Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	**Jakub Špiroch**
Advisor:	**doc. PhDr. Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**PhDr. Jan Hájek**

***OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):*

This bachelor thesis provides investigation into concept of a shared economy focused specifically on business-to-consumer (B2C) carsharing. The thesis' main aim is to provide evidence on the main drivers of car-sharing use (i.e. what determines car-sharing availability, what determines car-sharing options and attractivity for investors, etc.). To achieve this, econometric methods standardly applied by bachelor students are used (e.g. logit, OLS) and the following conclusions are reached: (i) top ranked university presence and higher income per capita imply higher probablity of availability of car-sharing, (ii) top ranked university presence, size and density of the urban population as well as the level of infrastructure development increase the amount of shared cars and therefore present economies of scale potential to be exploited.

Contribution
From the perspective of both policymakers (e.g. cityplanners) and academia, the author explores a very interesting and original topic. While methodological framework is quite standard and in line with expectations for a bachelor student, I acknowledge significant value added in withdrawn conclusions and suggestions which do not apply only to a single region but go beyond. I would suggest consider making a more densed version of this thesis and submitting it to IES Working Papers Series for start. Once the condensed paper is polished and published as IES Working Paper (WP), a logical next step is a journal publication.

Methods
Two methods applied by the student are suitable and satisfactory for a bachelor thesis' level. Firstly, a logit model is used to identify the factors which affect availability of carsharing service within city limits. Secondly, the OLS model is introduced and explores the main drivers affecting the amount of shared cars.

Literature
Literature is cited well and includes, for example, the landmark study of Woolridge (2015) in context of econometrics used. The background of carsharing is described well, though it suffers a little from overrelying on the works of Shaheen (e.g. Shaheen et al, 1999; Shaheen et al, 2000; Shaheen and Martin, 2006, etc.).

Manuscript form
Manuscript form reaches a decent standard of IES bachelor student thesis. The piece is structured well, the text logically follows and is complemented by charts or tables. Perhaps one aspect which could be improved – language. In several instances, words or terms unsitable for academic text (e.g. „must not", „serious alternative", „few years ago" etc.) are used which slightly downgrades the overall impression. Also, the title itself could be reconsidered and made more appealing – for instance: „What Determines Carsharing Availability? Evidence from a Worldwide Dataset" (this suggestion is more for the IES WP).

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense
In case of a successful defense, I recommend the grade: excellent ("výborně", 1).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	30
Methods (max. 30 points)	27
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	16
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	**91**
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	**A**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Jan Hájek

DATE OF EVALUATION: 19. 5. 2019

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong	*Average*	*Weak*
30	*15*	*0*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong	*Average*	*Weak*
30	*15*	*0*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong	*Average*	*Weak*
20	*10*	*0*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong	*Average*	*Weak*
20	*10*	*0*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F