

Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Marco Jerome FRIEDRICHS
Qualification Work Title	The Influence of Cross-Border Cooperation on the Competitiveness of Euroregions
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 thesis is very well structured, starting with highlighting the relevance of the research subject, presenting theoretical key concepts, describing the method and then the results of the analysis.

2. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0

Note: The author is successful at answering the research question, showing a very high degree of critical meta-awareness. The choice of the methodological approach and the data are suitable to deal with the topic.

3. Methodological approach 1.0

Note: Being aware of the complexity of the topic and the key concept of "competitiveness", the author opts for a comparative case study and bases his study on a document analysis, following a catalogue of criteria, making the results comparable

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

Note: The thesis is a good example of how the notion of "competitiveness" can be approached from a methodological angle. The very concrete results could be implemented in practice.

5. Handling of literature 1.0

Note: The author shows an excellent knowledge both concerning the underlying theoretical concepts of his study as well as concerning studies that have already been carried out. Very good critical handling with literature.

6. Formal aspects 1.0

Note: The thesis is presented and written in a very reader-friendly style, clearly structured, and contains all relevant elements.

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

Note: The author is able to clearly define the central problematic, always explains his choices and thus presents differentiated and convincing results.

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 topic of great relevance, especially in times of an increasing tendency of re-nationalization in Europe and the world. The study of the goals, the functions and the different degrees of competitiveness of EU border regions is important in order to better understand national disparities, to take them into account in order to guarantee the survival of this type of cross-border cooperation. The author is aware of the methodological challenge of how to measure the competitiveness of border regions and discusses this challenge in the theoretical part of his thesis, allowing him to develop a convincing model of analysis. The author shows a very profound knowledge concerning relevant research in his domain, and is able to discuss it from a critical point of view. He provides a good and detailed description of the methodological approach that seems suitable for answering the research question. The Master thesis is based on a comparative analysis of documents, which can be explained by the argument of feasibility. Nevertheless, the author, throughout his thesis, refers to the fact that his study could be complemented by further methodological approaches such as interviews. The document analysis seems adequate to answer the research question, allowing the candidate to take into account a variety of aspects in the context of the comparative case study focussed on the competitiveness of two selected Euroregions, and at the same time guaranteeing the comparability of the data. Again, it has to be highlighted that the author constantly reflects the complexity of the concept "competitiveness" and the methodological challenge of measuring it, which finally leads him to the implementation of a catalogue of criteria that are suitable for the specific context he deals with. The practical implications formulated by the author are very useful.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

In your thesis, you refer to the fact that due to the feasibility of the study, you have chosen a document analysis. Nevertheless, you mention that conducting interviews could also be fruitful. Which type of interview would you choose, whom (according to roles and functions) would you designate as interview partners, and how could one create the link between a document analysis on the one hand and interview on the other hand?

You mention that the visibility of Euroregions is often poor, both in society as on the political level. Could you think of a strategy aiming at raising the awareness for their existence, especially in Europe's current political situation?

Date: Sep 03, 2021

Signature of supervisor