Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Bettina SCHNEIDER
Qualification Work Title	Decision-Making in Cross-Border Cooperation in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic
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 topic of great importance during the COVID crisis and fills a research gap. She bases her study on a large theoretical basis with regards to her research questions.
2. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0
Note: Based on her detailed and accurate empirical study, especially trying to establish correlations between different categories of the analysis, the author very well understands the challenges of decision making in the virtual context.
3. Methodological approach 1.0
Note: The selected qualitative oriented approach (semi-directive interviews) seems suitable in order to answer her research questions. The handling of data is thouroughly carried out.
4. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 1.0
Note: As the results of the study are really new and innovative, the author makes a significant contribution to research in this domain - how is decision making influenced by the shift into virtual project cooperation?
5. Handling of literature 1.0
Note: The author takes into account relevant literature and carefully selects contents with regard to her topic.
6. Formal aspects 1.5
Note: The formal presentation as well as the style perfectly meet the expectations of an academic text. The table of contentx contains some formal issues.
7. Student's own contribution to the studied problems 1.0
Note: The research results can be of great relevance for companies and institutions of nearly all types and sizes who are faced with the shift of decision making into the virtual sphere.
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 importance during the COVID crisis and fills a research gap. She bases her study on a large theoretical basis with regards to her research questions. In this context, one can highlight the logical structure of the theoretical part, discussing important key notions such as teleworking, the concept of virtual teams and finally the forms and functions of virtual team collaboration in the first part. The theoretical background is then completed by a very profound discussion of media theories and decision-making theories, with a special focus on the interconnection with interculturality. Thus, the author provides all relevant information for better understanding her research results.

The selected qualitative oriented approach (semi-directive interviews) seems suitable in order to answer her research questions. Furthermore, the study is based on 8 interviews with project managers coming from different types of organizations, allowing the author to gain insight not only in one single domain. The handling of data is thouroughly carried out. Here, one wants to highlight the very accurate data interpretation, especially the author's efforts by establishing correlations between different categories of the content analysis. Based on this detailed and accurate empirical study, the author very well understands the challenges of decision making in the virtual context. The research results can be of great relevance for companies and institutions of nearly all types and sizes who are faced with the shift of decision making into the virtual sphere.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

In your thesis, you write that the results of this study may depend on demographic characteristics, individual differences, and relevant organizational norms, and that they are strongly related to the cultural context of the interviewees. In your opinion, which aspects could perhaps be considered as more comprehensive ones and thus be implemented at a larger scale?

You refer to the fact that communication practices have changed due to the shift into the digital sphere. What is your personal opinion: Do you think that some of these changes will persist, even after the return in the "analogue" context?

In your critical meta-reflection, you state that the qualitative orientated research design did not allow you to come to representative results. How would you complete such a study on the methodological level, in order to overcome your self-criticism?

Date: Nov 21, 2021   Signature of supervisor