

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

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

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

This thesis uses novel data on public procurement tenders from EU countries to analyze the role of centralized collaborative purchasing. In the first part, Tomáš reviews the concepts and the existing literature. In the second part, he examines the effect of collaborative purchasing. He formulates four hypotheses and tests them using appropriate methods. He provides relevant descriptive statistics and discusses the drawbacks of the data and their implications for his research. Overall, I believe that this thesis presents a valuable contribution to the study of European collaborative purchasing.

Methods

In the main analysis, Tomáš models the number of bidders in a tender using tender characteristics as explanatory variables. The main explanatory variable of interest is whether the tender was procured centrally or not. He includes sector-specific effects and country-specific variables in some of the specifications and uses maximum likelihood estimation, which I find appropriate. I believe that the interpretation of the results could be slightly improved and extended – some interesting results could be further examined using robustness checks, but are left uncommented. Nevertheless, overall, I believe that the methods used in this thesis are suitable and well implemented.

Literature

I believe that the Literature review in this thesis mentions most of the relevant studies. This section would benefit from a more thorough discussion of how this thesis adds to the existing literature.

Manuscript form

The text is relatively well-structured and readable, although there are some deficiencies. Overall, the text is of sufficient standard for a thesis. Some tables and figures could benefit from some polishing, but are generally clear and easy to understand.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Overall, I believe Tomáš has done a good job writing his thesis. I believe the thesis satisfies all requirements and it deserves to be defended at IES. In case of a successful defence, I propose the grade B.

During the discussion, I suggest to discuss the potential policy recommendations stemming from the analysis - both for EU countries and, specifically, for the Czech Republic.

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

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CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	28
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	26
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	17
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	88
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Mgr. Miroslav Palanský*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *August 29, 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.*

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