

## *Opponent's review of the dissertation*

### **Analysis of the impact of innovation policies on regional development**

**Author of the thesis:** Ing. Yee Yee Sein

#### **Scientific discourse and selection of the theme**

The dissertation deals with the topic of innovation policies, the thesis analyses the relationship between demand and supply-side policies, using relevant data and methodological approaches. European countries and regions show considerable differences in innovation performance, therefore, examining the effectiveness of policies using different countries as examples is beneficial for gaining experience and creating better conditions for economic development.

The exact impact of innovation policies on regional development remains a matter of research. The topic contributes to the development of scientific knowledge and offers empirical evidence that can be useful for future policy making. Thus, the topic is topical, relevant to practice and theory, and its treatment provides valuable evidence for professional and policy discourse on how to design innovation policies and develop innovation systems more effectively at national and regional level.

#### **Defined objectives and theoretical background**

The thesis defined two main research questions, focusing on the analysis of the impact of demand policies on innovation and on the synergistic effects of the combination of demand and supply policies. The defined objectives are clearly articulated and correspond to the existing scientific discourse.

The theoretical part of the dissertation is well developed and covers key concepts related to innovation policies and regional development. The author makes use of current literature and systematically describes selected theories that are suitable as explanatory bases for the evaluation of the innovation ecosystem. There are also other theories that would be

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appropriate to use the thesis theory. Here I would mention in particular the learning regions theory (e.g. Asheim, 2009; Malmberg, 1997), it is suitable for the topic addressed in the thesis as it emphasises the importance of knowledge for regional development.

### **Applied methods and results**

The methodology is based on a combination of quantitative methods and the use of data from relevant sources such as the Community Innovation Survey and Innobarometer. The methods used are in line with the stated objectives of the thesis. The analysis confirms the existence of a relationship between demand-side policies and firm innovation, as well as synergistic effects of policy combinations. The presentation of the results is supported by empirical data, although a deeper discussion of them could strengthen the practical implications.

### **Achievement of objectives and contribution of the thesis**

The objectives of the thesis have been met in line with the original brief. The contribution of the thesis lies in providing a data-driven analysis that contributes to a deeper understanding of the issues under study. The practical implications of the thesis remain open for further discussion. However, in terms of the results obtained, the question arises whether the proposed policy has universal applicability anywhere or whether it is specific to the regions and countries studied.

### **Formal arrangement of thesis**

The thesis is formally prepared at a good level. The structure of the text is logical and corresponds to academic standards. The language is at a good level and stylistically corresponds to the professional focus and terminology.

### **Overall summary**

The dissertation focuses on an important topic in the field of innovation policies and their impact on regional development. The treatment and presentation of the results meet academic standards. The thesis provides useful insights that can serve as a basis for further research and policy making in the field of innovation.

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### Questions from the opponent

How could learning regions theory be applied to the importance of knowledge in the development of an innovation ecosystem?

In what ways could your research be further extended, for example, to include other factors affecting the effectiveness of innovation policies that have not been included in this paper?

Are the results obtained universally applicable or specific to countries or certain types of region?

### Conclusion

I conclude that the PhD student has demonstrated the relevant prerequisites for scientific activity at a high level. The thesis meets the generally accepted criteria, therefore I recommend it for defence.

In Ústí nad Labem, 20.1.2025



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