

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

<b>Program:</b>	MIB
<b>Student:</b>	<b>Kirill Kokoulin</b>
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	CHOOSING CORPORATE PORTAL CONFIGURATION: THE CASE OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

<p><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.</p> <p>Nowadays organizations are overloaded with information processing. A corporate portal is a proper decision for effective information processing as it is a “web-based platform to access with security a broad range of information, services, applications, and expertise”(Chan &amp; Liu, 2007). The objective of Kirill's master thesis was very practically oriented – to find the proper method of choosing corporate portal configuration in international companies. The author attempts to work out the methodology that helps to decide either to build new corporate portal or optimization of the existing ones.</p> <p>The topic of the thesis is interesting, important and very relevant at the moment and in the future. But formulation of aims and tasks of the master thesis is rather vague.</p>
<p><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.</p> <p>The work consists of 3 chapters and 3 appendices. They are logically connected. The paper also provides a broad analysis of various portal solutions used for information processing.</p>
<p><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.</p> <p>The thesis deals with the problems of choosing corporate portal configuration. The sophisticated business process analysis was worked out and a framework for choosing configuration was proposed. Both theoretical and practical outputs of the research are valuable for dealing with urgent constraints of international business nowadays. Proposed frameworks and approach can be applicable to the issue of any big international company.</p>
<p><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.</p> <p>Kirill has constructed the specific questionnaires and conducted several interviews, including in-depth interviews, additional specializing interviews and focus group interviews. He integrates the gathered primary data into the developed BP models.</p>
<p><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.</p> <p>Kirill conducted a lot of synthesizing analytical work via conducting research aimed at discovery of the core of the problem. The author really contributed to the issues of information management. The literature review and methodology have strong practical bias. The literature review is generalized in a form of a mind map. The work is not of strict research character because its practical dimension is more important.</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.

Kirill has developed some practical business processes models (see appendices) and document flow recommendations. His recommendations on the main topic sound a professional business analysis. Reliability and validity issues related to empirical study should have been discussed in more details.

**Quality of thesis layout.** Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

The quality of the layout is good. Language of the thesis is also good.

Working towards master degree Kirill proved to be smart and professionally oriented student.

In general the Master thesis of Kirill Kokoulin meets the requirements for master thesis of MITIM program, thus the author of the thesis can be given the required degree.

Scientific Advisor  
Prof. Tatiana A. Gavrilova  
Date 14.06.11

