

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Tomáš Křivohlavý
Advisor:	Mgr. Miloslav Palanský
Title of the thesis:	Collaborative purchasing in public procurement: A comparative study

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

Contribution

The author examines the effects of different procurement policies on competition, corruption, etc. As far as I understand it, the main merit is in the uniqueness of the data. Keeping this in mind, the descriptive section is interesting; however, it lacks a clear connection to the analysis. The analysis itself is incomplete and the results are misinterpreted as causal relationship is unjustifiably implied.

Methods

The methods are suitable for the data, but possible issues are not discussed in the thesis. For instance, how does the method deal with the fact that the data come from different countries? Should country fixed effects be included in the model, similarly to the sectoral dummies? I understand that the corruption variable partially captures the country effects, but since there are two years included, not completely. Having said that, the results say little about the hypothesis related to corruption – yet they are interpreted in such a way! This is clearly a misinterpretation of the results. The same mistake is repeated in the subsequent models.

There are other limitations of the used methods, for instance endogeneity. Unfortunately, any discussion of the models' limitations is missing and once can thus not be even sure whether the author is aware of them.

Literature

The literature review seems to provide relevant studies and describes them satisfactorily; however, it does not relate it to the contribution of the thesis. Doing so would considerably improve this section.

Manuscript form

The manuscript has some severe limitations. There are many typos, fragments, and confused words. The text lacks cohesion and clarity. Key terms such as collaborative procurement are not defined clearly, and their definitions come long after they are used for the first time. Even in the abstract, one reads that the thesis is about collaborative procurement only to learn that all the hypotheses are actually about centralized purchasing. I would strongly recommend using proofreading the next time.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The main limitation of the thesis is the lack of clarity. Reading the thesis, one has to wonder what collaborative procurement is. Even section 1.4 does not provide the reader with a definition. Instead, we learn it can have more meanings. Yet, the author remains silent on what definition he uses in his study. Another issue is the excluded observations from the data. The author should explain the reasoning during the defense; especially when he did not do so in the thesis. He should also address the limitations of the analysis and the mistakes he made.

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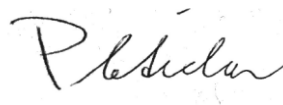
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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	16
Methods (max. 30 points)	16
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	12
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	62
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	D

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Pleticha

DATE OF EVALUATION: 13/8/2019



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