

Review of Master work reviewer

Name and

Surname of Student Lisa WIECHMANN

Qualification Work Title

The impact of creation and implementation of European regions for competitiveness of local institutions and companies - case study of the German-Dutch urban border community projects in Kerkrade and Herzogenrath as one possible example

Name and

Type of Study Programme

Regional and European Project Management / Navazující

Faculty / Department

Ekonomická fakulta / KRM

Supervisor

Škodová Parmová Dagmar, doc. Dr. Ing.

Reviewer

Prof. Dr. Thomas Johnen

Thesis evaluation

1. Importance and difficulty of the topic 1.0

Note: The chosen topic is very relevant and possesses a high complexity. For the case study a huge amount of very detailed and specialized information was necessary.

2. Logical structure of the thesis 1.0

Note: The structure is very good. The challenge was to organize the enormous amount of detailed information. All basic notions, but also the more specific notions are defined. Necessary background information is given in the notes. The method

3. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0

Note: The comparative approach and the chosen regions contribute to the successful presentation of the results of the research question.

4. Methodological approach 1.0

Note: The method is well reflected (even with regard to its limits) and correctly applied.

5. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 1.0

Note: This thesis gives an excellent overview on the two chosen European Regions and their activities and future possibilities to strengthen the cross-border activities in order to foster the position of companies in the two regions.

6. Handling of literature 1.0

7. Formal aspects 1.5

Note: There are few orthographical mistakes (but not more than in normal academic papers which are submitted to publication).

Conclusion

Thesis evaluation (note): **excellent**

I recommend the thesis for defence: **YES**

Questions and comments

Critical comments and overall contributions, total value of the thesis

The choice of the topic is the result of a deep reflection and it can be said that the presented thesis delivers a well-documented overview. It can be considered as well as a very good basis for further studies on more specialized sub subjects of the main topic.

The methodological framework is well explained.

The thesis can serve as a basis for other studies which focus on more specified research questions. The main results can be transferred even to other cross-border regions. Besides this, they indicate indirectly also the fields where politics has to change in order to strengthen cross-border regional cooperation.

The only points which in my opinion could have been better elaborated are the presentations of the historical background of the two regions. Besides this it could have been explained that the nine germanophone municipalities of Eastern Belgium were represented as a part of the Province de Liège even before the admission of the German Community of Belgium (cf. p. 59). Even today these municipalities are part of the Province de Liège, but at the same time of the German Community with its own institutions. Another inexactitude is the definition of the enlarged region in Western Germany (p. 71, note 93). It is not as stated a region around Düsseldorf, but consists of the districts of Neuss, Kleve and Viersen and the City of Mönchengladbach, thus exclusively district on the left side of the Rhine. But these are small details which doesn't reduce the quality of this excellent thesis.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

- Historical Background of the regions and the question of a common identity and its consequences
- Do national states have to change in order to facilitate cross-border regional development?
(Which fields?)

Date: Sep 22, 2017

Signature of reviewer