

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Public Management
Student:	Maria D. Pogrebinskaya
Title of thesis:	THE ROLE OF CLUSTERS IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF BIOPHARMACEUTICAL CLUSTER «SEVERNIY» IN MOSCOW REGION

<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>There were three groups of reasons of selecting the topic: political (to assess the role of the cluster in the modern RF import substitution policy), economic (to identify cluster's contribution into the region economic development / competitiveness (in the thesis are considered as synonyms) and to identify the region contribution into the cluster's competitiveness), and academic (the thesis is an attempt to make a humble contribution into the cluster theory). And the aim of the research was to establish relationship between the functioning of the cluster and the development of the regional economy. The aim and corresponding tasks of the thesis are defined quite well, and have been performed completely.</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 is structured as follow. The paper consists of 3 chapters. The first chapter identifies the current cluster Paradigm: key definitions, methods and algorithms. The second one gives a justification of research Methodology, models the research object – cluster «Severniiy», and examines cluster contribution into the region economic development. In the third part the regional cluster policy is identified and assessed. So 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 the paper the case method has been applied to give the answers to mentioned above research questions as well as some models traditionally used in the cluster theory: VAC analysis, Porter's diamond. This way the author obtains the possibility to model the cluster, assess its performance and competitiveness, and compare the obtained results with the experts' opinions.</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 quantitative part of the thesis is heavily depends on the data of Federal Statistic Service, which are applied to prove cluster existence and assess the cluster contribution into the regional development. The list of references is representative and relevant.</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 main thesis contribution in the cluster theory is a modification of model of M. Porter for the pharmaceutical cluster, which does not involve analysis of the impact of local demand due to the specifics of trade cluster, and limits the scope of competition analysis within the cluster because of its specificity for the pharmaceutical cluster: the main cluster producers, as a rule, produce drugs in various, unrelated areas of pharmacy and at different stages of the value chain.</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 extensive analysis of different cluster typologies in the first chapter of thesis has been reflected in the identification of the cluster "Severniiy" as the "potential" cluster according M. Enright typology in the third one. Thus, the Government of the Moscow Region has been oriented to stimulate the development of the pharmaceutical cluster to transforming them from "potential" to "stable" cluster and corresponding ways are suggested: stimulating innovative entrepreneurship, developing quasi-competition between producers, neutralizing the weak links in the value chain by developing relationships with others Regional clusters. Besides this, in the thesis one of the first attempts to model the Russian cluster by its profile has been made. The concept of cluster profile, which is a tool of representing and analyzing the cluster, has been suggested by M. Porter in 2002.</p>

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

Layout fulfils the all requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence.

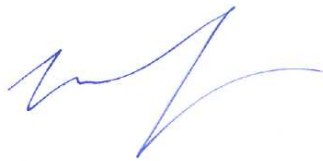
Originality of the text. The absence of plagiarism

The thesis text is original and does not contain elements of plagiarism.
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The Master thesis of Maria D. Pogrebinskaya meets the requirements for master thesis of Master in Public Management program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date 03/06/2017

Scientific Advisor:
associate professor



A. Ivanov