

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Information Technologies and Innovation Management
Student:	Iuliia I. Grinevskaia
Title of thesis:	Technical debt management in Russian software development companies

<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 is devoted to a rather new concept "Technical debt". The purpose of the research was to study the reasons of the emergence of technical debt, to investigate the ways to manage technical debt in Russian software development companies, and also to identify factors that affect the decision-making on technical debt management. The author provided a good introduction for the topic and justified the need for this type of research. The aim and objectives of the thesis are well defined.</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: theoretical overview, research methodology and empirical study (case study analysis). They are logically connected and well-structured.</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>The thesis applies comparative case study methodology. It looks reasonable for the suggested exploratory research and questions.</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 author came into contact with 3 companies, conducted indepth interviews with different specialists from these companies and investigated open documents about companies. The author demonstrated self-dependence during her work over empirical and theoretical parts.</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 allows author to develop theoretical model and research questions in appropriate way. The literature review is presented in a good scientific manner. The methodological and empirical parts of the research include all necessary elements of good scientific paper in business and management studies. Author demonstrated the ability to both analyse of the existing literature and synthesize main findings in order to provide his own ideas in this field.</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 provides a structured overview of methods for dealing with technical debt together with a specification of contextual factors, which may help managers in setting their own approach for technical debt management.</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>Overall, layout fulfils the requirements of the regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, all tables and figures are given in the appropriate way.</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 Iuliia I. Grinevskaia meets the requirements for master thesis of Master in Information Technologies and Innovation Management program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date 08/06/17

Scientific Advisor:
Dmitry Kudryavtsev, Associate Professor

