

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Kristýna Czakojobá
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc.
Title of the thesis:	The Impact of the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement on EU's Exports

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.

Kristýna Czakojobá focuses in her thesis on the area of international trade and especially on the benefits of free trade areas. She takes the advantage of a recently created agreement between EU and South Korea which is not yet deeply analyzed. Her results show, that it brought the increase of about 15 % to the situation prior the FTA.

Kristýna selected the topic by herself and worked on her thesis very independently and with interest for the results. She managed to tackle all the methodological and modelling issues and came up with results which are beneficial and support the reduction of trade barriers in the time when the opposite is happening in the world trade.

Contribution

The thesis uses up-to-date dataset, and the topic itself has not been examined thoroughly yet. Since the FTA is quite new (2010) the contribution is mainly in the estimation of the size of the introduction of FTA. These results are important especially in the debate when new tariffs and trade barriers are introduced. It should be always pointed out, that it is a wrong way.

Methods

The thesis uses up-to-date and relevant methods applied on the quite standardized gravity equation, which is widely used in the international economics. Given that this is a master thesis, for some readers it might be beneficial to have some discussion/more deeper literature overview of the gravity framework. Yet it has been described extensively in other works and I am happy that the place is more devoted to the FTA itself and the description of the results.

Literature

Literature overview covers all and recent key-studies about the gravity framework as well as up-to-date literature. . There is so much literature about FTAs that I have no request for other papers and I am ok with the selection in the thesis. The literature about EU-Korea FTA is quite new and it would be beneficial to split the literature overview into two parts – one general about FTAs and one specific to Asia and Korea, since it is not easy to separate it from others

Manuscript form

The thesis is well structured, but I would add more subsections in the theoretical parts. The flow of the text is a bit clumsy and the thesis would benefit from further text revisions (the content is there, but especially literature review and description of the results are hard to read since there are lot of facts given to the reader at once). Standard LaTeX template provides well-formatted tables, figures, and references, but the reader would benefit from

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more detailed description of figures and tables directly below them. I would also appreciate some direct decision about model selection at the end.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I have not further questions regarding the content of the thesis. For the defense I would suggest that Kristýna elaborates about how she feels about the results – if she thinks that the trade growth is only thanks to the FTA or that there are other factors that improve the trade between EU and South Korea.

I recommend the thesis for defence and for reasons stated above I suggest grade A.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	91
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák

DATE OF EVALUATION: 25. 1. 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