

## REFEREE'S REVIEW

<b>Program:</b>	Master in International Business Program
<b>Student:</b>	Kostyan Valeria
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	Comparative Analysis of Entrepreneurial Intentions Among Students: Evidence from GUESS Project

<b>Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.</b> Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	3	2
<b>Structure and logic of the text flow.</b> Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.	<b>5</b>	4	3	2
<b>Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.</b> Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.	<b>5</b>	4	3	2
<b>Quality of data gathering and description.</b> Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.	<b>5</b>	4	3	2
<b>Scientific aspect of the thesis.</b> Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.	5	<b>4</b>	3	2
<b>Practical/applied nature of research.</b> Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.	5	<b>4</b>	3	2
<b>Quality of thesis layout.</b> Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.	<b>5</b>	4	3	2

Each item above is evaluated on the following scale, as applicable: 5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 2 = poor.

### Additional comments:

The thesis is related to the important problem of the entrepreneurial intentions. The overall research objective of the study is defined as "to identify the differences in entrepreneurial intentions between students from advanced and emerging economies" (p. 8). It looks very important to analyze the entrepreneurial intentions of the students taking into consideration the role of the future entrepreneurial activities in emerging economies, including Russia. The very topic, research objective, research questions, and the intermediate goals are interconnected to each other. Nevertheless, the main weak point of the approach as well as the structure of the thesis is related to the unclear separation and/or interconnections between three different terms — "intentions", "perception", and "attitude". Actually, the author provided us with two unequal definitions of the research objective, mentioning that "...in other words, it seeks to identify whether students from different economies have the same entrepreneurial perception" (p. 8); later the same model is called both as the "entrepreneurial intentions model" (p. 48), and the "structural model of entrepreneurial attitude" (p. 51), etc. Also, the author use interchangeably "advanced and emerging economies" and "developed and developing countries" without any comments and/or explanations.

The thesis in general is organised in very logic and precise manner, all structural parts are in good balance. The quality of analytical work is quite high and adequate to objectives. The current trends in the literature are analysed and accurately used in the thesis. The list of references (147 items) is quite complete.

The research tools and methods (both the qualitative and the quantitative ones) are selected properly. The empirical analysis is mainly quantitative and the thesis used survey as the research strategy. The research is based on the data from GUESS project and the research sample consists of 12 developed and 11

developing countries with 84.513 students. That is why the thesis can be positively assessed as a part of the SPbU GSOM participation in this project of 26 universities. On the other hand, the above mentioned weak points, such as unclear terms separation are probably rooted in the methodology of the entire project.

The very research is made on the mainstream level but the author demonstrates the developed research skills in solving problems.

The theoretical background is related to the international and Russian practice. The results and conclusions are quite general and have a limited opportunity for the direct practical implementation. Nevertheless, being in fact a part of the large international research project the thesis has a big value for the future research.

The thesis layout fulfils the requirements of the Master thesis preparation. All tables, figures and references are organised in a correct manner.

Master thesis of Valeria Kostyan meets the requirements of Master in International Business program, and deserves an "excellent" grade, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

Date: September 24, 2012

Referee: Yury E. Blagov, Associate Professor

