

Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Melina KLOTH
Qualification Work Title	Cross-border Cooperation in French-German Non-profit Organizations
Name and Type of Study Programme	Regional and European Project Management / Navazující
Faculty / Department	Ekonomická fakulta / KRM
Supervisor	Rentel Nadine, prof. Dr.
Review author	prof. Dr. Nadine Rentel

Thesis evaluation

1. Logical structure of the thesis 1.0

Note: The author deals with a very relevant topic that, until now, has not been analyzed in depth. She also reacts to the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic and generates new and unique data concerning its effects on the cross-border cooperation

2. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0

3. Methodological approach 2.0

Note: Question of the comparison of the data for the first part of the thesis (structure and function of the fire brigade in France and Germany): analysis of statistical data for France, interviews for Germany.

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

Note: The data the author was able to generate in the second part of her Master thesis are extremely relevant, not only for her specific domain. The results show the importance of an improvement of common organization structures.

5. Handling of literature 1.0

Note: The author provides a very detailed state of the art concerning the research topic. The literature taken into account is relevant and quantitatively appropriate for a Master thesis.

6. Formal aspects 1.0

Note: The author provides very detailed information on the historic background of the regions she analyzes, and she explains relevant key notions and terms. The style corresponds to the norms of academic writing.

7. Student's own contribution to the studied problems 1.0

Note: While the first research question is answered based on data analysis, the second part makes use of qualitative research methods (interview) which allows the author to gain very relevant, new and unique data. Results could be implemented

8. Monitoring for plagiarism (result) **negative**

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 author deals with a very relevant topic that, until now, has not been analyzed in depth. She also reacts to the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic and generates new and unique data concerning its effects on the cross-border cooperation. The results could also be relevant for different types of cross-border cooperation, going beyond the selected domain of civil defense. The data refers to many relevant aspects of cross-border cooperation that are prone to disruptions in times of crisis. The results of the interviews that have been conducted in order to describe the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic touch the dimension of risk management in general, which the author makes clear in her thesis.

The thesis contains two levels of comparison. While in the first part, the focus lies on the organization and the function of fire brigades in France and in Germany in "normal" times, she takes into account, in the second part, the gap between these structures and the challenges caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

There is a combination of methodological approaches in the thesis (literature review for the description of the organization of the fire brigade in France, concerning the first research question > more objective, while interviews have been conducted for Germany > focus on the subjective perspective; finally, interviews have been conducted for answering the core question of the second part, focussing on the COVID crisis). Concerning the different research methods (statistical data for France, interviews for Germany), can the results really be compared with each other?

The in-depth reflections of results/interview data by the author are very convincing and show that she has really penetrated the topic. However, the description of the methodological and historic background are sometimes a bit too detailed.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

Could you think of possible shortcomings of conducting an interview online? What are the characteristics compared to a face-to-face interview?

Do you think that the results of the second part of your Master thesis are strictly limited to your analyzed type of cross-border cooperation, or could one think of general fields of problems in times of crisis, representing challenges for risks management in cross-border cooperations? In which way can the results be explained by the specific culture of firemen?

Could you please explain which transcription system finally has been adopted for your study, and why?

Date: Sep 18, 2020

Signature of supervisor