

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Jiří Čep
Advisor:	Mgr. Jindřich Matoušek
Title of the thesis:	Public procurement Procedures and Their Effects: Evidence from the EU

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

The thesis submitted by Jiří Čep studies the effects of the choice of public procurement procedure type and its related characteristics on that procedure. More specifically, it pursues the final price of a tender, effects on returns of an additional bidder, or optimal bidder participation in the tenders. Jiří Čep uses the dataset on public procurement data in the European Union supplied by the Digiwhist project to validate his hypotheses. He explains the variation in the difference of final and estimated prices of tenders based on the procedure used and other available characteristics.

Results of the thesis suggest that all procedures examined in the thesis indicate worse performance in terms of monetary savings compared to an open procedure format that provides a baseline in Jiří's thesis. The range spans from 1.8% to 6.9% higher costs in case of other formats than an open procedure would have had. Furthermore, he identifies the open procedure as having the largest return on an additional bidder (0.57% of price saved per extra additional bidder). Jiří concludes his thesis with a recommendation to policymakers who should, according to his analysis, make use of open procedure format in public procurements and devote resources to find more bidders.

Contribution

Even though I know the stream of literature corresponding to this thesis only vaguely, I think that Jiří Čep makes a valuable contribution by his thesis. He performs solid econometric analysis of a good dataset a provides valuable insights into European Union's public procurements.

Methods

Jiří Čep applies solid econometric methods in his thesis. He uses sensitivity analysis and several different econometric models to understand the topic of interest. Furthermore, Jiří provides robustness checks not only in terms of different model specifications, but also in terms of alternative dataset cleaning and construction. All six hypotheses provided by the author are clearly stated and validated. I find methods of this thesis clear and sufficient.

Literature

The literature of the topic is very well reviewed and described. Occasionally, I missed a reference throughout the text that would anchor certain statement to particular piece of literature. The whole text, nevertheless, meets academic standards well.

Manuscript form

In the case of a manuscript form, I found a minority of deficiencies. I include a shortlist in the report to provide the author with feedback. Those points do not decrease the general value of this thesis but should have been avoided, especially since they are mostly in the Introduction. The thesis is well structured and coherent, the level of formal correctness of this thesis is sufficient.

- Page 8 – This aims plans to investigate...
- Page 8 – „Digiwhist“
- Page 8 – ...this thesis is be one...

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defence

I am pleased to summarize that Jiří Čep managed all aspects of a bachelor thesis at a satisfactory level. The thesis shows the author's sufficient knowledge of both the presented topic as well as analytical methods. I recommend the thesis to defence at the IES FSV UK. Based on the quality of the thesis and my best knowledge I suggest the grade "A."

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	27
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	91
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jindřich Matoušek

DATE OF EVALUATION: 26.8.2019



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.*

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