

Reviewer's opinion on dissertation thesis

Author of the thesis: Sylvia Böcker

Title: Facilitation of necessary changes in the German wind energy through analysing mental models

Supervisor: doc. Ing. Pavel Žufan, Ph.D.

Reviewer: doc. PhDr. Martina Rašticová, Ph.D.

The dissertation thesis is concerned with a topical subject addressing the key political, economic, and social issues of the present time. The questions of renewable energy in Germany and other European countries are of high importance. The choice of the subject can be evaluated as unambiguously correct.

The length of the thesis – with its 262 pages plus 60 pages of references and appendices, the thesis exceeds the standard length. It is divided into ten chapters with chapters 1, 9, 10 containing formal parts such as introduction, references and appendices. The remaining chapters and the formal structure of the thesis meet the standard requirements.

The aim of the thesis is to apply Kantor's approach to mental modelling and to formulate first theories about the situation and proposals as well as interventions resulting from its application in the change process of the German wind energy industry within the current transformation process in the field of energy supply.

Survey of Literature

The theoretical background in the form of *Survey of literature* is presented in a rather large scope of 112 pages. The chapter begins with a detailed description of the approach - *Mental Modelling of David Kantor*. The following part then describes the mental models of other authors (The Team Learning model, Structural Levels in Complex Systems, Structural traps, The Leadership System Model etc.). In the summarizing part of the dissertation, the author is also concerned with innovation cycles with regard to the electricity sector, mentioning the Kondratjew Cycles, which take into account the Earth's limited resources. The last part of the *Survey of Literature* is dedicated to *energy*. While regarding the energy issues as a system, the author focused on the relationships of energy with economic development and politics. The chapter is closed by an analysis of wind energy and issues of net integration. The whole chapter proves the author's considerable expertise.

Methodology and Results

The author has chosen a combination of methods to undertake her research task. However, the key procedure used was the application of qualitative research consisting of conducting, evaluating and analyzing interviews. Within the first group of the big wind industry, the author defines eight clusters that represent the main content. Within the second group of the small wind industry, six clusters were defined. Interpreted in terms of the Kantor model,

the results of the interviews are exhaustively discussed and related to the research results already published.

Formal structure of the thesis

The formal appearance of the dissertation is at a very good level. The author correctly refers to information sources and clearly and correctly presents her own research findings.

Questions for Defence

1. Please specify who the target user of the thesis' results is.
2. Describe and explain the limits of your research.
3. How would you design the following research in this area?
4. Would you recommend Kantor model for research application in other areas? What are the advantages and limits of the model?

Overall assessment

The author of the thesis has chosen an important research topic that requires a demanding approach with the solutions brought being potentially beneficial. The author has correctly selected a combination of methods, which represents modern and useful approach.

The present thesis of Sylvia Böcker meets the requirements of a doctoral dissertation. It fulfils the set objectives bringing innovated knowledge that can be used in both theory and practice. The candidate has proved that she has a fair theoretical background and is able to use it effectively in practical application.

As it fulfils both the professional and formal criteria required,

I recommend the present dissertation thesis for a defence.

Brno, March 7th, 2015

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