TAL TECH

TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

To Whom It May Concern

June 12, 2025
Tallinn, Estonia

Recommendation Letter

It is my privilege and pleasure to recommend **Mr. Madi Omarov**'s doctoral dissertation entitled "Decentralization of Governance in Ukraine: A Political Analysis of the Transformation Model", submitted to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science.

Throughout my time supervising Mr. Omarov, I have been consistently impressed by his dedication, analytical rigor, and scholarly acumen. His work offers an insightful and timely examination of decentralization reform in Ukraine since 2014, which is an essential reference not only for political scientists but also for policymakers aiming to implement effective governance structures in transitional states.

Madi Omarov's dissertation displays a sophisticated understanding of the complex theoretical frameworks underpinning decentralization, thoroughly discussing administrative, fiscal, and political dimensions. His methodological approach, integrating qualitative case studies, comparative analyses, and expert interviews, provides robust empirical backing, thus enhancing the overall validity and depth of the findings. Particularly commendable is his detailed SWOT analysis of the decentralization processes, identifying clear strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, thereby offering a practical lens through which future reforms can be assessed and implemented.

One of the distinct strengths of the dissertation lies in its nuanced comparative perspective. Mr. Omarov draws insightful parallels between Ukraine's experience and Kazakhstan's local governance challenges, making his findings particularly valuable for Kazakh policymakers. His recommendations regarding the adaptation of specific elements of the Ukrainian model to Kazakhstan's context are both pragmatic and context-sensitive, underscoring his ability to translate theoretical insights into actionable policy advice.

Furthermore, the dissertation demonstrates significant originality through its focus on the relationship between decentralization and democratization at local levels. Omarov effectively argues and demonstrates how enhanced local autonomy can lead to increased civic participation, transparency, and overall democratization, providing concrete evidence to support his claims. His detailed analysis, which includes political, administrative and fiscal dimensions of decentralization, makes this study not only academically rigorous but also practically impactful.

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Mr. Omarov's work is exceptionally well-organized and clearly articulated, reflecting his competence as a scholar. The comprehensive review of literature and meticulous citation practice speak to his thoroughness and integrity as a researcher. The dissertation's structure logically guides readers from theoretical foundations to empirical analysis and practical implications, enhancing readability and coherence.

Overall, Mr. Madi Omarov's dissertation significantly contributes to our understanding of decentralization processes, offering important insights into both their potential and their limitations. It clearly meets the highest academic standards, and I am confident that his findings will be influential not only in academic circles but also among policy practitioners working on governance reforms.

I wholeheartedly support and endorse Mr. Omarov's dissertation for the award of the PhD degree. His academic maturity, analytical capability, and dedication position him ideally for a distinguished career in academia, policy advising, or international consultancy.

Sincerely,



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