

MA Economics of Globalisation and European Integration

Reader's Report

Dissertation title: The impact of Foreign Direct Investment from the European Union to Singapore

Candidate: Adam Hrazdára

Reminder of the general instructions:

- 1) The dissertation should:
 - a. have an original empirical part, albeit of limited scope, OR
 - b. (in the best of cases) contribute to theory, OR
 - c. be a 'meta-empirical' study, i.e. a comparative study of empirical results, with particular care to synthesis, OR
 - d. be a thorough critical survey of the literature (empirical and/or theoretical).
- 2) The length of the dissertation should be kept within well-defined limits (8,000 to 12,000 words). Quality before quantity.
- 3) There should be proper attention to the citation of sources in footnotes or endnotes. The list of references should be carefully made.
- 4) The supervisor and the readers of the dissertation may perform checks on plagiarism. Citations should be made very explicit with quotation marks, indented text and quotation of the source in the main text. Quotations should be limited. Attempts of plagiarism will be severely dealt with, according to the examination regulations.

According to these general guidelines, please report the final overall grade, using the following grading system:

- 5 = 'excellent' (outstanding performance with no or only minor errors);
- 4 = 'very good' (above the average standard but with some errors);
- 3 = 'good' (generally sound work with a number of notable errors);
- 2 = 'satisfactory/sufficient' (pass; performance meets the minimum requirements);
- 1 = 'not sufficient' (marginal fail);
- 0 = 'poor' (fail).

In order to determine the overall grade, it may be helpful to mark the dissertation on each one of the specific aspects mentioned below. However, the final grade does not necessarily have to be the simple average of these partial grades. Please do not use decimals for the final overall grade.

A short motivation of your grade will be much appreciated.

NAME OF READER: Josef Taušer, Ph.D.

FINAL OVERALL GRADE: 4

Presentation of the dissertation objectives (motivation, main objective, bottom line, etc.): 4

Organization of the dissertation (division in sections, introduction and conclusions, etc.): 4

Use of presentation devices (tables, graphs, referenced material, quotes, etc.): 3

Development of the argument and provision of evidence for the dissertation objective (including references to the literature): 4.5

Originality of the work: 4

Length of the dissertation (whether appropriate, penalize if you think the 12,000 words limit has not been reasonably respected)

Motivation:

I found the thesis to be very interesting both in terms of defined research questions and applied methodology. Although author has just followed the methodology of other researchers to repeat their research for specific case of European FDI flows to Singapore, his personal value added in working with huge amounts of data, creating own databases and adjusting the models to the selected case is remarkable and I highly appreciate it.

Employed methodology could be considered as well-designed and advanced one. Findings are well supported and interpreted. I would only be more careful in some of the interpretations since majority of time series have been transformed to new ones to address the problem of their non-stationarity. I was also missing many possible determinants of FDI inflows from Europe to Singapore which were correctly mentioned in theoretical part, but not included into the empirical models (e.g. level of corruption, subsidies and tax incentives, business environment etc.)

From formal point of view, I evaluate the thesis as an average one. Text could be sometimes better structured and there should always been units used in graphs and tables described directly in the name of a respective graph or table.

Any additional comments:

