

REFeree's REVIEW

Program:	Master in International Business Program
Student:	Gabibova Madina
Title of thesis:	International logistics risk assessment: case of the republic of Dagestan

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.	5			
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.	5			
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			
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			
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			
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.		4		
Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.		4		

Each item above is evaluated on the following scale, as applicable: 5 = the thesis meets all the requirements, 4 = the thesis meets almost all the requirements, 3 = a lot of the requirements are not met in the thesis, 2 = the thesis does not meet the requirements.

Additional comments:

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.

Risk assessment is one of the central issues in international logistics and is actual for the South of Russia. Research topic is clearly formulated and justified both from academic and practical point of view. The aim and objectives of research are clearly settled and fit well the logic of the study. The goal and research objectives are good aligned.

Structure and logic of the text flow.

The structure of the thesis is clear cut and fully reflects logic of research. It is easy to read and follow the logic of the study. All required basic notions, concept and terms are introduced in a consecutive manner with substantial number of references on relevant sources. For tables in the third chapter it is recommended to provide more detailed references to sources.

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.

The research questions correspond to the main goal of the study. The author demonstrates the ability to analyse different research techniques and choose those which fit better to the problem.

Quality of data gathering and description.

One of the main results of the thesis is the methodology of international logistics risk assessment. The methodology includes both quantitative and qualitative assessment approaches. Empirical data are obtained from interviews, consultations and expert opinions and are sufficient and quality enough.

Scientific aspect of the thesis

The author provided an evidence of good knowledge of theoretical concepts and methods, on one hand, and ability to properly develop a methodology – on the other. Methodology of undertaken research matches the objectives of the study.

Practical/applied nature of research

The main goal and objectives of the research are practically oriented. The methodology suggested in the thesis can be developed further and can be successfully applied to any southern region of Russia. Examples of such regions can be: North Ossetia, Kabardian-Balkar Republic, Chechen Republic etc.

Quality of thesis layout

Some points to highlight and page remarks:

1. Page 21: “stave money” should be replaced with “save money”;
2. Page 42: “The Republic is a member of the Northwestern Federal District...”. The Republic of Dagestan is a member of North Caucasian Federal District.
3. Page 49, For the Table 3.1 it is not explained for which order size and track capacity the numbers in the table correspond to.
4. Page 58, In the Table 3.6 parameters w1 – w4 are not explained;

Master thesis of Gabibova Madina meets the requirements of the Master in International Business Program, and according to the reviewer’s opinion deserves an “*excellent B*” grade, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

12.06.2015

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