

Master's Thesis Supervisor's Expert Opinion

Student: Osei Kwaku

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Title of master's Thesis: The effect of institutional quality on innovativeness of firm in emerging economies

Aim of the Thesis: The aim of the study is to assess the institutional quality and infrastructural base of the state on the innovativeness of firms in emerging economies. The study will consider key institutional arrangements and their propensity to affect the innovativeness of firms leading to economic growth.

Thesis Supervisor: Solomon Gyamfi, Ing. Ph.D.

Study Programme: Regional Development and Governance

Academic Year: 2022/2023

Difficulty of the Topic

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Cannot be evaluated
Theoretical knowledge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Input data and their processing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Methods used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thesis Evaluation Criteria

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Cannot be evaluated
Degree of achievement of the aim of the thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Original attitude to the topic processing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequacy of the methods used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth of analysis (relative to topic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logical structure of the thesis and scope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with Czech and foreign literature including citations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal arrangement of the thesis (text, charts, tables)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language level (style, grammar, terminology)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Applicability of the Results of the Thesis

	High	Medium	Low	Cannot be evaluated
For theory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Comments on the Thesis

The thesis focused on assessing the institutional quality and infrastructural base of the state on the innovativeness of firms in emerging economies. The candidate main interest was on the specific impact foreign direct investments net flow and institutional quality affect firm innovativeness and economic growth. The candidate hence selected institutional quality indicators such as government effectiveness, rule of law and others for the analysis of selected European emerging economies. In order to achieve the objective, the candidate set three main hypotheses to be tested. The candidate, through the use of consultation hours, managed to explore many facets of the thesis preparation.

The thesis followed the required structure of the faculty, however, had some shortfalls in formal presentations. The introduction gave a glimpse of a better outline but suffered when it came to the statement of claim or justification for the thesis and to prove the existing gap in this field of work which then will inform the motivation for the thesis. Regardless of that, the student presented an acceptable introduction.

The theoretical part dealt with current literature and necessary parts of the conceptual framework was exploited discussing all the institutional quality variables and informing theories used for the analysis. It also discussed firm innovativeness and economic development and their linkages.

The research methodology was also outlined formally/correctly. The decision to have only three hypothesis was interesting, since several factors of institutional quality were discussed. It would be good if the candidate could further explain what informed the decision to have only three hypotheses and ignore the others and the missing references for the control variables and so on. Criteria for the selection of the selected countries were not provided.

The analysis was done employing regression with system Generalized Method of Moments (SGMM). However, the result was not fully explored in the discussion section. For instant, the candidate indicated that regulatory quality has no significant impact on the innovativeness of firm in Czechia and Greece but failed to discuss what it means and compare with literature to validate his findings by sourcing similar literature or contrary findings.

Conclusion and recommendation were structured appropriately but no recommendation was made for firms.

Overall, the student worked with documents from the necessary sources and methodology to solve the objectives of the thesis while making good use of the consultation hours. The discussion could be improved, however, satisfactory.

Comments on the Outputs from the Theses System

2% - not plagiarized

Questions and Suggestions for Defence

1. Discuss what it means for the finding, 'Regulatory Quality has no significant impact on firms' innovativeness in the Czech Republic and Greece. What about the opposite of an impact in the remaining three countries?
2. What are the criteria for the selection of the researched countries?
3. In your estimation, why do you think there is a negative effect of Foreign Direct Investment (DI) on Firm Innovativeness (FI) in the Czech Republic.
4. Could you explain why only three hypotheses were formulated to be tested when several factors were discussed? Are those factors not important to affect firm innovativeness. Why did you leave them out?

5. Knowledge in ICT and its availability helps innovation based on innovation literature. Could you explain the negative association with respect to the impact of the availability of ICT infrastructure on firm innovativeness?

Final Evaluation

I **recommend** the thesis for the defence.

I propose to grade this master's thesis as follows: **B**

In Pardubice 25.8.2023

Signature