

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Petra Lancuchová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>The Impact of Economic Development on Asset Poverty: Evidence from Slovakia</b>

## **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.*

Petra Lancuchová focuses on the evolution of asset poverty in Slovakia in her thesis. The thesis concludes that favorable economic development in the last five years did not reduce the risk of asset poverty for everyone. Economic development seems to be favorable, especially for households with a higher value of assets, which may widen the gap between those who are wealthy and those who are poor.

The analysis uses data from the Slovak HFSC (Household Finance and Consumption Survey) from 2014 and information about macroeconomic development in Slovakia to simulate the dataset in 2019. Petra worked on her thesis very independently and with attention to detail. I am glad I had the draft of the thesis in time so that all my critical comments could be discussed and reflected in the thesis.

### **Contribution**

Petra uses a simulation based on the observed data to get a dataset and analyze the change in asset poverty. This way, it is possible to bring a piece of new information on time without waiting for the next survey. Such an approach is valuable and brings new information in a timely manner. Once the next survey data are available, the prediction of this thesis could be verified.

### **Methods**

Firstly the simulation of the variables is performed. The simulation is simple but effective. For the quantitative analysis of the cross-sectional dataset OLS and quantile regression is used. Given the number of explanatory variables, it is a proper and standard technique. The thesis also provides information about the assumptions tested, hence it is possible to interpret the results correctly.

### **Literature**

A literature overview is sufficient for the analysis Petra has created. It covers both the asset poverty discussion as well as parts of economic development. The work with the literature follows the required standards. The only "missing" part is the information about what other similar HFSC surveys tell us about asset poverty. It would also be useful for further research as the approach in this thesis could be used in other countries as well.

### **Manuscript form**

The thesis is well written and easy to follow. Standard LaTeX template provides well-formatted tables, figures, and references.

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## 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 Petra elaborates on how she feels that the current situation impacts the asset poverty in Slovakia.

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
Contribution (max. 30 points)	30
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Literature (max. 20 points)	17
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>95</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák**

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 1. 6. 2020**



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**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