

## Master Thesis Supervisor's Expert Opinion

Student: Samuel Appiah Opong  
 Student Number: E230002  
 Title of Master Thesis: The Effectiveness of Green Public Procurement Policies on Promoting Regional Sustainable Development  
 Aim of the Thesis: This study aims to provide empirical evidence on the effectiveness of Green Public Procurement (GPP) policies in enhancing sustainability. The study will concentrate on emerging and transitional economies and offer a comparative examination of the effectiveness of such policies in various settings  
 Thesis Supervisor: Ing. Solomon Gyamfi, Ph.D.  
 Study Programme: Regional Development and Governance  
 Academic Year: 2024/2025

### Difficulty of the Topic

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Cannot be evaluated
Theoretical knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Input data and their processing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth of analysis (relative to topic)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For practice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Other Comments on the Thesis

This thesis investigates the function of Green Public Procurement (GPP) policies in fostering sustainable development in emerging and transitional economies. It examines the impact of GPP on economic, environmental, and social sustainability in eight EU nations (Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) between 2019 and 2023.

An acceptable introduction was provided delineating the overview of the topic and the relevance of the study. A systematic analysis of the existing literature reveals essential topics, including public procurement principles (value for money, ethics, competition, openness, and accountability) and Green Public Procurement (GPP). The literature provides distinct definitions and aspects of GPP, including green product choice, green logistics, and supplier monitoring. The author's assertions are supported by a substantial body of evidence, including references to EU policies, OECD reports, and academic studies. The thesis identifies a range of factors that contribute to the effectiveness of these measures, including regulatory requirements, cost considerations, stakeholder pressure, and barriers such as political support, financial constraints, and knowledge gaps in the legal field. In the framework of regional sustainable development, the thesis provides a detailed historical study that demonstrates a direct link between Agenda 21 and its regional implementation. It underlines the critical role of institutions at all levels (global, regional, and local) in promoting sustainability, citing examples like the EU Green Deal and the AU Agenda 2063. The study identifies gaps in empirical GPP-RSD research, thereby establishing the study's contribution.

The methodology design is carefully structured, with clearly defined objectives and research questions that provide a cogent framework for the analysis. The utilization of a descriptive research design, purposive sampling, and panel data analysis (comprising Hausman tests and random-effects models) ensures the attainment of robust empirical findings. A justification is provided for the descriptive design, purposive sampling, and detailed variable definitions (e.g., GPeP, HDI, and GHG emissions) and model specifications given.

The thesis analysis demonstrates the efficacy of the utilization of charts and tables in the presentation of trends, as evidenced by the comparison of GPeP and employment rates. Clear interpretations came from a thorough statistical investigation using a random effects model.

The conclusions are then connected to existing research, including the OECD report on job creation potential from 2017. It also provides a succinct overview of the main conclusions of the investigation, highlighting the GPP's beneficial effects on a range of sustainability-related topics. The recommendations put forth are of a logical and tailored to the specific needs of various stakeholders, including policymakers, business entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It also delineates prospective research trajectories, including, but not limited to, sectoral studies and the utilization of digital tools. The results are relevant, in line with the EU's Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, and provide stakeholders, economic players, and policymakers with feasible suggestions.

The main conclusions of the thesis are that the employment rates are significantly impacted by the GPP (coefficient = 1.966,  $p = 0.0219$ ), which encourages the development of job possibilities in green industries. Additionally, the impact of GPP on reducing greenhouse gas emissions is positive but statistically insignificant, suggesting the need for stronger policy integration. A significant correlation was identified between GPP and improved HDI (coefficient = 0.007,  $p = 0.0023$ ), suggesting an enhancement in quality of life. While institutional quality is important, it is not the only factor that significantly impacts sustainability outcomes. This underscores the necessity for additional measures to be taken.

The research is carefully organized and theoretically sound; yet several aspects require refinement to elevate the thesis's quality and ensure a significant contribution to the domain of green public procurement policies and sustainability concerns. The literature section needs subheadings to make it clearer. The discussion on the relevance of GPP contains redundancies, for instance, sections 1.4.1 and 1.4.3 overlap on the economic benefit of GPP. A more critical analysis of the divergent findings in the literature is necessary to clarify the issues and gaps. The transition from a global to a regional focus on sustainable development must be enhanced. There was little emphasis on how GPP specifically addresses regional disparities. Similarly, the distinction between transitioning and emerging economies was not entirely clear. An enhanced explanation for the control variables selected over others is necessary to clarify the choice. Data limitations were addressed without comment.

The analysis covers only five years (2019–2023), which clearly does not capture long-term trends or the full impact of GPP policies. The study is limited to eight EU countries, so its findings cannot be generalized to non-EU or more developed economies like those in the OECD. Incorporating non-EU nations or a larger group of EU members will improve the results' generalizability. The report lists obstacles to GPP (such as perceived costs and political backing), but it makes no attempt to address them. Since the Human Development Index (HDI) is a general indicator, additional indicators, such as income inequality and access to services, should be included in the social sustainability analysis.

The result section clearly lacks a full discussion of unexpected results. For example, the insignificant impact of energy consumption on HDI is not explained. Results were not compared explicitly across the chosen economies. It is imperative to delve deeper into the policy implications of addressing GGaE in high-emitting regions. The study limitation was not reiterated in the conclusion section. The writing must be improved by avoiding repetitive words.

Nonetheless, the thesis is a rigorous and timely contribution to the literature on GPP and sustainable development. Its strengths are its methodological approach, multidimensional analysis, and policy relevance. Despite having a narrow geographic and temporal scope, the thesis offers helpful ideas for policymakers and scholars aiming to leverage public procurement for sustainability. Future research must build on this foundation by addressing the identified limitations and exploring GPP's evolving role in global sustainability agendas. The author worked tirelessly to complete the master's thesis. The thesis's purpose was met, indicating that knowledge was used and analysed successfully.

## **Comments on the Outputs from the Theses System**

2% - not plagiarized

## Questions and Suggestions for Defence

1. (a) Why did you choose a descriptive design over a comparative case study or mixed-methods approach?  
(b) Why select only eight EU countries? Could excluding advanced economies like Germany skew results?  
(c) The control variable institutional quality was insignificant in some models. How does this affect your conclusions?
2. (a) GPP had a significant impact on employment but not GHG emissions. Does this imply GPP is more effective for economic than environmental goals?  
(b) Energy consumption showed negative but insignificant effects on HDI. How do you explain this contradictory result?  
(c) Why did transitioning economies perform better than emerging ones in institutional quality? Could this explain differences in GPP outcomes?
3. (a) Your study covers 2019–2023, including COVID-19. How might the pandemic have skewed results in the case of government policy on stimulus spending on green jobs?  
(b) Can findings from EU regions apply to non-EU developing countries, Explain why not?

## Final Evaluation

I **recommend** the thesis for the defence.  
I propose to grade this Master thesis as follows: **C**

In Pardubice 21.5.2025

Signature .....