

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Management (MIM)
Student:	Natalia Shakhova
Title of thesis:	Knowledge Management System for a Business Incubator

<p>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.</p>
<p>Intersection of knowledge management with business incubators topic is very promising, so the selected theme is relevant. But the research questions are rather general and could be divided into subquestions. Now it is not easy to estimate whether such questions have been answered.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>The work consists of three chapters: 1. theoretical overview, 2. research methodology and discussion of research results, 3. Practical implications of the research results. They are logically connected and well-structured, only research results could be divided from research methodology.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Since the topic of interest is immature and there is a lot of unknowns, exploratory research is a reasonable choice. But it could be better to extend interviews with case studies, since currently contextual information about respondents and their companies is rather concise, so it is rather hard to interpret results of interviews.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Generalization of the study is limited by a small sample of survey and interviews. The student demonstrated good proactivity in finding respondents, but it would be better to start empirical research earlier.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>The theoretical part includes the deep literature review and allowed author to develop theoretical model and research questions in appropriate way. The literature review is presented in a good scientific manner. But the results of the research could be stronger.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>On the one hand thesis focuses on managerial implications, but on the other hand the recommendations are rather concise and high-level.</p>
<p>Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.</p>
<p>Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence. English language requires proof-reading and improvement</p>

Originality of the text. All sources of match identified by the Safe Assign system follow the allowed cases, the paper does not contain any elements of plagiarism.

The thesis text is original and does not contain elements of plagiarism

The Master thesis of Natalia Shakhova meets the requirements for master thesis of Master in Management (MIM) program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date 04.06.2018

Scientific Advisor:

Dmitry Kudryavtsev, Associate Professor

