

## Master's Thesis Supervisor's Expert Opinion

Student: George Owusu Aning  
 Student Number: E16722  
 Title of Bachelor's Thesis: Application of sustainability concept in selected sub-regions: The case of Finland as member of the European Union  
 Aim of the Thesis: To evaluate the outcome of the country's policies and programmes within the concept of sustainable development in terms of their effectiveness and efficiency toward the global effort to sustain the globe and the people within.  
 Thesis Supervisor: prof. ing. Jaroslav Macháček, CSc.  
 Study Programme: N6202 Economic Policy and Administration  
 Academic Year: 2019/2020

### Difficulty of the Topic

|                                 | Excellent                | Very good                           | Satisfactory             | Unsatisfactory           | Cannot be evaluated      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Theoretical knowledge           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Input data and their processing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Methods used                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Thesis Evaluation Criteria

|   | Excellent                | Very good                           | Satisfactory                        | Unsatisfactory           | Cannot be evaluated      |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Degree of achievement of the aim of the thesis                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Original attitude to the topic processing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adequacy of the methods used                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Depth of analysis (relative to topic)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Logical structure of the thesis and scope                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working with Czech and foreign literature including citations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Formal arrangement of the thesis (text, charts, tables)       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Language level (style, grammar, terminology)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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## Applicability of the Results of the Thesis

|              | High                                | Medium                              | Low                      | Cannot be evaluated      |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| For theory   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For practice | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Other Comments on the Thesis

The subject matter selected by the author for his diploma work keeps staying in the forefront of attention from the part of appropriate experts as well as interested public for longer time. However, it still involves many issues being of topical importance and have not yet been discussed suitably. Author has conceived his thesis with intention to catch the relevant attributes and context of sustainable development in the scope of a large national system, bringing forward Finland as the case. Assignment and aiming of the whole thesis had been specified several times till the regional dimension was appointed on the level of country as a whole.

The intent of the first, theoretical part of the study was mainly to elucidate possibilities of the model conception of sustainability in case of a large regional system, with the crossover to the empirical section, dealing with the application of substantial principles of sustainable development in Finland – in the international institutional and research context. The aim of thesis had been set down as “evaluation of the outcome of the country’s policies and programmes within the concept of sustainable development in terms of their effectiveness and efficiency toward the global effort to sustain the globe and the people within”. This aim was then extended by four objectives and four research question to be reflected in the outcomes of the thesis.

The study starts with methodological introduction, which conveys particularly spatial orientation of the analysis and way of data collection as well as the nature of information applied. Theoretical part, which follows, has been marked with numerous references on relevant sources and, in terms of the purpose of the thesis, which is to amalgamate theoretical knowledge with practical policies in Finland, fulfills its function. The opening of empirical section provides an insight into the data bases designed for the issues of sustainability, derived, to large extent, from the sources produced by United Nations’ agencies. The indicators, covering generally recognized goals and target in the area of sustainability form major information in these UN publications. Also, the interconnection between international and national goals has been assessed in this part. Author mentions some circumstances complicating expected compatibility in this regard.

Selected major areas of issues – climate change, energy policy or number of passenger cars – have been exposed and tackled in empirical treatise. The development in Finland regarding selected indicators has been compared with that in other OECD countries. Attention has been paid, also, to the aspects of sustainability, which are intercepted by Human development index and Gender development index. The chapter Observation has been conceived as a discussion on some of findings and data. Although it has been approached on rather general level, the situation in Finland in terms of application of sustainability elements in national programmes and institutional practice has been characterized there. Not negligible part of data processing potential, however, has been omitted.

The Conclusion is relatively brief and beside inquest of the observed issues contains also some more or less cursory opinions as for country’s sustainability policy. Linkage between objectives and research questions mentioned at the outset and final conclusions is rather loose. “Value added” of the thesis is to be found in sorting out the appropriate data and evaluation of the state and development of major elements in Finland’s sustainability strategy – on the background of pertinent theoretical knowledge. The occurrence of some less understandable formulations and grammatical errors does not affect quality of the thesis.

## Comments on the Outputs from the Theses System

There is no unacceptable similarity in terms of the STAG information system’s outputs, resulting degree of similarity being 5%. The thesis has been classified as “...of no plagiarism.”

## Questions and Suggestions for Defence

What is the experience insofar as the application of sustainability criteria in Environmental Impact Assessment in Finland?

How do you assess hundred percent of population with at least secondary education in Finland in terms of economic sustainability? To which cohorts of population this figure relates?

What is the interpretation of the Figure 9 (p. 42)?

## Final Evaluation

I **recommend** the thesis for the defence.

I propose to grade this Master's thesis as follows: **C**

In Pardubice 14.6.2020

Signature .....