

## **Review of doctoral thesis**

Author: **Vu Hoang Duong**

Title: **Foreign Direct Investment Absorptive Capacity of Vietnam**

The author chose a very up-to-date topic, because foreign direct investment can contribute significantly to economic development of host countries. He shows that he is deeply acquainted to the topic, and he also shows his very good ability to work with data and econometric instruments. It is valuable that the author presents his outcomes in wider consequences, and he is also aware of limitations of the study.

The main purpose of the dissertation is to identify the most important dimensions of absorptive capacity at the provincial level in Vietnam. He identifies six dimensions of provincial absorptive capacity: institutions, financial development, human capital, openness, infrastructure and absorptive capacity of domestic firms, analyses them, and comes to some academic and political conclusions and recommendations. The author shows at every page, that he has deep knowledge, and very good scientific abilities. He fulfilled the given objectives of the dissertations on a very high level.

The author has a deep knowledge, and so he was able to create logical and efficient way, how to solve his chosen problem. He goes from general to particular. He brings theoretical background in a very accurate way, explains different approaches to various aspects of his topic. He brings theories of foreign direct investment, and of absorptive capacity. He describes absorptive capacity on firm and on provincial level. This is then a perfect basis for his further analysis and identifying the research gaps. Then it is possible to formulate 9 hypotheses, which are the subject to analysis. The author is not only very well acquainted to theory, but he also works very well with data, and elaborates them to reach desired results. He is aware of the weakness of data given by the fact that they cover the period of 2007 – 2015, and so he explains the reasons, why he takes them.

It is necessary to appreciate systematic, and complex presentation of his task from the beginning to the end. The author carefully describes exploited values and data, he shows in detail the methodology of elaborating them. As the result we can see the identification of the list of

prioritized dimensions of absorptive capacity, and those results are then compared to the outcomes of Delphi method. The author then brings the list of the most important dimensions of absorptive capacity in Vietnam. As the author is deeply sunk in his topic, he is able to explain similarities, but also differences in outcomes of econometric and Delphi method, and come to accurate conclusions.

The main contribution of the dissertation is the definition and measurement of firm and provincial absorptive capacity, and finding the link between them. The author enriched the science, and also gave political recommendations, how to increase absorptive capacity in Vietnam. This is the main practical contribution of the dissertation.

The dissertation is written in a good language with small imperfections. But overall language of the thesis is logical, adequate, sufficiently professional, and readable. Even the passages with calculations are readable, which is the sign of pedagogical capabilities of the author. Formal requests are fulfilled, in spite there are some small problems in the list of references (p. 85 Caves, p. 91 von Neumann and Nguyen – there is not the source, p. 89 Konnings – some imperfections in language), and in appendices (there should be Appendix E not I on p. 98).

Publication activity of Mr. Vu is sufficient.

The dissertation is written in a very high quality, on scientific level, with practical outcomes. I **recommend** the dissertation for the defence, and after successful defence I **recommend** to give Mr. Vu the **title Ph.D.**

**Questions for defence:**

1. Can you explain more in detail your statement on p. 75 about the openness of Vietnamese economy? What are the risks of higher openness?
2. Which institutions would you take to analysis, when stating institutions affecting absorptive capacity need further research?

Ostrava 17. 6. 2020

  
doc. PhDr. Olga Březinová, CSc.