

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

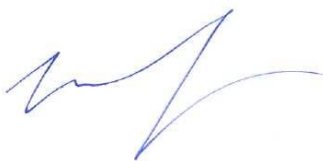
Program:	Master in Urban Management and Development
Student:	Svetlana Lebedeva
Title of thesis:	Formation and Development of a Medical Tourism Cluster in St. Petersburg

<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>The thesis explored the issues of St. Petersburg medical cluster development. It is aimed at finding the factors that influence the development of it to the great extent.</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 research consists of two parts. The first one overviews theoretical basis of the research. It successively considers the main cluster conceptions, specific features of medical cluster and their Russian peculiarities. The second one is strictly corresponded to the research aim. The factors that influence the development of St. Petersburg medical cluster to the great extent are identified by means PEST-analysis and analysis of experts interviews. Thus, the all parts of thesis are tightly connected.</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>In order to fit the aims of the research, the author has selected the appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods. The relevant factors that can be important for the development of medical tourism cluster were initially derived from existing literature and divided into four PEST-groups factors. To validate the effects of these factors to the cluster, a survey study was conducted by interviewing health-care professionals to reveal any potential factors that have not been covered in the literature yet but were deemed important by the experts/</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>The experts had been carefully selected from the owners and top managers of St. Petersburg in-patient and outpatient hospitals both private and public. The semi-structured interviews were based on the first part research results.</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 author's contribution is in the establishing of connection of specific PEST-analysis with semi-structured experts' interviews. Such approach to my humble opinion can be considered as innovative.</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>The thesis strength is in the broad list of recommendations which are strongly specified to different government structures and medical institutions.</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, in total, fulfils all requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence.</p>
<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.</p> <p>The thesis text is original and does not contain elements of plagiarism.</p>

Thus, the Master thesis of Svetlana Lebedeva meets the requirements for master thesis of MUMD program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date 11/06/2021

Scientific Advisor:
PhD in Math

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name A. Ivanov.

A. Ivanov