**On December 14, 2022, the first PhD student under the EU funded Export Control Targeted Initiative defended her thesis successfully.**

Kamshat Saginbekova defended her PhD thesis entitled Politico-economic aspects of strategic trade control in Central Asian countries”. The PhD defence took place at the University of Liege, 14 December 2022. Kamshat started her research in 2018, thanks to a Doctoral Research Grant within the framework of the European Union Targeted Initiative “CBRN Export Control on Dual-use Materials and Technologies in Central Asia” implemented by the International Science and Technology Centre.

Her interdisciplinary research examines the economic effects of a political tool such as strategic trade control after its adoption and implementation in Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The thesis structure is built on two parts, qualitative and quantitative. The first part provides political and historical aspects. Starting from STC’s concept and its elements, the study explains the relevance of adopting and implementing trade control systems in Central Asia. Then provides the retrospective and current status of control systems based on the Index Method, Peddling Peril Index and 3WH Method (“Why Who, What, How”). Finalises the part with challenges Central Asia may face regarding trade control.

The second part of the research illustrates the channels through which STC on the economy can be influenced, examines the implications of dual-use technologies transfer by exploring the impact of strategic trade control on trade flows (exports and imports) of dual-use items and analysing the impact of imports of dual-use technology on total factor productivity.

The research contributes to the field by providing the methodology for strategic trade data (three sets of data of six-digit HS codes of dual-use items), studying Central Asian countries from political and economic aspects, providing the complete picture, building the STC legislation database for 14 countries, providing the first attempt to examine the impact of dedicated dual-use technologies on TFP.