

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Miran Kaltak
Advisor:	PhDr. Jiří Schwarz, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	The Impact of Ethnic Diversity on Institutions and Economic Development in Former Yugoslavia

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

Author's aim is to analyse the impact of ethnic diversity on economic development in the succession countries of former Yugoslavia. He uses GDP per head as measure of economic development and he describes two different fractionalization indices. He uses different panel data methods to estimate parameters of his model. He contributes to the existing literature on the impact of ethnic diversity on economic performance, that has been concentrating on other parts of the World (especially on Africa).

Methods

Author uses standard methodology for panel data, but his description is so flat that it is really difficult to judge if he uses it correctly. I have following complaints:

- Author tries to link his specification to the Solow growth model. I think it would be better to link it with some specification that has been used in some former published study.
- Author does not describe his dataset. I presume that he uses six countries of former Yugoslavia as cross sections and yearly data maybe from 1996 to 2017, but I have not found any clear statement about this in the thesis.
- I am confused by Table 3. Fractionalization index must be changing in time. It follows from the logics and even from the text around Table 3 but in Table 3, there is just one value for each country.
- Did the author test assumptions for the estimation methods he used? Did he use any tests for picking up the best method?
- I do not have the information but I think the variance of the fractionalization index in time is for those six countries quite low. It might make this analysis practically worthless.

Literature

Literature survey is well done and is one of the contributions of this thesis.

Manuscript form

Manuscript form is good but the description in the analytical part is too flat.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

This thesis is on a very interesting topic, but I am not sure:

- if the dataset gathered by the author could be used to reveal any valuable conclusion,
- if the methods were used properly.

I suggest to clarify this during defense and to modify eventually my suggested grade according to author's clarifications.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	10
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	10
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	55
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	E

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Doc. Ing. Tomáš Cahlík, CSc.*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *August 10, 2019*

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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
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