

Review of dissertation work

Dissertation: ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF INNOVATION POLICIES ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Author: Yee Yee Sein

The topic of the impact of innovations on regional development is a very current topic, within which the identification of various factors supporting them in different innovation systems is of particular interest. Also, the shift towards demand side innovation policies and its comparison with supply side policies, which are still being significantly promoted, is a current topic of research in the field of innovation and regional development.

In general, the author has shown a very good overview of the theme and the work is based on current knowledge at the international level, very good methodology knowledge and ability to conduct high level research. Therefore, some of my more critical comments are more likely suggestions for future additional improvements to the research rather than pointing out an insufficient level of research.

The theoretical part includes an overview of the most important theoretical approaches to innovation policies as well as regional development concepts. The whole part is processed at a very good level, using extensive and up-to-date scientific research. A minor criticism is that the scope is too broad and several concepts and theories that are in the theoretical part are not relevantly used in the practical part. It was entirely sufficient to select only some key theories. For example, in the theoretical part the author addresses the role of social capital or quintuple helix, but in the practical part she no longer works with these issues. Also, if we understand states as regions, the distinction between national and regional innovation systems is essentially meaningless.

The aim of dissertation thesis is to examine to what extent the innovation policy affects the firm innovation, which leads to regional development in emerging, moderate, and strong innovators countries. They are little "shortcuts", e.g. single countries are understood as regions and firm innovations and patents are thus expected as factors influencing regional development. However, author copes with it quite fairly.

The author also selects appropriate and used research methods and these methods are at the level of current scientific knowledge. The methods itself are well described. In the methodology, I expected more discussion about selection of countries (not sure if there was random selection or not), specially in relation to their innovation policies. The study was based on a comparison of policy effects in three countries with different levels of innovations, which means that these countries should have a comparable mix of policies to obtain comparable results, but this information is not analysed in the work. It is also interesting that demand-side innovation policy has no significant direct effect on firm product and process innovation in Croatia, the Czech Republic, and Norway and as author mentioned, it is opposite to several other studies. The policy mix in these countries could be one possible explanation of this.

In terms of the contribution of the work to the new knowledge and practice, the work seeks to shed more light on the relationship between innovation and its support. Particularly

interesting are results of objective 2, where all European countries are analysed and comparison of different types of government policies are used. I would expect a little bigger discussion comparing the results with other studies.

Formally, the work is processed at the required level. Linguistic and graphic design are adequate and appropriate. The scope of work corresponds to the requirements for the dissertation.

The research conducted by the student is extensive, yet it is always important in public policy research that recommendations are truly based on the findings of the research. In section 6.2, the author gets a little carried away with her recommendations, and some of the recommendations are not supported by research. For example, "policymakers should consider revising the training programs by collaborating with firm managers to ensure the provided training programs address the specific skills and knowledge that firms need" or "Policymakers should integrate training programs with other forms of support, such as R&D funding, innovation vouchers, and tax incentives, to create a more comprehensive innovation support policy". There was no research related to test the outcomes of different combination of tools or reasons why training programs are not fully effective.

I have two questions for discussion:

How you choose the selected countries? Are you aware of any differences in innovation policy mix among them?

You test your assumption on the different country level of innovation activity. Do you think you can expect similar results if you test it on different regional levels of innovation activities? Or you try to do something on the regional level?

In addition to the work itself, the overall publishing activity of the doctoral student is very extensive, mainly focusing on areas related to the work itself. I appreciated several publications are in high impact indexed journals. The publishing activity highly exceeds the requirements for doctoral studies.

In conclusion, I state that the dissertation thesis is prepared at a very good level and meets the conditions for a dissertation, so I after a successful defence, I recommend the award of the title of philosophiae doctor (PhD.)

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doc. Mgr. Miroslav Šipikal, PhD.