

Review of Master work reviewer

Name and

Surname of Student Tomáš TOMS

Qualification Work Title Social, economic, and environmental impact of high-speed rails in the Czech Republic: Expected impacts of high-speed rails on the Ústí nad Labem region

Name and Type of Study Programme Regional and European Project Management / Navazující

Faculty / Department Ekonomická fakulta / KRM

Supervisor Lapka Miloslav, doc. PhDr. CSc.

Reviewer Prof. Dr. Thomas Johnen

Thesis evaluation

1. Importance and difficulty of the topic 1.0

Note: The topic is very important due to the problems of regional development of the Ústí nad Labem region. It is also relevant with regard to the environmental impact of high-speed trains and the European dimension this rail will have.

2. Logical structure of the thesis 1.0

Note: The overall structure is excellent. The basic notions of the topic are well introduced. The methodological framework is explained with most of the necessary details.

3. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0

4. Methodological approach 1.0

Note: See overall evaluation

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

Note: See overall evaluation

6. Handling of literature 1.0

7. Formal aspects 1.5

Note: The bibliography is up-to date, generally well-chosen and presented according to norms for academic publications.

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

In an overall evaluation, this Master's thesis is an excellent case study. The author has shown, that he is able to analyse the context of a project in an interdisciplinary way and conduct empirical quantitative and qualitative research in order to shed light on relevant questions which surge with a concrete project.

The different methods (qualitative interviews, quantitative data collection by questionnaires) are very well employed. Five interviews have been conducted and analysed qualitatively and directly related to the results of the quantitative research. As I did not receive the audio files of the interviews, I can't judge the quality of the transcriptions. The only critical point of the quantitative research is, that only the train lines, where the data were collected, are indicated, but not the departing hours, which could have had an impact on some answers.

The thorough analysis of the actual economic and demographic situation of the Ústi nad Labem region. The combination of the introducing comparative literature study about high speed trains in France, Germany, Spain and the UK with the qualitative expert interviews and the collected quantitative data contributes to a very good understanding of the investigation question.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

1. In the first part of your study, you present a very interesting comparative overview about high speed trains in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain. What insights a comparison with a smaller country like Belgium could have contributed?
2. At which departing times did you the quantitative research on the trains and did you observe differences according to that time?
3. How did you choose the interviewees of your qualitative interviews?

Date: Sep 17, 2022

Signature of reviewer