

Thesis Reviewer's Report

Student: Samuel Appiah Opong
 Title: The Effectiveness of Green Public Procurement Policies on Promoting Regional Sustainable Development
 Supervisor: Ing. Solomon Gyamfi, Ph.D.
 Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Viktor Prokop, Ph.D.
 Reviewer's job title: Associate Professor, Science and Research Centre, FEA, UPCE

Assessment criteria

	excellent	very good	acceptable	unacceptable	N/A
Achievement of the aims of the thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of appropriate methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth of analysis (in relation to the topic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure and extent of the thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of Czech and foreign sources (including references)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal aspects (text, diagrams, charts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of language (style, grammar, terminology)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Usability of the results

	high	medium	low	N/A
In theory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other comments

The author aimed to provide empirical evidence on the effectiveness of Green Public Procurement (GPP) policies in enhancing sustainability. Moreover, the authors concentrated on emerging and transitional economies and aimed to offer a comparative examination of the effectiveness of such policies in various settings.

The topic is relevant and up to date. I have several comments, starting with the introduction, which is quite long from my point of view. The author provides more information that needed. For the theory, the author starts with the issue of GPP. The author could have worked more with graphics and tables, for example, showing the reader a table with the current state of knowledge of this issue and so on. The author could have also used more bullet points. The text is quite comprehensive, but I would have appreciated this added value, which would have made it easier for the reader to navigate the text. However, regarding the content, I have no further comments. For the second chapter, sustainable development issue would deserve separate sub-chapter. The beginning of the chapter could be better linked with the issue of GPP. For the empirical evidence (part 2.2) – I miss the logic of this part. More specifically, author shows some studies from Poland, also study from India, but I cannot see clear logic in the choice of such papers. Some kind of the attempt to link such studies could be seen in the part “research gap”. However, the arguments are not so strong, gap is not well described, selected variables/factors are not discussed and supported by relevant arguments and literature.

Part 3 – objectives and research questions should be better described. Some RQs are confusing. Why author asks, “What practical recommendations can enhance the effectiveness of GPP policies in advancing regional sustainability”? The author should perform analysis and based on its results suggest implications. But, to answer the question whether those recommendations will “enhance the effectiveness”, additional analyses are needed, based on new data including suggested steps! So, to sum up, some of RQs do not make sense to me. I am not very sure about the part “significance of the study”. I think that the author is too ambitious, considering the analysis that he performed.

Data sources should be better described. The same for the choice of countries. Similarly, the choice of variables in models is not well described, argued, and supported by relevant literature. Considering equations and the method chosen, the Fig. 2 is wrongly processed as the effects of control variables looks like “moderating effects”.

Results – figures with trends are confusing and hard to read and do not make sense to me + for some indicators and countries, the author shows 2 values, for some 3 values + different years (typically Chart 3). The author performed several analyses but, I am not very sure about the analysis of the efficiency of GPP. The author only analysed whether selected variables (limited number of variables, I will appreciate using more variables) affect selected dependent variables. Some arguments are strange to me and are not in line with the analysis that the author performed. Example: “This study robustly demonstrates that GPP policies, through mechanisms such as GPpP, serve as powerful tools for promoting social sustainability. This evidence strongly supports the argument that green procurement not only safeguards the environment but also uplifts human development by enhancing access to opportunities, services, and inclusive growth.” First, based on the analysis performed, the author cannot state these arguments because it is no true and supported by relevant analysis. Second, the author worked with merged data, so, the picture about individual countries/groups of countries is very limited. That why I also doubt the part “significance of the study”.

In the last part, I have problem with country specific recommendations. Those are not based on the statistical analysis. Example: the author states that administrative capacity varies by region in Greece and Croatia. Is this based on the analysis? Did the author analyse those countries separately? In general, recommendations should reflect the analysis better.

Questions and suggestions for the defence

The author should explain how he defined recommendation for single countries as he did not provide readers with separate models for those states.

The author should also better explain how he evaluated the efficiency of GPP.

Overall evaluation

I **recommend** the thesis for defence.
The proposed grade for the thesis: E

In Pardubice on 29.5.2025

Signature