

Prof. Sergiy Kvit, DSc.  
Head of the National Agency for  
Higher Education Quality Assurance  
Ukraine

In Brno on 10.08.2020

Dear prof. Kvit,

This is to answer your request for a judgement on plagiarism, sent via e-mail from the 22nd of July 2020/

In my answer, I will stick to the definition of plagiarism as *"the use of ideas, content, or structures without appropriately acknowledging the source to benefit in a setting where originality is expected"* (Foltýnek, Meuschke, and Gipp, 2019).

I have reviewed all the excerpts provided in the document you sent me; I also used a text-matching system to highlight overlapping content. In all cases, it is evident that the original material was reused, either word for word or with minor alterations, which did not change the meaning, hence reusing the ideas presented in the source.

I am not able to judge whether the original source was appropriately acknowledged or not. I would need the whole publications at my disposal. However, I trust the statement in the document that the fragments were reproduced without attribution.

Three out of the four cases are about doctoral dissertations, and the fourth one is about scientific papers. Defending a dissertation, as well as having a paper published, lead to a benefit in the academic environment, where, undoubtedly, originality is expected.

Based on these observations, I conclude that the presented cases fulfil the internationally recognized definition of plagiarism.

However, I want to clarify that the fulfilment of the definition of plagiarism is just one aspect to consider when applying sanctions for plagiarism. My comments do not say anything about the extent of plagiarism or the potential intention of the plagiarists. Also, I am not judging whether plagiarism affected the fulfilment of the desired learning outcomes of doctoral students or not. This requires careful individual consideration. You may refer to the ENAI Guidelines for Academic Integrity (<http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/guidelines/>).

I wish you a lot of success in your work,



Tomáš Foltýnek  
Assistant professor

References:

Foltýnek, T., Meuschke, N., & Gipp, B. (2019). Academic Plagiarism Detection: A Systematic Literature Review. *ACM Comput. Surv.*, 52(6), 112:1--112:42. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3345317>