

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

<b>Program:</b>	Master of Public Management
<b>Student:</b>	Victoria Yu. Saplova
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF PRIVATE COMPANIES' INVOLVEMENT INTO PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES (THE CASE OF WATER SUPPLY SERVICES IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

<b>Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.</b>
The choice of this topic is well-justified in the text. The problems related to the water supply pricing did not receive relevant attention in the Russian scientific papers. The identification and analysis of these problems is made in full in the text. The aim and objectives of the research are correctly specified.
<b>Structure and logic of the text flow.</b>
The text is well-structured, the theoretical and practical parts align with each other. The author covers both the existing theoretical discussion of the studied problem, and provides a thorough analysis of the situation in the national water provision market.
<b>Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.</b>
The author took an in-depth look into the studied problem and, based on a relevant econometric analysis, was able to reveal the principal factors influencing water provision pricing in Russia. From this perspective, the aim of the research was reached.
<b>Quality of data gathering and description.</b>
The author collected a comprehensive panel dataset to the formal regression analysis. The dataset is thoroughly described in the text. Both the chosen tools and the list of references are completely adequate to the studied problem.
<b>Scientific aspect of the thesis.</b>
The author showed independent scientific thinking in solving of the studied problem. Her contribution to the field is in extension of analysis of water provision in Russia on the municipal level.
<b>Practical/applied nature of research.</b>
The theoretical background of the research is directly related to the Russian public managerial practice in the corresponding field. Proposed recommendations are based on the empirical results and can be applied to the Russia public managerial practice.
<b>Quality of thesis layout.</b>
The thesis is well-structured and well-formatted. It is written in a good English. Thus, the layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence.
<b>Originality of the text.</b>
The topic of this research is quite original for the Russian economy and management practices. The text was written by the master student herself, consecutively, the formal originality report shows only 14% of plagiarism.

The Master thesis of Victoria Yu. Saplova meets the requirements for master thesis of the Master in Public Management program, thus, the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

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Scientific Advisor:

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