

REFEREE'S REVIEW

Program:	MITIM
Student:	Valeria Voltsek
Title of thesis:	Finnish Institutional Innovation Support Policies from Russian Entrepreneurs' Perspective: Establishing Cross-Border Technology Oriented Start-Up Firm

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. 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.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. 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.	5	<u>4</u>	3	2
Quality of data gathering and description. 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.	5	<u>4</u>	3	2
Scientific aspect of the thesis. 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	<u>4</u>	3	2
Practical/applied nature of research. 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.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2

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

Additional comments:

Finnish institutional innovation support policies analysis from Russian entrepreneurs' perspective is a relevant research topic. Many Russian entrepreneurs in the first decade of our century tried to start technology oriented SME in Finland. So the study how Russian entrepreneurs perceive Finnish institutional environment and innovation support policies provided in the country sounds very promising and thus the topic of the master thesis is actual and up-to-date.

The title, research questions and hypothesis are clearly stated. The work is well-structured and easy to read. Each chapter is followed by precise conclusions that address for the author's development as a professional.

The research of the thesis concentrates on the issue which is rather revelatory by its nature. Theoretical part has close alignment with the practical one. The empirical research of the thesis in the first part is conducted through online questionnaire in order to review the perceptions of Russian entrepreneurs in general. In the second part author investigates the process of establishing the company in Finland.

The author could improve thesis with empirical research of statistical data about Russian entrepreneurs' start-ups in Finland.

Master thesis of Valeria Voltsek meets requirements of MITIM program, and deserves an "excellent" grade in case of successful defense, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

22/06/2012

Referee: *Asc. Professor Sergey Yablonsky*