line that connects the different articles together).
* may also explain in more detail theories that are presented in the individual articles. It is important to operationalize and specify how theories and key concepts are used in the thesis.

**6. Objectives**

* explain shortly the general aim of the thesis
* define specific objectives what you are trying to achieve ( normally 3-4, maximum 5)
* use sentences like *to explain, to find out, to describe, to develop, to design, to evaluate* but not *to study*, *to investigate*
* remember that you have to explain in the conclusion if your thesis has achieved these objectives

**7. Materials and methods or Research methodology**

* referre to your articles ( Roman numerals)
* describe and justify more detailed the methodology when journal articles rarely devote much space to discussions of methods.
* data collection process should also presented here, discussing both data quality and the work done on analyzing the data.

**8. Results and Discussion**

* structure according to the research objectives/questions (using the following order for each research objective/question: research objective/question, the answer/findings, description of principles/patterns etc used)
* discuss your findings with reference to other research and underlining theoretical framework (explain how your findings will fit in with existing knowledge and what is the added value). Pay special attention to unexpected or conflicting findings/explanations/arguments.
* explain the importance and applicability of your findings
* identify and discuss the limitations if there are any.

**9. Conclusion**

* drawing together all the work described
* explicit accounts of the problem and the research questions for the thesis.

relating this back to the issues raised in the Introduction.

**10. Future research**

* Present possibilities for future development of the work presented in the thesis

**11. Reference list**

**12. KOKKUVÕTE (summary in Estonian)**

**12. Publications**

**13**. **Appendixes**

* should be positioned after the thesis, i.e. after the full-text versions of the articles have been inserted.
* Interview guides and questionnaire should be included as appendices, where applicable.