

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Jiří Čep
Advisor:	Mgr. Miroslav Palanský
Title of the thesis:	Public Procurement Procedures and Their Effects: Evidence from the EU

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 from the Digiwhist project to investigate the effects of selection procedures on prices of tenders. The contribution of the thesis is substantial – the used data is new and unique, Jiří uses modern methods and carries out the analysis with attention to detail.

Methods

Jiří uses methods that are commonly used in the current literature that focuses on public procurement. He formulates his hypotheses clearly and then tests them with appropriate tools. He provides a number of robustness checks, making the conclusions solid and confident. The thesis does not aim to develop a new methodology but rather to apply the existing concepts to new data. The data on public procurement has its drawbacks and they are important for Jiří's analysis, but he nevertheless makes the most of it. He describes in detail the potential bias of the data due to missing entries (primarily for price of tenders).

Literature

Jiří relates his work well to the existing research. He correctly identifies the relevant literature and reviews it thoroughly. I am also happy with the review of the different selection procedures and their characteristics.

Manuscript form

Some minor deficiencies are present in the text, but overall the text is very well-structured and readable. Tables and figures are clear and easy to understand.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I am happy to report that it has been a pleasure working with Jiří. He has put a lot of work into his thesis and discussed it thoroughly with me during a long period of time. 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 A.

During the defense, I propose to discuss what European policymakers could do to increase competition in public procurement tenders in a world of globalization and corporate consolidation.

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

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CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

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