

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Foreign Direct Investment of China in Central Europe under the One Belt One Road Policy
Author of the thesis:	Han Zhang
Referee (<i>incl. titles</i>):	Ing. Jan Bejtkovský, Ph.D.

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the five numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The author defines three aims of the thesis: “First, I try to analyze the overall situation of China's direct investment through intuitive data, especially the scale of investment, industrial structure, and investment entities in Central European countries. Second, I will analyze China's competitive advantage in direct investment in this region. Thirdly, I will analyze the main motives and influencing factors of the investment in these countries, including the economies of Central Europe, natural resources, science and technology, trade levels, and industrial structure. Finally, I will analyze these influencing factors of FDI through the panel data model and give my opinions.”

The questions (aims) are relevant for current discussion about the China-CEE relations and about China OFDI. The author included literature review chapter dealing with theoretical approaches towards FDI and has done so with great care and theoretical insight.

The model for hypothesis testing is also well explained and thought out.

2) Contribution:

The thesis includes a brief summary of OBOR and other mechanisms influencing the Chinese investment strategy. The thorough analysis of Chinese FDI based on a model and consequent conclusions are very relevant for the current discourse and represent a clear contribution of the thesis.

3) Methods:

While I highly praise the author for using a model and hypothesis testing in the thesis, I would recommend stronger inclusion (or a better explanation) of the model (and testing) within the framework of the aims of the thesis. Otherwise, all the conclusions made by the author are backed by sufficient evidence and thorough analysis and the hypothesis testing is thoroughly explained.

4) Literature:

Literature and sources are complete, thorough and well compiled. The author is using the sources appropriately, it is clear a lot of time went into literature review and study.

5) Manuscript form:

Apart from minor formatting omission in the footnotes, the thesis is clear and well structured.

All in all, the thesis is well written and constitutes high-quality piece of academic (student) writing. Suggested grading: A-B.

Box for the thesis supervisor only. Please characterize the progress in the working out of thesis (e.g. steady and gradual versus discontinuous and abrupt) and the level (intensity) of communication/cooperation with the author:

...

Suggested questions for the defence are:

„1) Why do you consider Chinese investment to be a rival of US investment in the CEE region? 2) How can the Chinese government influence the Sino-Czech investment relations positively?

I recommend the thesis for final defence. I recommend the following grade: “A-B.”.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	89
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	B

DATE OF EVALUATION: 03.09.2019

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Level of performance
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honour)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honour)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
50 – 0	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.