Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Numa PARMENT
Qualification Work Title	Digitization in the territory and differences between selected rural areas: the example of Grand Est region, France
Name and Type of Study Programme	Regional and European Project Management / Navazující
Faculty / Department	Ekonomická fakulta / KRM
Supervisor	Pělucha Martin, prof. Ing. Ph.D.
Review author	prof. Ing. Martin Pelucha Ph.D.

Thesis evaluation

1. Logical structure of the thesis 2.0
Note: The diploma thesis is structured more like an academic paper. There is a lack of scope in the theoretical section, which must first declare a review of relevant theories (e.g. economic or regional development theories).

2. Fulfillment of objectives 2.0
Note: The author of the work had an evident effort to fulfill the set goal by multiple methods. One can appreciate the effort for the empirical part supplemented by verification through the analysis of the websites of selected municipalities.

3. Methodological approach 2.0
Note: The empirical part is methodologically based on online questionnaires, the response rate of which is rather low and has the character of a probe. Additional analysis of websites of a sample of municipalities can be accepted.

4. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 2.5
Note: Emphasis on the literature review of relevant economic theories or theories of regional development, which could be related to the role of technological development and digitization, is clearly missing in the diploma thesis.

5. Handling of literature 1.5
Note: In general, however, the author controls the work with literature, the work is readable, even if in many places it is very descriptive and unnecessarily extensive.

6. Formal aspects 2.0
Note: The formal aspects of the thesis are basically flawless, however, I have a major comment about the scope of the thesis, which is unnecessarily extreme. The standard range is around 60 to 70 pages.

7. Student's own contribution to the studied problems 1.5
Note: The student has an obvious desire to discuss the findings and create his own proposals in the given topic. This can be greatly appreciated.

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

Conclusion

Thesis evaluation (note): **very good**
I recommend the thesis for defence: **YES**

Questions and comments

Critical comments and overall contributions, total value of the thesis

In recent years, the chosen topic of the diploma thesis represents a very fundamental problem and challenge in the development of territories, especially rural municipalities. Digitization is also an important topic of support from the EU in the new programming period 2021 - 2027. From this point of view, academic works focused on these connections are desirable.

As can be seen from the partial comments above in this assessment, overall the diploma thesis is prepared in a successful manner. However, it is necessary to point out some significant shortcomings. The thesis is structured more like an academic paper. Diploma theses, however, have a greater scope in the theoretical part, they must first declare a research of relevant theories (e.g. economic or regional development theories) and thus provide a scientific-research basis for the entire work. This is missing, the literature review begins with a very broad description of the settlement system in France. Subsequently, the issue of digitization is discussed from the perspective of policy-making. The theoretical basis is not declared.

The empirical part is methodologically based on online questionnaires, the response rate of which is rather low and has the character of a probe. Additional analysis of websites of a sample of municipalities can be accepted for the level expected of a thesis.

The diploma thesis is very descriptive in many places, which resulted in the extensive scope of the entire thesis. As a standard, diploma theses are 60 to 70 pages long, and their authors must demonstrate the ability to process the given topic in the expected scope. The student did not manage this.

Overall, however, I appreciate that the student has an evident effort to discuss the findings and create his own proposals in the given topic. The submitted diploma thesis is eligible for the final defense, and I hereby recommend it for oral defense. According to the result of the oral defense, I propose a preliminary assessment at the level of very good.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

For the oral defense, I have the following two questions:
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1) List at least 2 key economic theories or theories of regional development that are closely related to the topic of your diploma thesis. Which parameters (assumptions) of these theories do you consider to be the most significant in relation to the achieved empirical findings?

2) In section 6 of the diploma thesis, i.e. Proposals, you state in points 2 and 3 the importance of human resources and in the context of the aging population issue, you state the necessity of supporting digital education, especially the elderly population, employees, local population. Specify these recommendations in terms of their starting points in your empirical investigation (which follows), and further specify the recommended way of implementing this recommendation in practice.

Date: Sep 16, 2022   Signature of supervisor